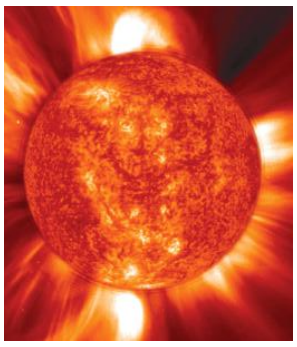

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ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 6, Issue 123 | A Compendious Source of Information | July 3, 2025

NEWS IN BRIEF

Illegal Fireworks Spark Danger

The County of Los Angeles Fire Code, Title 32, Section 5601.3 states that it is illegal to store, manufacture, sell, use or handle all forms of fireworks without a valid permit. Each year, thousands of individuals risk their safety, and that of the community, through the use of illegal fireworks and uncontrolled explosions on July 4th. Handled incorrectly, fireworks can lead to severe burns and disfiguration plus millions of dollars in property loss plus the threat of starting fires. State law fines at least $500 and/or a year in jail upon conviction for violating fireworks laws. Those in possession of any fireworks are asked to turn them over to your local fire department and anyone who wishes to report illegal fireworks going off in their neighborhood is asked to call the LAPD West Valley non-emergency number at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877- 275-5273).

Nominations Now Open For Fernando Awards

The Fernando Award Foundation, Inc. has announced that nominations are now open for the 67th annual Fernando Award. A nominee for the Fernando Award should be making a very clear difference in the Valley through significant volunteer leadership with civic organizations, programs and/or critical social and community causes. The nominee should have a solid and consistent history of volunteerism that is helping Valley residents and/or has brought about positive social change. Nomination applications are available at fernandoawards.org/award-nominations and will be open until July 28.

Donate Blood and Help Save a Life at the Encino Farmer's Market

Why not add "do a good deed" to your weekly farmer's market shopping list? On Sunday, July 20, from 8 am to 1 pm, Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at the ONEgeneration Farmer's Market. Just one donation can save up to three lives! To schedule a donation, visit redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive and use sponsor code "onegeneration."

Celebrate the Fourth Locally!

The San Fernando Valley's favorite Independence Day tradition returns! Now in their 50th year, Valley Cultural Foundation - in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield - proudly presents Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's July 4th Extravaganza.

This free, family-friendly celebration brings the community together for an unforgettable evening of live music, food, and one of the most spectacular fireworks displays lighting up the West Valley sky on Friday, July 4, at Warner Park, 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Woodland Hills.

This annual event draws thousands from across the San Fernando Valley for an unforgettable evening of live entertainment, community spirit, and one of the best fireworks shows in Southern California. The celebration starts at 6 pm with a live concert from Strange Days, a tribute to the Doors, followed by a dazzling, professionally produced fireworks display at approximately 9 pm.

Strange Days is a worldwide touring Doors concert experience. Formed and based in Los Angeles, Strange Days captures the magic and the mystery of The Doors in their prime.

By combining vintage instruments with the latest technology, Strange Days offers both an authentic on-stage look and an unmistakable studio album sound. The result is truly a one-of-a-kind show that has thrilled audiences around the world.

Strange Days has had the honor of having Doors guitarist Robby Krieger join them onstage numerous times. Rarely, if ever, do tribute artists get to play with the actual legends to which they pay homages.

Come see why audiences everywhere are saying, "The Lizard King Lives!"

This annual 4th of July event is made possible through the generous support of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Valley Cultural Foundation, and its dedicated community sponsors.

Come out for a memorable Independence Day celebration — we'll see you at the park!

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Community Calendar

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their Outreach Committee meeting on Monday, July 7, at 7 pm via Zoom. For more info, and the Zoom link, visit encinonc.org.

* The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's iconic Sepulveda Basin Bird Outing will take place Sunday, July 6. Over 300 avian species have been reported to eBird along the route of this approximate two-mile tour, from the huge American white pelican wintering in the Wildlife Lake to the tiniest of hummingbirds there year round. It is common to see over 60 species of birds on a three-hour outing beginning at 8 am. There is ample free parking in the "amphitheater" area of Woodley Park, 6350 Woodley Avenue, where the walk begins. For more info, see sfvaudubon.org.

* 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 7: *The Ceiling* by Kevin Brockmeier, July 14: *Jealous Husband Returns in Form of Parrot* by Robert Olen Butler, July 21: *Never Marry a Mexican* by Sandra Cisneros and July 28: *Relief* by Peter Ho Davies.

* Are you looking to drive sales, share resources and strengthen community ties? Join the Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Group for an afternoon of connection and collaboration on Monday, July 14, from 12 to 1 pm via Zoom. The goal of the Restaurant Group is to provide marketing strategies, operational support, and to build a strong network of restaurant professionals. (Restaurant owners, managers, and industry professionals only.) To register for this free event, visit shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* The Tarzana Community & Cultural Center will hold gardening workshops for kids on Thursdays, July 10, 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.

