FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2021

SUNLAND STRONG - TUJUNGA TOUGH!

A tribute to our local businesses that are re-opening.

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 18

# Boogie Woogie Canteen Wows the crowd!

Just as advertised, the North Hollywood Canteen show at the Mayflower Club on November 7th presented fun and exciting entertainment all dressed up in period costume and delivered by talent expertly tuned into the 1940s. It was a tribute to the era of WWII and to the famous Hollywood Canteen, where film stars fed and entertained American men and women serving in the armed forces.

Supported by a trio of piano, bass, and drums, the show opened with the show's producers, Sharon Evans and Rick Rogers, in a lively song and dance to a once-popular British war tune. Next were the Lindy Sisters harmonizing the hit songs of the Andrews Sisters. As a special treat, legendary WWII veteran Bazooka Joe Pietroforte inspired laughter while telling the audience how he went through the war in Europe without his winter underwear.

The fast pace of the show continued with

Continue on page 2

# SERIAL BURGLAR CAPTURED AFTER 3 DAY CHASE



Suspect Renteria caught on Ring Video surveillance camera.

A transient serial burglar that terrorized the Shadow Hills Sunland area was apprehended Wednesday night. The search began Monday when police began receiving calls from residents saying that there was a prowler in their yards. The description of the man fit the

profile of a suspected burglar that was roving from central LA to the Sunland-Tujunga area.

The LAPD under the direction of Capt. Johnnie Smith, coordinated over 150 police officers, 6 K9 units, 5 helicopters, a 9 person equestrian team, LACo fire units and the Los Angeles Fire Department resources to create a comprehensive manhunt that covered 3 square miles.

After 3 days at about 10:45 pm, LAPD SWAT units joined several patrol cars and at least one K-9 unit in the 103000 block of Sunland Boulevard, where the LAPD had set up a command post and began to organize a directed search for the suspect where helicopters using forward looking infra-red (FLIR) indicated that a person was hiding in the dense underbrush.

The suspect, who police believed was Benito Renteria and was the man responsible for at least eight residential and commercial burglaries in the nearby Shadow Hills neighborhood and the northeast San Fernando Valley. Following up on reports that he had been seen carrying a rifle by a security guard in the area owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power at the Green Verdugo Reservoir. This

Continue on page 3

# **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

By Amy Taylor

For the Verdugo Hill Council - Boy Scouts of America, Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to reflect on the fullness of the life we have and to celebrate family, friends, and our community. Scouts learn to express gratitude through cheerfully providing service through Scouting for Food (Our Annual Food Drive for the hungry), various service projects supporting our most vulnerable members of society, and participating in Veteran's Day events. We are grateful for these opportunities to help Scouts learn and grow to be contributing members of society and participating citizens.

During November as we express gratitude for people and things that have enriched our lives we hope that Scouting has been a force for good in your family's life. Whether it has shaped your personal character and values, served you and your family in a time of need, or provided an opportunity for you to realize the blessing that comes from serving others we know that Scouting truly makes a difference.

In acknowledgement of the value that Scouting creates we "humbly" ask that you consider joining our Thanks "Giving" campaign this November. In order to keep the magic of Scouting going in the Verdugo Hills Council we are seeking 25 donors each day in November, to contribute a minimum of \$25. To donate please use this link: https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/058/appeal/4887





## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

## **ASSOCIATION OF MATURE AMERICAN CITIZENS**

## Have compassion for lonely elders-- there are a lot of them out there and they need your help

by John Grimaldi

One man's agony: "I am 77 years old. I was happily married for 55 years but I lost my wife a year and a half ago. No, she didn't die. In fact, she is in great physical health-- except for her

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 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

### Dyan McManus, RIP

### WITH THANKS TO

all our volunteers that make The Paper happen!

#### THE FOOTHILLS PAPER

TheFoothillsPaper.com Tujunga CA 91043 (818) 951 0943



Associated Press



Photographers Association of Greater Los Angeles



Press Club



International Combat Camera Association Alzheimer's Disease. She is in a Memory Care Facility. I see her a couple of times each week. Her confinement and my isolation have left me devastated. I love her and wake up each and every morning sad and abandoned."

