



Time to Fire Up Your Grill

It's National Barbecue Month, the time to celebrate flame-grilled foods and the great outdoors. Whether you enjoy backyard burgers with family and friends or you're a vegetarian with a penchant for travel, there are so many ways to celebrate this month that fit your unique culinary style and tastes. - SEE PAGE 2



Horse Rescue in Shadow Hills

Misty's owner wasn't in town at the time of the rescue, but her sister was on scene. She took Misty back home after the rescue. - SEE PAGE 6

THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025 COVERING THE FOOTHILLS REGION FOR OVER 20 YEARS! VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 73

SOCAL EDISON PAYS LARGEST EVER SETTLEMENT

By David DeMulle' assisted by Al

Southern California Edison has agreed to pay the U.S. \$82.5 million to resolve claims on behalf of the U.S. Forest Service to recoup costs and damages caused by the Bobcat fire, which burned 114,577 acres, mostly in the Angeles National Forest, nearly five years ago, authorities announced on Friday, May 23.

Federal officials called it the “largest-ever wildfire cost recovery settlement by the United States in the Central District of California.”

“This record settlement against Southern California Edison provides meaningful compensation to taxpayers for the extensive costs of fighting the Bobcat fire and for the widespread damage to public lands,” said Bill Essayli, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California.

“My office will continue to ag-



A Joshua Tree burns during the Bobcat Fire in Juniper Hills. Kyle Grillot/AFP/Getty Images.

gressively pursue recovery for suppression costs and environmental damages from any entity that causes harm to the public’s forests and other precious national resources,” he said.

Edison and one of its contractors, Utility Tree Service, did not admit fault under the settlement, which was signed on May 14. Whether the

settlement will lead to higher electricity bills for Edison customers is not clear. Edison officials had no immediate response to that question on Friday.

The Bobcat Fire ignited on September 6, 2020, near Cogswell Dam in the Angeles National Forest and quickly became one of the largest wildfires in

Los Angeles County history. Over the course of 83 days, it burned 115,997 acres—roughly 181 square miles—before being fully contained on November 27, 2020.

Please see **SOCAL Edison Pays Largest Ever Settlement** on Page 8

\$5.5 million of unlawful cannabis seized at unlicensed marijuana dispensary in Monrovia

Look for higher pot costs locally

\$5.5 million in cannabis products were seized by the Los Angeles and Monrovia Police Departments to shut down an unlicensed cannabis retailer in Monrovia last week, authorities said on Thursday, May 22.

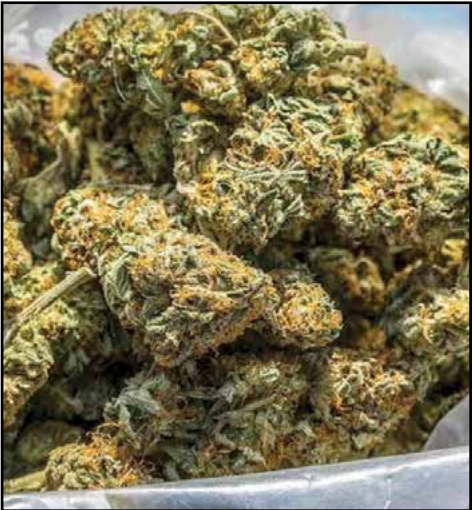
The Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) shut down operations at the unlicensed retailer, which was allegedly preparing to distribute more than \$4.8 million worth of illegal cannabis flower, according to a news release by the DCC.

Officials also discovered possible evidence of human trafficking during the enforcement operation, the news release said.

“The Department remains focused on disrupting the illicit cannabis market and protecting the public,” said Charles Smith, DCC’s law enforcement chief. These operations reflect the power of our collaboration with our local law enforcement partners and highlight that the outcome of these efforts touches every level of the unlicensed supply chain.”

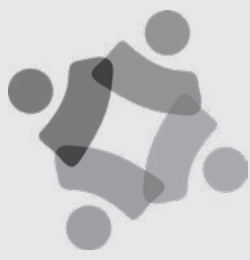
Officials also seized:

- 114 pounds of illegal cannabis edibles
- 83 pounds of illegal cannabis concentrate
- 76 pounds of illegal cannabis vape cartridges
- \$14,458 in cash■



Marijuana buds ready for sale.

