

HAPPY Mother's Day

FREE!

image: Freepik.com

THE PAPEL

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

MONDAY APRIL 15, 2024

TELLING THE TRUTH
Sunland-Tujunga's only

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 54



The tree that uncovered the homicide.

HOMICIDE ON WENTWORTH

By David DeMullé

I started getting calls about a body in a trash can in the 8500 block of Wentworth just up from Sherman Grove. Just another typical day in Sunland and the ensuing mis-information about it.

The body was discovered by members of Tree King Tree Services. There were 3 trash bins there. They moved the trash bins to park their truck. They moved the first 2 and when they went to move the black one, they discovered the body because of the weight and the smell. It all came about because a tree had grown around the High Voltage lines. It appeared that the body had been there for almost a week and was rapidly decomposing, there were so many flies and the smell was like burnt sugar, so much so that the trash bin had to be vacuumed out so the medical examiners crew could remove the body. actually, they couldn't get it out so they brought in a truck with a gantry winch to take the bin to their facility. The coroner's report is public and has all the information that they found.

It is available on our website: Thefoothillspaper.com



The suspect trash bin.



Annalisa Berns, founder and Private Investigator at Pet Search and Rescue.

Pet Search and Rescue Awards & Conferences 2024

Training Dogs to Save Lives and Reunite Families with Lost Pets

By David DeMullé

The Pet Detective training awards dinner was held at the Morrison's Pub in Burbank last Sunday with nine awardees.

- Outstanding Achievement award: Kat Albrecht Thiessen.
- Community Achievement award: The Retrievers.
- Best Cat Rescue: Cat Rescue Guy, Randall Kolb.
- Best Dog Rescue: Eddie's Network.
- Best K9 Team volunteers:

Anne Skarzenski & K9 Soia de la Foret des Hauts De Galgal.

- Best K9 Team Business: Balyanda Brown & K9 Bravo.
- Most persistent Capture: Pinky Paws Search & Rescue, Krystle Woodward.
- Best Field Search Team: All Animal Search & Rescue Team.
- Outstanding Lost Pet Trapping: Baileys Bridge To Home Rescue & Recovery, Kathleen Tortu-Bowles.

Pet Search and Rescue, is a business dedicated to reuniting lost pets with their families,

is proud to announce a series of in-formative and inspirational work-ing 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.

Please see **Pet Search and Rescue Awards** on Page 2

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

HELL'S FIRE – TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED

By Dr. Glenn Mollette

Do you worry about going to hell? Will you burn there in hell's fire? Will you be in the hands of the Devil?

Hell may be a place where

people are locked into a room with endless Presidential candidates hollering and speaking over each other to the point that nothing makes much sense and everybody ends up sounding crazier and crazier.

I accept what Jesus taught about heaven and hell. He actually talked more about hell than he did heaven. Hell is described as a very sad place of pain and suffering. I certainly do not want to leave my body and go somewhere worse. I have chosen to go to the better of the two places and I am trusting in Jesus to get me there.

As you know there is plenty of hell on earth. Why would we want to leave the hell of earth and go to more hell?

A dear friend told me recently about his sweet wife being in Intensive Care in Alabama. She has battled multiple sclerosis for 20

years. All the medication she takes has impacted her heart. She recently had a heart attack and is now intubated. "MS sucks," my friend said.

Most of us have watched loved ones die from lung cancer, pulmonary fibrosis,

valley of suffering or you may not. Being intubated, struggling to breath, walk, talk, and eat is not a way any of us want to spend our days.

So where is hell? There's plenty of it on planet earth. Almost 2 billion people live in

over the last three years. So, there is more homelessness, poverty, misery, and hell in the streets of America than ever before.

Life and planet earth are great if you are relatively healthy, have a place to sleep, food to eat, and a little money to spend. However, health can change fast and often does. The point is there are lots of suffering people and suffering caregivers. Do everything you can to be kind to people. Give them a smile. A good word. A good deed. Be helpful when you can. You will appreciate it when it's your turn to suffer.

