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THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY JANUARY 27, 2023

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

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 26

The Rains Came, But The Drought Remains



Some people speed through street puddles just to see the water shoot up, which is not safe driving.

The rains came and the rains went. I really thought (hoped) that winter had finally arrived in Tujunga. Although we've had more than enough rain this year, the drought is still present. Driving up and down Oro Vista to the Big-T, the backed up rainwater was evident but not the torrents of flood that we've had in the past.

The lack of water in the Big-T wash during and after the rains was unexplainable. Although the weather station here in Tujunga showed two inches of water dropping on Foothill Blvd., there was no apparent danger from the water. Just the drivers that seem to go crazy as soon as their windshield wipers start.

Traditionally, our rainy season begins to increase in January and February, and this year we had about two inches of rain in December — just enough to cause 23 accidents and

carry the trash from the homeless camps down to Sunland.

A large amount of our water comes from groundwater that flows down to the water table and fills the aquifers for the city.

One thing the rains did was to help the parched trees that have been dying off from lack of water. But the rains haven't done enough to compensate for the drought. With any luck, we will pick up the additional five inches that we're short by the end of February. Snow has been falling in northern California and the resulting moisture should begin filling our depleted reservoirs.

In talking with S-T residents, nearly everyone is doing something to reduce their water usage: low-flow shower heads, toilets and restricted yard watering are helping. We'll see what the coming months bring. ■



Proud Owner Gor welcomes guests.



TFP staffer Joan enjoys a quiet moment.



Cozy insides.

A new experience for cigar smokers opens in Sunland

Reminiscent of a 1920s speakeasy, Smokeland Cigar Lounge embodies an allure to both male and female cigar aficionados all its own. Owners Gor & Astghik created their smoke lounge from their desire to marry classic excellence with the new age sophistication of indulgence in one of the most premier past times. Gor boasts a welcoming experience for the cigar connoisseur and novice alike. You can relax in the exquisite leather chairs surrounded by lush dark wood paneling.

Here in Sunland is the only quality centric cigar selection housed in their custom built state of the art humidor. Containing over 150 types of cigars,

there is something for everyone. For the American cigar smoker, the cigar lounge appears to be the future of indoor cigar smoking. As work spaces, restaurants, bars and in some cases even city parks, beaches and sidewalks have become off-limits to the cigar smoker, the local cigar shop is becoming more and more like the age-old smoking clubs. Here is a place so different in Sunland, that only the real cigar aficionado dare enter.

But once inside, you have found the warmth of likeminded individuals who search for only the best smoking experience. The Smokeland Cigar Lounge is located at 8352 Foothill Blvd, Sunland, California. ■

WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS LUMINARIO BALLET OF LOS ANGELES

Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles makes its Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts debut, bringing its signature fusion of ballet, modern dance, acrobatics, and aerial movement to the Bram Goldsmith Theater

with a gravity-defying program entitled, "Heroes, Sheroes, and Eros," on Friday, February 17, and Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 7:30 pm.

Founded in 2009 by Judith FLEX Helle and the Charles Evans Foundation NY, Luminario has

toured globally and also performed locally commissioned work with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Walt Disney Concert Hall and across numerous mediums, such as music videos, television, film, virtual reality, and,

soon, NFTs. A post-performance talk-back with members of the company will be held on February 17.

Please see **Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles**

on Page 6



Photo by Emerson Chen.

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

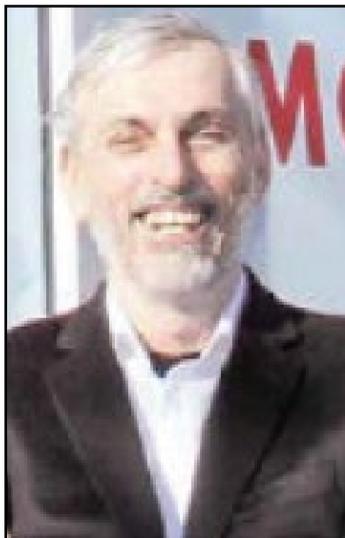
News From Your Clinic

BY SAM SAMALIN, PA-C

Flu Season is here: Starting now and for the next month, chances are highest your cold symptoms will turn out to be flu. And many of you are at the clinic, with that painful cough for a week. There's not much to be done once you al-

ready have it. Many want antibiotics, but they don't help unless you have come down with pneumonia which flu can cause especially among the elderly, children, diabetics or COPD patients and for them flu can be life-threatening.

