

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY TO US!

# THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25, 2024

PLEASE HAVE A HAPPY AND FIRE FREE WEEK!  
Sunland-Tujunga's only weekly newspaper

VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 66



## I'll Have What She's Having!

By Terri Whiting PA-C

With the 1989 movie, "When Harry Met Sally," women could relate to Meg Ryan. At some point in a woman's life she may fake an orgasm. Sadly, some women more than others. When I was a student there was a lecture on sexual dysfunction. I wanted to know the treatments available for women. How I can help women have a satisfying sexual relationship? So I asked, "What treatments are available for women who can't achieve an orgasm?"

The answer was short. That's it? Maybe my question wasn't clear so I asked again. "I'm sorry but that's it? What about a pill for women?" The answer was, "Recommend psychiatric evaluation to find out why she can't have an orgasm and prescribe an antidepressant" Seriously, that's the answer? I've never forgotten that disappointing answer.

Please see  
I'll Have What She's Having!  
on Page 3

## It Was an Immediate Solution to Provide Housing to the Homeless of Sunland-Tujunga

By David DeMulle' PhD.

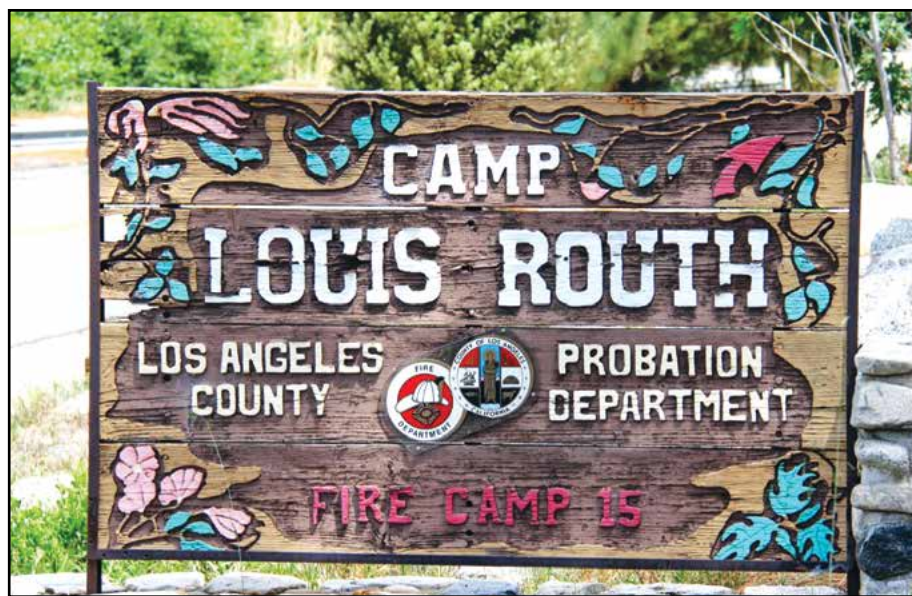
THREE miles from the city limits of Sunland-Tujunga, there sits an abandoned LACo inmate fire camp that used to hold 126 inmates with a maximum of 140, both male and female.

The camp ran for about 26 years and was shut down in 2009 with the officers and staff closing and not even locking their office doors as they left the building for the last time. As Director Richard Simms stated at the time "we have done this drill many times before and this is just a temporary closure. We'll be back in a couple of months when the budget gets fixed."

The budget never got fixed and the camp was left abandoned for about 4 years when scavengers began to sneak in during the night and strip out the air conditioners and moveable items, ransacking the facility and taking all the small items like fire extinguishers, canned food supplies and teaching aids.

The county would send a security guard about once every 6 months to make sure that the main gate was locked and replace the cut off lock(s).

The camp had 5 main buildings that were comprised of officers' quarters with kitchens and rec room, inmate barracks, cafeteria(s) and training buildings. There were an additional 9 buildings that were used as training buildings, assembly buildings, medical care and storage areas. There is an emergency generator and a self-contained water well making the facility self-reliant. There is a latrine



that requires dumping monthly.

I spoke with Supervisor Michael Antonovich and his aid Jarrod Degonia over the years requesting that the facility be turned into a re-training housing camp for homeless. So much so that I was asked not to come back to Antonovich's office.

The camp has been trashed but the buildings (for the most part) are still structurally sound. With a minimum amount of re-habilitation, the camp could be re-configured into a working housing/rehabilitation site that could comfortably hold 120 homeless. There is an additional 2 acres that can be used for parking RVs and mobile homes with all the hook-ups.

In the past, people who didn't want to hear of homeless being housed in Tujunga would repeat the mantra "You can't make them go into housing or rehabilitation!"

**SURE YOU CAN.**

I don't know of a single homeless person that hasn't received a loitering, camping, unlawful assembly

or drunk in public citation.

