



Celebrating Cultural Diversity at Museum of the San Fernando Valley

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Valley Home Sales Rise

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Nighttrek Report: What to See in the June Sky

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North Valley News

Volume 3, Number 25

June 5, 2025

Serving Porter Ranch, Northridge, Granada Hills & Chatsworth

News in Brief

Rite Aid to Close Chatsworth Store

Rite Aid will close its Chatsworth store located at 10120 Mason Avenue as part of its continued Chapter 11 proceedings.

The chain has announced the closure of 151 additional stores last Friday, bringing the total shuttered to 268 across the country. Rite Aid filed for bankruptcy for the second time in May, after two years of trying to restructure the chain's debt, which it listed as \$1 billion to \$10 billion in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition. Stores will be closed or sold to a new owner.

LAPD Weekend North Valley Checkpoints

LAPD has scheduled DUI checkpoints this weekend across the city, including several in the North Valley. These checkpoints target areas with a record of driver-impaired crashes and arrests from both alcohol and drugs. First-time offenders face fines of about \$13,500 on average, as well as a suspended license. A checkpoint will be held Saturday from 6 to 11 pm at Parthenia Street and Haskell, and saturation patrols Sunday from noon to 8 pm in La Tuna Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Pacoima, Shadow Hills, Sun Valley, Sunland and Tujunga.

Tickets On Sale Now for Mega Mixer

United Chambers of Commerce will hold their annual "Mega Mixer" on Thursday, June 26, at 5 pm. Tickets are now on sale for the event at Anheuser-Busch Brewery, 15800 Roscoe Blvd. in Van Nuys. Member price before June 12 is \$35 (\$45 at door) and non-member price before June 12 is \$50 (\$60 at door). Join this much-anticipated event for the venue, networking, beer, and food. The Mega Mixer, attended by several hundred people from all over the San Fernando Valley, has proven to be a successful, enjoyable networking event. Register at your local chamber or visit unitedchambers.org for tickets.

Blockfest Postponed to June 28

The annual Blockfest Festival produced by the Northwest Valley Chamber- and this year also My Valley Pass - has been postponed until Saturday, June 8. The free event was scheduled for May 10 in Chatsworth with over 200 vendors, beer gardens, a kids zone, live music and professional wrestling. Sponsorships for the new date are still available. To learn more or register as a sponsor visit myvalleypass.com/valley-blockfest or call the Northwest Valley Chamber office at (818) 341-2428.

Making Movies That Matter:

A Celebration of Young Filmmakers at the Soraya

By Mark Hovater

The sixth annual "Making Movies That Matter" (MMTM) Youth Film Festival, hosted by Council District 12 (CD12), brought together student filmmakers from elementary, middle, and high schools across the community for a night of cinematic celebration at the Soraya Performing Arts Theatre at CSUN.

(Continued to page 6)



Students from VIP School, Winners of Best High School PSA

PHOTO: MARKHOVATER

Longtime Canoga Park Resident and Veteran Honors Fallen Heroes

By Jay Ross

On a perfect day in Canoga Park, a few thousand people gathered to pay tribute to fallen soldiers during the 33rd Annual Memorial Day Parade. The atmosphere was filled with a mix of excitement and bittersweet emotions, as both parade-goers and participants came together to honor those who served.

Among the honored guests was Bill Bird, a 94-year-old veteran of the United States Army, who served in the 6th Army, Special Services from 1952 to 1954. Accompanied by his two daughters, two grandchildren, and their mother, Bird's presence in the procession added a personal touch to the event.

Bird holds a special place in the history of Canoga Park, being the first baby born in the city, which was originally known as Owensmouth before its name change in 1931. He graduated from Canoga Park High School in 1949 and grew up in a family that owned Bird's Independent Market, located where Henri's Restaurant now stands at the corner of Remmet and Sherman Way.

Bill's first job involved delivering flowers in Tarzana,



94-year-old veteran Bill Bird rides in the Memorial Day Parade.

PHOTO: HelaineCummins

which eventually led to a lifelong career in the floral industry. Drafted during the Korean War in 1952, he served stateside as a carpenter, crafting training aide

Bird was the first baby born in Canoga Park, and returned after his service to own Canoga Park Florist.

rifles.

After his military service, he returned to the floral business, working at Memory Lane Florist in the San Fernando Valley. In 1955, he purchased the shop, renaming it the Canoga Park Florist Shop, where he worked

until his retirement in 1995.

In addition to his work as a florist, Bill taught floral design at Pierce College for 27 years and held teaching credentials from UCLA. His dedication to the community was further exemplified when he participated in a team that represented Canoga Park in the American City National competition in 2005, where they earned first place, marking a significant milestone as the first community in Los Angeles to win such an award.

