



# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



# THE PAPER

## THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019

TELLING THE TRUTH FOR OVER 14 YEARS

VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 6

**SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
STANDING UP FOR SUNLAND-TUJUNGA  
PROTECTING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE  
IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY**

*Thank You*

Our "Standing Up for Sunland-Tujunga Team" is grateful, humbled and thank each of you who voted for us to represent our community. We plan to do our very best for the community. We pledge to be transparent and inclusive. We will work hard to represent our stakeholders to the City.

We look forward to building good relationships with all our board members so we can build a strong team and work together.

We want to hear your concerns and encourage everyone to take part in the planning process for Sunland-Tujunga. And, we need your input in helping to set the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's goals for the next two years.

We look forward to your participation and attendance at the STNC Board and Committee meetings. We are eager to listen and work with you to improve the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,

<b>Liliana Sanchez</b>	<b>Lallah Rowe</b>	<b>Pati Potter</b>
<b>Lydia Grant</b>	<b>Jon von Gunten</b>	<b>Carol Hutchinson</b>
<b>Nina Royal</b>	<b>Vartan Keshish</b>	<b>John Clausen</b>
<b>Cindy Cleghorn</b>	<b>Arsen Karamians</b>	<b>Paul Armbruster</b>

Together, we will help maintain our community's unique character  
[standup4sunlandtujunga.com](http://standup4sunlandtujunga.com)

## BICYCLIST FATALITY ON FOOTHILL BLVD.

There was another GHOST BIKE placed in Tujunga on Foothill Blvd. last Sunday commemorating the passing of Steve Jensen, who had just turned 55 on May 18.

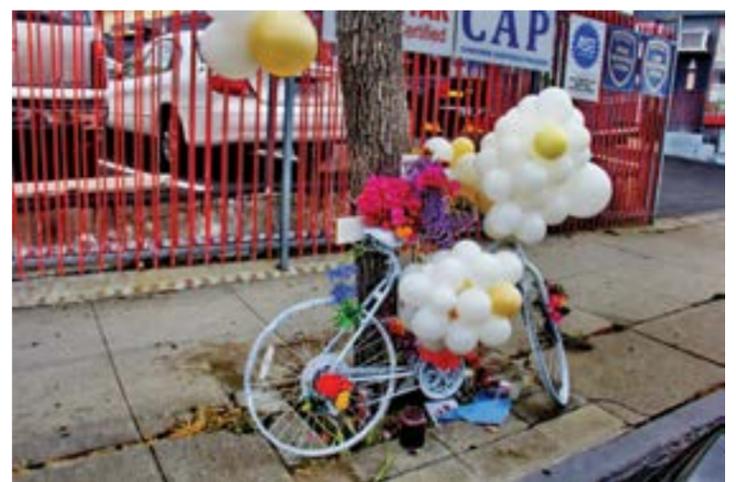
This is at least the 21st bicycling fatality in Southern California this year, and the ninth that I'm aware of in Los Angeles County; it's also the fifth in the City of Los Angeles.

And it's another reminder that riding on Foothill Blvd. is more dangerous than it seems.

We were told Jensen was riding downhill in the street at a high rate of speed, and swerved to avoid a vehi-

cle stopped in his lane. He crashed into a sign for a smog test center and hit a tree on the sidewalk. LAPD who questioned local businesses' did not find anything illegal about the sign placement.

One of the causes of this accident could be that the bike lane ended at Commerce Ave. and that bad city bike infrastructure played a significant role in this crash, as well. LA's typical disappearing bike lane design at intersections may have helped cost Jensen his life, forcing him into the traffic lane after gaining speed on his descent.



Ghost bike memorial in front of V&S automotive in Tujunga.

## BOBCAT VISITS TRANQUIL PLACE

by David DeMullé

Neighbors got a surprise visit from a large bobcat Monday morning taking a stroll up Tranquil Place in Tujunga. This is the mating

season for many species of animals and they are not aggressive towards most domestic animals.

