



Big Tujunga Rescue – Again!

And then again on Wednesday, to rescue two people and a cat that were living in their car on the edge of the Big-T riverway. - SEE PAGE 2



Tujunga Fatality Traffic Accident

A solo vehicle with three adult male occupants drove through a fence into a largely dry (only 6" deep storm water) narrow flood control channel. - SEE PAGE 6

FREE!

THE FOOTHILLS

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY MARCH 10, 2023

SUNLAND STRONG - TUJUNGA TOUGH!

A tribute to our local businesses that...

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 29



The structure as seen from the street.

Structure Fire

NEITHER RAIN, NOR SNOW, NOR SMOKE OF THE DAY can stop these firefighters from their appointed rounds. This structure fire on Marcus produced so much smoke that the structure couldn't be seen from the street. With heavy rain coming down, the firefighters had to use their breathing apparatus to get close to the fire.

Surrounding the structure and pouring lots of water on the fire, the firefighters started climbing the roof until the command "EVERYONE OFF THE ROOF - IT'S CAVING IN!" made them evacuate and continue to fight the fire from the ground. It took almost 40 minutes to fully contain the fire, even with the help of a heavy rain coming down. The cause of the fire was not determined. ■



The smoke was so dense it blocked out the sun.

Big Tujunga River Rescue



LAFD helicopter Fire-3 arrives at the River Wood Ranch Road to help the search for the stranded person.

Another River Rescue; 09:25AM; 11200 Oro Vista Ave; <https://bit.ly/3ZpLTGy>; #Sunland; LAFD ground and air response to two adults (age/gender/affiliation undetermined) and one pet cat noted by a passerby to be (long-term) camping in a vehicle on dry land in a remote section of the otherwise now stormwater-filled Tujunga Wash at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Although in no imminent physical peril, the pair exhibited signs of hypothermia upon LAFD contact, and accepted an offer of medical care. The trio have been hoisted into a hovering LAFD Rescue Helicopter FIRE 3, which

transported them directly to an area hospital for further evaluation.; FS 74; Batt 12; Valley Bureau; Council District 7; AO1 AO2 BC12 E24 E274 E288 E474 E8140 H3 H5 HA3 HA5 RA74 RA874 SC1 SW44 SW88 T74 T88 UR88. ■



One of the rescued houseless persons "Tagged and Bagged" is hoisted up to the waiting helicopter.

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Author of Beloved 'Rainbow Bridge' Poem Finally Tracked Down and Revealed After 64 Years

The author of the treasured and much beloved 'Rainbow Bridge' poem has at long last been found after 64 years of anonymity. Arizona art historian and author Paul Koudounaris was determined to track down the author and after many

years of sleuthing he tracked the poem back to Edna Clyne-Rekhy, a Scottish woman, who wrote the poem when she was 19 years old.

Koudounaris recently interviewed Clyne-Rekhy who told him about the origins of the poem, that she was grieving for her Labrador Retriever, Major at the time. She originally penned the poem back in 1959 after he died. She was inconsolable in her grief and asked her mother for help. Her mom suggested that she write down how she was feeling.

Clyne-Rekhy followed her mother's advice and scribbled out the first sentence, "Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge." She says that the words then poured out of her.

"He died in my arms, actually," she told the National Geographic of Major in a recent interview. "I dearly loved him."

She was never inclined to publish the poem despite being encouraged by her husband years later, she told Koudounaris, feeling the poem was a private memory. But she did type out a few copies for some friends and shared it with them. And those friends must have shared copies with their friends and so on until one day a copy was sent to Dear Abby in the United States and it was published in her column in 1994, reaching 100 million readers. No author was listed because, by then, Clyne-Rekhy's authorship was long lost.



Edna Clyne-Rekhy with Major.

Different versions began appearing online as the Internet grew and the origins of the poem grew even more murky but more and more copies circulated amongst pet lovers. During his sleuthing, Koudounaris discovered that the United States Copyright Office received 15 claims of authorship!

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Wikipedia

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murky but more and more copies circulated amongst pet lovers. During his sleuthing, Koudounaris discovered that the United States Copyright Office received 15 claims of authorship!

But one consistent thread over the many years has been that the poem is beloved. The poem has taken a strange, meandering journey since Clyne-Rekhy wrote it down on that piece of paper so many years ago, and which she still has in her possession. Now 82 years old, Clyne-Rekhy marvels at how her poem has affected millions of people and provided so much comfort to them.