* Teens are invited to the Encino Tarzana Library on Saturday, July 12, at 4 pm for their next STEAM Art Lab project: Cyanotypes! Learn about the science and art of cyanotypes, and create x-ray like photos on fabric, using only the sun. Bring leaves, feathers, natural items and keepsakes to create your unique prints.

* 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.

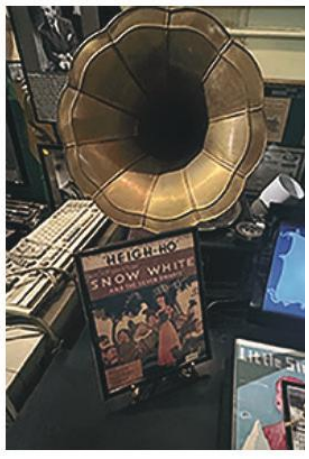
* The Southern California Garden Club recently announced the upcoming National Garden Clubs, Inc. Gardening School. This is a series of four courses designed to learn the correct way to plant and prune, about lawns and lawn alternatives, how to effectively grow flowers and vegetables, propagation methods and basic botany. All courses will be held at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Course 1 runs 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 "Lunch Break Live" networking opportunity on Thursday, July 30, at 11:30 am at Whole Foods (14311 Ventura Blvd). The cost for current members is $30 and $50 for non-members before noon on July 9 (price increases by $10 after this date). To register for this business lunch, and meet fellow chamber members, visit shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

A Piece of the Past You Can Visit Now: Horace Heidt's Big Band Museum

The building itself is an integral piece of Valley history, and what's inside is the collected history of an extraordinary man.

The Horace Heidt Big Band Museum is a chronicle of Heidt's years as a bandleader, mentor, and television star. Indeed, he has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, one for radio and one for television.



Magnolia Estates, home to the museum, Horace Heidt, stars he started, museum memorabilia.

Heidt started his career as a football player, but an injury derailed that career. He could still play piano, so he started a band. Not loving the wedding and nightclub scene, he wanted to be on stage. He incorporated a dog named Lobo into his act, and went on the road.

He broke all records in New York, playing at the Palace Theatre during the era known as Tin Pan Alley in the early part of the century. His secret to the big band's success was playing music "you can dance to!"

The music was only one aspect of his career. He was also host of the successful radio show Pot o' Gold, the first major giveaway money program. He also founded the television show the Original Youth Opportunity Program, traveling the U.S. to discover new talent. Then came the Swift Show Wagon, where he toured America and showcased each state's famous stars. He also went to Korea in 1953 to entertain the troops. Everywhere he went hosts, mayors, celebrities, and even the military gave him souvenirs.

Eventually his travels led him back to Hollywood with his 60-piece band - and he had nowhere to house them. He purchased what was then a horse ranch and dedicated one large room to house the memorabilia he'd collected. That ranch is now the Horace Heidt Magnolia Estates Apartments in Sherman Oaks.

On one wall of the museum there is a collection of photos of those he helped mentor and get started - from Gordon McRae and Alvino Rey to Art Carney and The King Sisters. Mary Martin sang with him. John Williams arranged for him, and even Johnny Carson was on one of his talent shows - and lost!

All this and more is memorialized in the museum, along with the sheet music of all his hits, including his first in 1941, "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire," and his recording of "Hi Ho" from Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Each frame has a QR code so you can listen to the song.

There's the first Hammond organ, music-themed chess sets, the Wheel of Fortune from Pot o' Gold, a baseball bat from one city, a gold trumpet from another. Display after display offers a treasure trove of trophies, citations, plaques, unusual items.

Everywhere he went hosts, mayors, celebrities, and even the military gave him souvenirs... He purchased what was then a horse ranch and dedicated one large room to house the memorabilia he'd collected.

Heidt's "American Way" philosophy included, 'Tis Better to Build Boys Than to Mend Men, and to help others regardless of race, creed or color.

Today, his son Horace Heidt Jr. continues to maintain and constantly improve the museum, and continue the legacy of an amazing Valley man and musician.

The museum is free and open to the public by appointment. Visit bigbandsfoundation.org.

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.

• Susan Renick isn't sure if she's coming or going...last week in her mail she received a letter from Great Expectations and another from the Neptune Society.

• Didja' hear about the assertive Calabasas toddler who called his favorite store "Toys or Else!??"

• We still love this assessment of our profession: Much of journalism consists of reporting Frank Jones is dead to people who didn't know Frank Jones was alive.

• What do they talk about at a mime convention?

• Oops, we're sorry to report of the managers of a local movie theatre passed away last week. The funeral will be held on Sunday at 2:15, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40 and 10:50.

• What do you call a teacher that doesn't flatulate in front of their students? A private tutor.

• This jewel comes from a friend who is wise beyond his years. "There are two theories to arguin' with a woman; neither one works!"

