



Four Drums of Deadly Chemicals Found on The Big-T

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Snake Season Snakes In!

The warmer weather calls for snakes and snakes alike, making encounters with these creatures inevitable. Sunland-Tujunga has many species of snakes, most of which are harmless. The exception is the rattlesnake, a venomous snake - the rattle-snake.

FREE!

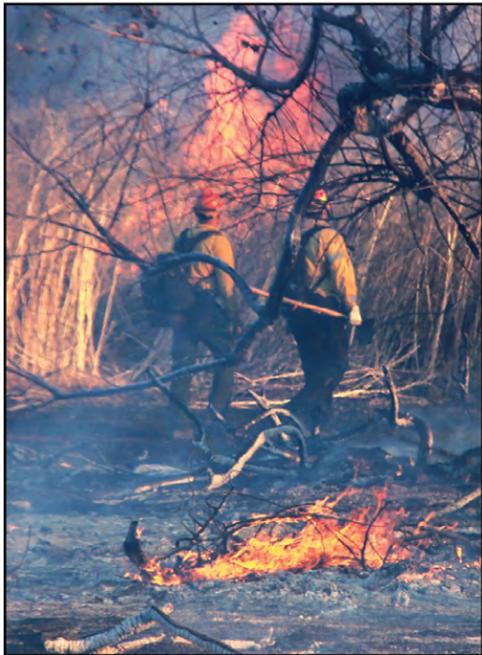
THE FOOTHILLS PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY MAY 20, 2022

SUNLAND STRONG - TUJUNGA TOUGHER!
A tribute to our local businesses that are re-opening.

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 10



Crews remained on scene through the night conducting mop up operations to ensure that no hot spots remained.

Hansen Dam Brush Fire

This was one screwed up fire. It was the third arson/housless fire in five days. When the announcement came out over the Internet at about 8:45 pm, the map coordinates were completely wrong sending firefighters to the wrong side of the dam.

The actual fire was at the south-end spillway with flames rising 50' in the air and embers going over the dam onto the golf course.

After 4 hours firefighters stopped all forward progress of the fire, holding the size to approximately 10 acres with no structures damaged and no injuries reported. Crews remained on scene through the night conducting mop up operations to ensure that no hot spots remained. Ground crews and heavy dozer equipment remained another 48 hours putting out hotspots that erupted into flames.

15 fire engines, 7 helicopters & 7 water tankers were deployed along with firefighters from the US National Parks and LACo. ■

Fire Risks Increase



These houses on Aperson were spared because they had a safe fire zone in place.

By David DeMulle'

The risk of wildfire in Sunland-Tujunga is a reality. Fire officials are particularly concerned about the rain that came just after the brush fires on Lopez Canyon Rd., The fire on Coal Canyon at the Hansen Dam and the arson fires along the 201 freeway. As a result, our "fire season" has begun early, as indicated by the recent brush fires in Malibu and Riverside County, as well as smaller fires in Los Feliz and Beverly Hills. Some firefighters,

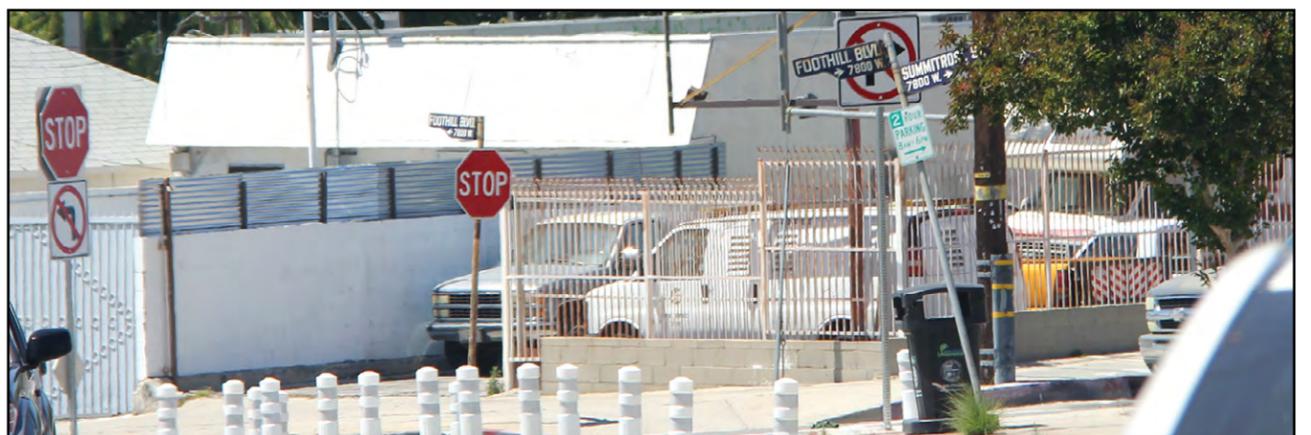
with many years of experience, have noted with concern that the hills are drier than they have ever seen. We can expect that conditions will worsen with the growing heat, low humidity, and dry winds. It's a given, we all must be prepared for the risk of fire. And we can't depend on LAFD Stations 24, 74 and 77 being able to respond quickly enough here in Sunland-Tujunga. Brush Clearance and weed abatement has made a huge difference in firefighters' success in saving lives and property since the Station

