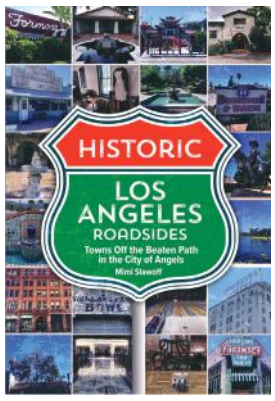


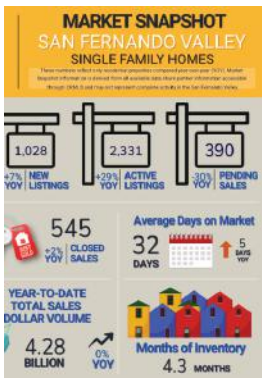
Hit the Road to Historic LA

See Page 9

Nighttrek: What to See in the August Sky
See Page 11

Valley Home Prices Hit a Record High

See Page 10



ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 6, Issue 125 | A Compendious Source of Information | July 31, 2025

NEWS IN BRIEF

LAPD to Host National Night Out Movie Night August 5

The LAPD West Valley division will be hosting their National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5, from 6 to 10 pm at Randall D. Simmons Park (the corner or Wilbur Ave. and Vanowen St). At this free event, there will be free activities and treats and a screening of the movie *How To Train Your Dragon*. Bring picnic items, blankets and lawn chairs. National Night Out is intended to enhance the relationship between neighbors and local law enforcement through community events.

Ex-NBA Star Found Running Illegal Gambling Ring Out of Encino Home

Gilbert Arenas, 43, was arrested earlier this week for running an illegal high-stakes poker operation out of his Encino mansion. The ex-NBA star was arrested alongside five additional defendants, including the suspected Israeli crime boss, Yevgeni Gershman. The poker games hosted by Arenas, known as "Agent Zero," ran from September 2021 through July 2022. He collected a "rake" or fee from each pot and hired chefs, valets and armed guards. Gershman managed the day-to-day operations and hired women to provide "companionship," who then had to pay a tax of their nightly earnings to him. Although a raid occurred in July 2022, Arenas was found to still be providing gambling equipment and renting out his mansion for the poker games. Arenas faces charges of conspiracy to operate an illegal gambling business, operating an illegal gambling business and making false statements to federal investigators. He pleaded not guilty earlier this week.

Possible Shooting at Encino House Party Rattles Neighborhood

In the midst of a slew of home robberies, including the murder of two residents, locals are on edge as another possible shooting occurred in the Encino area. Hundreds flocked to a local home on White Oak Ave for a house party that had to be broken up by police due to numerous reports of a disturbance. The specific house has long been a point of irritation in the neighborhood as it is believed the owner frequently rents out the property for parties. While there was no evidence of a shooting upon police investigation, this incident only serves to stress Encino's current problems of repeated lawlessness.

Home Invasions Continue to Hit Encino; A Community Meeting Expressed Concern, But When Will It Stop?

Just hours after angry residents gathered to hear LAPD officers and Los Angeles District Attorney Nathan Hochman discuss crime, two more home invasion robberies took place in the West Valley.

These robberies, which have quickly become a routine occurrence, prompted over 400 residents from Encino, Tarzana and Woodland Hills to crowd the Encino Community Center earlier this month for a neighborhood event, where the sponsoring Encino Neighborhood Council asked "Do You Feel Safe in Encino?"

LAPD Captain Michael Bland agreed that Encino is a "flash point for burglary," with crime up 150% for the area from last year.

This meeting followed several home invasion robberies in the community, specifically the double homicide of *American Idol* producer Robin Kaye and her husband Thomas Deluca on July 14, shot with their own gun during a burglary.

"Why does it have to take a death for us to have a meeting like this?" asked one frustrated resident.

Following the event two more break-ins took place, one on Hayvenhurst and one on Enfield. Thieves attempted to burglarize two Encino properties – one belonging to ex-*Real Housewife* Teddi Mellencamp, who was in her residence when masked men hopped her fence and one in which thieves burglarized a home in broad daylight.

"A lot of people are feeling targeted in Encino and in fact, it's probably because we are being targeted. And so we are demanding from the city to get more resources deployed and have more LAPD protection in Encino," said Roy Nwaisser, public safety chair of the Encino Neighborhood Council.

The irony is that overall crime statistics are down, according to LAPD Deputy Chief Marla Ciuffetelli, Valley Operations Bureau. That means nothing to West Valley residents, where break ins, home invasions and burglaries seem to be happening weekly.

LAPD Captain Michael Bland agreed that Encino is a "flash point for burglary," with crime up 150% for the area from last year. Bland said that LAPD has only one basic car unit and seven patrol units to cover the entire 33 square miles.

With the recent spate of burglaries, LAPD has increased patrols from 7 pm to 7 am, and Bland says they have requested extra patrols, mounted equestrian units and increased flyovers and are utilizing license plate recognition tools.

He said that several cities within L.A. County are using drones to capture criminals and have real-time watch centers with cameras in public places. Many residents asked if they could raise the money themselves to donate drones to the station. Though good in intent, the drones must then be operated and maintained within the station, and the funds aren't there for that.

Bland said they are trying to "do more with less," but stated that Los Angeles in total has only 8,700 police officers, compared to New York, which has 48,000.

