



THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2023

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

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 45



WILDFIRE TRAINING FOR LA VOLUNTEERS

LOS ANGELES — Volunteer brigades will help their neighbors prepare for wildfires and other disasters in an area devastated by the 2018 Woolsey fire as part of a new program approved by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

At least 100 volunteers from Santa Monica Mountains communities are expected to start training early next year, learning about wildland fires, radio protocols and the incident command system used during major disasters, said Brent Woodworth, chairman and chief executive of the nonprofit Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation, which will run the program.

The volunteers will teach their neighbors how to harden their homes, including how to best clear brush and update a home's siding or roof to be less likely to burn. They will also conduct free home ignition assessments that outline to homeowners what parts of their property are most at risk and how to fix the problem.

Although they won't be on the front lines of fighting a fire, the volunteers will help evacuate people and then "mop up" after the fire passes.

*Please see Wildfire Training
for LA Volunteers
on Page 7*

Loop Fire Memorial Remembered



SYLMAR, CA. On Friday November 3rd at One o'clock, staff members of The Foothills Paper did a Remembrance of the El Cariso Hotshots "Loop Fire" Memorial dedication at the El Cariso Regional Park, 13100 Hubbard Street in Sylmar, California.

The Loop Fire which began on the Angeles National Forest claimed the lives of twelve firefighters who worked on the El Cariso Hotshot Crew. On November 1, 1966, the El Cariso Hotshots, a U.S. Forest Service Wild-land Firefighting Crew, were trapped by high flames as they worked on a steep hillside in Pacoima Canyon. Ten members of the crew perished that day, and two members died from severe burn injuries in the following days

bringing the total to twelve. Most of the nineteen members who survived were horribly burned and remained hospitalized for a long time.

On November 1, 1996 thirty years after the tragedy, a memorial was placed in the El Cariso Regional Park commemorating the lives that were lost and the lessons learned from the Loop Fire. 5 years ago the monument was severely damaged. In an effort to never forget the lives that were lost, a new duplicate monument was commissioned and was dedicated in its new location within the park.

To honor those who lost their lives and for those who survived, the Angeles and Cleveland National Forests along with Los Angeles County officials remembered the new monument. ■



Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Keep Working, somebody has to pay for all this

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Prayers for the devastated people in the Middle East.

Prayers for the families who have had loved ones murdered before their very eyes.

Prayers for the families who have loved ones held as hostages. We pray for their

safety and release.

Prayers that hate filled terrorists may be overcome. Why do we have such evil on this planet? Why is there so much hate tied to a religion? Why is religion used to carry out barbaric acts of murder and violence? Because evil is an unrelenting force. Evil can make anything bad. The goal of any religion should be connecting people to God and bringing about meaningful lives filled with love, peace and a higher purpose.

The goal of cancer is to destroy and kill. Evil is a cancer that is progressive and terminal unless it is totally eliminated. Any cancer in your body is not good for you. No one can live peacefully with cancer. Cancer finds a way to grow, disable and

kill. We cannot coexist with cancer nor can we coexist with mentalities who live to brutally kill others. The goal of hate filled groups such as Hamas is to eliminate Jewish people and then anyone connected to the United States and the Western world. You can't coexist with rattlesnakes and copperheads. They are poisonous.

Israel has no choice but to defend themselves and put an end to Hamas. Do we have to be in the middle of this mess? We have been since World War II. Israel has been the number one benefactor of American foreign aid. We are the Santa Claus of the world when it comes to giving away your money. America's foreign aid contribution reached \$66 billion in 2022. This was the

first time we had given this much to other nations since 1949. While that amount was staggering, our foreign aid to Ukraine and Israel will make that amount look like a paltry sum.

We have already given Ukraine over \$75 billion in their fight against Russia. Now, President Biden is proposing to give Ukraine and Israel \$105 billion in aid. Also, America's border security has been mentioned in this proposal. Probably the only reason our border security is tied to this proposal is because voting Americans are desperate for border security. The manufacturers of war weapons and their investors, such as many politicians, will have a nice Christmas.