But for Koudounaris, it makes sense. He feels the theme of the poem fits in with Christian theology, which, in the past, has excluded animals as having no soul.

"Rainbow Bridge' provides the missing piece for people who have had to live with this anxiety that their animal is not good enough to deserve an afterlife," Koudounaris told the National Geographic. "It gives us a reason to hope."

However, this outlook has shifted dramatically in recent years, as when Pope Francis declared all animals go to Heaven.

But no matter what a person's religious belief or background, the Rainbow Bridge Poem provides comfort, simply for what it suggests. Many readers have pointed out that the idea that they will see their beloved pet again provides them comfort. ■

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BIG TUJUNGA RESCUE – AGAIN!

This has been a week of reoccurrences in Tujunga. With 2 major rains, the Arizona Bridge that crosses the Big-T on River Wood Ranch Road was flooded enough to bring out the Swift Water Rescue Team to rescue a houseless person on Monday. And then again on Wednesday, to rescue two people and a cat that were living in their car on the edge of the Big-T riverway. All were Okay after a helicopter hoist lift to safety. ■



Water raging down the Big Tujunga wash.

Our readers often send us notes of much appreciated encouragement.

Last week an e-mail arrived on my desk that had a particular resonance with me. It read: "Reading The Paper reminds me of one of my favorite quotes by Augustine:

'Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.'

Thanks for everything you do."

And he is right, while we try to temper our anger at the events that are unfolding around us, it was never easy. We know that for there to be a real and lasting change, we have to keep pushing forward. We have to have the courage to keep forging ahead.

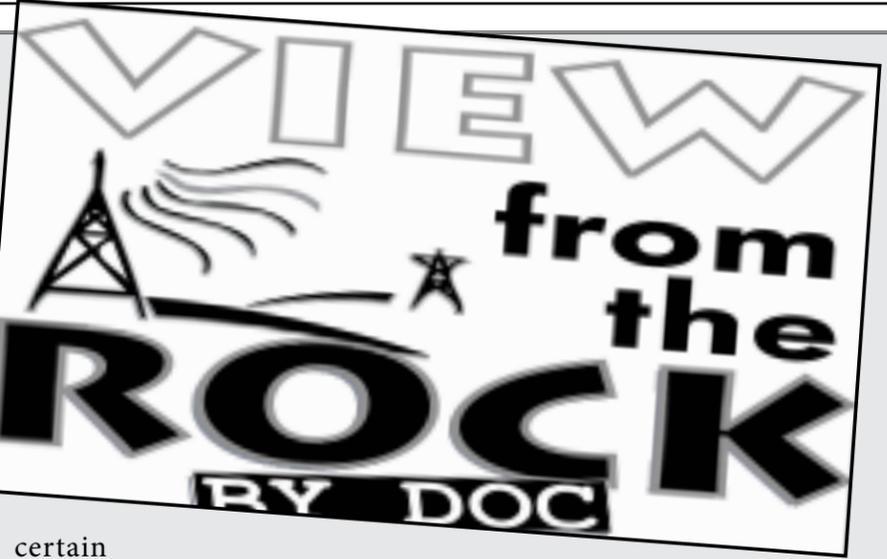
Since our inception 18 years ago, The Foothills Paper has delivered the news that matters, every other week, without interruption. We have brought you the news the larger

media ignores and we've shed light on the views from some of the best writers and thinkers in our area.

But we have never done it alone. It has only been possible because of you—our readers—and your hope for a better future. The Foothills Paper has made many friends and of course enemies. The scofflaws and their friends hate the exposure of their misdeeds, and there have been many.

We have taken the position of helping those whom the community is divided against. We have done the best we can to illuminate those that do good in our community. Unfortunately, it is easy for the haters to post things on the Internet that are at best "mis-truths" and at worse, flat-out lies.

And I have watched them pass into oblivion. We have community leaders that were trying to do the best for Sunland-Tujunga and we have



certain people like the Tatulian Cartel that are out to fleece every penny they can from the community. Because of them we have lost the Watermelon Festival, The Easter Carnival, The Commerce Street Fair, The 4TH of July fireworks, and the integrity of our service clubs.

But it appears that those days are changing and our community leaders are doing what they can to really help the community get back to

becoming a neighborhood where people know and respect each other. We are now coming to the point where we are fighting developers and until this week, the High Speed Rail project that could physically divide our community and destroy our rural way of life.

