

■ **STANTON CITY COUNCIL**

A Homeless Crisis Leads To Bulldozers

Demolitions on Pacific Ave.

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

In response to a sharp increase in calls for service related to incidents connected to the homeless, the Stanton City Council will consider the demolition of two more buildings in the Tina-Pacific area.

On the agenda for Tuesday's meeting, the council will take up a request from City Manager Hannah Shin-Heydorn to authorize the destruction of buildings at 8961 and 8950 Pacific Avenue.

According to a staff report, the area "has been

particularly impacted by ... transients and homeless individuals regularly trespassing and breaking into vacant units."

Such a contract for demolition would be for not more than \$150,000.

One such building has been demolished and the site cleared.

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

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ALONZO'S DREAM



Could Alonzo Cook, the fellow in the statue, who founded Garden Grove in 1874, ever have dreamed that his little village would grow to a population of nearly 175,000 and be constructing a \$132 million multi-story police facility – seen rising behind him – as part of the overall revitalization of the Civic Center in the area of Euclid Street and Acacia Parkway? We like to think so (Tribune photo).

Quiet or more fireworks?

Will there be peace at 8200 Westminster Boulevard on Wednesday night? That will be when the Westminster City Council meets for the first time since Councilmember Amy Phan West (District 1) was charged with at-

■ **WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

tempted bribery in connection with an incident in 2023 when she allegedly sought to prevent the towing of her husband's illegally parked Jeep by

promising to work hard to get pay raises for police officers.

West has been among the most controversial members of the council in years. She's been sued by the city for disrupting

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Inside The Tribune



Is it the Eagles turn this time?

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'Kinda Pregnant' is kinda funny

ARTS & LIVING Page 6

Code enforcement report set

An update on the activities of the city's code enforcement staff tops the agenda of Tuesday's meeting of the Garden Grove City Council.

Code enforcement is the practice of making sure

■ **GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

that municipal codes relating to lawns overgrown with weeds, commercial signs that don't meet legal standards and other

eyesores and problems are dealt with.

Also on the agenda is the purchase of eight new police department administration vehicles from multiple auto dealerships at a total cost of \$338,115.40.

Stanton council

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complaints from Tina-Pacific residents in relation to homelessness-related issues has increased in the last six months.”

This action would be in consequence of the city council declaring a local emergency on Nov. 26, 2024.

Also on the agenda is discussion of the placement of a ballot initiative calling for a tax increase on tobacco products sold in the city to “safeguard the Stanton community and fund public safety operations within the city,” as requested by Mayor Pro Tem Donald Torres.

The council will meet in its chambers in City Hall at 7800 Katella Ave., at 6:30 p.m.

Westminster

Continued from page 1

meetings and now will be arraigned on Feb. 24 for the misdemeanor charge.

There’s more on the agenda than watching West’s conduct.

The council will consider the second and final reading of an ordinance terminating the city Commission on Aging, and authorizing the purchase of playground equipment at Gillespie Park in the amount of \$202,001.24.

There will be a study session at 3 p.m., a closed session at 4 p.m. with the open session at 6 p.m.

The★Tribune

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News & Views

What will the effect be of what choices we make?

One of my favorite quotes from literature goes like this: "Some people think that water runs downhill, but will never reach the bottom."

Translated it means that here are a lot of folks who can't see the logical effects on certain actions.

There are lots of examples from among daily life: If you drive tipsy you run the risk of getting arrested, killing yourself or others.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

If you leave the gate or a door open, there's a chance that the dog may run out, or a bad guy may run in.

You probably didn't intend that, but that's what happened.

A lot of new policy initiatives have come from the White House and from wherever Elon Musk hangs out that bear close examination for potential consequences.

The widespread deportation of "undocumented workers" might not only strip some industries – especially agriculture and light manufacturing of labor – but it would also have a major effect on school enrollment.

Fewer students mean less funding from the state – since that money is based on average daily attendance – and could lead not only to massive layoffs of teachers and other school employees but other effects.

Beyond that, declining enrollment is already with us. The Santa Ana Unified is planning on laying off 250 teachers, and the Ocean View School District will be closing one middle school and maybe more.

And here's the prospect that should give its advocates pause.

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CAVALIERS TO THE RESCUE



STUDENTS from Santiago High School in Garden Grove stepped up in response to the wildfires in Los Angeles County by organizing a relief drive for the residents of Altadena. Students and faculty donated essential items including toiletries, hygiene products, baby food, diapers, cleaning wipes, paper towels and toilet paper (GGUSD photo).

