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ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 6, Issue 130 | A Compendious Source of Information | October 16, 2025

NEWS IN BRIEF

Friends of the West Valley Library Sale on October 18

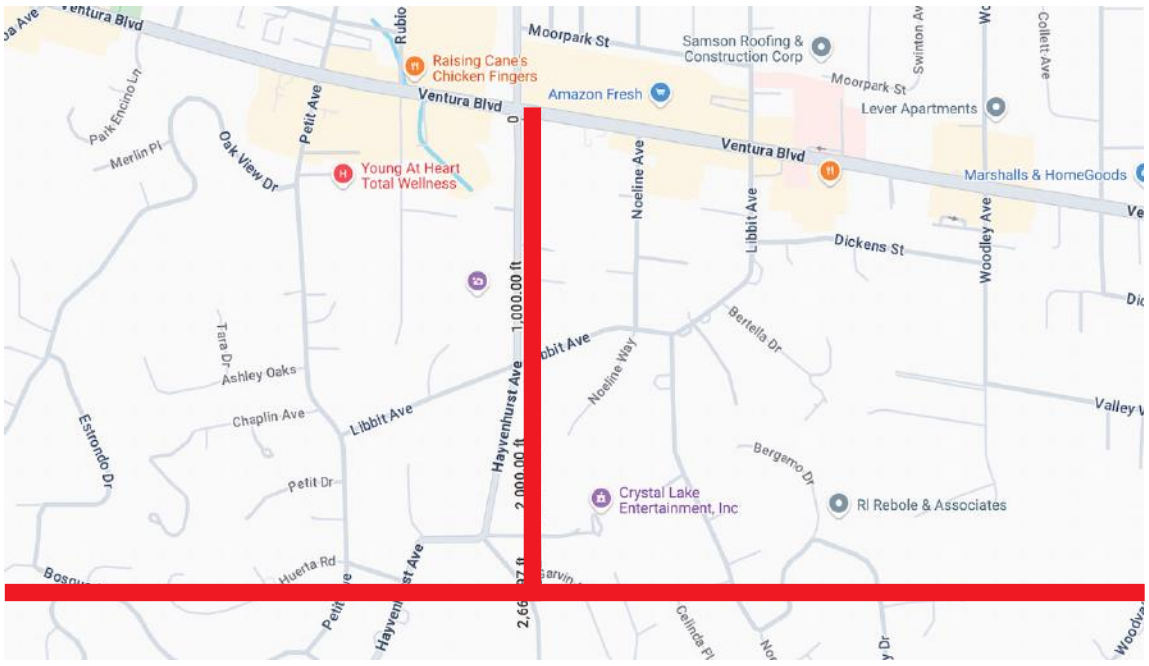
Support the West Valley Regional Library on Saturday, October 18, from 11 am to 4 pm with their "Bag of Books" sale. Purchase a bag for $5 from one of their library volunteers and fill it with as many of their gently used books, CDs and DVDs as it can hold. One bag per person. All proceeds benefit programming and collection development at the West Valley Regional Branch Library.

Kaiser Employees On Strike Until Sunday

Thousands of Kaiser Permanente union employees, including registered nurses, pharmacists, nurse anesthetists, nurse practitioners, midwives, physician assistants, rehab therapists, speech language pathologists, dietitians, and other specialty health care professionals, went on strike Tuesday. This includes hundreds at the Woodland Hills location. The union has submitted a proposal for a 25% wage increase over four years. A national agreement was last struck with Kaiser in 2021, but since then, inflation has risen 18.5% and UNAC/UHCP members received just 10% in across-the-board wage increases, "barely half of what was needed to keep up," according to the union. "We do not take the decision to strike lightly," the union said in a statement. "Our facilities will be staffed by physicians, experienced managers and trained staff with added licensed contract professionals as needed." The strike is scheduled to end at 7 am on Sunday.

Bomb Threat at Tarzana Homeless Camp

Several streets between Reseda Blvd. and Clark St. in Tarzana were blocked off early last Wednesday morning as the LAPD investigated a potential bomb threat. Officers were made aware of items that "resembled explosive devices" at a homeless encampment and promptly evacuated surrounding businesses and the local synagogue. The bomb squad arrived around 11 am and determined that the suspicious object was not a threat. Streets and businesses reopened Wednesday afternoon as soon as the investigation was closed.



The map above shows approximately a half mile from Ventura Blvd. into the residential neighborhood south of Ventura Blvd.

Newsom Signs SB 79: Allows Denser Development in Residential Neighborhoods

On October 10 Governor Newsom signed into law SB 79, which could forever change the landscape of residential neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

The Abundant & Affordable Homes Near Transit Act, SB 79's is designed to fight California's housing crisis by allowing developers to build more homes near major public transportation stops.

What it means to homeowners is that apartment developers can pack multi-story homes onto lots within a half mile of major bus routes, overriding any local zoning restrictions or objections from neighboring residents.

Opponents of the bill, including the Encino Property Owners Association and Mayor Karen Bass claim that the bill will allow developers to build massive apartment complexes next door to single-family homes - or in the backyards of those homes.

That has already happened on Topanga Canyon Blvd., where zoning law designates Topanga as a commercial zone and a major transit thoroughfare, allowing developers to demolish single-family homes and put up multi-story units, or just plunk them behind the home (see accompanying photo on page 11).

SB 79 was introduced by Senator Scott Weiner (D-San Francisco) who said, "SB 79 unwinds decades of overly restrictive land use policies that have driven housing costs to astronomical levels, forcing millions of people to move far away from jobs and transit, to face massive commutes, or to leave California entirely. By allowing more homes to be built near public transportation, SB 79 also strengthens our transit systems, increases transit ridership, and reduces traffic congestion and carbon emissions. It's been a long road to tackle these decades-old problems."