It's not easy growing old and alone, no matter the circumstances. And, while that man's situation is particularly difficult, a growing number of seniors will be condemned to spend the winter of life in solitude in the coming years.

The Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] cites a report produced by the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, which reports that "By 2038, there will be 17.5 million households in their 80s and over, more than double the 8.1 million in 2018. These households will also consti-

tute an increasingly larger share of all US households, doubling from 6 percent in 2018 to 12 percent in 2038. As we note in our recent report, Housing America's Older Adults 2019, the majority of these households will be made up of just a single person."

And, says AMAC, a growing number of those "singles" will be senior citizens. "Seniors who live alone in America are increasing with each passing year and, currently, nearly a third of men and women 65 years of age or older live alone. The Census Bureau reports that more than 12 million aging seniors live in alone-- more than 28% percent of folks over 65 years. And, interestingly, they do so because they want it that way."

The Merck Manual, a comprehensive medical resource for the past 122

years, "almost 90% of older people living alone express a keen desire to maintain their independence. Many fear being too dependent on others and, despite the loneliness, want to continue to live alone." Nonetheless, the Manual points out that in order to remain independent they need to live healthy lives and engage in social activities.

But the reality is that not only has isolation impacted their quality of life, 12% of seniors who live by themselves say they have difficulty making ends meet, not even enough money to deal with basic expenses. And their loneliness, in too many cases, has been increased by the COVID pandemic and is poised to become especially painful as the holiday season grows near.

But friends, family and caring neighbors can help

alleviate their pain, according to the National Council on Aging. Here's how:

- · With the holiday season fast approaching it's easy for them to feel even more alone than at other times. So, get them involved, help them to make celebration preparations. Keep them encouraged and hopeful by conversing with them in person and/or on the phone to make them feel that you care.
- · Offer to help them to get out and about and go with them for moral and engaging support.
- · Encourage them to socialize, perhaps convincing them to take adult education classes or to take up a hobby. It's never too late in life for such activities.

And, by all means, keep them on your list of people to call and/or visit on a regular basis and help them feel wanted.

## **Boogie Woogie Canteen Wows the crowd!**

Sharon Evans singing songs by Harold Arlan & Johnny Mercer. Richard "Mr. Tin Pan Alley" Halpern paid tribute in song to Al Jolson, a star who paid his own way to entertain the troops before the USO was created. Rick Rogers performed as Eddie Cantor. He also did a special song and dance from the film Yankee Doodle Dandy, giving his impression of James Cagney as George M. Cohan as Franklin D. Roosevelt. Brad Kay, whose talents can be heard in The Nightmare Before Christmas, gave out with some truly rare and funny musical comedy at the piano. Saved for last was the lively and incredible artistry of Carl Sonny Leyland at the piano, a thrill for lovers of stride piano and swing dancing. But the biggest thrill came after the full-cast finale. Sonny Leyland returned to the piano for more boogie-woogie along with Brad Kay and then accompanist Carlos Ordiano. Even Bazooka Joe was out of his seat and dancing.

In attendance were actor/comedian Hank Garret (Car 54 Where Are You, Three Days of the Condor) and his manager Deanna-Marie Smith, plus nightclub entertainer/recording artist Tom Cooper. For those who missed it, a reunion show is being planned for next Veterans Day.



Sharon Evans & Rick Rogers opening the show



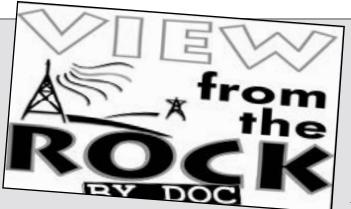
The Lindy Sisters tribute to the Andrews Sisters

WOW! Talk about the "Week That Was." People on the east coast were calling me to say that they saw the TV stories about our very own serial burglar and how the community was being terrorized.

Well, that was news to me. It was just another day in Sunland-Tujunga and we went along with our business as if nothing was happening. Well, sort-a. People were calling in to complain about all the

cops parked in front of their houses, ranches, squats, etc. Oh, and don't forget all the helicopters flying overhead, but the great thing is that no one was shot. In fact, the only one injured was our serial perp that got chewed up a-bit by the K9 while he was trying to escape. Our perp was not an illegal alien, he was a local boy living in the valley with a long criminal record. And now he made the big time news. 9 burglaries in 5 days. Makes you wonder.

