

■ HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL

Do-Over For Bolsa Chica Senior Care?

Council may re-examine decision to approved project

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

A divided Huntington Beach City Council approved the controversial Bolsa Chica Senior Care Community Project in November, clearing the way for construction of the development to proceed.

Or did it?

The final item on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting of the city council is an item submitted by new Mayor Pat Burns questioning the process and information related to the original approval.

On November 19, the

council vote was 4-3. Conservative Councilmember Tony Strickland split with his three conservative colleagues and voted with the three liberals in favor of the project to be built on a 3.10-acre site at 4952 and 4972 Warner Ave. (near Bolsa Chica Street).

It would include 25 memory care units, 134 assisted learning units and a subterranean parking garage.

The controversy at the time was whether the project represented "high density development."

Continued on page 2

HBUHSD board to reorganize Tuesday

The annual organizational meeting of the Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday.

Newly-elected trustees Susan Henry and Christine Hernandez will take the oath of office and be

seated for the 2024-2028 term.

Following that, the board will elect a president, vice president, clerk and alternate clerk, and then representatives to various committees and advisory boards.

PRANCERS AND DANCERS ...



... were all part of the entertainment on Friday night's "Jingle Jam" at Eastgate Park in West Garden Grove. It's an annual holiday event sponsored by the Team Tackney real estate firm. There were booths, contests, exhibits, food trucks, Santa Claus and more (Orange County Tribune photo).

Westminster sues two councilmembers for 'disruptive' acts

The Westminster City Council has taken the extraordinary step of filing a lawsuit attempting to rein in what its majority members call "disruptive" actions of members Amy West and NamQuan Nguyen.

The lawsuit, filed on Nov. 27 in Orange County Superior Court (Central), claims that the defendants "have repeatedly disrupted meetings of the council" and that efforts of the mayor to "manage their unruly behavior" were unsuccessful and "repeated

efforts to obtain their compliance have failed."

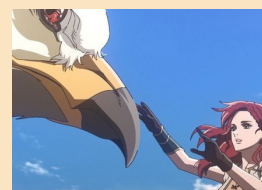
Both West and NamQuan Nguyen are being "sued in their personal capacity" and therefore won't be able to be defended in court by the city.

The filing goes on to cite specific incidents of alleged disruption, with violations of state and city codes.

The council – acting on behalf of the city – is asking for a temporary restraining order and permanent injunctions to keep

Continued on page 2

In The Trib Grand epic turns out too small



ARTS & LIVING Page 5

Rams get a kick out of winning



SPORTS Page 6

Huntington Beach council

Continued from page 1

After the Nov. 5 election, the three liberals – Dan Kalmick, Rhonda Bolton and Natalie Moser – all lost their bids for another term and were replaced by conservatives Don Kennedy, Butch Twining and Chad Williams, creating what Burns has called “The MAGA-nificent Seven.”

He is asking the council to create an ad-hoc committee consisting of three council members to “review the process and information” regarding the Bolsa Chica project, with support from community development and city attorney’s office staff.

Also on Tuesday night, the council will consider a proposal to develop criteria that would

classify “high-density development” to be an environmental issue. City voters in November approved a ballot measure requiring the such projects be submitted to a public vote.

The council will meet in closed session at 4:30 p.m. and in regular session at 6 p.m. at 2000 Main St. (at Yorktown Avenue).



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Westminster

Continued from page 1

the defendants from violating rules of decorum and appropriate codes.

Additionally requested is a declaration that the defendants “may be lawfully removed from the council meetings” for speaking when they do not have the floor. The city is also asking for attorneys’ fees and court costs to be paid by defendants.

The controversy at the meetings is a long-standing issue. The council majority has voted to censure and sanction the two defendants to no avail.

The Tribune

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The Orange County Tribune is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays with some exceptions. Address is 9402 Luders Ave., Garden Grove, 92844.

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Phone: (714) 458-1860.

Established Aug. 6, 2016. All opinions expressed in The Tribune, unless otherwise stated, are those of the individual writer or artist and not necessarily those of The Tribune.

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News & Views

Elections can have some consequences

So the City of Westminster – that is, the majority of the city council – has filed a lawsuit against council members Amy Phan West and NamQuan Nguyen of being disruptive during council meetings.

This is quite unusual. I've been covering Westminster city councils –

on and off – since 1976 (yes, I am that old) and I've seen some tempers flare and silliness exhibited but never to the extent where the city needs to file a lawsuit to get any council members to behave like adults.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

A few questions arise. Where does that council majority stand now that Mark Nguyen has been elected to the City Council District 3 seat, taking the spot which had been occupied by Kimberly Ho, who was one-third of the council majority.

