



# THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY, JUN 20, 2025

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VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 75

## Thisssss is Snake Season



The 8' long rattler snake found under residents porch/ Photo by Ray Cooke.

The warmer weather calls to outdoors enthusiasts and snakes alike, making encounters of the slithering kind inevitable. Sunland-Tujunga has a variety of snakes, most of which are harmless. The exception is California's only native venomous snake the rattlesnake.

Rattlesnake can cause serious injury to humans - on rare occasions even death, as was evidenced in May when a rattlesnake bite killed a Riverside County man. While generally not aggressive, rattlesnakes strike when threatened or deliberately provoked, but given room they will retreat. Most snake bites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally touched by someone walking or climbing.

Although scary, the California Poison Control Center notes that rattlesnakes account for only about 800 bites each year with about one to two deaths. Here in Sunland-Tujunga the rattlesnake species we can expect to find include the Western Diamondblack, Sidewinder, Speckled rattlesnake, Red Diamond rattlesnake, Southern Pacific, Great Basin rattlesnake and the Mojave rattlesnake.

Just use common sense!

The possibility of finding a rattlesnake shouldn't stop anyone from venturing outdoors, but there are several precautions that can be taken to lessen the chance of being bitten when out in snake country - which is just about anywhere in California. ■



AMATEUR RADIO Club members gather to set-up the communications equipment.

## 2025 ARRL FIELD DAY IS JUNE 28-29

[Rules and Resources](#) | [Facebook Group](#) | [T-shirts & Gear](#) | [Field Day Locator](#) | [Join ARRL](#)

ARRL Field Day is always held on the 4th full weekend in June.

2025 Field Day will be held June 28 - 29, 2025.

**2025 Field Day Rules. Other Field Day resources are available below.**

Follow ARRL Field Day preparations with the news and stories below (stories will be added as they are available, so check back).

**New to Field Day? START HERE!**

Field Day is Ham Radio's open house. Every June, more than 31,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It com-

bines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

We welcome the public to come learn more about ham radio! Use our Field Day Locator to search for a Field Day site near you.

**Field Day on Social Media!**

Click below to join the ARRL Field Day Facebook Group. Share your plans, tips and tricks to a successful Field Day. When posting content from Field Day, use hashtag #ARRLFD on all social media to receive 100 bonus points!

**Rules and Resources Objective-**  
To contact as many stations

as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote.

Please see **2025 ARRL Field Day is June 28-29**  
on Page 4





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# July 4th is Not So Pet-Friendly

## How to make July 4th safe for your pet

The Fourth of July is one of the most stressful and potentially dangerous times of the year for pets.

While you and your family, friends, and neighbors are celebrating the holiday with fireworks, pets are finding

these festive activities anything but celebratory.

Many pet parents assume that if their pet is not afraid of thunder or other loud noises, they will not be bothered by fireworks. This is not necessarily true. Even pets who normally are not bothered by thunder and other loud noises are often frightened and panicked by the cumulative effects of the fireworks, the excited voices outside, and being left alone inside the house.

If pets are left outside and unattended, the noise and raucous often drives them to run away. In fact, the July 4th holiday is a very busy time for animal shelters across the U.S. They report taking in a higher number dogs that run off during firework festivities. In addition, many police stations log higher volumes of stray dog calls and barking complaints on July 4th compared to any other day of the year.

By planning ahead and taking some common sense precautions, you can help ensure your pet is happy and safe this Fourth of July:

1. Do not take your pet to fireworks displays.
2. Do not leave your pet

alone in the car during fireworks (or ever). With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health effects, even death in a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do not provide sufficient air, but they do provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.

Leaving your pet alone in the car is never a good idea.

However, if your pet is most comfortable in the car, some pet parents find that driving around with their pet in the car helps to calm their pet.

3. Keep your pets in your home in a comfortable and quiet area with the shades drawn. If your pet is crate trained, then his crate is a great choice. Some animals can become destructive when frightened, so be sure that you've removed any items that your pet could destroy or that would be harmful to your pet if chewed. Leave a television or radio playing at normal volume to keep your pet company while you're attending Fourth of July picnics, parades, and other celebrations.