Since World War II America has given Israel \$260 billion. Jordan, Egypt and some other countries receive a lot of our money.

Countries That Received the Most Foreign Aid from the U.S. in 2021: (Stats from US News and World Report)

1. Israel (\$3.3B)
2. Jordan (\$1.6B)
3. Afghanistan (\$1.4B)
4. Ethiopia (\$1.39B)
5. Egypt (\$1.29B)
6. Yemen (\$1.04B)
7. South Sudan (\$954M)
8. Congo (Kinshasa) (\$825M)
9. Somalia (\$790M)
10. Syria (\$782M)

Try to keep working if you can. Somebody has to pay for all of this.

Learn more at GlennMollette.Com ■

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8th Annual Not On Our Watch!

The Foothills Paper is honored to have been invited to the 8th Annual Not On Our Watch memorial service aboard the USS Iowa.

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

For those of you who would like to take a guided tour of the USS Iowa battleship, there is 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.

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 PTSD. We stand in solidarity with our families and friends, offering comfort, understanding, and closure in the heart of our community. ■

"Please, tell the story behind the name of El Cariso Park"

Letter to Editor

With the flames too tempting a focus, nary a reporter would ask the question. A question which when answered, would put both meaning and perspective into the Herculean effort of firefighters working the Sayre Wildland Fire.

For 'El Cariso' was not merely chosen as a nice sounding name for the 79-

acre park, but rather a distinct honor bestowed upon hallowed ground to honor the memory of twelve firefighters, members of the El Cariso Hotshots. Ten would die on the mountain in the literal heat of battle. Two others are believed to have succumbed following the November 1, 1966 wildfire that scorched the same area of the western San Gabriel

Mountains that burned this week.

As the Sayre fire moved west along the foothills this weekend, fanned - or should I say blasted by near-hurricane force Santa Ana Winds, there seemed genuine surprise that a fire could move so quickly - or that there could be a need to "evacuate a hospital" while "fires burned in two counties". ■

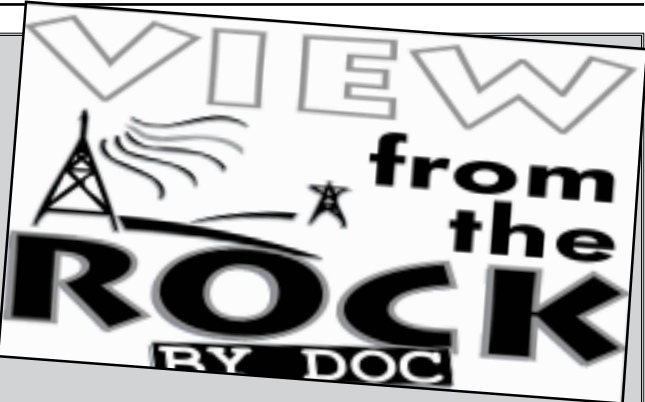
Can you believe it, Thanksgiving is in 3 weeks, and then Christmas is coming. I hope that there will be some really great events put on by Mc Groarty and the Little Landers Society. Our councilwoman appears to really be getting things done here in S-T and keeps promoting her re-doing of the street maintenance issues. It really would be nice if she came and said hello once in a while. And by the way, when is she going to let the STNC back into the North Valley City Hall?

Anyone know what pissed her off enough to kick us out this time? It's been so long that I've forgotten. This was an interesting weekend as I worked at the ranch, repairing water lines, doing fire prevention, and sorting through the accumulation of old equipment and just plain junk, and I got to thinking about the mountain "Gateway" project of a few years back and those backers that really didn't care what anyone thought, they wanted us to be a "Gateway" to something.

