



Mushroom-Lentil Pâté

When I hear the word pâté, I picture a slice of toasted baguette with a modicum of creamy pâté spread on top. Until recently, I hadn't considered making my own because I thought it had to be made with liver and that it took a lot of prep time. - SEE PAGE 6



Pet Safety and Natural Disasters

In case of a natural disaster, you'll want a plan to protect your family, and of course, your pet. A few basic precautionary measures can help your pet stay safe and with the family in the event the unthinkable happens. - SEE PAGE 8

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THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

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

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 42

PET SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCES 2024:

Training Dogs to Save Lives and Reunite Families with Lost Pets

Pet Search and Rescue, a business dedicated to reuniting lost pets with their families, is proud to announce a series of informative and inspirational working conferences focused on search and rescue techniques specifically to find missing beloved companion animals. The three Pet Search and Rescue Conferences will be held in various locations across the country, bringing together passionate animal lovers, expert rescuers, and industry professionals.

Pet Search and Rescue Conferences aim to foster collaboration and skill development within the realm of animal search and rescue operations. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about working and training Search Dogs to find lost pets. Attendees can engage with renowned experts in the field, gain valuable insights into the lost pet problem, and methods used in pet recovery efforts.

The three amazing locations - sunny Tampa Bay, Florida in January, glamorous Los Angeles, California in

April, and in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains, New York in July of 2024 - offer locations across the US to bring awareness and opportunities from coast to coast.

These events are dedicated to lost pet recovery and Search Dog training to find lost pets, offering something for all levels of experience. Open to all, including Private Investigators, Professionals, Volunteers, Nonprofits & Pet Owners. Attendees can learn the basics, enhance their knowledge, further their business or nonprofit, increase earnings and donations, network and work with Search Dogs in person. Each PSAR Conference is 3 jam packed days of search scenarios. Realistic training scenarios will be conducted in beautiful, unique and special locations, providing fun and learning for humans and dogs alike. Observer spots are available for participants without dogs.

Please see **Pet Search and Rescue Conference 2024**
on Page 7



The three Pet Search and Rescue Conferences will be held in various locations across the country, bringing together passionate animal lovers, expert rescuers, and industry professionals.



THIS IS THE START of the largest La Tuna Canyon wildfire in California History! The "official reports" were wrong. It started at 12:30 pm on Sept 1, 2017.

Lessons from the La Tuna Fire

By Chad Hanson

Driven by triple-digit temperatures and high winds, the La Tuna fire scorched 7,194 acres of shrubland and forest in the western Verdugo Mountains area of Los Angeles, Glendale and Burbank last Sept 1 through Sept 9 2017, making it the largest fire to occur within Los Angeles city limits in half a century.

What made the La Tuna fire truly remarkable was not its size, however, but the lessons it provided for our changing fire season, which seems to begin earlier and end later every year.

By the time the fire was out, there were nearly 1,400 homes either within the fire perimeter or within 200 feet of its path, yet only five homes were destroyed in the fire. How is this possible?

Los Angeles is a national leader in encouraging, and enforcing, fire-safe principles for homes. Angelenos are used to annual inspections and notices about "defensible space" — the practice of reducing combustible grasses, shrubs and small trees within 100 feet of homes each spring.

Please see **Lessons from the La Tuna Fire**
on Page 4

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

City Hall, What? - by Amelia Anderson

Held Saturday down at City Hall? Well, it's sort of a wow of LA Neighborhood Councils in party mode. And I don't mean Dem Repub kinda folks. I mean some serious head celebration in the sharing of ideas and of the fact that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council System is the larg-

est grassroots civil engagement system in the nation!

So, what exactly are Neighborhood Councils, anyway? Well, back in 1999, the 'Empower LA' movement birthed the Neighborhood Council System that was voted into the City Charter by Angelenos who wanted their local voices heard at City Hall with a mission to increase citizen engagement and make government more responsive to local needs.

