HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!



THEPAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

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TELLING THE TRUTH FOR OVER 16 YEARS

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 13



After the Shaking Stops - the Deafening Silence Begins.Are You Prepared?

By George Eckart (KJ6LA)

alifornia is destined to experience the big one at any time. After the shaking ✓stops, how will you get in touch with loved ones across town or throughout the region when there is no power, no phone service, little if any cell coverage and no Internet? Are you prepared to the silence that fol lows the big one? Amateur Radio Operators (or Hams) are poised to "make some noise" in the aftermath of a major temblor. Hams have the capacity and the skills to provide some of those initial vital links to those outside the affected area. When disaster strikes who will you call? You may want to contact a Ham radio operator or better yet, even become one. Interested in learning more about what Amateur Radio Operatorscan do?

The Crescenta Valley Radio Club will be pailicipating in National Field Day activities on June 23

& 24th in Verdugo Pai·k (across from Glendale City College). On Field Day, amateur radio operators take their equipment and expertise "to the field" to make as many contacts as possible across the US and Canada over a 24 hour period. While Field Day has been termed ham radios "Open House" it's deeper purpose is disaster preparedness as radio operators practice communicating under circumstances that mimic the displacement of a disaster.

Operators will be on duty beginning at I l:OO am Saturday morning and continuing for 24 hours. You are invited to visit, ask questions, and see how this wonderful pastime can play a crucial role in providing communication to the outside world when disaster strikes.

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE DANGER RAISED TO "VERY HIGH!"

RCADIA, Calif. — Effective Wednesday June 16, the Fire Danger Level on the Angeles National Forest is being raised to "Very High". A combination of extreme heat, low humidity and record drought conditions have led fire management officials to raise the Fire Danger Level earlier than in years past.

Parched soil, dry, dead grasses and vegetation, and now a dangerous heat wave is raising major concerns for potential wildfires. If combined with possible heavy winds, the challenges of attacking a forest fire increase dramatically. This year forests across the state have already seen major increases in fire activity, with large wildfires now burning in several states. Angeles National Forest Fire Chief Robert Garcia says, "We're easily a month or more ahead of fire weather conditions for this time of year."

Open wood and charcoal fires will still be permitted in approved



"developed" campgrounds and picnic areas where a steel ring or stoves are provided. Propane or jellied gas stoves and grills are permitted in non-developed areas with a valid California Campfire Permit. Smoking is allowed in enclosed vehicles or developed recreation sites only. Drivers in the forest should stay on designated roads and never park on dry brush or grass to avoid the risk of starting a fire.

Please see Angeles National Forest Fire Danger Raised to "Very High!" on Page 3

2021 Points of Light Inducts Dr. David DeMulle' to Inspiration Honor Roll

ast week I was notified by the Points of Light organization that I had been nominated and accepted to their rolls. I had previously won the PRESIDENTS VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD for the years 2006, 2007 & 2008. This is what they said:

"Congratulations on becoming a member of the George H.W. Bush Points of Light Inspiration Honor Roll. We are excited to share that your nom-

ination has been accepted and your story is live on our website.

Our team has created a beautiful visual with all of the stories and photos gathered of individuals who are responding to societal challenges in inspiring and innovative ways. Yours is here: https://www.pointsoflight.org/inspirationhonorroll2021/...

We hope you feel as inspired as we do when reading through their stories."





Is it time to sell your family home?

by Ed Castellanos

lelling your family home is hardly ever about building your financial portfolio. For most of us, it's usually a matter of necessity.

A growing young family or a changing lifestyle usually demands extra space. Maybe your kids are old enough now that they need separate rooms. If you have outgrown your living quarters — for whatever reason — it's time to explore a move-up forever home.

How can you tell that it's time to move? Here are four common scenarios:

1. You've had a change in family size. Whether someone is moving in or you have a baby on the way, you naturally need more space for more people. If you're struggling to achieve functionality with your current setup, then you need a home

2. Your DIY and design projects don't happen — or they cost too much. Maybe you

with additional rooms.

bought your starter home intending to renovate it, but you underestimated how difficult it is to fix up a house. If your fixer-upper has become a money pit or a huge source of stress, it may be time to call it quits and seek greener pastures.