Fire. In talking with U.S. Forestry Station members, it was pointed out that the recent rains that posed flood and mudslide problems, also caused a greening of the hills and mountains."

"Weed abatement and brush clearance must be planned," said Dave Ellingsford of Ellingsford brush clearance, "it is important to both remove, or reduce the dense vegetation that has just sprung up almost overnight.

Please see **Fire Risks Increase** on Page 5

BOLLOCKS OR BOLLARDS I ASK!



Well, I guess anything is better than nothing? The city has been replacing the bollards up and down Foothill Blvd. for the past month now. Do they do any good? Do they impede traffic? Do they cause accidents? It all depends on your point of view. If you look at all the run-over bollards here, you'd think that maybe someone was actually going bowling on Foothill Blvd. But in any event, they are an expense that our councilman just condones and kisses up to the SAFE committee that oversees traffic control here.

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Four Drums of Deadly Chemicals Found on The Big-T

By David DeMulle'

Four 55 gallon drums of methylene chloride were found Friday laying on the side of the Big Tujunga Canyon Road, just above mile marker 0.04.

This chemical is extremely dangerous to humans and animals. It was first reported by Raymond Cooke and many calls were placed to MYLA311, The EPA, The US Forestry and the Los Angeles County Sheriffs.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations to prohibit the manufacture (including import), processing, and distribution of methylene chloride in all paint removers for consumer use will go into effect after November 22, 2019. Starting tomorrow, it will be unlawful for any person or retailer to sell or distribute paint removal products containing methylene chloride for consumer use, including e-commerce sales.

"EPA's action keeps paint and coating removers that contain the chemical methylene chloride out of consumers' hands," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "It is against the law to sell or distribute methylene chloride for paint and coating removal in the retail marketplace—a step that will provide important



Toxic Waste with shipment labels removed.

public health protections for consumers."

EPA is encouraging all consumers to stop using methylene chloride products that they may have already purchased for paint and coating removal. EPA is also reminding all retailers that sales of these products to consumers is prohibited by EPA regulations under the authority of section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). To learn more about how to comply

with the regulations, including recordkeeping requirements, please visit: www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/small-entity-compliance-guidance-regulation-methylenechloride EPA WEBSITE

The final regulation on methylene chloride for consumer paint and coating removal use was published on March 27, 2019, and the prohibition related to manufacturing, processing

and distribution of methylene chloride for consumer paint and coating removal use is in now effect. A variety of effective, less harmful substitutes are readily available for paint removal. It is surmised that a company found these drums in their inventory and decided to dump them rather than take them to the Hazardous Waste Center in Sun Valley. Other than bodies found in the canyon, this dump was the most dangerous. ■

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that make
The Paper happen!

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LACo Forestry checks out the territory.

