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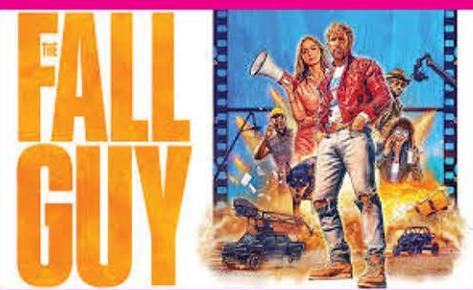
Valley Scene

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By Jeff Farron

5TH ANNUAL VALLEY ASIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Returns to LAPC in 2026 With Culture, Cuisine, and Community

Spring 2026 brings the return of one of the Valley's most colorful and community-driven celebrations as the 5th Annual Valley Asian Cultural Festival once again takes over Los Angeles Pierce College. Set against the scenic backdrop of the Woodland Hills campus, the festival invites families, students, and cultural enthusiasts from across the region to gather for a full day of art, food, music, and shared experience.

educational displays. These spaces allow attendees to engage directly with the stories, customs, and people behind the performances, creating a deeper sense of understanding and appreciation.

Food remains a central part of the festival's appeal in 2026. A curated selection of Asian-inspired cuisine adds flavor to the day, with vendors offering everything from savory street food to refreshing drinks and



Scheduled for May 2, 2026, the free, family-friendly festival will be held at Rocky Young Park, transforming the open green space into a vibrant hub of live performances, cultural showcases, and interactive community engagement. Festival hours are expected to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., offering plenty of time to explore, relax, and connect.

Aligned with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, the Valley Asian Cultural Festival serves as both a celebration and an educational experience. The event highlights the rich traditions, artistry, and contemporary expressions of Asian cultures through dynamic stage performances that blend history with modern creativity. Guests can expect a lively lineup of traditional dance, music, and cultural presentations that reflect the diversity and depth of Asian heritage.

Beyond the stage, the festival encourages meaningful interaction. Cultural organizations, artisans, and community groups host booths throughout the park, offering hands-on experiences, traditional crafts, and

sweet treats. The aromas, colors, and tastes enhance the festive atmosphere, turning the event into a full sensory experience that invites guests to linger and explore.

One of the festival's defining features continues to be its accessibility. Admission and parking are free, making it easy for the entire community to attend. The welcoming, family-friendly environment encourages guests of all ages to participate, whether they come for the performances, the food, or simply to enjoy the lively outdoor setting.

As it returns in 2026, the 5th Annual Valley Asian Cultural Festival reinforces its role as a cornerstone cultural event in the Valley. Hosted at Los Angeles Pierce College, the festival celebrates diversity, strengthens community ties, and showcases the power of cultural expression to bring people together — making it a must-attend spring event year after year.

For updates and event details, visit: www.facebook.com/events/pierce-college/valley-asian-pacific-islander-cultural-festival/1638741127539934/

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By Jesse Goodall

SPRINGTIME FESTIVALS & CULTURAL EVENTS

Los Angeles, The San Fernando Valley
& Ventura County

Spring in Southern California is when imagination takes center stage. As daylight stretches and the air turns mild, Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, and Ventura County become expansive cultural playgrounds. Literature fills campuses, history comes alive in full costume, harbors lean into mythology, comic art enters gallery spaces, and performance venues debut their most ambitious seasons. The common thread is openness—openness to participation, to spectacle, and to shared experience.

This is a season defined not by a single genre or audience, but by the way communities come together around creativity. Some of the events below are internationally recognized, others feel distinctly local, yet all reflect how spring allows culture in Southern California to breathe, expand, and invite everyone in.

The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books: A Campus Transformed by Storytelling

Each April, the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books turns the University of Southern California into a vast, welcoming forum for ideas. Tens of thousands of readers arrive for author conversations, poetry readings, graphic novel showcases, cooking demonstrations, and children's programming. What distinguishes this event is its scale paired with accessi-

bility. It is free, sprawling, and intellectually rich without feeling formal or closed-off.

Pulitzer Prize winners share stages with debut novelists. Food trucks line walkways. Families, students, creatives, and lifelong readers drift from panel to panel at their own pace. The festival demonstrates how Los Angeles elevates storytelling into a communal celebration rather than a quiet pursuit. Website: <https://sites.usc.edu/festivalofbooks/>

The Renaissance Pleasure Faire: A Living Village From Another Century

For several weekends each spring, Irwindale becomes a fully realized 16th-century village through the Original Renaissance Pleasure Faire. This long-running Southern California tradition is immersive from the moment visitors arrive. Costumes are elaborate and abundant, performers remain in character, and the day unfolds with jousting tournaments, live combat, music, handcrafted goods, and theatrical comedy.

What keeps the Faire relevant decade after decade is its sense of shared participation. Guests are not merely observers; they become part of the environment, stepping away from modern routines and into a carefully constructed world that values craftsmanship, humor, and human connection.

Website: <https://renfair.com/socal>



Frieze Los Angeles: Contemporary Art in a Temporary Landscape

Each spring, the Santa Monica Airport hosts Frieze Los Angeles, one of the world's leading contemporary art fairs. Vast temporary tents rise on the tarmac, housing museum-quality exhibitions, large-scale installations, and performance art from international galleries.

The setting itself is part of the experience. High-caliber art appears in a space designed to disappear, underscoring the event's sense of immediacy and ambition. Collectors,



artists, and curious visitors mingle easily, making Frieze both a global art destination and a uniquely Los Angeles moment.

Website: <https://www.frieze.com/fairs/frieze-los-angeles>

PaleyFest LA: Television Celebrated as a Shared Experience

At the Dolby Theatre each spring, PaleyFest LA brings audiences face to face with the creators and casts behind popular television series. Panels feature reunions, exclusive clips, and candid



conversations that deepen viewers' connection to stories they already know well.

What makes PaleyFest distinctive is the atmosphere. Audience reactions are collective and emotional, turning television into a live, communal art form. In an industry town, the festival highlights the shared bond between storytellers and the people who follow their work.

Website: <https://www.paleycenter.org/paleyfest/>

The Soraya: The San Fernando Valley's Cultural Anchor

In the heart of Northridge, The Soraya stands as one of the San Fernando Valley's most important cultural institutions. Spring programming at The Soraya often features world music, innovative dance companies, orchestral performances, jazz, and genre-crossing concerts that feel both intimate and globally minded.

The venue's strength lies in its ability to present sophisticated programming without pretense. Audiences experience internation-

ally respected performers in a setting that feels welcoming and accessible, making The Soraya a vital part of the region's spring arts calendar and a reminder that top-tier cultural experiences thrive outside the city center.

The Los Angeles County Fair: Tradition at a Grand Scale

Each May, the Los Angeles County Fair fills Fairplex in Pomona with rides, live entertainment, agricultural exhibits, competitions, and famously inventive food

offerings. It is a celebration rooted in Americana but amplified by Southern California's scale and diversity.

Visitors move easily between carnival attractions, livestock barns, exhibition halls, and concert stages, experiencing a blend of nostalgia and contemporary energy. The fair's longevity comes from its ability to feel familiar while still offering something new each year.

Website: <https://www.lacountyfair.com/>

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LA Comic Art Show: Illustration Takes the Gallery Stage

Spring also brings renewed attention to illustration and visual storytelling through the LA Comic Art Show. This event presents original comic and animation art in a refined gallery setting, emphasizing craftsmanship, storytelling, and artistic legacy.

By placing comic art alongside traditional fine art formats, the show highlights the depth and influence of illustrated narratives. Visitors encounter both legendary creators and emerging voices, gaining a deeper appreciation for comics as an enduring art form.

Website: <https://lacomicartshow.com/>

Ventura Harbor Village: Coastal Events With a Storybook Feel

Spring at Ventura Harbor Village blends coastal living with imagination. Seasonal events invite families and visitors to enjoy live music, themed weekends, and costumed performances set against the working harbor.

The appeal lies in the ease of it all. Boats, boardwalks, performers, and ocean views coexist naturally, creating an atmosphere that feels festive without feeling staged. It is a distinctly Ventura expression of springtime community.

Website: <https://www.venturaharborvillage.com/events/>

The California Strawberry Festival: A Celebration Rooted in Place

Held each May at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, the California Strawberry Festival honors the region's agricultural heritage with enthusiasm and pride. Strawberry-themed foods, live entertainment, carnival attractions, and ocean air combine to create a weekend that feels joyful and grounded in local tradition.



Generations return year after year, drawn by the sense of continuity and celebration that defines the festival's atmosphere.

Website: <https://castrawberryfestival.org/>

Netflix Is a Joke Fest: Comedy Across the City

In May, Netflix Is a Joke Fest spreads throughout Los Angeles, presenting hundreds of comedy shows in theaters, clubs, and pop-up venues. Major names and emerging voices appear side by side, often in unexpectedly intimate settings.

The festival's citywide scope encourages exploration, turning comedy into a shared urban experience that reflects Los Angeles' role as a creative incubator for humor and storytelling.

Website: <https://www.netflixisajokefest.com/>

Jackalope Block Party: Movement, Art, and the Coastline

Ventura's coastline comes alive during the Jackalope Block Party, where skateboarding, BMX competitions, live mural painting, music, and food vendors converge. The event reflects the region's active lifestyle and creative spirit, blending athletic performance with visual art in a relaxed beachside environment.

Website: <https://www.jackalopefestival.com/>

A Season That Defines the Region

Springtime events across Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, and Ventura County do more than fill calendars. They shape identity. They turn public spaces into gathering places, elevate art and performance into shared experiences, and remind residents why this region continues to attract creative energy from around the world.

From campus festivals and coastal celebrations to performance halls and fairgrounds, spring reveals Southern California at its most expressive, collaborative, and alive.

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By John Maywood

The Art of Candle Making

Wax, Wick, the Power of Scent, and Glass Containers

Candle making is a timeless craft that blends creativity, chemistry, and sensory design. While candles once served a purely functional purpose, today they are expressions of style, mood, and intention. A truly beautiful candle is the result of thoughtful choices—wax, wick, scent, and container—all working together in balance. When done well, a candle becomes both a visual object and an emotional experience.

Wax is the foundation of every candle, and its characteristics shape how the candle burns and how fragrance is released. Soy wax has become a modern favorite for its clean burn, renewable source, and soft, creamy appearance. Beeswax, one of the oldest candle materials, offers a naturally warm glow and subtle honey aroma, making it prized for its purity and long burn time. Paraffin wax,



still widely used, is valued for its ability to hold vibrant colors and deliver a strong scent throw. Each wax behaves differently when heated, poured, and cooled, giving candle makers endless room to experiment.

