Holiday Music Sings at The Soraya

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Giving Boys & Girls Club the Gift of Reading

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North Valley News

Volume 3, Number 22 December 4, 2025

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Sierra Canyon Sued Over Sexual Misconduct

The parents of an eight-year-old girl are suing Sierra Canyon school in Chatsworth over allegations their daughter was sexually assaulted by older students. They claim that a so-called "Kissing Club" that took place in the school bathroom pressured younger students into kissing and other forms of sexual assault. They also claim that school staff learned of the activity on students' cellphones but failed to notify parents and law enforcement. "As a mother, the feeling of being hopeless and not being able to protect my child from this harm that 100% could have been avoided is crushing. My focus is on the systems and the safeguard that have failed to protect my child," said the victim's mother. The ringleader of the club reportedly was not expelled but no longer attends Sierra Canyon. The school has not released a statement on the lawsuit.

Holiday Parades and Festival to Enjoy

Granada Hills is gearing up for its 42nd Annual Holiday Parade on Sunday, December 7, at 1:30 pm, celebrating this year's theme "Holidays of the Roaring Twenties" in honor of the community's 100th anniversary. The parade will feature more than 100 entries, from festive performers to classic cars and creative tributes to the 1920s. Come enjoy a fun, family-friendly afternoon and help kick off the holiday season in true Granada Hills style.

The North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce invites you to Winter Wonderland on Saturday, December 13 from 11 am to 4 pm at 9015 Wilbur Avenue. This free family event will feature retail and craft vendors, food and a beer and wine garden, pictures with Santa, pony rides, a petting zoo, carnival games, kids crafts, and performances from local schools including the Granada Hills Charter Drumline and Choir. All proceeds support local schools and student scholarships, making this a great way to enjoy the season while giving back to the community.

The Kiwanis Club of Chatsworth welcomes you to the 41st Annual Chatsworth Holiday Parade & Festival on December 14 at 1 pm! Bring the family for a festive afternoon as the parade winds through Chatsworth, featuring marching bands, holiday floats, and a lively festival to follow.

Tree Trimmer Killed After Fall

A 44-year-old tree trimmer was killed after he fell while trimming a palm tree in Canoga Park Monday. The man fell 35 feet and was impaled on a 10-foot iron fence. He was pronounced dead at the scene. A fire department urban search and rescue team responded to the scene to recover the body.

Murder Leads North Valley News

In a horrific week during the holiday season, three murders rocked the North Valley.

A popular radiologist and his wife were shot to death in their garage by his son on Sunday.

Dr. Eric Cordes and his wife Vicki Buhr Schiller, were shot multiple times by Keith Cordes.

The shooter then fled the scene to Chino, where he set his car on fire before fatally shooting himself. Detectives were able to track his vehicle using FLOCK and LPR cameras. Simi Valley Police Department uses Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising on individual privacy. They use real time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals.

The most bizarre story follows the first-degree murder conviction of Zarbab Ali.

Cordes was an anesthesiologist at Adventist Health Simi Valley, and Schiller was a spin instructor.

In another incident, three men have been charged with the shooting murder of Latin singer Maria de la Rosa. The three suspects approached a parked car on Bryant Street near Tampa in Northridge on Saturday, demanding money and firing into the car at the occupants. De la Rosa was killed in the attack; two other passengers sustained critical injuries.

De La Rosa was an aspiring musician who released the single "No Me Llames" in August.

It was presumed robbery was the motive for the shooting.

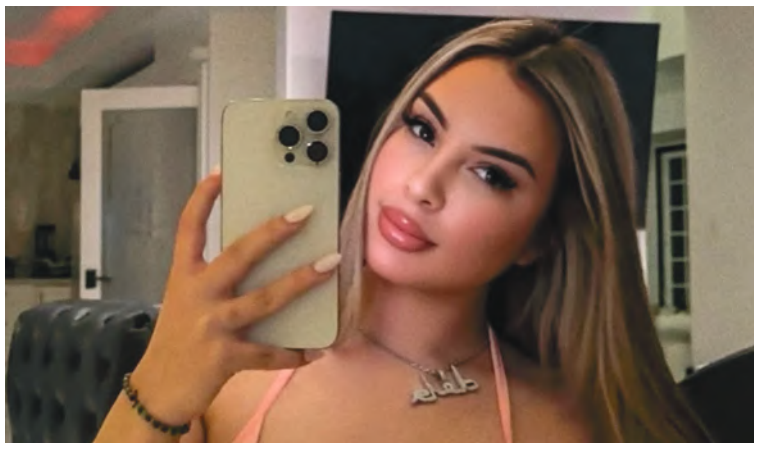
The most bizarre story follows the first-degree murder conviction of Zarbab Ali, who was found guilty this week for stabbing his estranged wife to death in Simi Valley in 2022.

He confessed to murdering Rachel Castillo and burying her body in a shallow grave in a remote part of Antelope Valley.

However, he also confessed to digging up the body the next day to rape the corpse. Following the sexual assault he buried the body again.

Ali said that he had "no reason" to kill her, but had thought about it since they separated nine months prior.

"I found Rachel, she was alone and I killed her," he said. "Just to confirm that I am a monster, I raped her."



The victims:

Dr. Eric Cordes and his wife Vicki Schiller, above.

Rachel Castillo, at left.

Singer Maria de la Rosa, below.