Under the establishment of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, Neighborhood Councils have grown into the nation's largest and most innovative initiative in civic engagement and citizen-based government. With a network of 97 Neighborhood Councils, LA promotes public participation in government, and works to improve responsiveness to local concerns. Visit EmpowerLA.org.

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners was

set up to have a policy-setting and oversight function for both the Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. Seven Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council selected from diverse backgrounds and geographic areas of the city.

The Commission ensures that the City Charter and the Plan for a City-wide System on Neighborhood Councils are realized by setting policies of inclusiveness and are representative of all community stakeholders. The Commission strongly believes that the individuality of Neighborhood Councils should func-

tion as a catalyst for change in addressing the needs of their communities.

Who are selected to sit on the Neighborhood Council Boards? Anyone within a given community may run for office. Like property owners, employers and employees of local businesses, and those who are active in local clubs, parks, and educational endeavors. Non-profit or religious organizations are included; as well as community members who are undocumented or have criminal records.

Currently, 1800 volunteer elected board members citywide act as self-governing independent advisory bodies to the city government on areas of concern

for their communities. Many have celebrated their 15 year anniversary!

Because Neighborhood Councils represent different and unique communities, their Boards can vary in size from 9 to 35 members and can include special seats such as Youth, Seniors and even Horse Owners, with members serving 2 to 4 year terms. With 43% women on boards and acting as executive officers, Neighborhood Councils have one of the highest percentages of women in elected office.

What do Neighborhood Councils Do? They weigh in on the delivery of city services and monitor the city budget.■

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Amelia Anderson is a Homeless Advocate elected to both the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council and also to Mayor Garcetti's Homeless Committee.

HERTZBERG PUSHES LEGISLATION TO ROLL BACK DL SUSPENSIONS

Sen. Bob Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys, introduced legislation today to roll back driver's license suspensions for Californians who have been unable to pay their traffic fines and fees.

SB 237 would apply to about 200,000 Californians who did not benefit from Traffic Amnesty Program that ended this spring and who had their licenses suspended before Gov. Jerry Brown changed the law to prevent the practice in a trailer bill attached to the 2017-18 state budget.

"The governor and the Legislature have changed the law, because everyone understands suspending a person's driver's license simply because he or she can't pay the fine for a minor traffic violation is ridiculously harsh and unfair," Hertzberg said. "We have ended this injustice moving forward and we should end it retroactively, too."

The new law took effect June 27 when the Legislature passed the budget trailer bill. In his budget proposal, Brown noted that there didn't appear to be a

connection between suspending people's driver's licenses and collecting their fines yet the suspension could have serious negative consequences, such as preventing people from getting

The Judicial Council report said that more than 255,000 Californians had their debts reduced, more than 246,000 received their driver's licenses back and the court system netted \$31.5 million in revenue.

to work or taking their kids to school. The legislation comes after the Judicial Council released a report last week showing the tremendous success of California's Traffic Amnesty Program. In 2015, Hertzberg authored SB 405,

which, along with a related budget measure from Brown, established the program for traffic offenses prior to 2013.

The Judicial Council report said that more than 255,000 Californians had their debts reduced, more than 246,000 received their driver's licenses back and the court system netted \$31.5 million in revenue.

"Amnesty proved the naysayers wrong and showed that many Californians weren't paying their traffic fines and fees simply because they didn't have the money to do it, not to thumb their noses at the law," Hertzberg said. "Amnesty had a huge positive impact on the lives of a quarter million Californians and on the court system, which netted revenue it almost certainly never would have seen without this program."

SB 237 is sponsored by a coalition of social justice groups that include Western Center on Law and Poverty and American Civil Liberties Union.■

Back in 1953, I discovered a black and white tv series narrated by Walter Cronkite named YOU ARE THERE. I actually was young then, but I was surrounded by some of California’s most talented men and women. L. Ron Hubbard, Col. John D. Craig, Hobie Alter, Robert Heinlein and Ralph M. Parsons. It created an incredible desire to become an “adventurer.” And I did.