Anything. That was when Cindy Cleghorn who was president of the neighborhood Council began to pretend that it was already happening so her friend Tomy-Lynn Bowling could get credit for it. Even though, no one accepted it, it was printed on all the Chamber of Commerce materials, and son-of-a-gun, it now appears on the neighborhood council materials as a given. And nobody knows how that happened. Maybe nobody cares? For years, advocates of the Angeles National Forest becoming a federally protected forest were pushing their congressman's buttons to get the Verdugo mountains declared a National Monument.

Well, it happened. And of course, just like everything else here in our little community,

the advocates got sandbagged and our part of Angeles National Forest was excluded from the monument area. I guess we have to continue to pick up our own bright blue disposable diapers in the wash. Anyway, nothing has really changed. The attempted suicides are still categorized as "drug over-doses", rapes are categorized as "assaults", the crazy drivers continue to try to kill everything moving or parked, and our own Internet version of the White Trash Hate Sites continue to be promoted by people who have nothing better to do than sit around and criticize those who are actually doing something. We lost our own resident hate monger Curtles Koesler to Arizona and that calmed down most of the internetidots. But social media bullying continues to hurt people. But so what? Nothing ever changes here, we just get more houses built, more trash to pick up, and of course, more pharmacies. But the good thing, is that competition drives out the shoddy business establishments and makes more room for the quality ones. We'll see how long that craze runs and who is left in the New Year. And that reminds me, we seem to have reached a new low with our councilwoman, first she leaked information of an upcoming search warrant on our local oligarch, then she got a whistleblower Senior Lead Officer removed from S-T, AND THEN she got our Foothill Division Capt. Johnny Smith demoted and sent into exile at the 77 in San Pedro. Those in the biz call it "Fort Apache LA". I would sure hate to be a LAPD or LAFD first responder having to police Sunland-Tujunga. That's a lot of shit being thrown around here. It makes me wonder if our politicians can be saved from self-immolation? And of course, I have to wonder WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER RACIST RECORDINGS MADE AT THE



FEDERATION OF LABOR? Are they being withheld until they can really have an impact? Just wondering. But here in the S-T, there is a resurgence in Making Commerce Ave. Beautiful Again. I can just see people running around wearing green hats reading (MCBA!) and it sure would be nice if the shop owners could be responsible for their own sections of the sidewalk. But if the neighborhood council can't help them, who can? (If the Armenian businesses of Foothill could receive grant money to clean up their business and they did so, how come the ones on Commerce didn't?) Can you believe it? The Foothills Paper is still the one real newspaper left after 19 years of continuous operation. It makes you wonder. This is a wonderful community with some really incredible people in it. Wouldn't it be nice if we could just stop worrying about who is trying to take over S-T this year and join together to have one big community awareness/action group? But for now, the greed and avarice just continue to permeate the local service organizations and undermine the good that happens here. Think about it, is there one organization that you would really like to join and support? Think about it and let me know. And no, you can't say "It's The Water!"■

Oh.. you're a **Paramedic** That's cool. I wanted to do that when I was a kid. What do you make?"

"WHAT DO I MAKE?? I make holding your hand seem like the biggest thing in the world when i'm cutting you out of a car. I can make 5 minutes seem like a lifetime when I go in a burning house to save your family. I make those annoying sirens seem like angels when you need them. I can make your children breathe when they stop. I make myself get out of bed at 3am to risk my life to save people I've never met. Today I might make the ultimate sacrifice to save your life. I make a difference, what do you make?"

REPOST if you are or know a FIREFIGHTER ♥



On Oct. 14, 2023, the annular solar eclipse crossed North, Central, and South America. This eclipse was visible for millions of people in the Western Hemisphere. This photo was taken in Santa Clarita during the eclipse.

