



Mountain Lion P-55 Makes History Crossing 101 Freeway Twice

By Macee Binns - Oct 18, 2017

SANTA MONICA—A 2-year-old mountain lion, known as P-55, made history last week when he successfully crossed the 101 Ventura freeway for the second time.

On Tuesday, October 17, the National Park Service announced via Facebook that P-55 ventured over 10 lanes of freeway traffic crossing through a “relatively developed part of Thousand Oaks,” just west of State Route 23.

“P-55 is full of surprises,” said Ranger Kate Kuykendall in the post. He is the first mountain lion to successfully cross the freeway twice, and he represents one of only 4 successful crossings by mountain lions since the National Park Service began studying the movements of local cougars in 2002. GPS tracking data from the animal’s collar showed the adventurous feline’s path.

In late July, P-55 made his way across the freeway for the first time, crossing state routes 23 and 118, where he was caught on camera in the backyard of a Newbury Park home. Kuykendall stated that after his dangerous two-part journey, “P-55 is now back to roaming the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains, likely looking to avoid other males so that he can one day establish his own territory.”

A study released in 2016 concluded that mountain lions in the Santa Monica range are facing possible extinction within the next 50 years. Researchers have documented 17 mountain lion deaths on Southern California roadways since 2002. In an attempt to preserve the regions feline wildlife, officials and activists are now advocating for construction of a landscaped wildlife crossing over the 101 Freeway in the Agoura Hills area.

Macee Binns

Macee Binns is a writer and published playwright that currently lives in Los Angeles. In addition to interning for Canyon News, she is also a Staff Content Writer for the popular news media site TheRichest.com. Macee writes for numerous blogs including her women's comedy blog "The Thoughts From A Tiny Ass Chair Blog," which you can check out at www.tinyasschair.com. You can follow Macee on Instagram at @maceebinns.

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POLICE COMMISSION APPROVES LAPD DRONE USE

By George Morris and Donald Roberts

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Police Commission approved on Tuesday, October 17 to allow a new drone pilot program for the Los Angeles Police Department.

The program is a one-year experiment in which, under certain circumstances, the LAPD’s SWAT teams would be allowed to deploy small, aerial drones to crime scenes. The proposal for the plan indicates that drones would be both unarmed and “shall not be deployed in violation of the law or Constitution.” All drone use would require a search warrant in advance.

Small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) refers to a remotely-operated, lightweight aircraft and its associated components. The Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) is a highly trained and specialized cadre of Department personnel under the command of Metropolitan Division and the Counterterrorism and Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB).

SWAT personnel respond to high-risk tactical incidents including hostage sit-



The Los Angeles Police Commission is set to vote on a controversial proposal to allow the LAPD to use drones.

uations, active shooter incidents, and counterterrorism operations, and are trained to operate specialized equipment and technology to safely resolve incidents

The LAPD has been pushing for the program, so drones can be used to search for armed, dangerous criminals, hazardous materials, explosive devices and more. The proposal states that the drones would allow for “situational awareness.” An sUAS shall not be deployed when weather conditions or other hazards prevent the safe operation of the aircraft and will not be deployed in a manner that ex-

ceeds the manufacturer’s recommendations. An sUAS shall not be deployed or used with any weapons capabilities including any non-lethal or less-than-lethal weapon systems.

LAPD Police Chief Charlie Beck indicated to the Police Commission, a program manager would be assigned from Air Support Division (ASD) to manage the pilot program and utilization of the device. The operation of the device would be limited to specifically trained personnel from the Special Weapons and Tactics team.

The program has been met with some criticism. The Stop LAPD Spying

Coalition held a protest outside the LAPD Headquarters Tuesday to fight the proposal. Protestors chanted “drone-free LAPD” and “no drones, LA.” Some have argued the use of drones could lead to invasions of privacy or police militarization. Chief Beck indicated those opposed were concerned that the Department could not be trusted to follow its own rules, regardless of how stringent the guidelines are designed. While those in support had similar concerns as those opposed to drone usage, but approved of adding new technology, but some of guidelines were too stringent and could hamper timely response to situations.

