



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



# THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019

TELLING THE TRUTH FOR OVER 13 YEARS

VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 2

## Snow in Tujunga!



Photo by David DeMulle'

Winter hit Tujunga with a spectacular snow fall on February 6th. Temperatures dropped to 32 degrees and locals discovered what "Black Ice" was. It was both a good and bad experience – but either way, it was beautiful

## LA TUNA CANYON HIT BY MUD



Photo by David DeMulle'

The Levee filled to the danger point

Last week's rains caused mud slides, road closures and a continuing of mud into the levee at the bottom of La Tuna Canyon Road. We have had over 17" of rain this year effectively ending the drought. No one has been injured

in these La Tuna Canyon mud flows, but it made life difficult for local residents and those trying to avoid the freeway.

The mud flow from the drainage ditches just below the 210 freeway had filled the levee almost to its top

and if there had been a few more inches of rain, it could have been breached. County crews were powerless to stop it and it was only by the stopping of the rain that the levee was saved.

## STNC GOES FOR BLOOD!

By David DeMulle'



Photo by David DeMulle'

President Dana Stangel makes announcement that they can't kick the Machine off the board!

At last week's Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council meeting, the assembled board members were asked to declare that the Cleghorn Machine had to go. Citing violations of the Brown Act and "... stakeholders may force the board to consider a measure that they wish to see passed, and obtain the signatures of at least fifty (50) validated community stakeholders' the petition states: Motion to

discuss and possible action to remove Board Member Lydia Grant for threats and Brown Act Violation." They also included Mark Seigel, Cindy Cleghorn, Arsen Karamians and Vartan Keshish, Linda Adran, and Edwin Miranian who are considered by the Sonia Tatulian Cartel as being bad for the community and the cartels best interests in taking over the community organizations.

## Aurora Banquet Hall Has Great Opening in Tujunga



Owners Sam & Emanuel and 50 others watch as the ribbon is cut

February 6th was the Chamber of Commerce Grand opening and ribbon

cutting of Aurora Banquet Hall.

Continued on Page 6

Over 200 distribution sites in the foothills



## 4 Tips for Competing With Cash Buyers

by Ed Castellanos

In today's hot market, bidding wars have become the norm. With many out-of-state buyers and property investors looking for a great deal, all-cash offers are also becoming common.

A cash offer can seem tempting for sellers since it offers the possibility of a faster closing. But despite this perk, cash buyers don't always win. Many times, they make low offers or demand costly extras, both of which will mean lost cash for the seller.

Want to boost your chances of getting the home you want when competing with cash buyers? Here are some things to consider:

1. Include a preapproval letter. Get your financial documents in order, find a mortgage lender and get preapproved. Additionally, a note from your lender stating that you're a well-qual-

ified buyer can go a long way.

2. Work with a fast-moving lender. Average closing times vary significantly from lender to lender. Choosing one known for fast transactions shows sellers that you're willing to move at their pace. Get in touch if you'd like a referral to a trusted lender.

3. Offer more earnest money or a bigger down payment. More money down means you're serious about purchasing their home, which gives sellers more confidence in your offer.

4. Make an appropriate offer. We'll discuss local comps to assess the home's value, allowing you to make a solid bid right off the bat. Low offers are likely to be dismissed without a second glance

# WHAT'S HAPPENING in the FOOTHILLS



Resident safely on the other side of the flooded bridge



Resident Art Miner and editor Doc DeMulle' discuss the situation with a firefighter from Engine Company 24



Resident blasts through the flooded bridge



## Riverwood Ranch Floods Again!

Last Thursday the Arizona Bridge was under water again as the Big Tujunga Dam released water to reduce pressure from the 17" of rain that fell here. Reports of a man being swept over the falls were proven to be untrue.

One resident who braved the flood waters by jumping from boulder to boulder until he reached the other side and dry land was uninjured but unseen by the LAFD who were stationed there to keep residents from trying to cross the bridge.

LAFD Swift Water Rescue was called in and did an air and water search of the area looking for the supposed victim. After an hour of searching, all search and rescue units were cancelled.