Many people are suffering in hell every day. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Visit Glennmollette.com to learn more. Uncommonsense is published in over 700 newspapers and blogs in all fifty states. ■

Hell may be a place where people are locked into a room with endless Presidential candidates hollering and speaking over each other to the point that nothing makes much sense and everybody ends up sounding crazier and crazier.

dementia, diabetes, and various neurological diseases. It's hell for the person and hell for the loved ones. Most likely if we live long enough, we will all go through some form of severe suffering. You might die suddenly and escape the long

poverty. Many of these people have to walk somewhere every day for just a bucket of water. Every day, millions are desperate for medical care but have access to none. Millions of Americans are homeless. Six million more immigrants have entered our country

Pet Search and Rescue *continued from page 1*

Pet Search and Rescue Conferences aim to foster collaboration and skill development within the realm of an-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 - sun-sun 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 non-profit, 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.

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

And best of all, The awards dinner for the best dogs.

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.petsearchandrescue.com/conferences>.

Annalisa Berns

Owner and Private Investigator, Pet Search and Rescue www.PetSearch-AndRescue.com aberns@hotmail.com 310-880-8268 ■

THE FOOTHILLS PAPER is published weekly. All content is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written consent of the publisher. All submissions to this newspaper become property of THE FOOTHILLS PAPER and may not be republished in whole or in part. The opinions expressed by contributing writers do not necessarily express the views of the publisher nor staff of this newspaper. TFP is available free of charge. No person may, without prior written permission from TFP, take more than one copy of each edition (stated value: \$1). Only authorized TFP distributors may distribute THE FOOTHILLS PAPER. THE FOOTHILLS PAPER is a non-profit newspaper produced by the OSS-Spectrum group.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR/ PUBLISHER

Dr. David DeMullé
editor@thefoothillspaper.com

Joan Slater- Lifestyles
Editor

Dyan McManus, RIP

WITH THANKS TO
all our volunteers
that make
The Paper happen!