You only have to give the homeless notification that the city will begin enforcing their laws and that if the homeless were issued bench warrants they would have the choice of going into the Camp Louis Routh or put in jail.

In the camp, there is enough storage area that their personal possessions could be held safely for them while they were in the re-training program.

I feel that a rotating staff of 20 city/county personnel would cost about \$500,000 per year to operate and an additional \$500,000 per year for homeless services including food and clothing.

To me this is a win-win situation in removing the homeless from our streets and being able to provide medical/mental programs for them.

Here's photos of the camp from when it was a working, viable facility to its current state. It's rumored from a reliable source, that a developer wants to build over 100 townhomes on the property.■

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





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Since no civilization can last forever, how much longer do you expect the United States to last and what will ultimately be responsible for the downfall?

When I was in college, one of my history professors predicted in the 70s that America would no longer be a super power or a real world player in our lifetime. He said no major civilization has last-

ed more than 250 years, and we were reaching that point. Many of his reasons, I am seeing today. We won't cease to exist, unless climate change makes the land so hot we can't grow enough food to sustain us, or an asteroid hits us one day. But then, all the world will be just as badly affected as the USA. Rome was a huge empire, and Rome exists as an important international city but it isn't the leader it once was. The British Empire likewise crumbled but the UK still exists and is important but not like it was in the past.

But the things he used as examples are coming to pass. First, corporations are becoming the new governments. Beyond rich, they don't have a lot of allegiance to any country since they have interests in several areas of the world. They have no morals and no conscience. Money is the only concern they have. The top level jobs in the business are grossly overpaid while the middle management is just getting by and the lower levels are depending on government programs to fulfill their basic needs. If there are no programs, they simply starve, become too old or ill to exist. Since the corporations literally own politicians in many countries, including the USA, they don't

really care if social programs exist or not. There are always more warm bodies to do the grunt work. Do you think "The Hunger Games" won't happen? I think it will and I think we are in the mind set to let it happen. It's becoming a society that loves the uber rich but hates the disabled, poor, old or ill.

When a civilization loses its soul, it will eventually fail. When we can't feed our souls with all kinds of arts we will lose our sense of living. Humans need more in life than just search for food, shelter and work. When we think of great civilizations, many times the arts stand out. Greek theatre, Austrian-German music, Italian art. Egyptian science and pyramids. No civilization lasts without feeding their souls. As soon as we stop trying to learn new things, use our skills to make life better, we shut down our aspirations and progress. I see this now in the USA in schools teaching only the basics, eliminating all arts in the schools. Vast numbers of people are proud of being ignorant. They believe

all kinds of self described gurus, with all kinds of cult like ideas. Theologists infiltrate government and get powerful enough to severely punish anyone who is different or believes in other ideals. We see that in the Middle East especially, and now our own Christian extreme groups are powerful enough in the US government to push their narrow agenda. Christian law can be just as cruel as any other one-religion rule.

Lastly, our heroes are the people who are the brash-est, most aggressive and most charismatic. We worship the immoral and believe every lie they tell. Good people who care for others as much as themselves are ridiculed as being weak. Anyone the least bit different is pushed out of the group. Those that deviate from the party line are crushed. People hate their fellow citizens, enough that they are willing to kill each other simply because of political sides. The south hates the north, states are broken into conservative and liberal factions who will not work together or com-

promise. This leads to a stand off where nothing can be accomplished. Both sides lose.

Politics is full of corruption. Gov't officials don't see any need to represent the people. They don't care what the average person thinks. They will lie, cheat, commit crimes without a hesitation. Nero playing the violin while Rome burns is a perfect analogy. Our leaders carry on blithely doing what they can do to help themselves stay in office while the people they represent are being "burned". They borrow money in record amounts, so high that the debt can never be repaid. Our kids and grandkids grow up in a selfish, me-first world (filled with pollution since corporations don't care what waste they generate and no restrictions ) with no chance to better themselves...ever.

This is the kind of society that implodes. We already are letting China become the world's most innovative and growing in stature country. They value education and their students are light years ahead of ours. We are dumbing ourselves down, and we are proud of it. This isn't the way to keep being 'great'. It's the recipe for a mediocre country who leads nothing, and can't even hold themselves together.■