My life in the newspaper business actually started in the 1980’s with a monthly newsletter called Lifeline which then became Mike Steel’s Spectrum/West. Ownership of a cablecast station came next. And of course I can’t forget the 11 books I wrote. Why am I telling you all about this? It’s because The Foothills Paper is coming up on its 19th birthday next month and I’ll be making the big decision as to whether or not to finally retire.

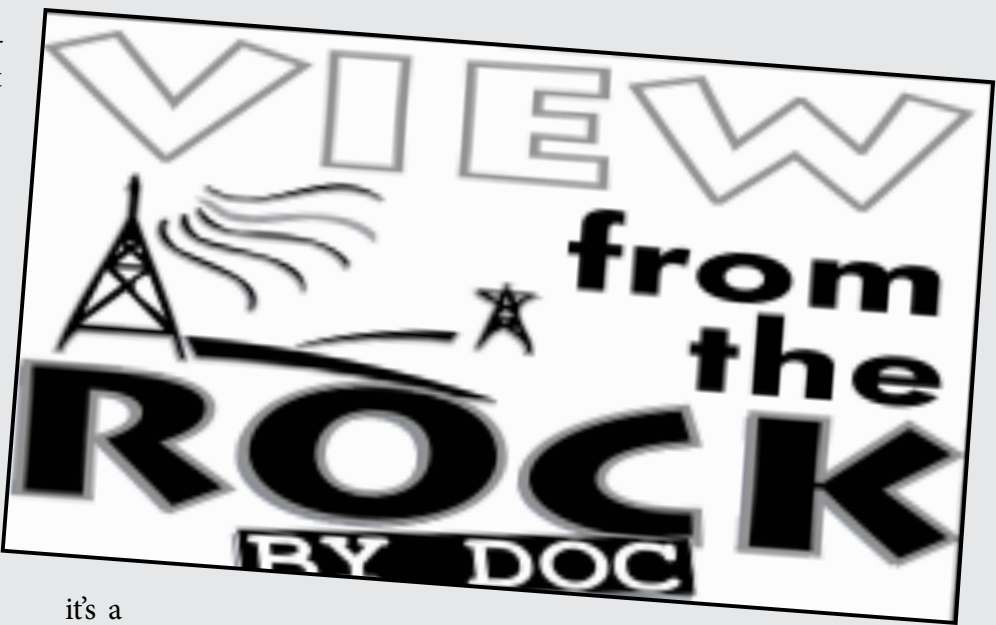
Things are slowing down here in S-T and I’ve got 3 books left on the computer for me to finish up. My arch nemesis Sonia Tatulian and her lacky Curtles Koesler have sunk back into the darkness and except for her cartel’s bogus Chamber of Commerce, and surrounding herself with the dregs of the community, she’s now what she dreaded in the past – dead.

Let’s see, 19 years of non-stop

publications = almost 500 newspapers. And the most important thing of all are the newspaper archives. I scanned them over the years as a tickler for writing more stories, but what I found is that out little burg has been rotten to the core with an incestuous chamber of commerce, a derelict ST Neighbor Hood Council, a Lions Club that destroyed the Watermelon Festival and almost got sued out of existence for kicking a mentally challenged kid out of the Festival after he won the Festival King contest with the largest tickets sold. Oh, and I can’t forget the honorable Rotary Club that hos their charter over 10 years ago. When I spoke with the Regions official, I was told, “We let them live because of the July 4th parade. We need clubs that have noteworthy events.” And with our latest councilperson we have corrupt officials, drug dealers, a local oligarch and car thieves.

Our LAPD Div 16 has been a turnstile of good cops doing a short time here and getting exiled to other remote areas so they wouldn’t rock the boat telling the truth.

Yup boys and girls, we sure look like a healthy, robust community (as long as you don’t look too hard, but



it’s a cancer of the Foothills. But what I’ve found over the decades, is that if you don’t make waves, no one will bother you. Well, so much for me not making waves. Elaine Brown passed away not too long ago and almost nobody knew of it. Lloyd Hitt passed away and he left a legacy of community activism, and we can’t forget the hundreds of victims of crazy drivers.

