

NEWS



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune
Kathryn Renesto speaks to reporters about her missing daughter during a press conference in Long Beach on December 27, 2024.

Suspected trafficking victim Ruthey Smith still missing

Family critical of police response

Kristen Farrah Naeem
Staff Writer

A beloved local mother, daughter, sister and friend turned 22 on Dec. 27, 2024, and though her loved ones gathered in her honor, they had nothing to celebrate. Ruthey Smith has been missing since March 2022, after police say she was abducted by traffickers. “She just likes to be goofy. She was really shy, and she really kept to herself, you know, just a kindhearted person,” said Smith’s neighbor Desiree Cortez. “She’s always smiling and always wanted to just love on everybody. [...] We just hope that she just comes back to us. It’s not going to be the same, but we’ll be here for her no matter what, and embrace her just like she never left.”

Cortez helped Smith’s family get in contact with former Long Beach city Councilmember Al Austin, who recently helped them secure a free billboard from advertising company Clear Channel that publicly displays Smith’s photo and identifying information near the corner of Orange Avenue and Spring Street. To bring more attention to the case, Smith’s family and friends held a press conference beneath the billboard for her birthday on Friday, before joining hands and praying together for her safe return.

Smith is described as a biracial (Black and white) woman, with brown hair and brown eyes, standing 5 feet 6 inches, and weighing 152 pounds. She was 19 at the time of her disappearance, and would now be 22 years old. Smith also goes by the aliases Grayson and Winter. She has a pierced nose and belly button, the names “Ezra” and “Lamarion” tattooed near one of her ears, and the name “Ocean” tattooed on her chest along with a wave.

Smith would engage in sex work on Figueroa Street in Los Angeles, an area infamous for prostitution and sex trafficking, as a way to support her infant daughter, her family said. Smith was last seen in the area on March 3, 2022. The Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) believes she was victimized by human traffickers.

Smith’s grandmother, Ingrid Klungreseter, told the *Signal Tribune* that the family most recently heard from Long Beach homicide detectives shortly after Thanksgiving, soon after the billboard with Smith’s face and information went up. Before that, they had not heard from detectives about the case in over a year, Klungreseter said. The most recent update was to inform the family that the body of a Jane Doe found in Big Bear was confirmed not to be Smith’s.

Smith’s family believes police aren’t doing enough to find her

Smith’s family believes that the Long Beach and Los Angeles police departments are not doing enough to find her. It was Smith’s mother, Kathryn Renesto, who found the last known footage of Smith by going around the LA neighborhood where she was last seen and asking for local business’ security footage.

The security camera of an apartment building caught the last known recording of Smith, as she was getting into a vehicle before it drove off. The license plate can’t be seen in the video.

“I do believe that more resources should go to the police department to be able to help in finding these trafficked young women and for them to care. Not just, ‘Oh well, they’re just walking the streets so it doesn’t matter.’ It does matter. It does matter. And if we have that mentality, these human traffickers are going to keep getting away with it, because nobody cares about these girls,” Klungreseter said. “Do I feel like they let us down? Yeah, I do. I do in a lot of ways, I feel they’ve let us down because they’ve looked at it like, ‘Well, that was just a bad life choice.’ A lot of the information that



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune
Kathryn Renesto holds hands with her granddaughter as supporters gather around them to pray for the return of her daughter Ruthey Smith on December 27, 2024.



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune
Former Councilmember Al Austin assisted Ruthey Smith’s family in obtaining a free billboard to help inform the public about her disappearance.



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune
A woman prays for the return of Ruthey Smith, a local woman who is believed to be a victim of human trafficking, during a press conference held by Smith’s family in Long Beach on Dec. 27, 2024.

see RUTHEY SMITH page 2

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RUTHEY SMITH
continued from page 1



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune

Ruthey Smith's family and their supporters gathered to pray for her safe return beneath a billboard sharing her information near the intersection of Orange Avenue and Spring Street in Long Beach on December 27, 2024. Smith's family has criticized the LAPD and LBPD's investigation into Ruthey Smith's disappearance.

they have, we've given them. We went up into Wrightwood. My family went up there and took pictures and found information and saw where her phone pinged. We took the route that her phone pinged on. They didn't do any of that. They relied on what we were giving them. Which is sad. That's sad because I don't understand. I don't get it."

