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# ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 6, Issue 124 | A Compendious Source of Information | July 17, 2025

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Encino Neighborhood Council to Hold Board Meeting and Swearing in of New Council

The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding two general board meetings near the end of July. The first will be held on Monday, July 21, at 7 pm via Zoom. The second meeting will focus on the swearing in of the new council that is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, at 7 pm 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.

## Tarzana Man Arrested For Killing Wife and In-Laws Dies in Jail

Sam Haskell Jr. was arrested in November 2023 on suspicion of killing his wife Mei, her mother and her stepfather after body parts were discovered in a trash bin in Encino. He was charged with three counts of murder under special circumstances of committing multiple murders and was facing life in prison without the chance of parole. Haskell Jr. pleaded not guilty earlier this year and his preliminary court hearing was scheduled for July 14. On Saturday, July 12, Haskell Jr. died by suicide while in custody at Twin Towers Correctional Facility in Downtown LA.

## Tarzana Community and Cultural Center to Host Benefit Concert

Tarzana Community and Cultural Center will be holding an Andy Kahn benefit concert on Friday, July 18, at 7 pm. Andy Kahn has been a featured artist at Tarzana Music Nights and his soulful music always leaves the crowd clamoring for more. Special guest Faydean is a 26-year-old singer-songwriter who has played at the LA County Fair, Hotel Cafe and toured as a featured vocalist with Kazy Lambist playing sold out shows in San Francisco, LA, NYC and Montreal. Tickets are $20 and available at mytarzana.org.

# Double Homicide Shocks Encino

In the mid-afternoon on Monday, July 14, LAPD officers entered an Encino home and found two individuals deceased from apparent gunshot wounds.

Officers were responding to a welfare check in the 4700 block of White Oak Avenue when upon entering, they noticed a trail of blood leading from the entrance. One man and one woman were found in different rooms, with multiple gunshot wounds and declared dead at the scene.

Sources have now confirmed that the victims are *American Idol* producer Robin Kaye and her husband Thomas Deluca. According to a neighbor, it was a family member that called in the welfare check after not hearing from the residents for several days.

While another neighbor noticed an individual jumping the fence of this house a week prior, cops were not able to access the home because of tight security and saw nothing of suspicion. However, it is now believed that it is on that day, July 10, when the murder occurred. It is only when a family member with the gate code showed up days later for the welfare check that the cops could access the home. After shattering a glass back door to gain access to the home, cops encountered the gruesome scene.

*Above, the Encino house where the crime was committed and the couple, at right. (Photos: TMZ)*

A day after the discovery, officers arrested 22-year-old Raymond Boodarian of Encino in connection with the murders. It is believed that he was in the process of burglarizing the multi-million dollar home when the couple came home approximately 30 minutes later. During the struggle, Boodarian shot and killed them.

While the suspect has no history of burglary, he does have a criminal record. Officers were able to identify Boodarian thanks to facial recognition technology utilized while reviewing surveillance video in the neighborhood, as well as forensic evidence left at the scene.

Boodarian has been charged with two counts of murder and one count of residential burglary with a person present.

Neighbors' reactions have ranged from sadness to pure frustration, both at the increasing level of crime in the area and the police response to it. Encino has been the target of multiple burglaries in recent years and the couple had previously expressed concerns about their safety because their home had been targeted multiple times before.

# City Reports Homeless Count Went Down

The Mayor's office is reporting that the homeless count in Los Angeles is down two years in a row.

This is after the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) released the results of their 2025 annual homeless count that was taken in February.

The report noted a drop of 4% county wide, and 3.4% in the City of Los Angeles.

"Homelessness has gone down two years in a row because we chose to act with urgency and reject the broken status quo of leaving people on the street until housing was built. These results aren't just data points—they represent thousands of human beings who are now inside, and neighborhoods that are beginning to heal," said Mayor Bass. "This Point in Time Count makes one thing clear: change is possible when we refuse to accept encampments as normal and refuse to leave people behind. I want to recognize the Inside Safe Team for the work they do to build trust and bring people

*(continued to page 3)*

# CALENDAR

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# Community Calendar

* The 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 (SBWR). The next community cleanup will take place on Saturday, July 26, from 8 to 11 am. For details on volunteering, visit sfvaudubon.org/event/sbwr-habitat-restoration-3/2025-07-26.

* Join the West Valley Regional Library every Monday at 10 am for their World Literature Book Club. This year's selections are from *100 Great Short Stories* edited by James Daley and The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction. This month's selections (from Scribner) are: July 21: *Never Marry a Mexican* by Sandra Cisneros and July 28: *Relief* by Peter Ho Davies.

* The Tarzana Community & Cultural Center will hold gardening workshops for kids on Thursdays, July 17, 25 and 31, from 9 to 11:45 am. Designed by local educators, these interdisciplinary workshops teach kids how to plant and grow their own organic fruits and vegetables and learn about the critters that are essential to maintain a healthy garden. Fee is $5 per class, advance registration is required at mytarzana.org. The center is located at 19130 Ventura Blvd.

