

FEATURE



## LB Rummy Club delivers 'an ounce of nostalgia' and heaps of friendship

Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Drew Adams and Lauren Gabbai, founders of the Long Beach Rummy Club, hold up sets of cards to play any Rummy-style game at the Bellflower Boulevard Panera Bread on Feb. 17, 2024.

Samantha Diaz  
Managing Editor

Once a month, the tables at a Long Beach Panera Bread just north of Cal State Long Beach swap the soups and sandwiches for cards, tiles and Rummy Club members.

The multigenerational club occupies about half of the cafe's dining room during this gloomy Feb. 17 meet-up, slapping down tiles, shuffling cards and catching up on life, but never, *never* keeping score.

But make no mistake, everyone is here to win. Though there's no money on the line, bragging rights are the currency in the Long Beach Rummy Club, as friends take quick jabs at each other over laughs and pastries.

"We beat them so bad they have to leave," Gail Mann, 80, teased as two of her friends got up to leave after two hours of playing rummikub. Mann, Marianne Baldino and Dusty, all seniors, met through the club and have since become friends who visit each other at home and take turns hosting rummy nights.

The group will be here well into the evening, says Drew Adams, co-founder of the club. He and his fiancé Lauren Gabbai run the group together, equipped with a roll of name tags for members, a big red rule book, dozens of variations for people to borrow and a warm

see LB RUMMY CLUB page 5

COLUMN

## Chaos and kibble – My journey trying to get stray dogs home

Kristen Farrah Naeem  
Staff Writer

"What do I do with these friggin' dogs," has been the question on the forefront of my mind since Sunday afternoon, when two furry house guests showed up in front of my house unannounced.

For anyone who has found themselves in a similar situation, you know it's no simple feat. I've written out the steps I've taken so far as I try to find their owners in hopes that it's helpful to anyone experiencing the same predicament. I acknowledge that these may not be feasible for everyone, as I'm fortunate enough to have more living space for storing random dogs than others may have.

**Get them somewhere calm and safe**

As I got home after running some errands, my mom came into the kitchen and told me there were two loose dogs in front of the house. Like myself, she's an animal lover and was concerned about the little guys.

Stepping outside and heading towards the sidewalk, I see that the two dogs are a shaggy mutt of inscrutable origins and a tiny pug. The shaggy boy was afraid of me at first, but the pug wiggled his way right up to me. I made an executive decision based on how bonded the pair seemed to be, and



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune

The search is still on for the owners of the local stray dogs (Top) "Puggins" and (Bottom) "Shaggy Guy."

see LOCAL STRAY DOGS page 7

POP CULTURE

## Column: Cali Vibes boasts a nostalgic, star-studded L.A. proud festival

Ryan Hardison  
Design Editor



A large banner displaying "Welcome To Cali Vibes" hangs above the entrance to the 3rd annual Cali Vibes festival at Marina Green Park on Feb. 18, 2024.

Rocksteady rhythms, cannabis smoke and masses of Dodgers hats and Lakers jerseys enveloped the Long Beach shoreline as Cali Vibes returned for its third annual iteration at Marina Green Park.

This three-day extravaganza of reggae, ska, dancehall, and weed-friendly rap kicked off Friday afternoon, blazed through the weekend and was a feel-good sight to behold.

Upon entry, concertgoers were greeted by an assortment of holistic, wellness, and weed vendors. Plus, several local nonprofit partners that talked up the festival's ambitious eco-friendly initiatives.

Festival fans who earned the munchies were tempted by scents of barbecued meat and tasty treats that wafted through the air, cutting through puffs of smoke. Concertgoers had their pick of several cuisines, plus acclaimed L.A. eats like Dave's Hot Chicken, Kogi BBQ, and D.R.E.A.M. Donut Truck.

The lineup of musicians, consisting of an intriguing mix of well-known local and international artists, were slated to embody the "Cali Vibes" lifestyle.

see CALI VIBES page 7

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## EDUCATION

# Ron Settles Memorial Foundation offers scholarships to Black students pursuing degrees in criminal justice and education

Kristen Farrah Naeem

Staff Writer

During the social and racial upheaval of 2020, one family came together to remember one of their loved ones who was lost to police violence in Signal Hill decades ago.

The first cousins of Ron Settles formed a foundation in his honor to provide scholarships annually for Black students graduating from high school. Each year since 2020, they've granted up to two scholarships to students in each of the areas of Los Angeles County, Shelby County Tennessee, and the city of Atlanta, Georgia.

The foundation is currently accepting applications for this year's round of scholarships through March 15.

Settles was killed in a homicide inside the Signal Hill jail in 1981 shortly after being arrested by Signal Hill police over an alleged minor traffic infraction, according to a ruling by a coroner's jury. His killers were never identified or arrested. A few months after the ruling, thousands showed up to protest the Signal Hill Police Department.

It is widely believed that Settles was killed by police, and that his death was framed to look like a suicide by hanging. Settles was found hanging by a bed sheet, and an inmate of the jail at the time later came forward to say that there had been no sheet on Settles' jail bed and that he had heard officers beating Settles, according to local historian Claudine Burnett.

