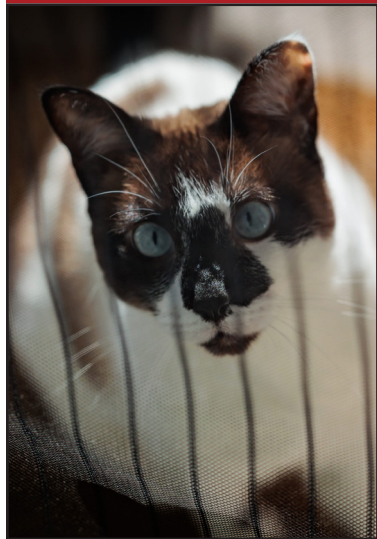


ANIMALS



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
The Long Beach Community Cat Project intends to reduce the overpopulation of stray cats in Long Beach.

Long Beach Community Cat Project hopes to curb stray cat overpopulation

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) and nonprofit The Little Lion Foundation are teaming up to offer free sterilization surgeries and animal care resources as part of the new Long Beach Community Cat Project.

This initiative is intended to diminish the overpopulation of free-roaming stray cats that reproduce in Long Beach, as well as nearby Cerritos, Los Alamitos and Signal Hill, by providing various accessible services.

“Our partnership with The Little Lion Foundation is a testament to the power of community-driven action and innovative solutions,” said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement. “The Community Cat Project underscores our commitment to the Compassion Saves service model and strengthens our efforts in improving the welfare of community cats and reducing animal overpopulation in the communities we serve.”

Community cats are defined as free-roaming cats that live outdoors, typically cared for by one or more people and ranging from friendly to feral cats. The overpopulation of community cats leads to a strain on animal shelter systems

see COMMUNITY CATS page 7

PUBLIC SAFETY

Long Beach considering another paramedic unit; LBFD says it's not enough

Even with the additional unit, firefighters say they run out of ambulances daily.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Long Beach City Council voted to extend a pilot program that supplies the city with an additional paramedic response unit for the remainder of the year. The city will look into options for making the unit permanent, but Fire Department Chief Duncan Buchanan said they still need more units to meet the city's needs.

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

Firefighter Philip Hanlen remembers a 911 call he responded to for a grandmother attending her granddaughter's birthday party. When they arrived the grandmother had a dangerously fast pulse and was in need of a paramedic, but his ambulance didn't have one on board, and all other rescue units were busy.

Hanlen and his team waited for 20 minutes while the grandmother's family pleaded with them to do something. By the time a paramedic arrived, she had passed away.

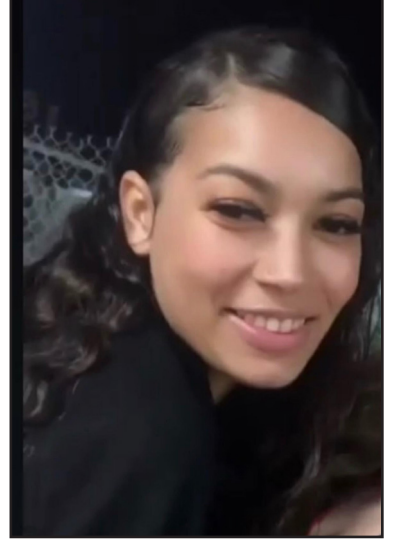
“These are calls that happen everyday, situations that happen all the time in Long Beach,” Hanlen said. “If you want to know what keeps us up at night and what haunts us, it's the ‘what if?’ calls. What if we had a rescue there within those first critical moments?”

At the Long Beach City Council meeting Tuesday night, Hanlen and over 50 other Long Beach firefighters and paramedics told similar stories. Their solution was simple: the City needs more ambulances, rescues and paramedics.

“With your support, those ‘what if’ moments could transform into successful outcomes instead of tragedies,” Hanlen said.

see LB FIRE & PARAMEDICS page 4

MISSING PERSON



Courtesy of Kathryn Smith
Long Beach mother Ruthey Smith has been missing for over three years.

Family of Ruthey Smith asks FBI, LAPD to take over human trafficking investigation

Kristen Farrah Naeem
Staff Writer

Long Beach mother Ruthey Smith was abducted by suspected human traffickers three years ago. With little progress made in her case by the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD), her family held a press conference on Monday urging the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to take over the case.

Her family also pleaded with the public to not forget about Smith, and to come forward with any information they may have about what happened to her.

“I will not stop until I bring you home,” Kathryn Renesto, Smith's mother, said during a press conference on Figueroa Street in Los Angeles on Monday. “And I have to pray that this is a recovery of a live daughter, because I don't want this outcome to be my daughter gone, dead forever. Three years, my granddaughter has been away from [my] daughter, her mother. Three years, my family hasn't had their niece, their daughter, their sister. And I'm begging everybody, say her name: Ruthey Smith. Pray for her. Bring attention to human trafficking victims. They deserve to matter.”

see RUTHEY SMITH page 5

TIRED OF PAYING THIRD PARTY DELIVERY FEES?

THESE APPS COST OUR CUSTOMERS AND OUR RESTAURANT EXTREMELY HIGH SERVICE FEES.

ORDER DIRECTLY FROM OUR WEBSITE AT BIGEPIZZA.COM. Join our Loyalty Program on our website and receive \$10 off your next order as well as other rewards!

FAST DELIVERY
562-498-8788
3225 E. PCH, Suite C, Signal Hill, CA 90755



SCAN HERE TO ORDER ONLINE

EVENTS



Nature calls: Family Days in Nature returns to Willow Springs Park

Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Oranges grow on the Orange Avenue entrance to Willow Springs Park in Long Beach on Sept. 28, 2021.

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

As February comes to a close, springtime is officially on the horizon, signaling the return of the Family Days in Nature series in Long Beach.

