

■ HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL

Vacancy To Be Filled At Tuesday Mtg.

Who will replace Strickland?

The selection of a candidate to fill a vacancy on the city council tops the agenda of the Huntington Beach City Council when it meets on Tuesday.

Upon the election of Councilmember Tony Strickland to the 36th State Senate post – and subsequent resignation from the council – a vacancy was created.

The council has the option of holding a special election to let the voters decide, or to make its own appointment. If the

members can agree on an appointment the oath of office will be admitted to the new councilmember, whose term will run to 2026.

Mayor Pro Tem Casey McKeon has requested to be excused from attendance at this meeting.

Also on the agenda are approval of two five-year agreements with Southern California Edison for the use of its land. One is for the lease of a 2.58-acre parcel commonly

Continued on page 2



UNION PACIFIC crews helped clean up trash and debris (HBPD photo).

HB, Westminster team up to clean up 405 underpass

A combined effort of the Huntington Beach Police Department's Homeless Task Force, the Westminster Police Department and Union Pacific Railroad cleaned up a stretch of railway near the San Diego (Interstate 405) Freeway underpass on Wednesday.

According to the HBPD, six arrests were made and homeless persons were taken to the city jail, where they were offered services for housing and battling drug addiction.

Additionally, Union Pacific employees cleaned up "a significant amount of ac-

cumulated trash," restoring the area to its normal condition.

Arrest charges included:

- trespassing on railroad tracks
- trespassing on CalTrans property
- possession of narcotics
- possession of narcotics by someone with prior arrests/convictions
- possession of narcotic paraphernalia
- outstanding warrants.

The location is particularly complicated to serve because it straddles the cities

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■ STANTON COUNCIL

Better roads on the horizon for city streets

There are no city streets paved with gold, but Stanton will soon be getting better-surfaced roadways.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Stanton City Council approved the awarding of a construction contract for a citywide street resurfacing project to R.J. Noble Company in the amount of \$1,224,741.77.

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In The Trib



A dark trip to 'Nether' at GWC

ARTS & LIVING 5 and 8

Black April event gets approval

Westminster now has a new city attorney.

At its meeting on Wednesday, the City Council approved the appointment of Scott Porter to the position of the city's legal adviser.

He is associated with the Law Office of Jones and Mayer and replaces Chris-

■ WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

tian Bettenhausen, who served from 2021.

Also approved was a request for a special permit to hold a Black April Memorial Ceremony on

April 30 at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park, 14180 All American Way.

The event is an observance of the fall of Saigon, capital of the Republic of (South) Vietnam, to North Vietnamese communist forces in 1975.

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HB council to fill a vacancy

Continued from page 1

known as Arevalos Park, and the other is for a 2.48-acre parcel southeast of Atlanta Avenue and Brookhurst Street to be used as a

community garden.

The council will meet in a study/closed session at 4 p.m. and a regular meeting at 6 p.m. in its chambers at 2000 Main St. (at Yorktown Avenue).

405 underpass

Continued from page 1

of Huntington Beach and Westminster and property owned by the railroad and the California Department of Transportation.

Black April event

Continued from page 1

Both actions were approved on 4-0 votes with Councilmember NamQuan Nguyen absent.

The next meeting of the council is set for Wednesday, March 26 at 6 p.m.

Stanton roadways

Continued from page 1

The work to be done is the repair, maintenance and minor alterations of existing streets, sidewalks and similar facilities.

The vote was 3-0 with Mayor David Shawver and Councilmember Victor Barrios with excused absences.

The★Tribune

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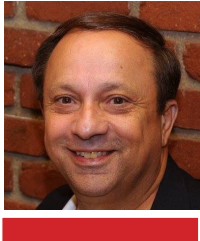
News & Views

How to survive those years in junior high

Two of the oldest grands will be entering middle school in the fall, and they had their orientations the other day.

It's been said that life is revenge for high school, but I think the toughest passage in life is the time you spend in what is variously called middle school, intermediate school or junior high.

