

Tet Holiday Has Festival and Parade

It's the 'Year of the Snake'

It's the lunar new year – Tet in the Vietnamese culture – and some special events are staged to observe “The Year of the Snake” in West Orange County.

The Tet Parade will be held on Saturday in Westminster along Bolsa Avenue between Magnolia and Bushard streets. The opening ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m., with the parade set to start at 9:30 a.m.

This year the event is sponsored by the City of Westminster with the theme of “Spring of Re-

silieny.” The parade will feature floats, lion dances, marching bands, elected officials and more.

Street closures at selected locations are at 7 a.m. on Friday and by 6 a.m. on Saturday for others. For details call the Community Services and Recreation Department at (714) 895-2860.

The Tet Festival will be held in Garden Grove at Garden Grove Park, 9301 Westminster Ave., next to Bolsa Grande High School.

Themed “A Spring of Remembrance,” this event is



TAKING PHOTOS of flower-y scenes was a principal delight in “Flower Street” on Garden Grove’s Main Street Saturday and Sunday (OCT photo).

sponsored by the United Vietnamese Soccer Association and will run from Friday to Sunday.

Special events will in-

clude the Miss Vietnam of Southern California pageant on Friday from 5-9:30 p.m., Lunar Youth

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OC Sheriff won't do the work of ICE

The Orange County Sheriff's Department will continue to cooperate with federal immigration authorities but won't be part of an effort to round up illegal aliens for deportation.

Sheriff Don Barnes posted a statement on Monday regarding the policy of the federal government to place an increased emphasis on battling unlawful immigration.

“Securing the border and enforcing immigration law are important responsibilities of the federal government,” he wrote.

“The Orange County Sheriff's Department does not enforce federal immigration law. It is our primary mission, and we remain focused on violations of state and local laws.

“The ... department will provide for your safety and respond to your calls

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■ GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

'Water element' still possible

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

Construction of the new police facility in Garden Grove is on schedule and within budget, but the biggest news to come out of a status report given to the city council on Tuesday was more green than blue.

After hearing details about the \$132 million project now under con-

struction at the northeast corner of Acacia Parkway and Euclid Street, several council members brought up the issue of adding a water element in the new park to be located near the multi-story police facility.

During the construction of the building, the former small lake and waterfall that had been located behind the main city library was torn up and the ducks

dispersed.

Councilmember George Brietgam said, “I've gotten some feedback from the community is, hey they lost their lake, and that was a pretty special lake for a lot of people and they would like to see a water feature incorporated into this new park space.

“I think we should do

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Inside The Tribune



Are Ducks any better than last year?

SPORTS Page 6



Lots of variety at Zubie's in Hunt. Beach

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Garden Grove City Council

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that," he continued. "I mean we took away a major water feature from the community and I think we should, at minimum, give them back something."

He was joined by other councilmembers in advocating for

something to replace the lost lake.

Councilmember Cindy Tran voiced her support for the water feature and said "I know it might be expensive, but we don't have to do a gigantic thing."

The council was then told that "A water feature is part of the design conversation. We're looking at how best to integrate that, and what those options and costs look like ... we will make a decision on costs and how it would work in the park design."

A main feature of the planned feature would be a permanent stage that would serve as a centerpiece for concerts, graduation ceremonies and other events.

OC Sheriff

Continued from page 1

for service regardless of your immigration status. We do not, and never will, ask the immigration status of victims, witnesses, suspects or those who call to report crimes."

The Sheriff's Department provides police services for Stanton and 11 other Orange County cities, as well as unincorporated communities such as Midway City.

Tet weekend

Continued from page 1

Night from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday and the Grand Concert from 6-9:30 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, call (714) 388-6291 or e-mail contact@usva.org.

A "Flower Street" event was held on Saturday and Sunday on Garden Grove's historic Main Street.

The Tribune

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News & Views

Oh, and your mother wears Dollar Tree shoes

These are historic days, my friends. We are, perhaps, at an inflection point in our nation's history. Such momentous moments in our past have brought out great men (and great women!) whose eloquence moved hearts and minds and guided us into paths of wisdom and security.

However, we — thanks in large part to social media, which gives every numbskull a megaphone — are not in an age of brilliant thoughts and insightful thinkers.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

So, those of use who want to influence minds and events must meet the mood of the moment with these time-honored, pithy insights that originated on the playground. For instance: One senator says to another: “Your proposal is unconstitutional.”

And the other replies, “It takes one to know one.”