His life story serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by veterans and the importance of honoring their legacy.

COMMUNITY

WOODLAND HILLS: The free Summer Concert Series produced by the Valley Cultural Center will kick off Sunday, June 15, with a special Father’s Day concert at 5:30 pm. The concert will feature No Duh, a No Doubt and Gwen Stefani tribute band, with emerging artist Eye of the Sun opening for them. There will be a Kids Zone sponsored by Discovery Cub and the YMCA, plus food truck a beer garden and a local vendors market. The concert will be held at Warner Park, Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Califa Street. For more information visit valleycultural.org.



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Community Calendar

GRANADA HILLS: LAPD Senior Lead Officer John Parker will hold a Basic Car 17A35 neighborhood watch meeting on Tuesday, June 10, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at St. Euphrasia Catholic Church, 11779 Shoshone Avenue.

NORTHRIDGE: The Northridge East Neighborhood Council will hold their general board meeting on Wednesday, June 18, at 7 pm. For agenda and link visit nenc-la.org.

PORTER RANCH: The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council will hold their regular board meeting on Wednesday, June 11, from 6 to 8 pm. The in-person meeting will be held at Castlebay Lane Charter Elementary, 19010 Castlebay Lane.

CHATSWORTH: Councilman John Lee and COWE Communications CEO Miri Rossitto will host a community “meet and greet” for CD3 council candidate Tim Gaspar on Wednesday, June 18, from 5:30 to 7 pm. The event will be held at Les Sisters, 20450 Nordhoff Street. Suggested contribution \$250. RSVP to michelle@timgaspar.com.

GRANADA HILLS: The Granada Hills Library will host their Teen Council on Friday, June 13, from 4 to 5 pm. Teen Council is a space for teens 11 to 18 to make new friends and help the library while earning community service hours and developing leadership schools. Teens will collaborate with the YA Librarian to suggest book purchases, plan library programs and more. They must complete the volunteer onboarding process before Teen Council to get service hours. The library is located at 10640 Petit Avenue.

NORTHRIDGE: The City of Los Angeles is hosting its monthly free bulky item drop off program on Saturday, June 14, from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Bring your bookcases, box springs, carpets, furniture, tree trimmings and wood (bundled) to the West Valley District yard, 8840 Vanalden Street. For more information call (800) 773-2489.

CHATSWORTH: The Chatsworth Library will host a free yoga and stretching session every Monday at 10:30 am and again at 11:30 am. Meet new friends, get exercise and learn seated yoga and other stretching techniques. The library is located at 21052 Devonshire.

GRANADA HILLS: SAGE Learning in Retirement will hold an open house on Saturday, June 21, from 10 am to noon at St. Andrew and St. Charles Church at 16651 Rinaldi St., Granada Hills. Join them to learn more about their programs and activities and win a free trial membership! RSVP to (818) 831-5064 or sagelearners@csun.org. See sagelearninginretirement.org.

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People in the News



Celebrating their 76th anniversary, members from the National Charity League, Inc., San Fernando Valley Chapter (NCL, Inc.), gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel-Westlake Village for the annual Mother-Daughter Promenade Tea, to acknowledge overall time contributed to serving NCL's mission and its commitment to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences.

The 68th Annual Promenade Tea honored the 7th through 12th grade Ticktockers and their Patroness mothers who have embraced this year's chapter theme of "In Unity We Shine," by dedicating themselves to going beyond the minimum philanthropic requirements, volunteering over 12,590 hours to the community.

Earning the highest number of cumulative service hours during her six years in NCL, Eden Zafrani received the coveted Senior Service Award.

The San Fernando Valley Chapter Debutantes being presented at the November 29, 59th Annual Charity Ball at the Four Seasons-Beverly Wilshire are **Miss Lauren Isabelle Avedis, Miss Lauren Capri Babaian, Miss Sofia Francesca-Rose Boyd, Miss Sophie Olivia Kaloustian, Miss Laleh Sophia Mehdizadeh, Miss Kaelin Brooke Schetter, and Miss Eden Shir Zafrani.**

Philanthropies supported by the San Fernando Valley Chapter include: West Valley Food Pantry, Motion Picture & Television Fund, Guide Dogs of America/Tender Loving Canines, Boys and Girls Club of the West Valley, American Cancer Society Discovery Shops, Operation Gratitude, New Horizons, ONEgeneration, Special Olympics Southern California, and My Stuff Bags Foundation.

National Charity League is a California-based nonprofit designed to encourage community services and volunteering opportunities for mothers and their daughters in grades seven to 12.