4. Consult vet for anxiety relief. If you know that your pet is seriously distressed



by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian before July 4th for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he will experience during fireworks displays.

5. If your pet seeks comfort in a bath tub, under a bed or other small space... let him. Do not try to lure him out. If the space is safe and it makes him feel more secure, let him be.

6. Never leave pets outside unattended. Even in a fenced yard or on a chain is not safe. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in the chain, risking injury or death.

7. Make sure your pet is wearing an identification tag. If your pet does run off, proper ID can help ensure a safe return. In addition, it is also

recommended to microchip your pet.

This is an added safeguard should your pet lose his ID tag. Animals found running at-large should be taken to the local animal shelter, where they will have the best chance of being reunited with their owners.

Here's to you and your pet having a happy and safe Independence Day!

About TripsWithPets.com  
TripsWithPets.com is the premiere online pet friendly travel guide -- providing online reservations at over 30,000 pet friendly hotels & accommodations across the U.S. and Canada. When planning a trip, pet parents go to TripsWithPets.com for detailed, up-to-date information on hotel pet policies and pet amenities.■

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## PLAYING CATCH-UP

By Bob Garver

Due to a family vacation, it looks like I won't be able to see/review a new movie this coming weekend. So here are two movies from the past few weeks that I at least mildly recommend...

### "Final Destination: Bloodlines"

It's hard to believe that we went over a decade without a new "Final Destination" movie. Fans love this series and its "slasher-movie-without-a-slasher" gimmick. The "killer" here is the concept of Death itself, which takes the form of unlikely, elaborate, horrific accidents.

This sixth installment features arguably the best opening kill sequence of the entire franchise. Set

in the 1960's, apparent protagonist Iris (Brec Bassinger) visits a rooftop restaurant at the top of a hastily-built tower. The tower collapses and everyone is killed, including Iris, but the scene turns out to be a dream-like vision by Iris's granddaughter Stefani (Kaitlyn Santa Juana) in the modern day. But wait, if Iris was killed in the tower collapse, how did she live long enough to have a family? Things aren't adding up, even by "Final Destination" standards.

We eventually learn that Stefani's whole family is marked for death, it's just taken Death a few decades to get around to them. Cue the convoluted, yet inventive sequences of family members getting picked off in ways that only the sickest minds in horror can dream up.

Though we know most of the characters are toast, they're more likeable than usual thanks to their strong familial bond. That, and a sincere farewell appearance by the late Tony Todd, make "Bloodlines" the most heartfelt of the "Final Destination" movies. I can't say it's the tightest entry, as I think it leaves too much potential unfulfilled at the end, but until the last ten minutes or so I was ready to call this my favorite installment in the series. As it is, it takes a backseat to the fifth movie, but it's in a respectable second place.

### Grade: B-

"Final Destination: Bloodlines" is rated R for strong violent/grisly accidents, and language. Its running time is 110 minutes.■



Well boys and girls and all those in between, today is the First Day of Summer that we've been waiting for. And it started off with a bang In Sun Valley with the first brush fire of the season. Calls started coming in around 2:00pm about a loom up that could be seen from Sunland Blvd. in Shadow Hills. And everyone was rolling on it with over 5 engines, 4 Support vehicles, 3 helicopters and about 80 firefighters. The lucky thing about this fire was that it was just over the rise from the Verdugo Green Helipad. LACo and LAFD helicopters were able to make refills within 10 minutes of a drop.

On another event, the much vaunted 4th of July Droneworks show at Hansen Dam was changed to June 29 because of scheduling problems. But it might be really interesting because it will have 800 drones in the show. Every year something comes up to reduce NE Valley participation in our nations celebrations. But don't worry, other communities have the 4th of July events on (Gasp) 4th of July. JIP. So this year so far, we've lost the Watermelon Festival, that was only advertised in Pacoima, and the American

Heroes Aviation Show. (Both at the Hansen Dam Recreation Complex.)

