

■ **GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

# Tax Rebate For 'Wolf' Is Approved

## \$27.7 mill subsidy for upgrades

By **Jim Tortolano**  
Orange County Tribune

An arrangement in which Garden Grove will rebate for 10 years 40 percent of the "bed tax" generated by the Great Wolf Lodge waterpark hotel on Harbor Boulevard was approved on a 7-0 vote on Tuesday night.

"It's a win-win situation," said Vice Mayor Cindy Tran. "We're very in-

vested in the Great Wolf," said Councilmember Joe DoVinh (District 4) "and we want them to be invested in Garden Grove."

In exchange for the subsidy – worth about \$27.7 million – Great Wolf will invest an estimated \$40 million in renovations and modernizations for the 603-room hotel, which is the city's biggest tourist attraction.

The reasoning behind the deal is that Great Wolf needs to "protect its brand" by bringing it up to current standards that are at other locations in the chain. If not renovated, according to a city

*Continued on page 2*

# Tran claims a victory but Steel won't concede

Derek Tran, the Democratic challenger for the 45th Congressional District representing much of West Orange County and Cerritos in Los Angeles County, is claiming victory over incumbent Republican Michelle Steel.

According to the latest figures from the California Secretary of State, Tran has received 157,960

## Election 2024

votes, or 50.1 percent of the ballots tallied.

Steel has 157,347 or 49.9 percent. That's an edge of 613 votes to Tran, with an estimated 2,700 ballots yet to count.

Steel hasn't conceded, and the Associated Press has not called the race for Tran.

## HAZARDS OF MOTORING



Orange County Fire Authority units were recently called upon to rescue two motorists whose vehicles went out of control in Garden Grove and trapped the occupants. Above, OCFA work on a vehicle at Trask Avenue and Taft Street. Another incident took place in the 7500 block of Garden Grove Boulevard in which a car overturned (OCFA photo).

### In The Trib

**Chargers play for the CIF-SS championship**



SPORTS Page 6

**Fans to rejoice over 'Wicked'**



ARTS & LIVING Page 5

# City will act to tackle homelessness woes as 'local emergency'

Taking steps to deal with problems stemming from the homelessness crisis, the Stanton City Council on Tuesday night passed two related measures.

On a 5-0 vote, the council approved a resolution declaring a "local emergency" related to how homelessness has been connected to health and safety concerns, increases in criminal activity, open-air drug use, people sleeping and camping in ways that obstruct the public's use of right-of-way and other public facilities.

The resolution empowers

### ■ STANTON CITY COUNCIL

the city manager with "additional powers" as director of emergency services to "take necessary steps to address the homelessness crisis."

Also approved on a 5-0 vote was approval for introduction of and first reading of an ordinance prohibiting "sleeping, sitting, laying and/storing personal property in a manner that interferes with the public's access to public streets, sidewalks,

*Continued on page 2*

# Great Wolf subsidy deal

Continued from page 1

report, the resort could lose the Great Wolf brand and thereby be a less attractive independent hotel with a separate water park.

The deal would also prevent the establishment of another Great Wolf Lodge within a 200-mile

radius, which would include cities such as San Diego or Bakersfield. Such an agreement is intended to keep the bed tax cash flow to the city intact and robust.

## Stanton council

Continued from page 1

right-of-way and facilities.”  
Second reading and adoption of the ordinance is scheduled for the Dec. 10 meeting of the council.

**BECAUSE of the Thanksgiving weekend, The Tribune will not publish an e-newspaper edition on Saturday, Nov. 30. We'll be back on Dec. 4**



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## The Tribune

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# News & Views

## The tragedies of tempting fate with turkeys

For some reason, the Thanksgiving holiday provides some of the most memorable – and not always in a good way – moments of the holiday season. Some of them are imaginary, having been provided for your amusement by television and movies. Some are a little closer to the wish-

bone, if you know what I mean.

Most of us baby boomers remember the classic “WKRP in Cincinnati” episode about the T-day



**Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

promotion at a fictional radio station in which a helicopter was hired to air-drop turkeys over the parking lot of a shopping center.

The birds were released and descended ... well, you know the rest. It ended up with the immortal line of “As God as my witness, I thought turkeys could fly.”

My stories aren’t quite that timeless, but I do still smile at an incident many years ago when I was at the old Orange County Evening News. The publisher had the idea that a good Thanksgiving photo for the issue before the holiday would somehow combine a turkey and football.

Our managing editor, Don Holden, knew the publicity director for the Los Angeles Rams, who trained at Blair Park in Long Beach in those days. He got the idea that we should rent – yes, you could do that back in the 1970s – a live turkey and have it held by Rams’ star linebacker Jack Youngblood.