This is not the first time a police department has tried utilizing drones; a similar proposal was brought forward in Seattle in 2014. That proposal was not approved.

The proposal was passed by the Police Commission in a 3-1 vote. Los Angeles is now the largest city to ever pass such a program.

MISSING WOMAN KIMBERLY LIU FOUND SAFE

By Barry Ghabeai

SANTA MONICA—Kimberly Liu, 29, who is suffering from a brain tumor, was reported to Canyon News as being “found this morning at the corner of Lincoln Blvd and Olympic” on Tuesday, October 17, by the Santa Monica Police Department. Kimberly’s tumor causes her to become delusional and anxious.

Liu was last seen at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, October 16 at a dance studio in Santa Monica. She was last seen wearing black tights, pink shorts, and a multi-colored sweatshirt. Authorities have not disclosed details regarding Liu’s disappearance and where she was found as of print.

The SMPD tweeted: “SMPD Officers have located Kimberly LIU in SM. She is unharmed and will be reunited with her family shortly. Thank you for your help.”



Kimberly Liu who went missing on Monday, October 16, was found safe on October 17.

MAN SHOT IN ATTEMPTED CAR BURGLARY

By George Morris

SANTA MONICA—The victim of an attempted car burglary shot the perpetrator on Wednesday, October 11. The incident occurred on Bicknell Street, in the Ocean Park neighborhood several blocks from the ocean.

Captain Kenneth Semko of the Santa Monica Police Department tweeted, “On scene of a car burg area of 300 Bicknell shooting non PD related suspect in custody. Please stay away from area investigation on-going.”

According to the SMPD, the victim, who has still not been identified by authori-



A suspect was shot while attempting to steal the shooter’s car.

ties, heard commotion outside his home. He called the police, explaining that there was a carjacking in progress.

The man then went out to confront the suspect, wielding a handgun, at around 5 a.m.

According to the Santa Monica Daily Press, the victim found the suspect in his car, which led to a confrontation and the victim threatened the suspect. The suspect attempted to flee, but was shot in the chest by the victim. Authorities arrived on the scene and located the suspect who attempted to flee the scene. The suspect, Vidas Sileikis was arrested and bail was set at \$50,000. The victim could face charges because the suspect did not enter the victim’s home and was unarmed at the time of the shooting.

ORDINANCE ALLOWS TWO MEDICAL CANNABIS SHOPS

By Vanessa Arrendondo

SANTA MONICA—The city of Santa Monica may allow two medical marijuana dispensaries to operate within city limits and permit some “light manufacturing” of cannabis products, while prohibiting commercial non-medical use.

The Santa Monica Daily Press reported the three designated areas in the city available to two cannabis retail shops include: Wilshire Boulevard between Lincoln and Centinela Avenue, Santa Monica Boulevard between Lincoln and 20th Street, or Santa Monica between 23rd Street and Centinela Avenue.

The Santa Monica City Council during the council’s meeting on Tuesday, October 10 further discussed how to implement Senate Bill 94, which created the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) in 2017.

Existing zoning ordinances allow for two medicinal cannabis dispensaries, each 2,500 square feet, at least 600 feet away from



Two medical cannabis retail shops will be allowed to operate in Santa Monica, but, commercial use, distribution, and cultivation is prohibited. Photo courtesy of Tumblr.

schools, daycare centers, parks, libraries and social services offices. The Santa Monica City Council announced that the new city of Santa Monica Cannabis Ordinance will maintain this limit and establish a selection process for two medicinal cannabis retailer permits.

The ordinance will prohibit commercial use, cul-

tivation and distribution. Medical dispensaries will be allowed to grow a limited amount of product within the store. SB-94 was created following California’s approval of Prop 64, which legalized adult use, growth and possession of marijuana in California on November 2016.

Under MAUCRSA, Santa Monica can establish regu-

lations for medicinal and adult use cannabis markets, specify permit types, and authorize state agencies to establish rules governing cannabis operations, the council staff report states.