In signing the bill Newsom stated, "The world looks to California for leadership — it's time to build modern, connected communities that fulfill California's promise, meeting the needs of today and the next generation."

Local homeowners and Realtors worry that the government is not considering the needs and wants of the current generation.

"I believe suburban neighborhoods should remain neighborhoods. There are issues such as privacy, parking and the impact on property values that will result from SB 79. This is a disaster for single-family homeowners," said Cindy Libonati, a west valley resident

(continued to page 11)

CALENDAR

Community Calendar

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will hold their monthly board meeting on Wednesday, October 22, at 7 pm. For the agenda, and more information, visit encinonc.org.

* The Encino Community Center will hold "Halloween at Hogwarts" on Saturday, November 1, from 11 am to 3 pm. This free event will include a children's area, moon bouncers, arts and crafts, game booths, prizes and more! Plus, there will be a costume contest for various categories so come in your Halloween best.

* The Sherman Oaks 33rd Annual Street Fair is only weeks away! On Sunday, October 19, from 10 am to 6 pm, dozens of booths will line Ventura Blvd., from Kester to Van Nuys Blvd. It will be a day of local flavor, live music, food, art, and community.

* The Reseda Neighborhood Council will hold their general board meeting on Monday, October 20, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. For the agenda, visit resedacouncil.org.calendar.

* Valley Cultural Foundation and Councilmember Raman's office are sponsoring an upcoming concert at the Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Recreation Center. This free community concert will take place from 3 to 6 pm with the New Romantics: A Taylor Swift Tribute taking the stage on Sunday, October 26.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be holding their monthly "Mix & Mingle Live" on Tuesday, October 28, from 5:30 to 7 pm at Game Changer Brewhouse (13730 Ventura Blvd). For those wishing to attend this business mixer, the cost is $20 for members and $40 for non-members. RSVP at shermanoaksencinochamber.com.

* Kids are invited to get into the Halloween spirit at "Monster Mash," a puppet show and craft experience at the Encino Tarzana Library on Thursday, October 30, from 3 to 5 pm. This Halloween puppet show features plenty of audience participation, comedy, and spooktacular fun. Presented by Hey Hey Entertainment.

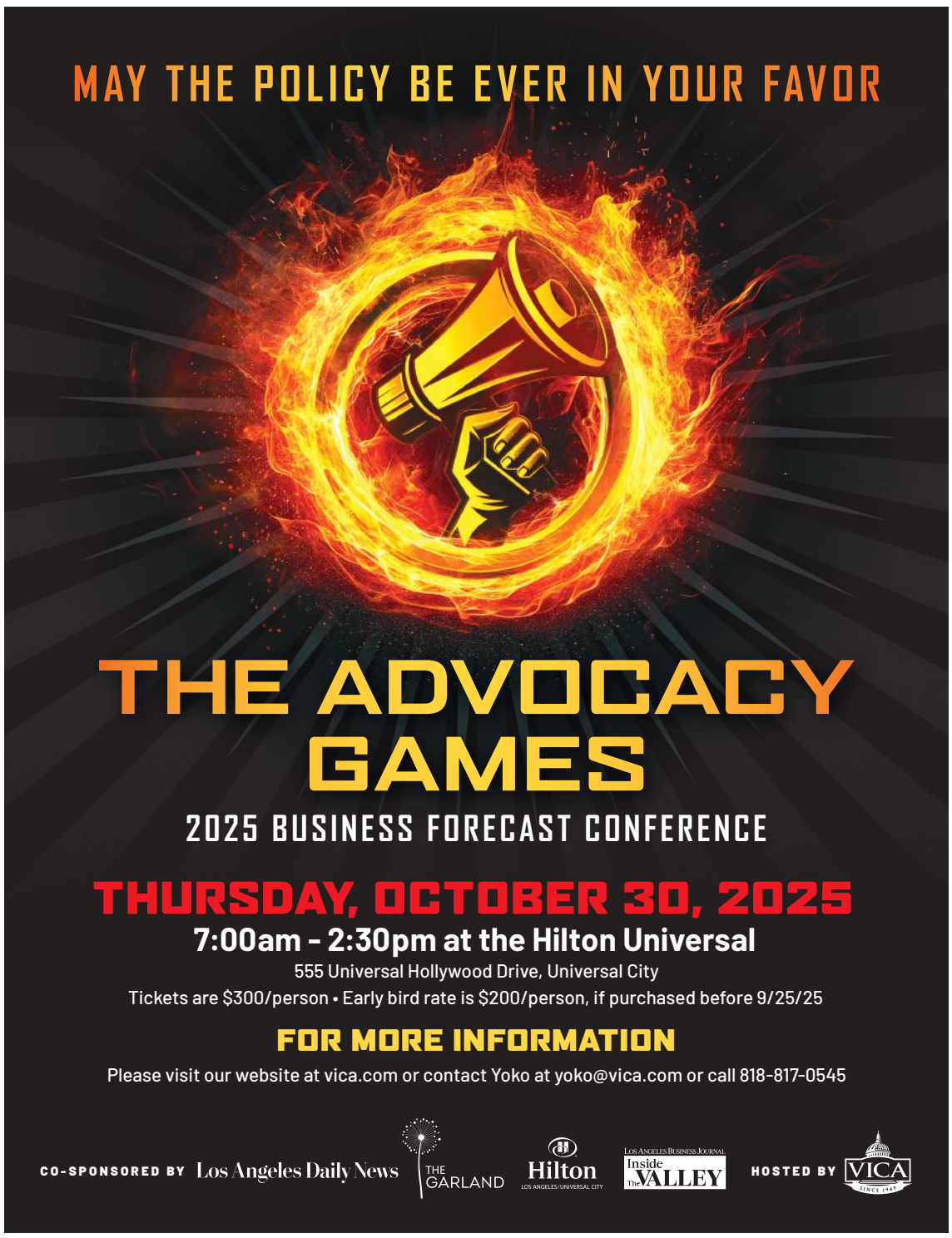
* San Fernando Valley Audubon invites you to their beginner bird walk on Saturday, October 18, from 9 to 11 am. The walks will highlight the many birds and other wildlife, the natural habitat and the continuing recovery efforts from the devastating fire of September 2020. The emphasis of each tour will vary with participants' interests. For parking and meet up directions, visit sfvaudubon.org/event/free-beginner-walks-at-sepulveda-basin-3.

