Cowboys: History & Hollywood at Reagan Library

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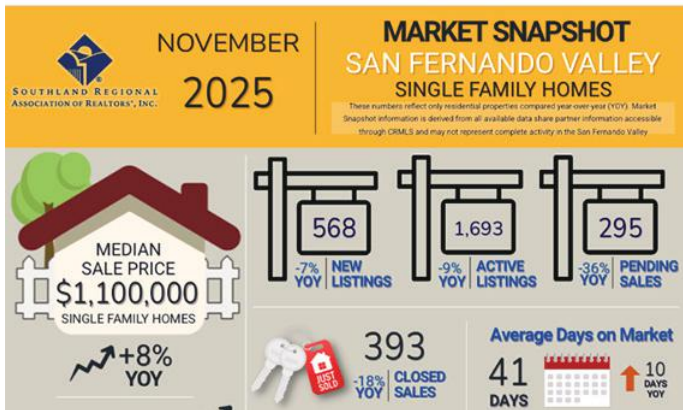

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North Valley News

Volume 3, Number 22

December 19, 2025

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Councilman Responds to Allegations

Councilmember John Lee has responded to allegations that he violated gift laws in 2016 and the fine of $138,000 from the L.A. Ethics Commission. He issued the following statement to North Valley Group: "The City's so-called 'Ethics Commission's' absurd fine, including a $95,000 penalty for five counts they failed to prove in a formal Administrative Hearing, is based on a complete misinterpretation of facts and proves the process is wasteful and political.

The Commission rubber-stamped a biased investigation and blatantly ignored all relevant facts, including that the FBI never charged me for backdating any checks or aiding Mitchell Englander's 2017 illegal activities.

I have cooperated with this process at every step. I voluntarily turned over every document asked of me, cooperated with both federal and commission investigators, and testified numerous times on this matter under oath. The only thing I'm guilty of is being honest and transparent in the face of an utterly dishonest process.

Today's action also removes safeguards for anyone who dares challenge the Commission's outlandish interpretation of facts. The Commission picking and choosing which people to target based on their political views is not oversight — it is retribution and a department running amok.

Violating their own statute-of-limitations laws empowers the Commission to generate conveniently timed headlines and false accusations — as they did just weeks before my most recent election.

I'm thankful that the voters of my district recognize the frivolousness of this investigation and a clear pattern: two former Ethics Commission Presidents have unsuccessfully run campaigns against me to serve as Councilmember of the Twelfth District.

Today is but one step in the process of fighting these baseless charges. I look forward to finally having an opportunity to have this matter adjudicated in a fair and impartial setting.

I will not be bullied into settling or admitting to something I didn't do. I'll continue standing up for the truth and the people of Council District 12."

Holiday Stroll N' Shop in Canoga Park

Canoga Park Improvement Association and Main Street Canoga Park are hosting the first annual "Holiday Stroll N' Shop in Canoga Park on Saturday, December 20. From noon to 4 pm visit the following merchants for treats and deals: Artfully Made, Henri's, Trio Coffee, Follow Your Heart, Alabama Antiques, The Beauty Club LA, Retro Relics, Main Street Antique Mall, Antique Store, Aardvark's Vintage, House of Vintage and more. Look for the penguin at participating merchants, stroll Canoga Park and shop!

Volunteers Cleaning Communities Honored at City Hall

By Mark Hovater

Volunteers Cleaning Communities (VCC) received a special honor on Friday, December 5, when the grassroots organization was recognized by the Los Angeles City Council as an Outstanding Organization during a council meeting inside the historic City Hall.

Thirty-five VCC volunteers filled the chamber to celebrate the moment, many stepping inside the iconic building for the first time. The recognition highlighted years of steady, hands-on service aimed at making neighborhoods across the San Fernando Valley cleaner, safer, and more welcoming.

Founded on the simple idea that action speaks louder than complaints, VCC volunteers regularly spend two hours at a time picking up trash along streets, medians, and highways throughout the Valley.

Working five to six days a week in small groups, the organization has made a visible impact at a time when city resources are stretched thin. Their efforts not only improve the appearance of local communities but also foster civic pride and connection among neighbors who might otherwise never meet.

Councilman John Lee praised the group during the ceremony, noting, "Their work shows what is possible when neighbors come together with a shared commitment to keeping our communities clean, safe, and welcoming." He emphasized VCC's strong roots in Council District 12 and its ability to

For a moment, a group that usually works quietly on street corners and highway offramps was firmly in the spotlight.

inspire volunteers of all ages to serve simply because they care about where they live. For VCC members, the honor serves as encouragement to keep going— and an open invitation for others to join them in making a difference, one cleanup at a time.

You don't expect to be moved by a government building. But step inside Los Angeles City Hall — that 1928 Art Deco beauty — and something happens. Maybe it's the history in the walls, or maybe it's knowing why you're there. On December 5, the volunteers found themselves inside that grand chamber, not to complain, not to ask for help, but to be honored. The volunteers sat together as they were recognized, and for a moment, a group that usually works quietly on street corners and highway offramps was firmly in the spotlight.

VCC is made up of people who could have easily shaken their heads at the trash lining our streets and moved on. Instead, they grabbed gloves, trash bags, and a couple of hours from their day. Five to six days a week, small groups spread out across the San Fernando Valley, cleaning streets, medians, and neighborhoods — not for praise, but because someone has to do it. In just two hours at a time, they make a dent in a problem that feels overwhelming, especially as city budgets stretch thin. What they really clean up, though, is something harder to measure: the feeling that no one cares.

