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# A dose of holiday cheer

Children are given plenty to do while waiting for the fireworks to start at elementary school.

By Angela Hokanson  
News-Press

**M**oments after the gates opened to the Crescenta Valley Fireworks Assn.'s Fourth of July event, families started arriving to stake out prime fireworks-watching spots.

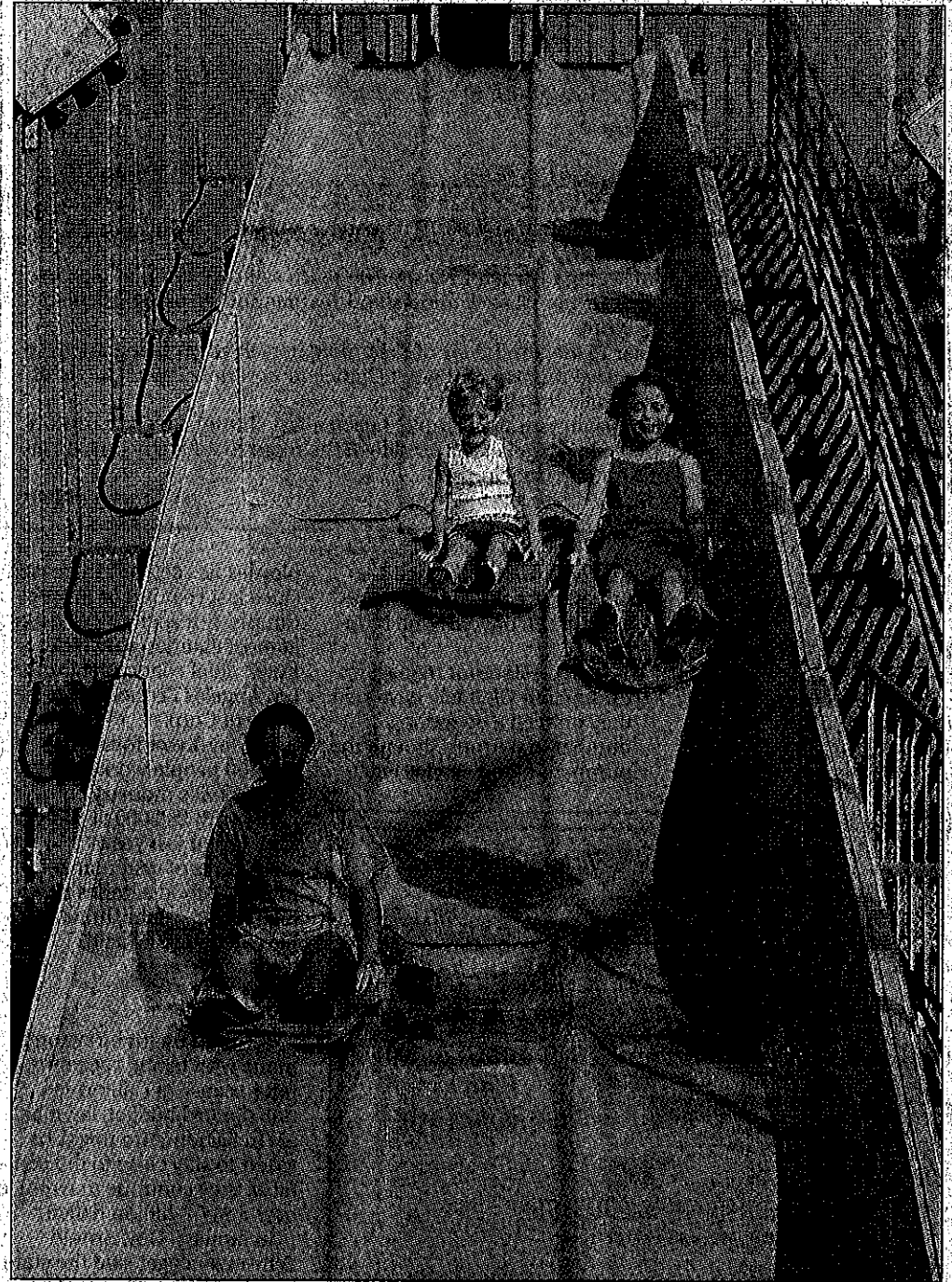
Children and parents with folding chairs, blankets, coolers and umbrellas picked out their places late Friday afternoon at the La Crescenta Elementary School playground, and still had hours to eat and play before the fireworks began.