LA District Attorney Nathan Hochman talked about his goals to get beyond the "decarceration" policy of previous D.A. George Gascon, and build a system that enforces the law and makes it clear to criminals that there are consequences to their actions.

"They will be arrested and taken to jail," he stressed. "The goal is to deter them in the first place. The D.A.'s office is open for business," he said which got applause.

His suggestion that residents pressure their city councilperson to demand more resources got a large round of "boo's" for Encino Councilmember Nithya Raman, who voted to defund the police.

Hochman, when asked about the homeless situation, said that current mental health laws are "insane." He said that there are only 100 beds for locked wards, and the city needs state funding to create state-of-the-art mental health facilities to handle the truly mentally ill living on the streets.

The crowd seemed to feel that no real concrete answers were given. The LAPD officers again stressed community involvement, which everyone has heard before - sharing information on social media, forming neighborhood watch groups, etc. One victim of a home invasion robbery said, "Encino should just form its own police force and keep ourselves safe."

CALENDAR

Community Calendar

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their Public Safety Committee meeting on Monday, August 8, at 7 pm. This event will take place in person at the Encino Community Center (4935 Balboa Blvd). For more info, visit encinonc.org.

* The Encino Tarzana Library will hosting their next Art Lab on Saturday, August 2, at 4 pm. Teens and adults are invited to learn how to make an animal out of air dry clay. Supplies will be provided.

* The first Sunday of every month brings San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's Sepulveda Basin Bird Outing with the chance to see over 60 birds on a three-hour tour of the basin. This walk will take place on Sunday, August 3, from 8 to 11 am. For more details, including where to meet up, visit sfvaudubon.org.

* Join the West Valley Regional Library for an engaging discussion on some of the world's best short stories in 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*. The book club will meet Mondays at 10 am and this month's selections (from *100 Great Short Stories*) are August 4: *The Knitted Collar* by Mary Anne Hoare, August 11: *The District Doctor* by Ivan S. Turgenev, August 18: *Nobody's Story* by Charles Dickens and August 25: *The Fiddler* by Herman Melville.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be holding their next "Lunch Break Live" on Thursday, August 14 at 11:30 am. Make new business connections over a delicious local lunch. The cost is $30 for members and $50 for non-members and those interested can RSVP at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* The American Red Cross, in partnership with Westfield Fashion Square, will be holding a blood drive on Tuesday, August 12, from 10 am to 4 pm. The drive will take place in the Community Room near Macy's. To schedule your appointment, visit redcrossblood.org.

* Study Smart Tutors, a national leader in educational equity and college access programming, is proud to announce its 15th anniversary celebration. The milestone will be commemorated on Saturday, August 10, at 5 pm at Casaléna in Encino. The anniversary event will recognize the contributions of team members across departments, including education, partnerships, operations, HR, recruiting, curriculum, and tutoring. It will also honor the many school districts, nonprofit organizations, and educators who have collaborated with Study Smart Tutors to deliver high-impact programming to students and families nationwide.

* The Reseda Neighborhood Council will be holding their general board meeting on Monday, August 18, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm via Zoom. For the agenda and Zoom link, visit resedacouncil.org.

* Save the date! On Saturday, August 23, from 9 to 11:30 am, the 818 Week Coalition is hosting "Saluting Our Firefighting Heroes: Breakfast with the Brave," a free community pancake breakfast honoring the Los Angeles Fire Department heroes who protected the San Fernando Valley during the January 2025 firestorms. The breakfast will include a family-style pancake breakfast, fire station tours and engine displays, family-friendly activities and entertainment, community health resources, safety, and disaster readiness resources, community and nonprofit resources, health screenings and disaster prep tools, music, speeches and a chance to connect face-to-face with the heroes who protected you. The event will take place at the Van Nuys Fire Station 39 (1465 Oxnard St).

* Join the Encino Tarzana Library every Tuesday at 12 pm for Gentle Vinyasa led by Yoga Alliance certified teacher, Heather. Modifications can be offered for all poses. All levels welcome, bring a mat.

People in the News

PHOTOS: JayRoss/JaysfStop

Valley News Group Honored by Valley Cultural Foundation

Valley News Group was honored last Sunday by Valley Cultural Foundation for the newspapers' 43 years of sponsorship of the concerts in the park program.

Publisher **Kathleen Sterling** started her first newspaper, the Warner Center News, in 1982, and immediately became a sponsor of the summer concert season.

"We've been a proud sponsor of the concerts since then, and promote not only the Warner Park season but the NoHo Nights as well," said Sterling.

Valley News Group now publishes five community papers in the valley: *Warner Center News, Valley Vantage, Calabasas Enterprise, Encino Enterprise and North Valley News*.

Valley Cultural Foundation Board Chair **Gina Escow** introduced the political representatives who gave certificates of appreciation to *Valley News Group* for their continued support.

Barri Worth of Los Angeles Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's office was on hand to present a certificate, as was ***J*ill Kline**, Economic Development Director for City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, and **Justin Vines**, Constituent Services Case Worker for Congressman Brad Sherman.

In the photo above right, Sterling, center, accepts a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol from Vines, left, with Valley Cultural Foundation Board Chair Gina Escow, at right.