Here are some thoughts – maybe a tiny bit of wisdom – about how to survive that time.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

It's a time – two or three years – in which everything changes. Your bodies change. You get taller, your voice changes and boys start to become men and girls start to become women.

The body chemistry that powers these changes can make you grumpy or sad or giggly or bursting with energy and creativity. The familiar patterns of all day – or most of the day – with one teacher are gone and you find yourself hustling to keep up with the demands of changing classes and the different styles and habits of your instructor.

Social patterns start to change. Your old friends may move into new circles and you will doubtless do the same. Beginning romances start to appear ... don't worry, they're not forever.

And if you don't have any, don't worry. You're not really missing much.

Almost everyone feels insecure at that age. Uncertain about your looks, the way you dress, what to say or do. Some people cope by picking on others, making fun of other people.

Don't give in to the temptation to avoid being insulted by cast-

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FIGHTING FIRES WITH CASH



At the March 11 Garden Grove City Council meeting, Battalion 11 and Engine 84 received a donation \$800 to the Orange County Fire Authority Foundation from the Korean-American Seniors Association of Orange County in recognition of the firefighting efforts during the Palisades and Eaton Fires. This donation will be used to assist with providing the highest level of technology, equipment, tools, training, education, and community outreach to the citizens of Orange County.

Housing workshop set in Westminster March 19

A workshop on fair housing will be held on Wednesday, March 19 at the Miriam Warne Community Building in Westminster. This is a workshop for tenants, landlords, managers, property owners, attorneys, realtors and management companies.

Topics covered will include new statewide laws, federal and state fair housing laws, housing discrimination, eviction process, security deposits, rent increases and more.

The event will be held from 2-4 p.m. The location is 114491 Beach Blvd. To register/RSVP call (800) 446-3247.

Planning meets cancelled

The planning commission meetings of Garden Grove and Stanton have been cancelled.

The Stanton meeting scheduled for March 5 was cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19.

The Garden Grove meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 20 has been cancelled.

News Briefs

Local students honored

Leanne Le of Garden Grove was named to the dean's list the fall semester of 2024 at Washington University in St. Louis.

She is currently enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences.

Ashley Morris of Huntington Beach has been named to the dean's list at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Neb Radjevic of Huntington Beach has been named to the dean's list at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Named to the dean's list at Tufts University in Medford, Virginia are:

- Addysen Carson of Garden Grove;
- Cat Kawabe of Huntington Beach;
- Sidney Do of Huntington Beach.

Tree vs. car crash takes man's life

A car crashed into a tree in Garden Grove early Thursday morning and the driver was fatally injured.

According to Sgt. Charles Starnes of the GGPD, the collision took place in the 13200 block of Chapman Avenue around 4:50 a.m. between Haster and Lewis streets.

Arriving officers found the driver unresponsive, said Sgt. Starnes.

Orange Fire Department personnel assessed the driver's injuries and the driver – James Eads, 78, of Orange – was pronounced dead at the scene.

There's no indication that alcohol or drugs contributed to the crash.

The cause of the collision is still under review.

Anyone who witnessed the incident who has relevant information or who has video footage of the crash is asked to contact Officer Danielle Wren at (714) 741-5867 or via e-mail at daniellew@ggcity.org.

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The Tribune covers Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster each Wednesday and Saturday morning.

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

NewsUpdate

No Shutdown; Spending Bill Passes

Senate approves six-month respite on a 54-46 vote

The specter of a shutdown of the federal government was avoided late Friday night as some Democrats joined almost all Republicans in supporting a U.S. Senate bill that will keep Uncle Sam funded for six more months.

Some Democrats followed Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's conclusion that a shutdown would give President Donald Trump and Elon Musk more leeway to strip government agencies of staff and effectiveness, according to the Associated Press.

"A shutdown will allow DOGE [Department of Government Efficiency] to drive into overdrive," said Schumer.

"Donald Trump and Elon Musk



A SHUTDOWN of the federal government was avoided on Friday (Shutterstock).

would be free to destroy vital government services at a much faster rate."

The final vote in the Senate was 54 in favor and 46 against. The legislation now goes to Trump

for his signature. Two Democrats voted for it and one Republican was against it.