A reporter poses an accusatory question to a prominent leader: His reply: “I’m rubber, you’re glue. Everything you say bounces off me and sticks to you.”

In a court room, the losing party is questioned by the press. “Let the babies have their way!” she retorts.

Similarly, when a higher court overturns a lower court’s ruling the victor chants into the TV news camera: “Cheaters never prosper! Cheaters never prosper!”

A politician accuses another of bribery. “Rat smells his own cheese,” is the rejoinder.

Of course one of the greatest tell-offs in history was said by legendary frontiersman (and

Continued on page 8



ZUBIE'S DRY DOCK has been an Orange County staple for decades (OC Tribune photo).

Zubie's: Not fancy, great variety

By John Borack
Orange County Tribune

Chow Lines

In a recent quest to try to find a local restaurant serving a decent steak dinner that would not force me to mortgage my home, I took to Yelp and began searching. And searching.

There were a few places that looked like good choices but were not suitable for everyone in our party for one reason or another. Then an old friend suddenly popped into my head: Zubie's Dry Dock in Huntington

Beach.

Zubie's has been an Orange County staple for decades, serving reasonably priced seafood, sandwiches, pizza, prime rib, burgers, chicken, ribs, steak and more for lunch and dinner. (They also serve breakfast on Sundays.)

Our party of five stopped in on a Sunday evening and the crowd was decent-sized, but not overwhelming. Zubie's is anything but fancy: you order at

the counter, take a seat on one of the long benches that line the restaurant, and wait for your food while watching sporting events on one of the several large-screen TVs. It's definitely family friendly.

Sadly, a few of the things that once made Zubie's so special are now history: first off, the aquariums — and there were several — that were once a part of their décor are now gone.

Also MIA is the large salad bar, a victim of COVID that has

Continued on page 8

West GG baseball parade is coming Feb. 8

Various streets in Garden Grove will be closed for the West Garden Grove Youth Baseball Opening Day parade on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 7 to 10 a.m.

Major streets impacted are Lampson Avenue, from Valley View Street to Lamplighter Street, and Springdale Street, from Stanford Avenue to Belgrave Avenue.

The following streets will also be closed:

- Cerulean Avenue
- Picket Avenue
- Topaz Street
- Taylor Circle
- Trinette Street
- Poplar Street
- Amethyst Street.

Residents and businesses have been notified in advance.

The Garden Grove Police Department's Traffic Unit will be onsite during closure times to direct traffic and suggest alternate

routes.

The parade begins at 8 a.m., in front of Edgar Park, at 6202 Cerulean Ave. It will travel eastbound on Cerulean Avenue to northbound Topaz Street, then head eastbound on Lampson Avenue to Springdale St. before ending at Bell Intermediate School, at 12345 Springdale St.

For street closure information, contact the GGGPD Traffic Unit at (714) 741-5898.

NewsUpdate

Federal Workers Offered a Buyout

But must leave their jobs by Feb. 6 to get the benefit

In an effort to reduce the federal workforce, the Trump Administration is offering those workers a buyout with seven months of pay ... provided they leave their jobs by Feb. 6.

The Associated Press reports that additionally, the federal government would start holding its workers to "enhanced standards of suitability and conduct."

More than 3 million people currently work for Uncle Sam, with the average tenure for a federal employee being about a dozen years.

The American Federation of Government Employees union president Everett Kelley saw the



THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION is seeking a major downsizing of the federal workforce (Shutterstock)

move as a way to pressure employees not "loyal" to the Trump Administration to quit or be fired, the result of which would

be "chaos."

An earlier directive to federal employees was to require that they return to the office and end

working at home. "You have to go to your office and work. Otherwise, you're not going to have a job," said Trump.

Halt in foreign aid by U.S. is placing many programs at risk

A wide variety of programs to enhance public health, combat crime and educate poor children are facing the possibility of being permanently ended as President Donald Trump has signed an executive order temporarily stopping foreign aid to nearly all nations of the world.

The standard would be that program would have to be "efficient and consistent with U.S. foreign policy under the America First

agenda."

According to The New York Times, the lone exceptions are Israel and Egypt.

Aid to other nations will undergo a 90-day assessment period but – The Times reported that any foreign aid promoting diversity, women's reproductive rights and combatting climate change are almost certain to be cut.

Great Thoughts

"All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle; that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that to be rightful, must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to violate which would be oppression."

– Thomas Jefferson, first Inaugural Address, 1801

Those drones were not some alien space-craft

Those drones that flew over New Jersey were not alien invaders.