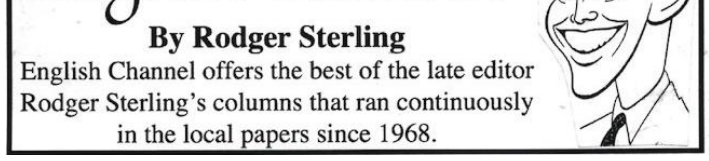
Below, *Valley Vantage* is delivered every Sunday to concert attendees in the park, like these happy readers.

Above left, Surfin brought the songs of the Beach Boys to the stage Sunday. Emerging artist Millie Oliver & the Missing Pieces opened for them.

In the photo below, former City Councilman and Woodland Hills Honorary Mayor Dennis P. Zine congratulated Sterling and *Valley News Group* on their recognition. Zine writes a regular column for the *Valley News Group* papers entitled Rantz & Ravez.

For more information on the newspapers, their coverage area and readership, visit valleynewsgroup.com.

To receive a free email subscription to any of the publications email valleynewsgroup@gmail.com and say "Register Me" and indicate which newspaper you would like to receive.



• Michelle Goldwater checks in with this wisdom from the great old sage Will Rogers: "Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me; I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved."

• How do you know the difference between a chess player and a civil servant? Ans> The chess player moves every now and then.

• Didja' hear about the narcissist's narcissist? His favorite game was strip solitaire.

• A friend of ours who shall remain anonymous lest his wife hear of his thoughts is thinking of cruising off to the Virgin Islands. Pause. After all, he says, you don't have to be a canary to go to the Canary Islands.

• Don Sanelli checks in with this advice: Give a man a fish and you feed them for a day; teach them to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks!

• If you toss a penny 10,000 times, it will not be heads 5,000 times, but more like 4,950. The head picture weighs more, so it ends up on the bottom.

• Why do you press the buttons harder on the remote control when you know the batteries are dead?

LOCAL NEWS

Valley News Group
Warner Center News | Valley Vantage
Las Virgenes And Calabasas Enterprise | North Valley News | Encino Enterprise

PUBLISHER
Kathleen Sterling
EDITOR
Katie Sterling
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Connie Hein
BUSINESS EDITOR
Miri Rossitto
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Brad Rosenheim
Miri Rossitto
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Scott Silverstein
Molly Unger
John Walker
Diana Williams
Dennis Zine

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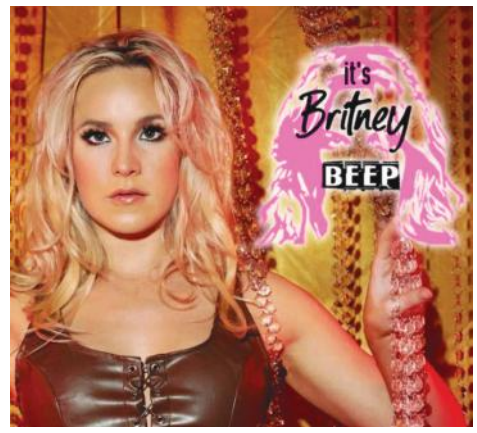
NoHo Summer Nights Are Back!



The summer vibes are heating up as Valley Cultural Foundation (VCF), with Los Angeles City Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, joins forces to present the much-anticipated ninth season of NoHo Summer Nights at the North Hollywood Recreation Center! Get ready for fantastic live music, local flavor, and community celebration—all completely free!

This year's concert series brings an energetic mix of tribute bands and emerging local artists, plus an exciting lineup of vendors and food trucks to keep the good times rolling.

The performance schedule is as follows:

- August 2: Start Me Up – A Tribute to The Rolling Stones, with Emerging Artist Tonight's Sunshine. Start Me Up replicates the look, attitude and sound of a live Stones concert, note for note.

- August 9: DJ Sal Roses. Sal Roses is a rapper-songwriter whose music blends west coast and Latin sounds with introspective lyrics aimed at building the bilingual hip hop renaissance era.

- August 16: It's Britney Beep – A Tribute to Britney Spears, with Emerging Artist Dogs 4 Ever. A high-energy live band, spot-on live vocals, 11 costume changes, and 23 fully choreographed production numbers with fierce dancers will have you reliving the Y2K concert of your dreams!

Each concert begins at 7 pm with a local Emerging Artist, followed by the headliner at 8 pm. On-site there will be artist booths, vendors and various food trucks.

NoHo Summer Nights takes place at the North Hollywood Recreation Center (11455 W Magnolia Blvd.) with the entrance at Magnolia and Tujunga, behind the Amelia Earhart Library.

Parking is available in nearby lots or on surrounding streets.

Since 1975, VCF has been dedicated to celebrating diversity in arts, business, education, and community through inclusive and accessible programming.