**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

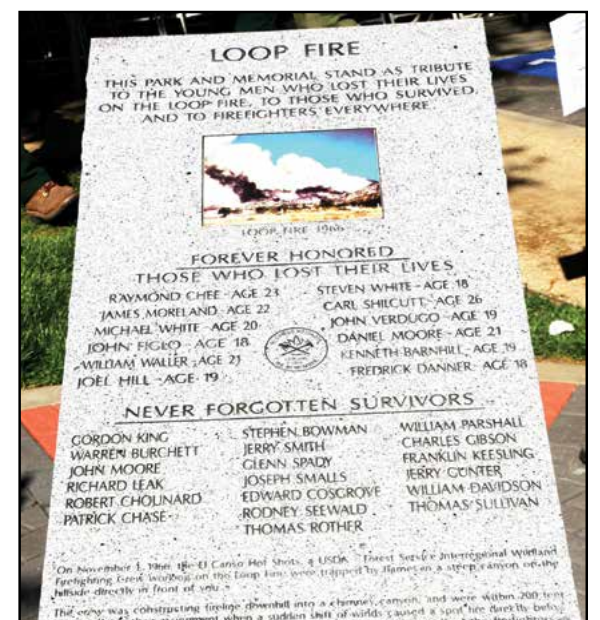


## LOOP FIRE MEMORIAL SYLMAR, CA...

El Cariso Hotshots "Loop Fire" Memorial 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 in-

juries 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. A few 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 moved to its new location within the park.■





WOW! And yes, this “was the week that was!” Who knows, maybe it was because I finally got a good nights sleep without having to worry about all the anger in the world? But let’s localize that statement, there is so much tragedy and pain in our little burg, that people have gotten used to it, and are inured to what is happening here.

To sum it up and work backwards, I’ll start with the reality that our “oldsters” are disappearing and being replaced with youngsters that have no concept of loyalty, honor or speaking the truth. It’s not their fault, at least here in the USA, we have become a nation of liars beginning with the 45th president of the USA. I was lucky, I was born during WW II that had neighborhoods and people that valued our American ideals.

A couple of weeks ago, we had the Iranian-Muslim funded terrorist group Hamas attack Israel. Over a 1,100 dead. And along with the dead, the myth of the Israel Defense Superiority died. It’s called complacency, and it’s not just in the middle-east, it’s here in our little burg. What we are now is not what our oldsters foresaw in the future. They’ve either gotten infirm or just up and died off, and with them, went our ideals of a “rural-bedroom community.” I didn’t see it coming and it looks like no one else did either. And as far as I can figure, it all started 10 years ago with the destruction of our Neighborhood Council idea. But what can you really complain about?

The original members of our NC started diluting the board membership, putting in people who lied, cheated, bullied, and later, stole from us. Just because they could. And we watched it happen. So I guess it is really YOUR fault. In our archives, I found front page articles of the charlatans that took over Sunland-Tujunga.

And I watched them dissolve into a gelatinous puddle of muck that the next generation of officers tracked around like shit on their shoes. But I digress. If you live long enough to see the next 10 years, we will have gotten rid of our council woman, the heads of the STNC, and welcomed the houseless onto our collective front yards. How many of you know that we had a politics free solution to the houseless in S-T? And we threw it away. As that pillar of salt Tomilyn Bowling so feverously stated “I don’t want them safe and out of sight – I want them gone!” And that’s how everything that we treasure started going to hell.

Not one of our service organizations has gone unscathed, and one-by-one, they are just rotting away into becoming either dead or

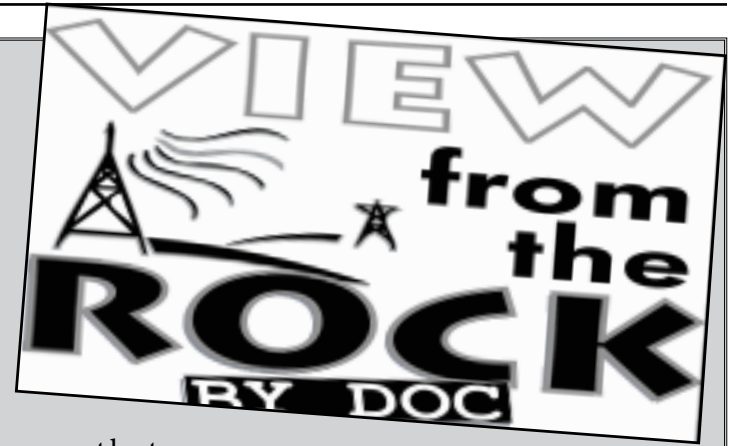
a political pawn of our councilwoman. Ahhhhh, here I am, the voice in the wilderness, and with only the arsonists and gangsters benefiting from who we were. I will say gotten some really good food stands to eat from.

The Cartel is, for all intents and purposes – dead. They did do some good, along with the bad. The Armenian festival was really good, and even the Wednesday Food Truck Night was a place to go with your family. Even though the receipts were skimmed, I guess you’d call that the “cost of doing business here.” And that’s why there are so many town homes and housing developments in process. The cost of doing business requires that you put up your money and WAIT until the political climate changes. Does anyone wonder how many developers pockets our councilwoman has her hands in? Just asking for a friend.

Just When everything seems to be running smoothly, that’s when you get a chance to stop and look around at what’s happening here in S-T. I know I used the term “Bitter-Sweet” in an article somewhere here, but I can’t remember when or where. But, that’s what it is – Bitter & Sweet. So many people here complained about our communities houseless, but of course, they couldn’t take the time to write letters, emails or even just go to the North Valley City Hall to complain. Our councilmember just doesn’t care. For some reason, I’ve been getting flyers from her saying how wonderful she’s being in Arleta, Sylmar and Pacoima. WHY is she sending that to me? Is she trying to show how much she hates Sunland-Tujunga?