Instead, according to White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, they were "authorized to be flown by the [Federal Aviation Agency] for research and various other reasons," speaking in the first press briefing of Donald Trump's second term.

Additionally, she said the others – including hobbyists – joined in. "In time," she said, "it got



"PARROT" DRONE

worse due to curiosity."

The government drones had been authorized by then-President Joe Biden.

Weather: It's back to the Fifties

Not the decade, but the temperatures. The forecast for our West Orange County area for Wednesday and Thursday calls for daytime highs of 59 and 57 with lows of 47 and 44, both under partly cloudy skies. Friday and Saturday will warm to 62 and 66 (46 and 51 overnight) with – you guessed it – partly cloudy skies.

Arts & Living

Don't Book A Seat on 'Flight Risk'

Mel Gibson is trying to make a comeback

By Mark Kennedy
AP Entertainment Writer

"Flight Risk" sounds like the setup for a joke: What do you get when you put a U.S. Marshal, a fugitive and an unhinged pilot in a small plane? We don't know but get out your barf bag.

Mark Wahlberg, Michelle Dockery and Topher Grace star in this truly forgettable thriller-comedy that earns its debut — or dump — in January among similar cinematic dreck. You've heard of slow-motion car crashes? Just substitute a plane.

In a sort of Dollar Store "Con Air," Dockery plays a federal agent transporting Grace's fugitive-turned-witness to testify against the mob.

They need to get to Anchorage quick and enlist the help of a pilot — Wahlberg, a bro's bro. Of course, not everyone is as they seem. OK, it's Wahlberg. He's a nut job.

Each member of this unholy trio seems to be in a different movie. Dockery is trying to be all Lara Croft, intense kick-ass problem-solving under immense pressure, very serious.

But Grace is in a sitcom, trying out one-liners as the sarcastic nerd in the back of the plane.

And Wahlberg has gone full sneering Hannibal Lecter, constantly threatening sexual violence. ("We can play hide the hot dog.")

That means that everyone in the movie isn't flying in the same direction and the tone is all over the place. Brutal shootings and cuffed beatdowns mix with terrible puns and jokes at the expense of Spirit Airlines.

Hey, at least Spirit can land something.

Wahlberg is the most fascinating misfire. His character is listening



MARK WAHLBERG stars as a crazy pilot in "Flight Risk" (Lionsgate).

Movie Review

to the New Order song "Happy Mondays" when we meet him and the fact that this sleazebag sociopath is enjoying a British New Wave classic wasn't expected.

Later we learn that he's wearing a wig. What the filmmakers are saying here in both choices is unclear. Don't judge a book? Balding psychos can enjoy Kajagoogoo like the rest of us?

Screenwriter Jared Rosenberg has an obsession with scatological humor, using multiple public peeing moments and setting up one scene in which one of our heroes refers to having a "Museum of Modern Art in my pants" after a particularly harrowing flying sequence. This may be the first Hollywood airborne thriller that namechecks Jackson Pollock.

Rosenberg has created an in-

teresting scenario onboard: Killing the murderous pilot would seem to kill them all. But instead of tense, we get flabby dialogue. "You know the last thing that goes through your mind in a crash? Your ass," says Wahlberg at one point.

In a desperate attempt to keep our attention, Dockery's marshal during the movie's latter third uncovers a conspiracy at the very top of the government using just her cellphone and natural suspicion — while at the controls of a small plane she cannot fly, 3,000 feet over icy Alaska.

She also, bizarrely, starts a flirtatious relationship over the radio with a pilot who is asked to help bring them down safely — a meet-cute while, again, at the controls of a small plane she cannot fly, 3,000 feet over icy Alaska.

The movie is an attempt to continue the cinematic rehabilitation of director Mel Gibson, and his

Awful: 0

return to the director's chair after nearly a decade is passable, mostly confined to the interior of a small cargo aircraft. His camera is lively, shifting between the claustrophobic interior and the expansive Alaska snow-capped vista outside.

Sometimes the camera is just too close, especially on Dockery's mounting bruises.

But no one emerges unscathed from this funny-when-it-shouldn't-be-mess. The movie's slogan is the weird "Y'all Need a Pilot?" but it should be "Y'all Need a Filmmaker?"

"Flight Risk," a Lionsgate re-release in theaters Friday, is rated R for violence and language. Running time: 91 minutes. Zero stars out of four.

TheSportsPages

Feet becoming more crucial than arms

Run for your life. And your job.

Now that the matchups for the 2025 Super Bowl are set, it underlines what's become standard for top tier quarterbacks. You gotta be nimble, you gotta be quick.

The Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles each have outstanding quarterbacks who are very mobile. Of course, that's not all these teams have going for them.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

The Iggles, in addition to QB Jalen Hurts also have running back Saquon Barkley and the Chiefs have Patrick Mahomes and Taylor Swift.

Jalen is not quite as well-known as Mahomes, and not only because he's won two Super Bowls but also due to Patrick's witty State Farm insurance ads.

But Mr. Hurts has – pardon the obligatory pun – put the hurt on opponents with a 64.4 percent pass completion rate and 55 rushing touchdowns (including nine in post-season play).

Patrick has completed 66.6 percent of passes and rushed for 14 TDs in regular season play, and seven more in post-season. But nimble quarterbacks have not always been the order of the day. Right through most of the 20th century, the gold standard for an NFL QB was the drop back passer with a cannon for an arm.

You never saw Johnny Unitas run unless he was chasing a bus, and the most famous rushing TD was Bart Starr's 1-yard plunge in the NFL title game in the famous "Ice Bowl" game in 1967.

Sure, there were q-backs who

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Ducks Flying a Bit Higher

Anaheim wins third straight; this one by 6-4

By Pete Zarustica
Orange County Tribune
with wire service reports

It may be just three-in-a-row, but the prospects are looking rosier for the orange-and-black.

The Anaheim Ducks defeated the Seattle Kraken 6-4 at Climate Pledge Arena on Tuesday to improve their record to 21-23-6, good for sixth place in the NHL Western Conference.

Combined with Saturday's 5-2 win over the Nashville Predators (and a 5-2 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins last Thursday) the Ducks are continuing to improve on last season's forgettable campaign.

Against the Kraken, six different players lit the red lamp, including Frank Vatrano, Cutter Gauthier, Robby Fabbri, Mason McTavish and Jackson LaCombe.

Ryan Strome had two assists.

Lukas Dostal had 26 saves in goal, replacing John Gibson who was injured.

The Ducks trailed 3-2 after one period, but outscored the home team 4-1 the rest of the way.



ANAHEIM DUCKS center Mason McTavish celebrates with teammates after scoring against the Nashville Predators during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Anaheim, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025. (AP Photo/Alex Gallardo)

On Saturday, Mason McTavish had two goals for the second straight game, Jansen Harkins and Trevor Zegras scored 62 seconds apart in the second period and the Ducks beat Nashville to snap the Predators' five-game

winning streak.

McTavish has scored five of his 11 goals this season in the last three games. He missed out on his first career hat trick when his shot at the Predators empty net in the final seconds was wide.

Lakers rally late, fall to the 76ers



ANTHONY DAVIS

A late rally by the Los Angeles Lakers fell short Tuesday night as they lost 118-104 to the host Philadelphia 76ers.

The Lake Show outscored the Sixers 28-19 in the fourth quarter but it wasn't enough to avoid a loss that drops their record to 26-19, good for fifth place in the NBA Western Conference.

LeBron James scored 31 points, grabbed eight rebounds and had nine assists, but the team was

handicapped by the loss of Anthony Davis, who left the game after 10 minutes with an abdominal strain.

Tuesday's defeat snapped a three-game winning streak for the team, which has nevertheless won seven of its last 10 contests.

Next for the Lakers will be a trip to Washington D.C. on to take on the Wizards (5-19) on Thursday.

Cheer for a brand new generation of sport

There's a lot more to sports at the high school level these days than just football, basketball, baseball, etc.

Cheerleading – in this instance traditional competitive cheer – has equal status with the more established sports and the championships were held this past weekend at Martin Luther King High in Riverside.

Among the local schools in our West Orange County area, Marina was third in Division 4A, Santiago was second and Bolsa Grande third in Division 4 coed.

Overall, teams from Bolsa, Garden Grove, Santiago and Pacifica all finished in the top six in the division.

Character really counts

At the recent meeting of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education the 2024-2025 “Coaches and Athletes of Character” were

Prep Sport Spotlight

Basketball Scores

TUESDAY

Boys

Western 61, Orange 41
 La Quinta 48, Magnolia 29
 Pacifica 61, Esperanza 58
 Fountain Valley 66, Marina 61 (OT)
 Corona del Mar 70, Hunt. Bch. 44
 Santiago 51, Savanna 50

Girls

Hunt. Bch 49, Corona del Mar 33
 Marina 54, Fountain Valley 43
 Estancia 48, Magnolia 42
 La Quinta 46, Orange 37
 Rancho Alamitos 48, Western 38
 Laguna Hills 47, Garden Grove 25
 Costa Mesa 50, Ocean View 36

recognized.