Wall Street bounces back from tariff fears

Reversing days of decline, Wall Street stock exchanges rallied on Friday, wiping out all nearly all the losses of earlier this week, believed to have been prompted by fears of the effects of tariffs.

The New York Times reported that while the S&P 500, Nasdaq Composite and Russell 2000 rebounded, Standard & Poor's benchmark index still remains in red ink for the week and is 10.1

percent below its peak on Feb. 19.

Also showing increases in value were gold, oil prices and crypto currencies. Gold, for instance, topped \$3000 per troy ounce for the first time ever.

Wall Street analysts say that it will take an end to the White House's on-and-off declarations of tariffs to return stability to the stock markets.

Great Thoughts

"We are increasing the sophistication of deception faster than the technology of verification."

– Alvin Toffler, writer and futurist

"Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts, perhaps a fear of a loss of power."

– John Steinbeck, writer, Nobel Prize winner 1962

Trump's view of future Department of Justice

President Donald Trump tore into those he considered his enemies in a speech on Friday in Washington as he accused some within the federal government of being "rogue actors and corrupt forces" and that he would direct the FBI to investigate them.

According to United Press International, he said, "We will expose and very much expose, their egregious crimes and se-

vere misconduct, of which was levels you've never seen anything like it." He added "It's going to be legendary."

He accused the Department of Justice during the Biden administration of spying on his campaign and said that it had "launched one hoax and disinformation operation after another" and "broke the law on a colossal scale."

Weather: Rain gone, cool stays

The rain that complicated life a bit in our West Orange County cities is gone, but temperatures will remain on the cool side. The forecast for Saturday is for a daytime high of 65 and an overnight low of 47 with mostly sunny skies. On Sunday, temps are predicted to warm to 69 (50) with cloudy skies and a 24 percent chance of rain. Monday will cool a bit to 65 (47) and the skies will stay cloudy. Tuesday warms a bit to 67 (48) and sunny.

Arts&Living

The Dark World of 'The Nether'

On stage through Sunday at the GWC Mainstage

By Thom deMartino
Orange County Tribune

Unfettered, in a world without consequences, how dark might the games we play become? How corrupted our imaginations?

Director Tom Amen and the Golden West College Mainstage Theater pose these and other troubling questions in their compelling new production of the Jennifer Haley play, "The Nether."

In an uncomfortably near future, with the planet in the midst of ecological breakdown, the Internet has evolved into the Nether: a near-infinite series of escapist virtual reality "realms" for visitors to log into, choose an identity, and immerse themselves in.

However, unlike the online world, there are still consequences in the real, physical one – and when it's discovered that a particular virtual realm, "The Hideaway", has been designed as a playground for pedophiles, Detective Morris (Carolyn Feres) brings its creator, Mr. Sims (Christopher Spencer) in for questioning.

Morris threatens to permanently revoke his access to the Nether, grilling him about his motives, as well as the danger his realm might present: when his anonymous visitors to the Hideaway log off and are back in reality, does Sims genuinely think they can restrain their unhealthy desires?

The man known as "Papa" explains, "I am sick – I have always been sick, and there is no cure", and rationalizes that in his little virtual Victorian-style kingdom, no one is being harmed, not really – it's only digital characters, lines of code, no one is *really*



JUSTIN CALLISCH (left) and Christopher Spencer in "Nether" at Golden West College.

Stage Review

getting abused or hurt... even when guests are indulging in bloody, ax-wielding murder in his domain.

Echoing "Papa's" point about no actual victims in this realm is Cedric Doyle (Scott Keister), an award-winning schoolteacher of 40 years – and another patron of the Hideaway. "Sensation is our gateway" he tells Morris.

Himself questioned by the driven detective, he defends the VR program... all he wants to know is if he can keep the young digital girl, Iris (Story Gemmati) that he has become unusually close to.

Doyle even aspires to become a "shade" – a user who transfers their consciousness to the Nether, while their body dies in the analog world.