The Very Rev. John da Costa once said:

“I have nothing but amazement at the silence of so many of the political leaders of the world. I have nothing but sadness that our churches have failed so badly to practice what we preach. May God forgive us all, and may he bring all those who died so suddenly and unprepared into the light of His glorious presence... The Silence is Deafening.” And I look at what we are doing, anywhere and now. Our political leaders for the past 60 years have slowly let us down. From President Kennedy denying air support to the Cuban “Returnados” to Trump down-playing and not understating our commitment to the worsening situation in Afghanistan, Iraq and the breakup of the USSR. For all of you out there that have forgotten, WE are the last bastion of the free world. Growing up, our parents,

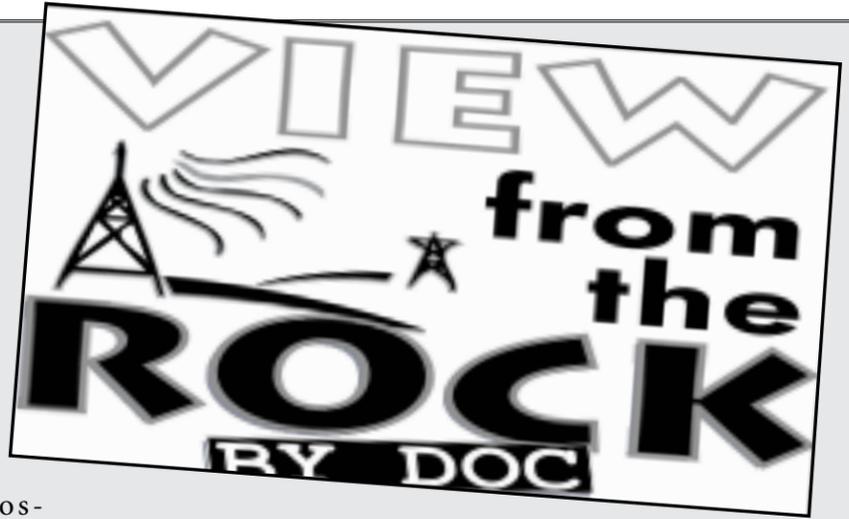
our churches and our government, taught us that the strong help the weak. But it appears to me that if there isn't something in it for our elected leaders, we don't help anyone. And it doesn't matter who is the current Supreme Commander when you're dead or wounded. Ten days from now is Memorial Day, a day of reflecting on those who gave their all to defend the policies of the U.S. Over the past years, our government has taken this solemn day and made it into a three day holiday when all that was necessary was a moment of silence. I am not an “anti-war” advocate or a “peacenik.” I am one who has been there and done that. Without question.

This Memorial Day, I would like all of you to think about what death and dying are about. Not just for our heroes, but for those caught in the quagmire of warfare. Those who were caught up in Vietnam,

Bosnia, Somalia, Darfur, Iraq, Afghanistan and now the Ukraine and those countries that most of you have never heard of.

It is time for us all to look back at what made our country great. It wasn't our great lands, our abundance of foods or our industrial might, it was those warriors who responded to our government's call that made us free. Those souls that without question did our countries bidding. Right or wrong, they did

their duty and died to keep us free. Twice a year, we honor those warriors, those who died, and those who were lucky enough to return. This Memorial Day, as you surround yourselves with friends, food and parties, give just a short moment of silence for those who can't be with us. And please remember for just a moment that “All gave some – Some gave all!” And it has nothing to do with... The Water!■



Snake Season Slithers In!

The warmer weather calls to outdoors enthusiasts and snakes alike, making encounters of the slithering kind inevitable. Sunland-Tujunga has a variety of snakes, most of which are harmless. The exception is California's only native venomous snake - the rattlesnake.

Rattlesnakes can cause serious injury to humans – on rare occasions even death, as was evidenced in May when rattlesnake bite killed a Riverside County man. While generally not aggressive, rattlesnakes strike when threatened or deliberately provoked, but given room they will retreat.

Most snake bites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally touched by someone walking or climbing.

Although scary, the California Poison Control Center notes that rattlesnakes account for only about 800 bites each year with about one to two deaths. Here in Sunland-Tujunga the rattlesnake species we can expect to find include the Western Diamondback, Sidewinder, Speckled rattlesnake, Red Diamond rattlesnake, Southern Pacific, Great Basin rattlesnake and the Mojave rattlesnake.

Just use common sense!

The possibility of finding a rattlesnake shouldn't stop anyone from venturing outdoors, but there are several precautions that can be taken to lessen the chance of being bitten when out in snake country – which is just about anywhere in California.