The second question is that why did Amy and Namquan pursue such a reckless and non-productive course? What's in it for them? Is there a substantial bloc of voters who are crying out for city leaders to bring municipal progress to a grinding halt?

The legal term is “cui bono,” usually translated as “to whom is it a benefit?” I can't figure it out ... so far, my best guess is what was said in a movie about The Joker, Batman's adversary. “Some people just want to see the world burn.”

And on the subject of the effect of elections. The Bolsa Chica Senior Care Community Project was approved 4-3 by the Huntington Beach City Council, with Tony Strickland diverging from his three also-conservative

Continued on page 8

IT WAS A FIERT (PRE-) DAWN



A pre-dawn fire in a commercial building in Westminster on Tuesday was quickly knocked down by the Orange County Fire Authority. According to the OCFA, the blaze was reported in the 6300 block of Westminster Boulevard shortly after 5 a.m. (near Rancho Road). The blaze was not allowed to spread to other units and no injuries were reported (OCFA photo).

GGPD's holiday DUI enforcement

The holiday season can be dangerous for people on the roads.

In December 2022 alone, 1,062 people were killed in the U.S. in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Garden Grove Police Department wants to remind the public of the dangers of driving impaired and to celebrate the holiday season responsibly by not driving under the influence.

From December 11 through New Year's Day, the Garden Grove Police Department will

have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

The high-visibility enforcement effort is part of a national campaign, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, with the goal of stopping-suspected impaired drivers who put others at risk.

“During the holiday season, we see families and loved ones coming together to celebrate, and our goal is to make sure everyone gets home safely,” said Garden Grove Police Chief Amir El-Farra.

“Impaired driving isn't just dangerous; it's illegal. Let's make this a joyful and safe holiday season for everyone on the road. We urge people to act responsibly and plan a sober ride home.”

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Our twice-weekly e-newsletter offers coverage of national and local news coverage, as well as that of area professional and high school sports..

Trespassing arrest at Garden Grove High

A school district employee on leave was arrested for trespassing on Wednesday in Garden Grove.

According to Sgt. Nick Jensen of the GGPD, Chelsea Fletcher, 37, was arrested and taken to Orange County Jail in Santa Ana. Police were summoned to Garden Grove High School at 11:42 a.m. regarding a trespassing in progress.

Fletcher, a GGUSD employee on leave and banned from visiting any Garden Grove Unified School District property while on leave, was asked to leave and refused.

NewsUpdate

Texas Sues Over Abortion Pill Sale

More terminations of pregnancies now than ever

A doctor in New York who's prescribed abortion pills to a woman living near Dallas, Texas, has been sued by the State of Texas

According to the Associated Press, this is one of the first challenges in the nation to laws passed in Democratic-controlled states that are seeking to shield doctors after the landmark 1972 Roe vs. Wade decision was overturned.

The AP is reporting that access to such prescriptions are a major factor in statistics that are



CAN ONE STATE sue over a prescription sent by another state? (Shutterstock).

showing that since that decision – which had created a national right-to-abortion – was negated, the number of abortions has in-

creased.

The Texas law accuses Dr. Margaret Daley Carpenter of breaking the law by providing drugs

to a patient in the Lone Star State, with a penalty of up to \$250,000. There's no criminal penalty.

Crowds celebrate the ouster of Assad and the Russians are packing up

Crowds of tens of thousands of people are thronging the streets of Syrian cities, celebrating the overthrow and flight of the dictatorial President Bashar Assad.

United Press International is reporting that Assad has fled to Russia, which had been a primary supporter of the former president.

The New York Times is reporting that Russian aircraft, equipment and military advisors are leaving the country.

Syria had been embroiled in a deadlocked 14-year war, but an uprising by rebels over 11 days has allowed them to seize con-



ANTI-ASSAD PROTESTS

trol of most major cities – including Damascus – and expel Assad.

Great Thoughts

“Staying the same is going backward is this world, and you don't have a day to stay the same.”

– Christian Press, women's soccer player.

Supreme Court may consider challenge to California smog rules

Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court will allow a challenge to the State of California's authority to set emissions standards for automobiles that are stricter than those in place nationally.

The Los Angeles Times is reporting that a suit by producers of oil and bio-fuels had filed the lawsuit, which had been rejected by a lower court.