## RAIN – MUD HITS LA TUNA CANYON RD. AGAIN!

The rains came hard on La Tuna Canyon Road these past two weeks filling the levee to almost overflowing while crews worked 24-7 to control the sinkhole just south of the 210 off-ramp.

On left: Local residents trying to get out of the mudflows found themselves trapped in the tons of mud and debris that flowed down the road towards Sunland Blvd.

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 Edgar Castellanos BRE# 01855534

## Mountain Rescue



Photo by David DeMulle

City maintenance worker was airlifted to Green Verdugo heliport by LAFD hoist ship personnel

A Mountain Rescue of three L.A. City General Services maintenance personnel was performed by the LAFD air services and four engines about 2 miles off of the 210 freeway on the Hostetter Fire Road .

Their service vehicles were stranded when the dirt road they were returning on, collapsed trapping one of the drivers in the mud. No one was injured in the

incident, but a helicopter hoist ship lowered a paramedic who checked out the trapped man who escaped by climbing out of the vehicles window.

He was airlifted to the Green Verdugo heliport and met up the other two employees when they were transported to the landing site and met by city personnel.



On left: The "Round House" once again found itself surrounded with mud that trapped vehicles and kept people from escaping to the east.

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Our readers often send us notes of much appreciated encouragement.

Last week an e-mail arrived on my desk that had a particular resonance with me. It read: "Reading The Paper reminds me of one of my favorite quotes by Augustine:

'Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.'

Thanks for everything you do."

And he is right, while we try to temper our anger at the events that are unfolding around us, it was never easy. We know that for there

to be a real and lasting change, we have to keep pushing forward. We have to have the courage to keep forging ahead.

Since our inception 14 years ago, The Foothills Paper has delivered the news that matters, every other week, without interruption. We have brought you the news the larger media ignores and we've shed light on the views from some of the best writers and thinkers in our area.

But we have never done it alone. It has only been possible because of you — our readers — and your hope for a better future. The Foothills Paper has made many friends and of course enemies. The scofflaws and their friends hate the

exposure of their misdeeds, and there have been many.

We have taken the position of helping those whom the community is divided against. We have done the best we can to illuminate those that do good in our community. Unfortunately it is easy for the haters to post things on the Internet that are at best "mis-truths" and at worse, flat-out lies.

And I have watched them pass into oblivion. We have community leaders that were trying to do the best for Sun-land-Tujunga and we have certain people like the Tatulian Cartel that are out to fleece every penny they can from the community. Because of them we have lost the



Watermelon Festival, The Easter Carnival, The Commerce Street Fair and the integrity of our service clubs.

But it appears that those days are changing and our community leaders are doing what they can to really help the community get back to becoming a neighborhood where people know and respect each

other. We are now coming to the point where we are fighting developers and until this week, the High Speed Rail project that could physically divide our community and destroy our rural way of life.

This is truly going to be an interesting year and yes, it is the Water!



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Nathan de Moura of Tujunga Awarded Rank of Eagle

Boy Scout Troop 509, sponsored by Jet Propulsion Laboratory, recently held a court of honor at JPL's von Karman auditorium at which four scouts were awarded the rank of Eagle, including one from Tujunga.

Nathan de Moura, 17, a senior at Village Christian High School, began scouting by tagging along on his older brothers' scout outings. In Troop 509, Nathan earned 28 merit badges and one palm and served as patrol leader, senior patrol leader and quartermaster. Nathan's many activities included summer camp on Catalina Island, camping at Joshua Tree National Park, and backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Nathan's Eagle leadership service project was at Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun-land, where he led scouts in building steps on a hillside trail. Nathan lives in Tujunga, is the third of four brothers, and is active in his high school's drama program.

As for the future, Nathan has applied broadly and will probably be attending college out of state. Nathan has always been drawn to public speaking and has a knack for conversation and he hopes to use that to either study business or political science.

The one piece of advice that Nathan would give to every scout in the troop if he could (which he can ... because he is doing it right now) is this: be as involved and invested as you possibly can in Scouts, and for that matter everything you do. It is a cliché, but it is as true now as it was six years ago. You get what you give, and Scouts has so much to give. If you follow when you need to follow, you will be ready to lead when you need to lead.