A Love Letter to the Valley Brings Music, Art, and Community to Celebrate 818 Day

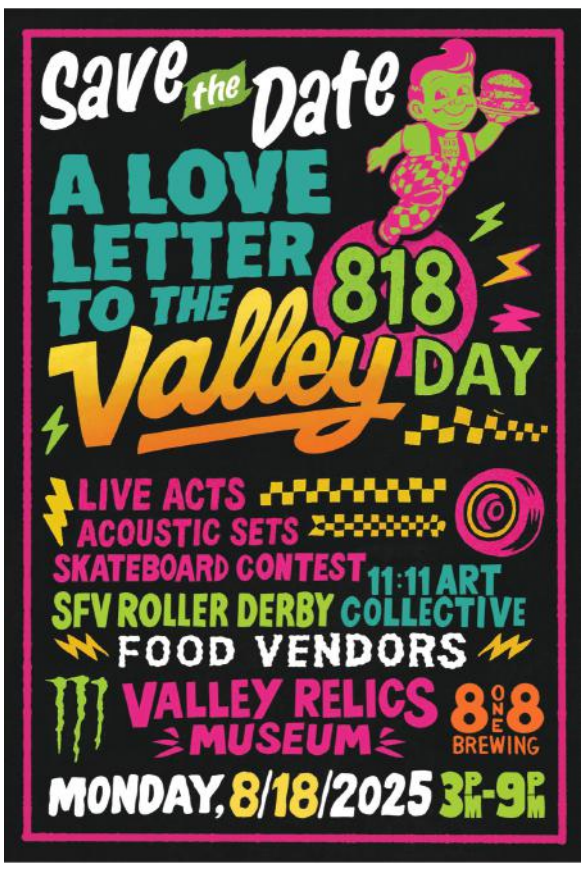
by Danrochelle D. Yumul

There's no place like the 818!

Every year on August 18, affectionately known as 818 Day, the San Fernando Valley lights up with events celebrating its people, neighborhoods, and unmistakable vibe. From concerts and pop-ups to farmers' markets and art walks, it's a day when the entire Valley shows up for itself.

One of this year's standout celebrations is A Love Letter to the Valley, a community-centered 818 Day festival at the iconic Valley Relics Museum in Lake Balboa. From 3 pm to 9 pm, the museum will come alive with music, food, art, and good vibes; all in honor of the culture and creativity rooted right here in the Valley.

818 Day has grown into a beloved tradition, and this event, organized by Mays Music Management, is a heartfelt manifestation of Valley love and community. Expect an incredible lineup of local bands and acoustic acts, interactive art you can step into, and a full day of connection with your neighbors and fellow Valley locals.



A skateboarding contest and a live demo from the SFV Roller Derby add to this community celebration. Around every corner, you'll find artists, makers, and small businesses sharing what they do best. And, not to mention plenty of delicious Valley eats from local food vendors ready to fuel your day.

The story behind the event is as homegrown as the Valley itself. "We started with backyard shows and nights at The Cobalt with Dave," Adam Mays, founder of Mays Music Management and Valley local, shared. "Over time, it grew into something more — a way to turn what we love into a business while still giving back. We actually did something like this about ten years ago at the old Valley Relics spot in Chatsworth. So doing it again now, especially after COVID, feels like a full-circle moment. We've teamed up with friends, artists, and bands we've known for years. It's really about bringing the community together. There's so much talent in the Valley, and so much love. That's why we called it A Love Letter to the Valley — to shine a light on the city that raised us."

Every year on August 18, affectionately known as 818 Day, the San Fernando Valley lights up with events celebrating its people, neighborhoods, and unmistakable vibe.

The event is family-friendly and open to all, with generous support from community-minded sponsors like Monster Energy and 818 Brewing, who'll also be bringing fun activations and giveaways to the mix.

Admission is just $10, and kids under 12 get in free, making it the perfect way to spend a summer Monday with friends, family, and fellow Valley locals.

Whether you grew up here or just moved here, A Love Letter to the Valley is your chance to soak in the energy, celebrate local culture, and fall in love with the 818 all over again. You'll find it all at the Valley Relics Museum, located at 7900 Balboa Blvd. in Lake Balboa.

Follow Mays Music Management on social media for updates, lineup announcements, and sneak peeks leading up to the big day at @maysmusicmanagement.

HEALTH

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Summer is Here and That Means Potential Sunburn Treatment!

Summer is here and many are flocking outdoors to enjoy the sunshine. We all do our best to protect our skin, but sometimes we get burned without even noticing until it's too late. So, what's the best method to treat a sunburn? And how do you combat the effects?

First, it's important to know exactly what causes your skin to burn in the first place. When skin is exposed to too much ultraviolet (UV) light, your body attempts to protect itself by making melanin, causing your skin to darken.

Ultraviolet A radiation causes skin aging, darker spots and wrinkling, while Ultraviolet B radiation can result in sunburns. Lighter skin tones usually get more severe sunburns because the skin already has less protective melanin to begin with. Therefore, sunburned skin not only gets redder, but feels hotter and can be accompanied with headache, fatigue or fever known as "sun poisoning."

If you suffer from these side effects, doctors recommend taking an over-the-counter pain reliever like ibuprofen but to avoid any pain relief products that end in -caine, such as lidocaine. Rather than help the situation, they can further irritate your skin. Perhaps the most well-known method to treat skin is the use of aloe vera for its skin-soothing and anti-inflammatory effects. Soy is also an ingredient that can be found in many moisturizers that relieve the inflammation. For sunburns that are overly itchy or uncomfortable, calamine lotion is another staple to prevent scratching the skin and further irritating it.

While the sunburned skin is still sensitive, it's imperative to avoid hot water and instead, take cool baths and showers. Cold water helps alleviate the inflammation while naturally, hot water aggravates it. After bathing, be sure to pat yourself dry so the skin can still maintain as much moisture as possible. Additionally, drink plenty of water as a sunburn brings fluids to the surface of your skin and can potentially leave you more dehydrated than usual.