Beginning with the November 17th edition, The Foothills Paper, COLOR EDITION will be found only on our website:

WWW.THEFOOTHILLSPAPER.COM

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*Add to your 120-hour kits leaving time to grab more valuable items.
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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD



CRIME MAPPING

VEHICLE, STOLEN, 231612461 10100 BLOCK, HILLHAVEN AV VEHICLE, STOLEN 231612522 7900 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL	231612344 10200 BLOCK PLAINVIEW AV	JUNGA, CA 91042	THEFT FROM VEHICLE 231613190 8500 BLOCK DAY ST
THEFT FROM VEHICLE - PETTY 231612529 7700 BLOCK THOUSAND OAKS DR	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231611116 6800 BLOCK GREELEY ST	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231612852 10400 BLOCK SCOVILLE AV	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613204 8000 BLOCK DAY ST
THEFT FROM VEHICLE - PETTY 231612529 7700 BLOCK THOUSAND OAKS DR	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231610883 10000 BLOCK MARCUS AV	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231612895 7700 BLOCK WYNGATE ST	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613218 10100 BLOCK HILLHAVEN AV
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BURGLARY 231612391 7700 BLOCK JEANNE TR	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231610754 8000 BLOCK KYLE ST	BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 231612903 10200 BLOCK TUJUNGA CAN- YON BL	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613228 8500 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
BURGLARY – ATTEMPTED 231612290 6700 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL	THEFT FROM VEHICLE 231610711 7700 BLOCK JAYSEEL ST	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON 231612957 10100 BLOCK TUJUNGA CAN- YON BL	BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 231613237 10500 BLOCK LEOLANG AV
VEHICLE, STOLEN 231612262 10400 BLOCK ORO VISTA AV	DRUG/NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS 2023-0012349 6400 BLOCK DAYS ST	THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 8600 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL 10/11/2023 @ 9:10 PM	BURGLARY 231613254 7400 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
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BURGLARY 231611948 10300 BLOCK NASSAU AV	THEFT-GRAND 231612608 8700 BLOCK OSWEGO ST	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613012 10300 BLOCK MT GLEASON AV	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613292 8200 BLOCK APPERSON ST
ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON 231611936 FOOTHILL BL & WOODWARD AV	THEFT - PETTY 231612596 7800 BLOCK RIM CANYON RD	SPOUSAL (cohab) ABUSE - 231613018 9700 BLOCK HILLHAVEN AV	BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 231613291 10300 BLOCK WHITEGATE AV
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THEFT - PETTY 231611895 10600 BLOCK REDMONT AV	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231612698 7800 BLOCK FENWICK ST	ROBBERY 231613148 6600 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL	BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 231613322 8500 BLOCK APPERSON ST
THEFT - PETTY 231611867 6800 BLOCK QUINTON LN	BURGLARY 231612714 8000 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613157 7800 BLOCK JAYSEEL ST	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613368 10200 BLOCK HILLHAVEN AV
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THEFT FROM VEHICLE	THEFT-GRAND 231612848 FOOTHILL BL & MCVINE AV	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613155 10500 BLOCK COMMERCE AV	VEHICLE, STOLEN 231613395 FOOTHILL BL & HILLHAVEN ST
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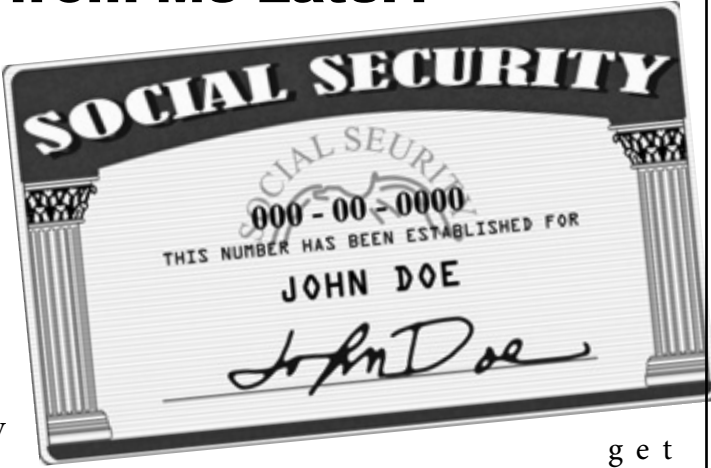
Can My Wife Claim Her Benefit Now, and Switch to a Spouse Benefit from Me Later?

taken before FRA is reduced, including the spousal benefit.