The *Signal Tribune* emailed LBPd on Dec. 28 to ask if police had searched for security footage of Smith, or if they had tracked her phone location in the wake of her disappearance. LBPd responded by saying, "Following the disappearance of Ruthey Smith, our detectives actively pursued all leads. Our detectives continue to actively pursue all leads in this investigation." This response did not answer the question that was asked.

"The challenge was law enforcement taking it seriously from the

very beginning," said Moses Castillo, a private investigator and retired LAPD detective that has been hired by the family. "We lost some valuable time, and now we're here almost three years later, still no whereabouts, she's off the radar. She's nowhere to be found anywhere, on paper, on the internet."

Smith's family believe that her doing sex work and being Black have contributed to a lack of attention and resources towards her case. Klungreseter pointed out the recent, widely publicized case of Hannah Kobayashi as an example of the amount of resources and press a missing person case can garner. Unlike Smith, Kobayashi was determined to be voluntarily missing by authorities, and was able to reunite with her family.

"I definitely feel like they don't do enough when Black women go missing, it's unfair," said Renes-

to, who is white. "They need to do more. My daughter deserves to matter, just like I would matter if I went missing."

Black women and girls in Long Beach and across the nation are trafficked at a higher rate. The majority (59%) of human trafficking victims found by police in Long Beach from 2017 to 2022 were Black, despite Black people only making up 12.1% of Long Beach's total population, according to data the *Signal Tribune* obtained from LBPd.

Anyone who may have information about Ruthey Smith is urged to call the LBPd Missing Persons Detail at (562) 570-7246 or Police Dispatch at (562) 435-6711. Those who wish to remain anonymous may submit a tip through "LA Crime Stoppers" by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visiting www.lacrimestoppers.org.

EVENT

Community invited to West LB economic investment meeting

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

The community is invited to give feedback on strategies for growing economic development and investment in West Long Beach during the Westside Long Beach Economic and Market Study on Jan. 11.

"The City is committed to investing in West Long Beach, as part of our Westside Promise Initiative, supporting local businesses and creating new opportunities that will drive economic growth in the community," said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement. "Residents and businesses are encouraged to attend this important presentation and learn how we can all work together to bring lasting, positive change and growth that will benefit the area for generations to come."

The event will take place Saturday, Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Silverado Park, located at 1545 W. 31st St. The event will include discussions on revitalizing existing properties in the community, housing as a way to increase revenue and provide more local jobs, and steps to maintain or bring in development opportunities.

Attendees will be able to gather resources and available information from Economic Development Department staff. Those who are planning on attending are asked to RSVP online. Refreshments and



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The Westside Long Beach Economic and Market Study will take place Saturday, Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Silverado Park. The event is free and open to the public.

live interpretation services in Spanish and Khmer will be provided.

"We are creating a brighter future for residents and businesses of West Long Beach," said Vice Mayor Roberto Uranga in a public statement. "Together, we can shape a thriving and inclusive community with new businesses, jobs and resources for all in the westside."

The market study is in line with the City's 10-year Westside Promise plan to revitalize West Long Beach. The Westside Promise is currently in Phase 2, with the goal of addressing active and historical challenges in the area through City-led efforts and partnerships.

To learn more about the event, contact Business Development Bureau Manager Julian Cernuda at julian.cernuda@longbeach.gov. For more information about Long Beach's economic development initiatives, visit longbeach.gov/ED.



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AROUND TOWN

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

The start of a new year is teeming with possibilities, and events in Long Beach this week give residents the chance to learn new skills and meet new people.

Local businesses and libraries are hosting fun workshops and group activities, such as a beginner-friendly chess club Friday, an intro to journaling workshop Sunday at KUBO LB, a sourdough starter workshop Tuesday at the Harte Neighborhood Library or a weekly crochet club at Bach Neighborhood Library Wednesday.

For a serene beginning to the new year, residents can attend a morning nature walk through Los Cerritos Wetland Saturday, a breathwork and sound bath Sunday at Compound, or a paint and sip night at Far Field Beer Co. Monday night.

Build connections through events like a gothic rave Friday night at Supply & Demand, a board game meetup Saturday night at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, or a lesbian speed dating night at The Wicked Wolf Thursday.

03 FRIDAY

CHESS CLUB

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Adults and teens over 16 are invited to play chess together at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library (5870 Atlantic Ave.). Chess sets will be provided. Free.

LIVE MUSIC

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy live music weekly at Beachwood Brewing & Distilling (3630 Atlantic Ave.). Husband-and-wife duo Porque Sí and Monica O will perform a mix of covers and original songs. Free admission.