THE FOOTHILLS PAPER

TheFoothillsPaper.com
Tujunga CA 91043
(818) 951 0943



Associated
Press



Press
Photographers
Association of
Greater Los
Angeles



L.A.
Press Club



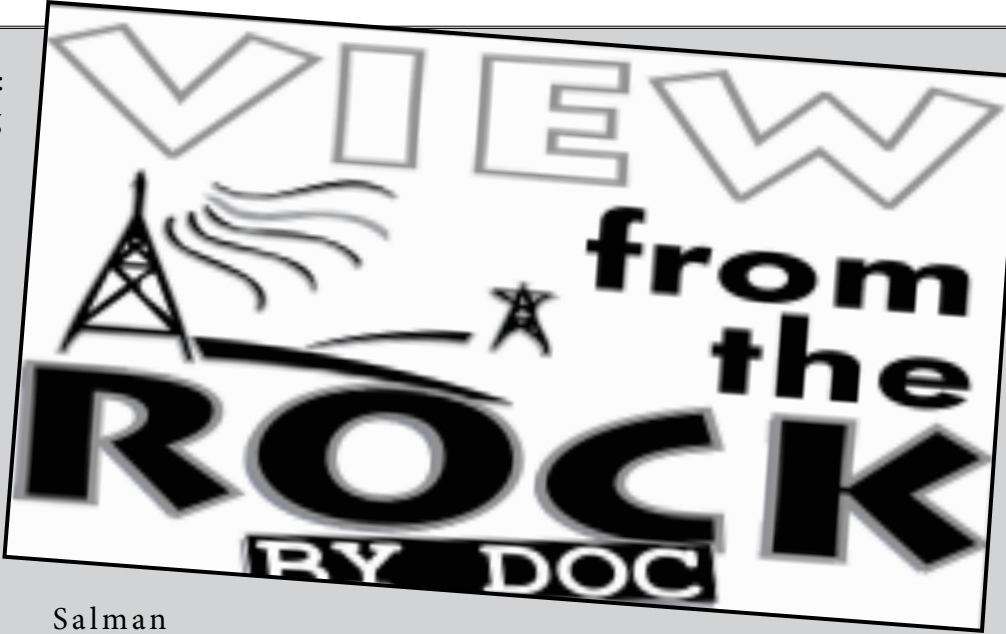
International
Combat Camera
Association

There is an old Chinese saying: “May you live in interesting times!” And boy-oh-boy are we in the middle of them. This year started out innocently enough with Russian premiere Putin sort-a sword rattling, but then it got worse. But let’s look at the Reality of how this happened.

Trump was a true pompous ass, running around making incredible statements how Putin and Kim Jong-un were sending “love letters” to him. “They love me” he said. That said, from our pussy grabbing ex-president. I wonder if they sent him K-Y jelly? But it didn’t stop there.

Our current president Biden was under-gunned from the git-go. For all his 40 years of government service, he just didn’t understand that you can’t placate a monster.

The man in the street has no real idea what it means to live under a totalitarian government, especially one that at a whim, can end your life. It’s called the big lie. Two past Soviet agents were killed by the Russians on foreign soil and no one did anything or really complained about it. Across the desert, we have Saudi ruler Mohammed bin



Salman who ordered journalist Jamal Khashoggi’s assassination. And once again, no one raised a finger. See boys and girls, money has a way of solving problems.

And that brings us up to today’s interesting times. Richard Nixon (one of my favorite mis-understood crooks) once said, “the masses are asses.” And if you look around you, you will see that even he was prophetic. And it is found even in our little town. When everyone is a liar, that means that the truthsayer becomes the liar. All our checks & measures that are supposed to help us walk the line of righteousness seem to have fallen away, leaving us

with nothing to really believe in.

For once in the past 10 years, our neighborhood council is actually trying to do the right thing. Maybe the ZOOM meetings were making it easier? If you don’t have to look your fellow conspirator in the eye, maybe they can fudge a bit in the direction of truth?

Yes, these are interesting times, AA has a great following and people are actually sobering up.

Our committee chairpersons are creating viable programs that except for the city watering them down, are getting some results. BUT, no one it appears, really

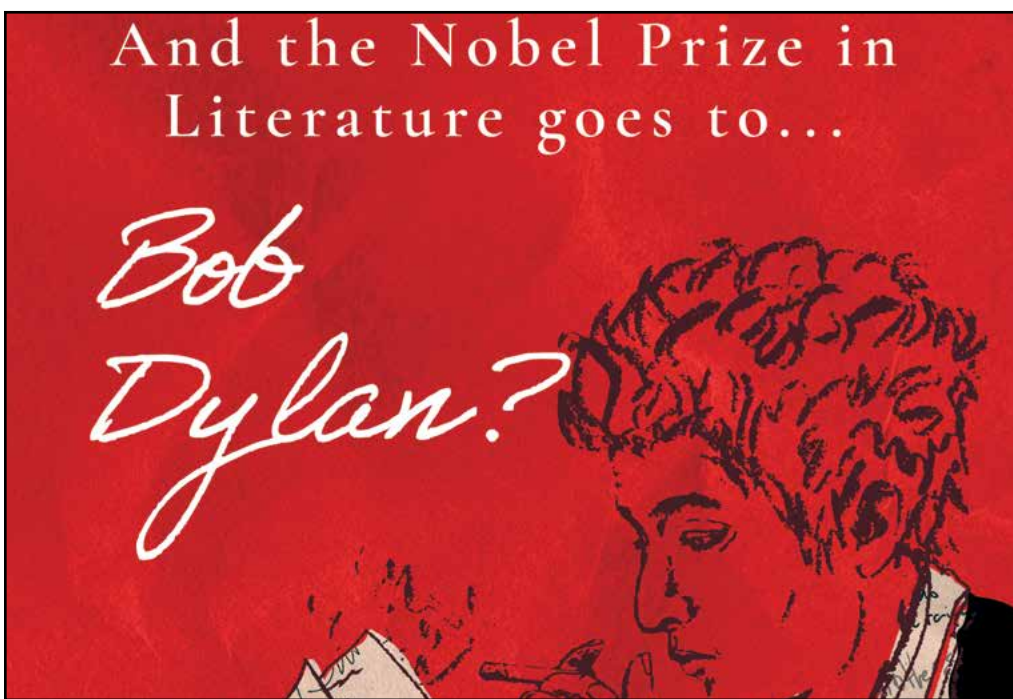
wants to stop the carnage on Foothill Blvd. Maybe they think that if enough people die, there will be less traffic to contend with. And then there are the mental problems of the houseless that no one (except for M-Rod who was pushing for in an election year) wants to address. There has been a solution to the houseless problem for the past 12 years, and yet the STNC and the city have specifically fought tooth and nail to hide it.