* The Encino Neighborhood Council is co-sponsoring a free youth soccer clinic for children aged five to 12 on Friday, July 18, at 5:30 pm and Saturday, July 19, at 9 am. These 90-minute sessions will be held at Balboa Sports Complex. To register to attend, email aysogu12Encino@gmail.com.

* The Southern California Garden Club recently announced the upcoming National Garden Clubs, Inc. Gardening School. This is a series of four courses designed to learn the correct way to plant and prune, about lawns and lawn alternatives, how to effectively grow flowers and vegetables, propagation methods and basic botany. All courses will be held at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Course 1 ran July 10 - 11, Course 2 runs Friday, August 14 - 15, Course 3 runs September 25 - 26 and Course 4 runs October 23 - 24. For more info, email Robin at CGCIRobin@gmail.com.

* Join the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce for their in-person "Mix and Mingle" networking opportunity on Tuesday, July 22, from 5:30 to 7 pm at CPK Encino (16101 Ventura Blvd). The cost for current members is $20 and $40 for non-members before noon on July 21 (price increases by $10 after this date). To register for this mixer, and meet fellow chamber members, visit shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* The Encino Tarzana Library will be hosting their next STEAM Art Lab on Saturday, July 26, at 4 pm. This session will teach attendees all about the art and science of slime. Teens and adults (ages 11 years and older) can join to make these gloppy and fascinating creations.

* Blood donations are still at a critical low and donating just one time can save up to three lives! Westfield Fashion Square, in partnership with American Red Cross, will be hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, July 29. The drive will run from 10 am to 4 pm in the Community Room in the parking lot near Macy's. To schedule a life-saving appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

* Fairwinds West Hills retirement community will hold a lecture on "Positive Psychology: Eight Keys to Happiness" on Tuesday, July 22, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Guest speaker Chris Gomberg will offer practical strategies to enhance your daily joy, strengthen your sense of purpose and embrace gratitude in your life. The first 25 guests to RSVP will receive a complimentary gratitude journal. RSVP to (818) 713-0900. Fairwinds is located at 8138 Woodlake Avenue.

COMMUNITY

# People in the News

Los Angeles Jewish Health has announced the appointment of **Rey Lopez**, at left, as its Chief Information Officer. Lopez arrives at LAJH with two decades of experience strengthening information technology infrastructure in the medical field to enhance the delivery of high-quality patient care. Central to Lopez's portfolio at LAJH is building technology and business solutions to help the organization grow, to assist its employees to be more efficient in their jobs, and to safeguard residents' health and wellbeing by protecting their sensitive personal health information and data.

Dale Surowitz, LAJH CEO and president, said, "His commitment to safeguarding the health and privacy of our residents makes him a perfect addition to our leadership team."

Lopez arrives at LAJH after a long tenure as CIO at Kern Medical in Bakersfield and, before that, as Director of Information Systems at St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank. Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, he attended CSUN, graduating with a degree in business administration and management information systems, and owned a small business in Encino.

**Conni Ponturo**, at right, is celebrating her 18th anniversary of Absolute Pilates Upstairs.

She offers one-on-one, semi-private and small group classes in Pilates, breathwork and meditation.

Ponturo is a leading authority in pain-free living, which includes creating a harmonious connection of mindset, emotions, and body. Respected for her unique approach to transformational movement that merges Pilates, meditation, breathwork, and mindset, she teaches her clients how to flourish at every stage and age.

Her expertise in rehabilitative training makes her highly sought after by the medical community for her ability to create a safe environment for recovery from hip replacements, spinal fusions, knee replacements, and other serious injuries. She holds multiple certifications including those from the Pilates Method Alliance, Balanced Body, and Physical Mind Institute.

Absolute Pilates Upstairs is located at 4766 Park Granada Suite 208. Call (818) 805- 3056 or visit absolutelygrounded. com.

# Homeless Count Went Down Cont'd

(continued from page 1)

inside, Chair of the Council Housing and Homelessness Committee Councilwoman Raman for her partnership and Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum for her dedicated and unwavering leadership. My commitment to confront this crisis head-on is stronger and more urgent than ever."

Mayor Bass, on her first day in office, declared a state of emergency and created her "Inside Safe" program to get homeless off the street.

Though she is claiming a great success, many on City Council are questioning the results.

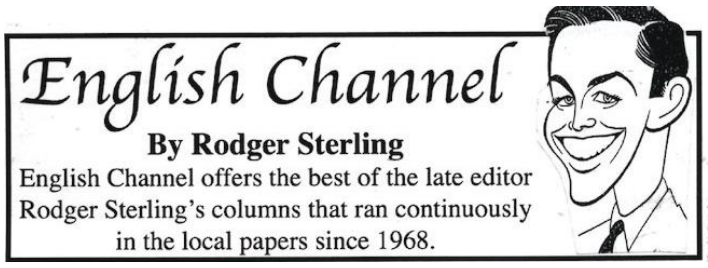
Councilman Bob Blumenfield, who sits on the Housing and Homeless Committee, told the *Daily News* he takes LAHSA's data "with a grain of salt" and that the "ratio of funds spent to progress is not sustainable" as budgets tighten.