The recognition matters. It reminds the rest of us that change doesn't always come from big speeches or big budgets. Sometimes it comes from ordinary people, meeting at a street corner, doing something good — and then doing it again tomorrow.

To volunteer With VCC or for more information visit volunteerscleaningcommunities.com.

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

PORTER RANCH: Auditions for Shepherd Church's Passion Play 2026 are now open! Whether you're a seasoned performer or just looking for a way to get started, we invite you to submit a video audition for a chance to be part of this powerful production. We're seeking actors, vocalists, and volunteers who desire to use their gifts to honor the Lord through drama and music. Every part, large or small, plays an important role in telling this powerful story of Jesus. For more information email ngines@shepherdchurch.com.

NORTHRIDGE: The Northridge Branch Library will present "My First Nutcracker" on Saturday, December 20, at 3 pm. "My First Nutcracker" is a 40 minute music concert taking kids through the story of The Nutcracker with narration and music. This concert aims to introduce children to the story of The Nutcracker and provide an opportunity for young kids to practice attending a concert. Children are encouraged to dress up in their holiday best and to dance along with the music. Performed by the San Gabriel Symphony Brass Quintet. Recommended for ages 3 years and older. The library is located at 9051 Darby Avenue.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Library will hold "Stitch and Yarn Club" on Saturday, December 20, from 11 am to noon. Whether you knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, bead, or quilt, you are invited to bring your current project or start something new. Learning materials will be provided but are limited. The library is located at 10640 Petit Avenue. For more information visit lapl.org.

SAN FERNANDO: It's the season of giving and the American Red Cross is asking that those eligible donate blood this month as the holidays are a typically low period of donations. San Fernando Masonic Lodge 343 Is holding a blood donation drive on Sunday, December 21, from 10 am to 4 pm. For appointments and information visit redcrossblood.org.

GRANADA HILLS: LAPD Senior Lead Officer Gregory Andrachick will hold a Basic Car Meeting on Tuesday, December 23, at 7 pm. It will be held at Granada Hills Charter, 10535 Zelzah Avenue. For more information email Andrachick at 33829@lapd.online

WOODLAND HILLS: The West Valley Playhouse will host a "Whodunnit" murder mystery party on Wednesday, January 31, New Year's Eve. The evening will include a murder, drinks, and food provided by The Olive Garden. The Grayston Street Band will perform. It will be held at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 5700 Rdsnick Avenue in Woodland Hills. Doors open at 8 pm. Tickets are $50 per person and can be purchased at wvplayhouse.com.

SEPULVEDA BASIN: The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will be taking place in the 2025 Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 20, from 8 am to 4 pm. Those interested in participating at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve will report all bird species observed, the individual numbers of each species, and the time you spent birding. For more info, visit sfvaudubon.org/event/2025-christmas-bird-count.

Mark Davis receives the Presiden'ts Award from Melissa Garrett.

Craig Lally receives the Robert E. Gibson Award from Jannelle Watson.

Jordan Duke, left, accepts the Membership Champion Award from Theo Ossei Anto.

Miri Rossitto accepts the Harmon Ballin Award from Zeyad Hakam.

VICA Honors Valley Leaders

The Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) held their annual meeting and award presentations on December 11.

They elected and swore in the 2026 board of directors, presented scholarships to local students and awards to VICA members.

The 20th annual President's Award was given to Mark Davis of the Hilton Universal City. Davis was honored for his five decades of experience, his leadership with VICA and the Hotel Association and other nonprofits including Tierra del Sol, Valley YMCA and Boys & Girls Club. Melissa Garrett of United Airlines presented the award.

Miri Rossitto of COWE Communications was given the Harmon Ballin Community Service Award for her service on the boards of VICA, the Child Development Institute, the West Valley YMCA and Valley Economic Alliance. Zeyad Hakam of Bechtel gave Rossitto her award.

Jordan Duke of Granada Hills Charter received the VICA Membership Champion Award for his commitment to collaboration, advocacy and supporting the Los Angeles business community. He received the award from Theo Ossei Anto of GPSN.

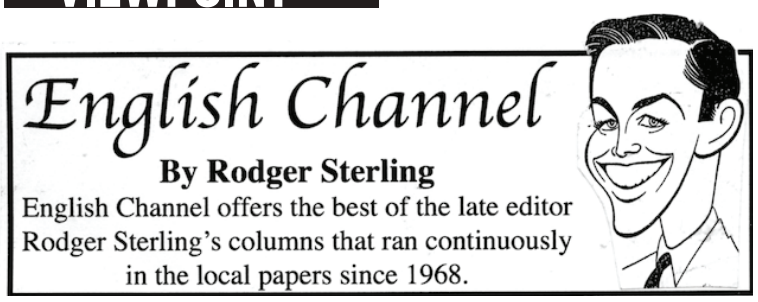
Craig Lally received the Robert E. Gibson Corporate Award of Excellence on behalf of the Los Angele Police Protective League, whose mission is to vigilantly protect, promote and improve working conditions, legal rights compensation and benefit for its members. Janelle Watson of Amazon presented the award.

