



MICHAEL GATES, Huntington Beach City Attorney (Tribune photo)

Gates lands post with DOJ

Michael Gates, Huntington Beach's city attorney, will be leaving Surf City and going to work for the United States Department of Justice.

Gates, 49, first elected to the city attorney's post in 2014, has been an outspoken challenger of state policies and the author of several legal efforts to

resist mandates from Sacramento on housing and other issues.

He's also been able to fend off campaigns to require Huntington Beach to switch its at-large voting for city council seats to a by-district model.

Much of his efforts to battle state government have come from his theory that

Huntington Beach – as a charter – rather than a common law – city, is exempt from certain mandates. The courts have not always agreed.

Gates announced on Monday he would become a deputy assistant attorney general in the civil rights division.

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STANTON CITY COUNCIL

Demolition of Two Buildings Is Approved

Emergency measure enacted

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

Meeting what was termed a "local emergency," the Stanton City Council voted 5-0 on Tuesday night to award a contract to tear down two troublesome buildings in the Tina-Pacific neighborhood.

The contract was won by Integrated Demolition and Remediation, Inc. for \$150,000.

City Manager Hannah Shin-Heydorn requested that the structures at 8961 and 8950 Pacific Avenue be demolished and the land cleared.

The vacant buildings caused the area to be "par-

ticularly impacted by ... transients and homeless individuals regularly trespassing and breaking into vacant units," according to a staff report.

Calls for service to the Orange County Sheriff's Department – which provides police services for Stanton – related to homelessness have increased by 162 percent from 2023 to 2024.

Additionally, the "intensity and severity of complaints from Tina-Pacific residents in relation to homelessness-related issues has increased in the last six months."

The city council declared a "local emergency" in November 2024.

Code enforcement discussed

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

The efforts of the city's code enforcement team were highlighted at Tuesday's meeting of the Garden Grove City Council.

Rafael Avila, supervisor of the unit, spoke to the council about recent re-organization of the city's

efforts to bring property owners, business operators and others in compliance with municipal rules affecting public health, land use and beautification.

Among the tasks tackled by the unit are:

- a focus on vacant lots and abandoned buildings;
- enforcement of regulations on the sale of tobacco products, especially to minors;
- the three-acre vacant lot at Stanford Avenue and Flower Street;
- sidewalk vending of

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Inside The Tribune



How the Eagles beat the Chiefs

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'Love Hurts' is too gruesome

ARTS & LIVING Page 6

Gates bound for Washington

Continued from page 1

“The voters put [Donald] Trump in office to restore a lot of what has been damaged across the country,” Gates told the Los Angeles Times. “I’m glad to take that role as being a part of that restoration – that we need to put America back to where it was ...

a nation of laws.” In a press release, Gates recommended that the city council appoint Mike Viglittotta – who had been the chief assistant city attorney under Gates before leaving to become city attorney in Orange in 2023 – as his replacement.

Westminster arson suspect from 2019 dies in hospital

A 72-year-old man arrested by Westminster police in 2019 died in the Correctional Medical Services wing of a local hospital on Sunday.

According to the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, the inmate’s name was withheld pending notification of the next-of-kin.

The man had been arrested for attempted murder, arson causing great bodily injury, arson to an inhabited structure or dwelling

and aggravated arson with a prior offense and booked into the Theo Lacy Facility on March 9, 2019.

On Sept. 9, 2022, the inmate was transferred to the hospital for further medical treatment. At about 9:17 a.m. on Sunday he was pronounced dead.

According to authorities, there are no suspicious circumstances and the final cause of death will be determined after an independent autopsy and toxicology.

G. Grove code enforcement

Continued from page 1

food, which requires a city permit and the lack of compliance possibly leading to confiscation of cooking items and perishables.

According to Avila, the city is now divided into five zones, with the nine full-and-part-time employees – along with vol-

unteers – assigned to a specific zone to improve knowledge of an area to be served.

“Good code enforcement leads to higher property values,” said Councilman Joe DoVinh, who suggested that staffing be increased to as many as 10 or 12 persons.

The Tribune

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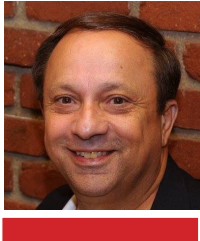
News & Views

Best to use the Stars and Stripes for this cause

El Tri is the nickname for the three-colored flag – red, white and green, with the sage of the eagle killing the snake in the middle – is the banner of Mexico.

