



### The LA Art Show

LA's largest and longest-running art fair, wrapped up its 29th iteration following a triumphant return to the Los Angeles Convention Center from February 14 through 18, 2024. Guided by producer and director Kassandra Voyagis, the fair kicked off the city's art season, uniting galleries, curators, collectors, and celebrities alike. - [SEE PAGE 10](#)



### CA floods are making the homelessness crisis worse!

Record rains have soaked California's cities, exacerbating a homelessness crisis and endangering thousands of people who are living without consistent shelter. - [SEE PAGE 3](#)

# THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2024

TELLING THE TRUTH FOR OVER 19 YEARS!  
Sunland-Tujunga's only weekly newspaper

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 52

## California is at higher risk for major earthquakes than previously known

By Clare Fonstein

An updated U.S. earthquake model showed slightly greater shaking possible in California than previously mapped.

The National Seismic Hazard Model, developed by the United States Geological Survey, says that most of California has at least a 75% chance of damaging earthquake shaking in the next 100 years — with at least a 95% chance for the Bay Area.

“Across California, the hazard has increased a little. It’s not an alarming level of increase but it’s something that helps us to understand more of the details of where shaking will be higher,” said Mark Petersen, USGS geophysicist and lead author of the study.

The study measured the probability of experiencing a damaging earthquake taking into account magnitude, distance from the epicenter and likelihood of an earthquake, according to USGS research geophysicist Kevin Milner.

Please see **California is at higher risk for major earthquakes** on Page 8



Downtown Santa Cruz was severely damaged by the 6.9-magnitude Loma Prieta earthquake in October 1989. Steve Castillo/The Chronicle

## A HOLE IN ONE?



After the rescue, Lucky was assisted by the SMART personnel in slowly walking from the yard, and was evaluated by an on-site veterinarian (Photo By David “Doc” DeMulle’).

By David “Doc” DeMulle’

Last Wednesday about 11:30 am, the phone started ringing with callers asking what was happening at 10424 W Foothill Bl. in Lake View Terrace?

So we rolled on it not knowing what was going on. I pulled in with the other first responders and as I jockeyed into a parking space, 4 fire engines began staging, and laying hose. Even they didn’t know what it was, and along came the SMART mobile. (Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team) that I had worked with over the years.

LAFD ground and air response all converged on the back yard of a modest home on Foothill Blvd. and the rescue began, and it was great watching how all the LAFD combined resources analyzed the situation and immediately began hardening the site to prevent further harm to “Lucky”, a 20 year-

old female Paso Fino weighing about 1,200 pound horse who was trapped up to its neck in what could only be described as a backyard sinkhole of very soft soil approximately 75 yards from the nearest roadway.

*The entire extrication took about 3 hours and was successful in removing LUCKY from a dangerous situation without injuring the horse or first responders*

The owner described how it all happened. “I was riding Lucky back to the stable and as we got off the asphalt path way, Lucky began to sink into the dirt. It went from a leisurely ride to a full out emergency,” the owner said. As she tried

to walk Lucky out of the hole, he began to sink quicker, the owner immediately assessed the situation and quickly removed the saddle, leaving the bridle on for guidance. Within 15 minutes of trying to free the horse, the owners husband called 911 and asked for assistance.

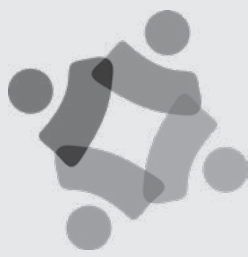
The SMART personnel and a few neighbors that knew the horse began comforting him while the LAFD began their extrication plans. 12’ long redwood planks were laid on either side of the horse so that the rescuers had a solid platform to work from.

LAFD and Urban Rescue personnel began removing dirt from what was discovered to be a sinkhole with water saturated dirt. As they continued shoveling, it became apparent that water was still flowing into the sinkhole.

Please see **A Hole in One?** on Page 6

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: [thefoothillspaper.com](http://thefoothillspaper.com)





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Association of Mature American Citizens

January Littlejohn says her school would let her daughter ‘choose to be a girl, a boy, neither or both’

By John Grimaldi

January Littlejohn is a stay-at-home mom and a licensed mental health counselor. Back in 2020, as Covid swept the nation, her 13 year old daughter told her that “she no longer felt like a girl.” Her mom described it as

a devastating revelation in a recent interview with Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens and host of AMAC’s Better For America podcast.

