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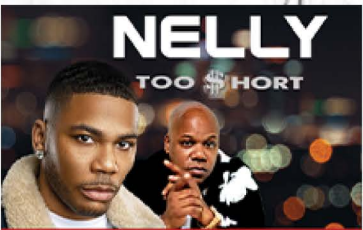
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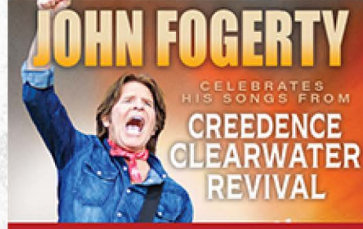
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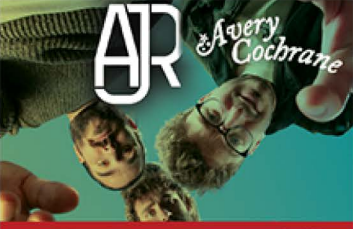
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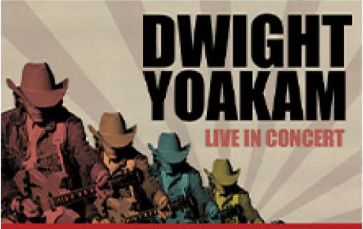
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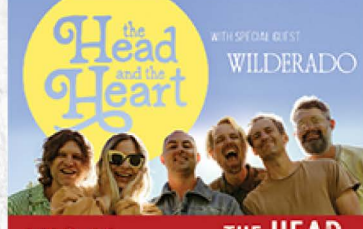
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AND EVEN MORE AFTER THE FAIR:

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THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY MUSEUM WELCOMES SUMMER VISITORS IN JULY 2026

History comes alive this July as the San Fernando Valley Museum of History, Arts & Culture continues welcoming visitors to its Northridge home with expanded programming, community exhibits, and educational events that celebrate one of Southern California's most fascinating regions. Conveniently located at 18904 Nordhoff Street in Northridge, the museum has become an increasingly popular destination for families, history buffs, students, and longtime Valley residents looking to reconnect with the area's rich heritage. The museum is operating throughout July with free admission and free parking, making it one of the Valley's best cultural bargains.

Founded to preserve and promote the unique history of the San Fernando Valley, the museum showcases everything from the region's agricultural beginnings and ranching era to its transformation into one of the nation's most influential suburban communities. Visitors can browse fascinating exhibits featuring vintage photo-



graphs, historical documents, maps, artifacts, and memorabilia that tell the story of neighborhoods stretching from Chatsworth and Northridge to Van Nuys, Sherman Oaks, Burbank, and beyond.

During July 2026, guests can enjoy regularly scheduled museum hours while exploring rotating displays highlighting local history, architecture, transportation, entertainment, and the people who helped shape the Valley into what it is today. Interactive presentations and special programs

throughout the summer encourage visitors of all ages to learn more about the communities they call home. The museum also serves as a gathering place for local historians, educators, artists, and preservationists dedicated to protecting the Valley's cultural legacy.

One of the museum's greatest strengths is its commitment to community involvement. Volunteers, local organizations, and longtime residents frequently contrib-



ute photographs, artifacts, and personal stories that continually expand the museum's growing collection. This collaborative approach ensures that every visit offers something new, even for returning guests.

Families will appreciate the museum's welcoming atmosphere and educational opportunities for children. Young visitors can discover how

the Valley evolved from sprawling ranches and citrus groves into a thriving center for aerospace, entertainment, education, and innovation. Adults often find themselves reminiscing as they recognize familiar landmarks, schools, businesses, and neighborhoods featured throughout the exhibits.

The museum also serves as an excellent starting point for exploring the surrounding San Fernando Valley. After a visit, guests can continue their historical journey by visiting nearby landmarks, local parks, restaurants, and cultural attractions that reflect the area's diverse heritage.

Whether you're a lifelong Valley resident or a first-time visitor, the San Fernando Valley Museum offers an engaging and informative experience that celebrates the people, places, and events that have shaped one of Southern California's most dynamic communities. Its combination of local history, community spirit, and free admission makes it a worthwhile stop this summer.

For July 2026, the museum is open on select days, including weekends and Tuesdays, with free admission, free parking, and special community programming throughout the season. Visitors are encouraged to check the museum's current calendar before arriving for updated hours and upcoming events.

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Blast From The Past

A Nostalgic View Of Los Angeles, The SFV, and Ventura County

The San Fernando Valley of the 1970s and 1980s was more than a collection of neighborhoods—it was a destination in itself. Families didn't have to drive to Hollywood or the beach to find entertainment because the Valley offered an incredible variety of attractions that became part of everyday life. One of the most recognizable gathering places was the original Sherman Oaks Galleria. Long before outdoor lifestyle centers became popular, the Galleria represented the future of shopping. When it opened in 1980, visitors were amazed by its soaring skylights, glass elevators, fashionable boutiques, and lively food court. Teenagers wandered the corridors on Friday nights, couples met for dates at the movie theater, and families spent entire afternoons browsing stores before sharing dinner together.

The mall's fame exploded after appearing in films such as *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Valley Girl*, *Commando*, and *Night of the Comet*. It quickly became a symbol of Valley culture during the 1980s. Although today's mixed-use complex occupies the same location, longtime residents still remember the original Galleria as the place where fashion, music, movies, and teenage life all came together under one roof.

No nostalgic journey through Southern California would be complete without mentioning Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour. Walking through its doors felt like entering a turn-of-the-century celebration. Ragtime piano music filled the air while employees dressed in red-and-white striped uniforms raced across the restaurant carrying enormous sundaes accompanied by drums, sirens, whistles, and cheers from everyone in the dining room.

Birthday celebrations became unforgettable events as children wearing oversized Farrell's hats were paraded through the restaurant while the staff sang enthusiastically. The famous Zoo Sundae—large enough for an entire family—was delivered with dramatic fanfare that often stopped conversations throughout the restaurant. For countless Southern California families, Farrell's wasn't simply a place to enjoy dessert; it became part of family traditions that lasted for generations.

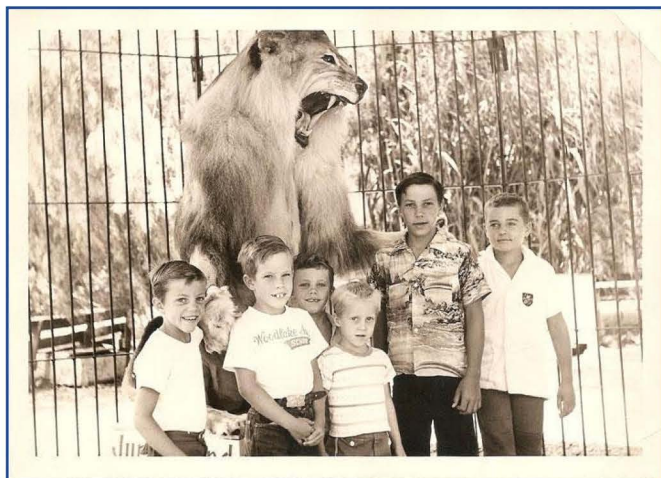


Nearby, neighborhood roller rinks created another chapter in Valley history. On Friday and Saturday evenings, teenagers laced up colorful roller skates beneath flashing disco lights while DJs spun the latest hits. Birthday parties, school fundraisers, first romances, and lifelong friendships often began on polished wooden skating floors. While many rinks eventually

batting cages, and family restaurants into one exciting destination. Before home video game systems became commonplace, children spent entire afternoons collecting prize tickets, competing in friendly contests, and convincing their parents to play "just one more game."

While many of these entertainment centers have vanished, they helped define an era when family fun required nothing more than a few dollars, a free afternoon, and a willingness to make memories together.

Travel west over the Santa Monica Mountains into the Conejo Valley, and another collection of beloved landmarks comes into view. Although today's Thousand Oaks is known for its beautiful neighborhoods, open space preserves, and award-winning schools, it also possesses one of Southern California's most fascinating entertainment histories.



disappeared as entertainment habits changed, those evenings remain treasured memories for thousands of Valley residents.

Drive-in theaters were equally magical. Families arrived before sunset carrying homemade popcorn, lawn chairs, blankets, and sleeping children in pajamas. As dusk settled across the Valley, giant



movie screens illuminated the night sky while voices crackled through speakers hanging from rolled-down car windows. For many children, those evenings represented their very first experience watching movies beneath the stars.

Not far away, another unforgettable attraction welcomed adventurous families looking for something different. Bullwinkle's Family Fun Center combined miniature golf, arcade games, bumper boats,

Perhaps the most legendary attraction was Jungleland USA, a world-famous animal training facility that operated for decades in what is now Thousand Oaks. Originally established during Hollywood's Golden Age, Jungleland supplied trained animals to hundreds of movies and television programs. Lions, elephants, chimpanzees, tigers, leopards, giraffes, bears, zebras, and countless exotic creatures called the ranch home.

Visitors could watch spectacular animal demonstrations while learning about wildlife from experienced trainers. Some of Hollywood's most recognizable animal stars—including the famous lion used in the MGM logo—spent time at Jungleland. Television favorites such as Daktari, Tarzan, and numerous Disney productions relied upon animals trained there.

When Jungleland closed in 1969, an extraordinary chapter of Conejo Valley history came to an end. Today, little physical evidence remains, yet longtime residents continue sharing

stories about hearing lions roar across the valley during quiet evenings.

The Conejo Valley Days festival, however, continues carrying forward the area's community spirit. While the event has evolved over the decades, it still captures much of the hometown atmosphere that has made it a cherished annual tradition. Carnival rides, local entertainment, agricultural exhibits, and community organizations remind visitors that even as the region has grown, its welcoming character remains remarkably intact.

Shopping also evolved dramatically throughout the Conejo Valley. The original Janss Marketplace quickly became more than a retail destination after opening in the 1970s. Families gathered for holiday celebrations, community performances, outdoor concerts, and seasonal events that transformed an ordinary shopping trip into an enjoyable outing. While renovations have modernized the center over the years, many residents fondly remember its earlier appearance and the excitement surrounding its grand opening.

Nature, fortunately, has remained one of the Conejo Valley's greatest treasures. Wildwood Regional Park, with its scenic trails, dramatic volcanic formations, waterfalls, and

sweeping views, continues offering the same breathtaking experiences enjoyed by generations of hikers. It serves as a reminder that while buildings may come and go, Southern California's remarkable landscapes continue inspiring visitors year after year.

The story of the Conejo Valley is ultimately one of thoughtful growth. While beloved attractions like Jungleland disappeared, the region successfully preserved much of its natural beauty, allowing new generations to create their own memories surrounded by oak trees, rolling hills, and spectacular sunsets.

As the journey continues west toward Ventura County, the pace of life seems to slow just enough to appreciate what has always made this stretch of California coastline so special. Long before luxury hotels and waterfront condominiums began appearing along the coast, Ventura was known as an authentic beach town where fishing boats bobbed gently in the harbor, surfers chased the perfect wave, and families spent entire weekends enjoying simple pleasures.

For generations of Southern Californians, a trip to Ventura Pier was a summer tradition. Originally built in 1872 and rebuilt several times over the decades, the pier became much more than a place to fish.

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Couples strolled hand-in-hand at sunset, children dropped lines into the Pacific hoping to catch their first fish, and photographers captured breathtaking views of the Channel Islands on crystal-clear days. While storms and time have occasionally forced repairs, the Ventura Pier remains one of the oldest and most treasured landmarks on the California coast.

Nearby, Ventura Harbor Village transformed from a working marina into one of the county's favorite destinations without losing its relaxed charm. Colorful boats, seafood restaurants, boutique shops, live entertainment, and waterfront festivals have welcomed millions of visitors while preserving the easygoing atmosphere that makes Ventura unique. Unlike so many places that disappeared completely, Ventura Harbor successfully evolved while maintaining the character that made people fall in love with it in the first place.

Not everything along the Southern California coast was so fortunate.

Just south of Los Angeles on the Palos Verdes Peninsula stood Marineland of the Pacific, one of the region's most beloved attractions. Opened in 1954, years before SeaWorld, Marineland introduced countless children to dolphins, sea lions, whales, penguins, and marine conservation. Families watched spectacular dolphin performances while learning about ocean life from dedicated trainers and marine biologists.

Many Angelenos still remember pressing their faces against enormous aquarium windows, completely mesmerized by graceful sea creatures gliding silently through the water. When Marineland unexpectedly closed in 1987, thousands of residents felt as though they had lost part of their childhood. Today, the luxurious Terranea Resort occupies the property, offering spectacular ocean views but reminding longtime visitors of the magical attraction that once stood there.

The coastline also witnessed the gradual disappearance of another American tradition: the drive-in theater.

Ventura County once offered several drive-ins where families could enjoy double features beneath the stars. Before multiplex cinemas dominated entertainment, these outdoor theaters created unforgettable evenings filled with popcorn, lawn chairs, station wagons, and children drifting off to sleep in the back seat before the second movie even began. As land values increased and home entertainment became more sophisticated, most drive-ins quietly faded away, leaving only nostalgic memories and a handful of vintage photographs.