Diana Duenas of The Gelb Group presented the Rickey M. Gelb Scholarships to Ester Yakhshyan of Los Angeles Valley College and Bryant Tran of USC.

Alina Barlow of UCLA received the Marvin R. Selter Memorial Scholarship and Venice Hernandez of Granada Hills Charter received the Melvyn A. Kohn Memorial Scholarship.

VICA is Southern California most influential business advocacy group devoted t advancing the economic interes and opportunities of its membe through effective legislativ correspondence, civic leadershi representation and conscio community engagement. It work to bring members together t improve, develop and conne community representative opinion leaders, and electe officials for engagement and collaboration.

VIEWPOINT



- There are four stages of life and they all involve Santa.
  1. You believe in Santa.
  2. You don't believe in Santa.
  3. You are Santa.
  4. You look like Santa.

• Why are Dasher and Dancer always taking coffee breaks? Ans> Because they're Santa's star bucks.

• So as we're all holiday shopping. I go to the grocery store and buy: a pound of sliced ham in a plastic bag, a loaf of bread in a plastic gag, a gallon of milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins in plastic wrap, a store-made salad in a plastic tub, plastic bottles of mustand and ketchup, but they won't give you a plastic bag to hold it all.

• Yesterday my young son was chewing on an electrical cord. So I had to ground him.

• NASA is launching a satellite to say sorry to the aliens. They're calling it the Apollo G.

• I informed my family that someone in the the house was secretly an owl in disguise and our eldest daughter asked, "Who?" Honestly, I never suspected her...

• My dog accidentally ate a whole bag of Scrabble tiles. So I took him to the vet.

No word yet.

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Word on the Street

From Kathleen Sterling

'Twas the issue before Christmas and all through the house...I was the only one stirring, contemplating my message for the week.

How fitting that this week we celebrate Chanukah and prepare for Christmas. Both are holidays that celebrate light - Jesus is heralded as the light of the world and Chanukah is the festival of lights, symbolized by candles lit each night for eight nights.

After a contentious year of political upheaval, acrimony and vitriol, it is lovely to think of us celebrating new beginnings. After the horrific shooting in Australia, and the anti-semitic news we've covered, it's time to heal and move forward, praying all together for peace across the world.

It would be wonderful if we could carry the joy of the season, and the message of two major religions at the holidays, into the new year - if we could put 2025 and its controversies behind us and start fresh.

I am reminded of the beautiful story of the Christmas truce in World War I. On the western front on Christmas Eve, French, British and Germans called an unofficial cease fire and ventured into each other's territory to exchange food and souvenirs. What a wonderful example of what the holidays are all about.

Christmas is a time of giving and Chanukah celebrates the oil that kept giving for eight days. Let us take these holidays as a chance to reflect on how we can give, not just to family and friends but to the community as well.

Giving doesn't have to be material. It can come from the heart. We can take the lesson from the Christmas truce and give the gift of forgiveness to someone who has wronged us, or the gift of time to someone we have neglected.

I always make New Year's resolutions, and start at this time of year to think of how I can be a better, more loving, more giving person.

Many of my resolutions focus on more time with those I love, those I perhaps have not given enough time to in the previous year. I get caught up in work responsibilities, activities, chores, and sometimes don't give the time I should to those I care about. It is not that I don't love them, it's just been easy to have other priorities ahead of them, and for that I am sorry.

I have several people I need to forgive for real or perceived insults, and some friends I have to apologize to for hurting them. The end of the year is also the beginning of a new year, a new season, and a new chance to do better.

In this paper we offer many amazing examples of the community giving to those in need, to those they don't even know, but know need help. Let's follow their example.

May the spirit of Christmas and Chanukah be with you at this time, and I wish only love and happiness for you and yours in the coming year.

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VIEWPOINT

Iconic Brands of the San Fernando Valley": How the Valley Helped Shape American Culture

By Miri Rossitto

The San Fernando Valley is a cultural incubator. For decades, the Valley has provided the space, workforce, and audiences that allowed brands to grow from local favorites into nationally (and globally) recognized names. These iconic brands didn't simply operate in the Valley. They were shaped by it, reflecting its diversity, creativity, and everyday rhythms of life.

Bob's Big Boy (Burbank) embodied postwar Southern California life. The Burbank location, opened in 1949, arrived at a time when the Valley was booming with young families, car culture, and optimism. Its drive-in roots aligned perfectly with the Valley's sprawling layout and car-centric lifestyle.

Over time, Bob's Big Boy became a social hub where families celebrated milestones, classic car enthusiasts gathered weekly, and Hollywood insiders met casually outside studio walls. Its preservation amid changing trends turned it into a time capsule of Valley nostalgia, making it one of the most photographed and beloved landmarks in the region.

For Warner Bros., the Valley offered something Hollywood itself could not: space. Wide tracts of land, access to varied landscapes, and proximity to a growing suburban workforce allowed studios to expand beyond cramped city lots.

The studio's long-term presence helped transform the Valley into the backbone of the entertainment industry. Entire neighborhoods grew around production schedules, and generations of Valley residents built careers in film, television, animation, and music. Warner Bros. is inseparable from the Valley's identity as a place where stories are imagined and made.

Ventura Bou-levard is the Valley's long memory. Running through multiple neighborhoods, it has long served as the region's commercial and social backbone. From old-school diners and record shops to modern cafes and boutiques, the Boulevard has adapted without losing its soul.