FREE Concerts at Warner Park

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Valley Vantage, Warner Center News, Las Virgenes Enterprise and Encino Enterprise are published weekly by Kathleen Sterling. Offices are located at 22025 Ventura Blvd. #303, Woodland Hills CA 91364. Phone 818.313.9545 / Fax 818.302.1417. Email valleynewsgroup@gmail.com. Website: www.valleynewsgroup.com. Opinions expressed in articles are those belonging to the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Publisher or its advertisers. Submissions are welcome and must include name, address and phone. All submissions become the property of the Publisher. Valley Vantage is a legally adjudicated newspaper of general circulation serving the County of Los Angeles by Superior Court Degree No. SFC 858.

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Op-Ed: It's Time to Face the Fires–Together

By Josh Sautter

If you live in Encino, you've probably smelled the smoke.

In recent weeks, fires in the Sepulveda Basin have become an almost daily occurrence-small ones, large ones, and everything in between. These fires are no longer isolated events. They're a symptom of deeper, long-standing issues: unmanaged brush, inadequate emergency preparedness, a growing humanitarian crisis around homelessness, and a lack of coordinated leadership at the city level.

Encino can't afford to look away-and we won't.

This year, the Encino Neighborhood Council is making the Basin and the safety of our surrounding neighborhoods our top priority. We're organizing, advocating, and showing up with urgency and compassion. And we're going to call on our elected officials—many of whom have chosen to ignore this problem for far too long—to finally do the same.

But solving these problems isn't just about government. It's about community. That's where our strength lies.

We just had the highest voter turnout of any Neighborhood Council election in Los Angeles this year. That's not just a line in a newsletter-it's a reflection of who we are.

Encino is engaged, motivated, and ready to roll up our sleeves. And that kind of civic spirit matters. Because while brush gets cleared by city departments and tents require coordinated services, real momentum comes from people—neighbors who care about each other and believe in the place they call home.

So yes, we're fighting fires. But we're also lighting something else: a spark of connection.

This year, we're going to continue building community through events like neighborhood movie nights and a follow-up to our incredibly successful EncinoFest, which brought hundreds of families together. These events aren't just fun (though they are)-they're part of a bigger picture. They give us a chance to meet, talk, plan, and act together. That's how you build trust. That's how you build power.

And that's how you solve problems like the ones we're facing now.

Because while brush gets cleared by city departments and tents require coordinated services, real momentum comes from people—neighbors who care about each other and believe in the place they call home.

If you're looking for a way to get involved, start by joining us for the first meeting of the new Encino Neighborhood Council board on Tuesday, July 23 at 7:00 p.m. We'll be meeting in person at the Encino Community Center on Balboa Blvd, and we'll have food and refreshments on hand. You'll get to meet your local representatives, learn about the issues we're tackling, and most importantly, make your voice heard.

Encino is a special place. Let's protect it—together.

Josh Sautter is President of the Encino Neighborhood Council.

UNLOCK THE POWER OF POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Tuesday, July 22nd | 2:30–3:30 pm at Fairwinds

Join us for an engaging lecture on *Positive Psychology: Eight Keys to Happiness* with guest speaker Chris Gomberg. Discover practical strategies to enhance your daily joy, strengthen your sense of purpose, and embrace gratitude in your life.

As a special gift, the first 25 guests to RSVP will receive a complimentary Gratitude Journal!

RSVP to 818-713-0900 by July 17th to reserve your spot.

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The main house of the estate, above.

The red barn entertaining lodge and miniature train, at right.

Photos: RyanLahiff

HOT PROPERTY: John Huston's Former Ranch Comes Complete With Disney Train

All aboard! Actor and director John Huston's former ranch in Tarzana has just come on the market - and comes with its own miniature train.

The 12,170-square-foot main house was built in 1941 for Huston, and contains six bedrooms, 10 bathrooms and nine fireplaces. There's also a 807-square-foot guest cottage, and a reimagined red barn/entertaining lodge with a kitchen, bar, bedroom and loft. Plus, a 2,000-square-foot train depot.

The train was the addition of Gordon and Holly Maclean, friends of Walt Disney, and die-hard train collectors, who purchased the gated estate in 1959. With 4.4 acres, there was plenty of room to build the Tunnel, Cut & Trestle Railroad, a 7.5-inch gauge track with a tiny train that rolls through the grounds. It's complete with bridges, turntables, road signs and a 24-foot long tunnel. The track is engineered to run steam, electric and propane-powered engines.

The train is a Tarzana legend, and the owners host community rides and visits from train buffs from the L.A. Live Steamers Museum in Griffith Park. Each owner has continued this tradition.

It traverses the grounds, which have koi ponds, stone paths, rolling lawns, a tennis court, dog run and children's play area.

The estate is on the market for $20 million - which includes the train! David Kramer of Compass and Paul Czako of Gussman Czako Estate hold the listing.