There are two ways to prevent the pain and sickness of it for the next six weeks. One is to come to the clinic as soon as you are catching something like a cold; you may just have a sore throat and feel tired. There is flu medicine but it only works the first two days you have the illness. Taken early, it can lessen the worst of the complications and pain. But there is no substitute for a flu shot. And no—you cannot get the flu from a flu shot, no matter how many rumors you hear. Even now, getting a shot at the clinic is still the best way to protect yourself and everyone



Dr. Sam.

around you who may not be able to survive flu if you give it to them. So I hope you come to the clinic for a flu shot before flu gives you a painful cough and you are so exhausted that you come to the clinic for an antibiotic. At that point, it probably won't help you, and it won't save the vulnerable people around you although it may lessen the effects. ■



I was out walking the rails when I came across this coyote looking for a meal in the rain.

COYOTE AWARENESS

By David "Doc" DeMulle

Coyotes are incredibly intelligent and highly adaptable, they have learned very quickly that our neighborhoods are good hunting grounds. Keep your pets safe with these tips.

DO:

Be careful. Don't let a lack of sightings fool you—coyotes are extremely common in Encinitas and surrounding areas such as Olivenhain, San Elijo Hills and Rancho Santa Fe, even

in urban areas. Please be cautious with your pets at all times. Keep in mind that coyotes can attack any pet, but cats and small dogs are most at risk.

- Check your fencing. Coyotes can easily leap over and dig below fences. Make sure your fence is at least six feet tall and extends at least one foot underground.

Please see **Coyote awareness** on Page 3

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Free Income Tax Preparation

Beginning February 3, and continuing through April 15, residents can receive free income tax preparation from AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, a tax-exempt charity of AARP. Membership in AARP is not required.

Free income tax preparation will be provided on Wednesdays and Fridays at La Crescenta County Library, 2809 Foothill Boulevard

(corner of La Crescenta Avenue). Enter from the upper level parking lot.

The hours are Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Taxpayers will be helped on a "first-come, first-served" basis; advanced reservations are not available.

The mission of AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is to provide high quality free income tax assistance and tax form preparation to

low- and moderate-income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. As a practical matter, however, very few taxpayers are turned away if their return is within the scope of services established by AARP Foundation.

Taxpayers should bring with them:

- Last year's tax returns
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse (if filing a joint return) and all eligible dependents.
- Picture identification for you and your spouse (if filing a joint return) issued by a government agency.
- Income related documents: SSA 1099, 1099R, W2, Unemployment Compensation statements, and other 1099 forms showing interest, dividends, and other income.
- If you purchased health insurance ("Obamacare") in 2015 through Covered

CA, you will receive a new tax form – Form 1095-A – which provides information required for your tax return. This form will show your eligibility for coverage as well as help determine your entitlement to a new Premium Tax Credit. It should be mailed to you by January 31, 2023.

- You will not receive Form 1095-A if you did not purchase health insurance through Covered CA, or you were enrolled in Medicare, or you were covered by an employer-sponsored health care plan, including retirees.

- Expense related documents: forms showing federal and state income taxes paid, 1098 forms, summaries of medical, dental, prescription drug expenses, contributions to charities, vehicle tax statements, property taxes and home mortgage interest, and any business expenses. Receipts

for expenses need to be in reasonable order and legible.

- Brokerage statements or other documentation showing the cost basis (purchase price) and date purchased for all securities or property sold or transferred during the tax year.

- A blank check with your name printed on it, if you want direct deposit or debit for any refund or balance due.

- If you received a pension or annuity from a former employer, please bring the date you began receiving these payments.

You can find other AARP Foundation Tax-Aide locations in the area at www.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTax-AideLocations.action.