Southern California's love affair with classic diners followed a similar path.

Across Los Angeles and Ventura counties, roadside restaurants became gathering places

where neighbors met over coffee, teenagers celebrated after football games, and families gathered following Sunday church services. Some have disappeared forever, while others continue serving customers exactly as they did decades ago.

One shining survivor is Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake. Since 1949, chrome trim, red vinyl booths, friendly service, and towering Big Boy hamburgers have welcomed generations of loyal customers. Friday night

classic car gatherings continue attracting automobile enthusiasts from across Southern California, proving that genuine nostalgia never goes out of style. Walking through its doors feels remarkably similar to stepping back into the 1950s, making it one of the region's most treasured living landmarks.

Another enduring favorite is the Original Farmers Market at Third and Fairfax. Since 1934, shoppers have wandered its narrow walkways purchasing fresh produce, baked goods, specialty foods, and international cuisine from family-owned merchants. While the adjacent Grove introduced a modern shopping experience, the Farmers Market has remained wonderfully authentic. The aroma of fresh bread, sizzling sausages, roasted coffee, and handmade pastries continues drawing locals and tourists alike.

Perhaps that is the secret to longevity. Rather than constantly reinventing themselves, places like Bob's Big Boy and the Farmers Market understand that authenticity never becomes outdated.

Southern California's entertainment landscape also owes a tremendous debt to venues that continue welcoming visitors after generations of change.

The Hollywood Bowl remains one of the world's most recognizable outdoor concert venues. Since opening in 1922, it has hosted everyone from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Luciano Pavarotti, Elton John, Diana Ross, John Williams, and countless contemporary performers. Every summer, thousands spread picnic blankets beneath the stars, continuing traditions that grandparents once shared with their own families.

High above Los Angeles, Griffith Observatory continues inspiring dreamers exactly as it has since 1935. Millions of visitors have gazed through its telescopes, explored fascinating exhibits, and admired sweeping panoramic views stretching from Downtown Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean. Countless children discovered a lifelong fascination with astronomy during their very first visit, proving

that some attractions never lose their ability to inspire wonder.

Along the Santa Monica shoreline, the iconic Santa Monica Pier continues delighting visitors with its Ferris wheel, midway games, historic carousel, street performers, and spectacular sunsets. Although countless neighboring attractions have disappeared over the decades, the pier remains a symbol of carefree California living.

In the San Fernando Valley, another landmark has successfully reinvented itself while honoring its remarkable history. Universal Studios Hollywood began as a simple studio tour allowing visitors to glimpse movie sets from a tram. Today, it combines world-class attractions with a working film studio, yet still celebrates the magic of filmmaking that first captured imaginations more than half a century ago.

Meanwhile, high above Simi Valley, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum has become one of Ventura County's most visited cultural destinations. Beyond its fascinating presidential exhibits, visitors continue marveling at the impressive Air Force One Pavilion, beautifully landscaped grounds, and sweeping views extending across the surrounding valleys and mountains. It stands as a reminder that today's landmarks are creating tomorrow's memories.

Southern California has never stopped reinventing itself. Buildings disappear. Neighborhoods evolve. New attractions rise where old favorites once stood. Yet the emotional connections people form

with these places remain remarkably strong. Ask anyone who grew up here about Busch Gardens, Jungleland, Pacific Ocean Park, the Palomino Club, Farrell's, or the original Sherman Oaks Galleria, and you'll likely see an immediate smile followed by a story that begins with, "I remember when..."

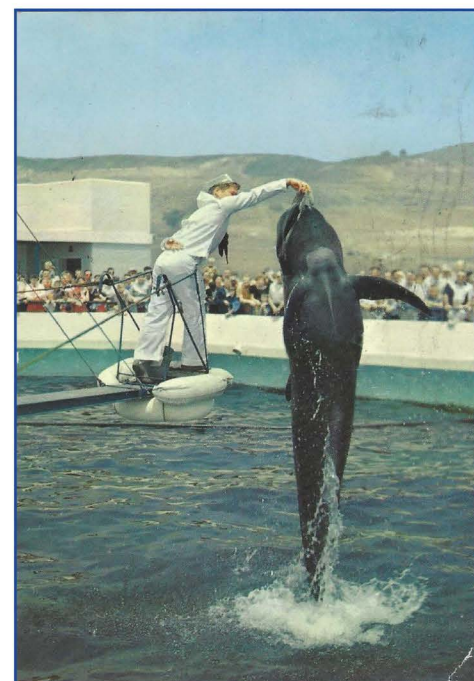
Those stories matter.

They remind us that Southern California is more than freeways, movie studios, beaches, and sunshine. It is a region built upon shared experiences—first dates at the drive-in, birthday parties at Farrell's, summer concerts beneath the Hollywood Bowl, afternoons spent wandering Busch Gardens, and family vacations that seemed endless because every weekend offered another adventure.

While many of those beloved destinations exist now only in photographs and cherished memories, their influence continues shaping the communities we call home. They helped define generations, inspired lifelong friendships, and created traditions that parents eagerly passed on to their children.

Fortunately, some of Southern California's greatest treasures still stand proudly. They invite us to slow down, revisit familiar places, and create new memories with the next generation. Whether it's watching the sunset from Ventura Pier, enjoying a concert at the Hollywood Bowl, exploring Griffith Observatory, strolling through the Original Farmers Market, or taking grandchildren aboard the Santa Monica Pier carousel, these enduring landmarks remind us that history isn't only something we read about—it is something we experience together.

Perhaps that's the greatest lesson these places teach us. While buildings may come and go, the memories they create endure for a lifetime. And in Southern California, where every neighborhood seems to have its own story, those memories remain among our most valuable landmarks of all.



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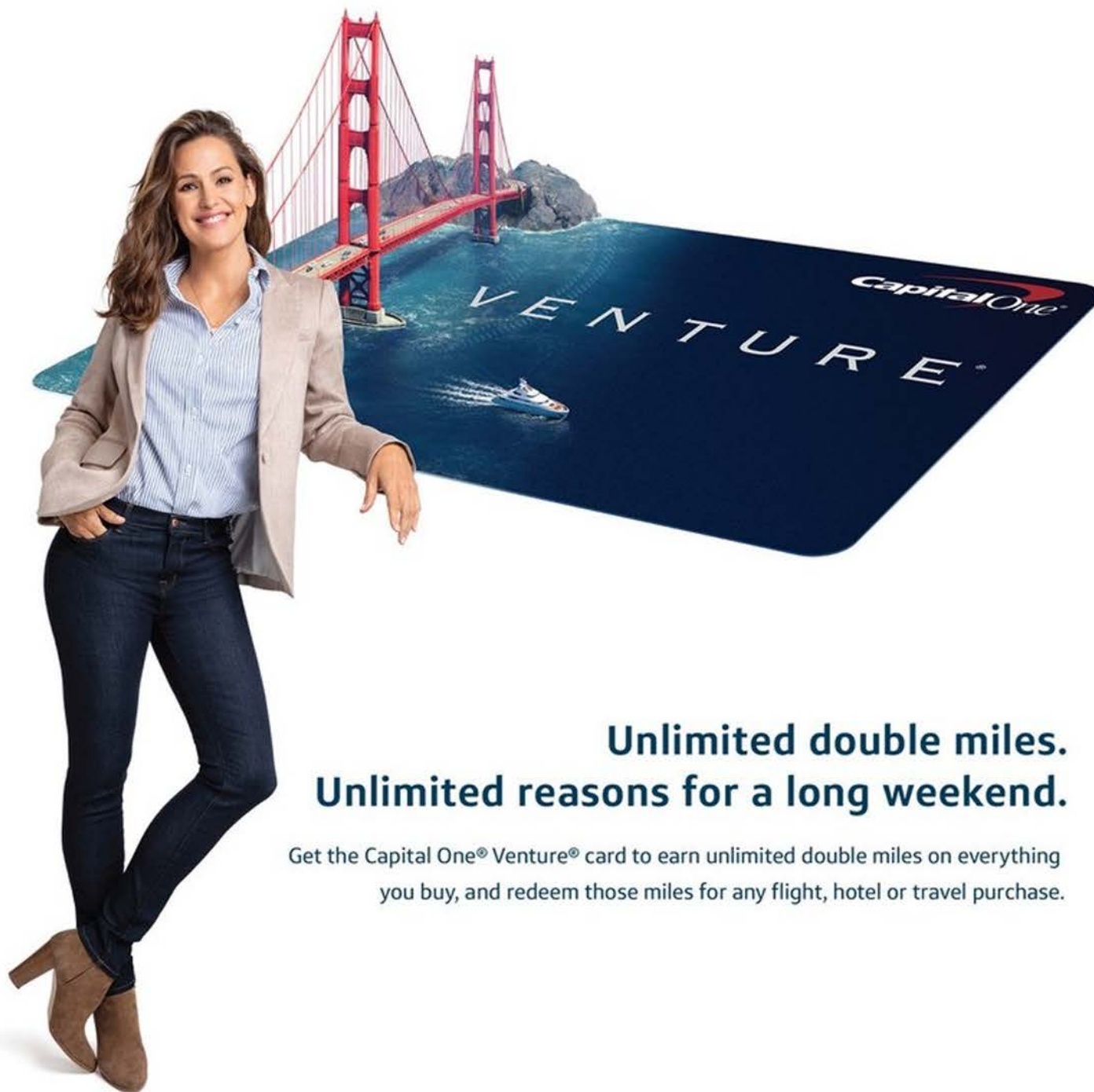
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Rare Heart Tattoos

By Jerry Anderson

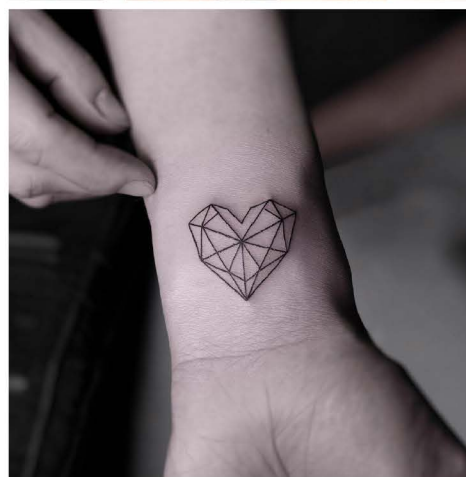
Meaningful Ink That Stands Apart

Hear tattoos have long been among the world's most popular forms of body art, but today's tattoo enthusiasts are increasingly seeking rare, personalized heart designs that tell a unique story. Rather than choosing the traditional red heart symbol, many are opting for artistic interpretations that combine symbolism, fine craftsmanship, and deeply personal meaning.

One of the fastest-growing trends is the anatomical heart tattoo. Based on the actual structure of the human heart, these detailed designs represent strength, resilience, survival, and the emotional experiences that shape a person's life. Many people who have overcome illness, heartbreak, or significant personal challenges choose anatomical hearts as symbols of perseverance and new beginnings. When created by a talented realism artist, these tattoos become stunning works of art.



Sacred Heart tattoos continue to evolve as well. Inspired by centuries-old religious artwork, modern versions often feature flames, thorns, rays of light, roses, or ornate decorative elements. While many still choose



the design for its spiritual significance, others appreciate its timeless beauty and symbolism of unconditional love, sacrifice, and hope.

Minimalist heart tattoos have also become highly sought after. Instead of bold outlines, artists use delicate fine-line techniques to create elegant hearts made from a single continuous line or subtle geometric patterns. These understated tattoos appeal to people who prefer sophisticated body art that remains meaningful without attracting excessive attention.

Nature-inspired heart tattoos are another rising favorite. Artists blend flowers, vines, butterflies, birds, mountains, oceans, or trees into heart-shaped compositions, creating highly customized pieces that reflect an individual's passions or favorite places. Watercolor techniques can further enhance these tattoos with vibrant splashes of color that resemble hand-painted artwork.

Some collectors pursue rare heart tattoos by incorporating celestial themes. Hearts intertwined with moons, constellations, planets, or galaxies symbolize destiny, eternal love, or the vastness of human connection. Others combine hearts

with clocks, compasses, keys, or vintage locks to represent life's journey, treasured memories, or relationships that have stood the test of time.

Custom memorial heart tattoos remain among the most emotionally powerful designs. Rather than simply adding names and dates, many artists now incorporate handwritten signatures, fingerprints, heartbeat ECG lines, sound waves, favorite flowers, or meaningful quotes into the artwork. These highly personalized tattoos become lasting tributes to loved ones while remaining visually elegant.

Advances in tattoo technology have also expanded creative possibilities. Fine-line needles, ultra-realistic shading, white ink highlights, UV-reactive pigments, and detailed color blending allow experienced artists to produce heart tattoos that were nearly impossible just a decade ago.

