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THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY MAY 5, 2023

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

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 33

Los Angeles Police Department holds a ceremony honoring fallen officers at LAPD Headquarters in Los Angeles on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. (Photo by Sarah Reingewirtz, Los Angeles Daily News/ SCNG)

LAPD OFFICERS AND S-T SLO's HONOR THEIR FALLEN COMRADES

On Wednesday, LAPD hosted the ceremony to remember all 239 officers who have died while on active duty over that time. Moore told the audience that while he hoped the memorial would remind the officers' families they had the department's support, he knew events like these also might bring back painful feelings.

"I recognize that it renews the pain," he said, "that it amplifies yet again the loss that each of these fallen represent to you and the generations that have followed."

The ceremony, which remembered the lost officers ahead of National Police Week later this month, highlighted what has been a deadly period for LAPD officers.

Moore said during his tenure, 12 officers have died in the line of duty. Most of those deaths came as COVID-19 swept through the department, sickening thousands of officers.

Please see **LAPD Officers and S-T SLO's Honor** *on Page 7*

Cal Fire Director Joe Tyler said at the Prado Helitack Base in Chino during his statewide media tour on Monday, May 1.

Ready–Set–Go LA!

Record-setting snow and rain have left vegetation flush with moisture, prompting the state's fire chief to predict that wildfires will not break out with regularity this year until the middle of June, about 45 days later than normal.

But Cal Fire Director Joe Tyler said at the Prado Helitack Base in Chino during his statewide media tour on Monday, May 1, that now is the time for residents to prepare for the inevitable.

"While this winter has brought historic snowfall and historic rain and these hills are green, they will dry out. And we must remain vigilant in our efforts to reduce wildfires. And we must not let our guard down," Tyler said.

Tyler was joined by representatives of the San Bernardino County fire and sheriff's departments, state Office of Emergency Services and U.S. Forest Service, among other agencies.

After some prodding, Tyler gave California residents a grade of B for their preparedness. He said their efforts will help determine the severity of the 2023 year-round fire "season."

> *"These hills will turn brown, and they will burn," county Fire Chief Dan Munsey said. "Make sure you are prepared."*

"That is all depending on the proactive steps homeowners take to be able to reduce those light flashy fuels. Some of the grass in some areas of the state is taller than me right now," said Tyler, who lists himself as 5-foot-10 when he's not in his firefighter boots. "Once the grass (dies), that light flashing fuel is going to be an easy target for embers.".

Already, some of the lush landscaping on the distant hills is changing color.

"These hills will turn brown, and they will burn," county Fire Chief Dan Munsey said. "Make sure you are prepared."

Statewide, Cal Fire has responded to 640 brush fires this year and 135 alone last week, including the Nob fire near Lytle Creek that has burned 227 acres and was 73% contained Monday. Those figures do not include fires on federal lands.

Officials provided these tips for protecting people and property against wildfires:

Please see **Ready-Set-Go LA!** *on Page 6*

COMMUNITY NEWS

"Hogwash and Hypocrisy"

(A guest editorial By Daniel Guss)

When former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan died in April, those with whom I spoke, without exception, said he was our last great mayor.

He didn't make a jackass of himself on a national stage, as two of his successors, Eric Garcetti and Antonio Villaraigosa, continually did. He didn't sloganeer like they did and current mayor Karen "Lock Arms" Bass does. And he didn't lose his first campaign for re-election as James Hahn did in 2005, becoming the city's first chief executive to do that since KKK member John Clinton Porter in 1933.

Riordan was a moderate Republican, job creator and philanthropist who got LA through some of its deepest crises. From time to time, he caused minor stirs by shooting from the hip, but at least he was authentic.

And oh to have authenticity in City Hall, where post-pandemic words and actions once again gloriously misalign.

Some examples…

***

On Monday, during one of the meetings to address Bass's budget, the first line of the agenda clearly says, "Please Note Public Comment Will Be Taken In-Person Only."

Except that no public comment was taken on Monday.

If you tuned into the city's YouTube channel where you would expect to watch the meeting, you couldn't.

And if you tried to park anywhere around City Hall, that wasn't happening, either.