### Abigail Rickett Graduates from Azusa Pacific College

Tujunga resident Abigail Rickett graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology on Sat., December 15, 2018, and joined approximately 1,480 graduates at the winter commencement ceremonies.

Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical, Christian university committed to

God First and excellence in higher education. With 61 bachelor's degrees, 45 master's degrees, 24 certificates, 12 credentials, and 8 doctoral programs, the university offers its more than 10,000 students a quality education on campus, online, and at seven regional locations throughout Southern California.

### Students Make the Deans' List at Azusa Pacific University

Several local residents made the academic Deans' List at Azusa Pacific University. These students are honored for a fall 2018 grade-point average of 3.5 or better. They are joined by 1,976 students receiving the same honor.

Megan Fish of Tujunga (91042)  
Gabriella Gettings of Sun-land (91040)  
Nadia Khamoo of Sun-land (91040)  
Jun Kim of Tujunga (91042)

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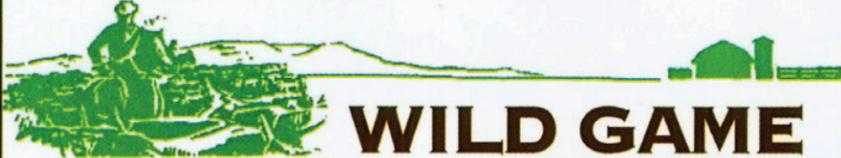
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## That Old Sew-And-Sew Down The Street

By David DeMulle'



Kathy can do almost every kind of tailoring or repair!

Kathy Anthony of Kathy's Kreations is a 60-year resident of Sunland and showed an interest in sewing at a very early age. As a child she remembers that one of her favorite pastimes was watching a neighbor sew.

At the age of ten she bought her first sewing machine, an old tread-mill type that for us "old" folk was a fun thing to play with as we were growing up. One of the first things she remembers sewing was a blue shirt for and a friend. At that time she had little knowledge of tailoring, and had no idea that the shirts needed a kick pleat. As a result the shirt ripped when the girls climbed up the stairs, and they were sent home to change. This may have been a minor set-back, but certainly didn't stop Kathy from continuing her sewing.

After she had children of her own, she used to make all of their clothes, with children and her love of sewing, her days were filled.

As her children became teenagers, and she found herself needing something to do to occupy the free time, she went looking for a job. In fact she tried several jobs, she tried working as a waitress, a secretary, and various other jobs. Kathy never felt she was any good at these things, and always felt there was something lacking in these professions.

Being an independent person Kathy realized that she needed a job that was something special, and she turned to the gift God had given her, the ability to sew. This ability must have come from the heavens because according to Kathy, she never had a lesson, she just seemed to know what to do – and often wondered just how she did know.

So this is how 47 years ago, "Kathy's Kreations" was born.

She started her business with only a domestic sewing machine. This marked the end of a hobby and the beginning of a career.

Kathy's Kreations offers all types of sewing, from replacing zippers, sewing Levi patches, suits, formals, custom dresses and costumes. Throughout the year she does alterations, repairs and tailoring. As more and more customers asked Kathy to create costumes during the summer months when business was slow, a new facet to her business began.

She now creates and sews according to her customers requirements with everything being made in her shop to fit everyone from infants to grandmothers. "Being a mom and pop shop, you learn to be versatile," says Kathy proudly. Kathy feels that she has made a decent living, made a lot of friends, and that her chosen profession has allowed her to raise her family. Her son Art, who now runs the Crows Nest and her daughter Diana, have given her a total of five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Kathy's business has allowed her to be active in the community, serving as past Chamber of Commerce President, being active with the Elks Lodge and serving as a past-president of the American Legion Auxiliary has provided a lot of fun and service to the community.

All in all, this local "Sew & Sew" has had a full life and is looking forward to many more years of friendship with her many friends and customers.

