



2022 Legislative Successes

I am proud to say that I sent seven bills to the Governor's Desk, and they all were signed! My bill package addressed extreme heat, youth homelessness, and our environment. - SEE PAGE 2



A Job Well Done: William Lloyd Hitt (2022)

"Life is impermanent — but it is better to be with us, with people who may not remember you, than to be forgotten. It will know his impact." - SEE PAGE 2

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2022

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

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 22



Real Reform in LA Begins with Ousting Kevin de León

By JACK HUMPHREVILLE

LA WATCHDOG - The City Council wants nothing to do with Councilman Kevin de León. But the Councilmembers have not been willing to devote their time and resources to lead a recall effort to get rid of him.

On October 17, the City Council voted to strip Kevin de León of any meaningful committee assignments, including his role as chairman of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee and as member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

On October 26, the City Council voted unanimously to censure Kevin de León for his participation in a secret meeting where racially insensitive and divisive statements were made.

And despite calls for him to resign from his fellow Councilmembers and other elected officials, including President Joe Biden, numerous Angelenos, and the media, Kevin de León has refused to do so.

On October 27, five constituents of Council District 14 filled a petition (see below) to recall Kevin de León because he is unfit for office.

Please see **Real Reform in LA Begins with Ousting Kevin de León** on Page 2

Another Chase Gone Wrong!



With over 40 officers (men, women and dogs), he gave up and got a free ride to the copshop.

By David (Doc) DeMulle'

Welllllllllllll it's a given. After watching the hours long chase on TV last night, you just knew that someone here was going to do the same. Enter local resident Brian Wheeler who stole a motorcycle around 3:00 PM, and off he went. First with one cop car behind him, then a second, then a third, all roaring up Foothill Blvd towards Mt. Gleason. Our phone started ringing as people called to report them driving past them in Code 3. Then Brian turned down Rhodesia, made a U-turn and went roaring DOWN Foothill while the cops were trying to turn around. Then, 10 more police cars went roaring up Foothill

Turned left on Wingate, and then up Jayseel. Brian made it back up Jayseel as the cops were roaring down it and made it to VHS. He dumped the bike, got onto the campus and climbed to the roof of a building with everyone yelling and pointing him out.

I want to take a minute to thank the 2 sergeants from Div. 16 that went out of their way to include me in their briefing process and let me stand in on their debriefing. Just another fun day in old S-T.

Unfortunate for him, he was well known on campus and they knew who he was. The campus

police joined the LAPD, the K9 Corps, the LAPD mental health group and 30 other police officers in blocking all roads leading to VHS. Brian escaped the cordon and made it back to Jayseel and Mt. Gleason where he ran through peoples yards ending up in a house for sale on Jayseel where he refused to come out. With over 40 officers (men, women and dogs), he gave up and got a free ride to the copshop.

Our phone started ringing as people called to report them driving past them in Code 3.

And there you have it. It's too cold to go down to the garage so I'm only posting 1 photo. Just another day in the hood. ■

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

2022 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

I am proud to say that I sent seven bills to the Governor's Desk, and they all were signed! My bill package addressed extreme heat, youth homelessness, and our environment. I also worked on legislation that will keep Pacifica Hospital of the Valley open. Below, you will find additional details on key legislation that is of interest to the

39th Assembly District.

ACR 176 – Cruising: This resolution celebrates the rich history and culture of cruising in California. ACR 176 encourages local officials, law enforcement, and local car clubs to work collectively to foster a safe and welcoming car enthusiast environment.

My special thanks to

Adam Medellin, President of the San Fernando Valley Car and Truck Club Council, for the work his organization does for our community and his input on this resolution to de-stigmatize cruising. As a result of ACR 176, San Jose has formally ended its local ordinance against cruising, and the Los Angeles County Board

of Supervisors has called on the sheriff's department and the California Highway Patrol to work with local car clubs and communities to develop safe "cruising" events in Los Angeles County.

AB 2404 – Pacifica Hospital of the Valley Seismic Retrofit Deadline Extension: This district-specific

legislation provides Pacifica Hospital of the Valley an extension to retrofit their hospital. Pacifica Hospital could not meet the deadline due to the high number of patients they served during the pandemic.

Please see **2022 Legislative Successes** on Page 4

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Real Reform in LA Begins with Ousting Kevin de León

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Unfortunately, these five stakeholders do not have the financial resources, the management capabilities, or access to political machine to conduct a full scale signature drive needed to collect 21,000 valid signatures in a district that has a preponderance of apartment dwellers who are hard to reach. Nor do they have the resources to manage a recall vote, especially if Kevin de León mounts a well-financed campaign to oppose the recall.