We seem to pretty hard on our elected officials. In fact, the last 3 have been really pissed off at us. Back in the day when we actually had a North Valley City Hall to hold our neighborhood council meetings in, people went to the meetings to watch the circus. When you have a board of 26 members, and they kowtow to a vociferous gaggle of women that pretend to know everything that is going on here, but don’t, nothing gets accomplished.

I had to laugh when one of them got arrested for assaulting one of our community members and had to pay him \$1,500 in damages. Yup, boys and girls, it’s been a real circus here for a really long time. But, things are changing, maybe not in the manner we were expecting, but change never the less. The complainers were all up in arms about our houseless face of the community - Patrick, who just wouldn’t take the hint



that he wasn’t wanted on the corner of Foothill & Machrea. And of course, our councilperson said that her hands were tied and nothing could be done. Oh well, that’s what she said.

As I was going through our archives for this edition, I came across a list I had made naming those here in Sunland-Tujunga, that destroyed our town. Most of them were nothings that used our STNC rather than look at reality shows on TV.

**Sonia Tatulian, AKA “Lie, Cheat & Steal Tatulian”. Cindy Cleghorn, Joe Barret, Barbara Johnson, Robin Meares, Tomilyn Bowling, Nina Royal, Kurt (Curtles) Koestler, Jean Traubner, Sandy Capps, Nancy DeGange Shannon, Roger Swart, Richard Stewart, Mike Lucas, Michele Ramage, Michael Higby, and the Graphic Mouthpiece for them: Wally (Ann Marie) Wharton, Jon von Gunten’s.** Liars, cheats and thieves – All of them. **Note:** ☹ = dead or dying.

But we survived. And some of got stronger and some just withered away.

In trying to figure a slogan, we came up with one “Sunland Strong – Tujunga Tough.” And it’s more than just words, it’s a reality. Just like flowers and plants regrow after a devastating forest fire, our local businesses are coming back. In just these past weeks, we’ve gained 5 new businesses and Arnie was creating businesses like people swat at flies.

It is going to be heady times for us in this coming year. 3 new restaurants, 1 new market, 2 new Deli’s, 2 new carwashes, 2 new hookah café’s and 1 new caterer. Now that tells me that there is an upswing in hope. Enjoy this edition of The Paper, I enjoyed putting it together. Can you believe that I created The Foothills Paper 20 years ago, and with this anniversary, I’m going to take a vacation and finish “Son of STARS”. The Paper will continue on its website and keep you informed of what’s happening here. And with all this said, I can say “Maybe it was the water?” ■

### I’ll Have What She’s Having!

*continued from page 1*

Over the years I’ve spoken with several women. They were frustrated with the inability to have an orgasm with intercourse, women would rather avoid sex altogether out of frustration. 10% of women in the US have never experienced an orgasm. Could you imagine going through your life and never once having had an orgasm? Think how depressing and frustrating it would be to watch your partner climax as you are left unfulfilled each and every time you had sex. If I told all the men I saw with erectile dysfunction that it was all in their heads and to see a psychiatrist, I probably would not be writing this article today. I probably would’ve been laughed right out of a job. When it comes to women it’s

just as real as it is for men. 75 million women in the US suffer mentally and physically from sexual problems. Over 40% of American women suffer from sexual dysfunction that prevents them from achieving an orgasm or even enjoying a healthy sexual relationship.

There are over 20 FDA approved drugs, supplements and implants for men. There’s been a void in medicine when it comes to women and sexual dysfunction. There’s no Viagra, implants or magic pill. There is nothing for women. Until now! Finally there is a treatment for women with sexual dysfunction, and it’s not an antidepressant. It’s a new treatment called the OShot® and it’s really a simple one. It’s a noninvasive treatment that has been developed by female doctors for female sexual dysfunction.

The treatment uses the woman’s own blood, her

platelets. The O-Shot® is a new procedure that starts by extracting PRP, or platelet-rich plasma, from the woman’s own blood. The PRP is then injected directly into the vaginal area. Her own platelets stimulate new blood flow, new nerve endings. As a result, she now has new and heightened sensitivity. It’s that simple and without a pill, or counseling. For more information on the O-Shot® procedure, call for an appointment, email me or just start by watching several of the videos on the procedure posted on my Web site below.

Terri Whiting PA-C  
7204 Foothill Blvd, Suite A  
Tujunga, Ca 91042  
(First Aid Urgent Care)  
Josail Skin Care  
www.josailskincare.com ■



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



**CALL FOR APPOINTMENT**  
**818 855 3502**

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.