I have to bring up the loss of Easter this year because some WOKE people complained that the name was too religious. Yup, one by-one, we've lost our local holidays and events. BUT all is not lost! The defunct Rotary Club that still can't afford to pay their dues to National is trying to come up with a Grand Marshal. Last years fiasco (I mean event) ended up with a bunch of miscreants attacking Danny Trejo and knocking him to the pavement. So much for a fun filled parade.

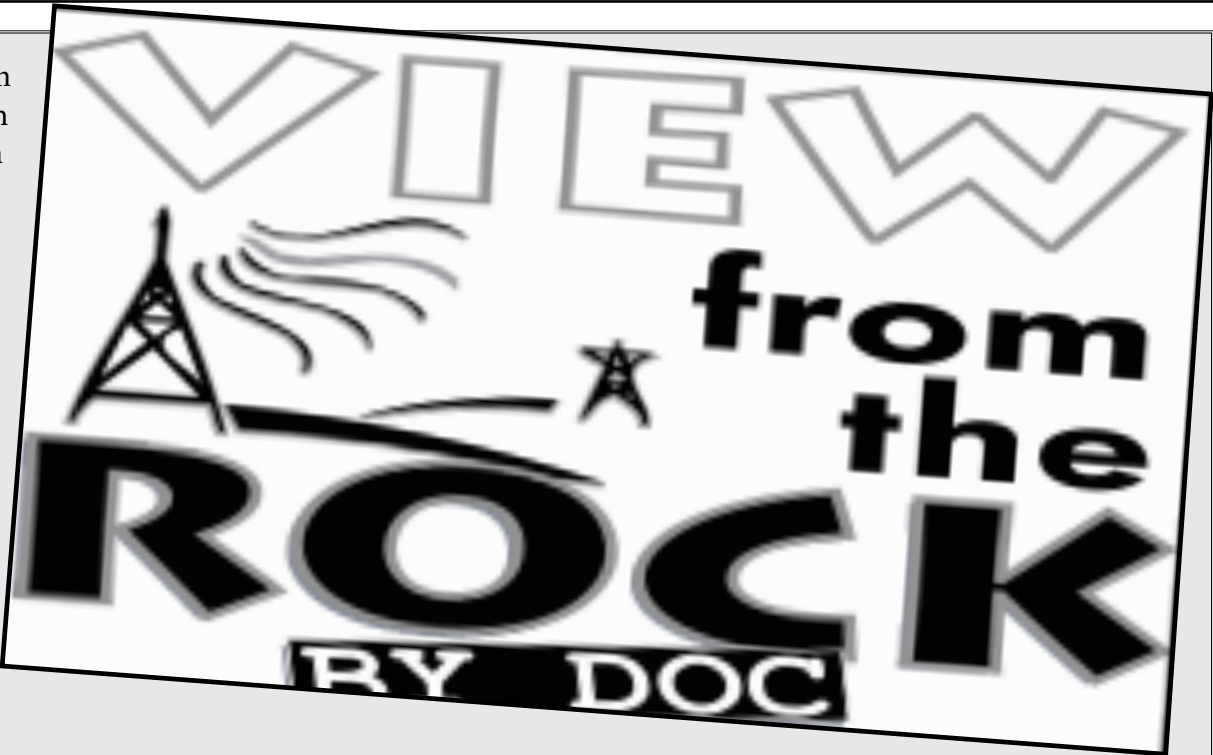
But the District 5 Councilwoman has declared that this years parade will be WATER FREE and that one of the most fun things to do there was to douse each other with water balloons and water

guns in the 100+° weather. Now don't get me wrong, M-Rod is really doing great things for the Pacoima and Sylmar towns. They actually got their recreation site and a DOG BARK for her constituents. I heard a non-confirmed rumor that to be cost effective, North Valley City Hall will be renting out space to Sunland-Tujunga's houseless. Calls to the District 5 North Valley City Hall went unanswered.

I really don't understand why a Chicano Councilwoman isn't up in arms and creating a grass roots cadre of locals to protest the ICE

raids? Could she be in bed with Trump? Our local restaurants and car wash are suffering. I saw more protests in college than here in our own community. This last week saw 8 of our 10 local food vendors not opening up on Foothill Blvd. in fear of getting deported.