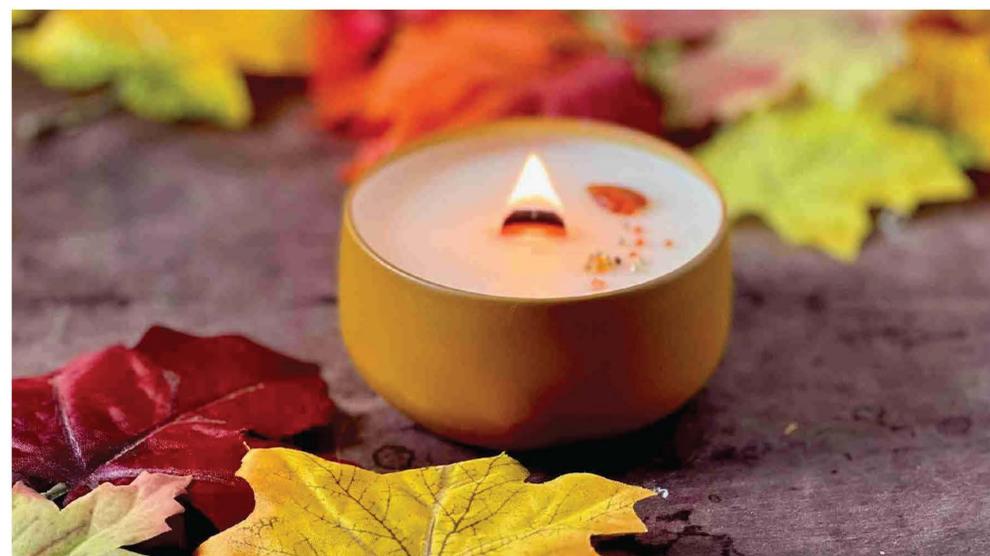
The wick may be small, but it plays a major role in performance. A properly

Scent is where candle making truly becomes an art. Fragrance transforms wax into atmosphere. Essential oils offer natural, plant-based aromas such as lavender, citrus, or eucalyptus, often associated with relaxation and wellness. Fragrance oils allow for more complex and layered blends—think sandalwood and vanilla, fig and moss, or sea salt and driftwood. The best candles are thoughtfully blended, using top, middle, and base notes to create a scent that evolves slowly as the candle burns rather than overpowering the room all at once.

Glass containers bring both beauty and function to candle design. Glass jars protect the flame, distribute heat evenly, and allow the candle's glow to radiate outward. Clear glass highlights the color and texture of the wax, while frosted or tinted glass softens the light for a more ambient effect. Thick, heat-resistant glass is essential for safety, especially for candles designed to burn for many hours. Beyond practicality, glass containers elevate candles into decorative pieces, fitting seamlessly into modern, rustic, or luxury interiors.

Temperature control and patience tie everything together. Wax must be poured at the right moment to prevent surface imperfections, air bubbles, or cracking. Slow cooling often produces a smoother finish, especially in glass containers where flaws are more visible. Many artisans finish their candles with careful labeling and

chosen wick controls flame size, melt pool depth, and overall burn quality. Cotton wicks provide a consistent, classic burn, while wooden wicks add a soft crackling sound that enhances the sensory experience.



Wick size must be carefully matched to both the wax and the diameter of the container; an imbalance can cause tunneling, soot, or uneven burning. Skilled candle makers often test multiple wicks before settling on the perfect fit.

minimal design, letting the craftsmanship speak for itself.

In the end, candle making is about more than assembling materials. It is about creating warmth, comfort, and intention—one flame at a time.

JIM BEAVER

CHARLIE MOUNT

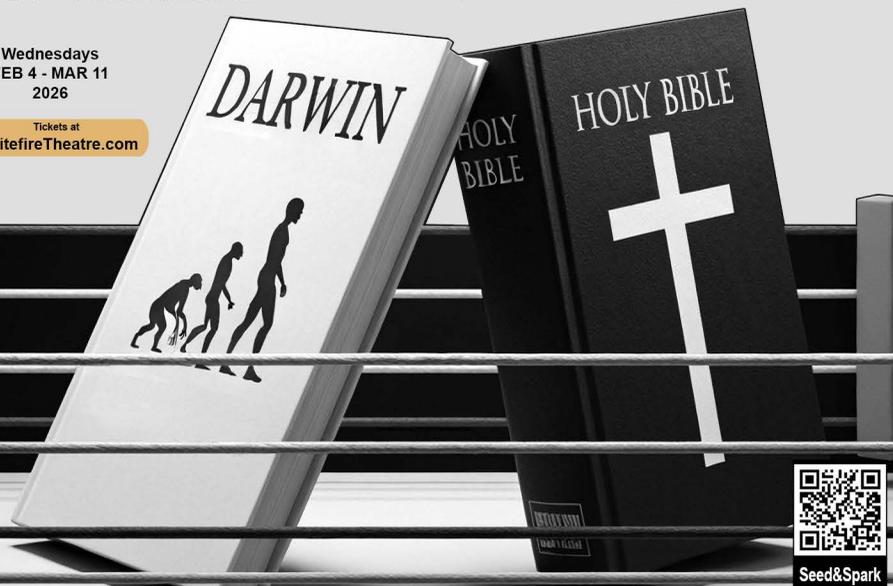
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Legally Blonde: The Musical

By Brian Dunbar

In March 2026, audiences are invited to step into a world of confidence, comedy, and unapologetic pink as Legally Blonde: The Musical takes center stage at the historic El Portal Theatre. Bursting with high-energy musical numbers, clever humor, and a

surprisingly heartfelt message, this crowd-favorite production is perfectly suited for El Portal's intimate and elegant MainStage.

Based on the iconic film, Legally Blonde: The Musical follows Elle Woods, a fashionable and underestimated sorority

queen who defies expectations by enrolling at Harvard Law School. What begins as a quest for love quickly transforms into a powerful journey of self-discovery. Along the way, Elle proves that intelligence, kindness, and determination can coexist with style and optimism. The show's upbeat score, written by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, includes fan-favorite numbers like "Omigod You Guys" and "So Much Better," keeping the momentum lively from curtain to curtain.

El Portal Theatre provides an ideal backdrop for this production. Celebrating its centennial legacy, the North Hollywood landmark offers audiences a close-up

Performance dates are set for a limited March run, making this an especially timely must-see. Audiences can catch Legally Blonde: The Musical during the following performances:

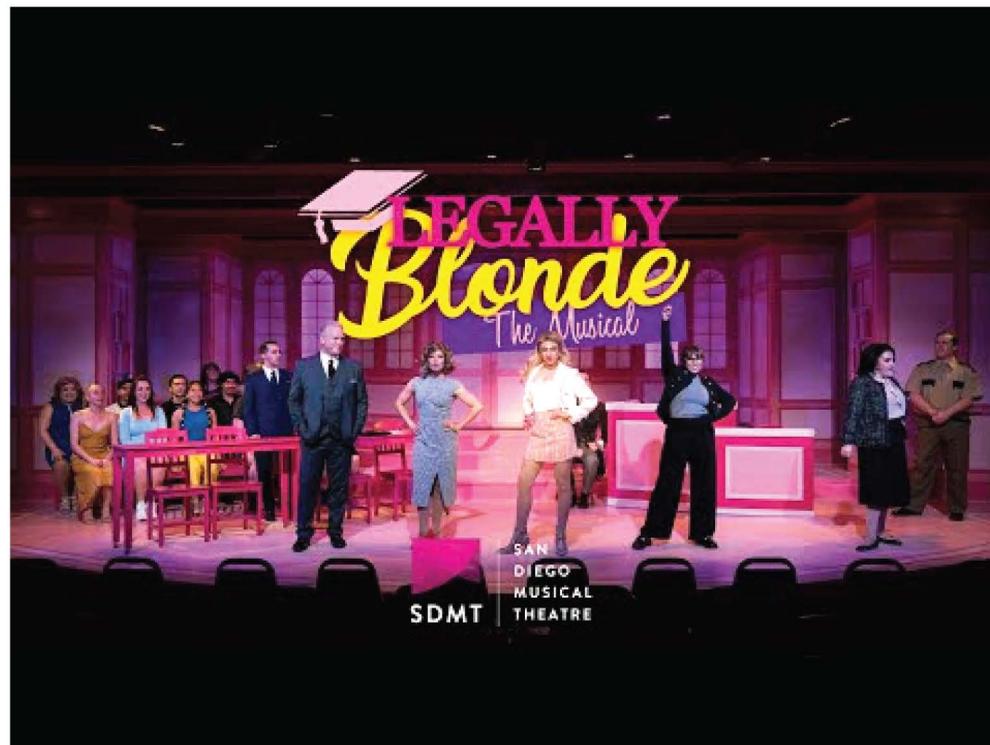
Friday, March 27, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM

With multiple showtimes across the weekend, theater lovers have plenty of opportunities to fit this sparkling production into their plans—whether for a date night, a girls' night out, or a family outing with teens.

Beyond the stage, the surrounding NoHo Arts District adds to the experience, offering pre- and post-show dining, nightlife, and a buzzing creative energy that complements the spirit of the musical. The combination of a beloved story, a polished production, and a celebrated venue makes



theatrical experience where every laugh, lyric, and dance step lands with impact. The venue's rich history, paired with its modern production capabilities, enhances the show's vibrant staging, bold costumes, and dynamic choreography. For theatergoers, attending a performance at El Portal feels less like a night out and more like an event—one steeped in classic Hollywood charm.

Legally Blonde one of the standout theatrical highlights of the spring season.

Smart, funny, and irresistibly uplifting, Legally Blonde: The Musical at El Portal Theatre is a reminder that believing in yourself never goes out of style—and that sometimes, the boldest thing you can wear is confidence.

