

CEO Advises LA County to Prioritize to Meet Budget

This week, the chief executive officer of LA County released the Update Prior to Final Changes Budget 2026-27. The document approached some difficult realities. "The County continues to operate in a difficult environment with maximum uncertainty," reads the report. "The focus is on financial sustainability but demand for services continues to grow."

"The year ahead will require discipline and a willingness to prioritize critical, safety net services over less immediate needs."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger issued the following statement regarding the report:

"[The] report from Chief Executive Officer Joseph M. Nicchitta delivered a sobering assessment of Los Angeles County's fiscal outlook, including projected budget deficits that are expected to grow in the years ahead."

"I agree that our Board must make decisions grounded in discipline and long-term sustainability. I recognize that maintaining the County's financial stability may require difficult steps, including ensuring that fees more accurately reflect the actual cost of services. However, we must move forward with an even hand. Small business owners, property owners and working families are already facing significant economic pressures, and those realities must be part of our decision making."

"Fiscal responsibility and compassion must go hand in hand. I am committed to governing our County enterprise in a way that balances financial sustainability with protecting the critical safety net services our most vulnerable residents rely upon."

To read the entire report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3nchntw2>.

Graduating Seniors and Promoting Students Celebrate Ceremonies

By Mary O'KEEFE

Local public schools, including Crescenta Valley and Clark Magnet high schools, graduated their classes of 2026 while Rosemont Middle School promoted its students into high school.

Once again the falcon flew over the 2026 graduating class at Crescenta Valley High School. For those who do not know, the CVHS mascot is the falcon and for the last several years a falcon has flown over the graduating students in a symbolic vision the school has for its Falcons [and robotics Falkons] of soaring into their future.

Class President Jennifer Nakano opened the commencement ceremony of this class, which collectively performed 55,302.61 community service hours and was granted \$969,192 in scholarships.

The keynote speaker was CVHS alum Erin Adkins, who has accomplished quite a bit since graduating in 2002.

"Erin Adkins serves as chief strategy officer for UCLA Ath-



Photo by Charly SHELTON
Towa Murdock fistbumps assistant principal Lise Sondergaard during the Crescenta Valley High School commencement.

letics, where she provides executive leadership for enterprise-wide strategic planning, organizing growth, governance and long-term sustainability initiatives, supporting UCLA's national competitive division one athletics program," said ASB President Derek Hoonanian, who introduced her to his classmates and the audience.

He added that Adkins oversees UCLA football, men's basketball and several other Bruin athletic programs and that her

resume also includes positions held at Vanderbilt University and the University of San Diego.

"Adkins earned a bachelor of arts in political science with a minor in business administration from the University of Arizona in 2006, entered and earned a juris doctorate from California Western School of Law and was admitted to the California State [Bar] in 2010," he said. "Erin Adkins - welcome back to the nest."

"Like many of you, I am still

a student. I grow, adapt, make mistakes and I just try to do a little better every single day," she told the graduating class. "I just want to share a few things that have helped me along the way, especially when times don't go according to plan, when I doubted myself or just needed to keep moving forward."

She spoke of a saying she has on a framed index card near her front door that states, "Whatever you focus on expands."

see GRADUATION on page 4

STNC Meeting Addresses Traffic, Safety Concerns

By Eliza PARTIKA

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's (STNC) Safe Traffic & Safety Committee recently held a town hall at the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Club on Commerce Avenue that focused on traffic safety.

Several City of Los Angeles officials were invited to provide information about traffic safety and answer questions from the community. Among the officials present were Steve Rostam, LA DOT East Valley District; LAPD Traffic Officer Salvador Venegas; LAFD Captain John Ignatczyk, Battalion 12; and Ricardo Flores senior area representative for

LA City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez District 7.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting, raising concerns about night-time visibility, fireworks, e-bikes, speeding and traffic stops in the Sunland area.

Pat Kramer, chair of the STNC Safe Traffic & Transportation Committee, said the purpose of the meeting was to educate the community about traffic safety.

"We are constantly trying to reach people through social media including Nextdoor, [distributing] flyers and [holding] meetings like this," she said.

see STNC on page 22



Photo by Jon von GUNTEN
Sunland-Tujunga residents listen to LAPD Traffic Officer Salvador Venegas at the recent Safe Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council.

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» FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLISHER

Goodbye, CV Weekly?

Last week I took some time to go through my "spam" folder. I try to go through it on a regular basis; although most of it is junk, sometimes there's a nugget in there that needs to be addressed.

There was a ton of interesting emails in spam including information on a variety of subscriptions that were expiring (of course, those emails were addressed to people who don't work here anymore), pleas from politicians for either money, my attention or to give instructions on a link to click on, and invitations to enter a partnership with various businesses or people.

Imagine my surprise when American investor, former Berkshire Hathaway CEO and purchaser of smaller newspapers Warren Buffett donated \$4,750,500 to me! And can CV Weekly use those funds?! Yes! So I guess I'll pay off some bills and shut down the paper – I mean, with over \$4 million in hand, why work?

Just kidding.

I had the chance to cover the Rosemont promotion of its eighth graders last week. (I folded that event into our cover story.)

I have to share that it was so exciting to hear of the achievements of these students. It appeared that more than half earned either a silver seal or a gold seal on their diploma, meaning that their GPA scores were between 3.0 and 4.0.

And awards! Department Award recipients were announced or asked to stand as were the recipients of the President's Award for Academic Excellence, the Builders Club, WEB

(Where Everybody Belongs), California Junior Scholastic Federation, Electives and Rosemont awards.

Congratulations to the all the students as they prepare to take that next giant step into high school!

Finally, I have to say thank you.

I went to Vons this week and a gal said, "Robin Goldsworthy? Are you Robin Goldsworthy?"

I answered that I was and she thanked me for the newspaper and said we were doing "a great job."

How thoughtful was that?

One of our salespeople said he had heard the same thing – how much the paper meant to one of his clients. That means a lot to me because we work hard on the CV Weekly.

First off, I have to share that this is in no way "a solo gig." It really takes a team to pull this off, especially week after week. Writers, photographers, sales people, columnists, our proofreader and our office manager step up to ensure that we put together an excellent product for you.

So on behalf of my team, I say thank you.

I also thank our readers who let us know of things going on around town – sometimes we don't know of these things unless we get a phone call.

So thank you too.

Robin Goldsworthy is the publisher of the Crescenta Valley Weekly. She can be reached at robin@cvweekly.com or by calling (818) 248-2740.

» WEATHER WATCH

Taking A Look Outside Our Window

By Mary O'KEEFE

If we ever needed a reminder about how powerful Mother Nature is these past few days have been our warning.

Lifeguards up and down the coast of California have been working hard to watch, warn and save many lives during a recent increase in high waves along our coast. There have been reports about surfers, and swimmers, who had to be rescued at The Wedge in Newport Beach that saw waves over 20 feet.

Amid the tragic news of deaths was that of a 5-year-old girl who on June 12 was swept away in Laguna Beach while she was walking with her brother and mother along the shore of Treasure Island Beach in Orange County. Bystanders said the wave just engulfed them. Good Samaritans were able to rescue the mother and her son but the daughter was swept away. Rescuers were able to find her body a day later just off Christmas Cove.

On June 9, two women who were reportedly napping on a beach in Santa Cruz County were pulled into the sea by a tide. Both women were rescued; one was listed in critical condition, the other unfortunately did not survive.

According to reports, the two woman were napping on the beach; however, authorities are not sure at this point if that is true. The place where the women were had warnings about the area, which is known as "keyhole," near Panther Beach. On June 9, the National Weather Service advised people in the Bay Area and Santa Cruz County to stay back from the beach and away from jetties,

piers, beachside rocks and other infrastructure near the water.

I have seen rogue waves in the past and they do happen *fast*. We were in Coronado when one wave, which the locals called a "Baja Wave," just came out of nowhere. My son and husband were surfing and they were smashed into the rocks. My middle daughter and I moved away quickly but my little one, at the time was on a boogie board. I remember seeing the wave take her up and her little feet kept kicking. I never felt more helpless – but she rode the wave like a pro and it deposited her, boogie board tip down, into the sand. She still had a tight grip on it. She is now the mermaid of the family due I think in part because my husband made all the kids go right back into the ocean to make sure they weren't afraid – though they had a newfound respect for the sea. I, on the other hand, stayed on the beach and prayed.

The term "king tide" has been used to explain the effects of high waves. A king tide is not actually a scientific term; however, it is used a lot in regard to the long-period that waves "roll around the planet as the ocean is 'pulled' back and forth by the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun as these bodies interact with the Earth in their monthly and yearly orbits. Higher than normal tides typically occur during a new or full moon and when the Moon is at its perigee, or during specific seasons around the country," according to NOAA's Ocean Service.

The cause of the most recent high tides was South Pacific swells, according to NOAA.

see WEATHER on page 8

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NEWS

IN BRIEF

CV TOWN COUNCIL TO MEET

The monthly general meeting of the Crescenta Valley Town Council is tonight, Thursday, at 7 p.m. at the La Crescenta Library, 2809 Foothill Blvd.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE: UPDATED INFO

The previously cancelled Fourth of July Parade in Tujunga is now back on due to generous contributions from the community including a significant pledge by LA City Councilmember Monica Rodriquez, who will be riding in the parade.

The Parade will start at 10 a.m. on Summitrose St. and feed onto Foothill Boulevard.

CVWD COULD BENEFIT FROM FUNDING REQUEST

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies has advanced approximately \$747,000 in a federal funding request from Congressman Laura Friedman for Crescenta Valley Water District (CVWD) to support critical PFAS treatment infrastructure in partnership with Glendale Water & Power (GWP).

The funding request will now advance to the full House Committee on Appropriations for consideration as part of the Fiscal Year 2027 federal appropriations process.

CONCERTS, LECTURES AND MORE AT MT. WILSON OBSERVATORY

On Saturday, June 20, Mount Wilson Observatory and the Los Angeles Astronomical Society will host "Gravitational Waves: Ten Years of Exploring the Dark Side of the Universe" with Gabriel Vajente, deputy head of System Science and Engineering, LIGO Laboratory at Caltech.

The evening begins with the talk in the Mt. Wilson auditorium followed by observing through both the 60- and 100-inch telescopes from dusk to 11:30 p.m. – the two largest telescopes in the world available for public use. Additional stargazing around the grounds will be available from members of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society. Food will be available for purchase from a food truck or guests can bring their own picnic.

The event is from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.; tickets are \$50.

CVCA TO MEET

The Crescenta Valley Community Association will have its meeting on Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m., this month in the community room at the La Crescenta Library. The meeting will include discussion on the five-story project approved for 3411-3437 Foothill Blvd. as well as other topics of concern to the community.

The library is located at 2809 Foothill Blvd. Contact the CVCA at crescentavalleycommunityassn@gmail.com with any questions.

All are welcome.

FIREWORKS TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets to the CV Fireworks display are \$9 (pre-sale) and available at the office of CV Weekly (3800 La Crescenta Ave. #206, La Crescenta 91214), J's Maids & Maintenance, (3550 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta 91214), Bob Smith Toyota (3333 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta 91214), CV Insurance (3156 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta 91214) and on June 21 and June 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the information booth at the Sunday Harvest Market.

ROSEMONT PRESERVE OPEN GATE MORNING

An "open gate" event is taking place at the Rosemont Preserve on Sunday afternoon, June 21. This is a chance for residents to visit the Preserve and wander the trail at their own pace and enjoy the tranquil setting, the wildlife and the natural beauty. Photographers: bring your camera to capture the morning light and citizen scientists, bring your iNaturalist and Merlin apps to identify birds and add wildlife sightings!

The gate will be open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Friends of the Rosemont Preserve Committee members will be available to answer questions and present this community resource.

Then on Thursday, June 25 a restoration event takes place from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Volunteers will maintain the bioswale and native habitat at the Preserve.

The Preserve is located at the north end of Rosemont Avenue, just past the chain link fence. As street parking is limited, please park at Two Strike Park, 5107 Rosemont Ave. Those with mobility issues who require a closer parking spot should contact the Rosemont Preserve Committee.

Those planning on walking the trails should wear sturdy shoes and bring water to drink.

This event is free to the public and suitable for all ages; no reservations required. Rain cancels. Sorry, no pets please.

For further information, contact the Friends of the Rosemont Preserve at RosemontFriends@gmail.com.

Prom Plus Delivers a High-Energy, Safe Celebration for CV Students



Photos provided by Prom Plus
LEFT: Texas Hold _Em always had a full table.
RIGHT: Jenga kept attendees on their toes.
BELOW: Prom Plus was a good place to practice blackjack.

This year's Prom Plus, held in May, once again gave Crescenta Valley High School students a safe, fun and memorable place to continue the celebration after prom. While attendance numbers were similar to last year, the energy and engagement throughout the night reached an all-time high.

From the moment students arrived, every activity was in steady use. Crowd favorites included the mechanical bull, obstacle course, game truck and laser tag – though Spikeball, ping pong, mini-golf, casino, arts & crafts center, and giant Jenga kept students playing throughout the night. The henna tattoos, face painting, caricature artist and balloon souvenirs were also in high demand, giving students plenty of ways to take home a fun reminder of the evening.

As always, the food was a major highlight. Students enjoyed turkey mac casserole, ramen soups, pinwheels, hot dogs, nacho bar, quesadillas from Los Gringos, rotisserie chicken and sides from Seasoning Alley, and pizzas from Domino's and La Cañada Imports. Sweet treats included pastries generously donated by Porto's Bakery, ice cream donated by Moo Moo Mia, and a cookie table that stayed popular throughout the night.