Boy, talk about rolling over and supporting all the Kebab places while her actual Chicano voters are being threatened. As the song goes: "It's a strange strange world we live in, Master Jack...!" And of course it has to be the Water!■



# Pet Lovers Beware

Dear Editor:

Recently I had an interesting conversation with my neighbor that angered me to the point of writing this letter. I greeted her and asked how she was doing. She told me that she was alright, but her day could have been better. "I was kicked out of a dog groomers today," she said. I laughed and wanted to know what she had done. It sounded ridiculous. I was shocked and disturbed by the story that would follow. My neighbor had left her dog a local dog groomer to be trimmed and bathed. After several hours she had not heard from the groomers about her dog. She then called them to see if they had finished with her dog yet. The person she talked to could not locate her file and also asked if the dog had a collar (which had been with the dog). My neighbor found this unprofessional of the business to just lose information for a client after going to them for years now. The conversation ended with the other person saying "Come get your dog." My neighbor got there and the person started yelling at her and told her to just take her dog and never come back. The person continued by accusing her of being kicked out of other dog grooming businesses, which is false. They also stated that they could get ten better customers to take her place, which was uncalled for. Raising your tone is one thing, but attacked a persons character is verbal abuse and unjustified in any situation.

On the surface, hearing this story it is easy to dismiss it. If it was just two ladies exchanging a few heated words, it would not be that big of a deal. What makes it disturbing is that a person like this is working with pets on a regular basis.



My neighbor's dog was caught in the middle of this. The dog is always hyper and full of energy. After this the dog was cowering on the car ride home and ran to hide when she got in the door. On top of it all, the groomer did not even provide adequate service. The hair and nails of the dog had been cut way too short. Although I was not directly affected, as a pet owner myself I felt compelled to write this for other pet lovers. We should not allow rude, unprofessional people who can't provide adequate service to have

access to our innocent pets. I think that any pet owner should look into where they are taking their pets. I found the reviews on the website Yelp.com to be quite useful. This incident leaves me wondering what is going on at this place. I don't like to drop names but let's just say that the dog was not wagging its tail when they left this establishment.

Sincerely,  
The Concerned Neighbor■



**2025 ARRL Field Day is June 28-29**  
*continued from page 1*

- Dates (Always the 4th Weekend in June)+
- Bands and modes+
- Field Day Entry/Results Submission Deadline+
- Terms Of Entry+
- Contact Information+
- Awards+
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- Field Day Logging Software+
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- Media, Public Relations, & Public Service Announcements+

**What is ARRL Field Day? You're Invited!**

ARRL Field Day is a radio communications event that brings together amateur radio operators (also called "hams") within your community. The theme for 2025 Field Day is "Radio Connects" – highlighting the many ways that wireless technology connects people across distances near and far. The event is part picnic, campout, practice for emergencies,

informal contest, and most of all, fun! ARRL Field Day is the most popular ham radio activity held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend in June each year, more than 31,000 hams get together with their radio clubs, schools, or friends to operate from remote locations.

For many radio clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights on their annual calendar. A typical Field Day site will showoff many aspects of amateur radio and its many roles.

Some groups use Field Day as an opportunity to practice their emergency communications readiness. ARRL Field Day is an annual demonstration and invites the general public and organizations to see how amateur radio can serve in an emergency, When All Else Fails®. Hams are well-known for their communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations. Despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they are so complex — ham radio has been called into action, again and again, to provide communications

in crises when it really matters.

Amateur radio also inspires the next generation of technical leaders by providing a hands-on sandbox where students gain experience in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

For those with a competitive spirit, Field Day stations compete to make radio contacts with as many other stations as possible while learning

to operate radio equipment in challenging situations and less-than-optimal conditions. These same skills are used by hams who volunteer to help with large, preplanned, non-emergency

events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fundraisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades, and exhibits at fairs, malls, and museums.

**Who is ARRL?**

With more than 137,000 members, ARRL is The National Association for Amateur Radio in the US. Our mission is to promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and to develop the

next generation of radio amateurs. ARRL and our affiliated radio clubs provide benefits to members to discover radio, to develop new skills, and to serve your local community.