January said it happened “shortly after three of her friends at her local middle school had also suddenly declared a transgender identity. Transgender is really an umbrella term for any identity that a child chooses and children are being taught through gender ideology that they can choose to be a girl, a boy, neither or both. And so, at the time of our daughter coming to us and expressing confusion, she was identifying as gender fluid, which is one of these made up identities. Over two years, her identity changed four times. So it became very clear that our daughter was confused. I was a volunteer of the year at this middle school, and I was also a substitute teacher in our county. So I was well known and when school started in the fall we let a teacher know that our daughter was confused, that we were not affirming the identity at home, that I thought it was directly related to her friend group and that we were seeking counseling to help us navigate this issue as a family. Two weeks after I confided in the teacher who, by the way, turned out to

be the LGBTQ advocate on campus, my daughter said she had a meeting about her name [and] wanted to rename herself and go by different pronouns. She told me she had a meeting that I was not aware of, and so I immediately contacted the guidance counselor and assistant principal who said they could not give me any information about the meeting they had with my child, that my child was now protected under a nondiscrimination law.”

January said that the school’s actions left her in disbelief. “I was in shock, especially when they told me that they would not give me information about my child. So my husband and I didn’t let this go. We continued to push and ask for legal justification for their meeting with our 13 year old child without our knowledge or consent.” She noted that it took some seven weeks to get a meeting with the school’s principal and it was at that meeting that she was shown for the first time “what they had done with my child behind closed doors. It was a transgender support plan in support of the social transitioning of my child. This was not just about names and pronouns. They asked her which restroom and locker room she preferred to use. They asked her which sex

she preferred to room with on overnight field trips. And then they asked her how they should refer to her when speaking to us, her parents ... we were finally shown the LGBTQ guide that they were using as justification to meet with our child. And it turns out our situation was not an isolated event. The more I dug into it, I realized that these types of LGBTQ guides were all over the state of Florida, and they had been put in place by a partnership with an activist organization called Equality Florida. In fact, Equality Florida had a whole department called Safe and Healthy Schools that was dedicated to infiltrating the public school systems and ensuring that these guides and pseudo policies were in place. And they called them guides for a very specific reason, because if it was an actual policy, it had to go through school board approval. But since it was called a guide, they could essentially treat it as de facto policy and train everyone in the school system.”

January went on to say that what happened to her daughter was “a gross violation of our parental authority ... It caused a huge wedge between us and our daughter. It was hard enough that she was experiencing distress over her sex and

rejecting her natal body. That, in itself, was causing trauma. But then to have school officials cheer her along this path of self-harm, because social transitioning is the first step toward medical transitioning. And we often hear these euphemisms used like gender affirming care and hormone therapy. But when you pull back the layers as to what these really are, most people are horrified to learn that the off label drugs that they are using and calling health care are actually causing great medical harm to these very vulnerable individuals, these children that do not have the ability to consent to these irreversible changes that these medical interventions are causing. Young girls as young as 12 years old getting double mastectomies. We’re talking children on the autism spectrum potentially being sterilized by high levels of testosterone before they’re even reaching adulthood. So I realized how significant this issue was, and that we were not, by far, the only family that this had happened to.”

NOTE: January Littlejohn is a Parent Advocate at Do No Harm. She also recommends the advocacy organization, Child & Parental Rights, for more in information about parental rights.■

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## WHAT MAKES A JOURNALIST TICK?

By David “Doc” DeMulle’

It’s funny how a journalist spends countless hours getting the stories ready, from going through all the stories that came across his/her desk, all the way to laying out the medium they are building. He spends \$1000’s of dollars on fuel, equipment, and repair bills for his craft, . He spends many hours praying for rain or sunshine instead of sleeping, hoping that a news story will break when he’s not asleep. He sweats like no other job will make you. He works like most people wouldn’t. He gets yelled at and cussed out by people who get caught running off the road, or even being in an

accident. and he spends many times of the day wondering if it’s worth it!

The so called citizens of our little burg, the deer, coyotes, coons, gophers, and of course, the weather are just a few of the pests to contend with!! AND they do all of this for what??? Ask yourself, “Why would he do that?”

The answers are all around you. The satisfaction of uncovering all the chicaneries of our local politicians, the absolute theft and fraud of our local neighborhood councils, the watching of our elected politicians going to jail, and of course, the incredible take-over attempts by everyone from the Scientologists to the entitled immigrants, and of course,

those talented but ignorant citizens that use the social media to destroy each other. Yup, if you can’t have money, you can have the satisfaction of knowing all the little secrets.

