



WEEKEND EDITION
★★★★

Garden Grove Huntington Beach Stanton Westminster

The Tribune

Weather Forecast

65 50

Saturday: 65/50 mostly cloudy
Sunday: 65/51 partly cloudy
Monday: 65/52 partly cloudy
Tuesday: 64/49 chance of rain

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■ **HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL**

‘Flowers In the Sky’ Plan Withdrawn

A proposed agreement to the operate a large display of artificial lighting in the Central Park East, located at Goldenwest Street and Talbert Avenue, was withdrawn from the agenda at Tuesday’s meeting of the Huntington Beach City Council.

The proposal from Flowers in the Sky LLC, called “The Symphony of Flowers,” called for a “temporary multi-media show comprised of over

100,000 luminous flowers including roses, tulips and lilies” that would be choreographed to symphonic music.

Several temporary bleachers would be erected to accommodate as many as 2,062 seats – about half the capacity of a high school football stadium.

The entire project would take up about 200,000 square feet and the “Symphony” would operate

Continued on page 2

HB motorcyclist is killed in a three-vehicle collision

A collision among two Lexus automobiles and a Harley Davidson motorcycle Thursday night resulted in the death of a 28-year-old Huntington Beach man.

According to Jennifer Corey, public affairs manager for the Huntington

Beach Police Department, the incident took place on Springdale Street south of Warner Avenue.

Officers responded to the crash at around 7:24 p.m. and found that the rider of the Harley Davidson Dyna was dead at the scene.

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SEASON’S REASON



With all the publicity that Santa Claus and “last-minute shopping” gets, this display at St. Columban Catholic Church in Garden Grove is a reminder about what the holiday is really about. It’s the day that Christians believe that Jesus, the Son of God, was born in a manger over 2,000 years ago to bring peace and good will to all. Regardless of your faith, peace and good will is something we could all use (Tribune photo).

A Merry Christmas to All

In observance of Christmas, The Tribune will not publish on Wednesday, Dec. 25. We will resume our regular schedule with the issue of Saturday, Dec. 28 and conclude 2024 with our “Year in Review” issue on Dec. 31.

Man held for alleged sale of fentanyl in Westminster

A traffic stop in the early hours of Friday led to the arrest in Westminster of a man suspected of selling fentanyl.

According to Commander Andy Stowers of the WPD, the incident took place around 2 a.m. in the area of Hazard Street and Bushard Avenue.

Members of the Criminal Apprehension and Gang Enforcement unit made the stop and recognized one of the passengers in the rear seat of the vehicle as having an active arrest warrant.

A search of the vehicle turned up about one-half pound of suspected fentanyl and four grams of suspected methamphetamine. Arrested was James Lee, 40, of Costa Mesa.

He was booked into Orange County Jail for possession of narcotics with intent to sell, transporting narcotics with intent to sell and two felony warrants from prior incidents.

“Fentanyl is pure poison and poses a significant risk to everyone,” said Deputy Chief Cameron Knauerhaze.

For breaking news and sports all week long, go to www.orangecountytribune.com

'Flowers in the Sky' withdrawn

Continued from page 1

from dusk to 11 p.m. with up to four paid shows per evening for about six months.

But there has been considerable pushback from the community as concerns were raised about possible light and noise pollu-

tion, parking and disturbance of the habitat for birds and other wildlife in the park and surrounding areas.

The scheduled Jan. 7, 2025 meeting of the council has been cancelled and the next meeting will be on Jan. 21 in the Council Chambers, 2000 Main St.

Fatal motorcycle accident in HB

Continued from page 1

The driver of a Lexus GX460, a 62-year-old Huntington Beach man and the driver of a Lexus CT200h, a 25-year-old Huntington Beach woman, remained at the scene.

Both drivers were uninjured and cooperated with investigators. Impairment was suspected of the woman and she was taken into custody without incident, according to Corey.

The preliminary investigation indicated that the motorcycle was traveling southbound on Springdale.