Nearly four decades later, as the pandemic kept people home, Settles' cousins had more time on their hands to think about their cousin's story, and how it was part of the larger issue of institutional racism



Signal Tribune File Photo

Police survey crowd in front of Signal Hill Police Department. Ron Settles' father, Donell (at center with microphone) speaks to crowd of about 1,500-2,000 at Hinshaw Park. His wife, Helen, stands to his right. Photograph dated Dec. 6, 1981.

against Black people in the United States.

"We were just saying we had not done anything to be part of the movement too, you know, we wish that we could end social injustice to people of color, but at least be involved with affecting some change," said Cerita Butler, president of the Ron Settles Memorial Foundation and Settles' first cousin. "So as we sat around, we thought, 'What can we do?'"

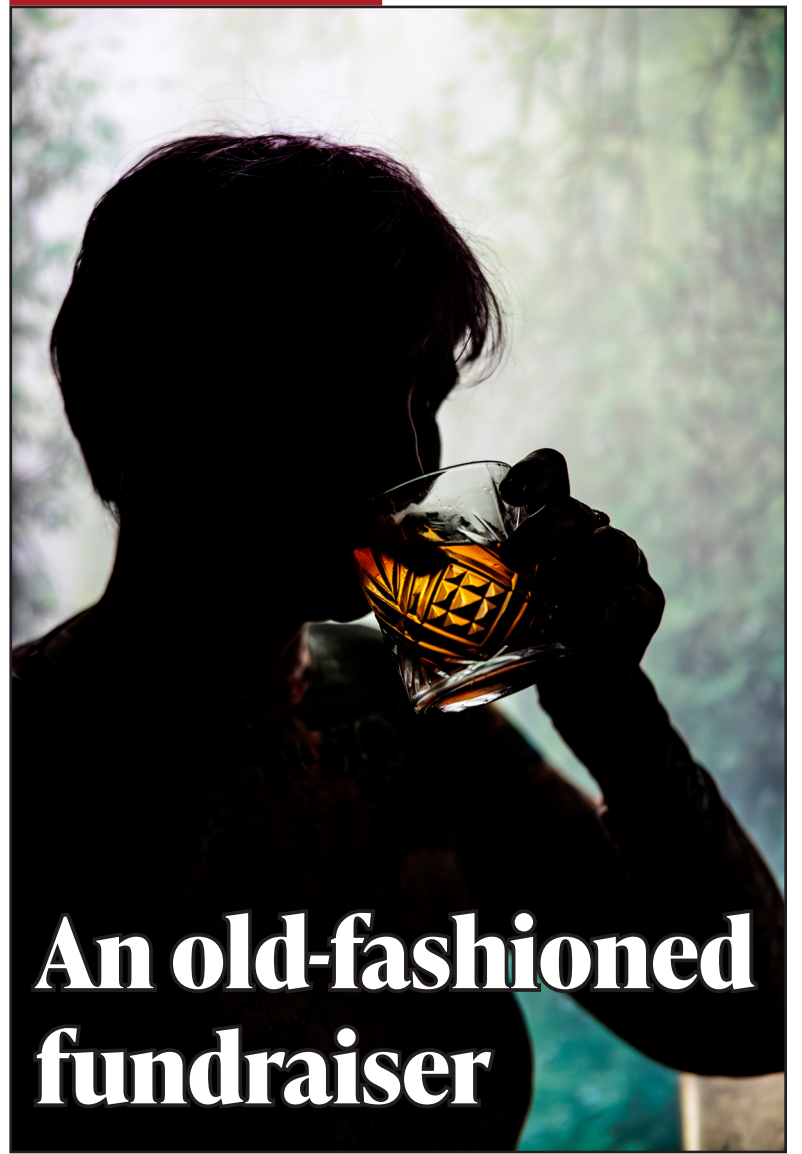
The \$2000 scholarships provided by the foundation are only available to Black students in their senior year of high school from the three eligible areas who are planning to pursue undergraduate degrees related to criminal justice, such as political science, pre-law, law enforcement administration, corrections and criminology.

Scholarships can also be granted to those pursuing teaching degrees, in honor of Settles' mother, Helen, who was a lifelong educator. Eligible students must also have a GPA of at least 2.25 on a 4.0 scale.

Applicants will need to submit a reference from someone they aren't related to, an admission essay that they've used to apply to a university, and a written response of 350 words or less that explains their personal connection to Ron Settles' story. Applications can be submitted on the Ron Settles Memorial Foundation's website.

The funds for the scholarships will be raised at a yearly charity golf tournament held in partnership with The Cochran Firm. This year's tournament will be held on June 7 at the Pine Hill Golf Course in Memphis, Tennessee.

## LOCAL BUSINESS



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Wicked Wolf owner, Thea Mercouffer, takes a sip of an old fashioned she made at her cocktail lounge on Feb. 20, 2024.

Samantha Diaz

Managing Editor

What's better than having an old fashioned cocktail? How about knowing you're funding a good cause with every sip?