<https://elportaltheatre.com/legally-blonde.html>



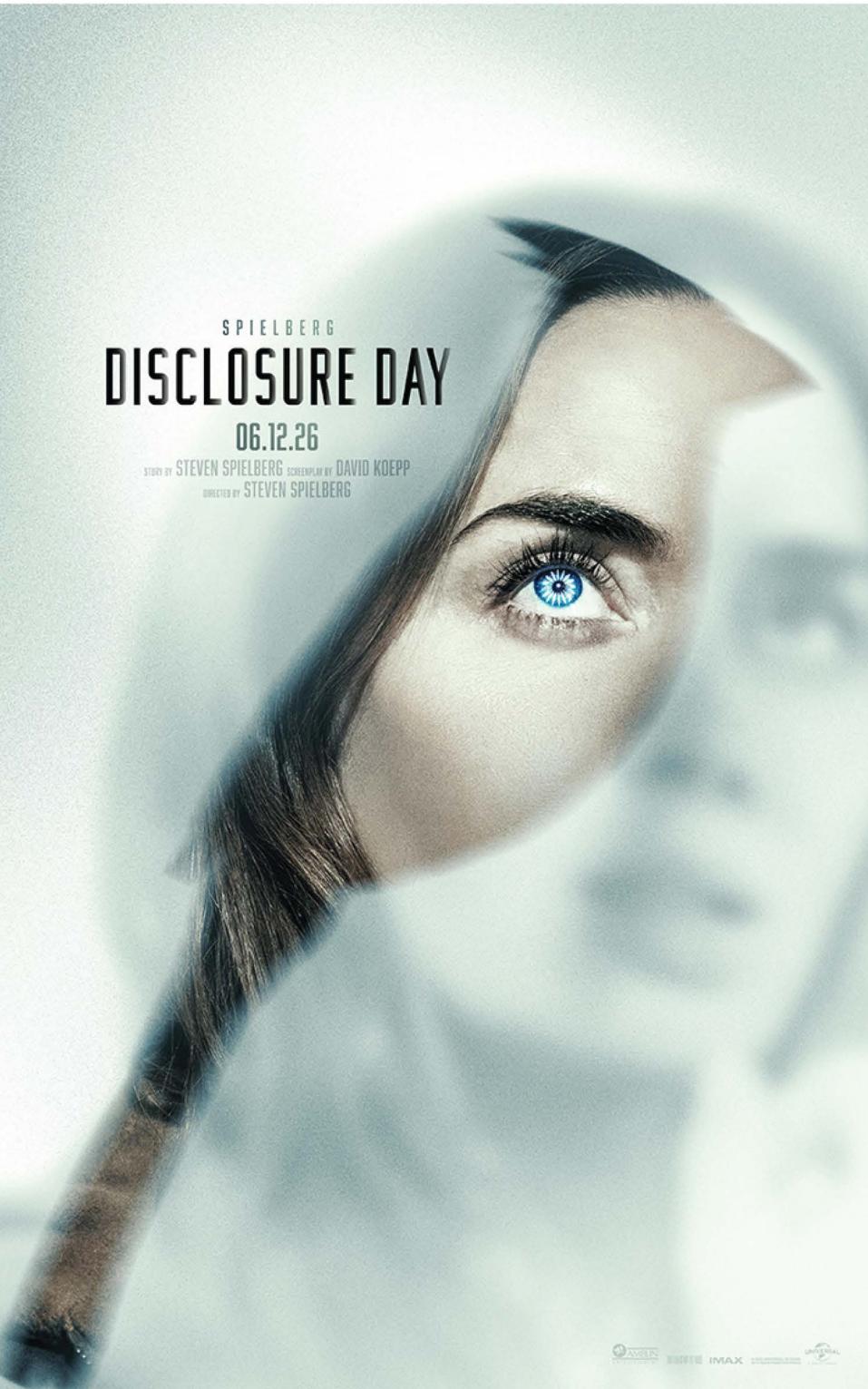


By Taylor Geene

THE BEST SPRING MOVIE RELEASES YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS

Spring has quietly become one of the most exciting seasons for movie lovers. Studios use the months between awards season and summer blockbusters to

release films with strong storytelling, major stars, and serious buzz. Spring 2026 is shaping up to be a standout, offering everything from big-budget spectacle to smart, character-driven dramas.



Big Blockbusters Leading the Spring Box Office

One of the most anticipated releases of the season is *Fantastic Four*, which finally brings Marvel's iconic superhero family into a new cinematic era. Slated for a spring release, the film is expected to blend action, humor, and emotional depth—making it a major draw before the summer rush officially begins.

Another headline-maker is *Mission: Impossible—The Final Reckoning*. While the franchise is known for summer dominance, this spring release gives audiences a front-row seat to high-stakes stunts and globe-trotting action earlier in the year. It's designed to pack theaters with adrenaline-hungry fans.

Prestige Films and Awards Contenders

Spring is also prime time for prestige cinema, and *Mickey 17* is one of the most talked-about films of the season. Directed by Bong Joon-ho, this cerebral science-fiction drama explores identity, survival, and humanity through a visually striking lens. It's the kind of movie that sparks conversation long after the credits roll.



Why Spring Movies Hit Different

Spring releases often benefit from less competition, giving films room to breathe and build momentum through word of mouth. Audiences are more willing to try something new, whether it's an ambitious sci-fi story, a smart thriller, or a fresh franchise reboot.

From explosive blockbusters to thoughtful indie gems, the best spring movie releases of 2026 prove that this season is no longer a warm-up—it's a main event for movie lovers ready to head back to the theater.



Equally buzzy is *The Bride!*, a dark, stylized reimagining of classic horror themes. With strong performances and rich visuals, it's positioned as both a critical favorite and a box-office sleeper hit.

Family-Friendly and Feel-Good Spring Hits

For families and lighter fare, *Kung Fu Panda 4* continues to draw crowds well into spring, proving that animated films aren't just for summer. Its mix of humor, heart, and visual flair makes it a seasonal favorite for all ages.

Another spring crowd-pleaser is *Snow White*, which remains a strong theatrical draw during the spring window thanks to school breaks and family outings.





Club Louie's Westlake Village By Adam Julles Live Music, Cocktails, and Nightlife Favorites



Upcoming Bands & Live Music: February and March

Music fans can look forward to an exciting lineup at Club Louie's Westlake Village throughout February and March, with a mix of local favorites, high-energy cover bands, and tribute-style performances designed to keep the dance floor moving.

February highlights include crowd-pleasing rock and pop cover bands known for sing-along

anthems and classic hits, perfect for weekend nights. Guests can expect polished live performances that blend '80s, '90s, and modern favorites—ideal for groups looking to dance, socialize, and enjoy a full nightlife experience. Piano lounge nights and DJ-led evenings round out the month, offering variety for every type of music lover.

Moving into March, Club Louie's Westlake Village continues the momentum with a strong roster of bands that lean into classic rock, funk, and dance-driven sets. March performances often feature seasoned local musicians with loyal followings, creating

packed rooms and high-energy crowds. These nights are especially popular for birthdays, group outings, and spontaneous weekend plans where live music is the main attraction.

Because lineups rotate regularly, guests are encouraged to check the venue's website or social channels for exact dates and performance times, but one thing remains consistent—Club Louie's Westlake Village

delivers reliable, high-quality live entertainment week after week.

Cocktails, Dining, and Atmosphere

Beyond the music, Club Louie's Westlake Village is known for its well-crafted cocktails and welcoming lounge atmosphere. The bar menu features classic cocktails alongside modern favorites made with premium spirits and fresh ingredients. Wine and beer selections are thoughtfully curated, making it easy to find the perfect pairing for a night of live music.

The food menu adds to the experience with elevated comfort dishes and shareable plates, encouraging guests to settle in and make an evening of it. Stylish décor, warm lighting, and outdoor patio seating complete the vibe, giving Club Louie's Westlake Village a polished yet approachable feel.

For those searching online for bars in Westlake Village, live music lounges near Thousand Oaks, or Conejo Valley nightlife, Club Louie's Westlake Village consistently checks every box—music, cocktails, atmosphere, and energy—all in one standout venue.

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By Jennifer Osborne

Warby Parker x Google Smart Glasses

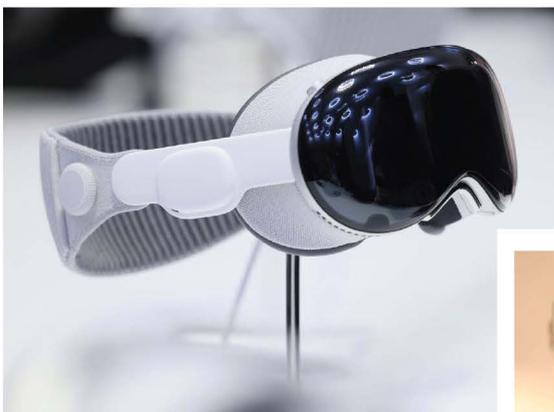
How They'll Stack Up Against Meta and Apple

The newly announced collaboration between Warby Parker and Google is shaping up to be one of the most intriguing tech-fashion crossovers in years. Set for a 2026 launch, these AI-powered smart glasses aim to merge everyday eyewear with real-time artificial intelligence—without screaming “tech gadget.” But how do they compare to what’s already out there, namely Meta’s Ray-Ban smart glasses and Apple’s Vision Pro?

The Warby Parker x Google Vision

At the core of the partnership is Android XR, Google’s next-generation extended-reality platform powered by Gemini AI. The goal? Glasses that look like normal Warby Parker frames but quietly deliver AI assistance through voice, audio, cameras, and optional micro-displays. Think directions whispered in your ear, translations on the fly, reminders, and contextual information—no phone required.

Unlike bulky headsets, these are designed to be worn all day. That’s where



Warby Parker’s fashion credibility matters: classic silhouettes, lightweight materials, and prescription-ready lenses that blend seamlessly into daily life.

How They Compare to Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses

Meta partnered with Ray-Ban to launch smart glasses that are already on the market—and popular. Ray-Ban Meta glasses focus on social features: hands-free photos,

short videos, music, and AI voice commands. They’re stylish, relatively affordable, and great for creators.

Where Google and Warby Parker plan to leap ahead is depth of AI integration. Android XR glasses are expected to go beyond content capture into contextual intelligence—real-time navigation, translations, memory prompts, and deeper Google ecosystem access. In short: Ray-Ban Meta glasses are



about capturing life; Warby Parker x Google glasses are about augmenting it.

How They Compare to Apple Vision Pro

Then there’s Apple Vision Pro, which lives in a totally different lane. Vision Pro is

a powerful mixed-reality computer worn on your face, offering immersive displays, spatial computing, and productivity tools—but it’s expensive, heavy, and not something you casually wear to brunch.

Warby Parker x Google glasses are the opposite philosophy: subtle, lightweight, and socially acceptable for everyday use. They won’t replace laptops or create cinematic VR worlds, but they will fit naturally into normal routines—walking the dog, shopping, commuting, traveling.

Why This Collaboration Matters

This partnership signals a shift in wearables: AI is moving from screens to faces. Google brings AI muscle and software scale; Warby Parker brings trust, design, and optical expertise. Together, they’re aiming for the holy grail—technology that disappears into daily life.

If they deliver on style, battery life, privacy controls, and seamless AI, Warby Parker x Google could become the smart glasses people actually want to wear. And in a market split between flashy headsets and creator-focused eyewear, that middle ground may be exactly where the future lives.