Here in the NE Valley, the last answer is the one that puzzles most people. It’s the mountains, the wonderful wildlife, and the history of our grandparents who moved here 70-80 years ago. And of course, the love of adventure, and the satisfaction of knowing we’ve done our part at the end of the day to make a difference here! I’d like to thank all the journalists out there who help make the world go round and wish them a fruitful life! ■



Today’s word is DYSTOPIAN. I didn’t think about it and no it didn’t appear in a dream, it just popped into my head as I was laying out this week’s edition.

Look around you..... what do you see? Probably nothing-nothingness. New buildings are being laid out on Foothill with no rhyme or reason (or so it appears.) Now, if you’re old enough, think back about what our little burg looked like 20 years ago.

It used to be a fun town, but now it’s a clown town. Now I’m being culturally offensive, but here’s the reality. Our buildings looked like something out of an Arthur Miller book. Lots of browns and white paint. Windows that weren’t boarded up and not quite so many auto repair shops.

If you take a slow drive down Foothill, you will now see so many buildings that have garish green, red, yellow and BLACK frontages.

Lots of years ago, we created the Foothills Specific Corridor Plan to keep our town looking familiar and clean. We even created a neighborhood council department called the Land Use Committee and people actually went out and talked to the business owners about their choice of colors. We even had a mandate from the LAPD

t h a t “No more than 35% of the business windows could be covered up.”

Somewhere along the line, we started seeing 3rd world changes being made here. LC&S Sonia Tatulian made it her passion to support Armenian owned murals. Now here’s a funny story within this story, Joselito’s had a wonderful Dios De Muerto mural painted on his wall so that everyone could see an example of Mexican heritage art. Well, that only lasted 30 days and the city made him paint it out. But the Armenian owned murals of Jimmy Dean and the Tree of life, got to stay where they were because NOBODY wanted to make the owners unhappy. So much for our community standards.

So began the lowering of OUR

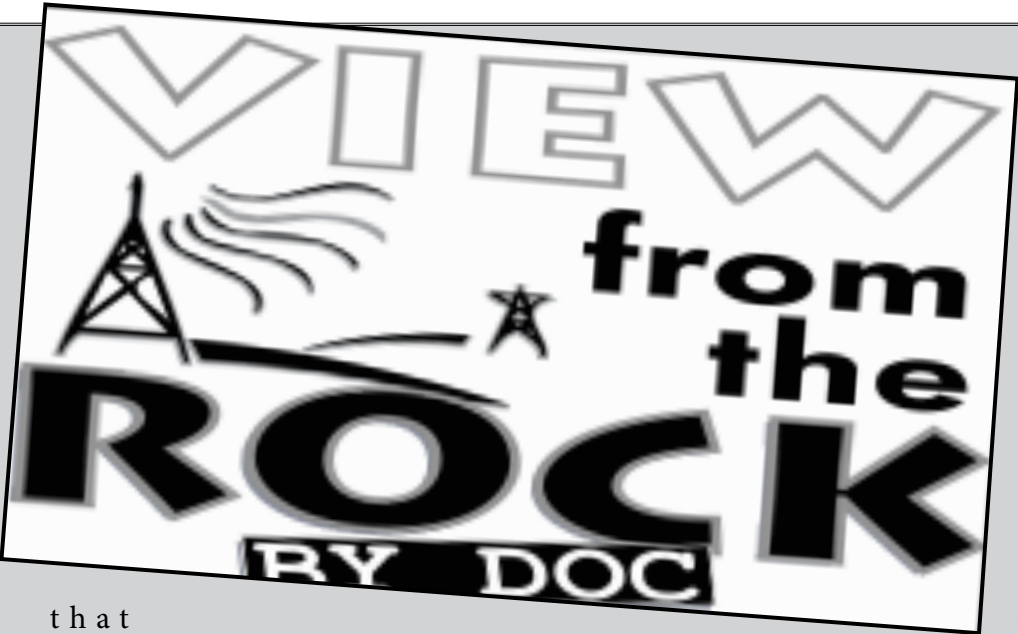
cultural heritage, and it still continues. We now have street venders, food trucks and wonderful BBQs on the sidewalk. Do they conform with our idea of a quiet neighborhood? Not on your life. And nobody cares. Some long time ago, there was a girl named Robin Meares that was a sort-a gadfly. She held sway in our town and she had various names on the Internet.