The La Tuna Canyon Fire happened and me and Dyan were there. We couldn’t put it out, so we just took photos of the ONE TREE that was on fire. And we watched the Hansen Dam rangers arrive all spiffy looking in their pressed uniforms and ask us “Who’s District Is This?” And when we told them

may - be it’s the L.A. Counties and maybe the ANF – they got back in their truck and left. All we could do was take more pictures and videos. We watched the LAFD Company 24 arrive and lay out their 1” hose in a casual manner, and before they could load the water, the tree that was on fire exploded. And the story goes on as to how the La Tuna Canyon Fire burnt over 7,000 acres in 8 days.

I can only wish you well and a safe fire season, it could be a cataclysm this time, we have a lot of fuel in our mountains, and from what I’ve seen, most people aren’t prepared. So, good luck, and you can always say “It’s the water.”■

Sherri’s Turn: More Than He Wanted To Hear

By Sherri Kukla

We visited some friends in the desert quite a few years ago who had just bought some beautiful property. They were going to sell parcels of this land and we were interested.

We had a pleasant visit with them and they were explained to us the history of the land they owned, also telling us about the 100 acres the just added to their existing desert ranch.

After awhile the guy-in-the-garage and I headed off to check out the rest of the acreage while engaging in some fascinating conversation. During most conversations one person talks and the other listens and then vice versa. Butthat’s not our conversations. I talk and he travels to distant lands in his mind, uttering a well placed “hmmm” or “uh-huh” occasionally to make me believe he is hanging on every word I say.

At one point during my monologue (I admit my part of the conversation gets a tad lengthy) he said, “So after they sell this land, they’re going to buy the 100 acres next to their place?” The first problem here is that had absolutely nothing to do with what I was talking about. And the second problem is he was wrong.

“They already bought that 100 acres,” I said barely hiding my annoyance. “They did?” “Yes, they said they already bought it.”

He looked unconvinced so I launched into the complete version that we had just heard from our friends to convince him I knew what I was talking about. He pretended to listen to every word.

We found the acreage and as we walked around we were still conversing, or so I thought, until the guy-in-the-garage stared off in the distance and said “So after they sell all of this, they’re going to buy the 100 acres next to their ranch?”

After regaining my ability to speak, I said, “No, they already bought the 100 acres!”

“They did?” he said. I didn’t even answer that. In fact, I came close to taking a vow never to talk to him again because I was realizing it was a futile task. The words that leave my mouth never even makae contact with his brain.

Now, you’ll think I’m making this up, and the guy-in-the-garage doesn’t believe it at all, but about 30 minutes later, he asked, “So they’re going to buy the 100 acres near their land in addition to all this land?”

“No,” I said so patiently and kindly, even I was in awe. “They already own the 100 acres.” But when he

said, “They do?” I just couldn’t take it anymore. I got more than a little upset. “I don’t know why I bother talking to you! You only listen to 25% of what I say, so when you disco er you’re really interested in what I’m saying I have to tell you the story four more times just so you’ll hear the whole thing.”

You’d think about this time he’d be apologizing and promising to be a better listener, but with a smile on his face he admitted I was right which shocked me. But then he said, “And that’s 15% more than I

want to hear!”

There was no point in giving him the silent treatment for the rest of the day as much as wanted to because truthfully he would have enjoyed it way too much.

Sherri Kukla is the editor and co-publisher of S&S Off Road Magazine. She along with her husband, the guy-in-the-garage, are also the founders and directors of Thundering Trails off road camp for inner city kids in Southern California. She can be reached at ssormag@gmail.com or www.ssorm.com.■

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Lessons from the La Tuna Fire *continued from page 1*

If people do not get around to the task, city workers will simply do it for them, and the homeowners get the bill. Moreover, the city constantly updates building codes as new information arises about how to make homes more fireproof.