Before committing to a rare heart tattoo, experts recommend researching artists whose portfolios specialize in the style you want.



Anatomical realism, watercolor, geometric, and fine-line tattoos each require different technical skills. A consultation allows the artist to customize the design to fit your body, ensuring both beauty and longevity.

Ultimately, the rarest heart tattoos are not necessarily the most elaborate—they are the ones that carry the deepest personal meaning. Whether inspired by love, faith, family, survival, or life's greatest adventures, a thoughtfully designed heart tattoo becomes more than body art. It becomes a permanent reminder of the moments, people, and experiences that define who we are.

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Bridal Premiere Returns To Camarillo

For Southern California's Most Elevated Wedding Showcase

By Andrew Shultz

TVA Group, The Social Vow and Divine Productions reflects a shared commitment to showcasing the very best wedding experiences Ventura County has to offer.

Wedding planning is about more than checking boxes, it's about creating an unforgettable experience. On Sunday, August 9, 2026, Bridal Premiere returns to the iconic Commemorative Air Force SoCal Hangar at the Camarillo Airport, bringing together the region's most sought-after wedding professionals for an afternoon of inspiration, entertainment, and celebration. From 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., engaged couples will have the opportunity to discover the latest wedding trends, connect with industry experts, and experience firsthand what's possible when planning the wedding of their dreams.

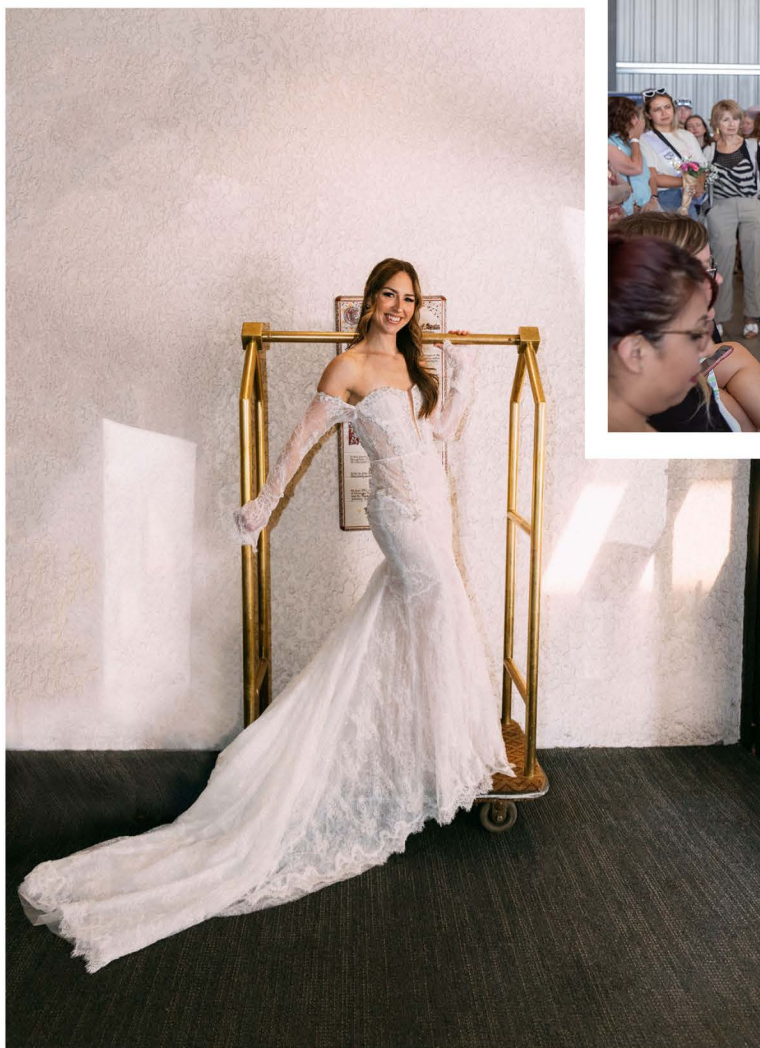
Proudly sponsored by Oaks Event Rentals, this year's Bridal Premiere transforms the historic aircraft hangar into an elegant wedding destination, blending timeless romance with modern sophistication. The result is an immersive event unlike any other in Southern California, one where every detail is designed to inspire.

Throughout the day, couples can meet with an exceptional collection of local wedding professionals, from venues and photographers to florists, entertainers, beauty experts, jewelers, travel specialists, and more. Rather than simply collecting brochures, attendees will experience interactive displays, live demonstrations, and personalized conversations that make planning both exciting and effortless.

One of the highlights of the afternoon will be two professionally produced runway fashion shows presented by Ever After Bridal Boutique. Featuring the latest bridal collections, these spectacular shows will showcase breathtaking gowns, contemporary silhouettes, and timeless classics designed to inspire every bride's unique vision. Whether your style is roman-

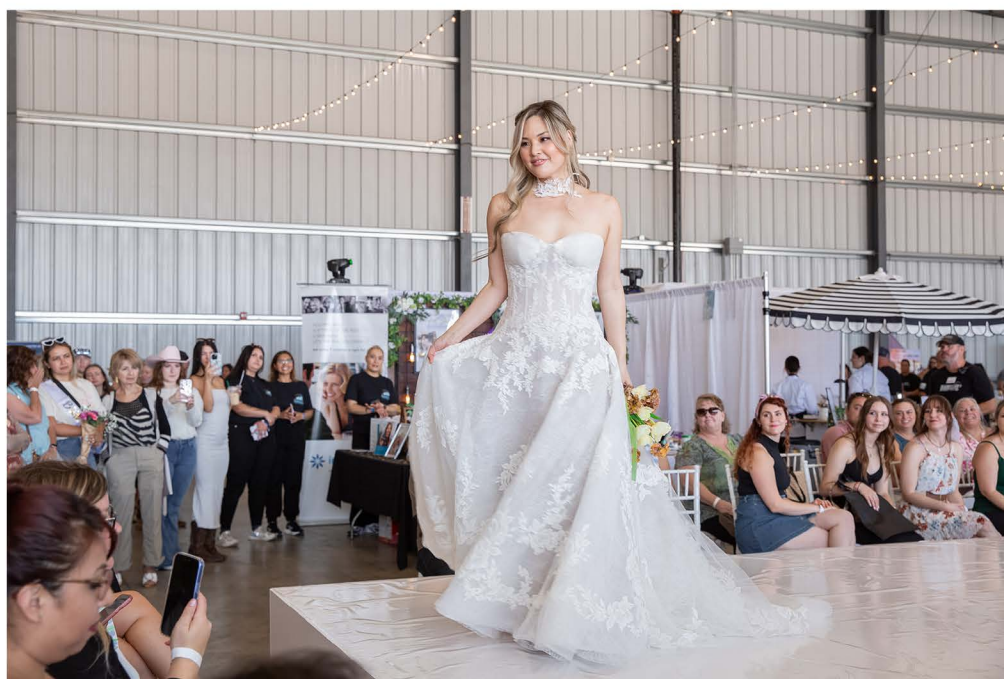
tic, modern, glamorous, or effortlessly elegant, the runway presentations offer a front-row look at what's trending for the upcoming wedding season.

Bridal Premiere is also known for creating memorable guest experiences beyond traditional wedding planning.



Guests can enjoy handcrafted craft cocktails from Distilled 1920, win in the casino by CA Casino Kings, and explore thoughtful details that elevate any wedding celebration. From signature drinks to bespoke guest experiences, every element reflects today's couples' desire to create celebrations that feel personal, sophisticated, and unforgettable.

The event is made possible through the support of an outstanding group of sponsors



who represent the very best of Ventura County's wedding community.

Kiss N Make Up Artistry by Katrina will showcase the latest bridal beauty trends, helping couples envision flawless wedding-day looks. GTZ Entertainment will keep the energy high throughout the afternoon while demonstrating how professional entertainment can transform a celebration. CRTFD Films will highlight cinematic wedding films that beautifully preserve every meaningful moment, while Stephanie Calabrese Photography will share timeless imagery that captures authentic emotion and unforgettable memories.

Guests will also experience stunning floral artistry from Unique Floral Design, whose breathtaking installations will bring elegance and inspiration to every corner of the venue. Bear Creek Restrooms demonstrates that luxury extends to every aspect of an event with upscale restroom accommodations designed for premier celebrations. Additional support from Visit Camarillo, Posh Valet, California Wedding Day, The

Beyond meeting exceptional vendors, Bridal Premiere offers attendees exclusive show-only specials, exciting giveaways, and the opportunity to win valuable prizes from participating exhibitors. Couples can take advantage of exclusive promotions available only during the event while gathering fresh ideas, comparing services, and building the perfect team to bring their wedding vision to life.

For more than four decades, Bridal Premiere has been connecting engaged couples with trusted wedding professionals throughout Southern California. As one of the region's longest-running and most respected bridal events, the show continues to evolve while maintaining its commitment to quality, creativity, and meaningful connections.

Whether you're newly engaged, finalizing the finishing touches, or simply searching for fresh inspiration, Bridal Premiere offers everything you need under one roof in an atmosphere that is equal parts elegant, exciting, and unforgettable.

Tickets are available now at BridalPremiere.com. Join us on Sunday, August 9, and discover why Bridal Premiere continues to be Southern California's premier destination for couples ready to turn wedding dreams into reality.



The Best Movies of 2026

By Alex Flech

Blockbusters, Award Contenders, and Must-See Films

Moviegoers have been treated to one of the strongest years in recent memory, with 2026 delivering an exciting mix of science fiction, animated adventures, musical dramas, thrillers, and long-awaited sequels. From family-friendly blockbusters to critically acclaimed

science-fiction themes, making it one of the year's highest-rated releases.

Music lovers have flocked to Michael, the highly anticipated biographical drama chronicling the life and career of Michael Jackson. Featuring elaborate musical performances and a behind-the-scenes look

at one of the world's most influential entertainers, the film has become both a box-office success and a major topic of conversation among audiences.

Fashion fans finally received the sequel they had been waiting for with *The Devil Wears Prada 2*. Meryl Streep returns as the unforgettable Miranda Priestly, joined once again by Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt. Rather than relying solely on nostalgia, the sequel explores how the fashion industry has evolved in the age of influencers, artificial intelligence, and digital publishing, while delivering the sharp dialogue and glamorous style that made the original a modern classic.

Families have continued filling theaters for *Toy Story 5*, proving that Woody, Buzz Lightyear, and their friends remain as beloved as ever. Pixar blends heartfelt storytelling with beautiful anima-



independent films, Hollywood has once again proven that the big-screen experience remains alive and well.

One of the year's biggest successes has been *Project Hail Mary*, based on Andy Weir's bestselling novel. Combining humor, heart, and spectacular visual effects, the film follows a lone astronaut on an extraordinary mission to save humanity. Critics have praised its emotional storytelling, compelling performances, and intelligent



tion and plenty of laughs, creating another adventure that appeals equally to children and adults who have grown up alongside the franchise. The film has become one of the year's biggest box-office hits.

Video game fans also embraced *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*, which expanded Nintendo's cinematic universe with dazzling animation, colorful new worlds, and plenty of humor. Building on the success of previous Mario adven-



ROCK MEETS SYMPHONY

The Foo Fighters Join the LA Phil at the Hollywood Bowl

By Samuel Kingston

Every summer, the Hollywood Bowl becomes the heart of Southern California's live music scene, welcoming everyone from classical music enthusiasts to rock fans under its famous bandshell. This season, one of the most talked-about events brings together two musical powerhouses as the Foo Fighters perform with the Los Angeles Philharmonic (LA Phil) during a special celebration honoring the final Hollywood Bowl season of legendary conductor Gustavo Dudamel.

The concert, scheduled for August 22, 2026, is part of the Bowl's weeklong "Celebrating Gustavo at the Bowl" series. Rather than a traditional rock concert, audiences can expect the Foo Fighters' biggest hits to receive the full symphonic treatment, backed by the world-renowned LA Phil and YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles). It's a once-in-a-lifetime collaboration that blends powerful rock anthems with the richness and grandeur of a live orchestra.



For decades, the Foo Fighters have built a reputation as one of rock's most energetic live bands. Songs like Everlong, Best of You, The Pretender, Walk, and Learn to Fly have become modern classics, known for their soaring melodies and emotional intensity. Hearing these fan favorites enhanced by sweeping orchestral

arrangements promises to create an entirely new listening experience while preserving the band's unmistakable energy.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic has long been celebrated for pushing the boundaries of classical music by collaborating with artists from virtually every musical genre. Under Gustavo Dudamel's



leadership, the orchestra has shared the stage with pop stars, jazz legends, film composers, and rock icons, introducing new audiences to the excitement of live orchestral performance. This Foo Fighters collaboration perfectly reflects Dudamel's belief that great music transcends genres and brings people together.