Residents are encouraged

to keep their dogs on a leash or secured behind a fence as they might try to attack a bobcat with disastrous results to the dogs.



A very healthy bobcat heading for home.

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: [thefoothillspaper.com](http://thefoothillspaper.com)

**T**HIS WAS THE “WEEK THAT WAS!” And what a week it was. It was election time in old Sunland-Tujunga and even I was overwhelmed by the scurrilous activities that went on here. Then it got interesting.

The Tatulian cartel got its STNC minions to join the Elections Committee and the game was on. Meeting both in sight and out-of-sight in violation of the Brown Act and every other ethical standard, off they went. The first thing they did was give their friends at Sunland-Printing non-bid contracts for lots of money.

Did anyone care? Nope, the city wasn't interested in S-T politics, they had 98 other neighborhood

councils to run. Our CD-7 councilwoman and her aide Eve were not interested in what was happening or who was doing what to whom. It became a running joke to try and contact either of them. If it wasn't a photo op, forget it.

So, with the knowledge that no one would come sniffing around for wrong doing, candidate wannabees flocked to the cartel, and why not? Wouldn't you want to be part of the winning team? Monica's "fool in place" Roger Swart started an attack campaign against the non-cartel members. But look at it this way, anyone that would pretend to be a Vietnam veteran and attacking others who were actually in Vietnam, really

has a screw loose and fits right in with them.

And the saga unfolded. Using Facebook to attack everyone that wasn't friendly to the cartel, people found themselves being forced to take sides. 2/3rds of the cartel members were Armenians. The beleaguered members of the "Good Guys Slate" just didn't know how to handle that. Having been beaten down over the past year, they could only resort to trying to get the truth out to the voters. Now don't get me wrong, both sides told the truth. "Their" version of it.

When asked who I'd recommend, I'd say, take the best of both groups, you can't go wrong there. That is until, I saw an Armenian

TV station interview of the three cartel people running for the top positions. So I asked for and received, a certified translation of the interview. WOW! Now that was interesting.

We had candidates explaining how they were going to bring in outside people and create a "little Glendale" here in the foothills.

Yes boys and girls, we heard the cartel members talking about how they were going to take over our little burg. Not since the Scientologists tried that 10 years ago, has that happened here. But this time, we were dealing with intelligent, good looking people that had connections with Glendale. But they got complacent.



They actually believed that they could take over S-T without a fight.

They had The Foothill Record to get their message out, "join us or perish!" they said. But they didn't realize that the Record didn't have any readership and was a cash cow for Tatulian that pays no taxes, has no business license and mostly fake advertisements. And that is how the cartel lost. They believed their own lies. I guess you could say "they drank their own water!"



THE FOOTHILLS PAPER is published bi-weekly. All content is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent of the publisher. All submissions to this newspaper become property of THE FOOTHILLS PAPER and may not be republished in whole or in part. The opinions expressed by contributing writers do not necessarily express the views of the publisher nor staff of this newspaper. TFP is available free of charge. No person may, without prior written permission from TFP, take more than one copy of each edition (stated value: \$1). Only authorized TFP distributors may distribute THE FOOTHILLS PAPER. THE FOOTHILLS PAPER is a non-profit newspaper produced by the OSS-Spectrum group.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR/PUBLISHER  
Dr. David DeMullé  
editor@  
thefoothillspaper.com

STAFF ASSISTANT  
Dyan McManus

WITH THANKS TO  
all our volunteers that  
make The Paper happen!

THE FOOTHILLS PAPER  
TheFoothillsPaper.COM  
P.O. Box 444  
Tujunga CA 91043  
818-951-0943



Associated Press



L.A. Press Club



Press Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles



International Combat Camera Association



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Ryan Murphy Inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi



Ryan Murphy of Sunland, California, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Murphy is pursuing a degree in Biology at San Diego

State University.

