



THE GREAT WOLF LODGE on Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove.

Proposed: 40 percent of bed tax going back to Great Wolf

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

■ **GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

One of Garden Grove’s most successful tax generators may be getting a 40 percent share of what goes into the city treasury from its operations for a 10-year period.

That’s if the city council on Tuesday approves a “restrictive covenant

agreement” with the operators of the Great Wolf Lodge, a 603-room water-park hotel resort on Harbor Boulevard.

What’s proposed is an arrangement in which two-fifths of the “transient occupancy tax” (also known as “bed tax”) paid

by visitors to the hotel be shared with the hotel operators to “induce” the hotel operators to invest an estimated \$40 million in renovations, including adding new food and beverage dining options, enhanced resort pool and entertainment activities including new “dry attractions,” updated rooms and updated common facilities.

That’s an estimated \$27.7 million subsidy over a decade.

The reasoning behind the deal is that Great Wolf needs to “protect its brand” by bringing it up to current standards at other locations in the chain. If not renovated, according to a city report, the resort could lose the Great Wolf brand and thereby be a less attractive independent hotel

Continued on page 2

Seven days of karaoke

A bar in Garden Grove has received permission for seven-day karaoke from the city planning commission.

On a vote of 5-0 – with members John Ramirez and Mark Peredes absent – the commission on Thursday gave approval for a conditional use permit to allow such

■ **GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION**

live entertainment at The Glen Bar and Grill, 13132 Garden Grove Blvd. (between Haster and Fairview streets) to offer karaoke daily.

Operating hours for the bar will continue to be from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

■ **STANTON CITY COUNCIL**

Homeless Ordinance On Agenda

Campaign contributions discussed, too

Additionally, the agenda calls for:

- a resolution declaring a local emergency “caused by the homelessness crisis,” followed by:
- an ordinance “prohibiting interference with the public’s right of access to public streets, sidewalks, rights of way and facilities” as a way of combatting problems tied to the unhoused;
- a discussion of a rent control ordinance from the city of San Juan Capistrano and proposed rent control ordinances from the City of Anaheim;
- a discussion of “the city’s strategies against illegal fireworks” in preparation for the July 4, 2025

Continued on page 2

An extraordinarily full agenda will greet the Stanton City Council when it meets to consider items relating to campaign contribution limits, homelessness, rent control and illegal fireworks on Tuesday. The council will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to impose a \$1,000 limit for contributions to candidates for city council. The ordinance, if approved, includes a process for adjudicating violations of the limit.

Tran’s lead now at 519

Election 2024

Derek Tran continues to build on his slender lead in the race for the 45th Congressional seat, serving Orange County and Cerritos in Los Angeles County.

The latest count on Friday – as posted by the California Secretary of State’s office – showed Tran, the Democratic challenger, leading the Republican incumbent Michelle Steel

by 157,075 (50.1 percent) to 156,556 (49.9 percent). That’s a margin of 519 votes, up from Thursday’s edge of 480.

It’s not over yet, but the election results must be certified by the State of California by Dec. 13.

Great Wolf agreement

Continued from page 1

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 Ba-

kersfield. Such an agreement is intended to keep the TOT cash flow to the city intact and robust. The council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in its chambers in the Community Meeting Center, 1130 Stanford Ave.

Stanton's busy agenda

Continued from page 1

holiday season. The council will meet at Stanton City Hall, 7800 Katella

Ave., (west of Beach Boulevard) with a special closed session at 5:30 p.m. and the joint regular session at 6:30 p.m.



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News & Views

Next steps in dealing with homelessness

Now, it's been done. Or is getting done. But what will happen next?

As you may be aware, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that arresting people for what amounts to loitering in public spaces is not unconstitutional and therefore states and local agencies can pass

and enforce laws against it.

What are termed "anti-camping" ordinances have been approved by Garden Grove and other area cities and

are widely considered the beginning of a new era in dealing with the problem of widespread homelessness.

Generally speaking, such ordinances involve issuing citations which – if ignored – can turn into misdemeanors which – can turn into fines and perhaps harsher penalties.

Cities have been offering increasing levels of service for the unhoused with mixed success. Huntington Beach was the first with a "navigation center" and the Central Cities Navigation Center – serving Garden Grove, Fountain Valley and Westminster – has recently opened.