**What is Amateur Radio?**

Often called "ham radio," the Amateur Radio Service is a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. It is made up of people who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data, and pictures through the airwaves to places near and far without depending on commercial systems. The amateur radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Not only can hams build and modify their equipment, but they can also create new ways to communicate via the airwaves — and do it as a globally connected community. Many people in the hobby form lifelong friendships with people they wouldn't have otherwise met. Many rock stars, Hollywood actors, and heads of state (and even your neighbor down the street) are ham radio operators. You can be, too! Get started at ARRL Field Day!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/arrlfd/>

*ARRL Field Day is a radio communications event that brings together amateur radio operators within your community.*

Everybody needs a haircut and the only place to go in Tujunga, is at my favorite barber.



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# ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD



## Wildfires almost wiped out LA's tiny water districts; recovery will be tough, report says

A new report from UCLA's Luskin Center charts the toll of the January wildfires on the L.A. area's array of water districts.

Smaller water districts that serve local communities were hit hardest by the January wildfires, according to a UCLA report out Thursday, May 29. All face "steep recovery challenges," the report said.

The report comes from the UCLA Luskin Center, co-authored by researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Stantec. Its authors found that while 11 community water systems — eight in the Eaton fire burn zone and three in the Palisades — performed adequately before the Jan. 7 Eaton and Palisades fires, some "now face major infrastructure loss and revenue disruption."

"These fires tested the physical and financial limits of our water infrastructure," said Gregory Pierce, co-director of the Luskin Center for Innovation in a statement accompanying the report. "We need to think not just about fixing pipes, but about re-designing systems and supporting populations that are more integrated, more equitable, and resilient to the next crisis."

The report outlined a wide spectrum of damage to water systems across the region, ranging from storage and treatment facilities to hydrants and control valves to power infrastructure needed to move water to its end users.

On the low end of the damage, for instance, the city of Sierra Madre system issued an early temporary boil-water notice, but officials quickly stated that it "never lost system pressure in any water zone, and the city did not suffer any damage to its critical water infrastructure," according to the report, citing district advisories at the time.

The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District also reported threats, but not damages, to critical infrastructure, noting that its system was operating "well under stress, maintaining water service to both customers and firefighters on the front lines."

Researchers noted the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has estimated \$76 million in damages — a number that could rise — as a percentage of total water enterprise operating revenues — \$1.64 billion in 2024.

The cost, however, was deemed "not a large extent of damage."

According to the report: "The more significant financial questions for LADWP center on two issues: (1) demands for enhanced wild-fire-fighting water infrastructure and (2) potential legal liabilities for both water and power operations. While these may initially appear as one-time costs, they could ultimately affect LADWP's credit ratings and increase borrowing costs for future infrastructure investments," according to the report.

In Pasadena, damage to the city's reservoirs and pump stations resulted in the need for "substantial" clearing of debris. The city temporarily suspended repayment requirements for impacted customers.

At the higher end of the toll, the report highlighted three Altadena water mutual companies — Las Flores, Lincoln, and Rubio Cañon — which all were hit hard by physical damage and loss of revenue.

At least six reservoirs were knocked out of service because of scorched roofs. There was major damage to electrical equipment at booster pump stations, pipes, meters, communication systems, and other essential infrastructure, according to the report.

"They are still using temporary op-

erational measures to provide basic supply to some extent," the report said. "Debris removal and theft also remain active challenges."

Among the report's key themes was the impact of revenue loss. For example, the Las Flores Water Company in Altadena lost 75% of its revenue base.

The report also found that the systems hit hardest by the disasters included those that serve Black and Latino communities.

The fires themselves, combined with the nearby Hughes fire, left 30 people dead while consuming more than 27,000 structures and forcing at least the temporary displacement of about 200,000 people. Economic losses are thought to be up to \$250 billion.

In Altadena, the impact has rekindled a long-running debate over whether to consolidate Altadena's decades old cluster of water companies.