Kathy's Kreations, located at 8241 Foothill Blvd. in Sunland, is open five days a week. The phone number is (818) 353-5416 and it's recommended that you call for an appointment.

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# ASK RUSTY Should I take Social Security at 62?

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens

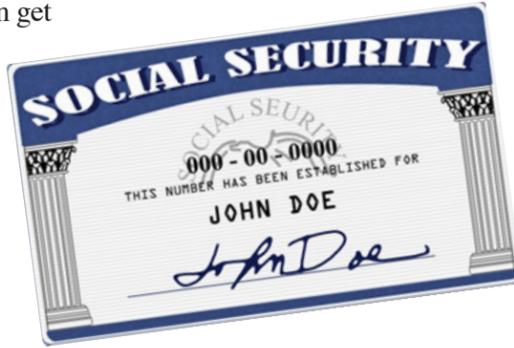
**Dear Rusty:** I have heard many different answers on this but there are so many scenarios I can't seem to find an answer to mine. My wife and I were both born in 1959 and we both turn 60 next year. Both of us will be eligible for Social Security based on our work records to date, but my SS benefit is much larger than hers. Scenario: Say we both retire from work at 60. For simplicity let's say neither of us works in retirement, my wife claims Social Security at age 62 and I claim at my full retirement age of 66 plus 10 months. What will her spousal benefit be, as a

percentage of my benefit, when she starts receiving it when I claim at my full retirement age? Signed: **Planning Ahead**

**Dear Planning:** A spouse claiming benefits at full retirement age (FRA) can get 50% of the higher earning spouse's FRA benefit, if that amount is more than she is entitled to on her own record. But if your wife claims her own Social Security retirement benefit early at age 62, her spousal benefit will be reduced even if it starts at her full retirement age. The reason is that her total spousal benefit will be the sum of her own age 62 benefit plus a "spousal boost"

computed from both of your FRA benefit amounts - the spousal boost will be the difference between your wife's own FRA benefit amount and 1/2 of your FRA benefit amount.

Let's use an example: if



your wife's Social Security benefit at her full retirement age is \$1000 and your benefit at your full retirement age is \$2400, your wife's spousal boost would be \$200 (\$1200 minus \$1000). If your wife

has reached her FRA when you claim benefits that amount would be added to her reduced age 62 benefit of \$708 (70.8% of her FRA benefit amount), which would make your wife's total spousal benefit amount \$908 (\$708 plus the \$200 spousal boost).

So, in this example, your wife's total benefit would be about 38% of your FRA benefit amount, rather than the 50% she would get by waiting until her full retirement age to apply for both benefits. You can apply that same formula using your currently estimated FRA benefit amounts as provided by Social Security to arrive at a more precise percentage, but it will be somewhere in the

38% range, reduced from 50% because she is taking her own Social Security retirement benefit at age 62. Of course, your wife's own full retirement age benefit must be less than 50% of your FRA benefit for her to even be eligible for a spousal benefit. And, since you were both born in 1959, if you both claim benefits some months before your wife has reached her full retirement age, her "spousal boost" amount will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months before she reaches FRA that you claim. The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA benefit amount is by waiting until she has reached her full retirement age to claim Social Security benefits.

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## Spotlight on Business

### Aurora Banquet Hall Has Great Opening in Tujunga

Continued from Page 1

The event started right after the official ribbon cutting with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, great DJ music and dancing.

The owners Sam and Emanuel with their families welcomed representatives from Congressman Adam Schiff's office, Teresa Lamm, Senator Anthony Portantinos office, Vickere Murphy and from Monica Rodriguez office, Eve Sinclair. The local chamber members Mike Shar, Kelly Hurst and Honorary Mayor John Clausen escorting Dyan McManus, were there



Inside view of the Aurora's rolling marquee above the bandstand

having the time of their lives with the best event of the year in Tujunga.