The meetings, chaired by Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, might have mundane discussion, but carry billion dollar - and life and death - consequences. When I reached out to his office for clarity, they provided another agenda that had been published days earlier, but wasn't listed for goings-on on Monday. If you clicked on the agenda posted for Monday, you were out of luck.

But we give the responsive and accessible lawmaker from the west valley the benefit of the doubt. We like his straight-talk and responsive team and consider this a (frustrating) clerical mistake.

***

What's not a clerical mistake is City Council president Paul Krekorian suddenly pulling the plug on anyone in LA who wants to call in, or use Zoom, to committees and some other meetings to offer feedback, criticism or compliments (yeah, right) for their politicians and policies.

Trust me, Krekorian isn't slashing calling-in and Zoom functions because of overwhelming compliments…

That's because who other than the deeply involved (or deeply disturbed) has time to trudge to the bacteria bowl of downtown to offer one magnificent minute of comment between 9am and 3pm most weekdays?

Yet, as recently as February 24th, his spokesperson Hugh Esten represented that no such reduction in public participation was in-store:

My questions and his responses:

TGR: Does the Councilmember intend to continue REMOTE public participation at City Council, Committee and Commission meetings after the formal end of the pandemic emergency?

ESTEN: Yes.

TGR: Does he feel that telephonic and Zoom, Google meetings technology enabling REMOTE participation by constituents who might not otherwise be able to get to those meetings is worthwhile?

ESTEN: Yes.

TGR: Does he feel that such REMOTE participation is a healthy thing for more effective, responsive and transparent government?

ESTEN: Yes.

I subsequently reached out to Esten to find out why Boss Krekorian did an about-face on call-ins and Zoom. While he had previously stated that these tech options would be re-evaluated in the Spring, Esten has refused to respond.

That's because the tightly wrapped Krekorian doesn't like being called out for censorship and hypocrisy, after repeatedly promising a more open and transparent city government.

Truth is, Krekorian is in a great place. He is terming-out soon, isn't running for Adam Schiff's House seat and doesn't have a remaining fuck to give. But did he ever?

***

At her recent State of the City speech, Mayor Karen Bass said she wants all Angelenos to participate in their government, but for some odd reason (not odd, really), her office refuses to send this column her press releases.

Kinda petty, considering I am just an interloper with a keyboard. But okay. She's still apparently aching from this column exposing the LAFD sexual harassment investigation into Armando Hogan, who she wanted as its next Chief… until this column helped send him into an unanticipated retirement. This also stung Bass because Hogan was a fundraiser for her campaign.

We're further hearing that Bass is gnashing her teeth because this column also exposed an LAFD cover-up of domestic violence among its brass, a civilian and possibly an LAPD detective. She is particularly irked that that exposé involved an LGBTQ trio, and that the LAPD is now cornered for re-opening its investigation immediately upon my making public records requests.

Please see **Hogwash and Hypocristy** *on Page 3*

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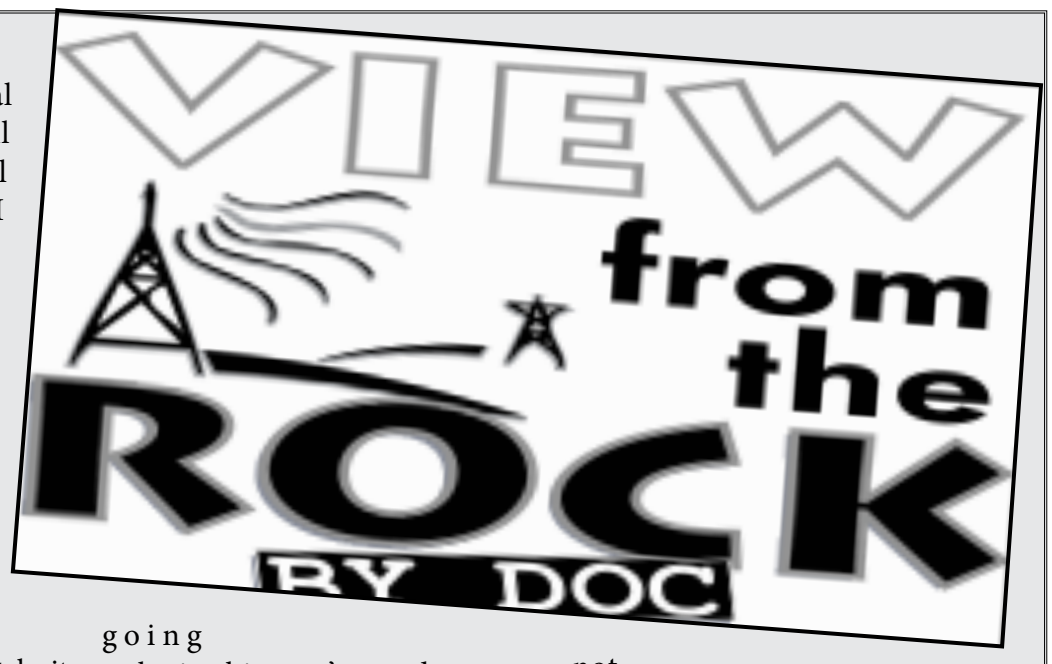
Heather Lloyd Inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