The Dos & Don'ts When Walk-



LAFD Firefighter removes snake from residence front porch.

ing or Hiking

When hiking, stick to well-used trails. Wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants.

Don't step or put your hand where you can't see.

Avoid wandering around in the dark. Step ON logs and rocks or gathering firewood. Always avoid walking through dense brush or willow thickets.

Be careful when stepping over the doorstep as well.

Snakes like to crawl along the edge of buildings where they are protected on one side.

Is it a Rattlesnake Or Isn't it?

Many a useful and non-threatening snake has suffered a quick death from a frantic human who has mistakenly identified a gopher snake, racer or other as a rattlesnake. This usually happens when a snake assumes an instinctual defensive position used to bluff adversaries. A gopher snake has the added unfortunate trait of imitating a rattlesnake by flattening its head and body, vibrating its tail, hissing and actually striking if approached too closely.■



Patrick is not homeless, he just shares it with the neighbors!

Anyone Know Where Patrick Went?

Lots of years ago, the city of Laguna Beach had a “Greeter” that stayed on Pacific Coast Highway and waved at the on-coming drivers. It went on for years until he got a better paying offer in a different town, but he came back.

“His presence on that corner is Tujunga's version of the Lady Liberty in New York harbor,” says local businessman Mark. “Patrick is the personification of Liberty's torch, a ray of light critical to the fabric of our town's eclectic and evolving story.”

No one will deny that it's been a tough road for the city and Patrick, but somehow, it will seem less so with Patrick back at his familiar helm in front of the North Valley City Hall.■

ELISA AVALOS

CITY COUNCIL 2022

My name is Elisa Avalos.
I want to be your new
councilwoman on June 7

Believe it or not, your councilperson affects your day to day life more than Washington D.C. Issues like land use decisions, public safety, homelessness, adequate police and fire dept. presence, illegal dumping, local infrastructure, zoning, crime, traffic, etc. Our district has been on an unproductive path for 5 years. It is time for a change. Give me the chance, and I will work tirelessly as your public servant to improve our quality of life. I *will* respond to your emails and phone calls! And remember...the City Council works for YOU!

VOTE FOR AVALOS before or on JUNE 7.
Let's fix this together!



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Post 288

Fire Risks Increase
continued from page 1

So, in planning Brush Clearance and Vegetation Management, consideration must be given to both fire and flood risks.” And he continued, “Remember that the same vegetation that must be cut-back for fire prevention also stabilizes the hillside, and is protecting your family and home from mudslides.

Don't just hire someone off the street, hire a professional.” Brush Clearance We are all subject to the special Brush Clearance Requirements for “Very High Fire Severity Zones.”

Brush Clearance inspections usually begin in May. But it is critical to remember that Brush Clearance is a year-round responsibility. We have a duty to each other to maintain our properties in a fire-safe condition. The importance of Brush Clearance vigilance has been well-illustrated during Sayre, Marek and Station fires in the last couple years, where firefighters have reported that many neighborhoods had been spared because of strict compliance with to Brush Clearance Rules.

It's not a game. In a wildfire, your home garden hose won't do any good. Be safe, clear your property now. Vegetation Management as it relates to wildland fire refers to the total or partial removal of high fire hazard grasses,

shrubs, or trees. Brushfire behavior is strongly influenced by the vegetation type, terrain and weather. Castor Bean and Sumac are vegetation that are ready to explode when lit because of the high concentration of oils contained in their leaves. They are not necessary plants in a residential area. Basic Requirements for Brush Clearance within 200 feet of structures:

- Remove all dead materials from live plants, such as needles, leaves, and branches.
- Remove all dead trees, plants, and shrubs, but leave the lowest 3 inches and root structure to help prevent erosion.
- All grass, brush and weeds must be cut to 3 inches or less in height, unless it is well-maintained and irrigated landscaping (single trees, landscape shrubbery or cultivated ground cover, however, may be permitted.)
- Reduce fuel load by pruning the lower 1/3 of native brush, plants, and shrubs.
- Give special consideration to problem trees such as Eucalyptus and Palms. Remove all leaves, limbs, litter and loose bark from the ground and from the trunk of the trees to a height of 20 feet.
- For trees taller than 18 feet, remove lower branches within 6 feet of the ground.
- For trees and shrubs less than 18 feet, remove lower branches to 1/3 of their height. The notice you received from the Fire Department is just a reminder to do what is necessary to protect your home and loved ones. Don't ignore it, be safe. ■