We have seen a bit of that in recent demonstrations not only in Los Angeles but also in Garden Grove, about the present administration's plans to roll back unlawful immigration.

Setting aside – for a moment – issues of practicality, humanitarian concerns and traffic control – I was reflecting on video images of the protests at Chapman Avenue and Brookhurst Street.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Some of the demonstrators waved El Tri with gusto, as if it were a *futbol* contest. OK, so you have pride in the nation from which you – or perhaps your parents – immigrated. Nothing wrong with that.

But it implies a contradiction. The place I left was so great that I fled at great hazard and broke the law to get here and now I don't want to go back. Hmm... Well, I'm not sure waving the flag of Mexico is the textbook way to convince Americans that illegal entry into United States is something to be accepted and to be appreciated.

One argument you used to hear from some Hispanic activists was in the chant, "We didn't cross the border/The border crossed us."

OK, not exactly historically accurate unless you were born before 1846 (start of the Mexican-American War). And as long as we're looking at history, let's look at the "chain



AERIAL VIEW of the Magnolia Tank Farm area, slated to become "Magnolia Coast."

Financing is secured for planned 'Magnolia Coast' project in HB

A major step toward the development of a controversial mixed use project in Huntington Beach has been taken.

According to Shopoff Realty Investments, a \$60.9 million mortgage has been received for costs associated with making the "Magnolia Coast" a reality.

The Magnolia Coast would be a 28.9-acre ocean-front land parcel that would include 200 or more for-sale single family de-

tached and attached homes, a 50-unit affordable multi-family community and a 215-key boutique hotel with 19,000 square feet of retail.

Best-known as the "Magnolia Tank Farm," the site was previously used for oil production, which harkens back to the city's past as a major petroleum drilling center.

Objections to the development were focused on environmen-

tal concerns. The Huntington Beach City Council approved the project in February 2021 on a 4-3 vote and the California Coastal Commission gave its approval in July 2024.

Construction is expected to begin in the fourth quarter of this year. The site is located on the west side of Magnolia Street at Banning Avenue.

Shopoff Realty Investments is also a principle investor in the renovation of Westminster Mall. The center at Goldenwest Street and Bolsa Avenue in Westminster – adjacent to the San Diego (405) Freeway – is planned to be converted to an open-air project with some of the existing retail but also with housing, a hotel, restaurants and other amenities including a walking trail and a park under the new name of Bolsa Pacific.

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NewsUpdate

Could Cease-Fire Deal Come Apart?

Israel and Hamas at odds over terms of the agreement

Israel could pull out of the ceasefire agreement with Hamas if that group doesn't release more hostages on Saturday.

According to the Associated Press, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made that threat on Tuesday.

Hamas said on Monday and Tuesday that it planned to delay the release of three more hostages, accusing Israel of not meeting the terms of the cease-fire pact, which included providing a specific number of tents and other assistance.



SNAGS have developed that may undermine the cease-fire agreement (Shutterstock).

President Donald Trump predicted that Hamas would not release the remaining hostages.

"I don't think they're going to make the deadline, personally," said Trump, "They want to play

tough guy. We'll see how tough they are."

Musk claims that DOGE has uncovered lots of waste; offers no proof

Without offering any evidence, billionaire Elon Musk was in the Oval Office on Tuesday and claimed that his semi-official Department of Government Efficiency had uncovered incidences of officials taking "kickbacks," the accrual of "tens of millions of dollars" by some employees and the payment of Social Security

benefits to people as old as 150 years old.

Musk said DOGE was "maximally transparent," according to the *The New York Times*.

He described the federal bureaucracy as an "unelected, fourth, unconstitutional branch of government" which does not match the will of the people."

Great Thoughts

"He who is firmly seated in authority soon learns to think security, and not progress, the highest lesson of statecraft."

– James Russell Lowell, poet and diplomat

"The fact is that a man who wants to act virtuously in every way necessarily comes to grief among so many who are not virtuous

– Niccolo Machiavelli, Italian statesman

Weather: Rain, rain, showers

Get your hats and boots ready; the West Orange County area is in for at least two days of rain. The forecast calls for rain on Wednesday with a daytime high of 55 and overnight low of 53.

The wet stuff continues on Thursday with a high of 60 and a low of 54. Friday will see morning showers and some sun in the afternoon with temps at 62 (49). Partly cloudy skies will return on Saturday with temps of 65 (49).

Education Dept. urges erasing records set by transgender athletes

Records set by transgender athletes should be erased the U.S. Department of Education is urging the National Collegiate Athletics Association and the national high school sports organization.