Owing to the library's annual book sale, taxes will not be prepared on April 6 and 8. ■

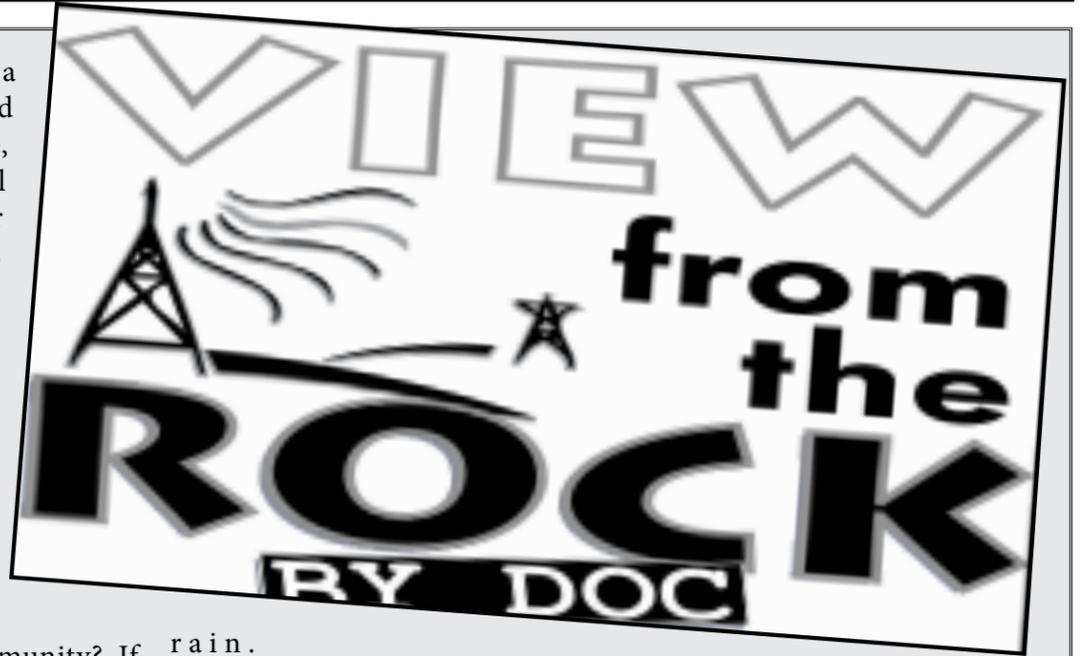
Do you ever get the feeling that something isn't right but you can't put your finger on it? I've been having those feelings for the last 2 months and it's starting to worry me. Here in the land of the "Not Quite Rights," nothing is ever the way it should be.... But not quite wrong.

We have two sides of a coin when it comes to reporting crime stats here. The cops and the real facts. I've been publishing the "Crime Stats" for 24 issues now, not to rub it in anyone's face, but to show my readers the areas and types crimes that are really being committed here.

You may have noticed, I stopped posting the Wrecks Of The Week section. Although I received a commendation from the LAFD (and a LAFD hat), it just pissed off the scofflaws and their friends in low places. This week's edition is a compilation of short and long stories that I covered the best I could. For those that I couldn't personally cover, I was lucky enough to have a dedicated team of volunteers keeping the news stories moving and the paper delivered.

We still have a Neighborhood Council in exile, the Tatulian Cartel is promoting their own "Business Association" under the guise of it being the real chamber of commerce. But it's not. All the money collected goes into Ms Tatulian's personal account. But does it really matter after all that she's done to the community? If her countrymen want to support her, who am I to complain? For the moment, there are so many "good" stories out there that the major media don't cover as well as they should that it created a niche for us almost 19 years ago.

Oh, AND I just heard that someone is trying to start an On-Line newspaper here in S-T. I can only wish him/her/them well. It's an uphill battle trying to be everywhere at one time. And I hope he can start covering the start-up businesses that are springing up like daisies after a



rain.

Every little venture gives us hope and we sure need some.

I and a lot of other people were thinking that the covid was wending down, and now we have another variety to worry about.

And that brings up a question. How come the world hasn't taken China to task for releasing the plague, and not notifying anyone that it was done. We lost hundreds of thousands of lives because they wouldn't work with anyone to contain it. AND THEN..... they wanted us to

participate in their Olympics? I'm confused. Are they friends or enemies now? They seem to be siding with the Russians in the Ukraine war. I THINK THAT IT'S TIME FOR THE UN TO BE REBUILT. No matter who wins in that conflict, we're still trillions in debt. Oh well, it's beyond me. So maybe it really IS THE WATER?