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By Fred Merck

St. Patty's Day Cocktails That Don't Make Your Teeth Green

St. Patrick's Day is synonymous with festive drinks, but not everyone wants neon-green cocktails that stain teeth, lips, and even clothing. The good news? You can still celebrate the holiday in true Irish spirit without artificial food coloring. By using quality spirits, natural ingredients, and clever presentation, these St. Patty's Day cocktails stay festive, flavorful, and photo-ready—without the green aftermath.

Why Skip Artificial Green Drinks?
Artificial dyes may look fun, but they often come with downsides: bitter

aftertastes, tooth staining, and unnecessary additives. Many modern cocktail lovers are opting for cleaner, more refined drinks that feel elevated rather than gimmicky. Luckily, Irish-inspired cocktails shine on their own thanks to whiskey, cream liqueurs, coffee, citrus, and herbal notes.

Irish Whiskey Cocktails With Natural Flair

Irish whiskey is the backbone of many St. Patrick's Day cocktails and requires no green coloring to feel festive. A classic Irish Old Fashioned, made with Irish whiskey, bitters, and a



touch of honey or simple syrup, is smooth, warming, and timeless. Garnish with an orange peel for color and aroma.

Another crowd-pleaser is the Emerald Isle Martini, which uses Irish whiskey, sweet vermouth, and a hint of herbal liqueur. It delivers a subtle green hue from

ideal for evening celebrations or cooler weather.

Clear, Citrus, and Sparkling Options

For lighter celebrations, sparkling cocktails are a great alternative. An Irish 75—a twist on the French 75—combines Irish whiskey, lemon

juice, and champagne or prosecco. It's bright, bubbly, and festive without leaving behind green residue.

You can also try a Honey Whiskey Lemonade, served over ice with fresh lemon juice and a rosemary or mint garnish. The herbs nod to the holiday



the herbs—not dye—while remaining sophisticated and balanced.

Creamy Cocktails That Stay Tooth-Friendly

If dessert-style drinks are your thing, Irish cream-based cocktails are perfect for St. Patrick's Day. A Baileys Espresso Martini blends Irish cream, espresso, and vodka for a rich, velvety drink that feels indulgent without artificial color.

The classic Irish Coffee is another winner. Made with hot coffee, Irish whiskey, brown sugar, and lightly whipped cream, it's cozy, elegant, and

while keeping the drink fresh and natural.

Final Sip: Celebrate Smart and Stylish

St. Patrick's Day cocktails don't need artificial green dye to feel festive. By choosing Irish whiskey classics, cream-based favorites, and sparkling citrus drinks, you can celebrate in style while keeping your smile camera-ready. These green-free cocktails prove that classy always beats gimmicky—especially on St. Patty's Day. Cheers to celebrating smart, stylish, and stain-free!

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TERRIFIC AND TRADITIONAL THAI RESTAURANTS IN LOS ANGELES

By Seth Jayes

Los Angeles is home to one of the most vibrant Thai food scenes in the country, ranging from beloved hole-in-the-wall spots in Thai Town to chef-driven destinations pushing the cuisine forward. With a rich Thai community and decades of

culinary evolution, the City of Angels offers something for every Thai food lover — whether you crave fiery Southern curries, noodle soups that soothe the soul, or



Ruen Pair — A family-run favorite since the 1990s, Ruen Pair serves up honest, comforting Thai classics using recipes passed down through generations. It's quintessential Thai comfort food — think rich curries, savory stir-fries, and generous portions that

satisfy both lunch and dinner appetites. www.ruenpairthai.com

Elevated and Chef-Driven Spots

Holy Basil — One of LA's most exciting Thai



modern takes on street classics.

Iconic and Cult Favorites

Jitlada Restaurant — A cornerstone of LA's Thai dining landscape for

decades, Jitlada is legendary for its intensely flavored Southern Thai cuisine. Known for dishes like crispy morning glory and green curry, this Thai Town institution draws locals and visitors alike for bold spice and complex flavors that echo the best of Thailand's south. www.jitladala.com



restaurant blending Bangkok street-food inspiration with creative twists like tom yum risotto and Thai-inspired grilled meats. www.holybasil-la.com

Sticky Rice on 3rd — A Westside gem with stellar reviews, Sticky Rice on 3rd delivers

bold, authentic Thai flavors in a welcoming setting. This spot is great for everything from signature curries to funky fusion salads — perfect for those seeking bold taste profiles in an intimate space. www.eatstickyrice.com

Mee Dee Thai Kitchen — Praised for its balanced, flavorful dishes and polished execution, Mee Dee offers standouts like rich curries, fragrant soups, and well-crafted noodle plates. With high ratings across the board, it's a must-try for anyone exploring Thai beyond the standard pad Thai. www.meedeethaila.com

Classic and Local Favorites

Hoy-Ka Thai Restaurant — A Hollywood staple with a loyal following, Hoy-Ka serves classic Thai comfort food with casual charm. From curries to noodles, its generous portions and familiar flavors make it a go-to for both locals and visitors working their way through LA's Thai offerings. www.hoykala.com

Mae Malai Thai House of Noodles — Specializing in noodle dishes that balance texture and flavor, Mae Malai is a great choice for those focused on Thai comfort classics. With dishes that shine in simplicity, it's a favorite for lunchtime cravings or a

relaxed dinner. www.instagram.com/malai_noodles

Lacha Somtum — For fans of Isaan and northeastern Thai flavors, Lacha Somtum delights with specialties like som tum (spicy papaya salad) alongside grilled meats and traditional accompaniments — offering a bright, refreshing contrast to heavier curry dishes. www.lachasomtum.com

Pa Ord Noodle — A Thai Town institution serving up satisfying noodle soups and classic dishes with consistent flavor. It's ideal for casual lunches or quick dinners that still deliver authentic taste. www.order.online/store/pa-ord-noodle-los-angeles-25605509

Good Thai Kitchen — A reliably excellent choice in town, known for its balanced seasoning and friendly service. It's a great everyday Thai restaurant where timeless favorites hit the spot without fuss. www.goodthaikitchen.com

Whether you're exploring Thai Town's rich tapestry of flavors or seeking modern interpretations of classic dishes, Los Angeles offers an unmatched Thai dining scene — where tradition and innovation coexist deliciously.

Yum! Los Angeles is home to tremendous Thai food!

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DO COMPUTER GLASSES REALLY HELP WITH SEIZURES AND EYE STRAIN?

By Sam Shafer

With the increasing amount of time people spend on digital devices, concerns about eye health have grown significantly. Many individuals experience symptoms such as headaches, blurred vision, dry eyes, and fatigue, commonly referred to as digital eye strain. Others worry about more serious effects, including whether screen use can trigger seizures in people with light sensitivity. This has led to rising interest in computer glasses, but do they actually help with eye strain and seizures?

How Computer Glasses Help With Eye Strain

Eye strain occurs when the eyes work harder than normal during prolonged screen use. This can be caused by focusing at a fixed distance, glare from screens, poor lighting, or reduced blinking. Computer glasses are designed to reduce these stressors by optimizing vision for screen distance.

Many computer glasses include lenses calibrated for intermediate viewing ranges, anti-reflective coatings to reduce glare, and slight magnification to ease focusing effort. For people who wear prescription glasses, standard lenses may not be ideal for computer work, making computer-specific lenses especially helpful.

Blue light glasses are another popular option. Screens emit blue light, which can contribute to visual discomfort and disrupt sleep patterns when exposure occurs late at night. While blue light has not been proven to cause permanent eye damage, filtering it may reduce eye fatigue and improve comfort for long screen sessions.

condition affecting a small percentage of people with epilepsy. Seizures are typically triggered by flashing lights, high-contrast patterns, or specific flicker



Do Computer Glasses Help Prevent Seizures?

Seizures triggered by visual stimuli are most often associated with photosensitive epilepsy, a

frequencies—not normal screen use alone.

Standard computer glasses are not designed to prevent seizures. However, certain tinted lenses

may help individuals who are sensitive to light. One example is FL-41 tinted lenses, which have shown benefits for people with light sensitivity and migraines and may help reduce discomfort from screen exposure in some seizure-prone individuals.

It is important to note that computer glasses should never replace medical treatment. Anyone experiencing seizures or light-triggered symptoms should consult a neurologist or eye care professional before relying on visual aids.

Limitations of Computer Glasses

While computer glasses can reduce eye strain, they are not a complete solution. Dry eyes, for example, are often caused by decreased blinking rather than vision issues. Healthy screen habits remain essential, including adjusting screen brightness,

improving posture, and following the 20-20-20 rule—looking 20 feet away for 20 seconds every 20 minutes.

Additionally, people without significant eye strain or light sensitivity may not notice much benefit from computer glasses.

Final Verdict: Are Computer Glasses Worth It?

Computer glasses can be an effective tool for reducing eye strain and improving comfort during extended screen use. For individuals with light sensitivity, specialized tinted lenses may provide additional relief. However, standard computer glasses are not proven to prevent seizures and should be viewed as a supportive option rather than a medical solution.

When combined with proper screen habits and professional guidance, computer glasses can play a useful role in maintaining digital eye health.

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DEATH OF A SALESMAN

By Contributing Writer



traveling salesman, once a fixture of American life, was being replaced by department stores, phones and new systems of communication. Suddenly, he's out. Today, people fear AI and technology making their jobs obsolete. The anxiety is the same."

Rodriguez-Elliott also points to the central partnership at the heart of the "Geoff and Deborah have done so many plays together. There's an incredible shared vocabulary between them, and that familiarity is critical for Willy and Linda. It's a relationship that demands history."

Taking on the roles of the Loman sons, Biff and Happy, are David Kepner and Ian Littleworth. The cast also features Jacob Cherry, Bert Emmett, Rachel K. Han, Kasey Mahaffy, Cassandra Marie Murphy, David Nevell, Dominique Razón and Michael Uribes.

With echoes of Greek tragedy, Miller's groundbreaking drama, honored with both the 1949 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play, remains a harrowing indictment of the empty pursuit of wealth and success, and a warning for a fractured nation. Challenged and even banned in some communities over the years, the play endures as arguably the greatest American tragedy: the story of an everyman who only wanted, as Miller wrote, "to count."

A Noise Within has been called "an oasis for those who love classic stories" by the Los Angeles Times and is a leading regional producer based in Pasadena, California. Under the leadership of Elliott and Rodriguez-Elliott, the award-winning resident company is committed to representing the entire community at its state-of-the-art, 324-seat performance space. In addition to producing world-class performances of

engage audiences through community- and artist-centered work in multiple creative disciplines, ANW is striving to be a theater that better serves the entire community.

Performances of *Death of a Salesman* take place March 28 through April 19 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. (no matinee on Saturday, March 28). Four preview performances take place on Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m., and on Wednesday, March 25; Thursday, March 26; and Friday, March 27 each at 7:30 p.m.