This is truly going to be an interesting year and yes, it probably was the water!▪

Before you Hike



Caution while hiking, just consider EVERYTHING dangerous and you'll be safe!

Caution while hiking, where we are now three years into the COVID-19 pandemic

BY AARICKA WASHINGTON

I absolutely love hiking, but do you know what scares me as an amateur backpacker? Really steep trails. I couldn't even think about hiking anywhere right after all that the rain we had earlier. A lot of trails washed out and there was debris flow and mud in several favorite spots. This weekend, we could see more rain showers, too, as the Santa Ana winds let up. And for the mountains, that could mean snow.

It's scary out there. Rescue search teams are still looking for actor Julian Sands, who went missing in the Mount Baldy area during a solo hike two weeks ago. Another hiker, Jin Chung, went missing in the

same area, but was found shortly after this week. He was taken to the hospital. Another man is missing near Mount Islip.

It should be noted that these people were experienced hikers. But simply put, natural environments have their risks.

My colleague Jill Replogle, who herself loves to hike, wrote about the risks of hitting the trails right now in Southern California, given the current weather with ice and snow, not to mention high winds. Then, when things start warming up, there could be the risk of wet slides, which are like warm weather avalanches.

Jill spoke to a number of mountaineering and outdoor experts who all agree that this winter's conditions are just

not something most Southern Californians are used to. As much as we fancy ourselves outdoorsy people, most of us do not have the skills to handle difficult terrain, or the tools, especially in backcountry areas outside of the city. Mount Baldy can be particularly treacherous – according to Outside, 15 people have been rescued in the area since the start of the year.

So, if you plan on taking a trek soon, please read this, write notes and take heed. Jill has a lot of good information and tips about how to be smart and prepared for the outdoors. We want you to be as safe as possible, while getting your dosage of Vitamin D.

As always, stay happy and healthy, folks. There's more news below-just keep reading.▪



#HansenDam Water Rescues

02-25-2023 11:21am 11798 W Osborne St MAP: <https://bit.ly/3ZnNjRC>.

LAFD ground and air response to two unaffiliated homeless adult males stranded on separate small areas of dry land amidst deep (still) water that had risen in Hansen Dam. An LAFD Helicopter separately hoisted both men to safety, and released them at the scene.

INC#1064; FS98; Battalion 12; Valley Bureau; Council District 7; Dispatched Units AO1 AO2 BC12 E275 E298 E7 E91 H2 H3 H5 HA2 HA3 HA5 RA98 SW88 SW89 T75 T98 UR88; Dispatch Channel 8; TAC 17; LAFD Spokesperson: Brian Humphrey. <https://bit.ly/3ECgc4J>▪

Emerson College Student Nicole Smith of Tujunga, CA Earns Dean's List for Fall 2022 Semester

Emerson College student Nicole Smith of Tujunga, CA (91042) earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2022 Semester.

The requirement to make Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester. Nicole Smith is majoring in Theatre and Performance and is a member of the Class of 2025.▪

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Dear Neighbor:

This past week Southern California experienced the largest storm in recent history, bringing heavy rains and even snow to the city and in some parts of CD7! Our city was impacted by outages and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) was working around the clock, throughout the storm, to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family of the injured LADWP employee who suffered serious injuries while trying to keep Angelenos lights on during this storm. Our city workforce from Public Works to LAFD and LAPD were out in full force during these tough weather conditions and we are all thankful for their service.

In our district, some of our neighborhoods experienced outages for days along with fallen trees and flooding. Below is an update on the amount of requests that came in which our crews have been working

to resolve.

- Power outage service requests: 4,008
- Downed tree emergency calls: 114
- Street potholes: 73
- Palm fronds: 8
- Mudslides: 44

It is never too late to prepare for natural disasters. The Emergency Management Department provides Angelenos with readiness tips to help in the event of an emergency. To find out more information, please visit <https://emergency.lacity.gov/>.

In the future, to request an update on a pending service request, please contact my Pacoima office at (818) 485-0600, Sylmar office at (818) 756-8409, or Sunland-Tujunga office at (818) 352-3287.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Expanding the CD7 RV Pilot Program. Since 2019, recreational vehicle (RV) encampments have increased by 41% on the streets of Los Angeles, which represent 22% of the total homeless population. ■

Smokeland Cigar Lounge

A new experience for cigar smokers opens in Sunland

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. Here is a place so different in Sunland, that only the real cigar aficionado dare enter.