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

Lloyd is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.▪



Well, boys and girls, this has been — to quote David Frost— "The Week That Was!" Even I couldn't begin to figure out what was happening in our little vortex without a play sheet. A few years ago, our esteemed councilperson, M-Rod, made 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 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. We put a stop to that by threatening a civil rights vilation and got Rotary International involved.

they even went so far as to try and ban entries from The Foothills Paper and the Crow's Nest. 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 this 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 group 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 Scientologist or a woman member with an axe to grind, you fail at that one too. So what is left? How about the Tatulian Chamber of Commerce that stole so much of the gate fees from the July 4th fireworks show that it went out of business. But to be fair, she did use the Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills Community Fund. That same fund that Ms. Sonia set up as her own money laundering fund?

Yup, that's the one. And you really 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 can say: It's The Water!▪

Hogwash and Hypocristy
continued from page 2

(That's why the LAPD refuses to hand over the requested documents. The criminal investigation is once again "open," but only because of this column's inquiry.)

So much for government transparency!

Your anger is misplaced, Madame Mayor.

***

Bass took about a half minute in her SOTC speech to address the city's consistently most failing department, Los Angeles Animal Services. That's the one exposed for locking up animals without exercise and socialization for weeks at a time, which would be criminal if you or I did it, or if Peta decided to hold it accountable. That's the one where a supervisor allegedly made comments about criminally harming its animals. That's the one where they falsified thousands of pet "adoptions" by shuffling them from one building to another, until I exposed it. And that's the one where former Councilmember Paul Koretz misused more than $1 million in donated funds for a website rebuild that wasn't needed, by a shady organization with no experience doing it.

Bass, in her brief comments, praised LAAS's volunteers, who have been repeatedly retaliated against for bringing these cruel and deadly tragedies to the media's attention, for which they deserve to be honored, rather than suspended.

So who did Bass recently nominate to serve on the LAAS commission?

Someone with deep humane policy or rescue experience?

Someone who has cherished animals his whole life?

Someone who is so familiar with LAAS that he can name all of its general managers going back decades?

No.

Bass nominated James Johnson, a long-time union rep, who the union pushed her to choose because LAAS employees are continuously at-odds with the volunteers whose whistleblowing exposed the never-ending cruel conditions, waste and failure.

Johnson, like many other recent Bass nominees, was identified not by her staff, but by a high-ranking staffer in a certain Council office. Bass complied with the union's wishes, despite Johnson's deficit of experience that hampers others already on the LAAS commission.

In other words, Bass has opted in a lot of her appointments for hackery behind the scenes while superficially promoting openness, transparency and involvement.

While we hope that Mr. Johnson will fulfill the role honorably, there's something else about his appointment that we were asked to not disclose. Actually, there are a few things…

And that's why Bass doesn't send her press releases here.

I take it as a badge of honor.