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

NORTHRIDGE: Tom Sturges, son of comic artist Preston Sturges, will be at The Oakridge Estate (18650 Devonshire Blvd.) on Saturday, December 6, at 1 pm to sign his new book *O Brother What Might Have Been*, followed by a Sturges–Stanwyck holiday film. Admission is free, but advance registration is required at theoakridgeestate.org. ASL interpreters and captioning are available upon request. Parking is located up the hill at the driveway east of the park entrance.

GRANADA HILLS: The 15th Annual Nataline Sarkisyan Foundation Toy Drive will take place on Sunday, December 14, from 10 am to 12 pm at the Melkonian Armenian Center - Titizian Hall, 17422 Chatsworth Street. Your new, unwrapped toy donations will bring joy and smiles to children in need, as they honor Nataline's memory. For further information, contact Hilda Sarkisyan at (818) 512-5423.

NORTHRIDGE: Join the Christmas music sing-along and dessert night at Congregational Church of Northridge on Sunday, December 13. Enjoy festive desserts, drinks, a raffle, family fun and a sing along where everyone is welcome. The event begins at 6 pm for dessert, 7 pm for sing-along. The church is located at 9659 Balboa Blvd. For more information visit northridgeucc.org.

PORTER RANCH: The Porter Ranch Library will hold a workshop on holiday ornaments for teens and tweens on Thursday, December 11, at 4:30 pm. Please RSVP by emailing shaina.cain@lapl.org or by calling the Porter Ranch Branch directly at (818) 360-5706. In this two part program for teens and tweens they will be using air dry clay to create holiday ornaments. In part I they will be designing and shaping air dry clay into what will be your ornament. It takes 24 hours for clay to dry so you will come back the next day for part II. The library is located at 11371 Tampa Avenue.

NORTHRIDGE: The North Valley Regional Chamber will host their free "Winter Wonderland" on Saturday, December 13, from 11 am to 4 pm. The event features fun for the whole family, including retail and craft vendors, food and a beer and wine garden, pictures with Santa, pony rides and a petting zoo, carnival games, kids' crafts and student performances from local schools, including Granada Hills Charter Drumline and choir. The festival will be held at 9015 Wilbur Avenue. For more information visit nvrcc.org.

WOODLAND HILLS: The 22nd Annual Motor4Toys Charity Car Show and Toy Drive, started by Dustin Troyan and presented by Porsche Woodland Hills, returns on Sunday, December 7, from 6:30 am to noon at Pierce College. Car enthusiasts, families, and community members from across the region are invited to attend this extraordinary holiday event benefiting children in need. Since its inception, Motor4Toys has brought together thousands of passionate automotive fans with one shared mission: to collect toys for underprivileged children during the holiday season. What began as a grassroots car community effort has grown into one of the largest charitable automotive gatherings in the country, with an impressive lineup of exotic vehicles, rare classics, cutting-edge supercars, and unique specialty builds. Attendees are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy valued at $20.

CANOGA PARK: Step into an era of classic rhythm and spirited melodies every Tuesday afternoon at the Canoga Park Elks Lodge. From 11 am to 1 pm, immerse yourself in the captivating sounds of a fantastic 16-piece swing band performing timeless standards and toe-tapping favorites. Enjoy not only the music, but also a welcoming community atmosphere where dancers and music lovers alike gather for a memorable midday getaway. The $15 admission includes tax and features a $5 food or drink credit. For more information call (818) 998-2190 or visit Elks.org/2190.

NORTHRIDGE: The City of Los Angeles will hold its free bulky item drop-off program to properly dispose of large household items. Drop-off on Saturday, December 13, from 8 am to 4:30 pm at either the East Valley District Yard – 11050 Pendleton Street, Sun Valley or the West Valley District Yard – 8840 Vanalden Avenue, Northridge.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Branch Library will hold a Lego bricks building event for kids at the library on Thursday, December 11, from 3 to 4:30 pm. Your Lego creation might be put on display at the library during the holiday season! The Granada Hills Library is located at 10640 Petit Avenue.

People in the News

Thanks to **Martin Cooper**, above center, and his Cooper Reading Challenge, 260 children from the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley received $25 each to buy books this holiday season. The club selects the youngsters who will receive books, based on reading books at the club and writing a book review. This week the elementary and high-school students visited Barnes & Noble in Calabasas and were able to purchase books of their choice. Many of them bought gifts for their siblings or parents, and one little boy bought a bible for his grandmother.

Cooper initiated and funded the initial challenge 18 years ago. Individual donors are asked each year to donate at least $25 to support the effort. Major sponsors include Martin & Barbara Cooper, SoCal Gas, *Valley News Group*, Councilmember Bob Blummenfield, Councilmember John Lee, Joint Matters and Barnes & Noble.

" This program isn't about fundraising; it's about teaching children to love and to value books and reading. Providing opportunities to read for fun and personal interest can illuminate the world for them," said Cooper. Shown with Cooper above is Boys & Girls Club CEO **Geovanny Ragsdale**.

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association has named **Miri Rossitto** above, Valley News Group columnist and Founder and CEO of Cowe Communications, as the 2025 recipient of the Harmon Ballin Community Service Award, an honor celebrating leaders who embody the spirit of longtime VICA champion Harmon Ballin. This year's honoree exemplifies those ideals. As the visionary behind Cowe Communications, Miri has built an award-winning agency rooted in purpose-driven storytelling and strategic communication. Her leadership has guided organizations across industries, including NASA, the UK Space Agency, Marriott, IMAX, Westfield Group, and the City of Los Angeles, helping them amplify their voice, strengthen their brand, and achieve meaningful growth.