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James "Jim" Becker

James passed away on February 24, 2023. He celebrated his 100th birthday this past October. Born in Chicago Oct 4, 1922 the 4th child of Fred & Rose Becker. Siblings by age: Grace, Fred [Buddy], Sylvia, Jim and Richard [Throd].

He attended Burroughs Grammar School then Kelly High for two years in Chicago. Moved to Calif in 1937 with family and was there the day Verdugo High in Tujunga opened, finishing his last two years. Worked in a machine shop in Glendale before being drafted into the Navy during World War 2. After a short time in the Navy getting out for medical and still wanting to help the war effort, James joined the Merchant Marines on a tanker delivering fuel oil and aviation gas to the South Pacific. After the war worked with older brother in seasonal work in Chicago replacing mortar between bricks in high buildings. Returned to Calif went to Glendale College before getting a job as a mail carrier in Tujunga CA where he met his future wife Joyce. After a year and a half of courtship, married and became an instant father of her three small children, Sandy, Jerry and Mike. Lived in ranch house of Marshall Valentine Hartranft (known as developer of Sunland-Tujunga) while their home at 10823 Scoville was being built. After 12 years as a carrier decided there was no chance to progress, he resigned and found work with D.W.P. (Department of Water and Power) as a Helper, Apprentice, and finally a journeyman High Voltage cable splicer at Valley underground. He retired after 21 years. Hobbies camellias, roses and azaleas. Boy Scout Webelo Leader, family camping, photography and travel. Jim and Joyce lived 62 years at 10823 Scoville, Sunland, until they sold their home in November 2019 and moved to ASSISTED LIVING. Joyce died in 2020. He and his wife's bodies were donated to USC medical college to be used as cadavers for students.

Jim was interviewed at Bolton Hall Museum in October 2022, when he turned 100.

Submitted by sister in law Janice Stampfl

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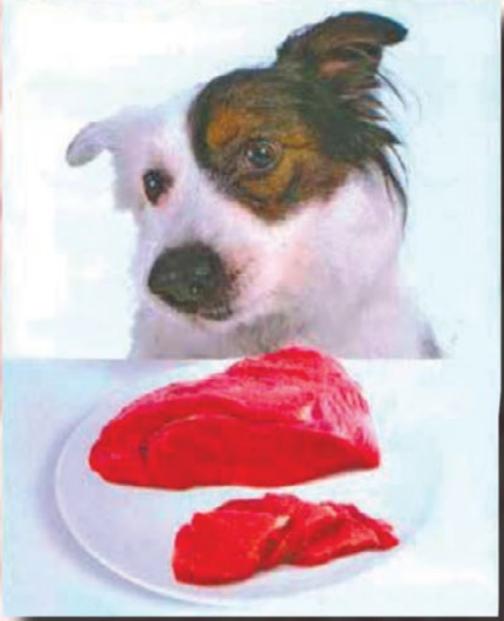
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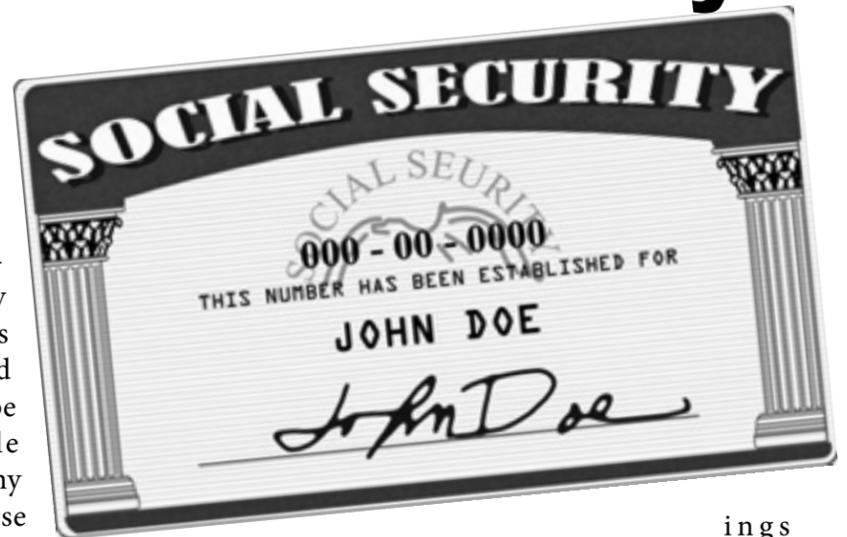


By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens.