But, in the meantime, please support your local businesses, they are all we've got and they are our neighbors. And no, it isn't The Water!■

The Foothills Letters & Perspectives

Goffin' Around in The Foothills

Dear Editor,

I was thinking about the old days: Does anyone remember Lyman B. Goff? I don't, but I do remember the Cigar Store Indian outside his shop. Lucy Colville (Record Ledger 1962) writes to wish Mr. Goff a happy 88th birthday. Goff earned his fame by being the man who considered himself the friend of everyone who walked along the street. He would sit outside the Trading Post, his home and real estate business, at 8405 Foothill Blvd in Sunland, greeting folks and, he said, kidding the girls.

After speaking to Jean Doe and Irene Munroe I learned that The Trading Post was the place where Mr. Goff, with the men of the community, gathered to sit outside on the wooden porch to visit. Sometimes Goff would go to visit Mary Lee Eberhardt across the boulevard at the library where they would disappear to the back for gossip and a smoke. Children would sometimes

go into the trading post for penny candy, but the place was mostly for the men who sat outside smoking their pipes.

Mr. Goff considered himself "a bum" and was known for saying that "loafing is the best business there is". Once the owner of a real estate business, this personable bachelor retired with the sole aim of occupying his bench on Foothill where he, a true people person, was the one to welcome everyone who passed by. In so doing, he earned the title "Living Landmark of Sunland".

Lyman Goff and his brother had come to Sunland in 1932 when they bought the building which became The Old Trading Post. Many groups used the area in the front of the place for rummage sales. During the 1920s the inventory was largely cigarettes and tobacco, a tough business later during WWII when rationing was in effect.

Another famous old timer, Jimmy Smith,

would often set up his organ outside the building and play for people going by. Jimmy wrote the Tujunga Song, putting Tujunga on the map for Kiwanis Club members statewide.

The store, next to where JackIn The Box is now, had that Cigar Store Indian out front, a delight to the children who would ride by on their bikes and maybe stop in to buy candy. Before Jack in the Box that spot was a vacant lot where Irene's mother would drop off her husband at the bus stop to get to work in Los Angeles, then pick him up later. From the car, Irene could watch the men biding time on the old wooden bench or watch Mr. Goff who was such a character with his long beard and loafing ways.

It is possible that the Trading Post went out of business when Foothill was widened in 1954, but, well, does anyone know?

BJR,
Sunland.■

Coyote awareness *continued from page 2*

Protective devices, such as Coyote Rollers, may also be installed on top of the fence to deter coyotes from climbing over.

- Mix up the routine. Coyotes are opportunistic hunters. Try to avoid walking your pet at the same time every day or along the same route.
- Keep pets vaccinated. Remember

that coyote attacks are not the only danger these animals pose to our pets and our families. Coyotes can carry a number of diseases and parasites, including distemper, parvovirus and giardia.

DON'T:

- Leave pets outside. Keep all animals indoors, especially at night, and never leave pets outside unattended. Be cautious with doggy doors as well. Do not leave doggy doors open when you are not home, even in the middle

of the day. If you feed your pets outside, closely supervise them while eating and remove all food dishes promptly.

- Forget the leash. Dogs should always be on a short leash when walked between dusk and dawn, when coyotes are most active. Whenever possible, walk in high pedestrian traffic areas and be careful to avoid bushy areas near trails and parks where coyotes may hide. Avoid using a retractable leash as it allows for too much distance

between you and your pet.

- Invite coyotes in. Do not leave anything in the yard that might attract coyotes to your property. This includes pet food, fallen fruit, bird feeders, open trash containers and compost piles. Even sources of water, such as fountains and fish ponds, can attract coyotes. Be sure to trim shrubbery in the yard to reduce hiding places and bring trash bins out the morning of pickup instead of the night before.■



Miss Monica explaining to her backers why there isn't enough parking space for anyone anymore.

From our cartel coddling council member, Monica Rodriguez

Dear Neighbor:

This week was another special one for me. On Thursday, I had the pleasure of visiting Hillhaven, a 34-unit multi-family property that provides permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness. Located in Tujunga, this is the second Project Homekey site in Council District 7.

Individuals and families have moved in, and I gifted them welcome kits to make them feel more at home. In the process, I learned about their personal journeys—what they have been through; how much having a roof over their heads means to them; and what they aspire to do with their new lease on life. My special thanks to the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, LA Family Housing, and The People Concern for their partnership in this effort.