Check out The Foothills Paper interactive website: thefoothillspaper.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Time to Fire Up Your Grill

By Ed Castellanos

It's National Barbecue Month, the time to celebrate flame-grilled foods and the great outdoors.

Whether you enjoy backyard burgers with family and friends or you're a vegetarian with a penchant for travel, there are so many

ways to celebrate this month that fit your unique culinary style and tastes.

Here's some grilling inspiration for your family meals, social gatherings and adventures with nature.

For the entertainer: Throw a backyard barbecue bash with friends and neighbors and prepare all the favorites:

burgers, ribs, corn on the cob, watermelon and more. You can even ramp it up with a smoker or pizza grill. Just make sure you test your new tools out

before the big day, and be sure to have enough charcoal or propane on hand.

For the vegetarian: Meat-free barbecues are more common than you might think. Aside from tofu dogs and black bean burgers, your guests can also enjoy

portabella burgers, stuffed chilis rellenos, baked potatoes or veggie skewers from the grill. Peaches and pineapples also make for great grilled desserts.

For the family: Plan a nice home-cooked outing just for the family. Have everyone pick their favorite main course, and get all the kiddos involved in the prep work and cooking. You can even invest in some mono-grammed branding irons to make family grilling even more special.

For the nature lover: Take your celebration on the road, and head to the beach or a campsite to enjoy your meals with nature. Bring along a portable grill, ingredients for s'mores, comfy chairs and your favorite sleeping bag to celebrate



under the stars.

As long as you've got great food and great company,

you can't go wrong celebrating May with meals prepared on a grill. ■

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STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

AZUSA, CA (05/09/2025)-- The following students graduated from Azusa Pacific University on Sat., May 5, 2025, and joined approximately 1,702 graduates at the Spring commencement ceremonies.

Robert Bieti of Tujunga (91042)
Courtney Bitz of Sunland (91040)

Abigail Golliher of Tujunga (91042)
Patrick Kim of Sunland (91040)

Luke Rawlings of Shadow Hills (91040)

Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian university committed to God First and excellence in higher education. With 61 bachelor's

degrees, 40 master's degrees, 17 certificates, 11 credentials, 8 doctoral programs, and 4 associate degrees, the university offers its more than 10,000 students a quality education on campus, online, and at seven regional centers throughout Southern California. ■

Mount Gleason Middle School

Hello everyone, I am Marina Hatfield, the Title 1 Coordinator and College & Career-Readiness Coach at Mount Gleason Middle School. Just wanted to share this very recent great news about our local middle school!

As of this month, Mount Gleason Middle School is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Associ-

ation of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) thanks to our faculty, staff, students, families, and community members working together toward achieving our vision, mission, and schoolwide learner outcomes!

The WASC Visiting committee read our report, visited our campus, observed instruction in classrooms, met with focus groups of all stakeholders, and vali-

dated the effective strategies we utilize in the areas of organization, curriculum, instruction, assessment, accountability, and school culture & support. Please share this fantastic news with the community at large! And let me know if you need any further details.

Our new school website: <https://www.mtgleasonms.org/>

Our Accreditation Status

can be confirmed in the ACS WASC Directory of Schools located here: <http://directory.acswasc.org/>
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One of the fun things about owning your own local newspaper is the freedom it gives you to express your feelings and see how many others have the same ideas. We are lucky in some ways, we have our own little town, and we have the ability to make changes IF WE REALLY WANT TO. For over 20 years, I've been privy to most of the happenings around us.

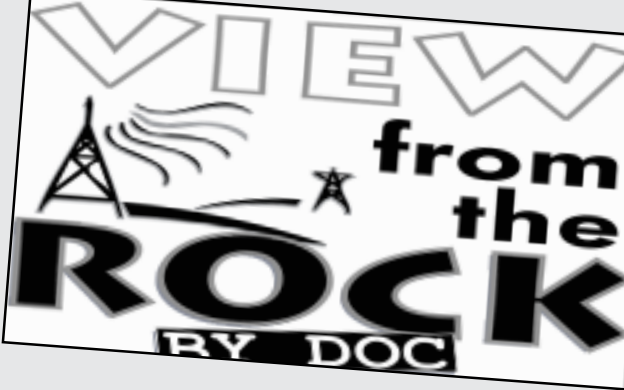
We went from a fairly prosperous rural community with fun OLD people to talk to and get the latest scandals and how the on-going fight with city hall was going. I still remember my office manager Claudia lamenting "We sold out our town for ONE police car and a fire truck." Well, I guess that you'd call that progress? We got sewer systems instead of septic tanks, electricity that worked and as we got more cosmopolitan, we got cable. Sometimes I wonder

if it was worth it. Joe Carnes and his family were busy buying up property and building apartment buildings. Foothill Blvd. was a dirt road and we had 11 bars and one whore house.

