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The Modesto Bee



Woman on parole for fatal DUI crash arrested again

BY VIKAAS SHANKER
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Obdulia Sanchez, the 20-year-old Stockton woman who was recently released on parole after serving a shortened sentence for a fatal Merced County DUI crash that went viral on video, has been arrested again after an alleged police pursuit and weapons charges.

Stockton police officers tried stopping a vehicle Sanchez was

driving in the area of Rosemarie Lane and Piccardo Circle, in the Lakeview District, at about 1:32 a.m. Thursday for a vehicle code violation, according to a Facebook posting by the police department.

Sanchez failed to yield, leading officers on a brief pursuit. Sanchez failed to negotiate a turn and drove her car off the road near the Interstate 5 on-ramp at March Lane.

A male passenger fled from the vehicle and escaped, but

Sanchez was arrested. Officers also found a loaded firearm in the car.

Sanchez was driving her sister, Jacqueline Sanchez Estrada, and sister's girlfriend on July 21, 2017, on Henry Miller Road in Merced County, north of Los Banos, when she lost control of the vehicle and crashed.

The crash killed her sister and injured her sister's girlfriend. But it was Instagram livestream videos she took before, during and after the collision that went viral.



Obdulia Sanchez

The livestream shows Sanchez making a cell-phone selfie video while driving when the car flips. The graphic video then goes to the immediate aftermath, when Sanchez attempts to revive her sister, telling her to wake up and saying she killed her sister and was "going to jail."

Sanchez's blood alcohol con-

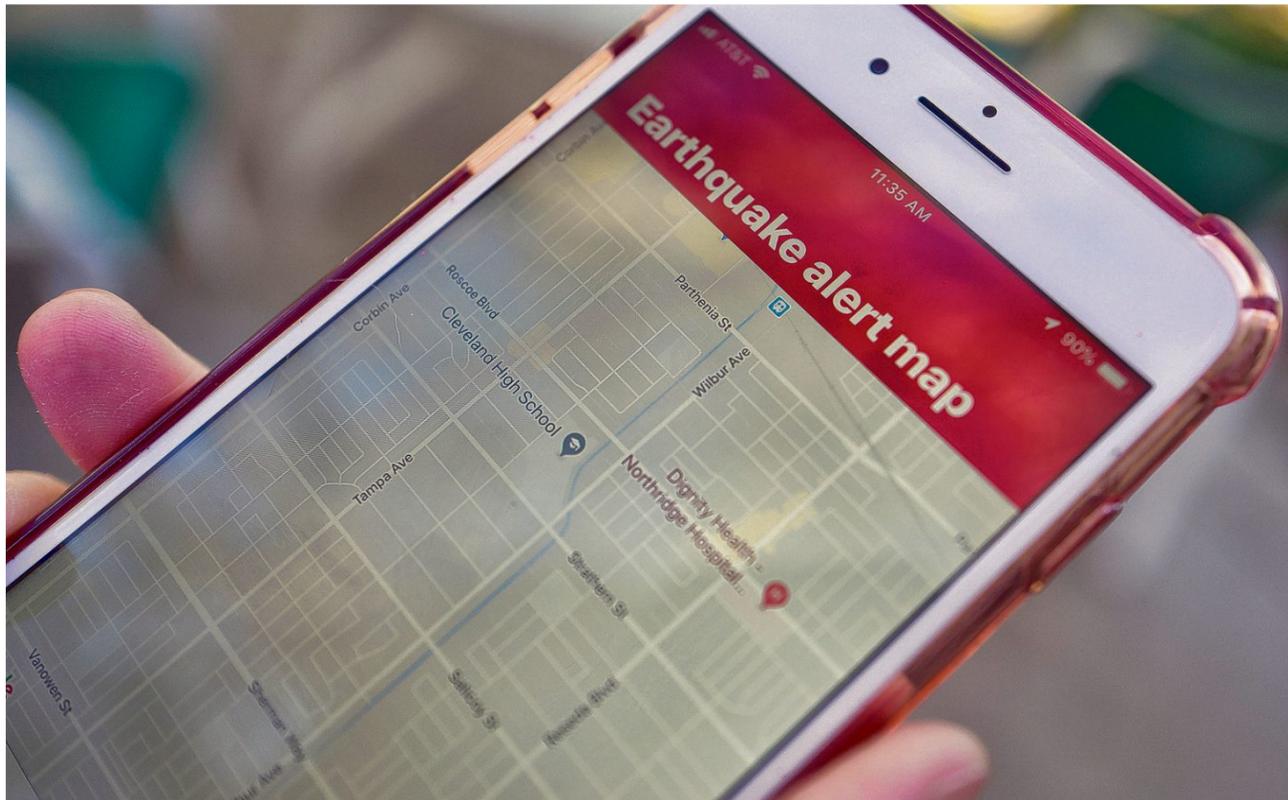
tent registered at 0.106 about 90 minutes after the crash, more than the legal limit, according to court records.

She was convicted on DUI and manslaughter charges, and sentenced to six years and four months in prison, with the possibility of parole after three years. That would have led to a possible release in September 2020.