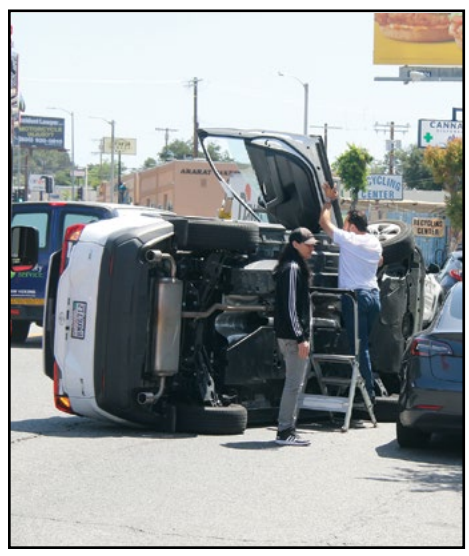
Follow me on The Twitters @TheGussReport and sign-up below for my free Substack newsletter. I'll have updates and new features coming soon.

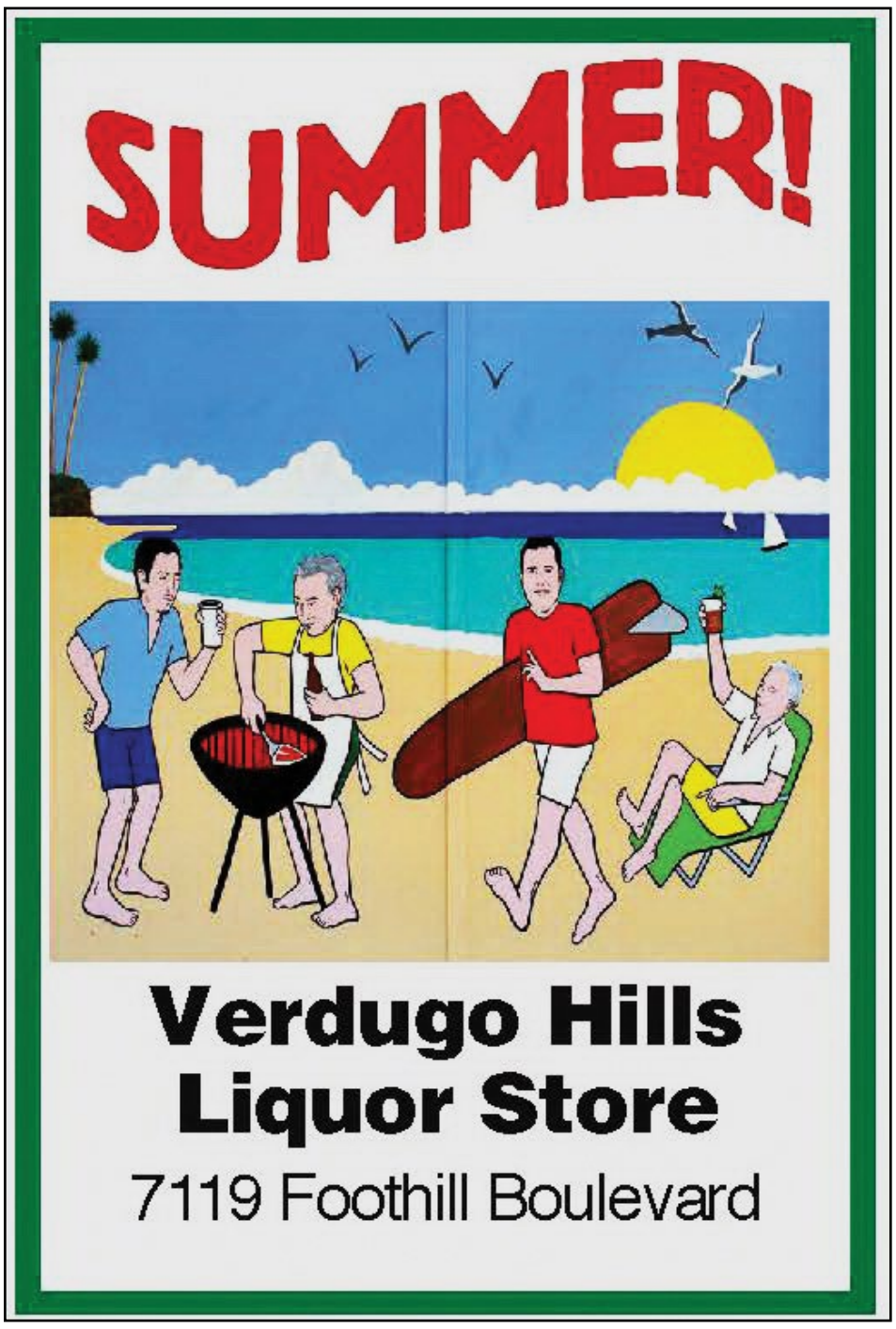
(Daniel Guss, MBA, was nominated for three 2022 LA Press Club awards and was a runner-up in 2021 and 2020. He is City Editor for the Mayor Sam network, and has been a featured contributor for CityWatchLA, KFI AM-640, iHeartMedia, 790-KABC, Cumulus Media, KCRW 89.9 FM, KRLA 870 AM, Huffington Post, Los Angeles Daily News, Los Angeles Magazine, Movieline Magazine, Emmy Magazine, Los Angeles Business Journal, Pasadena Star-News, Los Angeles Downtown News and the Los Angeles Times in its sports, opinion, entertainment and Sunday Magazine sections among other publishers.)