Can International College Students Get Social Security Benefits?

of credit working and earning in the U.S. and contributing to U.S. Social Security from their “substantial” U.S. earnings. Forty is the minimum number of credits for anyone to claim Social Security retirement benefits. Foreign students who earn only some “quarters” of U.S. Social Security credit (minimum of 6) may, later in life, be able to collect U.S. benefits depending on their country of citizenship/residence. The U.S. has bilateral “totalization” agreements regarding Social Security eligibility with most of its allies and, in some cases, a foreign citizen can “totalize” their Social Security credits from both countries to become eligible for U.S. benefits. Eligibility rules, however, vary somewhat by country, and Social Security payments cannot be made to certain countries (e.g., Cuba and North Korea). Payments to those living in countries with which the U.S. has no bilateral Social Security agreement may also be restricted.

In any case, U.S. Social Security benefits would not be available to any of these students until they are at least 62 years old, and then only if they had worked and earned sufficient U.S. credits (40) to be independently eligible for U.S. benefits on their own U.S. earnings record, or they later became eligible for U.S. benefits because they worked some in the U.S. and were eligible for benefits under a “totalization” agreement between the U.S. and their home country. In any case, any U.S. Social Security benefits earned under a totalization agreement would be based only on their actual U.S. earnings (and not earn-



ings in their home country) and, thus, would likely be very small.

I assume that most international students you host are only in the U.S. for a short time, perhaps one year. The maximum Social Security credits that can be earned each year is four, so it's highly doubtful that the students you host for such a short time would later become eligible for U.S. Social Security benefits, unless they extend their U.S. presence and continue to work and earn in the United States long enough to later become eligible for U.S. benefits. ■

Dear Rusty: We have hosted international college students for years, all of whom needed to apply for a Social Security Number upon arrival in the United States. Would these students be entitled to some Social Security funds at some point? Some have worked as paid graduate assistants, but others have not worked while going to school. **Signed: Wondering.**

Dear Wondering: In order to collect Social Security benefits later in life, the students you host would need to have at least 40 “quarters”

Revised Annual Brush Clearance Notices to LA County Residents in Fire Hazard Severity Zones

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department (Department) recently mailed the Annual 2023 Brush Clearance Notices to residents in Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs). There are approximately 60,000 homeowners who will be receiving this notice for the very first time, while others have been part of our annual brush clearance program for many years. Over the last two years, the Fire Department integrated a geospatial database into the Defensible Space Inspection Program that is far more accurate than visual identification used in previous years. Using criteria-based mapping, numerous parcels have been identified within the FHSZs that have never been inspected.

California Health & Safety Code, Section 14902, allows recovery of inspection program costs.

In 1989, the Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner, Weights and Measures, was authorized by the Board of Supervisors to recover their inspection program costs. The Fire Department resisted imposing this fee until 2022. Working with the Board of Supervisors, the Fire Department agreed to phase in the Brush Inspection fee over a three-year period. In 2022, the fee was \$50.00 (to be billed on the 2023 property tax bill); in 2023, the fee will be \$100.00 (to be billed on the 2024 property tax bill); and in 2024, the fee will be \$151.00 (to be billed on the 2025 property tax bill). These fees will be assessed on all declared hazardous properties whether they are cleared by the property owner or not. The fee is intended to offset the Department's costs in an

effort to keep the Brush Clearance Inspection Program cost neutral.

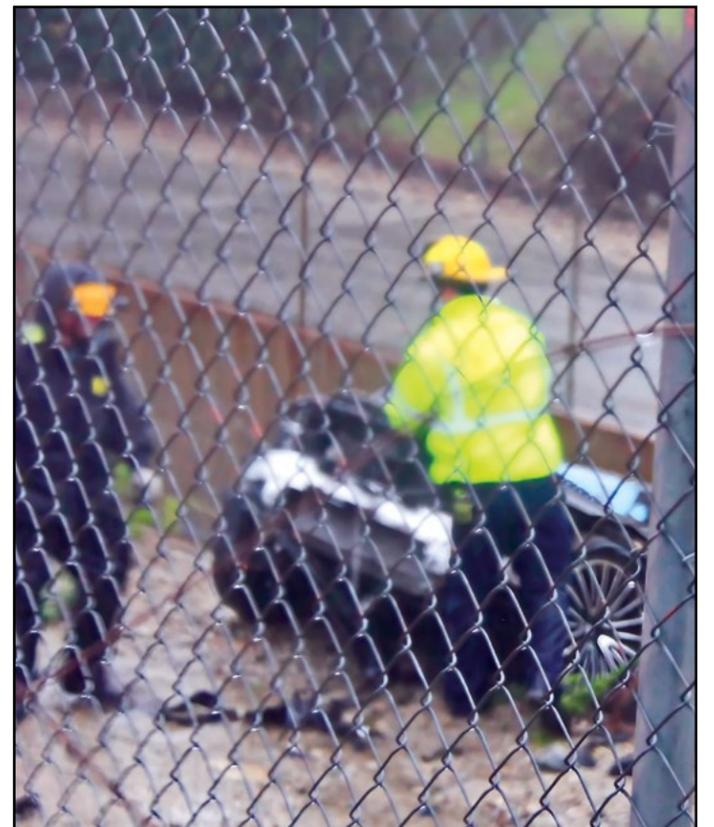
Brush Clearance inspections are scheduled to begin as follows:

- April 1, 2023, in desert communities
- May 1, 2023, in inland communities
- June 1, 2023, in coastal communities

If hazardous fire conditions exist on a property at the time of inspection, the property owner will be issued an Official Inspection Report which will indicate existing violations and provide specific clearing instructions and a compliance deadline.

The Fire Department encourages residents to attend the upcoming Brush Inspection Educational Meetings scheduled for the following dates and times

Please see **Revised Annual Brush** on Page 7



Tujunga Fatality Traffic Accident

On Friday 02-24-2023 at 3:10pm 6340 W La Tuna Canyon Rd MAP: <https://bit.ly/3IPuAce>.

A solo vehicle with three adult male occupants (unknown affiliation) drove through a fence into a largely dry (only 6" deep storm

water) narrow flood control channel. One of the men sustained fatal injury when he was ejected into the narrow channel, and remains at scene.

Please see **Tujunga Fatality Traffic Accident** on Page 7

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**Tujunga Fatality
Traffic Accident**
continued from page 6

The two other men self-evacuated the vehicle prior to LAFD arrival, and later accepted ambulance transport to a local hospital for examination of non-life threatening injuries. LAFD's Heavy Rescue unit removed the vehicle from above the flood control channel. No other injuries reported.

INC#1230; FS74; Battalion 12; Valley Bureau; Council District 7; Dispatched Units BC10 BC12 E203 E24 E274 E89 EM14 HR3 RA5 RA74 T3 T74■

Revised Annual Brush
continued from page 6

1. Thursday, March 9, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Rowland Heights Community Center (Rowland Heights) 18150 East Pathfinder Road Rowland Heights, CA 91748

2. Friday, March 10, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Founders Hall (Calabasas Civic Center) 200 Civic Center Way Calabasas, CA 91302

3. Saturday, March 11, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Santa Clarita City Hall (Santa Clarita) 23920 Valencia Boulevard, #120 Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Note: This will be the same meeting as the Referee Hearing.

Information regarding brush clearance requirements and responsibilities can be obtained on our website by clicking here or by contacting the Brush Clearance Unit at (626) 969-2375.■

ADAM SCHIFF

FOR SENATE

Today, California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon endorsed Congressman Adam Schiff in the race for the U.S. Senate.

Speaker Rendon joins eleven other members of the California State Assembly who have announced their support of Schiff's bid for the California seat.

"I am proud to offer my strong endorsement for Adam Schiff for U.S. Senate. His track record on building an economy that serves working families, fighting for climate action, and serving those most in need is unparalleled, and I know he'll be a champion for all Californians," said Speaker Rendon.

"From addressing the climate crisis to improving our education system to investing in the economy through transportation and housing initiatives, Speaker Rendon understands the issues Californians face and has been a champion of efforts to tackle these issues. I am grateful for the Speaker's endorsement and look forward to working with him to serve all Californians," said Schiff.

Adam Schiff is running for the U.S. Senate to continue his leadership in the fight for our democracy and working families. Schiff represents the people of California's 30th Congressional District and is the former Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He served as the Lead Manager for the first Impeachment Trial of Donald J. Trump and was a member of the January 6th Committee.

Before Congress, Schiff served as a State Senator where he passed a patient's bill of rights, updated school textbooks for all students, and brought about a massive expansion of light rail in Los Angeles. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Schiff successfully prosecuted environmental crimes and a crooked FBI agent turned Russian spy.■

GoodYear was pretty creative today, flying over the Daytona 500! 😂



WHAT DO THESE DEFUNCT BUSINESSES HAVE IN COMMON?



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