Verdugo Hills Liquor Store

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

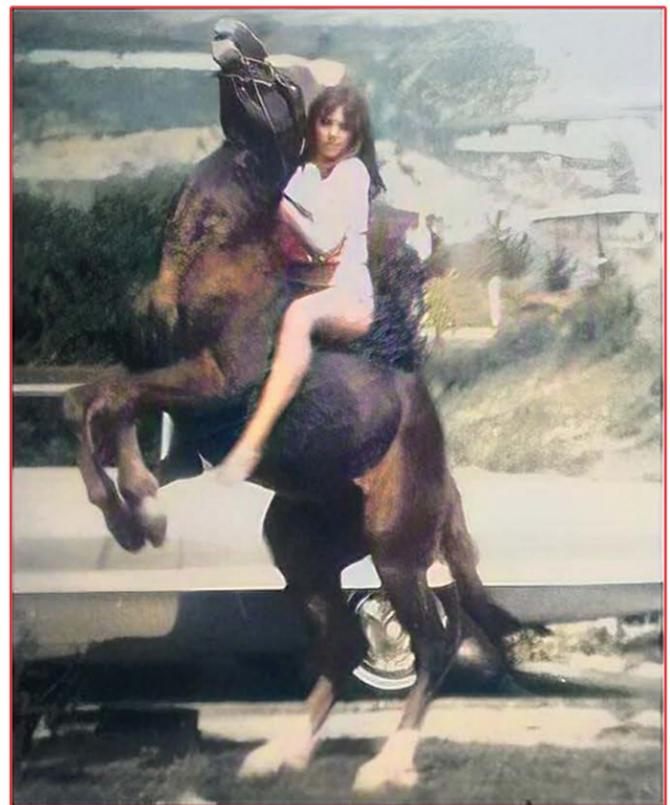
DEAR FAMILY & FRIENDS,

WE HAVE SET A DATE FOR OUR BELOVED DIANE'S SERVICES ABOVE IS ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED. PLEASE CONFIRM IF YOU ARE ABLE TO MAKE IT. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR PRAYERS, LOVE AND SUPPORT.

IN HONOR OF DIANE THE FAMILY IS ASKING EVERYONE TO AVOID WEARING ALL BLACK, WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE EVERYONE IN COLOR.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE DIANE LOVED TO CELEBRATE DIANE'S LIFE AND LEGACY.

PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR THE SERVICES AS THEY WILL START PROMPTLY.



Diane Marie Lopa

JUNE 10, 2022

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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD



CRIME MAPPING

VEHICLE, STOLEN 221608296 10500 BLOCK FLORALITA AV 5/12/2022 @ 9:00 PM	5/8/2022 @ 5:00 PM	THEFT FROM VEHICLE 221608172 8500 BLOCK FENWICK ST 5/5/2022 @ 10:00 PM
VEHICLE, STOLEN 221608325 10500 BLOCK FLORALITA AV 5/12/2022 @ 4:00 PM		ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON 221600644 7400 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL 5/6/2022 @ 11:45 AM
THEFT - PETTY 221608265 10500 BLOCK LEOLANG AV 5/9/2022 @ 1:25 PM		BURGLARY 221608101 8200 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL 4/26/2022 @ 7:55 PM
THEFT FROM VEHICLE 221608233 10200 BLOCK HILLHAVEN AV 5/10/2022 @ 9:00 PM		VEHICLE, STOLEN 221608066 7000 BLOCK ST ESTABAN ST 5/6/2022 @ 2:30 AM
THEFT-GRAND 221608198 11000 BLOCK ELDORA AV 4/30/2022 @ 8:24 PM		VEHICLE, STOLEN 221608069 7000 BLOCK ST ESTABAN ST 5/6/2022 @ 2:30 AM
VEHICLE, STOLEN 221608131 MCVINE & GROVE 5/8/2022 @ 9:00 PM		BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 221608049 10500 BLOCK PINWOOD AV 5/5/2022 @ 9:00 PM
VEHICLE, STOLEN 221608130 10500 BLOCK FLORALITA AV		