This seasonal event series, occurring every spring, features free educational activities for all ages at the native habitat preservation of Willow Springs Park (2745 Orange Ave.). This includes special events such as the Monarch Day of Action (March 15) and the City Nature Challenge (April 26).



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A sign informs park-goers about the greening project at Willow Springs Park on Sept. 28, 2021.

“Family Days in Nature will bring residents of all ages together to learn about sustainability initiatives taking place here in Long Beach and how they can participate,” said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement. “These events are also opportunities for people to explore the recently dedicated Willow Springs Park and engage with local organizations that are working to improve our city’s climate resilience.”

PARKS

Construction begins on Silverado Park playground project



Courtesy of the City of Long Beach

City of Long Beach officials conduct ceremonial shoveling during a ground breaking ceremony for the Silverado Park Signature Playground on March 1, 2025.

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

On Saturday, March 1, several City of Long Beach representatives scooped their shovels into soil as they officially launched the Silverado Park Signature Playground Project.

The groundbreaking ceremony marked a milestone for the West Long Beach plan, which is intended to ensure the creation of a safe, engaging and inclusive community space for families.

“Silverado Park is at the heart of the Seventh District and has served as a gathering place for our entire community,” said Vice Mayor and Seventh District Councilmember Roberto Uranga in a public statement. “With this significant investment, as well as our many other initiatives that align with the Westside Promise, we are building a stronger, more vibrant future for West Long Beach.”

The Silverado Park Signature Playground Project is part of the City’s Elevate ‘28 initiative to revitalize the city’s parks and public spaces through various accessibility improvements.

While its just one element of a city-wide effort, the playground’s design took particular inspiration from the park’s mural We Are The Seeds by Mer Young, which is made up of colorful leaves that symbolize the power of community growth.

New features to the playground of Silverado Park will include play equipment that is focused on sensory, physical and imaginative play, plus additional safety features and

amenities. The overall goal is ensure a better visitor experience, improve accessibility and prolong the facility’s use. Construction on the playground is anticipated to be completed by this fall.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The Silverado Park Signature Playground Project is part of two City of Long Beach initiatives: Elevate ‘28 and the Westside Promise.

The Silverado Park Signature Playground Project aligns with the 10-year Westside Promise plan to invest in confronting contemporary and systemic challenges that have impacted West Long Beach. The project is funded by \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Fund, \$200,000 in Measure A funds and \$750,000 from the Elevate ‘28 Infrastructure Investment Plan.

“This groundbreaking on the Silverado Park Signature Playground Project is more than just the start of a construction project — it’s a symbol of the progress we are making to uplift and invest in the Westside,” said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement.

To learn more about the Silverado Park Signature Playground Project, visit longbeach.gov/sppp.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE FULL STORY ON SIGTRIB.COM

A continued tradition.

Up-front Consistent Pricing
No Hidden Fees or Add-on Charges

- Full Traditional Burials
- Memorial Services
- Burial at Sea
- Graveside Services
- Memorial Services at Sea
- Themed Funeral Programs
- Celebration of Life
- Insured Pre-Need Arrangements

McKenzie
Mortuary Services
FD#1539
Directors Available 24 Hours
562.961.9301

LIVES LIVED

Robert Sheets 87
Susan Dane 73
Richard Dennison 76
Willie Eiland 101
Joan Nickerson 96
Michelle Braxton 54
Alice Mae Butcher 88
John Hall 42
Alba Weller 84
Candida Chavarria Hernandez 65
Lynne Marie-Lewis Ehren 78

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

LONG BEACH PLAYHOUSE THEATRES

Weekends Until March 22nd

August Wilson
THE PIANO LESSON

562-494-1014 www.LBPlayhouse.org
5021 E. Anaheim St

Employment Opportunity

Apex Logistics International, Inc. has a Financial Analyst position in Rancho Dominguez, CA.

- Provides advanced data analysis techniques and logistics expertise to drive strategic financial planning and operational excellence.
- Telecommuting permitted under hybrid work plan.
- Sal. \$94,203/yr.

Email resume to careers@apexglobe.com and reference Job Code FA0125.

MAKE A ONE-TIME OR MONTHLY DONATION TO SUPPORT THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE AND OUR LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE

Any amount is appreciated, thank you for your support!

AROUND TOWN

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

From live music and comedy to hands-on workshops and fitness activities, Long Beach and Signal Hill have a packed schedule of events this week.

Those looking for live entertainment can enjoy a mix of performances. Music lovers can see musician Lola Kristine at the Queen Mary's Observation Bar or a tribute concert featuring the songs of James Taylor and Joni Mitchell at the Carpenter Center. Stand-up comedy fans can catch a live performance by Paul Rodriguez at the Laugh Factory. Volleyball fans can cheer on the Long Beach State men's team as they take on the Sacred Hearts inside the Walter Pyramid.

For those looking to get active, there are plenty of opportunities to get moving. Healthy activities include a guided bird walk at Rancho Los Cerritos, a senior walking club at Reservoir Park and a Zumba class at the Signal Hill Library. Additionally, the Together We Walk 5K at Shoreline Park will honor late community leader Judith Opdahl while raising awareness for individuals impacted by cancer.

Art lovers of all ages can take part in a silkscreen workshop at the Billie Jean King Main Library and a community mosaic session at the Museum of Latin American Art. For young artists, craft-focused events include a kids' mosaic workshop, a paint-n-plant activity and a floral painting class inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe.

07 FRIDAY

LIVE MUSIC

7 p.m. Musician Lola Kristine will be performing at the Queen Mary's Observation Bar (1126 Queens Hwy.). Free admission.

VOLLEYBALL GAME

7 p.m. The Sacred Hearts will take on the Long Beach State men's volleyball team inside the Walter Pyramid (1250 N. Bellflower Blvd.). Tickets can be purchased on the university's website for \$20.