As I shared at Hillhaven, it's all

hands on deck; there's no level of government that's absolved from providing solutions on homelessness. These 34 units represent more of the solutions that I've delivered on homelessness. From safe parking and housing navigation, to pioneering RV encampment and encampment-to-home processes that are delivering results in our community as well as providing the roadmap for other parts of the city, we are demonstrating how to make substantive progress.

Homelessness is the most serious issue facing Los Angeles, and as your Councilwoman, I'm committed to continue to bring solutions that become the best practice to accelerate results that will make a substantial difference in the lives of the unhoused and our city.

The Foothills Paper was specifically excluded from covering this event by miss monica. ■

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Fresh Pico de Gallo



BY CHEF RANDY

Pico de Gallo [PEE-koh day GI-yoh] means “rooster’s beak” in Spanish. Tradition says that this dish was so named because it was once eaten with the thumb and finger, an action that resembles a rooster’s pecking beak. I like to

eat it with tortilla chips. You might use it as a fresh salsa with breakfast burritos, tacos, omelets or frittatas.

Ingredients:

- 5 – 6 medium tomatoes (diced)
- 1 medium white onion (diced)
- ¼ cup fresh cilantro (chopped fine)

- 2 jalapeno chilies (seeded and chopped fine)
- 1 clove garlic (peeled and minced)
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- Salt to taste

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl, stir and enjoy.■

Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles
continued from page 1

The program opens with a collection of seven works by Luminario Ballet choreographers and special guests that explore the tangled paths of history/herstory/ourstory. They include two pieces by Helle – Hard As A Rock set to music of Vivaldi and John Williams, and her dance film L’Invalide (The Invalid). The collection also features Tend, choreographed by Adrian Hoffman with music by Joe Berry; Bianca Sapetto-Finck’s Wryd Tango, blending dance, film and aerial movement to music by Morgan Sorne; Dreya Weber’s Hexen; and two works by dancer/choreographer Jamal Story - Tosh Thoughts.... Break On Through to the Other Side (Work In Progress) set to music by reggae artist Peter Tosh with spoken word by Grasan Kingsberry, and If the Walls Could Scream, featuring music by Photek, Phillip Glass, and Mumadji.

Luminario Ballet caps the program with The Last Supper, a rollicking tale that imagines Jesus, Judas, and Mary as Jewish rock ‘n rollers at the Coachella Music Festival.

With explosive, emotional choreography across a range of dance styles, the work has “all the energy and fervor of a religious tent revival” and conveys “powerful social messages about love and acceptance” (Explore Dance). Set to a Coachella soundtrack, it was choreographed by Helle and Story.

Tickets for Luminario Ballet (\$29 - \$79) are on sale now.

Please see Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles on Page 7

CRIME MAPPING

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 231604588
10200 BLOCK MCCLEMONT AV
1/18/2023 @ 4:30 PM

SHOPLIFTING -231604593
7800 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
1/18/2023 @ 6:47 AM

BURGLARY -231604614
6800 BLOCK SHADYGROVE ST
1/17/2023 @ 9:00 PM

BURGLARY -231604573
10300 BLOCK WESCOTT AV
1/17/2023 @ 5:00 AM

BURGLARY -231604584
8300 BLOCK HILLROSE ST
1/13/2023 @ 12:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN -231604539
10100 BLOCK PINWOOD AV
1/16/2023 @ 10:00 PM

BRANDISHING WEAPON, -231604033
10900 BLOCK SCOVILLE AV
1/2/2023 @ 9:30 AM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE -231604480
7900 BLOCK APPERSON ST
1/7/2023 @ 5:00 PM

BURGLARY -231604463
6600 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
1/13/2023 @ 6:05 AM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 231604407
10500 BLOCK MCCLEMONT AV
1/11/2023 @ 1:13 AM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE -231604394
10100 BLOCK SCOVILLE AV
1/11/2023 @ 12:37 AM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 231604391
10300 BLOCK LEOLANG AV
1/10/2023 @ 6:05 PM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE -231604315
10400 BLOCK SHERMAN GROVE AV
1/6/2023 @ 9:00 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 231604372
10300 BLOCK HELENDALE AV
1/6/2023 @ 4:00 PM

BURGLARY -231604296
7400 BLOCK HILLROSE ST
1/10/2023 @ 6:01 AM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE 231604274
10300 BLOCK COMMERCE AV
1/5/2023 @ 9:30 PM