Good Samaritan Cleans our Streets Without using City Funds



One of our elected councilwomen has been touting her “Bright Spot” cleaning services for the past 4 months, just in time for the mid-term elections. Using money from the City coffers is what they are supposed to do, but it never quite gets done it’s supposed to. And along comes this young lady (who asked that her name not be used) who when she has some free time, goes up and down Foothill Blvd. picking up trash and debris. No fanfare, now asking for hundreds of dollars in equipment and uniforms, just a local person that got tired of the on-going mess. Good for you young lady, we salute you. ■

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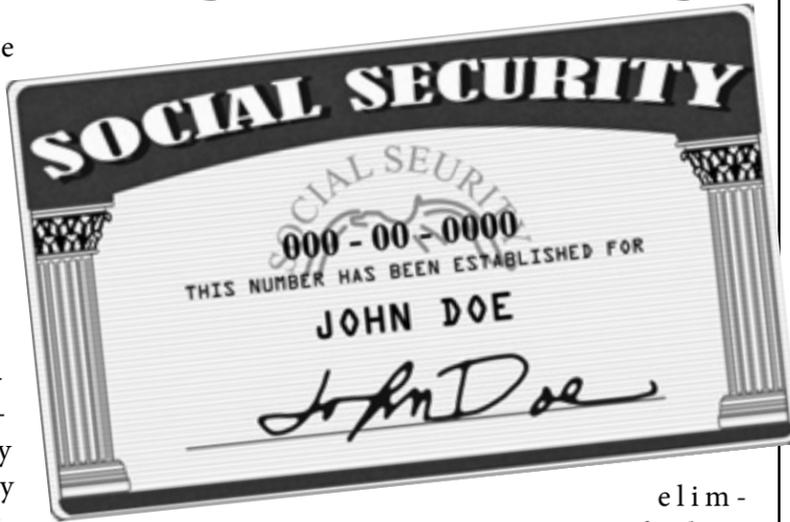
ASK RUSTY

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

Will Paying the IRS Quarterly Increase My Social Security?

ed income taxes to the IRS to avoid a penalty when you file your annual taxes. The primary reason to pay quarterly estimated taxes is to avoid an IRS penalty - paying your taxes quarterly doesn't matter to Social Security because they will use your annual income (regardless of when you pay the IRS) to see if your benefit should be increased. And whether your current income from the church will increase your Social Security benefit depends on your lifetime earnings history of paying into the Social Security program.

The Social Security benefit you're now receiving is based on your lifetime earnings history, specifically the 35 years over your lifetime in which you had the highest earnings (adjusted for inflation). Social Security always uses a 35 year window to compute your benefit amount, choosing the highest earning years from among all your earning years. If you have fewer than a full 35 years of earnings, they will add enough "zero" years to make it 35 to compute your benefit. What that means is that if you have fewer than 35 years of SS-covered earnings, your earnings now from the church will



eliminate one of those "zero" earning years, which would result in a small increase to your Social Security benefit. However, if you already have at least 35 years of SS-covered earnings, then your current earnings will only increase your SS benefit if your recent earnings are more than any of those in the 35 inflation-adjusted years used to compute your age 70 benefit. Social Security will make that determination whether you pay quarterly estimated income taxes to the IRS or not, and they will automatically increase your monthly benefit if your current annual earnings from the church call for it.

How you pay the IRS won't factor into Social Security's determination, but not paying estimated taxes quarterly may affect your total income tax obligation for the tax year, which is what your accountant should be able to tell you. And if your tax return is filed as a self-employed taxpayer, you'll need to pay into Social Security via self-employment taxes, whether you pay the IRS quarterly or not. ■

Laura Salazar Inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Laura Salazar of Tujunga, California, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Salazar was initiated at California State University, Northridge.

Salazar is among approximately 25,000 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.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others." ■



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Crescenta Valley Family YMCA
3931 Lowell Ave., Glendale

Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA
1930 Foothill Blvd., La Cañada Flintridge