The Lexus GX460 was moving northbound on Springdale and began turning left into a business complex at the southwest corner of Warner and Springdale.

The auto struck the motorcycle and its rider lost control and the Harley Davidson collided with the Lexus CT200h, which was moving eastbound to exit the driveway at 17101 Springdale.

The Tribune

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News & Views

Is this (vocal) trip really that necessary?

There's an upside to everything, right? I've been generally grumpy about the policies and practices of the majority that took over the Huntington Beach City Council after the 2022 election, especially as regards Surf City's exemplary public library system.

As you may know if you read these pages the council majority – four people – enforced a policy that required that certain books and materials



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

that had been in the children's section were relocated into the "adults" section based on a rather arbitrary system related to sexuality and body parts.

Later, the council majority took a pass at "privatizing" the library for the stated reason of saving money. They backed off on that in the face of widespread public opposition and the toothy smile of the Teamsters Union, which represents the city's library workers.

But on Tuesday night, the new council majority briskly dealt with two fairly significant items: developing criteria to support opposition to "future high density development" and a forming a committee to review the earlier approval of the controversial Bolsa Chica Senior Care project.

Setting aside the virtues and vices of those actions, it was cheering to see the council act quickly and succinctly on them. No rambling 20-minute speeches. No "death by power point."

The result was that the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m. Too many government meetings drag on too long; after midnight

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ALMOST TIME FOR TET (PARADE)



THE ANNUAL TET PARADE will be held on Saturday, Feb 1, 2025 on Bolsa Avenue in Westminster's Little Saigon area. The Lunar New Year will be the "Year of the Snake (or Dragon)". There will be floats, marching bands, lion dances, color guards veterans and youth organizations (including Cub Scouts), martial arts and more. For more information – including sponsorship activity – call the city's Community Service and Recreation Department at (714) 895-2860 or e-mail tetparade@westminster-ca.gov.

Man held for murder attempt by hitting the victim with auto

An arrest was made in Garden Grove on Tuesday for attempted homicide by a man who allegedly ran a woman over with an automobile.

According to Sgt. Nick Jensen of the GGPD, Thuan Cong Duong, 30, is also being charged with assault with a deadly weapon against a male victim.

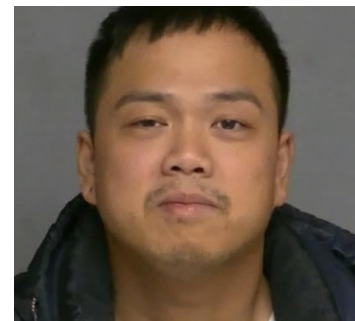
The arrest followed an investigation of an incident on Dec. 10 when at 2:54 a.m. officers responded to the area of 12200 Brookhurst Street (between Chapman and Lampson avenues) due to a report of a "dis-

turbance."

Arriving officers found a 32-year-old woman who had suffered severe injuries; she was immediately taken to a local hospital. Another victim – identified as a 35-year-old man – escaped injury and told police the woman had "intentionally" been struck by a vehicle that was still at the scene.

Detectives and officers were able to identify Duong as the suspect and made the arrest. He was booked into Orange County Jail in Santa Ana.

The investigation continues and



THUAN CONG DUONG
Murder attempt suspect (GGPD)

the motive – and events leading up to the incident – are still under investigation. Anyone who witnessed it or who has information about it is asked to call Detective Camara at (714) 741-5824 or GGPD dispatch at (714) 741-5704.

HB white supremacist arraigned for murder

A documented white supremacist gang member from Huntington Beach with six prior strikes has been charged with murder in connection with a high-speed police pursuit that left a bystander dead, and two others seriously injured.

According to the Orange County District Attorneys

office, the pursuit began after the defendant set fire to the Fountain Valley home of his sister's fiancé in apparent retaliation for losing custody of his children after his sister called child protective services.

Timothy Bradford Cole II, 43, of Huntington Beach, has been charged with one felony

count of murder, one felony count of evading a peace officer causing death, two felony counts of evading a peace officer causing serious injury, one felony count of arson of an inhabited structure, and one felony enhancement of arson with use of an acceleration device.