The members of the City Council, led by City Council President Paul Krekorian, need to put their money where their mouth is and support the recall effort. This includes devoting the time, manpower, political muscle and know how, and financial resources to collect 21,000 valid signatures need to place the recall on the ballot. This will actually require collecting at least 25,000 signatures to compensate for invalid signatures.

They also need to devote the necessary political and financial resources once the recall is placed on the ballot because Kevin de León will fight to defeat the recall.

Of course, a recall might not be nec-

essary if Kevin de León had the decency to resign and save the City millions.

Note: Unlike the State of California, if a recall is successful, the successor must receive a majority of the votes. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the winner will be determined through a special election between the two leading candidates. This will be another significant expense. (See the Recall section of the City Charter below). In a State recall, the winner is determined by who receives the most votes. There is no special election.

Notice of Intent to Recall

We, the undersigned voters of the City of Los Angeles, do hereby petition The Los Angeles City Clerk's Office for redress of our grievances and do hereby request a Recall Election to be held for cause against Kevin de León.

Statement of Reasons

This STATEMENT OF REASONS is to inform KEVIN de LEON that recall proceedings are about to begin. On October 9, 2022, the LA Times leaked an October 2021 conversation among three members of the Los Angeles City Council and a prominent labor leader. Thereafter, the Councilmembers were asked to resign by the City Council. The labor leader has resigned. Nury Martinez has resigned, and Gil Ce-

dillo has been defeated for CD1 and has ceased to attend Council Meetings. Even though the City Council has called for his resignation, and have stripped him of his Committee assignments, Kevin de Leon has refused to resign. He currently cannot represent the stakeholders of Council District 14. Further, he has never bothered to represent the communities in CD14. His refusal to represent the community since he won his special election to replace Jose Huizar, questions as to whether or not he even lived in the District, and his casual indifference to the community are proof that he is unfit for office. The black, indigenous, central American and poor people discussed in this secret meeting in which de Leon participated prove that he is unfit for office. These are many of the stakeholders who live in CD14, if he ever bothered to look.

For these reasons, it is our prayer the election officials will accept this Letter of Intent, and show Kevin de León IS NOT RIGHT FOR CD14.

We hereby declare that all of the facts contained in this Statement of Reasons to recall Kevin de Leon are true.

Pauline Adkins, Caroline Aguirre, Helen Misik, Amy Peters, Marcell T. Broomall.■

A Job Well Done: William Lloyd Hitt (1932-2022)

By KYOKO NANCY ODA

Tuna Canyon board member Ernie Nishii wrote, "Life is impermanent — but his legacy will always be with us, with people who may not remember his name but will know his impact."

Korean War combat veteran Lloyd Hitt promised while fighting on Pork Chop Hill that if he was spared he would work hard for good causes. Fortunately for us, he survived.

After the war, Lloyd graduated from USC with a Pharm.D (Doctor of Pharmacy) in 1959. He then worked at Hober's Pharmacy in Sunland as chief pharmacist and store manager until his retirement in 1995.

Lloyd then noticed that the local historical society and Bolton Hall Museum needed help, so he volunteered. He was successfully involved in many local community affairs as well as a poetry and writing group. In addition, Lloyd was

an influential charter member of the Land Use Committee of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, which originally met at Bolton Hall.

Lloyd became president of the historical society and served in this capacity for over 10 years. During that time he participated in many of its functions and events. He was involved in getting several local historical sites designated as Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments, including the Weatherwolde Castle,

Blarney Castle, and the Stonehurst neighborhood of rock houses in Sun Valley, which became a Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zone.

Starting in 2006 with Paul Tsuneishi and the Japanese American community, Lloyd spent more than 10 years compiling information and advocating for the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site.

Please see **A Job Well Done** on Page 3

OMG boys and girls, we're 18 years old. I sure didn't think we'd live this long, but in spite of everyone, we're still here. We've watched the Sentinel, the Voice, The Foothills Star, the North Valley Reporter and The Record fold and enter the realm of the dead.

I guess you could say that they are La Prensa de las Muertas. LOL Do you know how many editions of The Paper are in our archives along with over 70,000 photographs of happenings in our little burb. Yes boys and girls, for an all-volunteer newspaper, we've done something amazing. We fought the Home Depot menace, we fought and still fight the Tatulian Cartel, we fought the liars, cheaters and down-right thieves of the Verdugo's. We fought stupidity and culpability, and of course, we've fought the horrible traffic we have here.

What was a total disappointment to us (God & Me) is that no one here really cares about what's going on here. The city screws us, our elected officials screw us, and our citizens screw each other... No I'm not talking about the church minister that was led astray by a barkeep. (No, it wasn't the water) Somewhere we lost sight of what a community is all about.