Murphy is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

### Kaitlyn Moguel is Installed by Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society



Kaitlyn Moguel was among the new members and 2018-2019 officers installed into Chapter 378 of Phi Eta Sigma national honor society for academic excellence at McKendree University on April 25.

Moguel, a first-year biology major from Tujunga, was initiated as a new member.

Phi Eta Sigma is the nation's oldest and largest multi-disciplinary honor society for first-year college and university students. Students may qualify in the first or second semester of their first year. The ceremony was held as part of McKendree University's sixth annual Academic Excellence Celebration.

Founded in 1828, McKendree University in Lebanon, Ill., is a "College of Distinction," among "America's 100 Best College Buys."

## S-T CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – RIP?



Abandoned Chamber Office

The cartel has collapsed and with it went the S-T Chamber of Commerce. Even though they had their election last November, they have not had enough members to pay the rent or keep their doors open. Ever since cartel leader Sonia Tatulian spent all their funds, conducted a fraudulent "Food Truck Nite," and destroyed all the chamber files and memorabilia, the chamber has been slowly in decline.

With the 2019 STNC election finished, now might be the time to re-vitalize the chamber with new projects and members. The chamber in the past had been a major sponsor of the 4th of July fireworks. Cartel head Sonia Tatulian is no longer involved with the chamber so any new funds are fairly secure. For more information, contact Hrant Vartzebian, chamber president.



## LOCATION- LOCATION – LOCATION!

by Ed Castellanos

You wouldn't pick out shoes before choosing an outfit, right? Or buy car accessories without first deciding if you want a truck or a sedan?

Well, house hunting should be treated the same way.

You shouldn't search for a dream home without vetting neighborhoods or experiencing the new area for yourself.

If the area doesn't meet your needs, the property may not provide a dream scenario. So how do you make sure you've found the right neighborhood? Keep these details in mind:

### Cost of Living

Are the property taxes and HOA fees trending upward? Are there mostly trendy boutiques and high-end businesses in the area, or does it have a good mix of local and national retailers?

Planned commercial development could affect the long-term affordability of the area. However, having more access to retailers and entertainment could enhance your lifestyle.

### Commutes and Social Life

How close do you want to be to the friends and family you visit the most? How far are you willing to drive to get to the restaurants, theaters or stores that you frequent?

It's understandable to prioritize your work commute, but keep in mind the other places you visit on a daily or weekly basis.

### Long-Term Goals

How does the community fit into your future goals? Are there good schools, parks or sports leagues for your family?

A thriving community adds to your quality of life. And it's a good sign for future home values.

Want to try before you buy? Where possible, consider renting a unit in the area for a few days through a short-term rental site. Experiencing the neighborhood like a resident can help you to decide if it fits your current and future needs.

Are you looking for a new home? Get in touch if you'd like to see a neighborhood report.



LAHOMES247.com

661-510-5762

Edgar Castellanos BRE# 01855534

## CAMP INMATE ON THE LAM!



Inmate Fernando Deras

California corrections authorities are searching for an inmate who walked away from a fire camp in the Sylmar area of Los Angeles.

Officials say minimum-security inmate Fernando Deras was determined to be missing from the Holton fire camp during a routine inmate count at 1:25 a.m. Monday.

Local law enforcement and the California Highway Patrol have been notified.

The 31-year-old Deras was serving a four-year sentence for corporal injury.

The camp trains inmates to serve as wildland fire-fighters.

Associated Press Managing Editor

# WHAT'S HAPPENING in the FOOTHILLS

*Community*  
**TOWN HALL**

WITH  
*Senator Anthony J. Portantino*  
AND  
*Supervisor Kathryn Barger*

CO-HOSTED BY THE SHADOW HILLS  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**  
**10:00 AM — NOON**

Elks Lodge  
10137 Commerce Ave.  
Tujunga, CA 91042

RSVP to [vickere.murphy@sen.ca.gov](mailto:vickere.murphy@sen.ca.gov) (818-409-0400),  
or [jdegonia@boe.lacounty.gov](mailto:jdegonia@boe.lacounty.gov) (818-993-5170).