Golden Oaks Awards Gala July 13

The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their Golden Oaks Awards on Sunday, July 13, at 5 pm. This event is held to honor local businesses and their contributions to the community.

Awards to be given out include:

Pillar of Sherman Oaks Award to Boneyard Bistro.

Pillar of Encino Award to CEO Computers.

Pillar Beyond Award to ACS Security.

Community Support Award to Hillside Wellness Center.

Groundbreaker Award to Pediatric Dental Club (newcomer category) and Jimmy Au's For Men 5'8" and Under (seasoned category).

Business Excellence Award to Valley Carpet One.

The Golden Oaks Awards Gala will be held at the Velvet Martini Lounge at Vitello's (4349 Tujunga Ave). There will be music, a silent auction, an awards ceremony, dinner and networking. Tickets and sponsorships available at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

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Selling Your Business? The 5 Legal Issues That Can Kill the Deal

By Janice L. Miller, Esq.

Selling a business is a major milestone. It's often the result of years of hard work and dedication. But even with an interested buyer and a solid offer, deals can unravel if legal issues aren't addressed early. Below are five common legal pitfalls that can derail your sale and how to avoid them.

1. Messy Ownership and Corporate Structure

Buyers need clarity on who owns what. If your company has multiple owners, investors, or informal equity arrangements, unclear documentation can be a dealbreaker. For example, if a partner claims a share of the business without a signed agreement, it can lead to delays, disputes, or even lawsuits. Before going to market, ensure your capitalization table is accurate, your shareholder or operating agreements are up to date, and all decision-makers are aligned. (Source: *Harvard Business Review*, "How to Sell Your Company")

2. Incomplete Financial and Legal Records

A buyer's due diligence process is rigorous. Missing tax returns, inconsistent financial statements, or undocumented liabilities can raise red flags that either lower your valuation or kill the deal outright. It's not enough to have accurate books. You must also be able to present them clearly and transparently. Ensure your business has at least three years of organized financials, up-to-date tax filings, and all required licenses and permits. (Source: *Forbes*, "What Kills M&A Deals? Poor Financial Records")

3. Intellectual Property (IP) Uncertainty

If your company relies on proprietary technology, branding, or content, IP ownership must be clear and documented. Problems arise when contractors or freelancers create key products without signing IP assignment agreements, or when trademarks are registered in a founder's name instead of the business. Conduct an IP audit and work with legal counsel to ensure all assets are properly registered and owned by the company. (Source: American Bar Association, "IP Due Diligence in M&A Transactions")

4. Contract Restrictions with Customers or Vendors

Key contracts can include clauses that restrict transfer or require consent if the business is sold. If those agreements are essential to your operations, such as with major clients or suppliers, a buyer may walk away if they can't be transferred. Review all contracts in advance, identify change-of-control provisions, and be proactive in seeking necessary approvals.

5. Pending Litigation or Employment Issues

Active lawsuits, labor disputes, or poor HR documentation can turn buyers off. Even minor claims can raise liability concerns. Issues such as wage violations, harassment allegations, or misclassified employees can trigger a deeper investigation—and potential deal fallout. Clean up your HR files, resolve disputes, and disclose all known risks early in the process. (Source: *Entrepreneur*, "The Legal Issues That Can Kill Your Business Sale")

Buyers value certainty. Legal issues introduce risk, and risk lowers valuations and stalls deals. With early preparation, clean documentation, and professional guidance, you can address these legal issues before they become deal-breakers and sell with confidence.

The best deals don't just happen. They're built on a foundation of transparency, organization, and trust. By addressing these five legal issues before they become deal-breakers, you can position your business for a successful and rewarding exit.

Disclaimer: This article is not meant as legal advice. It is solely for educational purposes.

Janice L. Miller Esq. is the managing partner of Miller Haga Law Group, LLP in Calabasas, CA. She is a highly recognized legal advisor, published author, noted speaker, and panelist with over 25 years of experience as an innovative general counsel in business, real estate, entertainment, and intellectual property.

Identifying Heat Exhaustion During These Scorching Summer Months

The San Fernando Valley is all too familiar with triple-digit temperatures. While the summer brings scorching heat, it also brings the threat of heat exhaustion. But what are the symptoms? How can you tell the difference between simply overheating or entering dangerous heat-related illness?

Heat exhaustion is a slow buildup of bodily reactions to one's body overheating that include heavy sweating, muscle cramps, extreme thirst and fatigue. While the body's natural response to cooling down is to sweat, excess sweating can lead to dehydration and the loss of fluids doesn't allow your body to function properly. Thus, one might feel faint, lightheaded or experience nausea and headaches.

If these symptoms aren't immediately rectified, then heat exhaustion occurs. Heatstroke is classified by a temperature over 104 degrees Fahrenheit, confusion and trouble speaking and flushed skin that can either feel moist or dry.