Home protection must begin long before a fire does.

While more than 99% of the homes survived the La Tuna fire, there were a few that did not. These were in remote areas that escaped annual monitoring for defensible space, or had not been updated with ember-proof vents, which prevent firebrands from being driven into attic spaces by high winds.

That is to say: The system works, so long as we let it work. Home protection must begin long before a fire does.

Despite the evidence, many policymakers still mistakenly believe that wildland fires behave unpredictably, and that their effect on homes is similarly unpredictable. That leads to inaction.

More troubling, some politicians are now attempting to use the loss



of homes and lives in recent wildland fires as an excuse to reduce environmental protections and increase commercial logging in our national forests under the guise of “thinning.” President Trump backed

this disastrous approach in a recent series of tweets.

The truth is that vegetation management activities beyond 100 feet from individual homes provides no additional protection from wild-

fires. But Trump’s two-pronged strategy—less protection, more logging— is worse than pointless: It has been proven to increase a fire’s intensity and spread. And as if that weren’t bad enough, it will also give rural residents a false sense of security.

The way forward is simple, based on solid science and makes common sense. We must focus on the 100-foot perimeter around homes, create better fire-warning and evacuation infrastructures, and increase the number of rangers and law enforcement deployed to prevent human ignitions near communities.

If we take these steps, and prioritize them in our funding and policymaking decisions, we can coexist with fire, which is a natural part of most ecosystems. If, however, we allow cynical or misinformed politicians to use recent tragedies as an excuse to enrich the logging industry, that will not only imperil wildlife populations with habitat loss, but also virtually guarantee more large-scale losses of homes and lives in the future.

Chad Hanson is a forest and fire ecologist with the John Muir Project. He is the co-editor and co-author of the book, “The Ecological Importance of Mixed-Severity Fires: Nature’s Phoenix.” ■

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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD



Mushroom-Lentil Pâté

By Chef Randy

When I hear the word pâté, I picture a slice of toasted baguette with a modicum of creamy pâté spread on top. Until recently, I hadn't considered making my own because I thought it had to be made with liver and that it took a lot of prep time.

By using mushrooms, lentils, and fresh garden-grown herbs I came up with a wonderful vegan substitute for traditional pâté. It has a savory flavor difficult to find anywhere and is versatile. I even use it as a filling in my vegetarian banh mi sandwich.

The good news is that it is easy to make and its ingredients are readily found at your local grocery. The really good news is that it is not baked and can be enjoyed after a couple of hours in the refrigerator. Make it in the morning and enjoy it as an appetizer with your favorite dinner. Serve with crackers, hearty fresh-baked bread, or crostini. I also like to offer this with a side of small dill pickles.

INGREDIENTS:

12 cremini mushrooms 2
tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
1 small sweet onion (diced)
2 cloves garlic (minced) 2 cups
cooked brown lentils
1 cup toasted pecans (chopped)
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon tamari
2 teaspoons fresh rosemary
(minced)

2 teaspoons fresh thyme (minced)
2 tablespoons fresh sage 3
teaspoons brandy
1 teaspoon light brown
sugar
1 teaspoon Better Than
Bouillon Vegetable Base Pinch of
cayenne pepper Fresh ground black
pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Remove the stems from the mushrooms and wipe mushroom clean. Heat the olive oil and butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and garlic. Cook, stirring frequently, until the onions are translucent – about 6 minutes. Add the mushrooms and cook until they're soft and cooked through – about 8 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside. Using a food processor, combine the cooked lentils, nuts, lemon juice, tamari, rosemary, thyme, sage, brandy, brown sugar, vegetable bouillon, and cayenne. Add the mushroom mixture and process until completely smooth. Add pepper to taste.

Scrape pâté into a serving bowl and refrigerate for a few hours, until firm. The spread will keep for 3 to 4 days in the refrigerator (but I doubt it will last that long).