California State University, Northridge professor emeritus of music **Ron Borczon**, above, has been awarded the Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Music Therapy Association. Borczon started CSUN's Music Therapy program in 1984 and is known for his groundbreaking work in the field of music therapy. He played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of music therapy and discovering its potential for storytelling and for treating physical and mental trauma. He said there was little research about how music could be used in those avenues of healing when he started his work in the field.

Borczon drew international recognition following the 1994 Northridge earthquake, when he created various protocols for those affected by the disaster to express their trauma through music. He has taught and led the CSUN music therapy program for nearly four decades, written two books, created multiple presentations, and utilized music therapy during and following disaster events such as Hurricane Katrina, Columbine High School shooting, the Oklahoma City bombing, and New York City following the Sept. 11 attacks.

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VIEWPOINT

English Channel

By Rodger Sterling

English Channel offers the best of the late editor Rodger Sterling's columns that ran continuously in the local papers since 1968.

- Three golf clubs walk into a bar.The putter asked for a beer. The wedge ordered tequila. And the third? The third said, “Nothing for me. I’m the driver!”
- I saw someone waving at me the other day, but wasn’t sure if they were waving at me or someone else.
In other news, I lost my job as a lifeguard.
- Ray Wagnier checks in with some one-liners...
 - A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.
 - A wife told her husband it was venison for dinner again. He said, “Oh deer!”
 - I know a guy who’s addicted to brake fluid, but he can stop anytime.
- Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune. One evening, at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. “I may look like just an ordinary guy,” he said to her, “But in just a few years my father will die and I will inherit \$200 million.” Impressed, the woman asked for his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother.
Women are so much better at financial planning than men.
- If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we know?

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Rantz & Ravez from Dennis P. Zine

A growing number of Los Angeles City Council members have demonstrated little concern for you and your family and only token attention for your safety and that of your neighbors, friends, community and commercial establishments in expanding deteriorating Los Angeles neighborhoods. There are crumbling streets with large potholes, dangerous cracks in the sidewalks, homeless camps scattered in many residential neighborhoods and streetlights that no longer light the night due to the thieves that steal the copper wire and sell it to corrupt business owners. Couple this with the assortment of abandoned cars and stolen shopping carts and other visual signs of the wide-spread community and neighborhood neglect and decay throughout the 15 council districts.

The recent vote by the majority of council members on the mayor’s 2025-2026 budget reflects a lack of concern for the safety and preservation of life and property in the sprawling neighborhoods of Los Angeles. This reality is difficult to understand since the lives of so many Los Angeles residents are in jeopardy with fewer police officers and other public employees hired to keep people and property safe in the nearly 473 square miles encompassing the boundaries of Los Angeles. An area that stretches from San Pedro to the San Fernando Valley and from East Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean where thousands of residents have been left homeless due to the fires that claimed lives and acres of homes and business. A Los Angeles population count of approximately 3,908,705 give or take a few thousand more hiding from various local, state and federal authorities.

When we examine Los Angeles public safety we look at the total number of sworn LAPD, fire and other safety personnel employed by the city. We find the number of personnel dedicated to public safety programs is dangerously low compared to previous years. The current number of all sworn LAPD personnel from the Chief of Police to the recruit in the

academy is 8746. Compare that to February 2019 when there were 10,072 sworn personnel protecting and serving L.A. That is a difference of 1,352 sworn officers! How can a reduction of 1,352 sworn officers manage to police and maintain order and safety with such a shrinking police force? With nearly 473 square miles to patrol, how can any real protection be provided to you

and your family with the gridlock roads throughout the city along with other road impediments and other conditions we all tolerate out of necessity on a daily basis?

January’s devastating fires in Pacific Palisades closed many roads in portions of the city for months. Thousands of motorists were forced to tolerate hours of traffic congestion during that time. The 101 and 405 freeways became large parking lots most days including weekends. This situation caused more and more stress for those who were forced to navigate the congested roads for hours while driving to and from work. This example illustrates the daily stress experienced by Los Angeles and neighboring commuters. A city that was once well managed by elected officials who respected the taxpayers and worked for the people versus against them as is the current trend at City Hall by a growing number of what I refer to as the “Crazy Train” group of council members with an annual salary of approximately \$218,000 a year - the highest salary of all councilmembers in the USA. Are you getting your money’s worth in services?

Following days of meetings and long discussions, the City Council finally voted to approve the 2025-26 budget with many modifications from what the mayor submitted. A number of positions were removed during the negotiations to save money

due to the BILLION dollar city debt. Los Angeles and Sacramento elected officials have one thing in common, they both know how to spend more money than they take in. Talk about irresponsible elected government officials. Between Los Angeles and Sacramento, they both have a difficult time managing budgets. While you struggle to pay your increasing bills, they squander money since there are no consequences. Only in time your vote can make a difference and change the foolish habits of the “Crazy Train” elected officials.