3. You find it difficult to entertain or have guests over. If you have too little space to host or have few boundaries between your party and private space, it's hard to entertain comfortably. A larger home that allows more freedom and possibilities for hosting will better align with your needs.

4. You spend all your time in other parts of town. Imagine being closer to work and your favorite restaurants. Instead of wasting hours in your car, why not pick a home that's close to everything you love?

And if everyone else in the neighborhood is selling, it may be a sign that it's the perfect time for you to do the same.

LAHOMES247.com 661-510-5762 Edgar Castellanos BRE# 01855534



COMMUNITY NEWS

Angeles National Foest Fire Danger Raised to "Very High!"

continued from page 1

Firefighters worry they may be in for another tough wildfire season. Last year nearly 23-percent of the Angeles National Forest was impacted by major wildfires. To include the devastating Bobcat Fire, which burned through more than 180 square miles and some of the Angeles' most beautiful wildlands. It is now the second most destructive fire in Los Angeles County to date, after the 2009 Station Fire. The Bobcat Fire damaged or destroyed more than 115 homes and dozens of other structures.

Elevating the fire danger enhances public awareness, especially ahead of the popular July 4th weekend. Traditionally, July 4th is the busiest day on the Angeles National Forest. This year the Angeles National Forest expects to again break

visitor records all across the forest. Last year more than 20 wildfires started over the holiday weekend, many a result of illegal fireworks. Each was successfully 'knocked down' before it could grow out of control. Serving the nation's most populated county, the Angeles National Forest has one of the most advanced and capable fire divisions of any National

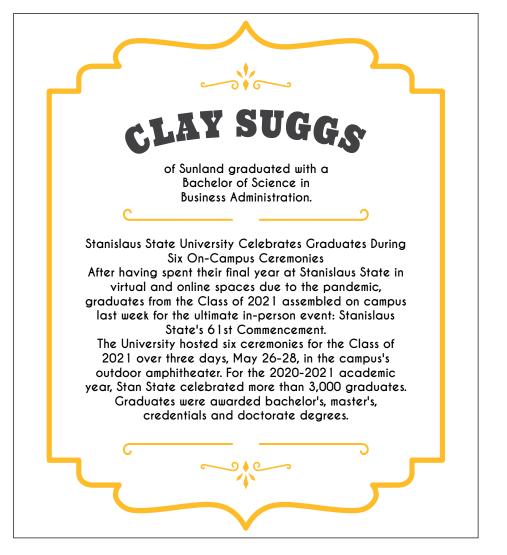
Remember, ALL FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED on national forest lands. The possession or use of fireworks is prohibited at all times in the Angeles under federal law. This includes 'sparklers'. A violation of the law can result in a \$5,000 fine and/or six months in jail. Also, anyone causing a wildfire is liable for all costs of suppressing the fire.

For more information, please visit our website: www.fs.usda.gov/angeles.

For questions, please contact Public Affairs officer, John Clearwater, at (626) 425-2150, or john.clearwater@usda.gov. ■







GUEST EDITORIAL

E L F A N D 'S WORLD--I don't know why City Council representative Monica Rodriguez (CD 7th district) would want to make trouble for mayoral candidate and fellow City Council representative Joe Buscaino, but that's what she just did, only a few weeks ago.

She did it by taking a swing at the neighborhood council system. This means that neighborhood council board members as far away as San Pedro will have to review what she is doing and -- to the extent that what she is trying

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L.A.



International Combat Camera Association to accomplish makes trouble for us -- we will have to take time and effort to defend our interests. That means that we go to Joe Buscaino and complain, and our complaints will put him in the uncomfortable position of either ignoring his constituents (us) or disagreeing with his fellow council member. And he's running for higher office.