Those seeking more homeopathic solutions can try taking oatmeal baths that have antioxidant properties that are anti-inflammatory and can aid itchy skin. Taking a bath steeped with green tea bags can also see similar results.

As always, the best solution is prevention. Wear sunscreen daily, stay out of direct sunlight, take breaks out of the sun as needed and stay hydrated.

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FREE Concerts at Warner Park

Valley Cultural 50 YEARS FOUNDATION

Sunday Evenings · 5:30pm–8:30pm

5:30pm Emerging Artist · **6:30pm** Headliner

June 15
No Duh
The World's Greatest Tribute to No Doubt & Gwen Stefani
EMERGING ARTIST: **Eye of the Sun**

June 22
DJ Quik
EMERGING ARTIST: **Trevan**

June 29
Mamase
A Michael Jackson Tribute
EMERGING ARTIST: **Cherose**

Friday, July 4
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's
July 4th Extravaganza
Featuring
Strange Days - Tribute to The Doors

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

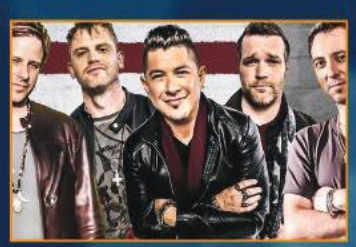
July 20
Kenny Hale
The Music of Neil Diamond
EMERGING ARTIST: **Jeffrey Chan**

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
Which One's Pink?
A Tribute to Pink Floyd
EMERGING ARTIST: **Astral Mixtape**

August 17
DSB
The World's Greatest Journey Tribute Band
EMERGING ARTIST: **Velzy**



August 24
Locked Out of Heaven
The Freshest Bruno Mars Tribute
EMERGING ARTIST: **Bella Brown & The Jealous Lovers**

Valley Cultural 50 YEARS FOUNDATION

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Warner Park · 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Woodland Hills

Lineup subject to change.

HEALTH

A Healthy Guide for Seniors Who Want to Play in the Sun

By Sandy Rosenholz

It's summer in Southern California when we have some of our hottest weather. No matter your age, wearing UV blocking sunglasses, a broad-brimmed hat and SPF lotion when you're out in the sun are musts.

No one wants a burn or, worse yet, to develop skin cancer, but when you're a senior (65+) you are more susceptible to dehydration, so it's necessary to take extra precautions when you are in the sun.

What can seniors or the elderly do to protect themselves?

•Dress in clothing with a dense weave and in darker colors. It offers you the best defense against the sun.

•Stay in the shade. Avoid the sun from 10 am to 4 pm when the UV rays are the strongest.

•Apply a sun lotion with at least a 15 SPF within a half hour to an hour of going outside. If you're going to be out in the sun for an extended period or in the water, use something with at least a 30 SPF to prevent burning. (FACT: Adults who have had four or more sunburns are more likely to develop melanoma.) Be sure to reapply your sun lotion every two hours and after you've gone swimming.

•Wear sunglasses. Choose sunglasses that block a high percentage of UV rays and wrap around the eye area.

•Drink plenty of fluids. To avoid dehydration drink six to eight glasses of water a day and eat fresh fruits and vegetables.

If you do get a sunburn or stay out in the sun for too long, try the following tips for some relief:

•Aspirin, acetaminophen or ibuprofen will help relieve the pain, headache or fever.

•A cool bath will help reduce the sting of the burn.

•Moisturize with an aloe-based cream.

•Replenish your fluids.

Be safe during the hot weather and remember to cover up!

Senior Resources, Inc. helps seniors, boomers and their families in options for independent living, assisted living and communities/homes and can provide non-medical caregiver options at home, a hospital or a facility. Contact Sandy Rosenholz, Senior Resources Care Manager at 818-359-2125 or visit Senior Resources, Inc. at www.SeniorResourcesCA.com.

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BLVD Steak is a Chicer, But Approachable Take on the Classic Steakhouse

By Katie Sterling

Is there anything better than a martini shaken tableside? One with blue-cheese stuffed olives? How about one that comes with a caviar bump? Served as chilled as the jumbo shrimp cocktail emitting wisps of icy smoke, this aperitif is just one sampling of the abundance of riches that BLVD Steak has on offer. From cocktails to the culmination of dessert, and any course you desire in between, the latest establishment to join The Commons at Calabasas is definitely making its culinary mark.

BLVD Steak is certainly not your average steakhouse, despite sharing many of the delicious dishes you have come to expect from a restaurant that boasts beef in their namesake. Yes, there are an array of meat cuts to satiate your cravings. Yes, there are the classic creamed spinach and mashed potato sides. But, much like its interior décor, this is a steakhouse that is sexier, chicer and much more aligned with what patrons are looking for when seeking out a dining establishment that offers both delicious food and great ambience.

Emerald velvet booths allow diners to cozy up over shared dishes, while sleek black tables adorned in gold accents pepper the floor, perfect for larger groups and families. Surrounded by foliage and plants that envelop the ceiling, it's hard not to be impressed by a restaurant that in such a sleek minimalist style, manages to pack quite a maximum punch.

While the décor entices you to walk in the door, the food will keep you staying long into the night and certainly returning for more. Kicking off with the aforementioned shrimp cocktail, a majority of the starter options lean on the surf side of things, including a varied raw bar that even includes some sushi options. The jumbo shrimp cocktail accompanied with mustard aioli and cocktail sauce was immensely fresh and served as a perfect foil for the warm melt-in-your-mouth crab cake with a zesty remoulade. A dichotomy of light versus richer starters (yellowtail crudo or wagyu meatball, tuna tartare or a heartier pretzel bread with BLVD butter, etc.) gives diners the ideal options whether they arrive starving or simply want a small taste of something before their main course.