There's been some success in reducing the "point-in-time" count of folks living on the street, and I think – unscientifically – I've concluded the same. But what about those who don't want the shelter offered?

Most such facilities require adherence to certain rules – no drugs, no alcohol, no weapons, no free movement in and out – and – in some cases, no pets. But so far most people offered services – housing, mental health treatment, etc. – have

Continued on page 8



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

SNOWLAND COMES TO THE OC



It may be in the Seventies outside, but its clearly wintery inside the Great Wolf Lodge in Garden Grove. Starting on Monday, Nov. 25 and continuing through Jan. 6, the local lodge and others across the U.S., will be turned into "Snowland," featuring a wide variety of activities including holiday-themed yoga classes, season games, visits with Santa, seasonal crafters, and the Frosty Fest Dance Party. The Grand Lobby has giant snowflakes suspended from the ceiling, garlands around tall pine trees and snow blankets covering the lodge's large fireplace. For more details about what's available, go to www.greatwolf.com.

Holiday Drive underway now through December 12

From now through Thursday, Dec. 12, the Garden Grove community can assist local youth and seniors in need during the holidays by donating new and unwrapped toys, board games, sports equipment, gift cards, and other essential supplies to the City of Garden Grove's 26th Annual Holiday Drive. Donations can be dropped off at:

- Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center, at 12661 Sun-swept Avenue
 - Magnolia Park Family Resource Center, at 11402 Magnolia Street
 - H. Louis Lake Senior Center, at 11300 Stanford Avenue
 - Garden Grove City Hall, at 11222 Acacia Parkway
- Gifts can also be purchased online and shipped directly to Gar-

den Grove City Hall through the Amazon holiday registry.

For children's gifts please visit <https://bit.ly/GGHolidaydrive> and for senior gifts visit <https://bit.ly/holidaydriveSeniors>.

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A MicroBiz program to launch in GG

The City of Garden Grove is announcing the launch of the Garden Grove MicroBiz Program, which provides technical and financial assistance to local small businesses looking to improve and expand operations. Qualifying local establishments can now apply for the MicroBiz Program by visiting ggcity.org/business-resources.

The new MicroBiz Program is for businesses with five or less employees and provides a wide range of technical assistance to support participating businesses.

Services include: initial business assessments from experienced business advisors; business planning and counseling; financial management and budgeting; workforce development; sales and marketing; and technology.

Additionally, participating businesses can apply for a loan of up to \$50,000 if hiring low-income individuals. The loan is designed to help offset business operation expenses while the business undertakes hiring and expands operations. The city's loan offers competitive financing with a minimum interest rate of 3%, and a maximum interest rate that does not exceed 75% of the current prime rate.

To qualify, businesses must be located in Garden Grove; have less than five employees (including the business owner); possess valid operating licenses and permits; and be in good-standing with the City.

The MicroBiz Program is part of the Garden Grove Business Resource and Resiliency Plan, designed to assist local businesses and stimulate growth and job creation, while improving Garden Grove's economic vitality.

For more information on Garden Grove's business programs and to apply for assistance, visit ggcity.org/business-resources or telephone the city's Office of Economic Development at (714) 741-5130.

NewsUpdate

Israeli Strikes Kill 47 in Lebanon

Aerial attacks and shelling take aim at Hezbollah

Israeli air strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon on Friday have killed at least 47 people and wounded 22.

According to United Press International, the raids struck near the cities of Beirut and Tyre, as reported by the Health Ministry of Lebanon.

The attacks were into areas controlled by Hezbollah, a militia backed by Iran.

The attacks were in response to rockets fired into Israel by Hezbollah in support of Hamas militants

In addition to the bombing Israeli artillery fire struck towns near the border between Israel and Lebanon.

Reports from China's state-run Xinhua news agency said that 19 airstrikes were conducted on



HEZBOLLAH ROCKET LAUNCHERS in Lebanon (Wikipedia).

16 villages and towns in southern Lebanon and five in four villages and towns in eastern

Lebanon.

According to the World Health Organization, 233 health work-

ers in Lebanon have been killed in 126 attacks this year, with 183 others wounded.

Matt Gaetz won't return to Congress after AG nomination controversy

Matt Gaetz, whose nomination to be the U.S. Attorney General was scuttled by a controversy over alleged sexual misconduct, announced he would not be seeking to return to Congress, either, according to USA Today.