It became iconic through continuity. Locals growing up with it, working along it, dating along it, and returning to it generation after generation. Ventura Boulevard represents the Valley's blend of tradition, reinvention, and community-driven commerce.

Mission Foods reflects the Valley's multicultural foundation. As Southern California's Latino communities grew, the demand for accessible, authentic staple foods grew with them. Mission helped bridge cultural traditions with large-scale food production, making tortillas a household staple across America. In 1977, GRUMA acquired the old Mission Tortilla Factory located in the San Fernando Valley.

The Valley's central location, logistics infrastructure, and diverse workforce allowed Mission to scale efficiently while staying connected to its roots. Its success highlights how the Valley quietly influences what and how the nation eats.

Monty's Steakhouse earned its iconic status through longevity, consistency, and community connection. For decades, it was a gathering place for Valley families, business leaders, and longtime locals, a place where birthdays, anniversaries, and milestone dinners became traditions. Its classic steakhouse atmosphere reflected the Valley's mid-century growth era, when neighborhood restaurants served as community cornerstones. With the flagship located in Woodland Hills, Monty's Steakhouse represented familiarity and reliability, securing its place as a true Valley institution remembered fondly across generations.

Circus Liquor (North Hollywood) is unmistakably Valley. Its towering clown sign is a beacon along Burbank Blvd and Vineland Ave. Featured in countless films, TV shows, and music videos, it often serves as visual shorthand for "Los Angeles", even though its soul is purely Valley. Its endurance in an era of redevelopment and chain retail cemented its status as a cultural landmark.

K-mart's connection to the Valley reflects the region's role in American retail. As suburban life expanded, the Valley's growing neighborhoods and families became ideal testing markets for big-box retail models. Valley Kmart locations became community anchors, places where everyday life happened. While the brand's national story evolved, its Valley footprint remains part of the collective memory of shopping trips, first jobs, and shared routines.

The Valley does not chase relevance. It outlasts it.

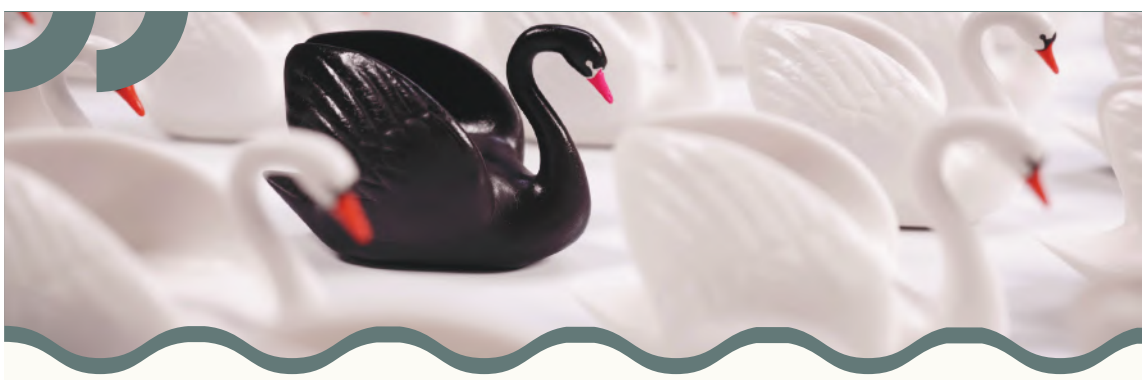
The San Fernando Valley consistently produces iconic brands because it offers something rare: scale without detachment. It is large enough to support innovation, yet intimate enough to create loyalty. It blends creativity with practicality, entertainment with industry, nostalgia with reinvention.

These brands are iconic because they grew with the Valley, not ahead of it. What endures here is built through daily use, shared routines, and quiet loyalty.

Culture is not imported or announced. It is made incrementally, through storefronts, studio lots, and stories repeated often enough to stick.

Once something takes root in the San Fernando Valley, it does not fade into memory. It becomes part of the landscape we all recognize.

Miri Rossitto is the founder and CEO of Cowe Communications. Follow @CoweOfficial or visit cowe.com for more.



VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

Tony-Winning Stereophonic Rocks Pantages

Stereophonic, the 2024 Tony-winning Best Play will make its L.A. Premiere at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre as part of a U.S. National Tour from December 9 to January 2.

Stereophonic mines the agony and the ecstasy of creation as it zooms in on a music studio in 1976. Here, an up-and-coming rock band recording a new album finds itself suddenly on the cusp of superstardom. The ensuing pressures could spark their breakup-or their breakthrough.

Written by David Adjmi and directed by Daniel Aukin, and featuring original music *by* Arcade Fire's Will Butler, *Stereophonic* invites the audience to immerse themselves — with fly-on-the-wall intimacy —in the powder keg process of a band on the brink of blowing up.

Stereophonic, which features original songs by Academy Award nominee and Grammy Award winner Will Butler, formerly of Arcade Fire, dominated the "Best Theater of 2023" lists, with top rankings in *The New York Times, New York Magazine, The Washington Post, Time Out New York, Town & Country, TheaterMania, Theaterly,* and *The Spectator*. In April 2024, Stereophonic became the most Tony-nominated play in history, receiving 13 award nominations. It then became the most Tony Award-winning show of the 2024 season, winning five Tony Awards including Best Play, Direction (Daniel Aukin), Scenic Design (David Zinn) and Sound Design (Ryan Rumery).

