Nighttrek Report: What to See in the June Sky

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Linda and Friends Kick Off Summer Concerts

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North Valley News

Volume 2, Number 30

June 6, 2024

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Granada Hills Death Now Deemed Murder

The death of 72-year-old Bill Dean Levy in 2022 was believed to be from natural causes, as he died in his Granada Hills home. However, new evidence and exhuming of his body led investigators to determine he died of fentanyl poisoning, allegedly administered by Rotherie Durell Foster, a plumber who was also charged with the shooting death of Jose Velasquez, a coworker. Foster is suspected of killing both men for money after detectives found payment from Levy to Foster - a day after his death. Velasquez's body was found in the Santa Monica Mountains with multiple gunshot wounds. Investigators suspect Foster poisoned Levy and made it look like a natural death. Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said that investigators believe he used his plumbing trade to identify potential targets for his crimes.

Topanga Canyon Reopens to All Traffic

After months of round-the-clock work, Cal Trans reopened Topanga Canyon Boulevard on June 2. The main road linking the valley to the beach had been closed from Grand View in the canyon to Pacific Coast Highway since March 9, when a series of storms created a massive landslide. Initial estimates said 5,500 truckloads of dirt and debris would have to be removed, closing the road through September, but the land movement was found not to be as deep as calculated.

Beat the Heat This Week and Avoid Heat Stroke

This week's early season heat wave caught people and pet owners off guard, and hospital ERs filled with patients suffering heat strokes that could have been prevented. Over 2300 heat stroke deaths occurred last year with expected numbers rising in the unhoused communities. Diana A. Lev MD, a Family Physician with Dignity Health Family Practice, cautions, "Keep in mind that heat is affecting you before you feel it, since feeling too hot may already indicate a serious problem. You should avoid working outdoors in the sun during peak hours and drink double the amount of water you normally do. Babies (whose sweat glands are not developed), people older than 65, anybody ill, taking diuretics, certain chronic conditions like diabetes, kidney, or heart disease, pregnancy and anyone in competitive sports, should avoid prolonged, direct sun exposure in significant heat. Never leave anyone in the car, even with windows cracked. Pets and humans should not be walking barefoot. The ground temperature could instantly cause burns. Be vigilant of symptoms. If you or anyone is acting weird, not limited to confusion, combativeness, slurring speech, stops making tears , sweats profusely, has very hot dry skin, is vomiting or fainting, you need to call an ambulance or head to your nearest emergency room. Prevention and being smart is the best way to enjoy our beautiful California."

Rallying With the Rangers at Oakridge Park

Residents young, old and in-between met the rangers and horses that patrol the North Valley. The event on June 1 was held at Oakridge Estate Park, and brought the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Mounted Equestrian Unit out for an interpretive and interactive program.

Everyone, including Councilman John Lee, was able to touch, feel and smell the equines up close!

PHOTOS: Mark Hovater

No New Trial for Rebecca Grossman; Sentencing Set for June 10

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Joseph Brandolino has denied a new trial to Rebecca Grossman, convicted in February of second degree murder in the deaths of Mark and Jacob Iskander.

Grossman is the co-founder of the Grossman Burn Foundation and wife of Peter Grossman, Medical Director of the Grossman Burn Center at West Hills Hospital.

Rebecca Grossman was convicted of second-degree murder, two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter and one count of hit and run after she sped through a residential neighborhood in Westlake Village and hit the two boys.

Her new attorneys cited insufficient evidence as one of the five reasons she was entitled to have the case heard by a new jury. They also argued that the charges "require evidence that the defendant acted with a 'base antisocial motive and with a wanton disregard for human life' and there was no evidence presented at trial to support findings of such acts by Ms. Grossman in this case."

Defendant Rebecca Grossman

However, Judge Brandolino upheld the murder conviction, saying the evidence was "sufficient to support implied malice beyond a reasonable doubt." He said her drinking, speeding and leaving the scene supported the verdict, noting she drank at a Westlake Village restaurant, was speeding and racing her then-boyfriend Scott Erickson on the street, and that she left the scene. Her SUV only stopped three-tenths of a mile from the crash scene when shut down by its safety system.

She could be sentenced on Monday from 34 years to life in prison.

*Valid on new bookings made between May 23, 2024 – December 31, 2024 for travel through December 31, 2024. Minimum five-night stay at participating *AAA Vacations*® properties required. $100 activity voucher is nonrefundable, nontransferable, has no cash value and applies to the following destinations: Mexico, Hawai'i, Central & South America, and select Caribbean destinations. Savings not reflected in rates shown and applies to the following destinations: Continental U.S., Canada, and select cruise lines – $50 savings; Europe, Asia, Africa, Middle East, select Caribbean destinations (Anguilla, Bahamas, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Dominica, Grand Cayman, Martinique, St. Barts, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Martin and St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and U.S. Virgin Islands), Tahiti (French Polynesia), Fiji and Cook Islands – $100 savings. [1]Riu Palace Punta Cana resort credits are as follows: Renova Spa: 2 $20 coupons for 80-minute Renova Combination Massage. 2 $25 coupons for 80-minute Ritual Punta Cana. 2 $10 coupons for 80-minute Stress Cure Massage. 2 $20 coupons for Beauty Ritual. 2 $35 coupons for Ocean Harmony "Special for Couples". 2 $10 coupons for Spa pedicure. Limited to 1 coupon per service, per person, per stay. Scuba Caribe: 2 $15 coupons for Sailing Lesson. 2 $45 coupons for PADI Open Water Diver Course. 2 $20 coupons for PADI Scuba Diver Course. 2 $15 coupons for PADI Discover Scuba Diving Experience. Limited to 1 coupon per service, per person, per stay. Weddings by RIU: Applies towards Royal & Caprice Wedding Collections. Limited to 1 coupon per wedding. Applies only for weddings paid directly at the hotel. Coupons cannot be used toward prepaid weddings. Europcar: 1 $20 coupon per room to be used towards midsize car rental Kia Picanto or Kia Rio. 1 $25 coupon per room to be used towards SUV Jeep rental. Applies to one coupon per day, per car. Photography: 1 $50 coupon applies to one coupon for the Cool Photo Package ($260) per service. Included: 40 minutes with a professional photographer, 25 digital photos + 1 4" x 6" printed photo. This package does not apply to wedding photo section. 1 $100 coupon applies to one coupon for the Sunrise Package ($500) per service. Included: 40 minutes with a professional photographer, 35 digital photos + 1 8" x 10" printed photo. This package does not apply to wedding photo section. 50% of the reservation must be paid 24 hours before the appointment for the confirmation. Meeting time: 6:00 AM. Diamante Casino: 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon of $10 per person, per night. Valid for Matchplay. Punta Blanca Golf Club: 1 $85 coupon, applies per person, per day. Includes: Free round trip transportation Hotel Lobby - Punta Blanca Golf - Hotel Lobby. 18 holes golf round, shared electric golf car, practice balls, tees, waters/soda, sandwiches and cold towels at the end of the 18 rounds. The non players companions have an extra fee of $25 per person. For reservations please contact: teetimes@punta-blanca.com. Telephone: 1-809-468-4734. Reservations must be made 24 hours before the appointment. Blue Mall: 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 in Apple items at One Click Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Aldo Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Parfois Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Levi's Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Magic Blue Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Desigual Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Zippy Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Sunny Kids Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Sunglass Hut Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Sunglasses Time Store. 1 $10 coupon applies to one coupon towards purchase of $100 at Robin Ruth Store. Limited to 1 coupon per purchase, per person. Free round trip transportation Hotel Lobby - Blue Mall Punta Cana - Hotel Lobby. Booking Window: now through December 22, 2024. Travel Period: now through December 23, 2024. Terms and Conditions: Now accessed through the RIU App, Resort Credits apply as discounts on selected services only. The total of credits are per room/per stay, for guests 21 and older. This promotion is subject to availability and inclusions are subject to changes without prior notice. Resort credits are nontransferable, noncumulative, nonrefundable, non-combinable and cannot be used for future stays or be exchanged for cash.