LOST N FOUND R&B PARTY

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Experience a night of R&B music at Alex's Bar (2913 E. Anaheim St.). DJs will be playing a mix of classic R&B and early 2000s hits. This event is for those 21 and older only. Free venue parking is available. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite for \$12.51.

04 SATURDAY

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS WALK

8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Explore Long Beach's largest natural habitat at this monthly nature walk hosted by Los Cerritos Wetlands. This nature hike/tour will take participants through the Zelder Marsh, a restoration site, to view the various plants and wildlife being restored. Attendees should park in the lot at the corner of First Street and PCH. Parking will open at 7:45 a.m. and close at 8:10 a.m. Latecomers will not be admitted, and no one can leave the tour early. Close-toed shoes are required and those under 16 will require an adult. Register on Eventbrite. Free.

50 STATE SATURDAY SCAVENGER HUNT

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kids 12 and younger are invited to the Los Altos Neighborhood Library (5614 Britton Dr.) for a scavenger hunt designed to help them learn about a different state every Saturday. Children will search for themed graphics and learn fun facts about the highlighted state. Free.

BOARD GAMES MEETUP

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The public is invited to play board games together at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach (5450 E.

Atherton St.). Games will be provided, and attendees can also bring their own to share with the group. This monthly in-person event occurs on the first Saturday of each month. Free.

05 SUNDAY

BREATHWORK AND SOUND BATH

9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Local non-profit Compound (1395 Coronado Ave.) invites the public to practice guided breathwork, followed by a sound bath featuring crystal singing bowls, chimes and other instruments. This event will be hosted by integrative wellness practitioner Sabrina Rollo, a reiki master and certified expert in yoga, sound healing and hypnotherapy. Bring a yoga mat or blanket and water. Tickets can be purchased on a sliding scale from \$17.85 to \$39.19.

INTRO TO JOURNALING WORKSHOP

11:00 a.m. to noon. Join Bel Canto Books at KUBO LB (3976 Atlantic Ave.) to learn the basics of journaling to help you reflect, stay organized and find inspiration. The workshop includes an overview of various journaling methods such as bullet journaling, scrapbooking and travel journaling. Participants will receive a starter kit with tools to begin journaling. This event is appropriate for ages 12 and up. Tickets are available for purchase on Eventbrite for \$27.24.

06 MONDAY

LOW-COST VACCINE CLINIC

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Long Beach Animal Care Services (7700 E



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The Wicked Wolf will host a lesbian speed dating event this Thursday, Jan. 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event is designed for women ages 22 to 44 and tickets (\$40.25) are available for purchase on Eventbrite.

Spring St.) and Community Animal Medicine Project will be providing vaccines and services to pets at discounted prices. Services include microchipping, tapeworm treatment, nail trimming, flea/tick treatment and more. All dogs must be on a leash, and all cats should be in a carrier. Please bring the pet's previous vaccine records. For more information, call 562-570-7387. Prices will vary.

PAINT + SIP

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This guided paint-and-sip session at Far Field Beer Co. (501 E. Broadway) invites participants of all experience levels to create their own "SoCal" painting step-by-step. All materials are included. This event is for those 21 and over. Dress in clothes that can get dirty. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 on the online platform CourseHorse. Attendees must also purchase at least \$10 worth of food or beverages from the venue.

07 TUESDAY

NORTH LB RESOURCE FAIR

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The community is invited to this resource fair hosted by the Health Department at the Center for Families and Youth (6335 Myrtle Ave.). Attendees can get access to resources such as parenting classes, employment trainings, educational opportunities, benefits enrollment and an expungement closet. Free.

SOURDOUGH STARTER WORKSHOP

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Learn to make and maintain a sourdough starter with local baker Alyssa from Little Arellano Farm at the Harte Neighborhood Library (1595 W. Willow St.). This workshop in-

cludes tips on feeding your starter and using it in various recipes. Participants will receive some starter, and all materials are provided. Registration is required. To register, visit the City's online event calendar. Free.

08 WEDNESDAY

WEEKLY CROCHET

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to learn and practice crochet at the Bach Neighborhood Library (4055 N Bellflower Blvd.). All skill levels are welcome. Free.

09 THURSDAY

ANIMÉ LOS ANGELES

9 a.m. The opening day of this four-day anime convention at the Long Beach Convention Center (300 E. Ocean Blvd.). Appropriate for all ages. Single-day tickets and multi-day passes are available on the convention's website, ranging from \$40 to \$110.