The evening ended with a generous raffle funded by the Elks Lodge including a scooter that one lucky prom-goer took home.



Behind all of the fun is the ongoing importance of Prom Plus in the local community. National safety data continues to show that teen drivers face heightened risks at night and on weekends and especially on prom and graduation nights, and that passengers, distractions, alcohol and fatigue can all increase the danger. Prom Plus helps reduce those risks by giving students a supervised, drug- and alcohol-free place they actually want to be a part of to celebrate together after prom, surrounded by activities, food, friends and caring adults who want them to have a great night and get home safely.

see PROM PLUS on page 22

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GRADUATION from Cover

“Every day I walk outside the house and I read [it]. If you focus on fear, fear expands. Focus on comparison, insecurity expands and if you focus on negativity, it expands,” Adkins said. “But if we focus on growth, relationships and purpose ... those things expand, too.”

She said that statement stays in her mind and she remembers it, especially when emotions are running high. She spoke of being an emotional person and that most times she has to just remember to pause, breathe, think and respond better.

“The reason it matters is because how we manage ourselves impacts the people around us. Some of the most meaningful relationships in my life started right here at CV, and the greatest thing this place gave me wasn’t the degree but the people. My best friends sat exactly where you all sit today. We still laugh, cry and

show up for one another every single day [in] all stages of life. And the older I get, the more I’m surprised that it is not really the big moments I remember but the small everyday things: laughter in the locker room after a basketball game, drives to lunch to get food and gossip sessions at the snack bar,” she said.

She added that some memories are joyful, but some are painful. She told the class that you needed both to “shape us.”

She spoke of a close CV friend she lost just days before graduation. James Jenkins passed away on May 30, 2002.

“I could never stand up here tonight in this place without saying and celebrating James’ name and James’ life,” she said. “He was the ultimate Falcon: two-sport athlete, class clown, friend to all. His passing affected us deeply and it honestly made coming back here difficult.”

She added that she still thinks of him.

“Moments and people matter and despite those hard moments I love everything this place taught me,” she said. “Because at first, it taught me how to grow.”

After she spoke the falcon flew.

At Clark Magnet High School seniors also received their diplomas on Thursday, June 11. They were conferred by Telly Tse, GSUD board member; Dr. Kyle Bruich, assistant superintendent of Human Resources; and Yvette Vartanian Davis, Glendale Community College board of trustees president.

But first, Senior Class President Shawheen Balouch welcomed an audience of more than 200 family members and friends.

“Cooked’ – that seems to be the favorite negative word of our generation,” said Balouch, “With all the technical advances, including AI, it’s easy to feel we’re doomed. But we are the chefs!”

Then came the posting of the colors by the Air Force JROTC of Crescenta Valley High School. Clark Magnet Principal Mark Rubio introduced his remarks by announcing that Clark, and its science and technology specialty, consistently placed in the top 1% of high schools across the country, according to U.S. News & World Report. He ended his remarks with, “As you head out into the world, be the guardians of integrity in our society.”

Senior addresses were given by Liliana Zaroukian, Karine Sedrakyan and Emily Titizyan, who spoke of their time at Clark.

The program ended with the moving of the tassel as 260 seniors officially became Clark Magnet high school graduates.

Rosemont Middle School held its promotion ceremony of eighth graders at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning.

Approximately 625 students promoted with many having plans to attend either Crescenta Valley or Clark Magnet high schools.

Principal Suzanne Risse welcomed the assembled, acknowledging that many of the parents present were promoting the youngest child in the their

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family. Highlights of the ceremony included farewell addresses by Elise Corbett, Nolan Lee, Nicenia Muñoz and Lexi Becker. Department Awards, Elective Awards and Rosemont Awards were presented as were the President’s Award for Academic Excellence. Diplomas were embossed with either a gold or silver seal for those who earned honor roll designations. Each promoting student received well wishes from Principal Risse before she gave closing remarks, sending each student on their way to continue their journey of higher education. Robin Goldsworthy and Ruth Sowby contributed to this story.

NOTES & NODS

CSL OFFERS GENTLE MOVEMENT CLASS

The Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta is offering a gentle stretch and relax chair movement with Michelle Gillette. It takes place every Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is a \$10 donation.

The class is at Chaffee Hall in the Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta.

The Center for Spiritual Living - La Crescenta is also offering sound bath with Pinoko and Dennis on Saturday, June 20 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. \$25 donation.

The Center for Spiritual Living is located at 4845 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. For more information, call (818) 249-1045.

WALK AND WORD

Walk and Word participants will meet in the parking lot of Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta/Glendale at 8 a.m. on June 21 & 28. Participants will walk for the first hour and then gather to read a selection of Scripture. About a half hour will be spent journaling about what was read and then there will be

conversation, sharing thoughts.

Participants are asked to bring something to write with, anything wanted to eat or drink, and a chair to use for the writing part of the morning. Because people will be outdoors and social distancing will be practiced, masks will be optional.

Those with questions can email Jeanne at jnlavieri@earthlink.net.

All are welcome. If the hike is too strenuous, there are level paths at the park. There are ramps from the parking lot to the field where the group gathers.

» PART II

Appeal Denied in Foothill Boulevard & New York Avenue Project

By Julie BUTCHER

In this week's issue of CV Weekly, we report on more comments shared at the June 3 meeting of the Glendale Planning Commission regarding the approved project at New York Avenue and Foothill Boulevard.

Appellants have raised concerns about potential soil contamination and report that the property shows up in a flagged database. Senior city planner Roger Kiesel responded that the site is not on the Cortese List, the list of hazardous sites maintained by the state Dept. of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Additionally, AB130 requires the completion of a Phase I environmental site assessment and this is included as one of the conditions of approval established by the hearing officer. This means that if there is a potential hazard, mitigation would be required.

In response to concerns raised by the appellants regarding risks associated with the potential breach of the potable water reservoir located immediately underneath New York Park, just north of the project site, Kiesel noted that the builder will be required to ensure the structural integrity of the reservoir and to protect and maintain it in its current condition.

Kiesel reported that community sentiment "weighed heavily in opposition to the project" and that the issues centered mainly around traffic, changing the character of the surrounding neighborhood and the dramatic size of the project compared to developments in the area.

"Acknowledging that it's larger than other developments is not a basic for denial," he said explaining that the project would still need to go to the city's Design Review Board where the scope of review will be limited based on the project's density bonus law status to determinations of design and detailing rather than of mass and scale or site planning.

The state's Housing Accountability Act requires specific findings based on facts and evidence to disallow projects such as this. To be denied, the project must be found to cause a significant, unavoidable, specific adverse impact on public health and safety with no feasible mitigation. As proposed, this project complies with state and federal law as well as with local planning regulations.

Crescenta Highlands Neighborhood Association president Mary-Lynne Fisher explained the grounds of the appeal: the property is on the Cortese List, the property was likely contaminated by previous uses as a gas station and dry cleaner, and this fact removes the development from AB130 consideration for CEQA exemption and should be subjected to a full environmental review process.

Additionally, the appellants have

volunteer traffic modeling that shows the addition of 151 vehicles to the intersection of New York Avenue and Foothill Boulevard would increase the time it takes residents on New York Avenue north of Foothill and the numerous cul-de-sacs off of New York Avenue to evacuate from a disaster, such as a wildfire, to levels that become a specific threat of adverse impact.

"In light of the high velocity winds that made the Eaton and Palisades fires so deadly, focusing solely on the severity zone designation ignores the fact that fires can spread quickly and embers can fly far," Fisher said, adding the concept of reversing lanes in an emergency is "not feasible for New York Avenue, with its fire station south of Foothill. In Pacific Palisades, traffic lanes were swamped with parents driving to schools to pick up their children. We're in the exact same situation, with Clark Magnet High School just four blocks north [on New York Avenue]. It's not enough to have a plan. It must be a plan that works."

Fisher asked the commission, "Would you buy a house about Foothill? On New York Avenue or one of those cul-de-sacs off New York? Would you want someone near and dear to you to rent an apartment, especially a first-floor apartment, if this project is built without an EIR? Just think about that and don't think about the city's housing numbers."

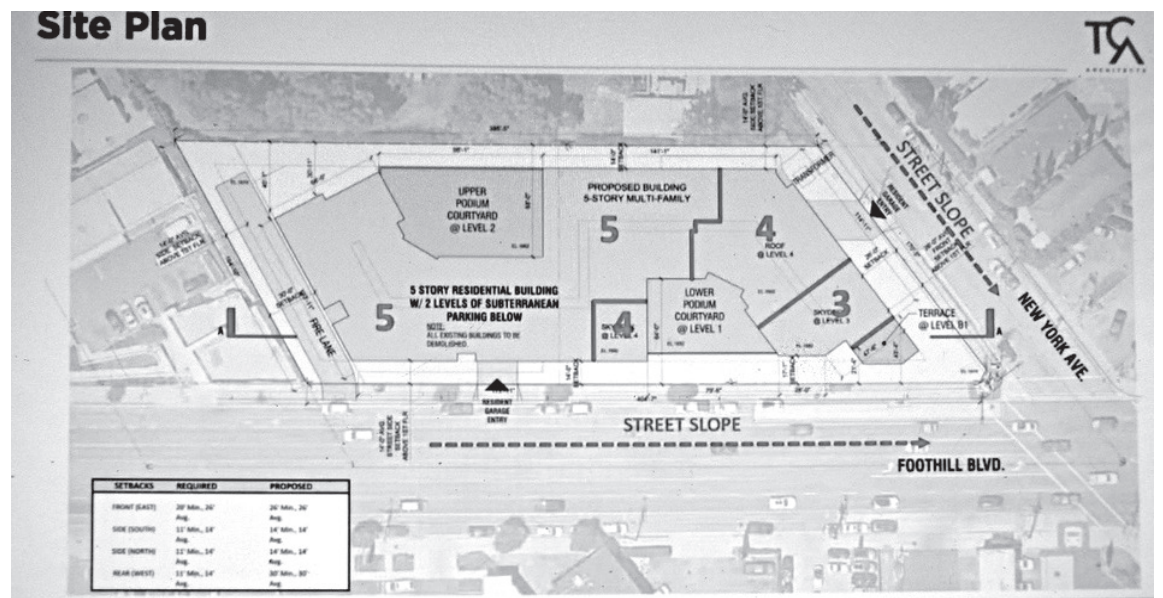
Tim Tierney also shared the various traffic models he developed that show increased evacuation times ranging from an additional 45 to 65 minutes.

Developer Rodney Kahn urged the commission to deny the appeal. The existing site is an old shopping center that needs to be redeveloped, he said. This project adds much-needed residential housing and is based on "good urban planning principles, smart growth, encouraging high density residential housing along commercial corridors such as the Foothill Boulevard corridor. People can walk to restaurants, markets and shops and have easy access to public transportation."

Todd Nelson, a partner with the Los Angeles-based law firm Rand Paster & Nelson, said that the project is fully compliant with state and local density bonus rules and is eligible to receive the concessions and waivers requested as well as being subject to the Housing Accountability Act, which sets an extremely high bar for the disapproval or reduction in size or density of a housing development.

Nelson reported that the state water board maintains a list of leaking underground storage tanks and that there were once underground tanks on the site and one was reported leaking.

"If there is a uniform closure letter issued to that site from the California Water Board [because] the site was briefly listed on the state's 'leaking underground



storage' database as an open case but the tanks were removed in 2008, all the impacted soil was removed, and the site was sampled for any remaining contaminants and no detections of petroleum-related contaminants or any other contaminants" were found, Nelson said. The water board issued a closure letter in 2014, pursuant to the exact health and safety code provision cited by AB130's "safe harbor" provisions.

Nelson further noted that the law requires additional environmental evaluation before a certificate of occupancy can be issued, that "AB130 delivers exactly what the applicants are asking for – additional study, further assessment and any required remediation."

One local resident told the commission, "I live on Fairesta [Street] and I'm worried about this five-story building in a residential area. My main concern is parking spaces. I counted cars while I was out walking and for every single-family dwelling, I counted two or three cars. So, 151 parking spaces for 87 units, if each one has two cars, is 174 cars, 23 spots short. They say there are one-and-a-half parking spaces for a one-bedroom, but nobody drives half a car. Especially on weekends, they play soccer at Clark Magnet and parents park their cars all the way down to my home."

"Why are they so afraid to have an EIR?" asked longtime local resident Mark Weaver.

Sabin Silberman agreed. "I live at the top of Markridge [Road] and I'm at the back of the line getting down from the mountain if I have to wait for 180 cars to get out of that apartment and all the other cars coming down the hill. The streets clog up with people just picking up their kids from school."

Phillip Chou spoke in favor of the project (and was booed); he said that Glendale needs more housing and that this project is not large enough.

"Kyle" also urged the commission to deny the appeal and move the project forward to follow objective standards. He recalled the city's mishandling of the replacement of the Sears building, noting that the council

rejected plans for the development but had to reconsider after being threatened with a lawsuit.

"If you don't follow the objective standards, it makes all the gears of government run slower and it's something that – in a small way – hurts all of us as residents. All residents have a legitimate valid interest in having a city government which follows state law and processes things efficiently and quickly," he said.

Kyle riled up the crowd by adding that he thinks it's a "beautiful structure – I like it and I hope that more people will get to live there."