PRINTING AND/OR REPRODUCTION OF THIS PAGE, OTHER THAN BY EMAIL, IS PROHIBITED

## Eagle Scout project coming to completion at Sunland Elementary School



Nelson Keasberry, of Troop 288, is completing his Eagle Scout Project at the corner of Oro Vista Ave. and Hillrose St. This busy intersection is the pathway to the Angeles mountains and is also on the corner of Sunland Elementary School's parking lot. There has been an old, cracked, decaying wall on the property, which has since been completely revitalized and rehabilitated for this project.

Left is Nelson Keasberry (It's his Eagle Project), middle is Nicholas DiCrescenzo, and right is Scout Leader Larry Torres.



# SUMMER!



**Verdugo Hills  
Liquor Store**  
7119 Foothill Boulevard

## HARMONY FARMS

2824 FOOTHILL BLVD., LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214



**For a Happy  
MOTHER'S DAY,  
cook her  
a sirloin roast!**

10% off

Fresh Free Range  
Harmony Farms Turkeys

available for your dinner parties—all sizes

818-248-3068

On selected items.



**Whatever is your preference: Ham, Lamb or prime rib, Harmony Farms has something just for you!**

## HARMONY FARMS



### WILD GAME PROCESSING

Check out the largest selection of all natural, minimally processed game meats

**We Carry New Zealand Farm Raised Elk & Vension**

**YES WE DO SMOKED SAUSAGES AND HAM**

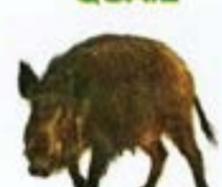
**NOW AVAILABLE "Kobe-Style" Australian Wagyu Beef**



**WE CAN PROCESS YOUR ANIMAL**

- ELK
- DEER
- BUFFALO
- WILD BOAR
- ANTELOPE
- KANGAROO
- ALLIGATOR
- OSTRICH

**GAME BIRDS**  
PHEASANT  
SQUAB  
QUAIL



**100% Certified Berkshire Pork  
Whole Suckling Pigs - Special Order  
Duck • Goose**

2824 FOOTHILL BLVD.  
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214  
818-248-3068 • 818-248-0361 FAX  
MON-FRI 7AM - 8PM  
SAT 7AM - 7PM • SUN 8AM - 6PM  
DROP-OFF HOURS M-F AFTER 2:30PM

SINCE 1997 V&S ASE CERTIFIED  
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EXCELLENCE

**COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR**

**WE SERVICE ALL TYPES OF HYBRID & ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

Starters • Alternators • Timing Belts • Engines  
Transmissions • Water Pumps • Tune-ups • Axles & More!

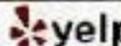
BRAKES SPECIAL
FULL SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE
A/C SERVICE

### Diagnostics Service & Repair







Like us...    Trusted Service For Over 20 Years!















**Approved  
Auto Repair**

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM • Saturday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
818.352.9666 • 818.352.6779 7139 - Foothill Blvd. Tujunga, CA 91042

# THE FOOTHILLS PAPER Presents TAKE MY CARD

Reach More Readers With Your Business Card Featured Here! • Find Out How at [sales@thefoothillspaper.com](mailto:sales@thefoothillspaper.com)



James A. Ellis  
Sunland-Tujunga  
Lions Club

Registered Representative of, and securities offered through, J.K.R. & Co. Inc.  
Member NASD, SIPC

### Retirement Planning Associates

Stocks Municipal Bonds  
Closed-End Funds Mutual Funds  
Retirement and Employer Plans

7145 Woodley Avenue  
Van Nuys, CA 91406-3932

Tel (818) 781-7721 Ext. 25  
Fax (818) 787-2232



General Engineering Contractor  
State License #533240

- DRAIN CLEANING
- CAMERA INSPECTIONS
- ELECTRONIC LOCATING
- SEWER PIPE REPAIRS
- TRENCHLESS REPAIRS
- STORM DRAINS
- FREE ESTIMATES