You have to ask yourself why? I used to have a group of Armenian friends until one of their members began to systematically financially rape our community. Yup, blood is thicker than water but not as thick as money.

I miss them, but I don’t miss the way our community was destroyed. Maybe, this war in Ukraine might show us how precious freedom from oppression really is? Maybe we can really begin to grow as a community without so much derision? I don’t know. I’ve been so frustrated looking

for an answer that I just gave in and said “IT’S THE WATER!” ■

Bob Dylan Review



By David “Doc” DeMulle’
Editor/Publisher
The Foothills Paper, Inc.

For those of us that matured during and after the Vietnam war, Bob Dylans music turned the world around for us. Even now I remember bits and pieces of Dylans music that somehow smoothed the feelings we came home with.

When I first received the draft of “And the Nobel Prize in Literature Goes to . . . Bob Dylan?” it brought back the “why” of these songs that mobilized the moral compass of people around the world.

At first, I thought of this book as a Doctoral Thesis, until the words became thoughts and then memories

of where I was and doing, while the Dylan songs were blasting out of our portable radios and home music systems. Now, 60 some years later, Dimitrios P. Naskos has brought it all back and explained why Dylan was the only artist to receive the Nobel Prize, and it was well deserved.

Anyone who is a lover of folk music and the biographies of those singers, will love how this 221 page biography picks you up and doesn’t let you down until the stories of his songs, and how they came about unfolds.

It is highly referenced, and is a must reading that needs a space in your personal library. It is the definitive work that defines the history of folk music to rock music in the 20th century.

By David “Doc” DeMulle” ■



Joshua Bell at The Soraya

By Joan Slater

This concert was presented as a tribute to Violinist/Conductor Joshua Bell and CSUN President and Chancellor Dr. Jolene Koester.

The weather was dreary and traffic heavy on the way to the Soraya Music Center, but once inside, the mood was genuinely friendly. We were all there to hear and watch our favorite violinist, Joshua Bell.

With a starting lineup of Rossini and Mendelssohn with baritone Edward Nelson creating a shock wave of a solo performance that the audience truly enjoyed.

I’m new at this, and I never saw a performer who would also conduct from the concert masters chair, just feet away from the orchestra where he previously stood as a soloist. Bell and the audience were totally immersed in the flow of the music in an almost visceral way.

Please see **Joshua Bell at The Soraya**
on Page 7

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



CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
818 855 3502

Elevate your Cannabis Experience

BREAKING NEWS



9074 De Garmo Ave
Sun Valley, CA 91352

DAILY DISCOUNTS

NEW CUSTOMERS 25% OFF first visit
SENIOR 15% OFF
VETERANS 15% OFF
STUDENTS 15% OFF
REFERRAL REWARD 20% OFF
No double stacking
Customer rewards dollars- inquire within

Happy Hour Daily

20% off the entire store
8:00am -10:00am
12 noon until 1:00pm
6:00pm until 7:00pm