LESBIAN SPEED DATING

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Local lesbians are invited to make new connections at The Wicked Wolf (2332 Pacific Ave.). This speed-dating event is designed for women ages 22 to 44. Tickets can be purchased for \$40.25 on Eventbrite.

IS THAT IT?

NOPE!

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.SIGNALTRIBUNE.COM FOR MORE EVENTS.

Signal Tribune

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The *Signal Tribune* welcomes letters to the editor, which should be signed, dated and include a phone number to verify authenticity. Letters are due by noon on the Wednesday before desired publication date. The *Signal Tribune* reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and space requirements. Letters must be 500 words or fewer. The *Signal Tribune* will publish no more than one "pro" letter and one "con" letter on a particular topic in a single issue. The *Signal Tribune* does not print letters that refer substantially to articles in other publications and might not print those that have recently been printed in other publications or otherwise presented in a public forum. Letters to the editor and commentaries are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the *Signal Tribune* or its staff. Although the editorial staff will attempt to verify and/or correct information when possible, letters to the editor and commentaries are opinions, and readers should not assume that they are statements of fact. Letter-writers will be identified by their professional titles or affiliations when, and only when, the editorial staff deems it relevant and/or to provide context to the letter. We do not run letters to the editor submitted by individuals who have declared their candidacies for public office in upcoming races. This policy was put in place because, to be fair, if we publish one, we would have to publish all letters submitted by all candidates. The volume would no doubt eliminate space for letters submitted by other readers. Instead, we agree to interview candidates and print stories about political races in an objective manner and offer very reasonable advertising rates for those candidates who wish to purchase ads. **The *Signal Tribune* is published each Friday. Yearly subscriptions are available for \$70.**

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The Tribbies!

To celebrate our very best stories and photos from throughout 2024, the *Signal Tribune* editorial staff have awarded our favorites in the second annual edition of ... The Tribbies!

Best Feature Story

“Long Beach-based nonprofit flies pugs to their forever homes”

written by Kristen Farrah Naeem*



*Read the full story on page 7

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Best News Story



“How Signal Hill solved its homelessness problem,” written by Samantha Diaz, dove into how Signal Hill became the first city in Los Angeles County to achieve “functional zero homelessness.”

Best Arts Story

“Ranchos Los Cerritos’ new exhibit highlights Black, Mexican and Indigenous cowboy culture,” by Samantha Diaz, covers a crucial historical exhibit, open through May 2025 at Rancho Los Cerritos.



Best Community Entry



“Column: A thriving democracy needs youth journalism,” by youth reporter Bella Kim spotlighted the importance of student journalists and their work covering news and politics.

Best Photo Gallery



In “Reporter’s Notebook: Our day with Signal Hill Petroleum,” photographer Richard H. Grant documented our time touring the local drills, wells and landmarks of the company.



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CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

TST7532

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING INTENT TO GRANT OIL FRANCHISE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, the City Council of the City of Signal Hill will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. in the Signal Hill Council Chamber located at City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill to introduce an ordinance granting a franchise to Cardinal Pipeline, L.P. At its regular meeting of December 10, 2024, Signal Hill City Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-12-6849 and scheduled a Public Hearing for January 14, 2025:

A RESOLUTION OF INTENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO GRANT A FRANCHISE TO CRIMSON CALIFORNIA PIPELINE, L.P. AND THE INTERESTS, RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND DUTIES TO LAY AND USE PIPES AND APPURTENANCES FOR TRANSMITTING AND DISTRIBUTING OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR ANY AND ALL LAWFUL PURPOSES UNDER AND ALONG THE PUBLIC STREETS, WAYS, ALLEYS, AND PLACES, AS THE SAME NOW OR MAY HEREAFTER EXIST, WITHIN THIS CITY

Signal Hill City Council will now hold a public hearing on January 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to consider introducing the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO CRIMSON CALIFORNIA PIPELINE, L.P. AND THE INTERESTS, RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND DUTIES TO LAY AND USE PIPES AND APPURTENANCES FOR TRANSMITTING AND DISTRIBUTING OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR ANY AND ALL LAWFUL PURPOSES UNDER AND ALONG THE PUBLIC STREETS, WAYS, ALLEYS, AND PLACES, AS THE SAME NOW OR MAY HEREAFTER EXIST, WITHIN THIS CITY

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are hereby invited to attend this public hearing to present written information, express their opinion, or otherwise present evidence on the above matter.