Beth Brooks said that she finds it "very disheartening to see the same David and Goliath thing all the time. People are begging you to save them and their families. Where's the fire chief? The fire chief shouldn't just protect you when there's a fire; he should protect you before there's a fire." She added, "I want to see the Glendale Fire Dept. here at these meetings protecting these people. I'm tired of people trying to protect themselves and they're not getting professional help. This is a fire hazard, whether you like it or not, it's a fire hazard. And if three more properties come on? That's also a fire hazard."

"People's lives are more important than this developer. If you want to build housing, build it where people want you to build it, not where people don't want you to build it. Do a survey. I'm sure there are plenty of neighborhoods that want this," Brooks told the planning commission.

Developer Rodney Kahn

Art for Foothill & New York Project

wrapped up his response noting that this is "a state density bonus housing project. There is a Housing Accountability Act and we're in a housing crisis."

Listing the concerns that were raised during the public comments, most centered around traffic and parking, the reservoir, water, sewers, fires and emergencies, Kahn reiterated that every city department has reviewed the project in detail – including the fire department.

Commission president Edith Fuentes reminded everyone that further steps remain for this project, including the Design Review Board.

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Suspect Arrested Within 12 Hours of Downtown Glendale Shooting

On June 13 at approximately 1:52 a.m., Glendale Police Dept. patrol officers responded to the 200 block of North Brand Boulevard regarding a report of a man with a gun.

Upon arrival, officers located an adult male suffering from a gunshot wound. Glendale Fire Dept. personnel responded to the scene and transported the victim to a local hospital. The victim

remains in critical but stable condition.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the victim and suspect, who were previously unknown to one another, became involved in a verbal altercation. During the incident, the suspect brandished a firearm towards the victim. A physical confrontation then occurred, during which a single shot was fired, striking

the victim. The suspect fled the scene in a vehicle prior to officers' arrival.

Glendale Police Robbery-Homicide detectives responded and conducted a swift and thorough investigation throughout the night. As a result of their investigation, officers identified the suspect as 25-year-old Ricardo Fernandez of North Hollywood.

On June 13 at approximately 2 p.m., Glendale police officers, including members of the U.S. Marshals Pacific Southwest Fugitive Regional Task Force, located Fernandez at his residence and took him into custody without incident.

Fernandez was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon causing great bodily injury and booked into the Glendale City

jail. The case will be presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for filing consideration.

This investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Glendale Police Dept. at (818) 548-4840.

A Bear Visits La Crescenta



By Mary O'KEEFE

A bear strolled into the far North Glendale area on Tuesday afternoon, walking along Foothill Boulevard before

stopping off in the neighborhood of Mary Ann Street near New York Avenue. Afterward, he apparently walked back up the wash where it is thought he is from and toward the mountains.

Pasadena Humane Society responded but could not find the bear when officials arrived at the neighborhood.

Photos by Rachele MILLER

CRIME BLOTTER

JUNE 12

4300 block of Shepherd Lane in La Cañada Flintridge, deputies responded to a burglary call with the informant reporting hearing a person/s inside their residence and their burglary alarm was activated.

The informant reported that

he and his family were upstairs at their home. He turned on the home alarm system and went to bed. About two minutes later he heard a "pop" sound from downstairs and the home alarm was activated. He believed his home was being burglarized and moved his children

into the room with him, locked the door and called 9-1-1.

Security footage showed Suspect No. 1 wearing a black jacket with a grey hood, black pants, black shoes and red gloves; Suspect No. 2 was wearing a black jacket with a black hood, grey/light blue

pants, black and white shoes, red and black gloves and a black face mask; Suspect No. 3 was wearing a black jacket with a black hood, black pants, black and white gloves and a grey face mask; Suspect No. 4 was wearing a black jacket with a black hood, black pants, black

shoes, black gloves, a black face mask and had a black backpack.

All four suspects jumped over the side wall that divided the front and side yards of the residence. Shortly after they went into the backyard they were seen running away from the area. They entered a dark colored sedan and drove away. Deputies found the glass in the kitchen door was shattered.

There did not appear anything was stolen at 11:27 p.m.

JUNE 8

900 block of Town Center Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, an employee reported observing a suspect, described as a White male adult wearing a grey baseball cap, black shirt, orange plaid pants and black sandals, enter the store, obtain a shopping cart, pickup miscellaneous items while walking through the store and place them in the cart. He took luggage and put it in his cart. He then went to the wine and liquor department and grabbed two bottles of wine and placed them into the shopping cart.

He then left the cart in the aisle and took the liquor and wine. He left the store without attempting to pay.

The theft occurred at 7:40 p.m.

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Moving Toward the Country's 250th Anniversary

By Mary O'KEEFE

We will soon be celebrating the 250th year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. From now until July 4, CVW will be highlighting some stories about this period.

As we move toward the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, CVW reached out to two professors of history at Glendale Community College.

Many were taught that the American Revolution started when the majority of Colonists decided to go to war with the King of England and Great Britain. The facts though are a little different.

Historian and philosophy instructor Kevin Mack pointed out that Colonists were not Americans in 1776 as America had yet to be created.

"The majority of Colonists were either apathetic or were called 'Loyalist,'" he said.

Loyalist was the title given to those who wanted to stay under the King's rule while 'Patriot' was the term used for those who wanted a free country.

"The folks who did want to fight were incredibly influential, both politically and economically," Mack added.

Propaganda was alive and well in 1776. Newspapers would write about how the UK was not taking into consideration the views or rights of the Colonists.

"American propaganda was successful in framing this as the British are attacking us ... and whenever you're attacked there is this kind of 'rally around the flag' phenomenon," he said.

The Colonists did not think they were part of the United States and, in fact, in the Declaration of Independence the term United States was written in lower case. The U.S. that is known today didn't become formalized until 11 years later.

Colonists did not come just from England but from all over, so loyalty to the King was not guaranteed.

"The idea of breaking away from Great Britain and declaring independence was contested. According to John Adams, the population of the 13 Colonies was split into thirds: one-third Patriots who supported independence, one-third Loyalists who supported the King, and one-third who remained neutral. Public discourse about the politics of colonial independence took place

in public speeches, community gatherings, meetings, artwork, cartoons and pamphlets like Thomas Paine's 1776 'Common Sense,'" said Michelle Stonis, history instructor at GCC.

The decision to start the Revolutionary War was a monumental one. Great Britain at that time was the world's most powerful naval force and a world-dominating empire. And the Colonists did not even have an army when the decision was made to go to war.

For 250 years the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were foundational to the country's governance. So where did our Founding Fathers look toward when creating the new government?

"The United States Constitution is 'the oldest written national framework of government in the world' (Mintz, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History). Our government structure and Constitution were influenced by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy, which had been a functioning democracy for hundreds of years by the time Benjamin Franklin and the other members of the Committee of Five began working on the Declaration of Independence in 1776," Stonis said.

The Committee of Five was composed of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman. They were tasked with writing the Declaration of Independence.

"Jefferson was the primary author," Mack said. "He was the lead author. He sent it back to the revolutionary group that were assembled in Philadelphia [where it went] through heavy, heavy revisions."

As with most writers, Jefferson

did not like his words being changed; however, he eventually was very proud of what had been written.

"The Declaration of Independence is really a stirring and beautiful document," Mack said. "It's a really stirring document that lays out these incredibly beautiful principles that have captured people's imagination.... It's a real high point in human history."

He added the country continues to try to live up to the standards that are laid out in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

There are some who do not feel this 250th anniversary of the nation is a time to celebrate because there is so much division within the country; however, it is important to remember that discord is nothing new for the "united states."

"When the Declaration of Independence was formally adopted on July 4, 1776, many Colonists were denied freedom, legal equality [and] political representation, such as enslaved people, women, indentured servants, Native Americans and non-landowning men. The Constitution's preamble speaks of 'a more perfect union,' yet our nation has contradicted its aspirational call for liberty for all and continues to do so, even today," Stonis said. "National histories are inherently paradoxical and calls for liberation often remain only partially fulfilled because they are shaped and enacted by imperfect humans. The 250th celebration is about historical memory and the stories we tell ourselves about our shared past, which means not all of us will feel included or proud. The early Colonists couldn't all agree on whether to declare independence, so perhaps it is very American and patriotic that we still can't

all agree on whether to celebrate that anniversary 250 years later.

"If celebrating the 250th means acknowledging the progress we've made as a country since 1776 and the progress that we still need to work toward for liberation for all, then count me in."

Mack agreed.

"We're trying to reach for the [writings] 'we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal,'" he said.

However the truths are often violated.

"I think for the last 250 years we've been trying to negotiate what that [writing] actually means, trying to translate that into practice," he said.

Mack pointed out that although the country appears to be divided now, that was also the case in 1976 during the country's bicentennial.

In a radio program then-President Richard M Nixon said: "The Bicentennial is not going to be invented in Washington, printed in triplicate by the Government Printing Office, mailed to you by the U.S. Postal Service, and filed away in your public library.

"Instead, we shall seek to trigger a chain reaction of tens of thousands of individual celebrations – large and small – planned and carried out by citizens in every part of America. We have already made substantial progress toward that goal.... The success of the Bicentennial will be measured by the number of people who participate in it."

It should be noted, however, that Richard Nixon resigned about two years prior to the bicentennial due to the Watergate investigation.

At the time, the country was divided: pros and cons surrounded America's inclusion

in Vietnam and the economy was in trouble. The national celebration fizzled but grassroots efforts took off.

Individual communities that made up the United States celebrated in their own ways. It was the "colonies" so to speak that celebrated the survival of this government "experiment."

"I think there's something really fitting about that," Mack said of localized celebrations. He added the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776 but Americans struggled with the Articles of Confederation government for about a decade.

"I think it's still a pretty incredible achievement that a bunch of dudes got together in the 1780s [and] came up with a solution that still remains with us amid social media," Mack said.

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PET OF THE WEEK

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Congresswoman Friedman Unveils \$1 Million+ Federal Investment to Replace Damaged Burbank Reservoir



Friedman announcing the federal investment with Burbank Water and Power leadership

On Tuesday, U.S. Representative Laura Friedman (CA-30), together with Burbank Water and Power (BWP) leadership and local elected officials, announced a new, \$1,097,000 federal investment she secured to replace Reservoir 2, a nearly 100-year-old, sub-standard potable water reservoir that can only be filled halfway. The investment will help BWP demolish the aging reservoir and build a modern replacement that protects Burbank's water supply for years to come.

The state's Division of Drinking Water has determined the reservoir needs to be replaced. Because Burbank has no naturally occurring water rights and purchases all of its water from the Metropolitan Water District, maintaining reliable storage is critical, including as an emergency water supply for wildfire response.

"Right now, Burbank is relying on a 100-year-old reservoir that can only be filled halfway in a city that has to buy every drop of its water. I secured this

federal investment so we can replace it with a reservoir built to last another century and do it without putting the full cost on Burbank families," said Congresswoman Friedman. "I'll keep fighting to bring our tax dollars home and keep our communities safe and ready for an emergency because clean, reliable water is the baseline every family deserves and every business depends on."

The new reservoir will be built to current drinking water standards and the latest seismic codes, eliminating the outdated mitigation measures BWP staff currently rely on to keep stormwater out and stay compliant. The total project cost is approximately \$23.8 million, with construction expected to be completed late 2027/early 2028.

- Burbank Reservoir 2:**
- Built in 1933, it is nearly 100 years old and at the end of its useful life.
 - 50% capacity, since it is cracked above the centerline, the reservoir can only be filled halfway.



Friedman meets with BWP employees

Friedman with BWP employees



- 100,000-plus residents and businesses are served by Burbank Water and Power across 22 reservoirs.
 - Vulnerable to earthquakes, it was designed nearly a century ago and long before modern seismic codes.
 - It is currently used for drinking water and in emergencies can supplement wildfire response efforts.
- Friedman was joined by Burbank Mayor Tamala Takahashi and Burbank Water and Power General Manager Mandip Samra.

Election Results Still Being Released

By Mary O'KEEFE

On Tuesday, the tenth post-election ballot count was released for the 2026 Statewide Direct Primary Election. At the time, the results included 728 ballots processed since the ninth post-Election Night update. The total election results count was then at 2,224,294, which reflects 37.7% of registered voters.

"All remaining ballots are pending voter response and signature verification. Voters

whose ballots require signature curing have been notified and have until June 24, 2026 to return the notice to have their ballot counted," according to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

Most of the results of the races have not changed that much; however, here are a few local results.

As of June 16 at 4:08 p.m.:

City of Glendale City Council (3 seats open):
Dan Brotman 17.86%

Elen Asatryan 16.25%
Alek Bartrosouf 14.44%
Patrick Murphy 11.07%
La Cañada Flintridge City Council (2 seats open):
Kim Bowman 42.53%
Quemars Ahmed 29.68%
Nerses Aposhian 27.78%
Glendale Community College Board of Trustees
Trustee Area 2:
Edit Khachatryan 66.30%
Ross Erlich 33.70%
Trustee Area 3:
Manuel Magpajian 51.18%

Tony Pogosyan 48.82%
Glendale Unified School District
Trustee Area B:
Greg Krikorian 50.01%
Ingrid Gunnell 49.99%
Trustee Area C:
Kathleen Cross 59.88%
Debbie Blute 23.67%
David Cole 16.45%
Trustee Area D:
Aileen Dinkjian 42.52%
Janet Balekian 29.15%
Shant Kevorkian 28.32%
La Cañada Unified District

Special Election-Measure LCF
Yes 64.67%
No 35.33%
Los Angeles County Measure ER
Yes 50.64%
No 49.36%
To get up-to-date election results for the June 2, 2026 Primary Election go to:
For LA County: <https://tinyurl.com/3eb5j6ky>
For the State of California: <https://dp.electionresults.sos.ca.gov/>

WEATHER from page 2

These large waves have been slamming into California, Hawaii and Tahiti due to these swells. The high waves are on their way to leveling out and returning to the California waves we all are used to; however, according to NOAA, the summer will bring more storms so this may not be the last of the high waves for the season.