DELIVERY COMING SOON

LIC C-10-0001312

SPECIALS

3/9/24 - 3/12/24
"WHILE SUPPLIES LAST"
BOGO BANANZA

SATURDAY SHATTER-DAY

Buy any wax get one 1/2 off
Saturday Quickies
Buy Huxley Sex edibles get one 1/2 off
Buy OM Lubricant get one 1/2 off

FUNDAY SUNDAY

Buy any pre-roll or pre-roll pack get one 1/2 off

MUNCHIE MONDAY

Buy any edible get one 1/2 off &

MAVEN MONDAY

Buy any Maven Pre-roll get one 1/2 off
Buy any Maven pre-roll pack get one 1/2 off

TINCTURE TUESDAY

Buy any lime 1000mg tincture get a lime 500mg tincture 1/2 off
Buy any Cannabis Tincture get one 1/2 off

It's Time To Evacuate Five minute Warning

<input type="checkbox"/>	Gather	Location
	Shoes ~ Many people show up at shelters bare foot, especially the kids	
	Wallet/Purse	
	Keys~Cars, Home, Storage unit, Office, Bank deposit box, Mail box, etc.	
	Cell phones and chargers including car charger	
	Laptop and charger	
	Backup flash drive/eternal hard drive	
	Important documents*	
	Contact list*	
	Proof of insurance*+	
	Proof of residency*+	
	Mortgage*+	
	Tax return*+	
	Check book ~you will need the routing number for FEMA claims and if power is out	
	Cash* Aim for at least \$200 in small bills	
	Medications and medical devices~ Plan ahead for insulin and other medications needing refrigeration	
	120 hour Kit~ we all know 72 hours is not enough right?	
	Pets and pet 120 hour kit(s)	
	Preparedness binder	
	Warn neighbors ~ check on elderly/disabled	

*Add to your 120-hour kits leaving time to grab more valuable items.
+ Needed for insurance and FEMA claims

©Copyright 2015 Carolyn Nicolaysen All rights reserved
Duplication, redistribution or retransmission of this work is strictly prohibited without express written consent of the author.

SUMMER!



Verdugo Hills Liquor Store

7119 Foothill Boulevard

HARMONY FARMS

2824 FOOTHILL BLVD. LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214



**DON'T FORGET
MOM'S DAY**

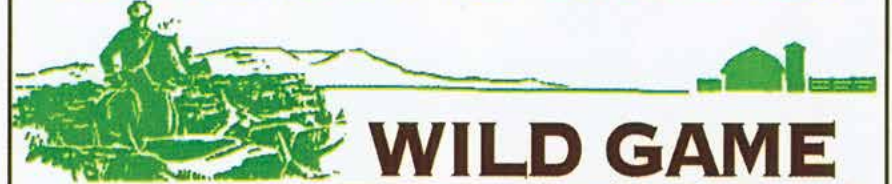
**ALMOST ANY KIND OF MEAT
AVAILABLE FOR YOUR DINNER PARTIES**

818-248-3068



For the absolute best steak, get Harmony Farms' Australian "Kobe-style" Wagyu Beef!

HARMONY FARMS



WILD GAME PROCESSING

Check out the largest selection of all natural, minimally processed game meats

We Carry New Zealand Farm Raised Elk & Vension

WE CAN PROCESS YOUR ANIMAL

YES WE DO SMOKED SAUSAGES AND HAM

GAME BIRDS PHEASANT SQUAB QUAIL

- ELK
- DEER
- BUFFALO
- WILD BOAR
- ANTELOPE
- KANGAROO
- ALLIGATOR
- OSTRICH

NOW AVAILABLE "Kobe-Style" Australian Wagyu Beef



100% Certified Berkshire Pork Whole Suckling Pigs - Special Order Duck • Goose

2824 FOOTHILL BLVD. LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214
818-248-3068 • 818-248-0361 FAX

MON-FRI 7AM - 8PM
SAT 7AM - 7PM • SUN 8AM - 6PM

DROP-OFF HOURS M-F AFTER 2:30PM

SINCE 1997

V&S

ASE AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EXCELLENCE

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

WE SERVICE ALL TYPES OF HYBRID & ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Starters • Alternators • Timing Belts • Engines
Transmissions • Water Pumps • Tune-ups • Axles & More!

