



### YAMATO: the Drummers of Japan

The physically powerful cohort of musician-athletes work and live together as a community in the Asuka Village, said to be the birthplace of Japanese culture. - SEE PAGE 9



### Prepare Your House For an Emergency!

By taking the time to prepare for a possible disaster now, you and your family will be equipped to handle a crisis if one ever occurs. - SEE PAGE 3

# THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19, 2025    COVERING THE FOOTHILLS REGION FOR OVER 20 YEARS!    VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 69



### River Wood Ranch residents and houseless are in danger – again!

Residents of Riverwood Ranch may find themselves challenged with the task of repairing the damage around their neighborhood caused by the Station Fire. Presently they are waiting for the City, the County and the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge out the Big Tujunga Canyon debris that has clogged the channel, causing water to overflow over the only access into Riverwood Ranch.

After our recent storm, county crew members and independent contractors have worked an exhausting schedule of hours to clean out the debris left from the mudslides and fast-flowing waters.

*Please see River Wood Ranch residents and houseless are in danger – again! on Page 2*

### Emerson College Student Victoria Romano of Sunland, CA Earns Dean's List Honors for Fall 2024 Semester

Victoria Romano of Sunland, CA is majoring in Stage and Production Management and is a member of the Emerson College Class of 2028.

The requirement to make the Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.■



### Residents reported seeing arcing on the power lines in the hills above Altadena hours before the eaton fire started!

By Ivan Penn, Blacki Migliozi and David DeMulle'

New data from a company that maintains electrical sensors suggests that the transmission network of Southern California Edison was stressed long before the most severe winds bore down on the Los Angeles re-

gion, adding to growing criticism that the electric utility did not do enough to prevent the blaze. Edison is already under review as the possible cause of the Eaton fire, which killed 17 people and destroyed more than 9,400 buildings.

The data comes from Whisker Labs, a technology company in

Maryland, and suggests there were faults, or electrical malfunctions, on Edison's transmission lines at 4:28 a.m. and 4:36 a.m. on the day of the fire.

*Please see Residents reported seeing arcing on the power lines on Page 5*

### The Cross of San Ysidro

Above our town stands the Cross of San Ysidro. Neither fire nor storms or even the pandemic have diminished its message of peace. The annual Easter sunrise service which would have been this April 17th atop Mt. McGroarty is relatively unknown among the dozens of other such So-Cal springtime rituals.

Yet the Mt. McGroarty service, is now in its 99th year. Its view of the sun rising over the San Gabriel Mountains ranks the program among the more stunning outdoor celebrations for California Christendom. The Mt. McGroarty service is strictly a lo-



Cross of San Ysidro at Easter Service.

cal pride event featuring clergy and lay people from Sunland-Tujunga

churches that make it happen.

Old newspaper clippings indicate that a cross was first erected on the peak in 1923 and was dedicated in a ceremony led by a Catholic priest. The sunrise service, which evidently began in 1926 is non-denominational. The service may be mute this year, but it is fondly remembered by Sunland-Tujunga residents who used to make the hour-long trek up the mountain.

Volunteers from the local service clubs and churches would arrive at 4:40 am to provide transportation, set up the chairs and tables, and get ready for the "coming of the Lord."■





# COMMUNITY NEWS

## River Wood Ranch residents and houseless are in danger – again!

*continued from page 1*

There are also a number of volunteer groups that have come to lend a hand with cleaning up the neighborhood. The City crews have installed K-rails to prevent people trying to enter the wash during flooding in the

area, but no one has tried to dredge out the north face of the Corps of Engineers Arizona Bridge on the road that gives emergency vehicles access to the River Wood Ranch.