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Pleasant Holidays.

Community Calendar

GRANADA HILLS: LAPD Senior Lead Officer John Parker will hold a Basic Car 17A35 Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Tuesday, June 11, at 6:30 pm. The in-person meeting will be held at St. Euphrasia Catholic Church, 11779 Shoshone Avenue. For more information visit lapdonline.org.

PORTER RANCH: United Chambers of Commerce will hold a Skilled Trade Job Fair on Friday, June 14, from 10 am to 3 pm. The event will be held at Shepherd Church, 19700 Rinaldi Street. Register at unitedchambers.org. For more information of employers looking to hire call (626) 383-1004.

VAN NUYS: Support your local chamber by attending the United Chamber of Commerce's Mega Mixer on Thursday, June 27, from 5 to 8 pm. Attend the largest networking event in the Valley and make new business connections! The event will be hosted by Anheuser-Busch (15800 Roscoe Blvd.) and tickets are $35 for members and $30 for non-members if you RSVP by June 18. Get your tickets at unitedchambers.org.

MISSION HILLS: The Third Annual Warriors Volleyball Fundraiser car and bike show will take place Saturday, June 8, at Brand Park. All car clubs and solo riders are welcome. Enjoy vendors, music and a raffle. Check-in time is 7:30 am with showtime at 10 am. For more information visit la_morena_2991 on Instagram.

RESEDA: The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is hosting their 2024 Conservation Awards on Saturday, June 8, at 12 pm at Braemar Country Club (4001 Reseda Blvd). This year's honorees are Kris Ohlenkamp (who frequently hosts local walks) and The California Wildlife Center. Tickets are $35 and include a buffet lunch. Tickets available at buy.stripe.com/aEU5kVgsb7ctfkY288.

PORTER RANCH: The Porter Ranch Library will host "Bubblemania" for babies and toddlers on Wednesday, June 12, at 10:30 am. Bubblemania and Company offers interactive educational and entertaining programs on the science of bubbles for children of all ages. The visual presentation is filled with soap bubble creations that mesmerize the audience with creations of shimmering reflections of light, color, and flowing liquid motion. The scripts are written to elicit dialog and experiential learning. The library is located at 11371 Tampa Avenue.

ONLINE: Come along for a ride of color and form in "Visual Journey," a virtual online art exhibit that presents the work of 12 members of ARTIST CO-OP 7, in conjunction with the San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center. For information on artists, visit sfvacc.org.

NORTHRIDGE: Valley Youth Philharmonic Orchestra will hold their Spring Concert on Sunday, June 9, at 7 pm. The concert will be held at In-Christ Community Church, 19514 Rinaldi Street. The concert will be conducted by Henry Shin with pianist solo by Issac Choi, Concerto Competition winner. For tickets visit valleyphil.org.

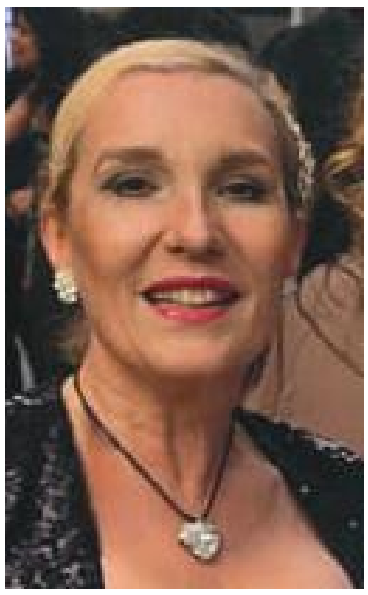
CHATSWORTH: Volunteers Cleaning Communities will clean up Chatsworth Park North on Monday, June 10. Volunteers should park in th parking lot at the west end of Chatsworth Street and look for leaders in yellow vests. The clean-up will run from 8:30 to 10:30 am. For more information visit volunteerscleaningcommunities.com.

GRANADA HILLS: Join the Granada Hills Library for a 3D printing class for ages 10 and up on Tuesday, June 11, from 3 to 4 pm. This class is limited to 10 students. Register at the Reference desk. Participants will learn to find finished projects on Thingiverse, transfer a Thingiverse project to Tinkercad, get a project ready for the 3D printer, send a project to the 3D printer and print out a simple project on a the 3D printer. The Granada Hills Library is located at 10640 Petit Avenue.

ONLINE: LAPD Devonshire Division will hold a Basic Car's A81 and A95 meeting on Wednesday, June 12, at 6 pm on Zoom. Guest speaker will be Vanessa Willis of Unarmed Model of Crisis Response. To log in use meeting ID 871 4550 4555 Passcode 1781 1795.

CHATSWORTH: DJ Lance Rock, the fun and lovable host of Nickelodeon's *Yo Gabba Gabba* rocks the Chatsworth Library on June 12 at 4 pm for dance and storytime. Rock brings his energetic enthusiasm and love of music and stories to the branch for a fun-filled afternoon. The library is located at 21052 Devonshire Street.

People in the News



Sarah Horvet, right, Community Relations Representative for Galpin Motors in North Hills, received a "SIBBIE" Award from the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce. The award is given for being a woman of impact in the community. Horvet won the "Steadfast Service Award," which honors an employee who has dedicated themselves to the company, exemplifying steadfast commitment, loyalty and impact and has contributed to the organization's success.

Horvet thanked Galpin Motors for their support and for "giving me my dream job!"

Northridge resident **Denise Mumma**, at right, was congratulated for her 35 years as a flight attendant with American Airlines.

The airline presented her with a 35-year pin and other gifts were showered on her by fellow crew members.

Mumma is a graduate of Cal State University Northridge, where she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She is active on the Tri Delt House Corporation Board today with other alumnae.

Councilman John Lee, above, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rescue Mission Alliance San Fernando Valley at their 25th anniversary gala.

Lee said, "As a fervent supporter of this organization since the planning phases for their Northridge family shelter, I have consistently advocated for the Mission because of the effectiveness of their programs. Focused solely on the betterment of individuals and families in the San Fernando Valley by giving them the tools to sustain their independence after experiencing homelessness, the Rescue Mission's programs have an extraordinary rate of success and cost absolutely nothing to taxpayers. This award represents the strong partnership my team and I have with the Rescue Mission and is indicative of a continuing relationship that will benefit the Council District 12 community for years to come."

VIEWPOINT

• For fans of a certain age, can you recognize these musical directives?

Things we didn't do:
-start the fire
-shoot the deputy
Things we did do:
-built this city
-shot the sheriff
Things we want to do:
-break free
-hold your hand
Things we will do
-rock you
-survive
-anything for love
Things we won't do:
- That.

• Isn't it funny that "take out" can mean food, dating or murder?!

• At a recent talent show, the theater director stood up on stage and asked the audience if anyone was named Michael to please stand up. After a couple of men stood up, the director then leans in and declares, "That concludes the mic check, let's get on with the show!"

• You know you're ready to vacation when you look like your passport photo!

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Guest Editorial:

Congressman Sherman Delivers Federal Funding for Local Community Projects

Over the years, I've fought and secured millions in federal funds to address vital needs across our community - improvements to our environment, transportation, public parks, schools and more. This month, I met with three recipients of these funds.