In the same article Councilmember John Lee also questioned the results of the count and how numbers were validated and reported.

He said that homeless housing in his district is usually full at night, but the homeless count reported many beds unoccupied, raising "serious concerns about the accuracy of the count."

There were also reported issues with the new, and very expensive, counting software utilized by LAHSA.

Councilmember Raman endorsed the results, telling the *Daily News*, "The reality is that the count is imperfect in the same way every year that we do it, and it is really meant to be a barometer of our progress," she said. "If you were trying to use it to identify the exact number of homeless individuals in your neighborhood, it would not be the best way to go about that. But it is useful as a comparative tool year after year."




* What do you get when you cross marijuana with a birth control pill? A trip without the kids.

* Two brothers, six and eight, were discussing whether the words 'hell' and 'ass' were cuss words. They both agreed that they were in the Bible and they didn't believe they were bad words. They decided to try it out on Mom. When the eight-year-old went in the kitchen, his mom asked, "What would you like for breakfast dear, some waffles or bacon and eggs?" He said, "What the hell, give me some Cheerios," and she smacked him across the face. The six-year-old witnessed this and slowly entered the kitchen. His mom in a stern angry voice said, "And what do you want?" He said, "You can bet your ass I'm not asking for Cheerios."

* Did you know that hippos can run faster than humans on land and swim faster than humans in water? So really, your only chance of beating a hippo in a triathlon is the bicycle!

* Between *Saving Private Ryan* ($70 million), *Interstellar* ($165 million) and *The Martian* ($108 million) - America has spent nearly $350 million trying to rescue Matt Damon.

* A man driving a Corvette and going 80 miles per hour saw flashing lights from the CHP behind him. Without thinking about it, he floored it and took off going 100 mph. When he finally pulled over the officer said, "Listen, it's Friday at 4 pm. My shift is over in 30 minutes. If you can give me a reason why you're speeding that I haven't heard before, I'll let you go." The driver thought about it and said, "Officer, years ago my wife ran off with a CHP Officer. I thought you were bringing her back." The officer told him to have a good night.

* Jerry Humes says he knows how it will end. "One of my children will unplug my life support to charge their phone."

* Another joke about modern children... I asked my daughter to give me the phone book. She laughed at me, called me a dinosaur and handed me her iPhone. So now the spider is dead, the iPhone is broken and my daughter is pissed.

* Didja' hear that a truck loaded with Vicks Vaporub overturned on the freeway. Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.

* Tim McGinnis wants to know if anyone knows what's another word for thesaurus?

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# Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project to Hold Community Meeting July 21

Metro is currently working on a plan to create better transit options between the San Fernando Valley and the Westside. The natural barrier created by the Santa Monica Mountains makes traveling between the Valley and the Westside challenging – and will require innovation and multiple solutions.

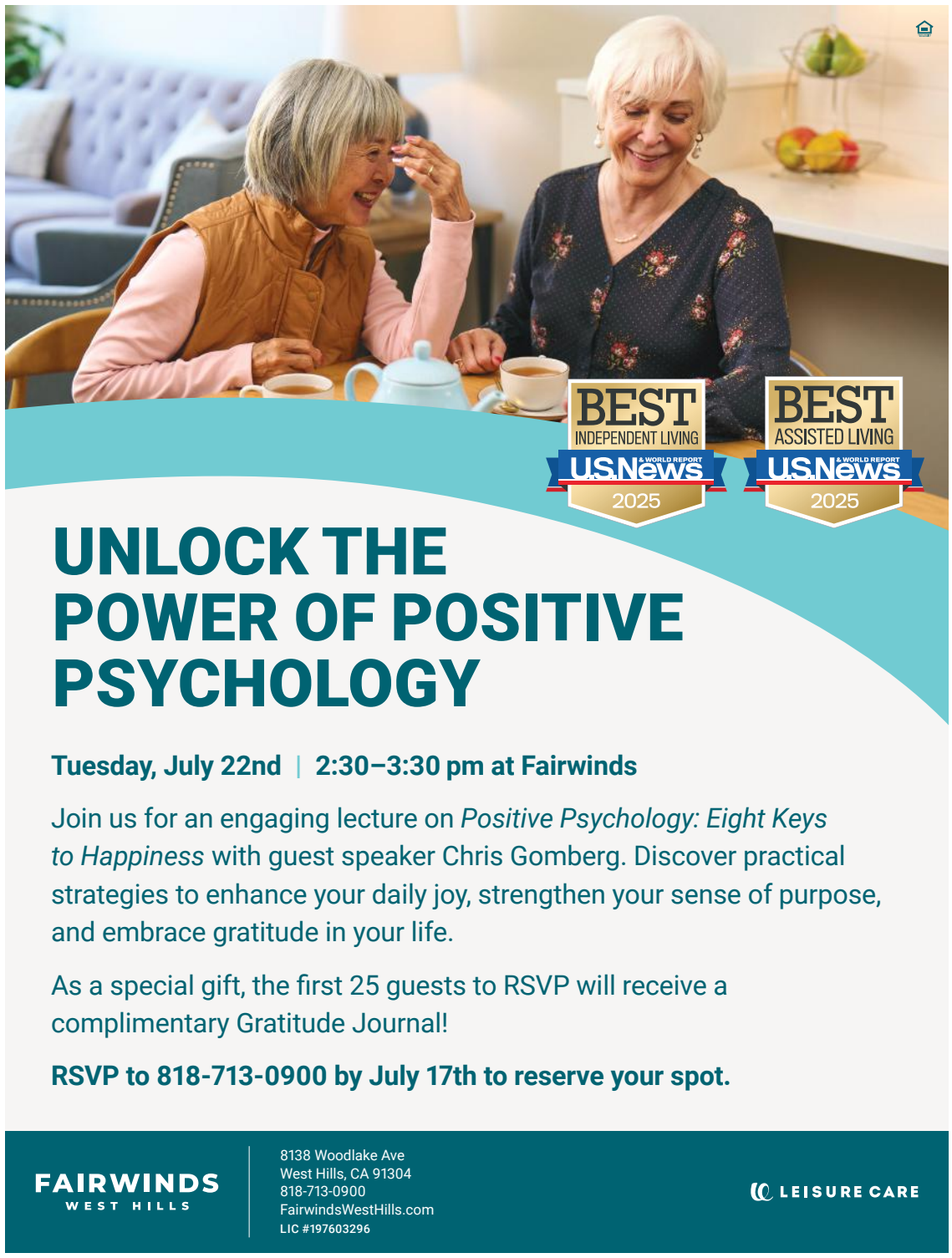
The Sepulveda Transit Corridor project is currently in the planning phase, which began with scoping meetings held in late 2021 and early 2022.