But one day, she got a bug up her ass and tried to destroy some community members. She besieged her followers to join together and destroy this nuisance. When she didn’t get her perceived vigilante group to actually do something, she made this incredible statement, “In the

movie Spartacus, the Romans were searching for him and they rounded up a bunch of slaves and demanded that they tell them where Spartacus was and who was he!” She went on with her story saying “All the slaves yelled out ‘I AM SPARTACUS’. Showing that they were one.

So, she posted I AM SPARTACUS! Join me in getting rid of this criminal. And she waited, and waited, and waited. When no one joined in with her, she removed the post, shut down her account and created another site with the name of Robin Jody.

See, this is just an example of how when anyone here is asked to do something to help the neighborhood, nothing happens. But in the end, it all amounts to nothing. Our Councilwoman appears to be in every developers pocket. She doesn’t like our community. She has done nothing constructive here except construct a Taj Mahal in her image where the North Valley City Hall used to be. Does anyone care that we made a mistake in electing her in the last election? Asking for a friend. But maybe if you’d stop drinking the cool-aid, you’ll realize that it’s THE WATER.■



# California floods are making the homelessness crisis even worse!

By Suzzane Tanner

Record rains have soaked California's cities, exacerbating a homelessness crisis and endangering thousands of people who are living without consistent shelter.

Amid a deluge of rain on a Sunday night, staffers at Los Angeles' Midnight Mission homeless shelter opened their doors and dining room to more than 100 unhoused people living on Skid Row.

"People are freezing to their core, so being able to come in and sleep, get clean with showers and dry clothes is a big deal," said Georgia Berkovich, a spokesperson for Midnight Mission. "For people on the street, once your clothes are wet it's over."

The Southern California deluge hits unhoused people particularly hard because the region doesn't usually get this drenched. New York gets more than 45 inches of rain a year on average while Chicago gets 36 inches.

In contrast, Los Angeles typically gets about 14 inches of rain a year and San Diego just over 10 inches. These historic storms dumped half of that amount, 7 inches, in just two days, February 4 and 5, according to the National Weather Service.

Because of that, homeless communities in cities like New York and Chicago have more experience – and infrastructure – to combat the



Photo By David “Doc” DeMulle’.

deadly effects of storms. In Southern California, it’s a different story.

The Midnight Mission shelter typically sees

about 30 people on a normal night, Berkovich said. But the numbers increased more than three-fold as an unprecedented six inches of rain devastated encampments across the city.

The storm also brought hundreds of landslides and mudslides in California, leaving devastation for some of the more than 181,000 people experiencing homelessness across the state – especially for those living outdoors. Mayors from Los Angeles and San Diego both declared evacuation warnings for people living in low-lying and flood-prone areas.

Thanks to the influx of millions of migrants, homelessness is plaguing cities across the country and severe weather is creating life threatening situations.

Cold Temperatures Continue to Harm Homeless Population.

California homeless shelter population surges 53% during current migrant crisis: mayor’s report.

Out in the Cold: New immigrant families in Los Angeles must exit shelters as the city scales back aid. Many have nowhere to go.

Perry Goldberg is a successful lawyer and entrepreneur who’s running for LA County Supervisor. He wants to bring innovative solutions and common-sense wisdom to the problems that are haunting major cities all over the country including: homelessness, immigration and crime.■



Everybody needs a haircut and the only place to go in Tujunga, is at my favorite barber.