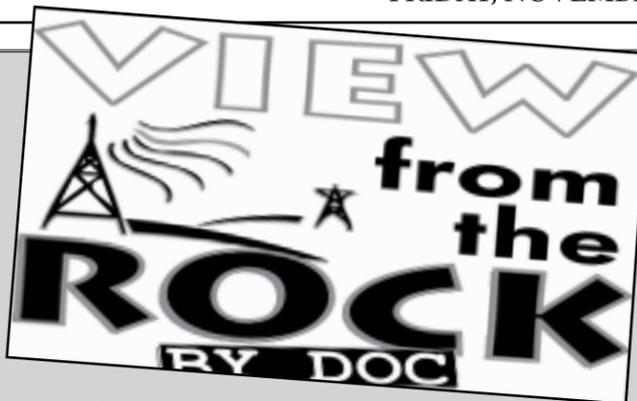
Look around you. How many of your churches are now leased to the Asians? What happened to community members going to church to find a moment of peace

in the rat race we are living? Now they find themselves in our local bars and of course, some end up killing themselves after leaving - and no one is held accountable.

Accountable. Yup, that is the word I was looking for. Look around you at those cars with paper plates doing crazy things because they won't be held accountable. The daily criminal activity stats come across my desk and they have no concept of reality. Rape is called "assault" because it less paperwork for the police.

Robbery is reduced to burglary because it is easier to categorize. Then there is the incredible carnage on our streets with its own version of what is a fatality. Did you know that if a hit & run driver gets away and comes back the next day or when they are sober, the sentence is less than them staying at the scene, drunk?

Well, boys and girls, this has been - to quote David Frost- "The Years That Were!" Even I couldn't begin to figure out what was happening in our little vortex without a play-sheet. Our esteemed councilwoman, M-Rod and Lloyd Hitt,



m a d e

a presentation of three plaques at the intersection of Honolulu and La Tuna Canyon Road commemorating the Tuna Canyon Detention Camp that was set up to process Japanese, German and Italians during the Second World War.

There were a lot of dignitaries there to talk about what it meant to them and their families. What no one spoke of was how the Snowball Project screwed the community out of a "real" memorial to this infamous site.

So what did we get? How about a metal plaque on a light standard 30 feet above the sidewalk. I guess if they can't see it they can't steal it - right?

Oh, well, I guess that's what it all boils down to. We no longer live in our own little community. We live in a concentration camp of our own making surrounded by mental derelicts and druggers who will steal the fillings out of your teeth if you give them a chance.

Solving the homeless problem isn't rocket science. But it is POLITICS. Both involve our local neighborhood council members and our local service organizations. I cannot remember ever being in a place with so many self-righteous, pompous people who would sell their first-born for a certificate of appreciation. Not good. Amongst themselves, they have a self-perpetuating circle-jerk where they tell themselves how wonderful and tight-knit our community is.

Yup, we even have the lowest-class Rotary Club in existence. They can't even afford their yearly dues. And when it comes to holding the annual 4th of July parade, they become a self-righteous chamber pot of contention as to who will be allowed in their parade. Before the Pandemic, they even went so far as to ban entries from The Foothills Paper and the Crow's Nest. It was only after threats of CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS were launched that they recanted.

No big deal, but when Lions Club member Bren "Boo" Douglas claimed that she had been sexually assaulted and was not going to be in that year's

parade, you could hear the laughter all the way to Mt. Gleason. There used to be something called the 4-Way Test that the real Rotarians believed in.

1. IS IT THE TRUTH? Well they sure failed on that one.

2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED? Not since past president Mike Lucas drove all the real people out of the club.

3. WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL? Not one single equestrian or marching band group will set foot on the parade route for fear of being attacked with water balloons.

4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED? If you're not a member of their clique or a woman member with an axe to grind, you fail at that one too. So what is left? How about the Chamber of Commerce that just rescued the 4th of July Fireworks event from the Machine-driven Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills Community Fund? That same fund that Sonia Tatulian set up as her own personal money laundering fund?

The same one that the Cleghorn machine still runs? Yup, that's the one. You have to ask yourself, "How can so few, ruin so much, for so many?"

This is Sunland-Tujunga and it's really easy when you know that you can get away with it. There is no accountability here.

And accountability is what it is all about. You can't discipline your kids because they will call protective services. You can't fight an attacker because the judge will say "you could have run away." The Ex-POTUS said it's OK to attack journalists or if you keep someone from screaming, it's not rape. Our Christian morals have gone to shit. We can't help the homeless because most are mental cases and we have destroyed the mental health centers. Yes boys and girls, no one is held accountable as they steal your lives away from you and your children. I was talking to a reader about the Civil War. I asked what they thought about the Southern Generals statues being torn down.