Metro has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The DEIR analyzes a range of rail transit modes, alignments, and station locations to address the transportation needs of the Sepulveda Corridor.

Upcoming public information sessions to provide an overview of the Draft EIR and accept written public comment will be held on Monday, July 21, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center, Builidng B (5056 Van Nuys Blvd.)

Additional public hearings to accept verbal and written public comments will be held on Wednesday, August 6, from 11:30 am to 1 pm via Zoom. (Webinar ID: 827 5651 8473 - Call In Number: 213.338.8477) and Monday, August 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center.

To read more on the specifics of the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, visit metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor.



# Essential Homeowner Fire Safety for the Summer and Beyond

Home fires today are burning hotter and faster and causing more damage than ever before, according to National Fire Protection Association data. This is why every second counts when it comes to a fire emergency.

Summer, often filled with backyard BBQs, fireworks, friendly gatherings and even campfires, is a great opportunity to evaluate your home safety tools and plans; and make upgrades where necessary.

A new partnership between Kidde, a trusted leader in fire safety for more than 100 years, and Ring, has delivered a cutting-edge collection of Smart Smoke and Combination Alarms (Smoke + CO) featuring seamless integration into the Ring app.

Combining Kidde's advanced smoke and carbon monoxide sensors that provide quicker, more accurate alerts (29% faster average smoke detection based on internal testing of smoldering wood fires for Kidde 9th Edition vs. leading competitor 8th Edition products) with built-in smart technology, you can better protect your home from anywhere.

Whether you're at home, at work, or on vacation, you'll receive instant notifications through the Ring app if unsafe levels of smoke or carbon monoxide are detected, allowing you to take immediate action. Ring also offers an optional 24/7 Smoke & CO Monitoring subscription service ($5/month), where trained agents can request emergency help and alert your emergency contacts in the event of an alarm.

"We believe these alarms represent a major step forward in whole home safety, and we're excited to get them into the hands of consumers," says Isis Wu, president of Global Residential Fire & Safety at Kidde.

Additional features can ensure smooth operation of your home safety equipment. For example, the Ring app notifies you when your devices' batteries are low approximately seven days prior to the device chirping, so you can ensure operation with no down time. And Kidde's enhanced sensing technology reduces false alarms often caused by cooking—a leading reason people disable their devices. And it doesn't stop there. Once you install one of these smart alarms in your home, you can receive real-time alerts from your other eligible hardwired Kidde products to create a connected home that helps keep you and your family safe.

**Whether you're at home, at work, or on vacation, you'll receive instant notifications through the Ring app if unsafe levels of smoke or carbon monoxide are detected, allowing you to take immediate action.**

Remember, having working smoke alarms in the home can double the likelihood of safely escaping a house fire in the event of an emergency and are there to help protect you round-the-clock. That's why it's important to install them throughout the house, including the living room, kitchen, bedrooms, hallways, basement and garage. As an additional safety measure, you should also be prepared to tackle small fires quickly. Keep fire extinguishers in key areas, including the kitchen, basement and garage.

These new alarms are available now, exclusively at The Home Depot, and will be rolling out to other retailers later this year. To learn more about the intersection of home safety equipment and smart technology, as well as to find fire and CO safety tips, visit kidde.com.