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Los Angeles Times

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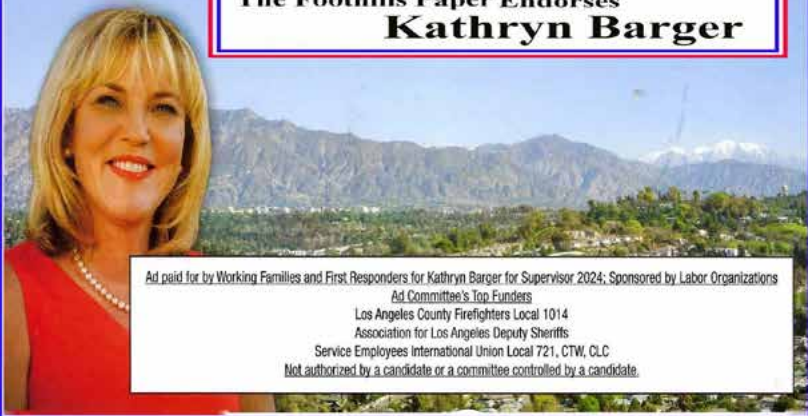
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\*Add to your 120-hour kits leaving time to grab more valuable items.  
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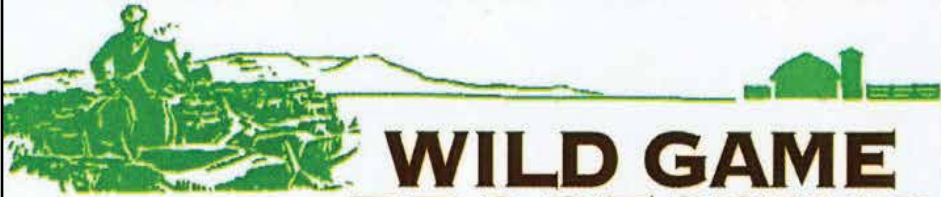
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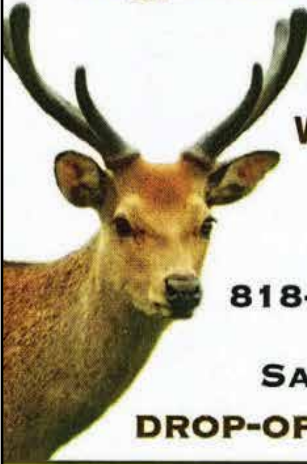
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# ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

## Your Accessible Home Awaits: Essential Steps to Get You There

The demand for accessible homes has surged in recent years, driven by an aging population and a growing awareness of the importance of inclusivity for individuals with disabilities. Creating an accessible home necessitates a holistic approach that considers the unique requirements of those with disabilities.

These needs can be varied, from physical to cognitive, and the design must be flexible and accommodating. In this article, which is shared below courtesy of The Foothills Paper, we will detail some crucial steps for building an accessible home, offering valuable insights into creating a space that meets accessibility standards while ensuring comfort and convenience for all residents.

### RESEARCH ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Understanding the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities is crucial when planning an accessible home. Start by researching the specific accessibility guidelines and regulations applicable in your region, including building codes, standards for accessible design, and any local laws or ordinances. Consulting these resources will inform your design choices and help ensure that your home meets the necessary requirements.

#### Choose a Suitable Location

The location of your accessible home can significantly impact the



quality of life for its residents. Opt for a location that offers convenient access to essential services such as healthcare facilities, transportation options, and markets. This consideration is particularly important for individuals with mobility challenges, who may have difficulty traveling long distances.

**Prioritize Slip-Resistant Flooring**  
Safety is a top priority when designing an accessible home, and one of the most effective ways to enhance safety is by installing slip-resistant flooring materials. These materials are particularly important in areas prone to moisture, such as bathrooms and kitchens, where the risk of slipping is higher. By choosing slip-resistant options, you can significantly reduce the

risk of accidents and create a safer environment for everyone in the home. This is especially important for individuals with mobility issues, who may have difficulty recovering from a fall or who may be at higher risk of injury.

### ENSURE PROPER LIGHTING

A well-lit home is essential for individuals with visual impairments. Plan for ample lighting, both natural and artificial, to illuminate all spaces effectively. Proper lighting enhances visibility and makes it easier to navigate the home. Consider installing adjustable lighting systems that allow residents to customize the brightness levels according to their needs.

### DESIGN AN ACCESSIBLE HOME OFFICE

For those who work from home, an accessible home office is essential. Ensure the office is used exclusively for business purposes, as this can potentially qualify you for a home business tax deduction, providing financial benefits. When designing your office, consider factors like wheelchair-accessible desks, ergonomic chairs, and easy-to-reach storage solutions.

### ACCOUNT FOR INVOICING

Establishing a solid bookkeeping and invoicing system is crucial for the success and organization of your own business. Accurate and efficient handling of finances ensures a clear understanding of your business's financial health, aids in timely payments, and maintains professionalism with clients. An essential tool in this process is a free online invoice generator. These platforms offer a free invoice template which can be customized to suit your business's needs.

With the option to choose from dozens of templates, fonts, and design elements, you can create custom invoices that not only reflect your brand's identity but also cater to specific client requirements.