Note: One cup of dried lentils will make a little over 2 cups of cooked lentils. I generally use green lentils in my recipes because they tend to retain a firm texture even after cooking. For this recipe, I use brown lentils because I want them to be creamy when blended.■

8th Annual Not On Our Watch!

**Wellness Works Glendale
Announcement:**

**NOT ON OUR WATCH
2023**

The 8th annual "Not On Our Watch" event. Once again, we have the honor of hosting this solemn occasion aboard the USS IOWA Museum, located at 250 S. Harbor Blvd, San Pedro, CA. On Saturday, September 30th, 2023, from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Join us as we honor the memories of our fallen veterans and first responders who lost their battles with PTS. This event is not just about remembrance, it's about offering comfort and closure to the surviving family and friends in our community.

For more information, please visit:
www.wellnessworksglendale.org
Email: execdir@wellnessworksglendale.org
Office: 657.504.8814 Fax: 714.583.8376

ANNEX 2500 Honolulu Ave, Suite 216 Montrose, CA 91020

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The Battleship IOWA Museum is located at the Los Angeles World Cruise Port Terminal on the LA Waterfront.

The parking available directly adjacent to the museum parking is accessible from 1st Street & Harbor Boulevard. The first hour is free, and each additional hour is \$2 with a maximum of \$20 per day. On Saturday, September 30th from 11:00am – 7:00pm

This special event is more than just a gathering; it's a powerful tribute. It's an occasion where we come together, not only to reminisce but to find strength in unity, as we honor the brave souls of our fallen veterans and first responders who have succumbed to PTS. We stand in solidarity with our families and friends, offering comfort, understanding, and closure in the heart of our community.■



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ASK RUSTY



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

Dear Rusty:

My friend and I, both very recently widowed, were discussing our future and, based upon the suggestion of other friends, need to explore applying to Social Security for survivor's benefits. We've tried to research this online and by talking to another widowed friend, but we've ended up more uncertain than ever about whether we're even eligible. We're both in our 50's, and we sure could use some help understanding our options.

Signed, Needing to Know

Dear Needing: To tackle this somewhat complicated topic, let's first understand that the Full Retirement Age (FRA) for widows and widowers is different from Social Security's normal full retirement age. Widow(er)s get a two year dispensation on their birthdate, meaning that their FRA is computed as though they were born two years earlier than their actual birthdate, resulting in an earlier FRA (which affects when they can collect their full survivor's benefit). The eligibility rules for survivor's benefits are as follows:

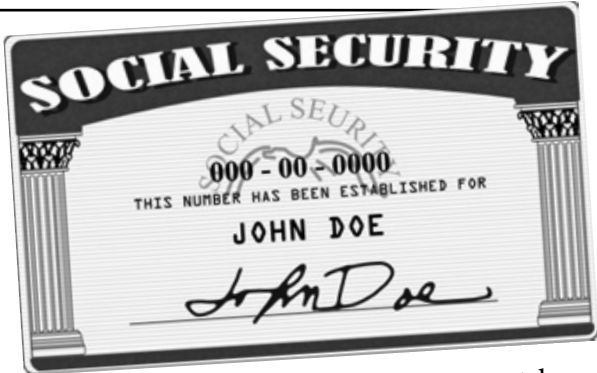
Survivor's Benefits and the RIB LIM (Benefit Limit)

Widow(er)s become eligible for reduced survivor's benefits at age 60 (50 if they're disabled) rather than the normal 62, and they must have been married to the deceased for at least 9 months (unless the death was accidental).

Widow(er)s may be eligible for survivor's benefits at any age if they are caring for the deceased's dependent child who is under 16 years of age, or child who is disabled and collecting benefits based on the deceased's work record. Note, too, that in addition to the widow(er), dependent children under the age of 18 (or 19 if still in school) may be able to receive survivor's benefits also. A widow(er) who remarries before becoming eligible cannot collect survivor's benefits on the deceased spouse's record; remarriage after age 60 (or age 50 if disabled) is okay.