From now until June 19, Long Beach's fantasy-themed lounge and bar The Wicked Wolf is donating \$1 towards scholarships for a semester of tuition at Historical Black College or Universities (HBCU) every time someone orders an old fashioned. The cocktail is traditionally made by mixing whiskey or bourbon, simple syrup, a few dashes of angostura bitters and a bit of water, typically topped off with an orange peel garnish.

The Wicked Wolf began its months-long fundraiser on Jan. 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,

in partnership with the woman-owned and Black-owned whiskey brand Uncle Nearest. Last year, Uncle Nearest launched its HBCU scholarship campaign and nearly raised \$1 million towards a semester of tuition for nine campuses by donating a dollar for every old fashioned sold and every bottle purchased, then matching the money raised.

According to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, 80% of Black judges, 50% of Black doctors and attorneys and 40% of Black engineers and members of Congress graduated from HBCUs.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities began in 1865 with Shaw University, as a result of a law that required states to provide land grants for colleges for Black

see HBCU FUNDRAISER page 4

## CITY COUNCIL

# Nonprofit will help undocumented immigrants in Long Beach become entrepreneurs

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

A Long Beach nonprofit was awarded \$340,100 to help undocumented immigrants become successful entrepreneurs, city council decided Tuesday night.

Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation and Empowerment (ÓRALE), funded by the City and the James Irvine Foundation, will launch the Long Beach Economic Liberation Project with Pacific Gateway, the City's workforce development arm. It will provide workshops, training, case management services and entrepreneurship training.

James Irvine Foundation was founded in 1937 and works to help low-income workers in California become more economically stable through awarding grants to organizations throughout the state.

The nonprofit was formed in 2006, previously known as Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition, and focuses on decriminalizing immigrants of color, creating a sense of safety in their communities and helping to secure opportunities.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Marina Carranza (left) and Yvonne Márquez (right) share a laugh together while adjusting product displays in their store, Adelitas Revenge, in Long Beach, on Aug. 10, 2022.

"We hope for this partnership to bring systemic changes and reduce barriers for our community to access economic justice and stability through entrepreneurship," said Gaby Hernandez, Executive Director of ÓRALE in a public statement.

"Together, we will walk alongside undocumented entrepreneurs to ensure they flourish and have the guidance and support they deserve because when they thrive, Long Beach as a whole succeeds."

ÓRALE hopes to graduate two cohorts of entrepreneurs each year of the program. Eligible partici-

pants will be from the more than 30,000 undocumented immigrants living in Long Beach and surrounding Harbor communities, according to a statement from the City.

Another goal of the Long Beach Economic Liberation Project is to work with local businesses that provide legal referrals, supportive services and skill-building opportunities. ÓRALE will hire an Economic Justice Manager and an Economic Justice Coordinator to help run the program.

"We are excited about how this public-private partnership will support the development of future entrepreneurs in Long Beach and demonstrate that anyone, irrespective of immigration status, can start a business, create jobs, and thrive when community stakeholders come together and work together in genuine partnership," said Kriztina Palone, Senior Program Officer for the James Irvine Foundation.

The program will be evaluated by the UCLA Labor Center, and lessons learned will help develop best practices to be shared with other communities.

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# AROUND TOWN

## A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL

The month of love and Black History Month celebrations continue with fun and free ways of supporting local communities at events in Long Beach and Signal Hill.

Residents can support a free Palestine at a plant swap Saturday afternoon hosted by Greater Long Beach Mutual Aid and purchase a zine that will benefit the Palestinian Youth Movement. Long Beach's LGBTQ Chorale is fundraising through a romantic Saturday night evening with food, drinks and a silent auction.

The Museum of Latin American Art will host a Afro-Latinx Festival Sunday with workshops, live entertainment and vendors while celebrating Afro-Latinx cultures. Residents can learn about and celebrate Black history at Bixby Park Sunday afternoon through performances, speakers and community resources.

For laid back entertainment, Ficklewood Ciderworks is hosting its weekly line-up of local comedians Friday night, Thunder Studios is bringing a live wrestling match to the city Sunday evening and The Bungalow Long Beach is hosting a Drag Bingo Night Thursday.

### 23 FRIDAY

#### TODDLER STORYTIME

10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Toddlers ages 1 to 4 and their caregivers will enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and puppets during this weekly event at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library (5870 Atlantic Ave.). Free.

#### COMEDY SHOW

8 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. The Friendzone will be hosting this line-up of stand up comedians from across Los Angeles and Orange Counties at Fick-

lewood Ciderworks (720 E Broadway). Pet friendly. Seating will be available on a first come first served basis. There is no charge to enter, but there is a two drink minimum.

### 24 SATURDAY

#### RELATIVITY SPACE COMMUNITY DAY

10 a.m. to noon. Local space technology company Relativity Space invites the community to explore its headquarters (2400 E Wardlow Rd.). Executives will give short talks on the history and future of the company. Free.

#### IS IT SPRING YET SALE

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Succulents and handmade pottery will be on sale at Mezcala Nursery (6901 Orange Ave.). There will be a DJ, and food will be available for purchase. Attendees can join raffles for the chance to win a plant. Free to attend.

#### ANIMATION FILM SERIES

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to the Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W Broadway) for a screening of the film "Black Panther" in 3D. There will be a limited amount of seats and 3D glasses available on a first come first served basis. Free.