"RIGHT JOB, RIGHT PRICE, RIGHT HERE!"



Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM • Saturday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

818.352.9666 • 818.352.6779 7139 - Foothill Blvd. Tujunga, CA 91042

MOULARD

DUCK BREAST

THIS DUCK IS DIFFERENT

DUCKCHAR Moulard Duck Breast is a totally different and better duck experience. What's the best way to describe it? It tastes like steak with a rich duck flavor twist.





ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD



CRIME MAPPING

BURGLARY 241606086
7600 BLOCK DAY ST
3/5/2024 @ 9:47 AM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 241606082
SUMMITROSE ST & MOUNTAIR AV
3/1/2024 @ 12:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 241606151
10600 BLOCK IRMA AV
3/7/2024 @ 7:10 PM

THEFT - PETTY 241606142
10600 BLOCK RHODESIA AV
2/19/2024 @ 3:10 PM

ROBBERY 241606206
7700 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
3/10/2024 @ 6:40 PM

BURGLARY 241606203
7800 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
3/10/2024 @ 7:04 AM

BURGLARY 241606202
7300 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
3/10/2024 @ 7:00 AM

BURGLARY 241600568
7900 BLOCK CORA ST
3/9/2024 @ 4:00 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE 241606173
10300 BLOCK ODELL AV
3/8/2024 @ 11:00 AM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 241606262
10300 BLOCK MOUNTAIR AV

3/7/2024 @ 6:10 AM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 241606290
10000 BLOCK COMMERCE AV
3/7/2024 @ 6:30 PM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 241606413
11000 BLOCK ORO VISTA AV
3/15/2024 @ 5:00 PM

THEFT-GRAND 241606403
10500 BLOCK LAS LUNITAS AV
3/13/2024 @ 10:00 AM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE 241606427
BIG TUJUNGA CANYON & MT GLEASON AV
3/17/2024 @ 12:40 PM

BURGLARY 241606420
7200 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
3/16/2024 @ 5:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 241606476
10200 BLOCK PLAINVIEW AV
3/18/2024 @ 10:00 PM

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON 241606465
ORO VISTA & BIG TUJUNGA CANYON BL
3/18/2024 @ 4:40 PM

THEFT-GRAND 241606468
10400 BLOCK PARR AV
3/13/2024 @ 2:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 241606521
7500 BLOCK APPERSON ST

3/19/2024 @ 10:30 PM

ROBBERY 241606505
VALMONT & FOOTHILL
3/19/2024 @ 9:40 AM

ROBBERY - ATTEMPTED 241606590
7600 BLOCK DAY ST
3/22/2024 @ 3:40 PM

THEFT - PETTY 241606571
10600 BLOCK NASSAU AV
3/20/2024 @ 10:10 AM

BURGLARY 241606643
9900 BLOCK COMMERCE AV
3/24/2024 @ 6:40 PM

THEFT - PETTY 241606673
10100 BLOCK SAMOA AV
3/20/2024 @ 8:00 PM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 241606734
10100 BLOCK HILLHAVEN AV
3/26/2024 @ 9:00 PM

BURGLARY 241606797
8000 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
3/29/2024 @ 4:10 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 241606803
10200 BLOCK COMMERCE AV
3/27/2024 @ 5:00 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - GRAND 241606805
10600 BLOCK MCVINE AV
3/25/2024 @ 9:00 PM