The survivor eligibility requirement for divorced spouses is different. A divorced spouse must have been married to the deceased for at least 10 years and divorced for at least two years to be eligible for widow(er)s benefits.

Although you may be eligible to receive survivor benefits earlier than your full retirement age, to do so will mean that your benefit will be reduced by as much as 28.5%. Waiting beyond your initial eligibility date will earn another 0.00475% for each month deferred, up to the "widow limit", often referred to as RIB LIM (Retirement Insurance Benefit Limit). If the survivor starts benefits earlier than their FRA, RIB LIM caps their benefit at the larger of a)



the amount the deceased would receive if he or she were still alive, or b) if the deceased claimed prior to their FRA, 82.5% of the deceased's benefit at FRA.

To simplify what this means, if the deceased started benefits at FRA or later, the widow(er) would (at FRA) be entitled to 100% of the amount the deceased was collecting. But if the deceased had started benefits before their FRA, the widow(er) would (at FRA) be entitled to a minimum of 82.5% of the amount the deceased's primary insurance amount (PIA), the amount the deceased would have gotten at FRA. Basically, the "widow's limit", or RIB LIM, only applies if the deceased started benefits before their full retirement age.

And one final note: While waiting until your widow's full retirement age to apply will give you the largest payment, since survivor's benefits do not earn Delayed Retirement Credits there is no reason to wait beyond your full retirement age to start collecting. And if your deceased spouse or ex-spouse took their benefit early, you may actually reach the maximum survivor benefit before you reach your widow FRA.

The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only.■

Pet Search and Rescue Conference 2024
continued from page 1

Key features of the Pet Search and Rescue Conferences include:

- Featured Speakers
- Search Dog Training Scenarios
- Search Dog Demos
- Famous and once-in-a-lifetime training locations.

Discussions and Special Events

In California, two-time award-winning Bloodhound Handler Landa Coldiron of Lost Pet Detection will join forces to teach students about using Search Dogs to find lost pets. Coldiron is a published author and has worked in the field finding lost pets for 19 years. She has been featured on major media outlets, in magazines and Animal Planet. She has worked for many celebrity clients. Her book, "The Bloodhound Handler Adventures of a Real-Life Pet Detective," gives a snapshot into what it is like to work a Search Dog looking for lost pets.

"We are thrilled to announce the Pet Search and Rescue Conferences as a significant step forward in our mission to reunite lost pets with their families," said Annalisa Berns, founder and Private Investigator at Pet Search and Rescue. "Through these conferences, we aim to inspire and educate passionate individuals and organizations, enabling them to save more animal lives and make a profound impact in their communities."

To learn more about the Pet Search and Rescue Conferences, including dates, locations, and registration details, please visit <https://www.pet-searchandrescue.com/conferences>.

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Pet Safety and Natural Disasters

It doesn't matter where you live -- earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, wildfires and floods happen around the world every day and affect thousands of people and their pets. In case of a natural disaster, you'll want a plan for your family, and of course, your pet. A few basic precautionary measures can help your pet stay safe and with the family in the event the unthinkable happens.

GET AN ID TAG

The most important thing you can do for your pet before a disaster occurs is to make sure they have proper identification. This means having an ID tag containing your current info attached to their collar which they wear at all times. Some companies offer customizable collars with your pet's information printed directly on the fabric for an added layer of protection. Just make sure your pet never takes his or her collar off, even in the house. A pet with an ID tag indicates to emergency crews that your animal is a pet that belongs to a family and not wild, which could mean the difference between getting rescued or not.

GET YOUR PET MICROCHIPPED

Because an ID tag can come off or become damaged during an emergency, you also need to get your pet microchipped. A microchip is a small device about the size of a grain of rice that is inserted under your pet's skin and can be obtained at some pet stores or the vet's office. To be effective, the microchip must be registered to a person so he or she can be contacted in the event the animal is lost. You can register your pet for free at the Michelson Found Pet Registry.