The most immediate solution to heatstroke is to get somewhere cooler and rehydrate as much as possible. Grab a sports drink with electrolytes to replenish those you lost while sweating. Excess sweating also purges the body of sodium so experts advise eating a salty snack while rehydrating. Additionally, it can be helpful to wet your skin, then fan it off to mimic the cooling reaction of sweating and allowing your body temperature to lower.

As usual, the best step to combat heat exhaustion is to plan ahead by drinking plenty of water when temperatures soar, continuously reapplying sunscreen and limiting your time in the sun as much as possible.

If symptoms persist and you can't seem to cool your body, seek medical help immediately.

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HEALTH

Child Development Institute Celebrates Anniversary; New Arts Pavilion

Child Development Institute in Reseda celebrated their 30th anniversary and the launching of their new arts pavilion with a Summer Soiree on June 22.

Child Development Institute offers enriching programs, community resources, play-based learning and therapeutic services for infants, young children and their families. They work tirelessly to ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential by nurturing the relationships and environments that shape their early development.

Joan Maltese founded the organization in 1995 to meet the need for early child development and intervention services for young children in the San Fernando Valley.

Child Development Institute professionals began training in Stanley Greenspan's DIR/Floortime model which integrates child development with mental health to support a holistic approach to the successful developmental growth of the whole child.

"We give children and families a safe space in an overwhelming world to build strong foundations and relationships," said Tessa Graham, Child Development Institute's CEO.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Nithya Raman, center, presents a certificate to Child Development Institute on the occasion of their 30th anniversary. At right is CDI founder Joan Maltese, with CEO Tessa Graham on the left.

Funding is underway to build a new arts pavilion to further encourage creativity in learning.

July is National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

By Scott Knight

The month aims to raise awareness about the unique challenges faced by minority communities, reduce stigma, and promote access to culturally competent mental health care.

It honors the legacy of Bebe Moore Campbell, an advocate for mental health among minority populations and a co-founder of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). In 2008, July was nationally declared as Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

According to an article written by the American Psychiatric Association in 2025, African Americans receive poorer quality of care and lack access to culturally competent care. Only one in three African Americans who need mental health care receive it, and they have lower rates of any mental health service use, including prescription medications and outpatient services.

Some barriers still exist when it comes to receiving adequate care. These include distrust of the healthcare system, concerns about family privacy, limited knowledge of available treatments, stigma associated with mental illness, and denial of mental health problems.

Only one in 10 Hispanics with a mental health disorder use mental health services. Some of the reasons are language barriers, lack of insurance, limited knowledge about mental health problems, and the cultural stigma associated with mental illness.

Taking people seriously when they say they have a mental illness is vital to eradicating stigma.

In a recent article published in May 2025, the CDC reported that about 49% of all people who die by suicide have a known, diagnosed mental health condition, and many mental health conditions may go undiagnosed. Ensuring that people get access to mental health care when they need it can help reduce the risk of suicide. Suicide is the fifth leading cause of death for African Americans ages 10-49, and the third leading cause for ages 10-24. Among Hispanics, it is the third leading cause of death for ages 10-24 and ages 10-49.

Only about one in three African Americans seek treatment for their mental health. So how do we break the stigma so that more people receive treatment? NAMI says to engage in four activities.

First, gather information. Stigma stems from a lack of knowledge. Second, speak up. Living with a mental illness doesn't define a person. You are just as capable as anyone else when it comes to living a successful life. Third, remain open. As more African Americans open up about living with a mental illness, we move closer to dismantling the stigma. Fourth, believe people. Taking people seriously when they say they have a mental illness is vital to eradicating stigma.

The Jason Foundation is a valuable resource for those who are struggling with a mental illness or have a friend or loved one who is struggling. At www.jasonfoundation.com you can learn about the warning signs and risk factors associated with individuals who may be struggling with mental issues and suicidal ideation, as well as locate the nearest Jason Foundation Affiliate Office. Take time to educate yourself on the warning signs and risk factors associated with suicide.

Scott Knight is the Senior Division Director and Education Specialist at The Jason Foundation, Inc.

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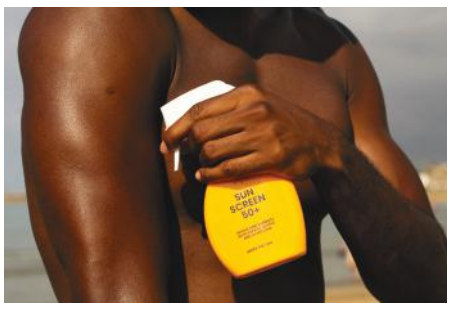
Spray Sunscreen Mistakes You Might Be Making

It's officially beach season and with that comes the reminder of how important the use of sunscreen is. While individuals should be applying face sunscreen daily (no matter the season), spray sunscreen becomes quite popular during the summer months.