Originally scheduled for a 14-week-only Broadway engagement, the production was extended twice by popular demand and has played to sold out houses since its opening night.

It was the most Tony Award-winning show of 2024, including Best Play.

The *Stereophonic* creative team includes David Zinn (scenic designer), Enver Chakartash (costume designer), Jiyoun Chang (lighting designer), Ryan Rumery (sound designer), Justin Craig (music director), and Gigi Buffington (voice, text, and dialect coach). Casting is by Alaine Alldaffer and Taylor Williams, CSA.

The Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood.

For more information and tickets visit broadwayinhollywood.com.

For information on the play visit stereophonicplay.com.

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

A Garden Like No Other

The Garden of the Gods sounds as if it should be located in a valley somewhere in Greece. In reality, it's a lot closer, and its importance in history is not cemented by Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades, but rather by William S. Hart, Tom Mix, and John Wayne.

Located in the northwest corner of Chatworth, this 23-acre portion of the famed Iverson Ranch, with its distinctive sandstone rock outcroppings, has been the setting for more Western motion pictures than any other single location.

From 1912 through the mid-1960s, the sound of stagecoach wheels clattering over the rocks, the ricocheting of six-shooter bullets, and the cadence of horses' hooves on the dusty trail were the prevailing sounds of this area of the ranch.

Some of the Western stars whose films were shot in the Garden of the Gods included Hoot Gibson, Roy Rogers (whose ranch was just five miles from the Garden), Randolph Scott, and John Wayne.

The area also stood in for Asia, Africa, and the South Seas. A few non-Western films shot partially or completely at the Garden of the Gods include *Man-Woman-Marriage* (1921), Buster Keaton's *Three Ages* (1923), *Noah's Ark* (1928), *The Fighting Seabees* (1944), *The Saga of the Viking Women and Their Voyage to the Waters of the Great Sea Serpent* (1957), *The Female Animal* (1958), *Panic in Year Zero!* (1962), *Panic in the City* (1968), and *The Harpy* (1971).

One of the most popular television programs of all time was *The Lone Ranger*, whose opening and closing scenes were filmed on the ranch.

It was near the Nyoka Cliff area that perhaps the most iconic footage in all Western television history was shot: the 40-second opening sequence of *The Lone Ranger,* with Silver, the "fiery horse with the speed of light," rearing on his hind legs to the strains of Rossini's William Tell Overture. The masked rider opens the program in front of what is now known as the Lone Ranger Rock, located in the Lower Iverson Gorge on the southeastern side of the gorge next to Nyoka Cliff.

The Garden of the Gods appears at the end of each *Lone Ranger* episode when he and Tonto ride up the trail, away from camera, ready for their new adventures. They are riding up between the two large rock formations that make up the Garden of the Gods.

But it wasn't only Westerns that the Garden hosted. Republic Pictures, headquartered at the old Mack Sennett studio, less than a dozen miles from Iverson, used the area for dozens of serials. One of these was *Perils of Nyoka*, a 1943 Republic serial starring Kay Aldridge, which was likely the most popular of the jungle-set films of the era. The serial ran a total of 261 minutes over 15 chapters, just perfect for the Saturday-morning matinees.

Above: The Garden of the Gods is the only part of the famed Iverson Ranch still open to the public.

At left: Silver, the Lone Ranger's white stallion, is one of the best-known equines in film and television history.

The plot: Nyoka (Aldridge), with help from Larry Grayson, attempts to discover the golden tablets of Hippocrates, which contain the medical knowledge of the ancients and are buried with a treasure trove. In search of the tablets, they travel from the African jungle to the Arabian desert where Queen Vultura (Lorna Gray) and her Arab cohort are also searching for them. Of course, Larry saves Nyoka from the usual Saturday morning cliffhanging perils, including being captured by Vultura and her pet gorilla, Satan.

Larry and Nyoka track down Vultura, who has found the tablets. While Larry and the other expedition members engage Vultura's men, Nyoka and Vultura battle each other in one of the rare female-against-female fights in serial lore. The battle ends when Satan hurls a spear at Nyoka, misses her and unintentionally kills Vultura. Larry wins the battle against Vultura's men, shoots Satan, saves Nyoka, and retrieves the tablets.

And what ties *Perils of Nyoka* to *The Lone Ranger*? Clayton Moore. Kay Aldridge's friend Dr. Larry Grayson is played by Clayton Moore, in his 10th film role. He later gains fame playing the Lone Ranger for many years.

The Garden of the Gods is the only area of the Iverson Ranch that still allows public access; street parking is available on Redmesa Road in Chatsworth. The easy hiking trail of the Garden of the Gods is available for those who want to "return to those thrilling days of yesteryear" and imagine what it was like in the heyday of the Iverson Ranch.

For half a century, the Garden of the Gods was the location of almost every major Western star's movies… this plaque is their homage.

Martin Cooper, President of Cooper Communications, supervised public relations for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for 10 years; held executive positions with Disney and Universal Studios; and was Board Chairman of the UCLA Film & Television Archive. He is a Fernando Award Honoree and Past Chairman of VICA. An award-winning author, he has written four books, two of them on the San Fernando Valley. His fifth book, The 'Reel' Hollywood: The San Fernando Valley, the history of motion pictures in the Valley, will be out January 2026.

VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

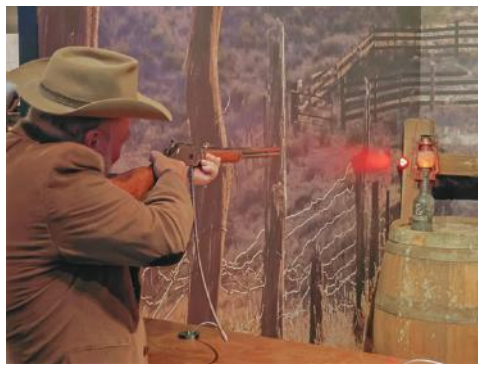
President Reagan's Cowboy Spirit Inspires Exhibit, "Cowboys: History & Hollywood," at Reagan Library

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today announced its new exhibition, "Cowboys: History & Hollywood," which will run through April 19, 2026. The exhibition will take visitors on a journey through the reality and the cinematic allure of the American cowboy—an enduring symbol of strength, self-reliance, and freedom.

Blending true Western history with Hollywood mythmaking, the 10,000-square-foot exhibition will feature authentic gear, rare photographs, historic artifacts, and memorabilia from classic Western films that shaped the cowboy image we know today. Visitors will discover how the cowboy became a cultural icon whose influence extends far beyond the open range.

"It's a privilege to present an exhibition that explores both the history and the Hollywood magic of the American cowboy," said David Trulio, President & CEO of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute. "President Reagan himself embodied the cowboy spirit through his values of hard work, liberty, and determination. This exhibition not only celebrates the cowboy as an American icon, but also reflects the leadership qualities that President Reagan held dear."

The upcoming exhibition explores how the work of cowboys has changed, from riders on horseback to today's modern animal management. Visitors will see how herding methods have advanced from dusty trails to helicopters and ATVs.



Additional highlights of "Cowboys: History & Hollywood" include:

- Dozens of historic saddles, cowboy hats, firearms, and other cowboy equipment from the 19th and early 20th centuries;
- Roy Rogers' Trigger and Bullet, the beloved horse and dog that became television legends, along with Rogers' wife Dale Evans' horse, Buttermilk;
- Iconic Hollywood costumes, objects and artifacts from *Yellowstone, Gunsmoke, Back to the Future Part III, Nope,* and *Annie Get Your Gun*;
- Items belonging to John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and President Ronald Reagan, showcasing their connection to the cowboy image;
- President Reagan's 1953 Willys Jeep CJ-6, which he drove at Rancho del Cielo;
- An NSYNC tour cowboy costume;
- Autographed guitar of Lee Greenwood, "God Bless the USA" singer;

President Ronald Reagan once said, "I seem to remember a famous country and western song warning mothers not to let their babies grow up to be cowboys… The song forgot that cowboys can sometimes grow up and be President."

To learn more about the cowboy way of life and how President Reagan himself embraced the cowboy persona, purchase tickets to this upcoming exhibit on the Reagan Library website, reaganfoundation.org.

Over 400 local children , above, enjoyed crafts, games, and visits with Santa, at right.

Northridge Hospital's "Holiday Jam" Serves Over 400 Kids

Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital Medical Center (NHMC), and the Northridge Hospital Foundation held their Annual "Helping Hands Holiday Jam" with over 400 children from various schools throughout the San Fernando Valley.

Santa made his arrival in holiday fashion on a fire truck. The event featured photos with Santa, games, arts and crafts, and lots of delicious food including holiday cookies. Goody bags and toys were given to all the kids.

The "Helping Hands Holiday Jam" is made possible through the generous support of the Northridge Hospital Foundation, community partners, and dedicated volunteers.

"For two decades, the 'Helping Hands Holiday Jam' has been a cornerstone of our commitment to the well-being of the San Fernando Valley community," said Jeremy Zoch, Hospital President and CEO. "This event is about more than just gifts; it's about creating lasting happy memories and showing these children that their community cares deeply about them. It's a true reflection of our mission to deliver humankindness."

"Seeing the pure delight on 400 children's faces as they met Santa and enjoyed the carnival atmosphere is the most rewarding experience. Our mission at Northridge Hospital Medical Center is to provide moments of joy and support to those who need it the most, and today was a testament to the power of community, compassion, generosity, and holiday spirit,." said Brian Hammel, President, Northridge Hospital Foundation.