NewsUpdate

Government Shutdown Is Averted

Package assembled would include aid to disaster victims

A shutdown of the federal government was averted Friday just around midnight.

The Associated Press is reporting that a new plan from Speaker of the House Mike Johnson – a Republican – that would pay for the operation of the national government for three months and provide disaster relief was finally approved.

Voting in favor were 366 representatives, with 34 against and 29 not voting. One member voted “present.”

Not included in the bill is Pres-



STORMY WEATHER over the U.S. Capitol (Shutterstock).

ident-elect Donald Trump’s request for an increase in the debt limit.

But there was more drama as

the Senate had to approve as well and send the bill to President Joe Biden for signing.

A few minutes after midnight,

it was approved by 85-11 and a shutdown was avoided. Biden was expected to add his signature on Saturday.

OC postal worker held on charges of stealing, depositing \$281,000

An Orange County postal supervisor was arrested Thursday for allegedly stealing over 20 checks from the mail and depositing over a quarter of a million dollars into her personal bank accounts.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Joivian Tjuana Hayes, 36, a resident of Compton, is facing a charge of bank fraud in connection with \$281,000 taken from the post. She faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison if convicted.

She worked in a post office in Costa Mesa.

In addition to the stolen checks, she is alleged to have stolen



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

LOGO of the United States Postal Service.

cash and gold coins. U.S agents searched her home and her 2023 BMW.

Great Thoughts

“I give the password primeval. I give the sign of democracy. By God, I will accept nothing that all cannot have on equal terms.”

– Walt Whitman, poet

Joe Biden will forgive 55,000 student debtors in public service roles

President Joe Biden will forgive the nearly 55,000 people working in public service their collective \$4.28 billion in student debt, the White House announced on Friday.

Included will be teachers, law enforcement officials and nurses. With that, Biden has forgiven almost 5 million people, according to United Press International.

An attempt by Biden to cancel or forgive student debt for millions of Americans was blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, another 8 million working in public service may



be forgiven their debt under new Department of Education rules approved in February.

Weather: Cool and maybe rain

As we move toward the Christmas holiday, the West Orange County area can expect cool days and possibly even some light rain. Saturday’s daytime high is expected to be 65 with an overnight low of 50 with mostly cloudy skies. Sunday and Monday will be 65 (52/51) with partly cloudy skies. Tuesday (Christmas Eve) is forecast to dip to 64(49) with a 10 percent chance of rain.

Arts & Living

'Mufasa' Brings Energy to 'King'

Photorealistic version is the best in series

By Lindsey Bahr
AP Film Writer

"Mufasa: The Lion King" has one very important thing going for it: an original story.

That may seem like faint praise or at least a very, very low bar in the grand scheme of things. But in a landscape where Disney continues to remake its animated catalogue in slightly different, and usually less interesting, forms whether "live action" or "photorealistic" that usually only serves to remind how good the 2D animation was, originality is not to be undervalued.

And this story isn't simply checking off fan service boxes and overexplaining origins that never needed them: It's actually good. A prequel to "The Lion King," opening in theaters Thursday, it's a tale of found family, betrayal and destiny, one that begins to explain the estrangement between brothers Scar and Mufasa that we all know will end in murder, how Mufasa (Aaron Pierre) ends up as king of the pride lands and, perhaps most importantly, why only one has an English accent.

In this telling, Scar was once Taka (Kelvin Harrison Jr.), destined to be king of his pride, and Mufasa was a lost cub, separated from his parents in a dramatic flood. Taka saves Mufasa and brings him into his family. His mother (Thandiwe Newton) embraces the newcomer; his father (Lennie James) rejects him as nothing but a stray. Not that it matters much to the cubs; both are thrilled to have a brother. They play and protect one another and grow up together. But fissures start to appear in this foundation as Mufasa emerges as the exceptional one and Taka



"MUFASA: THE LION KING" is a prequel to the original film (Walt Disney Studios release.)