08 SATURDAY

SHRED EVENT

8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Long Beach residents can have their confidential documents shredded during this event hosted by the City of Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau at Veterans Memorial Stadium (4901 E. Conant St.). A mobile shredding truck will be on-site until it reaches capacity. Residents may bring up to three 10x12x15 inch boxes per car. Bags are not allowed. Acceptable items include confidential documents, paper, manila folders and envelopes. Items such as CDs, hard drives, plastic and metal objects will not be accepted. Free.

TREE PLANTING

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help plant trees on the streets surrounding Hughes Middle School. The meet up location will be sent to volunteers once they sign up for this event through the California Climate Corps' website. Free.

WESTSIDE LONG BEACH ECONOMIC AND MARKET STUDY

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Residents, business owners and stakeholders are invited to Silverado Park (1545 W. 31st St.) to learn about current market conditions and share ideas on strategies for economic development and investment in West Long Beach. Register on the City's online event calendar. Free.

09 SUNDAY

TOGETHER WE WALK

9 a.m. to noon. Join this inaugural 5K walk & fun run at Shoreline Park (200 Aquarium Way), honoring the legacy of late community leader Judith Opdahl while supporting individuals impacted by cancer. This scenic 5K walk by Long Beach's waterfront is open to all ages and fitness levels. Virtual participation is also available. Tickets can be purchased for \$54 on the online platform Run Signup.

LIVE MUSIC TRIBUTE

2 p.m. Experience the timeless music of folk rock legends James Taylor and Joni Mitchell played by cover band Live from Laurel Canyon at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center (6200 E. Atherton St.). This performance of "James & Joni: Their Stories, Their Songs" will be presented by Live from Laurel Canyon. Tickets are \$53.75 on the online platform Tix.

10 MONDAY

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FILM SERIES

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.) will host a screening of the PG-13 romantic drama "Past Lives" directed by Celine Song. Light refreshments will be provided. Free.

NO PULP POETRY CLUB

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Local poets are invited to share their work during this open mic night at Recreational Coffee (237 Long Beach Blvd., Suite A). Free admission.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The Carpenter Performing Arts Center will host "James & Joni: Their Stories, Their Songs," a musical tribute to folk rock icons James Taylor and Joni Mitchell this Sunday, March 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$53.75 on Tix.

11 TUESDAY

CITY EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Job seekers are invited to learn about the City of Long Beach's hiring process as well as current and upcoming employment opportunities at Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E. Hill St.). Register for this event on the City's online event calendar. Free.

ZUMBA AT THE LIBRARY

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Get a good workout with Latin and international-inspired music at the Signal Hill Library Terrace (1800 E. Hill St.). All skill levels are welcome. Free.

12 WEDNESDAY

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Kids between the ages of 7 and 12 can celebrate Women's History Month with a flower painting session inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe at Los Altos Neighborhood Library (5614 Britton Drive). Registration is not required, but space is limited. All materials will be provided. Free.

LIVE COMEDY

7:45 p.m. Those 21 and older are invited to a stand-up performance by comedian Paul Rodriguez at the Laugh Factory (151 S. Pine St.). Ticket prices start at \$38.32 on Tixr.

13 THURSDAY

BIRD WALK

8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Residents and birders can explore local bird

species in this guided walk at Rancho Los Cerritos (4600 Virginia Road). Staff will be available to answer bird and nature-related questions and residents are encouraged to bring their binoculars. Registration through the rancho's website is required. Free.

PAINT-N-PLANT

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Teens are invited to participate in this painting and planting activity at the Mark Twain Neighborhood Library (1401 E. Anaheim St.). Attendees will decorate their own planter pot and plant flower seeds in it. Snacks will be provided. Supplies are limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Free.

COMMUNITY ART WORKSHOP

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Museum of Latin American Art (628 Alamos Ave.) invites participants to create a tile mosaic inspired by their own homes. No experience is necessary. All materials will be provided. Space is limited. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 on the museum's website.

PI DAY WORKSHOP

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E. Hill St.) will host a hands-on workshop where residents of all ages can learn how to make a hand pie from scratch in early celebration of Pi Day. Space is limited. Register on Eventbrite. Free.

IS THAT IT?

NOPE!

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

Signal Tribune

MANAGING EDITOR
Samantha Diaz

DESIGN EDITOR
Ryan Hardison

LEGALS COORDINATOR
Katherine Green

ADVERTISING
Sharon McLucas

EDUCATION REPORTER
Briana Mendez-Padilla

STAFF WRITER
Kristen Farrah Naem

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.**

1860 Obispo Avenue, Suite F, Signal Hill, CA 90755 (562) 595-7900 www.signaltribune.com newspaper@signaltribune.com

LB FIRE & PARAMEDICS
continued from page 1

“If you want to know what keeps us up at night and what haunts us, it’s the ‘what if?’ calls. What if we had a rescue there within those first critical moments?”

**- Philip Hanlen,
Long Beach firefighter**

Firefighters on Tuesday asked the City to extend its pilot program Rescue 2 Peak Load Unit, which added a paramedic rescue unit to the downtown area. The pilot program started last year with a daily 12-hour ambulance shift, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. This year the program was cut to three days a week.

Over 50 firefighters and paramedics attended the meeting to ask for the Rescue 2 Peak Load Unit to be extended to 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as well as structural funds for the unit to become permanent.

The Long Beach City Council unanimously approved a plan that funds the Rescue 2 Peak Load Unit for the remainder of the year. City staff will return in two weeks to discuss the possibility of funding the unit for 2026 and beyond.

However, firefighters and paramedics echoed that this is still not enough to cover the city.

Fire Department Chief Duncan Buchanan said that Long Beach needs “at a minimum” 11 paramedic units running 24-hour shifts. Not including the Rescue 2 Peak Load Unit, the city has nine. According to staff reports, the national average for a city is 21,000 residents per rescue unit. Long Beach is at 55,000 residents per rescue unit.