One matter that I and many are concerned about is the new city’s Bureau for Homeless Oversight. While the Feds are investigating the former Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) program we will see who gets indicted and ends up behind bars. When you see that BILLIONS upon BILLIONS have been spent on the homeless programs over the years and the results show very poor results, it is time to get the facts and hold those who spent BILLIONS of dollars with such poor results accountable for their actions which may be criminal. This case is being investigated by the new U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli who was recently appointed by President Trump. I expect Mr. Essayli will get the facts and we will see who goes to jail. Remember Los Angeles City Council

(Continued to page 11)

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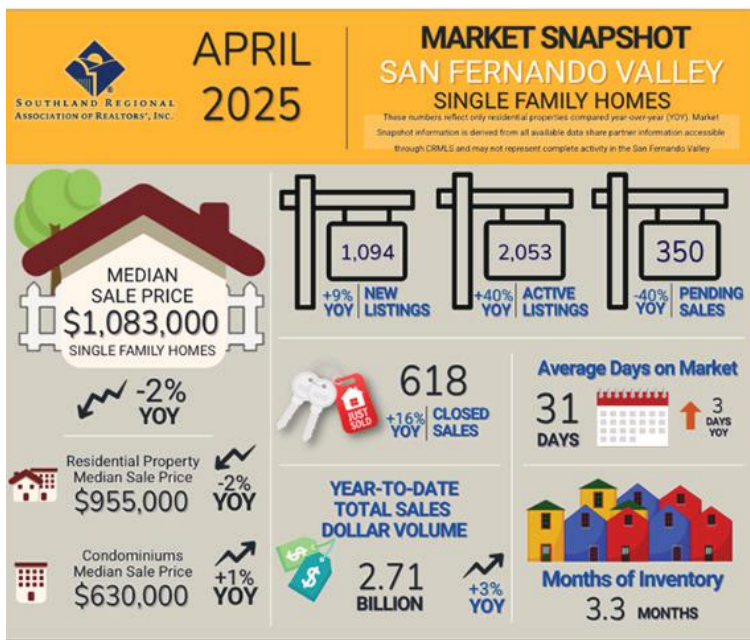
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Home Sales Rose During April

Single-family homes that closed escrow during April in the San Fernando Valley surpassed the total reported a year ago while the inventory of properties listed for sale surge higher, the Southland Regional Association of Realtors reported today.

Realtors helped close escrow on 618 single-family homes, an increase of 14.9% over April 2024. The increase in sales came on the heels of three consecutive months posting totals lower than 2024. The Association also reported 161 condominium sales, down 5.8% from 12 months ago.

"Despite the double shock of January's devastating local wildfires and more recent widespread uncertainty regarding the direction of the national economy, single-family home sales during April surpassed year ago totals while active listings of properties also continued to rise," said Anthony Bedgood, President of the 10,000-member Southland Regional Association of Realtors. "Resale prices may still be rising, but the increases are in the low single-digits, and lower price hikes may be an indicator of what many people think about local housing opportunities."

"Buyers have more housing options than at any time in recent memory with inventory willing to offer concessions," he said. "It would be helpful if interest

rates were lower, but rates in the 6% range appear to be with us for well into the future."

The median price of homes that changed owners last month came in at \$1,083,000, which was down 1.5%. It was the first year-to-year decline after an infrequently broken chain of monthly increases dating to pre-Covid days of 2019. Similarly, April's condo median of \$630,000 was up 0.8% from a year ago with mainly positive numbers reported for more than a half decade.

"Given the challenges presented by the wildfires and tariffs, buyers and sellers need Realtors' expertise more than ever," said Valerie Biletsky, SRAR's Chief Executive Officer. "With all the uncertainty, it's unsurprising that pending sales are down, while the increase in listings suggests there is more opportunity for anyone hoping to buy a home."

The combined 438 pending home and condo sales - a measure of future closed escrows - were down 40% from a year ago. Active listings of single-family homes increased during April to 2,053, an increase of 53.6% over a year ago. There are more homes listed for sale than at any time since before the pandemic in 2019. The 573 condominiums on the market represented a 58.8% jump from April 2024, a total just short of 2019 levels.



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WOODLAND HILLS



Nobel Middle School: Best Middle School Overall



Nobel Students: Best Festival



Chatsworth: Best High School Fictional



Mayall Elementary: Best Overall, with host Councilman John Lee, at right.

PHOTOS: MARKHOVATER

Student Filmmakers Honored at Soraya

(Continued from page 1)

With 36 schools participating and an astonishing 156 student-made films submitted, the festival showcased the incredible talent and creativity nurtured through this unique educational program. As CD12 Executive Producer Ron Rubine put it: “This is the largest film festival west of the Mississippi, and it’s all come to this night when the students are STARS and their families are watching from the balconies.”