Come to think of it, Rodriguez has put most of the rest of her fellow City Council members -- Paul and John and Mike, etc. -- in the same position as Joe.

How do I know this? Well, Monica's motion before the City Council has already been discussed in pretty uncomplimentary terms at the Los Angels Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC). It will probably be opposed officially by a number of neighborhood councils as their board schedules begin to catch up with this untidy bit of city business.

So what's this all about? What did she complain about, and what changes does she wish to make in the system?

We have a partial answer, in that we can read her motion, even if we can't quite figure out what she is trying to accomplish.

Basically, it comes down to the fact that in some neighborhood council elections, voters are required to provide tangible proof of eligibility. Either they can demonstrate that they live somewhere within the boundaries of a voting district, or they can show that they work in the district, or even that they own property somewhere within those same boundaries. That's the broad definition for all Los Angeles neighborhood councils -- the "Lives, Works, or Owns Property" standard.

In normal years where people showed up at a physical polling place, most voters pulled out their wallets, showed a driver license, and that was that. Some people who don't drive would provide some other form of qualifying document. The City Clerk's office, which now runs most of our neighborhood council elections, has a pretty generous list of qualifying methods.

In practice, neighborhood councils are asked to decide whether their elections will be run by self affirmation (ie: you don't need to show ID) or requiring documentation. For any given neighborhood council, it's one or the other, and the rule holds for all voters in that council's election.

Unlike the old Jim Crow states which used voter ID rules specifically to limit poor people and minority voters from participating, we are not using the system like that.

But apparently Monica Rodriguez thinks differently.

She argues that requiring a neighborhood council voter to provide ID is voter suppression. She doesn't hint around at it, she says it overtly (see below, in the section put in bold type). Not only does she claim that it is voter suppression, she makes the direct charge against one body -- the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council -- as engaging in this suppression. She is careful not to impute motive

or malice, but she argues directly that voter suppression is something that "many have experienced during the current Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council election."

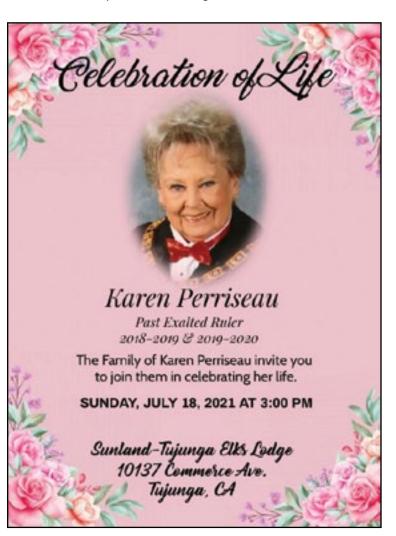
For those who are curious about just what Rodriguez said, let's clarify. Rodriguez filed a motion (seconded by councilman Gil Cedillo) in the City Council. That motion was given a council file number and referred to the subcommittee which oversees neighborhood council matters. Here is the entire motion, put here in italics:

So there you go. The Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) is charged, convicted, and about to be sentenced for participating in an election that was, after all, run by the office of the City Clerk of the City of Los An-

geles. Not only that, but the requirement for voter identification is one that is used in neighborhood council elections all over the city, not just in this one far-off place.

As I said, my neighborhood council also requires identification, and I haven't seen a lot of complaints. It may be that there are complications in this year of the Covid, because the city cancelled all of the live elections and ordained that everything has to be vote by mail. This system is, of course, further complicated by the fact that you can be an eligible voter even if you don't live in the district.

(Bob Gelfand writes on science, culture, and politics for CityWatch. He can be reached at amrep535@sbc-global.net) ■



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

ach and every year, as Dwe celebrate the 4th of July, it is easy to forget that this uniquely American holiday represents so much more than barbecues, fireworks and going to the beach. It represents our triumphant battle against tyranny and the struggle to free our selves 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 be-



Luz Rivas, Assemblywoman -39th District.

half 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. ■

County supervisor warns residents to stop feeding feral peacocks

By David DeMulle' & Karen Perdue

ounty officials are reminding residents not to feed peacocks, with a penalty of \$1,000 fine, or six months imprisonment, for doing so. The argument has been going on for years and just recently, the LA County Board of Supervisors voted to create regulations on the illegal feeding of peafowl, referring to both the males and females that have been polluting the local neighborhoods.