“I can say from the bottom of my heart, I’m glad my family does not live in the city of Long Beach,” said a firefighter who identified herself as Katherine. “Even though I’m confident in the skill set of my brothers and sisters, we’re fighting an uphill battle. It is not a rare occurrence for our city to run out of ambulances, it happens every single day.”

How Understaffed is the Fire Department, and What Does That Mean?

From 2010-2013, Long Beach lost 62 of its Fire Department positions due to cuts in public safety funding. Since then, Measure A funds have helped restore 30 of those positions. Now, the city has a total of 27 fire engines and nine rescue units, with a total of 21 paramedics on staff daily.

According to staff reports, the national average for a city is 21,000 residents per rescue unit. Long Beach is at 55,000 residents per rescue unit.

The Fire Department now has 128 employees full-time, but on average they are forced to work extra shifts seven times a month. This has led to fatigue across the department, leading to one incident in 2023 where two Fire Department employees fell asleep at the wheel while responding to a call.

This led to the creation of the Rescue 2 Peak Load Unit. The department also launched the Paramedic Assessment Unit Fire Engine model, which expands the ranks that can serve as paramedics in an ambulance to include fire captains with active paramedic certifications.

Long Beach’s reputation of being understaffed and underfunded has made it harder to hire new recruits as well as keep employees, said supervisor Bryan Vanderwall. He added that other departments

offering better salaries, schedules and working conditions make them a more attractive destination.

“Current employees are working excessive hours, leading to fatigue, increased risk of illness and injury, and as a supervisor this is what keeps me up at night, that our over-worked employees make mistakes,” Vanderwall said.

The pilot programs in 2024 were aimed at helping ease the workload for ambulance rescues 1, 3, 4 and 10, which are the units in Downtown. While there was a 4% increase in calls from 2023-24, the Rescue 2 Peak Load Unit responded to 2,988 calls last year, drastically aiding the other units. The Rescue 2 Unit not only helps the downtown area, but improves citywide ambulance availability, Buchanan said.

As a result, the number of “out of service” incidents, when no rescue ambulance is available in a medical emergency for five or more minutes, dropped from 167 incidents in 2023 to 42 incidents in 2024. Out of service incidents can be deadly for someone in need of immediate medical attention.

Rescue ambulances respond to a number of scenarios that a firetruck unit cannot assist in, such as a heart attack or cardiac arrest, a seizure, a severe allergic reaction, blood loss and more. Chief Buchanan emphasized that though the drop in incidents is a positive sign, Long Beach should never be out of paramedic services.

The first response to an out of service incident is to call neighboring cities for assistance, such as Carson or Lakewood. Firefighter Corey Barnett explained that this is not sustainable, as it endangers residents in those cities.

“This is not a debate about comfort or convenience. This is about safety for us, and for the people we serve, the very people you represent,” said firefighter Lamont Nguyen. “Every delay, every gap in resources, every moment we are stretched too thin puts our community’s lives at risk. Make no mistake, we refuse to fail this city, it’s not in our DNA. We refuse to let our community down, but we cannot do it alone.”

How Much Does a Rescue Unit Cost?

To keep Rescue 2 Peak Load Unit going for the remainder of 2025, as well as restoring it to seven days a

week, the cost is roughly \$420,000. The City is pulling one-time funds from its \$2.3 million in surplus funds from the 2024 fiscal year budget.



Kristen Farrah Naeem | Signal Tribune
The former Fire Station No. 9 in Long Beach has been named a historical landmark.

For 2026, the seven-day 12-hour unit would cost \$1.23 million in personnel costs. To raise the shift to 24 hours like all other units as the department is requesting, it would cost roughly \$2 million.

Structural funding was recommended for the Rescue 2 Unit, meaning it would become a part of the Fire Department’s budget going forward. Three options for funding were presented:

•**Measure A:** Once the voter-approved Measure A increase goes through, this can be considered for one of many public safety enhancements. Mayor Rex Richardson said the City does not know when they will begin receiving updated Measure A funds.

•**FY 2026 Budget:** The City can review revenue sources in the 2026 budget, or take funds away from other allocations.

•**Revenue Sources:** The City

can try to find new revenue sources throughout the year that can go towards the Fire Department.

City Manager Tom Modica said the city will have to make “sacrifices” to fund the rescue unit, taking away from other projects. Long Beach is anticipating a \$30 million deficit going into next year, increasing to \$61 million over the next few years.

The voter-approved Measure LB sales tax will help to cover \$15 million of this, Modica said, as well as Measure A once they begin receiving funds from the increase. He added that next week the rent at the temporary Fire Station 9 building is going to increase, and the replacement station being built is estimated to cost \$30 million.

From 2017-2025, the Long Beach Fire Department (LBFD) has received \$95 million in structural Measure A funds, and another \$52 million in one-time funding for academies, fire stations and various infrastructure projects.

“I can’t recall a time in my 10 years with the Long Beach Fire Department where this gesture of solidarity was requested, let alone answered. In my opinion, it speaks to the sincerity and severity of our stance,” said a LBFD employee who identified himself as Ryan. “[...] I pray that this request doesn’t fall upon deaf ears and extends beyond our need for Rescue 2 because candidly, we need it.”

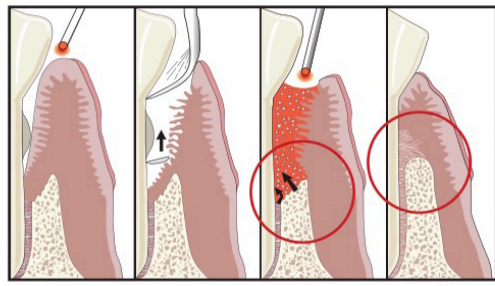
The Budget Oversight Committee will explore ways to permanently fund Rescue 2 Unit and report back to the city council in two weeks.



