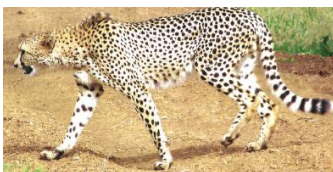




Guest Op-Ed
From ENC Rep
Sautter

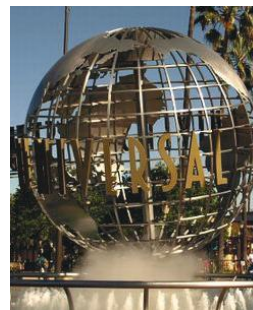
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at Zulu Nyala - Page 8

Reel History
of the Valley

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ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 4, Issue 83

A Compendious Source of Information

October 19, 2023

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fall Camp at Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley Now Enrolling

Fall break is quickly approaching and the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley is now accepting enrollment for their Fall Camp. The program will run from November 20 to November 22, from 8 am to 6 pm. For teens there will be career exploration, college application support, gaming, jewelry making, field trips and more! For elementary school kids there will be arts and crafts, turkey food art, pumpkin volcano making and more! Register your child at BGCWV.org/Fall.

Providence Cedars-Sinai Opens New Friese Family Tower

Providence Cedars-Sinai in Tarzana has completed a three-and-a-half year renovation of their 50-year old medical center with the opening of the Friese Family Tower. The tower houses a new 32-bed emergency room, double the size of the previous ER, a 42-bed surgery unit, 42-bed progressive care unit, a 22-bed critical care unit, a 20-bed cardio unit and a 16-bed pediatrics unit. A state-of-the-art pharmacy with an adjacent lab will also save time and resources. First responders now have a separate entrance, and there is a separate patient drop-off zone. There is also a new gift shop, chapel and "grab and go" area for snacks and supplies.

Happy Halloween!



Halloween Happenings Around Town

ONEgeneration Hosting Halloween Outdoor Movie Night Sat, Oct. 21

Join ONEgeneration, and sponsors Valley Presbyterian Hospital and Bristol Hospice, for the next installment of Encino Outdoor Movie Nights! The movie being screened will be *The Nightmare Before Christmas* on Saturday, October 21, at the ONEgeneration soccer field (17400 Victory Blvd.). Gates open at 6 pm, showtime is at 7 pm and a special costume contest is at 6:45 pm. Tickets are \$7 for those under 13 and \$15 for adults. Bring your own blankets, low chairs, food and drinks! Lite concessions and beverages, including alcohol, will be available for purchase. Tickets available at Eventbrite under the search term, "Outdoor Encino Movie Nights."

Our Lady of Grace Kicks off Carnival Encino This Weekend

Our Lady of Grace will be hosting their annual three-day Carnival Encino kicking off on Friday, October 20, at 5 pm. There will be classic carnival

rides, games, a kids zone, food, a silent auction, sports bars, live entertainment and much, much more! While admission is free, tickets for everything else can be purchased at carnivalencino.com. Friday admission is from 5 to 11 pm, Saturday admission is from 12 pm to 11 pm and Sunday admission is from 12 pm to 9 pm.

Nights of the Jack

Nights of the Jack returns to King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas from now until October 31! Featuring thousands of hand-carved and illuminated Jack O' Lanterns, attendees will weave their way through an array of themed pumpkin patches and an illuminated light show. The venue opens at 6 pm nightly and closes at 10 pm, with designated time slots. Tickets start at \$29.99 and parking is \$9.99, which must be purchased alongside event tickets. King Gillette Ranch is located at 26800 West Mulholland Hwy. For tickets and more information, visit nightsofthejack.com.

Haunted Mansion Halloween Carnival

Save the date! The Encino Community Center and Balboa Sports Complex invite

you to the Haunted Mansion Halloween Carnival on Saturday, October 28, from 12 to 4 pm at the center (4935 Balboa Blvd.). There will be arts and crafts, moon bouncers, cookie decorating, carnival prizes, a costume contest, a photo booth and more!

Halloween Zumba

ONEgeneration will be hosting a Halloween Dance with Zumba on Wednesday, October 25, from 1 to 3:30 pm in the Enrichment Center (18255 Victory Blvd.). The class will be lead by certified Zumba instructor Joanne Tarah. Costumes optional!

Tapia Brothers Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze

Tapia Bros in Encino is all set to welcome you and your family to celebrate all things Halloween! Not only will they have a pumpkin patch to pick your most perfect pumpkin, they will have a corn maze, farm stand, train ride, petting zoo and pony rides. The patch is open Mon-Thurs from 9 am to 6 pm and Fri-Sun from 9 am to 7 pm. For a full schedule of the other activities offered, visit their Facebook page @TapiaBrosFarm. They are located at 5251 Hayvenhurst Ave.

CALENDAR



San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

FALL INTO BIRDING!

Discover the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve
 SFV Audubon Family & Beginner Tour
 Saturday November 11, 2023 @9AM.
 (continuing on 2nd Saturdays through March)

for more advanced birders join the First Sunday
 Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve walks @8AM
 Both begin at the Woodley Park Amphitheatre
 (see www.sfvaudubon.org for directions)

SFVAS leads a full slate of bird walks in our area
 including Hansen Dam, Malibu Canyon,
 O'Melveny Park and more,
 as well as informative presentations.