After it was all over, we had a great Neighborhood Watch zoom meeting with the LAPD that was sponsored by the STNC. People could call in and ask questions about what happened. I can't remember when we had such a large coordinated presence of law enforce-



ment.

Not even when we had the home invasion in 7 hills some years ago with the invader brandishing a stolen rifle. That one brought out only 30-40 officers, SWAT, and a helicopter gunship that eventually shot and killed him.

That one wasn't televised. Oh, and there was another one where the perp holed up in this guy's house where he was remodeling it. After the stand-off, he couldn't even sleep in it for a month because of the lingering smell of cordite and tear gas. In that one, they shot flash-bangs through the walls making really big holes and destroyed his home.

Yup, things have changed for the better now. Better communications mean less fatalities and makes the LAPD look good for once. I can only shake my head and cringe when I hear reports of people criticizing our law enforcement people. Yes, I'll say it – those fools that want to "defund the police." Or even worse, those who created such a stink that we don't have campus police anymore. But I guess that goes along with our lack of students that want to learn something in class. I don't know where I read/heard it, but they are saying that 85% of the students that had to be home schooled because of the pandemic

are failing. Hell, I know why that happened, their parents were too dumb to know how to read with their kids. I've been watching the "dumbing down" of our educational system. I quit teaching years ago when I got tired of the administration kowtowing to the whims of parents that think of school as a holding pen for their offspring. You know the ones, the kids that are doing doughnuts in the intersections or driving drunk and killing off people and themselves. Do you remember when we last had DRIV-ERS ED? Or even better, consequences for bad behavior? Probably not. I personally think that our problems lie with the parents, and not the kids. And there's not a thing we can do about it, except to say: It's The Water!

# SERIAL BURGLAR CAPTURED AFTER 3 DAY CHASE

continued from page 1

water reservoir that is also used as a LAFD helicopter water loading zone is close to the Foothill (210) Freeway and areas where the suspect had been seen.

A DWP security guard reported that he saw the suspect on a surveil-lance video screen carrying a rifle and notified police. The man he saw was described as Hispanic, about 30-40 years of age, with short dark hair.

Officers urged people in the area to stay inside their homes, and to call authorities if they see the suspect. The California Highway Patrol issued a SigAlert for the closure of the east and westbound Sunland Boulevard off-ramps from the Foothill (210) Freeway to limit traffic from entering the area where the officers were staging.

Benjamin Renteria was a suspect in multiple burglaries that were reported in the Shadow Hills / Sunland area. He is now in custody with his original bail of \$240,000 being raised to \$640,000.

The search went on for three days following up reports of sightings. A LAPD air unit with Forward Looking InfraRed spotted a heat signature in heavy brush and got no response when they asked the person to identify himself. It took SWAT and K-9s time to navigate the brush, but eventually the K9 made contact with the suspect who fought with the K9 as he was dragged out of the brush into the arms of the SWAT that took the suspect into custody. SWAT Officers confirmed the suspect in custody has the marijuana tattoo that was seen on the suspect earlier. They requested a LAFD Rescue Ambulance for the suspect who suffered multiple bites to his arms. After being detained for several hours, Renteria agreed to lead the officers to where he hid his rifle.

His arraignment is set for January





How was your Thanksgiving? Mine was great.

As usual did most of the cooking. Partly because I am a good cook and partly because it's also my birthday and my tradition is to cook for my friends.