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON 241606825

8600 BLOCK HILLROSE ST
3/31/2024 @ 8:00 AM

BURGLARY 241606822
8400 BLOCK FOOTHILL BL
3/30/2024 @ 9:40 PM

THEFT-GRAND 241606852
6900 BLOCK GREELEY ST
3/26/2024 @ 3:00 PM

BURGLARY FROM VEHICLE - ATTEMPTED 241606875
10700 BLOCK COMMERCE AV
4/2/2024 @ 2:00 AM

THEFT - PETTY 241606884
VALMONT ST & PINEWOOD AV
4/1/2024 @ 1:42 AM

VEHICLE, STOLEN 241606866
7900 BLOCK APPERSON ST
3/29/2024 @ 8:30 PM

THEFT FROM VEHICLE - GRAND 241606922
7400 BLOCK VALAHO DR
3/28/2024 @ 7:00 AM

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (ADW) 241606937
10600 BLOCK WILSEY AV
4/3/2024 @ 1:00 PM

THEFT-GRAND 241606935
10600 BLOCK WILSEY AV
4/2/2024 @ 12:00 PM

HOMICIDE -
8500 BLOCK OF WENTWORTH
4/16/2024 @ 10:30 AM

THE FOOTHILLS PAPER *Presents*
TAKE MY CARD
 Reach More Readers With Your Business Card Featured Here! • Find Out How at sales@thefoothillspaper.com

Barber

HOURS
9am - 10pm

By appointment
(818)855-3502

6828 Valmont St, Tujunga, 91042

Jeremy's Electric

ALSO THE PROUD OWNER OF JEREMY'S COFFEE SHOP

Proudly Serving Our Community
Almost 40 Years
Locally Owned & Operated
818-951-1171

Local Licensed Electricians

Upright Pricing

25% OFF Service Call

FULL SERVICE ELECTRICIAN

Veteran Owned

Summit Christian Church
9641 Tujunga Canyon Blvd
Tujunga, CA 91042

summitchristianchurch.org
(818) 353-1138

COME VISIT US AT SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM

CHILDREN'S SERVICE YOUTH NIGHT CELEBRATE RECOVERY GRIEFSHARE

SUNDAY AT 10AM
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM
MONDAYS AT 7PM

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!

DEVRIES DIVERSIFIED
GENERAL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR

General Engineering Contractor
State License #535260

- DRAIN CLEANING
- CAMERA INSPECTIONS
- ELECTRONIC LOCATING
- SEWER PIPE REPAIRS
- TRENCHLESS REPAIRS
- STORM DRAINS
- FREE ESTIMATES

818 352-2636
www.devriesdiversified.com

GOPHER CONSTRUCTION CO.
A DeVries Diversified Company

Since 1948 - State License #601749

- SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- INSTALLATION & REPAIRS
- REAL ESTATE INSPECTIONS
- ADVANTEX & PIRANAS

818 352-2253
www.gopherco.com

Volunteer with
The Foothills Paper.

We can use your help in the office,
writing stories, taking photos,
uploading materials to our Web site
and plenty of other helpful things.

Support your local
independent newspaper!

Michael A. Hendrix
classical guitarist - composer - instructor

818 951 4533
michael.hendrix3@verizon.net

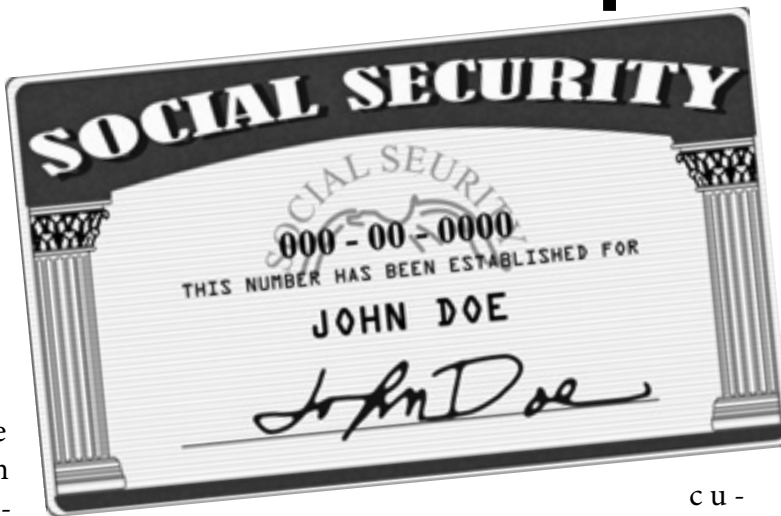
ASK RUSTY



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

How Do Survivor Benefits Work for a Married Couple?

more than his deceased wife was receiving. Note in either case, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255.