Most of the fire stations in my district are over 50 years old and are in dire need of repair. Our firefighters courageously risk their lives in service to our community, and these funds will help ensure that these heroes are equipped with the facilities they need to do their jobs as effectively and safely as possible. On May 29, I joined LAFD Chief Kristin Crowley to present a $3 million check to improve local fire stations and increase public safety.

"Hope The Mission" currently operates 23 interim-housing shelters with over 2,700 beds and will be adding 11 more projects in 2025. I have repeatedly supported Hope's efforts through federal funding, securing $2 million in 2022 for homeless services and $2 million in 2023 for mental health services. I met with Hope The Mission leadership on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on May 7 following their bike ride across the country to raise awareness for homeless services. I was glad to present them with an additional $850,000 for construction of 30 modular supportive housing units in North Hills.

Construction underway on the campus of the West LA VA represents the most significant effort to deliver housing to our nation's homeless veterans. Nearly 500 new units are projected for completion by the end of this year and 730 by the end of next year. On May 31, I participated in the groundbreaking of Buildings 158 and 210 at the

West LA VA Campus, which will provide another 87 units of permanent supportive housing to our nation's veterans. I'm proud that the $1.5 million in federal funds that I secured will help these vital efforts to provide housing for veterans in need.

Although I'm pleased to have secured funds for some of our community's critical needs, more work remains, and I continue to work with my colleagues to bring resources that will help enhance our quality of life and create new opportunities for all.

Rantz & Ravez from Dennis P. Zine

When peaceful protests and demonstrations become unlawful and destructive, activist and some WEAK-KNEE SPINLESS politicians like to blame the police, sheriff, highway patrol, and any or all other law enforcement agency called to quell the situation and restore order at the location of the incident.

The most recent situation involves the protests and illegal campouts at various universities across America from the Pacific Ocean to the East Coast including two of many in our back yard - namely USC and UCLA.

Once upon a time when unlawful protests and hostile events unfolded on college campuses the blame was cast upon the groups or individuals generating the hostile and combative situation. As time has passed, we now find that the local law enforcement agencies are singled out for their squad formations and use of less-lethal tactics and devices. The most recent incidents in Los Angeles were generated by an assortment of organized outside agitators along with angry students and faculty members protesting the current and deadly war in the Middle East between the Israeli military personnel and the terrorist group Hamas. The use of LAPD, CHP, Sheriff, UCLA Police, and campus security personnel were required to use an assortment of non-lethal tactics to regain order on various campus property occupied by protestors who refused to comply with timely and lawful dispersal

orders. The cost to the taxpayers of the City of Los Angeles to date is approximately $583,000 with the deployment of nearly 600 LAPD personnel and tactical alerts. Over half a million City of Los Angeles tax dollars to regain order when organized agitators, students and faculty refused to comply with dispersal orders to

(Continued to page 14)

Need to Pick Up a Paper? Visit These Merchants

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Chatsworth Library
Nat's Diner
Brent's Deli
Ralphs Markets
Vons Markets
Albertsons
Logix Credit Union
Jon's Market
Starbucks Vineyard
IHOP
Soleil Hotel
Northridge Hospital
North Valley Chamber
Granada Hills Chamber
Handel's Ice Cream
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Critical Red Flags in Purchase and Sales Agreements

By Janice L. Miller, Esq

When entering purchase and sale agreements, vigilance and attention to detail are paramount. A purchase and sale agreement (PSA) is a legally binding document outlining the terms and conditions of a sale between a buyer and a seller.

Despite its common use in various transactions, including real estate and business transactions, a PSA can be fraught with potential pitfalls. Understanding and identifying red flags in these agreements mitigates risks and ensures a fair deal for all parties involved. Here are some key areas to pay close attention to and red flags to watch out for:

Incomplete or Vague Terms: One of the most significant red flags is a PSA containing incomplete or vague terms. Every aspect of the transaction should be detailed and spelled out, leaving no room for misinterpretations.

Description of the item or property: Ensure that the item or property being sold is described precisely, including model numbers, condition, and any included accessories or fixtures.

Price and Payment Terms: The total price, payment schedule, and method of payment must be explicitly stated. Avoid contracts and agreements with ambiguous phrases like "price to be determined."

Timelines and Deadlines: Important dates, such as the closing or delivery date, must be clearly outlined. Vague timelines can lead to disputes about when obligations should be met.

Lack of Contingencies: An agreement lacking essential contingencies is a red flag. Contingencies protect both parties if certain conditions are not met.

Inspection Contingency: This allows the buyer to have the property inspected and negotiate repairs or price adjustments based on findings.

Financing Contingency: This ensures that the buyer can back out if they cannot secure financing, especially in real estate.

Appraisal Contingency: This ensures that the property's value is as expected, allowing the buyer to renegotiate or withdraw if the appraisal is low.

As-is Clauses: Though "as-is" clauses are common, they can be problematic if not fully understood. Be sure you know what is covered by the "as-is" clause. Some agreements may use this to avoid any responsibility for defects, leading to unforeseen repair costs. Conduct thorough inspections and research, even with an "as-is" clause. If the seller discourages this, it is a red flag.

Unusual Termination Clauses: Termination clauses outline the conditions under which the agreement can be canceled. Be wary of overly one-sided clauses, favoring the seller's ability to cancel the agreement without similar provisions for the buyer. High penalties for terminating the contract can indicate an attempt to lock the buyer into unfavorable terms.

Dispute Resolution Mechanism: A good agreement must outline how disputes will be resolved. Ensure any arbitration clauses are fair and don't heavily favor one party. Confirm that the jurisdiction specified for legal disputes is practical for both parties. An agreement requiring disputes to be resolved in a distant or inconvenient location is a red flag.

Hidden fees or costs: Be cautious of agreements that do not transparently disclose all costs. Ensure all fees, such as administrative or processing fees, are initially disclosed. Understand any ongoing maintenance costs and who is responsible for them.

Refusing Review by Legal Professionals: An unwillingness to allow legal review is a red flag.

Every aspect of the transaction should be detailed and spelled out, leaving no room for misinterpretations.

Insist on having the agreement reviewed by a legal professional. It is a serious warning sign if the other party discourages or pushes for a quick signature without review.

Purchase and sales agreements are foundational documents in any transaction, requiring careful scrutiny. Identifying and addressing these red flags early safeguards your interests and ensures a fair and transparent deal. Always approach agreements with a critical eye. Seek professional advice, when needed, to navigate complex terms and conditions effectively.

Disclaimer: This article is not meant as legal advice. It is solely for educational purposes.

Janice L. Miller Esq. is the managing partner of Miller Haga Law Group, LLP in Calabasas, CA. She is a highly recognized legal advisor, published author, noted speaker, and panelist with over 25 years of experience as an innovative general counsel in business, real estate, entertainment, and intellectual property.

VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

Rob McClure as Euphegenia Doubtfire.

Mrs. Doubtfire Brings Comedy to Pantages Theatre

Broadway in Hollywood has announced that the smash hit musical comedy *Mrs. Doubtfire*, currently playing to sold out houses in London's West End, is coming to Los Angeles at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre from June 11 to 30.

Out-of-work actor Daniel Hillard will do anything for his kids. After losing custody in a messy divorce, he creates the kindly alter ego of Scottish nanny Euphegenia Doubtfire in a desperate attempt to stay in their lives.

As his new character takes on a life of its own, Mrs. Doubtfire teaches Daniel more than he bargained for about how to be a father. A hysterical and heartfelt story about holding onto your loved ones against all odds, *Mrs. Doubtfire* is the musical comedy we need right now - one that proves we're better together.

