



**Ready Your LA Neighborhood-
RYLAN Held Second Workshop!**

With about 75 people attending the workshop at the Los Angeles Emergency Management Center two weeks ago, the Emergency Liaisons were off to a great start. - SEE PAGE 8



What Lies Above the Clouds!

La Cañada Flintridge, CA - On Saturday, September 7 at 5:00 PM, Flintridge Bookstore & Coffeehouse welcomes Emmy Award-winning helicopter cameraman and author David Alan Arnold. - SEE PAGE 2

THE FOOTHILLS

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

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

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 41



Strange Weather Brings Out Strange Animals

By David "Doc" DeMulle'

Coyotes, bears and even small frogs have been showing up in our neighborhood. Remember the Egyptian Pharo's 2nd plague? That was frogs dropping out of the skies. No one knows where these "Froglets" came from, but people have been finding them in their ponds, swimming pools and even climbing up their window screens.

Up until now, they were only found in the Big-T wash and they were fun to watch grow. And no, they are not edible.■



2nd
Saturday
Program

History of the Verdugo Family



Don Jose Maria Verdugo was granted Rancho San Rafael for his service as a soldier at the San Gabriel Mission. This grant now encompasses Glendale, Burbank and LaCrescenta. His family was a huge part of the early history of the Crescenta Valley and surrounding areas. How many things can you think of in our area that have the Verdugo name attached to them?

Our speaker is **Donald Urquidez**. He is a direct descendant of the Verdugo Family and still lives in the area. Mr. Urquidez will tell us the interesting history of the Verdugo Family.

Saturday
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Senorita Verdugo, c. 1880

Our Mission: To preserve and maintain Bolton Hall Museum and the historical record of Rancho Tujunga. Little Landers Historical Society (LLHS) is a non-profit, all volunteer organization established in 1959 to save Bolton Hall from destruction. Bolton Hall is Los Angeles City Historic Cultural Monument #2. Contact us at (818) 352-3420 or LLHS@BoltonHall.org.

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What a Night It Was at the McGroarty Burgers & Beer Fest!!!

THIS is what fun is all about. When the community gets together to celebrate the night and support affordable arts education, everybody wins. Everyone had a great time meeting friends and making new ones last Saturday the

24th and there were many who said "Let's do this more times a year!"

It was truly an amazing night for the over 150 people who showed up and the more than 25 volunteers who had been working all week and volunteered to put the

B&B Night on. And remember: this is an entirely volunteer led event!

*Please see **What a Night It Was at the McGroarty Burgers & Beer Fest!!!** on Page 8*

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

What Lies Above the Clouds!

The Emmy award-winning author of *HELP FROM ABOVE* David Alan Arnold was at the Flintridge Bookstore & Coffeehouse last month promoting his book about being a helicopter cameraman. Arnold has written two memoirs, *Help from Above: How I Went from Sweeping the Floor to Painting the Sky* and

What Lies Above the Clouds: A True Crime Story. In these books, he shares stories from his personal and professional lives, including thrilling, challenging and sometimes death-defying moments.

David Alan Arnold's name is synonymous with aerial cinematography like *Evil Knievel's* with motorcycle jumping. He's the best in the business and a generous soul to boot. There's no better guy to fly with. - Decker Watson, Executive Producer, *DEADLIEST CATCH*