Courtesy of Amy Sue H. on Pexels.com
Long Beach firefighters and paramedics discussed their fears about staffing shortages and its lasting impacts at the Long Beach City Council meeting on March 4.

RETIRED COUPLE
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*
V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests
OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING
Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker
WWW.VIPLoan.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans
Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

BUONO'S PIZZERIA
\$7 OFF WITH A PURCHASE OF \$30
www.BuonosPizza.com
401 W. WILLOW ST. ORDER ONLINE 250 W. OCEAN BL.
(562) 595-6138 OR IN-PERSON (562) 432-2211

FREE Gum Disease Treatment
For qualified patients with the research proven¹ **LANAP** laser protocol
The **LANAP** protocol is FDA cleared² for True Periodontal Regeneration and has a 95% success rate over 21 years.

Regrow bone lost to gum disease!
CALL TODAY! www.LANAP.com
1-888-LANAP-4-YOU
526-2749
1. Gregg RH II, Gregg DM. Laser-assisted periodontal regeneration with the LANAP protocol. Dent Today 2019 May;38(5):78, 80-83
2. FDA Clearance K151763

THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE CAN BRING NEWS TO YOUR DOORSTEP!
YOUR \$70 PRIINT SUBSCRIPTION HELPS US TO COVER LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS


RUTHEY SMITH
continued from page 1

Smith's family has always been transparent about the fact that she would engage in sex work on Figueroa Street as a way to support her infant daughter. Figueroa Street has long been an area infamous for prostitution and sex trafficking.

"Yes, she was doing something she probably shouldn't have been doing, but we've all made mistakes, and we shouldn't have to pay for them for the rest of our life," said Ingrid Klungreseter, Smith's grandmother. "We need answers. We need prayers. We need help. There's no playbook for this. There's nothing to tell us what to do or who to turn to or who to ask for help."



Courtesy of Kathryn Smith

Police suspect that Long Beach resident Ruthey Smith is a victim of human trafficking.

Smith was last seen on surveillance footage near Figueroa Street on March 3, 2022. The LBPB believes she was victimized by human traffickers. Despite the LBPB believing that Smith is a victim of human trafficking, her family had to find the last known footage of Smith on their own.

Her family visited local businesses near Figueroa Street asking for their surveillance footage, until they finally found the last known recording of Smith taken by an

apartment building's security camera. In the footage, Smith can be seen getting into the passenger seat of a car before it drives off. The license plate isn't visible in the video.

Smith's family said that although they provided a recording of the footage to the LBPB, the police department did not ask them any questions about the video for a year.

Her family hopes the LAPD or the FBI will be able to make more progress in solving Smith's case. Although Smith was from Long Beach, she was abducted in Los Angeles.

"She's been taken. She's vanished. She's kidnapped," Renesto said. "So I'm asking the FBI, the Los Angeles Police Department, [each and every] person I can: take over this case. Find my girl, because she deserves life."

Smith had recently stopped breastfeeding her baby daughter when she was abducted. Her daughter is now preparing to start school without her mother by her side. Smith's family insists she would never have willingly left her child.

While the family has gotten some tips and online comments from people who believed they had seen Smith, they were all false alarms.

"Nobody has seen her out here," Renesto said. "There have been people that commented and said they've seen her and we come out here and it's a look-alike, it's somebody who looks very similar to her. My daughter is biracial. She's Black and white. She's 5'4". Very long, curly hair. Unfortunately, there's a lot of girls with her description."

Smith was 19 at the time of her disappearance, and would now be 22 years old. She is described as weighing around 152 pounds. 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.

“

Three years, my granddaughter has been away from [my] daughter, her mother. Three years, my family hasn't had their niece, their daughter, their sister. And I'm begging everybody, say her name: Ruthey Smith. Pray for her. Bring attention to human trafficking victims. They deserve to matter.

— Kathryn Renesto, Ruthey Smith's mother

"With her gone, I'm ripped apart, and we need to be a whole," Renesto said. "I need to know she's alive. I need to know Ruthey Smith is alive, and I need the world to pray with me and say her name."

Anyone who may have information about Ruthey Smith is urged to call the LBPB 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.



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 Dec. 27, 2024.

3225 E. Pacific Coast Highway
Signal Hill, CA 90755
(562) 498-8788
Sun - Thu 10 am - 12 am
Fri - Sat 10 am - 2 am

LATE-NIGHT DELIVERY

**WE DELIVER
BEER &
WINE**

\$5 Off
\$25
Code: SHP2201

\$10 Off
\$50
Code: SHP2202

Must Show Coupon
Coupons Good Once for
Pick-Up & Dine-In Only

Coupons Good Through December 31, 2025

**TST7622 Case No. 25LBCP00062
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, COURTHOUSE, 275 Magnolia, Long Beach, California 90802 PETITION OF: Naomi Janelle Rose for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Naomi Janelle Rose has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Naomi Janelle Rose Proposed Name: Naomi Jemima Baht Israel 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: March 24th, 2025; Time: 8:30am., Dept. S25, Room: 5600. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. February 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 2025 ___/ss//___ Nicole M Heeseman, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: February 10th, 2025

**TST7623 Case No. 25LBCP00063
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, COURTHOUSE, 275 Magnolia, Long Beach, California 90802 PETITION OF: Damion LeRon Bogus for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Damion LeRon Bogus has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Damion LeRon Bogus Proposed Name: Abishalom Ben Israel 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: March 28th, 2025; Time: 8:30am., Dept. S27, Room: 5400. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. February 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 2025 ___/ss//___ Mark C. Kim, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: February 10th, 2025

**TST7624 / 2025 026660
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: ENCORE GAS & SUPPLY, 2900 E 29TH STREET LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90806. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: ENCORE WELDING AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY LLC, 2900 E 29TH STREET LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90806. State of Incorporation/Organization: DE. This business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: BENJAMIN ANDERSON, PRESIDENT. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 07/2019. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on FEBRUARY 10TH, 2025. 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 14, 21, 28 & March 7 2025.