The council’s next course of action will be to decide whether a ballot measure should be created to make a business license tax for cannabis businesses.

MAYOR GARCETTI EXPANDS TURF REBATE PROGRAM

By Dylan Gera

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced Friday, October 13 that rebates provided by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for residential and commercial turf removal will rise over the next three months.

Rates will increase from \$1.75 to \$2 per square foot up to a maximum of 1,500 square feet. The rebates are designed to encourage residents and businesses to reduce water consumption through the removal of turf from their yards. They are part of the city of Los Angeles’ expansive “Save the Drop” program which aims to reduce the total water consumption of the city by 20 percent. Additional components of the turf replacement program include emphasizing the importance of sustainable landscaping, rainwater capture, and drip irrigation.



Turf removal rebates are one component of Mayor Garcetti’s “Save the Drop” program.

“Save the Drop” endeavors to help the city of Los Angeles reach Mayor Garcetti’s goal of cutting the amount of imported water purchased in half by 2025. Other elements of the plan include projects to clean the San Fernando Valley aquifer and to encourage greater water recycling, stormwater re-purposing, and groundwater recharging efforts.

“We are pleased to continue offering our turf replacement rebate — the most popular of all our water conservation programs,” said LADWP General Manager David H. Wright in a press release from the Office of the Mayor. “Since 2009, Angelenos have removed nearly 50 million square feet of grass, yielding about 2 billion gallons in annual

water savings.”

“Save the Drop” is a program of the Mayor’s Fund of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the creative agency Omelet LLC.

To obtain additional information visit [www . SaveTheDropLA . org](http://www.SaveTheDropLA.org) and www . CadaGotitaCuentaLA . org.

SAUDI PRINCE SUED FOR ASSAULT

By George Morris

BEVERLY HILLS—Saudi Prince Khalid Bin Faisal Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is being sued after allegedly putting Martin Bertucci, a temporary security guard of his security detail, in a violent headlock.

According to Patch.com, Bertucci’s case, which was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday, October 6, claims assault, battery, negligence, and both negligent and intentional infliction of emotional distress by the defendant. The suit reportedly states that Bertucci’s employer, Amgroup Inc. should have informed him that the prince was “unstable and dangerous,” and failed to do so.

The plaintiff relocated to California to protect the



A Saudi prince is being sued for assaulting his security guard back in November 2016.

prince and is an air force veteran who worked in the public sector for over 12 years. Bertucci suffered a severe cervical-spine injury,

which resulted in hospitalization. According to the lawsuit, he required spinal surgery, which has impacted his ability to gain em-

ployment.

The suit does not disclose a specific amount of money Bertucci is suing the defendant for.

ANN RUTHERFORD MANSION LISTS FOR \$40 MILLION

By Dylan Gera

BEVERLY HILLS—The Greenway Drive home of late actress Ann Rutherford, known primarily for her role in “Gone with the Wind” as Carreen O’Hara, has been listed for sale.

According to Variety, the French Revival-style Beverly Hills mansion is available with an asking price of \$39.9 million. The Westside Estate Agency is co-listing the house with Hilton & Hyland.

Though now known as The Rutherford House, the mansion was built in 1938 for real estate developer and Beverly Hills Mayor Edward Paul Dentzel. It was later purchased by Rutherford and her second husband William Dozier, creator of the 1960s “Batman” television series.

Rutherford died in June 2012 due to heart problems and the home was



The Rutherford House.

sold in 2013 to Mark Cohen, owner of Cohen Financial Group, and his wife Laurie for \$7.55 million. The Cohens renovated the home which consists of 10,500-square-feet of living space including, 5 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, a li-

brary, a swimming pool, and staff lodgings. The listing agent for the home is Kurt Rappaport.

In addition to her role in “Gone with the Wind,” Rutherford starred in the long-running Andy Hardy film series as Polly Bene-

dict, the on-again-off-again love interest of leading man Mickey Rooney. She also appeared in the films “Pride and Prejudice,” “Wyoming,” “Murder in the Music Hall” and the 1947 film “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.”