And of course we are still looking at a fairly strong El Niño. A June 15 satellite image from NASA's Jet Propulsion

Laboratory shows a "vast pulse of warm water reaching the coast of South America, signaling that El Niño is likely developing. The warm water is being carried eastward by massive ocean waves known as Kelvin waves, which also cause sea levels to rise. El Niño can reshape weather patterns worldwide, bringing floods, droughts and temperature extremes."

So first of all, we love going to the beach – but let's be sea smart. Make sure to check if there are

any high wave warnings from NOAA, look at local conditions that are posted on the beach, respect lifeguards and learn about riptides.

And while politicians debate about the climate, people can argue about what is and is not affecting the Earth, though in the long run the Earth has the last word whether it is through high waves that come out of nowhere or droughts that bring wildfires. We need to respect this planet we call home and learn more about how

we can protect it.

Although our waves are returning to normal NOAA still reports hazardous weather conditions through today [as of press time on Wednesday]. The beach hazard will remain in effect through late tonight though a coastal flood advisory expired. There are continued warnings of dangerous "rip currents and breaking waves due to elevated surf." The warnings are for all LA County beaches.

"There is an increased risk of

ocean drowning. Rip currents can pull swimmers and surfers out to sea. Waves can wash people off beaches and rocks, and capsize small boats nearshore," according to NOAA.

For our area we will be seeing a slight cooling trend through Sunday bringing temperatures from the high 80s to the mid 70s. On Monday, our temperatures will start rising again into the low-to-high 80s. There is no rain or substantial winds in the forecast, according to NOAA.

VIEWPOINTS

TREASURES OF THE VALLEY » MIKE LAWLER

The Mysterious Vietnam MIA of Verdugo Hills Hospital

When you turn off Verdugo Road to enter the lower parking lot of Verdugo Hills Hospital, you probably won't notice a small, planted area marking off one end of the parking lot. In among the low bushes is a directional sign and a flagpole. If you park and walk over to the planter you will find a small plaque mounted about a foot off the ground. The plaque commemorates a Freedom Tree planted in 1973 in honor of Staff Sergeant David Demmon and all "prisoners of war and missing in action."

The Freedom Tree project was an expression of the pain that thousands of American families felt when their missing sons and brothers were never accounted for at war's end in the early 1970s. Nearly every city in the nation has a Freedom Tree and plaque to remember a loved one whose fate may never be known. But the story

of Sgt. Demmon is particularly troubling.

In June 1965, Lt. Dale and Sgt. Demmon (a native of Santa Monica) flew a surveillance mission out of an airbase in South Vietnam. They were shot down over a heavily forested area. A search and rescue team in the area spotted two men near the crash site being captured by the Viet Cong, but bad weather made their identification impossible. Since it was the only plane shot down that day, it was assumed that it was Demmon and Dale, and that they were now POWs.

The two men were continually reported as being alive by Viet Cong defectors and intelligence sources. It gave hope to the families of the two men. In 1971 a credible source reported seeing Demmon being held prisoner at a camp in Cambodia. The source was so credible in fact that a rescue mission was launched

to that Cambodian camp, but no prisoners were found. They had been moved.

But in 1973, when the 591 American POWs returned home, Demmon and Dale weren't among them nor were their names included in lists of POWs who had died in captivity. This was anguish for the Demmon family. Demmon's mother launched an all-out effort to find out the truth about her son – writing letters, talking to military leaders in Washington D.C. and later, after the war, even traveling to Vietnam and chartering a plane to fly the route her son had flown in 1965. One has to realize that at this point there was growing mistrust in the U.S. government's handling of the issue and for the families of MIAs and unresolved POWs, rumors and theories continued to circulate about their loved ones. A big rumor circulating had to do

with Vietnamese officials fleeing Vietnam to China and taking American POWs with them. Demmon in particular was reported to be a "houseboy" to an official in China. As late as 1989 intelligence sources gathered documents from Hanoi stating both Demmon and Dale had died in captivity. No one knew for sure. Even today, rumors continue and the black POW/MIA flags still fly.

But back in 1973, David Demmon's sister Carol, now living in La Crescenta, had a Freedom Tree planted at the new Verdugo Hills Hospital and a ground-level plaque installed for her brother David. Over the years, the plaque was covered by plants and largely forgotten.

In 2009, a veteran coming back to his car after a doctor appointment stumbled across the hidden plaque. He reached out to a local Boy Scout

troop for help. Scout Adam Fletcher took on the plaque as an Eagle Project. He re-landscaped and raised the plaque up on a masonry mount. When a rededication was planned, Demmon's sister Carol heard about it and connected with Adam. As is typical of our community, the dedication ceremony was hugely attended. Carol read some of her brother's letters aloud and presented Adam with her brother's medals.

Next time you are in the lower parking lot of Verdugo Hills Hospital, park and look for this monument. The Freedom Tree is now gone, but the plaque is still there as is the memory of an unresolved and painful part of American history.

Mike Lawler is the former president of the Historical Society of the Crescenta Valley and loves local history. Reach him at lawlerdad@yahoo.com.

OP-ED » MAYOR ARDY KASSAKHIAN

Counting Votes Is Not Cheating

Although Election Day is finally over, the campaigns and bitter fights seem to be never-ending. California has once again become a favorite punching bag for President Donald Trump and many of his allies and supporters. Apparently, the latest assertion is that our elections are corrupt because it takes us a while to count more than 20 million ballots. And as we saw in his interview on "60 Minutes" that ended abruptly, he believes that anyone who challenges his narrative must also be corrupt.

Forgive me if I am less than alarmed.

After spending 15 years administering elections in one of Los Angeles County's largest cities, I've seen the good, the bad and the ugly of our elections processes. I've learned that many things can go wrong. Taking the time to count lawful votes isn't one of them.

Such claims might carry more weight were they not coming from someone with a rather elastic understanding of facts and reality. But this debate is larger than our President. We are left to wonder whether Americans still possess the patience and confidence necessary to sustain our democratic institutions and whether we understand that the purpose of elections is not speed, but legitimacy.

Lost amid the rhetoric is the extraordinary scale of what California actually undertakes every election cycle. Los Angeles County alone has more registered voters than the total populations of 41 states. Millions of ballots must be processed and verified. Tens of thousands of temporary workers are mobilized. Signature verification, provisional ballots, cure procedures, audits, canvassing requirements and certification deadlines all unfold within a legal framework that itself seems to

change every few years. Over the last decade, election officials have adapted to expanded vote-by-mail, same-day registration, ballot tracking technologies, heightened cybersecurity concerns, and a host of legislative reforms. Like every large enterprise, the system is imperfect. But imperfect does not mean illegitimate.

As Glendale's former elections official, I can tell you that election workers are not political operatives. They are public servants. Republicans, Democrats and Independents work side by side, often under extraordinary pressure and with little public recognition, to ensure that every lawful vote is counted. Yet increasingly, the process itself has become the target. Distrust in elections has evolved into a political strategy, particularly on the right where allegations of widespread fraud and stolen elections have become recurring articles of faith despite repeated audits, court rulings and the inability of proponents to produce evidence commensurate with their extraordinary claims.

That should concern conservatives every bit as much as liberals.

History teaches us that democracies rarely collapse because citizens demand too much integrity. More often, they falter because citizens lose faith in institutions altogether. The Republican Party would be well to take note of this but it seems more intent on moving the goal posts, as evidenced by the current Supreme Court case of *Watson v. Republican National Committee (RNC)*.

The RNC is suing Mississippi's top elections official over mail-in-ballots. Ironically, Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson is hardly some anti-Trump crusader. He is a Republican who has

advocated for voter identification laws and consistently supported measures intended to strengthen confidence in elections. In other words, no one is inviting Michael Watson to keynote the California Democratic Convention.

Yet the legal theory advanced by the Republican National Committee would require states to discard ballots cast by eligible citizens who followed every rule and mailed their ballots on time merely because those ballots arrived after Election Day due to delays beyond the voters' control.

No serious person is arguing that citizens should be allowed to vote after Election Day. The question is whether people who voted on time should lose their voice because a truck broke down, bad weather delayed the mail or military postal channels overseas moved slower than expected. Nearly 30 states have concluded that they should not. Such laws recognize a simple principle: Elections are supposed to measure the actions of voters, not the speed of the postal service.

The same misunderstanding was echoed recently by Republican gubernatorial candidate Steve Hilton who stated that election results should be final on Election Day and that "that's it." It is a catchy slogan, but it reflects a remarkably sophomoric understanding of both federalism and democracy itself. States administer elections because different states confront different realities. California is not Idaho. Texas is not Rhode Island. And Los Angeles County, for that matter, is larger than most states.

We must remember that elections aren't sporting events. There is no mercy rule. They are exercises in self-government ... and self-government occasionally requires patience.

More importantly, elections do

not exist for the convenience of cable news producers, social media influencers or candidates eager to declare victory before all the votes have been counted. They exist to ascertain the will of the people and that task requires accuracy above all else.

This push towards urgency isn't new. We've been here before. The famous "Dewey Defeats Truman" headline became a national punchline because impatience got ahead of accuracy. Here in Californian many remember the 1982 gubernatorial race when many believed Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley had defeated Attorney General George Deukmejian only to see later-counted ballots reverse the outcome. Those were not failures of democracy. They were failures of impatience.

Americans have waited for election results throughout much of our history. Abraham Lincoln wasn't checking his phone for returns and Franklin Roosevelt wasn't doomscrolling social media. Somehow, the Republic survived. We can survive waiting a few extra days, too.

What is troubling today is not that vote counting takes time but that ordinary administrative procedures have become fodder for conspiracy theories. Signature verification is portrayed as corruption, ballot curing as fraud and deliberate counting as something suspicious.

Can California do better? Absolutely. We can revisit laws governing ballot collection, continue modernizing procedures and speed up reporting where possible. Election administration should never be beyond criticism or improvement. But there is a world of difference between reforming a system and undermining it, just as there is a difference between healthy skepticism and cynical

manipulation.

As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, it is worth remembering that true patriotism requires loyalty to principles and institutions, not personalities. The Founders pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor not so future Americans could place their faith in strongmen but so that we might preserve a constitutional republic.

I have more faith in my fellow citizens than many of our leaders seem to. Americans know the difference between a delayed result and a stolen election, and between reform and sabotage. They also understand that trust, once lost, is extraordinarily difficult to rebuild.

I hope our leaders focus on improving our processes without disenfranchising voters and recognize that strengthening confidence in democracy is far more important than undermining its institutions.

We do not count ballots to finish elections. We finish elections by counting ballots.

Speed has value. Finality has value. But legitimacy matters more. Elections exist for one reason and one reason only: to ensure that every eligible citizen who casts a lawful ballot on or before Election Day has that vote counted.

Nothing more. And certainly nothing less.

And despite what people may post online without bothering to fact-check, deep down most Americans still understand that getting it right matters more than getting it fast.

Ardy Kassakhian is the mayor of Glendale and teaches political science at Glendale Community College. He previously served for more than 15 years as the city clerk and an election official and has spent more than two decades in public service.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proclamation by the President of the U.S.

On June 14, 1777, the delegates of the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution declaring “that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.” In the 250th year of our glorious Republic, this Flag Day celebrates the American People, whose enduring spirit allows our beloved and timeless tricolor standard to fly as the greatest symbol of freedom, democracy and sovereign strength the world has ever known.

At its inception, the Stars and Stripes symbolized America’s fundamental precepts of liberty, justice, and dependence on Almighty God. Our Nation’s official banner and the principles that propelled our Founding Fathers to boldly undertake the most consequential act of self-governance of all time have withstood the test of time. The

flag is a physical representation of our storied past, shared sacrifice, common heritage and divine destiny. From the frozen ground of Valley Forge to the blood-soaked field of Gettysburg; from the triumphant beaches of Normandy to the desolate face of the Moon; and from the granite steps of the Lincoln Memorial to the heart of every patriot who continues to define American Excellence to this day – wherever our beautiful flag flies, America’s greatness follows. After nearly two and a half centuries, through every tragedy and triumph, Old Glory remains the strongest beacon of sovereignty and hope the world has ever known, thanks to the devoted patriots of the past who made it so – and it is up to us to keep her flying proudly for generations to come.

Our beautiful flag is a global ensign of America’s indomitable spirit, matchless power, and endless resolve to achieve a more perfect Union. This sacred symbol of the American people, carried by generations with incredible

courage and unshakable faith in the promise of our Nation, deserves our deepest admiration, protection, and respect. Last year, I signed an Executive Order to preserve the dignity of our flag by enforcing accountability for acts of desecration tied to violence and lawlessness. We also authorized the revocation of visas, residency, and naturalization for foreign nationals who desecrate the banner under which millions of American patriots have fought and died. As President, I will always wield the full power of my office in defense of our flag’s sacred honor, and I will never rest in my commitment to ensure that the proudest emblem of liberty is forever treated with the reverence it has so dearly earned.