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### Grand Opening and Installation of Chamber Officers



Last Wednesday was a big day for the Diamond Sweets Cafe & Bakery. The S-T chamber of commerce was going to have their installation of officers but not enough of them showed up. There were 10 people who showed up for the free coffee and pastries: Janelle Hussion, Hrant Vartzbedian, Glen Belt, Nancy Shannon, Sevada Hemelians, Rick Ramirez, Oscar Alvarez, Carol Hutchinson, Mike Perry and Pati McArdle Potter. Some of whom are running for STNC positions.



## My Priorities as Chair of the City's Public Safety Committee

This week, I kicked off my first meeting as Chairwoman of the City's Public Safety Committee. This important committee oversees police and fire resources and emergency services, which represents nearly two-thirds of the City's budget.

During my tenure as Chair, I will be focused on

modernizing and digitizing police record keeping, prioritizing emergency preparedness and coordination with all public safety and city agencies, continuing to push for more sworn LAPD officers, and developing youth programs to make sure we have an active presence in our community and to engage our youth in both

police and fire careers.

I look forward to continue working with my colleagues to spearhead Citywide public safety efforts to increase resources for emergency preparedness and to improve the quality of life for all Angelenos. This committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month.



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# A Noise Within (ANW) Presents “Othello”

There are so many villains in the Shakespeare tragedy Othello that ANW brings to Pasadena that I almost needed a score card to keep track of who was doing what to who.

And of course, the undercurrent of jealousy makes your mind leap from one character to another as you watch in wonderment how the actors draw you into the present day rendition of this 400 year old tragedy. Nothing is really different, just the costumes, and it appears that all the prejudices and back stabbing to get ahead in the world is brought to light in this eye opening rendition of love destroyed by greed.

Othello is the general of the Venetian army, and newly married to Desdemona the daughter of an important local politician. When Iago, one of Othello’s soldiers and closest friends, loses out on a promotion to Cassio he becomes hell-bent on destroying Othello’s life. He concocts a scheme to convince Othello that Desdemona is cheating on him, the results of which are, of course, disastrous.

Director Jessica Kubzansky’s artistic vision for this production is specific and clear. The cast wears modern fatigues and clothing, and during the play the cast uses iPhone flashlights to illustrate an important moment in the plot. Race has always been a major theme



Othello (Wayne T. Carr) as the Venetian General and his staff.

in Othello. Shakespeare describes the titular character as “a black Moor,” and the fact that he is regarded as an “other” plays a major role in the plot and character dynamics.

Of course, modern racial contexts remove essentially all of that ambiguity — ambiguity that was hardly helping matters to begin with. Nowadays, including in this production at A Noise Within, Othello is almost always played by a black actor, and the optics of watching a black man smother a white woman to death are jarring and problematic.

Considering the play

from a 21st century mindset, things begin to take on a new form — Iago’s plot forces Othello, who starts the play as a highly successful, honest man, to essentially live out a self-fulfilling prophecy and become a harmful, violent stereotype.

Put simply, the racial themes that are ingrained in the DNA of Othello are dated and troubling, especially given the way the story ends.

Unsurprisingly, the themes in this play are also highly problematic for women. In one memorable scene, Othello slaps Desdemona across the face in front of

a room full of people. She is stunned, having no idea why he would do such a thing, and flees, hurt and embarrassed. But not thirty seconds later Othello calls for her, and she literally comes running, saying “yes, my lord?” Everything about Gulner’s Desdemona feels so modern, from the way she carries herself with poise and confidence to her stylish, colorful wardrobe that it is especially cringe-worthy to watch her cave so quickly to this physical abuse and eventually meet her demise the way she does. I found the play to be

very unsettling, yet touching on so many nerves at one time, that I am still thinking about Othello a week later.

Othello runs at A Noise Within through April 28th. The running time is 2 hours and 45 minutes, including one intermission. A Noise Within is located at 3352 East Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA. Tickets can be ordered by calling 626-356-3100

Photos by Craig Schwartz.



Desdemona (Angela Gulner) as the victim of her love for Othello.

# Your S-T Neighborhood Council at Work



Our Neighborhood Council is made up of a large group of individuals trying to make a difference in our community. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. There is an election coming up in April that will redefine what our community is going to be. The Tatulian Cartel Vs. the Machine!