Of course, attending a concert at the Hollywood Bowl is about much more than the performance itself. Nestled in the Hollywood

Hills, the nearly century-old amphitheater offers one of the most beautiful outdoor concert settings in the world. Guests often arrive early to enjoy pre-concert picnics, stroll through the grounds, and soak in the relaxed California atmosphere before the lights dim and the music begins.

Throughout the 2026 summer season, the Hollywood Bowl also presents an extraordinary lineup of classical concerts, movie nights with live orchestras, jazz festivals, Broadway celebrations, fireworks spectacles, and performances by internationally acclaimed artists. The venue continues its tradition of offering something for every musical taste while maintaining its reputation as one of America's premier outdoor concert destinations.

Whether you're a lifelong Foo Fighters fan, a devoted supporter of the LA Phil, or simply looking for an unforgettable summer evening, this historic collaboration promises to be one of the highlights of the 2026 concert season. Combining the raw power of rock with the elegance of a world-class orchestra in one of the world's most iconic venues is exactly the kind of magical experience that has made the Hollywood Bowl a beloved Southern California landmark for more than 100 years.

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By Melissa Stefan

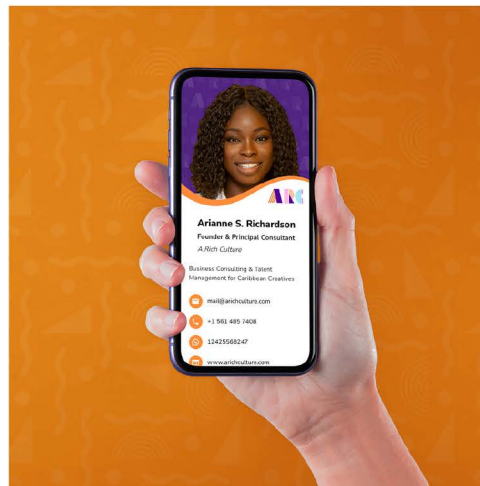
BEYOND THE QR CODE

SMART ALTERNATIVES FOR CONNECTING CUSTOMERS IN 2026

For several years, QR codes have been everywhere—from restaurant menus and product packaging to museum exhibits and event tickets. While they remain useful, many businesses are beginning to explore newer technologies that provide faster, more engaging, and seamless customer experiences. As technology continues to evolve, several alternatives are emerging that may eventually complement—or even replace—the familiar black-and-white square.

One of the most promising alternatives is Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. Already used for contactless payments through smartphones and smartwatches, NFC allows users to simply tap their phone against a small chip embedded in a sign, business card, product, or display. There's no need to open a camera or align a QR code. The information appears almost instantly, making NFC an increasingly popular choice for retailers, hotels, trade shows, and networking events.

Another growing trend is the digital business card. Instead of printing traditional



cards with QR codes, professionals are carrying NFC-enabled cards that instantly transfer contact information, websites, portfolios, and social media profiles with a simple tap. They're reusable, environmentally friendly, and easy to update without reprinting.

Bluetooth beacons are also transforming customer experiences. These small wireless devices can recognize when a compatible smartphone enters a certain area and automatically deliver location-specific information, promotions, or directions. Shopping centers, airports, museums, and sports venues increasingly use beacon technology to provide personalized assistance without requiring visitors to scan anything.

Augmented Reality (AR) is creating another exciting alternative. Instead of scanning a QR code, users simply point their smartphone camera at a product, logo, poster, or package. The image itself becomes interactive, displaying videos, animations, product demonstrations, or virtual experiences directly on the screen. Retailers, tourism organizations, and entertainment companies are using AR to create memorable customer interactions that go far beyond opening a web page.

Voice technology is another rapidly growing option. Smart speakers and voice assistants allow consumers to access information by simply asking a question. Instead of scanning a code, customers might say, "Show me today's menu," "Book an appointment," or "Tell me more about this product," creating a completely hands-free experience.

Some companies are also embracing custom short web links and memorable URLs. Rather than asking customers to scan

a code, businesses use simple website addresses that are easy to remember and type. This approach works particularly well for television advertising, podcasts, radio commercials, and printed publications where scanning may not be convenient.

Artificial intelligence is beginning to play an even larger role. AI-powered visual recognition allows smartphone cameras to identify products, artwork, landmarks, or logos automatically, delivering relevant information without requiring a QR code at all. As this technology improves, users may simply point their phone at an object and instantly receive details, reviews, purchasing options, or multimedia content.

Despite these innovations, QR codes are unlikely to disappear anytime soon. They remain inexpensive, easy to generate, and familiar to millions of consumers. Instead, experts believe businesses will increasingly combine QR codes with newer technologies such as NFC, AR, and AI-powered recognition to create richer, more convenient experiences.

As digital communication continues to evolve, the future is moving toward interactions that feel more natural, faster, and virtually invisible. Whether through a simple tap, voice command, or intelligent image recognition, tomorrow's technology promises to make connecting with information easier than ever—without always relying on the familiar QR code.

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Photo by
Kayla Wilde



By Brooke Never

Picklebacks

Why the Pickle Juice Chaser Has Become Whiskey's Favorite Companion

What began as a quirky bar ritual has become one of the hottest whiskey trends in recent years. The pickleback—a shot of whiskey immediately followed by a shot of pickle juice—has grown from a niche favorite into a menu staple at bars, whiskey lounges, and backyard gatherings across the country. While it may sound like an unusual pairing, many whiskey lovers swear by the surprisingly smooth finish and unique flavor combination.

The pickleback's origins are often traced to a Brooklyn bar in the early 2000s, where bartenders discovered that a splash of pickle brine dramatically softened the burn of whiskey while enhancing its flavor. Word spread quickly, and before long the unusual combination became a favorite among adventurous drinkers looking for something different.

So why does it work?

The answer lies in contrast. Whiskey delivers warm notes of oak, vanilla, caramel, spice, or smoke, depending on the variety. Pickle juice, on the other hand, offers a bright combination of vinegar, salt, garlic, dill, and spices. The acidity and saltiness help cleanse the palate, leaving many people with a surprisingly clean finish after the whiskey.

Fans often describe the experience as smoother than drinking whiskey alone. Instead of lingering heat, the pickle juice refreshes the mouth while balancing some of the stronger alcohol flavors. Even people who aren't regular whiskey drinkers are often pleasantly surprised after trying a pickleback for the first time.

Although nearly any whiskey can be paired with pickle juice, many bartenders recommend starting with a smooth bourbon or

Irish whiskey before experimenting with rye or peated Scotch whiskeys. The sweeter notes found in bourbon often create an especially enjoyable contrast with tangy dill pickle brine.

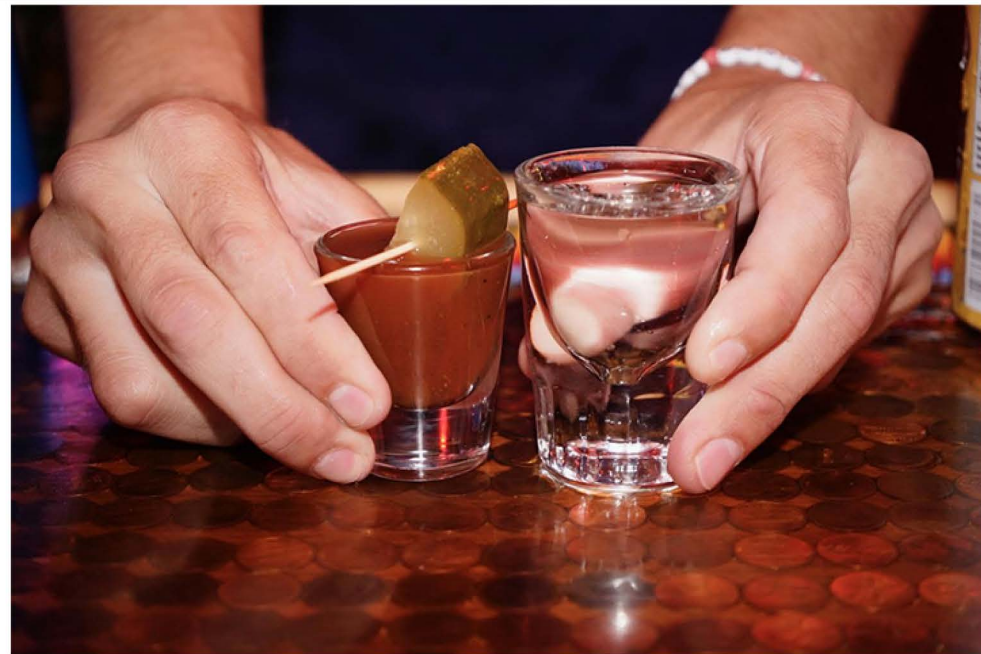
Not all pickle juices are created equal, either. Traditional dill pickle brine remains the classic choice, but many enthusiasts are branching out with spicy pickle juice, garlic dill brine, bread-and-butter pickle juice, or even homemade recipes infused with herbs and peppers. Each creates a slightly different tasting experience.

The pickleback has also inspired creative cocktails. Mixologists now incorporate pickle brine into Bloody Marys, martinis, whiskey sours, and savory signature drinks that appeal to adventurous palates. Some restaurants even pair pickleback shots with barbecue, smoked meats, gourmet burgers, or fried chicken, creating a surprisingly complementary dining experience.

For those planning a tasting party, serving picklebacks can be a fun conversation starter. Offer guests a selection of different whiskeys alongside several varieties of pickle juice and encourage them to compare flavor combinations. It's an entertaining way to discover unexpected favorites while learning how different spirits interact with sweet, salty, and acidic flavors.

Of course, moderation is always important. Whiskey is an alcoholic beverage, and picklebacks should be enjoyed responsibly by adults of legal drinking age. Staying hydrated and pacing consumption helps ensure the experience remains enjoyable.

Whether you're a longtime whiskey enthusiast or simply curious about one of



today's most talked-about bar trends, the pickleback offers a fun twist on a classic spirit. Its unusual combination of bold whiskey and tangy pickle brine has earned a loyal following, proving that sometimes the most unexpected pairings become the most memorable. Cheers to trying something a little different!



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GARDEN-TO-TABLE GATHERINGS

THE RISE OF VALLEY EATING MEETUPS AND HOMEGROWN SAMPLING

By Seth Jayes

In an age where social media often replaces genuine face-to-face interaction, a refreshing new trend is taking root across the San Fernando Valley, Conejo Valley, and Ventura County: garden-to-table eating meetups. These intimate gatherings combine homegrown produce, local ingredients, and community fellowship into one memorable experience, creating a fresh take on social dining that is both delicious and meaningful.

Unlike traditional dinner parties or restaurant outings, garden meetups begin where the food is grown. Guests often stroll through vegetable beds, herb gardens, citrus orchards, or backyard fruit trees before sitting down to enjoy a meal prepared with ingredients harvested just moments earlier. It's an experience that reconnects people with where their food comes from while encouraging conversation, learning, and a slower pace of life. Many hosts invite guests to participate in the harvest, picking ripe tomatoes,



fragrant basil, peppers, lemons, figs, peaches, or seasonal greens before helping prepare the meal. Sampling produce directly from the garden introduces many people to flavors they rarely experience from grocery store purchases. Fresh-picked herbs release vibrant aromas, heirloom tomatoes burst with sweetness, and just-harvested strawberries offer a richness that often surprises first-time visitors. These gatherings are also becoming popular because they encourage authentic connections. Instead of sitting around televisions or scrolling through phones, guests gather around outdoor tables beneath string lights, shaded pergolas, or fruit trees, sharing recipes, gardening tips, and stories while enjoying meals that celebrate the season. Throughout the Valley, community gardens are also embracing the concept by organizing tasting events featuring locally grown

vegetables, edible flowers, herbs, artisan breads, and handcrafted beverages. Some meetups include cooking demonstrations, while others feature guest chefs who transform simple harvests into elegant farm-to-table meals. Participants leave not only with full stomachs but also with new friendships and practical gardening inspiration. The movement has also sparked interest among younger generations seeking healthier lifestyles and more sustainable living. Many attendees are discovering that growing even a few herbs or vegetables at home can be rewarding, affordable, and environmentally friendly. Garden meetups often inspire guests to start their own raised beds, container gardens,



or backyard herb collections after seeing firsthand how simple fresh gardening can be. Beyond the food itself, these events celebrate the beauty of Southern California's outdoor lifestyle. Mild evenings, blooming landscapes, and abundant sunshine provide the perfect backdrop for long conversations over fresh salads, grilled vegetables, homemade desserts, and seasonal fruit. Some gatherings even feature local musicians, floral arranging workshops, seed exchanges, or cooking classes, turning a simple meal into a memorable community experience. As more residents seek meaningful ways to connect with neighbors while embracing healthier habits, garden-grown sampling meetups are flourishing as one of the Valley's most enjoyable social trends. They remind us that some of life's greatest pleasures are also the simplest: sharing fresh food, beautiful surroundings, and good conversation with friends—both old and new. In a fast-paced world, these garden-to-table experiences offer a welcome invitation to slow down, savor the season, and cultivate community one meal at a time.