BURGLARY -231604242
7900 BLOCK WENTWORTH ST
1/8/2023 @ 12:00 PM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE -231604266
10300 BLOCK COMMERCE AV
1/2/2023 @ 11:00 AM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 231604213
10200 BLOCK TUJUNGA CANYON BL
1/5/2023 @ 6:00 PM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE -231604209
10000 BLOCK SAMOA AV
1/5/2023 @ 12:25 AM

THEFT - PETTY -231604206
10200 BLOCK COMMERCE AV
12/20/2022 @ 12:00 PM

BURGLARY - 231604105
8600 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
1/5/2023 @ 3:18 AM

BURGLARY - 231604122
8100 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
1/4/2023 @ 8:45 AM

BURGLARY - 231604123
8100 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
1/4/2023 @ 8:30 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN - 231604134
8600 BLOCK WYNGATE ST
1/4/2023 @ 7:00 AM

THEFT FROM - 231604120
10100 BLOCK AMBER CT
1/3/2023 @ 7:30 AM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 231604114
7900 BLOCK HILLROSE ST
12/31/2022 @ 6:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN - 231604133
8200 BLOCK MCGROARTY ST
12/22/2022 @ 9:00 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 231604141
10200 BLOCK MOUNTAIR AV
1/4/2023 @ 10:00 PM

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON -231604094
FOOTHILL BL & WHITEGATE ST - 1/4/2023 @ 10:30 AM

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ASK RUSTY

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

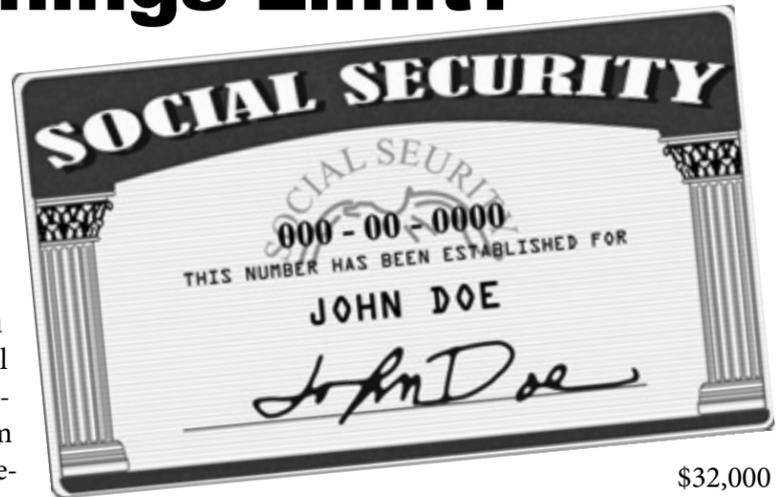
What Counts for Social Security's Earnings Limit?

Dear Rusty: I retired on February 1st of this year (2022). I collect a pension from my employer plus a union pension, as well as Social Security, all of which started in February 2022. I am married and I'm 65 years old. I only worked 4 weeks in 2022 before retiring, but my income ended up being far more than expected. I got 5 weeks' vacation pay and a retroactive check from an overdue labor contract. I also got hazard pay and a small check for a class action lawsuit my union filed years ago. All of that brings my 2022 income to about \$35,000 which means I have exceeded

what I can make as far as Social Security goes. My question is, should I contribute some money to my IRA to offset my earned income? And is it even possible for me to do that?
 Signed: Retired but Concerned

Dear Retired: Generally, income earned before starting your Social Security benefits (such as accumulated vacation pay) doesn't count toward Social Security's earnings limit for those who have not yet reached their full retirement age (FRA), nor do your earnings from working in the 4 weeks of 2022 before your SS benefits started. Similarly, the check for retroactive labor contract benefits, hazard pay for past work, and income from the class action suit do not count toward Social Security's earnings limit. The only thing that counts towards the limit is earnings from working after your Social Security benefits started, which you apparently did not do. Thus, from what you've shared, you should not be subject to any impact to your month-

ly SS benefits as a result of your total 2022 income. Note, you may still get an inquiry from Social Security next year about your 2022 earnings, but only earnings from actually working after your Social Security benefits started (which you did not) would count toward Social Security's earnings limit. You may, however, wish to consult with a qualified tax advisor because some of your Social Security benefits received in 2022 will be subject to income tax on your 2022 tax return. Assuming you file your tax return as "married/jointly," if your combined income from all sources exceeded