There's no doubt that as an elevated steakhouse, meat is front and center, both literally on the menu and figuratively on the minds for the majority of diners seeking out a reservation. From classic cuts to more elevated Wagyu options, there are nine varied choices to satiate your cravings. A perfectly seared and seasoned 6 oz petit filet certainly showcased that BLVD steak, well, knows its steak. While delicious in and of itself, like building a perfect sundae you can mix and match sauces, butters and toppers to build your own unique concoction. While you can never go wrong with the classic peppercorn sauce or blue cheese topping, a personal favorite was the bearnaise sauce.

However, the menu certainly does not stop at steak and you would be remiss if you didn't explore the other options on offer. Once again, seafood does steal part of the show for the main course and an order of half-pound king crab legs will have you in a state of gluttony that others will envy. Rich crab meat soaked in their special BLVD butter with just the slightest drizzle of fresh lemon. Steak who?!

Those looking to explore outside of the traditional surf and turf options will be pleased to find a variety of pasta dishes, chicken options and of course, a myriad of salads if you're looking to add a little greenery to your agenda. After all, this may be an unpopular opinion, but you can judge a lot about a restaurant from their Caesar salad. Yes, it's on almost every menu, but if you can deliver one with the perfect ratio of creamy dressing to crunchy lettuce, crispy croutons and a generous sprinkling of parmesan, it can give you a pretty good insight into how the rest of the dishes will be. Safe to say, the BLVD Steak Caesar got full marks.

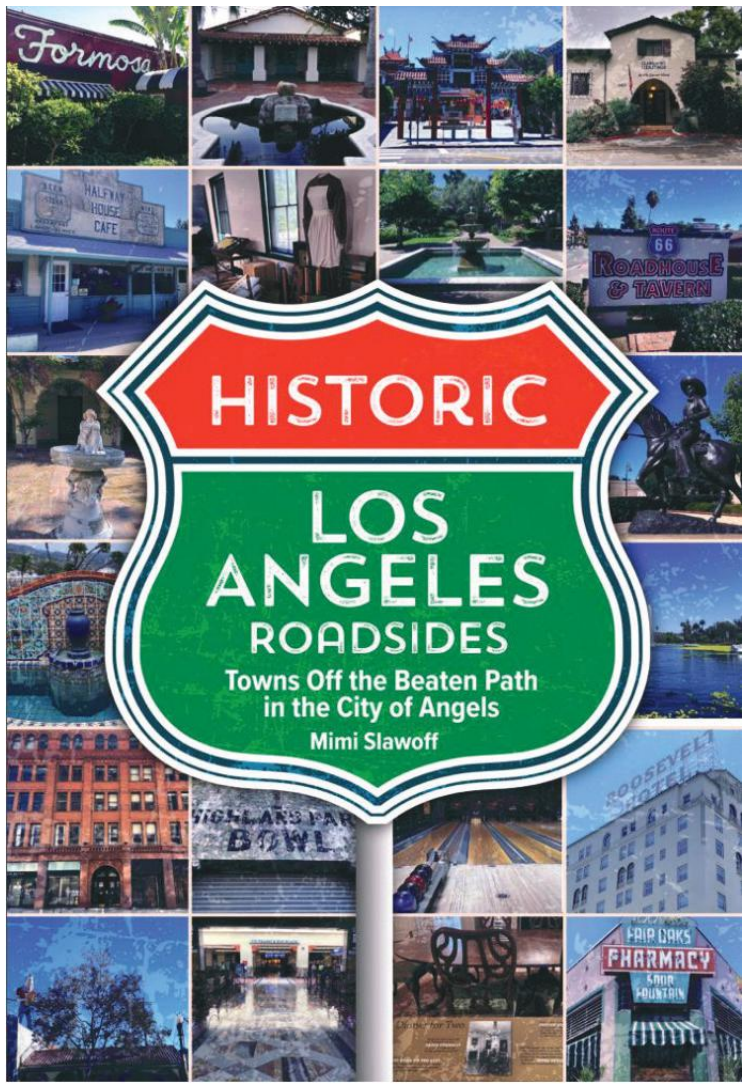
With whatever entrée may speak to you, just be sure to order an array of sides to fully round out what will only be a delicious meal. Traditionalists may go for the mashed potatoes or creamed spinach, but personal standouts included the crispy broccolini and mac & cheese so decadent, it could be a meal in and of itself. If you still have room for dessert (and you absolutely should always have room for dessert), hands-down order the salted caramel pot de crème topped with carmelized popcorn. Thank me later.

While BLVD Steak reimagines familiar favorites that are no doubt delicious, the restaurant also succeeds in large part thanks to its ability to offer a complete dining experience for their guests. From the moment you walk in, you are greeted by a friendly face and each server's attention to detail in being both accommodating, but never overbearing, makes for a truly enjoyable meal. Their suggestions are incredibly helpful, their knowledge of the menu is top-tier and their attitudes are infectious.