According to United Press International, a letter has been sent to those organizations a week after President Donald

Trump signed an executive order banning transgender women – people who were born as men – from competing in women's sports.

Records will also be altered to "re-instate" accomplishments of women athletes who "had men steal their accolades," according to an Education Department official.

Arts & Living

Action-Comedy 'Love Hurts' is Thin

Some gruesome stuff from these stunt people

By Lindsay Bahr
AP Film Writer

Ke Huy Quan plays a happy-go-lucky real estate agent named Marvin Gable whose past life as a hitman comes back to haunt him in "Love Hurts." The action-comedy goes hard on elaborately choreographed fight sequences and violent, bloody deaths. Anything from a boba straw to a cookie cutter is fair game in these gruesome showdowns.

But while the derivative and cartoonish spectacle can be fun and impressive at times, "Love Hurts" just doesn't work in the end, hampered by a lack of directorial vision, comedic pacing and an ensemble of caricatures instead of characters.

"Love Hurts" may only run 83 minutes, but if you've seen the 2:41 trailer, you've kind of seen it all.

It had a lot going for it too, including two recent Oscar winners in Quan and "West Side Story's" Ariana DeBose in the lead roles, a fine premise and a hoard of fun actors in the ensemble.

Sean Astin plays Quan's boss at the real estate agency, a stunty, nostalgia play for "Goonies" fans that actually gives the film a rare, touching, authentic moment, and Marshawn Lynch, who is proving himself to be a comedic gem no matter the material.

But there's something immensely off about the tone, which isn't clever or silly enough to be funny, and its ham-fisted attempts to tie it to Valentine's Day with various subplots about love, from the jaded assistant who falls for a



KE HUY QUAN leads action-comedy 'Love Hurts' from Universal Pictures.

Movie Review

poetry-writing goon to another hired thug who is trying to get his wife (who we never meet) back.

Poor Quan is the one who must do all the cringey voiceover, though he mostly comes out unscathed. As audiences saw in "Everything Everywhere All at Once," he's great at switching believably between debonair fighter and tame nice guy, and he is undeniably compelling as a lead. He just needs a better movie around him.

DeBose, on the other hand, has only a barely-there character to play with. Rose Carlisle is a thinly drawn femme fatale in heels and leopard print coats with a penchant for laughing maniacally and drawing mustaches on Marvin's real estate billboards.

She was supposed to be dead after a deal gone wrong, but Marvin spared her because of love, I guess. Now she wants her life back, and, presumably,

Marvin, though their chemistry might suggest otherwise. Basically, she needs to kill his crime lord brother Knuckles (Daniel Wu, whose defining character trait is sinisterly drinking boba) to be free. There's a lot of talk about "hiding ain't living" which sounds fine in theory but never quite syncs up — Marvin likes his new, non-violent life.

Like "John Wick," "The Fall Guy" and other less memorable movies, "Love Hurts" is the latest in a string of films directed by guys who cut their teeth as stuntmen. This is a tale as old as cinema, but most recent efforts usually seem to have a common denominator in David Leitch, who has a producer credit on this one.

Directing responsibilities on "Love Hurts" went to Jonathan Eusebio, who was a fight coordinator on "John Wick," and perhaps needed a bit more help here — a better script, sharper editing that could help the comedic moments work better and a coherent vision.

Fair: ★★

Artificiality as an aesthetic is all fine and good, but "Love Hurts" feels a little too much like the charmless, ripped-from-the-Magnolia-showroom homes that Marvin is hawking to perky yuppies around Milwaukee. It may seem good enough in a Zillow photo or a movie trailer, a facsimile of what we think homes and films of a certain quality should look like. But spend a little time with the plastic-y sliding barn door, or the goon whose only zinger seems to be calling Rose the B-word, and you come to realize that it's all hollow underneath — a "Truman Show" set without the real world behind it.

"Love Hurts," a Universal Pictures release in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "strong, bloody violence and language throughout." Running time: 83 minutes.

TheSportsPages

How the Iggles caged slippery Mr. Mahomes

Busy week ... Super Bowl ... Lakers get (another) superstar ... Angels sign another of the broken and lame ...

In New Orleans, the Kansas City Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes was not able to play his usually jazzy style of dip-and dash because of a clever defensive adjustment by the Philadelphia Eagles.

Instead of blitzing, the linebackers were in short-range pass coverage.

With no receivers open, Mahomes had to look to throw deep, or try to scramble.