* Are you ready for Medicare's open enrollment period? The West Valley Regional Library will hold a free community education session with the non-profit organization Center For Health Care Rights on Tuesday, October 21, at 1 pm. They will discuss when to select a Medicare Part D drug plan, what your Part D coverage options are and who you can call for more help.

* The Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) will present its 2025 Business Forecast Conference on Thursday, October 30, from 7 am to 2:30 pm. Entitled "The Advocacy Games," the forecast will focus on policy. The conference will be held at the Hilton Universal, 555 Universal Hollywood Drive. Tickets are $300 per person and available at vica.com or by calling (818) 817-0545.

* The Encino Community Center will host their second annual Doggy Costume Contest on Saturday, November 1 at 1:15 pm. There will be prizes, dog treats and a game booth for kids. Categories for the contest include most creative, prettiest and scariest. The Encino Community Center is located at 4985 Balboa Blvd.

* The Encino Property Owners Association's Thursday, October 30 Zoom community meeting at 7 pm will feature former LA City Councilman and LAPD Sergeant Dennis Zine who will "Tell It Like It Really Is" at City Hall. For the link, email info@encinopoa.com.



COMMUNITY

People in the News

TreePeople, the Los Angeles-based nonprofit that has been bringing people together to grow a more sustainable Southern California for more than 50 years, recently announced the appointment of **Casandra "Cassie" Rauser** (above) as its new Chief Executive Officer. Following a nationwide search led by Envision Consulting, Rauser was selected for her proven leadership, deep expertise in sustainability and commitment to community impact.

"I am thrilled we have finally found our next CEO. Cassie Rauser has it all: experience, expertise, and true authenticity. There is no limit to what TreePeople can achieve under her leadership," said John D. Bunzel, Chair of the TreePeople Board of Directors.

Rauser says she is thrilled to join TreePeople as CEO and to lead this next chapter for such a vital organization: "TreePeople has spent more than 50 years showing what is possible when people come together to care for the environment and each other. I am excited to work alongside this extraordinary community to expand TreePeople's impact, strengthen its partnerships and help shape a more equitable and climate-resilient Southern California."

Dr. Cassie Rauser is a climate and sustainability strategist who works at the intersection of science, policy and community to advance equity-centered solutions. She is the Founder and Principal of MorphoStrategies, where she has led wildfire recovery, climate resilience and coalition-building initiatives across LA.

Her work includes developing the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Climate Implementation Plan and coordinating Accelerate Resilience LA's Fire Response Network. Dr. Rauser supported organizations such as Resilient Palisades and East LA Community Corporation to integrate climate-smart rebuilding, greening and resilience strategies into local communities.

Previously, she was the inaugural Executive Director of UCLA's Sustainable LA Grand Challenge, where she launched and scaled a first-of-its-kind initiative to transition LA into the most sustainable megacity by 2050. Dr. Rauser holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from UC Irvine and serves on several boards and advisory councils focused on biodiversity, climate action, and sustainability leadership.

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.

* Why did the vampire read the newspaper? He heard it had great circulation!

* A Halloween riddle: The man who makes it sells it, the man who buys it never uses it, and the man who uses it never sees it...the answer: a coffin.

LOCAL NEWS

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Word on the Street

By Kathleen Sterling

I come from a long line of strong women - several of whom were teachers.

I think of them at this time of year when the air gets a little colder and the leaves start to turn. Fall makes me remember how I loved back to school, new notebooks and folders. I can't wait to watch *You've Got Mail* and hear the line about a "bouquet of newly sharpened pencils!"

My grandmother Catherine taught Al Capone's children back in the 20's in Chicago. Moving to LA she taught at an inner-city school downtown at 9th and Towne - a tough neighborhood. But her multi-cultural group of students loved her, and she them.

She was a strict but loving teacher who also taught us four siblings how to add a line of figures in our head, made us memorize the multiplication tables from a huge chart she made for us, and tried to teach us convent penmanship. I failed at that - but strangely enough have the same loopy handwriting as my other grandmother, whom I never met, but who actually wrote for the *Chicago Tribune* back in the 30's.

My own mother taught art before her marriage, and after I decided to go to USC (I can't feel terribly guilty that she had to go back to work because she loved it). She studied under the pop artist Corita Kent, and worked on many of the iconic Los Angeles Home Savings murals with famed artist Millard Sheets.

Her very first job was teaching kids "who could care less about art" at Arcadia High School in the 50's. She soon got them excited about class by teaching them how to draw a design and then pinstripe their cars! Her second career - which lasted for over 20 years - was teaching at CSUN.