But now the high court will consider the lawsuit – Diamond Alternative Energy vs. Environmental Protection Agency – early in 2025.

California receives a waiver from the EPA to enforce stricter



SUPREME COURT BLDG. (Shutterstock).

standards, and the new Trump administration may decline to do so, or the conservative majority court may declare it illegal.

Weather: Some rain on the way?

Cool temperatures will persist in our Orange County area over the weekend with an increased chance of some rain to follow. The forecast calls for a high of 65 (with a low of 49) under partly cloudy skies on Saturday. Sunday will be sunny and cool at 65 (44). On Monday a slight warming trend starts at 66 (44) and Tuesday at 68 (48) with a 10 percent chance of rain.

Arts & Living

'Rohirrim': Grand Epic is Small

Animated tale feels like it belongs on TV

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

It's a discombobulating experience, after a "Lord of the Rings" trilogy that was built, down to every frame and hobbit hair, for the big screen, to see something so comparatively minor, small-scaled and TV-sized as "The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim."

The film, set 183 years before the events of "The Hobbit," is a return to Middle-earth that, despite some very earnest storytelling, never supplies much of an answer as to why, exactly, it exists.

"Rohirrim," which sounds a little like the sound an orc might make sneezing, is perhaps best understood as a placeholder for further cinematic universe extrapolation from J.R.R. Tolkien's books.

(A live-action movie about Golum is due out in 2026.) Here, the thin basis in Tolkien comes from the "Lord of the Rings" appendix, which lists a history of Rohan, the plains kingdom south of the Elven forest of Lothlórien.

A small army of screenwriters — Jeffrey Addiss, Will Matthews, Phoebe Gittins and Arty Papageorgiou — have from those faint embers conjured a fiery war movie, made as an anime by director Kenji Kamiyama ("Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex," "Blade Runner: Black Lotus").

The obviously talented Kamiyama fashions some dazzling vintage anime visuals that — and perhaps this isn't all bad — feels a world apart from Peter Jackson's Middle-earth features.

But "The War of Rohirrim" also feels conspicuously closer to 1990s direct-to-video release than an heir to some of the grandest big-screen fantasy storytelling of the past 25 years. Though there are



THE WAR OF THE ROHIRRIM doesn't measure up to the live action "Lord of the Rings" films that preceded it (New Line.)

Movie Review

many — too many — examples of Hollywood over-mining once-rich intellectual property, this dull, appendix-extracted anime adds to a not particularly Tolkienist tradition.

Tolkien diehards, though, may be grateful for whatever "The Lord of the Rings" morsels they can find. And there is some precedent.

Before Jackson (an executive producer here) built Middle-earth in New Zealand, "The Lord of the Rings" prompted a pair of 1970s animated TV specials and a not-much-remembered animated 1978 movie.

"The War of Rohirrim" concerns the adventures of Hera (voiced by Gaia Wise), daughter of Helm Hammerhand (Brian Cox), the Rohan king. Cox, coming off of "Succession," again finds himself beset with trouble over the future

of his throne.

Things get underway when Freka (Shaun Dolley), leader of the Dunderlings, offers his son Wulf (Luke Pasqualino) to marry Hera and take the throne.

After a swift refusal, a fight ensues, and with a mere punch, Helm accidentally kills Freka. Given how extreme Wulf's vengeance is following this punch, it's fair to wonder if "The War of Rohirrim" could have been started just as easily with a slap or, perhaps, an overly aggressive noogie.

But only self-seriousness reigns in this "Lord of the Rings" adventure. When the battle begins, Hera must save her people, which she strives to do by retreating to a fortress dug into a mountainside. Hera's story is said to be one lost to history in the opening narration, but "The War of Rohirrim" is just as much an origin story for the stronghold that will later be known as Helm's Deep.

I don't begrudge any Tolkien ad-

Poor: ★

dict a little anime fun — and maybe these references and callbacks will be enough to conjure some of the majesty of the books or Jackson's movies.

You can tell "Rohirrim" was made with sincere belief in the world Tolkien created. But I found the connective tissue, like the few notes from Howard Shore's original score that float in, only reinforced how such grander movie ambitions once came to Rohan. "The War of the Rohirrim" does manage to recapture one trait of the earlier films: at 134 minutes, it's long.

"The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim," a New Line release is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for strong violence. Running time: 134 minutes.

TheSportsPages

The carousel of success in the big leagues

There have been very few surprises out of the Major League Baseball winter meetings for the Angels, especially in terms of what sort of progress the team made.