**TST7630 / 2025 5029141
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: KROW 2774 DAWSON AVE SIGNAL HILL, CA 90755. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: WEST 21, INC. 2774 DAWSON AVE SIGNAL HILL, CA 90755 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: KEIRO KOGA, PRESIDENT. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 09/2002. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on FEBRUARY 12, 2025. 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 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 2025.

**TST7631 Case No. 25LBCP00074
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA AVE., LONG BEACH, CA. 90802 PETITION OF: Dacia Romero and Juan Romero, Jr. for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Dacia Romero and Juan Romero, Jr. has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Valeria Camille Romero Proposed Name: Camila Jane Romero 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: April 4th, 2025; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. S27, Room: 5400. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. February 21, 28 & March 7, 14, 2025 ___/ss//___ Mark C. Kim, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: February 18th, 2025

**TST7641 Case No. 25VECP00074
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 6230 SYLMAR AVENUE. VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA 91401 PETITION OF: Sir Lawrence Steinfeldt for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Sir Lawrence Steinfeldt has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Sir Lawrence Steinfeldt Proposed Name: Lawrence X 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: March 28th, 2025; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. U, Room: 620. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. February 28 and March 7, 14, 21 2025 ___/ss//___ Shirley Watkins, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: February 11th, 2025

**TST7636 / 2025 035856
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: LA ESPERANZA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC, 11306 E 183RD ST STE 305, CERRITOS, CA. 90703. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: LA ESPERANZA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC, 11306 E 183RD ST STE 305, CERRITOS, CA. 90703. 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: MARIA FERNANDA CAHUENAS CUZCO, PRESIDENT. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 01/2025. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on Feb 20, 2025. 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 28, & March 7, 14, 21, 2025.

**TST7637 / 2025 035854
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: LAS COLOMBIANADAS FAST FOOD, 10974 S MAIN ST APT 1, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90061. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: INGRID ORTIGOZA ROJAS, 10974 S MAIN ST APT 1, LOS ANGELES, CA. 90061. 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: INGRID ORTIGOZA ROJAS, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 01/2025. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on Feb 20, 2025. 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 28 & March 7, 14, 21, 2025.

TST7638

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice SecureSpace Self Storage Signal Hill 3177 California Avenue Signal Hill CA 90755 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 3/26/2025 at 4:30 PM. Darnel Clark; Ana Splinker; Brelonnie Williams. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. Published Signal Tribune March 7 & 14, 2025

**TST7640 / 2025 034832
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: AWASH INDUSTRIES, 1075 E NEVADA STREET, SIGNAL HILL, CA. 90755. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: MENZAY LLC, 1075 E NEVADA STREET, 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: AEDEN S. KEFFELEW, PRESIDENT. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 02/2025. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on 2/20/2025. 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 28 & March 7, 14, 21, 2025.

**TST7644/ 2025 039343
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: LA EVENT RENTALS, 3715 MONOGRAM AVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90808. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: MERCURY EVENTS, LLC, 3715 MONOGRAM AVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90808 State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: LLC. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: GAVIN MCKEIRNAN, CEO. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in 02/25. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on FEBRUARY 25, 2025 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 28 and March 7, 14, 21, 2025.

**TST7643 Case No. 25LBCP00088
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN COURTHOUSE, 275 MAGNOLIA AVE., LONG BEACH, CA. 90802 PETITION OF: Hue Thi Pacheco Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Hue Thi Pacheco has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Hue Thi Pacheco Proposed Name: Lani Hue Pacheco 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: April 8, 2025; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. S25, Room: 5600. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be

published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE,

1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755. February 28 and March 7, 14, 21, 2025 ___/ss//___ Nicole M. Heeseman, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: February 25, 2025

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TST7649

**NOTICE CALLING FOR BIDS
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BID NO. FAC10-2425A AV INSTALLATION IN PORTABLES AT GANT ES
BID NO. FAC10-2425B AV INSTALLATION IN PORTABLES AT TINCHER K8
BID NO. FAC10-2425C AV INSTALLATION IN PORTABLES AT LOS CERRITOS ES
BID NO. FAC10-2425D AV INSTALLATION IN PORTABLES AT HENRY ES**

BID INFORMATION:

Bids Due: **March 31, 2025 at 12:00pm.** Bids must be received prior to 12:00pm. Bid Submission Format: Electronically via the District's Online Vendor Portal at PlanetBids.com
Bid Documents available at: www.lbschoolbonds.net. Click on "Active Bids" link at bottom of page.
This bid contains **FOUR (4)** separate project packages. The District intends to award a separate contract for each package to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Bidders are not required to submit a bid for all project packages. If awarded multiple projects, work must be done concurrently and completed within the project duration. Contractors awarded multiple projects shall not be given additional time to complete the projects. See bid documents for additional information.
Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting (via Zoom): **March 17, 2025 at 10:00am.** Please visit PlanetBids for more information.
Mandatory Site Visit/Job Walk at Los Cerritos Elementary School: **March 17, 2025 at 1:00pm.** Please meet at address above.
License Requirement: Each bidder shall possess a valid Class **B, C7, or C10** license at the time of bid submission and also be registered with the DIR.

SUMMARY OF WORK:

Provide all labor, materials, and equipment for installation of projector systems in portables at the following schools comprising 46 total systems: Gant (12 rooms), Tincher (16 rooms), Los Cerritos (8 rooms), Henry (10 rooms).