See www.sfvaudubon.org or click QR Code for directions, details,
 and more information

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
www.sfvaudubon.org • 747-237-3720
info@sfvaudubon.org



Community Calendar

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their general board meeting on Wednesday, October 25, at 7 pm. For more info, visit encinonc.org.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their next "Mix & Mingle Live" on Tuesday, October 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Barrister Executive Suites in the Sherman Oaks Galleria (15303 Ventura Blvd.). Current members are \$20 and guests are \$30. Celebrate the grand reopening of Barrister and make business connections over lite bites and drinks. Halloween attire is encouraged and prizes will be awarded! RSVP at shermanoakschamber.org.

* The West Valley Regional Library will hold a "Tech TryOut Cart" on Thursday, October 26, at 4 pm. Get hands-on instruction on how to download free e-books, movies, and music from the Los Angeles Public Library using Apple, Android and Windows-based devices.

* West Valley Warner Center Chamber will hold their next networking breakfast on Wednesday, November 1, at 7 am at Braemar Country Club (4001 Reseda Blvd.). That month's sponsor will be The Drain Co. Pre-paid members and trial guests cost \$37 and walk-ins cost \$47. Register at woodlandhillssc.net/readpost.php?news_id=10082&rob=y.

* Join the Tarzana Community and Cultural Center for Tarzana Music Night: Live! on Friday, October 20, from 7 to 10 pm. Performers include Tracy Newman, Art Podell, Tina Ross, Mike Berman, Matt Bunsen, Bob Thomas Trio, Kevin and Suzie Hickey, JK Jones, Lauren Lundeen, Ric Taylor, Ken Holme, Henry Zhao, Steven Wagner, and Claire Bloom. Special guest Kathleen Kelso will perform a 20-minute set at 8 pm. The show will be outdoors, refreshments will be available for purchase and tickets are \$5 at mytarzana.org or at the door.

* The circus is staying in town for another two weeks! Circus Vargas, set up under the big top at Promenade Mall (6100 Topanga Canyon Blvd.) has extended their run due to popular demand through October 30. Circus Vargas channels the "City of Lights" in an all-new high-energy, action-packed extravaganza. This is a must-see Parisian-style circus production featuring world-renowned performers, aerialists, acrobats and more. Audiences are immediately immersed in an ambience of glitz and glamour reminiscent of the famed Lido de Paris. For Circus Vargas performance dates, times and tickets, visit www.circusvargas.com, call 877-GOTFUN-1 (877- 468-3861) or visit the box office.

* A Faery Hunt returns to Tarzana Community and Cultural Center on Sunday, October 22, at 10:30 am for a show and Halloween party! These shows are interactive, immersive performances designed for young audiences and families to inspire imaginations. On this magical Halloween adventure you'll meet faeries and funny creatures, maybe even Faery Royalty! Tickets can be purchased by calling 818-324-6802 or going to afaeryhunt.com.

* Encino Tarzana Library will be hosting a special teen and adult Art Lab on Saturday, October 21, at 4 pm. In honor of the upcoming Dia de los Muertos, attendees can either work on your own project or try October's two project options: a notan drawing or painting a sugar skull pot. Supplies are limited and first-come, first-served, so email ecalla@lapl.org to sign up and arrive on time for the class. Ages 11 years and older and adults are welcome.

The Board of Directors of the Fernando Award Foundation cordially invites you to attend the



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Mel Wilson
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 Skirball Cultural Center | 2701 North Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles
 Reception 6:30 PM | Dinner & Awards 7:30 PM | Black Tie
 To purchase tickets visit fernandoawards.org or call 818.493.6664

People in the News



Valley resident and Realtor **Cindy Royal Libonati**, left, has been selected for inclusion in the nationwide registries Women of Distinction 2023 Honor Edition for demonstrating superior expertise, leadership and professional excellence in her field. Her dedication and tenacity set the standard in the industry. She was recently named the #1 Selling Agent at the Calabasas Brokerage of Sotheby's International Realty. Representing the state as one of the best in the country requires tenure, experience and a proven track record. During the vetting process it was noted along with her extraordinary reputation that she has also consistently maintained a positive peer rating throughout the years. Libonati prides herself on building relationships - both with clients and in the community. Her kindness and willingness to always help others and find solutions to most questions is highly respected.

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.