John Meier and his 12-year-old daughter Elly were among the early arrivals. They were at the gates at 4 p.m. specifically to find a good seating location for their group of 12 people, Meier said.

Meier said he frequented the fireworks display when it was held at Crescenta Valley High School, but this was his first time attending since it was relocated last year to the elementary school.

"Last year, we just parked in the street and watched it from the back of the truck," he said.

The fireworks had been held at Crescenta Valley High until 2006, when the event was canceled because of concerns that patrons might damage the school's new track and field, said Steve



Elly Meier, left, Ella Wilson and Emily Arizano slide down the super slide during the Fourth of

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Photos by TAMMY ABBOTT News-Press

Ella Wilson, 4, had her hair painted red and blue during the Fourth of July celebration Friday at Crescenta Valley Elementary School.

## HOLIDAY

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Pierce, president of the fireworks association.

A crowd of about 5,000 people was expected to take in the activities on Friday at La Crescenta Elementary, Pierce said.

"We've had a tremendous pre-sale of tickets this year," he said.

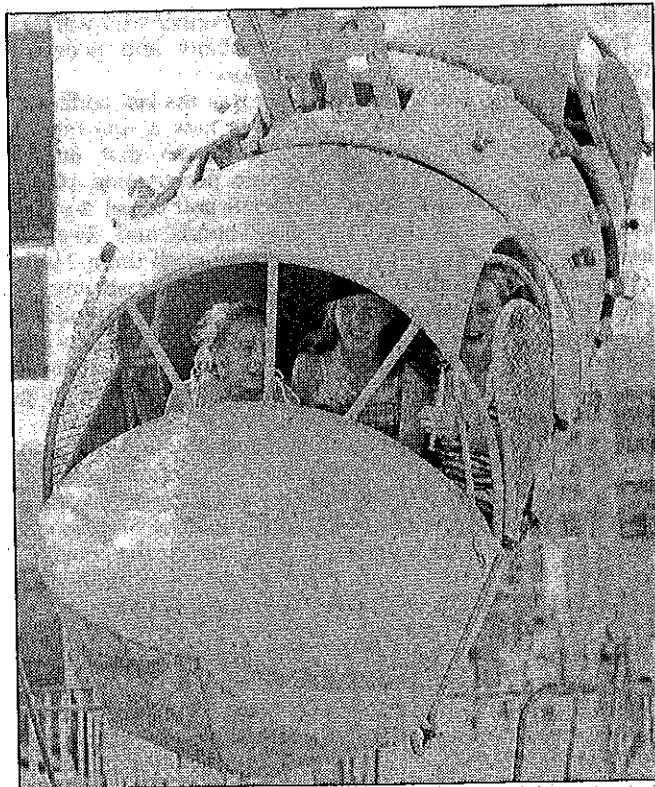
To accommodate a larger group of patrons, event organizers altered the layout of the event from last year.

The food vendors, who last year were on the athletic field with the crowd, were set up on a closed-off section of Prospect Avenue. Everything from cotton candy to barbecue chicken to Thai food was offered.

The carnival rides that event organizers had brought in for the first time this year proved to be a draw for some families.

"We heard there were some rides and carnival stuff," said Vigen Alaverdi, when asked why he chose to come to the La Crescenta festivities from Sylmar.

Alaverdi and his 9-year-old daughter Areni collapsed into a chair after exiting a high-



Hailey Cookson, 11, Courtney Lovelace, 13, and Hannah Cookson, 13, took a ride on the Rolo Plane.

flying ride that sent them rotating and twisting through the air in a metal capsule. It was the scariest ride she had ever tried, Areni said.

"I was screaming," she said.

The \$30,000 event was funded through ticket sales and sponsorships from multiple organizations, such as the city of Glendale and the Montrose Shopping Park Assn.