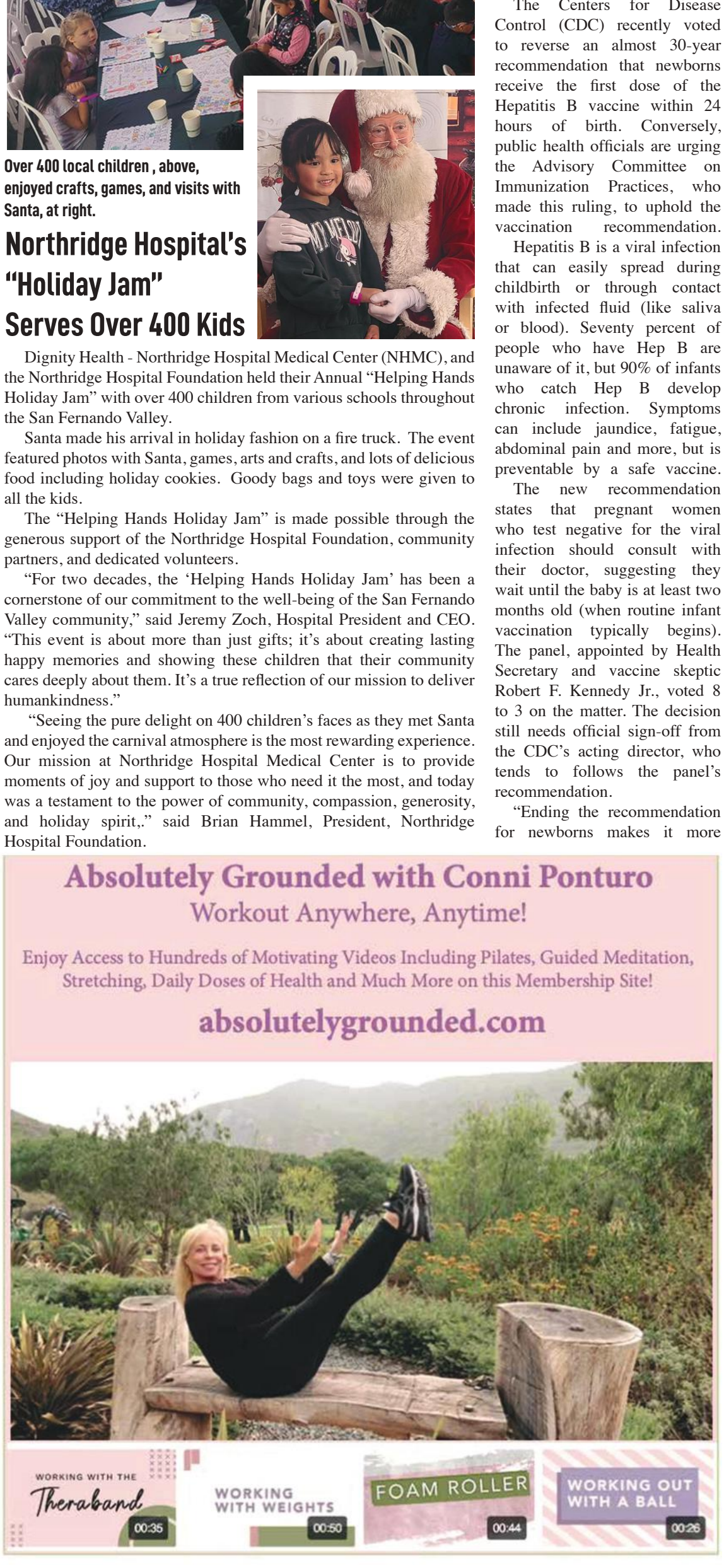
CDC Reverses 30-Year Vaccine Recommendation

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently voted to reverse an almost 30-year recommendation that newborns receive the first dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth. Conversely, public health officials are urging the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, who made this ruling, to uphold the vaccination recommendation.

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that can easily spread during childbirth or through contact with infected fluid (like saliva or blood). Seventy percent of people who have Hep B are unaware of it, but 90% of infants who catch Hep B develop chronic infection. Symptoms can include jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain and more, but is preventable by a safe vaccine.

The new recommendation states that pregnant women who test negative for the viral infection should consult with their doctor, suggesting they wait until the baby is at least two months old (when routine infant vaccination typically begins). The panel, appointed by Health Secretary and vaccine skeptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr., voted 8 to 3 on the matter. The decision still needs official sign-off from the CDC's acting director, who tends to follows the panel's recommendation.

"Ending the recommendation for newborns makes it more



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$65M Student Housing Complex Opens at CSUN

A $65 million student housing complex has opened on the Cal State University Northridge campus at the corner of Lassen Street and Zelzah Avenue.

This is the first affordable housing development within the Cal State system.

Joshua Tree Hall and Hibiscus Hall are two four-story buildings with a combined 198 beds in dual-occupancy rooms on the upper levels, plus administrative offices, community rooms and multipurpose spaces below.

The complex is connected to other on-campus housing and food services through a shared courtyard.

AC Martin designed the complex, which C.W. Driver Companies built.

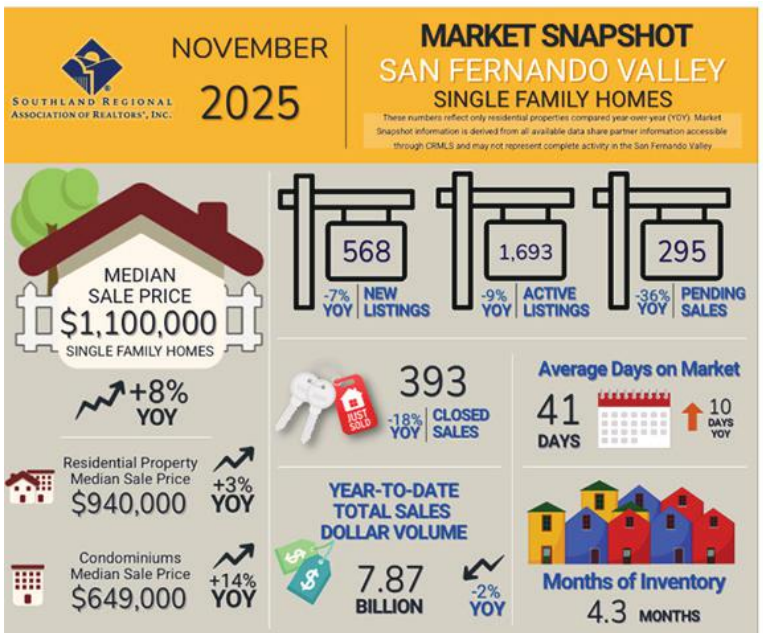
"The demand for student housing is high for universities across California," said C.W. Driver executive John Kately in a news release. "It was a pleasure to collaborate with CSUN to deliver two robust housing facilities that tailor to the needs of all students."