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The Benefits Of GLP-1 Medications And How To Find Them At Lower Prices

By Amanda Teter

For millions of Americans struggling with obesity, excess weight, or type 2 diabetes, GLP-1 medications have become one of the biggest breakthroughs in modern medicine. Originally developed to help regulate blood sugar in people with diabetes, these medications—including semaglutide and tirzepatide—are now helping many patients lose significant amounts of weight while improving overall health when used under medical supervision.

GLP-1 medications work by mimicking a naturally occurring hormone that helps regulate appetite and blood sugar. They slow stomach emptying, reduce hunger, increase feelings of fullness, and help the body release insulin more effectively when blood sugar levels are elevated.

The benefits often extend well beyond the number on the scale. Clinical research has shown that many patients experience meaningful weight loss when GLP-1 therapy is combined with healthier eating habits and regular physical activity. Even losing just 5% to 10% of body weight can improve blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, joint pain, and sleep apnea. Some GLP-1 medications have also demonstrated cardiovascular and kidney benefits in appropriate patients.

Like any prescription medication, GLP-1 drugs are not right for everyone. Common side effects include nausea, constipation, diarrhea, and vomiting, especially during the first few weeks of treatment. Patients should discuss their complete medical history with a qualified healthcare provider before beginning therapy, particularly if they have certain gastrointestinal conditions or a history of pancreatitis.

Finding GLP-1 Medications at Lower Prices

The biggest obstacle for many patients is cost. Without insurance,

brand-name GLP-1 medications can cost well over \$1,000 per month. Fortunately, several legitimate options may reduce out-of-pocket expenses.

Manufacturer savings programs remain one of the best choices. Eligible patients with commercial insurance may qualify for substantial discounts, and some manufacturers now offer self-pay programs with reduced pricing for uninsured patients. Current offers can lower monthly costs dramatically compared with standard retail pricing.

Patients should also check whether their health insurance covers GLP-1 medications. Coverage varies widely by employer and health plan, but prior authorization or docu-

mentation of medical necessity may improve approval chances.

Telehealth providers have also expanded access by connecting patients with licensed physicians who can determine whether GLP-1 therapy is appropriate. Pricing varies considerably, so consumers

should compare consultation fees, medication costs, shipping charges, and follow-up care before enrolling in any program. Always verify that prescriptions are written by licensed healthcare professionals and filled through properly licensed pharmacies.

Medicare beneficiaries may also have new opportunities. In 2026, CMS introduced the Medicare GLP-1 Bridge program, allowing eligible Medicare Part D participants to obtain certain GLP-1 medications for approximately \$50 per month, subject to program eligibility requirements.

The Bottom Line

GLP-1 medications have transformed treatment options for obesity and type 2 diabetes, helping many people achieve healthier weights while reducing the risk of serious medical complications. Success is greatest when medication is combined with nutritious eating, regular exercise, and ongoing medical supervision. By exploring insurance coverage, manufacturer savings programs, and reputable telehealth providers, many patients can significantly reduce the cost of treatment while receiving safe, evidence-based care.



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A Faery Hunt

Best Children's Theater in Los Angeles

By Andrea Stanber

For more than two decades, A Faery Hunt has been delighting families with magical, interactive performances that transform parks, gardens, and outdoor spaces into enchanted kingdoms. Frequently recognized as

gardens into magical kingdoms filled with faeries, trolls, dragons, unicorns, mermaids, gnomes, and friendly woodland creatures. Young audience members don't simply watch the story unfold—they help solve magical mysteries, sing original



one of the finest children's theatre experiences in Southern California, A Faery Hunt continues to inspire young audiences through imaginative storytelling, live music, and unforgettable outdoor adventures that invite every child to become part of the magic.

Unlike a traditional stage performance, A Faery Hunt transforms beautiful parks and



songs, search for hidden treasures, and interact with the colorful cast throughout the adventure. Every performance is designed to encourage creativity, imagination, confidence, and kindness while creating lasting family memories. Created by writer and composer Debbie Rothstein, each original musical celebrates timeless values including friendship, courage,

respect for nature, forgiveness, and compassion. The productions are especially popular with children ages 2 through 9, although older siblings, parents, and grandparents often find themselves just as captivated by the whimsical storytelling, lively music, and joyful audience participation. One of the biggest reasons families return year after year is the outdoor setting. Rather than sitting inside a theater, children become explorers as the story unfolds around them beneath shady trees and open skies. Wearing fairy wings, pirate costumes, princess dresses, or superhero capes is encouraged, making every performance feel like a magical family celebration. Comfortable shoes are recommended since many adventures include a gentle walk through beautiful park settings. Beyond public performances, A Faery Hunt also brings its enchanting productions to birthday parties, schools, libraries, scouting organizations, summer camps, and community festivals throughout Southern California. The professional cast customizes performances for a variety of special events, creating unforgettable experiences wherever Fairyland appears. **Upcoming A Faery Hunt Events** Families can look forward to several magical adventures this summer, including:

July 26, 2026 – A Faery Hunt and Their Animal Friends
Held at Kindred Spirits Care Farm in Los Angeles, this special production combines A Faery Hunt's interactive musical adventure with opportunities to meet friendly farm animals, creating an unforgettable day for young children and their families. Additional performances continue throughout the summer at parks and outdoor venues across Los Angeles, including Griffith Park, Brentwood, West Hills, and other scenic locations. Rotating productions such as Enchanted Adventure, Amazing Adventure, and Astounding Adventure ensure that every visit offers a fresh magical experience. The performance calendar is updated regularly, making it easy for families to find a nearby adventure. Whether it's a child's very first theatrical experience or a cherished annual tradition, A Faery Hunt offers an imaginative journey unlike any other in Southern California. Combining live theatre, music, nature, and audience participation, every performance reminds children that kindness, courage, and imagination truly are magical.
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By Sarah Anderson

PERFECT TIMING

Southern California's Warmest Ocean Waters Make Beach Swimming Even Better

Southern California's beaches are beautiful year-round, but if you're waiting for the most comfortable ocean temperatures, now is the perfect time to head for the coast. While many visitors assume

One of the best places to enjoy these warmer conditions is Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. Its wide sandy beaches, crystal-clear water, and protected coves create ideal swimming conditions while providing

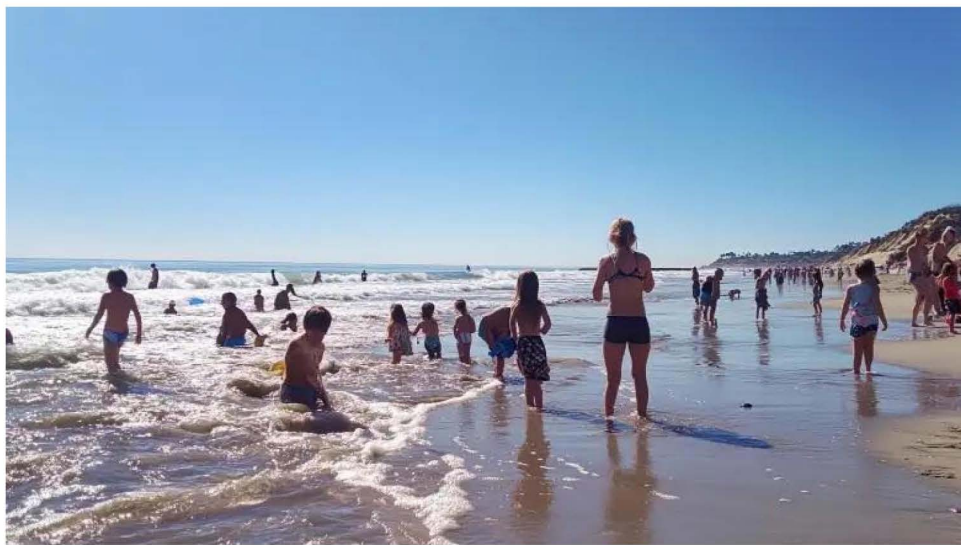
paddleboarders, kayakers, and snorkelers. During the late summer months, underwater visibility often improves as well, allowing visitors to observe colorful fish and other marine life in the nearby ecological reserve.

Closer to home, Zuma Beach in Malibu remains one of Los Angeles County's most popular destinations. Its expansive shoreline provides plenty of room for families, while professional lifeguards, clean facilities, and wide sandy beaches make it a favorite for both locals and visitors. Although waves can occasionally become larger than those at protected coves, calmer mornings often provide excellent swimming opportunities.

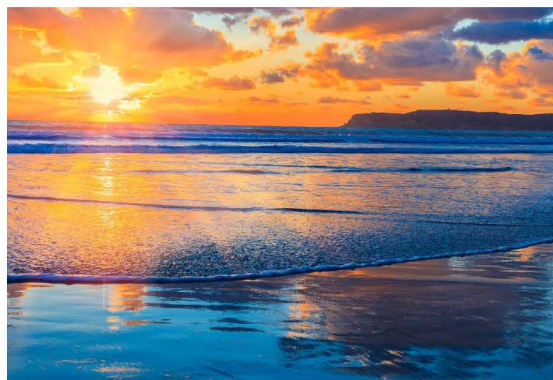
Warmer ocean temperatures also bring an abundance of marine life. Dolphins are frequently spotted just beyond the breakers, sea lions lounge near rocky outcroppings, and migrating whales occasionally pass along the coastline. Lucky beachgoers may even witness schools of harmless leopard sharks gathering in the shallows, particularly near La Jolla. These shy creatures pose virtually no threat to swimmers and have become a fascinating seasonal attraction.

Before heading into the water, always check beach conditions, posted advisories, and surf forecasts. Swim only at beaches with lifeguards whenever possible, remain aware of rip currents, and never turn your back on incoming waves. Early mornings generally offer calmer surf, lighter crowds, and more comfortable temperatures before the afternoon heat arrives.

Whether you're looking to cool off after a Valley heatwave, spend quality time with family, or simply enjoy one of Southern California's greatest natural treasures, late summer offers some of the year's finest beach-swimming conditions. With warmer water, longer days, and miles of beautiful coastline to explore, there's no better time to dive in and enjoy the Pacific Ocean.



California's Pacific waters are always chilly, ocean temperatures actually reach their warmest point during the second half of summer and often remain inviting well into early fall.



spectacular coastal scenery. Early morning swimmers are often treated to calm water, playful dolphins offshore, and breathtaking sunrise views.

Another favorite is Corona del Mar State Beach, where the crescent-shaped

Unlike air temperatures, the Pacific Ocean warms gradually throughout the season. Even after the hottest summer days have passed, the water continues absorbing heat, making August, September, and even early October some of the best months for swimming. Average ocean temperatures along the Southern California coastline typically range from the upper 60s to low 70s, offering refreshing relief from inland heat without the icy shock many associate with Pacific waters.

shoreline helps reduce wave action compared to more exposed beaches. Families appreciate the gentler surf, making it an excellent choice for children learning to swim or adults looking for a relaxing day in the water.

For those willing to travel a little farther south, La Jolla Shores near San Diego consistently ranks among California's best swimming beaches. The gently sloping shoreline, relatively mild surf, and warmer water create nearly ideal conditions for swimmers,





The Most Famous Celebrities of 2026 The Stars Everyone Is Talking About

By Laura Kindall

In 2026, celebrity is about much more than blockbuster movies or chart-topping albums. The world's biggest stars are influencing fashion, business, sports, philanthropy, and social media on a global scale. They command audiences of hundreds of millions, launch successful companies, and generate headlines wherever they go. Here are some of the most famous celebrities defining pop culture in 2026.

Beyoncé continues to stand among the world's most admired entertainers. From sold-out performances and groundbreaking music to successful business ventures and philanthropic efforts, she remains a global icon whose influence extends far beyond the stage. Her continued recognition as one of the world's most influential public figures reflects her lasting impact on music, fashion, and culture.

Zendaya has become one of Hollywood's brightest stars. Known for her award-winning acting, impeccable fashion sense, and luxury brand partnerships, she continues to dominate red carpets while starring in major film productions. Her elegance and authenticity have made her a favorite among both fans and designers.

Actor Timothée Chalamet remains one of the entertainment industry's most recognizable leading men. His performances in critically acclaimed films, combined with his distinctive style and international appeal, have made him one of the most searched-for actors of the year.

Music superstar



Bad Bunny continues to break streaming records while selling out stadiums across multiple continents. His influence reaches far beyond Latin music, extending into fashion, sports, and entertainment, making him one of the most recognizable performers on the planet.

Ariana Grande remains one of the world's biggest pop stars, balancing music, beauty ventures, and film projects while maintaining one of the largest social media followings in entertainment. Her global popularity continues to span generations.

Hollywood favorite Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson continues to thrive as an actor, entrepreneur, producer, and motivational figure. His approachable personality, blockbuster films, and successful business ventures have kept him among the world's most admired celebrities for years.