“Oh, he’ll do it,” said Don. “He does all kind of crazy stunts.”

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**TONY STRICKLAND**, currently a member of the Huntington Beach City Council, is seeking a return to Sacramento.

## Tony Strickland seeking 36th State Senate seat

Tony Strickland, a member of the Huntington Beach City Council and former state legislator, has announced his candidacy for the 36th State Senate seat now held by Janet Nguyen.

She is the winner of the First District seat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors and will be stepping down from her Senate post.

A special election will be held in the spring of 2025 to fill that Sacramento seat.

Strickland, a Republican, has served previously in the California State Assembly representing the 37th District from 1998 to 2004 and later in the State Senate’s 19th District seat from

2008 to 2012.

Elected to the Huntington Beach City Council in 2022, he served as mayor from 2022 to 2023 and was succeeded by Gracey Van Der Mark.

If elected to the state senate seat, his position on the city council will be filled by vote of the remaining members of the council.

The 36th District includes most of Orange County’s coastal area including Huntington Beach, as well as Garden Grove, Stanton and Westminster and portions of Los Angeles County.

Political party registration is 36.48 percent Republican, 33.74 percent Democratic and 24.05 percent no party preference.

## Checkpoint in G. Grove totals four DUI arrests

A police checkpoint for motorists driving under the influence in Garden Grove netted six arrests, four of them for DUI offenses last Friday.

According to the GGPD, more than 800 vehicles passed through the checkpoint.

Twenty-five citations were issued and four vehicles were towed in addition to the arrests made.

The checkpoint was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

## Need money for repair of your home?

The City of Garden Grove has announced new funding for the Home Repair Program beginning Monday, Dec. 2. The grant program assists qualified low-income Garden Grove residents receive up to \$5,000 to make home improvements.

These grants do not need to be repaid to the city and are designed for minor home repairs. The homeowner is required to contribute a minimum of \$500 of their own funds towards the repairs, and major repairs to the home that are above \$5,000 will not be considered for the Home Repair Program.

Starting Monday, Dec. 2, applications can be submitted at <https://apply.ggcity.org/>

Acceptable exterior and interior home repairs include but are not limited to window replacement, electrical repairs, pest control, interior and exterior painting, plumbing repairs, heater replacement (HVAC), handicap accessibility modifications, and repairs to address building or safety code violations in the home.

# NewsUpdate

## Israel Accepts Hezbollah Cease-Fire

### But aerial attacks in Lebanon are still underway

Israel has approved a cease-fire agreement with Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Associated Press is reporting.

However, minutes after that was announced, Israeli jets bombed the capital city of Beirut, killing at least 24 people including three Lebanese journalists

The cease-fire is scheduled to take hold "in a matter of hours" and could end over a year of combat between Israeli forces and those of the Lebanon-based Muslim militia.

Continuing the attacks is believed to be a signal from Israel that it intends to keep hitting Hezbollah until the cease-fire is set to go into effect at 4 a.m. local time on Wednesday.

Under the terms of the agree-



ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (Shutterstock).

ment, Israel would withdraw its forces from Lebanon, Hezbollah would move north – further from Israel – and the Lebanese Army would be positioned

between them to enforce the cease-fire.

The cease-fire, even if it is successful, doesn't directly affect the fighting in the Gaza area be-

tween Israel and Hamas.

The AP reports that President Joe Biden would be making new efforts to gain a stop in the

## Tariff war between US and Mexico, China and perhaps Canada?

President-elect Donald Trump's announced plans to slap heavy tariffs – perhaps as high as 25 percent – on products from Canada, China and Mexico could bring a similar response from those nations.

The New York Times is reporting that Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum indicated Tuesday that her nation would respond in

kind to American products sold south of the border.

On the other hand, Canada doesn't have the same issues with border security as does Mexico, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told the House of Commons that his government could work with Trump in an effort to protect jobs.

### Great Thoughts

“Hesitancy breeds hesitancy, and if you go into something with one foot, it's going to fail.”  
– Kacey Musgraves, musician

## Disney agrees to \$43.25m deal on gender pay suit

A proposed wage settlement in California would pay Disney workers \$43.25 million to drop their class action lawsuit alleging gender pay differences.

United Press International is reporting that 14,000 current and former female workers for The Walt Disney Company would benefit from the settlement. The settlement originally asked for was for \$300 million.

Alleged is that many female workers at Disney were paid less than their male counterparts having the same experience.

As part of the proposed deal, Disney will agree to hire a full-time labor economist to examine whether pay discrepancies exist and how to deal with them.