**The City of Los Angeles Invites You**

**DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS**  
DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION

**Community altars, food, music, and more!**  
**!Altars, comida, música, y mucho más!**

**UN SONORA SHOW**

**October 27, 2024**  
Noon - 8 PM

**Pacoima City Hall**  
13520 Van Nuys Blvd.  
Pacoima, CA 91331

Submit a photo for the altar  
Envía una foto para el altar.



PRESENTED BY



**MONICA RODRIGUEZ**

SUNLAND'S WILDEST ADULT DAYCARE CENTER!  
**K+STRIP**  
(FORMERLY "K-MART")

...BUT THE GUY IN THE BEE SHORTS SAID THEY'RE NOT HIRING!!

DOC - WHO DO YOU LOVE MORE - ME! OR YOUR TUMOR??

DOC GOT THAT TUMOR IN 'NAM!!

STNC'S ONLY DIRTYBLE...  
**CINDY GLENN**

WALLY WORTON 2019

"DOC HOLIDAY"

HOY HOY HOY!

Wally Worton so loved the STNC that she created these pictures to show how much she cared. Enjoy!



# HARMONY FARMS

2824 FOOTHILL BLVD. LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214



**GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN FUN!**

**Fresh Free Range Harmony Farms Turkeys**  
available for your dinner parties—all sizes

**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**

**YES WE DO SMOKED SAUSAGES AND HAM**

**GAME BIRDS**  
PHEASANT  
SQUAB  
QUAIL

**NOW AVAILABLE "Kobe-Style" Australian Wagyu Beef**

**WE CAN PROCESS YOUR ANIMAL**

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



**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!"**


OFFICIAL LAMP ADJUSTING STATION

OFFICIAL BRAKE ADJUSTING STATION

ASE CERTIFIED

SMOG CHECK


ASE CERTIFIED HYBRID & AUTO SALES



AAA Approved Auto Repair

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

# HALLOWEEN



## Verdugo Hills Liquor Store

7119 Foothill Boulevard



# ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD



**UAS (Drone) Incursions**  
Incursion: an entering in or into (something, such as an activity or undertaking)



**IF YOU FLY, WE CAN'T.**  
Flying hobby drones near wildfires could cause injury or death to firefighters.

**Drone Incursions**

*2023 - 6 incursions	Total of <b>19</b> incursions on CAL FIRE incidents in the past 5 years.
2022 - 1 incursions	
2021 - 5 incursions	
2020 - 4 incursions	
2019 - 3 incursions	

The FAA regularly establishes Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) around wildfire areas to protect the safety of pilots and other aircraft crews working in firefighting operations. All aircraft, including drones, are explicitly prohibited from entering these restricted areas unless they are operated by an agency directly involved in the wildfire suppression efforts. Even when a TFR is not in effect, drone pilots are warned to avoid flying near wildfires — it is considered a crime to interfere with firefighting operations.

“The danger of flying drones near wildfires cannot be overstated,” said Chief Jake Sjolund, Staff Chief Tactical Air Operations. “Such actions jeopardize lives and have immediate consequences for firefighting agen-

cies’ response efforts.”

When drones are detected near wildfires, fire response agencies will ground their own firefighting aircraft to mitigate the risk of a collision. This delay in airborne response on a fire threatens the safety of firefighters on the ground, residents, and properties in nearby communities.

Anyone who operates a drone without authorization near a wildfire can be found in violation of federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances — regardless of whether a TFR is in place. Anyone who interferes with wildfire suppression efforts with a drone can face severe consequences, including civil penalties of up to \$20,000 and even criminal prosecution. ■

## Poverty – Store Theft and the Laws

A week before Whole Foods abruptly closed in San Francisco’s Mid-Market neighborhood, an employee flagged down a Tenderloin police patrol. It was April 5, and a woman had just robbed the store, the worker said.

Officers confronted the woman, Deidre Davis, who resisted arrest before she was detained and booked in jail, according to a police report. Two days later, District Attorney Brooke Jenkins’ office charged Davis with second-degree robbery, resisting arrest and use of a deadly weapon — a glass bottle.

The 25-year-old woman was accused of stealing a “single bottle of prosecco” from the grocery store, according to her attorney, Jack Lamar, a San Francisco deputy public defender. The Public Defender’s Office declined to make Davis available for an interview.

The case highlights the city’s complex public safety challenges and a legal system that officials and experts say must grapple with those stealing to survive, in contrast to organized criminals looking to profit.

Thefts were hardly unusual at the Whole Foods, which was a hotbed of retail crime after it opened in March 2022, according to shoppers and Supervisor Matt Dorsey. Davis’ arrest marked one of the final incidents before the grocery store at 1185 Market St. announced a temporary closure. Four months later, it remains closed.

Retail crime, exacerbated by mental illness and homelessness, has been a major challenge for downtown and Mid-Market merchants, according to business owners and landlords. Plunging foot traffic due to remote work and diminished tourism and high business operating costs are also major factors.