Gaetz, a former House member from Florida, resigned when

nominated to be the nation's highest law enforcement official.

But the emergence of reports of sexual impropriety led to an uproar among both Republicans and Democrats and Gaetz withdrew from the nomination process.

Great Thoughts

"New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any other reason because they aren't already common."

– John Locke, political philosopher.

Vaccine critic selected to run Food, Drug agency

President-elect Donald Trump made more nominations to public health agencies on Friday.

The Associated Press is reporting that Dr. Marty Makary, a surgeon and an author, is to lead the Food and Drug Administration.

He has been a critic of vaccine mandates and other health policies adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also tapped were Dave Weldon to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Janette Nesheiwat to be surgeon general.

Weather: Cool, rain ... maybe

True crisp autumn weather remains with us in our West Orange County cities through the weekend. The forecast calls for daytime highs ranging from 65 to 68, with overnight lows from 51 to 55. The skies should be cloudy Saturday through Monday with a 10 percent possibility of rain on Tuesday.

Arts & Living

A Bewitching 'Web' At WCP

Another good whodunit by Agatha Christie

By Thom deMartino
Orange County Tribune

Oh, what a tangled web, indeed.

Here in the oncoming chill of the autumn months, it's just the right time for the Westminster Community Playhouse to present their newest gripping whodunit, Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web".

Directed by Jim Katapodis (and dedicated to the late Kip Hogan, a talented and much beloved member of the WCP family), "Web" weaves the tale of Clarissa Hailsham-Brown (Talia Abbene), who has recently moved into Coplestone Court, a country house in 1965 England with her husband, diplomat Henry Hailsham-Brown (J.D. Rinde) and her stepdaughter, Pippa (Jaclynne Tran).

Visiting with the family are Clarissa's guardian, the good-natured Sir Rowland Delahaye (Eric Bergstrom), the gruff & temperamental local justice of the peace Hugo Birch (Michael Corcoran) and the handsome (and flirtatious) young Jeremy Warrender (Jack Reid). Clarissa interrupts Rowland and Hugo in the midst of a tasting of varieties of port, only to reveal that the varieties were all the same one.

She is, as it were, a bit of a fabulist – inventing stories and games to make her life more interesting. Playfully telling Jeremy how she likes people to be in love with her, she mischievously asks "if I murdered anybody, would you help?"

It seems the house was formerly owned by an antiques dealer, and many remnants still sit in the home: including a desk that, while left alone, Jeremy begins



MARK EATON, Justin Murphy and Michael Corcoran (WCP photo by Laura Lejuwaan).

Stage Review

rifling through – that is, before he's interrupted by the estate's gardener, the rambunctious Mildred Peake (Mabel Schreffler).

As the butler Elgin (Sina Siassi) and his wife prepare to take the evening off and the three gentlemen leave for dinner at the nearby golfing club, an unwelcome guest arrives at Clarissa's door – Pippa's birth mother's drug-dealing boyfriend, Oliver Costello (played by Jonny Strebe, in the November 17 performance).

He claims that he and her mother want custody of the girl, but Clarissa suspects there are other, more devious motives at play. She throws him out with the assistance of Ms. Peake, but is left with a nebulous sense of unease.

Something's lurking below the surface of these events on the estate – something that might

prove more menacing than anything in Clarissa's imagination... and it may well be murder.

Unquestionably the works of mystery writer Agatha Christie are both a popular draw and an engrossing theatrical experience when staged at the Westminster Community Playhouse, and "Spider's Web" is no exception. It's an immensely entertaining puzzle for the amateur sleuths in the audience to unravel, and just as you think you've worked it out, you'll once again find yourself deceived.

Marvelous performances by the entire cast abound within this staging – Abbene's portrayal of the playful Clarissa captivates, as well as the two later additions in the second act: Justin Murphy as the capable and determined Inspector Lord, and the amusing comic relief provided by Constable Jones, played by Mark Eaton.

There are excellent showings too by Bergstrom & Corcoran as Sir Rowland and Hugo, and

Great: ★★★★★

Schreffler's brash and colorful Mildred is a delight. Many of the cast are newer additions to the WCP family, but you'd never know it from their solid and engrossing work in this production.