#### GRAND OPENING

Noon to 3 pm. The Filipino Migrant Center invites the public to celebrate the opening of its new location at 1631 W Burnett St. Attendees will learn about the resources and services the nonprofit offers. There will be activities, entertainment and food. Register for this event at [tinyurl.com/fmcpopen](http://tinyurl.com/fmcpopen). Free.

### 25 SUNDAY

#### AFRO-LATINX FESTIVAL

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This festival will celebrate Afro-Latinx cultures, and will feature workshops, live entertainment and a vendor market at the Museum of Latin American Art (628 Alamitos Ave.). Free to attend, but parking will cost \$15.

#### PLANTS 4 PALESTINE

Noon to 4 p.m. During this event organized by Greater Long Beach Mutual Aid, attendees will be encouraged to swap and trade plants, cuttings, herbs, smudge stocks, pots and more.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. During this celebration of Black history at Bixby Park (130 Cherry Ave.), there will be speakers, community resources and entertainment. Free food will be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs to sit on. Free.

#### LIVE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

5 p.m. Thunder Studios (20434 South Santa Fe Avenue) will hold a live wrestling performance organized by the United Wrestling Network. General admission tickets cost \$15 while ringside tickets cost \$25, and can be purchased on Eventbrite.

### 26 MONDAY

#### SPANISH STORYTIME

2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Children of all ages will be able to enjoy Spanish stories read by staff at the



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A woman takes a photo of the central figure of Narciso Martinez's piece "Legal Tender" on display as part of the "Rethinking Essential" exhibit at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach on Aug. 13, 2022.

Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Free.

#### WINE TASTING

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Become immersed in rich aromas and exquisite tastes during this Italian wine tasting from The Italian Homemade Company (6460 PCH, Suite 130). Limited spots are available, and \$20 tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite.

### 27 TUESDAY

#### CITY HALL OPEN HOUSE

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Residents can see the inside of City Hall (2175 Cherry Ave.) as well as the council chambers and the spaces where city employees work during this open house. Free.

#### WELLNESS SPACE FOR PALESTINIANS

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Birthworkers of Color Collective will hold a space of healing and wellness for Palestinians, Arab and Muslim folks to receive free massages, somatic healing sessions, energy and body work and a number of giveaways. Residents can drop in or schedule an appointment. Message @birthworkersofcolor on Instagram or RSVP and for the address. Free.

### 28 WEDNESDAY

#### RUBE GOLDBERG EXHIBITOR ENTRY

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendees are invited to 1305 E Pacific Coast Hwy to learn about simple machines and the Rube Goldberg competition, where contenders build complicated machines for simple tasks. Free.

#### MEDICINE MAKING MEETUP

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Residents can learn how to make their own sweetened herbal formulas out of sugar alternatives during this workshop at 712 Cedar Ave. These elixirs can be used to sweeten medicine and can be saved for later. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased on Eventbrite.

### 29 THURSDAY

#### MOVIES IN THE PARK

4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The public is invited to an outdoor screening of the animated film "Up" at Lincoln Park (101 Pacific Ave.). Recreation activities will begin at 4 p.m., and the film will start at dusk. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets or a picnic dinner. Free.

#### DRAG BINGO

8 p.m. During this weekly event at The Bungalow Long Beach (6400 East Pacific Coast Highway #Suite 200), drag queen Roxy Wood will emcee a bingo competition. No tickets are necessary, but seating is limited and will be available on a first come first served basis. Free.

#### IS THAT IT? NOPE!

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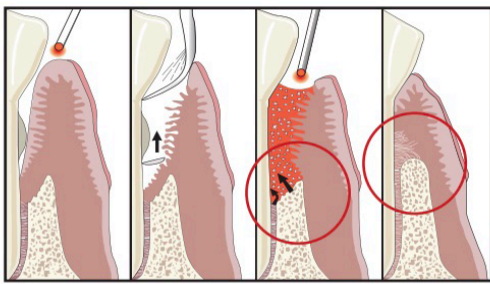
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## HBCU FUNDRAISER continued from page 2

students if they would not be admitted elsewhere. There are 107 HBCUs nationwide today.

HBCUs have historically been underfunded by \$12 billion, the U.S. Department of Education found last year. Uncle Nearest has partnered with hundreds of restaurants and stores that serve its whiskey around the United States with the goal of raising \$1.4 million towards HBCU scholarships.



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*An old fashioned is stirred by Thea Mercouffer at the Wicked Wolf on Feb. 20, 2024. One dollar of each drink sold will help benefit a Historical Black College or University.*

The Wicked Wolf has been serving Uncle Nearest whiskey — the most awarded and fastest-growing whiskey in the industry — since it opened in April 2023. Thea Mercouffer, who owns The Wicked Wolf, said the story and quality of the whiskey made her want to carry the brand and partner with them.

“We’ll carry it always,” Mercouffer said. “We’re happy to par-



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

*Displayed on the bar at The Wicked Wolf is an Uncle Nearest old fashioned that will help benefit HBCU’s on Feb. 20, 2024.*

ticipate and we’ll match their donation as well.”