• You may submit comments prior to the meeting date by email to cityclerk@cityofsignalhill.org, or by mail to the attention of City Clerk, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755. If received prior to the publication of the agenda (on or before Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.), City staff will incorporate the comments into the staff report. Written comments received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 will be provided electronically to the City Council and attached to the meeting minutes. Written comments will not be read into the record; and

IF YOU WISH TO LEGALLY challenge any action taken by the City on the above matter, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City prior to or at the public hearing.

FURTHER INFORMATION and associated documents on this item may be obtained from the City Clerk's office by calling the City Clerk at 562-989-7305 or by emailing cityclerk@cityofsignalhill.org.

Posted in the *Signal Tribune* Newspaper January 3, 2025
Posted in accordance with S.H.M.C. Section 1.08.010 on or before: January 3, 2025

TST7541

Case No. 24STPB12732

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER
ESTATE OF: PATRICK GAINES

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of PATRICK GAINES 2, A Petition for Probate has been filed by JOEANNE GAINES in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. 3. The Petition for Probate requests that JOEANNE GAINES 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. May 1, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m., Dept. 5 b. Stanley Mosk 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. PETITIONER: JOEANNE GAINES 1759 N. PALMER CT. LONG BEACH, CA. 90813 Pub. Signal Tribune, December 20, 27, 2024 & January 3, 2025

TST7528 / 2024 254766
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: TAMALES POBLANAS, 10320 FELTON AVE APT 21, INGLEWOOD, CA. 90304. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: NORMA VILLA VALADEZ, 10320 FELTON AVE APT 21, INGLEWOOD, CA. 90304. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: NORMA VILLA VALADEZ, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 12/2024. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on Dec 17, 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: December 20, 27 & January 3, 10, 2024

TST7547 / 2024 261510
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following person is doing business as: MICHAEL V. HOLDT FOUNDATION, 555 E OCEAN BLVD STE 430, LONG BEACH, CA. 90802. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: CHOPER CHARITIES, INC., 555 E OCEAN BLVD STE 430, LONG BEACH, CA. 90802. State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: BRIAN CHOPER, PRESIDENT. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 12/2024. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/20/2024. 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: January 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025

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CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

TST7533

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING INTENT TO GRANT OIL FRANCHISE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, the City Council of the City of Signal Hill will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. in the Signal Hill Council Chamber located at City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill to introduce an ordinance granting a franchise to Crimson California Pipeline, L.P. At its regular meeting of December 10, 2024, Signal Hill City Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-12-6850 and scheduled a Public Hearing for January 14, 2025:

A RESOLUTION OF INTENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO GRANT A FRANCHISE TO CRIMSON CALIFORNIA PIPELINE, L.P. AND THE INTERESTS, RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND DUTIES TO LAY AND USE PIPES AND APPURTENANCES FOR TRANSMITTING AND DISTRIBUTING OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR ANY AND ALL LAWFUL PURPOSES UNDER AND ALONG THE PUBLIC STREETS, WAYS, ALLEYS, AND PLACES, AS THE SAME NOW OR MAY HEREAFTER EXIST, WITHIN THIS CITY

Signal Hill City Council will now hold a public hearing on January 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to consider introducing the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL, CALIFORNIA, GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO CRIMSON CALIFORNIA PIPELINE, L.P. AND THE INTERESTS, RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND DUTIES TO LAY AND USE PIPES AND APPURTENANCES FOR TRANSMITTING AND DISTRIBUTING OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR ANY AND ALL LAWFUL PURPOSES UNDER AND ALONG THE PUBLIC STREETS, WAYS, ALLEYS, AND PLACES, AS THE SAME NOW OR MAY HEREAFTER EXIST, WITHIN THIS CITY

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are hereby invited to attend this public hearing to present written information, express their opinion, or otherwise present evidence on the above matter.

• You may submit comments prior to the meeting date by email to cityclerk@cityofsignalhill.org, or by mail to the attention of City Clerk, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755. If received prior to the publication of the agenda (on or before Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.), City staff will incorporate the comments into the staff report. Written comments received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 will be provided electronically to the City Council and attached to the meeting minutes. Written comments will not be read into the record; and

IF YOU WISH TO LEGALLY challenge any action taken by the City on the above matter, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City prior to or at the public hearing.