She looked at me with incredibility and said "You mean the TRAITORS?" Woof, I never thought of it that way. The Confederacy was a group of rogue states that were defying the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and wanted to keep slaves. It doesn't matter how you look at it, there will always be dissidents to argue against the American way of life. And yes, it really is: THE WATER! ■

A Job Well Done

continued from page 2

A critical contact was made with David Scott, grandson of Tuna Canyon's Officer-in-Charge Merrill H. Scott, who had numerous rare photos of this detention station. These photos became an integral part of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition's traveling exhibit.

Lloyd personally guided people through this exhibit when it was at Bolton Hall in the summer of 2016. He also participated in the 2017 Manzanar Pilgrimage.

Lloyd once said, "Of the many community projects I have championed over the years, to be involved with the Tuna Canyon exhibit, 'Only the Oaks Remain,' has been the most important project for me as it relates to the past, present, and the future. The exhibit represents years of preparation by people of a wide range of talents, races, and ethnicities with a goal to determine what happened at the WWII Tuna Canyon camp and more important to educate and remind the



Lloyd as a soldier in the Korean War.

American public that this must never happen again.

"The timing is perfect with the world in its current state as people are divided over race and religion. The exhibit reminds us how a few racists coming together can spread fear that affects the outcome of how a nation responds to war in a time of crisis and fear. The tribal barriers have to come down for lasting peace."

Lloyd wanted to protect the Tuna Canyon Detention Station (TCDS) from disappearing into

obscurity. Despite a lukewarm response to his initial outreach efforts, he worked with Los Angeles city committees and officials to obtain official recognition for the Tuna Canyon site. Eventually he and a broad coalition of local and Japanese American activists supported then-Councilman Richard Alarcon and the Los Angeles City Council, who voted to preserve one acre with oak trees of the Tuna Canyon site as Historic-Cultural Monument No. 1039.

As Tuna Canyon board member Dr. Russell Endo said, "One of our guiding lights and sources of inspiration has passed."

Tuna Canyon will remind us that civil rights are only as strong as those who have fought to protect them. The Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants and hostages from Latin America who passed through Tuna Canyon in violation of their rights cannot be ignored any longer.

A service for Lloyd will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m., at the New Hope Church, 10438 Oro Vista, Sunland. There will be a reception and "sharing" afterward. ■

2022 Legislative Successes
continued from page 2

AB 2404 also ensures that low-income residents who utilize medical care will continue to have a place to receive healthcare services.

My special thanks to Precious Mayes, CEO of Pacifica Hospital of the Valley, for her passion and efforts to make this bill become law so that our community can continue to access healthcare!

AB 2375 – Identifying Homeless Youth: This bill requires all local education agencies to administer a housing questionnaire for the 2022-2023 school year to identify homeless youth and connect them to support services regardless of receiving American Rescue Plan funding.

AB 2238 – Advance Warning and Ranking System for Extreme Heat Waves: This bill initiates the development of an extreme heat ranking and advanced warning system. AB 2238 directs the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to work with the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) at the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR), California Department of Public Health (DPH), and the California Department of Insurance (DOI) to create and implement a statewide extreme heat ranking system based on climate and health impact information. This bill empowers local governments in their efforts to prepare for extreme heat waves.

AB 2229 – Non-Citizen Language

Clean-up: This is a technical clean-up urgency measure that reenacts the bias requirement training in Government Code Section 1031 that was unintentionally eliminated through legislation enacted last year.

AB 1894 – Cannabis Vape Marketing for Proper Disposal Act: This bill prohibits the advertisement and marketing of cannabis vaporizers from indicating that these devices are disposable, thrown in the trash, or recycling streams.

AB 1868 – Long Term English Learners: This bill reports and separates achievement and growth data of English learner students into different categories to ensure assistance and services are tailored to their specific needs. These new categories include long-term English learners, current English learners, and reclassified fluent English proficient students. These classifications allow California to better serve English learner students with the highest needs.

AB 1832 – California Seabed Mining Prevention Act: This bill prohibits seabed mining in state marine waters due to the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption it poses to our marine ecosystem and the state’s coastal communities. AB 1832 proactively safeguards more than 2,500 square miles of the seafloor and connected habitat, which, in turn, protects our state’s ocean recreation, tourism, and fishing industries, valued at more than \$27 billion annually.