Next month, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our history – 250 glorious years of blessed Independence – and the Red, White, and Blue will preside over jubilant commemorations from sea to shining sea. It will billow atop flagpoles in sprawling cities and on neighborhood porches in small towns; it will fly over beaches, stadiums, parks, iconic landmarks, and military

bases. Our flag will wave in the hands of children at parades and festivals and flap solemnly as a sentinel over hallowed cemeteries of the fallen. On Flag Day, during National Flag Week, and throughout the summer of this historic year, may our majestic flag soar as a triumphant symbol of all the American people have achieved and serve as a shining herald of the new Golden Age that lies before us.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949, as amended (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as “Flag Day” and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. The Congress also requested, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 194), that the President issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as “National Flag Week” and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2026, as Flag Day and the week starting June 14, 2026, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag on all Federal Government buildings during this week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by displaying the flag. I also encourage the people of the United States to proudly observe with all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fiftieth.

*Donald J. Trump, President
United States of America*

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ALG Welcomes Scholarship Awardees



The Assistance League of Glendale (ALG) recently welcomed this year’s scholarship winners to a luncheon at their clubhouse at 314 E Harvard St. in Glendale. Each recipient will receive \$2500 toward their college education when they send in proof of registration for classes in 2026.

The League earns its funds from the Thrift Alley where bargains are available Wednesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations are always welcome.

The ALG big Christmas Sale will be July 23-25!

This year’s recipients are Karen Preciado who attends GCC; she is a single mom of two boys who is perusing a degree in paralegal. Jeffrey Cuateco is a senior at Glendale High School who plans to go to the Culinary Institute. Alberto Lopez of Glendale High School plans on attending UC San Diego and has a goal of becoming a neurosurgeon. Lusine Galstyan of Clark Magnet High School is heading to UC Irvine. Ahmad

Saghae of GCC is transferring to UCLA for a degree in computer engineering. Camila Ramirez attends Crescenta Valley High School and is going to Cal State Long Beach. William Hrand Avnessians of Hoover High School plans on attending UCLA to earn a degree in political science. Emme E Wathen attends Verdugo Academy and plans on going to UC Santa Cruz. Anait Tonoian attends Allan Daily High School.

*Submitted by
Danette ERICKSON*

2026 CV Weekly's GRADUATION SPECIAL

Pursue your passions and live your life to its fullest.



Young 'Mars Pioneers' Complete First Mars Exploration Club in Crescenta Cañada Valley

Kiwanis of Glendale Presents Scholarships



From left are Dr. Howie Nguyen, recipient Franklin Hughes, Dr. Jonathan Jiang and Pauline Jiang.

The first Mars Pioneer Youth Mars Explorers Club, sponsored by Kobeissi Properties, celebrated its successful completion with a closing ceremony in May.

Organized by Pauline Jiang, president of the Sunlight Culture and Art Center, the four-month program brought together students, families, community leaders and scientists from across the Crescenta Cañada Valley area to explore the future of human settlement on Mars.

Led by Dr. Jonathan Jiang, CEO of Beacon in the Cosmos LLC, students studied deep-space exploration and developed projects envisioning a future Mars city. At the final presentation, nine students showcased academic posters and delivered five-minute talks covering topics such as solar power, food production, housing, healthcare, transportation and energy systems.

Dr. Jiang praised the students' creativity and scientific thinking while guest scientist Dr. Howie Nguyen commended their innovative ideas in battery technology and life-support systems. Both scientists presented certificates recognizing the students' dedication, teamwork and research achievements.

"We hope that through direct dialogue with leading scientists, we can inspire a lifelong passion for science while strengthening students' research and communication skills," said organizer Pauline Jiang.

The evening concluded with a community reception hosted by Lynne Wang and student families. Parents noted that the program helped students build confidence in public speaking, leadership, teamwork and independent thinking.

The success of the inaugural Mars Pioneer program reflects the growing enthusiasm for STEM education throughout the Crescenta Cañada Valley community and encourages young learners to imagine and help shape the future.



Recipients with Dr. Jonathan Jiang (left) and Dr. Howie Nguyen and Pauline Jiang (right).



Shown from left, back row, are Anthony A., Gor G., Ethan S., Eva J. and Liana T.; seated from left are Gisello B., Pateel H., Maya F., Sofia O. and Kuvira K.

On May 29, the Glendale Kiwanis Club announced the recipients of its 2026 scholarship awards of \$2,000 each that recognize exceptional high school and community college students for their academic excellence, community service and leadership.

This year, scholarships were awarded to outstanding graduates from Clark Magnet High School, Glendale High School, Hoover High School and Glendale Community College, continuing a Kiwanis tradition of investing in the next generation of leaders.

"We are honored to support these talented and dedicated students as they take the next steps in their educational journeys," said Amy Taylor, scholarship chair for Kiwanis of Glendale. "These scholarships reflect our commitment to fostering youth development and building a stronger community."



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| Payton Olivia Anderson | Eliana Isabel Gonzalez | Skye McHale Louis | Sofia Saltarelli |
| Grace Olivia Anich | Emily Grijalva-Lopez | Gianna Charlyze Lucio | Grace Celeste Savarese |
| Sophia Catherine Astalis | Julia Marie Gutierrez | Madeline Manzo | Gianna Mylene Scaturchio |
| Lia Avagyan | Bella Hagobian | Ruzanna Margaryan | Elise Sandra Schoettler |
| Isabelle Cassandra Nazareno Basa | Gemma Dale Rose Hancock | Grace Elaine McCarthy | Ary Nicole Shamo |
| Margaux Bermudez | Eliza Hernandez | Olivia McCarthy | Juliette Helene Smith |
| Avery Jewel Brist | Jane Hernandez Navarro | Ava Grace McGarry | Sydney Leanne Smith |
| Sofía Mercedes Bruchey | Kaelly Sophia Hernandez | Elisa Mena | Liza Corinne Stiefel |
| Alexandra Irelin Carr | Sachiko Hillary | Kate Whitney Mester | Regan Shea Sweeney |
| Gianna Lee Casci | Lila Renee Hindman | Lyla Minton | Leah Ani Toutounjian |
| Emma Elise Cervantes | Tina Hu | Ella Mkrtchian | Sophia Anabel Tovar |
| Amy Yiting Chen | Yaretsi Huicochea | Kyla Marie T. Mohnani | Chloe Crystal Tran |
| Celeste Emma Chilleri | Ella Amira Husain | Daniela Munguia Ponce | Lily Marie Waggoner |
| Savannah Grace Clarke | Rebecca Ann Huston | Julianna Paz Munoz | Jacqueline Nicole Ward |
| Layla Audrey Crossland | Avé Elisse Jones | Gabriella-Alexis Nicolette Newman | Rose Xiang Yan |
| Sofia Cecilia De Francisco | Mika Kaneko-Grun | Suri Nguyen Bao Quyen | Lori Yacoubian |
| Autumn Kailyn Donahue | Charley Callanan Klein | Carly Rose Norton | Sadie Young |
| Mia Isabella Escobar | Courtney Tatum Kruse | Janelle Sophia Porta | Allison Yue |
| Cindy Candy Espinoza | Keira Mei Zaide Kwan | Cassey Helena Pulido | Everest Claridge Zander |
| Yaqi Feng | Eesha Sunil Lalwani | Christina Katherine Purcell | Fiona Zhang |
| Grace Elizabeth Fuller | Annie Lam | Ena Lane Ramsey | Susan Suchen Zheng |
| Sophia Lily Gallegos | Sabrina Mae Carlos Lauron | Teresa Marie Reilly | Yoyo Zheng |
| Isabella Olivia Garcia | Elia Lee | Victoria Elizabeth Reilly | Annie Zhou |
| Lucia Elena Gautio | Chloe Lee Ting Shiuan | Faye Mary Richard | Olivia Chenying Zhou |
| Isabelle Elena Marie Gaviña | Sasha Mackenzie Leroy | Francesca Natalia Rocco | |

Matriculation

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Barnard College | Johns Hopkins University | San Diego Mesa College | University of Colorado Boulder |
| Baylor University | Lake Forest College | San Diego State University | University of Denver |
| Berklee College of Music | Louisiana State University | Santa Barbara City College | University of Gloucestershire |
| Bucknell University | Loyola Marymount University | Santa Clara University | University of Hawaii at Hilo |
| California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo | Loyola University Chicago | Sarah Lawrence College | University of Hawaii at Manoa |
| California State University Northridge | Macalester College | Smith College | University of Iowa |
| California State University San Marcos | Marist University | Tufts University | University of Oregon |
| Chapman University | McGill University | Tulane University | University of Portland |
| Clemson University | Northeastern University | University of California Berkeley | University of San Diego |
| Columbia University | Oregon State University | University of California Davis | University of San Francisco |
| Duquesne University | Parsons School of Design | University of California Irvine | University of Southern California |
| Emerson College | Pasadena City College | University of California Los Angeles | University of Tennessee |
| Fordham University | Pennsylvania State University | University of California Riverside | University of Texas El Paso |
| Glendale Community College | Pepperdine University | University of California San Diego | University of Washington |
| Gonzaga University | Pitzer College | University of California Santa Barbara | University of Wisconsin-Madison |
| Holy Cross College | Providence College | University of California Santa Cruz | Villanova University |
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Boston University	Marist University	University of Oregon
California Polytechnic State University, Pomona	Marquette University	University of Portland
California State University, Fullerton	New York University (2)	University of Redlands
California State University, San Marcos	Northwestern University	University of San Diego (2)
Chapman University	Pepperdine University	University of San Francisco
Clark University	Sarah Lawrence College	University of Southern California (11)
Colorado School of Mines	Southern Methodist University (2)	University of St. Andrews
Colorado State University	Texas Christian University (3)	University of Utah
Denison University	Tufts University	University of Washington (3)
Fashion Institute of Technology	Tulane University (3)	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Fordham University	University of California, Berkeley (2)	University of Toronto
Georgetown University	University of California, Irvine	Villanova University
Golden West College	University of California, Los Angeles (4)	Yale University
John Cabot University	University of California, San Diego	
Lafayette College		
Louisiana State University		

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DIANA BRANDIN HELPS SPECIAL EDUCATION EFFORTS WITH CAPTIONING SERVICES

Captions are the words that are displayed on a television, computer, mobile device or movie screen that describe the audio or sound portion of a program or video. "Real-time captions," or communication access real-time translation (CART), are created as an event takes place using a stenotype machine with a phonetic keyboard and special software. Diana Brandin first learned about the captioning field early in her education as a court reporter. Today, Diana Brandin Realtime Captioning & Sign Language Service boasts high-profile clients ranging from K-12 to post-secondary education and STEAM to the medical and legal fields, to name a few.

Many government and educational institutions hire her company to help create captions. The passage of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires federal entities or organizations that receive federal funding to accommodate those who are deaf or hard of hearing with closed captioning, also helps grow her business. She has also discovered how eager schools are to help all of their students and has branched out to offer referrals for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters that work in conjunction with the captioning services she provides.

To learn more or for a free demonstration, visit www.onpointcaptions.com, call (818) 279-8136 or email db.realtimecaptioning@gmail.com

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LEE RECIPIENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Madison Lee of La Cañada Flintridge, whose probable career field is in health care, received a scholarship from the University of Southern California (USC). USC is a private, coeducational and nonsectarian university.

Undergraduate enrollment is nearly 14,000 students. The College of Letters, Arts and Sciences is complemented by 19 professional and graduate schools offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Graduate enrollment is about 12,000.

Lee is among 2,500 winners of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities.

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the finalists in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

Provided by NMSC

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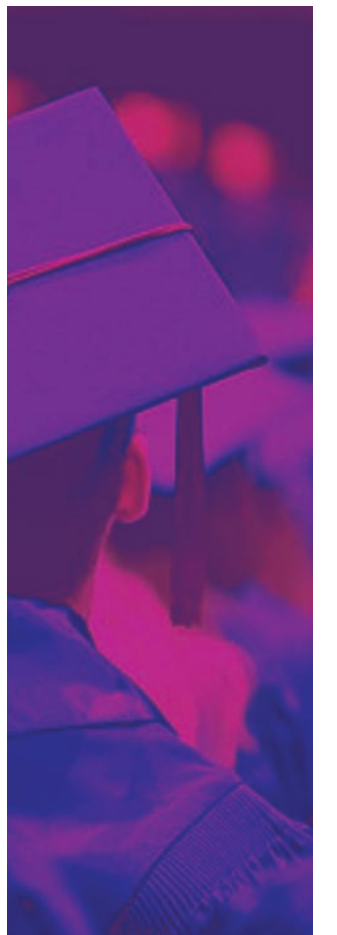
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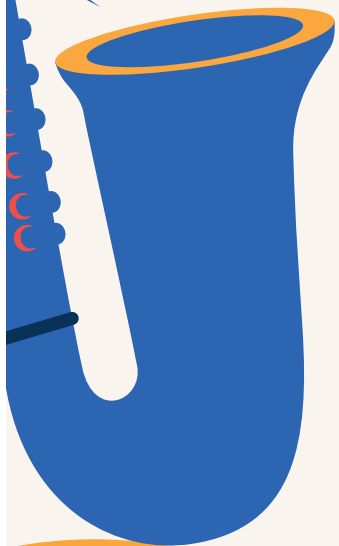
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BETWEEN FRIENDS

Verdugo Park Site of Rotary Club of Glendale's 9th Annual Cars for Cops & Kids Car Show

The Rotary Club of Glendale's 9th Annual Cars for Cops & Kids Car Show returned to Verdugo Park on Sunday, June 7, bringing together nearly 200 classic, custom, exotic and specialty vehicles for a day of family fun, community engagement and charitable giving.