### Weather: Rainy, then warmer

The cooling trend in the West Orange County area should peak on Wednesday with a 19 percent chance of rain in our West Orange County cities and a high of 67 and a low of 49. Temperatures are expected to start rising on Thursday to 75 (49) with partly cloudy skies. Friday is expected to go to 74 (55) and 76 (54) on Saturday, with both days having mostly cloudy skies.

# Arts & Living

## 'Wicked' Fans Rejoice with Film

2-hr, 40 min. ode to favorite myth, but worth it

By Jocelyn Noveck  
AP National Writer

It's the ultimate celebrity redemption tour, two decades in the making. In the annals of pop culture, few characters have undergone an image makeover quite like the Wicked Witch of the West.

Oh, she may have been vengeful and scary in "The Wizard of Oz." But something changed — like, REALLY changed — on the way from the yellow brick road to the Great White Way. Since 2003, crowds have packed nightly into "Wicked" at Broadway's Gershwin Theatre to cheer as the green-skinned, misunderstood Elphaba rises up on her broomstick to belt "Defying Gravity," that enduring girl-power anthem.

How many people have seen "Wicked"? Rudimentary math suggests more than 15 million on Broadway alone. And now we have "Wicked" the movie, director Jon M. Chu's lavish, faithful, impeccably crafted (and nearly three-hour) ode to this origin story of Elphaba and her (eventual) bestie — Glinda, the very good and very blonde. Welcome to Hollywood, ladies.

Before we get to what this movie does well (Those big numbers! Those costumes!), just a couple thornier issues to ponder. Will this "Wicked," powered by a soulful Cynthia Erivo (owner of one of the best singing voices on the planet) and a sprightly, comedic, hair-tossing Ariana Grande, turn even musical theater haters into lovers?

Tricky question. Some people just don't buy into the musical thing, and they should be allowed to live freely amongst us. But if people breaking into song delights rather than flummoxes you, if elaborate dance numbers



CYNTHIA ARIVO (left) and Ariana Grande in "Wicked" (Universal Studios).

### Movie Review

in village squares and fantastical nightclubs and emerald-hued cities make perfect sense to you, and especially if you already love "Wicked," well then, you will likely love this film. If it feels like they made the best "Wicked" movie money could buy — well, it's because they kinda did.

Much credit for that goes to Chu, who has said he spent so many years working on "Wicked" that three of his five children were born during that span. Chu clearly has musical theater in his DNA, as we already knew from "In the Heights." His actors don't break awkwardly into composer Stephen Schwartz's famous pop-show tunes: they run headlong into them, and sometimes blow the roof off with them.

Another question: Will people be turned off when they see "To Be Continued" at the end, after two

hours and 40 minutes, realizing they must wait a year for Part 2?

Also tricky. Surely this COULD have been one movie. But then, how would they have followed "Defying Gravity," which brings down the Act 1 curtain (and the house) in the show? It's hard to imagine just continuing with the plot.

Yes, the plot: We begin with Grande's Glinda descending on Munchkinland in her glistening bubble, which since 1939 has been upgraded with a comfy sofa, to announce that, indeed, the wicked witch is dead.

But someone challenges Glinda: Is it true you were her friend? Well, er, yes, Glinda replies carefully. Their paths did cross — back at school.

Cue opening day at Shiz University. Glinda — well, for now, Glinda "with a ga" — an aspiring sorcery major, arrives in her pink suit looking like a mix of Grace Kelly and Elle Woods. She already has a fan base and a private

**Good: ★★★**

suite.

Also arriving is Elphaba to help her sister, Nessarose (Marissa Bode) settle in. The students are horrified at her green skin. But when imperious Madame Morrible (Michelle Yeoh), dean of sorcery at Shiz, gets a glimpse of Elphaba's unharnessed magical powers, the green girl becomes her prized student.

Elphaba hopes her sorcery lessons will lead to a meeting with the all-powerful Wizard of Oz, whose glorified head is carved into the campus and who, she secretly hopes, will grant her wish to be "de-greenified." She sings of this wish in "The Wizard and I," a lovely number introducing Erivo's uniquely supple vocals.

Another upbeat number, "What is this Feeling?," introduces the "loathing, unadulterated loathing" between Elphaba and Glinda,

Continued on page 8

# TheSportsPages

## Cut them off at the pass, Coach Foster!

*"All warfare is based on deception,"*  
– Sun Tau, "The Art of War."

Football is not the same as combat, but there are some similarities. And football coaches, like generals are subject to second-guessing.