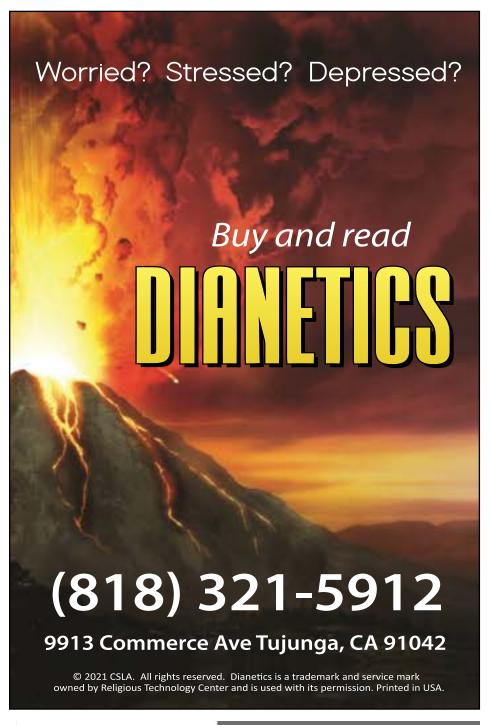
I reviewed the last year in Sunland-Tujunga and took stock of things to be thankful for. Last Spring saw our new STNC board seated. After several years of less than adequate boards, we now have a board with a stated purpose of bringing our neighbors together to improve our community. Now they are busy getting projects done. One project such is the Pinewood School Mural. That project has been stalled for over two years. Finally, the paint is purchased and the artists are at work. We have one of the lowest crime rates in the city and have improved since last year.

LAPD Captain Johnny Smith of the Foothills Division contacted the STNC to give a public briefing on the recent armed burglar and thanked our community for their help and backup in resolving the matter. We have shown that, in a pinch, our community can and will rise to the occasion and pull together.

Bit by bit, our groups like Elks, Rotary, Churches, schools, are working together.

While there have been challenges, there have been successes. Friends and neighbors are coming through for each other. It's happening. Our community is going up while many others are going down.

I am thankful for each of these things about Sunland-Tujunga and many, many more. But these things are only exist because of the quality of people who live here – because of our neighbors. And I am very thankful for each one of you.





Computer Help for Your Business

"We fix broken Windows"

#### Dave Bauer, IT Consultant

- · Over 20 years experience in IT
- · Over 10 years as Corporate IT Director
- · Large and small systems
- On-Premise or Cloud-based Solutions
- · Design, deployment, and support
- · Creative solutions
- High level of customer service integrity and dependability



No Monthly Contracts Required

Lower Costs

Increase Efficiency System Optimizations Email & Cloud Migrations

Proactive Monitoring

E-Waste

Free Evaluation and Consultation



818.823.3892

bauerinfotech.com | dave@bauerinfotech.com

10% of net revenues go to philanthropy at LightforceOne.org





# Verdugo Hills Liquor Store

7119 Foothill Boulevard

# HARMONY FARMS

2824 FOOTHILL BLVD. LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214





## Fresh Free Range Harmony Farms Turkeys

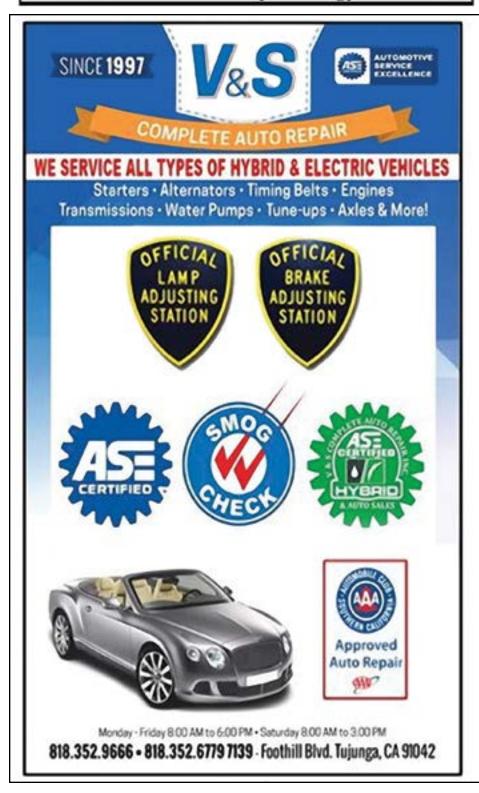
available for your dinner parties -all sizes

818-248-3068



For the absolute best steak, get Harmony Farms'

Australian "Kobe-style" Wagyu Beef!



# COMMUNITY ALERT NOTIFICATION LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

## AREA SAFETY BULLETIN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION CRIME ANALYSIS DETAIL

Due to an increase in violent street robberies, Robbery-Homicide Division has become aware of an ongoing crime trend of follow-home robberies. Suspects have been locating victims in Los Angeles, following them, and then committing the robberies as the victim arrives home or at their business.