Palmdale to Burbank Project Section
Public Comment Period Extension
December 1, 2022

THE PALMDALE TO BURBANK PROJECT SECTION DRAFT EIR/EIS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD WILL NOW END ON DECEMBER 1, 2022.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) recently released the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for the Palmdale to Burbank (P-B) Project Section. The Draft EIR/EIS is available for public review and comment at www.hsr.ca.gov. **The Authority has extended the comment period an additional 30 days, which began on September 2, 2022 and will close on December 1, 2022.**

You can submit comment in the following ways:

- By mail to Attn: "Palmdale to Burbank Draft EIR/EIS Comment", 355 S Grand Ave, Suite 2050, Los Angeles, CA 90071
- Through the Authority's website: www.hsr.ca.gov
- Via email to Palmdale_Burbank@hsr.ca.gov with the subject line "Palmdale to Burbank Draft EIR/EIS Comment"
- Verbal comment on the direct phone line for the Palmdale to Burbank Project Section at (800) 630-1039
- Oral testimony at the past online Public Hearing held on October 18, 2022, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The comment period for this Draft EIR/EIS began September 2 and now ends December 1, 2022. **Comments must be received electronically or postmarked on or before 5:00 p.m. PST December 1, 2022.** The Authority will prepare a Final EIR/EIS, which will include responses to all comments received.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT EIR/EIS

Visit the Authority's website (www.hsr.ca.gov) to view and download the Draft EIR/EIS.

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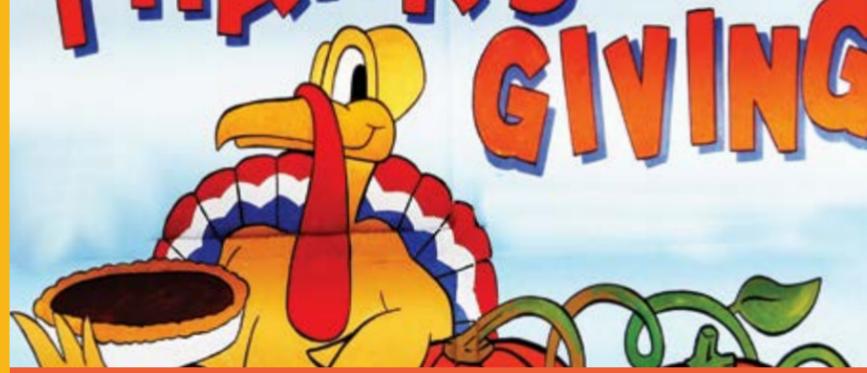
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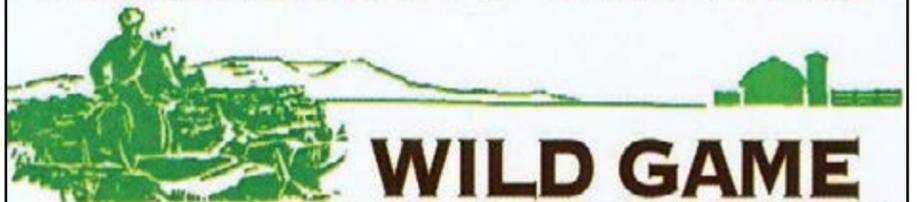
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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

The LA Crime Picture is Not Pretty

By DENNIS P. ZINE

RantZ and RaveZ - As the months pass and we approach the end of 2022, the Los Angeles City crime picture continues to claim more victims as reflected by the October 29th LAPD crime statistics.

Note that when crime victims fail to report an incident to the police and fail to complete a crime report actual crime statistic numbers are not accurate. I urge everyone who becomes a crime victim to report the incident to the police and complete a crime report and obtain a "DR" number. Many crime reports can be completed on-line without going to a police station. The reports are used along with various other factors to determine the number of police personnel assigned to the 21 community patrol and special divisions located throughout Los Angeles.

The October 29th LAPD Citywide COMPSTAT Profile lists the current crime trends as we approach the end of 2022. The murder rate continues to increase along with many other crime categories.

2020 vs 2022 LAPD Crime Statistics

--Homicide is up +14.6% with 329 victims.

--Robbery is up +16% with 7,716 victims.

--Aggravated Assaults are up 10.7% with 17,010 victims.

--Burglary is up +5.1% with 11,961 victims.

--GTA is up +23% with 21,745 stolen vehicles.