Thanks for reading DanielGuss. Substack.com. Subscribe for free and please share with friends.▪

"WE'RE ON A ROLL HERE?"

Maybe it's time for people to become more aware of what they are doing while driving their cars in Sunland-Tujunga. These rolled over cars were the product of poor judgement and could have been fatal.▪





This May at the YMCA of the Foothills

This month our Y will be celebrating a focused approach to healthy living for all our Mothers (Mother's Day, May 14th) and Women (National Women's Health Week, May 14th-20th). Whether it is a group exercise class, a wellness program, or a community outreach event – the Y has something for every woman this month!

We encourage you to kick off the month with our first-ever Wellness Luncheon on May 2nd at 11:30 am at the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA. This luncheon is open to the public and is co-sponsored by the YMCA of the Foothills, the YMCA of Glendale, and the Glendale Healthier Community Coalition. You can RSVP for this free event by contacting Monica Percich, our Community Health & Wellness Coordinator.

May also provides a meaningful reminder that healthy living and wellness are not limited to just fitness activities. May is also National Mental Health Awareness Month. The YMCA's pathways to well-being have been, and always will be, a holistic approach to wellness by improving the lives of all people spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially. For those of us that struggle to find balance in this area, the Y sees you, the Y hears you, and the Y is here to help support you. If you or anyone you know needs support in this area, you can access our Chaplain Services program by contacting our onsite Chaplain, Cameron Rose.

I hope this May brings you and your family renewed hope, a fresh start, and improved health as we collectively move forward as a community and nation.

Onward and Upward!
Vince Iuculano
Chief Executive Officer
YMCA of the Foothills▪

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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

CRIME MAPPING

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607275
10500 BLOCK FLORALITA AV
4/14/2023 @ 2:00 AM

THEFT - PETTY 231607286
7800 BLOCK BECKETT ST
3/30/2023 @ 4:42 PM

BURGLARY 231607256
7000 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
4/12/2023 @ 8:00 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607391
8600 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
4/19/2023 @ 2:15 AM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE 231607467
8200 BLOCK ELLENBOGEN ST
4/18/2023 @ 10:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607384
7000 BLOCK PARSONS TRL
4/18/2023 @ 8:40 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - PETTY 231607381
MT GLEASON & WENTWORTH
4/18/2023 @ 4:15 PM

ROBBERY 231607372
7700 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
4/18/2023 @ 1:50 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607380
10100 BLOCK HILLHAVEN AV
4/16/2023 @ 5:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607572
8000 BLOCK ELLENBOGEN ST
4/22/2023 @ 11:00 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE 231607579
11100 BLOCK ORO VISTA AV
4/22/2023 @ 11:00 AM

THEFT-GRAND 231607436
6800 BLOCK VALMONT ST
4/22/2023 @ 9:30 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607508
7900 BLOCK WENTWORTH ST
4/20/2023 @ 6:30 PM

THEFT - PETTY 231607520
7700 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
4/19/2023 @ 2:30 PM

THEFT - PETTY 231607524
7200 BLOCK SUMMITROSE ST
4/18/2023 @ 1:00 PM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 231607528
10200 BLOCK TUJUNGA CANYON BL
4/15/2023 @ 9:00 PM