*Please see **Your Accessible Home Awaits** on Page 7*

### A Hole in One? *continued from page 1*

The LAFD Battalion 12 Command Center then put out a request for a LA City heavy vacuum unit to suck out the free-flowing mud and water. They also called in a request for the LAFD HR-3 backhoe to remove the mud close to the horse and SMART personnel were able to snake a large bellyband under the horse to facilitate the backhoe lifting the of the horse out of the hole if the requested helicopter hoist unit couldn't get close enough to the horse to extract him from the hole.

The entire extrication took about 3 hours and was successful in removing LUCKY from a danger-

ous situation without injuring the horse or first responders. (See video)

After the rescue, Lucky was assisted by the SMART personnel in slowly walking from the yard, and was evaluated by an on-site veterinarian. There is speculation that the suddenly appearing sinkhole may be related to an old septic system, but the specific cause of the sinkhole, and horse becoming trapped, cannot be formally declared by firefighters. <https://vimeo.com/915418289?share=copy>.

(FS24; Battalion 12; Valley Bureau; Council District 7; Dispatched Units AO1 AO2 BC12 BC14 E24 E288 E289 E290 EM10 H6 H7 HA6 HA7 HR3 RA827 RA889 RA91 T87 T88 T89 T90 UR88);■





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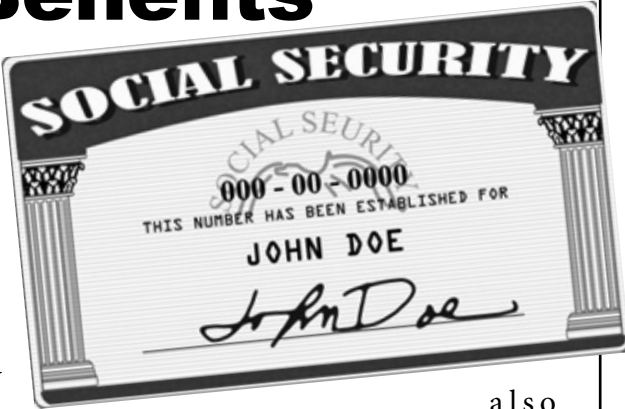
ASK RUSTY

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

# Discovering Divorced Spouse Benefits

even if your exspouse started benefits earlier. In order to be eligible for spouse benefits though, you must be at least 62 and unmarried, you must have been married to your ex for at least 10 years, and your ex must be either already collecting retirement (or disability) benefits or at least be eligible to collect them. If they're not already collecting but are eligible, you must be divorced for at least 2 years. Although spouse benefits are often cited as being ½ of the ex's benefit amount, that's only true if you have reached your full retirement age when you claim the spouse benefit. Otherwise, your spouse benefit will be reduced to something less than 50%, perhaps as low as 32.5% of your ex's FRA benefit amount (depending upon your age when you apply). If you are also eligible for Social Security benefits on your own work record, the spousal benefit must be larger than your own for you to get a "spousal boost" bringing you up to the spousal benefit amount. The amount of benefit you get will not affect the amount of your ex's benefit, nor the benefit of anyone else receiving benefits on your ex's record.

If you were born before January 2, 1954, and you have reached your full retirement age and have not yet applied for benefits, you have the option to take only spouse benefits and allow your benefit from your own work record grow at 8% per year up until you reach age 70, at which time you can switch to your own benefit if it is larger. You should



also be aware that if you take any Social Security benefits before you reach your full retirement age and also work, you'll be subject to an "earnings limit" which, if you exceed it, will result in some of your benefits being withheld.

If, as a divorced spouse, your ex-spouse predeceases you, you may be eligible for survivor benefits equal to 100% of what your ex was receiving (or entitled to receive). In this case there is an exception to the age rule which says that you can collect survivor benefits as early as age 60 (50 if you're disabled).

However, if you take survivor's benefits before your full retirement age (which as a survivor can be less than your normal FRA), your benefit amount will be reduced. You may defer collecting survivor's benefits to let them grow to their full value at your full retirement age, but they stop growing when you reach your FRA. You can, however, continue to collect survivor bene was receiving (or entitled to receive). In this case there is an exception to the age rule which says that you can collect survivor benefits as early as age 60 (50 if you're disabled). However, if you take survivor's benefits before your full retirement age (which as a survivor can be less than your normal FRA), your benefit amount will be reduced.■

## Your Accessible Home Awaits *continued from page 6*

This level of personalization and professionalism in your invoicing can significantly enhance client trust and streamline your financial processes, making the overall management of your business finances more effective and less time-consuming.