“I sincerely hope that her case is not being used to fuel a false and disturbing narrative that blames unhoused and mentally ill individuals for all the city’s woes,” Lamar said in a statement to the Chronicle. “The most vulnerable members of our community need treatment and compassion. Shoplifting is a crime of desperation and poverty. We are in Ms. Davis’

corner and will zealously defend her in court. Our office is also working to connect Ms. Davis with community-based services that can address her needs.”

Neither the Public Defender’s Office nor the District Attorney’s Office disclosed whether Davis was diagnosed with mental health conditions. It wasn’t clear whether she is homeless.

Police received hundreds of 911 calls regarding the store in the 13 months it was open, and shoppers told the Chronicle that they regularly saw people stealing food and alcohol during that time. A man fatally overdosed on fentanyl and methamphetamine in a store bathroom in September.

Whole Foods said in April that the closure was “to ensure the safety of our team members.” The Amazon-owned company did not respond to requests for comment on the Davis case, nor has it said when or whether the store will reopen.

It wasn’t Davis’ first time behind bars: She was out on bail on two other cases, and she wasn’t eligible for parole after being convicted last year for battery in a different case, according to the District Attorney’s Office. In 2017, she was convicted of assault.

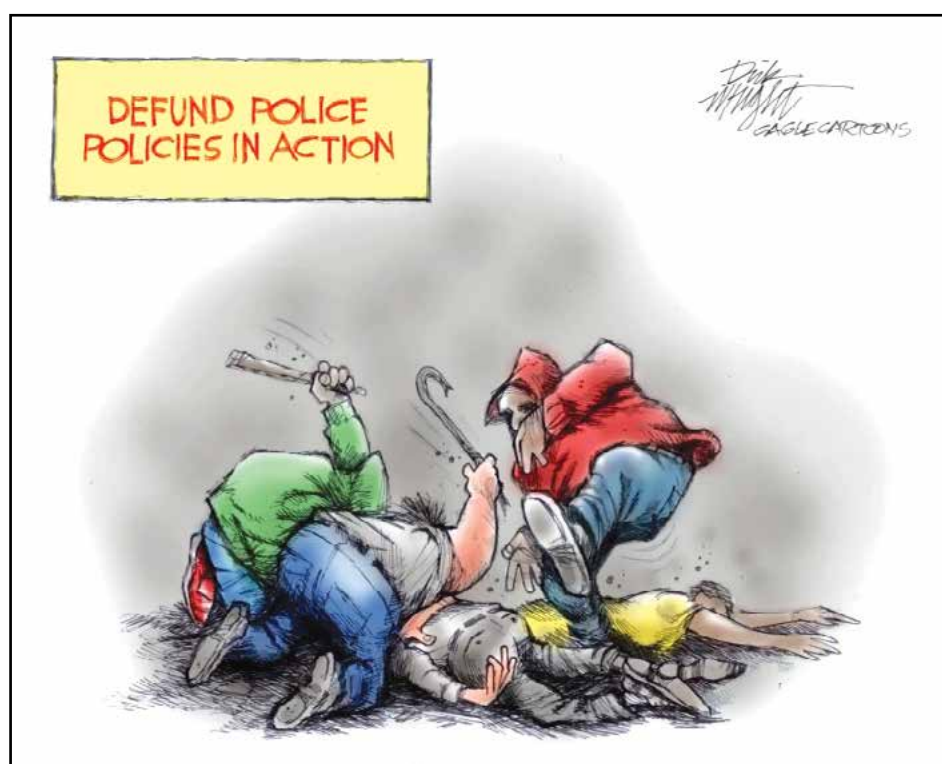
Davis faces an ongoing case after being jailed for weeks and multiple court hearings over four months. She was recently referred to diversion by a state judge. The program is an alternative to prosecution and incarceration, meant to connect people to treatment providers.

On Thursday, she appeared in court but was found not suitable to be transferred to Drug Court. A suitability hearing was scheduled for Monday to potentially transfer her to Behavioral Health Court, which is meant to aid people with mental health issues.

District Attorney Jenkins told the Chronicle last month that her office takes into account a suspect’s background when seeking punishment or treatment.

“You have to make sure that there is some proper form of accountability.

Please see **Poverty - Store Theft and the Laws**  
on Page 8





# THE FOOTHILLS PAPER Presents TAKE MY CARD

Reach More Readers With Your Business Card Featured Here! • Find Out How at sales@thefoothillspaper.com



**FOOTHILL Barber Shop**  
818.855.3502  
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT! 6828 VALMONT, TUJUNGA

**STAR HAND WASH**  
Hand Wax • Complete Detail • Steam Clean Engine  
8220 Foothill Blvd, Sunland CA 91040 Tel: 818.352.8393

**THE FOOTHILLS PAPER**  
THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS  
THEFOOTHILLSPAPER.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!