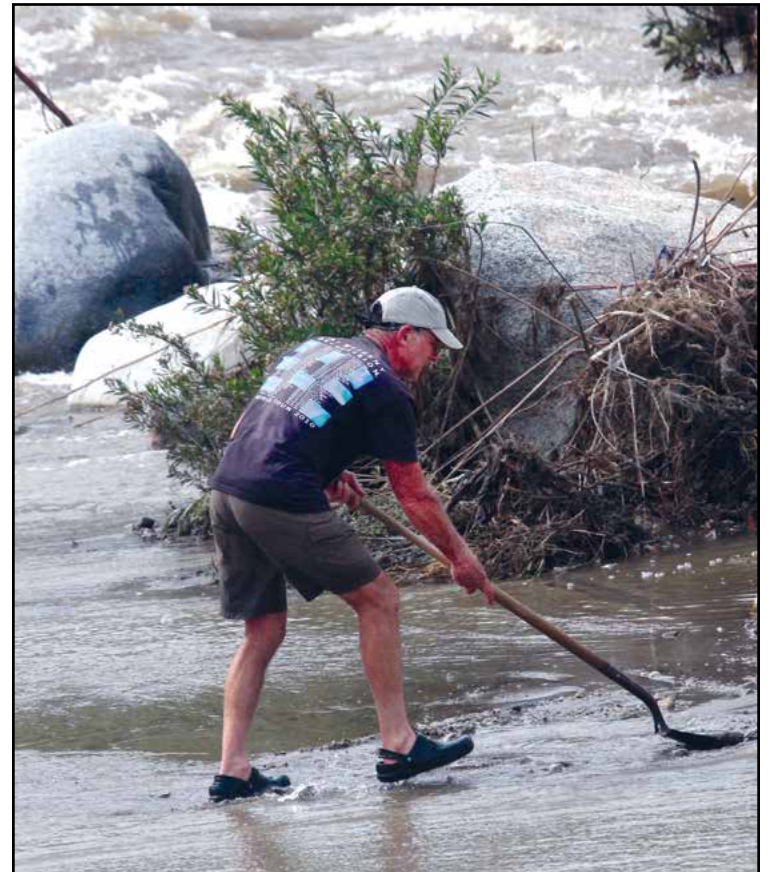
Although the major rains appear to be finished, the threat still stands. If there is as much as one-half inch more of rain, the bridge will become completely impassable. Crew members are currently working on emptying all the 28 debris basins, but the area where the Tujunga Canyon intersects the Riverwood Ranch bridge is not a debris basin. Due to the recent dry weather, workers have had an easier time clearing out the debris flows. These workers have already moved

over 1 million cubic yards of debris, which otherwise would have overflowed into residential neighborhoods.

During the month of April, there is expected to be rainfall of one-quarter to one inch. The weather these past few weeks have brought a lower snow level to our local mountains. Although nice looking, this snow quickly melts and flows into the Big Tujunga Canyon channel.

Under a mutual aid contract with the City, when there is a rainstorm, a fire engine is sent from LAFD Station 24 or 74 and stationed near the homes to provide emergency services if the road floods.

Everyone knows the river will overflow the bridge so



the question is – Why hasn't anyone done anything about it? I guess we have to ask our absentee councilwoman. ■

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**We live in a time where  
intelligent people are  
being silenced so that  
stupid people won't  
be offended.**



What a wonderful winter we're having. Well, it's sort-a late but we can blame that on the climate change and atmospheric rivers. When we were growing up, we never had big terms like that, it was just "MAYBE RAIN THIS WEEK!" Even the news was different then. Everything was going to be nuclear war or the war in Viet Nam. Things that unified the country with a common goal and quest for knowledge.

But that was yesteryear. As people call me and ask for information, it has reminded me of Jules Feiffer's 1970's book/story "Little Murders" that so actively portrayed what is happening to us now. Stop for a moment and take a look around at what is happening here in S-T. It's a shit show.

We have a drug oligarch creating new businesses on every corner, we have a councilwoman that figures that we don't have enough intelligent voters to cater to, we have crazy Armenian drivers putting every one in danger, we have the new houseless that can't get placed in our multi-million dollar shelters, a senior center that doesn't cater to seniors, restaurants going out of business because their food is slop and of course, our neighborhood council

populated by an incestuous group of do-gooders that for the most part are just helping themselves to the city money.

Does anyone care about what happened to the tens of thousands of city dollars that was spent on Emergency Supplies? And now disappeared? Or how the North Valley Taj Mahal honoring our councilwoman with a bigger than life size mural of her? Yes boys & girls, we don't have a large enough cesspool to hold all the crap that is going on here.

It wasn't too long ago that the TFP staff maintained a directory of the houseless living in the Big-T, and of even more importance, the "Death List" we maintained of what people died in the wash.