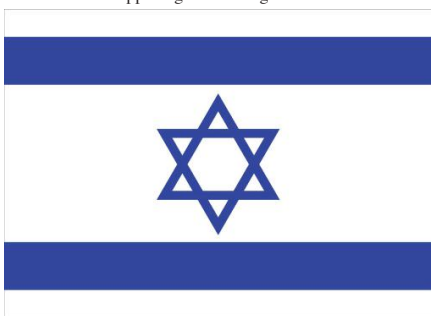
- * Why don't monsters eat ghosts? To them, they taste like sheet!
- * From a reader that shall go unnamed...Last Halloween there was a knock on his door. He looked out of the window and then shouted upstairs to his wife, "Honey there's a witch at the door. What shall I do?" She shouted back, "Just give her some candy and tell her to get lost." "My mother-in-law hasn't spoken to me since," he slyly said.
- * Why did the vampire read the newspaper? He heard it had great circulation!
- * Skeleton puns are always quite humerus this time of year, but skip the vampire ones as they tend to suck.
- * What did the cannibal's friend get when he arrived late for Halloween dinner? He was given the cold shoulder.
- * A boy and his sister went trick-or-treating in an affluent neighborhood dressed entirely in brown. The rich homeowner scoffed at their boring outfits and complained that they made absolutely no effort in their costumes to get candy. The little sister boldly replied, "We're M&M's, I'm plain and he has nuts!"
- * "Halloween is right around the corner! You can tell because all the stores are decked out for Christmas." Stephen Colbert mused that one and ain't that the truth!

Letter from the Publisher

From Kathleen Sterling

We have received so many statements saying "We Stand With Israel" - from local organizations, religious groups, politicians and more. We can't publish them all, but can reiterate the theme of condemning the atrocities that are happening as

Christiane Amampour, who before taking a desk at CNN was a war correspondent for them, covering the Persian Gulf and Bosnian wars. Watching her report from a war zone as the battle raged around her, and watching international press now doing the same in the Middle



we speak.

We are able to see the events in real time thanks to the brave journalists from around the world who are on the ground reporting the news.

These brave men and women are wearing flak vests that scream press, but none the less are risking their lives to report to the world what is happening in Israel and Gaza.

As a journalist myself, my idol has always been

East, is awe-inspiring, terrifying and necessary.

Without journalists to chronicle the events, interview the survivors, follow the troops, we would not have an accurate picture of what is really happening in a war a world away.

They have filmed the bombings, the kidnappings, the explosions, the terror and the aftermath. They are our eyes and ears to what is happening day and night.

Say hello to the new Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce.



As a local business, your company creates jobs, hope and opportunity. As the newly-merged Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce, we are a stronger, even more exciting advocate for business owners. And we're here to get you what you need to succeed. Got a problem? Need some help? Want to make new connections? Join us today. Call 818-906-1951 or email us at hello@shermanoakschamber.org.

Discover what we can do together.



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Guest Op-Ed From Encino Neighborhood Council Area Rep Sautter



Hello Encino!
Who am I? What authority do I have? Why should you be reading anything I have to say?

These are all good and valid questions!

My name is Josh Sautter and while originally from Washington DC I've been thrilled to call Los Angeles my home for the past 7 years and Encino my home since June of 2022. I love the community my wife and I have found here. So, when I, a fair-skinned ginger prone to sunburns took my fair-skinned son (also prone to sunburns) to our local playground for the first time and noticed there was no shade over the baby section, I decided to try and get some. Turns out, it was a lot more involved an ask than I thought. And in talking to the rest

of my neighbors about it, realized everyone had their own "baby shade" problem – be it people running stop signs on a busy intersection of Louise Avenue or making Balboa Park safer and more beautiful. So, charged with these community desires, I decided to run for Encino Neighborhood Council, and I'm honored and humbled to admit that a lot of community members took the time out of their weekends to vote for me.

I've taken the position and run with it, going to as many community meetings as I can – desperate to do whatever can be done to help come up with positive, community-oriented solutions for problems that our neighborhood is coming up against.

Over the last few months, I've become convinced that the future of American politics is local. It lies in people engaging directly with their communities. It's easy to hate someone's vitriolic rhetoric on social media, the comments section of a newspaper, or at your family's Thanksgiving table. It's hard to hate your neighbor who takes out your trash for you when

you're out of town. Connection is the antidote to division. So if you want to get connected, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly so that I can help steer you in the right direction. Sign up for my Josh Listens Substack Newsletter or come to the Encino Village Octoberfest Block Party on October 29, from 3 to 7 pm.

Who am I? What authority do I have? Why should you be reading anything I have to say?

I'm your advocate. I'm the person who will listen to you when no one else will. I'm the guy to ask: what should me and my family do this weekend? What can we do about this problem or that problem? What is the solution here? How can we figure it out together?

I'm you, but with a passion for community organizing and speaking truth to power. Essentially, what I'm trying to say, is that I'm all of us. Which may sound corny. But it's true. And I am pretty corny. Just ask my wife.

Ready to listen,
Josh Sautter

Sign up for his Substack at joshlistens.substack.com.

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Save Our Small Businesses

By Miri Rossitto

In communities worldwide, small, locally owned businesses serve as the beating heart and lifeblood that sustains our way of life. They are not mere enterprises; they are the essence of our identity, connection, and solidarity. Picture your favorite corner bakery, the cozy bookshop where you meet friends, or that family-owned restaurant where cherished memories are made. These small businesses are the threads that weave our community's unique tapestry.

At the onset of the pandemic, these businesses faced their toughest challenge yet. In Los Angeles County alone, a staggering 7,500 small businesses permanently shuttered their doors, leaving a void that extended far beyond economics. The loss of jobs hit hard, destabilizing families, and raising local unemployment rates.