818 **352-2636**  
[www.devriesdiversified.com](http://www.devriesdiversified.com)

### GOPHER CONSTRUCTION CO.

A Devries Diversified Company



- SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- INSTALLATION & REPAIRS
- REAL ESTATE INSPECTIONS
- ADVANTEK & PIRANAS

818 **352-2253**  
[www.gopherco.com](http://www.gopherco.com)



Hand Wax • Complete Detail • Steam Clean Engine  
8220 Foothill Blvd, Sunland CA 91040 Tel: 818.352.8393

FOOTHILL Barber Shop  
818.855.3502  
10025 Commerce Ave. • Tujunga, CA 91042

SUZANNE VERTIN POLLARD  
BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS  
8252 MCGROARTY STREET  
SUNLAND CA 91040  
818-951-0940  
WE PLANT SEASONAL FLOWERS

click on photo to see video  
KIMBER'S CUSTOM CARPET CLEANING & TILE FLOORS  
CARPET CLEANING  
TILE FLOOR CLEAN & WAX  
STAIN REMOVAL  
PET ODOR CONTROL  
AND MORE  
747-207-5909  
kimberkustams@gmail.com  
(\$79 per room, 3 rooms minimum)  
10% OFF FOR SENIORS

H.F. Meats, Inc.  
**HARMONY FARMS**  
Naturally Grown  
Raw Meat for Pets

*"Harmony Farms provides raw meat for pets because we believe that it's their natural way of eating."*

## 2019 Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council Election Winners

- Liliana Sanchez - President (576)
- Lydia Grant - 1st Vice President (585)
- Nina Royal - 2nd Vice President (508)
- Cindy Cleghorn - Secretary (474)
- Sandy Capps - Treasurer (721)
- Jon von Gunten - Neighborhood Watch Rep. (659)
- John Clausen - Elks Lodge Rep (580)
- Paul Armbruster - Little Landers Historical Society Rep (557)
- Arnie Abramyan - S-T Business Association Rep (399)
- Hovik Tadevosyan - Sunland Fight Club Rep (395)
- Garbis Khanjian - Holy Apostles Armenian Apostolic Church Rep (390)
- Jora Mehrabi - Armenian Cultural Association Rep (371)
- Vartan Keshish - Region 1 (122)
- Ana Orudyan - Region 1 (98)
- Arsen Karajans - Region 2 (105)
- Glen Belt - Region 2 (101)
- Oscar Alvarez - Region 3 (129)
- Rafi Shaheenian - Region 3 (87)
- Carol Hutchinson - Region 4 (175)
- Pati Potter - Region 4 (173)
- Lallah Rowe - At Large Group Rep (578)