Uncle Nearest was established in 2017, but has a much older history with African-American roots. Nathan Green was a Black man and a slave in Lynchburg, Tennessee who was the head distiller for Dan Call, pastor and owner of the Dan Call Farm.

When Call’s congregation voiced their displeasure at his whiskey still, he turned it over to his associate Green, also known as Nearest, who had become quite popular for his skills as the head distiller.

Once Green became a free man, he chose to continue his role and refine his whiskey-making. Many believe he’s known for perfecting the Lincoln County Process, which is now used for nearly all Tennessee-made whiskey. It involves filtering whiskey through sugar maple charcoal before aging it in charred oak barrels, giving it the sweet and nutty taste unique to Tennessee whiskey.

Green went on to train a young boy that the pastor had adopted, teaching him his distilling process. That boy grew up and founded the Jack Daniels whiskey brand, and Green’s contributions went unacknowledged for 150 years.

Fawn Weaver, founder and CEO of Uncle Nearest, learned about Green’s history, collected thousands of documents to trace the timeline and contributions of Green, bought the land where he worked and established Uncle Nearest to keep his legacy alive.

The Wicked Wolf and Uncle Nearest will further extend this legacy by providing scholarships for HBCUs, wrapping up with a June-teenth event in the summer. Every purchase of an old fashioned helps the cause.

*The Wicked Wolf is located at 2332 Pacific Ave. and open Mondays through Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Sundays from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.*

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**LB RUMMY CLUB**  
continued from page 1



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Over 20 Long Beach Rummy Club players take over the two long tables that occupy the main dining room of the Bellflower Boulevard Panera Bread on Feb. 17, 2024.

smile for anyone who wants to join. “It’s a social game,” Adams says. “It’s a game that people are playing to connect with others, it’s not the intense chess game in the park, right? It’s a friendly ‘have a laugh at the cafe game.’”

Rummy evolved from a game called Conquian, once popular in Spain and Mexico, though its centuries-old history is still unconfirmed, and widely spread in America in the nineteenth century. It has similarities to the Chinese game Mahjong, while some variations are more similar to poker.

Adams didn’t grow up playing games often, but luckily he’s engaged to someone with a starkly contrasting background in that respect. Gabbaian’s family introduced Adams to their personal variant of the game when they met, and he was hooked.

“I just started buying, like every rummy variant I could find,” Adams said.

After living in Long Beach for two years during the pandemic, Adams and Gabbaian were having trouble making friends locally and craving connection. They thought of using rummy as a way to meet new people and planned the first Long Beach Rummy Club meeting in April 2023, expecting at the most two or three rummy-curious people to show up.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A Long Beach Rummy Club player reaches into a bag of tiles to get new pieces on Feb. 17, 2024.

To their surprise, a dozen people were already waiting for them when they arrived. They formed two groups and taught everyone Gabbaian’s family’s version of rummy, an emotional moment for Gab-

baian, Adams said, and the club has only grown since then.

“It’s that little bit, the ounce of nostalgia, with the promise of making new connections over something familiar and nostalgic, that’s what’s appealing,” Adams said.

Gabbaian’s story is common, it turns out, as many of the Long Beach Rummy Club members can recall their family’s own variation and their first time playing—often decades ago. (Similarly, I remember learning the gin variation of rummy from my mother at about 10 years old).

“As a kid I spent a lot of time on our ranch where we played cards for hours and hours and hours,” said Natalie Jones, who attended the first meeting with her husband Peter and many since. “So it was a really happy memory for me, but since then everyone you know, all the older generation has passed away. So it’s not really something I would ever do anymore.”

Jones has since brought her coworkers along, whom she says sometimes just sit and watch them play, content to be in the warm environment.

“It’s super meaningful to me and I always really look forward to it ... It seems like such a corny simple thing, but it ends up meaning more than you would expect it to,” Jones said.

Coming up on the one-year anniversary as a club, at least 30 friends descend on the Panera Bread every month, often bringing newbies along and earning wide-eyed stares from curious onlookers.

At the February meetup, most people have gravitated towards Rummikub, a variation that’s played with Scrabble-like tiles with numbers and colors rather than a traditional deck of cards. At least five games are going at all times, either in groups huddling close or couples and friends migrating to the other end of the room, playing quietly near customers set up with laptops, headphones and sandwiches.

Many members say that after just

one meeting, they find themselves wanting to play again and purchase their own set of their favorite variation.

By about 5:30 p.m. at the February meetup, about a dozen people have left, but most have been replaced by fashionably late members filling in empty spots at tables. I find a spot with Mann and Baldino, who offer to impart their wisdom to me.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The simple instructions for joining the Long Beach Rummy Club at the Bellflower Boulevard Panera for the club’s Feb. 17, 2024 meetup.

While most other tables are filled with constant chatter in between rounds, the two older women take their time to see every possibility before them. Baldino has been playing for decades, she says.

At one point Mann compares Baldino to a poker player counting cards at the table, and Baldino replies with a sly smile before prompting Mann to take her turn.

Mann considers saving three tiles for a more complex move in a later round, but decides, “why hold onto something? Just keep learning.”