But Sanchez was released from prison in late September, about a year early, after receiving conduct or educational credits while in prison, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Sanchez also entered into the state's Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program on Nov. 8, 2018.

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RICHARD VOGEL AP

Warnings produced by the ShakeAlert system will be pushed through a cellphone app called MyShake and the same wireless notification system that issues Amber Alerts.

California earthquake alert system rolls out

BY SOPHIA BOLLAG
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People across California can receive earthquake warnings seconds before they feel shaking through a new cell phone alert system that was rolled out Thursday on the 30th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

State officials announced the first-in-the-nation program at the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, which partially collapsed during the deadly 1989 quake.

The project, similar to an Amber Alert, has been in the works for years and relies on sensors buried throughout the state as part of the ShakeAlert system, a collaboration of researchers at UC Berkeley, the United States Geological Survey and the California Institute of Technology. The system does not predict earthquakes. Rather, it uses numerous seismic stations to detect the start of an earthquake and light-speed communications to send the data to computers that instantly calculate location, magnitude, intensity of shaking and create alerts to be distributed to areas that will be

affected.

Californians can receive the notifications through the cell phone application MyShake, which has been available for download for months, although before Thursday was not equipped to transmit early warning alerts.

The farther a person is from the epicenter, the more time they'll likely have before the shaking reaches them.

Californians right above the epicenter of an earthquake likely won't receive advance warning, said Richard Allen, director of the UC Berkeley Seismological Laboratory. Those who are warned will have a short amount of time to move away from windows and brace themselves.

It takes about eight seconds for the ShakeAlert system to detect a quake and about four seconds to broadcast an alert to phones, Allen said. It will send alerts for earthquakes over magnitude 4.5, according to the state's Office of Emergency Services.

Had the application been live during the Loma Prieta quake, which began near Santa Cruz, those at the World Series game in Candlestick Park would

IT WILL SEND ALERTS FOR EARTHQUAKES OVER MAGNITUDE 4.5, ACCORDING TO THE STATE'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES.

have had a 15-second warning before the stadium began to wobble, according to estimates from researchers.

This will mark the first time residents across California can receive earthquake alerts through their phones. Los Angeles residents were already able to get alerts through a different app, ShakeAlertLA. It comes several months after two big earthquakes originated in Ridgecrest, prompting Gov. Gavin Newsom to declare a state of emergency, and just days after a series of smaller earthquakes shook the Bay Area. The Los Angeles app, though, was criticized because it did not alert users to the Ridgecrest shaking.

The MyShake app also collects shaking data from phones during quakes and transmits it

back to scientists at Berkeley. It allows people to report about their experience during an earthquake, including how much shaking they felt and how much damage they observe.

Mexico and Japan have had early warning systems for earthquakes in place for years. Those countries are located near subduction zones under the ocean, where one of the earth's tectonic plates is sliding below another, meaning most of those countries' earthquakes originate offshore.

The system maintains a database of which cellphones are in 6.2-mile-square cell grids and pushes the alerts to phones in zones where at least level 3 shaking will occur, so receiving an alert is not based on which tower the phone is communicating with, said Richard Allen, director of the UC Berkeley Seismological Laboratory.

The Wireless Emergency Alerts system, known as WEA, operates slightly differently.

WEA creates polygons that include cellphone towers, said Ryan Arba chief of the seismic hazards branch of the Office of Emergency Services.

"If your phone is currently communicating with that cell tower, the message will be broadcast to your phone," he said.

A person will get an alert if they are outside a polygon but

SEE ALERTS, 5A

US hails Turkish cease-fire requiring Kurds move

BY ROBERT BURNS AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

ANKARA, TURKEY

The U.S. and Turkey agreed Thursday to a cease-fire in the Turks' deadly attacks on Kurdish fighters in northern Syria, requiring the Kurds to vacate the area in an arrangement that largely solidifies Turkey's position and aims in the weeklong conflict.

The deal includes a conditional halt to American economic sanctions.

After negotiations with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence hailed the five-day cease-fire as the way to end the bloodshed caused by Turkey's invasion. He remained silent on whether it amounted to a second abandonment of America's former Kurdish allies in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Turkish troops and Turkish-backed Syrian fighters launched their offensive against Kurdish forces in northern Syria a week ago, two days after President Donald Trump suddenly announced he was withdrawing the U.S. military from the area. Trump was widely criticized for turning on the Kurds, who had taken heavy casualties as partners with the U.S. in fighting IS extremists since 2016.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the United States had accepted the idea of a "safe zone" long pushed by Turkey, and he insisted Turkish armed forces will control the zone. He also made clear that Turkey will not stop at a previously limited zone; he said Turkish control of the Syrian side of the border must extend all the way to the Iraqi border.

The commander of Kurdish-led forces in Syria, Mazloum Abdi, told Kurdish TV, "We will do whatever we can for the success of the cease-fire agreement." But one Kurdish official, Razan Hiddo, declared that Kurdish people would refuse to live under Turkish occupation.

Trump had no reservations, hailing "a great day for civilization."

"Everybody agreed to things

SEE CEASE-FIRE, 5A

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