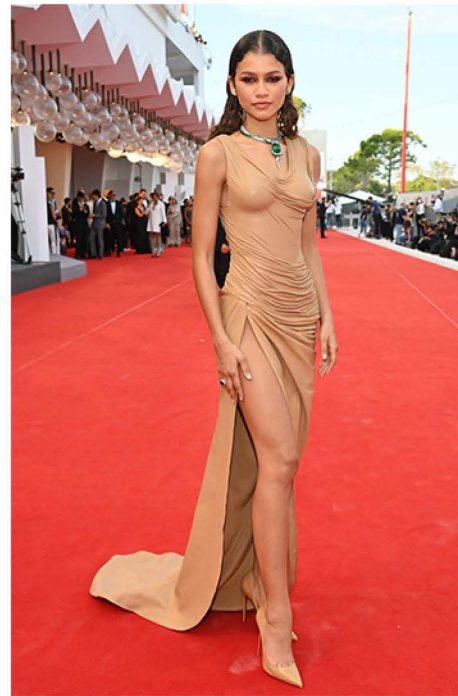
Reality television icon and entrepreneur Kim Kardashian remains a cultural force through her fashion brands, beauty businesses, television appearances, and legal advocacy. She continues to influence trends while building one of the entertainment industry's most successful personal brands.

Sports stars have also reached unprecedented levels of celebrity.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi continue to enjoy enormous worldwide popularity, while Norwegian soccer sensation Erling Haaland experienced an extraordinary rise in international fame during the 2026 FIFA World Cup, gaining millions of new followers and becoming one of the tournament's breakout personalities.

Singer and entrepreneur
Rihanna

remains one of the world's most influential celebrities despite releasing music less frequently. Her beauty and fashion companies continue to thrive while she remains a



fixture at major cultural events and fashion shows.

The film industry also continues to celebrate stars such as Pedro Pascal, Florence Pugh, Sydney Sweeney, Ryan Gosling, and Margot Robbie, all of whom remain among Hollywood's most in-demand performers thanks to successful film projects and growing international fan bases.

What makes these celebrities stand out in 2026 is their ability to succeed across multiple industries. They're actors, musicians, athletes, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and digital influencers all at once. Their reach extends beyond entertainment into business, fashion, technology, and charitable causes, giving them an impact that is truly global.

As audiences continue to consume entertainment through streaming services and social media, today's biggest celebrities are no longer simply stars—they're worldwide brands whose influence shapes conversations, trends, and popular culture every single day.

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By James Sinclair

Bell Therapy

Can the Sound of Bells Promote Relaxation and Well-Being?

For centuries, the sound of bells has marked celebrations, religious ceremonies, meditation, and moments of reflection. Today, some wellness practitioners have embraced what is often called bell therapy—the intentional use of bell sounds or handbells as part of relaxation, meditation, and sound-healing practices. While many people report feeling calmer after these sessions, it is important to understand what science currently knows—and what remains unproven.

Bell therapy is based on the idea that soothing tones and gentle vibrations may help quiet the mind and encourage relaxation. During a typical session, practitioners may ring Tibetan handbells, meditation bells, or other resonant instruments at carefully spaced intervals while participants sit,

meditate, or practice deep breathing. The sounds are intended to help shift attention away from daily stress and create a peaceful mental environment.

Many people describe feeling more centered, less anxious, and better able to focus after a sound-based meditation session. These experiences are similar to the benefits some individuals report from mindfulness meditation, guided breathing exercises, or calming music. Although the bells themselves have not been proven to treat disease, the relaxing environment may contribute to an improved sense of emotional well-being.

Researchers studying sound-based relaxation techniques suggest that calming sounds may help lower perceived stress and encourage the body's natural relaxation response. Reduced muscle tension, slower

breathing, and improved mood have all been reported by participants in various sound meditation programs. However, high-quality scientific evidence specifically supporting bell therapy as a medical treatment remains limited.

Bell therapy should not be confused with established medical treatments. It is not a cure for anxiety disorders, depression, chronic pain, neurological disease, or other medical conditions. Instead, many practitioners recommend it as a complementary wellness practice that may be used alongside conventional medical care—not as a replacement for it.

One reason bell therapy has gained popularity is its simplicity. Unlike many wellness trends, it requires little equipment and can be practiced almost anywhere. A quiet room, a comfortable chair or meditation cushion, and a small meditation bell are often all that is needed. Some people combine bell sounds with yoga, mindfulness meditation, journaling, or breathing exercises to create a relaxing daily routine.



The growing interest in sound healing has also led to the use of crystal singing bowls, gongs, chimes, and tuning forks. Bell therapy fits within this broader category of sound-based wellness practices, each aiming to create an atmosphere that encourages relaxation and mental focus.

Experts emphasize that anyone experiencing persistent anxiety, depression, severe stress, or other health concerns should seek evaluation from a qualified healthcare professional. Complementary approaches such as bell therapy may provide comfort for some individuals, but they should not delay evidence-based medical or mental health treatment.

Whether heard in a quiet meditation studio, a peaceful garden, or from the towers of a historic church, the sound of a bell has long symbolized calm, reflection, and renewal. While research continues to explore the potential effects of sound on the mind and body, many people find that taking a few moments to pause, breathe deeply, and listen to the gentle resonance of a bell offers a welcome escape from the stresses of modern life.

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Can You Walk a Cat on a Leash?

ANIMALS IN THE WILD



By Maria Wylde

For years, walking a dog has been considered part of everyday pet ownership, but more cat owners are discovering that their feline companions can enjoy the outdoors too. Social media is filled with adventurous cats hiking trails, exploring beaches, and strolling through neighborhood parks alongside their owners. While it may look unusual, the answer is yes—you can walk many cats on a leash—but success depends on your cat's personality, proper training, and the right equipment.

Unlike dogs, cats aren't naturally inclined to follow their owners on command. Cats are curious, cautious animals that prefer to investigate their surroundings at their own pace. Forcing a reluctant cat outside can create fear and anxiety, so patience is essential.

The first step is choosing the proper harness. A traditional collar is not safe for leash walking because cats can easily slip out of it or injure their neck if startled. Instead, select a well-fitted escape-proof harness designed specifically for cats. Vest-style harnesses are often recommended because they distribute pressure evenly across the chest and shoulders while providing greater security.

Before venturing outdoors, allow your cat to become comfortable wearing the harness indoors. Initially, your pet may freeze, flop over, or walk awkwardly. This is perfectly normal. Reward calm behavior with treats, praise, or favorite toys. After several short sessions, attach the leash and allow your cat to explore your home while dragging it behind before gently holding the leash yourself.

Once your cat appears relaxed, it's time for the first outdoor adventure. Choose a quiet, enclosed area such as your backyard or a peaceful garden where loud noises and unfamiliar animals are limited. Let your cat set



the pace. Rather than leading the walk, you'll likely find yourself following your cat as it investigates flowers, trees, rocks, and interesting scents.

Keep outings brief—10 to 15 minutes is often enough for beginners. As your cat gains confidence,

you can gradually introduce new environments such as parks or nature trails. Always avoid busy streets, crowded events, and areas where off-leash dogs are common.

Not every cat enjoys leash walking, and that's perfectly okay.



Breeds known for being especially adventurous, such as Maine Coons, Bengals, Abyssinians, Savannahs, and Ragdolls, often adapt more readily, but personality matters more than breed. Some mixed-breed rescue cats become enthusiastic explorers, while some purebred cats prefer the comfort of home.

Leash walking offers several benefits for indoor cats. Outdoor exploration provides valuable mental

stimulation, encourages physical exercise, reduces boredom, and may even help prevent obesity. Many owners also find that regular outdoor adventures decrease destructive behaviors by satisfying a cat's natural curiosity.

Safety should always come first. Ensure your cat's vaccinations and parasite prevention are current, and never leave a harnessed cat unattended. Bring fresh water during warm weather and watch for signs of stress, such as flattened ears, crouching, rapid breathing, or attempts to escape. If your cat seems frightened, calmly return indoors and try again another day.

Walking a cat isn't about covering miles—it's about enriching your pet's life through safe exploration. With patience, gentle encouragement, and realistic expectations, many cats can learn to enjoy supervised outdoor adventures. Whether it's a stroll through the backyard or a peaceful walk beneath shady trees, leash training can open an exciting new world for both you and your feline companion.

SUMMER
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LA Card Expo Returns to Woodland Hills This August Home to Million-Dollar Trading Cards

By Lia Hart

Trading card collecting has evolved from a childhood pastime into a billion-dollar industry, and one of Southern California's biggest celebrations of the hobby returns when the LA Card Expo arrives at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills on August 15–16, 2026. The two-day event brings together hundreds of dealers, collectors, investors, grading companies, and sports fans for a weekend dedicated to buying, selling, trading, and discovering some of the hobby's most desirable collectibles. The expo features sports cards, Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Funko collectibles, comic books, signed memorabilia, and hobby supplies.

Walking through the show floor is like stepping inside a museum where nearly everything is for sale. Glass display cases often contain cards worth thousands—or



even millions—of dollars, while neighboring tables offer affordable finds for beginners building their first collections. Whether you're searching for a Hall of Fame rookie card or the newest Pokémon chase card, there's something for every collector.

The modern sports card market has experienced explosive growth over the past several years thanks to professional grading, online marketplaces, and renewed interest from investors. High-grade vintage baseball cards remain the hobby's gold standard, while limited-edition modern cards featuring today's superstars have become highly sought-after collectibles.

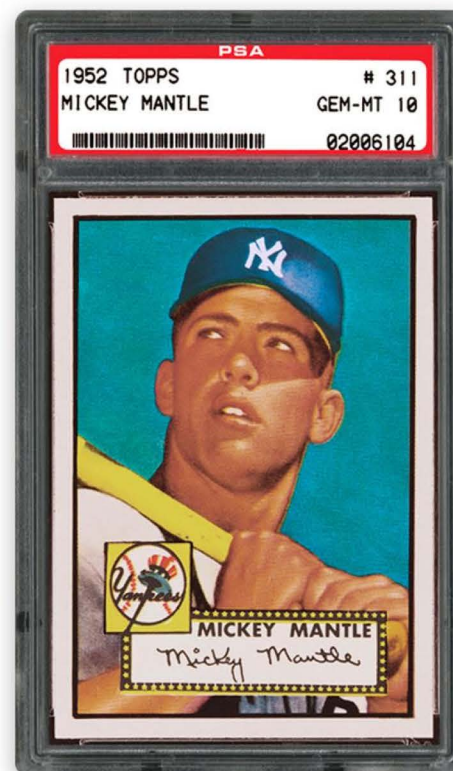
Among the most famous trading cards ever produced is the legendary 1909 T206

became one of the hobby's biggest sensations after selling for more than \$1 million, proving that today's stars can achieve extraordinary values almost immediately under the right circumstances.

Visitors to the LA Card Expo can also expect autograph guests, live trading, grading submissions, collector education, hobby supplies, and opportunities to meet fellow enthusiasts. Many attendees bring boxes of cards to trade, while others arrive hoping to uncover an overlooked bargain hidden among thousands of collectibles on display.

The event is especially family-friendly, introducing younger generations to a hobby that combines sports history, pop culture, investing, and nostalgia. Veteran collectors are often eager to share stories, explain grading standards, and help newcomers understand what makes certain cards so valuable.

Whether you're hunting for a rare rookie card, expanding a Pokémon collection, or simply admiring some of the world's most valuable pieces of cardboard, the August



Honus Wagner, considered by many to be the "Holy Grail" of baseball cards. Because only a small number survive today, top-condition examples have sold for more than \$7 million at auction, making it one of the most valuable sports collectibles in history.

Another icon is the 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle rookie-era card. Long regarded as one of the most recognizable baseball cards ever printed, pristine examples have sold for well over \$10 million, establishing records for sports memorabilia and inspiring collectors around the world.

Modern cards are making headlines as well. The 2024 Topps Chrome MLB Debut Patch Autograph card of Paul Skenes



LA Card Expo offers one of Southern California's premier collecting experiences. In a hobby where history, rarity, and passion intersect, every card has a story—and every visit to the expo holds the possibility of discovering the next great treasure.

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Exotic Paint Finishes That Will Make Your Home Say "WOW!"

By Redding Shawman

Paint has evolved far beyond a simple coat of color. Today's luxury interiors are embracing exotic finishes and specialty paints that transform ordinary walls into works of art. From shimmering metallics to centu-

unique. The finish brings warmth and character to bedrooms, family rooms, and home offices while complementing modern, farmhouse, Mediterranean, and contemporary décor.

For homeowners who want true drama, metallic paints offer a glamorous alternative. Available in finishes such as champagne gold, brushed bronze, copper, pewter, and silver, these specialty coatings reflect light and create a sophisticated shimmer. Metallic finishes work particularly well on accent walls, tray ceilings, fireplaces, and custom built-in cabinetry, adding elegance without overwhelming the room.