But the Philly front four – given more time because of the success of the linebackers – penned in Mahomes and sacked him six times and hurried him into two interceptions, one of them returned for a touchdown.

The Chiefs and Pat found themselves trailing 40-6 at one point, and KC's two late scores merely made the score semi-respectable.

The king is dead; long live the (new) king, Jalen Hurts.

Lakers' big move: I was not a big fan of the trade that sent Anthony Davis to the Dallas Mavericks in exchange for Luka Doncic.

I was concerned it might disrupt the chemistry of a team that had won eight of 10 games, and sent LeBron James' best friend to Texas.

But you cannot argue with success. With Doncic – called a “generational” player by some – in the lineup, the Lake Show blew the Utah Jazz apart 132-113 on Monday. OK, I feel better now ...

Angels Clinic Continues: Less excited about the Los An-

Continued on page 8



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Jalen's Super Day in Nawlins



JALEN HURTS (1) was named Most Valuable Player in the Philadelphia Eagles' most impressive 30-22 win over the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs (Drew Hollowell/Eagles photo).

'It's more about the journey than the results'

By Josh Dubow
AP Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jalen Hurts smiled as he held the Lombardi Trophy in his right hand and the Super Bowl MVP trophy in his left hand, reflecting on all he has gone through to reach the pinnacle of success.

The hurdles he faced along the

way helped lead to where he stood Monday morning: a Super Bowl champion and MVP.

“When you hoist those trophies, it’s more so about the journey and less about the results,” Hurts said.

“Obviously we’re going to be judged by results and that’s what everyone talks about. The journey is what fuels us and makes us who we are.”

The finish to the 2024 season for the Philadelphia Eagles with a dominating 40-22 win over the two-time defending champion Kansas City Chiefs for their

16th win in 17 games comes in stark contrast to 2023.

The Eagles started 10-1 that season and looked like they could have a chance to avenge a Super Bowl loss the previous season to the Chiefs.

But then they lost five of their final six regular-season games and were blown out in a wild-card loss at Tampa Bay, with the brunt of the criticism being focused on Hurts and coach Nick Sirianni.

But Sirianni believes the celebration that happened Sunday

Continued on page 7

Lakers new formula is fan-tastic

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Luka Doncic had 14 points, five rebounds and four assists in his Lakers debut as Los Angeles beat the Utah Jazz 132-113 on Monday night.

LeBron James finished with 24 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, Austin Reaves scored 22 and the Lakers got their sixth straight win.

Doncic, acquired in a shock trade from the Dallas Mavericks on Feb. 2, played for the first time since sustaining a calf strain on Christmas.

He was limited to just under 24 minutes as a precaution and was able to sit out the fourth quarter with his new team in complete control, but still had several standout moments to help the

surging Lakers get their 12th victory in 14 games.

Buoyed by its new superstar, Los Angeles had seven players reach double figures, shot a blistering 54.3% from the floor and led by as many as 34.

Lauri Markkanen and John Collins each scored 17 points for the Jazz, who have dropped nine in a row on the road.

Jaylen's long journey to Super Bowl win

Continued from page 6

night at the Superdome wouldn't have been possible without the disappointment from 2023.

"Adversity has a tendency to bring you together," he said. "I look back on last year and how last year ended and I'm grateful. As crazy as it sounds, I'm grateful how last year ended because it shaped us to who we are today and where we're standing today."

Hurts has been shaped by adversity throughout his career. He lost the college football championship game as a freshman at Alabama in the 2016 season and then was benched at halftime the following year in the title game and could only watch as Tua Tagovailoa led the Crimson Tide to a title.

Hurts spent the next season as a backup before transferring to Oklahoma, where he improved as a passer and was drafted in the second round by the Eagles in 2020.

The pick was panned by some



because Philadelphia already had Carson Wentz in place, but Hurts took over as starter late in his rookie season.

He helped the Eagles make the playoffs the following year in his first full season as a starter and reached the Super Bowl in the 2022 season.

The questions about his ability as a pure passer lingered despite his success on the field, but Hurts may have put them to rest at least for now thanks to the way he controlled the game Sunday night against Steve Spagnuolo's defense.

"When it's all said and done for

me, I won't measure my success by any numbers or statistics or passing yards or touchdowns or anything like that," Hurts said.

"I measure it off rings and championships. That's how I look at it."

Hurts had both the stats and the championship against the Chiefs. He went 17 for 22 for 221 yards and two touchdowns, and he ran for 72 yards and a touchdown, joining Hall of Famer Joe Montana as the only quarterbacks to throw for at least 200 yards and two TDs and rush for at least 50 yards and a score in a Super Bowl.