Over a five-month journey, the MMTM program immersed students in every aspect of filmmaking, from pre-production and production to post-production, guided by professional artists in residence who visited classrooms to mentor and inspire. The dedication of these artists in residence is truly eye-opening - their commitment to helping each student shine is at the heart of what makes this program so successful. Students had three months to bring their visions to life, culminating in submissions that reflected a remarkable range of storytelling, technique, and passion. Professional judges then evaluated the entries, selecting winners across four categories, ensuring each level of education was represented and celebrated. As a video producer documenting the process, I can’t help but marvel at the sheer energy of the students. I wish I could put an audio file in this article for you to hear the sound level of the students - I’ve never heard such a decibel sound reading as this.

Among the dedicated educators, Media Arts Teacher Jared Wolf from Nobel Middle School praised the program, saying, “MMTM only comes around once a year, and it’s like Christmas Day!” Student filmmaker Jadi O’Rourke, who won Best High School PSA, reflected on the experience: “You realize when you put in all the work and passion on this project just how much

This is the largest film festival west of the Mississippi, and it’s all come to this night when the students are stars!

you really love the craft of filmmaking.”

Councilmember John Lee, who hosted the evening with his signature enthusiasm, shared, “This is my favorite event of the year. I feel like a rockstar with all the students screaming and yelling in excitement.” The festival’s red carpet, complete with photographers, video interviews, specialty photo booths, and a vibrant buffet, gave students and their families a night to remember.

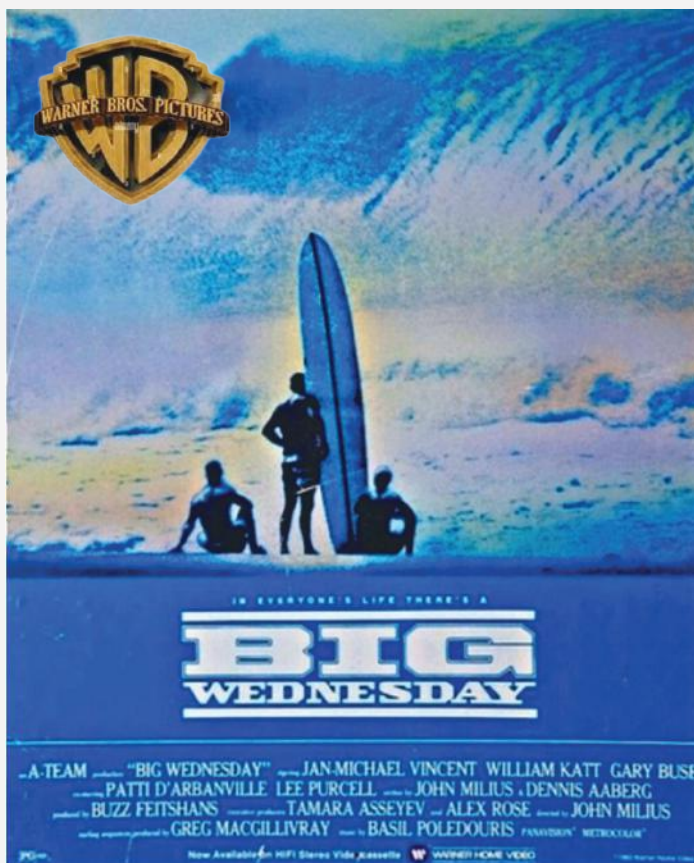
For me, documenting this journey for a forthcoming documentary was both inspiring and humbling; the students’ energy and excitement over the last three months were infectious. The festival is more than a night of awards - it’s a celebration of creativity, community, and the future of filmmaking in our neighborhood. And let’s not forget to tip our hats - and toss them in the air - to Ron Rubine for his remarkable leadership and dedication to producing this incredible program year after year.

As Told by Late Actor Jan-Michael Vincent in 2019

Well Known for 1980's CBS T.V.'s Action Series Hit "Airwolf"

Hollywood — Jan Vincent, the "California surfer," was discovered by James Dean's own talent agent, Richard (Dick) Clayton in Ventura County in late 1965 hanging with his buddy.

When interviewed in late 2018 during his retirement, Vincent said, "I had a great life as a working actor in film, but if my buddy Timmie Dagwood didn't remind me to call that talent agent who came to find me in a fast food spot, I would never have been pushed to be a star. This buddy went weekends with me to surf, breaking away from the weeks of film jobs I had yearly in back-to-back lead roles. I had Timmie working with me on every film each year as a movie extra, who I purposely dragged into all my contracts with each movie studio, signed through my agent, as arranged. I needed Timmie there to keep me company due to all the strangers upon me, surrounding me in each production. I had started in this biz totally new and never trained for such a world - having been just 'discovered' in 1965 out of the blue.