I remember stories about how teaching on the college level was more than just lecturing about art. My mother was teacher, mentor, friend and lifesaver to many students who came to her with problems unrelated to class, but more to boyfriends, parents who would disown them if they got less than an "A," job problems, child care conflicts and more.

Those days I couldn't go to a bank or an office without someone seeing my name and asking, "Are you Colleen Bercsi's daughter? I had her class - absolutely the best!"

A working artist, she was always happiest with a paintbrush or pen in her hand. I have many of her paintings, and have even framed some of her doodles, as she couldn't sit and watch television without sketching on something - her quick sketch of

Leonard da Vinci is one of her best works!

All these memories were brought to the fore by another strong woman, my friend Tammy Silver, a member of the Pasadena City College Board. My USC buddy, fellow Cambridge University student, and one of the brightest women I know, Tammy grew up to own a book company supplying texts and literature to schools across the nation.

Not a teacher - but a most noble profession. Of course she's now serving her second term on the college board, having won on a platform of supporting student success and achieving excellence.

All three women spent their lives supporting students. There is no nobler profession in my mind than that of a teacher. They are guiding our future.

At your child's school, or when you meet someone who's a teacher, you don't need to bring an apple...but rather a huge "thank you" for all they do.

Spirit Halloween: How a Seasonal Specter Resurrected Retail

by Lindsey Sine

Every fall, as the air turns crisp and pumpkins appear on porches, an unmistakable sign reclaims empty storefronts across America: the grinning ghost logo of Spirit Halloween. What began as a clever seasonal retail experiment has become a masterclass in brand strategy, logistics, and cultural phenomenon that's to die for.

Spirit Halloween isn't just a store: it's an experience, a tradition, and a business model that defies retail conventions.

The Pop-Up That Never Rests in Peace

Spirit's entire business is built on a pop-up model, and no one does it at this scale. Each year, the company opens more than a thousand temporary stores across North America, often taking over vacant spaces from retailers. Notably, this year, you may have noticed that they resurrected the empty space of what once was your local Joann fabrics (this felt too soon, didn't it?), proving how

quickly they can move.

To pull this off, Spirit must secure leases, design layouts, ship inventory, and hire around 15,000 employees, all within a matter of months. They've mastered the dark art of seasonal retail and it's nothing short of operational magic.

What really sets them apart is their ability to transform these short-lived spaces into immersive Halloween experiences. Every location is filled with life-sized animatronics, spooky walk throughs, and aisles filled with costumes. Walking into a Spirit Halloween conjures excitement, scares, and the nostalgia of costume shopping.

A Frightfully Lucrative Industry

Halloween has grown into a $13.1 billion industry in 2025, and Spirit Halloween stands firmly at its center. Other retailers dabble in Halloween, like Target, Walmart, and Party City, but Spirit owns the season. Even during economic uncertainty, Halloween spending is alive and kicking. It's an escape, a creative outlet, and Spirit has built a business around consistently delivering that feeling.

Marketing with Spirit

Spirit's marketing thrives on a simple psychological principle: urgency. Their limited-time presence creates a scarcity mindset. The stores appear suddenly and vanish before you know it. An operation so smooth, it's scary.

But Spirit's genius goes beyond timing. Rather than relying on corporate ads, they lean into community-driven marketing. Influencers and fans haunt social media each fall with store walk throughs, costume hauls, and nostalgic posts. Spirit amplifies this content, letting its audience market for them.

They also stay culturally sharp, releasing exclusive products tied to trending movies and shows. Every year, fans anticipate what new animatronics or limited-edition costumes will hit the shelves.

It's marketing through excitement, tradition, and a touch of fear of missing out.

From Temporary Stores to Eternal Legacy

For a brand that only physically exists for a few months each year, Spirit Halloween has built undying devotion. Visiting the store has become as ingrained in the season as carving pumpkins or watching horror movies.

Halloween has grown into a $13.1 billion industry in 2025, and Spirit Halloween stands firmly at its center... It's an escape, a creative outlet, and Spirit has built a business around consistently delivering that feeling.

They've managed to turn temporary retail into something timeless: a cultural event that returns like clockwork, sparking both nostalgia and anticipation. Every October, Spirit Halloween will rise again, reminding us that some business models are simply too good to stay buried.

Lindsey Sine is the Director of Marketing at Cowe Communications. Follow them on social @CoweOfficial or visit their website at cowe.com.

HEALTH

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Dignity Health Urges Continued Vigilance of Breast Cancer

Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital Medical Center (NHMC) urges everyone to prioritize their breast health in light of new statistics underscoring the disease's persistent challenge. Despite significant advancements in early detection and treatment offering renewed hope, breast cancer continues to profoundly impact millions worldwide.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), in 2024, almost 375K women in the United States were diagnosed with breast cancer and an estimated 42K of them were projected to die from the disease. Breast cancer also affects men, with almost 2,800 men being diagnosed and around 530 expected to lose their battle with the disease.

"These statistics serve as a powerful reminder that breast cancer remains a formidable adversary," said Dr. Diana Glasser, MD, Chief Medical Officer at NHMC. "While survival rates have improved significantly over the past decades thanks to research and early detection, the sheer volume of new diagnoses and the number of lives lost underscore the critical need for ongoing awareness, research funding, and equitable access to screening and treatment."

At Northridge Hospital, we are committed to providing advanced care in the fight against cancer. Onsite treatment services range from infusion therapy to radiation therapy, such as Brachytherapy and Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy, in addition to robotic-assisted and minimally invasive surgical procedures, and Oncology Nurse Navigator resources.