Held each year on the first Sunday in June, the event attracted hundreds of spectators, car enthusiasts and families from throughout Southern California. More than 40 trophies were awarded to outstanding vehicles across a wide range of categories.

The event was made possible through the support of numerous community partners led by headline sponsors Pacific BMW and Adventist Health Glendale, along with the generosity of local philanthropists Larry Tison and Dr. Richard Swandberg. Dozens of additional sponsors and supporters also contributed at various levels, demonstrating the strong community support for this event. Their collective commitment to local youth programs helped make this year's fundraiser another successful step forward in supporting youth-focused initiatives throughout the community.

Community leaders were on hand to participate in the festivities and present awards, including Glendale Mayor Ardashes "Ardy" Kassakhian, Glendale Fire Chief Jeff Brooks, Glendale Interim Police Chief Robert William and several Glendale City Councilmembers.

Attendees enjoyed food and refreshments from local vendors including Tommy's Burgers, Eagles Tacos and

other community favorites. The popular beer garden, hosted by the Verdugo Woodlands Dad's Club, provided an additional gathering place for participants and guests throughout the day.

Adding to the family-friendly atmosphere, Scouting America hosted a Pinewood Derby during the event, giving young participants an opportunity to race their handcrafted cars while families enjoyed the show.

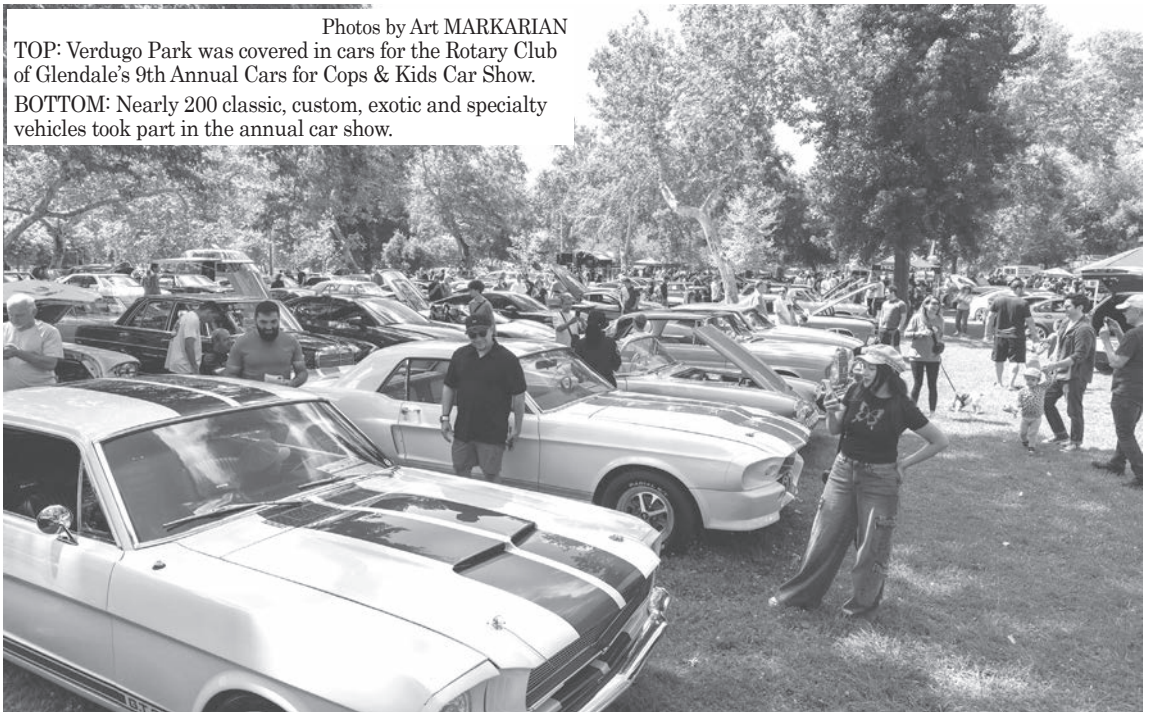
Through sponsorships, vehicle registrations, raffle ticket sales, and community support, the event raised more than \$50,000. Proceeds will benefit youth programs operated by the Glendale Police Dept. and other organizations focused on supporting at-risk youth and youth development initiatives throughout the community.

Since its inception in 2017, Cars for Cops & Kids has raised more than \$450,000 to support local youth programs and strengthen partnerships between community organizations and public safety agencies. The event has become one of Glendale's signature community fundraisers, uniting car enthusiasts, local businesses, first responders, and residents around a common mission of investing in young people.

"Cars for Cops & Kids continues to show what can happen when a community comes together in support of its youth," said Rotary Club President George Saikali. "The generosity of our sponsors, participants, volunteers, and attendees allows us to provide opportunities and resources that help young people thrive."

The Rotary Club of Glendale is dedicated to improving lives

Photos by Art MARKARIAN
 TOP: Verdugo Park was covered in cars for the Rotary Club of Glendale's 9th Annual Cars for Cops & Kids Car Show.
 BOTTOM: Nearly 200 classic, custom, exotic and specialty vehicles took part in the annual car show.



through community service, youth programs, educational initiatives and charitable projects that benefit people in local neighborhoods and around

the world. Through volunteerism, fundraising and partnerships with local organizations, Rotary members work to create lasting positive change both locally and

globally. Visit www.glendalerotary.org to learn more.

Submitted by H. Art MARKARIAN

Questions About Today's Real Estate?

Ask Phyllis!

Square Footage Discrepancy

Dear Phyllis,

I always enjoy your column and love learning something new. My son plans to sell his home in the next few months. He will use a friend who is a Realtor for both the sale and the purchase of a new home.

The appraiser measured his home at 1,981 square feet. However, the tax assessor lists only 1,745. With homes selling for about \$850 per square foot, this square footage discrepancy could significantly affect the home's value. It does not appear that any

rooms were added to his home. My son's Realtor says he cannot quote the appraiser's measurement. I am curious about the best way to handle this situation.

— Nancy

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for your question and for being a loyal reader. He could appeal to the tax assessor to update the record, but I don't think that is necessary.

Square footage discrepancies between tax assessor records and appraisals are common. Still,

this difference could have a real impact on your son's selling price, especially in today's market.

I don't see why your son's Realtor cannot disclose both numbers. For example, the listing could state that the assessor notes 1,745 square feet, while the appraiser measured 1,981. This approach is transparent and helps potential buyers understand the situation.

Because this discrepancy is substantial, I recommend obtaining another opinion from a professional measurer. If your

son's Realtor does not know a reliable measurer, his real estate agent can call my office for a recommendation. I typically hire a professional to tape the home and develop a floor plan. This enables buyers to determine furniture placement etc. Getting a precise measurement before going on the market is important and can help avoid a later renegotiation.

It is also important that your son or his agent disclose the square footage discrepancy to interested buyers. They should be encouraged to verify the

measurement themselves if they wish.

While the numbers differ, your son has options. He can disclose both figures, obtain a professional measurement, and advise buyers to confirm for themselves. Taking these steps helps ensure smoother sale.

Best wishes to your son as he prepares to sell his home. Handling the square footage discrepancy before marketing to the public is the smartest approach.

Phyllis



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TRAVEL & LEISURE

» MOVIE REVIEW

Light on Aliens, But High Caliber Nevertheless: ‘Disclosure Day’ Proves That Spielberg’s Still Got It

By Jackson TOYON

It’s officially blockbuster season, moviegoers! And what better way to start it off than with a brand new film by legendary director Steven Spielberg? In 2026, Spielberg has gone back to one of his most favorite and formative roots – aliens. In this fast-paced epic, he seeks to explore a more optimistic take on how humanity might respond to the disclosure of irrefutable evidence of extraterrestrial life – and a pessimistic depiction of the lengths that the individuals in charge of keeping such details secret would go to keep a lid on it. It’s a battle of truth for a civilization that deserves it vs. concealment to maintain public order – and someone’s bound to come out on top.

We’re plunged right into the action as we enter a world that is teetering on the brink of World War III. Daniel Kellner (Josh O’Connor), a cybersecurity expert at the Wardex Corporation, has stolen a trove of highly classified files detailing humanity’s close encounters with and exploitation of extraterrestrial life, plus a mysterious piece of alien technology – and he’s on the run. Convinced that humanity deserves

to know the truth, he is directed by fellow rebel Hugo Wakefield (Colman Domingo) on how to deliver the files before sinister Wardex CEO Noah Scanlon (Colin Firth) can catch up to their operation and stop them. After Daniel and his girlfriend Jane (Eve Hewson) narrowly escape Scanlon and his men, the following morning begins with a bizarre occurrence. Just as Kansas City weatherwoman Margaret Fairchild (Emily Blunt) takes her position to give her morning forecast, her practiced words don’t come – it is instead involuntarily replaced by an ominous statement in an alien language. Plans change, Margaret finds herself thrust into the center of the conspiracy and the pro-truth rebellion must also get to her before she and her new unusual abilities can fall into Wardex’s clutches. The world’s fate hangs in the balance ... and humanity is running out of runway.

Though the trailers and marketing suggest something of an enticing cosmic mystery, the aliens actually take something of a backseat in this movie that is largely a pursuit film. While aliens are always the driving motivation and thematic vehicle for the plot, this feature mainly takes the audience on an enjoyable whirlwind

Photo provided by Jackson TOYON
Emily Blunt portrays weatherwoman Margaret Fairchild in the movie “Disclosure Day.”



journey of protagonists just barely escaping from the forces that would seek to silence them.

There’s nothing wrong with a good old chase movie (think “Mad Max: Fury Road” and “The Fugitive”), though viewers who enjoyed the trailers might find a different experience than expected. Despite being a bit long, having some spotty animal CGI, and not quite delivering on the dramatic weight it promised, the film has much to be proud of.

With impressive technical craft and directorial flair, “Disclosure Day” shines brightly in many respects and clearly demonstrates that Spielberg still has what it takes.

Emily Blunt commands the screen with an absolutely towering performance in which she runs the full gamut of emotions, and the rest of the main cast is great across the board. Agile and dynamic camerawork by longtime Spielberg cinematographer Janusz Kamiński, set to an adventurous John Williams score, keeps the action thrilling and propulsive. The film carries an interesting and timely underlying theme about the ultimate necessity of empathy that perhaps some audiences won’t fully embrace, but the earnest conviction behind it is clear.

“Disclosure Day” is a blockbuster that once again proves that exciting

action can coexist with some thematic intrigue – viewers don’t have to choose between having one or the other. It boasts a magnetic, leaning-forward-in-your-seat third act and even manages to carry the occasional humorous moment.

It might not totally knock off a person’s socks, but between the direction and Emily Blunt’s performance it earns its price for admission to the theatre. A filmmaking achievement as sincere as this is a worthy addition to Spielberg’s body of work and an exciting start to this year’s blockbuster season that’s worth a trip to the theater.

Rated PG-13

AMERICANA 2026: The Spirit of ’76

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the La Cañada Presbyterian Church (LCPC) Chancel Choir and LCPC Orchestra invite the community to Americana 2026: The Spirit of ’76 – a stirring patriotic concert featuring beloved works spanning from 1776 to the present day.

The concert takes place on Sunday, June 28 at 2 p.m. at La Cañada Presbyterian Church,

626 Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge. Admission is free.

The program showcases the greatest talents of the American musical tradition, featuring works by Aaron Copland, John Williams, George Gershwin, George M. Cohan, & John Philip Sousa. From the soaring grandeur of Copland’s frontier soundscapes to the irresistible march rhythms of Sousa, and from Gershwin’s jazz-infused Americana to the stirring

cinematic sweep of Williams, the concert traces the arc of America’s musical soul across two and a half centuries. Many of the songs will be accompanied by videos showing the country’s beautiful land and special moments from U.S. history.

Audiences are encouraged to join in during a festive community sing-along featuring some of the nation’s most cherished patriotic songs. A heartfelt salute to the Armed Forces will honor past and

present members of all branches of military service in attendance.

At 1:30 p.m., music director Jack Lantz will present an illuminating pre-concert discussion, “Patriotic Music in America – From Colonial Ballads to the Modern Anthem” tracing the development of patriotic music from colonial times to the 21st century. This free presentation is open to all concertgoers and is an ideal complement to the afternoon’s

main program.

Feel the spirit of America. Leave refreshed and renewed. This beloved annual event consistently draws capacity crowds – arrive early to secure a seat.

The concert will also be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person, available via the LCPC website at live.lacanadapc.org and the LaCanadaPC YouTube channel.

THEN & NOW



Then: This is Verdugo Boulevard to the east of Montrose in the 1920s where it climbed the hill past Indian Springs to La Cañada. Hilldale Drive can be seen branching off, along with a real estate sign for “Canada Hills.” It’s lush and quite a beautiful little section of homes.

Top of Verdugo Boulevard Courtesy of the Historical Society of CV



Now: The land around the top of Verdugo Boulevard was radically reformed in the late 1960s and early ’70s when the 2 and 210 Freeway interchange was built. Hilldale Drive still branches off in the same way it always did but the land to the east of it now has the Regal/United Artists theater complex.

Classic Cars at Albertsons

Albertsons Grocery Store at 6240 Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga once again hosted a classic car show. It was held on Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The show was sponsored by the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce.