FURTHER INFORMATION and associated documents on this item may be obtained from the City Clerk's office by calling the City Clerk at 562-989-7305 or by emailing cityclerk@cityofsignalhill.org.

Posted in the *Signal Tribune* Newspaper January 3, 2025
Posted in accordance with S.H.M.C. Section 1.08.010 on or before: January 3, 2025

TST7542/Order No: 1715
Auto Lien Sale

On 1/16/2025 at 2130 S VERMONT AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA a Lien Sale will be
held on a 2019 MITSU
VIN: ML32A3HJ5KH003245
STATE: LIC: 003245X at 9AM

TST7543/Order No: 2106
Auto Lien Sale

On 1/16/2025 at 821 SOUTH MAPLE
AVE MONTEBELLO, CA a Lien Sale will
be held on a 2019 JEEP
VIN: ZACNJB19KPK37496
STATE: CA LIC: 9FZB461 at 9AM

TST7544/Order No: 2119
Auto Lien Sale

On 1/16/2025 at 6832 CRENSHAW
BLVD LOS ANGELES, CA a Lien Sale
will be held on a 2016 KENWORTH
VIN: 1XKYA49X7GJ474964
STATE: CA LIC: YP14999 at 9AM

TST7545/Order No: 2161
Auto Lien Sale

On 1/16/2025 at 6832 CRENSHAW
BLVD LOS ANGELES, CA a Lien Sale
will be held on a 2022 HONDA
VIN: 1HGCV1F3XNA099970
STATE: CA LIC: 9EDL986 at 9AM

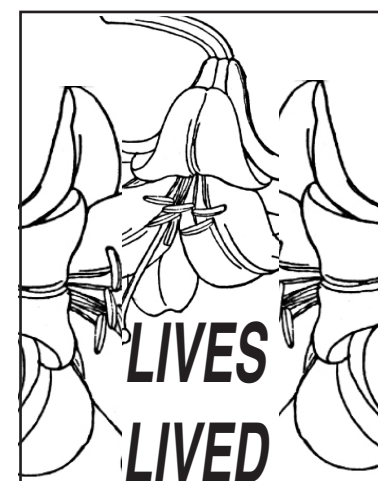
TST7546/Order No: 2636
Auto Lien Sale

On 1/16/2025 at 1670 W 227TH ST TOR-
RANCE, CA a Lien Sale will be held
on a 2016 INFINITI
VIN: JN8AZ2NC8G9400357
STATE: LIC: at 9AM

Pet of the week:
Luke

Add this to your new year's resolutions, or make a solo one: adopt or foster at least one cat in 2025! May we suggest Luke, a handsome gray-and-white tabby with expressive, large green eyes. Luke was recently surrendered to the shelter because the other adult cats in the house didn't get along with him, although their kitten did. He's 2 years old and loves cuddling, attention and humans in general. He's healthy, and so is his appetite! He resolves to find a home where he's the only cat. He's currently holding court at the Paw Shoppe Pet Center, 6416 E Spring St., Long Beach. To adopt or foster Luke, email PetAdopt@longbeach.gov to speed the process, or call (562) 570-7387. Ask for ID#A731854.

(This rescue encouraged by the usual suspects.)



Rebecca Jimenez 70
Lynn Shrum 75
Gregorio Bernabe Cortes 48
Eleanor Tatreau 78
Elizabeth Fullerton 67
Donald McGrath 86
Curtiss Baldwin 36
Lynn Shrum 75
Michael Walsh 80
Kenneth Riggio 51
George Valdivieso 77
John Cross 71
Lorrie Lecour-Wilson 68
Paul Kramer 93
Carrie Waller 76

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

FEATURE

Long Beach-based nonprofit flies pugs to their forever homes

This story was originally published in the Signal Tribune on March 1, 2024

Kristen Farrah Naeem
Staff Writer

Across an ocean, three women are working together to save the lives of neglected, abandoned and abused pugs. Their nonprofit organization, Pug Rescue of Korea, ships dozens of the smushed-faced dogs from South Korea to their forever homes in the United States.

Korean native Hye Sook Kim, the founder of the organization and a passionate pug rescuer, adopted her own pugs from a shelter for stray dogs. Quickly gaining an affinity for the little creatures, in 2009 she began trying to find homes in Korea for pugs in need, but had a difficult time finding enough homes for the ongoing number of pugs.