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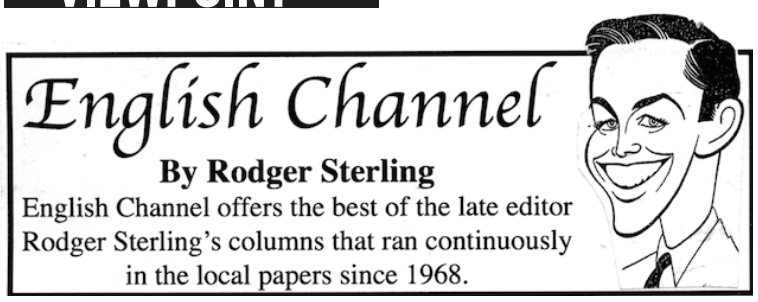

• You know who the lost reindeer never mentioned in the songs was on Santa's sleigh? It was "Olive," of course. "Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names..."

• Some more bad Christmas jokes?
What was good about the neurotic doll the little girl got?
Ans> It was wound up already.
What's the difference between and a snowman and a snowwoman?
Ans>Snowballs.

• Submitted by an unnamed friend, a prayer for the new year: "Dear God, my prayer for 2026 is for a fat bank account and a thin body. Please don't mix these up like you did last year!"

• Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

•Who said this? Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.

•So, here's an idea from our friend Jean Strauber. Why not just put pictures of wanted men on postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they're delivering the mail?

• Curiosity is an instinct of infinite scope: On one hand it leads to listening behind closed doors, on the other, it led to the discovery of America.

Word on the Street

----------From Kathleen Sterling

We know.

We are going to get a lot of feedback on our front cover this week.

Readers will ask why we publish such negative news. Why focus on the bad? Why so much murder?

Because we report the news. We don't make it.

Sadly, this was a tragic week for the North Valley. In the midst of the holiday season, when families should be celebrating together, three families were torn apart.

All three incidents were horrible - two made worse because they were family members killing family members.

And again, we try in these pages to bring you the latest in breaking news - good and bad.

We have a calender full of holiday happenings, articles on musical offerings and a way to escape and get outside and revel in the night sky.

But we wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't tell you everything that was happening in your own community.

Crime is on the rise. Mostly we have reported burglaries and home invasions. It's rare for us to report a murder - let alone three as breaking news in one week.

In all three cases the motive was unknown. Mental illness? Robbery? Jealousy? Whatever the reasons the fallout to friends, family and the community is devastating.

We mourn the victims and hope that by reporting their deaths they are remembered - by their friends, their family and their community.

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Year-End Compliance: Strengthening Your Foundation for 2026 and Beyond

By Janice L. Miller, Esq.

Businesses have the opportunity to end the year with a sense of legal preparedness. A compliance review prevents avoidable liabilities and protects the company's credibility. Year-end compliance is a strategic infrastructure.

Corporate Governance Review

End of the year is the ideal time to ensure that bylaws, operating agreements, and internal policies accurately reflect current operations. Any ownership changes, capital contributions, or structural adjustments should be documented and formally adopted. Accurate governance records safeguard control, reduce internal disputes, and demonstrate corporate integrity. (California Secretary of State. "Statement of Information Filing Requirements." California Secretary of State.)

Companies should confirm that annual board and shareholder meetings were conducted in accordance with state and organizational requirements. Minutes and resolutions for all major decisions must be finalized, signed, and securely stored in accordance with established procedures.

Regulatory Compliance

Every operating license has its own renewal timeline and regulatory criteria. Missing a renewal deadline leads to fines and operational and financial delays. Monitor new regulatory changes that affect your business, particularly in highly regulated sectors (Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "Employer Responsibilities." OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor).

Confirm that all required filings have been submitted to the Secretary of State. Organizations should assess obligations tied to agencies such as OSHA, the Department of Labor, and the IRS. Proactive compliance helps avoid penalties and ensures uninterrupted operations (Internal Revenue Service. Publication 15: Employer's Tax Guide. IRS, 2025)

Financial Readiness

Reconcile financial accounts, payroll, and deferred compensation plans. Addressing discrepancies early reduces risk and allows professional advisors to maximize tax planning strategies. Businesses should evaluate potential tax credits, deductions, and available incentives before closing the books. Identifying outstanding liabilities now enables resolution without interest escalation or enforcement action.

Contract & Intellectual Property Audit

Contracts are living instruments, and outdated terms can expose the business to unnecessary risk. Review all contracts and agreements for renewal deadlines, termination provisions, and renegotiation opportunities. Standardizing templates and eliminating legacy agreements enhances consistency and reduces exposure.

Intellectual property requires active protection. Confirm that trademark filings and renewals are current, and ensure ownership of domain names and digital assets. Review licensing agreements for compliance and ensure that third-party usage aligns with authorization. (National Institute of Standards and Technology. Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, Version 1.1, NIST, Apr. 2018)

Employment & HR Compliance

Update handbooks to reflect legislative updates effective January 1, including wage and hour changes, leave laws, and other statutory requirements. Confirm completion of harassment prevention training and any mandated workforce programs applicable to your jurisdiction. Review employee versus independent contractor status. Ensure employee files contain current offer letters, I-9 forms, and performance documentation.