About 60 vehicles were on display in the parking lot adding to the grocery shopping experience for Albertsons' customers.

Those who walked through the classic display were able to talk to the vehicles' owners, asking them how much time and money it took to refurbish their amazing vehicles. Admirers were also able to look at the engines of the cars and trucks, which were built from the 1930s to the 1960s.

CV Chamber of Commerce often sponsors car shows that offer a look into the classic past of automobiles while highlighting local businesses.

Written and photos by Mary O'KEEFE

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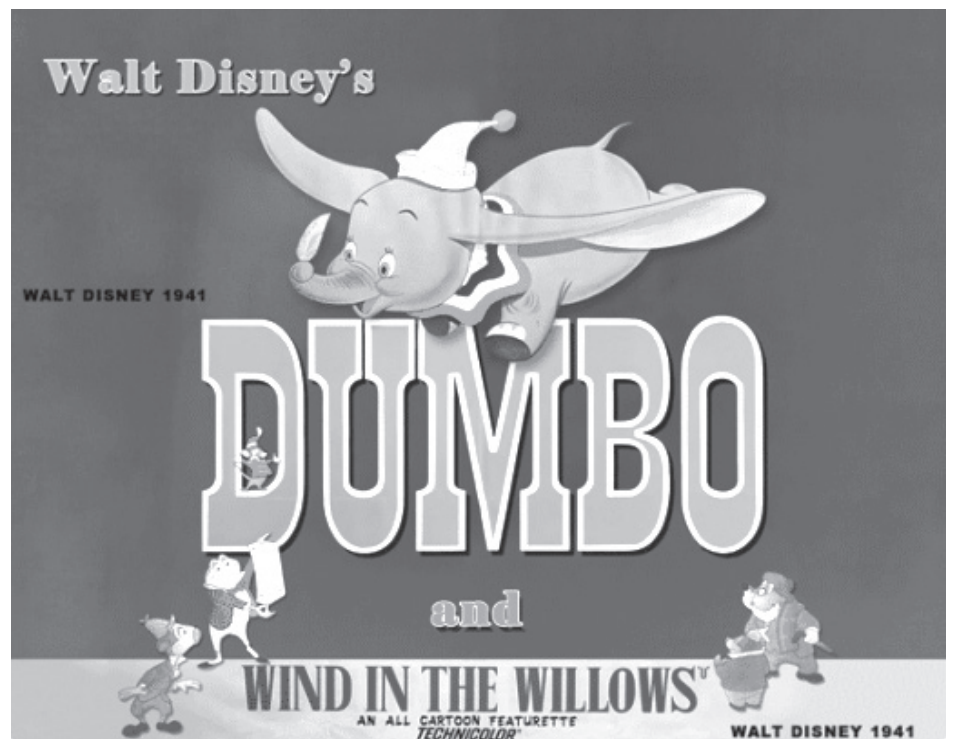
'Brigadoon' Ends Run at Pasadena Playhouse



In the courtyard of the Pasadena Playhouse, Wade Henderson, left, Bryan Walsingham, middle, and Los Feliz is excited to see the theatre's last performance of Lerner & Lowe's "Brigadoon." He is joined by buddies Mark Landers.

By Ruth SOWBY

'Dumbo' Coming to Brand Park



The film "Dumbo" will be screened at Brand Park on Saturday, June 27. Gates open at 6 p.m. In addition, the movie "Wind in the Willows" from 1949 will be shown.

These two films kick off the fourth season of summer series of monthly screenings under the stars in Glendale's Brand Park. Admission is free. Guests should bring blankets, lawn or beach chairs for seating, and plenty of water or soft drinks to stay hydrated.

In the movie "Dumbo," the main character is Jumbo Jr., an elephant who is ridiculed for his oversized ears and mockingly nicknamed "Dumbo." His only friend, a mouse named Timothy, convinces him to fly, using his oversized ears as wings.

Preceding the feature, Kenneth Grahame's classic children's novel "Wind in the Willows" will be shown. This short subject film is widely praised as one of Disney's finest animation efforts from the era, featuring lush Technicolor backgrounds and expressive characters. The impulsive Mr. Toad's misadventures with motorcars lead to his imprisonment and eventual rescue. Both Dumbo and Mr. Toad's Wild Ride have remained popular theme park attractions.

To see a full list of screenings visit: <https://www.alexfilmsociety.org/2026/06/classic-films-under-the-stars-2026/>.

Brand Park is located at 1601 W. Mountain St. in Glendale.

GOT GOOD FOOD?
CV Weekly can promote your restaurant or food service! For details, call Rachelle at the CVW office at (818) 248-2740

JUST FOR FUN

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Provided by horoscope.com

June 15, 2026 - June 21, 2026

ARIES March 21 - April 19

You're fine and healthy as long as you can talk about whatever bothers you. When you can't, the problems start. Your system doesn't seem to thrive on secrets, especially toxic ones. The sooner you can deal with those, the better you'll feel. The same holds true if you're in denial about any aspect of your life and trying to put up a brave front. Let it all go.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

One of the biggest problems with trying to stay in shape is a tendency to eat to cover up emotions. This could be even more pronounced with the cosmos encouraging you to indulge every time you feel down. Try to zero in on what's going on in your mind when you eat compulsively. If there's an issue to sort out, it's better to deal with that first and then tackle the eating.

GEMINI May 21 - June 20

This is one of those times when you could feel more pressured than usual. Don't neglect your health in order to free up your time. If you do this, it could become a habit. It's better to plan out your day and allow time for working out and eating well. Make sure to get plenty of sleep, too. Get into the habit of good health no matter what you have to deal with.

CANCER June 21 - July 22

You could get conflicting information that puts you in a difficult situation. It could concern diet, exercise, or some sort of health issue. Being of two minds is never easy, so you might need to spend time doing research in order to get to the truth. When you find the answer from personal experience, no one will be able to argue with your information.

LEO July 23 - August 22

Don't let the little things faze you. If you aren't careful, you could trip or have a minor accident. Also be aware that under the current influences, illness is a message from your body. You need to hear what it's saying to you. The cosmos gives you the chance to tap a deeper knowing and understand your body's needs in advance so you can do something before a problem arises.

VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

This is the best time to get your fitness routine back on track. Use this opportunity to work on a plan that you can sustain. Make it varied and interesting enough to keep you going.

You don't have to stick with one form of exercise, either. Combine several. Make up your own program. Do whatever it takes and get on with it.

LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

The cosmos could bring some confusion over a health issue. If you're concerned, it would help to get a second or third opinion. You'll get what you need and your issues will begin to resolve. Keep an open mind and don't presume anything!

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You can help yourself the most by lightening up. You're so determined to get into shape that you force your body to jump through impossible hoops. Be kinder to yourself for a change. Take the chance to find your own diet and exercise rhythm. Your body knows what it needs, so pay attention to it!

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You tend to skip over the whole process of choosing to eat healthy foods, preferring instead to give your diet as little thought as possible. You're more concerned with the starving millions than with your own health issues. If you want to be able to put some of your ideas into practice, you need to eat properly.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

The good thing right now is that you're being encouraged to speak up for yourself more. You're now willing to set boundaries and tell others like it is. This is excellent for your emotional state. It not only clears the air but also helps you feel less like a martyr and more in control. Keep this up and your health will flourish.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

The financial aspects of staying healthy will become more important to you over the weeks ahead. The cosmos indicates it might be time to define your fitness goals so you know how best to spend your money. If you're not using your gym membership, cancel it and try another form of exercise that you find more enjoyable and saves you money.

PISCES Feb. 19 - March 20

Make sure to take extra vitamin C or echinacea to boost your immune system. There's a possibility that you're more prone to infection, especially if you have a busy social life. Be good to yourself and take supplements regularly. Be careful when you eat out so can you avoid any stomach bugs and keep well. Drink plenty of water!

CALENDAR this

GLENDALE KIWANIS

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale meets on Fridays at noon. On June 19, Lt. Governor Mauricio Lopez will be making a his official club visit.

The cost to attend Friday meetings, which includes lunch and program, is \$25. All are welcome.

The Club meets at the Elks Lodge, 120 E. Colorado St. in Glendale.

DANCING AS EXERCISE

Dancing As Exercise is a free event sponsored by the Los Angeles County Park program for seniors (50 plus).

There will be music from 10 a.m. to noon each Friday in the Park's building at 3901 Dunsmore Ave. in La Crescenta. Light refreshments and water are provided along with socialization and information about other park activities.

Dancing, per se, is not required; single persons are welcome.

CCLCF EVENTS

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge (CCLCF) hosts a variety of events for the community. Among them:

• **Camp Runamuk:** Camp Runamuk (ages 5-10) started this week and will run weekly through Aug. 14 with exciting themes each week. Learn more/register today at cclcf.org/register

• **Summer Camps.** Coach Andy's Summer Sports Camps, Skyhawks Sports Summer Camps, Junior & Pre-Teen Ceramics Camps, Musical Theatre Dance Camp, Cooking Camps, Art Camps, Professor Egghead Camps, and a Speech & Debate Camp promises something for everyone! Camp ages range from 4 to 14. Register today at cclcf.org/register.

• **Summer Registration:** Summer registration is open! Summer classes just started and it's not

too late to join. View summer classes, such as Balance Fit and Tai Chi, at cclcf.org/register. Some classes may be held off-site to accommodate summer camps.

• **Studio Arts Summer Registration:** Studio Arts (ceramics & glass) summer registration is open. Studio Arts summer session starts June 21 and runs through Aug 15. Learn more at cclcf.org/register

• **Foothills Community Choir Spring Concert "Tell Your Story":** Enjoy an inspiring evening of musical storytelling on Saturday, June 20 at 7 p.m. Tickets available at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/theatreproductions/event/foothillscommunitychoir26/>.

• **Fall I Registration:** Fall I registration opens July 29 at 9 am. The Fall I session is eight weeks and starts on Aug. 24. View upcoming Fall I class info as it becomes available at cclcf.org/register.

see CALENDAR THIS on next page

» ZACK HILL BY JOHN DEERING AND JOHN NEWCOMBE



ACROSS

- 1) Powdered beverage
- 5) Word before "numeral" or "candle"
- 10) Soaks color into fabrics
- 14) Shaving cream additive, perhaps
- 15) Supreme Court Justice Kagan
- 16) "The Bridges of Madison County" state
- 17) Star of the original "The Nutty Professor"
- 19) Hands on deck
- 20) ___ tai
- 21) Overly obsessive fans
- 23) Major inconveniences
- 27) "Smart" guy?
- 28) Dinner crumb
- 29) "The Blackboard Jungle" author Hunter
- 31) Muslim greeting
- 35) Collaborative coalition
- 37) Chapters in history
- 39) "Inferno" writer
- 40) Actor Lugosi
- 41) Balsa vessels
- 43) Numbered hwy.
- 44) Dead to the world
- 46) "Now!" in the emergency room
- 47) New Zealand parrots
- 48) Some electric vehicles
- 50) Word in a magician's phrase
- 52) ___ as directed
- 53) Suffix meaning "stone"
- 55) Blanketlike shawls
- 57) Ritz's owner, e.g.
- 61) Vienna's land (Abbr.)
- 62) Say it's so
- 63) Star of "Gone With The Wind"
- 68) Raja's mate
- 69) "A Fish Called Wanda" Oscar winner
- 70) Angler's need
- 71) Deer family members
- 72) Navigational aid
- 73) ___ Grande, Arizona

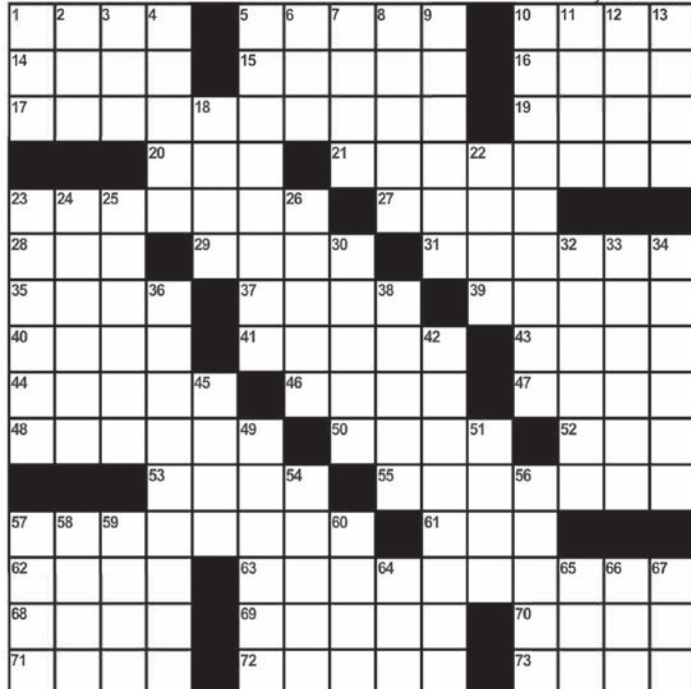
DOWN

6.18.26

- 1) ___ Mahal
- 2) Publican's serving
- 3) Postal creed word
- 4) Mouthwash victims
- 5) Bullpen figure
- 6) Grand-Opry link
- 7) Kitty litter sound?
- 8) "West Side Story" girl
- 9) Some speech sounds
- 10) Host of "American Bandstand"
- 11) Auld lang syne
- 12) Fancy pitcher
- 13) Does a carpenter's job
- 18) Connecticut college
- 22) Detective's need
- 23) Frodo Baggins, for one
- 24) Garfield's girlfriend in the comics
- 25) Fur pieces
- 26) Gilbert and Teasdale
- 30) 1993 treaty, briefly
- 32) Dealer's directive
- 33) Order to relax
- 34) Complicated situations
- 36) Track-and-field legend
- 38) ___ in the back (betrays)
- 42) Campus prankster
- 45) Dog feature
- 49) "___ and stones may ..."
- 51) Cut ___ (dance)
- 54) "You there?"
- 56) Words after "easy"
- 57) Aesop's also-ran
- 58) Elliptical
- 59) Honky-___
- 60) Drops from the sky
- 64) Biochemistry abbr.
- 65) A word from ewe?
- 66) Fleur-de-___ (Quebec symbol)
- 67) Announcement from a cockpit, for short

A LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION

By Rob Lee



Meet Georgia and Diana! I was only going to adopt one, but decided to adopt both of them because they are sisters and very bonded. They are approximately 3 months old and tons of fun! They let me dress them up and are so sweet.