TSA to Charge $45 Fine Without Passport or Real ID

Holiday travelers need not fret at the moment, but starting in 2026 the TSA will impose a $45 fee on travelers without proper documentation.

Set to take place in February 2026, travelers who do not present a Real ID or valid passport will be required to pay this fine before their trip. Travelers will pay via pay.gov before they travel to the airport, obtain a receipt and then show that proof to a TSA offficer during the typical security screening.

Once an individual makes a payment, the receipt will be good for 10 days. If travel takes longer, an individual will have to buy additional passes, one for departure and one for return. A spokesperson for TSA noted that about 94 percent of the traveling public is currently compliant, meaning they have a Real ID or passport, and thus won't have to go through this process.



Valley Real Estate Market in Limbo Due to Economic Concerns in 2025

If economic and seasonal trends hold during December as expected, the residential real estate market in the San Fernando Valley likely will close 2025 with home and condominium sales down by a single digit compared to 2024, resale prices hovering just below record highs, and the inventory of properties listed for sale surpassing levels not seen since 2019, the Southland Regional Association of Realtors reported today.

The 393 single-family homes that closed escrow during November fell 18% compared to a year ago. Realtors guided 143 condominium sales to completion, a total that was up 5.9% from November 2024. If December condo activity matches the tally reported a year ago, annual condo sales will be down by approximately 1.5%.

Condo active listings remain a bright spot in the market with the inventory posting the best numbers in six years. The active inventory typically diminishes in the waning months of each year, though this year the condo supply came in at 799 active listings, up 38.5% from a year ago. The association also reported 1,693 active listings of single-family homes. That was down 9.1% from November 2024.

"Growing numbers of homeowners listed their property for sale this year and we saw plenty of pent-up demand from families eager to buy," said Anthony Bedgood, the 2025 President of the 10,000-member Southland Regional Association of Realtors. "Yet, concerns over the economy – whether it's headed up or down – has cast a shadow over the market."

"We finally have a decent supply of homes listed for sale, interest rates now are at their lowest level since last December, and sellers often are open to compromise on prices," Bedgood said. "Yet sales that close escrow take longer and are more complicated."

The average number of days a home is on the resale market increased to 41 days in November, up 10 days from a year ago. Similarly, condos stayed on the market 44 days, up six days.

"The numbers suggest there are ample reasons and plenty of opportunities for people who want to buy a home to get off the sidelines and jump into the market," said Valerie Biletsky, the Association's Chief Executive Officer. "There are fewer competitors during the holidays and through the early months of each new year. Plus, interest rates often fall in the next few months to their lowest level before heading up again in the spring."

Condo active listings remain a bright spot in the market with the inventory posting the best numbers in six years.

Pending sales – a measure of future closed escrows – fell 36% for homes and 14% for condominiums.

SRAR's Income-to-Loan guide for November found that an income of $164,303 was needed to qualify for an 80% loan of $519,200 on a San Fernando Valley median-priced condominium of $649,000. With the national average interest rate at 6.34% during November – the lowest since December 2024's 6.31% and well below the 7.79% of October 2023 – the income needed to qualify increased 15.2% compared to a year ago. The monthly PITI — principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments — totaled $4,108.

Chartered by the National Association of Realtors in 1920, the Southland Regional Association of Realtors is the voice for real estate in San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. With 10,000 members, SRAR serves as a trusted resource and partner to the real estate profession and the community at large.

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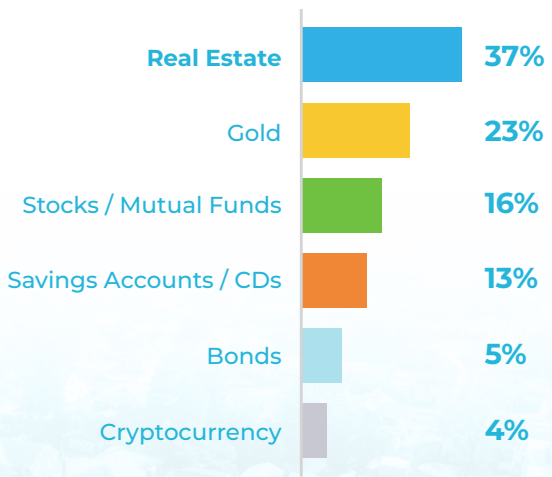
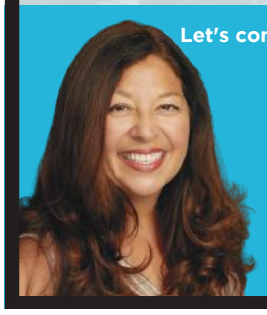


If you've been trying to decide if it makes sense to buy a home today, let this reassure you. **Homeownership wins in the long run.**



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

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