But the impact goes deeper. It ripples through our local economies, leading to reduced spending power, budget shortfalls for essential public services, and even cuts to schools and safety programs. Just this last month, Nicola's Kitchen, a family-owned mainstay in Woodland Hills for 30 years closed their doors forever. They hosted countless birthday parties, baby showers, business lunches and more for thousands upon thousands in our community.

The closure of one small business, like Nicola's Kitchen, sets off a domino effect, affecting neighboring establishments. A beloved local café closes, foot traffic dwindles, and nearby shops suffer. The intricate supply chain relying on these businesses is disrupted, hurting other local enterprises. This interconnectedness shows how our community thrives when these small businesses thrive, and withers when they falter.

Beyond the financial consequences, small businesses breathe life into our community's identity. They create an unmistakable charm that no chain store can replicate. These establishments are not just places to buy goods and services; they are our shared experiences, gathering spots, and the heart of our community spirit. Losing them leaves us feeling isolated, disconnected, and longing for the sense of belonging they once provided.

But there is hope. As

community members, local governments, and consumers, we hold the power to sustain and nurture these small businesses. Join "shop local" campaigns, advocate for measures that ease their economic burdens, and actively support these vital establishments. Small businesses are not just a component of our community; they are the essence that makes it thrive. Their preservation is essential for the continued prosperity and vibrancy of our local communities.

Stand with them, for they are the lifeblood of who we are and the future we build together. We have the power to come together and not only stop more small business from closing, but we can encourage and fuel the growth of new enterprises that will sustain our community for generations to come.

Miri Rossitto is CEO of Cowe Communications. Follow them on all social @CoweOfficial.



BUSINESS

IRS Extends Tax Deadline to Nov. 16

The Internal Revenue Service has once again extended the deadline for Californians to file their tax returns to November

16. The original spring dates were postponed until October 16 due to the storms California experienced last winter. As long

as an individual's residence or business address is located in a disaster area, they automatically get the extra time to file.

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Tired, Overweight, Hormonal? Let Be Balanced Balance You Out

Are you working out every day, dieting and not seeing results? Exhausted and anxious? Frustrated by PMS or menopause symptoms - that won't go away?

A new studio in Woodland Hills is addressing all those issues - and more. Be Balanced offers an all-natural way to balance your hormones and improve your quality of life. Get rid of mood swings, hot flashes, low energy and sleep issues - and lose up to 21 pounds in 30 days.

Owner Cher Olivos is a Woodland Hills resident with a background in the medical field who is bringing the Be Balanced program to women and men of the west valley.

The non-medical, non-invasive protocol is all symptom-based. Clients take an online quiz to see if they have a hormonal imbalance. "Most women do!" Olivos told *Valley News Group*. "We work with them one on one with a personalized wellness program to balance hormones and improve gut health naturally."

Be Balanced offers all-natural medical grade high-quality supplements that contain no metals or extra additives, customized to your needs, a diet of whole foods for optimal hormone and gut healing, plus relaxation therapy and stress management techniques.

"One of the main culprits of imbalanced hormones is stress. Our bodies pump out a hormone called cortisol to buffer stress on the body and protect us," said

Olivos.

Not only can high levels of cortisol lead to insulin resistance and inflammation, it can create an imbalance between estrogen and progesterone. As a result, symptoms of imbalanced hormones show up - hence the headaches, sleep issues, stubborn weight and more. While men do not have as sharp a decline in hormones as women, they can experience a slow decline in male hormones such as testosterone, which can cause irritability, gynecomastia and even issues with prostate health, so they can benefit from the program.

The Be Balance regime also helps with weight loss. The first four weeks concentrate on burning fat, and a 14-week maintenance program helps keep it off. "With other weight loss programs only 20% of clients keep off the weight; with ours 60% keep it off after dieting," Olivos shared.

See for yourself! Be Balanced Woodland Hills is hosting a grand opening on Wednesday, October 25, from 11 am to 6 pm. Meet the Balanced team at 11 am, join the chamber ribbon cutting at noon and learn what Be Balanced is and what they do at 1, 3 and 5 pm. All day enjoy refreshments, prizes, free wellness assessments and tours.

Be Balanced is located at 21809 Ventura Blvd. Book your free consultation online at bebalancedcenters.com or call (818) 854-6416.

Grand Opening in Woodland Hills

Wednesday, Oct 25th from 11am - 6pm
21809 Ventura Blvd.

- Cher Olivos, Owner

"I am thrilled to share how BeBalanced in Woodland Hills is helping change the lives of women in our community, just like it has changed mine."

Event Schedule:

- 11:00 am: Meet the BeBalanced Team
- 12:00 pm: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with the Chamber
- 1:00 pm: "Who is BeBalanced, and what do we do?"
- 3:00 pm: "Who is BeBalanced, and what do we do?"
- 5:00 pm: "Who is BeBalanced, and what do we do?"
- All day: Prizes, Free wellness assessments, food and refreshments, guided tours, and a whole lot of fun with members of your community!