A Noise Within is located at 3352 E Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107. For more information and to purchase tickets, call (626) 356-3100 or go to anoisewithin.org.

classic theater, the organization runs robust education programs with the goal of inspiring diverse audiences of all ages. ANW believes in working hard on its anti-racist practice across the whole organization. By interpreting its mission to fully

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By June Garson

The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge

Your Sequoia Foothills Destination for Food, Lodging & Scenic Views

Nestled along the Kaweah River in Three Rivers, California, The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge is a beloved local institution known for combining exceptional dining, comfortable

Sunday Brunch (8 AM – Noon) — A leisurely weekend favorite with hearty brunch options.

The restaurant's menu highlights seasonal soups, fresh salads, seafood, steaks, handcrafted

Why The Gateway is a Must-Visit

The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge stands out in Three Rivers for several key reasons: Prime location near major national parks and outdoor attractions. Award-worthy dining with scenic views of the Kaweah River. Comfortable lodging options from standard rooms to luxury suites. Banquet and event services for weddings, meetings, and retreats.

Whether you're searching for a Three Rivers restaurant with river views, a lodge near Sequoia National Park, or a destination that blends great food and memorable stays, The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge delivers a truly unique Central California experience.

Things to Do Near The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge: Outdoor Adventures & Local Favorites

Staying at The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge puts you in the middle of one of California's most scenic adventure zones. Three Rivers is the literal gateway to towering sequoias, rushing rivers, and laid-back mountain charm. Whether

you're planning a full outdoor itinerary or mixing exploration with relaxation, here are the top things to do just minutes from your stay.

strolls, or simply relaxing by the water after a day of hiking. In warmer months, rafting and tubing are popular activities, with local outfitters offering guided trips suitable for beginners and families.

Outdoor Recreation at Lake Kaweah

Just a short drive away, Lake Kaweah offers boating, fishing, swimming, and lakeside hiking. It's a favorite spot for sunset views and casual afternoons on the water. The surrounding recreation areas also feature picnic sites and open spaces perfect for families or couples looking to unwind.

Hiking & Nature Trails in Three Rivers

Three Rivers is filled with accessible trails ranging from easy walks to moderate hikes. Local favorites include the Paradise Creek Trail, Big Baldy Ridge, and nearby foothill routes offering sweeping views of the Sierra Nevada. These trails are ideal for photography, wildlife spotting, and soaking in the quiet beauty of the region.

Local Art, Shops & Small-Town Charm

Downtown Three Rivers features local art galleries, artisan shops, and cozy cafés that reflect the town's creative mountain spirit. Spend an afternoon browsing handmade goods, chatting with local artists, or grabbing a coffee before heading back to the lodge. Seasonal festivals and community events often pop up throughout the year.

End the Day Back at The Gateway

After a day of exploring, returning to The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge is part of the experience. Enjoy a riverside dinner, sip a cocktail on the patio, or unwind in your room while listening to the

sounds of the river. The location makes it easy to explore all day and relax completely at night.

For travelers searching for things to do near Sequoia National Park, Three Rivers outdoor activities, or a mountain getaway with dining and lodging, this area offers the perfect balance of adventure and comfort. If you'd like, I can also build a 2-day or 3-day itinerary based on your travel style—hiking-focused, romantic, family-friendly, or laid-back.

Address: 45978 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers

Phone: (559) 561-4133

Website: <https://gateway-sequoia.com>

Email: info@gateway-sequoia.com



lodging, and breathtaking natural surroundings just minutes from Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park. Whether you're planning a romantic getaway, a family vacation, or a memorable meal with Sierra Mountain views, The Gateway is one of the top choices in the region.

Conveniently located right off Highway 198 in Three Rivers, The Gateway serves as a perfect home base for exploring outdoor adventures like hiking, river rafting, and sightseeing among ancient giant sequoias. With stunning views right from the patio and a relaxed mountain atmosphere, it's praised by travelers for both hospitality and location.

Dining Experience – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Brunch

At its heart, The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge is known for its full-service dining experience that blends comfort with elevated cuisine. The restaurant serves:

Breakfast (8 AM – 11 AM) — Kick off your day before exploring the parks.

Lunch (11 AM – 4 PM) — Casual daytime meals with scenic views of the Kaweah River.

Dinner (4 PM – 9 PM) — A popular option for date nights, travelers, and locals alike.

burgers, and more, often paired with a scenic river view. Their bar boasts an extensive array of premium spirits — including multiple tequila varieties, vodkas, and whiskeys — and stays open later than the kitchen to let guests unwind after dinner.

Enjoying a meal on the outdoor patio overlooking the river is one of the most cherished experiences locals and visitors mention, especially during warm weather months.

Lodging – Cozy Rooms & River Views

In addition to its highly regarded dining, The Gateway Restaurant & Lodge offers comfortable lodging with a variety of options to fit different travel needs: Standard Rooms with private baths and free Wi-Fi. Two-Bedroom River House featuring a fully equipped kitchen and private patio. Honeymoon Suite with a private deck and indoor dry sauna — perfect for romantic stays.

Guests consistently praise the personalized service and warm hospitality that make The Gateway a home away from home, especially after long days exploring the Sequoia foothills.



TOP FAMOUS CELEBRITIES ALIVE TODAY

By William Serento

Fame in the modern era is no longer defined by one industry alone. The most famous celebrities alive today dominate across entertainment, sports, business, fashion, and digital media—commanding global audiences and shaping culture in real time. Based on worldwide recognition, influence,

media presence, and cultural impact, these are the top five most famous celebrities alive today.

Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift is widely considered the most famous celebrity alive today. Her record-breaking Eras Tour became the highest-grossing tour in history, while her albums consistently dominate global charts. Swift's influence extends far beyond music—she moves economies, reshapes the music industry through artist ownership, and commands one of the most devoted fan bases on the planet. Few celebrities enjoy her level of cultural relevance across generations.

Cristiano Ronaldo

Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the most recognizable athletes in history and arguably the most famous sports figure alive. With hundreds

of millions of social media followers, Ronaldo's influence transcends football. His brand spans fashion, fitness, fragrance, and hospitality, making him a global business empire as well as a legendary athlete. His name is known in virtually every country on Earth.

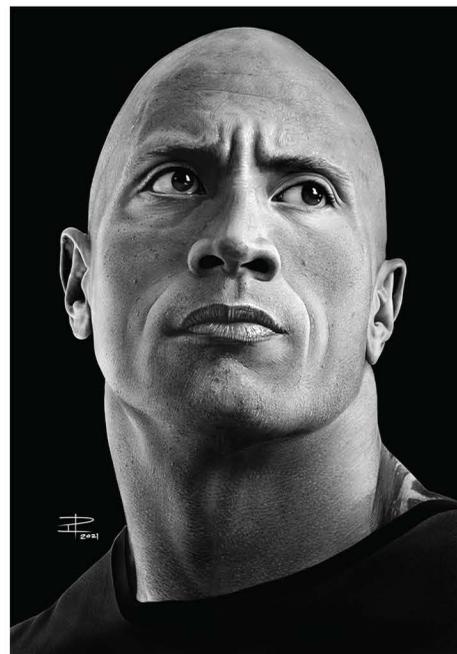
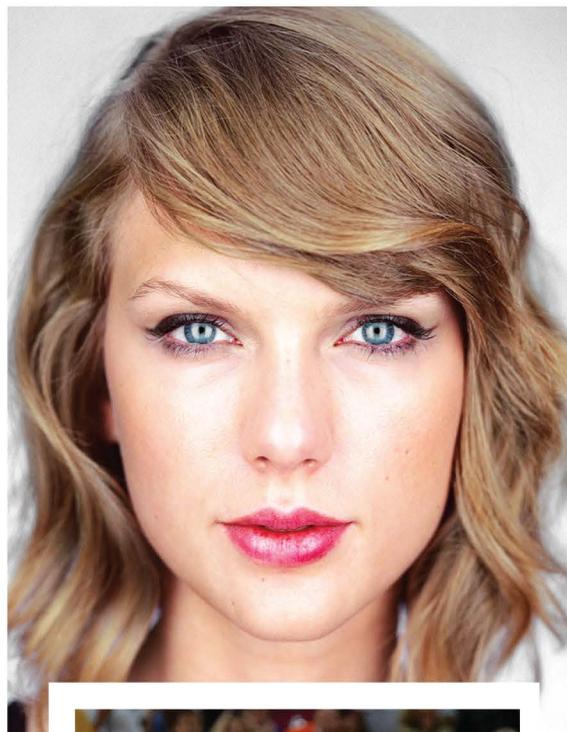
Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

Dwayne Johnson has transformed himself from wrestling icon to one of Hollywood's most bankable stars. Known for blockbuster films, massive social media reach, and an approachable public persona, Johnson bridges entertainment, entrepreneurship, and motivation culture. His appeal cuts across age groups, making him one of the

most universally liked and famous celebrities alive.

Lionel Messi

Lionel Messi is synonymous with football excellence. Widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, Messi's global fame soared even higher after leading Argentina to a historic World Cup victory. His influence extends beyond sports into fashion, endorse-



ments, and global pop culture, solidifying his place among the world's most famous people.

Kim Kardashian

Kim Kardashian represents a new era of celebrity—one built on media mastery, branding, and digital dominance. From reality television to billion-dollar fashion and beauty ventures, Kardashian has redefined what modern fame looks like. Her influence in fashion, beauty, and social media culture makes her one of the most recognizable faces alive today.

The most famous celebrities alive today share one key trait: global reach. Whether through music, sports, film, or digital influence, these five individuals dominate conversation, culture, and commerce worldwide. In an age of constant content, their ability to remain relevant sets them apart as true icons of modern fame.

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By Kate Deed

Sound Baths as Luxury Wellness

The Art of Healing Through High-Vibration Relaxation

Luxury wellness has evolved beyond marble steam rooms and infinity pools. Today's most discerning wellness seekers are investing in experiences that restore the nervous system, quiet the mind, and recalibrate the body at a deeper level. Enter the sound bath—a refined, immersive healing ritual that has become a staple at elite spas, five-star retreats, and private wellness sanctuaries around the world.

What Makes Sound Baths a Luxury Wellness Experience?

A luxury sound bath is not simply meditation—it is a curated sensory journey. Guests recline on plush mats or spa loungers while master practitioners perform with crystal singing bowls, handcrafted



gongs, chimes, and harmonic instruments tuned to precise frequencies. The experience is intentionally slow, deeply atmospheric, and often enhanced with aromatherapy, candlelight, and bespoke settings.