### UNDERSTANDING CUSTOM-BUILD HOMES

If you're building a custom-accessible home, familiarize yourself with the steps involved in the process. This includes budgeting, hiring architects and contractors with experience in accessible design, obtaining necessary permits, and overseeing construction. It's essential to communicate your specific accessibility needs throughout the project to ensure a successful outcome.

#### Invest in Smart Home Products

Explore a range of smart home products that facilitate accessibility. Consider adjustable-height furniture, smart thermostats, and video doorbells. Before purchasing, consult online resources like Smart Home Scoop for in-depth product reviews and troubleshooting tips to make informed choices. These products can enhance the overall comfort and convenience of your home.

Crafting an accessible home involves a combination of thoughtful planning, strategic design choices, and leveraging technology. By following these eight key steps, you'll create a welcoming and functional living space that caters to the needs of all residents, promoting independence and comfort. An accessible home not only benefits individuals with disabilities but also enhances the overall quality of life for everyone living in it.■



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## California is at higher risk for major earthquakes

continued from page 1

Compared with the prior model, done in 2018, California locations had about a 10% or less increase in the chances of experiencing a damaging earthquake, Milner said. The new data also marks the chances of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in the Bay Area at a given time being 3% greater than noted in 2018 and 80% greater statewide, he said.

Petersen said the forecast earthquake hazards for the Bay Area have always been high and continue to be. In the state, the highest chances for damaging earthquake shaking is along the coast, according to the model, published in January. Across all states, California also has the highest risk for damaging earthquakes.

The model was created as a tool for people, including engineers and policymakers, to mitigate the risks of earthquakes.

"California has earthquakes. We already knew that. But what we want to know is in detail how can we better design buildings and bridges and develop communities that are resilient and can recover quickly from earthquakes?" Petersen said.

The findings can be applied to building codes to ensure structures can withstand the kind of shaking possible at a certain location, Petersen said.

About 500 new faults were mapped in the model, but few of those faults were in California. Most were in other western states, which did not have as extensive fault databases as California, Petersen said.

"The improvement in California was to think about what kinds of earthquakes you can have on the known faults we already have recognized in California," he said.

One of the areas of improved research was

the types of earthquake ruptures possible. Petersen said earthquakes have complex rupture patterns — sometimes they break at an individual part of a fault or many faults can break together, creating larger earthquakes.

The new model takes into account the possibility of these multi-segment fault ruptures more so than previous models.

"We try to simulate what kinds of ruptures we will see based on the geometry of the faults, the slip rates of the faults and the continuity of the faults," Petersen said. "In this new model we have accounted for many more of the complexities and alternative types of ruptures that we think can happen but hadn't considered in the past."

In addition to improving the modeling on fault ruptures, the new model takes into account how the rocks and soil can impact the amount of shaking.

"In several areas of the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles area, we had previously included some estimates of amplifications from these sediments beneath our feet. In this model we have expanded on that," Petersen said.

Sandy soils and some clay material have the potential to intensify shaking, Peter-

son said. This happened in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, he said.

"In the Marina District for example, we had a lot of sandy soils that amplified the shaking and caused damage but also caused liquefaction," Petersen said.

Within California, only the sediment in the San Francisco area, Los Angeles area and Central Valley were accounted for in the new model, Petersen said. So there is more work needed to expand that research across the state.

"As we try and understand more about the Earth, we recognize that there's a lot more to learn and that we need to continue to study," Petersen said. ■

# Fill the hole with a load of rocks

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Sixty minutes reported, on Sunday evening February third, about a gap in our border wall. The gap is reported to be about sixty miles east of San Diego and is a global destination for migrants from around the world. The news source reported that during a four day watch they personally witnessed about 600 illegal entries come through the small gap.

According to the report people from China are the fastest growing number of illegal immigrants coming into our country. Over 37,000 just last year which is a growing number. Stories were told about people who had sold their houses and gave up everything to make the trip. The trip had cost one person \$14,000 and another reported the trip took ten days traveling through multiple countries.

TikTok has a video that provides all the details on where to find the gap and how to obtain the help needed in Mexico to get to the destination.

Who are these people? Are they simply well intended people who are coming here to make our country better? Is this a move to fill our country with Chinese soldiers who may be positioning themselves to attack America from inside? Hopefully, it's just a large group of people trying to escape from a bad country where life is not good.