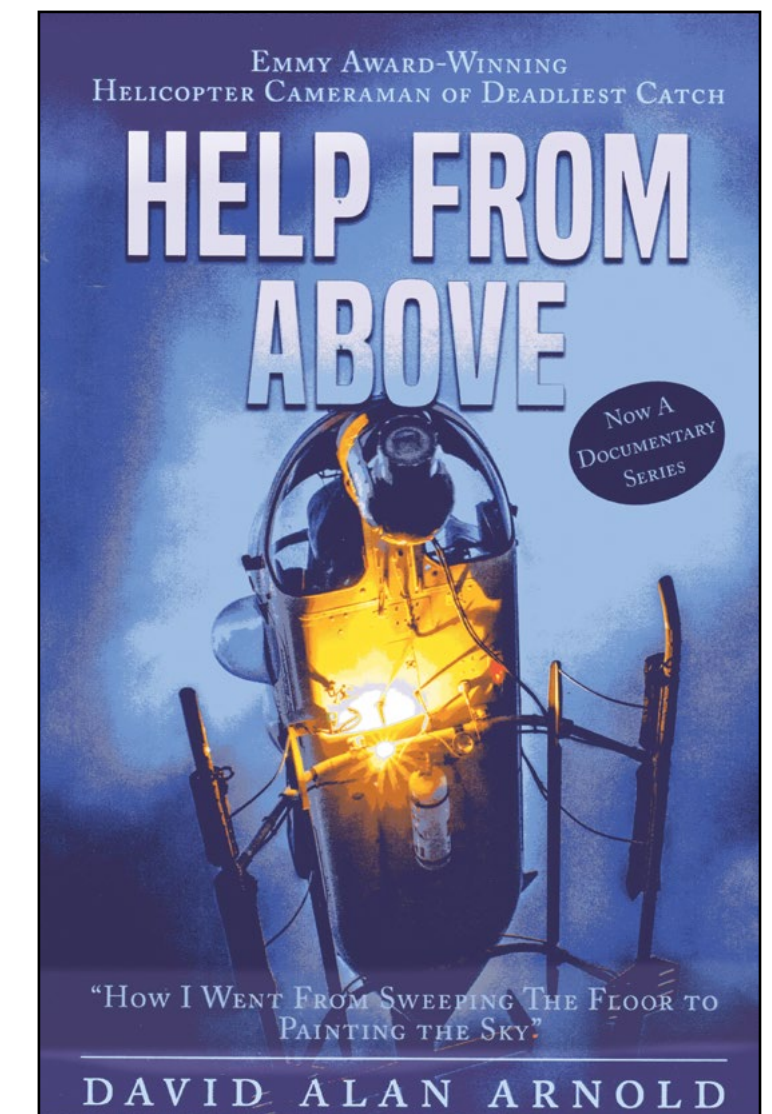
Arnold started his Hollywood career with a broom in his hand. Somehow, sweeping the floor got him into some of the world's biggest TV shows. David's first book *Help from Above* tells the unlikely story of mistakes and miracles that took him to some of the most dangerous places on Earth.

In his second memoir, *What Lies Above the Clouds*, Arnold takes us on a life and death adventure flying for the television shows. But, he

also gets into adventures at home, picking a fight with an organized crime ring of kidnapers, drug dealers, and murderers who terrified his town.

One of David Alan Arnold's earliest childhood memories is a surreal experience of floating up from his crib and flying out a window. It must have been a dream. Today, David's job as Airborne Cinematographer flies him around the world, for movies like *James Bond* and TV shows like *Ice Road*.

Truckers, *Deadliest Catch*, *Amazing Race*, *The World Series*, *Survivor*, and *Super Bowl*. Arnold has a home in Tujunga, California. When not flying, David volunteers to help his community. For more information, contact Gail Mishkin at (818) 790-0717. Flintridge Bookstore and Coffeehouse is located at 1010 Foothill Blvd., La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011, at the intersection of Foothill Blvd. and the Angeles Crest Hwy. Take the An-



geles Crest exit off the 210, turn left onto Chevy Chase. turn south, make a right. Parking is in the rear of the store. ■

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR/ PUBLISHER

Dr. David DeMullé
editor@thefoothillspaper.com

Dyan McManus RIP

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all our volunteers
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ZACHAUS – A Tujunga Family

By Charlene Garcia-Lockhart

Meeting and speaking with Charles E. Miller has been a pleasure. The kind of pleasure your grandma's peach cobbler brings. The kind of pleasure watching movies, a double feature none the less, at Sunland Drive-in. Watching with my dad and my children on the hood of his blue Travelall. The twinkle in his eyes while he speaks with the voice of our forefathers. The voice reminds me of Clint Eastwood's or my father's when I slammed the drive-in-speaker against the window. Miller certainly makes any persons day. The kind of pleasure of hanging out at Winchell's Doughnuts with your friends. All innocent good fun. The pleasure of driving up in the canyon to hike, to swim, to go to the falls, and hang out. Pleasure of ease and happiness, the welcome of the canyon, joyful relaxing. Going over to Carroll's hamburgers, across the street from Sunland Park. The burgers were 19 cents.

Yes, spending time with Miller has brought me memories of reminiscence that can be recalled as an imprint of joy in one's minds.

Miller brings stories of an easier time in which we were able to entertain ourselves without video games, without phones in our pockets, without constant computers. It let us be ourselves and develop relationships that were strong and that continue because we actually listened to someone speak.