Dear Rusty: How does Social Security handle the death of one spouse? Say, for example, the husband receives \$2,000 per month in Social Security and his wife receives \$1,000 per month. How is the death of either spouse handled?
Signed: Concerned spouse

Dear Concerned: Benefits to a deceased beneficiary stop as soon as Social Security (SS) is notified of the death (notification usually done by the funeral director who handles arrangements). Benefits are not paid for the month of death, only for the preceding month when the beneficiary was alive for the entire month.

A surviving spouse is entitled to the higher of two benefits – their own personally earned SS retirement benefit, or an amount based on the deceased spouse's benefit at death. In the example you cite, and assuming the surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (FRA): if the husband dies first the wife will receive the husband's \$2,000 monthly benefit instead of her previous \$1,000 amount. But if the wife died first, the husband would continue receiving only his \$2,000 monthly amount because that is

The surviving spouse would need to contact Social Security to claim the "death benefit" and - unless the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit – also to claim the higher monthly amount, if eligible. If the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit from the deceased (and not entitled to SS retirement benefits on their own), then Social Security would automatically award their higher survivor amount when notified of the death.

If a surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on year of birth) and is eligible for a survivor benefit, the amount of the survivor benefit will be 100% of the deceased spouse's benefit. But if the survivor claims the benefit before reaching FRA, the amount of the survivor benefit will be reduced (by 4.75% for each full year earlier). The survivor's benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's full retirement age.

If a surviving spouse has not yet reached their FRA, and if they are entitled to (not necessarily collecting) their own Social Se-

curity retirement benefit, the surviving spouse has the option to delay claiming the survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at their full retirement age. And if the survivor's personal SS retirement benefit will ever be more than their maximum survivor benefit, the surviving spouse also has the option to claim only the smaller survivor benefit first and allow their personal SS retirement benefit to grow (to maximum at age 70 if desired).

With Social Security there is hardly ever a simple answer to a question but, in the example you use, if both are over their SS full retirement age:

- If the husband dies first, the wife will get 100% of the amount (\$2000) the husband was receiving, instead of the small amount (\$1000) she was previously receiving.
- If the wife dies first, the husband's monthly benefit will remain at \$2000, and he will get no increase in his monthly amount.
- In either case, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255.■

Joshua Bell at The Soraya
continued from page 3

Personally, it was absolutely heavenly, so much that I wished that I had on a set of headphones so that I could hear every variation and nuance of the Bell driven orchestras rendition of Rossini's Barber of Seville. Looking at the audience around me, I could see that they were also entranced.

With seven first violins, six seconds, four violas, four cellos, and two basses, the Academy orchestra made the sound deadening walls ring with the vibrations of the stringed instruments and through the bodies of the audience. Now, this isn't supposed to happen like that – but it did.

Joshua Bell was master of the Soraya's almost intimate music hall. You could hear the individual instruments such as flutists Sarah & Michael Cox, and timpani Louise Goodman.

Although there was a technical problem with solo baritone Edward Nelsons microphone, his commanding voice cut through surrounding sounds of the orchestra and thrilled the audience. I hope we hear more of him in the future.



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 or send an email to 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

Sleek or fluffy
Big or small
They'll love you furever
Dogs one and all!







Find a four-legged valentine at animalcare.lacounty.gov



Kathryn
BARGER

5th District Supervisor • County of Los Angeles

-  @SupervisorBarger
-  @KathrynBarger
-  @SupervisorKathrynBarger
-  KathrynBarger.LACounty.gov