No one really remembers when the infestation of peafowl began, but now they are a real nuisance with their night time screams and defecating on cars, driveways and anything moving below them.

What was once just a few beautiful fowl, has now become unwanted flocks of messy, screaming and meandering birds. Supervisor Kathryn Barger has come out against the fowl ranging the neighborhood and those people who persist in illegally feeding them

"People should not be feeding these peacocks, pure and simple. Some of the people are coming from a good place," said Ms Barger before the voting. "But it's not good for that population. And it is adding to the numbers that we're seeing."

In an interview of Cesar Perea, an animal crimes investigator for LA who warned that the ban was too broad to see a reduction in the numbers of peafowl.

"They've overpopulated in some areas, to where



they have become a nuisance to some that didn't agree with them being there," said Mr Perea. "But a law this vague is going to be very difficult to enforce and very difficult to prosecute".

Recently, there has been growing contention and controversy about the pea cocks. So much so that LA Animal Services have issued citations which can range from a warning to fines of up to \$1000. for feeding of "non-domesticated mammalian predators." Monica Rodriguez, our Council woman for the 7th District, sent out letters on May 10, 2019 warning neighbors that feeding peafowl and other wildlife is in violation of California's Code of Regulations.

There was no better to way to meet up with the peacocks, peahens and peachicks than to walk

amongst them. They paid little attention to me while they went along with their business of finding food. The exception were peahens who ushered her peachicks to safety into front yards to eat the plentiful seeds left by nature or humans.

Most were willing to let me tag along. A few males displayed their plumes and strutted their stuff along the way. My journey began on Apperson and Parr Streets, then up and around Day Street. There were a lot of them!

Neighborhood folks estimate there are 100 peafowl that live amongst them.

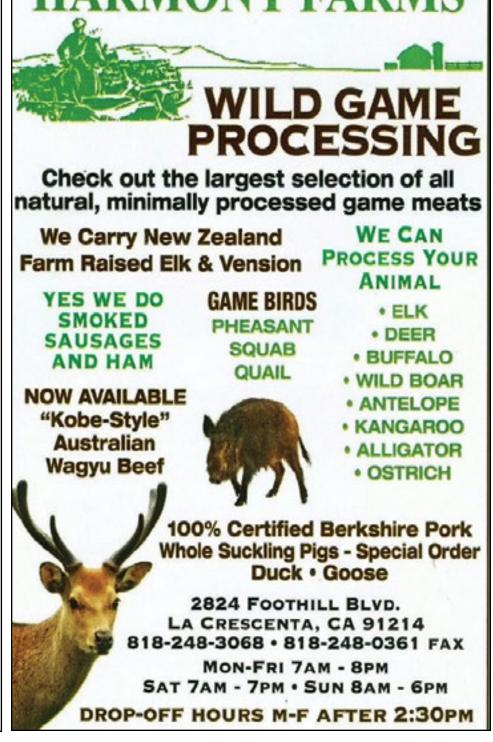
Some love them, others not so much. Their biggest com plaint is that they squawk all hours of the night and day, poop everywhere, and scratch vehicles with their claws while enjoying their favorite past time of sitting on cars. Peacocks are able to fly short distances such as onto roofs and trees to roost.

A neighbor related to me that each year he finds an egg or two in the bed of his truck. In the interest of population control, he collects and consumes them. He said they are fresh and. delicious, about twice the size of a chicken egg.

Reportedly, attention to the peafowl situation came to the forefront when one was hit and killed recently. Then an irate woman beat on a vehicle demanding the driver to slow down. The police responded with units and a helicopter. Other residents are working to have speed bumps installed.