But we also had fun, the "service" clubs had members that were members or officers of many clubs. I still remember Vic Agakahanian lamenting that the Kiwana members were getting old and couldn't out to play. The Rotary Club was a bit crooked with Mike Lucas running his dog for city council. Now that got us world-wide attention then the Scientologists took over. The Lions Club was an honorable group under the direction of Dr. Schellenbach and his wife. That is, until they decided that the Watermelon King could not be a "special ed" student, even though he sold the most tickets of all the candidates. And then the

Watermelon Festival was gone. That was a major loss to Sunland-Tujunga, and the beginning of the end for our community.

We had a real newspaper called THE RECORD-LEDGER run by the Horowitz family. And it was a pretty good company, until Sarah Lombard compiled her treatise called "Rancho Tujunga." The Foothill Printing Company made so many mistakes, that they had to refund her money after they had printed 2,000 copies. But, we still had our Old Timers Days, The Easter Festival, The March Of Dimes Parade, the 4th of July Parade and real Fireworks, and don't forget the annual neighborhood Halloween Parties. Yup Boys and Girls, we sure knew



how to have fun, and we took care of our own. They're all gone now, and they've been replaced by maniac drivers, legal and illegal pot shops and a myriad of so-so eateries. Even the Lady of Lourdes annual family festival made some silly mistakes and within 4 years went from making over \$75,000 a year to going in debt and losing it all.

All you can do is look around you and imagine how much fun we used to have. And of course, you can blame it on the water!■

THE FOOTHILLS LETTERS AND PERSPECTIVES

Curious Comments about your Newspaper Website

I'm enjoying your site immensely. But going through the archives it suddenly hit me that this site suffers from a bipolar disorder, or perhaps better said: a multiple personality disorder.


Approximately half the post postulate that Facebook followers are idiots.

The other half postulate that maybe only the people on the "observed" are idiots, as when you look at who the posters are, discounting the myriad sock-puppets, they are slightly insane.

I guess I'm not quite "there" yet, but it does seem like quite the puzzle to advocate following the herd

while at the same time saying "don't follow the herd". I wonder if there should be some scientific study to determine why Sunland-Tujunga has all the wackos in the N.E. Valley.

Nevertheless, it might be amusing to address this head-on, to avoid confusion in the future.



WHO EXACTLY are those people with absolutely no scruples and creating lies, trying to impress? I guess it's this fundamental internal battle that gives your site that extra sizzle.

Daniel Powell.■

The Tujunga royals

Today, I met Prince Harry, a young, strong, handsome, curly red-haired gent. He was riding his carriage up my street, which consisted of a 3 wheel bicycle, towing (with a long dog leash) a small flatbed trailer loaded with bags of recycling.

When a neighbor caught him digging through the trash, he politely said hello, then promised to clean up any mess he made and be on his way. His motorcade escorts were the cars, including mine, backed up behind him as he muscled his way up the hill. Being the pitiful judge I must remind myself I am, I pulled in my driveway and studied him a bit, wondering if he was truly down on his luck, or securing his next hit of crack.

Observing me pull in my drive, he rode past my barrels straight to the next door neighbor's. Ahhh, the gems and jewels he unearthed... a treasure chest overflowing with more plastic, glass and metal than one Prince alone could carry!

He dug through the gunk and bagged up each precious item. He noticed me watching him, and sweetly told me hello, once again, promising to clean up.

This is not about me. However, my throat hurt with deep sorrow and shame for losing sight of the needs of other. I grabbed all the cash in my purse and approached him. Like a scared dog afraid of getting whacked, he nervously said hello again. I asked him if he needed some

help and handed him the cash. The exhausted yet genuine smile he bestowed upon me in the return spiritually mirrored the look of joy captured in Prince Harry's face as he gazed upon his soon-to-be princess.