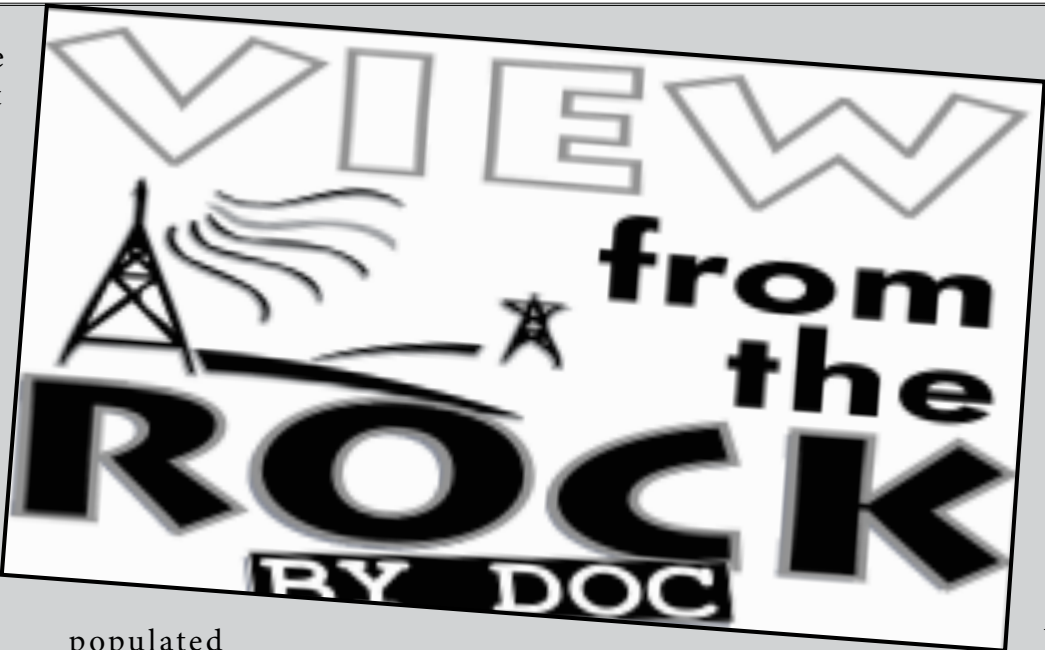
Except for the families of those departed, no one in the city cared how many houseless were murdered.

It got to the point where I was on a first name basis with the LACo Assistant Chief Coroner. When Dyan was with us, we discovered 5 bodies in a 5 year period of time. But no one cared, so we stopped doing it. For every good-deed doer, there were about 5 nay sayers that promoted the idea of "The Big Lie." From then STNC president Cindy Cleghorn and her sidekick Tomi-Lynn Bowling to the august Lloyd Hitt who just had to create a separate reality for what was happening in our little burg. Unfortunately, he was old for his tie and I didn't recognize

the symptoms. It actually got so bad here that even the cops didn't want to go into the Big T at night without one of our staff with them. But that's all changed now. Our councilperson makes the cops fall into line and do her bidding. Remember Capt. Johnny? Another assassination attempt by the powers that be.

Are you sick of hearing about all this? Don't worry, you might not live long enough to see any changes. As of right now, we have the most corrupt community in Los Angeles. From our councilperson on down to the lowly neighbor council members that have a hard time dealing with the reality that they are nothing but dust blowing in the wind. Gutless, spineless and full of crap. They pass the baton to then next incest product on the board as they tell themselves how great they are.

BUT, who am I to call them out, look at all the fools that voted for the trumpster. The bottom of the gene pool. And they are us. The election is coming up in a few weeks, let's see what happens, and NO, you can't say it was the water!■



# 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.

Please see **Your Accessible Home Awaits** on Page 4



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



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	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

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**Your Accessible Home Awaits**  
*continued from page 3*

**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.

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. ■



Residents reported seeing  
arcing on the power lines  
*continued from page 1*

Wind speeds at the time were sustained at 60 miles per hour, with gusts as high as 79 m.p.h. — strong enough for engineers to consider cutting power.

Later in the day, Whisker identified two faults just minutes before the fire started, at about 6:11 p.m., on the transmission network near Eaton Canyon, where fire investigators have said the Eaton Fire began. Those faults matched flashes on the transmission lines recorded by a video camera at a nearby Arco gas station.