Many love this form of sunscreen for its easy touch-free application, but there are a few common mistakes being made during its application that may negate the effectiveness of the product. When using spray sunscreen, be mindful of these specifics:

1. Not using enough – Traditionally, health experts advise using a shot glass worth of sunscreen to cover exposed skin. With spray sunscreen, it becomes increasingly hard to measure how much sunscreen is actually being used. Experts advise spraying each area of the body for at least six seconds from a few inches away.

2. Not rubbing your sunscreen in – Many individuals lean towards spray sunscreen because it is a less messy alternative. However, despite the spray nozzle, experts stress that this type of sunscreen still needs to be rubbed into the skin to work effectively. After spraying the skin, rub the sunscreen in to ensure even coating and that no spots are missed. Mineral sunscreen, which has more of a white cast, can help since you can actually see where the white needs to be thoroughly rubbed into the skin.



3. Applying spray sunscreen in the wrong conditions – Because of the nature of the spray, it should only be used outdoors where ventilation is key. Find a spot with little to no wind, as spray sunscreen can easily be picked up by the breeze and thus, you won't actually get enough on your skin.

4. Not layering your sunscreen – Depending on how long you are in the sun and what kind of direct coverage you are getting, it is imperative to layer your sunscreen for maximum protection. Spray sunscreen might not block enough UV rays by itself so health experts suggest first coating your skin with a cream sunscreen and then using a spray for continuous touch ups throughout the day.

5. Not reapplying frequently enough – Similar to layering your sunscreen, you have to continue to reapply sunscreen every two hours or immediately after being in the water. While many sunscreens claim to be water-resistant, this is not necessarily true. To help you remember to reapply, set a timer on your phone or purchase sun stickers for the body that change color when it's time to reapply.

6. Using expired sunscreen – Active ingredients in sunscreen deteriorate over time and thus, become less effective at blocking UV rays. While it may be tempting to reuse a sunscreen from last summer, it might not have the same potency to protect your skin at adequate levels. Check the expiration date and if your sunscreen has also been in high heat for an extended period of time, it's best to toss the product and purchase a new one for adequate coverage.

Free Seminar for Seniors on Downsizing

Ask the experts about senior issues on Thursday, July 10, from 10:30 to 11:30 am.

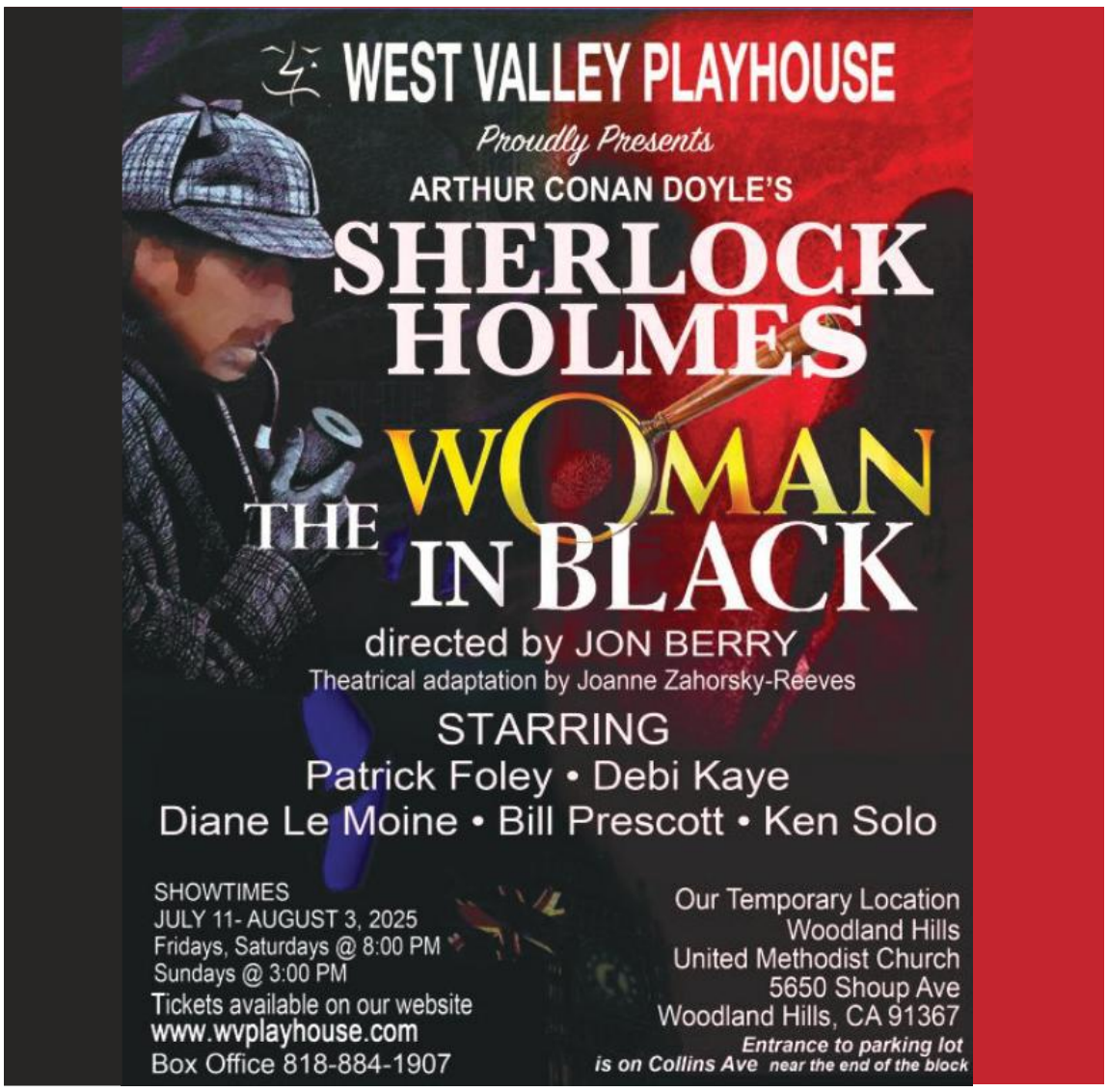
Scott M. Friedman with Coldwell Banker Realty in Sherman Oaks will lead a team discussion on senior real estate issues such as selling your home, right sizing, taxation and the importance of trusts and wills.