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DON'T WAIT TO VACCINATE

Keep your pet's vaccinations up to date to reduce their risk of sickness and disease. There are so many unknowns in a disaster. If you are evacuated, your pet may not be able to come with you to shelter and may

be held in boarding with other animals whose health status is unknown. If your home is destroyed, your pet may be lost and living outside for a time and subjected to the elements, dirty water supply or worse. Be safe, not sorry, and vaccinate.

GET A PET EMERGENCY KIT

An emergency kit for your pet is a great thing to keep in your house in general, but becomes a critical item during a natural disaster. You'll find many of the same items in a pet emergency kit as you would a human one -- gauze, bandages, food -- but add your pet's paper work in too. Make copies your pet's immunization records, microchip information and vet and emergency contact numbers. Whether you buy one online or make your own, an emergency kit is one of those things you never want to have to use, but should always have.

If you Find a Lost Pet...

If you encounter a pet that seems to be roaming aimlessly, proceed with caution. The animal is probably frightened and stressed, so he or she needs to be approached with extreme care. Once it's determined that the animal is friendly, check for

an ID tag. If there's no ID or if the contact information is bad, post a description of the animal along with a photo on Nextdoor. Also, check Nextdoor's pet directory, where users post photos of their pets alongside their own contact information. Also, post the found pet's information on all of your personal social media networks along with PetFinder and Craigslist to get the word out to as many people as possible. Take the found animal to your local shelter to get he or she scanned for a microchip. If the pet is chipped and the registry information is valid, the pet will be reunited with their owner in a matter of days.

IF YOUR PET IS LOST

If your pet goes missing during a natural disaster, it's important that you don't endanger yourself looking for your pet.

Avoid venturing outside or far from home if the conditions outside are unmanageable. Instead, check sites like the ones we mentioned -- Nextdoor, Craigslist, PetFinder -- to see if anyone has found your pet. Next, call or visit your local shelters in case your pet was dropped off by an emergency crew or Good Samaritan.

Pets are often overlooked or abandoned during natural disasters because they don't have the proper identification or paperwork. Because natural disasters can happen any time and with little warning, plan for your pet as you would for any member of your household. Doing so could mean the difference between your pet staying with you during an emergency or getting left behind. ■

"THE EQUALIZER 3"

By Bob Garver

It has been five years since we last saw Robert "The Equalizer" McCall, as played by the ever-arresting Denzel Washington. In that time, we've had a pandemic, three seasons of the Queen Latifah TV series (not to be confused with the Edward Woodward TV series from the 80's), and plenty of time to forget about this iteration of the franchise. I wish Washington and director Antoine Fuqua had forgotten about it too, because they both could have used the time they wasted on this movie doing something worthier of their talents.

The movie opens with the aftermath of a McCall killing

spree on the staff of a Sicilian mansion. McCall had to get the attention of a crime boss (Bruno Bilotta) in a way that involved not getting killed, but getting captured so the boss could get personally involved. McCall's plan in this sequence and in the one at the film's climax have the same problem: they require the bad guys to show exactly the right amount of mercy. Even though McCall knows about their ruthlessness, he expects them to bide their time, toy with him a certain way, and not kill anyone unnecessarily, lest we hold him responsible for getting an innocent person killed because he had to get cute with his strategy.

The showdown at the man-

sion leaves McCall wounded. He's found unconscious by the side of the road by a helpful small-town cop (Eugenio Mastrandrea), who takes him to a local doctor (Remo Girone), who lets McCall recover at his house. McCall quickly takes to the town of Altamonte, where everyone is friendly to him, but fearful of the local Mafia, especially payment collector Marco (Andrea Dodero), brother of big boss Vincent (Andrea Scarduzio, and yes, I do think it's funny that the actors playing brothers share a first name, but not a last). He tries to stay out of the locals' delicate relationship with the violent organization, but trouble seems to have a way of finding Robert



McCall, and he soon finds himself having to topple the entire criminal empire.

McCall's feud with the villains isn't limited to the parameters of the little town. ■