The table next to us has paused their game to greet a player who just arrived. They spend the next ten minutes catching up, talking about life and current events while their tiles lay patiently waiting.

The lunch rush is over now, but it will be hours before the Rummy Club disperses. The constant *clink clink* of plastic tiles hitting the table and turns being announced has slowed to a low hum, making way for the main reason people continue to show up: connection.

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Case No. 23STPB08115

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: FRANCES EDWARD ARNOLD**

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of FRANCES EDWARD ARNOLD. 2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by ROBERT EDWARD ARNOLD in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. 3. The Petition for Probate requests that ROBERT EDWARD ARNOLD be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 4. The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. 5. The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain and very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. 6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: a. March 18, 2024 @ 8:30am, Dept: 62 b. Stanley Most Courthouse 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90802. 7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objection or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. 8. If you are a creditor or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court with the later of either (1) four months from the date of issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. 9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A request for Special Notice form is available from the Court clerk. ROBERT EDWARD ARNOLD 506 SOUTH LEBANON STREET MASCOUTAH, ILLINOIS 62258 Phone: 618-334-13069 Pub. Signal Tribune, February 23 & March 1, 8, 2024

**TST7207 / 2024 025033  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: DIRT DOG, 9414 FIRESTONE BLVD, DOWNEY, CA. 90241. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: YANMAT LLC, 701 E MARKET ST, LONG BEACH, CA. 90805. State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: YANET VAZQUEZ MARTINEZ, CEO. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 02/2023. This statement was

filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on February 2, 2024. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: February 9, 16, 23 & March 1, 2024

**TST7210 / 2024 033282  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: LUBREE, 2661 JUNIPERO AVE, SIGNAL HILL, CA. 90755. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: ROAG HOLDINGS LLC, 2661 JUNIPERO AVE, SIGNAL HILL, CA. 90755. State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: MONICA AGUERO, PRESIDENT. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in N/A. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on 2/13/2024. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: February 16, 23 & March 1, 8, 2024

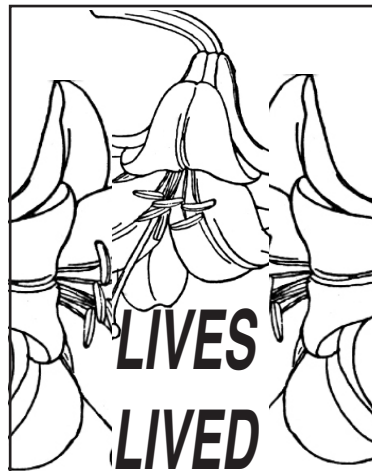
**TST7208**  
**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE** TS No. CA-23-964112-BF Order No.: 230387394-CA-VOI YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/26/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): AMANDA WASVARY, A SINGLE PERSON AND NOLAN RANSELL, A SINGLE PERSON Recorded: 11/28/2007 as Instrument No. 20072615801 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of LOS ANGELES County, Califor-

nia; Date of Sale: 3/21/2024 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Doubletree Hotel Los Angeles-Norwalk, 13111 Sycamore Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650, in the Vineyard Ballroom Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$521,704.13 The purported property address is: 17140 SUMMER MAPLE WAY, FAIR OAKS RANCH, CA 91387 Assessor's Parcel No.: 2841-051-008 **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-23-964112-BF. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 800-280-2832, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-23-964112-BF to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the

Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION. TS No.: CA-23-964112-BF IDSPub #0200925 2/23/2024 3/1/2024 3/8/2024

**TST7213 / 2024 032704  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: AUNTIE JOES, 1759 N PALMER CT, LONG BEACH, CA. 908013. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: JOEANNE GAINES, 1759 N PALMER CT, LONG BEACH, CA. 90813. State of Incorporation/Organization: (State). This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: JOEANNE GAINES, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 01/2024. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on February 13, 2024. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: February 23 & March 1, 3, 10, 2024



Aida Weir 85  
Khoan Le 83  
Joseph Starr 78  
Nancy Juarez 77  
Liliana Aubert 91  
Carlos Zamora Jr 33  
Frank Scesney Jr 97  
Andrew Troncoso Jr 78  
Julie Prewitt 49  
John Rofinot 87  
Jill Reiman 69  
John Rattelbaum 87  
Martha Brown 72  
Robert Davis 96  
Daisy Alvarado 32  
Bernice Hines 91

The families were assisted by  
McKenzie Mortuary.  
For more details on service dates  
and times, contact  
(562) 961-9301

**Pet of the week:  
Mosley**

Mosley is a diamond in the ruff who's waiting for his forever person to see him as the jewel that he is! As you can see, he's a volunteer favorite who's wonderfully affectionate and small for a pittie—one volunteer calls him an apartment-sized dog! He's smart, eager to please and athletic—he raced through the agility tunnel within seconds of being introduced to it! He knows some commands and is ready to learn more. Mosley came in as a stray in June, and he needs to go home. We can't figure out why this charming 2-year-old hasn't been adopted or fostered. You can help in that way! Speed the process to adopt or foster Mosley or any of our other pets by emailing [PetAdopt@longbeach.gov](mailto:PetAdopt@longbeach.gov) or [petfoster@longbeach.gov](mailto:petfoster@longbeach.gov). You can also call (562) 570-4925. Our shelter hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7700 E. Spring St. at the entrance to El Dorado Park (no parking fee for shelter visitors. Ask for ID#A700728.