**SWEET CHERRIE'S DINER**

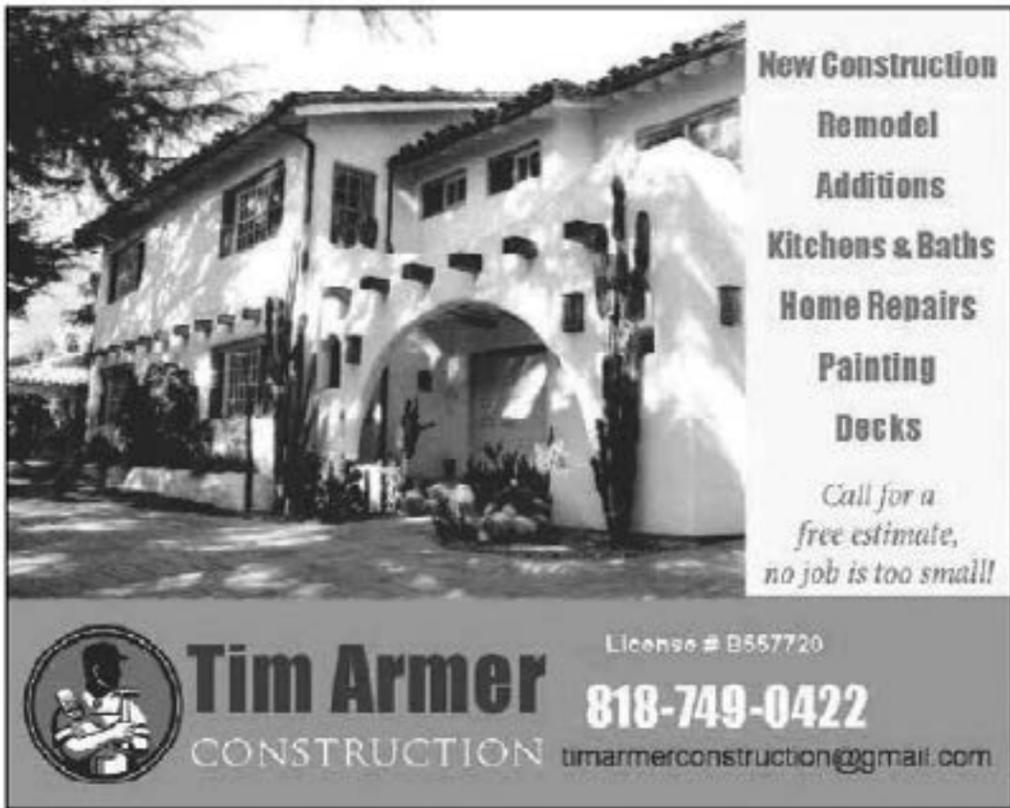
Only the finest, freshest ingredients are used to create the ultimate OMELET.

Our CLUB SANDWICH is sliced turkey, crisp bacon, lettuce, tomatoes and mayo on three slices of lightly toasted bread.

BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY  
Dine-in / Take-out / Catering for any occasion  
**THE BEST OMELETS IN TOWN!**  
Waffles, Charbroiled burgers  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK: M-F: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sat 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sun 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**(818) 353-0465**  
8236 Foothill Blvd., Sunland

Our CHARBROILED BURGER is rich, high-quality beef, lettuce, cheese, pickles, anyway you want it for every mouth-watering bite.



**New Construction**  
**Remodel**  
**Additions**  
**Kitchens & Baths**  
**Home Repairs**  
**Painting**  
**Decks**

*Call for a free estimate, no job is too small!*

**Tim Armer** License # B557720  
**CONSTRUCTION** 818-749-0422  
 timarmerconstruction@gmail.com

# FROM MURDERS AND PSYCHIC FRAUDS TO 'DIRTY JOHN': Exploring Old and New True Crime Stories. A panel moderated by Melanie Hicken with Christopher Goffard, Barbara Schroeder & Clark Fogg



**YOUR DEALERSHIP ALTERNATIVE • SERVING THE FOOTHILLS FOR OVER 25 YEARS**

Family Owned & Operated

"Confidence Through Quality"

# Jason's

**SERVICING HONDA / ACURA / TOYOTA / LEXUS**

**GENUINE HONDA & ACURA PARTS**

**FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE & REPAIR**  
 TRANSMISSIONS • BRAKES • SUSPENSIONS • IGNITION  
 COMPLETE ENGINE REBUILDING

**At Jason's We Offer**

**FREE** Local Pick-up & Delivery  
**DISCOUNTED** Towing Service  
**DISCOUNTED** Rental Car Rate  
 2-Year 24,000 Mile Warranty