Published in the *Signal Tribune* newspaper: March 7 & 14, 2025

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TST7639

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS

**Request for Proposal (RFP) # 2425-017-RFP
Secondary Internet Service Provider Services**

The Long Beach Unified School District (District) is seeking bids from qualified vendors (Bidder), to provide **Secondary Internet Service Provider Services**. The intent of this RFP process is to select a (1) Bidder and establish contract with an option to extend based on satisfactory service/performance per Education Code §17596.

Proposals are due by 4:00 pm (PT) on 3/13/2025

More information available at:
<https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/23758/portal-home>

Published in the *Signal Tribune* newspaper: February 28 & March 7, 2025

Dine in or Take Out!



Open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We serve breakfast and lunch daily.

Visit Blackbirdlb.com to see our Menu

Call **(562) 490-2473** to place your order

3405 Orange Ave, Long Beach

562.490.2473 • blackbirdlb.com • @BlackBirdCafeLB

Bob's BASEBALL Tours

Sports Lover's Tour

See an NHL & NBA game, visit Pro Football Hall of Fame and tour Lambeau Field & see 4 MLB games from April 8-16

\$2,800/person based on double hotel occupancy

Ultimate Baseball Tour

See 7 MLB in 11 days including Yankee Stadium, Fenway Park & Wrigley Field. Also included: Pro Football and Baseball Halls of Fame and a day at the Little League World Series!

August 11-21, 2025

Please call or text for FREE brochure 507-217-1326 or visit our website:
www.bobsbaseballtours.com

COMMUNITY CATS
continued from page 1



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Through the Long Beach Community Cat Project, felines will be able to receive free vaccines, spay or neuter surgery, flea medication and more via The Little Lion Foundation.

and resources, with the Long Beach Community Cat Project aiming to humanely reduce the number of cats and kittens entering the city's shelter system. The program has an annual goal to spay and neuter 2,500 free-roaming cats in 2025.

The headquarters of The Little Lion Foundation will be the center of operations for the project, and LBACS will support its mission by providing payment vouchers and working with community partners to address high breeding areas of community cats.

Those who participate will be given a \$100 spay/neuter voucher form LBACS will help cover surgery costs, with the remaining amount funded by donations received by The Little Lion Foundation. Through this project, community cats will be able to receive a spay or neuter surgery, vaccines, flea medication and an ear tip all for free. These procedures will be operated within a new sterilization clinic at The Little Lion Foundation headquarters.

"This initiative underscores the importance of a forward-thinking and collaborative approach to reducing the free-roaming cat population while enhancing the overall wellbeing of our community," said Melanie Wagner, Bureau Manager of LBACS, in a public statement.

According to the City of Long Beach, benefits of the spay and neuter program include:

- Providing affordable community access to spaying and neutering for free roaming cats on a large scale.

- Improving the overall quality of life for community cats.

- Demonstrating the effectiveness of collaboration between non-profit organizations and municipal agencies.

- Providing a scalable, innovative model for other cities seeking sustainable solutions to free-roaming cat populations.

- Decreasing shelter intake costs and optimizing city resources.

Community members and animal serving organizations with community cats are invited to volunteer to help the City's goal of reducing community cat overpopulation. Anyone who is interested is encouraged to submit an application online or call LBACS at 562-570-7387 for more information.

"We're excited to be part of such a transformative program," said Claudia Otis, Executive Director of The Little Lion Foundation, in a public statement. "By working together, we can make a meaningful impact not only in Long Beach but also in neighboring communities, setting a new standard for how cities approach animal welfare."

This project was created through funding by Partners of Parks, Found Animals and Friends of Long Beach Animals.

To commemorate this project, the City and The Little Lion Foundation are hosting a community grand opening and ribbon-cutting event on Saturday, March 29 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at The Little Lion Foundation headquarters (1179 E. Wardlow Road).

The event will feature free food and beverages, remarks from local leaders and City partners and a tour of the new clinic and facility.

To learn more about the Long Beach Community Cat Project, visit The Little Lion Foundation at litlelionfoundation.org/lbccp.

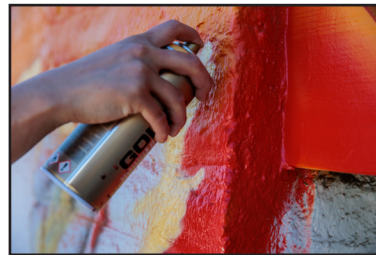
ART RESTORATION

Arts Council for Long Beach offers microgrants to preserve public art

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

Public art is an integral part of life in Long Beach, adding color and creativity to the city's streets while reflecting its cultural identity. But murals and utility box artworks are vulnerable to weather, vandalism and natural wear and tear over time.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Thao Huynh French adds some gold-colored spray paint to her mural on the roof of the Burnett Neighborhood Library on Aug. 30, 2022.

To help local artists maintain their public works of art, the Arts Council for Long Beach is offering

microgrants ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

Artists and property owners working with artists can apply for funding to cover restoration costs, including cleaning, repairs and protective coatings. Eligible applicants include artists who have created murals or utility box designs in Long Beach, as well as anyone authorized to restore artwork with the permission of the original artist or their estate.

Any maintenance efforts made using grant funding must preserve the design of the original artwork.

To apply for a microgrant, visit the Arts Council for Long Beach's website. Applications are accepted on a rolling monthly basis, with submissions due by the 15th of each month.

Applicants must provide documentation showing the current condition of their artwork, including photos of any damage. If the original artist is not completing the restoration, written permission from the artist or their estate

is required.

Projects are evaluated based on several factors, including the level of damage, size of the artwork, required materials, site accessibility and visibility. Applications are reviewed by a panel, and incomplete submissions may be disqualified.

Once funding is approved, recipients must sign an acknowledgment form and submit photos of the completed restoration within three to six months.

To apply for a microgrant, visit the Arts Council for Long Beach's website. Applications are accepted on a rolling monthly basis, with submissions due by the 15th of each month.

For more information, artists can contact the Arts Council for Long Beach at publicart@artslb.org or (562) 204-6503.