I am not saying that it is not an important thing, the development of the digital age etc. I am saying that it's okay to look back and see a simpler time that brings important lessons in itself.

In the evenings Miller said that they would sit around in the evenings, by the fireplace. Reading and swapping stories from the day.

The Little Landers were people who came to Tujunga to buy land. They didn't have money and they didn't have Mr. Hartranft (an early developer), to put the project on. Small places and small little houses. They

got a grubstake and they got going.

Kerosene lanterns are what they read by, the light they needed. Coal oil was purchased at The Rowley's General Store in Sunland. Electricity came in around 1913 or 1914.

Music became a big part of family life. The children would go outside and find animals ribs. They would make homemade castanets out of them. Sticks or bones, are a common instrument in Appalachian bluegrass festivals. "Playing the bones" it was called.

In those days if people came to visit they would stay a week or ten days because of the time it took to travel and because it was a respite from hard life to have a guest.

Harry Zachaus, a pioneer Tujunga family, "they lived on the slopes above Sunland-Tujunga. He was a grape grower." There is a street after the Wagon Wheel market named after the family. People would go up to the Zachau's, he was German and she was French. Soon the sticks would be going, the voices ringing through the slopes. ■

You'd think that writing an editorial would be pretty easy after almost 19 years of doing it? Well I'll let you in on a little secret, it's not. The purpose of the View From the Rock is to gather up all the loose ends and let people know what they missed by being at work, taking care of their families, or even just being out of town.

I really have to laugh but I try not to, when the mentally challenged people in our community attack The Foothills Paper as being "fake news." Oh well, I can't pick on them, they are just parroting what the cliques says. Who knows, maybe I'm missing something. So many things have happened these past years, and people have died off, moved, or had too many people tell them they were crazy that they've become silent.

But as they say, we have to take every day, one at a time. This week has been an especially onerous one for the Tatulian Cartel. The Arnieville Oligarch Arnie, is getting his new Pizzeria through the licensing process and there is a really neat mural that he had painted on the north wall. I'm looking forward to seeing what its going to look like inside.

I'm supposed to tour the Home Depot property next month, but what's exciting about seeing rows and rows of building materials that have been stored there for a de-

cade? Yup, things are looking up for the community. I was elected President of the New Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce and after I get my "certificate of appreciation" from our elected officials, it'll be time to get the operation available to the business community.

Our last defunct cartel run ST Chamber went down in flames taking its members money and giving nothing in return. With our new board of directors, I expect that we'll be working with our arch nemesis Ms. Monica. I hope it does something to build up the chamber, it really needs help. The chamber is where, even in Somalia, the chamber of commerce is looked up to as the place to go for business information. It was just so difficult trying to work with the Tatulian cartel that I finally just gave up. We have a new/ same-o, same-o STNC here, and they are spending money hand over fist and yet they still don't have an office in the North Valley City Hall.

Funny thing, it wasn't that long ago that the cartel chamber vice-president Hrant Vartsbedian called the new members of the STNC executive board "a bunch of cows." I really can't believe how bad he must feel having the cartel team lose to a group of older women. Now don't get me wrong boys and girls, ladies & gentlemen, this

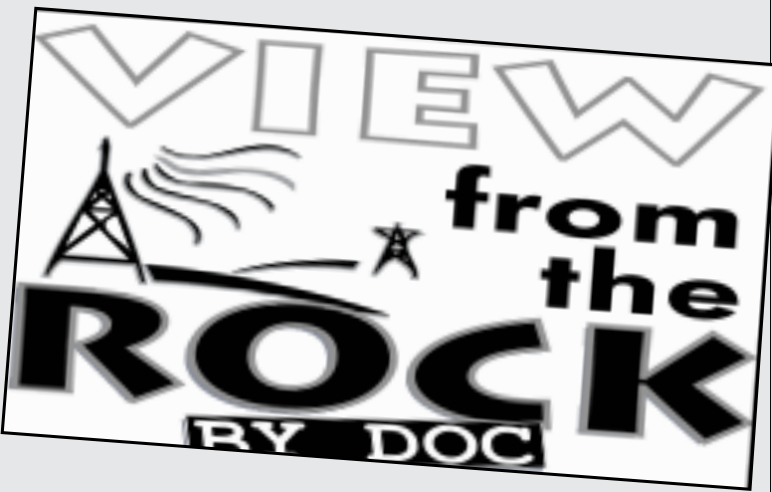
might not be a bad thing. The STNC is one of those groups that are likened to standing on quicksand. Every step forward is countered by the cartel and ignored by our CD-7 Councilwoman. Our neighborhood council can't even find an office to work out of. And like a band of gypsies, move from one venue to another, like a homeless vagrant trying to find a place to lay his head and hold a bindle for the night. They didn't have many women Hobo's back then.