Early detection is paramount in the fight against breast cancer, with a 99% five-year survival rate for localized cases. Understanding your personal risk factors, including lifestyle choices like maintaining a healthy weight and limiting alcohol, can help reduce risk.

Dignity Health emphasizes personalized screening discussions with healthcare providers, noting general guidelines suggest annual mammograms for women starting at 40 or 45, while advancements in targeted and immunotherapies continue to offer new hope for patients.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), in 2024, almost 375K women in the United States were diagnosed with breast cancer.

For more information about breast cancer and screening guidelines, please visit dignityhealth.org/socal/cancer or consult with your primary care physician.

Founded in 1955, Dignity Health – Northridge Hospital Medical Center is a 394-bed, acute care, nonprofit community hospital located in Northridge, California. The hospital offers a full complement of award-winning services, including the Leavey Cancer Center, a Cardiovascular Center, the Center for Assault Treatment Services, a Neuroscience Center of Excellence, a pediatric intensive care unit, and the only pediatric trauma center in the San Fernando Valley. The hospital shares a legacy of humankindness with Dignity Health, one of the largest health care systems. Visit dignityhealth.org/northridgehospital for more information.

ONEgeneration to Hold Fall Senior Health Fair Saturday, October 25

ONEgeneration will be holding their Fall Senior Health Fair on Saturday, October 25, from 10 am to 1 pm at Wilkinson Senior Center (8956 Vanalden Ave).

This free event will include wellness activities, community resource vendors, free health screenings and a vaccine clinic, free "grab and go" lunches for adults over 60 and the chance to meet neighborhood council members and elected officials.

There will also be opportunities for one-on-one technology tutoring. Bring your own smart device and volunteers will offer helpful tips and solutions on how best to operate the device.

Those wanting to attend are asked to register on Eventbrite.com under "ONEgeneration" or register in person at the Wilkinson Senior Center front desk.

UCLA Health

UCLA West Valley Medical Center
7300 Medical Center Dr.
West Hills, CA 91307
uclahealth.org/westvalley

UCLA West Valley Medical Center

BRINGING BREAKTHROUGHS HOME TO THE VALLEY

World-class care is closer than ever at UCLA West Valley Medical Center. As part of the UCLA Health system, our patients receive care from top-tier doctors delivering today's most advanced treatments.

With life-saving emergency care, specialized surgical services, innovative heart and vascular care, and a renowned Regional Burn Center, you'll find the expertise you need, in your community.

HEALTH

Artificial Sweeteners: Good for Weight, Bad for the Brain?

Many substitute sugar in their diets with low- or no-calorie sweeteners in an effort to maintain their weight. However, in a recent study published by the University of São Paulo Medical School in Brazil, that swap may be detrimental to your cognitive health in the long term.

Scientists studied seven popular sweeteners that show up in common grocery items: Aspartame, Saccharin, Xylitol, Erythritol, Sorbitol, Tagatose and Acesulfame K.

By dividing the participants into three groups (low, those who consumed about 20 mg per day, moderate: about 66 mg per day and high: about 191 mg per day, about the equivalent of one can of diet soda) scientists were able to track specific responses to cognitive tests in association with the amount of sweetener consumed.

After testing word recall, memory and information processing speed, the study concluded after eight years that people who consumed higher quantities of artificial sweeteners had the greatest decline in memory.

On average, the moderate intake group had a 35% faster rate of memory and thinking decline, and a 110% faster rate of verbal fluency decline.1For the high consumption group, their rate of memory and thinking decline was 62% faster, and their verbal fluency decline was 173% faster.

Will greater research is needed to understand the cause and effect, scientists point to the fact that one's diet can greatly effect one's gut microbiome and inflammation levels. David Perlmutter, MD, a neurologist and fellow of the American College of Nutrition said, "When microglia shift into that damaging, inflammatory mode, the risk for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other forms of cognitive decline rises."

If possible, reduce your no-sweetener substitutes or try less-processed sweeteners such as Stevia.

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

A Story of Two Chatsworths

One hundred fifty miles northwest of London is Chatsworth House, an 81,000-square-foot home that has been owned by the Cavendish family since 1549.

Twenty-eight miles northwest of Los Angeles is the San Fernando Valley community of Chatsworth that, in 1888, was named after the English home of the Cavendish family.

What do they have in common? Movies.

Scores of motion pictures have been filmed at Chatsworth House, including *Barry Lyndon* (1975), *Pride & Prejudice* (2005), *The Duchess* (2008), *The Wolfman* (2010), *Death Comes to Pemberley* (2013), as well as numerous TV programs.

The number of films lensed in the Valley community of Chatsworth number in the thousands, about 3,000 of them on the Iverson Ranch alone.

On March 8, 1888, George Crow filed a map of a subdivision he named Chatsworth Park with the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office. Three streets were shown on the map, one of which was Devonshire Avenue, named in honor of England's Duke of Devonshire, the Cavendish family's title.

Karl and Augusta Iverson homesteaded 160 acres in the 1880s in the Santa Susana Pass area. Over time, their holdings expanded to approximately 500 acres, which formed the Iverson Movie Ranch, all of which was in the community of Chatsworth. In 1915, Chatsworth joined the City of Los Angeles, largely to obtain use of the city's water.

In 1893, the Chatsworth Train Depot was built near the intersection of Marilla and Topanga Canyon Roads, but in 1917, the original train depot burned down. By that time, however, a larger station had been built on the west side of the tracks between Devonshire and Lassen Streets. It was this second depot that has been featured so prominently in films. Sadly, the then-property owners, Southern Pacific Railroad, tore down the building in 1962.