Thanks to the wonders of the internet, Los Angeles-based Happy Angels Dog Rescue heard about what Kim was trying to do. The dog rescue reached out to her and asked if she would be able to send pugs she rescues in South Korea to Los Angeles to be adopted.

"I thought what a jackpot," Kim said in an online message to the *Signal Tribune*. "[...] I was so happy to get the suggestion. That was the start."

After Happy Angels Dog Rescue stopped operating in 2013, the new "pawrents" of pugs that had been rescued by Kim wanted to continue the mission of rehoming pugs from South Korea in the U.S.

Kim currently has two helpers in Long Beach: pug enthusiasts Melody Chalaban and Jinny Chi.

"You see how much you're helping these dogs who are neglected or abandoned or sometimes abused," Chalaban said of volunteering with Pug Rescue of Korea. "And then when you see them with their new adoptive families, it's very, very rewarding. And that's actually what motivates our rescue in Korea."

Chalaban, who oversees adoptions and marketing for the non-



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

From the left: Nori and Peanut sit with Jinny Chi and Reggie and Gumbo sit with Melody Chalaban, who set up the nonprofit Pug Rescue Korea that helps people adopt pugs that are at risk of being abandoned, on Feb. 21, 2024.

profit, adopted her pug Gumbo through Happy Angels Dog Rescue after he was saved by Kim. Chalaban has been volunteering with Pug Rescue of Korea since 2018.

As Chalaban spoke to the *Signal Tribune* on Feb. 13, her pug Gumbo laid safe and snug in her lap. Before he was rescued and adopted in 2014, Gumbo was in a more precarious situation, stuffed in a cage waiting outside a meat market in Korea.

Chalaban emphasized that it was not common for Koreans to eat dog meat and that it is only done by a small percentage of older generations, with the South Korean government recently passing legislation to ban the practice.

However, it is all too common for dogs to be abandoned in Korea. The Korean Animal Welfare Association found that around 135,000 pets are abandoned in Korea annually. Chalaban attributed this to pet ownership being relatively new to Korean culture, and said that many pet buyers don't realize the work it takes to care of a pet, and don't consider them to be a member of their family.

Korean media outlets, such as The Korea Herald, have identified that the low legal barriers to purchase dogs, irresponsible buying and over-breeding are also factors that contribute to South Korea's high rate of abandoned dogs.

Pug Rescue of Korea brought 76

pugs to the U.S. in 2023, and 53 pugs in 2022. Chalaban said the nonprofit rescues an average of 60 to 80 pugs each year. It costs at least \$1,000 to fly each pug from South Korea to LAX, and the nonprofit relies entirely on donations.

They're also working on an annual deadline. In May of each year, airlines place an embargo on flat-faced dogs traveling in their plane's cargo holds in order to mitigate the risk of them overheating. Only pugs small enough to fit in a carrier under a seat can travel by air after the cut-off.

This severely limits the amount of pugs that Kim can send to the U.S., and all three members of the nonprofit hustle to get as many pugs rehomed as possible before the May deadline.

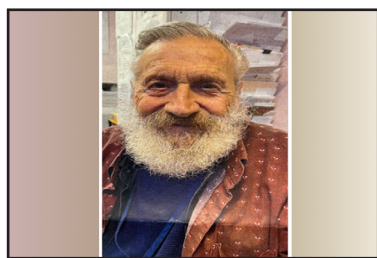
Adoption fees range for the pugs based on their age, ranging from a fee of \$700 for pugs under a year old to \$350 for pugs six years and older. There is also a shipping fee of \$600 for pugs that fly in through LAX, or \$1,000 to \$1,500 for pugs flown to the JFK airport on the east coast. Adoption fees are tax deductible.

To learn more about Pug Rescue of Korea or make a donation visit pugrescueofkorea.org. To see photos of pugs that are available for adoption, visit the nonprofit's Instagram page [@pugrescueofkorea](https://www.instagram.com/pugrescueofkorea).

boots. Foster does not have a tracking device on his person and has an unknown amount of cash.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Foster is urged to call the LBPB Missing Persons Detail at (562) 570-7246 or Police Dispatch at (562) 435-6711.

Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may submit a tip through "LA Crime Stoppers" by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), downloading the "P3 Tips" app to your smartphone (available at the Apple App store and Google Play), or visiting www.lacrimestoppers.org.