The critically acclaimed production features beloved, Tony-nominated Broadway leading man Rob McClure, reprising his "exhilarating, star-making performance" (*The Telegraph*) as Daniel Hillard / Euphegenia Doubtfire (everybody's favorite Scottish nanny). McClure is joined by renowned actress and real-life wife, Maggie Lakis as Miranda Hillard.

Joining McClure and Lakis are Giselle Gutierrez as Lydia Hillard, Aaron Kaburick as Frank Hillard, Nik Alexander as Andre Mayem, Leo Roberts as Stuart Dunmire, Romelda Teron Benjamin as Wanda Sellner, Sam Bird and Axel Bernard Rimmele as Christopher Hillard, and Emerson Mae Chan and Charlotte Sydney Harrington as Natalie Hillard.

The cast also includes David Hibbard, Alex Branton, Jonathan Hoover, Sheila Jones, Julie Kavanagh, Jodi Kimura, Ian Liberto, Marquez Linder, Naderah Munajj, JP Qualters, Alex Ringler, Bianca Rivera-Irions, Lannie Rubio, Neil Starkenberg, Joey Stone, Gina Ward, Lauryn Withnell, and Julia Yameen.

With direction by four-time Tony Award winner Jerry Zaks, the new musical comedy features a book by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell and music and lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick, the Tony Award nominated team behind *Something Rotten!*

Mrs. Doubtfire is produced by Kevin McCollum, Jamie Wilson, Gavin Kalin, Hunter Arnold, LAMS Productions, Nicole Eisenberg, Boyett/Miller, James L. Nederlander, Ayal Miodovnik, Sing Out Louise Productions, Bob Cohen, Isaac Hurwitz, Independent Presenters Network, Timothy Lacyznski, Bard Theatricals, and Lucas McMahon.

Tickets are now available for purchase in Los Angeles atBroadwayInHollywood.com or Ticketmaster.com.

Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre box office, 6233 Hollywood Blvd. For box office hours office see website.

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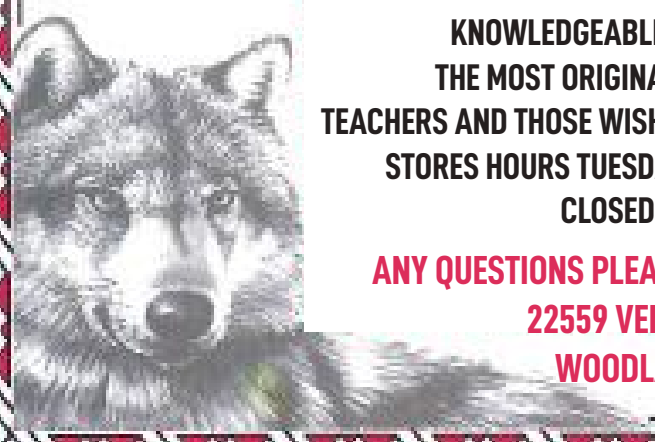
- ORACLE DECKS
- SEMIPRECIOUS STONES



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WOODLAND HILLS

Linda and Friends will rock Warner Park June 16.

First Summer Concert at Warner Park Brings Linda and Friends to the Stage

Valley Cultural Foundation will kick off the summer concert season on Sunday, June 16, with Linda and Friends, playing the live rock 'n roll that shaped and inspired a generation, including the best hits by Linda Ronstadt and more.

Just minutes above the infamous Sunset Strip's rock clubs lies the rural retreat of Laurel Canyon, where young musicians and songwriters regularly banded together to create some of the best vintage rock 'n roll hits ever produced. With 21 singles in the Top 40 and 10 in the Top 10 Rock charts, not to mention #1 hits, Linda Ronstadt was a key member of this hippie crew, and regularly collaborated with the likes of Don Henley and Glenn Frey (their band was her back-up band before they morphed into The Eagles), Jackson Browne, David Crosby, Graham Nash, Stephen Stills, Joni Mitchell, Bonnie Raitt, et al… This group of creatives inspired an entire generation of future rock musicians, songwriters, and fans – all over the world.

The Linda and Friends band is made up of top Los Angeles recording artists, performers and composers who have recorded and performed with rock 'n roll royalty, not to mention performances on TV, film scores, and on stages around the world.

The concert will start at 5:30 pm at Warner Park with emerging artists The Rayford Brothers opening the show.

Concerts continue every Sunday (except Sunday, July 7). On Thursday, July 4, Valley Cultural Foundation will present Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's July 4 Extravaganza, featuring Angela O'Neill and The Outrageous8.

Warner Park is located at Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Califa Street in Woodland Hills. There is paid parking in the adjacent structures, and food trucks in the park, as well as local vendors and business booths. For a complete concert schedule visit valleycultural.org.

Hamilton, Wicked Return to Pantages

Broadway in Hollywood is bringing back two insanely popular shows for the 2024-25 season.

Both *Hamilton* and *Wicked* will be on the playbill, along with four L.A. premiers at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre.

The season includes *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, a 19-week L.A. premiere of the highest-grossing non-musical play in Broadway history, *Back to the Future the Musical*, the hit Broadway show based on the 1985 Universal Pictures / Amblin Entertainment Film, *Kimberly Akimbo*, winner of most Tony Awards of the year including best musical, *A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical*, presented in association with and endorsed by Neil Diamond himself, *Some Like It Hot*, the Tony and Grammy-winning musical comedy hit inspired by the 1959 MGM film, and *Shucked*, a hilarious and audacious farm-to-fable musical about…corn!

The Tony-Award winning musical phenomenon *Hamilton* returns to the Hollywood Pantages Theatre and *Wicked* flies back to the Hollywood Pantages Theatre this holiday season by popular demand.

Broadway in Hollywood President Jeff Loeb states, "Get ready to unlock the magic of Broadway with an all-new Hollywood Pantages season that will cast a spell on theatre lovers everywhere. With six L.A. premieres, all direct-from-Broadway, and the return of two of the biggest blockbusters to ever grace our stage – what else could a lover of live entertainment wish for?"

Tickets are now on sale for all shows at broadwayinhollywood.com. The Hollywood Pantages theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Boulevard.

Malachi McCaskill, above center, is Usher in A Strange Loop.

Audacious and Uproarious - A Strange Loop Opens at Ahmanson

The ground-breaking and critically acclaimed winner of every "Best Musical" award on Broadway, and the Pulitzer Prize, bursts onto the stage for a limited engagement, direct from Broadway. Center Theatre Group and American Conservatory will present the West Coast premiere of *A Strange Loop* at Ahmanson Theatre June 5 through 30.

Nominated for 11 Tony Awards, Michael R. Jackson's blisteringly funny, "audacious and uproarious" (*The Guardian*) show is a heartfelt and thought-provoking masterwork that uses humor and honesty to explore themes around race and sexuality.

Hell-bent on breaking free of his own self-perception, Usher, a young, gay, Black writer who hates his day job, writes a musical about a young, gay, Black writer who's writing a musical about a young, gay, Black writer...a strange loop. Usher grapples with desires, identity, and instincts he both loves and loathes, all brought to life on stage by a hilarious, straight-talking ensemble.

Direct from Broadway and the West End to San Francisco and Los Angeles, *A Strange Loop* is the big, Black, and queer-ass Great American Musical for all!

"I began writing what would become *A Strange Loop* in a small room of a bungalow-style apartment in the middle of nowhere Queens when I was 23-years-old," said Michael R. Jackson. "I had never been so scared or uncertain of my place in the world. Working on the show was my life raft and I never in a million years imagined the miles it would travel. I am so excited to share A Strange Loop with even more audiences and so grateful to A.C.T. and CTG for making this West Coast premiere possible. What a strange loop!"