A mesmerizing enigma for the audience to riddle out, "Spider's Web" invites the viewer to try their wits and work out who the real villain might be: and with the final performances at WCP this weekend, it's time to put your inner detective to the test.

"Agatha Christie's Spider's Web": Talia Abbene, Justin Murphy and Eric Bergstrom star in this classic mystery for all ages. Playing through Sunday, Nov. 24 at the Westminster Community Playhouse, 7272 Maple St, Westminster. Ticketing information available online at <http://www.wcpstage.com>, or call (714) 893-8626.

TheSportsPages

You can't sink them all at the free throw line

There are many legends associated with the Los Angeles Lakers: their storied rivalry with the Boston Celtics, Jerry West's game-tying 60-footer against the New York Nets in the 1970 NBA finals and the Pat Riley era of the "Threepeat."

On the other hand, there's this annoying tradition of Laker big men, who sometimes just, can't, hit, free throws. Wilt Chamberlain, with his underhanded approach, was the poster boy for that. Shaquille O'Neal was so adept at bricklaying from the "charity stripe" that it was even immortalized in a film in which he starred.

Against the Orlando Magic on Thursday, Anthony Davis upheld the tradition. The Lakers, winners of six straight, were up by two with 18.9 seconds and Davis at the line.

"We lost the game," Davis said. "I missed three free throws down the stretch. Come down, hit a three, take the lead. My free throws are very important, very crucial. Missed them."

Now, Davis, an early contender for NBA Player of the Year, is normally a pretty good free throw shooter. Seventy percent is considered good enough – especially if you are 6-10 and averaging 31.3 points a game. Eighty percent is darn good, and Anthony's career average is 79.5 percent (78.5 this season).

But, of course, in sports, the "what have you done for me lately" ethos rules. He didn't get it done, but – on the other hand – at least he had the grace to fess up to it and feel bad about it. something you couldn't often say about Wilt or Shaq.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Semi-Tough Playoff Night

Edison wins and moves to finals; Pacifica falls

It was a semi-triumphant semi-final round of the CIF-SS football playoffs Friday for area teams.

Edison High's Chargers defeated the Vista Murrieta Broncos 42-14 in Division 3 action and will face Simi Valley next Friday in the championship finals. The green-and-gold were led by

■ CIF-SS FOOTBALL

senior running back Julian Gillick, who rushed for 130 yards and six touchdowns. The defense was able to mostly contain the Broncos' Bryson Beaver, who was held to just one scoring pass.

Although Edison (9-4) finished third in the tough Alpha League, they will now play in their 10th CIF-SS title game, their first since 2016.

But Pacifica, playing the St. Anthony Saints of Long Beach

in Division 10 action, lost 17-14 to finish the season 7-6.

The Mariners led twice, 7-0 and 14-10. They scored first on a 47-yard touchdown pass from James Anema to David Carlsson and then again when Jakob Davis intercepted a St. Anthony pass and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown.

Anema finished with 13 completions of 31 passes for 194 yards and one score, but was intercepted four times.

Pacifica had a chance to win in

Continued on page 8

UP, UP AND AWAY



The local high school basketball season – boys and girls – started this week with non-league and tournament games through the holidays and league play beginning in January. The Bolsa Grande boy's team (above) is 1-1 so far. Marina is off to a 2-0 start (games played through Thursday). Los Amigos is 2-1 and four teams are 1-0. On the girls' side, Bolsa Grande is 3-0 and Los Amigos 2-0. La Quinta and Ocean View are 2-1. Rancho Alamitos is 1-0 (GGUSD photo).

No surprise; Shohei gets MVP 3-peat

NEW YORK (AP) — Shohei Ohtani keeps setting records, even after the season is over.

The Los Angeles Dodgers star added his third Most Valuable Player award to his collection and first in the National League when he was chosen unanimously by the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Thursday.

Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees won the American League award for the second time, also unanimously.

Ohtani last year became the first two-time unanimous MVP. He won the AL award in 2021 and 2023 as a two-way star for the Los Angeles Angels and finished second to Judge in 2022 voting.

He didn't pitch in 2024 following elbow surgery and signed a record \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers last December. Ohtani became the first player to reach 50 home runs and 50 stolen bases in a season, then helped the Dodgers beat the Yankees in the World Series.