I just had a flash of inspiration. When I (and some of our older residents) were growing up, HOBO's carried all their possessions in a piece of cloth tied to a staff or pole. That was called a "Bindle Stick," and they were able to move from one side of the country to the other easily. They actually rode the rails across the nation looking for work. But as the years rolled by, we began to get more and more immigrants into our nation. They called it "progress."

BUT PROGRESS MEANT SUPER MARKETS!! I just realized that they didn't have stolen shop-

ping carts back then. Wow! Progress brought larger grocery purchases, which required shopping carts (called market baskets then), and that allowed our newly created drug addled transients to carry even more items. Oh! And don't forget the creation of a disposable society that allowed people to discard their slightly old items and buy new ones from Asia for less.

And that created a whole new realm of mobile hoarders that we are now pulling our hair out about. Wow! But just as I thought that I solved the homeless problem by taking away their ability to collect our trash, they have figured out how to buy motor homes so they can store more. Hummm, I wonder if they might be interested in starting their own Houseless Chamber of Commerce. Yup, and if they succeeded, they could say "It was the water!"■



[Click here to open link](#)

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Hansen Dam Fire. Photo credit: Bette Simpson.

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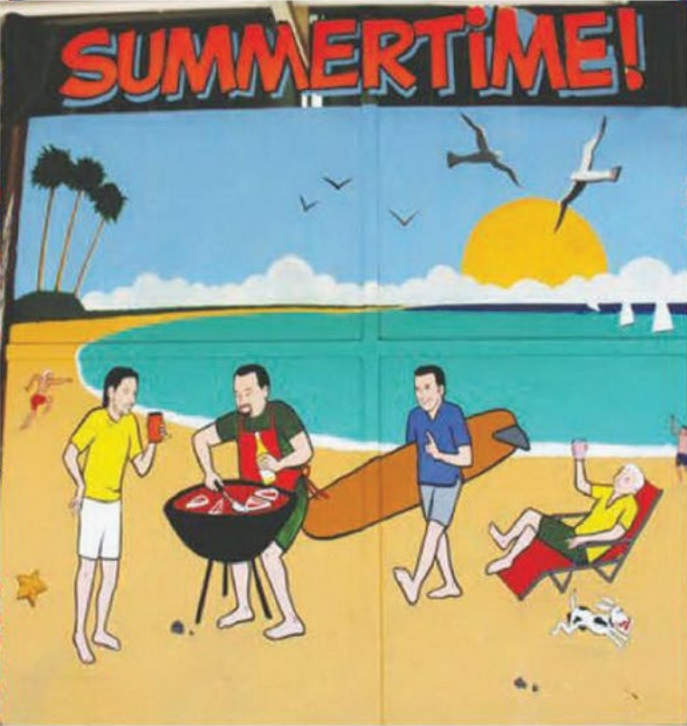
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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

Home Financing Is Easier Than You Think



By David DeMulle

You saw an online ad for low mortgage rates and decided to apply — just to see if you qualify. Now your phone is buzzing nonstop, and lenders are emailing you about “DTIs” and W-2s.

The onslaught of financing questions can be baffling when you’re tackling them alone. But it doesn’t have to be that way.

Looking for some insight to make financing more straightforward? These four tips will get you started:

1. It’s okay to play the field.

Don’t be afraid to apply for several loans with different lenders to compare the terms and rates. You can — and should — shop around.

Just be sure to do so within a set time period to avoid multiple credit inquiries.

2. Manual underwriting can help you qualify.

Most lenders automate their approval process to speed up transactions. However, if you fall outside conventional requirements, they can’t see your full financial picture. That’s where manual underwriting comes in.

Buyers with concerns about their income or credit should verify that their lender will manually underwrite the loan if needed.