Data Privacy & Cybersecurity Obligations

With privacy laws like the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA/CPRA), companies must ensure policies align with current standards. Review data-retention schedules, consent language, and incident response procedures. Privacy compliance is now a core component of operational risk management. Cybersecurity protections should be assessed at least annually. Confirm encryption, access controls, and system updates are current, and evaluate third-party vendor risks and verify cybersecurity insurance coverage. A single vulnerability can result in potential exposure.

A thorough compliance review highlights opportunities. Businesses should assess operational gaps, align legal and financial infrastructure with next-year goals, and prepare for strategic initiatives. Compliance enhances readiness for partnerships and long-term valuation. By addressing these areas before year-end, companies protect their future and position themselves for strong performance.

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.

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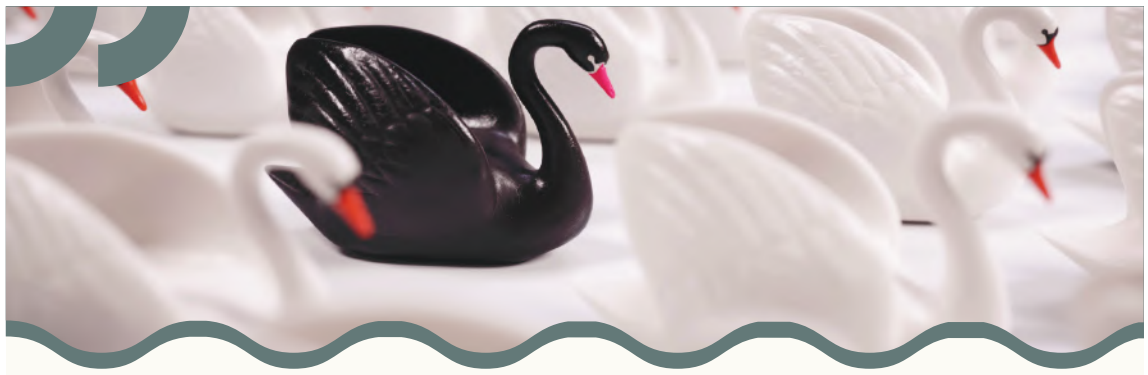

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VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Gregory Porter, top left, Christian Sands, above right, and the Klezmatics, above, all entertain this holiday at Soraya.

Holiday Music Sings at The Soraya

The Soraya at CSUN is offering a full complement of holiday entertainment this December.

On December 6, Gregory Porter takes the stage at 8 pm. The voice like "liquid gold," returns to The Soraya for the holiday season, following his 2022 sold-out debut.

The soul, gospel, and jazz artist brings cool yule selections from his "Christmas Wish" album and more, encompassing the saintly and the secular, the funky and the fun, the Great American Songbook and the best of Motown.

The Klezmatics celebrate a happy, joyous Hanukkah on Sunday, December 7, at 7 pm.

Bringing Yiddish music to audiences worldwide, The Klezmatics kick off their 40th anniversary journey with a holiday concert celebrating the Festival of Lights. Their music is genuinely universal, expanding beyond klezmer to include Latin stomps, jazz riffs, and Arabic, African, American and Balkan rhythms, as well as the timeless lyrics of Woody Guthrie. Happy Joyous Hanukkah is filled with pulse-quickening rhythms and heart-warming melodies.

The Christian Sands Quartet is on stage Friday, December 12, and Saturday, December 13, at 8 pm.

Pianist Christian Sands returns to The Soraya following his memorable last-minute stand-in debut for the 2022 Jazz at Naz festival. The two-time Grammy nominee will enchant audiences with his commanding presence and sensitive touch. This intimate onstage performance weaves together fresh arrangements of holiday classics and Sands' original compositions inspired by the season.

Tickets are available at thesoraya.org. The theatre is located at 18111 Nordhoff Street on the campus of Cal State Northridge. For more information call (818) 677-3000.

Holiday Arts & Music Festival Dec 13

Get into the holiday spirit with Valley Cultural Foundation's Holiday Arts and Music Festival, happening Saturday, December 13, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at Warner Park!

This family-friendly celebration promises festive fun for all ages. Watch your children's faces light up with joy as they meet Santa Claus and capture the moment with a free photo, delivered straight to your inbox to enjoy for years to come. Experience a touch of winter magic in our snow play area—perfect for snowball fun and frosty memories! Young creatives will love our kids' arts and crafts zone, designed to inspire imagination and holiday cheer. And when it's time to tackle your gift list, browse a curated selection of local vendors offering one-of-a-kind items and seasonal treasures.

Save the date, gather your family, and enjoy a festive afternoon filled with music, laughter, and holiday joy. Warner Park is located at Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Califa Street in Woodland Hills.

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HEALTH & BEAUTY

Major Cheese Recall Issues by FDA Over Metal Concerns

'Tis the season for holiday cooking, but you might want to check your refrigerator before you get started on those family recipes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced a major recall of shredded cheese found on shelves at major retailers including Target, Walmart and Aldi.

Great Lakes Cheese Co. Inc. has had many of their shredded cheeses recalled for containing metal fragments. The FDA classified the recall as risk level Class II, meaning the chances of serious health consequences are 'remote,' but there is a possibility of temporary or reversible effects.