Southern California Edison, which supplies power to several communities near Eaton Canyon, including Altadena, did not cut power to the transmission lines despite the early morning faults. Nor did the utility cut power on the transmission lines after the second set of faults in the evening when winds reached 100 m.p.h.

“They’re very similar,” Bob Marshall, co-founder and chief executive of Whisker Labs, said of the morning and evening faults. “We believe they are in the same area. They are definitely transmission faults.”

Mr. Marshall said his company informed Edison of its latest findings, which it identified after the firm’s experts analyzed more data. Whisker Labs operates sensors in homes to help predict and prevent residential fires.

Critics of the utility contend that the massive faults, which were so strong that sensors as far away as Portland, Ore., and Salt Lake City registered them, suggest that Edison should have cut power to the transmission lines as weather conditions worsened.

“I think we have a great picture of what happened,” said Robert McCullough, principal of McCullough Research in Portland, Ore., which has been reviewing data and information about Edison, including from Whisker Labs, at The New York Times’s request. “Too many people didn’t respond quickly enough,” he added.

Although investigators have not determined a cause of the Eaton fire, residents and local governments have filed lawsuits against Edison, contending that the utility’s equipment ignited one of the worst wildfires in California history. In its lawsuit against Edison, Los Angeles County cited the gas station video as evidence. The video was first reported by The Times.■

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# ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

## SHADOW HILLS

By Paul R. Allen

Shadow Hills is the premier equestrian community in the City of Los Angeles.

There are several equestrian communities in our 469 square mile City. Sylmar, Lakeview Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, Bell Canyon Hidden Hills, and others; but Shadow Hills is center stage. Equestrian properties can be zoned A1, A2, RE or RA. Recent sales data shows one Shadow Hills horse property sold for \$785,000 and two more for an average of \$890,000. There were 14 sales in the past 6 months with the average sales price being \$1,294,071. The average days on market were 31 days.

The Shadow Hills community is over 100 years old. Many homes are mid-20th Century homes. Some were designed by the famous architect John Lauter. Lauter lived from July 16, 1911 to October 24, 1994. He was an apprentice with the Taliesin Fellowship which was led by Frank Lloyd Wright. He moved to Southern California in 1938. The Stonehurst Historic District has stone craftsman style homes that are 100 years old. Seventy per cent of all homes in Shadow Hills have one or more horses. Ninety per cent of all properties in Shadow Hills are equestrian zoned

whether there is a horse on property or not.