Iris herself is an innocent, effervescent presence: drawing visitors to the Hideaway with her vivacious yet gentle manner, she even charms the realm's newest visitor, the young (and awkward) Mr. Woodnut (Justin Callisch).

Is it real, or fantasy? Thera-

peutic, or unhealthy obsession? Or is it a lesson that no one can truly resist or deny their nature?

In broaching a difficult topic, "The Nether" does open the viewer up to uncomfortable questions: what does absolute freedom truly look like? Can a virtual world actually help the mentally ill – a panacea for those with unacceptable drives, or is it just wallowing in the worst aspects of ourselves?

The cast does a masterful job of illustrating this, reflecting the flawed humanity of the characters, while making no excuses for their desires. Keister's Doyle is a troubled, wounded soul, looking for some kind of peace; Feres's Morris is driven, but profoundly disturbed by what she discovers; and Callisch's Woodnut is himself enigmatic, almost an innocent himself as he wanders into this world and is fundamentally changed by it.

But the most powerful performances may well be Spencer's "Papa" Sims and Ms. Gemmati's Iris. Spencer's Sims is pompous and self-assured – at least, when rationalizing his reasons to the investigator. But there are moments when we see the mask

Great: ★★★★★

slip, when self-doubt creeps in: whether or not this is truly about absolute personal freedom, or merely an excuse to indulge in taboo.

And Ms. Gemmati gives a stellar performance in this challenging role; exuding innocence and playfulness, and yet acceptance of her role in this world – viewers may themselves discover that her glassy-eyed, angelic stare and tranquil, empty smile as she invites the axe to fall may be one of the most disturbing aspects of a brilliantly nuanced performance.

A striking theatrical work, with commanding portrayals by the cast – and also excellent set and costume design (note the metallic green worked into the set and costumes in the Hideaway scenes, reminiscent of *The Matrix*) – "The Nether" is one of those shows that will stay with you for some time afterwards, and leave you asking what the true cost of "absolute" freedom really is.

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TheSportsPages

Cooooooop! Rams fans will really miss you

I don't miss the Oakland A's. I don't miss never-ending controversy over trans athletes. I sure don't miss the Big 10-Hundred. But I do miss Cooper Kupp.

As you may know, the star Rams wide receiver has been cut loose by the team just a few seasons after being the toast of NFL, being named Offensive Player of the Year and a Super Bowl MVP.

Sure, he's had a few injuries, but which pro football player hasn't? I guess it was the emergence of Puka Nacua



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

as a receiver who is also one of those guys who can double as a running back that started it all.

The signing of DaVante Adams settled the matter. No room in the budget for all three of them.

What I admired (and will miss) about Cooper (say it with me ... COoooooop!) is that his accomplishments were so "normal" and seemed so effortless.

He was/is not an Olympic level speedster. He didn't come from a powerhouse college program (Eastern Washington). He had no fast food commercials.

But he ran great routes. He got open. He caught the ball when thrown to him. And when necessary, he did some serious blocking, an idea long anathema to most wide receivers. There will be other great wide-outs, but we may not see his kind again soon.



COOPER KUPP



FANS OF Los Angeles Dodgers wait for the team arrival as a staff installs partitions to block fans from the arrival route of the Dodgers team members at Tokyo International Airport Thursday, in Tokyo, as Dodgers arrived to play their MLB opening games against the Chicago Cubs in Tokyo. (AP Photo/Hiro Komae)

Oh! Ohtani Fans Gather

But Shohei was hidden from sight

By Stephen Wade
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Hundreds of fans at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, who lined up 10 deep and hoped to catch a glimpse of Shohei Ohtani as he arrived on

Thursday, saw nothing of the Los Angeles Dodgers superstar.

What they saw was a 40-meter-long (130 feet) temporary white wall to shield the players in case they came through the arrival area. The Chicago Cubs exited this way when they arrived late Wednesday night.

The Dodgers were seen on the tarmac disembarking from their charter from Phoenix, and Ohtani was one of the first off.

But the players didn't make it to the arrival area, apparently

taking an escape route.