MISSING TEEN

LSPD searches for missing 17-year-old girl

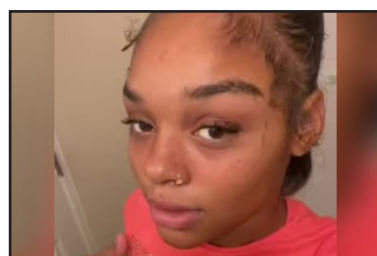
Staff Report

Signal Tribune

The Long Beach Police Department is looking for a teenage girl that hasn't been heard from in over a month.

Koleha Aubery Cobbs, a 17-year-old, was last heard from on Jan. 21. She had last been seen on June 14, 2024, according to information released by the California Department of Justice.

Cobbs is described as a Black girl, standing 5 feet tall and weighing approximately 110 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. She has a dollar sign tattooed near her left eye, a heart tattooed near her right eye, and the name "Roman," a



Courtesy of the California Department of Justice The Long Beach Police Department are looking for missing teenager Koleha Aubery Cobbs, who was last heard from on Jan. 21.

butterfly and a dragon tattooed on neck. Her left nostril is pierced.

Anyone who may have information about Cobbs' whereabouts is urged to call the Long Beach Police Department at (562) 435-6711.

RETIRED COUPLE
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker

WWW.VIPLoan.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

EYE ON CRIME

CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

Wednesday, February 19

2:31 p.m., Injury traffic collision, Junipero Ave./E. Willow St.
7:27 p.m., Child abuse report, 2000 block Dawson Ave.

Thursday, February 20

7:46 a.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, 2500 block Cerritos Ave.
12:16 p.m., Intoxicated person on drugs, 700 block E. Spring St.
5:58 p.m., Elder abuse, 1900 block Temple Ave.
9:21 p.m., Shoplifting; obstruct/resist peace officer, 900 block E. 33rd St. (suspect arrested)

Friday, February 21

9:28 a.m., Injury traffic collision, Cherry Ave./E. 21st St.
10:49 a.m., Battery, 1900 block Cherry Ave.
1:54 p.m., Grand theft, 2500 block Cherry Ave.
2:13 p.m., Injury traffic collision, 2300 block Orange Ave.
8:21 p.m., Auto burglary, 800 block E. Spring St.
8:50 p.m., Petty theft, 900 block E. 33rd St. (suspect arrested)

Saturday, February 22

10:35 a.m., Grand theft, 2500 block Cherry Ave.
11:00 a.m., Person with a gun, Freeman Ave. north of PCH
1:44 p.m., Felony spousal abuse, 2000 block Cherry Ave.
7:19 p.m., Auto burglary, 700 block E. Spring St.

Sunday, February 23

4:27 p.m., Felony spousal abuse, 2300 block Lewis Ave.

Monday, February 24

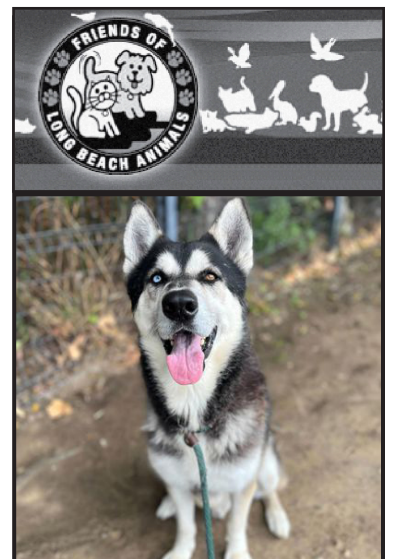
1:17 a.m., Suspicious person; misdemeanor warrant, 700 block E. Spring St. (citation issued)
7:35 a.m., Elder abuse, 2500 block Eastwind Way
12:56 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2800 block E. PCH
2:46 p.m., Battery, 2200 block E. Willow St.

Tuesday, February 25

6:25 a.m., Burglary, 3000 block E. PCH
2:11 p.m., Injury hit and run, E. PCH/Freeman Ave.
4:37 p.m., Battery, 3000 block California Ave.
6:05 p.m., Grand theft, 2200 block E. Willow St.
8:30 p.m., Petty theft; Misdemeanor warrant; possessing controlled substance, 900 block E. 33rd St. (suspect arrested)

LSPD 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.



Pet of the week: Mayfield

"Well, here's looking at you!" Mayfield would say if he could talk. He doesn't have to, though, because one of the first things you notice about Mayfield are his eyes — one is marbled blue and the other is latte brown. He also has a wintry black-and-white husky coat that the volunteers love to keep brushed and pettable.

And does Mayfield love brushing and petting! He wasn't always like that — he was shy at first, but the volunteers saw the dog he is and brought him out. He'd love to walk on a leash with a special human and cast those beautiful eyes everywhere! Speed the process to adopt Mayfield or any of our other pets by emailing PetAdopt@longbeach.gov or 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#A719434

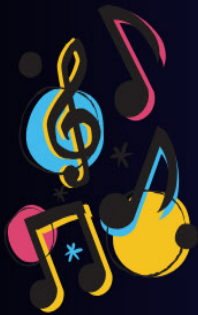


JIMMY E'S

bar + grill

jimmysbarandgrill.com

MUSIC NIGHTS AT JIMMY E'S



MARCH 7TH | RAYFORD BROS | 7 - 11 P.M.

MARCH 12TH | KARAOKE | 7 - 10 P.M.
W/ SILVER FOX KARAOKI



MARCH 14TH | AMERIGUMBO | 7 - 10 P.M.

MARCH 21ST | TRES HOMBRES | 7 - 11 P.M.



MARCH 28TH | THE JOKERS | 7 - 10 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT ALL YEAR LONG!

2951 Cherry Avenue | Signal Hill, CA 90755 | 562.612.3456