President's Day, Distinctive Women, A Small Business Expo and HBTV

In observance of the Presidents Day holiday, Garden Grove City Hall and the H. Louis Lake Senior Center will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17.

Street-sweeping service will not be provided on the holiday and will resume the next day.

Trash pick-up will stay as scheduled. Call (714) 741-5554.

Small Business Expo Feb. 27

The Westminster Small Business Expo will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 8 a.m. to 2

■ AREA NEWS BRIEFS

p.m. at the Rose Center, 14140 All American Way.

The event will feature a resource fair, breakout sessions, and a special lunch program on "Doing Business in Westminster." Attendees will also have the opportunity to connect with fellow entrepreneurs and receive grant application assistance.

Women of Distinction sought

Women's History Month recognizes the special women in our lives and the City of Stanton is now seeking nominations for the 2025 Women of Distinction Awards. Nominations must be submitted by 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20.

For applications and other details, email CommunityServices@StantonCA.gov or call (714) 690-4270. The Women of Distinction will be honored on Tuesday, March 11 during the city council meeting.

HBTV is the one to watch

HBTV (Huntington Beach TV) is here to serve the community by providing quality streaming content, including entertainment, children's shows, city updates, and council meetings. Handpicked programs will delve into the hidden wonders and adventures throughout Huntington Beach, all from the comfort of your own home to the heart of Huntington Beach.

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NewsUpdate

Legal Action to Block DOGE Acts

Elon Musk's team have access to central payments

Attorney generals from 19 states filed lawsuits against President Donald Trump on Friday to block Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency from getting access to personal data and the account numbers for the Social Security and banks for millions.

According to the Associated Press, the suit alleged that allowing Musk's DOGE access to the Treasury Department's central payment system breaks federal law.

DOGE – which is not an official department of the federal government – was created with the premise of seeking to curb “wasteful” government spending.



ELON MUSK leads the “Department of Government Efficiency” (Shutterstock).

“President Trump does not have the power to give away Americans’ private information to anyone he chooses and he cannot cut federal payments ap-

proved by Congress,” said New York Attorney General Letitia James, whose office filed the lawsuit. California is one of the states in the lawsuit.

The White House has not made a reply to the legal action. DOGE members have “read only” access to the data, according to the Treasury Department.

Judge blocks paid leave for USAID employees

Judge Carl Nichols of the U.S. District Court of Appeals on Friday said he would issue a temporary restraining order freezing some elements of the Trump administration's actions to shut down the U.S. Agency for International Development.

According to The New York Times, Nichols – a Trump appointee – said he would pause the “immediate” administrative leave of 2,200 USAID employees as well as a plan to pull near-

ly all of the agency's workers from overseas postings within a month.

The request for the restraining order came from a union representing federal workers who claimed that those affected would suffer “irreparable harm.”

USAID is the agency that operates foreign aid missions, many of them humanitarian including public health, education and disaster relief.

Great Thoughts

“There are three classes of people. Those who see. Those who see when shown. Those who do not see.”
– Leonardo Da Vinci

“Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?”
– Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States.

Missing airplane found crashed in Alaska, all 10 aboard did not survive

An aircraft carrying 10 people which was reported missing on Thursday has been found crashed on Friday with no survivors.

United Press International is reporting that the U.S. Coast Guard said the crash site is about 34 miles southeast of

Nome. Three bodies were found at the scene.

The others are believed to be concealed by the debris.

The plane was a Cessna Caravan with nine passengers and one pilot on board. Its last known position was 12 miles off shore on its way to Nome.

Weather: Warmer, then colder

Temperatures will rise and then cool in the coming days for West Orange County. Saturday will start with a daytime high of 66 and an overnight low of 48. Skies will be cloudy. There will be a spike to 69 (50) on Sunday with partly cloudy skies, followed by a drop on Monday to 62 (47) with partly cloudy skies. Tuesday will dip again to 60 (45) with similar skies.

Arts & Living

'Kinda Pregnant' is Kinda Good

Amy Schumer co-wrote and stars in comedy

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

We have by now become accustomed to the lengths some movie characters will go to keep a good comedy lie going. But it's still a special kind of feat when Amy Schumer, playing a baby-mad single woman who fakes a baby bump in "Kinda Pregnant," is so desperate to maintain the fiction that she shoves a roast turkey up her dress.