Victims have been followed from such places like Melrose Avenue, the Jewelry District of Los Angeles, nightclubs, and high-end restaurants in Los Angeles. The target of these robberies has been expensive jewelry, including watches and necklaces, as well as expensive purses. Victims have also been targeted based on the type of vehicle they are driving.

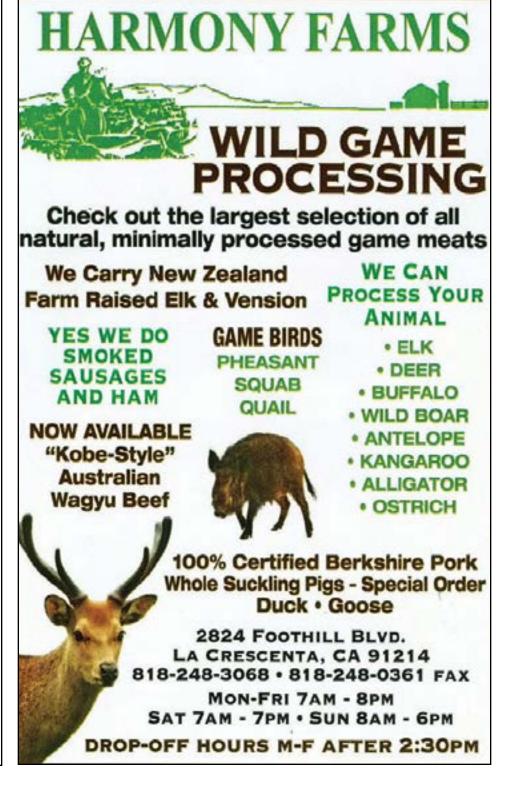
These crimes have occurred throughout the City of Los Angeles as well as neighboring cities. Different suspects have been identified and arrested for these types of crimes.

The following are recommendations for community members:

- Be aware of one's surroundings for anything unusual or out of the ordinary before exiting your car, walking out of a restaurant, stores, mails, or clubs.
- Be cautious of displaying high value property in public such as: purses, watches, and jewelry.
- Record and report suspicious activity to the police (write down suspicious suspect/vehicle descriptions).
- If you are driving and believe you are being followed, dial 911. If possible, drive to the nearest police station.
- If you are being robbed, do not resist the robbery suspects; cooperate and comply with their demands. Be a good witness.
- After a robbery, immediately call the police department by dialing 911. Immediately write down everything you can remember about the crime, suspects and suspect vehicle.
- Do not chase or follow the robbery suspect out of your place of business or home. Leave the job of catching the suspects to the police.

CONTACT INFO: ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION, ROBBERY SPECIAL SECTION AT (213) 486-6840

FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT. PREPARED FOR USE BY NEWS MEDIA.





## **ANOTHER DAY** IN THE HOOD

#### CRIME MAPPING

BRANDISHING WEAPON, EXHIBITING DEADLY WEAPON

Incident #: 211613228

FOOTHILL & COMMERCE | 11/7/2021 @ 11:05 AM

**BURGLARY** 

Incident #: 211613257

7500 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/5/2021 @ 7:30 PM

BRANDISHING WEAPON, EXHIBITING DEADLY WEAPON

Incident #: 211613504

7700 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/15/2021 @ 6:25 PM

**BURGLARY** 

Incident #: 211613499

10600 BLOCK PLAINVIEW AV | 11/12/2021 @ 11:00 PM

THEFT-GRAND

Incident #: 211613489

10600 BLOCK PLAINVIEW AV | 11/12/2021 @ 3:30 PM

**VEHICLE, STOLEN** 

Incident #: 211613464 10900 BLOCK ODELL AV | 11/13/2021 @ 6:00 PM

BURGLARY

Incident #: 211613440

11100 BLOCK CARLEEN CT | 11/13/2021 @ 1:30 PM

**BURGLARY** 

Incident #: 211613437

7200 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/13/2021 @ 1:00 PM

**BURGLARY** 

Incident #: 211613433

7900 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/13/2021 @ 12:00 PM

**ROBBERY - ATTEMPTED** 

Incident #: 211613436

FOOTHILL & MCVINE | 11/12/2021 @ 7:05 PM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE

Incident #: 211613434

CARDAMINE PL & CARDAMINE CT | 11/4/2021 @ 3:00 PM

**VEHICLE, STOLEN** Incident #: 211613425

10800 BLOCK PARR AV | 11/13/2021 @ 6:45 AM

**BURGLARY** 

Incident #: 211613404

10400 BLOCK MCVINE AV | 11/12/2021 @ 1:58 AM **BURGLARY** 

Incident #: 211613406 7000 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/11/2021 @ 9:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN

Incident #: 211613397 10200 BLOCK TUJUNGA CANYON BL | 11/11/2021 @ 4:00 PM

BURGLARY

Incident #: 211613403

8200 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/8/2021 @ 8:00 PM THEFT FROM VEHICLE - PETTY (\$950 & under)

Incident #: 211613344

7600 BLOCK WYNGATE ST | 11/9/2021 @ 9:00 PM THEFT FROM VEHICLE - GRAND (\$950.01 & over)

Incident #: 211613354

8200 BLOCK OSWEGO ST | 11/9/2021 @ 11:00 AM

**BURGLARY** 

Incident #: 211613337

8200 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/6/2021 @ 1:30 PM

THEFT - PETTY (plain theft-petty) (\$950 & under)

Incident #: 211613346

6900 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 10/27/2021 @ 10:00 AM THEFT FROM VEHICLE - GRAND (\$950.01 & over)

Incident #: 211613309

APPERSON ST & ORO VISTA AV | 11/9/2021 @ 2:35 PM

**BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE** 

Incident #: 211613313

10300 BLOCK NEWHOME AV | 11/8/2021 @ 10:00 PM

**BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE** 

Incident #: 211613280

FOOTHILL & SHERMAN GROVE | 11/8/2021 @ 7:00 PM

**BURGLARY** 

Incident #: 211613265

7800 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/8/2021 @ 4:30 AM

RAPE, FORCIBLE (any age, non consentual sexual intercourse)

Incident #: 211613301

7600 BLOCK HILLROSE ST | 11/7/2021 @ 11:00 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - GRAND (\$950.01 & over)

Incident #: 211613294

10400 BLOCK TUJUNGA CANYON BL | 11/6/2021 @ 1:20 PM

BRANDISHING WEAPON, EXHIBITING DEADLY WEAPON

Incident #: 211613228

FOOTHILL & COMMERCE | 11/7/2021 @ 11:05 AM

BURGLARY (entry of structure w/intent to commit theft or a felony) INCLUDES VESSELS

Incident #: 211613257

7500 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL | 11/5/2021 @ 7:30 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - GRAND (\$950.01 & over)

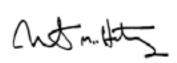
Incident #: 211613282 MOUNTAIR & APPERSON | 10/26/2021 @ 9:00 AM

## **HEART OF THE VALLEY**

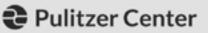
I returned from COP26 chock-full of ideas for how we can combat climate change. My colleagues and I listened to global experts and took copious notes. We are looking forward to exploring how we can implement some of these policies and practices here. NOW is our time to act to avert an irreversible climate disaster.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am grateful to live in a community with so many everyday heroes. Below, we highlight the contributions of Los Angeles Mission College President, Dr. Monte Perez. We also applaud Valley Community Healthcare on receiving a well-deserved Valley Hero Award from the Fernando Awards Foundation for their stellar work to serve vulnerable patients throughout the pandemic.

We also feature information about Clean California Dump Day, an opportunity to honor veterans, local free Covid vaccine opportunities and more. I hope you and your family have a very happy Thanksgiving. For many families, this year will be quite different, now that vaccines and booster shots are widely available, allowing families to celebrate together. If you are gathering with loved ones this Thanksgiving, I encourage you to ensure everyone who is eligible has received their vaccine and booster shot, and consider gathering outside when possible, and masking where appropriate. While times are still tough, we can be thankful that there is a safe and effective vaccine, which is now approved for everyone five years of age and older. The more of us who are vaccinated, the sooner we will return to our pre-pandemic lives. Tell me what is on your mind. Reach out via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and my email, or call my office at 818-901-5588. Stay safe and be well,



GLENDALE



## DO YOU LIKE WRITING AND TELLING PEOPLE'S STORIES?

Could you benefit from mentorship and networking opportunities while making your college transfer application stand out?