**Tuesday-Friday: 8am - 6pm**  
**Saturday: 8am - 4pm**

jasonsautomotivespecialtyshop.com

**818-957-1709 • 7517 FOOTHILL BLVD TUJUNGA • 818-353-8027**

On Saturday, May 1 at 5 PM, Flintridge Bookstore & Coffeehouse presents a panel discussion, From Murders and Psychic Frauds to 'Dirty John': Exploring Old and New True Crime Stories. The panel, led by CNN investigative reporter Melanie Hicken, includes journalist Christopher Goffard, whose podcast 'Dirty John' was downloaded over 10 million times within six weeks of its release; investigative reporter and former TV anchor Barbara Schroeder; and forensic specialist Clark Fogg.

and emotionally vulnerable. Christopher Goffard's "Dirty John" podcast-about a conman who terrorizes a Southern California family-has been downloaded more than 20 million times. It premiered in 2018 as a drama on Bravo and also ran as a print series in the Los Angeles Times.

All four panelist have written true crime books: Hicken - A Deal with the Devil: The Dark and Twisted True Story of One of the Biggest Cons in History (co-authored with Blake Ellis, published by Simon & Schuster); Goffard - Dirty John and Other Stories of Outlaws and Outsiders.

Praise for Dirty John and Other True Stories of Outlaws and Outsiders: Here are fifteen of the best stories in contemporary journalism by an award-winning reporter known for his research and accuracy, but whose work reads as well as the best in modern fiction.

Melanie Hicken is an award-winning investigative reporter for CNN. Her work has exposed everything from widespread sexual abuse in nursing homes to one of the longest-running scams in history. A Deal with the Devil is the fascinating, thrilling search for the truth about the mysterious French psychic at the center of this international con targeting the elderly

In Beverly Hills Confidential, investigative reporter Barbara Schroeder and Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) CSI inspector Clark Fogg re-examine sensational crime stories of the past century and show how greed, jealousy, passion, corruption, and simple bad luck turned the once-idyllic movie star sanctuary into a haven for headlines.

For further information, contact Gail Mishkin at (818) 790-0717. Flintridge Bookstore and Coffeehouse is located at 1010 Foothill Blvd., La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011, at the intersection of Foothill Blvd. and the Angeles Crest Hwy.

## WRECK OF THE WEEK



This 3 car accident took place in front of the apartment building at Silverton & Tujunga Canyon Blvd. Monday night. An elderly man lost control of his car, hitting one, flipping over, and coming to rest on another. He was taken to a local hospital.



**CAUGHT YOU LOOKING!!!**  
**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**  
**CALL 818-951-0943**

## ASK RUSTY Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) Affects State Retiree



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

**Dear Rusty:** I have a question in regard to the “windfall act.” I am receiving a pension from the State of Nevada. I retired from the State, and did not pay into Social Security, but I worked in the private sector before and am currently working in the private sector. My question is: How much “penalty” will I be subject to when I decide to finally hang it up? Signed: State Retiree

**Dear State Retiree:** The State of Nevada is one of 27 states which, for all or some employee categories, do not participate in the Federal Social Security (SS)

program; rather their State pensions are designed to provide a retirement benefit in lieu of Social Security. Because you receive a Nevada state pension and have also worked in the private sector long enough to be entitled to a Social Security (SS) benefit, your SS retirement benefit, when you claim it, may be reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), with the amount of reduction based upon how many years of substantial SS-covered earnings you have. If you have 20 or fewer years of SS-covered employment, here’s how WEP will affect your Social Security benefit:

Your actual benefit amount is based upon your “primary insurance amount” (PIA), which is computed using the average monthly earnings from the 35 highest earning years over your lifetime, known as your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings or “AIME” (only earnings up to the maximum payroll tax cap for each year are counted). Your PIA is the Social Security benefit you are entitled to at your full

retirement age. Normally, when WEP doesn’t apply, your Social Security benefit amount is computed by taking the monthly average of those 35 inflation-adjusted years of earnings (your AIME) and using a standard formula to arrive at your PIA. That formula includes using 90% of the first part (called a “bend point”) of your AIME to be the



first portion of three used to arrive at your PIA amount. For those first becoming eligible for benefits in 2019 (usually at age 62) that first bend point is \$926, which means that \$833 (90%) would normally be the first contribution to your PIA. But when WEP applies, the formula is different; instead of using

90% of that first bend point, if you had 20 or less years of covered-SS substantial earnings they use 40%, which would mean that the first bend point would add \$370 to your PIA amount instead of \$833, a reduction of \$463. Remember that the bend points used are those for your year of Social Security eligibility,

not for the year you

claim benefits.