In high-end wellness environments, sound baths are frequently offered as private sessions, small-group ceremonies, or as part of multi-day retreats focused on nervous system repair, longevity, and emotional balance.

The Science Behind Sound Healing and Relaxation

Sound baths work by guiding the brain into slower brainwave states—alpha, theta, and delta—as associated with deep relaxation, creativity, and restorative sleep.

These frequencies encourage the parasympathetic nervous system to activate, lowering stress hormones and allowing the body to shift into healing mode.

For luxury wellness clients, this translates into more than relaxation: improved sleep quality, enhanced mental clarity, emotional release, and a profound sense of inner calm that lingers long after the session ends.

Emotional and Mental Benefits of Sound Baths

In an always-on world, mental overload has become a status-level health issue. Sound baths offer a rare pause from stimulation. Many participants describe the experience as “effortless meditation,” where sound gently dissolves anxiety, mental



fatigue, and emotional tension without requiring concentration or technique.

This makes sound baths especially appealing to executives, creatives, and high-performing individuals seeking deep restoration without effort or performance pressure.

Physical Restoration Through Vibrational Therapy

While subtle, physical effects of sound baths are powerful. Vibrations move through the body — of water — helping release stored tension, soften muscles, and encourage circulation. Many luxury spa clients report relief from headaches, jaw tension, tight shoulders, and stress-related discomfort after one session.

Sound baths are often paired with massage, infrared therapy, or hydrotherapy for a layered, full-body wellness experience.

What to Expect at a High-End Sound Bath

A luxury sound bath typically lasts 60 to 75 minutes. Guests remain fully clothed and are encouraged to rest, breathe, and receive. Each session is unique, often leaving participants feeling deeply grounded, emotionally clear, and profoundly relaxed.

Why Sound Baths Are the New Gold Standard in Luxury Wellness

As wellness becomes less about indulgence and more about longevity, nervous system health has emerged as the ultimate luxury. Sound baths deliver a rare combination of ancient wisdom and modern neuroscience—offering deep restoration in a beautifully effortless way. For those who value true wellness, sound healing is no longer an alternative—it's essential.

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ANIMAL TRACKS SANCTUARY AGUA DULCE

A One-of-a-Kind Intimate Animal Experience Near Santa Clarita

By Meagan Wilson

For Valley Scene Magazine readers searching for unique things to do near Agua Dulce, Santa Clarita, and the northern Los Angeles County foothills, Animal Tracks Sanctuary offers an unforgettable, hyper-local immersive wildlife experience just minutes from the Antelope Valley and the San Fernando Valley.

Located in the quiet canyon community of Agua Dulce, Animal Tracks Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit wildlife rescue and education center known for its unusually intimate, up-close encounters with rescued exotic animals. Unlike traditional zoos or animal parks, this sanctuary limits group sizes and focuses on calm, guided experiences that prioritize animal welfare while allowing guests to be just feet away from wildlife.

Why Animal Tracks Is One of Agua Dulce's Most Unique Attractions

Animal Tracks Sanctuary stands out among things to do near Santa Clarita, Acton, and Canyon Country because of its immersive approach. Guests don't view animals from behind distant fences—instead, they walk through carefully designed habitats alongside trained wildlife educators.

Animals move freely within controlled spaces, often choosing to approach guests naturally. Lemurs may leap overhead, foxes explore nearby, and kangaroos graze calmly within view. While touching is limited for safety reasons, the eye-level proximity creates a powerful sense of connection that visitors rarely experience elsewhere in Los Angeles County.

Rescued Animals You'll See Up Close

Animal Tracks is home to a rotating group of rescued animals, many saved from the exotic pet trade, illegal ownership, or retired animal acting careers. Visitors may encounter: Ring-tailed lemurs, Capuchin monkeys, Kangaroos and wallabies, Red foxes, Serval cats, Porcupines, skunks, exotic birds, and wolf-dog hybrids.

Each animal's story is shared during the tour, educating guests about



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conservation, habitat loss, and why wild animals should never be kept as pets.

VIP Experience Near Santa Clarita & the Antelope Valley

For visitors looking for an elevated experience, Animal Tracks offers a limited VIP Experience, one of the most exclusive animal encounters near Santa Clarita. VIP guests enjoy extended time, smaller groups, and behind-the-scenes access to animal care routines, enrichment activities, and daily operations.

This premium option is especially popular with wildlife enthusiasts, photographers, educators, and couples seeking a unique date-day experience near the San Fernando Valley. Availability is limited to maintain a peaceful environment for the animals.

Who Founded Animal Tracks Sanctuary?

Animal Tracks Sanctuary was founded in 2002 by Trena Renegar, with a mission to provide permanent refuge for exotic animals impacted by human activity. In 2008, leadership transitioned to Stacy Gunderson, a

respected wildlife caregiver and primate specialist who now serves as Executive Director. Under her leadership, the sanctuary has expanded its rescue efforts and educational programming throughout northern Los Angeles County.

Plan Your Visit to Animal Tracks Sanctuary

Animal Tracks Sanctuary is open through reservation-only guided tours, helping maintain a calm, respectful environment for animals and guests alike.

Location: Agua Dulce, CA (near Santa Clarita, Acton, and Antelope Valley)

Experiences Offered: Guided Tours, VIP Experiences, Wildlife Educator for a Day

For Valley Scene Magazine readers searching for ethical animal encounters near the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita, and Agua Dulce, Animal Tracks Sanctuary delivers a rare, meaningful, and truly local experience—one that stays with you long after you leave. www.animaltracksinc.org

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Rare Coin Craze

A Penny Saved Could Be a Windfall Currency

By Cora Corman

The humble penny—often dismissed as pocket change or forgotten at the bottom of a jar—is quietly fueling one of the most exciting trends in collectibles today. The rare coin craze surrounding pennies has exploded, with collectors and everyday treasure hunters discovering that a single cent can sometimes be worth hundreds, thousands, or even millions of dollars. In a time when alternative investments are gaining momentum, rare pennies have become a surprising form of windfall currency.



Why Pennies Are Suddenly Worth So Much

Pennies are among the most widely minted coins in U.S. history, but rarity isn't always about age alone. Value is driven by a combination of scarcity, condition, historical significance, and minting errors. Certain pennies were produced in extremely limited quantities, while others slipped into circulation with mistakes that make collectors' hearts race. Mint errors—such as double-die strikes, off-center designs, or the wrong metal composition—can turn an ordinary-looking penny into a five- or

six-figure payday. Add in the emotional appeal of American history, and pennies become tiny time capsules worth far more than their face value.

The Pennies Collectors Are Hunting For

Among the most coveted are early 20th-century wheat pennies, particularly those from the first years of production. Pennies minted during wartime also carry exceptional value, especially when materials were scarce and substitutions were made. Error coins from any era remain hot, with collectors willing to pay premiums for clearly documented anomalies.

Condition matters just as much as rarity. A penny that has never been circulated, retaining its original luster, can be exponentially more valuable than the same coin worn smooth by decades of use. Professional grading services play a major role in establishing authenticity and market value.

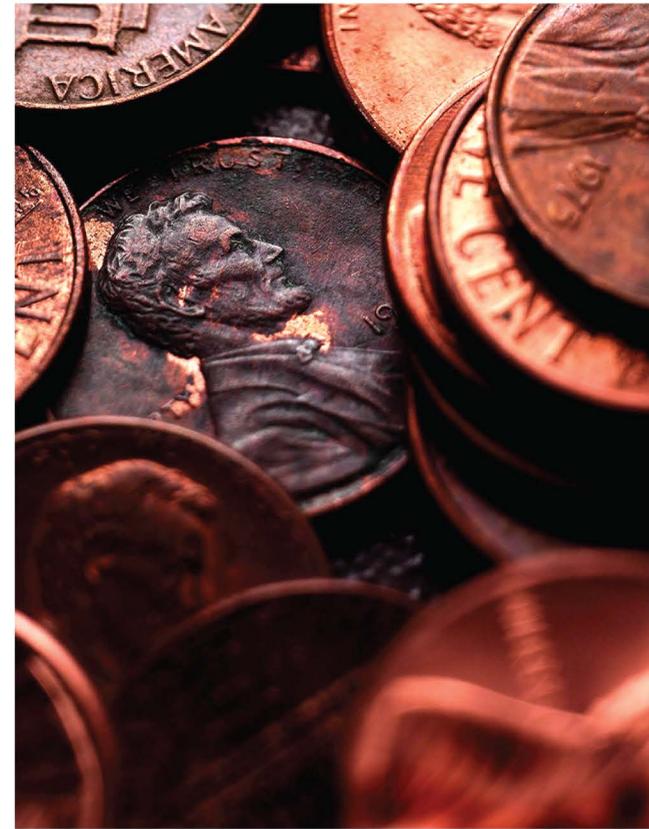
Why the Penny Market Is Booming Now

Several factors are driving renewed interest in penny collecting. First, accessibility: unlike luxury watches or fine art, pennies are affordable to acquire, and many people already have them at home. Second, social media and online marketplaces have made it easier than ever to learn, buy, sell, and share discoveries. Viral stories of rare pennies selling for staggering sums continue to fuel public fascination.

There's also a growing nostalgia factor. As digital payments dominate, physical currency feels increasingly precious. Collectors see pennies not just as money, but as tangible pieces of history—mini artifacts from another era.



FINER THINGS



How to Start Checking Your Change

If you're curious whether your spare change holds hidden value, start by examining dates, mint marks, and unusual features. Avoid cleaning coins, as this can significantly reduce their value. Store potential finds in protective holders and consider professional appraisal for anything that appears rare.

What makes the penny craze especially thrilling is its democratic nature. You don't need to be wealthy to participate—just observant, patient, and a little lucky.

A Penny Saved, Indeed

The rare penny boom proves that sometimes the smallest things carry the greatest potential. Whether you're a seasoned collector or someone with an old jar of change, the next windfall currency might already be in your hands—proof that a penny saved could truly be a fortune found.



An Evening To Remember



Sords•Walz•Durkovic Trio *A Brahms Bonanza*

Get ready to immerse yourself in a musical extravaganza dedicated to Brahms courtesy of the Sords-Walz-Durkovic Trio

Sunday, February 22, 2026
Showtime: 4:00pm
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Free Parking: Farmdale Ave. lot & street parking

Program
A fantastic "Brahms Bonanza," featuring all-Brahms works—from his final trio to his Hungarian Dances.



Create. Culture. Community

INSIDE THE MOST HIGH-END HIGH-TECH SECURITY SYSTEMS PROTECTING LUXURY & CELEBRITY HOMES

By Owen Beeroo

For luxury estates, celebrity residences, and ultra-private properties, security is not just about alarms—it's about total situational awareness, privacy protection, and rapid response. The most high-end high-tech home security systems are engineered to operate quietly in the

Advanced analytics differentiate between wildlife, vehicles, and genuine threats, ensuring alerts are precise and actionable.