As the latest dining hot-spot, there's no doubt that locals will flock to this restaurant for dinners, brunches, celebrations or simply to grab a drink at the bar after a long workday. After all, the bar is a show-stopping piece that impresses guests the moment they walk in and frankly, draws customers in as its infectious energy radiates out the front door.

While BLVD Steak does have an original location in Sherman Oaks, it's hard not to feel as if BLVD Steak is so quintessentially Calabasas; elevated but approachable, secluded yet inviting and frankly, a treasure trove in and of itself.

For reservations, and to view the full menu, visit blvdsteak.com.



It's Summer! Hit the Road to Historic L.A.

Get your motor running and head out on LA's iconic roadways (nope, not freeways). The open road is liberating, the anticipation of adventure at every turn. The new book *Historic Los Angeles Roadsides* will steer you to towns and attractions along classic roadways.

The book takes you from Route 66 to the Greystone Mansion and the Redondo Beach Pier.

Join journalist and Los Angeles native Mimi Slawoff on a tour of LA's historical and whimsical roadside attractions along iconic roadways in these California beach towns, mountains, valleys and deserts.

Step back in time on Route 66, which zigzags through 31 towns from Claremont to Santa Monica. Admire 19th-century architecture in Pasadena, get the scoop on Hollywood history, see the site of a murder-suicide in the Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills, and walk in the steps of LA's founders downtown.

You'll soak up more than ocean views and sunshine as you cruise along Pacific Coast Highway. Take a stroll on the Redondo Beach horseshoe-shaped pier and watch surfers catch a wave in Malibu.

The curving, scenic roadways in the Santa Monica Mountains lead to historical ranches along Mulholland Highway, the enchanting Topanga Canyon, and Laurel Canyon, a wild rock and roll scene in the 1960s.

This is Slawoff's second book about Los Angeles. A native Angeleno and seasoned travel journalist, Slawoff enjoys taking photos and writing about local and global destinations. She loves road trips and historical sites along the way. Mimi writes for AAA, USA Today, 10Best, and many other print and digital publications.

She is a member of the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW). Follow her on X @Mimitravelz, Instagram @ Mimitravels, and Mimislawoff.com.

Historic Los Angeles Roadsides is available at Barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com.

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SCAN ME

I Am Putin Makes Premiere in NoHo

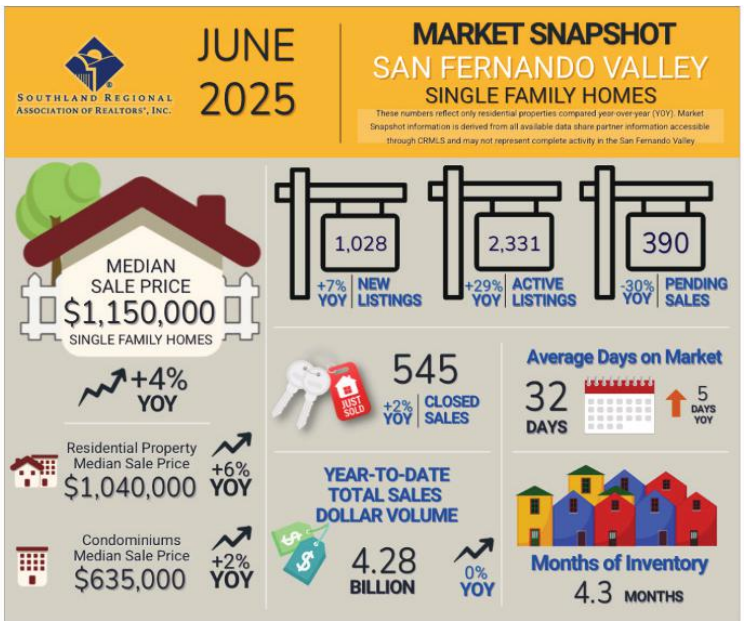
A gripping new play explores the cost of war, power and rebellion.

As the war between Russia and Ukraine continues to reverberate around the globe, *I Am Putin*—a bold and unflinching new stage production—opens at Theatre 68 in North Hollywood. This urgent political drama delves into the heart of tyranny, dissent, and the human toll of authoritarian power.

I Am Putin dares to look beyond the headlines, stepping inside the psyche of one of the world's most polarizing leaders. It tells not just his story, but also the story of those who resist him: a defiant military commander who dares to revolt, and two young Russians risking everything in pursuit of freedom.

With haunting relevance and emotional depth, the play asks: Do we hear their cries? What happens to a nation—and its people—under the weight of silence, fear, and propaganda?

I Am Putin plays through August 17, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2:30 pm. Tickets at theatresixtyeight.stagey.net/projects/12552?tab=tickets.



San Fernando Valley Home Price Hits a Record High

The median price of single-family homes that closed escrow during June set a record high and the combined inventory of homes and condominiums listed for sale throughout the Valley increased to levels not seen since 2011, the Southland Regional Association of REALTORS® reported.

The median home price – meaning half the sales were lower priced and half higher – of $1,150,000 broke the prior record high of $1,140,000 initially set in July 2024 and repeated in January. The June median single-family home price was up 4.1% from a year ago. Million-dollar price tags first appeared in three months of late 2023, but since January 2024 every month has surpassed that once unattainable benchmark.

Despite headwinds generated by economic uncertainty, the record came as home sales increased, up 1.7% from the prior year to 545 closed escrows, and inventory swelled.