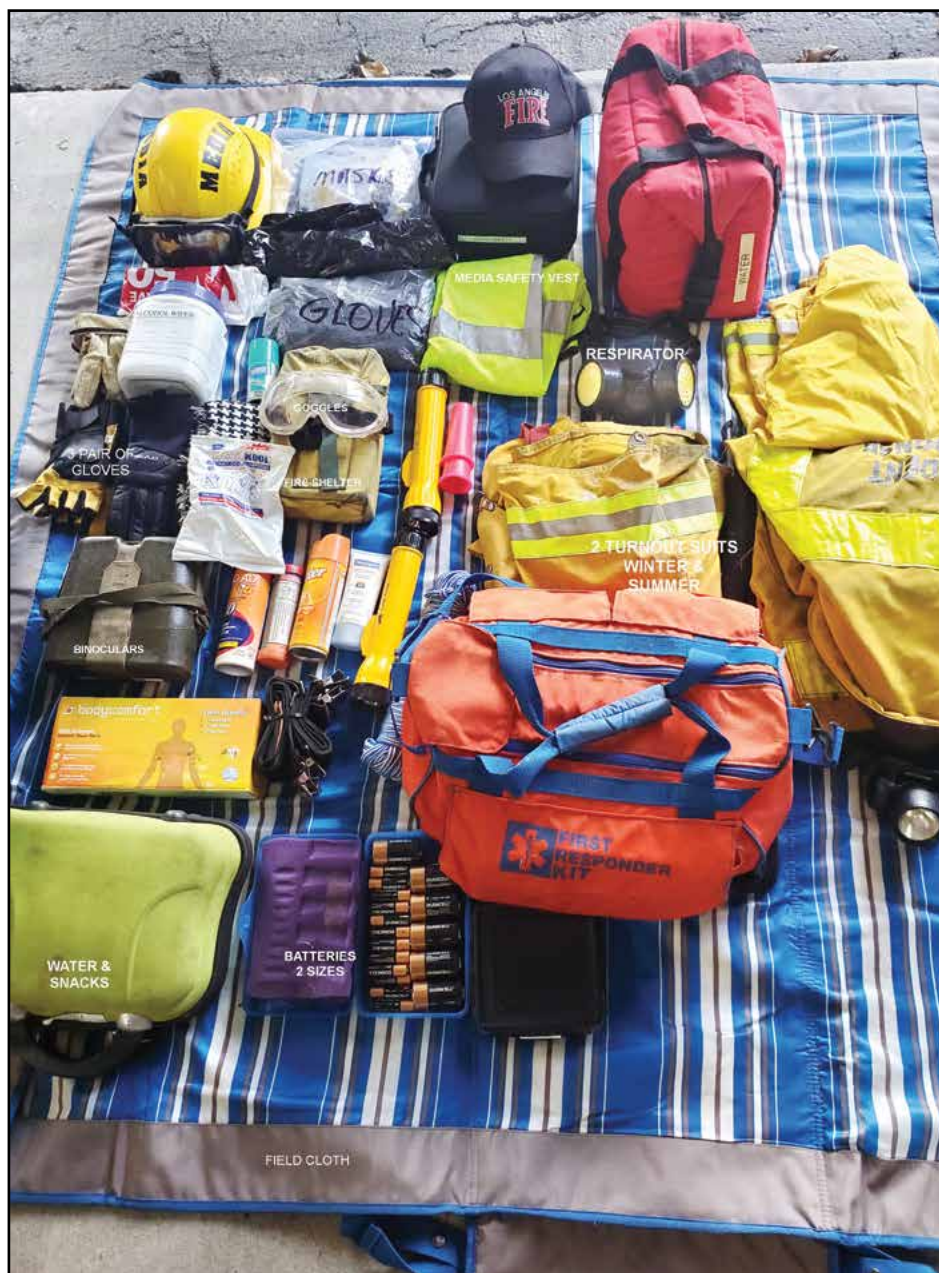
Shadow Hills was first called Hansen Heights in 1917. You could buy an acre of land for \$150. In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Carter founded the Butterfly Gardens. In that same year Frank Kenniston created the first bee apiary in the area.

In 1946, the Shadow Hills Rodeo grounds were built on Wheatland in what was then known as the Hansen Heights District of Roscoe. Roscoe was the former name of Sun Valley. Today, there is a 6 bedroom, 4 bath house where the Rodeo grounds were located.

In 1947 an effort began to rename the area Shadow Hills. The residents said Roscoe didn't reflect the nature of the area but Shadow Hills did. At that same time the Hansen Heights Improvement Association changed its name to Shadow Hills Civic Association. The officers were Stanley Love, Norwood Simmons, Mrs. Lee Payne, and Ronald King.

The Shadow Hills Civic Association wanted the area to have its own zip code, but the area was divided between Sunland and Sun Valley using their respective zip codes.

Shadow Hills is one of the few truly semi-rural areas left in Los Angeles. ■



An emergency kit that you can grab and run with.

## Prepare Your House For an Emergency!

By Ed Castellanos

Emergency situations such as fire, extreme weather and power out-ages can happen without warning. By taking the time to prepare for a possible disaster now, you and your family will be equipped to handle a crisis if one ever occurs.

### Fire Escape Route and Meeting Spot

It can take a mere five minutes for a fire to engulf your entire home. This is one reason having an escape plan is so important. Include at least two exit routes in your plan in case one is blocked, and designate a safe location for everyone in your household to meet. Identifying a secondary location outside your neighborhood is good to have in the event it's not safe to return or you're asked to evacuate.

### List of Emergency Contacts

Make laminated cards with a list of important phone numbers for each family member. This might include contact information for the local authorities and emergency services as well as your nearest relatives.