NOW OPEN
book your free
consultation!

www.BeBalancedCenters.com
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REGISTER HERE

Flu Shot Side Effects That Are Completely Normal

It's a long-held misconception that the flu shot can give you the flu. While last year's flu season was relatively mild, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to strongly suggest individuals receive the vaccination, especially as we enter the colder months. While the shot does not make an individual "catch" the flu, it can cause mild side effects which actually prove the shot is working.

After all, each shot contains inactive or incomplete strains of the influenza virus to expose your immune system to the virus and provoke the body to create antibodies to guard against any live viruses. The nasal spray does contain a live virus, but an extremely mild one. After receiving the shot, it typically takes approximately two weeks for the antibodies to kick into full force.

In the meantime, your body may experience natural reactions such as:

-soreness near the injection site that typically feels like a dull ache



- redness or mild swelling near the injection site due to inflammation
- mild headache
- mild dizziness if one is prone to anxiety around needles
- mild, low-grade fever
- muscle aches, which are a normal immune response
- fatigue
- nausea
- mild sore throat or minor coughing

While these side effects are mild, they are also rare in the majority of individuals who receive the flu vaccination. If these symptoms do occur, they tend to last for only a few days before they dissipate.

According to the CDC, an individual can get their flu shot

and COVID shot at the same time, but side effects may be a little more severe as your body is fighting two different vaccines at once. Symptoms are not extreme, but swelling and soreness may be more extensive than usual.

While the vaccine is a major step in avoiding the flu, other measures must be followed as well. "Everyone still needs to be mindful of things such as avoiding close contact with people who are sick, covering your nose and mouth when you sneeze—preferably with a tissue, so it can be discarded afterward—and using good hand hygiene, such as washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rubs, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when possible," said Lee Nguyen, Pharm.D., associate clinical professor for the department of clinical pharmacy practice at UC Irvine.

Flu season typically rises in February and can continue until May, so the CDC recommends getting vaccinated against the flu by the end of October.

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Schedule an estimated arrival time.



ENTERTAINMENT

Experience the Beauty of Africa at Zulu Nyala

By Kathleen Sterling

Thirteen years ago, I fell in love with Africa.

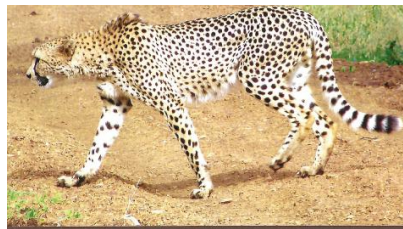
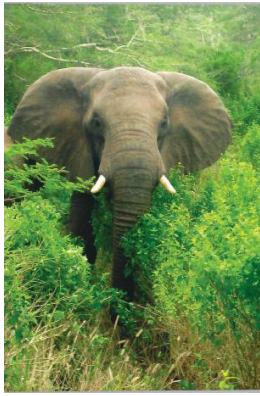
The wide open spaces, the umbrella trees silhouetted against the sky, the burning orange sun dropping down over the horizon, the Southern Cross in the night sky.

And of course, the animals.

The animals! The whole point of going on safari is to see wildlife up close and personal in their own habitat.

Finally, post-pandemic I was able to return.

I brought my family to Zulu Nyala, located in the southeast



one night to work out the kinks after a long Jeep ride.

A variety of excursions off property allowed us to see other sites and parts of the country.

A trip to Santa Lucia offered a boat ride on the estuary with an abundance of hippos. We also took a dip in the Indian Ocean and visited the Zulu Arts & Crafts Center in town for souvenirs. A trip to a local grocery store in Santa Lucia let us buy the creamy African liquor,

corner of the continent near Durban and the Indian Ocean.

Zulu Nyala is a privately-owned game reserve sprawling over the KwaZulu Natal region. It is home to over 40 different animal species and hundreds of birds and indigenous plant life.

There we took two game drives a day - early morning and late afternoon.

Feeling very Meryl Streep in *Out of Africa*, we jumped into an open air Jeep at 6 am, binoculars and cameras in hand, and took off across the veld to search out game. The two-hour drives with a knowledgeable ranger took us to a different part of the reserve each time.

Depending on the day we found rhinos on the banks of the watering hole, hippos lounging in the mud, zebras grazing, scurrying warthogs darting across the plains everywhere, and water buffalo grazing next to the nyala, the native African antelope.

Every drive is a different adventure. We had a herd of elephants, including babies, parade across the road just in front of our Jeep. We came across three cheetahs pacing back and forth and keeping a sharp eye on grazing antelope nearby. No matter how many times we came across them, seeing the graceful giraffes stretching the necks up into the trees to eat was always a thrill - and a great photo op.

Returning to the Heritage Lodge we had breakfast in the gracious building, originally built in the 1940's and now restored to its original colonial grandeur. Three meals a day are served buffet style in the safari lodge. The food was very good, always with both a meat option and a vegetarian option. In the adjacent thatched boma or "human watering hole" was a full bar where we gathered after the late afternoon drive to catch up, share photos and relax.

