DOUBLING UP ON HELPING DISABLED

Nonprofits AbilityFirst, FVO Solutions Inc., which provide critical services, merge during a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate AbilityFirst’s merger with FVO Solutions Inc. The nonprofit focuses on delivering critical support services to people with developmental disabilities in Los Angeles County.

PASADENA

A little cat trivia as you consider adopting

The spring and summer months are the busiest for animal shelters because of the increased number of feline births. The season is a busy time for animal shelters, and our team is working hard to provide the best care for these adorable felines. In order to find permanent placements for them, a lot of research is needed to get them adopted as quickly as possible to make room for more felines coming in by the day. This little cat trivia might help.

1. A cat is a little stealthy and can get up to 80% of a mouse's paws.
2. A cat is a little ticklish, and a cat's paws have sensitive nerve endings.
3. A cat is a little curious, and a cat's paws can find places where there are tactile receptors.
4. A cat is a little active, and a cat's paws can make a big difference.
5. A cat is a little comfortable, and a cat's paws can feel comfortable even if they are a bit cold.

Sora (A922439) is a rather calm kitty with relaxed eyes. The 5-month-old feline has a black dot on her nose that looks like a black dot, adding a bit of character to her. She is in need of a home that is willing to give her time and space to get adjusted.

PAWS AND THE CITY

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**CALIFORNIA**

Uber’s ballot win on driver pay voided by judge

By Josh Eidelson and Peter Blumberg

Bloomberg

A California state judge struck down a voter-approved ballot measure bankrolled by Uber Technologies Inc., Lyft Inc., DoorDash Inc. and Instacart Inc. that declared drivers for the companies were independent contractors.

Proposition 22, which passed in a statewide vote in November, exempts the so-called gig economy businesses from a state labor law requiring more complex models, such as employees and provide them benefits.

The judge found that Proposition 22’s provisions violate the legislature’s hands regarding which workers are covered by worker’s compensation law, and regarding collective bargaining in future gig work, violate the state’s constitution.

“If the people wish to use their initiative power to restrict or qualify a plenary and unlimited power granted to the legislature, they must first do so by initiative constitutional amendment, not by initiative statute,” Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch said in the ruling issued Friday. Uber vowed to appeal and said it expects to win. “This ruling ignores the will of the overwhelming majority of California voters and defies both logic and the law,” Uber spokesperson Noah Edwardsen said in an email. “Meanwhile, Prop. 22 remains in effect, including all of the protections and benefits it provides independent workers across the state.”

The California attorney general’s office, which defended Proposition 22 in court, didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

University of California Hastings law professor Veena Dubal said the ruling is an “important first decision in what will end up being a very consequential legal battle.”

The California workers’ compensation law issues presented in the case are relatively novel, making it harder to predict what will happen in the future. Dubal, who supported the plaintiffs in a friend-of-the-court filing, “There’s not a lot of case law here to draw on,” she said.

Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, and Instacart spent about $200 million on the campaign, which deems app-based drivers contractors while providing them some alternative perks.

**MANHATTAN BEACH**

Beach volleyball tournament kicks off

By Chris Haire

The AVP Manhattan Beach Open got underway on Friday — with Olympic gold medalists April Ross and Alix Klineman spiking the competition in their first-round match.

Klineman is a Manhattan Beach native and she and her partner, Ross, took home the gold in beach volleyball during the Tokyo games earlier this month.

They will now try to win a three-day beach volleyball tournament on Klineman’s home courts. She and Ross stopped by Manhattan Beach on Thursday as well. They met with local officials, with Klineman saying the ability to practice at her hometown’s beach courts helped pave the way to her success.

The pair won the Manhattan Beach Open in 2018 and came in second in 2019.

There was no Manhattan Beach tournament last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. The 2021 iteration runs through Sunday.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Bear wanders from forest to Pasadena backyard

By Ruby Gonzales

A male bear left the forest and wandered several miles south to a Pasadena neighborhood where it took a nap in a backyard on Friday.

Fish and Wildlife officials shot the bear with a tranquilizer dart and took him back to the forest, according to city spokeswoman Lisa Derderian.

The bear is an adult and about 200 pounds, Rebecca Barboza, a biologist with Fish and Wildlife said. Their biologist at the scene said it was healthy, she added.

The ursine visitor ended up north of the 230 Freeway. A resident spotted the bear in a backyard in the 3200 block of Mataro Street around 8:30 a.m., Derderian said. It was snoring a few houses down from the Best Buy on Foothill Boulevard and Sierra Madre Street.

Another resident, James Farr, said he’s shocked the bear turned up in the 3200 block of Mataro Street in Pasadena and took a nap in a backyard on Friday. Fish and Wildlife officials tranquilized the bear and took him back to the forest.

“I walked out and there it was by the gate,” Farr said. “I guess we went to sleep.”

The bear woke up, got darted by Fish and Wildlife, then jumped north of Mataro Street into a yard on La Tierra Street, where the drug took effect, according to Derderian.

Farr said the bear jumped a tree and ended up on a roof.

“You could see it dozing and kind of nodding. Then it lost balance. It must have fallen 10 feet,” Farr said.

Barboza didn’t know how many bears are in the Angeles National Forest. A study on the bear population in the forest has just started, she said.

But statewide, she said, the bear population has nearly tripled in 30 to 40 years.

“The animals are dispersed in urban areas,” Barboza said. “We can’t say for sure it’s due to the encroachment.”

She said there are sources of water in the forest.

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