

Burbank Leader

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Photo by Gavin J. Quinton / Burbank Leader

Doug Isbell, dubbed "Space Doug," shares factoids about asteroids at Lincoln Beer Company Tuesday.

Brew Buffs Starry-Eyed for Space Night

By Gavin J. Quinton
Burbank Leader

Lincoln Beer Company is a place where rocket scientists, Dungeons and Dragons enthusiasts, pinball wizards and beer lovers alike gather to contemplate their mutual interest: outer space.

Headed up by NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory's very own Doug Isbell — dubbed "Space Doug" by affectionate

barguers — Space Night at the craft brewery and taproom drew a sizeable crowd of folks Tuesday night.

Isbell's topic was a dramatic one: asteroids.

The crowd hushed as he took the mic and dove into his lecture, which defined the many variants of asteroids, and the number currently known to dwell in the solar system. Then Isbell provided listeners with a history of missions involving asteroids, and chronicled hu-

manity's attempts to shift an asteroid's course, testing our capabilities of preventing collisions with Earth.

A science and risk communication specialist for JPL, Isbell is the right guy to translate often brain-twisting concepts for people who, let's be honest, have had a brew or two.

One attendee, Lindsey Jane — a Lincoln Beer regular — typically visits the drinking

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Landlords Weigh in on Renovation Evictions

By Gavin J. Quinton
Burbank Leader

Landlords joined in on the mass-eviction conversation in Burbank this week as other cities also grapple with the issue, with the city of South Pasadena passing an eviction moratorium to stop the trend that has spiked in recent months since the end of the countywide eviction moratorium.

At a time when Burbank is expanding on legislation that would streamline new affordable housing developments, the available pool of existing affordable housing in town is diminishing.

Just one day after the Los

Angeles county eviction moratorium expired on March 31, Emmanuel Perez and Sandra Varona received a 60-day notice to vacate their Burbank apartment. They didn't know that they would join dozens of other Burbankers in being displaced from their homes, forced to search for comparable accommodations miles from the city.

The couple lives in a compact, two-bedroom apartment in a dingbat-style building a few blocks from downtown Burbank. The couple said that they were good tenants, but they weren't surprised when they found the notice taped to their door.

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Photo by Gavin J. Quinton / Burbank Leader

A Burbank family — Alycia, Angelo, Sandra Varona and Emmanuel Perez — faces displacement after receiving an eviction notice from their apartment on East Tujunga Avenue.

Writers' Strike Enters Second Month



Photo by Gavin J. Quinton / Burbank Leader

The Writers Guild of America strike will enter its second month on Thursday with no break in sight. Picket lines formed again this week outside all the major Burbank and Los Angeles-area studios — though the union employed a different tactic Friday with a "multi-union" rally downtown, where writers were joined by members of IATSE Local 11, AFSCME District Council 36, Teamsters Local 399, Teamsters Local 396, SEIU Local 99, SEIU Local 721, SEIU Local 1000, AFM Local 47 and UTLA.



Photo courtesy Burbank Police Department

Oreo, a Burbank horse, met up with police officer Nicholas Moreno after he was spooked and ran away from his owner early Tuesday morning.

Police Steer Horse on the Loose to Safe Return

By Gavin J. Quinton
Burbank Leader

A video was being circulated on social media this week after a Burbank police officer was captured on camera riding a horse that ran loose just after midnight Tuesday morning.

The horse named Oreo ran loose around town after it got away from its rider near the Los Angeles Equestrian

Center in Burbank's Rancho neighborhood. The owner said he had just completed the equestrian trail at Griffith Park and was crossing the Mariposa Equestrian Bridge when Oreo got spooked and took off.

At about 12:30 a.m., Burbank police officers responded to the area of Riverside Drive and Mariposa Street after a con-

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See our **Graduation** Coverage in the June 3 Burbank Leader



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hole for trivia night on Tuesdays. Last week, when manager Caissey Agtual announced that Space Night would take the place of weekly trivia, Jane's interest was sparked.

"The manager announced 'no trivia night next week, it's space night' — and I am just obsessed with space. I love all things space, so I was thought, free space talk? I'm there. And here I am. It was a lot of fun, and I think everyone learned a lot and had a good time," Jane said.

Another student of Lincoln Beer University, Amber Edgar, likened the discussion to a real life version of the movie "Don't Look Up" a film about the world's lackadaisical response to an impending asteroid impact.

"Obviously, the film was a parody, but you wonder what's the reality of our defense? So it was nice to hear that scientists are looking into this stuff, they're all sharing their data and running tests," Edgar said.

Space night returns every month or two. Isbell follows the lunar calendar to pick out a date that is most likely to have ideal conditions for looking through a telescope, weather permitting. This week, the stargazing portion of Space Night was cancelled due to cloud cover.

Isbell has been a regular at Lincoln Beer Company since they opened their doors back in 2016.

"One day I thought, I should bring my telescope and see what people think. People just kind of gravitated to it, and then the next time, the bar let me do a lecture. It's been pretty successful. I've had some of my colleagues from JPL come

out and give talks, and it's a great outlet for me to talk about different things I'm interested in," Isbell told the Leader.

Isbell said he tries to keep the talks short and sweet — about 20 or 30 minutes — before foraying into the telescope portion.

"You have to tell people that Space Night is happening ahead of time so that you don't interrupt their beer drinking, and then they've suddenly got a science lecture in their face. The telescope has been a hit and helps bring people in," Isbell said.

Since starting space night four years ago, Isbell has brought on a few of his peers at JPL to give lectures, often on topics related to their work and the science behind the NASA mission of the day.

Since then, he's developed a regular following of space enthusiasts who follow his lectures intently, and no doubt jump

at the opportunity to peer into the depths of a crater or watch a passing Saturn when it is most visible.

After the lecture, there is always time for questions. Isbell expertly works the crowd to answer its many burning queries that have bubbled up into the listeners' minds from their glasses.

"We have a bunch of regulars who absolutely love coming out specifically for space night. Doug started as a regular and he just kind of got to talking and said he had this awesome telescope that he would love to bring out. He's our buddy. We all know him and he puts his lectures in a way that anyone can understand," said Agtual.

Interested stargazers can learn more about Isbell's events from the Burbank Sidewalk Astronomy Facebook page or the Lincoln Beer Company's website: lincolnbeercompany.com.



Monday, May 29, 2023 | 11:00am

McCambridge Park War Memorial

Corner of San Fernando Road and Amherst Drive



Featuring:

Pre-Ceremony Concert featuring the Burbank Community Band starts at 10:15am
Ceremony of the Rose
Condor Squadron Flyover sponsored by Cusumano Real Estate Group



For more information, please call McCambridge Recreation Center at 818.238.5378 or email ParksandRecreation@BurbankCA.gov.



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