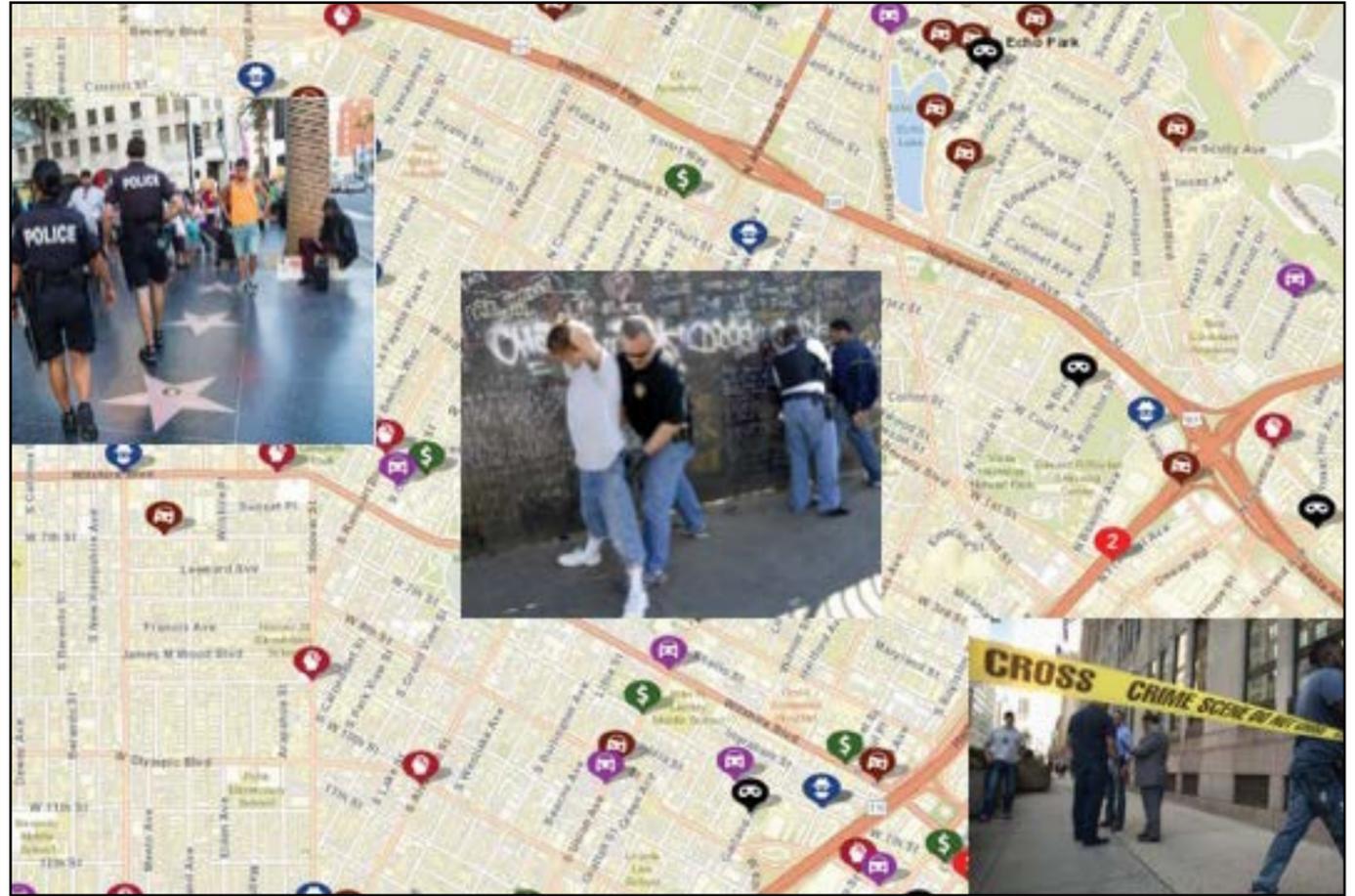
--Shots Fired is up +17.9% with 2,689 reports.

--Shooting Victims are up +12% with 1156 victims.

--All arrests are down -10.0%.

Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl FINALLY found some time with nearly 8 years in office to visit the San Fernando Valley to dedicate the Multi-Million Dollar Los Angeles River Headwaters Pavilion in Canoga Park as she prepares to retire from office in a few days.

It was an overcast day in Canoga Park when 8 - year L.A. County Board of Supervisor member Sheila Kuehl must have finally found the map to get to the San Fernando Valley and Canoga Park. The Supervisor joined a small group of people who gathered and joined in the ground-breaking dedication of the Los Angeles River Headwaters



Pavilion designed by famed architect Frank Gehry. The Pavilion is scheduled to be constructed along Bassett Street near Canoga Avenue adjacent to the 51-mile Los Angeles River. As I approached the location of the dedication, I noticed county crews blocking the street hard at work cleaning up the piles of trash and clutter associated with the homeless camp located along Bassett Street and adjacent to the L.A. River. There were a number of trash trucks, hazardous material crews and a large team of L.A. County Personnel trying to spruce up the area that has become one more trash filled homeless encampment in the San Fernando Valley.

The Multi-Million-dollar project will bring the following amenities to the area: Bathrooms, Shade Canopy, Drinking Fountain, Bicycle Racks, Benches, Lighting and Signage.