3. Broaden your prospects with a fixer-upper mortgage.

Buying a fixer-upper can give you more home at a lower price. Did you know that the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) and Fannie Mae offer loans that will cover the mortgage and necessary home repairs?

4. You don’t need 20% down.

Perhaps the biggest homebuying myth is that you can’t buy without 20% down. But you can. Here’s how:

- **Low Down Payment Options:** FHA loans only require 3.5% down with a FICO score of 580 or higher, or 10% down with a score of 500 to 579.

- **0% Down Options:** Buyers shopping in rural areas may be eligible for a USDA loan with 0% down. For qualified veterans and active-duty military members, VA loans often have no down payment requirement.

- **Buyer Assistance Programs:** There are down payment and closing cost assistance programs available to first-time homebuyers. Not a first-timer? Some are also available to those who haven’t owned a home in the past three years.

Mortgage financing can feel overwhelming. But you’re not in it alone.

Reach out today for a referral to a trusted lender to get preapproved for your next home. ■

LAFD CERT Skills Refresher September 2023

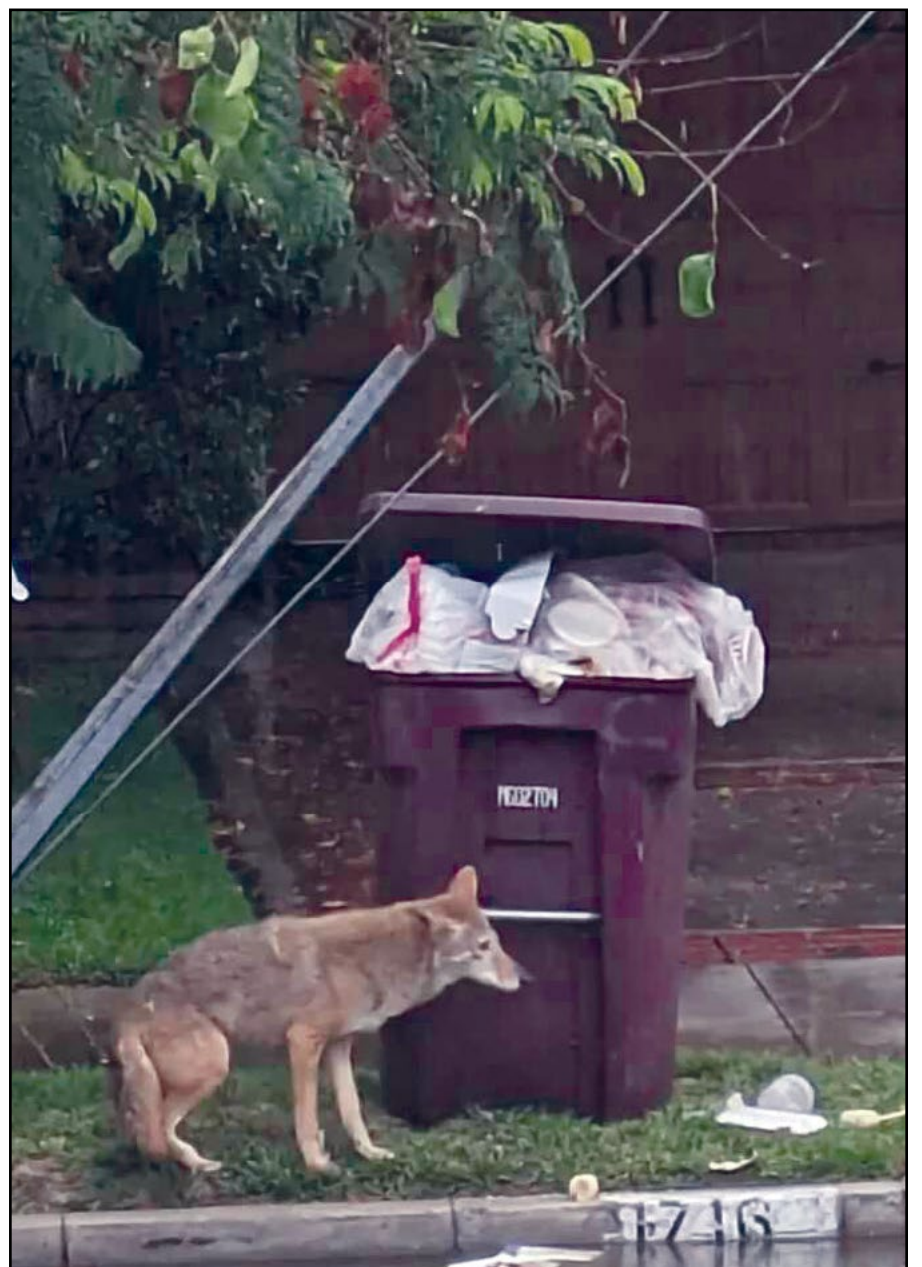
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We encourage you to take a look