The MTA and the City of Los Angeles bought the property from Southern Pacific, and in the early '90s, a new depot was built in the Old West style of the original. In April 1996, the new depot was dedicated, with former Chatsworth residents Roy Rogers and Dale Evans participating in the ceremony.

Roy Rogers and Dave Evans bought their ranch property in 1943. They used it as a working ranch and as a filming location for their Republic Pictures Westerns in the 1940s. They lived on the ranch until about 1953, and were actively involved in the community.

Movies that have filmed at either the Chatsworth Train Depot or the nearby tunnels have included Cecil B. DeMille's *The Squaw Man* (1914); the musical comedy, *Pigskin Parade* (1936), starring Jack Haley and Judy Garland, in her first feature film; *Fancy Pants* (1950), starring Valley residents Bob Hope and Lucille Ball; and the sci-fi cult classic, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956).

Some of the best-known motion pictures filmed partially or totally in Chatsworth, many on the Iverson Ranch, are: *The Perils of Pauline* (1914); *The Mark of Zorro* (1920), starring Douglas Fairbanks; *Angels* (1930), Howard Hughes's epic aerial drama, with iconic dogfight scenes above the Chatsworth area and Chatsworth Lake; *The Lightning Warrior* (1931), a Rin Tin Tin serial; *The Good Earth* (1937), Pearl Buck's novel, with its terraced Chinese farmlands built on-site at Iverson; and Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained* (2012).

One of the more interesting film-related structures in the area is the Pioneer Church. Built in 1903 as the Chatsworth Community Church, it served as a high school from 1906 to 1908. It was relocated in 1965 to its present location at Oakwood Memorial Park thanks to the Chatsworth Historical Society, with donors like Roy Rogers and Dale Evans supporting the effort. The church was designated as Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument No. 14 in 1963.

Nearby, the silent version of *Jack and the Beanstalk* (1917), directed by Chester M. Franklin and Sidney A. Franklin, was filmed. Other films and numerous TV shows used the Pioneer Church as a set.

Oakwood Memorial Park is also "home" to a number of filmdom's greats: Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Gloria Grahame, Stephen Boyd, Adele Astaire, Montie Montana, and scores of behind-the scenes artists and technicians.

Not surprisingly, Chatsworth's location filming drew film professionals, actors and many others to live in the community.

Among the better-known names in motion pictures who at some point called Chatsworth home were Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, who owned a ranch in Chatsworth in the 1940s; John Stamos; Kevin Spacey, who was raised in Chatsworth and attended Chatsworth High School; Val Kilmer, who lived in Chatsworth as a youth; and Marilyn Monroe, who lived in Chatsworth as a teenager.

Frank Sinatra lived for about a decade on a hilltop estate in Chatsworth in the 1950s and '60s. The property, designed by William Pereira, has since been featured in many films and TV shows. Errol Flynn owned a hunting lodge in Chatsworth and built a dam north of the 118 Freeway near Browns Canyon Road. Lionel Barrymore, once Chatsworth's honorary mayor, lived in the community in the 1940s and early '50s.

Southern Pacific Railroad opened its first train station in Chatsworth in 1895. The two-story wooden depot was destroyed by fire in 1917.

Chatsworth Community Church (1903), also called the Pioneer Church, is the oldest surviving church building in the San Fernando Valley, except for the San Fernando Mission. Originally built at Topanga Canyon Boulevard at Devonshire Street, it was saved from demolition, moved in 1965 to Oakwood Memorial Park, and is an Historic Landmark.

Whether it be among the 35,000 acres within which England's Chatsworth House sits, or the once-near-barren desert of today's Chatsworth in the San Fernando Valley, both have earned their places in cinematic history.

Martin Cooper, President of Cooper Communications, supervised PR 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.

His fifth book, The 'Reel' Hollywood: The San Fernando Valley, the history of motion pictures in the Valley, will be out later this year.

ENTERTAINMENT

Perfect World: A New Musical Telling the True Life Story of Barbara Follett

Perfect World, a new, mystery musical set in the 20's, tells the true-life story of Barbara Follett, a celebrated, prodigy author. From the age of four, she wrote prolifically, mostly about the fictional Farksolia, her own utopia complete with its own language – the "Perfect World" where happiness reigns and people live in harmony with nature.

Knopf published two full-length acclaimed novels by Follett by age 14 – but life and love conspired against her as she struggled to continue to write, be published and find an audience. At age 25, she succumbed to life's many pressures and simply disappeared, leaving her brilliance unfulfilled.

In *Perfect World*, two compelling stories are told concurrently – the events of Follett's life leading to her mysterious disappearance and the police hunt to find her. The story is driven by three women who would never give up – Young Barbara, Barbara, and her mother Helen, and by Captain Stahl, the lead investigator into Barbara's disappearance.

Perfect World is directed and choreographed by Kay Cole; the music supervisor is Darryl Archibald. The creative team includes Production Consultant Cody Lassen, Scenic Designer Stephen Gifford, Costume Designer Jennifer Lynn Deck, Assistant Choreographer Hector Guerrero and Music Assistant Zev Burrows. The cast is Gabbie Adner, Darcy Rose Byrnes, Dia Day, Michael Deni, Adam Hollick, Catherine Last, Elizabeth Last, Sammy Linkowski, Charley Rowan McCain, Guy Noland, Brent Schindele, Erika Schindele, and Michael Wells.

The musical will run Saturday, November 1 to Sunday, November 9 at the El Portal Theatre. Tickets are available at elportaltheatre.com.