Movie Review

as the coward. And then a lioness enters the picture in Sarabi (Tiffany Boone). We've all seen enough movies to know what happens with that.

The screenplay comes from veteran screenwriter Jeff Nathanson, whose credits include the 2019 "Lion King," this year's lovely "Young Woman and the Sea" and "Catch Me If You Can."

He clearly took a corporate mandate (give us more "Lion King") and made the absolute least cynical version of that. T

here are still questionable corporate-feeling choices, like straining to tie it to a current and future "Lion King" by having Rafiki (John Kani) tell the story to Simba (Donald Glover) and Nala's (Beyoncé) daughter Kiara (Blue Ivy Carter), Pumbaa (Seth Rogen) and Timon (Billy Eichner). These comedic breaks, and Lin-Manuel Miran-

Good: ★★★

da's songs peppered throughout, aren't additive. They really only serve to break up the momentum of the compelling main story.

But the biggest issue remains the form itself. The photo-realistic computer-generated animals may have technically improved since the 2019 "Lion King," but they still aren't movie stars like their 2D animation counterparts.

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'Damn Yankees', 'Grease' at Gem in '25

One More Productions at Garden Grove's Gem Theatre has announced its 2025 Main Stage series with four musicals and two "Black Box Series" performances.

"Damn Yankees," the story of a man who sells his soul to the Devil in order to be a baseball star for his favorite team, will be staged from March 6 to April 13.

"Grease," a sentimental look at the Fifties, will be staged from June 12 to July 20.

"Avenue Q," a not-for-children event, is scheduled for Sept. 4-Oct. 12, followed by "The



"DAMN YANKEES" in 2016 at the Gem.

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TheSportsPages

The bright side of sports world in year 2024

Sometimes it seems like sports columnists are always complaining about things, and there's some truth to that. But there were certain things that gave me cheer in 2024, so in this next-to-last column of the year, here they are:

Caitlin Clark: It's taken a long time for the sports world to take women's basketball seriously, but now we have in the Iowa University standout – now with the Indiana Fever – someone who has really broken through.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Time Magazine has named her as Athlete of the Year.

She was named Rookie of the Year (match!) and made the all-WNBA team, just the fifth rookie to get that honor.

And, as Time Magazine wrote, she's "just scratching the surface."

College Football Playoff: Just now getting underway, this first real college playoff system represents a rare victory of good sense in this university sport.

Although the lower levels of football have had playoffs for decades, the topmost levels have resisted, hiding behind the bogus argument that a longer season would cut into academics.

Finally, we will have an undisputed college champ, and not one chosen by coin flips, Ouija boards or math majors.

Shohei's Showtime: As an Orange County guy, it wasn't with some teeth-grinding that I viewed Ohtani's trip up the Interstate to Dodger Stadium. But the season was such a triumph – for him and his team and even his dog (Decoy) – one has to admit this was one fairy tale that came out the way it should have.

They Came Charging Back



QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT passed for 284 yards and two touchdowns in the Chargers; come-from-behind win on Thursday against the Denver Broncos (Chargers photo/Mike Nowak).

Late rally keeps playoff hopes very much alive

By Joe Reedy
AP Writer

INGLEWOOD (AP) — Trailing 21-13 at halftime Thursday night against the Denver Broncos, some wondered if the Los Angeles Chargers had any resolve left after going through their worst four-quarter stretch of the season.

The Chargers put some doubts to rest getting back on track and getting closer to wrapping up a playoff spot.

Justin Herbert passed for 284 yards and two touchdowns, including a go-ahead 19-yarder to Derius Davis early in the fourth quarter, as the Chargers rallied for a 34-27 victory.

Los Angeles (9-6) has a 97% probability of making the playoffs with the win according to the NFL. It can wrap up its second postseason berth in three seasons Sunday with losses by

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Rams on a roll; still need to shoot down the NY Jets

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Rams beat a current Super Bowl contender and last year's NFC champions in a five-day span, and they did it in two games so different that they scarcely looked like the same sport.