The recall impacts the following: -Low-Moisture Part-Skim Mozzarella Shredded Cheese from Always Save, Borden, Brookshire's, Cache Valley Creamery, Chestnut Hill, Coburn Farms, Econo, Food Club, Food Lion, Gold Rush Creamery, Good & Gather, Great Lakes Cheese Great Value, Happy Farms by Aldi, H-E-B, Hill Country Fare Know & Love, Laura Lynn, Lucerne

(Continued to page 10)

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Lowering Your Long-Term Cancer Risk One Food Choice At A Time

Dr. Julie Huynh

As a hematologist-oncologist, every day I witness cancer's powerful impact on the lives of my patients and their families. While many risk factors are beyond our control, food choices are among those that can meaningfully shape our long-term cancer risk. Among the most concerning contributors are processed foods, red and processed meats.

Processed foods, especially ultra-processed items high in refined sugars, preservatives and artificial additives, may contribute to chronic inflammation and metabolic disruption throughout the body. This inflammatory environment disrupts natural repair mechanisms, weakens the immune system and alters the gut microbiome. Many of these foods contain nitrates, emulsifiers and chemicals that can damage DNA or promote cancer development.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies red meat (i.e. beef, pork and lamb) as a Group 2A carcinogen, meaning it is probably linked to cancer. When cooked at high temperatures, red meat forms compounds like heterocyclic amines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that can directly damage DNA.

In particular processed meat deserves attention. The term refers to any meat that has been preserved through salting, curing, fermenting, smoking or adding chemical preservatives (i.e. bacon, sausage, hot dogs, deli meats, ham, pepperoni and many packaged meat products). Processed meat is a Group 1 carcinogen — the same category as tobacco smoke, meaning there is sufficient evidence linking it to cancer, especially colorectal cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer rates in the U.S. have been climbing by about 2.2% per year among those under age 50. What's more, younger patients often present with more advanced disease. A study of National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) records from 2004–2015 found that the proportion of colorectal cancer diagnosed in patients under age 50 rose from 10% to 12.2%.

My goal as a physician is never to restrict joy from eating, but rather to empower patients with information. By reducing intake of red and processed meats, minimizing ultra-processed foods and centering meals around whole, unprocessed ingredients, we can take meaningful steps toward lowering cancer risk.

While many risk factors are beyond our control, food choices are among those that can meaningfully shape our long-term cancer risk.

Julie Huynh, MD, MSHS is a board certified hematologist oncologist at UCLA Health Cancer Care in Westlake Village and Encino. Her areas of focus include benign and malignant blood disorders, as well as solid cancers. Additionally, she is trained in integrative medicine to apply evidence-based integrative medicine (i.e. nutrition, exercise, acupuncture) to conventional therapies (i.e. chemotherapy, immunotherapy) to best support patients through their treatment. To make an appointment or learn more visit https://uclahealth.org/providers/julie-huynh.

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TSA Holiday Travel Tips

As millions travel throughout airports this holiday season, it's imperative to pack diligently to avoid being picked out of the dreaded TSA security line.

As per usual, exercise caution when packing liquids and foods for transport. Your grandma's traditional fruitcake? Safe to put in your carry on. As are stuffing, casseroles, sweets and frozen, cooked or uncooked meats.

Your famous holiday cranberry sauce? Must be packed. Any liquids (such as gravy, alcohol, dips, etc.) over 3.4 oz must be put in your checked luggage.)

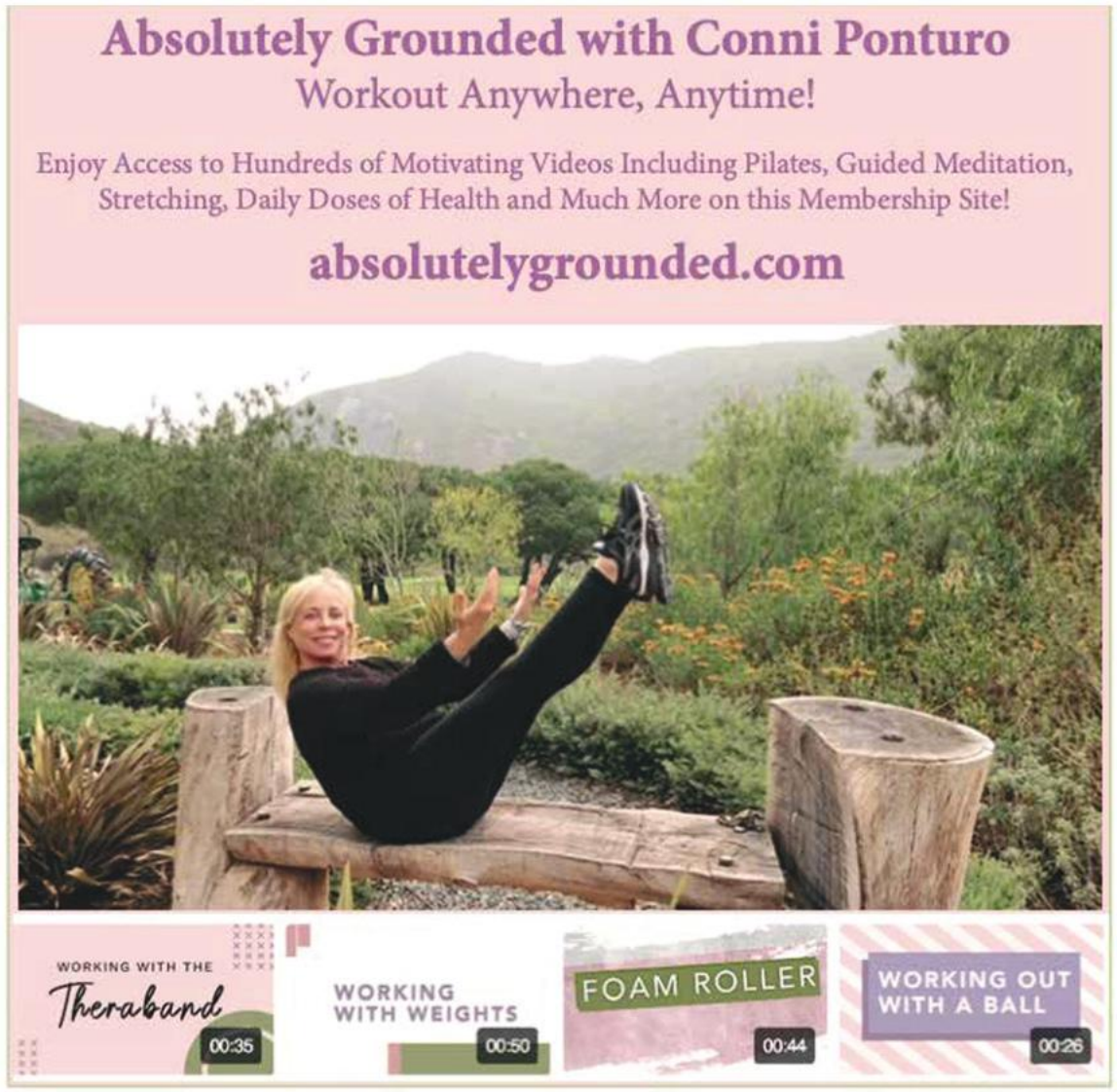
When in doubt if your food can fly as a carry-on, put it in your checked luggage to avoid possibly having to throw it away at security. "If you can spill it, spray it, spread it, pump it or pour it," it's not eligible for carry-on.