**NEED TO POST  
A LEGAL NOTICE?**

[legalnotices@  
signaltribune.com](mailto:legalnotices@signaltribune.com)

TST7212/Order No: 17130  
Auto Lien Sale

On 03/06/2024 at 2401 PULLMAN ST  
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**LOCAL STRAY DOGS**  
continued from page 1

unfortunately had to resort to taking the pug hostage in order to lure his friend into my backyard.

After I successfully managed to corral them both into the backyard and close the gate, I thought the hard part was done. What a fool I was.

**Secure the perimeter**

The miniscule pug, who I have given the moniker “Puggins” for now, has one sole desire in this life — to throw off the petty chains and rules the human world has foisted upon him, and unleash his uncurbed anarchy onto our streets. In a way, I admire and envy him. But if we all gave so little care to societal constraints, this world would burn.

After finagling both the dogs into the backyard, I left them there so I could fill up some bowls with water and some of my dog’s dry food. So imagine my surprise when, coming out of the kitchen and looking out the window, I notice the pug is in the front yard yet again.

After detaining him and returning him to the backyard and his crying companion, I looked around for his escape route. I determined he must have somehow pancaked his body underneath the impossibly small gap between the fence and the grass. I found various stepping stones and used them to block the space under the fence.

As soon as I was done, I watched this pug, who can’t possibly weigh more than 10 pounds, use the entirety of his minuscule body to move literal bricks out of his way. I had to grip the lower half of his torso to keep him from flattening himself to squeeze under the fence, in a move I can only liken to toothpaste being squeezed from the tube. I think it’s important to add that Puggins kept up a high-pitched battle cry the entire time he did this.

He escaped over 10 times, at times returning by himself to my front yard before I noticed he left, prancing up the walkway clearly proud of himself for foiling my efforts to contain him. I keep add-

ing Macgyvered reinforcements to my backyard fence, but Puggins only takes them as a challenge. He’s moved bricks, toppled three earthenware vases, and finally just scratched a hole straight through the bottom of the wooden fence.

The shaggy, larger dog, who I’m calling “Shaggy Guy” for now, is the pug’s loyal follower, and as I ran after the pug during their latest escape, he found the hole in the fence and proceeded to make it large enough for him to also fit through.

I couldn’t bring them into my home because my dog and especially my cat were already on high-alert just after seeing them through the windows. But very fortunately, my family has a guest house that isn’t being used.

I figured it would be a relatively safe place to put them before the coming storm. And while I thought I had done a pretty good job of making sure all chemicals and wires were out of reach, they somehow got ahold of the wire for the fridge and chewed completely through it, turning the fridge into a useless 3-by-6-foot decorative art piece.

**Contact Long Beach Animal Care Services**

After the dogs were semi-settled into the guest house, I finally had time to call Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS). The *Signal Tribune* often gets incredibly depressing ads looking for homes for dogs at the shelter that are sometimes in danger of soon being put down (see page 6).

I was already aware that the shelter is overflowing, which was confirmed when the actual voicemail for LBACS said I should keep the animals I found with me and try to find the owners. After following a long and winding phone tree, I got a human on the phone.

She told me to email their department photos of the dogs along with my address and phone number in order to enter them into their system. She also asked me to post

them on Petco Love Lost, the Ring app, Nextdoor and to make digital fliers on lostmydoggie.com that will be automatically sent to all shelters in the area.

**Post them on social media**

When it came to posting the dogs on social media I was conflicted, dear readers. While I knew online photos would possibly help their owners find them faster, I also know pugs are an expensive breed, and I wouldn’t put it past people to lie in order to obtain a pricey pup.

I decided to split the difference to what results I’d get. I posted vague but helpful descriptions of them on Reddit without mentioning a specific breed and posted their photos on Nextdoor.

My fears were confirmed on Nextdoor when someone by the screen-name “Phat Joe” simply commented “I’ll take da pug.” Going forward, if I find any expensive dogs I probably won’t reveal their breed online.

One man was genuinely looking for his lost pug. But after comparing a few photos we both came to the conclusion that the pug in my care was a different dog. Jorge from Nextdoor, I hope you find your dear boy soon.

**Make fliers**

Along with the online flier on lostmydoggie.com, I created some simple fliers with their information on Canva. We still have some rain ahead of us, but once things clear up I’m going to go through the neighborhood to hang them up, and hope that there’s a family out there looking for them.

And to conclude, dear readers, I’d just like to add: PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, DO YOU KNOW THESE DOGS? COME GET THEM, THEY’RE DESTROYING MY HOME AND PROPERTY! SEND HELP.