Retiring for the night we returned to our really comfortable huge room, which had a queen bed and two sofa beds to use if you were traveling with family. A ceiling fan or air-conditioning kept us cool, and the bath featured a large shower and a deep, claw-footed tub to soak off the day's dust. A separate seating area was a great gathering place after dinner for all of us to meet and plan the next day's adventure.

Between the two game drives there is a whole day to explore.

On site there is the traditional Zulu Cultural Village, which offers interactive tours where you can learn about and experience the Zulu culture first hand. There's also a curio shop with local crafts.

If motivated, there is a fully equipped gym at the preserve. We opted out, but did take advantage of the on-property spa

Amarula, and some local snacks and spices.

We took a day trip to Hluhluwe Imfolozi Park to see lions in the natural habitat. (Since Zulu Nyala is a preserve there are no lion predators on the property.) We found a male lion sheltering under a tree devouring a kill, and saw a female lounging in the river bed while her cubs were secluded nearby.

There is also an elephant interaction tour to meet rescued, free-living elephants, and the cheetah rehabilitation center where you can take a photo with the sleek, beautiful animals.

Taste pineapple gin and brandy at a working still, or visit more creepy crawlies at the reptile center.

The Zulu Nyala seven-day package leaves plenty of time to relax at one of two pools, or hang out at the fenced pond hoping to catch a glimpse of the resident crocodile. Monkeys roam the Heritage Lodge, always entertaining, and nyala freely wander the property, so on your way to breakfast or dinner you might find a mother and baby nibbling the bushes next to your room.

This is a bucket-list trip for sure. The vistas are spectacular, the animals amazing, and the experience one for the books.

Zulu Nyala is available to purchase from one of the many nonprofits here in the valley. The owners of the property generously donate the week-long package to charity auctions and the prices are incredibly reasonable. I would recommend it for individuals - or families with children over the age of 11 or 12.

Some additional notes:

- There is an option at Zulu Nyala to practice "glamping" in their Hemingway Tented Camp on the same grounds as the Heritage Safari Lodge. They looked fun - but we loved our huge lodge rooms!

- We felt safe the entire trip. We spent three days in beautiful Capetown to start, and loved the wharf area, the great food and the spectacular views where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet.

- The hardest part of the trip is, of course, getting there. The flight is over 20 hours, and then there's a short flight from Cape Town or Johannesburg to Durban. We saved our miles and upgraded so we could stretch out and sleep.

- The people of South Africa are incredibly gracious and welcoming. We had two minor incidents unrelated to the trip that required emergency room visits. I cannot say enough about the head nurse at Victoria Hospital in Durban, Veroshni P., who took great care of us both times! You never want to go down on vacation, but Veroshni was a huge help and got us fixed up and back on tour in no time!

- For more information on Zulu Nyala visit zulunyala.co.za.

Clockwise from top:

- One of a herd of elephants who crossed our path on a morning drive.
- A gorgeous African sunset silhouetted against an umbrella tree.
- A giraffe drinks from a watering hole at dusk.
- Seeing double: It was like the zebras posed for the picture just for us.
- Getting ready to head out for a game drive in the Zulu Nyala jeep.
- A cheetah on the prowl scenting prey.
- The entrance to Zulu Nyala game preserve.

Photos: Kathleen Sterling



Fall of the House of Usher Brings Poe to Horrific Heights

By Katie Sterling

Is there a writer who personifies Halloween better than Edgar Allen Poe? A brooding man, haunted by his own demons, who conjured tales of black cats, beating hearts, ominous ravens, and the macabre. While the majority of us have left his works behind in the classrooms where we were first introduced to them, there's still not an individual on Earth who wouldn't at least be able to rattle off titles of his most infamous work. Yet, when a horror director adapts a horror writer's most chilling tales, you realize you'll never again see the writer's stories the same. Nope, absolutely not, some would even say...nevermore.

Horror director Mike Flanagan has taken the works of Edgar Allen Poe and updated them for his latest Netflix anthology series, *The Fall of the House of Usher*. This eight-episode series follows in the footsteps of his previous Netflix works (*The Haunting of Hill House*, *The Haunting of Bly Manor*, *Midnight Mass*, etc.) and by that I mean, it certainly doesn't hold back on the morbidity or the drama. *House of Usher* has been likened to *Succession* if written by Poe himself. The storyline focuses on an affluent family in the Big Pharma world whose success is quickly becoming their downfall. Their last name can open doors and pay for problems to go away, but it can't evade death itself.

The tale begins with patriarch Roderick Usher (Bruce Greenwood) sitting down with investigator Dupin (Carl Lumbly), finally anguished enough with life to reveal the truth about his family's criminal history. A tale of betrayal, sabotage and power...and that's just between his own children. Kicking off the series in this manner allows Flanagan to seemingly dedicate an episode per Usher sibling through the memories Roderick chooses to share with Dupin. But, rarely are they happy memories. For Roderick is being haunted by the ghosts of his children who have all died violently, at times the victims of Roderick own selfish acts and at times, reaping the consequences of their own actions.