Local Halloween Attraction Transforms Annual Haunted House into Immersive Play

For over a decade, a Valley Village home has been a community tradition, drawing thousands of visitors each year with its elaborate sets, theatrical scares, and creative storytelling. What started as a small home display has grown into a full-scale production — and the most remarkable part is that it's built and run entirely by local high school students under the banner of Mayhem Productions.

This October marks the final year of the "Halloween House" and the team is debuting something brand new: an immersive "Haunted Play."

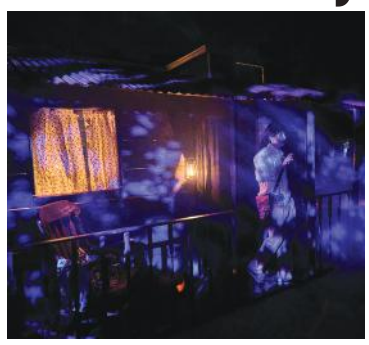
In "The Final Draft," guests will step into the story of a stormy night at a secluded cabin, where a sleepwalking author leads the audience into a mysterious mansion filled with eerie characters and secrets.

Thirty years ago, tragedy struck the Hawthorne family. A father and his two children were found dead under mysterious circumstances inside their sprawling mansion. Their mother, a celebrated novelist, vanished soon after — her disappearance as chilling and unexplained as the murders themselves. Now, the estate has been reopened as a public tour site, drawing curious visitors eager to glimpse the infamous mansion. But the walls still whisper, and shadows still move where they shouldn't. Guests step inside expecting history — yet some never step back out.

In "The Final Draft," guests will step into the story of a stormy night at a secluded cabin, where a sleepwalking author leads the audience into a mysterious mansion filled with eerie characters and secrets.

This haunted play blends psychological suspense with supernatural terror, unraveling the secrets of a family destroyed by darkness. As the story unfolds, audiences are pulled into a house where time has stopped, grief has festered, and the dead refuse to rest. Enter the mansion… if you dare.

Guided from room to room, visitors become part of the tale as it unfolds around them. What part will you play in this story?



Scenes from a haunted house.

The event opens on October 24 and runs select nights through Halloween. Admission is free, but timed reservations are required — and, given this is the last year, time slots are expected to sell out quickly.

Time slots are offered every 15 minutes and can be reserved at app.hauntpay.com/events/mayhem-productions-presents-the-final-draft.

Hawthorne Estate is located at 11833 Hesby St. in Studio City. To learn more about Mayhem Productions, visit mayhem-productions.com.

Locals line up for a frightfully good time at the local haunted house.

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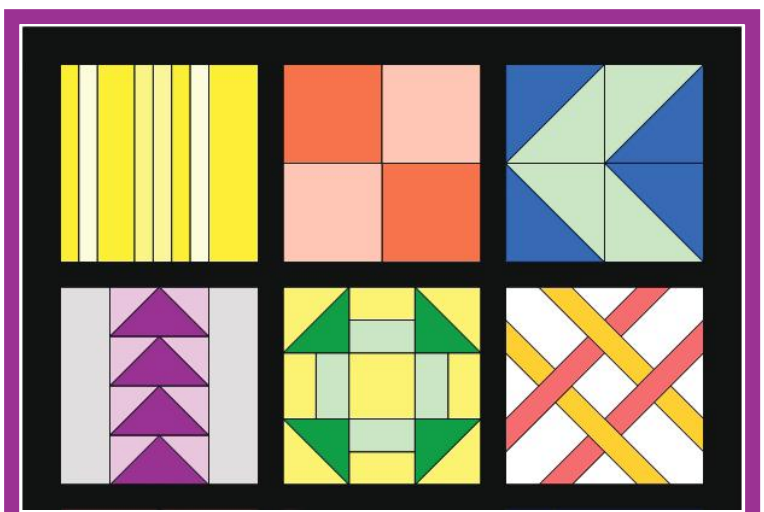

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REAL ESTATE

Airtel Plaza at Van Nuys Airport Closes

Long a staple for events, conventions, weddings, parties and airport functions, the Airtel Plaza at the Van Nuys Airport closed on Sunday, October 12.

For 40 years the hotel has stood at the corner of Sherman Way and Valjean, adjacent to the airport.

"As we prepare to close, our focus will remain on ensuring that our employees are supported through this transition and that our guests and clients are cared for until the very last day," the management posted on Facebook. "We know this news comes with sadness and disappointment, and we share those feelings with you. While our doors will soon close, the memories we created together will remain forever. On behalf of our entire team, please accept our heartfelt thanks for being a part of our story," the post read.

The hotel, Valley Industry & Commerce Association hosted a community gathering Tuesday night called "One Final Pour, Many Lasting Memories," to toast the hotel.

The hotel was managed by Spring Hospitality, a hotel management group. According to reports, the hotel owner, RBABBS Investment, Inc., could not reach a new lease agreement with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA).

LAWA not only owns Van Nuys Airport but the land on which the hotel sits.

Newsom Signs SB 79 Cont'd

(continued from page 1)

and Realtor with Sotheby's International Realty.