Returning This Summer

Featuring Jan Vincent's Movie Extra Buddy



So, due to Timmie reminding me to call that agent after I dismissed the very idea of acting as a joke, or not a solid job in my own mind, I initially passed it off of course. But, Timmie felt I'd be missing the big bucks from someone who we didn't realize was an even bigger talent agent than we knew. So here I am telling my story of how I landed myself years of successful film ventures, and popular starring roles, landing me Golden Globe nominations twice over.

It didn't stop there.....My buddy kept me focused, and supported me in this entire career, so I guess one could say he was part of my game plan.

If one could go search the talent agent's name, one would see all the top stars he created long before me. He was a colleague of another agent named Henry Leroy Wilson, working at the same agency for years in the 1940's era.

I did do a few name changes like on the 1969 western The Undefeated. My name is listed only as 'Michael Vincent,' a co-star playing the son of John Wayne. I only used that name on a couple of other films, but ended up coming back to add my full name as Jan-Michael Vincent, as my agent preferred me to keep.

Clayton treated me like a son, even though Timmie told me he was replacing James Dean's appeal with me since James died in 1955 at age 24. Yet, I couldn't see myself doing that type...I am blonde but not that type of guy.

So here I am in my retirement years looking back. It's been some sort of fast-paced life - more than one could imagine. I started very young as a surfer- turned actor. Looking at Timmie in 2002, being older and seeing him age, it's been good to have a bud share the wild

ride of Hollywood.

And yeah, it was some odd way to become a box office lead actor, just due to that high powered top-dollar executive talent manager finding me in such a way he did. This was not normal at all, but by chance, only luck one could think. How rare was it to be in the path of a super top agent, just passing by and seeing me "of all places" at the beach in Ventura County. How odd, how so incredible.

But that's what happened. See the list of films I landed in each year by viewing IMDB's site. They all did well, as Hollywood critics mentioned in the press."

Amazon's Prime Video continued sales of the late actor's films show them popular right up through this year with on-going profits above others listed. It seems it's due to the links at the bottom of each film someone watches. Maybe they're so popular due to the high viewership of the summer surfer movie Big Wednesday, which has Jan-Michael Vincent as a "super star," so named by film critics when he was nominated twice

for a Golden Globe.

The movie Big Wednesday, produced by Warner Bros., was a high grossing run for so many weeks, and is now re-released each year during the summer time to play in theaters for those who are interested in beach life stories. Movies like this still continue to have a very large fan base in the surfing world. This year it's a big summer release for beach movie admirers to go see the story again. The director was also the script writer and one of the executive producers was a part of George Lucas' and Steven Spielberg's life. They were in school all together as major surfer buddies. As reported in The Los Angeles Times, director John Milius asked his buddies to get onboard this project to share some scripting thoughts. Steven Spielberg offered to play a ghost writer to Big Wednesday and George Lucas gladly did as well.

They picked actor/super star Jan-Michael Vincent for the lead role, since he was far ahead in deep surfer competitions long before the film ever came to be developed for the cinema. So many times ABC sports aired open beaches surfer competitions on Sundays and one could hear the sports anchors say, "There's Jan-Michael Vincent now taking a fast run over a curl." This year, the film is again likely to capture many viewers. Marketing will show links to Jan's other movies directly after this fun surfing story, like the CBS television network's fast action adventure top-rated Airwolf from 1984.

Jan Vincent doesn't seem to be leaving the public's thoughts and this summer he will appeal to a lot of mainstream beach goers - but he will mostly be remembered by his living life, surfer buddy known by friends in Los Angeles as Timmie Dagwood.

Burned Out on Tinder? Try a Matchmaker!

In *Fiddler on the Roof*, parents looking for a husband for their daughter seek out Yente.

In this day and age, singles looking for a partner, tired of Tinder, Hinge and other dating apps, are themselves turning to a professional matchmaker.

And that's where Calabasas resident Barbara Shapiro can help.

Shapiro is a professional

matchmaker at SawYouAtSinai, a Jewish dating service that combines the personal touch of a matchmaker with unique matching technology.

"I think why this works is that it's so detailed," she told *Valley News Group*. You not only upload a resume, but work with her on a multi-page questionnaire, everything from likes, dislikes, activities, hobbies,

height, weight, body type, level of religious observance and more. The questionnaire gathers as much information as a participant can give to give the matchmaker the best chance of finding "the perfect match."