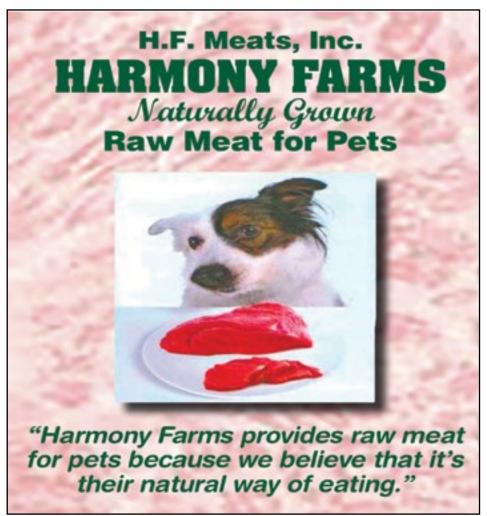


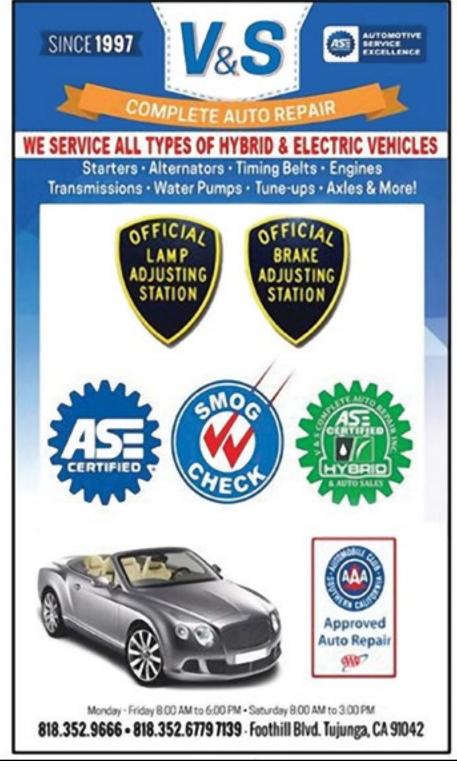
has something just for you!





For additional recipes, see Chef Randy's website at **Valley-Vegetarian.com**









ASK RUSTY



By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Rusell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens.

Social Security Matters

passed away and we went to update my mother's Social Security benefits, a question arose that I was confused by. We were asked "Do you want to claim just your father's benefit (which was larger) or claim my mother's benefit and the difference between the two?" Either way it would come to the same amount. Is there a reason to claim one way over the other? Perhaps a caveat that we are unaware of? Is there a loophole that we are missing that may potentially benefit the survivor? We are soon to face this question again as my father-in-law is very ill. Signed: Curious

Dear Curious: Well, they are basically the same amount but there is a nuance in the rules that many survivors aren't aware of. Here's why Social Security asked that question: It is possible for a surviving spouse to claim only the

Dear Rusty: When my father survivor benefit and defer claiming their own SS benefit until a later age if their personal benefit would be more than the survivor benefit would be. A survivor benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's full retirement age, but their personal SS benefit can grow until they are 70 years old. Thus, claiming the survivor benefit (only) first, and allowing their personal benefit to grow up to age 70 is often a wise move. Doing so allows someone to collect survivor benefits upon becoming a widow(er), while still maximizing their personal benefit. When later claimed, the higher personal benefit will replace the smaller survivor benefit. Of course, this option only makes sense if one's personal benefit would later be more than their survivor benefit.

> Social Security is required to ask this question because the person may be eligible for a higher bene

later age to claim it, but the "survivor benefit only" option is useful only if the survivor has not yet reached 70 years of age. After age 70 they would always take whichever benefit is higher. In most cases SS pays the person's own benefit first and then a "boost" to bring the payment up to the higher amount due as a survivor. But the choice to claim the survivor benefit only is an option if the survivor has not yet reached 70 and if their own benefit could later be more than their survivor benefit.