BURGLARY 231607622
8600 BLOCK FENWICK ST
4/21/2023 @ 2:30 PM

DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS
2023-0005138
6400 BLOCK DAY ST
4/25/2023 @ 6:32 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607811
10000 BLOCK MOUNTAIR AV
4/30/2023 @ 8:30 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607802
10400 BLOCK NEWHOME AV
4/29/2023 @ 6:00 PM

BRANDISHING WEAPON, 231607816
TUJUNGA CANYON BL & TUJUNGA CANYON PL
4/30/2023 @ 6:30 PM

BURGLARY \231607835
10200 BLOCK LANGMUIR AV
4/24/2023 @ 12:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 231607829
7600 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
4/20/2023 @ 4:30 PM

BURGLARY 231607864
7600 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
5/1/2023 @ 6:00 PM

GRAND THEFT VEHICLE
(GTA): 923-05614-2199
10000 BLK SAMOA AVE, TUJUNGA, CA 91042
4/23/2023 @ 7:30 AM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE
231607909
10600 BLOCK MCCLEMONT AV
5/2/2023 @ 9:30 AM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE
231607894
8400 BLOCK FENWICK ST
4/28/2023 @ 4:00 AM

Ready-Set-Go LA!
continued from page 1

• Fill a "go bag" that can be placed near your door that contains a flashlight, radio, batteries, medicine, spare shoes, warm clothing, pet food and face masks, among other items that you might need for a couple of days.

• Create a defensible space around your property of at least 100 feet. This includes removing anything that could help flames jump from brush to your home.

• Install landscaping that is resistant to fire.

• Don't park in grass that is sure to be overgrown in many areas following the winter rains.

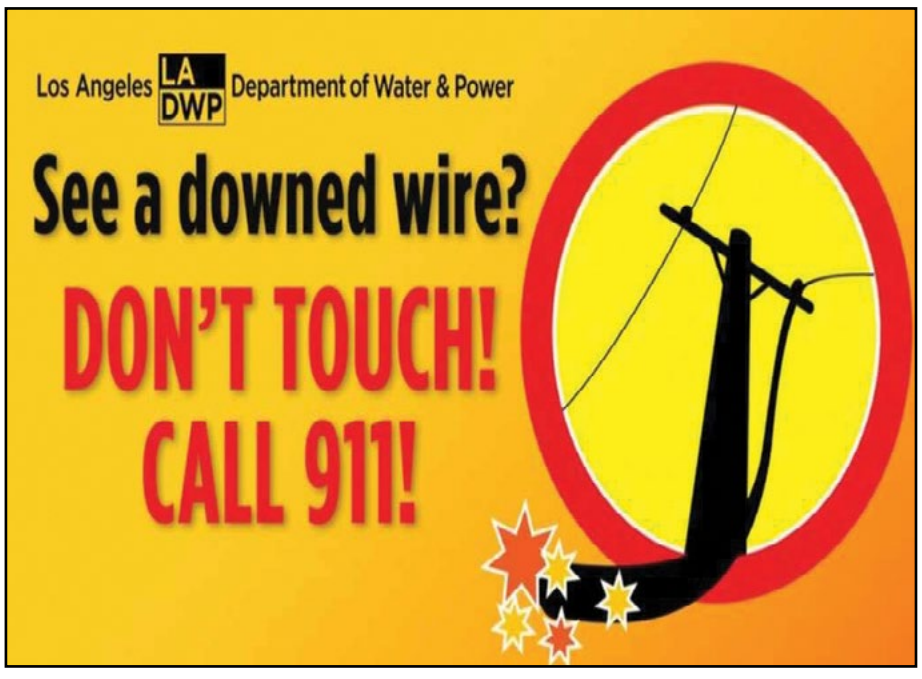
• Be careful not to cause a spark by mowing fields that have rocks or dragging a tow chain on the pavement behind your car.

• Create and practice an evacuation plan.

• Sign up with your local public safety agencies.

• When you see smoke, monitor social media or your local news media for official information.