For those bringing presents to their intended destination, the TSA advises individuals to not wrap their gift before packing it in either their carry-on or checked luggage. If an item gets flagged by security, the TSA will have to unwrap your gift to see what lies beneath the paper. This risks you having your carefully wrapped materials no longer able to be used and even slowing you down on your way to your flight. If you must wrap a gift before traveling, the TSA advises that you use a gift bag for easy access if needed.

Given the current government shutdown, airline personnel are stressing that individuals give themselves plenty of time to arrive at the airport, go through security and find their gate. With the Federal Aviation Administration also recently restricting flight capacity, thousands of flights have been canceled. While the government shutdown may be ending soon, the effects of it are likely to stretch into the Thanksgiving holiday. Between the limited staff and the influx of holiday travelers, the airport can get chaotic quickly.

Your famous holiday cranberry sauce? Must be packed. Your grandma's traditional fruitcake? Safe to put in your carry on.

Plan accordingly, give yourself more time than you usually would carve out for the airport and continue to check your flight status with your airline for the latest updates.



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Audubon Society Donates to Local Libraries

A group of librarians joined members of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society to unveil the society's donation of "Birding Backpacks" to local libraries in the area.

The backpacks are fully equipped so that library patrons can go birding in the local area.

"Our Audubon Chapter and the LA Public Library are committed to making birdwatching simple and fun," stated Katheryn Barton, President of SFV Audubon Society. "Birding is good for mental health, physical health, and getting back to nature. We just want to make sure it's easy for our community to do it."

Pictured (from left) are library staff, Joyce Cooper, Director, Branch Services, LAPL, library staff, John Szabo, Director, Los Angeles Public Library, Marianne Davis, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS), Kathy Barton, President SFVAS, Pat Bates, Richard Davis, David Barton and Pat Turner, SFVAS members.

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Major Cheese Recall Issues by FDA Over Metal Concerns

(Continued from page 8)

Dairy Farms, Nu Farm, Publix, Schnuck's, Simply Go, Sprouts Farmers Market, Stater Bros. Markets and Sunnyside Farms.

-Italian Style Shredded Cheese Blend from Happy Farms by Aldi, Brookshire's, Cache Valley Creamery, Coburn Farms, Great Value, Know & Love, Laura Lynn, Publix and Simply Go.

-Pizza Style Shredded Cheese Blend from Food Club, Econo, Gold Rush Creamery, Great Value, Laura Lynn and Simply Go.

-Mozzarella and Provolone Shredded Cheese Blend from Freedom's Choice, Good & Gather, Great Lakes Cheese and Great Value.

-Mozzarella and Parmesan Shredded Cheese Blend from Good & Gather.

Experts advise that the safest option is to either throw away the affected cheese or take it to the retailer where purchased for a full refund.