So, the question is - which option did your mother choose? And is your mother-in-law under age 70? If your mother's own benefit at age 70 would not have been higher than her survivor benefit from your father, then it doesn't matter which way it was recorded. And if your mother-in-law is over age 70,

fit on their own if they wait until a it doesn't matter either. But if not and either personal benefit at age 70 would be more than their earlier survivor benefit, then opting for the survivor benefit only and waiting to claim their own later would be (or have been) a better choice.

> 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 (amacfoundation.org/programs/ social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation. org.■

My Eulogy for Robert "Bob" Hulbert

- Bob and I lived together for about 7 years.
- We were best friends and we were pretty inseparable. I think we only spent 2 nights apart.
- Bob was very kind and he helped a lot of people. A lot of homes and ranches are still standing because he saved them from fire. He saved our house and our entire neighborhood in 2017, when the fire department was overwhelmed fighting fires out of town, so we were on our own. But Bob was ready.
- He was always ready to fight fires. Whenever it was hot, he'd have his scanner on and be checking out all his fire-fighting equipment. He died while preparing to save more properties and lives.
- Bob was such a good person that one day I asked him if he was an angel. And he replied, "I don't know." Well if there are angels, he must be one.
- You may not know this about Bob, but as a doctor, I can tell you that he was a genius. There are 2 kinds of intelligence. One is IQ and the other is Emotional Intelligence. If you have a high IQ, that means you're smart. But Emotional intelligence is the ability to get along with people and make them feel comfortable. Everyone wanted to be around Bob. Everybody liked him. Bob's level of Emotional Intelligence was so high that I used to tell him that I wish I had time to follow him around with a white lab coat on, and a clipboard. and write

- down everything he said and did and study his interactions with people so that I could learn how he made people feel so comfortable, because it's such a rare but worthwhile ability.
- They say that high emotional intelligence will get you further in life than a high IQ, because people want to be with you and do things with you. So they hire you and give you things, like cars and trucks. People just gave him stuff for a few dollars, because they liked and trusted him.
- But Bob loved to work and he always had to have a project. He did so many things at my house that I can't look anywhere without seeing something he fixed or improved. He could fix almost anything - and if he didn't know how, he'd find a way. He was stronger and worked harder than most 20 year olds. As a chiropractor, I kept him pain free without drugs or surgeries.
- I had to be careful with Bob. If I said, "I'd like to put a pool in my living room," he'd say, "OK, I'll start on it tomorrow." And he would, if I didn't come to my senses and tell him, "No, I don't think that would be such a good idea."
- The children and parents of Sunland will especially miss Bob because he delighted them by spraying them with cool water from his fire trucks at hot 4th of July parades for over 25 years.
- We will all miss Bob.

Written by Deborah L. Hill 6-11-21

(For his Memorial of 6-12-21)

July 4th is Not So Pet-Friendly How to make July 4th safe for your pet

he 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 any thing 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 runaway. 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 fire work 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:

- I . 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

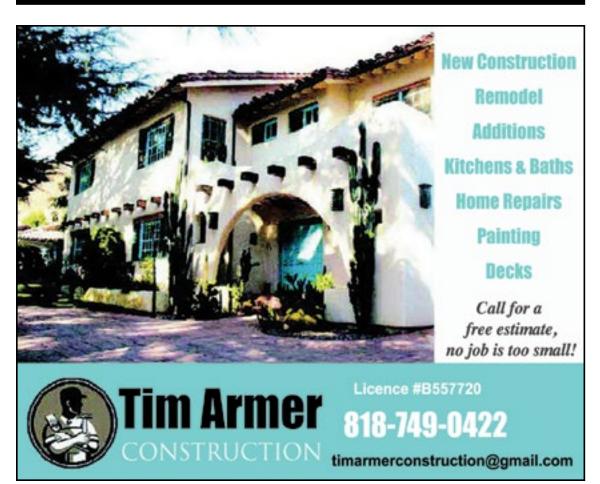
choice. Some animals can become destructive when frightened, so be sure that you've removed any items that your pet could destroy or that would be harmful to your pet if chewed. Leave a television or radio playing at normal volume to keep your pet company while you're attending Fourth of July picnics, 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 who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their 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.