Three mutual water companies — Las Flores, Lincoln Avenue and Rubio Cañon Land and Water Association — serve customers who are also shareholders in the companies. Pasadena Water and Power services a small portion of Altadena. The Kinneloa Irrigation District is a special district that operates water service for the Kinneloa Mesa neighborhood.

But even L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger has said no individual water district would be able to absorb the costs to rebuild their infrastructure and then integrate that into a massive rebuild of the area.

moving forward, the report stopped short of discussing the effectiveness of water supply for firefighting, system resilience planning for future wildfires and detailed drinking water system quality impacts.

Nonetheless, the researchers out-

lined several challenges that water suppliers will need to deal with. They include:—Protecting and rebuilding the system infrastructure;

—Treating post-fire contamination and cleaning water reservoirs; and

—Maintaining power and water access during a fire to provide critical support to firefighters.

Adan Ortega, executive director of the California Association of Mutual Water Companies, agreed mostly with the report's findings. He noted that for the Lincoln, Rubio and Las Flores districts, a major portion of costs from infrastructure damage will be covered through insurance secured through a joint-powers insurance authority founded by the state's mutual water companies in 2017.

"We agree with the report's conclusion that support is mostly needed to cover operating expenses until rebuilding results in restored service to a threshold of damaged homes," he said. "We regret that the report overlooks other types of support that mutual water companies in Altadena provided to each other during and in the aftermath of the fires."

That support included Lincoln Avenue Water Company's supplying surviving properties in Las Flores Water Company's service area, where infrastructure is damaged, he said.

"Overall, the small water systems in Altadena were able to restore service at a comparable pace to the much larger Los Angeles Department of Water & Power," he said, noting the speed at which many agencies are recovering.

"This is a remarkable achievement for both LADWP and small water systems as compared to recovery speed from other fires in recent years in other parts of the state," he said.

SCNG Staff Writer David Wilson contributed to this article. ■



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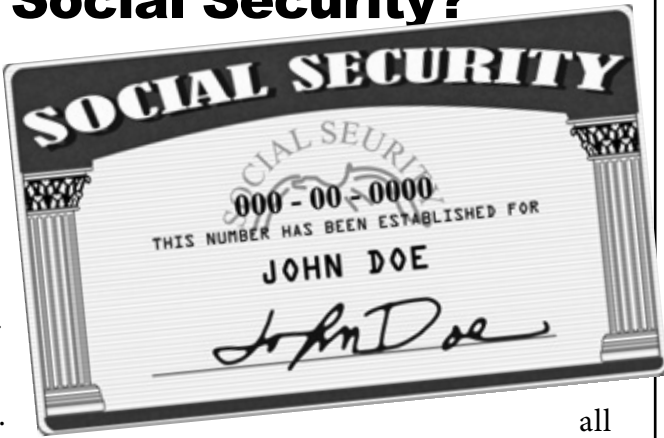
# Can My Husband Work Part Time and Collect Social Security?

cial Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit (how many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount).

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his full retirement age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less - \$1 for every \$3 over the limit - and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year (depending on his projected earnings) and withhold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for



all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn (even part time) prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information, and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed, or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% (from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67). Claiming early (before FRA) always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).■



# Resources to stay cool in the summer heat

Summer has definitely arrived! The Northeast San Fernando Valley is known for its hot summers with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees. When weather forecasts include three consecutive days of triple digit temperatures, cooling centers in our district will open.

For more information about cooling centers or to see if a heat advisory has been issued, call 311 or visit: [emergency.lacity.org/heat](http://emergency.lacity.org/heat)

When it is not hot enough for the cooling centers to open, pools, libraries and senior centers are a great place to stay cool. Below are some of the locations in our district where you can escape the valley heat:

**SWIMMING POOLS**

Hansen Dam Aquatic Center  
11798 Foothill Boulevard  
Lake View Terrace, CA 91342  
(818) 899-3779  
Open Daily 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**LIBRARIES**

Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library  
7771 Foothill Boulevard  
Tujunga, CA 91042  
(818) 352-4481  
Visit <https://www.lapl.org/branches/sunland-tujunga> for library hours.■



# What about the size of your Snicker's bar?—Dr. Glenn Mollette

In his State of the Union address, President Joe Biden referred to an American dilemma – the shrinking Snicker's bar. He pointed out that his Snicker's bar purchase had less or fewer Snickers. I'm not exactly sure what a Snickers is, nuts, chocolate, sugar, the content of the bar. Size matters, when you're hungry. It's just a bad thing when you stop at your local convenient store to buy a soda pop and you walk out with a Snicker's bar that cost more but has less in the wrapper. Apparently, there must be less Fritos and Cheetos in the bags as well. This is a sad time in America.