\$32,000 then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year will become part of your overall taxable income; and if your 2022 combined income from all sources (including your wife's income) exceeded \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits received in 2022 will become taxable income. A tax advisor can give you more information on that, and also help you decide if it would be wise to contribute to an IRA. But, in any case, contributing to an IRA will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit. ■

Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles
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The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday - Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org/ Luminario.
 Friday, February 17, 7:30 pm
 Saturday, February 18, 2023, 7:30 pm
 The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater
 About Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles
 Luminario Ballet of Los Angeles is a repertory ballet, aerial, and modern dance company. In

addition to artistic director Judith FLEX Helle's neoclassical ballet, dance theater, and aerial dance choreographies, Luminario presents works by a wide range of contemporary / ballet /aerial dance choreographers, including Jamal Story (Complexions), Michael Smuin (San Francisco Ballet), Francisco Gella, Dreya Weber (CHER, PINK), Bianca Sapetto (Teatro ZinZanni), modern dance legend Bella Lewitzky, and Debra Lynne Brown, head choreographer of Cirque du Soleil shows worldwide. Luminario Ballet has performed commissioned work with the LA Philharmonic at Disney Hall (Copeland, Ginestera), and Le Salon de Music (Shubert), as well as for music videos (Coldplay), TV, films, and Virtual Reality Nutcracker. The company has also provided Luminario

repertory for Xbox subscribers, site specific dances (Casa Romantica), and toured nationally (NY/TX/FLA) and internationally (Mumbai and Goa India on behalf of the US Department of State). Luminario Ballet is currently poised to launch dance NFTs in the Metaverse in 2023.
 For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.
 Like The Wallis on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @thewallisbh
WHERE:
 Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
 Bram Goldsmith Theater
 9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard
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I Got Your Friendly Right Here!

You know, I try to be friendly. I really do. I am not quite as much of a pissy turd as I make myself out to be in this here column. (See, I added the “here” in that last sentence to show off my folksy, friendly side.)

The reason I am bringing up all this friendly stuff is that I am now taking a much needed break from my stressful retirement so I can vacation up in Oregon for a month, and it’s a state law to be friendly up here. I mean to tell you, everybody is friendly. It’s a little eerie. But I am trying my best to adapt to this foreign environment, and if it doesn’t kill me, I should be friendlier when I come back to LA. You notice it right away. I go into a Fred Myers grocery and everything-else-ever-manufactured store and the checker is talking to someone a few people up the line from me. She knows the woman. The woman is in her 60s. The checker went to elementary school with her. Yes, I now know that their old schoolmate, Johnny Dayton, just got kicked out of the American Legion hall for something I think she called “non-wife fondling.”

The next woman gets to the checker and they start chatting. Nothing quite as chat-worthy as Johnny Dayton’s sexploits, but they do give the gossip tidbits the necessary time to fully flesh them out. I am just kind of standing there, acting like I think this friendly shit is OK, and it’s getting harder and harder to fake it.

After five full minutes of staring at my four non-moving items on the conveyor belt, I give them my LA hurry-up cough. I cough a few times. Cough. Ahem. Cough. They both glance at me. I know they want to tell me to take a Menthol Luden’s and insert it in a body opening that is not my mouth, but they just smile at

me. The bitches.

Finally, the lady hands the checker a copy of the latest

National Enquirer, and says, “Jeez, that Al Gore would be quite a load, wouldn’t he?” And the checker says, “Looks like a little global squirming going on.” I crack just the beginning of a smile at these remarks and they look at me again. I apologize for listening in on them with a lame hands-up sissy gesture.

I get to the checker and say, “Hi.” She says, “Can’t talk now. I have customers behind you.”

I probably shouldn’t have told you that first anecdote first, because the people are generally just friendly, and they don’t usually say mean things to us potential Luden’s users. Like I was in a restaurant and the waitress came over and said, “What’ll it be, darlin’?” And I said, “Did you call me darlin’, darlin’?” And she adjusted her apron, and said, “Why, yes, darlin’, I did call you darlin’, darlin’” (I was going to say, “But you never even called me by my name” but I knew she wouldn’t get the reference. Neither will you. So that’s why I didn’t say it.)