"The fact that I knew I wasn't going to be able to pitch this

Continued on page 7

The Rams are back in playoff fight

Team has gone 4-1 after a poor 1-4 beginning

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Rams realized last month that they needed to stack up victories against a few struggling opponents before their tough final stretch of the regular season.

They failed a week ago against the then-two-win Miami Dolphins, but they got it done Sunday against the three-win New England Patriots.

Coach Sean McVay sees every up and down, every inconsistent effort followed by encouraging improvement, as the price of progress as he tries to fashion one of the NFL's youngest rosters into a winner.

The coaching staff's work is looking better and better now



MATTHEW STAFFORD (Brevin Townsell/Rams photo).

that the Rams (5-5) have followed up their 1-4 start to the season with a 4-1 stretch to stay firmly in the postseason hunt for another week.

"I've been pleased with our group's ability to get themselves back into the fight," McVay said Monday. "Winning four of five, there's been different and unique ways that we've done it, but I think there is an element of

learning how to be able to finish games and come away with the results you're hunting up with the amount of youth that we have. They're taking these lessons in stride, and some of the veteran players have done a good job."

Chief among those veterans is Matthew Stafford, who still looks awfully sharp in his 16th NFL season. He threw four touchdown passes against the Patriots, giving him 10 in the past four weeks since Cooper Kupp and Puka Nacua returned from injury.

"You've got to string wins together," Stafford said. "That's what you've got to do. You've got to try to build off momen-

tum, things that you do positive, and find ways to get better at the things that maybe didn't go your way in the game."

Stafford went 18 of 27 for 295 yards and didn't even throw an interception, ending the risk-taking QB's six-game streak with a pick. He was also a primary reason why the Rams returned to effectiveness in the red zone, scoring on three of their four trips against New England after failing to get in the end zone at all against Miami/.

With Stafford, Nacua, Kupp and running back Kyren Williams allowed to work at peak effectiveness by their solid offensive line, the Rams look quite good, if not exactly formidable. McVay is hoping to see more of the same in the next two weeks before the stretch run toward the postseason.

What's working

The Rams' young defensive line continues to excel. Rookie tackle Braden Fiske had two sacks for the second time in three games, while nose tackle Kobie Turner racked up seven tackles and a fumble recovery after one of Fiske's sacks. A key penalty on Jared Verse aside, the group continues to be the defense's strength. "I've seen steady improvement as they've gained experience," McVay said.

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Shohei wins third MVP award, now for Dodgers

Continued from page 6

season just made me focus more on my offensive game and fortunately I was able to produce and get this award," Ohtani said through a translator.

Ohtani sat on a red sofa with his wife and dog Decoy as teammate Clayton Kershaw announced the award on the MLB Network. The Nederlandse kooikerhondje immediately jumped away.

Ohtani received all 30 first-place votes and 420 points. New York Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor was second with 263 points and Arizona second baseman Ketel Marte third with 229.

Judge was a unanimous pick

for the first time. Kansas City shortstop Bobby Witt Jr. got all 30 second-place votes for 270 points, and Yankees outfielder Juan Soto was third with 21 third-place votes and 229 points.

Ohtani hit .310, stole 59 bases and led the NL with 54 homers and 130 RBIs exclusively as a designated hitter, becoming the first player with 50 or more homers and 50 or more stolen bases in a season.

A highlight of the season was during the dog days. Ball in mouth, Decoy delivered the ceremonial first pitch to his owner at Dodger Stadium's home plate before an Aug. 28 game against Baltimore.

USC-UCLA: More than a bell at stake?

By The Associated Press

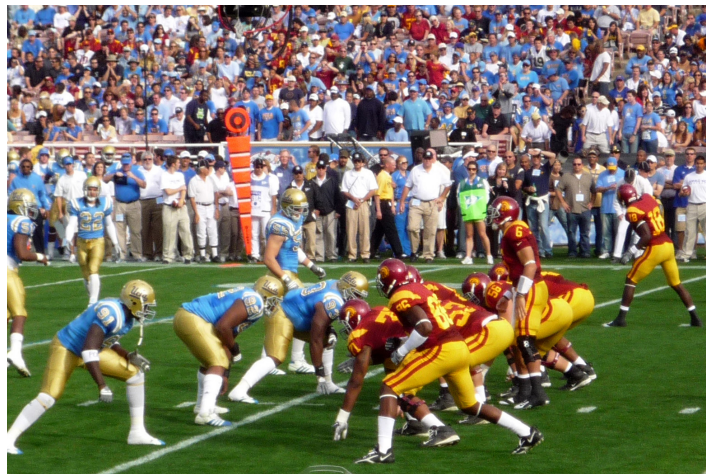
The annual USC-UCLA has always been fought for local pride and sometimes for championships. But not this year as both schools have relocated to the new world of the Big 10.