Courtesy of LBPB

James Foster, a 76-year-old at-risk missing person in Long Beach, was last seen leaving his living facility around 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 26.

male, 5 feet and 9 inches tall, with gray hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a black jacket, blue jeans and brown cowboy

MISSING PERSON

76-year-old with difficulty speaking has been missing since Dec. 26

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

The Long Beach Police Department (LBPB) is asking for the public's help locating a 76-year-old at-risk missing person, James Foster, who was last seen on Dec. 26, around 7:30 a.m.

Foster was last seen leaving his living facility in the 1000 block of East 4th Street. Foster is in a wheelchair, and his destination is unknown. In the past, he was located in a nearby area, according to the LBPB. He has cognitive conditions and has difficulty speaking clearly.

Foster is described as a white

EYE ON CRIME

CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

Wednesday, December 25

12:49 a.m., Intoxicated person, 1800 block Stanley Ave.
6:45 a.m., Auto burglary, 2700 block E. 20th St.
5:25 p.m., Burglary, 1900 block Raymond Ave.

Thursday, December 26

6:22 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 3100 block E. PCH
6:49 p.m., Battery, 2100 block Cherry Ave.
10:59 p.m., Auto burglary, 3200 block E. PCH

Friday, December 27

6:11 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 1900 block Junipero Ave.
7:33 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2000 block Raymond Ave.
10:10 a.m., Critical missing, 2700 block E. PCH
11:32 a.m., Auto burglary, 2600 block E. 20th St.
5:52 p.m., Auto burglary, Temple Ave./E. 19th St.

Saturday, December 28

2:34 p.m., Injury traffic collision, E. PCH/Temple Ave.
4:53 p.m., Grand theft, 2100 block E. 21st St.
5:13 p.m., Elder abuse, 2700 block E. 20th St.
7:20 p.m., Auto burglary, 2500 block Temple Ave.
10:14 p.m., Assault with deadly weapon, 1000 block E. Burnett St.

Sunday, December 29

4:24 p.m., DUI, 2300 block Dawson Ave. (suspect arrested)
8:25 p.m., Auto burglary, 2500 block Temple Ave.
9:16 p.m., Felony spousal abuse, 3100 block E. PCH

Monday, December 30

8:10 a.m., Elder abuse, 2400 block Skyline Dr.
1:08 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 1600 block E. Spring St.
1:11 p.m., Burglary, 3200 block Lemon Ave.
2:00 p.m., Elder abuse, 1400 block E. Willow St.
6:56 p.m., Grand theft, 900 block E. Spring St.
9:54 p.m., Petty theft; felony warrants, 900 block E. 33rd St. (suspect arrested)

Tuesday, December 31

7:10 a.m., Elder abuse, 2300 block Amelia Ct.
11:02 a.m., Auto burglary, 700 block E. Spring St.
11:10 a.m., Auto burglary, 2400 block Cherry Ave.
11:17 a.m., Identity theft, 1800 block Raymond Ave.
11:19 a.m., Grand theft, 700 block E. Spring St.
12:57 p.m., Elder abuse, 1800 block Raymond Ave.
2:20 p.m., Intoxicated person on drugs, 900 block E. Spring St. (citation issued)
6:17 p.m., Injury traffic collision, E. Spring St./Orange Ave.

LBPB 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.

NEWS

December 10 named Equal Rights Amendment Day

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

The City of Long Beach and local nonprofit The Feminist Uprising recently announced that Mayor Rex Richardson has decreed Dec. 10 as Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Day to highlight the fight for constitutional gender equality.

The date marks the anniversary of the introduction of the ERA to Congress on Dec. 10, 1923. The ERA was created to ensure sex would not be used as a basis for discrimination under the law, with the text including statements such as "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

The ERA proposal passed both houses of Congress by a two-thirds majority in 1972 and was ratified by three-fourths of the states by January 2020 — but it has not been fully adopted as part of the U.S. Constitution.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Bianca Moreno of the Long Beach Historical Society reads the names of Long Beach women that have made progress towards women's rights on the 101st anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment on Aug. 26, 2021.

"On behalf of the City of Long Beach, we honor and thank the trailblazing women whose bravery and unwavering dedication will be remembered for years to come," said Richardson in a public statement.

The ERA Day announcement serves to bring further attention to its existence and is a call for people to continue advocating for its ratification and implementation.



New Year, New Opportunity

The Port of Long Beach will award nearly \$3 million in sponsorships in 2025 for community events and programs. Applications for nonprofit groups are open Jan. 1-31 – find out more at polb.com/sponsorships.



Port of
LONG BEACH
THE GREEN PORT