Friedman is a Senior Real Estate Specialist, Short Sale and Foreclosure Resource and Certified Negotiations Specialist. Thomas P. Christopher, Esq., of the Christopher Law Group, will address the importance of having an updated will and trust for seniors. Professional organizer Dina Braverman will discuss simplifying and downsizing.

The event will be held at Ivy Park at West Hills, 9012 Topanga Canyon Blvd. RSVP to (818) 701-9550 as space is limited.

Friedman and Margie Markus, a number one team at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Sherman Oaks, bring over 25 years of experience assisting clients in the Valley and Westside of Los Angeles. Friedman and Markus are dedicated to delivering outstanding results by focusing on the objectives of their clients. They can be reached at (818) 317-2011 or scottmfriedman@yahoo.com.

ENTERTAINMENT



The Materialists is Neither a Great "Rom" Nor a Funny "Com"

By Katie Sterling

It's not quite the rom-com the trailer makes it out to be. In all honesty, there's truly very little "com" peppered throughout the movie and the "rom" well, doesn't quite land.

While influenced by Nora Ephron classics, director Celine Song's latest film *The Materialists* is a far cry from the quirky love stories that Ephron was able to enthrall audiences with. Rather, this film takes a frank look at the modern world of dating and while the male leads might be captivating, the storyline falls flat.

Lucy (Dakota Johnson) is a professional matchmaker who looks at the world of love as a numbers game, not necessarily one where you're searching for that special spark. Her clientele in New York are matched together based on their worth as compatible figures (height, income, value, etc.) So, it's only natural, and not at all surprising, that when she finds herself in a love triangle, the two men couldn't be on further ends of the "value" spectrum.

The Materialists does take a realistic look at the dating world and the caveats that come with it, but it seems its biggest fault is not that it's not necessarily a romantic comedy, but that it was marketed that way.

Harry (Pedro Pascal) is a partner in a private-equity firm whose net worth is in the millions and doesn't blink when a check is placed in front of him. John (Chris Evans) is a cater waiter and aspiring theater actor who lives with roommates in a crumbling apartment. According to Lucy, it's clear on paper who the "unicorn" is, but there's one factor that disrupts her usual go-to calculations: history.

While Harry is a new love interest met at a client's wedding, John is her ex-boyfriend who takes Lucy by surprise when he shows up as a waiter at said wedding. It's obvious that the two haven't fully gotten over each other but the issue of why they broke up years ago is still glaringly obvious…the fact that John has no money. It's clear that both men have amazing attributes, and could be great partners for Lucy, but she is too much in her own head to really give either her full attention.

It's not a new take in a romantic comedy, the battle between being pragmatic and being romantic, but Lucy is never someone you're really rooting for. It could be because of Johnson's usual unemotional line deliveries (which frankly, fit with this character for once) or because the courting from both parties never feels exciting. When you're watching a movie where PEDRO PASCAL and CHRIS EVANS are the love interests and you're bored…that's a problem.

Additionally, there are two side storylines that don't really aid in the excitement you'd hope to get from a movie marketed as a romantic comedy. One centers on a sexual assault that one of Lucy's clients faced and one is so ridiculous (albeit, a true procedure) that it starts to feel that this movie piles on too much and then never gels together in a satisfying way.

The Materialists does take a realistic look at the dating world and the caveats that come with it, but it seems its biggest fault is not that it's not necessarily a romantic comedy, but that it was marketed that way. Would it be more enjoyable if audiences had a clearer idea of what they would really be watching?