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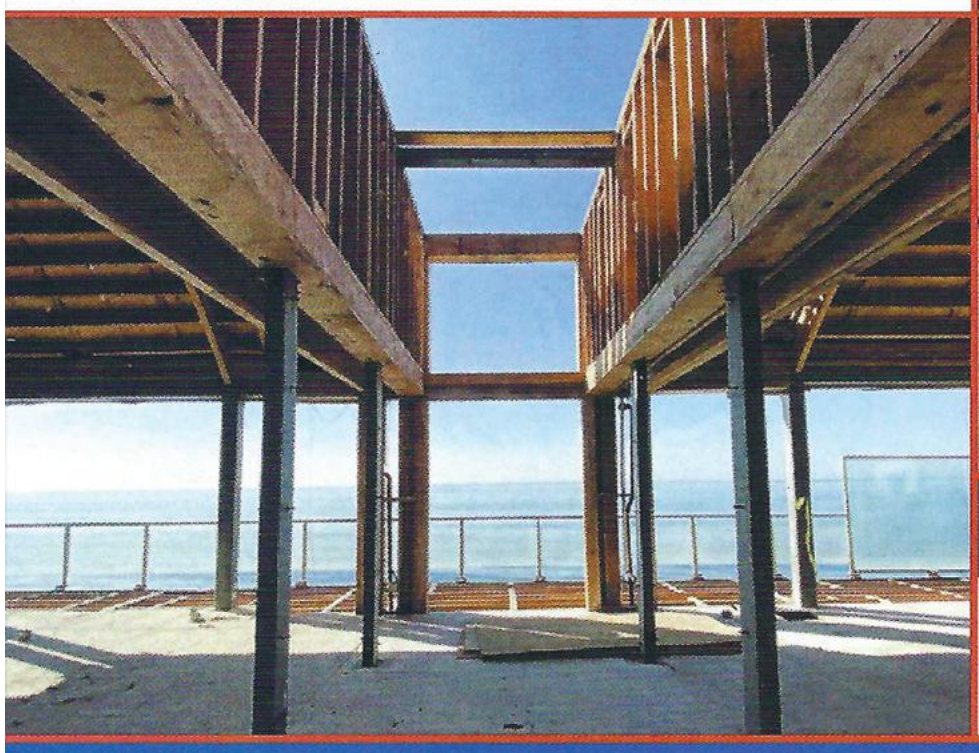

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The constellation Orion can be seen in the December sky.

Nighttrek Report: What to See in the December Sky

By Neill Simmons

The highlight of December is the "Geminids" Meteor shower on Saturday, the 13th, and continues into the early hours of Sunday.

The Geminids are famous for producing fireballs that can be green, red or blue in color. A fireball is an exceptionally bright meteor that results from space rock burning up in the Earth's atmosphere. They are also known as a "shooting star." This event will be visible in the city but many more meteors can be seen away from the city lights. The local mountains or beaches are good places.

The December Full Moon will first appear on Thursday, the 4th. This full moon is known as "The Cold Moon" and will be a Super moon. A Super moon happens when a full moon coincides with the moon's closest point to Earth in its elliptical orbit, known as perigee.

On the 7th and 8th of this month, there will be a conjunction of Jupiter and the Moon. A conjunction is an astronomical event where two or more celestial objects appear close to each other in the sky from our vantage point on Earth. They are actually millions of miles apart from each other. Jupiter will appear as a bright, glowing star. The best time to see this is about five hours after sunset in the eastern sky. Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system, and over 1300 Earths can fit inside of it. Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and is made mostly of hydrogen and helium gas. It has the shortest day of any planet, at just under 10 hours, while its year is nearly 12 Earth years long and it has over 90 moons!

The winter sky is a great time to see the constellation of Orion, the famous hunter from Greek mythology. Orion is currently visible in the eastern sky in the early evening and is rising higher as the night progresses. Find three bright stars in a nearly straight line to locate Orion's Belt, which is the easiest way to spot the constellation. A clear, dark night is ideal for seeing the constellation and even fainter features like the Orion Nebula, which is located in the "sword" hanging from the belt.

After 9 pm, look straight up to see The Pleiades. This asterism is known in Greek mythology as the "Seven Sisters." To honor their father, Atlas, who was tasked with the difficult job of holding up the Earth on his shoulders, the sisters were rewarded with a place in the heavens. An asterism is an observed pattern or group of stars in the sky sometimes within a constellation.

For example, the Pleiades is located within the constellation of Taurus, the Bull. The Big Dipper is a well-known asterism in the northern sky that is part of the constellation Ursa Major.

China discovered a new mineral from their fifth lunar exploration mission and named it Changesite. The mineral is named after Cheng'e, the Moon goddess in Chinese mythology. The discovery also makes China the third country to discover a new lunar mineral after the United States and former Soviet Union.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 20. Griffith Park Observatory will hold a free public Star Party from 2 to 9:45 pm. There will be lots of telescopes for viewing the sky and astronomers to answer your questions.

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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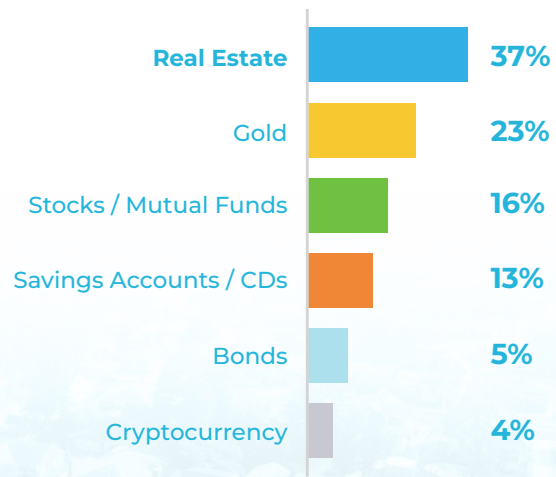

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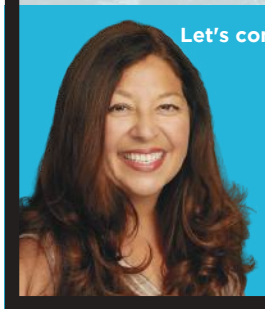

Let's connect so you have expert advice on how to reach your homebuying goals this year.