• Evacuate when told to do so. San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies will blare a "high-low" siren from their patrol cars this summer to warn residents that the fire threat to their homes is imminent. "It is time to leave," Sheriff Shannon Dicus said.▪



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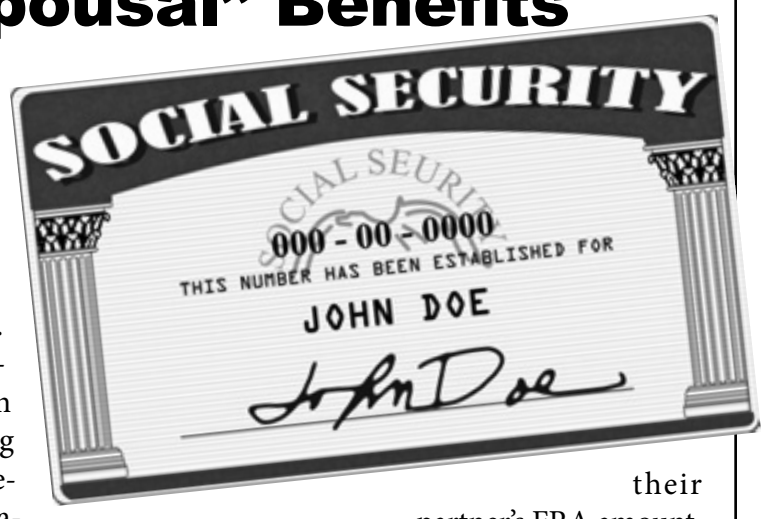
ASK RUSTY

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

About "Survivor" Benefits vs. "Spousal" Benefits



Dear Rusty: I will be 70 in August and will file my application for benefits in May. I know I'll get my maximum possible amount at age 70, but I need you to clarify things I have read. Per an award-winning TV host, author, and host of a money podcast "if the higher-earning spouse delays until age 70 to claim Social Security, that guarantees the survivor the biggest possible benefit." But then I read in a different article that if a person delays beyond their full retirement age to obtain a higher personal benefit (like I have), my spouse's benefit would still be based on my FRA benefit amount. I am confused about which statement is the correct version. ***Signed: Confused About My Spouse's Benefit***

Dear Confused: I'm not surprised that you are confused about these seemingly contradictory statements. It is, indeed, quite logical (and common) for a widow or widower to think they must apply for a "spousal benefit" from their deceased spouse. And while that's technically true, those of us who live in this often confusing world of Social Security jargon would say the widow or widower is applying for a survivor benefit, not a spousal benefit. What's the difference? Well, when you're speaking with a Social Security representative or an advisor, the term "spousal benefit" means something entirely different than the term "survivor benefit."

The two articles you mention are, I believe, referring to two different types of Social Security benefit. The term "survivor benefit" is typically used to describe benefits available to a surviving spouse when the higher earner dies, but the term "spousal benefit" is typically used to denote benefits available to a lower earning spouse when both partners are still living. I agree this is confusing, and that distinction was apparently not clear in the articles you read. Therefore, to clear your confusion:

- If the higher earning spouse dies and has delayed claiming until age 70, that does, indeed, "guarantee the surviving spouse the biggest possible benefit." The survivor's benefit is based on the full amount the deceased was receiving at death.
- If both spouses are living and the higher-earning spouse delayed until age 70 to claim, their living spouse's benefit, when the higher-earning spouse claims, will be a maximum of 50% of the higher-earning spouse's full retirement age (FRA) amount. A living spouse's benefit is based on their partner's FRA amount, regardless of when their partner actually claimed.

So, in your case, your wife's spousal benefit from you while you are both living will be based on your FRA entitlement, even though you waited longer to claim. But if you die first, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will be based on 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. In effect, both statements you referred to in your question are true considering that they refer to two different benefit types. It is a terminology distinction which frequently causes misunderstanding.

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LAPD Officers and S-T SLO's Honor

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The coronavirus killed six LAPD officers in 2021, one of the deadliest years in decades for LAPD. The last time that many active duty LAPD officers died in one year was 1983. In total, since the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 has killed nine officers.

Other officers fell to violence, both on the street and inside LAPD itself.

Among those honored Wednesday was Juan Diaz, a rookie who in 2019 was shot to death while off-duty in Lincoln Heights.

At the time, LAPD said Diaz got into an argument with a man he saw man tagging a wall. As Diaz was driving away from a taco stand, the man returned and shot him to death.