It's a problem that has only seemed to intensify over the years, with trailers misleading audiences on what a film actually is. Get the promos out, get them in the door and then see if they actually like the movie or not. It's frustrating for a moviegoer and perhaps the reason so many wait to stream movies at home. Why pay $25 per person to be disappointed in a theatre, when that disappointment might not hit as heavy after paying $20 for multiple people to watch it at home?

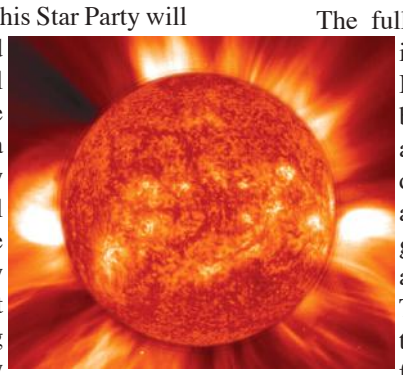
If you're truly looking for a feel-good rom-com, skip *The Materialists* and delve into Ephron's catalogue where any choice is a better option than this movie.

Nighttrek: What to See in the July Sky

By Neil Simmons

The highlight of July is the return of one of the biggest constellations in the night sky – Scorpius. Look south after dark to spot the curved tail of the scorpion. Notice the bright red star towards the head of the scorpion. This red star named "Antares," is the heart of the scorpion. Antares is over 700 times bigger than our Sun. If Antares replaced our Sun, it would extend all the way to Mars. Now that's BIG! This Zodiac constellation has over 18 stars which can be seen with the naked eye.

Make plans to go to the "Night Sky Festival" on Saturday, July 26 at Paramount Ranch in Agoura Hills. This Star Party will be sponsored by the National Park Service and the Ventura County Astronomical Society. There will be many telescopes set up for viewing with astronomy guides to answer your questions. This is a FREE event. Make sure to get there by 7 pm to enjoy all the activities that are planned. Parking is plentiful and free.



The planet Mars is visible in the west this month and sits in the constellation of Leo the Lion. On Monday, the 28th, the crescent Moon will appear close to Mars, which is a nice sight to see. Scientists say a mysterious giant cloud hanging over the surface of Mars, which was first spotted in 2018, has recently reappeared on the Red Planet. Made of water and ice, the elongated cloud sits 12.4 miles above the volcano Arsia Mons and stretches some 1,110 miles in length. Scientists have named the formation the 'Arsia Mons Elongated Cloud' (AMEC). However, experts are not clear why it has formed, how long it will stay or when it will disappear from the Martian atmosphere.

NASA has warned that the Sun will be very active in July. There will be several Coronal Mass Ejections (CME) which will create auroras in the night sky. Chances to see an aurora increase the farther north you travel.

A CME is a powerful eruption of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's upper atmosphere, or corona. CMEs can eject billions of tons of material and travel at speeds of up to 1,800 miles per second.

Three sights to see without a telescope in July are: The Big Dipper which is hanging straight down by its handle. The fifth brightest star, Vega, is in the northeast. The Summer Triangle, which is an asterism, or pattern of stars, that's made up of three bright stars from three different constellations. Vega is one of these stars from the constellation Lyra.

The planet Venus is bright in the early morning sky from 3:30 am until dawn. Look on Thursday, July 3, with binoculars to see Uranus in the same field of view as Venus. Uranus has faint rings made of dust and ice, with the inner rings being narrow and dark, and the outer rings being brighter and easier to see. Uranus has 28 known moons and Venus has no moons.

The full Moon in July is called the Buck Moon because the antlers of male deer (bucks) are in full-growth mode at this time. The name is thought to come from Native American culture. This full Moon will occur on Thursday, July 10. The Moon is a rocky body made up of iron, magnesium, aluminum, silicon, titanium, gold, silver, and mercury.

As summer vacation starts, make sure to get away from the city lights to see the Milky Way in the south and the Little Dipper in the north. Earth is located on one of the spiral arms of the Milky Way galaxy. Looking out at the Milky Way is actually looking to the center of the galaxy. It is estimated that there are over 300 billion stars within our galaxy.

The Little Dipper, also known as Ursa Minor, is a constellation in the northern sky. The Little Dipper is made up of seven stars, but only three are bright enough to see in the night sky, and the others are only visible in very dark skies. One of these stars is Polaris, also known as the North Star. This star is located at the end of the Little Dipper's handle and is very important because it doesn't appear to move and helps orient people in the direction of north. The closest dark skies are at the beaches north of Malibu or the area around Mt. Pinos which is about an hour's drive away.

When not stargazing, Neill Simmons, is an Investment Executive with LPL Financial in Woodland Hills. If you have any astronomy or financial questions, he may be reached at (818) 936-2626 or emailed at: neill.simmons@lpl.com.

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