The “big deal” they made was getting Jorge Soler in a trade with the Atlanta Braves. Billed as a “slugger,” Soler indeed has some long-ball in that bat, hitting 36 home runs in 2023 and 21 in 2024 but his lifetime batting average is a modest .243 and his on-base percentage is .331, also nothing to write home about.

He peaked in 2019 with the Kansas City Royals with 48 home runs and 117 RBIs, but never came close to that since. He shapes up as a long-ball hitter on a downward career slide who hits his homers with no one on base, a la Albert Pujols.

Why can't the Halos land any “blockbuster” talent? I mean we have a nice climate here. How do “we” get out off the cellar?

Why don't the big kids want to play with us?

Two reasons: The Angels carry the odor of perpetual losers and the ownership is not all it could be with money and wisdom. As Shohei Ohtani pointed out with his feet, good players would rather play for good teams.

Secondly, good players – understanding that they may be only one pulled muscle or broken finger from retirement – are driven to the big-money franchises ... or at least their agents are.

It's no mystery that two of the most successful teams in MLB – the Dodgers and Yankees – are also the richest. And vice versa

Continued on page 8



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano



JOSHUA KARTY kicked four field goals as the Los Angeles Rams won a wet one on Thursday, 12-6 over the San Francisco 49ers on the road (Rams photo).

Rams: No TDs, No Problem

Next challenge will be the cold Jets on Dec. 22

By Josh Dubrow
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Four nights after winning the highest-scoring game of the NFL season, the Los Angeles Rams won the only game this year that didn't have a touch-

down.

Joshua Karty kicked four field goals and the Rams survived a slugfest a week after winning a shootout, beating the San Francisco 49ers 12-6 on Thursday night in a key game in the NFC West race.

“What’s really cool is this team has found a bunch of different ways to be able to win football games,” coach Sean McVay said. “You come off a 44-42 game the other day and then you win 12-6. Our group did what they needed to do to be able to

Area Football Weekend

- Chargers (8-5) host Tampa Bay Buccaneers (7-6) on Sunday, 1:25 p.m. Channel 11
- Rams (8-6) idle until Dec. 22 at New York Jets (3-10).

get it done.”

The Rams (8-6) followed up the high-scoring win over Buffalo by winning for the seventh time in nine games following a 1-4 start. The Rams moved

Continued on page 8

Edison High goes for a state title

The Edison High Charger football program has never won a state title, but most of that's because state football championship games are a relatively new thing.

However, on Saturday at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo at 3:30 p.m., the green-and-gold (11-4) may make history when they take on the Central High Grizzlies of Fresno in the

Division 1-A title game.

Edison is on a five-game winning streak after finishing third in the Alpha League. The Chargers are led by senior Julius Gillick, he averages 168.9 yards per game and has scored 36 TDs.

They have a robust passing game, too, as sophomore Sam Thomson has thrown for 13 passes after coming off the

bench to replace the injured senior starter Savelio Niumata.

The Grizzlies have won seven straight and finished second in the Tri-River League. Junior Brandon Smith is the team's top rusher with 28 TD's; he's averaging 128.6 rushing yards a game.

Sophomore Jelani Dippel has thrown for 39 touchdowns.

Rams continue to find a way to win

Continued from page 6

within a half-game of division-leading Seattle. Los Angeles won a game without a touchdown for the first time since 2016.

The 49ers (5-8) led 6-3 heading into the fourth quarter but came up short, dealing a major blow to the dwindling playoff hopes for the defending NFC champions.

This marked the fourth time this season that the Niners lost to a division opponent after leading by at least three points in the fourth quarter, making them the first team to do that since New England in 2000 in coach Bill Belichick's first season with the Patriots.

"It was the story of the year," linebacker Fred Warner said. "Just not doing enough to win games. Not playing complementary. Just coming out a little too short."

Karty capped a 17-play drive with a game-tying 23-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter and then hit a 27-yarder after

Matthew Stafford connected on a 51-yard pass to Puka Nacua. Karty made all four kicks after missing four in the past five games of his rookie season.

"He's steady," McVay said. "He's consistent. He's kind of unflappable."

Stafford then led a clock-killing drive that was capped by Karty's fourth field goal with 18 seconds to play. Stafford went 16 for 27 for 160 yards, with 137 of those yards coming after halftime when the heavy rain stopped.

"In the second half, the weather was good enough to do it all," Stafford said. "We had the feeling that that was the kind of way this game was going to be played and it's going to have to be one of those games."