"Another reason singles like this is there's no rejection," said Shapiro. "There's no swiping left or right. We first send the profile to the applicant. If they like what they see then we send it to the other party." Each person's matchmaker sorts through the tens of thousands of singles who are in the system and then sends only the matches that make the most sense. There's no more wasting time looking through thousands of inappropriate profiles. The matchmaker also gives them the time to consider each one before sending new possible matches.

Shapiro was initially intrigued by the idea because her son was looking for a partner. He'd asked his orthodox rabbi for help, and was told to "pray more." He was told to go to more shabbats, where there was too much involvement from the mothers of the girls he got set up with!

So being a good Jewish mother, Shapiro trained with SawYouAtSinai and set out to find him a match herself.



Another reason singles like this is there's no rejection. There's no swiping left or right.
- Barbara Shapiro

"You really get to know your applicants," she related. "To get the best results you ask all sorts of questions for the profile. What are your similar interests? Are you willing to relocate? It's a more personal approach to dating."

And this one was personal. Along with other clients, she set her son up with several different possible matches.

"I spend six to seven hours a

day looking at profiles," Shapiro laughed. "I really try to find the right person for each match - and that takes time."

Did it work? She set her son up with a woman and they started face-timing last June. They had their first date in September and got engaged just last month.

"They were a real success story," she laughed. "But in reality when you match two people from the site there's almost always a date, because we work hard at putting them together. After that, marriage is up to them!"

There are different plans at SawYouAtSinai, depending on the number of possible matches you want. The company is global so there are singles from all over the world in the system. The matchmaker only gets paid if they make a match.

Shapiro's background is actually working with the NBA, NFL and NHL on various sports magazines such as *Hoop* and *Game Day*. She was in advertising sales and an ad manager for the west coast.

With this new job, she's again looking for game, set and match! And her son will attest, she works hard to get it right.

Shapiro can be reached by email at bashatova@aol.com.

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A Celebration of Cultural Diversity

By Jay Ross

The 4th Annual Pan-Asian/Pacific Arts & Cultural Festival held at the Museum of the San Fernando Valley was a remarkable event that showcased a rich tapestry of cultural expression. This festival brought together a diverse array of performances and arts from various Asian cultures, including Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, Pacific Islander, Indian and Filipino artists. The atmosphere was vibrant, filled with the sounds of music and laughter, as attendees engaged with the rich cultural offerings.

Festival highlights included vendors' booths, cultural performers, food trucks, demonstrations, onstage entertainment, DCA-sponsored exhibits, children's art workshops and the opportunity to visit the museum and its exhibits.

This year the museum's sponsors included Starbucks (with free coffee and tea for everyone) and Rydell Chevrolet as well as support by Councilmember John Lee, District 12. Cultural festival performing artists included:

- SFV Japanese American Community Center Meiji Ondo Group
- Jishin Taiko
- Bollywood Beyondancing Group
- Kalakeke Pacific Island Dance Company
- Vovinam Lac Hong (Vietnamese Lion Dance and martial arts) and Vietnamese Association of the SFV (dancers)
- Hiza Yoo Korean Dance Institute
- Kevin Sasaki and Julie Gile Musical Duo/Standards
- Eric Stuart – Program DJ / Emcee & VP of The Museum of the San Fernando Valley

Food trucks at the venue offered a variety of food. The food options were delicious, varied, priced reasonably and contributed to the festive atmosphere.



In addition to the festival, The Museum of the San Fernando Valley also revealed five new panels of the museum's Phase II "Historic Timeline of the San Fernando Valley." Visitors to the museum are invited to rediscover the Valley's past and reflect on the diverse forces that shaped its present. These new Phase II panels explore the Valley's evolution from 1900 to 1950. This new chapter expands on last year's Phase I exploration of the Valley from inception to 1900. The museum's timeline exhibition is made possible through the support of a grant from the L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs.

The 4th Annual Pan-Asian/Pacific Arts & Cultural Festival at The Museum of the San Fernando Valley was not just an event; it was a celebration of community, culture, and heritage. The successful blend of performances, food, and educational opportunities highlighted the importance of cultural exchange and the shared joy it brings to the community.

Photographer Jay Ross also known as JaysfStop and the Founder of VPC Valley Photo Club, was present to capture the essence of the event.




PHOTOS: JAYSFSTOP

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Nightttrek Report:
What to See in the June Sky

By Neill Simmons

The highlight of June is the small planet Mercury, which will shine brightly low in the west just after sunset. Watch as Mercury gets higher and higher each night in June. On June 26 Mercury will be at its highest point and will be joined by the beautiful, thin crescent Moon.

Mercury has no atmosphere, resulting in extreme temperature fluctuations between scorching daytime highs of 800 degrees and frigid nighttime lows of -300 degrees! To learn more about Mercury and the summer night sky, plan on attending a free talk at the Woodland Hills Library on Thursday, June 12, at 6 pm. Call the library at (818) 226-0017 for more information.