With a humbled tone of relief, Prince Harry thanked me for showing kindness.

Together, we cleaned up the minimal mess made, and then he departed up the hill, muscling his way to the next collection of barrels. Prince Harry is not a crack addict at all. He's beautiful gift from God, willing to do what it takes to secure his next feast.

Blessings.

Debbie Ethridge.■



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Memorial Day will be observed at Sunland Park on Monday, May 26 at 11:00 a.m.





A time honored tradition of the American Legion Post 377. The service will be held at the recently restored Veterans Memorial. Paul Pangburn, the post commander, will officiate the ceremony and patriotic songs will be playing over the loud speaker.

The Memorial Day service is Post 377's largest annual gathering of residents and veterans in Sunland-Tujunga. There are usually more than 150 people in attendance. The names of service personnel who gave their lives for our country are called out and a bell rung. When the bugler sounds taps, the ceremony closes and everyone is invited to the Legion Hall for hot dogs and hamburgers. The event is hosted by the Sons and Daughters of the American Legion auxiliary.

Everyone is welcome and the Legion Hall is located at 10039 Pinewood Ave. Tujunga. For more information, please call the Legion Hall at (818) 353-9856.■

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





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ANOTHER DAY IN THE HOOD

HORSE RESCUE IN SHADOW HILLS

The Los Angeles Fire Department received a call on May 8 about 11:30 AM, about a horse being trapped in a construction site in Shadow Hills. Upon arriving, it was determined that helicopter lift operation was in order but the LAFD did not have a helicopter available. A call for L.A. County Mutual Aid was initiated and they sent out a heavy lift helicopter.

A call was also placed to Officer Armando Navarrete of the L.A. City "Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team" (SMART) that a pony named "Misty" had fallen into the retaining wall trench on the abandoned Clybourn Ave. ranch.

When asked if digging a ramp so the pony could walk out was an option, Officer Navarrete said, "We've talked about digging a trench to walk the horse out, but she isn't doing very well with people, so to make all that noise would probably be more detrimental for the horse than the personnel on the rescue operation."

The L.A. County helicopter arrived at around 2:00 p.m. The horse was sedated, blindfolded, strapped into an Anderson Sling, then lifted into the air. The helicopter crew brought the animal about 300 yards onto an empty space and lowered her to waiting animal control personnel and firefighters. Once on the ground, a veterinarian made sure the pony was OK and massaged her legs to reduce the effects of the sedative. The pony revived and began moving around with human assistance to walk off the effects of the



Photo by David Crane, SCNG

SMART member comforts the pony "Misty" while awaiting the helicopter rescue.



Photo by David DeMulle

drugs.

The rescue finished about 2:50 pm and the county helicopter left the scene. Misty was then trailered home after the rescue. (she only lives a block away from the location) No one knows for sure, except for Misty, how she ended up in the trench. By the looks of the disturbed dirt on the hillside, it appears that she wandered up to the top of the hill and slid down, feet first, and landed in the unfinished retaining wall trench. She was lucky that she didn't fall head first. She managed to miss impaling herself on all the rebar sticking up from the trench frame.

Misty's owner wasn't in town at the time of the rescue, but her sister was on scene. She took Misty back home after the rescue.

The rescue was a combined effort that included our Depart-

ments (Los Angeles Animal Services) Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team (SMART) LAFD and LA County Fire (they provided the helicopter). SMART has two custom harnesses for large animal rescues. The one used in Misty's

air lift rescue was the Anderson Sling. SMART trains for these types of rescue operations and consults with Fire Departments across the Nation on how to apply the Anderson Sling for large animal rescues. ■



Kathryn BARGER
Chair • Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors • 30th District