Could you see yourself as GCC's Pulitzer Center Reporting Fellow who gets a paid trip to Washington, DC and an international location of their choice to do on-theground reporting?

Starting with Fall 2021 classes, GCC's inaugural Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium begins. GCC is the only community college in the state of California with this unique opportunity for students.

lobal issues through direct support for qu journalism across all media platforms and a unique program of education and public outreach. Join the inaugural collaboration of the Journalism and History Departments at Glendale Community College that will support students reporting specifically on gender issues

To enroll in this new opportunity, students must enroll in these courses during the same semester:

Ticket #3611 - 3 units Lecture, Fully Online (Not Live) 8-Week Course with Professor Michelle Stonis

**JOURNALISM 103** Ticket #3277 (lecture) & Ticket #3278 (lah) - 3 units

Lecture, Live Online (Remote Synchronous Instruction) Tuesdays 9:10-10:15 am with Dr. Reut Cohen Schorr

Visit bit.ly/3vM4bTK for GCC's informative Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium webpage. Please contact Michelle Stonis at matonis@glendale.edu with questions.

> Co-Directors & Co-Founders Michelle Stonis Dr. Reut Cohen Schorr

Bob Hertzberg

# THE FOOTHILLS PAPER Presents Reach More Readers With Your Business Card Featured Here! • Find Out How at sales@thefoothillspaper.com







Broker Dealer and Investment Counselor

#### James A. Ellis

License #OB03259 Email: Jamie@jkrco.com

Tel (818) 781-7721 Ext 125 | Fax (818) 787-2232

7145 Woodley Ave Van Nuys CA 91406-3932 Registered Representative of, and securities offered through, JKR & Co Inc., Member FINRA, SIPC





- ELECTRONIC LOCATING
- SEWER PIPE REPAIRS
- TRENCHLESS REPAIRS
- STORM DRAINS FREE ESTIMATES
- 818 352-2636



- REAL ESTATE INSPECTIONS
- ADVANTEX & PIRANAS

818 352-2253



## **ASK RUSTY**



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

Dear Rusty: Social Security is deducting \$297 per month for my Medicare Part B coverage. I have what's called a "Windfall Elimination Provision" because I receive a pension from my former State employer. Prior to my 65th Birthday in July of this year, Social Security was paying me \$764 per month, but when I turned 65 they reduced my amount to \$467 per month. I read that the Part B premiums for 2021 are \$148.50, so I wonder why I'm paying double that amount? Could it be that I never enrolled in Medicare Part B and they just automatically started deducting that amount? Some sort of penalty? If so, it seems kind of high. Can you explain why I'm paying so much for Medicare Part B? Signed: Curious About Medicare

Dear Curious: Your Part B premium of \$297/month has nothing to do with the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). WEP affects (reduces) your Social Security retirement benefit amount but doesn't affect your Medicare premium. Your Medicare Part B premium is \$297/month because of a different Medicare rule known as "IRMAA," which is the "Income

## Why Is My Medicare Part **B Premium So High?**

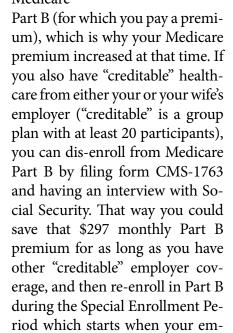
Related Medicare Adjustment Medi-Amount." Here's how IRMAA care works:

Medicare determines your Part B premium amount each year using your combined income (from all sources) from 2 years prior, so your 2021 Part B premium is based upon your 2019 income. The income amount used to set your Part B premium is called your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), which is your normal Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return plus any other non-taxable income you may have had (including half of your SS benefits, non-taxable interest, etc.). If your MAGI is over a certain threshold, your Part B premium is more than the standard \$148.50.