But after scoring six touchdowns to outlast Buffalo 44-42 and kicking four field goals to beat San Francisco 12-6 in this memorable short week, the Rams (8-6) firmly control their destiny in the NFC West.

With seven wins in nine games, Los Angeles has caught the Seahawks (8-6), who will visit SoFi Stadium next month after the Rams beat them in overtime in Seattle last month.

The Rams are also looming in the NFC wild-card race, right behind Washington.

Coach Sean McVay will have plenty to dissect about his defense's struggles against the Bills and his offense's woes in Santa Clara, but the scoreboard reflects his overall optimism about the Rams' direction.

"It says a lot about our team

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Ducks beaten by Avalanche 4-2 at Honda

The Anaheim Ducks rallied but fell short and ended up losing 4-2 to the Colorado Avalanche on Friday night at Honda Center.

Leo Carlsson and Alex Killorn scored goals for the home team and John Gibson had 19 saves in goal for Anaheim, now 12-15-4 and in seventh place in the NHL Pacific.

Next up for the Ducks are games Sunday at Utah and Monday at Las Vegas.

West County, especially Edison, stars shone

West Orange County teams – and especially Edison – were well-represented in the all-Orange County football team announced this week.

Julius Gillick, a running back for the state champion Edison High team, was named the offensive player of the year.

On the all-county offense team was quarterback Brady Edmunds (Huntington Beach) and all-purpose player J.J. Amezcua (Western) as well as Gillick.

The second team offense includes wide receiver Troy Foster (Huntington Beach) and of-

Prep Sport Spotlight

fensive lineman Cooper Cirilo (Edison).

The second team defense had linebacker Matt Lopez (Edison) and defensive back Jake Minter (Edison).

Shane Cassidy of Marina was an all-purpose player on the third team offense. The third team defense included defensive lineman Devyn Black (Edison)

and defensive back Steel Kurtz (Huntington Beach).

Leading the Pack(s)

We won't start our High 5 rankings for area boys and girls' basketball teams until the New Year when league play begins, but if we were to do it this week, it might look like something like this:

Boys: Marina (9-5), Los Amigos (7-4), Huntington Beach (7-6), Pacifica (10-4), Santiago (8-3).

Girls: Marina (7-4), Huntington Beach (6-2), La Quinta (9-3), Orange (6-4), Los Amigos (7-5).

High School Basketball Scores

THURSDAY

Boys

Anaheim 75, Orange 65
Norwalk 55, Garden Grove 53

Girls

SA Valley 42, Bolsa Grande 41
Marina 52, Saddleback 30
Costa Mesa 33, Orange 29 (2OT)
Oxford 63, Western 27

FRIDAY

Boys

California 75, Ocean View 63
Corona del Mar 69, Marina 54
Edison 64, Hunt. Beach 38
Garden Grove 58, Saddleback 47

Girls

Valley View 58, Hunt. Beach 48
Valencia 52, Westminster 29
Magnolia 52, Workman 35

The Rams are really on a roll now

Continued from room 6

to be able to figure out different ways," McVay said Monday. "Would you like to be able to put together complete performances where we play well on offense, on defense and the kicking game?"

"Yeah, of course, but the enemy has a say, and this league

is difficult.

"What I do like is that our team plays off of each other well enough to ultimately be able to find a way, and I think there is something to be said for learning how to be able to win, especially with the youth of this group."

The Rams went into their bye week at 1-4, and a team that

didn't get above .500 this season until last weekend now has a chance to reach the playoffs for the sixth time in McVay's eight years in charge.

What's not so encouraging is their profound struggles on each side of the ball in successive weeks.