"Humans are flawed. We forget things, we mess up, and we assume a home fire and other emergencies will never happen to us," says Wu. "Unfortunately, no home is impervious to an emergency, making the proper safety precautions essential for every household."

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# 10 Lessons from 10 Years of Cowe Communications

**by Miri Rossitto**

This month, Cowe Communications turns 10.

Ten years of helping businesses find their voice, align with their purpose, and stop posting on social media just because they think they have to. Ten years of branding and rebranding, launching and relaunching, speaking truth to ego, and whispering strategy into the ears of leaders who are brave enough to listen.

And like most business anniversaries, this one comes with reflection and a healthy dose of sarcasm. So, in honor of a full decade in business, here are 10 things I've learned, in no particular order of importance... except for the first one. That one matters most.

*1. Your team is everything*. Actually, *my* team is everything. The Cowe Crew shows up every day with brains, heart, talent, and grit. They are kind, committed, and wildly good at what they do. Working with them is one of the greatest privileges of my life, right next to being Ryan's wife and Vivian and Cora's mom. If I shut it all down tomorrow, I would still count myself as eternally lucky for having been a part of this team. If you're in business and you don't trust your people, believe in them, or want to see them succeed, you do not have a team. You have overhead.

*2. Follow up. Then follow up again. Then again*. Most people stop after the first email. Or the second meeting. Or the third proposal. But the businesses that win are the ones that keep showing up. At the right time, in the right place, with the right message. So, if you believe in the problem you solve, follow up. Don't ghost. Don't vanish. Be present, consistent, and brave enough to risk rejection. Which brings me to...

*3. Getting a "no" is a gift*. It saves you the one resource you can't get back: time. If someone says no, thank them. Now you're free to find the 20 other people who will say yes. No is not a failure. It's clarity. And clarity is rocket fuel in business.

*4. Make risk fun*. Spoiler alert: I hate being uncomfortable. But nothing worthwhile ever happened in the comfort zone. Take the risk. Pitch the idea. Try the thing. Your comfort zone is not your friend. It's that shady neighbor who says they'll watch your house but lets your dog escape and forgets to water the plants. You don't have to love the risk. But you do have to take it.

*5. Chase your "why."* Some people chase money. Others chase fame. I chase the thrill of solving problems for people and their brands. Helping them align with who they really are and what they really want is my fuel. Money will come and go. Fame is hollow. But people? People matter. And your "why" should be anchored to something bigger than your ego.

*6. Ask more questions*. Assumptions are for the lazy. The best businesses don't pretend to have all the answers, they are curious enough to uncover them. Clients will tell you exactly what they need but you have to ask and then listen. Seriously listen.

*7. Be proud of your mistakes*. Mistakes are proof that you are moving. That you're trying. That you're risking. I could fill many leather-bound books with the things I've done wrong (I especially love to think about them at 3am...) But look, you are not here to play it safe. You are here to build something. And building is messy. That's good! Keep going.

*8. Laugh often*. I promise, there are moments in business that will make you question reality. Clients, vendors, invoices, tax filings, stolen ideas, the news, website crashes... sometimes you laugh because it's funny. Sometimes you laugh so you don't cry. Both are valid. Either way please laugh and make it loud and do it often. I swear it helps.

*9. Business gets done over lunch and happy hour.* You cannot build trust over email. If you want to grow your business, get in the room. Sit across from someone. Have a drink. Share a meal. Try not to eat alone unless you're doing the "girl dinner in front of Netflix" thing, which is spiritually necessary and obviously exempt.

*10. FOLLOW UP. (See what I did there?)* I know. I already said it. But it's that important!! Do not assume people are ignoring you. They're just busy. Do not assume one email is enough. It isn't. If you want to be remembered, be present. Show up with value and humility and consistency. And when in doubt? Follow up.

There are no shortcuts. No cheat codes. No "5 easy steps to 7 figures in 6 weeks." What there is, however, is meaningful work. Good people. A whole lot of trial and error. And every single day you have a chance to build something that matters.

If you have been part of Cowe's story these last 10 years, thank you. If you are just finding us now, welcome. And if you are building something of your own (alongside a fabulous team), I hope I get to read *your* 10 lessons in 10 years!

# TSA Now Allowing All Passengers to Keep Shoes On

Thanks to Richard Reid, who attempted to board a plane with a bomb in his shoe, passengers have since been required to remove their shoes while passing through security.

Despite this incident happening in 2001, the practice was put into place in 2006, and now in 2025, it has been disbanded.

Taking off one's shoes has long been a part of the tedious security process, except for those enrolled in TSA's Precheck Trusted Traveler program. Now, all passengers can keep their shoes on. The one exception is if you "beep" passing through the metal detectors, you will be required to remove your shoes for inspection.

According to Kristi Noem, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration will be eliminating the security requirement "effective immediately."

"We want to improve this travel experience, while maintaining safety standards and making sure that we are keeping people safe. The key to our approach is layered security. Passengers will still pass through multiple layers of screening. They'll also go through identity verification. In those 20 years since that policy was put in place, our security technology has changed dramatically. It's evolved. TSA has changed," Noem said.