Here's what will happen if your wife claims her own Social Security at age 63:

- Your wife's personal SS retirement benefit, when she claims, will be reduced by about 25%
- When you claim at your full retirement age, your wife will get a "spousal boost" to her own reduced benefit.
- The amount of your wife's spousal boost will be the difference between her FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, reduced because the spousal boost will be awarded (automatically) before she has reached her own full retirement age. FRA amounts are used to compute the spousal boost, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed.
- When you claim your wife will not yet be her FRA, so the amount of her spousal boost (the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement) will be reduced.
- The reduced spousal boost will be added to your wife's reduced SS retirement benefit, resulting in her total benefit payment being less than half of yours.

The only way your wife can



get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement is to wait until her own FRA (67) to claim Social Security, but by doing so she also forfeits the money she would otherwise receive if she claimed her own benefit now. As long as she won't significantly exceed the earnings limit while working before her FRA, claiming now is an acceptable strategy because it will take many years to recover the money forfeited by waiting until her FRA to claim. It's also reasonable because women statistically outlive men and your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse will be 100% of the amount you are receiving at your death, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were both living.

When to claim is always a personal choice, and life expectancy should always be thoughtfully considered, but the answer to your specific question is - yes, if your wife claims her own benefit at 63, she will automatically receive her spousal boost when you claim, but her payment as your spouse will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.■

Wildfire Training for LA Volunteers

continued from page 1

"We don't want (anyone) to stay with their garden hose and try to fight the fire," Woodworth said. "We want them prepped and out."

On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors kicked off the program, which will include Malibu West, Point Dume, Corral Canyon, Big Rock, Topanga Canyon, Hidden Hills and communities along the Ventura-Los Angeles county line, by approving an agreement between the county Fire Department and the foundation.

The Fire Department helped develop the training curriculum and will help with regular training exercises.

"The Community Brigade Program will harness the tenacity of our Santa Monica Mountain communities so that we have specially trained force multipliers doing the work first responders alone cannot do — not just during a disaster, but beforehand, connecting with neighbors to assist with emergency preparedness," Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath said in a written statement.

The foundation, which is funding the program through private donations, will soon start recruiting for two groups of volunteers who will help not only with wildfires but earthquakes, floods and mudslides. One group must meet physical fitness requirements and will work in the field. The other will help with communications, logistics and education. The volunteers must participate in quarterly training sessions.

As a fire approaches, field volunteers might gather at a safe refuge area and provide updates to neighbors on social media and over handheld radios to fire and sheriff officials, serving as communication liaisons.

Please see **Wildfire Training for LA Volunteers** on Page 8

The Bible Comes with its own Instruction Manual



By John Newcombe, Teaching Pastor
Summit Christian Church, Tujunga, CA

It seems no matter what you purchase these days it comes with an instruction manual, some kind of technical writing explaining how to use the product. In our increasingly litigious society, much of this technical writing is devoted to how NOT to use the product. Technical writing is so common we don't give it a second thought and often discard it. Few of us curl up by the fire with a good instruction manual to read the fine print. It's only when we get in trouble that we might dig them out of the trash to scan the trouble shooting section.

In life, when we get in trouble, many of us turn to the Bible for guidance, help or inspiration. But if we're honest, the Bible it can sometimes be more confusing than comforting. Thankfully, it too comes with its own instruction manual; technical writing explaining how to read and understand its pages. It is the second-to-last section we call "the epistles," a fancy way of saying "the letters from the apostles." Much of this was written by the apostle Paul.

He was the ideal candidate for this task. First, he was a devout Jew, immersed in the Hebrew Scriptures. Second, he was a Roman citizen, which gave him access to the legal system. This enabled him to present the Gospel before governors and kings and ultimately before Caesar himself. In addition to Hebrew, Aramaic and Latin, Paul knew Greek and was well-versed in Greek philosophy. But perhaps Paul's greatest qualification was his most shameful one: that he had persecuted the faith. He hated Christianity and sought to eradicate it, putting innocent men, women and children in prison. But God had mercy on him and knocked him off his high horse on the road to Damascus.