"We scored 44 four nights ago and come out here and score 12 but they both count for one."

Purdy finished 14 for 31 for 142 yards as the Niners failed to score a touchdown in a game for the first time since 2019.

The first half was played in a

downpour and it had a major impact on the offensive performances with neither team able to move the ball.

The Rams had no first downs on their first four drives for the first time since 2013 before getting a late field goal to tie the game. The Niners went three-

and-out three times and got one field goal.

The teams combined for 11 punts, nine first downs and 197 yards four days after they both had season highs in points.

The rain mostly stopped at halftime but the offenses still struggled.

More local CIF-SS all-stars

Six local athletes have been named all-CIF Southern Section in girls' flag football.

- Division 1: Roxie Shaia and Taylor Savage (Huntington Beach High).
- Division 2: Riley Crooks and Sadie Olivaries (Edison).
- Decision 5: Ilhane Berard (Santiago) and Yasmin Alfadhil (Garden Grove High).

CIF-SS on the Tube

A new television program highlighting Southern California high school sports will

Prep Sport Spotlight

premiere on Sunday on Spectrum SportsNet.

The program, titled "CIF Southern Section This Week," will air at 7:30 p.m. A 30-minute program, it will include season wrap-ups, athlete highlights and more.

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Bolts getting better, but struggle in close ones

By Joe Reedy
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO (AP) — Jim Harbaugh has brought toughness to the Los Angeles Chargers.

The next thing he needs to do is teach them how to win close games.

Sunday night's 19-17 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs was the Chargers' 10th straight defeat during the regular season by

three or fewer points. Not only is that the longest active streak in the league, it's tied for the fourth-longest in NFL history.

The Buffalo Bills hold the all-time mark at 13 straight from 2001 through 2006.

"Didn't finish the game. Didn't win the game when we needed to," safety Derwin James Jr. "We're not trying to get moral wins. We have to get the mistakes corrected. We can't depend on, 'Oh, we played a great game and it came down to the last play.' We also know there's a sense of urgency and we need to come out and respond."

The Chiefs have won six straight against the Chargers (8-5), with two being decided



CHARGERS IMPROVING but it's tough to beat Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs. (Charger photo/Ty Nowell).



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

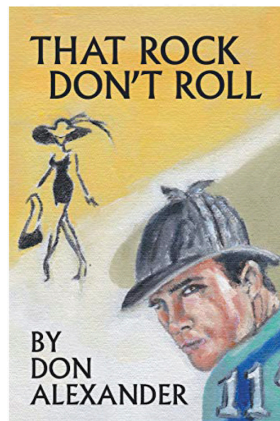
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

on the last play and four in the final minute.

It was the second time this season the Bolts have lost on a walk-off field goal. The other was a 17-15 defeat at Arizona in Week 7.

Los Angeles' last close win came against Tennessee in Week 15 of the 2022 season when Cameron Dicker kicked a field goal on the final play for a 17-14 victory.

"The confidence is there, but we have to go out and prove it on the field. There's no such thing as almost. The lesson learned is it comes down to the little things," safety Elijah Molden said.

The Chargers' offense showed some signs of improvement in the second half with a pair of touchdown drives, even though the unit was missing wide receiver Ladd McConkey and running back J.K. Dobbins.

Rookie Kamani Vidal had seven carries for 27 yards after halftime, while receivers Josh Palmer and Quentin Johnston combined for 11 catches for 126 yards.

The defense held Patrick Mahomes to one touchdown pass, but the Chiefs converted eight of their 15 opportunities on third down, including three on the final drive.

The loss left the Chargers in position for the sixth seed in the AFC. Baltimore and Denver are also 8-5 but the Ravens hold the tiebreaker because they beat the Chargers two

weeks ago. Los Angeles beat the Broncos in Week 5.

Harbaugh looked back to a 16th-century Scottish sailor for his message to the team after the loss.

"Reminded them of Sir Andrew Barton. 'Fight on my men,' Sir Andrew said. 'I am a little wounded but not slain. I lay down and bleed a while and will rise and fight again,'" Harbaugh said.

Carousel of success in big league sport

Continued from page 6

versa. So I guess the formula for the Halos will be this: get good, which makes you successful, which make you rich, which ... well, you know what I mean.

Retorts: Election consequences

Continued from page 3

colleagues who were opposed.

Now there's an item on Tuesday's agenda questioning the "review process and information" on the project — and now the council is a solid 7-0 "hard conservative" will there be a do-over? We'll see.