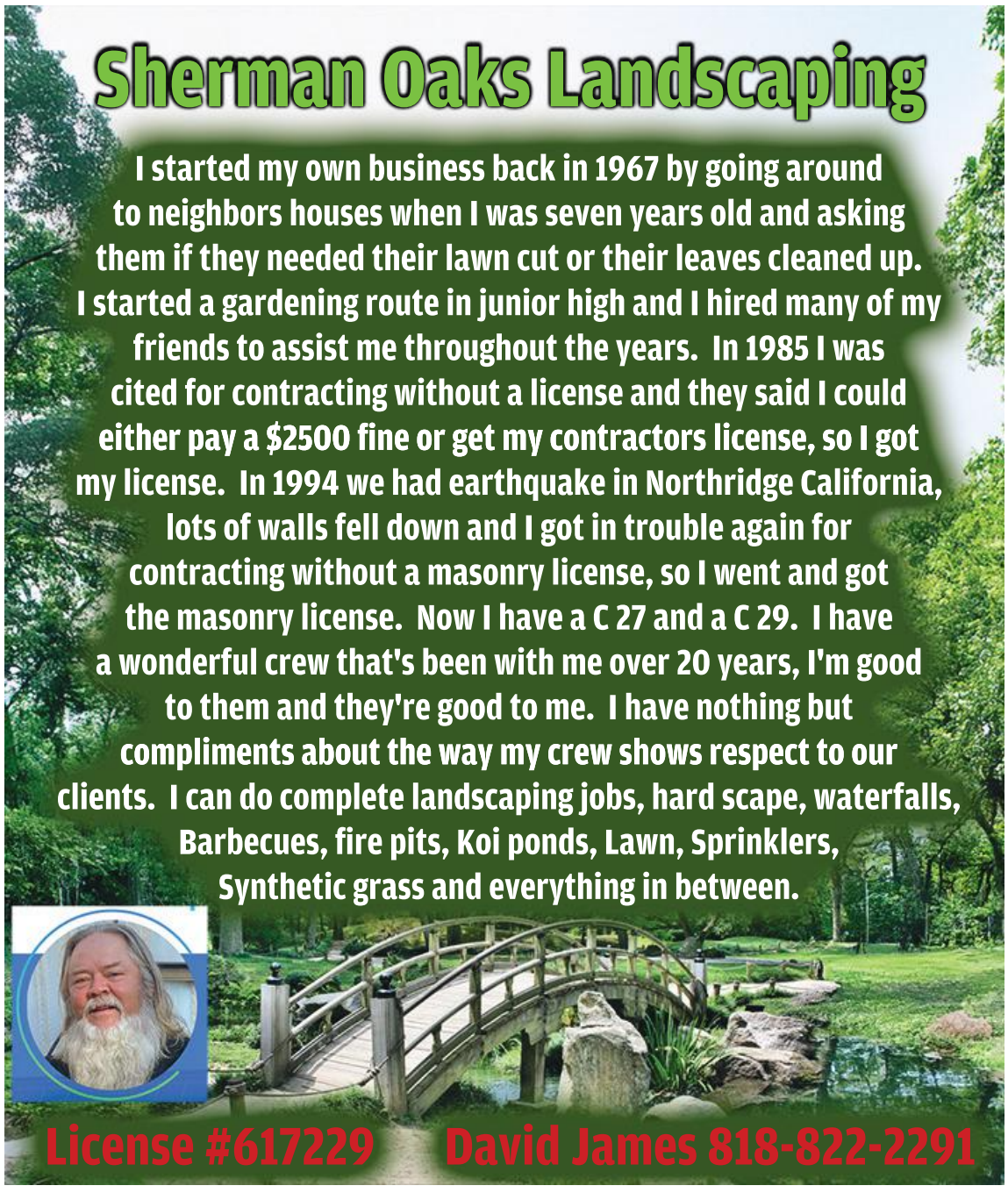
Sherry Keowen, a longtime West Valley Realtor with Coldwell Banker Realty, added, "This will change the neighborhoods and our communities, and bring in a more transient environment, which certainly could have an impact on property values."

Locally, Encino Property Owners Association President Rob Glushon stated, "It is extremely disappointing that Governor Newsom sided with developers and those who believe single-family homes are "obscene" by signing SB 79 into law. This law takes away the protections of local zoning laws that protect single-family neighborhoods and opens the door to high-rise, high density apartments.

Councilwoman Raman wants upzoning in other people's communities but not her own neighborhood. Not surprisingly, her Silver Lake neighborhood is untouched by SB 79. EPOA has tried to work with Councilwoman Raman to create more housing on transit corridors which provide greater infrastructure but without any success. But while she always 'appreciates' hearing our concerns, her actions on the City Council have consistently not supported protection of our single-family neighborhoods."

SB79 is one huge example of Newsom's commitment to the YIMBY movement (Yes in My Backyard), that has been campaigning for more housing during a housing shortage for over 10 years. Earlier this year Newsom signed legislation (AB 130 and SB131) to exempt most urban apartment developments from CEQA laws. He vowed to oversee construction of 3.5 million housing units by next year, but the state won't hit even half that.

It is unknown what the exact effect SB79 will have on the residential market. High interest rates, tariffs and the reduced labor market - even more so with ICE raids - have led to a drop in building permit applications. Indeed, many resources and supplies available to Valley builders are being used to rebuild Altadena and the Palisades.



15 THE SORAYA

October

SAT OCT 11 3PM
SUN OCT 12 3PM

Disney and Pixar's
Toy Story
30th Anniversary
Live-to-Film Concert

SAT OCT 18 8PM

Fly Me to the Moon
A Tribute to Quincy Jones
Featuring the Pacific Jazz Orchestra
With Special Guests
Ms. Lisa Fischer and José James
Chris Walden, conductor

SCAN FOR TICKETS

FRI OCT 24 8PM

Lila Downs
Día de Muertos

SUN OCT 26 3PM

Colburn Orchestra
Carlos Miguel Prieto, conductor
Zi Yang Low, violin
Mert Yalniz, assistant conductor

THU OCT 30 8PM

Ray Chen, violin
Chelsea Wang, piano
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