Locally, LAX and Burbank airport have already implemented the new "shoes on" policy.


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HEALTH

# Is a Vibration Plate Essential For Workouts?

Vibration plates seem to be the newest trend in the fitness world promising to elevate your workout to the next level. These platforms emit vibrations to engage your muscles as you stand on top of them. The key is to engage your whole body whether you are squatting on them, planking on them or simply standing on them. Some even praise vibration plates for helping with muscle recovery by increasing the blood flow within the body. As your muscles contract, lactic acid and metabolic waste are flushed out, leading to reduced soreness post-workout. So, are these claims too good to be true?

If you are using vibration plates as your only method of exercise, it is unlikely you will see any major changes in your body. However, if you are using the plate as an additional tool in your arsenal, you could see minor changes. Switching up squats on a stable floor to squats on a vibrating plate will certainly make your muscles engage more as they work to keep your body balanced on the plate. If you are unable to do any high intensity workouts, this amplifies strength training to the next level while

still being relatively gentle on the body.

The vibration plate is also ideal for getting circulation revving and increasing the blood flow. In turn, this makes it easier for excess fluid to get filtered out of your body in the form of lymphatic drainage. This can reduce post-workout swelling or even swelling associated with long travel. Just be wary of the fact that increased vibrations will cause your legs to "itch" due to the increased blood flow.

Overall, while beneficial in certain aspects, the vibration plate doesn't provide results that you couldn't easily get with more affordable equipment or even walking. If you have limited mobility, it could be a beneficial part of your routine, but not a necessary tool in one's workout regime.

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LEISURE CARE

# The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

## An Homage to Movie Fans

Books, newspaper and magazine articles, television and the internet are filled with information about films and filmmakers. Rarely, however, do they discuss the one indispensable element of motion pictures… those who pay to see the results of filmmakers' efforts.

From the earliest days of motion pictures, Americans and moviegoers around the world wanted to know about the movies. They wrote letters to studios requesting information and photographs. Magazines catering to film fans' interests in the movies and those who made them date back to the earliest days of filmmaking. The first two fan magazines both debuted in 1911, *Photoplay* and *Motion Picture Story*.

Perhaps the quintessential movie fan phenomenon was – and is – *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Less than a year after its 1975 release, late-night and midnight screenings began to rise in popularity. Fans would come dressed as the film's characters, bring props, and even shout out their favorite lines. More than 30 theaters have already announced September and October 2025 play dates for the film's 50th Anniversary Spectacular.

One who is happy to pay homage to film fans is Sara Karloff, the daughter of famed actor Boris Karloff and keeper of his legacy.

Boris Karloff had impeccable San Fernando Valley credentials: he appeared in 174 motion pictures, the best-known of which were made for Universal Studios. He appeared before the camera for the first time in a crowd scene at that studio. He lived in the Valley from 1929 to 1934 and again from 1946 to 1952.

Sharing not only her father's famous name, but also his birthday, November 23, Sara Karloff knows a lot about fans of her father's films: "Those who love fine art are not called fans. Those who enjoy classical music are not called fans. But those who have an abiding interest in motion pictures are called fans, and that's what movie fans are…fanatic about films, the people who make them, the people who star in them, and the smallest details about them all."

*Few films have achieved the long-term cult status of The Rocky Horror Picture Show.*

Sara Karloff first learned about fans when she was invited to the Famous Monsters of Filmland convention, back in the early nineties. Held in a Washington, D.C. suburb, it's where she first met Bela Lugosi, Jr.; Lon Chaney's son, Ron; and Dwight Frye, Jr., whose father played a villain in several classic Universal horror films, including Renfield in 1931's *Dracula*.

She recalls "All the fans in attendance were excited to meet those of us who were descendants of famous motion picture monsters. We could not walk across the room without being inundated by the fans and asked to sign things because we were a direct link to their favorite movie stars. This was my first exposure to the world of fans."

One night during the convention the four monster films' offsprings decided to attend an outdoor concert in Washington, D.C. "We went to the Capitol Lawn and spread out our picnic. We were there for about 15 minutes and realized that no one had asked for our autographs. Nobody had taken a picture of us. No one approached us for the entire two-hour concert. We learned then how fleeting was fame. The next morning, we got up and signed more autographs, full of ourselves once again."

*Sara Karloff greets her father, famed actor Boris Karloff, as he is being honored on the Ralph Edwards' This is Your Life program in 1957.*

Sara Karloff has met youngsters who come up to her and can replay the dialogue from these films verbatim or go back and forth through a scene with their grandparent or their parent. They know what years their favorite films were released, who starred in what film, and trivia from those films. "That's what fans of all genres do, fans of musicals, of dance films, the westerns," she says.

She has learned more from her father's fans than she ever might have learned on her own about his career and about the impact his work has had on families over the generations: "It's been so rewarding to hear the stories of fans who tell me about the influence my father's films have had on their grandmother, sister or child. Their stories are so genuine and often touching.