One of the newest luxury trends is color-shifting or iridescent paint. Similar to the finish seen on exotic automobiles, these paints subtly change appearance depending on the angle of the light. A wall may appear soft pearl



ries-old handcrafted plaster techniques, these eye-catching finishes are becoming one of the easiest ways to give a home an unforgettable designer look.

One of the biggest trends in upscale homes is Venetian plaster, a decorative finish dating back to Renaissance Italy. Applied in multiple hand-polished layers, Venetian plaster creates the appearance of polished marble with incredible depth and movement. Light reflects differently throughout the day, giving walls a luxurious glow that ordinary paint simply cannot achieve. It works beautifully in entryways, dining rooms, and grand living spaces.

Another striking option is limewash paint, which has become a favorite among interior designers. Unlike conventional paint, limewash creates a soft, cloudy texture with subtle variations in color that make each wall

during the day and reveal hints of blue, lavender, or gold in the evening. Used sparingly, this finish creates an unforgettable focal point in media rooms, powder rooms, or modern entryways.



For spa-inspired bathrooms, many designers recommend Moroccan Tadelakt, a centuries-old waterproof plaster finish originally developed in Morocco. Its smooth, organic appearance and silky texture create a calming, luxurious atmosphere that resembles natural stone while remaining highly durable in humid environments.

Texture is becoming just as important as color. Decorative techniques such as brushed suede finishes, mineral paints, and layered glazes add depth that flat paint simply cannot match. These finishes soften

large walls and create visual interest without relying on bold patterns or wallpaper.

When choosing exotic paint finishes, lighting plays an important role. Natural sunlight highlights subtle textures, while carefully placed wall sconces and recessed lighting emphasize the movement and dimension found in metallic and plaster surfaces. Designers often recommend testing samples under both daylight and evening lighting before making a final decision.

Although specialty finishes generally cost more than traditional paint, they often require only one feature wall or architectural detail to make a dramatic statement. A fireplace surround, dining room, entry foyer, or powder room can become a conversation piece with the right finish.

Today's homeowners are looking for interiors that reflect their personalities, and exotic paint finishes offer an opportunity to create spaces that feel truly custom. Whether you prefer the timeless elegance of Venetian plaster, the earthy beauty of limewash, the sparkle of metallic finishes, or the modern appeal of iridescent paint, these distinctive treatments prove that walls no longer have to be ordinary. With a little creativity, the right finish can transform any room into a showpiece that truly earns a "wow!"

Beautify Your Home With
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OUR TEAM IS THE HEART OF AMERICAN VISION

By Andrews McMeel Syndication

In his quest to retrieve a bottle of Mountain Dew, a Kansas City, Missouri, man fell into a portable restroom toilet tank and was stuck there for eight hours -- with the lid closed! -- before being rescued. According to Fox 4 News, on July 14, a driver with Patriot Portable Restrooms was trying to collect the structures that had been set up for a World Cup watch party when he encountered the trapped occupant. The driver flagged down a nearby police officer, who helped him unlock the door. "When we opened the door and didn't see anybody, we honestly thought we were talking to a ghost, and then his head popped up out of the tank like a game of whack-a-mole, or Oscar the Grouch coming out of his can," a company representative said. KCFD had to cut the man out of the toilet and then blasted him with the fire hose to rinse him off. "In the portable restroom business, you kind of expect the unexpected," the representative said. "But in six years, I never thought I'd find someone alive inside one of our units."

In Wilmington, Illinois, a man was rescued after being stuck in a gas station sign for several hours on July 21. The man, a maintenance worker, used a special lift to get up to the 130-foot-tall sign to do some work on it. The lift, however, would not come down, leaving the man stranded until emergency personnel were able to procure a crane from nearby Joliet. ABC7 reported that the man appeared to be in good spirits and refused medical treatment.

-- Witnesses in northeastern Colorado were met with a startling image on July 16 -- a man surfing a moving Union Pacific locomotive ... while in the buff. Daniel Ray Ballance of Arizona allegedly broke a window to get into the train and climbed to the top while it was moving, Fox News reported. Ballance faces misdemeanor and felony charges, and authorities have not released a motivation for Ballance's antics or whether anyone was injured in the process. "Daniel is spending some time at an all-expenses-paid stay in jail,

where he is presumed innocent until proven guilty," the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office said in a social media post.

-- Authorities in Ellisville, Mississippi, are also stumped as to why Katelyn Maxwell, 22, was operating a vehicle -- in this case, a 2017 Dodge Challenger -- while wholly unclothed. The Smoking Gun reported that on July 12, Maxwell was pulled over during a traffic stop after officers observed the car driving erratically; police reported that she appeared to be inebriated and that the vehicle smelled strongly of pot. They also discovered five firearms and a bag of marijuana. Maxwell faces felony and misdemeanor charges and is in jail on a \$35,000 bond.

An Odessa, Texas, man is reeling after learning that the odor that had been emitting for weeks from a clothes donation box in his neighborhood belonged to a dead body. "I never knew where it came from, I just smelled it," Juan Enriquez said. "But I thought it was a trashcan, you know how it smells during the summertime." KOSA reported that police found the body on July 17 and are working to identify the deceased, but authorities say there is no evidence of foul play.

During a traffic stop, police in St. Petersburg, Florida, arrested the driver for a window tint violation ... and the passenger for several bags of fentanyl that kept falling from her person. The Smoking Gun reported on July 17 that when Yoneshe Smith, 26, stepped out of the passenger side of the car, officers noted baggies on the seat and near the ground. Then, while walking to the police van, another bag "fell from her buttocks area," according to the police report. But wait, there's more -- while Smith was being booked into custody, officers confiscated two more baggies "from the defendant's vaginal cavity ... and right breast area." Smith faces charges of drug trafficking and possession of a controlled substance in a detention facility.

Crossword by Myles Mellor

Print this Page! Ctrl + P

- Across
- 1. 2012 US Open winner, Simpson
 - 5. Last word of "America, the Beautiful"
 - 8. Way off
 - 12. Seaweed gelatin
 - 13. Prone
 - 14. Drift
 - 15. Needled
 - 16. Bag thickness
 - 17. Urged a right turn
 - 18. Popular salad ingredient
 - 21. Distress call
 - 24. Safe places
 - 28. Sight reported
 - 29. Hot drink
 - 31. Experiences
 - 32. Offensive
 - 34. Pigment
 - 36. Looks at
 - 37. Lowest moldings
 - 39. Relative of an ostrich
 - 41. Prior prefix
 - 42. Thing referred to
 - 44. Burst in
 - 46. Absolute rule
 - 48. Not for
 - 51. Top race car driver
 - 52. Pull
 - 56. Tinted
 - 57. Lodging
 - 58. French currency
 - 59. Cutting the mustard
 - 60. Give leave
 - 61. Raise a stink

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56					57				58			
59					60				61			

- 27. Positive attribute
- 30. Affirmative vote
- 33. It moves in the direction of the wind
- 35. Famous
- 38. "Rocky" actor
- 40. Large vase
- 43. Slight
- 45. Golf's ___ Cup
- 47. Clearasil target
- 48. Exclamation of mockery
- 49. Center
- 50. Rolodex no.
- 53. Repent
- 54. "Chances ___"
- 55. Used by Chinese cooks

- Down
- 1. "___ and Peace", Tolstoy
 - 2. Vanity
 - 3. No longer edible
 - 4. Moolah
 - 5. Siberian breed
 - 6. Kind of proportions
 - 7. Book with legends
 - 8. Region of France
 - 9. Enemy
 - 10. Penn. is one
 - 11. Singers, Simply ___
 - 19. Wine barrel
 - 20. E. Indies transportation relay
 - 21. Muslim scholar
 - 22. Happening
 - 23. Complimentary close
 - 25. SA aquatic rodent
 - 26. Dweeb

Bad Dad Jokes
What do you call a wizard who's good with ceramics? Harry Potterry.



Previous Puzzle

1	J	2	O	3	N		4	C	5	I	6	R	7	C	8	A		9	I	10	L	11	L
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First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills presents Rainforest Falls a VBS Summer Camp for Kindergarten to 5th grade. July 20 through July 24th 2026 Classes are daily from 9 to 12 noon, includes a snack. They will enjoy music, storytelling, imagination station, Sticky Scripture, and outdoor games. Our Address is 10400 Zelzah Ave. Cross Street is Devonshire. ZIP: 91326 We are located across from Granada Hills Charter High School on Zelzah Ave. To register Visit: <https://www.fpcgh.org/childrens> for registration, health forms, and payment links. Any questions contact Juliana at juliana@fpcgh.org or 818 360 1831

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Hills elementary, Calabash charter academy, Hale charter academy, El Camino high school and many more. After School Conservatory has a spacious facility (over 3000 SF) and is equipped with top-notch quality musical instruments including Schimmel and Kawai grand pianos, Roland TD 17 series electronic drum set and the Yamaha LC4 music lab system with 8 Yamaha P-45 digital pianos for a group piano teaching environment. (818) 436-2675

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LeXT Robo Academy uses LEGO education concepts and curriculum to provide a hands-on learning experience and fun environment for our students while developing their skills in science, technology engineering, robotics, coding and mathematics. Our robotics program covers all age groups from 3 to 18+ students. Agoura Hills: (818)-699-2388

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 Calabasas, California 91302 Phone: (818) 222-6511 Members are free or \$8 for non-members.

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Offering activities like pool, arts and crafts, ropes course, horse back riding, go-karts, zip lines, aerial arts, and much, much more. 2026 Camp Dates: June 15 - August 14 Ages: 4 - 15 CaliCamp.com

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To Advertise your Camp Program or for a listing, contact 818-888-7141



By Sam Tester

MODEL ROCKETRY

A Screen-Free Hobby That Launches Kids' Imaginations

In a world where children often spend hours glued to tablets, smartphones, and video games, parents are searching for activities that inspire creativity while encouraging time outdoors. One hobby that continues to soar in popularity is model rocketry. Combining science, engineering, craftsmanship, and excitement, model rockets offer youngsters an engaging, screen-free adventure that can spark a lifelong interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Once construction is complete, the real excitement begins. Under adult supervision, the rocket is placed on a launch pad, connected to an electronic ignition system, and prepared for liftoff. As the countdown reaches zero, the engine ignites and the rocket streaks skyward, often reaching altitudes of several hundred feet before deploying a small parachute or streamer for a gentle return to Earth. The thrill of watching something you built with your

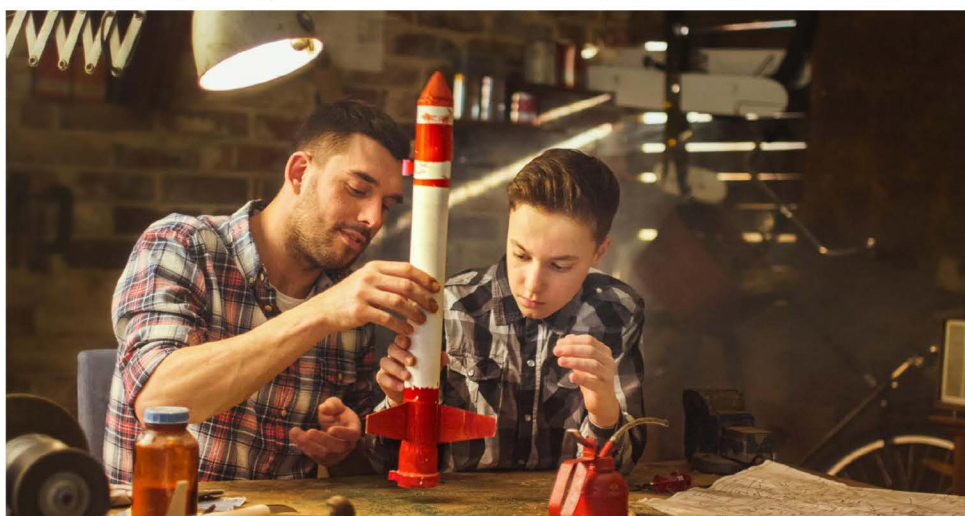


Model rocketry also opens the door to fascinating conversations about space exploration, aviation, physics, and the history of NASA's missions. Children who begin by building simple rockets often develop an interest in astronomy, engineering, robotics, or aerospace careers. Many scientists and engineers have credited model rocketry with inspiring their passion for innovation at a young age.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of model rockets is that they encourage children to look up—literally and figuratively. Instead of focusing on a screen, youngsters spend time outdoors, learning new skills, working with their hands, and sharing exciting moments with family and friends. Every countdown builds anticipation, every launch fuels curiosity, and every safe landing inspires the next project.

Organizations such as the National Association of Rocketry promote safe launching practices, offer educational resources, and sponsor local clubs where families can learn from experienced hobbyists. Adult supervision is essential, and launches should always take place in large, open areas away from buildings, trees, power lines, and dry vegetation.

In an era where meaningful screen-free activities can be hard to find, model rocketry offers families the perfect combination of education, creativity, and outdoor fun. It proves that sometimes the best way to reach for the stars is to build something remarkable together—one launch at a time.



own hands soar into the sky is an unforgettable experience for children and adults alike.