While that performance led to Hurts winning the award for Most Valuable Player, the most valuable person for the Eagles might have been defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, who delivered a signature performance in a long career that had lacked only a championship.

The Eagles sacked Patrick Mahomes six times — the first time that has happened in his

8-year NFL career — and generated three takeaways, including a pick-6 by rookie Cooper DeJean.

They managed to do that without calling a single blitz all night, according to NFL Next Gen Stats, as Fangio's defense repeatedly took away Mahomes' first read on plays, allowing the four-man front to get pressure.

"Obviously we are very talented on that side of the field," Sirianni said.

"Vic Fangio is one of the best coordinators of all time. He cemented his legacy in being maybe the best defensive coordinator of all time last night."

Hurts' legacy has yet to be determined; he is only 26 and has many years of football remaining. He knows there is still plenty more to do even after winning a Super Bowl MVP.

"It's a journey. It's all a journey and I'm still yet to arrive," he said. "We are still yet to arrive as a team."



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Seahawks are the sole survivor in girls' polo

The CIF-SS boys' basketball playoffs start today (Wednesday) with girls' action starting on Thursday, but that's not the only winter sport underway this week.

In its quarterfinals today is the girls' water polo tournament. But unlike what we expect in hoops' action, these playoffs have not been a parade of glory for Orange County teams, or even for those from the west side.

Prep Sport Spotlight

Ocean View competing in the Division 6 tournament is the last "local" alive. The Seahawks are in the quarterfinals, hosting Nor-doff High of Ojai.

If they win, they will face the winner of the Palm Springs/Moreno Valley match in the semifinals on Tuesday. The championship game is on Saturday, Feb. 22 at Mt. San Antonio College.



LOS AMIGOS' boys' basketball team won the Coast League title. The Lobos open CIF-SS play against district rival Santiago today (GGUSD photo)

Stats for stars

As mentioned above the basketball playoffs are underway,

but the "regular season" is over and here are some of the local stars for schools serving our West Orange County area.

Among boys, the top scorer is Sean Le of Westminster High, who averaged 23.8 points a

game.

There were some prolific three-point shooters from the area, and they included Luis Rico of Rancho Alamitos with 73 treys, Drue Anzai (Garden Grove) with 63, Phillip Steirnert (Los Amigos) with 59 and Cavin Flangan (Ocean View) with 58.

Top local boys rebounder looks like Osvaldo Ramos (Rancho Alamitos) with 245 and Zeke Case (Ocean View) with 235.

On the girls' side, Angelina Badao (Ocean View) averaged 22.8 points a game, followed by Rylee Brady (Marina) with 20.9. The top three-point shooter was Katie Nguyen (La Quinta) with 50 treys.

Retorts: Next time, pick flags more carefully

Continued from page 3

of possession" of the land in question ...

Historians tell us that the first migrants into what is now North America came across the Bering Strait land bridge (that existed many years ago) and moved slowly south into what is now California, Arizona, New Mexico and etc.

The tribes that developed fought each other for territory. After several centuries, the Spanish arrived and were able to defeat the Aztecs only because rival tribes hated the Aztecs for taking their land and helped the invader.

Next, the Mexicans took the land from the Spanish and a few centuries late, the French —briefly— seized Mexico. The French were expelled with the help of Uncle Sam.

The point of all of this is that nobody's hands are clean in the human narrative. Focusing on the old days isn't as important as making the case for becoming — immigration reform — contributing Americans now and not just by waving El Tri.

Sports ReTorts: Super Bowl and a super trade

Continued from page 6

geles Angels' signing of third baseman Yoan Moncada to a one-year, \$5 million contract. Moncada missed 161 of the White Sox 162 games last season with a strained muscle.

He's also missed at least 58 games due to injury in the last four seasons.

OK, so he's a bit brittle and doesn't play very often. At least now they have a road roommate for Anthony Rendon.

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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?

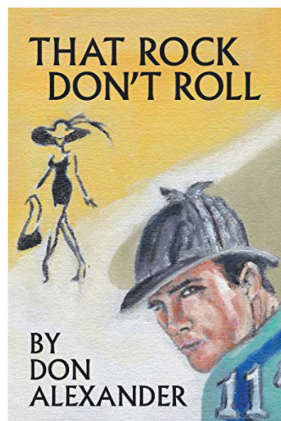
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