"At the fan conventions I sit behind a table and speak with, take photographs with, and share stories about my father. The worst thing that can happen is that they don't care anymore or that you were rude and they stop being your fan. It would be a mistake not to take the fans seriously. They are the ones who buy tickets, and without tickets there are no films."

Worth repeating: Without fans, there are no films.

*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. An award-winning author, he has written four books, two of them on the San Fernando Valley. His next book, The 'Reel' Hollywood: The San Fernando Valley, the history of motion pictures in the Valley, will be out later this year.*

*Sara Karloff enjoys interacting with the fans of her father, Boris Karloff.*

ENTERTAINMENT

# Cynthia Erivo to Lead Superstar Cast in Jesus Christ Superstar at Hollywood Bowl

The Hollywood Bowl tradition of the annual star-studded musical returns with *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the global phenomenon by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber that has wowed audiences for decades.

Emmy, Grammy, and Tony winner, and three-time Oscar nominee Cynthia Erivo is cast as Jesus. This marks the first time a major production of the musical will feature a woman in the role of Jesus. Erivo previously starred as Mary Magdalene in an all-female version of the show.

The British actress and singer is known for her work on both stage and screen. Most recently she starred as Elphaba in the movie *Wicked*, earning an Academy Award nomination for her role, as well as a nomination for best original song for "Stand Up" from the movie.

Grammy-nominated superstar entertainer Adam Lambert has been cast as Judas and will star opposite Erivo. An award-winning singer/songwriter, actor, producer, philanthropist and LGBTQ+ trailblazer, Lambert has previously been cast in iconic stage roles, most recently his critically acclaimed role of "Emcee" in the Tony Award-winning production of *Cabaret* at the Kit Kat Club, which marked his official Broadway debut.

Josh Gad (Olaf in *Frozen*, Elder Cunningham in *The Book of Mormon*) has been cast as King Herod and Phillipa Soo (Eliza Hamilton in *Hamilton*) as Mary Magdalene.

Milo Manheim (Seymour in off-Broadway *Little Shop of Horrors*) will take on the role of Peter; and Raúl Esparza (Bobby in *Company*) will take on the role of Pontius Pilate.

A global phenomenon that has wowed audiences for decades, *Jesus Christ Superstar* is a timeless work that explores the biblical portrayal of the extraordinary events that led to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of his betrayer, Judas Iscariot.

The story, told entirely through song, explores the personal relationships and struggles among Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, Jesus' disciples, his followers and the Roman Empire. Originally released as a concept album, the iconic 1970s rock score contains such well-known numbers as "Superstar," "I Don't Know How to Love Him," and "Gethsemane."

*Jesus Christ Superstar* features lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, with Tony Award winner Sergio Trujillo as director and choreographer, Tony winner Stephen Oremus as musical director and conductor, casting by The Telsey Office, and is produced in association with Neil Meron and Robert Greenblatt.

*Jesus Christ Superstar* was originally performed at the Hollywood Bowl in 1971. It returns again on Friday, August 1, at 8 pm, Saturday, August 2, at 8 pm and Sunday, August 3, at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are available at hollywoodbowl.com or via phone order at (323) 850-2000.

# F1 On Track to Be the Best Movie of the Summer

**By Katie Sterling**

What was once a fairly niche sport has absolutely exploded (some could even say accelerated) in popularity over the last few years. After all, it's a sport valued at approximately $25 BILLION dollars and consists of high drama, high risk and exceptionally good-looking drivers racing at ridiculous speeds. What's not to love?!

Formula One, or F1, has reached a new level of popularity largely thanks to the Netflix series *Drive to Survive*, which debuted in 2019. Not only did it introduce audiences to the racing world, the behind-the-scenes series highlighted the intricacies of one of the most expensive sports in the world. Given the surge in F1 interest, it seemed obvious that Hollywood would come calling again at the peak of its popularity. Put Brad Pitt in as the leading man and it's lights out and away we go!

Despite the fact that the competition season is nearly over, Ruben Cervantes (Javier Bardem) is desperate for his racing team APXGP to make any kind of mark on the scoreboard. His number one driver Joshua (Damson Idris) is too cocky to acknowledge his issues and the APXGP cars don't have the technical prowess to compete with the likes of more popular teams.

To add insult to injury, there's a questionable investor Peter Banning (Tobias Menzies) who is just praying for the team to fail so that he can take away Ruben's team ownership. As a last chance attempt at saving face, Ruben recruits his old racing rival Sonny Hayes (Brad Pitt) who has been busy racing in the world of NASCAR.

Sonny Hayes gives off a very Matthew McConaughey/laissez-faire/nomad vibe, which essentially means he's been busy living his life wherever the wind blows him. His wild west ways don't exactly gel with the meticulous precision of F1, but that's what makes a great story right?!

With Sonny's arrival, you get the classic veteran vs. entitled rookie storyline, the budding romance with technical director Kate (Kerry Condon) storyline and then naturally, the wounded athlete/redemption storyline. From the moment the lights in the theatre dim, the story takes off and doesn't slow down. (Which at approximately a three-hour run time, is a good thing.)