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Chargers close in on playoffs with win

Continued from page 6

Indianapolis and Miami. "It was a total team effort by everyone. It was phenomenal," coach Jim Harbaugh said. "The test and challenge is how you are going to respond. They went back to work and stayed the course." The Chargers' comeback also included Cameron Dicker making the first successful fair-catch kick in the NFL in 48 years. He was good from 57 yards on the

final play of the first half to pull the Chargers to 21-13. Denver (9-6) could have clinched a playoff spot but had its four-game winning streak snapped. The Broncos still have an 85% chance of making it, but they have tough remaining tests at Cincinnati on Dec. 28 and at home against Kansas City in Week 18. "Obviously, a disappointing loss. There was a lot at stake, and we know that," Denver coach Sean Payton said. "We had a fast start, and then uncharacteristically this season, we didn't finish or play nearly well enough in the second half, both offensively and defensively." The Broncos appeared well on their way to wrapping up their

first postseason berth since 2015 after they scored on their first three drives to go up 21-10. But after Wil Lutz's 41-yard field goal midway through the third quarter gave the Broncos a 24-13 advantage, the Chargers stormed back. "First three drives, 21 points, and then just kind of stalled," said Bo Nix, who completed 29 of 40 passes for 263 yards and two touchdowns. "We got the same defense (in the second half). Just for whatever reason, we couldn't get going." Gus Edwards — who had 14 carries for 68 yards — went off 5 yards off left end for his second touchdown of the game to get the Bolts within 24-19, but the 2-point conversion was no good when Herbert was stopped short of the goal line. Edwards also burrowed in from the 1 in the first quarter to tie it at 7. After Denver went three-and-out for the second time in three possessions, the Chargers took

their first lead. On first-and-10 from the Denver 19, Herbert — who completed 23 of 30 passes with an interception — scrambled left and threw across his body off his left foot to Davis with 12:29 remaining. "We had him on a little bubble out of the backfield. I scrambled out, saw the pressure and he just turned upfield and made an incredible play," Herbert said. Herbert then found Joshua Palmer in the back of the end zone for the 2-point conversion. Palmer made a one-handed grab before going out of bounds to make it 27-24. Los Angeles put it out of reach with 2:27 remaining on Herbert's 34-yard touchdown pass to Hassan Haskins. Lutz narrowly made a 55-yard field goal with 57 seconds remaining to get Denver within a touchdown, but Los Angeles' Nick Niemann recovered the onside kick to dash any hopes of a comeback.



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

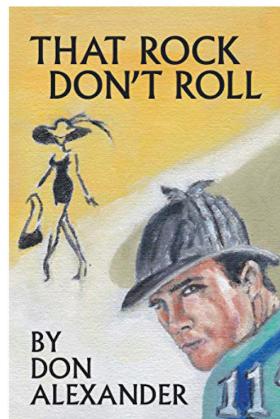
Who sponsors and contributes to training high school students on leadership and citizenship?
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— The Orange County Tribune

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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

Movie review: 'Mufasa'

Continued from page 5

Impressive though it may be intellectually, the reality of watching these animals for two hours is a somewhat numbing and dull experience despite the best efforts of director Barry Jenkins. The Oscar-winning filmmaker of "Moonlight" did an admirable job adding visual interest and color into the landscapes, bringing it closer to the vibrancy

of animation than ever before, and making it as cinematic as possible. If this is one future for filmmaking there's still a lot of room for improvement and experimentation. That doesn't mean it shouldn't be embraced while the kinks are worked out. But it also doesn't mean the movie-going public has to get excited about every rehash. "Mufasa: The Lion King" is better than the ones that came before it, but that doesn't mean it's great.

Gem Theatre

Continued from page 5

Holiday Gem," featuring the singing, dancing and other talents of Gem performers with the "season's greetings" from Nov. 20 to Dec. 21. The "Black Box" shows, "which provide a more simplified production and allows for more intimate performances that connect the audience to the performers and the material," are "End of the Rainbow" (Feb. 7-23) and "Ordinary Days" (May 2-18). The Gem is located at 12852 Main St. in Garden Grove.

JT's Retorts

Continued from page 3

isn't unheard of. Needlessly obtuse reports from city staff are one cause, but "boy, do I love to hear the sound of my own voice" is the other. Regardless of which side we might be on, I think that the vast majority of folks will support anybody who gets us home before the fourth quarter. After all, we all need our beauty sleep.