Beyond the excitement, model rocketry teaches valuable lessons in patience, problem-solving, and perseverance. Young builders quickly discover that careful measuring, following instructions, and paying attention to detail all contribute to a successful flight. If a launch doesn't go exactly as planned, it becomes an opportunity to analyze what happened, make improvements, and try again—an important lesson that extends well beyond the hobby itself.

Parents appreciate model rocketry because it naturally encourages family involvement. Building rockets together provides quality time away from screens while creating lasting memories. Many families make a day of it by packing a picnic, heading to a large open field, and spending the afternoon launching multiple rockets while cheering each successful flight.

Safety is an important part of the hobby. Reputable model rocket kits are designed with safety in mind and use commercially manufactured engines that meet strict standards.

Building a model rocket begins long before launch day. Children carefully assemble lightweight kits made from cardboard tubes, balsa wood, plastic nose cones, and colorful fins. Along the way, they learn how each component contributes to the rocket's stability and flight. Painting and decorating the finished rocket adds a creative touch, allowing kids to personalize their designs with bold colors, racing stripes, or even space-themed artwork.

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Young Talent Takes the Stage

Why Kid Bands Like The Graystones Are Inspiring a New Generation of Musicians

By Angela Young

In an era dominated by streaming services, social media, and digital entertainment, a growing number of young musicians are proving that live music is alive and well. Across Southern California and beyond, youth bands are capturing audiences with their energy, talent, and passion for performing. One standout example is The Graystones, a young band that has been building a loyal following with polished performances and an enthusiasm that reminds audiences why

Kid bands like The Graystones offer something refreshing in today's entertainment landscape. Rather than simply recreating songs they hear online, young musicians learn to collaborate, rehearse, solve problems together, and perform under pressure. Every rehearsal teaches valuable lessons about discipline, communication, and perseverance—skills that benefit children throughout their lives.

Parents are increasingly encouraging children to join bands because music

For audiences, watching a talented youth band is equally rewarding. There's a special excitement that comes from seeing young performers confidently take the stage, entertaining crowds with music that spans generations. Family-friendly performances often encourage children in the audience to imagine themselves learning an instrument or joining a band of their own.

The Graystones exemplify this positive influence. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and their commitment to developing as musicians demonstrates that age is no barrier to delivering quality performances. As they continue to refine their sound and gain experience, they serve as role models for other young people considering music as a hobby—or perhaps even a future career.

Southern California has long been known for nurturing musical talent, and youth bands continue that tradition. Local

music schools, community organizations, and performing arts programs provide opportunities for children to learn guitar, drums, keyboards, bass, vocals, and other instruments before bringing those skills together in band settings. Community concerts, fairs, and seasonal festivals then give these young artists a chance to showcase their hard work.

Perhaps the greatest value of kid bands isn't simply the music they perform but the confidence they inspire. Standing before an audience, overcoming stage fright, and hearing applause after a successful performance creates memories that last a lifetime. These experiences encourage young people to take healthy risks, express themselves creatively, and develop friendships built on shared interests.

As youth music programs continue to flourish, bands like The Graystones demonstrate that the future of live entertainment is in capable hands. Their performances remind us that talent, dedication, and a love of music can begin at any age—and that supporting young artists today helps ensure a vibrant musical community for years to come.



live music remains so exciting.

Unlike many aspiring artists who rely solely on online videos, The Graystones have embraced the experience of performing in front of live audiences. From local festivals and community events to private performances and special appearances, the band has gained valuable stage experience while developing confidence, teamwork, and professionalism that extends far beyond music.



education has been linked to improvements in concentration, memory, creativity, and self-confidence. Learning an instrument requires patience

and practice, while performing with others teaches responsibility and the importance of working toward a common goal. Whether it's staying on rhythm, harmonizing with fellow musicians, or adapting during a live performance, every show becomes an opportunity for growth.

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FASHION



By Brooke Argon

SADDLE UP -- IS THE EQUESTRIAN LOOK REALLY BACK IN STYLE FOR 2026?

From Paris and Milan runways to Southern California boutiques, one fashion trend is confidently galloping into the spotlight in 2026: the equestrian look. Rooted in classic riding attire but updated with modern tailoring and luxury fabrics, equestrian-inspired fashion has become one of the year's most polished and versatile trends. Whether or not you've ever ridden a horse, this timeless style offers a sophisticated way to elevate your everyday wardrobe.

Unlike many fashion crazes that come and go within a season, equestrian style has always maintained a loyal following. Designers continue to revisit riding-inspired silhouettes because they blend elegance with practicality. This year's interpretation is less about looking like you're heading to the stables and more about borrowing refined details that convey confidence and effortless style.

The foundation of the trend begins with structured pieces. Tailored blazers in camel, navy, charcoal, and deep green are replacing oversized jackets, while crisp white shirts

and lightweight knit sweaters create a clean, polished appearance. High-waisted trousers, slim-cut jeans, and fitted riding-style pants complete the look without sacrificing comfort.

One of the biggest stars of the equestrian revival is the tall riding boot. Whether crafted in polished leather or suede, knee-high boots are appearing with everything from flowing midi dresses to skinny jeans and tailored shorts. For warmer Southern California days, many fashion experts recommend pairing ankle boots or elegant loafers with equestrian-inspired outfits to capture the same refined aesthetic while remaining comfortable.

Accessories play an equally important role. Horsebit loafers, leather belts with classic buckles, structured handbags, silk scarves, quilted handbags, and understated gold jewelry all contribute to the sophisticated feel of the trend. Rich earth tones—including chocolate brown, cream, olive, burgundy, and cognac—continue to dominate color palettes, reflecting the natural beauty associated with country estates and horseback riding.



Men are embracing the equestrian influence as well. Tailored sport coats, quilted vests, waxed jackets, suede boots, fitted chinos, and classic knitwear have become wardrobe staples for those seeking timeless sophistication rather than fast-changing trends. The result is a look that feels equally appropriate for weekend brunches, business-casual offices, or evening dinners.

Luxury fashion houses have long celebrated equestrian heritage, and in 2026 many designers continue incorporating riding-inspired details into their collections. From elegant saddle-inspired handbags to horsebit hardware and refined leather accessories, these subtle nods to equestrian tradition offer timeless appeal rather than fleeting novelty.

Perhaps the greatest strength of this trend is its versatility. A tailored blazer paired with dark denim instantly elevates a casual outfit, while a flowing dress combined with knee-high boots creates a chic autumn ensemble. Even simple additions, such as a leather belt or silk scarf, can introduce equestrian elegance without requiring an entirely new wardrobe.

For Southern Californians, the look transitions beautifully between seasons. Lightweight fabrics and breathable layers make equestrian style practical for cool coastal mornings, comfortable Valley evenings, and crisp autumn afternoons. It pairs naturally with everything from winery visits and outdoor concerts to weekend shopping and holiday gatherings.

Fashion trends often fade as quickly as they arrive, but equestrian style has endured for generations because it celebrates quality craftsmanship, timeless tailoring, and understated luxury. In 2026, the answer is clear: the equestrian look isn't just real—it's one of the year's most wearable and enduring fashion statements, proving that classic style never goes out of fashion.

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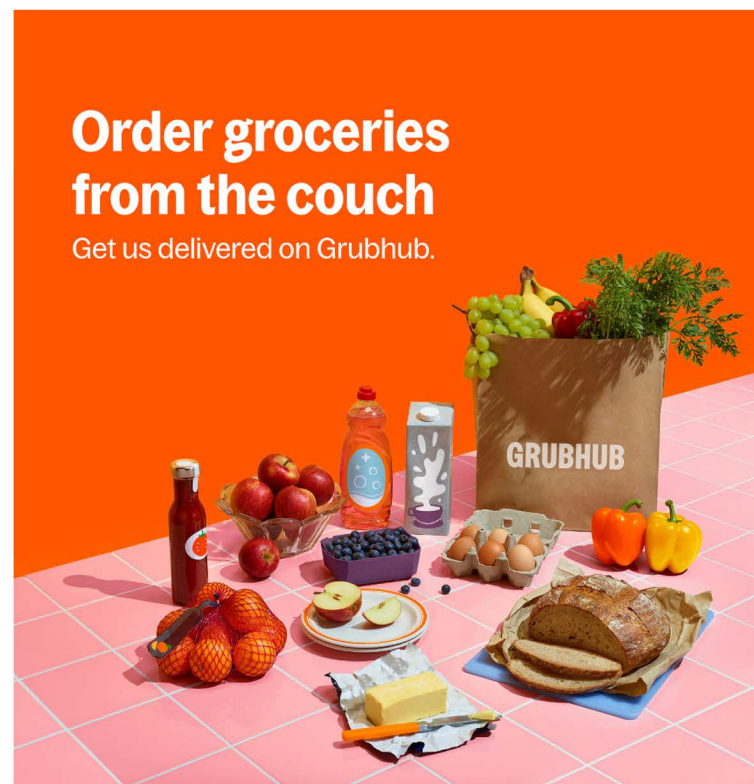
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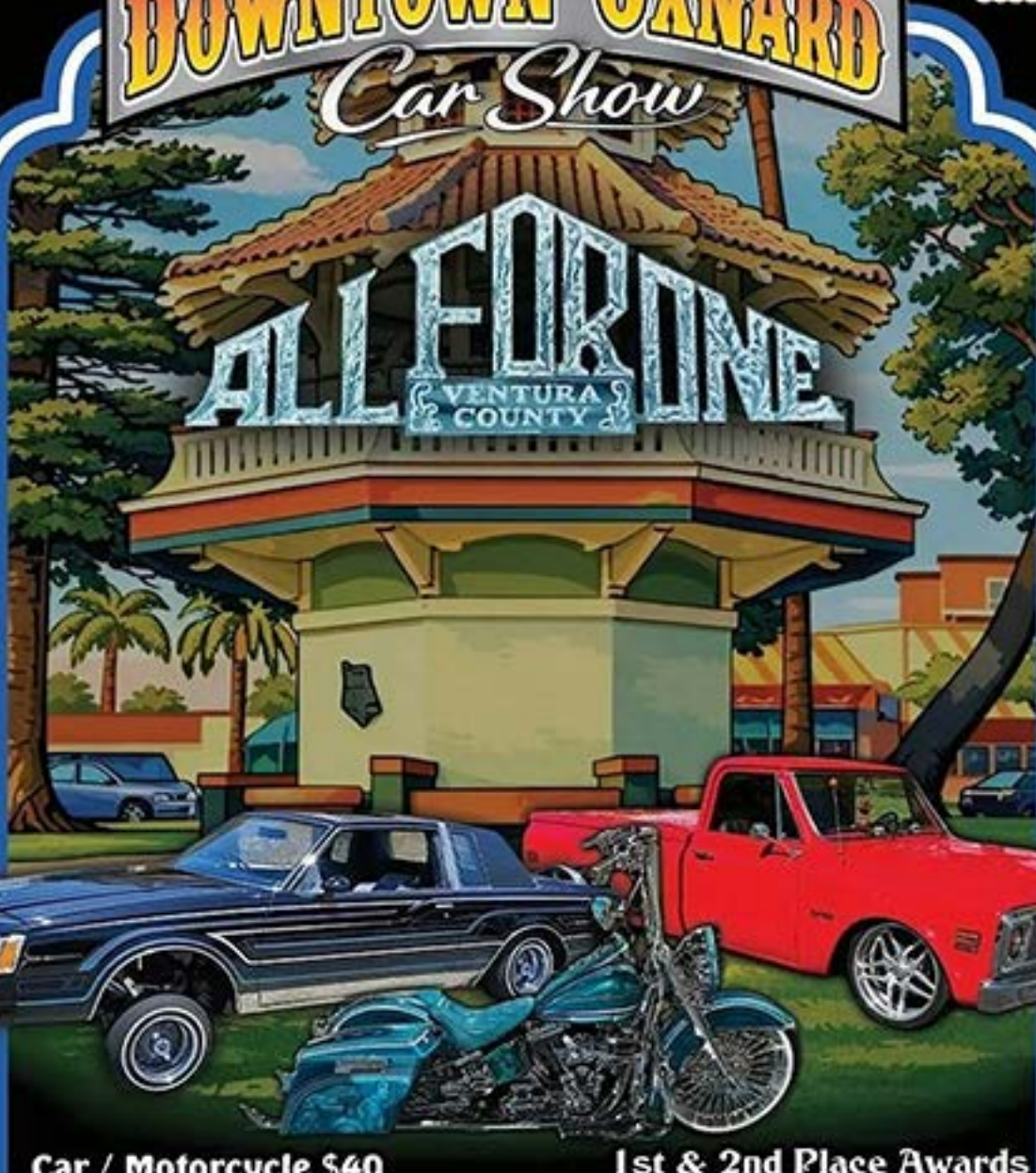
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