### Home Safety Items

Be prepared in case an emergency does occur by having these home safety items: Keep one on each floor, and check them annually to make sure they're functioning properly. ■



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ASK RUSTY

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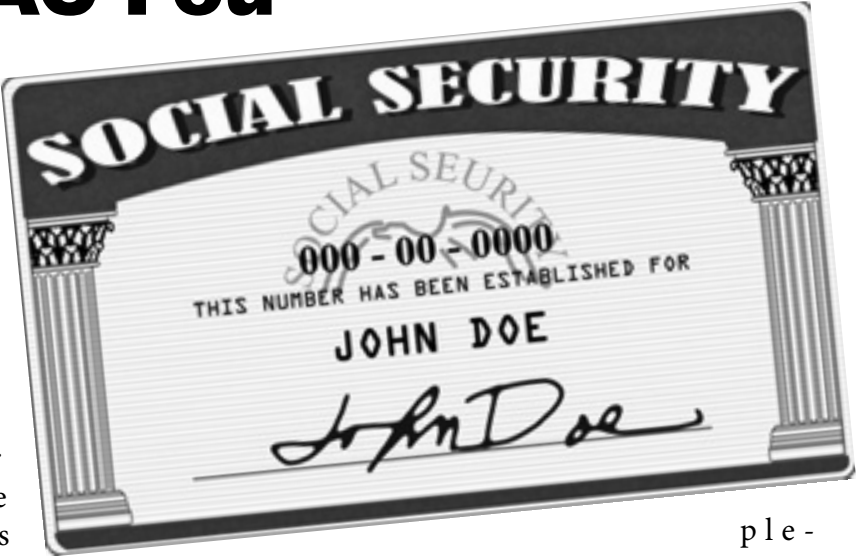
# Will My Medicare Premium Change because I Sold Investment Property? - AMAC Fou

**Dear Rusty:** I have questions concerning the deduction of money from my Social Security benefit amount as relates to the sale of investment property. I am 66 years old and have been drawing Social Security since I turned 62. My wife is 56 and is a housewife and has no taxable income. Our income comes from our rental property and my Social Security benefit. I have decided to liquidate two of our properties – one was sold in December 2024, and one is in Escrow and is scheduled to close in March 2025. My normal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) has been running about \$30K-\$32K. However, last year with the sale of the property I will receive a long-term capital gain profit of about \$255K. I did a rough calculation on what my AGI will be for 2024, and it looks to be about \$318K. How will this affect my Social Security benefit, and will it have an effect on the amount I pay for my Part B Medicare Plan going forward? I have a Medicare Advantage plan. My next question is about 2025 (after the next property closes and I file taxes), my AGI with the long-term capital gain profit could be

between \$700k-\$800K. How will this affect my benefits going forward? **Signed: Prudent Investor**  
**Dear Prudent Investor:** Actually, the GROSS amount of your Social Security benefit will not be affected by these transactions, but the NET amount of your SS benefit payment will change due to a provision known as "IRMAA" (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount). IRMAA affects the Medicare premiums you pay from your Social Security benefit, and a higher Medicare premium will result in a lower net Social Security payment. Here's how this will work for you:  
Your Medicare premiums each year (typically for Medicare Part B and Part D) are determined by looking at your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income," or "MAGI", from two years prior (MAGI is your normal AGI plus any non-taxable interest you may have had). Since the property you sold in 2024 will be reflected as part of your 2024 income, IRMAA will cause your 2026 Medicare premiums to be higher than the standard monthly 2026 amount. How much higher depends on how much you exceed the income level for your IRS filing status. Using 2025 rules, if you file as Married/ jointly and your taxable income (MAGI) is more than \$212,000 but less than \$334,000 then, instead of paying the standard 2026 monthly Part B premium, you'll each pay \$370 per month for Medicare Part B (and likely a supplemental amount of \$35.30 if your Advan-

ta ge plan includes prescription drug coverage). Your Medicare premiums are recalculated every year (again based on income from two years prior). Thus, in 2027, IRMAA will also affect your Medicare premiums and your net Social Security payment because of your 2025 real estate transaction. If your MAGI in 2025 will be over \$750,000, then IRMAA will increase each of your 2027 Medicare Part B premiums to \$638.90 (and likely also add a sup-

plement of \$85.80 per month each to your Medicare Advantage premium for prescription drug coverage). The good news is in 2028 all of this will be behind you and your Medicare premiums will revert to whatever the standard monthly premiums are for that year (because your income levels thereafter will presumably be below the then-IRMAA thresholds).■





# Momentum Continues for the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, Retail Theft Reduction Act as it Surpasses 300,000 California Voters' Signatures

*Another nearly 100,000 California voters have signed petitions in the past 10 days to place the measure that will stop theft and fentanyl crimes onto the November 2024 ballot*

Sacramento, Calif., February 2, 2024 --- Californians to Reduce Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft announced today that they have collected another nearly 100,000 signatures from California voters totaling over 300,000 to place the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, Retail Theft Reduction Act on the November 2024 ballot.