CV Weekly loves to hear about your pets!
Send a pic and small caption to steve@cvweekly.com to share your lovable pets with the community!

see ANSWERS on page 21

PROBLEM SOLVED » BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

SeatGeek Promised First-Row Seats. I Got Section G Instead!

Sean Thomas pays SeatGeek \$2,744 for concert tickets advertised as “premium” floor seating in the first five rows with a VIP merchandise bundle. Instead he receives tickets for Section G, far from the stage, and a VIP package that doesn’t match the artist’s official terms. Can he get his money back?

Question: I purchased concert tickets from SeatGeek to see The Weeknd for \$2,744. The listing advertised “premium floor seating in the first five rows” and a special VIP merch bundle.

When I received my tickets, they were for Section G. That’s significantly farther from the stage than advertised. The VIP package I received didn’t match SeatGeek’s official terms, which require non-transferability, in-person ID check and on-site merchandise pickup. The listing falsely stated merchandise would be “shipped post-show.”

I contacted SeatGeek. First, a representative claimed that “first five rows” referred to a general zone, not literal seat rows. When I disproved that, SeatGeek offered me a promo code for an upcoming event. I declined.

Then SeatGeek redefined the stage layout. A representative asserted that runways are now considered part of the stage, attempting to retroactively justify my seat location. The company even uploaded a new seat map to support this narrative after I filed my

complaint. This pattern of shifting explanations demonstrates clear false advertising. SeatGeek refused to issue a refund or escalate the matter to its legal department, despite my formal written demands. Its Buyer Guarantee should protect me but it won’t help. Can you help me get my \$2,744 back? – Sean Thomas, Murphysboro, Illinois

Answer: SeatGeek should have refunded your purchase. Looking at the seat map, Section G does not include the first five rows no matter what the company claims.

SeatGeek’s own policies require sellers to accurately describe tickets. Its Buyer Guarantee states you’ll receive “the same tickets you ordered.” You didn’t. The company should have honored its guarantee without the runaround.

The shifting explanations you received are troubling. First, SeatGeek claimed “first five rows” meant a zone. Then it seemed to redefine the stage itself. That’s not customer service; it’s creative writing.

It looks like you had the basics

in terms of a paper trail. You had the tickets and screenshots of your chats with SeatGeek. Keep in mind that it’s easier to fix a problem like this when you immediately start a paper trail, retain all of your receipts and stay off the phone.

You probably should have escalated your complaint sooner. I publish the names, numbers and email addresses of SeatGeek’s customer service executives on my consumer advocacy site Elliott.org. A brief, polite email to one of them might have resolved this faster.

I’ve handled several SeatGeek cases before. In one recent case, a reader bought tickets when an opening act was advertised but the performer had already dropped out. SeatGeek initially offered only a promo code. After I contacted the company, it issued a full refund.

In another case, SeatGeek failed to deliver football tickets and offered a 20% discount on future purchases. The customer had already bought airline tickets and hotel rooms. After my intervention, SeatGeek provided a 120% refund.

Your case follows a similar pattern. The original offer doesn’t match what



Illustration by Dustin ELLIOTT

you received. The company tries to minimize the problem with promo codes. Only when pushed does it consider a real solution.

I contacted SeatGeek on your behalf. The company told you the package you purchased was separate from the normal VIP package and that the seat you received “does match the description provided by the seller.”

“We can understand how your perceptions may have been different than the seller’s intentions in their listings,” a representative told you. The company provided you with a

partial refund of \$2,000 – \$744 less than you’d paid.

The lesson here? Companies don’t always get it right the first time. Or the second time. Sometimes you need to push back. And sometimes you need help pushing back.

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (<https://elliottadvocacy.org>), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at <https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/>
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CALENDAR THIS from previous page

• **Coach Andy’s Wiffle Ball Classic:** Save the date. Coach Andy is putting together a Wiffle Ball Classic for ages 8-12 on the weekend of Aug. 1 and Aug. 2 at CCLCF. Register a team of three to five players to compete for the championship in a fun-filled tournament. More info is coming soon.

• **CCLCF Open House:** CCLCF will host an open house on Sunday, Aug. 16 to showcase classes and programs. Free class demos, music, games & more. More info coming soon.

The Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge is located at 4469 Chevy Chase Drive in La Cañada Flintridge, (818) 790-4353.

SPARR HEIGHTS MEMORY CARE HAVING ART SHOW

The memory care section of

Sparr Heights Estates senior Living is having an art show on Tuesday, June 23 in the Assisted Living Activity Room.

An open house is from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Sparr Heights Estates Senior Living is located at 2640 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Those who can, do; Those who can do more, volunteer. Author Unknown

Little Landers Historical Society is seeking volunteers to help support its mission, “To preserve and maintain Bolton Hall Museum and the historical record of Rancho Tujunga.”

Positions on the Bolton Hall 2026 board of directors are open. Other opportunities to volunteer include museum docents,

committee members for ongoing projects, special event and exhibit coordinators, administrative, archival or library assistants, facilities maintenance and more.

Potential volunteers are asked to reach out with questions. Email LittleLanders@BoltonHall.org, phone (818) 352-3420 or send a letter so P.O. Box 203, Tujunga, CA 91043.

MONTROSE LIBRARY EVENTS

• The Montrose Library hosts canasta on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• The Back Alley Painters is a vibrant group of adult artists who gather to create, share their work, offer constructive feedback and enjoy each other’s company.

Participants are asked to bring their own art supplies – whether watercolor, acrylic, ink or pencil

(no oil paints). Meetings are every Monday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

• Mahjong is a game of skill, strategy, calculation and a degree of chance. Players of all levels are welcomed! Players meet every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Montrose Library.

The Montrose Library, 2465 Honolulu Ave. in Montrose (818) 548-2048.

NATURE JOURNALING PROGRAM AND GLENDALE OUTDOORS! (GO!) COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AT DEUKMEJIAN

Nature Journaling Program and Glendale Outdoors! (Go!) Community programs continue at Deukmejian Wilderness Park. To learn more about the Glendale Outdoors! (GO!) Community Program visit <https://tinyurl.com/kjv88w6a>.

[kjv88w6a](https://tinyurl.com/kjv88w6a).

To learn more about the Nature Journaling Program visit <https://tinyurl.com/2b5u6p6x>.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING

Community members are invited to join the Glendale/La Crescenta Stamp Club, a community of stamp enthusiasts that meets regularly to share their passion for this timeless hobby.

The Glendale/La Crescenta Stamp Club meets every third Tuesday at the LA County Library - La Crescenta located at the corner of La Crescenta Avenue and Foothill Boulevard, 2809 Foothill Blvd., at 7 p.m. in the second floor community room.

For more information about the club and upcoming meetings, call (818) 903-4451.

ACTIVITIES AT SUNLAND SENIOR CENTER

The Sunland Senior Center offers a selection of classes and activities daily. Whether seniors are looking to exercise or dance or are interested in art, theater, or knitting, the Center has something for everyone. Sunland also hosts bingo on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and a movie matinee on the big screen at 1 p.m. on Thursdays; on Mondays and Fridays there is country line dancing from noon-1:30 p.m. The Sunland Senior Center runs programming from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. with a donations-based lunch served daily from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sunland Senior Center is located at 8640 Fenwick St. in Sunland. For further information, call (818) 353-9571. These special events are free.

ANSWERS for page 20

1	T	A	N	G	R	O	M	A	N	D	Y	E	S	
14	A	L	O	E	E	L	E	N	A	I	O	W	A	
17	J	E	R	R	Y	L	E	W	I	S	C	R	E	W
20	M	A	I	S	T	A	L	K	E	R	S			
23	H	A	S	S	L	E	S	A	L	E	C			
28	O	R	T	E	V	A	N	S	A	L	A	A	M	
35	B	L	O	C	E	R	A	S	D	A	N	T	E	
40	B	E	L	A	R	A	F	T	S	R	T	E	S	
44	I	N	E	R	T	S	T	A	T	K	E	A	S	
48	T	E	S	L	A	S	A	B	R	A	U	S	E	
53	L	I	T	H	S	E	R	A	P	E	S			
57	H	O	T	E	L	I	E	R	A	U	S			
62	A	V	O	W	C	L	A	R	K	G	A	B	L	E
68	R	A	N	I	K	L	I	N	E	B	A	I	T	
71	E	L	K	S	S	O	N	A	R	C	A	S	A	

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June 24

PROM PLUS from page 3

Prom Plus is made possible by the generosity of local businesses, service organizations, parent volunteers, school partners, and community members who continue to believe in the value of giving students a joyful and safe prom night experience.

Special thanks to our community partners: Ace Hardware, American Legion, Andy's Transfer & Storage, Arktos Wealth Management, Be Bright, Bob Smith Toyota, Copy Network, CV Chamber of Commerce, CV High School ASB, CV Town Council, CV Weekly newspaper, Glendale Elks Lodge, Glendale Kiwanis Club, Glendale Orthodontics, Han Kook Market – La Crescenta, IHOP, J's Maintenance and J's Maids, La Cañada Flintridge Kiwanis Club, La Cañada Imports, La Crescenta Woman's Club, Lion's Club, Los Gringos Locos restaurant, Merle Norman - Montrose, Moo Moo Mia, Once Upon A Time, Porto's Bakery, Quilt 'n' Things Fiber Arts Sewing Studio, Ralphs, State Farm – Chris Aristo, The Mary Pinola Education Fund, Trader Joe's and VFW.

This year's event was a strong reminder that Prom Plus is not just a tradition; it is a community commitment to celebrating Crescenta Valley High School students while helping protect their futures.

Submitted by Prom Plus

STNC from Cover

Traffic and speeding on Foothill Boulevard and on Tujunga Canyon Road remained a primary concern for community members, especially speeding cars and e-bikes that impede traffic.

"For vehicles, there is a minimum safety standard, but regulations haven't caught up to e-bikes," Venegas said.

Rostam outlined measures LADOT is using to curb speeding including adding speed humps on smaller arterials and speed cameras on Foothill Boulevard.

"Narrow lanes give drivers the impression they can't really go too fast because [they're small traffic lanes]," Rostam said. "Tree overhangs make the street feel smaller, so [drivers] don't feel comfortable speeding."

"We'd like to let the community know to just [drive slower], to slow down your speeds at night because it's darker at night; there's less traffic but also [a driver's] visibility decreases and that's where a lot of our issues come in," said Flores.

Rostam and Venegas promised to return to the Council with updates on the exact locations of speed camera installations along Foothill. They also clarified confusion about newly installed flashing yellow traffic signals.

Venegas and Rostam said data from a joint LAPD-LADOT traffic signal repair initiative showed that replacing solid yellow signals with flashing yellow lights reduced speeds in busy areas such as Foothill Boulevard.

"[LADOT] decided which streets throughout the city need to change their phasings of the lights to flashing yellow. As drivers, we should know that any flashing yellow light means to slow down," said Rostam.

Concerns about a lack of street racing enforcement on Tujunga Canyon Road, Mount Gleason Avenue, and the 101 and 118 freeways dominated a portion of the discussion. Venegas acknowledged concerns from several attendees, noting that funding cuts have impacted the specialized task force that once targeted street racing

across LA County.

"We are reduced to one unit for the whole city," Venegas said. "Throughout the summer, we will have one detail throughout the Valley." Even so, officers monitor social media for information about upcoming street-racing events.

"They infiltrate Instagram accounts to see when and where the next meets are going to be," he said.

When asked whether to call the non-emergency line or 9-1-1 to report a street racing incident, Venegas said calling 9-1-1 emergency services is the best option.

"Treat it like a DUI. Don't wait until it becomes an emergency," he said.

Ignatczyk asked not to call emergency services if street racing is merely heard as fire and police services need a specific location in order to respond.

Ignatczyk said that when a 9-1-1 call for racing or another emergency is submitted, 9-1-1 dispatch operators will be the first to respond and they will ask specific questions for the location and details of the emergency.

"The more details, the better," said Ignatczyk.

Many complaints about speeding and fireworks go unanswered because officers need a precise location and detailed information in order to respond, Venegas said. Online reporting portals help ensure those details reach enforcement staff. Venegas, the only officer assigned specifically to traffic enforcement from Glendale to Tujunga, said the system allows limited personnel to respond more effectively to community concerns.

Venegas said residents should report traffic violations and streetlight issues through MyLA311 on the city website (<https://lacity.gov>) and fireworks activity through LA Crime Stoppers. When submitting a report, he said, residents should include photos or video documenting the violation.

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