You might be thinking: This is too ridiculous. The stuffing, alone. But if we bought "Some Like it Hot" and "Mrs. Doubtfire," I see no reason to quibble with the set-up of "Kinda Pregnant," a funny and often perceptive satire on motherhood, both real and pretend.

"Kinda Pregnant," which debuted Wednesday on Netflix, is a kinda throwback comedy. Like "40-Year-Old Virgin" and "Wedding Crashers," you can basically get the movie just from its title.

But like any good high-concept comedy, "Kinda Pregnant" is predominantly a far-fetched way for its star and co-writer, Schumer, to riff frankly on her chosen topic. Here, that's the wide gamut of pregnancy experience — the body changes, the gender reveal parties, the personal jealousies — all while mixing in a healthy amount of pseudo-pregnant pratfalls.

It's been a decade since Schumer was essentially launched as a movie star in the 2015 Judd Apatow-directed "Trainwreck." But "Kinda Pregnant," which Schumer wrote with Julie Paiva, almost as adeptly channels Schumer's comic voice — the



BRIANNE HOWEY (left) and Amy Schumer in "Kinda Pregnant" (Netflix).

Movie Review

one that made the sketch series "Inside Amy Schumer" so great.

The movie's opening flashes back to Lainey (Schumer) as a child playing with dolls and imagining herself a mother-to-be. So committed is she to the role that Lainey, in mock-labor, screams at her friend and then politely apologizes: "Sorry, but the expectant mother often lashes out at her support system."

But as middle age approaches, Lainey, a high school teacher in Brooklyn, isn't close to her dream. At the dinner where she suspects — no, is so certain that she tears open the desert looking for a ring — that her longtime boyfriend (Damon Wayans Jr.) is going to pop the question, he instead asks her to join a threesome.

Back at school, Lainey's school lesson on "Romeo and Juliet" turns darkly cynical.

Things are even worse when Lainey's married best friend (Jillian Bell) divulges that she's pregnant. "Get rid of it!" blurts Lainey before apologizing.

When the pair later go clothes

shopping, Lainey absentmindedly tries on belly padding. The saleswoman is instantly nice to her, offering a burrito and a foot rub.

"Who's the father?" she asks. "Door dash," responds Lainey before adding, "driver."

Much of the fun in "Kinda Pregnant" is watching Lainey come up with increasingly ridiculous lies as she tries to pull off the pregnant act. (After accidentally picking Thanksgiving as her time of inception, Lainey digs a deeper hole by suggesting it happened at "a Black Friday Eve sale.")

But the ruse becomes more difficult when she, during a pregnant workout class, meets a woman (Brianne Howey, refreshingly authentic) she genuinely likes and wants to be friends with. Even more complicated: Lainey starts falling for another guy she first meets at a coffee shop (Will Forte).

In a movie filled with funny people (others include Urzila Carlson as a guidance counselor, and Alex Moffat as a idiotic father-to-be) Forte is an especially good presence in "Kinda Pregnant." For a performer of such madcap absurdity, Forte fits in

Good: ★ ★ ★

remarkably naturally in a more rom-com setting. He's also got a wonderfully ridiculous occupation, even by rom-com standards, driving a Zamboni in Central Park.

You can probably guess how "Kinda Pregnant" goes from here. Director Tyler Spindel, nephew to Adam Sandler (a producer on the film), doesn't do anything to advance the movie comedy, a languishing proposition in recent years with few big-screen exceptions. But he crucially gives his performers plenty of space to be themselves, and Lainey's desperate desire to have a family comes across as both over-the-top and genuine. If "Knocked Up" captured the comedy of getting unexpectedly pregnant, "Kinda Pregnant" embodies the pain of wishing you were.

"Kinda Pregnant," a Netflix release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for sexual content, language throughout and drug use. Running time: 97 minutes.

TheSportsPages

Sticking with Big A is a good bet on future

I see the Angels have extended their lease at Angel Stadium through 2029 with options to extend their stay through 2032. Yay.

OK, so there's not a lot of excitement with this announcement. I mean, where are they going to go? The demand for a sub-mediocre team which hasn't posted a winning record since Barack Obama had dark hair isn't great.

Repeated efforts to refresh or rebuild the Angels' home have all come to naught, the latest of them crashing and burning with a whiff of sulphur.

The stadium itself is the fourth-oldest MLB in existence, outlasted by the iconic Fenway Park (Boston), Wrigley Field (Chicago) and Dodger Stadium (Los Angeles).

None of those look like advantages, but there's a ton of potential there, if handled right.