"We continue to see an outcry of overwhelming support from Californians of every political affiliation and geographic region across the state demanding for change that will improve community safety and hold repeat offenders of theft and serious drug crimes including those

involving fentanyl accountable," said campaign chair Greg Totten who is also chief executive officer for the California District Attorneys Association.

"Californians want to feel safe in their neighborhoods and when they shop, and this initiative amends Prop 47 to effectively hold individuals accountable for repeat crimes of theft and serious drugs like fentanyl while making sure individuals receive and complete drug and mental health treatment they need," added Totten.

A survey of likely California voters found that 70% of voters support the title and summary of the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, Retail

Theft Reduction Act. The overwhelming support was consistent across every demographic and geography including the Bay Area and Los Angeles. Furthermore, 89% of likely voters support amending Proposition 47 for stronger penalties for those engaged in repeated retail theft and trafficking hard drugs like fentanyl. The measure also includes incentives to complete drug and mental health treatment for people who are addicted to hard drugs. The survey was conducted online from November 8-November 13, 2023, with a margin of error of +/- 2.28%.

To qualify the measure for the November 2024 ballot, the law requires 546,651 valid signatures.■



## 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.■



# YAMATO: the Drummers of Japan Return to The Soraya with New Program

## *Hito no Chikara – The Power of Human Strength*

The contemporary Taiko troupe will bring its “visually stunning, musically interesting, powerful and humorous” (Addicted Toronto) show to The Soraya on Sat March 22.

From Jan. 16 through March 29 YAMATO: The Drummers of Japan will tour North America with their new show, Hito no Chikara – The Power of Human Strength. Yamato will perform at The Soraya at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 22. The “simply captivating” (The Evening Post) Taiko troupe has reached nearly 8 million people globally in over 4,000 performances throughout their thirty-two-year history, adding to that number this season with seven performances in Canada; and 29 venues throughout the United States from New England to California.

“YAMATO” believes that the drumbeat, like the heartbeat, is the very pulse of life and the epitome of the Japanese spirit,” says the troupe’s Founder and Artistic Director Masa Ogawa.

The physically powerful cohort of musician-athletes work and



live together as a community in the Asuka Village, said to be the birthplace of Japanese culture. There they create their own musical compositions, theater productions, sets, lighting design, choreography, performance techniques, costumes, makeup, stage settings and props. They make their own bachi sticks used to play the traditional Japanese instruments, beginning each show by hitting a Wadaiko drum weighing half a ton, made from a single piece of wood from a 400-year-old tree.

In every program, the drummers play 35-40 different Japanese

drums, which are divided into four types: Miya-daiko, Hirado-daiko, Okedo-daiko and Shime-daiko, each varying in size and tone. Additionally, the troupe play Japanese instruments including the Shamisen, Koto, Chappa and Shinobue. Ogawa explains, “after composing each song, I give a score to the drummers.

From that point, YAMATO's true creation begins. The drummers put their thoughts and spirit into each note. We open the eyes of the heart to find a sort of synchronicity with the other drummers. Our final

purpose is to connect to the heart of the audience.”

This season's new program entitled Hito no Chikara – The Power of Human strength examines humanity's ever evolving relationship with technology and artificial intelligence. Masa Ogawa wonders, "Will there ever be a machine that can play Taiko with unparalleled accuracy? Will advanced algorithms make them sound human-like?"

Will people be used by the tools they have created, or will we no longer need people in the future? What will happen to Taiko drumming?” Ogawa concludes, “Let us beat the Taiko as we are YAMATO. We do not know when the end of humanity is, but we will strike until that moment. The sounds struck by the heart, resonating with each other, will become Hito no Chikara – The Power of Human strength.”

YAMATO, will perform at The Soraya at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 22. Tickets available Now at [www.TheSoraya.org](http://www.TheSoraya.org). ■

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