Each episode borrows a title from Poe's works and while English majors may see what's

coming, Flanagan tweaks the stories ever so slightly to match a more modern theme. But, like Poe, Flanagan is not one to shy away from dark humor or deeper themes. Woven throughout each story is the reoccurring theme of karma (or the devil if you will), personified by actress Carla Gugino who channels a different character in each episode, and does so immaculately. You never quite know how she will show up, but each time she does, audiences know she's about to partake in a bit of schadenfreude at the sibling's expense. After all, this is a family that profits off the pain of others, don't the tables finally need turned?

The narrative constantly switches between the far past (to show how Usher built his empire), the near past (unfolding the horrific demise of each of his children) and the present (where Usher is confessing his sins). While the flashbacks to his younger self drag a bit, especially compared to the devilishly horrific nature his children are haunted, the show is exactly what fans can expect from Flanagan. Chockfull of the same actors he usually casts in his series, each character is so widely unlikeable, and so annoyingly egotistical, it's a delight watching these actors switch into different characters from Flanagan's previous worlds.

While many Poe references may go over the audience's head (they certainly did for me), the true fun is always keeping an eye on the background in Flanagan's shows for that's where true horror lies. *House of Usher* follows suit in its richly layered narrative full of Easter eggs, Gothic ambience and the occasional jump scare. Needless to say, what better month to watch this than Halloween?! While certainly not the most horror-laden series out there, it is certainly not for the faint of heart. Horror fans will certainly delight in the monstrosities presented, but for those who tend to avoid the scares, may I suggest the newest season of *The Great British Baking Show*? Where the only thing to be frightened off is Paul Hollywood's judgment on an under proofed loaf.

The Fall of the House of Usher (and *The Great British Baking Show*) are now currently streaming on Netflix.

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VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

The Reel History of the Valley

By Martin M. Cooper

The Studio Tour de Force

Most people are curious about how movies are made.

One of the surest ways to stop traffic on any one of the Valley's streets is to encounter the various vehicles engaged in filmmaking and, if one is truly lucky, to see a star walking from his or her trailer to the filming location.

More than a century ago one of Hollywood's pioneers, Carl Laemmle, realized that allowing the public to see filmmaking up close could be both a source of revenue and promotion for his various pictures.

He opened Universal Studios in what was then Lankershim Township in 1914. A year later, on March 15, 1915, he officially opened the studio

but it all changed in 1927, when sound filmmaking began, and as a result, the Universal Studios Tour was shuttered...not to reopen until July 15, 1964.

Al Dorskind, a senior executive of MCA, Inc., which had purchased Universal in 1962, saw the promotional and financial value in a studio tour; he commissioned a feasibility study, and subsequently shepherded the

rebirth of the studio tour (Author's note: I reported to Dorskind in my capacity of Marketing Director of Universal's Recreation Division in the early '80s).

In its early days the new tour consisted of

two trams and a few clean-cut young tour guides, most of whom were looking for an "in" with the studio as actors. The 90-minute tour included a stop at the studio commissary for lunch and a make-up demonstration. In its first year, 38,184 guests rode the Universal Studio trams, making Dorskind a studio hero.

Perhaps the most popular part of the tour in those days was the Wild Wild West Stunt Show,

which ran from 1980 to 2002.

In the ensuing years, what was originally an opportunity to watch filmmaking has evolved into a theme-park-like experience built on the popularity of Universal Studios' films.

In 1964, visitors paid \$2.50 to take the studio tour; today it is \$92.

Of the three major studios headquartered in the Valley, Universal, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Disney, only the latter does not offer a studio tour open to the general public.

Warner Bros. Discovery – the company's current name – is celebrating its studio tour's 50th anniversary this year.

According to Vice President and General Manager Danny Kahn, as quoted in the August 25, 2023, issue of *Attractions*, "The tour has evolved over the past 50 years, but what makes it special, unique, and repeatable is the time you have with your expert tour guide. It's such a great opportunity to learn more about how and where we shot some of the most memorable scenes in movie and TV history."

Every tour includes the Storytelling Showcase, the Script to Screen experience, and the Action and Magic grand finale.

"In the Storytelling Showcase, you really get a sense of the company's rich history, from the early years of television (Warner Brothers was the first

studio to start in TV) to the story of innovation (the company brought sound to film)," Kahn says. "All that story unfolds in the Storytelling Showcase alongside iconic props and costume pieces like Hilary Swank's boxing gloves from *Million Dollar Baby*, Phoebe's guitar from *Friends*, and J.R.'s hat and boots from *Dallas*."

On Stage 48, tour guests learn about the writers' room, costume design, and production design, and can step into their favorite Warner Bros. television shows.

"We have the Central Perk set from *Friends* – and that is a big showstopper – but we've also added *The Big Bang Theory*," Kahn says. "When *The Big Bang Theory* wrapped after 16 seasons, we took the boys' apartment set from Stage 25 and brought it straight over to Stage 48, so if you're a fan, you can sit in Sheldon's spot."