Once the city finally addresses the homeless encampments in the neighborhood along Bassett Street, the Los Angeles River Headwaters Pavilion might be a nice place to visit with your family and friends.

God Bless America and the Land of the Free

It all began with the Saugus High School Football Team flying a black

and white flag with a Blue Stripe as the team ran onto the field. The flag was intended to show support of Law Enforcement and has become very popular with law enforcement personnel and those supporters of law enforcement across America. The Saugus High Team wanted to show their appreciation for law enforcement officers who responded to a school shooting at Saugus High in 2019. There were three students killed and two wounded in the attack.

There is currently a controversy by some community members who don't support law enforcement personnel being recognized with the Blue Stripe that adorns the special Flag.

I can say as a current member of law enforcement with over 54 years of service to the people of Los Angeles that I support the Blue Stripe and appreciate the efforts of those that respect and recognize the dedication of law enforcement personnel who have come under attacks from segments of American society in recent years. Law enforcement leaders have turned to body cameras and other electronic devices to support officers who attempt to "Protect and Serve" all people in America. All people includes all genders, races,

religion and lifestyles.

I recently met with Mr. Joe Messina who is the Hart school board president who fully supports the law enforcement appreciation flag. Joe stated that he believes it is a slap in the face of those who came running toward danger at Saugus High School.

The situation is not resolved since members of the community continue to support and oppose the flying of the flag at football games.

The Hart district Superintendent Mike Kuhlman has directed that the Saugus High School football team can no longer use the Blue Line flag at pregame ceremonies. This matter is not over yet.

This situation reminds me of the 2019 controversy surrounding the Betsy Ross flag. Nike announced that it was going to release an athletic shoe featuring the Betsy Ross flag. At that time, football quarterback Colin Rand Kaepernick, then the Nike spokesperson, objected condemning the flag as a symbol of racism and slavery. The shoe production was halted at that time.

The situation with the Blue Line in the flag and the Betsy Ross flag have something in common that undermines patriotism essential to preserving liberty.

(Dennis P. Zine is a former and retired LAPD Supervisor, former and retired 12-year Los Angeles City Councilman and current General Manager at Bell Canyon in Ventura County).■

Note that when crime victims fail to report an incident to the police and fail to complete a crime report actual crime statistic numbers are not accurate.

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ASK RUSTY



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

How Do I Avoid Pitfalls and Get Maximum Social Security?

maximum benefit was attained. Doing so will start your benefits at the maximum amount you are entitled to at this time, and you can rest assured that SS will further increase your benefit annually if your current earnings call for it.



After your benefits start, the key to whether your benefit will increase depends on how your more recent earnings compare to the earnings originally used to compute your benefit when you claimed. Your benefit is based on the highest-earning 35 years over your lifetime, and for your current earnings to cause an increase they would need to be higher than one of those 35 years originally used. Be aware, however, that your earnings in past years were adjusted for inflation to compute your benefit, so your current earnings would need to be more than the inflation-adjusted previous earnings to cause a benefit increase. As an example, the inflated value of \$50,000 earned in 1990 is about \$105,000 in today's dollars, and it is the indexed amount that must be exceeded to cause a benefit increase. In any case, if your current earnings exceed the indexed amount in any of the 35 years used to compute

your benefit when you claimed, your benefit will be increased accordingly.

So, how do you start the process and avoid any pitfalls? You should apply for your benefits now and request benefits retroactive to the month you turned 70. Social Security will pay up to six months of retroactive benefits, so the pitfall is that waiting beyond six months past age 70 will result in lost money. If you like, they will pay you for a full six months retroactively now, but if that is earlier than the month you turned 70, doing so would result in payment less than your age 70 amount. To maximize, ask that your benefit-start-month be June 2022 and no earlier.

You can apply for your benefits by calling Social Security (1.800.772.1213) and scheduling an appointment to do so, or you can apply for your benefits online at www.ssa.gov/retire. Applying online is by far the most efficient method, but you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" online account, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

The Department of Public Works Will Host Its First Ever Department Wide Career Fair

The City of Los Angeles currently has many position vacancies, so the Department of Public Works is partnering with the Personnel Department to hold its first department-wide career fair to help fill some of those positions throughout the city.

Individuals that attend will learn about the various careers in Public Works, how to apply, gain insight information on City employment opportunities, and have the opportunity to interview for conditional employment.

"Our hope here at the Department of Public Works is that we recruit potential candidates excited to join us at the City of Los Angeles. A job with the City not only offers great benefits and growth opportunities but also offers people the opportunity to provide services that improve the quality of life for Angelenos in their own community and beyond," said Aura Garcia, President of the Board of Public Works. "We are committed to continuing to diversify our workforce, with representation from all communities, and that starts with critical recruitment events like this one."