The percentage used to compute that first “bend point” goes up by 5% for each year over 20 years of substantial SS-covered earnings you have - for example, if you have 22 years of SS-covered substantial earnings, the formula would use a 50% multiplier instead of 40%. And at 30 years of SS-covered earnings you’re

no longer affected by WEP. WEP can’t reduce your PIA by more than half of your NV pension amount, and there is also a maximum WEP reduction which might apply. And finally, please note that any benefit estimates you might get from Social Security now will not include the WEP reduction, which will be applied only when you actually claim your Social Security benefits.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website or email us.*

## Rep. Schiff Statement in Recognition of the Armenian Genocide

Vice Chair of the Armenian-American Caucus, released a statement ON April 24th in recognition of the Armenian Genocide:

“104 years ago, the Ottoman Empire murdered 1.5 million Armenians in the first genocide of the 20th century. That is a stark and terrible fact, one on which there is no debate. The facts of the genocide were recorded in real time by our diplomats who watched the slaughter in horror.

“It is shameful that presidents from both parties, including President Trump today, have issued statements that describe the facts of the genocide, but stop short of calling it what it was. The denial of the genocide is an enduring wound

to the Armenian people who descended from survivors to build lives here in the United States, in Armenia, and around the world.

“For far too long, Turkey has been allowed to exercise a veto on the U.S. government’s recognition of the genocide. That has always been outrageous, but as Turkey sinks into dictatorship, purchases Russian missile defense systems, and even assaults Americans on our soil, it is simply a farce. It must end.

“Nearly 90 members of the House have already joined as cosponsors of the Armenian Genocide resolution, and we will continue to build on this support. The truth is on our side. The memory of those who

were lost is on our side. The resilience and strength of the Armenian people to survive and rebuild is on our side. Today we remember the victims of Armenian Genocide and we affirm the survival and flourishing of the Armenian people. Tomorrow, we get back to work to secure full recognition, and we will never rest until we succeed.”

Rep. Schiff attended events across Los Angeles today in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide as well as the march to the Turkish Embassy in Los Angeles.



Mountain View Elementary School 2nd graders sing at the Finn Park Memorial Day Remembrance as Hrant Vartzbedian looks on.



## SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

# STANDING UP FOR SUNLAND-TUJUNGA PROTECTING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY

This group of dedicated community leaders consists of long-time residents and business owners.

Our mission is:

- ✓ To be open and transparent
- ✓ Promote progress without overdevelopment
- ✓ Commit to keeping our community informed
- ✓ Improve Public Safety (crime/traffic/fire issues)
- ✓ Outreach to our youth and seniors



**Liliana Sanchez**  
PRESIDENT



**Lydia Grant**  
1st VICE PRESIDENT  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT



**Nina Royal**  
2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
OUTREACH



**Cindy Cleghorn**  
SECRETARY



**Lallah Rowe**  
AT-LARGE GROUP  
REPRESENTATIVE



**Jon von Gunten**  
GROUP REP  
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



**Vartan Keshish**  
REGION 1  
REPRESENTATIVE



**Arsen Karamians**  
REGION 2  
REPRESENTATIVE



**Pati Potter**  
REGION 4  
REPRESENTATIVE



**Carol Hutchinson**  
REGION 4  
REPRESENTATIVE



**John Clauson**  
GROUP REP  
S-T ELKS CLUB

Together, we will help maintain our community's  
unique character

[standup4sunlandtujunga.com](http://standup4sunlandtujunga.com)