AI Surveillance with Predictive Intelligence

Luxury homes are protected by 4K and 8K ultra-high-definition cameras paired with thermal imaging for complete coverage

credentials to control access points throughout the estate. Multi-factor verification ensures only authorized individuals can enter secured areas, including safe rooms, wine cellars, offices, or garages. Every entry is logged, giving homeowners full visibility and control at all times.

Smart Home Integration with Defensive Automation

Luxury security systems seamlessly integrate with smart lighting, climate control, motorized gates, and window systems. If a perimeter breach occurs, lights activate automatically, gates lock down, cameras focus on the threat, and alerts are issued simultaneously. Environmental monitoring also protects against fire, smoke, flooding, carbon monoxide, and air-quality threats—critical for large estates and high-value interiors.

Private Monitoring & Rapid Response

Unlike standard home alarms, elite systems are supported by 24/7 private

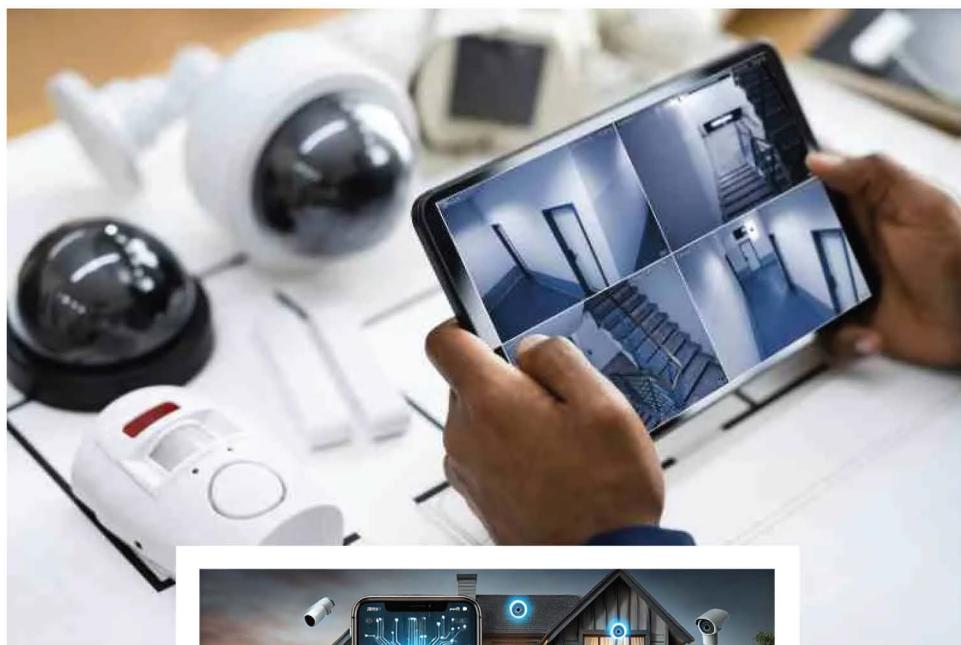
monitoring centers staffed with trained security professionals. These teams verify threats using live video and sensor data before dispatching emergency services or private security units. Redundant cellular and satellite communication ensures uninterrupted operation even during power outages, natural disasters, or network failures.

Cybersecurity for Discreet Living

For high-profile homeowners, digital security is just as critical as physical protection. High-end systems employ end-to-end encryption, hardware-level security modules, intrusion detection, and strict authentication protocols. This prevents hacking, data breaches, and unauthorized remote access—preserving privacy as much as safety.

Final Takeaway

The most high-end home security systems are invisible guardians—predictive, resilient, and relentlessly vigilant. Designed for luxury estates and celebrity homes, they deliver unmatched protection without disrupting daily life. In a world where privacy and safety are priceless, elite security systems offer the ultimate peace of mind.



background while delivering constant, intelligent protection. These systems are custom-designed, layered, and deeply integrated, offering a level of safety that feels effortless but is extraordinarily powerful.

Estate-Grade Perimeter Protection

Elite security begins well before anyone reaches the front door. High-end estates rely on infrared laser perimeters, radar-based ground sensors, LiDAR mapping, and intelligent virtual fencing to monitor entire properties in real time. These systems detect human movement hundreds of feet away, even through darkness, landscaping, or adverse weather.



day and night. What sets these systems apart is artificial intelligence. AI-driven surveillance learns daily routines,

recognizes approved individuals, tracks movement across multiple zones, and flags abnormal behavior instantly. Thermal imaging

ensures detection even when visibility is compromised, while encrypted cloud storage protects sensitive footage.

Biometric Entry & Private Access Control

High-end properties eliminate traditional locks entirely. Instead, biometric authentication systems use facial recognition, fingerprints, iris scans, and encrypted mobile

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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Anthony Sapienza, 63, was charged with two counts of felony battery on Feb. 8 in Port Orange, Florida, after a brawl broke out during a pickleball game at the Spruce Creek Country Club, the Associated Press reported. Sapienza's wife, Julianne Sapienza, 51, was charged with a single count of felony battery. The Sapienzas were playing against another couple when an argument began about a rule; words were exchanged between the men before the accused hit his opponent with his paddle, then punched him on the ground. Before it was all over, about 20 players became involved in the fight, police said. The victim was over age 65.

Wait, What?

Back in the 1940s, carpenters would sometimes slide a newspaper between the floorboards of a house to fix uneven planks, The Washington Post reported. On Jan. 14, contractor Vincent Vincent tore up boards in a home in Fargo, North Dakota, and unsurprisingly found a newspaper page from Oct. 6, 1946. When he showed the paper to the homeowner, Casey Chapman, 75, Chapman recognized someone in the photo on the page: his mother. "It was just a shock," Chapman said. His family had no connection to the home before he bought it in 2017. That issue of the Fargo Forum featured the seven nominees for North Dakota Agricultural College's homecoming queen, one of which was Marty Anderson, Chapman's mom. (She won, by the way.) Anderson died in 2014. Chapman said she was "very active, and not afraid to take on leadership roles. My mother was a wonderful lady." He and his wife have already framed the clipping and will hang it in their renovated bedroom.

Least Competent Criminals

A 25-year-old man in Philipsburg, Montana, drove to the Granite County Courthouse to pay a fine he had received for open container, KBZK-TV reported on Feb. 17. While he waited, Sheriff Rico Barkell observed that he appeared to be intoxicated. He asked if the man had

driven to the courthouse, to which he answered yes. Then he admitted he had had two drinks and smoked two bowls of marijuana. A breath test confirmed the sheriff's suspicions, with the man's blood alcohol at three times the legal limit. He also had an open container in his car. He was charged with aggravated DUI and open container. The sheriff's office posted about the incident on its Facebook page, summarizing with "Stupidity is not an excuse!"

It's Florida

On Feb. 11, Dean Young, 26, entered a parked landscaping van in Hialeah, Florida, allegedly with intent to steal tools inside, NBC Miami reported. However, Young became trapped in the locked van and started screaming and beating on the doors. "Help me! I'm inside," he yelled. The landscapers called police but didn't free Young from the van, as there were machetes inside that he might have used as a weapon. Young, who had posted bail in an earlier case, was held on charges of burglary and criminal mischief.

Irony

A famous rock formation in Melendugno, Puglia, Italy, called Lovers' Arch collapsed into the Adriatic Sea on Valentine's Day, The Guardian reported. Strong storm surges and heavy rain pounded the area before the landmark fell. "It is a devastating blow to the heart," said Melendugno Mayor Maurizio Cisternino. "Nature has been overturned."

Meanwhile, at the Olympics ...

The real star of the Feb. 18 women's cross country team sprint qualifying round in Lago Di Tesero, Italy, was Nazgul, a 2-year-old Czechoslovakian wolfdog. NPR reported that as skiers flew across the finish line, Nazgul broke out of his doghouse and ran across, too -- even being captured with the official finish line camera. The dog's owner said Nazgul "just wanted to follow us. He always looks for people."

Crossword by Myles Mellor

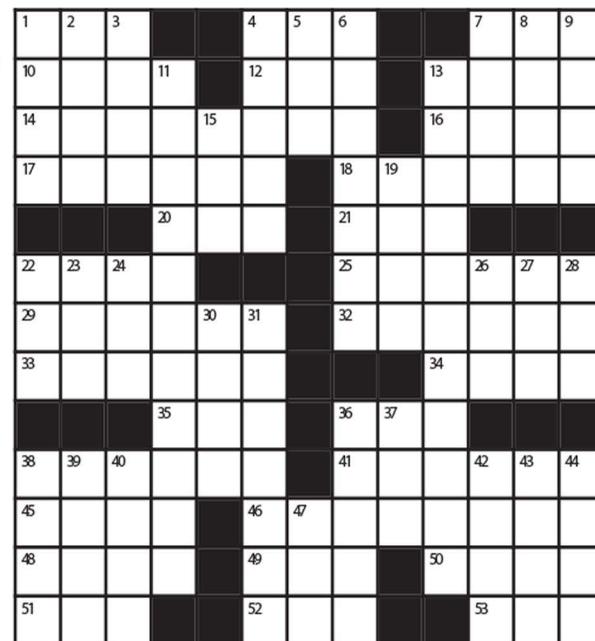
Print this Page! Ctrl + P

Across

1. Dylan or Marley
4. Black box warning issuers
7. Early modern jazz
10. Passing away column
12. Member of a colony
13. Stubborn beast
14. Relative
16. Can-do
17. Shrubs, as fences
18. Columbus native
20. Turn over
21. Published
22. Buckets
25. Artist's model
29. Overwhelm with noise
32. Compact
33. Desecrate
34. Mr ___ guy
35. Took a chair
36. Santa ___ winds
38. Cannot, in a way
41. Ante up
45. Flirtwith
46. Inflexibly entrenched
48. Slog (through)
49. Halt in growth
50. Ornamental bag
51. Night flight, with red
52. Collared
53. The Little Giant

Down

1. Twaddle
2. Symphony member
3. Fasten
4. Test answer
5. CSI evidence
6. Under the least wanted scenario
7. Lymph node swelling
8. Spanish dish
9. Hammerend
11. Won't part with money easily
13. Means of upkeep
15. Newprefix
19. 1967 musical
22. Baking term
23. Jeans brand



24. Clumsy person
26. Food fish of Japan
27. Mail Boxes ___
28. Highball ingredient
30. Gusto
31. Practice golf fabric
36. Take as one's own
37. ___ negotiable
38. Sulk
39. Unattractive
40. Blackthorn
42. Choirmember
43. Stiff
44. Reassemble
47. Copacabana site

Bad Dad Jokes

Why did Mike Tyson go to a Christian Plastic Surgeon?