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Tive Summer Dangers

Spending time outdoors this summer? Keep these safety tips in mind to ensure your furry friends are comfortable.









Pets can become dehydrated quickly. Know the signs of overheating (excessive panting, increased heart rate and weakness) and make sure your pet has access to fresh water and a shady or air conditioned place.

Fireworks & Thunderstorms



One in five pets goes missing after being scared by loud noises, so keep them in a quiet, secure area at home. If your pet does go missing, download the ASPCA app for a free step-by-step toolkit to help find your pet: ASPCAapp.org

Parties & Barbecues

Make sure your pet can't get into human food (especially grapes, onion, avocado and chocolate) or alcoholic drinks.

Hot Cars



Don't leave your pet in the car! Even with the windows cracked, a car's temperature can reach 100° in 10 minutes on an 85° day. Sign our hot car pledge at aspca.org/hotcars

Toxic Chemicals





Insecticides, insect repellents, sunscreen, citronella products and glow sticks are toxic, so keep them away from your pet.



All Fireworks* are illegal in the City of Los Angeles

Fire Investigators and Police Officers will be out in force this year. Violators risk serious fines, confiscation of fireworks, and jail.

It is unlawful to purchase fireworks in other cities for use within the City of Los Angeles.

Possession and/or use of fireworks within Los Angeles is a violation of Municipal Code 57.55.01A, or Section 12677 of the Health and Safety Code.

The public is requested to report the sale or use of fireworks within the City of Los Angeles by calling 911.

Every year, fireworks cause horrible injuries and thousands of dollars in damage. For a safe 4th of July, go to a Professional Fireworks Show.

For information about Professional Fireworks Shows in Los Angeles County, call the Fireworks Hotline. The number is:

(888) 654-FIRE

www.SafeJuly4th.org



www.LAFD.org

WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

LEAVE QUICKLY

GO BAG

- · Flashlight/headlamp
- Local map Water and snacks Important documents
- Emergency blanket
- · Emergency cash
- · Portable radio and batteries
- · Sturdy shoes and socks Whistle
- · Change of clothing
- · Wallet and cell phone (add at

CHECK ON OTHERS

- · Tell neighbors to evacuate and which way to go
- · Ask if they have a plan to get out safely · Offer help for those who need
- · Take your pets with you

MEETING SPOT

EMERGENCY CONTACT

EMERGENCY CONTACT #

IF YOU HAVE TIME | FIND/SHARE INFO

PREPARE YOUR HOME

- · Shut all inside doors
- · Raise shades and remove
- curtains · Turn on inside lights
- · Shut off air conditioning
- · Close/seal ground and attic
- · Move furniture away from walls
- Move outdoor items away from
- · Put a ladder at the corner of your house for firefighters

GRAB EXTRA ITEMS

- · Wear heavy shoes and cotton clothing
- · Computers, electronics, and chargers
- · Medications, prescriptions, and medical devices
- · Family treasures and photo
- · Pet carriers/leashes, vaccination records, and pet food

RECEIVE ALERTS

- · Sign up for Humboldt Alert at
- www.humboldtgov.org/alerts · Tune into your local radio station
- for updates · Check www.humboldtsheriff.org
- for updates · Change your outgoing voicemail
- so callers know you are ok · Update your status on social
- . Register with Red Cross Safe &

6 Ps OF EVACUATION

1.People

2.Pets

3. Prescriptions

4. Papers

Personal Needs

6. Priceless Items

IF SOMEONE IS TRAPPED AND CAN'T ESCAPE CALL 9-1-1

HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES 707-268-2500 @HumboldtSheriff on Instagram HumboldtSheriff.org @HumCoOES on Facebook and Twitter