The dumbest part of this "60 Minutes" story is the four-foot gap so many are coming through. Reportedly, there isn't any federal money allocated to fix the gap. We've sent billions to Ukraine and Israel but we don't have any money to plug up a hole used by people who are essentially invading our country. We don't call them invaders, but they come illegally and in massive numbers. It may not feel like an invasion in Iowa but it does to people who live on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Why doesn't someone take a dump truck or two of rocks and close up that gap? If President

Biden wanted to improve his dismal ranking in the polls, then he should coordinate such an effort. He and VP Kamala Harris could each drive a big truck of rocks and dump into the gap. I bet he would have an impressive convoy of people who would join him in the effort. I can't see how it would be that much of a strain on the federal budget. Of course he won't do that nor will any other politician. There is probably some kind of rule or law that forbids such an action.

One elderly man who owns property close to the gap fired a gun in the air because migrants were burning trees on his farm. He was arrested for trying to protect his property.

Fixing that hole in the wall seems like a simple common-sense thing to do. When you bring Washington into the process there is no common sense.

Find books by Glenn Mollette at Amazon.com. Learn more about his books, columns and music at GlennMollette.Com. ■



# Welcome a Lifelong Friend - Open Your Home to a Foreign Exchange Student

World Heritage International Student Exchange Program (WH), a Non-Profit, Public Benefit Organization, is seeking local families to host foreign exchange students this coming school year. World Heritage students come from a variety of countries worldwide: Italy, Denmark, Spain, France, Germany, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name just a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports. etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. World Heritage students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from different backgrounds, countries



and personal interests.

World Heritage also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

If interested in hosting an

exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, please call Debra at 1-800-888-9040, visit [www.world-heritage.org](http://www.world-heritage.org) or send an email to [info@world-heritage.org](mailto:info@world-heritage.org) to request more information or start the application process. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the

process of welcoming your new son or daughter today. The memories and the relationship you create with your exchange student will stay with you forever.

Contact: Debra Garbon, World Heritage Program Director, at 1-800-888-9040 or send an email to [info@world-heritage.org](mailto:info@world-heritage.org)■

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# THE LA ART SHOW

By Joan Slater

Eye popping, total immersion and a self-created virtual reality show took the art community to another realm of reality. As one walked through, between and inside the incredible art work, it was hard to stay calm and take the incredible array of art. Everything was beautiful and laid out so that the viewer could look and feel the energy.

This was LA's largest and longest-running art fair, as it wrapped up its 29th iteration following a triumphant return to the Los Angeles Convention Center from February 14 through 18, 2024. Guided by producer and director Cassandra Voyagis, the fair kicked off the city's art season, uniting galleries, curators, collectors, and celebrities alike.

LA Art Show presented another spectacular international lineup with over 100 exhibitors from countries including the Philippines, Italy, Israel, Peru, and South Korea. "LA Art Show is a one-stop destination for the public and collectors to view art work from all over the world as we continue our commitment to delivering the most comprehensive and international contemporary art experience possible," says Voyagis.

The fair debuted with a successful Opening Night Premiere Party on Valentine's Day hosted by award-winning actress Lucy Hale, benefiting LA Art Show's new charity partner, American Heart Association, which received 15% of ticket sales in support of the organization's Life is Why™ campaign.

Artificial intelligence and

Black History Month played significant roles in this year's fair as well as key initiatives that support the next generation of artists from "Athletes for Life" founded by former NFL's Greg Bell to the featured exhibition of Young Masters Art Prize, presented by Cynthia Corbett Gallery, London, supporting emerging talents from diverse backgrounds.

LA Art Show's educational platform, DIVERSEartLA, partnered with seven international art institutions to explore the intersection of memory and AI. Projects included the Nevada Museum of Art that presented "The Journey" by Guillermo Bert, featuring 20 life-sized wood sculptures of immigrants employed as frontline workers during the pandemic as a way to explore how ancient traditions and AI merge to create narratives of identity and memory. AAL Museum (Santiago, Chile) presented a hypnotizing visual narrative, "Be Water," led by esteemed artist, Antuan, highlighting the essential collaboration between humanity and AI to create a new network of human consciousness.

A few other LA Art Show 2024 highlights included:

- A musical performance by Korean artist Choi Sori who through drumming and manipulation of metal surfaces, Choi creates an abstract interplay of light, color, and sound.
- Iconic LA artist Robert Vargas was onsite live painting his powerful mural – inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s "The World House" – which honored Black History Month and conveyed a message of peace and unity.■