First, the Angels punch above their weight in attendance. Despite many a bleak summer and autumn in a crumbling edifice, the Halos have consistently drawn at least 2.5 million fans a year, better than 17 other teams, despite having the world champs right down the freeway.

Looking at the bigger picture, The Show is prospering. Attendance across Major League Baseball has risen for two years in a row and – perhaps more importantly – the TV audience is growing, owing perhaps to the rules' changes which have sped the games up and increased scoring. Moreover, part of that growth has come from young people (18-35).

Pro sports in general are in an

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Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Is it the Eagles Turn, Now?



JALEN HURTS and Patrick Mahomes duelled two years in the 2023 Super Bowl. The Chiefs won in the closing seconds on a 27-yard field goal to prevail 38-35 (AP photo).

Chiefs path for a three-peat is through Philly

By **Rob Maaddi**
AP Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and the Kansas City Chiefs are pursuing history and a few of Taylor Swift's records.

Saquon Barkley, Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles stand in their way.

The Chiefs (17-2) will try to become the first team to win

three straight Super Bowls when they face the Eagles (17-3) on Sunday in the Superdome.

It's a rematch from two years ago when Hurts nearly led the Eagles to a championship only to watch Mahomes snatch it away by rallying Kansas City to a 38-35 win on Harrison Butker's 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left.

Mahomes lifted the Chiefs to an overtime win against San Francisco in another Super Bowl rematch last year. Now, they're poised for a three-peat, a word coach Andy Reid doesn't use much.

"I think the only time I've heard him say it is to the media when-

ever y'all ask him about it," Mahomes said. "He's very locked in on just, 'How can we be great with our cadence today at practice?' so that's just the stuff that Coach Reid focuses on."

Reid won more games than any coach in franchise history during his 14 seasons in Philadelphia but couldn't win the big one, going 1-4 in NFC championship games and losing a Super Bowl to the Patriots. He went right to Kansas City after the Eagles fired him following the 2012 season and has built a dynasty thanks to Mahomes, Kelce, Chris Jones and others.

"You don't have time to think

Continued on page 7

Kings beat the Stars 5-4 in overtime

By **Pete Zarustica**
Orange County Tribune

Balance is key to being a professional ice hockey player trying to stay upright and effective on that slippery surface. And if you want to win consistently, having a balanced offense is useful too, as shown by the Los Angeles Kings' 5-4 shoot-

out win over the Dallas Stars at home Friday night.

In regulation time, four players – Kevin Fiala, Warren Foegele, Alex Laferrriere and Anze Kopitar – lit the lamp for the Kings and two players – Fiala and Adrian Kempe – tallied in the shootout to pull out the win.

It was the team's third consecutive victory..

With the victory, the Kings are 29-17-6, good for 64 points and third place in the NHL Pacific Division. It also placed them in seventh place in the Western Conference.

The top three teams in each division qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs; the other four spots go to the next-highest finishers in conference.

This time, the NFC champ has Sequon

Continued from page 6

about all that,” Reid said of the three-peat. “You’re focused in on the job at hand here and that’s playing against a great Eagles team.”

Jones, the three-time All-Pro defensive tackle, echoed his coach’s viewpoint.

“We don’t talk about no three-peat,” Jones said. “I think that’s what we’re here for. We understand that. We understand there’s one more game until the offseason and we can do whatever we want to do. Our main focus is making sure we’re prepared for the Eagles.”

No matter what the Chiefs say, everyone else is talking about it. No team has done it in the Super Bowl era, though the Green Bay Packers won an NFL championship in 1965 and followed by winning the first two Super Bowls. Kelce even started all the three-peat talk on stage last year when he said the team’s goal was to win three.

“This is gonna be our biggest test yet,” Kelce said. “They got



SEQUON BARKLEY (Wikipedia)

a lot of great players but the biggest thing is they play great together. You could see their communication. You could see the accountability they have, especially in the secondary. It’s not gonna make my job any easier.” These Eagles are different from the group that fell just short against Kansas City in Arizona two years ago.

They have the NFL’s most dynamic player in the backfield.

Barkley rushed for 2,447 yards with seven touchdowns of 60-plus yards in the regular season and playoffs.

“The goal has always been to win it, not just to get here,” Barkley said.

Losing to the Chiefs two years ago only motivated Hurts even more. He’s determined to hoist a Lombardi trophy and even had a photo of him walking off the field with Kansas City’s red and yellow confetti falling around him as the background on his phone.