at our flyer for more information and how you can sign up! For additional inquiries as to how you can become CERT Trained, Signing Up for Current CERT Courses, or further information on the September 21st Skills Refresher please email us at lafdcert@lacity.org We hope to see you there! ■



You know how we used to laugh at those people that parked on the beach and the tide came in.... Tujunga Canyon Rod. After the rains.



Even Coyotes have to look for food in the rain.

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ASK RUSTY

State Pension May Eliminate Survivor Benefit



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

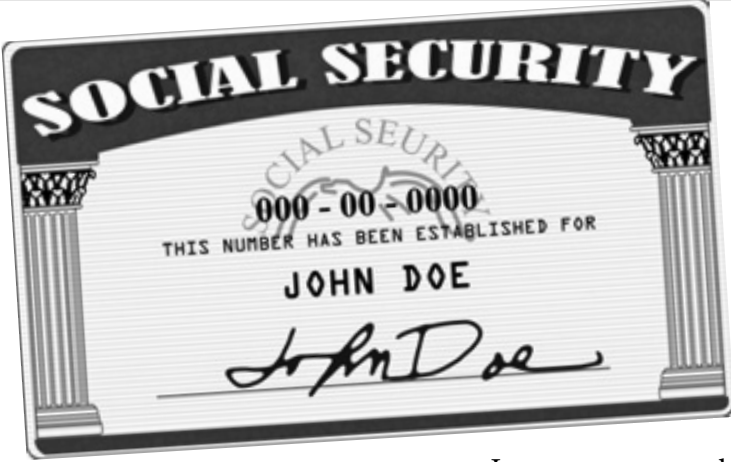
Dear Rusty: Please validate or negate this dreadful information: My husband and I are recently retired and living on our combined retirement plans. I was told that when my husband dies, I will NOT be allowed to draw ANY of his hard-earned Social Security income. I cannot survive on my Louisiana teacher retirement alone. We were never informed of this

until we had worked hard for 40 years & retired. Can you advise me on this dreadful turn of events. Signed: Bewildered in Louisiana

Dear Bewildered: Unfortunately, I don't have good news. If your teaching career and the associated pension were in the State of Louisiana, I'm afraid that any Social Security survivor benefit you might be eligible for from your husband will be impacted by the Government Pension Offset (GPO) - a provision of Social Security which applies to anyone with a pension from an employer who did not participate in the Social Security program. Louisiana is, unfortunately, one of 27 U.S. States whose employees may be affected by the GPO, because neither you nor the State of Louisiana contributed to the Social Security program while

you were employed there. It's unfortunate you weren't made aware of this by your employer, but it's well documented in the State's "LASERS" information which you can view at this link: <https://www.lsu-hsc.edu/administration/hrm/benefits-retirement-nonss.aspx>.

The GPO will reduce your Social Security survivor benefit by 2/3rds of the amount of your LA State pension, and if 2/3rds of your LA pension is more than your SS survivor's benefit, the Social Security survivor benefit will be eliminated. I know it's no solace, but you are not alone in your dismay over this provision.



In fact, a bill is active in Congress to eliminate the GPO (and a sister provision known as the Windfall Elimination Provision, or WEP), but that bill has made little headway despite having 195 Congressional co-sponsors. The bill I'm referring to is known as the "Social Security Fairness Act", which is House bill H.R. 1205 (there is a corresponding Senate bill S.915). You can examine it at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house->

the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has expressed support for the bill's passage, but to no avail in a Congress which is instead debating ways to resolve Social Security's larger financial issues which are now projected to deplete the Trust Fund by 2035. I'm afraid the only suggestion I can offer for your personal situation is to contact your Congressional Representatives and ask for their support and action on H.R. 1205 and S.915. ■

V&S Automotive answers your question about oil changes for your car

Engines are made up of many moving parts, and those parts need to be properly lubricated to avoid damage. Oil in the engine provides this vital function. Over time, that oil breaks down and becomes contaminated with dust, dirt and debris from the engine as well as the environment. When that happens, oil can't properly do its job.