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ASK RUSTY

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

SSA MISINFORMATION LEADS TO LOST BENEFITS

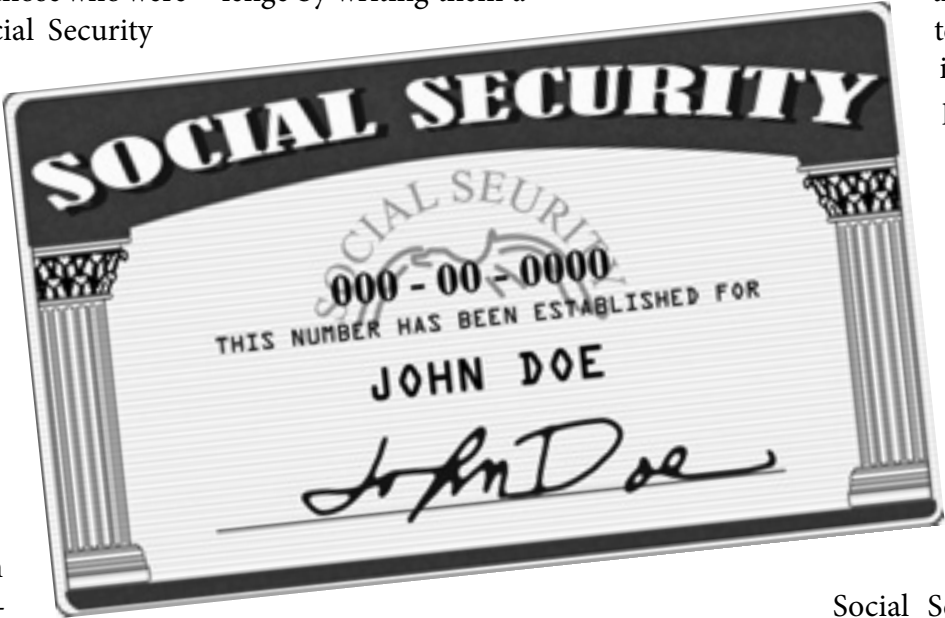
Dear Rusty: I am 64, a widow and I'm hopping mad! I lost my husband a while ago and went to Social Security to apply for widow's benefits. That all went okay and I'm getting my benefit, but I just found out that I could have avoided a cut to my widow's benefit and maybe applied only for my own retirement benefit and let the widow's benefit grow until I reached 66 when it wouldn't be cut. To make matters worse, they never explained that I'd be applying for both my own Social Security and my widow's benefit, so my Social Security payment now is made up of both and they're both reduced because I took them early. If I had waited until I was 70 to take my own benefit, it would have been more than my widow's benefit. I feel that because they never told me my options, especially when I was grieving the loss of my husband, that it's their fault that I'm losing money. What can I do? Signed: Hopping Mad.

Dear Hopping Mad: It looks as though you were caught in the same mis-communication web that Social Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) recently investigated

and found that Social Security Administration (SSA) staff had often misinformed or failed to explain all available options to those applying for survivor's benefits. That, in turn, has been responsible for a lot of "dually-entitled" people getting less than they're truly entitled to. Thanks to a savvy SSA whistleblower, the OIG investigated the allegations and found that those who were entitled to both Social Security retirement benefits and survivor's benefits were often not told that they could apply for either benefit and allow the other to grow to its maximum amount. In your case, you could have simply waited to apply for your widow's benefit until it reached maximum at your full retirement age (FRA); or, if you needed the money, you could have applied for your own reduced retirement benefit first and allowed your survivor's benefit to grow to its maximum at your FRA and get that for the rest of your life; or you could have taken the reduced survivor's benefit only and allowed your own retirement benefit to grow until it reached its maximum at age 70. In other words, you could have restricted your application to either one of those benefits and allowed the other to grow to its maximum amount (Social Security's "deemed filing" rule doesn't apply to survivor's). That you are now receiving

reduced benefits with no option to delay either one is, it would seem, a result of a failure by the SSA to inform you of your options, exactly as the OIG found in its investigation. I believe you have a strong case to challenge the SSA on your application choice due to them not informing you of the alternatives available to you. You can initiate this challenge by writing them a

letter explaining that you would have made a different choice had you been told the alternatives available to you and request a hearing to resolve this issue. You will need to be specific about the who/ when/where aspects of your original application, and you should be very clear about which other option you would have selected had you known – to either defer your widow's benefit until it grew to maximum at your FRA, or to take your widow's benefit and defer your Social Security retirement benefit until you are 70. In any case, you should not have to suffer the financial consequences of the SSA's failure to let you know that you had alternatives as a survivor. For more on how to file a claim in writing due to the SSA's failure to advise you of your options, go to: https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/cfr20/416/416-0351.htm and review Section (f) Claim for benefits based on misinformation. The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government. Furthermore, the AMAC Foundation and its staff do not provide legal or accounting services. The Foundation welcomes questions from readers regarding Social Security issues. To submit a request, contact the Foundation at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org, or visit the Foundation's website at www.amacfoundation.org. ■



Tomato Pie with Toasted Quinoa Crust

By Chef Randy

Have you ever considered food as art?