**MIMIC IRON WORK**  
Mike H. Jarian  
7249 Foothill Blvd.  
Tujunga, CA 91042  
T: 818 352 9692  
F: 818 352 5245  
Call for a free estimate no job is too small

**Michael A. Hendrix**  
Classical guitarist - composer - instructor  
818 951 4533  
michael.hendrix3@verizon.net

## ASK RUSTY



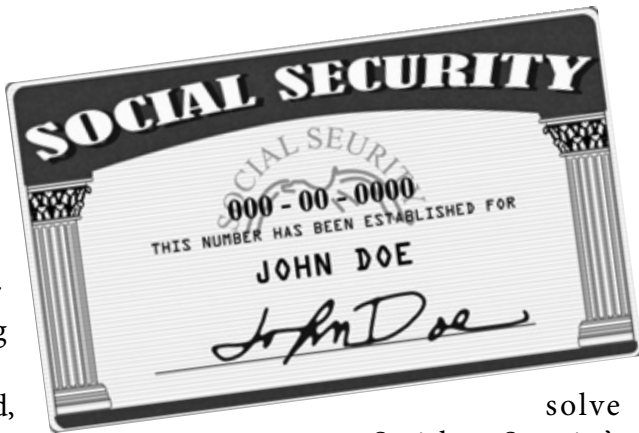
By AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens.

## Is Taxing Social Security Fair?

single and married filers. The 1993 law allowed up to 85% of SS benefits to be taxed for single filers who earned more than \$34,000 and for married filers earning more than \$44,000.

Ever since enacted, those laws have been viewed as unfair by many senior organizations and especially by the individuals who paid income tax on their benefits. The unfortunate reality is that eliminating income tax on Social Security benefits without also implementing other offsetting reforms would exacerbate Social Security's now tenuous financial condition (income tax on benefits added \$41 billion to Social Security's revenue in 2020). Thus, calls today for repealing income tax on Social Security benefits go largely unheeded. It's worth noting that 13 U.S. states also levy a state income tax on Social Security benefits.

Although the payroll taxes you pay into Social Security while working are different from income taxes on your benefits, people earning over \$100,000 today do pay into Social Security through a FICA tax (or self-employment tax) on their earnings. Paying this tax is what entitles you to receive Social Security benefits. The 2021 threshold after which SS contributions are no longer taken from earnings is \$142,800, and this amount goes up a bit each year. But even completely removing that payroll tax cap and further taxing higher earners would not fully re-



solve Social Security's current financial issues. Social Security's Trustees predict that monthly benefits are at risk of reduction starting in 2034 unless Congress acts to reform the program. Eliminating income tax on benefits is one of many suggestions now being considered in reform proposals, as is increasing (or eliminating) the payroll tax cap. Whether Congress will include either of those suggestions in future Social Security reform legislation is anyone's guess.

So, while we agree that levying income tax on Social Security benefits amounts to "double taxation" (because you also pay income tax on your earnings used to qualify for Social Security), taxing your Social Security income is, nevertheless, permitted under current law. As unpalatable as that law may be, and as unfortunate the effect is on struggling seniors, the AMAC Foundation can only offer guidance on how existing Social Security laws and regulations affect those who contact us. However, our parent company, the Association of Mature American Citizens, is very well aware that paying income tax on Social Security "isn't fair" and regularly lobbies Congress on that topic. ■

**Dear Rusty:** Taxing Social Security benefits isn't fair. It would benefit everyone if seniors could earn as much as possible without having their Social Security taxed. We would still be paying into Social Security which would help the fund. I also feel that all people earning over \$100,000 should pay into Social Security because they can afford it. This would help fund Social Security without hurting anyone financially. Many seniors are struggling financially and should be able to earn as much as we can without a portion of our Social Security being taxed.  
**Signed: Overtaxed Senior**

**Dear Overtaxed Senior:** Few would argue that paying income tax on Social Security benefits is fair. Nevertheless, Congress enacted taxation of Social Security benefits in 1983 as part of a reform package which restored Social Security to solvency at the time. When the law was first enacted, 50% of SS benefits were taxable for single tax filers who earned more than \$25,000 and for married couples who earned more than \$32,000. That was the law until 1993 when Congress added another threshold for both

## Biola Students Named to Dean's List

Approximately 1,500 students were named to the Biola University Dean's List in spring 2024. Biola students are placed on the dean's list to honor those with a GPA of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credits and whose cumulative GPA is at least 3.2.

The following local residents were named to the dean's list:

Emily Low of Sunland (91040) majoring in Comm Sciences Disorders.

Melissa Dunnigan of Sunland (91040) majoring in English.