CTG Artistic Director Snehal Desai said, "*A Strange Loop* is one of the most discussed and awarded musicals of our time. It is also audacious, hilarious, empowering, and very moving. The company for this co-production joins us from a national search and I can't wait for audiences to experience *A Strange Loop* and to keep the conversation going when it plays the Ahmanson Theatre in June."

A Strange Loop made its world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in May 2019. In December 2021, the show had a critically acclaimed run at Washington D.C.'s Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company prior to coming to Broadway in spring 2022. *A Strange Loop* won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was the recipient of 11 Tony Award nominations, the most of any show in 2022. The production took home the Tony Award for Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical. *A Strange Loop* was also named Best Musical by New York Drama Critics' Circle, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League, and Off-Broadway Alliance.

A Strange Loop is the big, Black, and queer-ass Great American Musical for all!

The cast of A Strange Loop includes (in alphabetical order): Dave J. Abrams (Understudy, Thought 2 & 3), Angela Alisa (Understudy, Thought 1), Jordan Barbour (Thought 5), J. Cameron Barnett (Thought 2), Carlis Shane Clark (Understudy, Thought 5 & 6), Alvis Green Jr. (Usher Alternate), Albert Hodge (Understudy, Thought 4), Avionce Hoyles (Thought 3), Tarra Conner Jones (Thought 1), Malachi McCaskill (Usher), Jamari Johnson Williams (Thought 6), and Tony Award nominee John-Andrew Morrison (Thought 4).

Single tickets ($35–$155) for the Los Angeles engagement are on sale now by visiting ctgla.org/a-strange-loop.

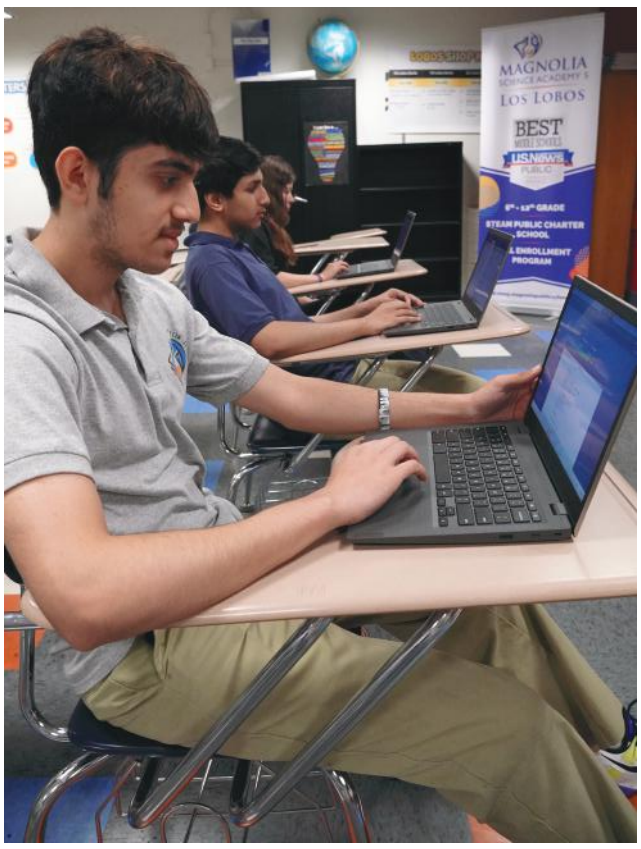
Valley Middle and High School Students Tutor Refugees From Around The World

Each Saturday from 9 a.mto 12 m. nearly a dozen middle and high school students at Magnolia Science Academy-5 (MSA-5), a Grade 6-12 STEAM charter public school in Reseda, stroll back into the classroom; this time as teachers offering free English tutoring to refugees from around the world via Zoom.

They are part of the First Bricks Education Project created by Embrace Relief, a nonprofit organization that provides international humanitarian aid including the First Bricks Online Academy, and adopted by MSA-5 to meet its Student Learning Outcomes global citizenship goal.

Participating students range in grades from middle and high school, to college and beyond, and hail from countries such as Greece, Turkey, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, and others. The ratio of MSA-5 student teachers to online students ranges from one to 30 to one to 123 with an average of three to 10 student teachers.

"It's great to see our student teachers volunteer and help others in this way," said Ali Kaplan, MSA-5 principal. "It's a program where educator volunteers train students to become teachers, and refugees around the world become the students. Our student teachers are simultaneously tutoring, learning and mentoring students. The program aligns with our school's five pillars, which include: innovation, creativity, literacy, growth mindset, connection, and, especially global citizenship," added Kaplan.



Teaching English via Zoom at Magnolia Science Academy

The online academy volunteer program, which starts a new cohort every eight weeks, helps displaced underprivileged children and adults around the globe access free online lessons and tutoring, while offering MSA-5 student-teachers an opportunity to complete volunteer service hours toward a Congressional Award Program (CAP), established by Congress in 1979 to get kids involved in leadership and public service.

Thirty-two students have participated in the program since its launch at MSA-5 in 2019. Last year, a student teacher received a Congressional Award gold medal in Washington D.C.

"It's gratifying to see first generation students who are also learning English, connect with immigrants and refugees around the world," said Doganay. "We started with 6 to 7 kids who are now in college, and have growing interest among students who wish to participate. We prioritize seniors, but also make the program available to students in other grades," he added.

The program uses curriculum established through Voice of America Learning English, a multimedia news source that offers English newscasts as a way of helping people around the world learn English. MSA-5 Counselor, Mr. Ibrahim Doganay, checks in with his team of student teachers each Friday, and serves as the initial contact leading the first online sessions over the course of several weeks until students improve their English-language skills or achieve the program's "Ready To Go" level. Once they achieve levels 1 and 2, they are ready to be paired with a middle or high school student teacher.

Keyri Villatoro Echevería, a 10th grader from El Salvador and English learner says she's only been in the U.S. five years and is excited to this year be a part of First Bricks. "It feels great to teach students in other countries, because we are learning together," said Villatoro Echeverría. "Students are teaching me that age doesn't matter when you want to learn. I thought it would be hard, and never thought that I would be teaching English," she added.

Magnolia Science Academy is located at 18238 Sherman Way. To learn more about Magnolia Public Schools, tuition-free charter schools focused on engineering, arts, and math, visit magnoliapublicschools.org. To learn more about First Bricks email evelyn@mipr.net.

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A Spoonful of Olive Oil Keeps the Dementia Away

The Mediterranean diet has long been praised as one of the healthiest regimens an individual can follow. It is a way of eating based on the traditional cuisine of countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and heavily relies on vegetables, fruits, whole grains and healthy fats. However, one recent study found that a critical component of the diet is key to brain health: olive oil.

In a new study published in JAMA Network Open, results found that consuming approximately half of a tablespoon of olive oil daily could help reduce the risk of dementia. This is the first study to investigate the relationship between diet and dementia-related death.

The study followed 90,000 participants over 30 years and discovered that around seven grams of olive oil consumed daily was linked to a lower risk of death from dementia. Researchers found that those who consumed more than half of a tablespoon of olive oil each day had a 28% lower risk of dying from dementia, compared to those who never or rarely consumed olive oil. While dementia falls under the general umbrella of Alzheimer's disease, it is considered fatal since there is no cure. Approximately six million Americans suffer from dementia.

"Our study reinforces dietary guidelines recommending vegetable oils such as olive oil, and suggests that these recommendations not only support heart health but potentially brain health, as well," presenting study author Anne-Julie Tessier, RD, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said. "Opting for olive oil, a natural product, instead of fats such as margarine and commercial mayonnaise is a safe choice and may reduce the risk of fatal dementia."