To get a Faith Lift



Previous Puzzle





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SVCAC's Young Artists Playground (YAP) Youth Arts Education Program features interactive arts workshops and camps for youth ages 5-14 years old. YAP is dedicated to enriching the lives of local youth through quality arts education and performance based programs. YAP builds visual and performing arts skills through programs that foster confidence, compassion and resilience in students of all abilities. We offer opportunities for youth to develop and share their creative voices. For more information contact: Stephanie Lesh at 818-601-0582

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Teenage Drama Workshop (TADW) TADW 2024 Registration IS NOW OPEN

Dates: June 13-July 26, 2024
Ages: 12-18 TADW is a conservatory-style program at CSUN. Our goal is to teach teens ages 11-18 about the theatre arts. Join us for our 65th summer, which will culminate with SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL

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Star Galaxy- Academic, Homework lab, Sports

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The Leonis Adobe Museum is hosting its annual summer program, Lil Ranchers, Tuesdays from 7/11 - 8/8 between 9:30 am - 11:30 am. Enjoy a different theme and activities each week! Leonis Adobe Museum 23537 Calabasas Road

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Phone: (818) 222-6511
Members are free or \$8 for non-members.

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2023 Program includes NATURE CENTER With Live Animals
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Golden Performing Arts Center After School Programs

- a non-profit organization that offers children, teens, and young adults, ages 6-22, the opportunity to experience exhilarating feelings of success, belonging, pride and accomplishment by working together as a theatre family and presenting a Broadway-style musical production. Established in Canoga Park in 1985 for the purpose of building self-esteem in young people through the performing arts, Golden PAC has offered Musical Theater workshops for children and teens for over 35 years. Each workshop is designed to build confidence, skills, and lasting friendships in an environment of mutual respect, acceptance, and encouragement. All enrollees are guaranteed a part regardless of prior training or experience. Workshops are presented in the spring, summer, and fall. Each workshop culminates with a professional-quality production of a licensed Broadway musical in which young people play all the roles. <https://www.goldenpac.org/> Now in a brand new location!



Kids' Exquisite Lemonade Stands A Chic Summer Trend in Los Angeles

By Kathryn Andrew

Across Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, Calabasas, and Thousand Oaks, a beloved summer tradition is being reimaged in beautiful and inspiring ways. The classic lemonade stand has evolved into an exquisite kids' lemonade stand, blending creativity, design, and entrepreneurship into one of the most engaging summer activities for children in Southern California.

Families looking for creative summer ideas for kids in Los Angeles are embracing this elevated take

a lesson in creativity and business fundamentals long before the first cup is served.

Modern lemonade stands often feature fresh, thoughtfully crafted flavors. Instead of powdered mixes, young entrepreneurs experiment with lavender honey lemonade, watermelon mint infusions, sparkling raspberry blends, and seasonal citrus combinations. Some even offer tasting samples to showcase multiple flavors, creating a memorable customer experience. These details elevate the stand from simple refreshment to a curated summer event.

alongside baked goods or handmade crafts, transforming the event into a lively and collaborative summer experience.

Search interest in how to start a lemonade stand in Los Angeles and entrepreneur ideas for kids in Southern California continues to grow during the summer months. Parents are increasingly drawn to activities that combine outdoor fun with meaningful skill-building, and the luxury lemonade stand trend answers that call beautifully.

Despite its polished appearance, the heart of the lemonade stand remains the same. It is about independence, imagination, and the excitement of earning that first dollar. The exquisite version simply enhances the tradition with thoughtful design and creativity.



NoBiggie.net

For families seeking unique summer activities for kids near Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley, the refined lemonade stand offers more than a refreshing drink. It represents confidence, community, and the joyful discovery that even the simplest idea can become something extraordinary.



on a timeless concept. No longer just a folding table with a handwritten sign, today's lemonade stands resemble boutique pop-up cafés. Wooden carts, striped umbrellas, fresh floral arrangements, and hand-lettered chalkboard menus create a polished and inviting presentation. Glass dispensers filled with fresh-squeezed lemonade replace plastic pitchers, and carefully curated details turn an ordinary driveway into a charming neighborhood destination.

The rise of the gourmet lemonade stand trend in the San Fernando Valley reflects a growing interest in youth entrepreneurship. Children are learning how to develop a brand name, design signage, select ingredients, and create a cohesive look. The process becomes

Running a lemonade stand also introduces children to essential life skills. They learn how to calculate costs for lemons and sweeteners, set pricing that balances profit and fairness, and track daily earnings. They practice greeting customers, handling transactions, and explaining their menu with confidence. These small interactions build communication skills and self-assurance that extend far beyond the sidewalk.

In neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County, exquisite lemonade stands are becoming mini community gatherings. Neighbors stop by to support young ambition, creating moments of connection and encouragement. In some areas, families coordinate pop-up afternoons where kids offer lemonade

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RAGE COMPLEX

Where Athletic Performance Meets Dance Innovation

By David Anderson

Rage Complex is a high-energy, multi-disciplinary training facility founded by Veda, designed to merge strength, discipline, and creative expression under one roof. While many know the Rage name for performance training and athletic conditioning, Rage Complex expands that vision—bringing together boxing, strength development, and dance in a unified environment that empowers youth and adults alike.

Dance programs at Rage Complex include hip-hop, performance choreography, conditioning for dancers, and youth-focused classes that emphasize rhythm, coordination, and teamwork. The dance environment is energetic and disciplined, mirroring the same structured culture found in the athletic programs.

Founder Veda views dance as a form of athletic artistry. Precision, repetition,

athletes build endurance, coordination, and discipline. Both tracks reinforce punctuality, listening skills, and respect for instructors and peers.

Parents are drawn to Rage Complex because it offers more than activity—it offers mentorship. The culture is firm but supportive.

Young members are encouraged to push beyond comfort zones while feeling safe and guided.

A Community Built on Discipline

Under founder Veda's leadership, Rage Complex operates with clear standards.

Members are expected to show up ready to work, stay focused, and support one another. Whether someone is hitting pads in a boxing session or mastering choreography in a dance class, the expectation remains the same: effort and consistency matter.

For adults, the Complex offers performance training for fitness goals as well as

dance classes for creative release and conditioning. Many members appreciate having both options in one facility—strength training to build power and dance to refine coordination and expression.

Founder Veda's Expanding Vision

Veda's vision for Rage Complex continues to evolve, blending athletic excellence with artistic movement. By combining performance sports and dance

under one roof, the Complex creates a dynamic space where intensity is transformed into discipline, and passion becomes skill.

Rage Complex is more than a gym or studio—it is a structured community where strength and creativity thrive side by side.



Founder Veda created Rage Complex with a powerful philosophy: energy must be directed, not suppressed. Whether that energy shows up as athletic drive, emotional intensity, or artistic passion, the Complex provides structure and purpose. The addition of dance programming reflects Veda's belief that movement is both physical and expressive—combining performance, confidence, and discipline.

A Dual Focus: Performance and Expression

Rage Complex stands out because it balances high-performance athletic training with creative dance instruction. On one side of the facility, athletes refine boxing technique, agility drills, endurance conditioning, and functional strength. On the other, dancers rehearse choreography, build flexibility, and develop stage presence.

stamina, and mental focus are just as critical in choreography as they are in boxing drills. By housing both disciplines together, Rage Complex fosters respect between athletes and performers, highlighting the shared foundations of hard work and dedication.

Youth at the Heart of the Complex

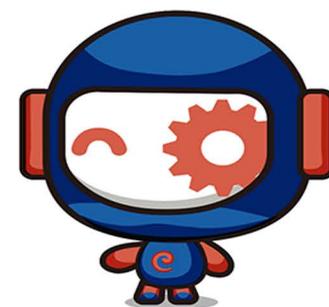
A significant part of Rage Complex's mission is youth development. Veda believes that structured movement—whether through sport or dance—builds confidence, resilience, and accountability in young people. Children and teens who join the Complex learn to manage energy constructively while gaining skills that extend beyond the studio floor.

Dance students develop stage confidence and teamwork, often preparing for performances and showcases. Meanwhile, youth

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By Vincent Bent

Spring Fashion for Chilly Nights

Spring days tease us with sunshine, but nights can flip the script—cool breezes, sudden drops in temperature, and patio dinners that last past sunset. The trick to



dressing for chilly spring evenings is mastering light layers that look intentional, not bundled. Think breathable fabrics, smart silhouettes, and pieces that pull double duty from dusk to dinner.

Start with the foundation layer. A soft ribbed tank, lightweight knit tee, or silk cami sets a sleek base without adding bulk. Neutral tones—ivory, dove gray, camel, or soft



black—make layering effortless and elevate the look instantly. If you want a little warmth without weight, opt for fine-gauge merino or cotton-modal blends that trap heat while staying airy.

Next comes the hero layer—the one you'll reach for again and again. A cropped denim jacket, relaxed blazer, or classic trench coat is spring's answer to temperature roulette. Blazers with a bit of stretch feel polished but comfortable, while trenches offer coverage without heaviness and look chic thrown over literally anything. For a softer vibe, a cardigan with structure (think ribbed hems or belted waists) keeps things cozy without drifting into couchwear territory.

Texture is your secret weapon on cool nights. Mixing fabrics adds visual warmth even when layers stay light. Pair satin skirts with knits, leather trousers with cotton tees, or linen

pants with a fine wool sweater. These contrasts don't just look intentional—they help regulate temperature by balancing airflow and insulation.

When it comes to bottoms, versatility rules. Straight-leg jeans, tailored trousers, and midi skirts all transition beautifully into evening. Midi lengths are especially clutch: they block the chill while still feeling spring-forward. If skirts are your go-to, add sheer tights for warmth without sacrificing style.

Footwear matters more than you think once the sun goes down. Swap daytime sandals for ankle boots, loafers, or ballet flats in leather or suede. Closed-toe shoes keep you warmer and ground your outfit, especially when temperatures dip unexpectedly. Low block heels or sleek flats strike the perfect balance between comfort and polish.

Finally, accessories pull it all together. A lightweight scarf adds warmth around the neck and instantly elevates a simple outfit. Cross-body bags keep hands free (and tucked into pockets), while delicate jewelry layers beautifully over knits and collars. Don't underestimate socks either—thin ribbed socks peeking out of loafers or boots are both practical and on-trend.

Spring fashion for chilly nights is all about being prepared without looking like you planned too hard. With smart layers, rich textures, and adaptable accessories, you can stay warm, stylish, and ready for wherever the evening takes you—no shivering.



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