“It’s had a great driving force,” Hurts said of that loss. “It lit a flame, lit a fire in me, and to have this opportunity again is exactly what you work for.”

Hurts, Barkley, A.J. Brown, DeVonta Smith and a dominant offensive line present a major challenge for Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

The Eagles also have the league’s No. 1-ranked defense, featuring eight new starters from 2022 and defensive coordinator Vic Fangio.



All-Pro linebacker Zack Baun and rookie cornerbacks Quinyon Mitchell and Cooper DeJean plus the emergence of defensive tackle Jalen Carter and edge rusher Nolan Smith has transformed a defensive unit that fell apart last season.

“We’re fortunate to have Steve Spagnuolo, but I tell you that Vic is one of those guys,” Reid said.

“He’s just one of those really creative defensive minds that survived a long time in this league. He’s been time-tested, and, he has the trust of his players.”



GARDEN GROVE’S BEST KEPT SECRET

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'Second season' begins with CIF-SS playoffs

The "second season" for local high school basketball will start next week with the CIF-SS playoffs. The matchups and brackets will be announced on Saturday and posted at CIFss.org .

Here's our initial list of league champs and playoff prospects, subject to makeup games, etc. This list is not final, and based in part on published statistics and standings.

BOYS:

Orange Coast League: Cham-

Prep Sport Spotlight

pion is Kennedy; other playoff teams are Katella and Garden Grove.

Sunset League: Champion is Los Alamitos; other playoff teams are Edison and Corona del Mar.

Orange League: Champion is La Quinta; other playoff teams are Saddleback and Bolsa Grande.

Coast League: Savanna and Los Amigos tied for first; other playoff team is Santiago.

North Hills League: Champion is Sunny Hills; other playoff



MATTHEW HATCHETTE is the new Oiler football coach (HBUHSD photo)

teams are Esperanza, and possibly Pacifica.

GIRLS:

Orange Coast League: Champion is Laguna Hills; other playoff teams are Costa Mesa and Ocean View.

Sunset League: Corona del Mar is the champion; other playoff teams are Fountain Valley, Los Alamitos and possibly Marina.

Orange League: Champion is Saddleback; other playoff team is Bolsa Grande.

Grove League: Champion is La Quinta; other playoff teams are Los Amigos and Orange.

New Oiler football coach

Matthew Hatchette has been named the new head football coach at Huntington Beach High School.

He's got football playing and coaching experience at the professional, college and high school level. In the NFL, he's played for the Minnesota Vikings, New York Jets, Oakland Raiders and Jacksonville Jag-

uars.

"I am beyond excited for this opportunity," said Hatchette. "I can't wait to get started with the team, the school and to get to know everyone in the community."

In the fall, the Oilers finished third in the Epsilon League with an overall record of 7-5 and 3-2 in league. They made the CIF-SS playoffs and advanced to the second round.

Where did Leslie land?

Leslie Aragon, long-time basketball coach (boys and girls) at Orangewood Academy in Garden Grove, built a national powerhouse for the Spartan girls over the years.

This season he's an assistant coach at Rosary High in Fullerton.

The Royals finished fourth in the Pacific Coast League and 14-12 overall.

Sports ReTorts

Continued from page 6

expansion mode. New leagues are forming and established ones growing. The NBA is looking at two more teams, soon, and the WNBA is undergoing a growth spurt akin to a teenager who has his own fridge.

Major league sports teams convey status, build community spirit and attract more teams.

It's only a matter of time before some smart (rich) guy will figure out what a bargain that bunch on State College Boulevard is and he (or she) will dust off the Big A and make a new A that ushers in a new era.

Retorts: Look down the hill and watch out

Continued from page 3

Establishing the principle that civil service employees can be fired and replaced on party loyalty, means that someday – perhaps as soon as 2029 – they can all be replaced by folks from the opposite bunch.

Water runs downhill and be careful what you wish for.



Who helped eradicate the plague of polio?

Garden Grove Rotary

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

Garden Grove Rotary

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

Garden Grove Rotary

Who sponsors and contributes to training high school students on leadership and citizenship?

Garden Grove Rotary.

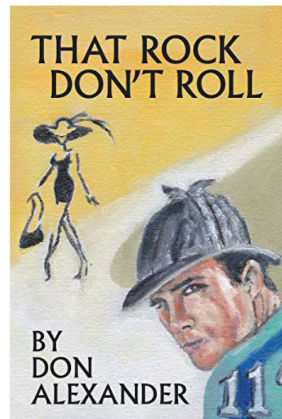
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