Everybody is friendly. They take time with you. They appear to maybe even like you. They have faking sincerity down to a science. The gas station attendant fills up my tank and tells me about the salmon run. The bookstore owner walks me to the book section I need and personally wipes the dust off the row of books I will look at. The framestore owner sells me the cheaper picture frame



Jim Laris is Jim Laris.

because he thinks it will work better for me.

And a couple of days ago I had a guy come out to give me a bid for a fence I’m building for my dog, Archie the Airedale. And this guy was so nice I thought he had the wrong house. He was nicer than Pat Boone, baby. He called me “sir” so many times I thought I had been promoted to corporal. And then the next day, I go out on the dock to just walk around and I notice a guy standing there with a rod and reel and I look at him like

I sort of know him, but I’m puzzled and he finally says, “Yeah, it’s me, the fence guy! Wanna go fishing?”

“It’s me, the fence guy. Wanna go fishing?”

I don’t know about you, but I don’t think I would have heard that in LA. It’s just too damn friendly for city slicker talk. But I do have mixed emotions on all this friendly stuff. I know they will eventually find out I’m not really all that friendly and then I will be rejected and continue on with my lonely, unfulfilled, tragic walk-through life.

So I tentatively said something to the fence guy about his choosing me to go fishing with. I said, “Do you really want to go fishing with me?” And he kind of looked at me like that was a bit too touchy-feely, and said, “Yeah, sure, you look like a good guy.” And I smiled my manly hug-smile and he continued.

“And my buddies are all working today. And, by the way, you think, maybe you could buy the bait?”

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Gatto Announces Enforcement of the Drone Act of 2016

Assemblyman Mike Gatto announced a comprehensive solution to the challenges that drones pose, The Drone Registration/Omnibus Negligence-prevention Enactment (DRONE) Act of 2016. The act would:

- Require registration of, and tiny physical or electronic license plates for, drones. All efforts to hold owners responsible (for example, for interfering with firefighting efforts) require this.
- Require inexpensive (\$1, or so) insurance policies sold at the point-of-sale, much like CRV is collected for bottles and cans. This will ensure that if a drone hurts someone or damages property, the victim can be compensated, and is akin to the auto-insurance requirements under existing law.
- Mandate that drones of a certain size, and equipped with GPS capability, feature automatic shut-off technology that would activate if approaching an airport. This technology already exists, and is critical to protecting commercial passenger flights.

• Implement various other provisions designed to enhance responsibility and mitigate risk.

“If cars have license plates and insurance, drones should have the equivalent, so they can be properly identified, and owners can be held financially responsible, whenever injuries, interference, or property damage occurs.”

Last year showed that the nation’s laws must adapt to the reality that hundreds of thousands of plastic and metal vehicles will be overhead in the years to come. Several fires across the state worsened when drone sightings grounded firefighting aircraft. A drone operator in West Hollywood fled the scene after flying a drone into power lines, causing a power outage. And a drone fell from the sky in Pasadena, onto a mother pushing a baby carriage. ■

Mean Girls - The Musical

Reviewed by David “Doc” DeMulle’

I was overwhelmed and felt being a part of the play the moment the lights went down. The production video graphics just pick you and don’t put you down until the end of Mean Girls. To say the least, they were so beautiful you didn’t notice them after they began, they were North Shore High School and an integral collage that showcased the players and drew you into the play.

What makes the



From one “wilds” to another as Cady Heron discovers in Mean Girls.

production roll is an impressive array of projection screens that takes the play into the 21st century—the creation of Finn Ross and Adam Young, and intrinsic to Scott Pask’s slick design)—that takes us from the African

savannah to the hormone and bitchiness-stained hallways of North Shore High School in Illinois, as Cady Heron (English Bernhardt) returns from one kind of wild to find a place in another.

And near the end, villain Regina George’s (Nadina

Hassan) encounter with that merciless bus.

The projection screens begin and end the show with falling pages from the insult-laden ‘burn book’ that ends up bringing such an apocalyptic chaos to North Shore, but at the same time conjure up every Mean Girls social bubble in between.

And of course, every sighting of Regina and her gang of Plastics is bathed in queasy hot pink, including her plush prison of a bedroom, the high-strung nerve center of the Plastics. ■