Family members of Officer Houston Tipping also attended Wednesday. Tipping died in a training accident in 2022 — LAPD said he was grappling with another officer when they fell, crushing Tipping's spine.

Tipping's mother disputed that account and sued the department. Her attorney alleged the officer who grabbed Tipping was the subject of a complaint Tipping reported to the department.

It's not clear if any other members of Tipping's family have sued the department over his death.

After a presentation of the names of photos of every fallen officer, family members walked to a memorial wall to place flowers on placards bearing their loved ones' names.

Overhead, four LAPD helicopters flew in formation. Three rifle volleys were fired in salute to the fallen officers. And nearby, a newly formed LAPD choir sang.▪

Get Ready for the "Big One:" - Emergency Preparedness Expert Say it's Coming

By Pat Kramer

Get ready for the "Big One" now, said Margaret Vinci from Cal Tech's Office of Earthquake Programs as she addressed STNC's stakeholders and board at February's meeting. David Cain, STNC's Vice President of Outreach, hosted the special Emergency Preparedness Presentation on February 9th, which coincided with the anniversary of the 6.6 Sylmar earthquake in 1971 which killed 62 people.

"Every 150 years," said Ms. Vinci, "there is an earthquake of major proportion registering 7.3 or higher (aka: the "Big One")." The last one occurred in California in 1857, registering at 7.9 on the Richter scale. By comparison, she said both the Sylmar earthquake and 1994's 6.7 Northridge earthquake were only moderate in scale. The Big One is expected to be massive in its reach extending throughout five counties with damage to be around $218 billion dollars.

The quake will collapse major freeways leaving Sunland-Tujunga to fend for itself. Foothill Boulevard, the only main artery, will be a parking lot preventing emergency fire, police and rescue crews from gaining access. Phone and electrical lines will be down and cell phone signals will jam up. Underground pipes carrying water and gas will burst causing fires to erupt. Predictions are that following a major earthquake, power, water and communication could be down for weeks to months. The only form of communication will be Ham Radio. On that note, STNC board member Mark Segal encouraged stakeholders to attend his 8-week Ham Radio training offered now.

Those who are ill, injured or do not have extra water and food will be the most seriously affected, as there will be a run on every market to stock up on what supplies remain. CERT trained volunteers will be the first line of rescue for neighbors as emergency personnel will be overwhelmed.

Given this worst case scenario, Ms. Vinci and other emergency preparedness speakers, urged everyone to begin stockpiling emergency supplies, including a two week supply of water and food, first aid supplies, flashlights with extra batteries, warm clothing, blankets, comfortable and sturdy shoes, fire extinguishers, pens and paper, extra medications, toilet paper and a whistle.

For one's home, Doug and Jackie Crosby of Redi Fredi Emergency Preparation Service recommended a 30 or a 55-gallon water storage container. However if using plastic gallons of water, be sure you keep them away from a concrete surface, as it can corrode the containers. Store at least one gallon, per day, for each person in your household. Pets also need a gallon of water, per day, says Stacy Dancy, Emergency Evacuation Officer for L.A.'s Department of Animal Services. However, horses may need 8-12 gallons of water per day, so it's critical that horse owners store a large supply of water for their survival.

During an emergency, owners will need to be responsible for lost or injured pets. Ms. Dancy suggested having a crate for each pet to keep them secure following an earthquake and training them to use it by putting them in it for an hour a day. This will help them remain calmer during an emergency. For purposes of identification, she suggested videotaping or photographing your pets and storing images on a flash drive so if they are lost, you have a record of ownership.

Have a second emergency disaster bag by your front door with copies of all important documents so you can grab it quickly if you need to leave your home. With ATMs down, you'll need an advanced supply of cash with at least $100.00 in $1.00 bills for when you need to purchase supplies. Without electricity, stores will not have change so those $1.00 bills will come in handy.

Finally, Ms. Vinci recommended creating an Emergency Disaster Plan with a central location and a central contract phone number where everyone in your household can find one another, should you get separated.

To prepare for your own survival, sign up for a CERT class at: www.CERT.com.

The Big One is coming but we don't know when it will hit. The better you prepare now, the better your chances will be of surviving in the aftermath.▪