Normally, I'm not the kind of sports scribe to criticize the play-calling of a coach. I mean, what do I know?

On the other hand, I have to admit I almost choked on my apple-cranberry cookie on



### Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Saturday while watching the UCLA-USC game. The Bruins coaching staff – or perhaps Deshaun Foster himself – called for a simple plow-ahead into the line on fourth down late in the game from ... the Bruins' 34-yard line.

Let's put this in perspective. Foster was a star running back for the Bruins back in the day, so maybe he's slightly prejudiced in favor of the running attack. Fair enough, if you've got homeric ball-carriers and/or gold-plated offensive linemen.

Barring that, the smart play is to try to confuse The Other Guys a bit. Screen pass. Option. Quarterback keeper around the edge. Jet sweep. Fake punt. Et cetera.

And all of that is if you're on The Other Guy's side of the gridiron, not your own 34. After the game, Foster said. "We let one slip through our hands. We've got to find a way to finish games." Well, with play-calling like that – not to mention three – unsportsman-like penalties against UCLA just before halftime.

Slip through their hands? It looks like the Bruins handed that 19-13 outcome to the Trojans.



EDISON HIGH CHARGERS will play Simi Valley on Friday for the CIF-SS Division 3 football title at Sheue Field at Huntington Beach High (HBUHSD photo).

## Charging for a Section Title

### Edison will host Simi Valley on Friday at Sheue

Whoever ranked the teams in the CIF-SS Division 3 football playoffs knew what they were doing.

When the Edison Chargers meet

#### ■ CIF-SS FOOTBALL

the Simi Valley Pioneers on Friday night at Huntington Beach High's Sheue Field, it's a clash between the number one and the number two seeded schools in the D-3.

Edison (9-4) had the tougher path to the finals, finishing third in the rough Alpha League. But

they've cruised through the playoffs, winning by a combined average of 28 points per game.

Simi Valley (12-1) tied for the Marmoset League title with Oaks Christian, losing only to Pacifica High of Oxnard, 28-0.

The playoffs have been nail-biters, winning their games by two, seven and five points.

Edison's main man is Julius Gillick, who averages 155.2 yards per game for the green-and-gold.

He's scored 26 rushing touchdowns this season. The passing game is shared by Sam Thomson (eight TD passes) and Save-lino Niumata (seven).

Simi Valley is led by Brice Hawkins, who has rushed for 1,633 yards and 30 touchdowns, nine of which were 100-yard dashes. He averaged 125.6 yards a game in 2024.

The game is scheduled to kick off at 7 p.m.

### Suns outshine the Lakers

A big third quarter was the engine which powered the Phoenix Suns to a 127-100 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night at Footprint Center.

The visitors led 62-60 at halftime, but the Suns pulled away by outscoring the Lakers 36-18 and going on to the win.

Devin Booker scored 26 points for Phoenix, and had 10 assists.

#### ■ NBA and NHL

Center Jusuf Nurkic grabbed 12 rebounds, had three assists and scored 12 points.

For the Lakers, Anthony Davis scored 25 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and had five assists.

LeBron James scored 18 points, had eight rebounds and 10 assists.

# Rams fall flat in prime time, again

## Saquon Barkley just couldn't be stopped on Sunday

By Joe Reedy  
AP Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD (AP) — For the second time in three weeks, the Los Angeles Rams went into a game knowing a win would move them into a tie for the NFC West lead, only to struggle mightily on the prime-time stage.

Philadelphia's Saquon Barkley ran for 255 yards, the most the Rams have allowed to a running back, but it was the familiar struggles on offense and special teams that also loomed just as large in Sunday night's 37-20 loss to the Eagles.

"It just came down to us shooting ourselves in the foot," defensive end Kobie Turner said. "We really needed to play gap sound but any time an opponent



**RAMS DEFENDERS** swarm Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts (1), but it wasn't enough in 37-20 loss (Rams photo).

gets (314) rushing yards, that's embarrassing."

Barkley's 255 yards is the most a running back has gained against the Rams, surpassing

the previous mark of 253 by Dallas' DeMarco Murray in a 2011 game.

The 314 total rushing yards was the fourth-most allowed in a game in franchise history.

"They did way too many good things explosive-wise in the running game for us to be able to overcome," coach Sean McVay said.

The Rams appeared as if they were going to get off to a quick start, but Kyren Williams fumbled the ball at the Eagles 17-yard line. It was Williams' fifth fumble and third turnover in seven weeks after he had only three fumbles and two turnovers last year.

Williams gave the Rams a 7-3 lead with 1:02 remaining in the first quarter on a 1-yard run up the middle, but the offense went three-and-out on its next three drives.