For the most part, *F1* does a great job of staying true to the specifics of the sport, albeit with that Hollywood flair. What adds to the authenticity is the fact that the movie actually filmed scenes when real-life races were occurring and includes the current roster of drivers as background actors.

Additionally, with Lewis Hamilton as a producer on the film, the access filmmakers had to the sport was unprecedented. While certainly not the first F1 movie (*Rush* is an amazing Formula One film), it's perhaps the closest audiences can get to actually feeling like they are part of the action.

**Formula One fans will no doubt delight in the antics (and cameos), but it's hard to imagine that those who know nothing about the sport won't delight in the film as well.**

With a pulse-pounding soundtrack and a narrative that expertly mixes drama and comedy, *F1* is on track (pun intended) to be the best movie of the summer. Formula One fans will no doubt delight in the antics (and cameos), but it's hard to imagine that those who know nothing about the sport won't delight in the film as well. *F1* is a must-watch blockbuster and whether you're coming for the cars, for Brad or to see what all the Formula One fuss is about, there is no doubt that this film will entertain and "push, push" itself to the top of the box office.

*F1* is currently in theaters.


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WOODLAND HILLS

# Channel Your Favorite Racer at Circuit Sim Racing

Are you Team Mercedes? Ferrari? Just dying to know what's behind the current drama happening over at Red Bull?! Formula One fans are currently spoiled for riches thanks to the recent cataclysmic rise of the racing world. Not only is there a blockbuster movie highlighting the sport, but the actual season is revving ahead with enough action, drama and headline-breaking news to captivate even the non-F1 fans. So, what better way to get into the minds of your favorite drivers than to get behind the wheel yourself?!

At Circuit Sim Racing in Woodland Hills, F1 fans, NASCAR lovers and every car enthusiast in between can get a small taste of what their favorite racers go through via simulated racing! Through a state-of-the-art set up, full-motion technology immerses every individual through wrap-around high-definition visuals, full-motion movement and realistic surround sound.

With 12 simulators, over 50 tracks and a seemingly endless array of cars you can choose from, each race can be custom built to your liking. You can race the same track over and over until you master it or switch it up every drive to see which track you like best. Thanks to the motion technology, you'll feel every turn, every acceleration and you'll forget that you're not actually on a real-life track!

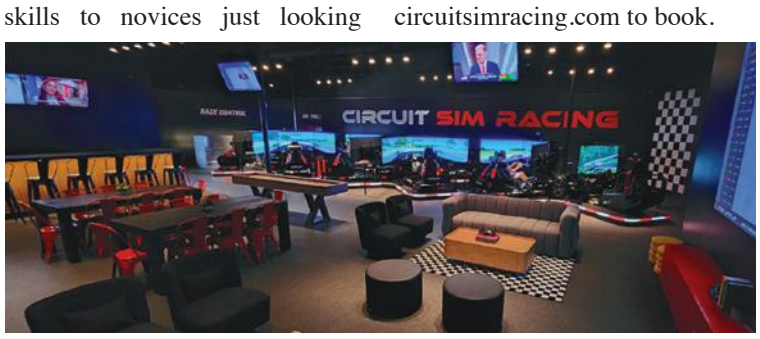
Circuit Sim Racing is the perfect outing for friends, family, coworkers and the like. Plus, no experience is necessary! Circuit Sim caters to all skill levels, from serious enthusiasts who frequently practice their driving skills to novices just looking to have fun. You can choose to race with friends or race solo depending on what you're hoping to get out of your racing session. Circuit Sim is even the perfect date night idea as every Friday they offer a "date night deal," where you can get two races for the price of one.

Circuit Sim offers a variety of race options, from 30 minutes to 60 minutes in either a full-motion or non-motion simulator (for those more prone to motion sickness). The 30-minute option at $45 includes operating instructions, one qualifying practice and one race. The 60-minute option at $65 includes operating instructions, practice sessions, qualifying and two races. Pop in for a race (or two!) or join their Sim racing club where you can save 20% off all of their race sessions. They even offer custom monthly challenges for die-hards to compete for the best race times in exchange for awesome prizes.

At Circuit Sim, there's no doubt that the thrill of racing comes alive in the simulator. Whether you're looking for a fun date night idea, outing with friends or team-bonding experience, Circuit Sim is the perfect pick.

Racing fans will get a thrill from the unique opportunity to test their own skills on the track and might come away with a better understanding of what their favorite drivers experience week after week. It's an exhilarating experience you don't want to miss.

Silverstone, Monaco, Bahrain…and now Woodland Hills. Circuit Sim Racing is located at 21522 Ventura Blvd. Call (818) 805-3355 or visit circuitsimracing.com to book.

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EMERGING ARTIST: **Trevan**

### June 29
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EMERGING ARTIST: **Cherose**

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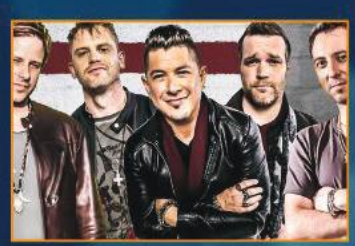

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Lineup subject to change.