Southern California (5-5, 3-5 Big Ten) at UCLA (4-6, 3-5), Saturday, 10:30 p.m. EST (NBC)

BetMGM College Football Odds: USC by 4 1/2. Series record: USC leads 52-34-7.

What's at stake?

The first year in the Big Ten has been disappointing for both the Trojans and Bruins, but city bragging rights, possession of the Victory Bell, and postseason aspirations make the crosstown showdown key to salvaging the season. USC was buoyed by its quarterback switch to redshirt sophomore Jayden Maiava in a 28-20 win over Nebraska, but with No. 6 Notre Dame on deck next week, this feels like the best chance to become bowl eligible. UCLA had its three-game win-



UCLA VS. USC in 2008 (Bobak Ha'Eri photo/Wikipedia)

ning streak end in a 31-19 loss at Washington last week.

Key matchup

USC RB Woody Marks vs. UCLA's run defense. Marks rushed for a career-high 146 yards against a strong Cornhuskers defense, giving him his first 1,000-yard season as a fifth-year senior. The stout Bruins' front, which ranks seventh in the FBS at stopping the run, represents an even tougher challenge. They shut down Iowa RB Kaleb Johnson, holding him to 49 yards on Nov. 8.

Players to watch

USC: Maiava shook off a poor start, including a pick-six, to throw for 259 yards and three touchdowns and rush for another score against Nebraska. Maiava showed a greater willingness to attack down the field as a passer, and his mobility to extend plays opened up some of the big shots that had been lacking under former starter Miller Moss.

UCLA: QB Ethan Garbers put up decent statistics versus the Huskies, passing for 267 yards and two touchdowns and

running for 49 yards, but just wasn't as sharp as he had been during the winning streak. The Bruins have tended to go as Garbers fares this season, so he will have to be better against a USC defense much improved from the unit he shredded for three touchdown throws in a 38-20 triumph last season.

Facts & figures

The game could be decided on third down, where the Trojans' offense has been strong while the Bruins' defense has struggled. USC is converting 46.8%, which ranks 17th nationally. UCLA is allowing opponents to convert 52% of their attempts, which ranks last among 134 teams.

Mariners fall

Continued from page 6

the game's closing seconds, but a potential game-winning touchdown was nullified by a penalty.

Despite the loss, it was a good season for Pacifica which had a seven-game winning streak and won the Omicron League title.

Retorts: Whither the homeless?

Continued from page 3

refused them. The grip of addictive drugs such as fentanyl is too strong for some of them to resist. Some are just "free spirits" not willing to adhere to rules. And some have emotional and mental needs which a bed and three meals alone won't meet.

So the first legal mechanism to clean up the streets and parks is in place, or soon will be. What's the next step? What will happen next?



Who helped eradicate the plague of polio?
Garden Grove Rotary

Who sponsors a defibrillator program to save lives when heart attacks strike?
Garden Grove Rotary

Who recognizes 6th grade students for achievement in academics and scholarship?
Garden Grove Rotary

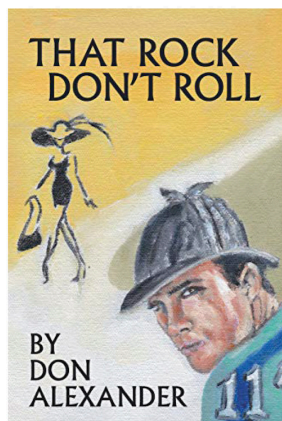
Who sponsors and contributes to training high school students on leadership and citizenship?
Garden Grove Rotary.

The **Garden Grove Rotary Club** has been serving the community since 1953. The modern club is part of a worldwide service organization of over 1 million men and women.

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That Rock Don't Roll

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- The Orange County Tribune

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