That's why we specialize in providing the actual oil recommended by the manufacturer and not some cheap "off the shelf oil." With all the moving

parts, pistons, valves and other part moving at high speeds, they create heat that will cause excessive wear to your cars engine. Each vehicle manufacturer calls out the specific type, grade & weight designation for the maximum protection of your engine.

Oil, besides lubricating the engine, also has cooling properties that keep the engine running at its maximum performance. Driving every day causes dirt to enter the engine through service ports and by the engine producing metal filings and sludge from the

breakdown of the engine oil through normal usage.

It is really important to keep the engine clean. Routine oil and filter changes remove these dirt and engine particles. You really "Get what you pay for!" You can get quarts of no-name oil, cheap oil, recycled oil or bulk drum oil. At V&S Automotive, we know exactly what kind of oil your vehicle needs and we have it in stock. Come on in and let us show you how it's done and what the manufacturer wants you to use.

Remember, what you put in is what



you get out. Cheap oil will cause your engine to deteriorate sooner than it was designed for. Let us work with you to get the maximum benefit from your vehicle.

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Ready Your LA Neighborhood-RYLAN Held Second Workshop!

With about 75 people attending the workshop at the Los Angeles Emergency Management Center two weeks ago, the Emergency Liaisons were off to a great start. The purpose of the meeting was to outline the direction the members were to follow in setting up neighborhood committees that will “Train The Trainers” in the latest methodology of saving lives, reducing the severity of injuries and decreasing property damage during and after a catastrophic event. “Doc” DeMulle, Sandy Capps and Nina Royal were approved as Emergency Management Department Liaisons 4 years ago but only Doc has continued his membership.

There were as many diverse people attending as there were communities interested in making this happen. One group of members were amateur radio operators that were conversant in emergency communications



“Doc” waves to the new Amateur Radio operators he met at the meeting.

operation and protocol. David “Doc” DeMulle’ who was previ-

ously Emergency Coordinator for the San Gabriel Valley Amateur Radio Emergencies Corps. (AREC) Met with about 15 “Hams” and discussed the latest equipment and what networks were in operation. The old AREC is now called the Amateur Radio Emergency Services and “Doc” is a member of the LAX region. An article was printed about the Crescenta Valley Amateur Radio group that conducts Emergency Readiness drills once a year during the annual ARRL Field Day.

One of the things that people forget is that in a catastrophic event, cell phones and GRMS units will be so overwhelmed as to be useless, and only specialized radio communications equipment such as amateur radios will be able to operate. Emergency mobile equipment was discussed and plans were made to meet up and create communications networks that can operate together or by themselves. ■

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association CVMA 33-3 visits Legion Post 377



Members proudly display their colors at the American Legion Post 377.

They were doing a tour run from the IE ending up at the American Legion Post 377 for a laid back game of pool and cold beer last Saturday. More than 30 motorcyclists came up in convoy with everyone knowing their exact position on the road. Just like the old days. When I asked them what their mission statement was, I was told: “To support and defend those who have defended their country and their

freedoms.”

Their main focus is to help Veteran care facilities provide a warm meal, clothing, shelter, and guidance, or simply say “Thank You” and “Welcome Home.”

When I asked their run leader Lamont R.A. Reed what they represent. He said “We are an Association of Combat Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who ride motorcycles as a hobby.

Our membership is comprised of Full Members (whose verified combat service), Supporter members (those who have non-combat military service, and have a sincere dedication to helping veterans) and Auxiliary Members such as a spouse, widow or widower of a member in good standing with a CVMA). For more information, you can log on to their Internet site: www.combatvets33-3.com ■

What a Night It Was at the McGroarty Burgers & Beer Fest!!! *continued from page 1*

Even the STNC was there driving a golf cart picking up people that had parked on the road below or in the bottom parking area. Many thanks go out to the Mission College for coming and grilling up the best burgers by the head of its Culinary Arts department!

And you can’t forget the 8 ONE 8 Brewing Company for pouring the suds! Next year they say they’ll have two people and more beer! Music was provided by Seize the Night band and cranking out some amazing, rocking tunes!

If you missed it this year, make sure you don’t next year. ■