Consuming just half of a tablespoon of olive oil daily could help reduce the risk of dementia.

While olive oil is certainly not a cure, some antioxidant compounds found in the oil seem to be able to cross the blood-brain barrier, therefore having a direct effect on brain health. Regular olive oil consumption has also shown to lower the risk of heart disease, reduce inflammation and lower the risk of diabetes.

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UCLA Offers New Strategies to Defeat Depression

By Dr. Andrew Leuchter

UCLA Health offers innovative approaches for treatment of depression that doesn't improve with medications. Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), a noninvasive therapy that "resets" the brain's neural circuits, produces impressive results, and new techniques developed at UCLA Health can relieve symptoms of depression in as quickly as one week.

TMS applies a series of gentle electromagnetic pulses to targeted areas of the brain. This stimulation enhances neuroplasticity - the brain's ability to form new nerve cell connections and escape the negative patterns of mood disorders.

TMS is fundamentally different from medications. In depression, brain circuits can become stuck in recurrent negative feedback loops. By stimulating mood-regulating networks, TMS can essentially "rewire" those circuits and promote recovery from depression.

TMS traditionally involves daily weekday treatments for six to eight weeks, with each session lasting 10-45 minutes. TMS therapy is a covered benefit under most insurance, and approximately two-thirds of patients treated at UCLA Health get substantial relief from depression.

Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), a noninvasive therapy that "resets" the brain's neural circuits, produces impressive results, and new techniques developed at UCLA Health can relieve symptoms of depression in as quickly as one week.

- Dr. Andrew Leuchter

UCLA Health's TMS program has pioneered a "precision" approach, individualizing treatment to help even more patients recover from depression. Patients see a psychiatrist at every visit who monitors their progress and refines treatment as necessary. MRIs can be used to target specific areas of the brain and produce optimal results based on each patient's symptoms. The program is also conducting research to improve outcomes by identifying the ideal stimulation frequency for each individual using an electroencephalogram (EEG).

In an exciting development, UCLA TMS now is offering an accelerated approach treatment in which patients receive five sessions a day for five days. Although this "five-by-five" approach is not yet covered by insurance, initial results indicate that it helps many patients recover from depression in as quickly as one week. UCLA Health offers TMS at clinics in Pasadena, Calabasas and Westwood.

TMS also can relieve symptoms of other conditions including obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), chronic pain, tinnitus (persistent ringing in the ear) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

TMS has an excellent safety record. Side effects, including discomfort at the site of stimulation, mild headaches, and fatigue, usually resolve after the first few treatments.

For more information about TMS therapy at UCLA Health, visit tmslosangeles.com/tms-transcranial-magnetic-stimulation, call 310 825-7471 or send an e-mail to UCLATMS@mednet.ucla.edu.

The UCLA Calabasas TMS clinic is located at UCLA Health Primary & Specialty Care, 26585 W. Agoura Road, Suite 330, Calabasas, CA 91302.

To read more about Dr. Leuchter please visituclahealth.org/providers/andrew-leuchter.

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REAL ESTATE

Climate Activist to Address Valley Climate Reality Project

On June 11, the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the international Climate Reality Project will host a talk on Zoom by climate and human rights lawyer Steven Donziger.

He will relate how he won a court ruling in Ecuador, ordering Chevron to pay $9.5 billion ($12 billion today) to restore ancestral lands despoiled by the dumping of billions of gallons of cancer-causing oil waste. Subsequently, the company countersued Donziger, resulting in his losing his passport, law license, bank account and being detained for almost three years.

To date, Chevron still hasn't paid the settlement owed to the Amazon people, and Donziger continues his battle against Chevron, while also advocating for other victims of corporate malfeasance and offering legal interpretations of human rights issues. He is currently asking for a pardon from President Biden.

As Donziger defines his principle, "This battle is not just mine. It's a stand for justice for the planet, for Indigenous rights and corporate oppression."

Joining Donziger at the June 11 meeting will be Lisa Oldring, an internationalhuman rights lawyer and Senior Fellow with the UCLA Law Promise Institute.

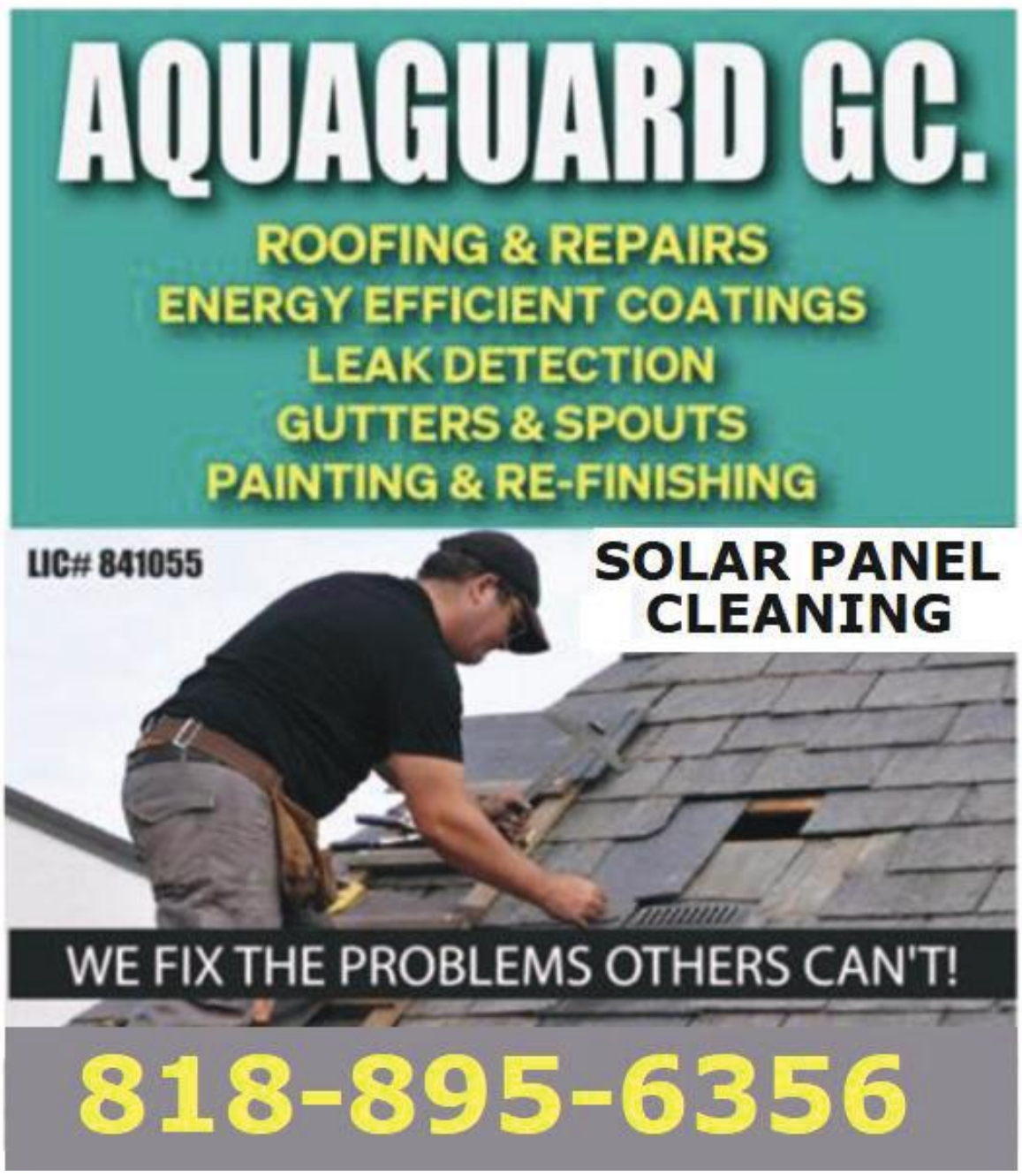
Oldring's research focuses on the crime of Ecocide from a human rights perspective. She will explain what ecocide is, share a brief history of the movement, how momentum is building and how this new law is being applied around the world. To date, 13 countries now have domestic ecocide laws.