Paul said it this way: "This is a trustworthy saying: Christ died for sinners, of whom I am the worst." To truly understand the scriptures, we read it through the lens of the apostles' teachings: God is a holy, righteous and impartial judge; but He's also loving, merciful and kind. He alone has provided a way to solve this dilemma, one Way for us come boldly into his presence for help in our time of trouble: faith in his son Jesus. ■

Wildfire Training for LA Volunteers

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Volunteers might also help firefighters coming from out of town, guiding them to water resources and the best roadways to reach mountain communities.

"Getting this credentialing is not a get-out-of-jail free card or a free pass to get into critical areas to check on your house," said Woodworth, whose group has helped with major disasters in the region since 2008.

The brigade idea came from research that the foundation did after the Woolsey fire started near Bell Canyon and raged to the ocean, burning almost 97,000 acres and killing three people.

Communication and coordination were major issues during the fire. A 2019 Times investigation found that firefighters failed to effectively deploy resources early in the fight, which allowed the blaze to explode when winds picked up late in the evening.

A large number of residents stayed to protect their homes but became overwhelmed by the fire's speed and power and had to call 911, said L.A.

County Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith.

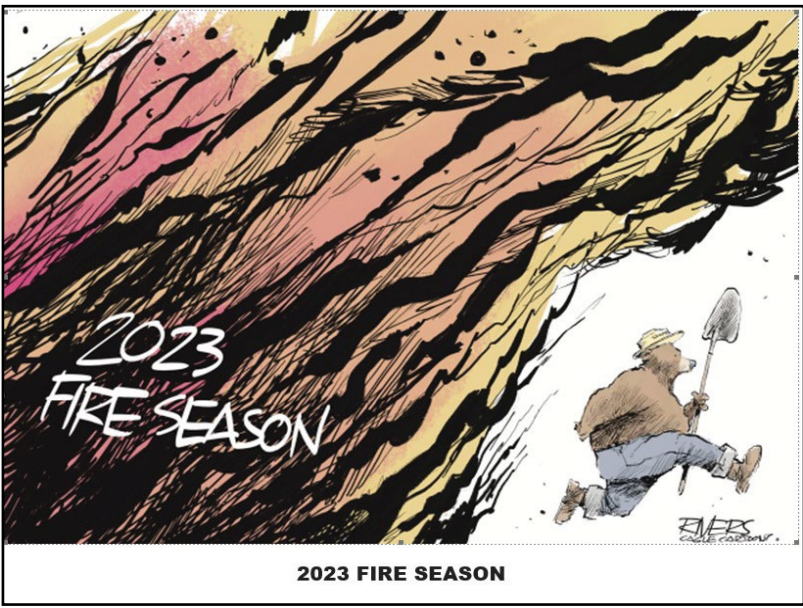
This took firefighters away from the front lines as they rushed into "life-safety mode," said Smith, who oversees the Santa Monica Mountains region of L.A. County.

"That happened over and over and over on the Woolsey fire," Smith said.

No wildfire is the same, Smith said, and it is dangerous for people to think they can always stay and protect their homes, he said.

The community brigades could help change that culture and serve as trusted and trained allies who know which of their neighbors will need help evacuating, he said. Smith said he hopes the L.A. County program can serve as a model for other high-risk fire areas.

"Jaclyn Cosgrove Los Angeles Times (TNS) LOS ANGELES — Volunteer brigades will help their neighbors prepare for wildfires and other disasters in an area devastated by the 2018 Woolsey fire as part of a new program approved by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. At least 100 volunteers from Santa Monica Mountains communities are expected [...]" ■



TFP staffers Joan & Doug Slater visiting the USS Iowa for their commemoration ceremonies. That's one BIG ship!