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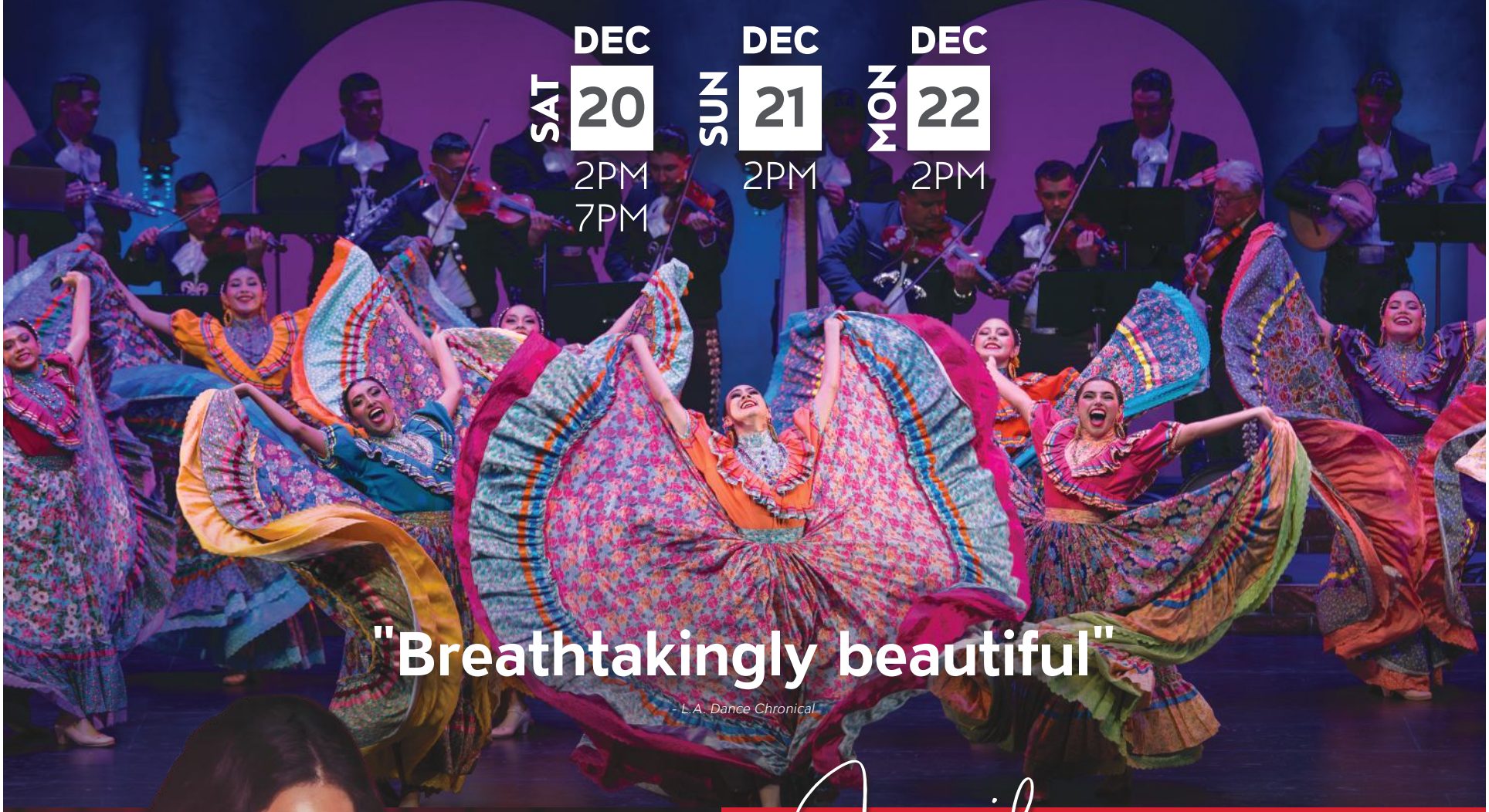

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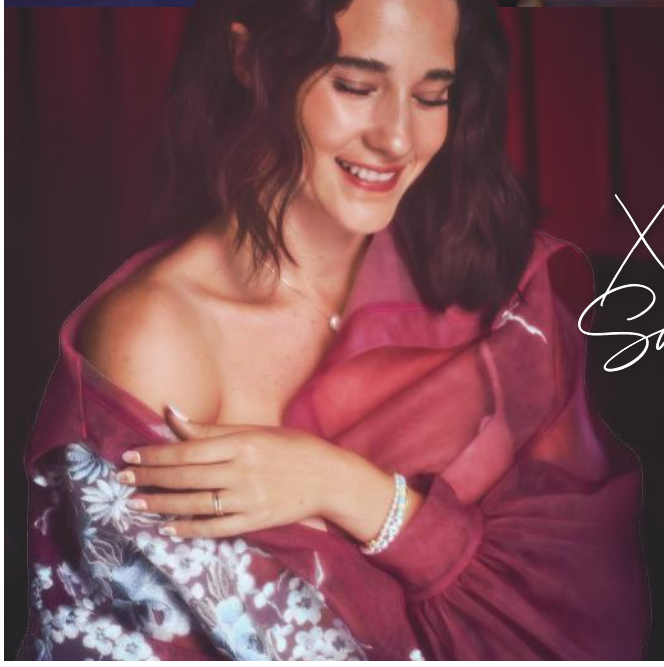

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