The athletes were:

- Bolsa Grande: Zusana Jar-don Figueroa, water polo

Continued on page 8



LA QUINTA remained unbeaten in the Orange League at 6-0 with a 59-44 win over Bolsa Grande on Friday, The Aztecs are 14-11 overall and lead second place Saddleback (4-2) by two games. Leaping above three Matadors is Vinny Nguyen (11). (GGUSD photo).



GARDEN GROVE'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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Zubie's Dry Dock in H. Beach offers great variety

Continued from page 3

never returned.

Our orders were prepared very quickly. I decided to splurge and order the large cut of the ribeye steak and when it arrived, I was somewhat shocked at the thickness of the cut—it was enormous. Since my entrée also came with the house salad (very good, particularly the bleu cheese dressing) and a baked potato, I was unable to finish the behemoth that

was my ribeye. It was tasty, although not the most tender cut of steak I've ever had.

Another in my party ordered the pizza, which is a thick crust pie that includes your choice of up to three toppings; it was fresh-tasting and very flavorful. Be forewarned, though: the pizzas only come in one size (large, 16-inch) so if you're the only one ordering what my editor once dubbed "nature's most perfect food," you'll no doubt have some to take home.

A half-pound cheeseburger and the grilled salmon were also sampled; the burger was tender, juicy and filling, while the salmon is available with your choice of lemon pepper,

Cajun, or blackened seasoning.

All in all, Zubie's was pretty much what the doctor ordered. It's nothing extraordinary, but it has large portions of very good food at a reasonable price with a little something for everyone.

They also have a full bar as well as an oyster bar, along with daily specials.

Zubie's Dry Dock is located at 9059 Adams Ave. in Huntington Beach (at Magnolia), next door to Ace Hardware. Call (714) 963-6362 or visit zubiesdrydock.com for more information.



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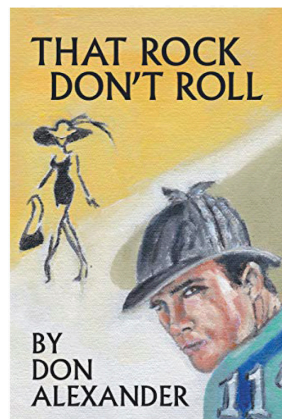
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

High school sports spotlight

Continued from page 7

- Garden Grove: Drue Anzai, basketball
- Hare: Brayden Allen, basketball, flag football
- La Quinta: Lesly Perez, soccer, track, volleyball
- Los Amigos: Alexander Pineda Gonzalez, cross country
- Pacifica: Tyler Lewis, football, track
- Rancho Alamitos: Christina Trinh, volleyball
- Santiago: America Hernandez, flag football, softball, soccer, volleyball

The coaches were:

- Bolsa Grande: Albert Vargas and Mayra Sarinana, water polo
- Garden Grove: Andrew Scimeca, basketball
- Hare: Jay Rivero, basketball, flag football
- La Quinta: Michelle Rose, girls volleyball
- Los Amigos: Andrew Rodriguez, cross country, track
- Pacifica: Kyle Murphy, football
- Rancho Alamitos: Karyn Allen, volleyball
- Santiago: Sam Galdamez, wrestling.

Sports Retorts: You'd better run

Continued from page 7

could scramble, such as Minnesota Vikings' Fran Tarkenton, who annually drove Rams' fans nuts by always staying a fingertip away from being sacked.

But the Era of Catch-Me-If-You-Can quarterbacks really started with the ascendancy of Russell Wilson of the Seattle Seahawks and Cam Newton with the Carolina Panthers.

They led their teams into winning seasons and playoff glory and — frankly — were a lot more entertaining.

In the old days, a QB in trouble either got tackled for a loss or threw the ball away. Either way, the play was over.

But today, when Jalen or Patrick are in trouble, the fun is just starting. They dash back and forth, dip and bolt and — as often as not — turn trouble into a first down, or better.

I guess the only people unhappy about this new era of mobile action are the 300-pound plus

defensive linemen who run out of gas while the opposing QB dances beyond their grasp and into those lucrative TV commercials.

Retorts: Davy had last word

Continued from page 3

part-time politician) Davy Crockett. Questioned about he plans after being defeated for re-election, he said. "You can all go to hell. I'm going to Texas."

And straight to the Alamo. Well, maybe that wasn't the best snark ever, after all.

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