The red planet Mars is still visible in the west. On June 1, Mars will appear to be very close to the Moon. This will happen twice which is unusual. Look west again to find Mars and the thin crescent Moon which will appear next to it. Mars' signature color comes from the large amount of a chemical called iron oxide (or "rust" as you might know it) in its rocks and soil. Mars is home to the highest mountain in our solar system – a volcano called Olympus Mons. Standing at over 78,700 feet, it's about three times the height of Mount Everest!

The full Moon of June comes on Wednesday, June 11, and is appropriately named "The Strawberry Moon." The Native Americans would gather wild strawberries that ripen this month. Our Moon is known for its influence on tides, its synchronous rotation which always shows the same side to Earth, and the fact that it doesn't have its own light, but instead reflects sunlight.

DAWN PATROL: The planet Venus lights up the early morning sky from 4 am until sunrise. Also, at this time, the Arietids meteor shower will be active, with its peak expected around June 10. Remember as always, clear skies and dark skies are ideal for viewing.

Meteors, often called shooting stars, are streaks of light caused by small rocks or debris entering Earth's atmosphere at high speed. These space rocks, called meteoroids, burn up and

create a fiery trail as they travel through the air. Sometimes, larger meteoroids that survive the fiery descent and land on Earth are called meteorites.

Noctilucent clouds are a great sight to behold after dusk in June. These clouds appear as thin, wispy, and sometimes streaky clouds with a bluish or silvery hue. They glow because they are still illuminated by sunlight, even though the rest of the atmosphere below is in darkness. This happens because noctilucent clouds are much higher than all the other clouds in the sky. Look west to spot them after sunset.

The star Vega is 25 light years away from Earth. It is visible in the northeast after 9 pm. Vega is the fifth brightest star in the night sky and is 58 times bigger than our Sun. Vega is also one of three stars in the famous star pattern called the Summer Triangle, along with Deneb and Altair.

In June, the Big Dipper, the star pattern within the constellation Ursa Major, is easily seen from your backyard. It appears to be hanging by its handle. The Alaska state flag features eight gold stars on a dark blue field. Seven of the stars form the Big Dipper, a reference to the Great Bear which is indigenous to Alaska. The eighth star represents the North Star also known as Polaris. Polaris always stays in roughly the same place in the sky, and therefore it is a reliable way to find the direction of north.

The Griffith Park Observatory has a free monthly Star Party. It will be held on June 7 from 2 to 9:45 pm. This a chance for the whole family to look at the Sun, Moon, visible planets, and other objects, to try out a variety of telescopes, and to talk to knowledgeable amateur astronomers about the sky and their equipment.

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 emailed at neill.simmons@lpl.com.



Rantz & Ravez from Dennis Zine

(Continued from page 4)

has a running record of federal indictments where multiple Los Angeles city employees and councilmembers have been convicted and gone off to federal prison. I will not name the recent inmates since they have all been beaten up in the press in the past. In fact, some have already been released and are back at home.

However, I will mention two who are still in line for prison - Mark Ridley Thomas and Curren D. Price Jr. Price is facing criminal charges and is free on his own recognizance pending trial. Thomas is appealing his federal corruption charges and conviction. We all know how slow the criminal justice system runs.

This is what you have as elected city officials. With a salary of \$218,000 and many perks like trips to Paris for the Olympics, the Los Angeles City Council elected members are the highest paid in America. All I can say to that....God bless America and the land of opportunity!

Dennis P. Zine is a native Angeleno who has served in law enforcement for 57 years and served on the L.A. City Council for 12 years. He currently serves on a number of local boards of directors and can be heard on KABC Radio, Spectrum, Fox 11 and KTLA Ch 5 TV.

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July 13

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EMERGING ARTIST: **Ava August**



July 20

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The Music of Neil Diamond

EMERGING ARTIST: **Jeffrey Chan**

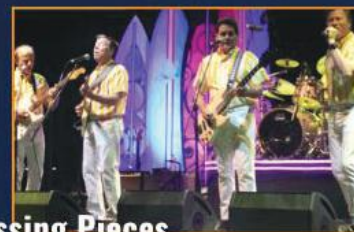


July 27

Surfin'

The Beach Boys Tribute

EMERGING ARTIST: **Millie Oliver & The Missing Pieces**



August 3

Live From Earth

Tribute to Pat Benatar & Beyond

EMERGING ARTIST: **Abby Berman**



August 10

Which One's Pink?

A Tribute to Pink Floyd

EMERGING ARTIST: **Astral Mixtape**



August 17

DSB

The World's Greatest Journey Tribute Band

EMERGING ARTIST: **Velzy**



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