I'm not talking food that's styled for a photo shoot with unappetizing peas painted green or salad greens misted to make them "look" fresh. I'm talking about food you can eat. I'm talking about food that looks so good it is a work of art.

Sometimes I imagine this recipe as the work of a minimalist artist expressing his art through cooking.

Other times I just look at it and drool thinking about how good it will taste once I cut it into wedges and wolf it down while savoring the super nutritious and crunchy crust.

Give this recipe a try and let me know how you like it. Better yet, make it and let me know if it reminds you of a work of art!

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup uncooked quinoa
 ½ cup almond meal
 1 tablespoon cornstarch
 ½ teaspoon salt (divided)
 1 large egg (lightly beaten)
 2 tablespoons olive oil (divided)
 Cooking spray
 2 cups thinly sliced leeks 2 garlic cloves, minced
 2 large heirloom tomatoes (sliced thin)



1 teaspoon fresh thyme (chopped)
 2 large egg whites, lightly beaten
 ¼ to 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese (grated)
 1 teaspoon Italian Herbs

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

Place quinoa on parchment paper and bake on lowest rack in the oven for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and let cool.

Place quinoa in a food processor and pulse for 30 seconds. Transfer to a large bowl. Add almond meal, cornstarch, and ¼ teaspoon of the salt. Stir to combine. Add the egg and 1 tablespoon of the oil. Stir until mixture is crumbly. Press into the bottom (and ½ inch up the sides) of a 9-inch springform pan coated with cooking spray. Bake for 5 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside.

Heat a skillet over medium-high heat. Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil to pan. Add leeks and sauté for

about 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 minute more.

Using a medium mixing bowl, combine leek mixture with the thyme and the remaining ¼ teaspoon salt. Add egg whites, stirring to combine.

Spread this mixture on the crust and arrange tomato slices on top.

Sprinkle with cheese and herbs. Bake for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and let it set up for about 5 minutes before cutting into slices for serving. ■

SOCAL Edison Pays Largest Ever Settlement

continued from page 1

The fire caused extensive damage to public lands, leading to the closure of over 100 miles of trails and numerous campgrounds for years. It also had a devastating impact on wildlife, including the federally endangered mountain

yellow-legged frog and federally threatened fish and bird species. Additionally, 87 homes and 83 other structures were destroyed, while 28 homes sustained damage. The Nature Center at the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area was also lost.

Investigators determined that the fire started when trees came into contact with power lines owned by Southern California Edison, which had not been properly maintained. This led to

a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Forest Service in September 2023, seeking to recover firefighting costs and environmental damages.

The settlement funds will be used to rehabilitate burned areas, restore wildlife habitats, and strengthen forest resilience against future wildfires. Officials have emphasized the importance of these resources in helping the Angeles National Forest recover from the fire's long-term effects. ■



Dear Neighbor,

I'm very excited to personally invite you to a meaningful event in our community. Tomorrow, Sunday, May 25th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Brand Park in Mission Hills, we'll be gathering for our annual Memorial Day Concert in the Park — a special opportunity to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation.

We are proud to partner with the Port of Los Angeles during LA Fleet Week to present a powerful performance by the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band. Alongside live music, you'll find veteran resources, community services, and

great food for all to enjoy.

This event holds particular meaning for me because my own father earned his citizenship through his military service during the Vietnam War. His story, like so many others, is a reminder of the sacrifices made by generations of servicemembers and their families. It's why I hold this day, and this gathering, so close to my heart.

I hope you'll join us for this important community tradition as we reflect, remember, and honor those who gave everything for our country.

See you tomorrow at Brand Park. ■

LA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, 7TH DISTRICT
MONICA RODRIGUEZ

MEMORIAL DAY
CONCERT IN THE PARK
 FEATURING: 3RD MARINE AIRCRAFT WING BAND

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025
DOMINGO, 25 DE MAYO DE 2025
11:00AM - 2:00PM

VETERAN RESOURCES AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
 RECURSOS PARA VETERANOS Y ENTRETENIMIENTO EN VIVO

BRAND PARK | 15121 S BRAND BLVD.
MISSION HILLS, CA 91345

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