Diana Weynand, Chair of the SFV Climate Reality Project chapter says, "We are so honored to have both Steven Donziger and Lisa Oldring as our guest speakers. Had we had the momentum 10 years ago with the International Ecocide movement that we have today, through organizations such as Stop Ecocide International, Steven Donziger's story and trials would have been much different."

Donziger is the first person in U.S. history to be prosecuted by a private corporation.

The Climate Reality Project San Fernando Valley Chapter invites everyone to join on Zoom this program of great urgency and importance. Register at bit.ly/SFVCR. For more information, visit the chapter's website at sfvclimatereality.org.

The Climate Reality Project is an action-focused group of volunteers founded in 2011 by Former Vice President Al Gore. Through their intensive climate science training, the organization fulfills its mission to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society.



Popular Tea Recalled Due to Pesticides

"Yogi" tea from East West Tea Company has recalled more than 54,000 boxes of their Organic Yogi Echinacea Immune Support tea due to traces of pesticide found in the blend.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a voluntary recall early March that is still ongoing.

The products that were found with traces of pesticide have the UPC number 0 76950 45010 3 and were sold in boxes of four or six packs, with 16 bags per pack. This recall is considered a Class III recall, which according to the FDA, is "a situation in which use of or exposure to a violative product is not likely to cause adverse health consequences." While the recall did not specify which pesticides were detected, or how they got into the tea, those bags that bear the numbers below should be thrown away out of an abundance of caution.

Recalled lot numbers include: #0000184330, #0000184853, #0000185098, #0000185100, #0000185383, #0000185385, #0000185387, #0000185389, #0000185434, #0000185436, #0000185828, #0000185830, #0000185832, #0000186519, #0000186521, #000184062, #0000186900, #0000186902, #0000186904, #0000187357, #0000187359, #0000187400, #0000187402, #0000187769, #0000188028, #0000188030, #0000188045, #0000188114, #0000186600, #0000186910, #0000187155, #0000184691, #0000184963, #0000185381 and #0000185518.

REAL ESTATE

Nighttrek Report: What to See in the June Sky

By Neill Simmons

Last month, the Sun sent us an aurora borealis light show that was seen as far south as Kern County. The aurora is caused by activity on the surface of the Sun. Solar storms on the Sun's surface give out huge clouds of electrically charged particles resulting in beautiful displays of light in the night sky. Astronomers are predicting another "bigger" solar eruption in June. Hopefully, keep your figures crossed, it will be seen in the San Fernando Valley.

FUN FACT: A great place to see auroras is on the planet Mars! On Earth, auroras can only be seen at night. NASA reported that Martian probes are seeing the display in the day sky also.

The full Moon of June is called the "Strawberry Moon" as this is the best time to gather this fruit. Strawberries have adapted to grow in many different climates and can also be produced in colder areas. There is a little growing area on the International Space Station where strawberries are being grown.

"Spring up and fall down" is a way to remember the orientation of the Big Dipper constellation. The seven bright stars that make up Ursa Major are high in the spring and slowly dip down during the summer to their lowest point in the autumn. Canadian Indian tribes tell the story that the great bear hit his nose on a rock and the resulting

blood turned the leaves red in the autumn. The second star of the handle is actually two stars, Mizel and Alcor, appearing as one. On a clear dark night, both stars may be visible.

Astronomers are predicting another "bigger" solar eruption in June.

June brings the giant "Summer Triangle." This star pattern is so bright we can even see it from Dodger Stadium during a game! The Summer Triangle is not a constellation. It is an asterism, which is a fancy name for a pattern of stars. Although the Summer Triangle is brightest during the summer, it continues to be visible until December.

Vandenberg Space Force Base and Space X have been launching many rockets this year to put satellites into orbit. Elon Musk is funding the program. Watch their websites for further information as to when the next launch is.

Griffith Park Observatory is having a Star Party on the front lawn on Saturday, June 15. There will be lots of telescopes set up for your use. This is a free event.

When not stargazing, Neill Simmons is a Wealth Advisor with LPL Financial in Woodland Hills. If you have any astronomy or financial questions, he may be reached at (818) 936-2626 or email neill.simmons@lpl.com.

HIstoric Oakridge Estate Open June 23 for Public Tours

The historic Oakridge Estate at 18650 Devonshire Blvd. in Northridge has a tour planned for the morning of Sunday, June 23, at 10 am. Docents will lead the 75 minute tour of the home that was built for Barbara Stanwyck.

In 1937, architect Paul R. Williams and Barbara Stanwyck, then one of Hollywood's highest paid actresses, collaborated to build a 6000-square-foot Irish farmhouse on a hilltop in Northridge. The views were of the entire San Fernando Valley and Marwyck Ranch, her 130-acre thoroughbred farm, co-owned with Zeppo and Marion Marx.

Actor Jack Oakie purchased the house in 1941. It remained the Oakie family home for over six decades. Jack Oakie renamed the property Oakridge. The City of Los Angeles acquired the property in 2009. Today, the property is managed by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

Tours of the house and grounds include historic photos and tales about the former residents. Focus is on the Golden Age of Hollywood and Depression-era thoroughbred horse racing. Comfortable walking shoes are required. Cost is $15/person.

For more information visit theoakridgeestateorg.

REAL ESTATE

Rantz & Ravez from Dennis Zine: Mayhem on Campus and Metro Woes

(Continued from page 4)
campus property.

There are verified intelligence reports stating that terror-linked groups coordinated hateful campus encampments across America on the Telegram app. It is obvious that the national protests and confrontations with law enforcement were intentional and not just organized by students at the universities across our nation. It is important to note this information as we approach the national presidential election which will generate support for certain candidates and anger and hostility toward other candidates. Time will tell if the next presidential election will be peaceful or one that generates protests and violence.

While the college protests have generated national news coverage, I found a survey dealing with college students' current important concerns.

Healthcare reform 40%

Educational funding and access 38%

Economic fairness and opportunity 37%

Racial justice and civil rights 36%

Climate change 35%

Gun control/safety 32%

Immigration policies 21%

National security/terrorism 15%

The conflict in the Middle East 13%

As you can see by the survey, the war in the Middle East only generated a 13% concern. This demonstrates the outside influence of organized protestors on college campuses that are only interested in creating turmoil and combative situations at American universities. The survey of 1,250 U.S. college students was taken May 3 to 6, 2024.

METRO AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY. IS IT SAFE FOR YOU TO USE?

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger have both publicly stated that they don't believe the Los Angeles bus and rail systems (Metro) are safe to use. They are attempting to correct the situation by increasing the number of law enforcement officers and other security personnel and ambassadors assigned to the transportation operations throughout the multi-city system.

Current news reports of crimes including multiple murders have alerted the public to the continuing hazards of riding the buses and trains in Los Angeles County. Murders along with an assortment of other serious crimes have caused the public to be concerned for their safety while utilizing public transportation.

The most recent political answer to the troubling situation is to increase the number of police and security personnel and establish a unified command to direct operations on the massive transportation network. While this is a long time in coming, it is an improvement in the former security concerns expressed by elected officials. For the most part, the security issues have been pushed aside or ignored.