The IRMAA thresholds at which you pay a higher Part B premium depend upon your tax filing status. A married couple filing jointly with MAGI under \$176,001 pays the standard premium (\$148.50 for 2021), and a single tax filer whose MAGI is under \$88,001 also pays the standard Part B premium, but income exceeding those thresholds means a higher Part B premium. How much higher depends upon how much your MAGI exceeds the base amounts above. The Part B IRMAA premium increases on a scale relative to how much your MAGI exceeds the base threshold and, from what you've shared, it appears that your 2019 MAGI resulted in a 2021 Part B premium of \$297/month.

Since you were already collecting Social Security when you turned 65, you were automatically enrolled in

Part A (which is free) a n Medicare



ployer coverage ends (or shortly

before to avoid a gap in healthcare

HADRE

coverage). If you have retired from working and your combined income in 2020 was much lower than in 2019, Social Security will automatically adjust your 2022 Medicare Part B premium as appropriate for your combined income reported to the IRS on your 2020 tax return. If you retired in 2020, you might also wish to submit form SSA-44 (www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-44-ext.pdf) to claim a "life changing event," which may result in a smaller Part B premium for 2021 as well.

### **WERE YOU DENIED HOME** FIRE INSURANCE?

By Alex Nunez

Is your Home still classified as being in a in a high-fire zone?...well, probably if you live in the foothills but...

Many Homes that previously could not qualify for a Homeowners Insurance policy now can. The high-risk fire zone that most of the Foothill homes fall under has prevented a lot of Homeowners from purchasing a complete policy for their home. If you, as a homeowner were previously unable to get Home Insur-

from a preferred company, you might have been directed to get basic

fire coverage from California Fair Plan (CFP). CFP has no theft and very limited water damage coverage and most importantly does not offer liability coverage. Liability Coverage potentially being even more important than Fire Coverage!

As an Agent with Farmers Insurance, I have noticed a big change that can benefit you as a Homeowner.

Farmers Insurance has new GPS Technology that can determine the degree of brush in proximity to any structure. What does this mean? Farmers will not simply deny you coverage because of your zip code like most preferred companies still do. I've talked to many homeowners in the Foothill communities that can't really believe it. Well, believe it. In some cases I have been able to get policies issued on homes way off the beaten path in Angeles Crest. There are still some homes that do not qualify, but more do than don't these days. If you haven't checked with a Farmers Insurance Agent, now is the time to do so.

When it comes to cost, we are fairly priced and can beat the rest. Farmers is more dedicated to providing affordable insurance to Californians than anyone else and is the second largest insurance company in Califor-

I have been an Insurance Agent with Farmers for many years and my father David Nunez has been an agent for

35 years. Our office helps many Homeowners in the Foothills

get Home Insurance. We take pride in helping to protect your biggest asset.

## A SMALL TOWN HERO

Artie Moore is a long time member of our community, his family came from Utah to Van Nuys where Artie was born, and then moved to Sunland-Tujunga. It was a fun place to be and Artie decided to stay. He enjoyed it so much that he had 2 daughters and a son. And let's not forget his sense of humor. Since the year 2000, he has been seen through out the community with his wacky costumes and brightly dyed hair. He was the talk of the town and admired by many for his free spirit. And that's how he met his girlfriend Terry, and the two of them worked together putting smiles on the faces around town. In fact, he became one of the most recognizable people in town being Santa Clause at the Bolton Hall tree lighting ceremonies and the Easter Bunny each year at the Sunland Park Easter Carnival.

He was a "friend to all mankind" when he donned his costume or dyed his beard multiple colors, and when not working for Moore Brothers construction as a roofer, was working with his sister Kathy Anthony who created Halloween costumes for him with all kinds of funny hats and silly costumes. Where ever he went, he brought smiles to people's faces. But there is also a serious side to Artie, he helps organizations fund raise to help the newly homeless and seniors. For over 20 years, he's been the unofficial mascot for Sunland-Tujunga and goes out of his way to cavort around town on Foothill Blvd. showing people how much fun you can have by just being themselves. Silliness as a way of life makes a difference here, and we sure can use more of it.

THANK YOU ARTIE MOORE!