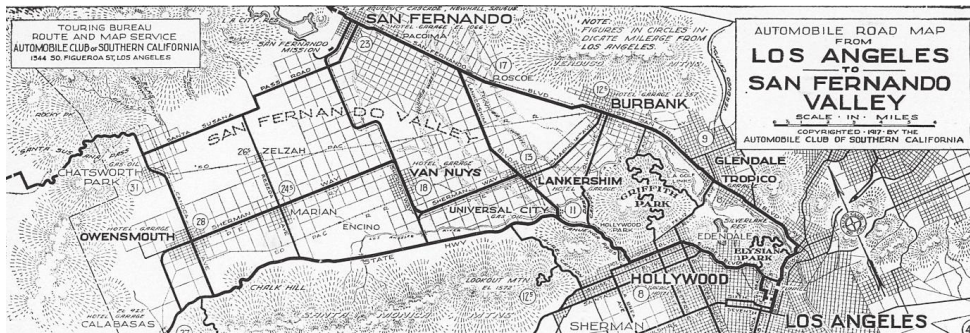
The studio tour has been incorporated

into several Warner Bros. films, including, and most famously, the closing segment of *Blazing Saddles*.

Studio tours are both money-makers and promotional vehicles for both studios, and are the foundation stones of the modern-day theme park.

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 served as Chairman of the Board of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

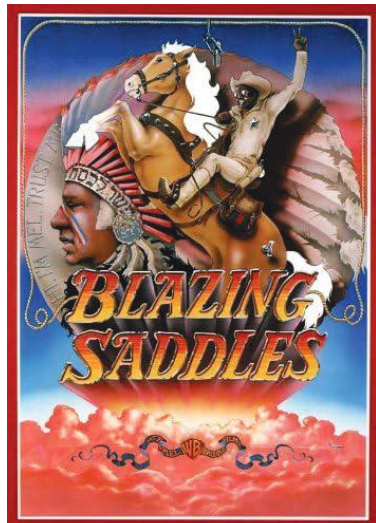
An award-winning author, he has written four books, two of them on the San Fernando Valley. He is currently researching his next book on the Valley.



This Automobile Club map from 1917 shows the site of the then-three-year-old Universal Studios.



The more contemporary entrance to the Universal Studios Tour.



1974's *Blazing Saddles* features a scene from the Warner Brothers studio tour.

REAL ESTATE

Newsom Signs Bill to Sustain Outdoor Dining

Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed legislation to sustain outdoor dining across California by extending regulatory flexibility adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Authored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D - Encino), Assembly Bill (AB) 1217 will enable continued outdoor, patio, and al fresco dining as restaurants continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and navigate rising costs.

“Neighborhood restaurants are the backbone of communities across California, but many are still struggling to recover from the pandemic,” said Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel. “Outdoor dining has been a critical lifeline that has helped these beloved establishments keep their doors open during these challenging times. I am grateful to Governor Newsom for signing this bill today and look forward to working closely with him to support small businesses across California.”

“Outdoor dining has become an important lifeline for restaurants, and it’s something that we have all come to love and

enjoy,” said Madelyn Alfano, Past Chair of the California Restaurant Association Board of Directors and owner of Maria’s Italian Kitchen, a neighborhood Italian restaurant with several locations in the San Fernando Valley. “Many restaurant owners have invested lots of money to build beautiful outdoor dining spaces to increase their capacity for private events and recoup some of their losses from these difficult past few years. AB 1217 will help sustain this crucial tool and allow local restaurants such as my own to continue to provide delicious meals for our communities.”

AB 1217 builds upon AB 61, which was authored by Assemblymember Gabriel and signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2021. AB 61 provided restaurants with regulatory flexibility on a number of key issues, including enabling more outdoor food preparation and service, allowing restaurants to better use their own spaces for increased outdoor dining capacity, and extending existing orders allowing for alcohol service on outdoor premises.

AB 1217 extends this regulatory flexibility to July 1, 2026.



Image: Sotheby's

tWitch’s Widow Lists Encino Home

Ten months after her husband’s suicide, Allison Holker has put their Encino family home up for sale for \$3,795,000. Stephen “tWitch” Boss was perhaps most well known for being the DJ on the *Ellen Degeneres Show*, and both he and his wife Allison became popular through their Instagram dance posts.

The corner lot home was built in 2018 and purchased by the couple in 2019 for \$2.75 million.

The 4,600-square-foot property sits on .2 acres and has five bedrooms and five bathrooms in the main home and a pool

house with its own bedroom and bathroom. The open floor plan consists of a chef’s kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, butler’s pantry, seamless living and dining space and three fireplaces throughout the home.

Outside there is not only a pool and spa, but a fully equipped outdoor kitchen, covered patio and gas fireplace. The pool house at the rear of the property can be used as additional guest space, a gym or a separate office. The property itself is surrounded by tall hedges to ensure privacy from the outside street.

Anthony Paradise of Sotheby’s holds the listing.



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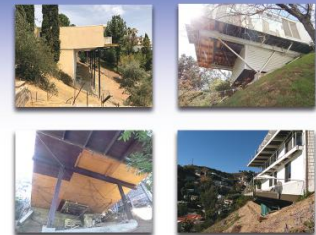
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