One of the major issues with the security operations and directions to law enforcement personnel by Metro has been to IGNORE those passengers who fail to comply with the "Code of Conduct." The Code of Conduct as directed by Metro has been to IGNORE enforcement and just be present and smile and wave to everyone. Like a goodwill ambassador. Don't enforce the fee to ride any of the Metro lines. Let everyone ride for free and just smile and wave to the passengers! This misguided direction by the Metro Board has been one of the main problems and the direct connection to crime. Finally, the Metro Board has realized that with over 95% of those arrested for any offense did not pay the fare, fare enforcement has finally begun. I have been commenting about this situation in previous RantZ and RaveZ columns. We will see if murders and other serious crimes are reduced with the Fare and Code of Conduct Enforcement Program recently authorized by the Metro Board.

Gina Osorne, formerly with the FBI, who was recently fired by Metro as the Metro Security Director, is now appearing in the media speaking out about the crime problems under her watch. It is interesting listening to her complain when she should have voiced her concerns when she was in charge of Metro security operations and could have warned riders of the hazards on the transit lines. Osborne is pushing for Metro to re-establish their own police agency. The Metro had a police agency a few years ago. Good luck trying to re-establish a Metro Transit Police Agency when the LAPD, L.A. Sheriff, Highway Patrol and many state and local law enforcement agencies are struggling to recruit law enforcement officers to established agencies.

Dennis P. Zine is the author of RantZ and RaveZ. Dennis is a retired member of law enforcement and a current Reserve Police Officer. He was an elected L.A. City Councilmember for 12 years and is the Law Enforcement Specialist for Spectrum and Fox TV and KABC 790 am Radio.

Protect Yourself from Hidden Cameras

By Jamshid Javidi

With technology deeply embedded in our lives, privacy concerns are more pressing than ever.

Hidden cameras in places like hotel rooms, rental properties, and public restrooms can seriously compromise your security and peace of mind. Recent incidents, such as a hidden camera found in a planter by an unsuspecting homeowner in Calabasas and another in a fake rock in Chino, show how burglars are using these devices to stake out homes.

We provide practical advice on detecting hidden cameras and protecting your privacy. Whether you're traveling, staying at an Airbnb, or using a public facility, these tips will help you safeguard your personal space.

What to Look Out For

Hidden cameras can be very small and easily disguised, making them difficult to detect. However, there are some common signs and places to check:

- Unusual Objects: Be wary of objects that seem out of place or have an unusual appearance. Hidden cameras can be disguised as everyday items like alarm clocks, smoke detectors, air purifiers, or even decorative items.

- Visible Wires: Look for any unnecessary wires coming from devices, especially if they lead to something that doesn't require power.

- Small Holes or Lenses: Hidden cameras need a line of sight to record. Look for tiny holes or lenses in walls, ceilings, or objects.

- Glowing Lights: In the dark, hidden cameras might emit a small light. Turn off the lights and look for any unusual glowing spots.

- Sound: Some hidden cameras make a faint noise when they operate. Listen carefully for any unfamiliar sounds in your surroundings.

- Suspicious Mirrors: Test mirrors in private spaces to see if they're two-way. Place your fingertip against the mirror; if there's no gap between your finger and its reflection, the mirror might be a two-way mirror.

- Oddly Positioned Items: Check for items that are unusually positioned to get a better view of the room, such as a book on a shelf or a clock placed on a high ledge.

- Outlets and Power Strips: Examine electrical outlets and power strips for any modifications or extra components that seem out of place.

How to Protect Yourself

Here are some proactive steps you can take to protect your privacy:

- Conduct a Thorough Sweep: When you enter a new space, do a thorough visual inspection. Check common hiding spots such as smoke detectors, air vents, and electronic devices.

- Use a Camera Detector: Consider investing in a camera detector. These devices can be purchased on sites like Amazon.com and detect the RF signals that cameras emit or the reflective lens of a hidden camera.

- Turn Off Unnecessary Electronics: Turn off and unplug devices that seem out of place. This will prevent any hidden cameras from recording.

- Cover Suspicious Objects: If you suspect an object might contain a hidden camera but can't remove it, cover it with a cloth or tape.

- Report Suspicious Activity: If you find a hidden camera, report it to the property owner or local authorities immediately. Do not touch or tamper with the device, as it could be evidence in a criminal investigation.

- Check Wi-Fi Networks: Use your phone or a network scanner to check for any unusual devices connected to the local Wi-Fi network. Hidden cameras often need to transmit data over the internet.

- Use Physical Barriers: Place personal items, such as bags or clothing, over any suspected camera locations to obstruct their view if you cannot immediately address the issue.

Privacy is a fundamental right, and in our interconnected world, it's more important than ever to be vigilant about protecting it. Hidden cameras pose a significant threat, but with the right knowledge and tools, you can safeguard your personal space. By conducting thorough inspections, using detection tools, and staying aware of your surroundings, you can help ensure that your privacy remains intact. If you have any concerns or need assistance with privacy and security, please don't hesitate to reach out. Stay safe and vigilant!

Jamshid Javidi is President of CEO Computers in Encino, offering IT solutions and tech support. They have been helping businesses with their security needs since 1988. He can be reached at (818) 501-2281.

Neighborhood Council Meetings

Northridge East Neighborhood Council will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, June 19, at 7 pm.

For agenda and Zoom link viist nenc-la.org.

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will meet in person on Wednesday, June 12, at 6 pm at Castelbay Lane Charter Elementary (19010 Castlebay Ln.)

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Achieving Your Homebuying Dreams in 2024

Planning to buy a home this year? Here's what to focus on:

Improve Your Credit

Your credit score impacts your mortgage rate and future home loan. Monitor your credit and work on improving it by paying off devts.

Plan for Your Down Payment

Save some money from every paycheck for your home fund and get help from a professional to explore down payment assistance options.

Get Pre-Approved

Pre-approval from a lender helps you know how much money you can borrow for your home loan. That way, you can start figuring out your budget.

Decide What's Most Important to You

Make a list of things you want in a home and decide if they're Must-Haves or just Nice-To-Haves. Then, talk to your agent about it before starting your search.

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

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FREE Concerts at Warner Park

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Sunday Evenings · 5:30pm–8:30pm

5:30pm Emerging Artist · **6:30pm** Main Act

June 16
Linda and Friends Band
Tribute to Linda Ronstadt & Laurel Canyon
EMERGING ARTIST: **The Rayford Brothers**

June 23
The Soul Juice Band
Blazing Soul, Funk, Rock & Jazz
EMERGING ARTIST: **Sarah Daye**

June 30
Strange Days
Tribute to The Doors
EMERGING ARTIST: **Eye of the Sun**

Thursday, July 4
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's
July 4th Extravaganza
Featuring
Angela O'Neill and The Outrageous8
EMERGING ARTIST: **The Paul Litteral Band**

July 14
Foreigner Unauthorized
Tribute to Foreigner
EMERGING ARTIST: **Abby Berman**

July 21
Twisted Gypsy
Tribute to Fleetwood Mac
EMERGING ARTIST: **Paper Citizen**

July 28
Red Corvette
Tribute to Prince
EMERGING ARTIST: **Timothy J. Wilson**

August 4
Wanted
Tribute to Bon Jovi
EMERGING ARTIST: **Saticöy**

August 11
ABBA-LA
Tribute to ABBA
EMERGING ARTIST: **Tomorrow's Tigers**

August 18
Blank Space
Tribute to Taylor Swift
EMERGING ARTIST: **Abigail Fierce**

August 25
Aeromyth
Tribute to Aerosmith
EMERGING ARTIST: **American Superdrive**

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Lineup subject to change.