*If you or someone you know have any relevant information on the pair of stray dogs mentioned in this story, please email Signal Tribune reporter Kristen Naeem at kristen97naeem@gmail.com*

**CALI VIBES**  
continued from page 1



Ryan Hardison | Signal Tribune

A promotional banner for Cali Vibes depicting the shoreline and skyline of Downtown Long Beach hangs off the side of a van at the 3rd annual Cali Vibes festival at Marina Green Park on Feb. 18, 2024.

But I couldn’t help but wonder what “Cali Vibes” means anyway.

**Nostalgia, Regional Pride and Laidback Music**

As someone born just days before the new millennium, I could still understand the magnitude of local artists whose heydays were in the ‘90s and 2000s getting their time under the Southern California sun once again. Though mid-February in Long Beach doesn’t exactly scream “Let’s hit the beach!” weather, the turnout at Cali Vibes was substantial yet mellow.

Crowds created seas of millennials and twenty-somethings in BORN X RAISED jackets, Dodgers hats and Lakers jerseys, Gen Xers rocking tie-dye apparel and tour T-shirts dating as far back as the early ‘90s. Through the haze of marijuana vapor and occasional sprinkling rain, it was clear that Cali Vibes drew a somewhat older festival crowd — a bit more seasoned than the mass of influencers who descend on the desert for Coachella.

Also in the air was the omnipresent feeling of SoCal pride. Whether it was Gwen Stefani shouting out Fender’s Ballroom in LB as the site of No Doubt’s debut concert, or Ice Cube recalling his career origins in

South LA, Cali Vibes turned Ocean Boulevard into both a stroll down memory lane and a beacon of regional spirit.

In an age where festival lineups can resemble AI-generated madness, with artists who have little in common besides good streaming numbers, Cali Vibes felt well orchestrated. For the amount of work that went into arranging a festival of this magnitude, it successfully managed to maintain an all-encompassing laidback feeling in true SoCal fashion.

Gwen Stefani, on the heels of an imminent No Doubt reunion at Coachella in April, delivered several of her essential solo hits (such as “Cool” and “Hollaback Girl”) and No Doubt classics (like “Don’t Speak” and “Spiderwebs”) during her Saturday headlining moment. She also brought out her husband, country superstar Blake Shelton, for a romantic duet — although the twangy ballad failed to fit within the wide-ranging “Cali Vibes” criteria. I heard at least a few audible groans from the fans in my section.



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**HISTORY**

Part VI a continuing series about

**HISTORY On the Hill**

**The View before the Oil Boom**

By the late 1870s sheep ranching in Southern California was on the decline. The owners of the Ranchos which covered the area now known as Signal Hill were the Bixbys. They began selling off their land to incoming settlers, primarily farming families and professional people. In 1878 Jotham Bixby leased the part of Rancho Los Cerritos containing Signal Hill (or a large portion of the Hill) to Archibald Borden, a wheat and barley farmer. In payment, Borden gave Bixby one fourth of his harvest and let Bixby’s sheep graze on the left-over stubble. Other portions of Signal Hill were used to graze dairy cattle or planted with beans or alfalfa.

Residential development first came to Signal Hill in two waves spanning the years 1880-1910. In 1880, William Willmore obtained an option from Rancho Los Alamitos

owner Lewellyn Bixby on 4,000 acres atop Signal Hill. Willmore planned to make the hilltop an exclusive residential area. He sold view lots there for \$12 to \$20 per acre. Although Willmore’s venture failed in 1884, due to lack of interest, George W. Hughes, a subsequent developer, was successful.

Hughes laid out a 118-acre tract for houses atop the Hill in the early 1900’s. With its panoramic 360 degree view of mountains, ocean, Catalina Island and the Palos Verdes Hills, the then “smog-free” hilltop had much to offer. The Denni, Reeves, Pease, Pala and Hughes families all built fabulous mansions there.

Little did these wealthy families suspect that the value of their property would increase to millions of dollars, overnight. An oil money mania erupted on June 23, 1921, the first day of the Black Gold Rush of Signal Hill.

to be continued

Sponsored by



Written by Julie Bendizick-Sin. Originally published Oct 26, 1990 in the Star Tribune

**EYE ON CRIME**

**CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE**

**Wednesday, February 14**

8:56 a.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, Walnut Ave./E. 33rd St.  
6:04 p.m., Auto burglary, 2200 block Jeans Ct.

**Thursday, February 15**

7:56 a.m., Auto burglary, 2500 block E. 19th St.  
9:55 a.m., Throwing objects at moving vehicles, 2500 block Cherry Ave. (suspect arrested)  
6:51 p.m., Intoxicated person, 2700 block Gundry Ave.  
7:35 p.m., Injury traffic collision, Obispo Ave./E. Hill St.  
10:13 p.m., Intoxicated person, 900 block E. 33rd St.

**Friday, February 16**

No information available at time of print

**Saturday, February 17**

No information available at time of print

**Sunday, February 18**

No information available at time of print

**Monday, February 19**

No information available at time of print

**Tuesday, February 20**

No information available at time of print

*LBPD reporting area is too extensive to report here, but you can go to their website: longbeach.gov/police. Once there, click on Crime Info, then Crime Incident Mapping Application. Click on Launch Crime Incident Mapping Application and type in an address.*

*You can use filters to select dates and types of crime.*



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\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)