There will be information on how individuals can start their careers in the following classifications:

- Accountant
- Applications Programmer
- Cement Finisher
- Cement Finisher Helper
- Construction Inspector
- Electrical Inspector Environmental Compliance Inspector
- Environmental Engineering Associate Laboratory Technician
- Maintenance & Construction Helper
- Mechanical Helper



Rosie is the woman on the left side who is a mentee and Elyssa is on the right who is her mentor.

L.A.-Area School Network and Graduate Program Partnership Creates Innovative Teacher Pipeline

Edited by David "Doc" DeMulle'

As school districts struggle with teacher shortages, some schools are finding innovative and incentivized ways to address the challenge and create their own teacher pipeline. Bright Star Schools, an L.A.-area tuition-free charter public school network serving high-need communities across Los Angeles including South Los Angeles, Koreatown and the northeast San Fernando Valley, and Alder Graduate School of Education recently launched a teacher residency program offering instructional assistants an opportunity to earn a master's degree and teaching credential in one year.

Interested individuals must complete a bachelor's degree by the end of July 2023 and show proof of eligibility to work in the United States under DACA, a permanent residency, or U.S. citizenship. Applications are due February 3, 2023. The Bright Star Schools' Alder Teacher Residency, with an emphasis on social justice and equity, is open to all instructional assistants interested in pursuing a career in teaching.

"We are thrilled to offer a Bright Star Schools' Alder Teacher Residency to boost career development for

our instructional assistants," said Hrag Hamalian, executive director at Bright Star Schools. "We're aiming for residents with a focus on middle and high school in the critical and high-need specialized areas of special education, science, and math. The residency is an innovative and affordable way to become a teacher with Bright Star Schools," added Hamalian.

The residency is offered at an affordable

federal grants, financial and academic support.

"This year, we have two excellent Alder residents at Valor Academy Elementary School whose commitment to students and families was established at the launch of their residency," said Laura Hayes, director of the Alder WIDE Teacher Residency. "Both began at VAES as instructional assistants, so the strong relationships each built

Mentor teachers receive a \$3,000 stipend, as well as coaching training and support from Alder through monthly seminar and co-observation cycles with a director.

cost of \$20,000. In a one-of-a-kind program, to help pay for tuition while attending school, Bright Star Schools offers residents a full-time \$30,240 annual salary plus vision, dental and health benefits, as well as a sign-on bonus if they choose to stay with the network beyond completion of their master's degree. Once the residency is completed, graduates are given priority hiring at Bright Star Schools and offered a starting base salary of \$61,276.00 plus health benefits, for the 2023-2024 school year. Teacher residents also have access to state and

with mentors helped them start the year strong. I am excited for future residents to join Alder/Bright Star Schools," added Hayes.

Once accepted into the program, residents apprentice four days a week with an experienced mentor teacher at a Bright Star school who supports their learning on a one-on-one basis providing observation, dialogue, and ongoing guidance. In addition, through a gradual release model, residents slowly take on lead teaching responsibilities throughout the year, including a once-per-month "takeover

day" while their mentor is at a seminar. "I've enjoyed working in a classroom setting as an instructional aide, but now want to take my career to the next level and become a teacher," said Rosie Somoundjian, a second-grade teacher in residence at Valor Academy Elementary School. "I appreciate the paid position that allows me to teach, learn, and earn a teaching credential and master's degree at the same time. Alder and Bright Star Schools make sure that residents are supported and have everything we need to be successful, including offering great hands-on experience," she added.

Mentor teachers receive a \$3,000 stipend, as well as coaching training and support from Alder through monthly seminar and co-observation cycles with a director. "Mentors and mentees explore different ways of co-teaching to help prepare mentees to teach on their own," said Elyssa Arroyo, a teacher at Valor Academy Elementary School and mentor to Rosie Somoundjian. "As a veteran teacher, I too have enjoyed working with and learning from other mentors across the Los Angeles area as we advance our practice and craft."

For more information about the Bright Star Schools' Alder Teacher Residency, and for interviews, contact Evelyn G. Alemán at (818) 943-2481 or via email at evelyn@mipr.net.

A Quiet Thanksgiving...

We had an intimate Thanksgiving for the TFP crew and family members. Thanksgiving is one of the most fun holidays because no one expects you to do anything but sit down and eat. That's why

I really enjoy it. I hope that all of you had a quiet Thanksgiving with your family and friends, and had enough room in your fridge for the leftovers. Next holiday is Christmas and Boxing Day. Enjoy. ■



Our Thanksgiving dinner table.