After Barkley's 70-yard run put the Eagles up 20-7 early in the third quarter, the Rams fought back and got within six when

Continued on page 8

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# Movie review: 'Wicked' is wickedly fun

Continued from page 5

forced to room together. These early songs have a zippy appeal, and the best is "Dancing Through Life," a bang-up dance number that showcases the rakish charm of local prince Fiyero (Jonathan Bailey of "Bridgerton," dripping with charm) who proudly urges fellow students to join him in his shallowness.

"Life's more painless, for the brainless," sings Bailey, ac-

companied by acrobatic dancers on huge, coordinated "tornado wheels" in a fabulous library.

"Life Is fraught less, when you're thoughtless." Fiyero will develop into something different in Part 2. For now, he woos Glinda and strikes up a friendship with Elphaba.

But "Wicked" is about female friendship, and the sudden, surprising bond between polar opposites Glinda and Elphaba — chirpy vs. deep, pink-clad vs. black-clad. In the delightful makeover song "Popular," Glinda's tour de force, Grande swings from the chandelier, kicks like a can-can dancer, and gallivants around a to-die-for bedroom set that includes pink-sequined shoes

popping out of nowhere.

Erivo's tour de force? That would be "Defying Gravity," the show's huge signature song, coming as the mood has changed into something far more ominous.

Both young women are in the Emerald City, where they — or at least, Elphaba — have discovered that the wizard is not powerful and beneficent, but, more like, well, Jeff Goldblum: charming and weak, with a big, dark secret. "So if you care to find me," belts

out Elphaba, having discovered the power of her broomstick, "Look to the western sky."

Where, exactly, is she going? Hold that thought. For exactly one year.

"Wicked," a Universal Studios release, has been rated PG by the Motion Picture Association "for some scary action, thematic material and brief suggestive material." Running time: 160 minutes.

## Retorts: Turkey vs. the Rams

Continued from page 3

The "stunt" went south real fast. We took a pickup truck to the turkey farm, and placed the bird in a wire cage in the back. What we didn't figure on was that at freeway speeds, the wind quickly began to pluck feathers off the poor critter. When we finally got to Blair, that was one cheesed-off and chilly fowl. Once out of the cage, the bird raged around, surrounded by members of a professional football team who gamely tried to tackle it.

You've heard the phrase "Mad as a wet hen"? Nothing compared to mad as a naked turkey. After a ridiculous amount of chasing, we finally were able to round it up and a thoroughly disgusted Youngblood held on as best as he could as our photographer snapped some fuzzy, out-of-focus shots of man vs. near-naked beast.

I don't know what happened to the bird, but we were never again welcome at the Rams training camp. In November, at least.

## Not ready for prime time?

Continued from page 7

Matthew Stafford connected with Demarcus Robinson for a 2-yard pass. But Philadelphia took control the rest of the way. Stafford completed 24 of 36 passes for 243 yards and two touchdowns, but was under duress for most of the night. He was sacked five times, tying a season high.

Stafford has been sacked 22 times in their six losses compared to only four in their five wins.

"They rushed four the majority of the night. They didn't do anything we didn't expect," Stafford said. "It was a one score game at halftime and then we didn't do enough in the second half. We didn't put ourselves in a lot of favorable positions."

Puka Nacua had nine receptions for 117 yards but Cooper Kupp was held in check most of the game before finishing with eight catches for 60 yards.

Rookie Joshua Karty was wide

right on a 47-yard field-goal attempt late in the third quarter, marking his third straight game with a missed kick. He has made only three of his last six field goals.

"I thought we came out ready to go," McVay said. "The turnover in the first quarter really hurt us. When it was a one possession game they ended up scoring quickly coming out of the half. We were able to match it and then it got away from us." Despite their struggles, the Rams are still in contention for the NFC West title.

Arizona and Seattle are tied atop the division at 6-5 with the Rams and San Francisco one game back at 5-6.

Three of Los Angeles' last four games are against division opponents.

"There's humbling nights like this in football. It is all about how you respond. This team has the capability to respond," McVay said.



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**Garden Grove Rotary**

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**Garden Grove Rotary**

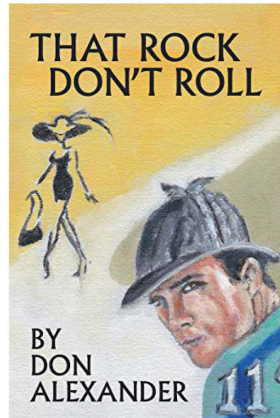
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### That Rock Don't Roll

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- The Orange County Tribune

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