I remember buying a large bottle of coke, a bag of chips and a pastry for 25 cents. Those were the days but they are long past.

It's an epidemic of course. It's not just candy bars and junk food. Check the size of your fast-food hamburgers and the cost. You are paying more for less. A hundred dollars doesn't go very far at the

grocery store. American families are having a difficult time putting food on the table. A mother who cooks for her family every day is having to stretch her budget more and more.

President Biden is concerned about the problem but it's been a growing problem for three years.

It's not getting better When does

border. He's had three years to stop the invasion of illegals and gang members into our country. His recent photo op to the border is too little too late. Joe Biden stopped the progress of the border wall. He opened the gates wide to the illegals. The results are not positive. We have major cities on the verge of economic collapse.



he propose to fix the problem, after he is reelected? Why not now? Or, why not over the past three years? People are hurting today. Promises of a better life if he is reelected are not reassuring to many Americans.

The border crisis is our number one issue this election. It's not a priority with President Biden. He's had three years to be walking that

Public schools, housing and more are suffering. Mayors are pleading for help.

Recently, Biden submitted a Border Immigration Bill to Congress that has not been approved. The bill still allows for an average of 5000 people a day over seven days to come into the United States illegally before

closing the border. Or, the one-day maximum number is 8,500 entries before the border is closed. This a larger number of people than some of our rural counties in America. Over the course of a year this would amount to a city the size of Indianapolis or larger coming into our country. This is not border security, but only a continuation of Biden's insanity.

We do need to help Ukraine. Putin is not anyone's friend. Trump made a stupid statement about Putin attacking non supportive NATO countries. However,

the border security and Ukraine expenditures should be separate bills. If we don't tightly secure our border our children are going to have a scary place to grow up. Sadly, we may already be in that place.

Find books by Glenn Mollette at Amazon.com Learn more about his books, columns and music at GlennMollette.Com■

## Happy Birthday America!



Each and every year, as we celebrate the 4th of July, it is easy to forget that this uniquely American holiday represent so much more than barbecues, fireworks and going to the beach. It represents our triumphant battle against tyranny and the struggle to free ourselves from the control of others.

In the 243 years since we first claimed our "unalienable right" to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness", Americans have continued to declare our independence and to assert the principle of universal equality in so many ways.

It might mean speaking out on behalf of those who are persecuted because of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Or it might mean promoting the ideals of freedom and democracy at home and abroad.

No matter how you look at it, this great nation is unlike any other. And by the same token, every man, woman and child who calls it home is also different. But let us remain united in our differences.

Today, let's commemorate the birth of the U.S. by reaffirming our commitment to freedom and equality for all. These are the basic principles that our country was founded upon, and as long as we strive to uphold those principles, we will never forget the true meaning of independence.

*Happy Birthday, America!*

*Luz Rivas, Assemblywoman – 39th District.■*



## UPDATED BRUSH FIRE

UPDATED Brush Fire; INC#0961; 02:40PM; 9609 N Wornom Av; <https://bit.ly/4kO6nU9>; #ShadowHills; LAFD companies in the air and on the ground are currently managing 1/4 acre of light to medium brush burning (at a slow to moderate rate) toward heavier fuels. No structures are threatened at this time. Hand crews and additional air resources have been requested from LA County Fire Department and Angeles National Forest Fire. DOT has been notified for traffic management. LAPD INC#2780; FS 77; Batt 12; Valley Bureau; Council District 7; BC12 BC14 E207 E24 E274 E289 E298 E77 E89 E90 EM12 H0A H0B RA98 T74 T89.■