The association reported 3,012 home and condominium active listings at the end of June. That was up 32.3% over a year ago and was the first time combined listings breached 3,000 listings since 2011.

Back then the supply grew in the wake of the Great Recession which hit residential real estate particularly hard. As real estate struggled to find its footing, listings then plunged to a record low of 810 home and condo listings in December 2017.

"Statistically, today's supply resembles what we saw in 2011, but this market is different, healthier even if there may be a few storm clouds on the horizon," said Anthony Bedgood, President of the Southland Regional Association of REALTORS®.

Any increase in inventory is welcome news for buyers, yet even 3,012 active listings pales compared to past markets. At the height of the Great Recession there were 7,730 active listings in October 2007 and the record high for any month was set in 1992 with 14,976 active listings – an inventory increase triggered by multiple issues which led to a reshuffling of California's aerospace- and defense-related industries.

The association also reported the close of escrow during June on 125 condominiums, which was down 18.8% from June 2024. The median price of condos that changed owners in June came in at $635,000, up 1.6% from a year ago, but below the record high of $660,000 set in July 2024.

There were 478 pending home and condo escrows reported at the end of June. That was down 33% from a year ago.

"With more homes on the market, it's taking longer to open and close escrows," said Valerie Biletsky, SRAR's CEO. "That translates into buyers having a little more negotiating leverage and sellers needing to consider a few more concessions."

At the current pace of sales, association statistics show there were enough home and condo listings to last 4.5 months, which was up 32.3% from a year ago. Over 38 years, the supply averaged a 5.3-month supply. For comparison, between 2019 and 2024 the five-year supply was a mere 2.6-month supply.

Bedgood and Biletsky believe the wild card that could influence the direction of the local real estate market is the uncertainty hovering over the national and international economies.

SRAR's income-to-loan guide for June saw an income of $296,458 was needed to qualify for an 80% loan of $916,000 on Valley median-priced single-family home of $1,150,000. With the national average interest rate at 6.61%, the income needed to qualify was up 1.5% from a year ago.

The monthly PITI — principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments — totaled $7,411.

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WOODLAND HILLS

Nighttrek: What to See in the August Sky

By Neill Simmons

The highlight of August occurs when the two brightest planets, Venus and Jupiter, appear to be very close to each other from 4:15 am to 5:15 am on early Tuesday morning, the 12th. Venus is the brightest planet at this time. Get up the next few mornings at the same time and notice how far the planets have moved away from each other.

The Perseid meteor shower peaks on the night of the 12th. This year, Perseids will be affected by moonlight, as the Moon will be 84% full during the peak. Try to see the meteors by 9:45 pm before the moonlight will make it more difficult to spot the meteors.

The next full Moon in August will occur on Saturday, the 9th. This full Moon will be the first of four in a row that are also considered super moons, meaning the Moon will appear slightly larger and brighter than usual.

The "super" part refers to the Moon's orbit, which brought it slightly closer to Earth this month, making it appear bigger and brighter. This Moon is also known as the Sturgeon Moon. This name came from the giant lake sturgeon of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain. This native freshwater fish was readily caught during this part of summer and was an important food staple for Native Americans who lived in the region. An interesting fact is that the day before a full Moon and the day after a full Moon, the Moon appears full to our eyes.

Mark Saturday, August 23, on your calendar as a fun and local "star party" will come back to Paramount Ranch. The Ventura County Astronomical Society is putting on "An Evening Under the Stars" with many telescopes and special events. You can bring a telescope you own also. The location is in Agoura Hills and there is plenty of room to park. It starts at 8 pm but get there before it is dark to take full advantage of the evening. Night temperatures can be chilly so dress accordingly. This event is FREE.

One of the great sights in August is the constellation Sagittarius. Its nickname is the "Teapot" because of its resemblance to an actual teapot. There are eight bright stars that make up this distinctive pattern. On a clear, dark night, the Milky Way appears to pour out of the spout of the teapot. This can be easily seen at the Paramount Ranch event. Ask someone there to help you spot it.

Next to Sagittarius, is the majestic constellation, Scorpio. Look for the scorpion's hooked tail and follow it up to the scorpion's heart, which is the massive red super giant star, Antares. Antares is 700 times larger than our Sun. A little more difficult to see are the giant upward lifted claws.

Another sight to see is the Summer Triangle. The Summer Triangle isn't a constellation, it's an asterism, or a noticeable pattern of stars. This pattern consists of three bright stars in three separate constellations: Deneb in the constellation Cygnus the Swan, Vega in the constellation Lyra the Harp, and Altair in the constellation Aquila the Eagle. If you are lucky enough to be under a dark sky on a moonless night, you'll be able to see the Milky Way galaxy between Vega and Altair.

The next full Moon in August will occur on Saturday, the 9th. This full Moon will be the first of four in a row that are also considered super moons.

August is the best month to see both the Big and Little Dipper which are easily recognizable star patterns, or asterisms, that are part of larger constellations.

The Big Dipper is part of Ursa Major (the Great Bear), while the Little Dipper is part of Ursa Minor (the Little Bear). The two dippers are useful for navigation, as the Big Dipper can be used to find Polaris (the North Star), which marks the end of the Little Dipper's handle. Both asterisms are circumpolar, meaning they are always visible in the night sky for observers in the Northern Hemisphere, though their position changes throughout the night and year.

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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