"Inclusion in Biola University's Dean's List is reserved for students who demonstrate exceptional performance in their academic studies. This honor signifies hard work, engagement, and investment in scholarship," said Dr. Tamara Anderson, Tamara Anderson, Senior Associate Provost. "These attributes are the building blocks of continued success, not only in the classroom, but in the workplace and in the student's personal lives. We celebrate these students and their achievement, looking forward to their future accomplishments." ■

## Bianca Gonzalez Named to SNHU Dean's List

Bianca Gonzalez of Tujunga (91042) has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2024 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. ■





## Who: Jeff Brascia

He was born in Glendale and raised in Sierra Madre. He currently lives in La Crescenta and works as a local home physical therapist. Instagram page is @jefedelafoothills.

When you're driving around town, you'll see these incredible works of fantasy "hidden in plain sight." The large paintings created on cardboard with bamboo on the backs for support. Some highlights include a 17' tall parrot, a Grateful Dead bear that was brought to Dead and Company at Dodgers Stadium, a giant Dodger Hello Kitty, and a Notre Dame fighting Irish brought to the Irish fest in 2022.

But mostly it's animals including dinosaurs, giraffe, meerkats, zebra, elephant, saber tooth cat, giant sloth.

Like our activist artist of years ago, they are placed wherever lots of people will see them, but always somewhere close to home so he can monitor and fix them if need be. They are always placed somewhere where it's not in anybody's way and is only there to make you smile.

When asked: Why do you create them? He replied "To make people happy essentially. But also I have to move my art out of my garage so I have room to make more! It has to go somewhere so I figure I'd use it cheer up the people in my neighborhood. I want to make people look twice, and be surprised."



### Poverty - Store Theft and the Laws

*continued from page 6*

That depends on the type of offender, that it depends on their individualized situation. Some of our folks are struggling with addiction. That's why they're stealing to support their habit. We need to make sure that we are getting them into drug court. We are getting them treatment if they're stealing, because this has become the mode to take care of themselves," Jenkins said.

She said there was "stronger accountability" needed for "a repeat offender who continues to violate the law no matter what we do."

Jenkins said an obstacle to the city's prosecution of retail crime stems from Proposition 47, passed in 2014, which raised the value threshold for stolen goods to \$950 for felony theft charges. Thefts of goods under \$950 in value are typically classified as misdemeanors.

"Where we are struggling right now is to the extent that retail theft is a misdemeanor, so (if) under \$950 is stolen,

those misdemeanors are diversion eligible by statute. And so trying to ensure that we can even find a method of accountability for repeat offenders of misdemeanor petty theft is very difficult in the environment that we have right now," Jenkins said. "That is a really tough space that we're in right now."

Charis Kubrin, a criminology professor at UC Irvine, said she was "sympathetic" to the district attorney's challenges but believes the impact of Prop. 47 on retail crime has been overstated.

Kubrin co-authored a 2018 study of Prop. 47 that suggested the measure had no effect on robbery or other violent crime trends statewide in the years after it was passed, though larceny and motor vehicle thefts increased moderately.

The \$950 threshold is in line with other states, and before the change, people convicted of petty theft were being sent to state prison, contributing to overcrowding and a 2011 Supreme Court decision that ordered a reduction in inmate population, she noted.

As in Davis' case, alleged theft of goods under the \$950 threshold can

result in felony robbery charges if the person uses violence or threats.

The district attorney's charges say Davis stole "by means of force and fear" but didn't specify her actions.

Many retail thieves are never caught. Those who are arrested are typically charged with misdemeanors, said Neil Hallinan, a defense attorney at Hallinan Law Firm who isn't involved in the Davis case. "In my experience, retail theft rarely becomes a felony," he said.

Under state law, petty theft misdemeanor charges have maximum fines of \$1,000 and six months in jail. Felony robbery charges can lead up to \$10,000 in fines and up to nine years in prison for first-degree robbery and five years in prison for second-degree robbery.

Hallinan is skeptical that harsher penalties would deter retail crime. He sees retail crime rooted in some of society's deepest challenges: inequality, lack of job training and education, and cost burdens such as having children to feed.

"This is really a poverty issue," he said.

Historically, San Francisco has seen

high property crime, particularly thieves smashing car windows to steal bags and laptops. However, its violent crime rate is relatively low compared to other major U.S. jurisdictions.

Reported robberies dipped since 2020 but are up slightly in the past year, according to police data. Officers have previously said retail crime is underreported.

The Mid-Market area where Whole Foods opened has also struggled for decades with crime, homelessness and drug use. A void in office workers, government staff and tourists in the area and across the city has only exacerbated the challenges, Kubrin said.

"We have rising rates of homelessness, mental health challenges, poverty and inequality that are exacerbated in a place like San Francisco, and you have a pandemic that changed people's routine activities," Kubrin said. "When people move out of the city or don't traverse this part, it creates opportunity."

"Crime is a piece of the puzzle," she said. "It is not the entire puzzle." Chronicle staff writer St. John BARNED-SMITH contributed to this report. ■