The next chance to see Ohtani and the Dodgers will be Friday when the teams open practice at the Tokyo Dome.

The two-game series to open the MLB season is Tuesday and Wednesday, early evening starts in Tokyo.

Games will go live in the early morning the same day in North America. Japan is 13 hours ahead of the American east coast.

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Clips rally to win, Lakers fall, Ducks win

The Los Angeles Clippers staged a massive third quarter surge to pull off a 121-98 win over the Atlanta Hawks on Friday night.

In the third the Clips outscored the home team 35-8 to surge into the lead. James Harden and Kawhi Leonard each scored 25 to lead the team.

With the victory, LAC is 37-30, good for eighth place in the

■ NBA and NHL

NBA Western Conference and third in the NBA Pacific.

Playing without their top two scorers, the Los Angeles Lakers suffered their fourth consecutive loss Friday night, falling 131-126 on Friday.

Austin Reaves scored 37 points and Dalton Knecht added 32 for the Lake Show but a

late rally fell short as LeBron James and Luka Doncic were sidelined with injuries.

LAL is now 40-25, fifth in the Western Conference and first in the Pacific Division.

Alex Killorn and Troy Terry each scored a goal as the Anaheim Ducks beat the Nashville Predators 2-1. The Ducks are now 29-30-7 and sixth in the NHL Pacific Division.

Fans anxious to get a glimpse of him

Continued from page 6

Fans waited for hours inside the terminal, hoping Ohtani might show. Many carried signs of welcome. One was a bright yellow board that read, "I love L.A." Others wore Dodgers caps and shirts and other garb.

Several times excited fans reached high with smartphones, thinking Ohtani had arrived. It was always a false alarm — they mere passengers from other flights.

Patient and polite, fans eventually departed the reception area when it was clear that Japan's most famous citizen would not appear.

Most fans were hopeful, but realistic.

"I just came hoping for any chance I might see him. But I knew, probably not," Satoshi Yoshii, a local accountant, said. "But you come with hope because of who he is."

Misaki Ueta came with her husband Reishi and a friend, Ryusei Takahashi. The two men wore Ohtani's No. 17 Dodgers



SHOHEI OHTANI speaks about the Tokyo Series.

jersey.

"We just came to be able to breathe the same air," Misaki said. "The Ohtani air."

Others came for the event — like a rock concert.

"I don't care if I can't see him because I'm not really a fan of Ohtani," Kotomi Miyakoda said. Standing alongside was her friend, also Kotomi — Kotomi Nakatsu.

"I'm not a fan but I want to see

him, the person," Nakatsu said. This is billed as the Japan Series by MLB. It also could be billed as the Marketing-Ohtani-in-Japan Series. Ohtani is MLB's most marketable asset.

This is the second straight season that MLB has opened its season in Asia. Last year it was South Korea with the Dodgers and San Diego Padres, and where the gambling scandal broke around Ohtani's inter-preter.

Cubs vs. Dodgers

The teams come to Tokyo with five Japanese players. The Dodgers have Ohtani and pitchers Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Roki Sasaki. The Cubs come with designated hitter Seiya Suzuki and pitcher Shota Imanaga. Imanaga and Yamamoto are expected to oppose each other on Tuesday in the first game.

The American clubs will face the Yomiuri Giants and the Hanshin Tigers in exhibition games on Saturday and Sunday.

Marketing the Dodgers in Ja-

pan Chris Marinak, MLB's chief operations officer, talked with The Associated Press in an interview about the advantages of having a player like Ohtani.

"It helps to have a generational talent like Ohtani — essentially the best player in the game — to be from a different market," Marinak said. "It changes how you can communicate about the game in different markets."

It's not difficult. Japan has adopted the Dodgers as its national team. There has always been a strong connection but now it's rock solid since Ohtani won the World Series with the Dodgers. The Dodgers have set up an exhibition in central Tokyo called "Dodgers Experience at MLB Tokyo Series." Fans can see the World Series trophy and championship rings.

There's also a chance to view the Dodgers' rich history, dating to Brooklyn before the team moved to Los Angeles to start the 1958 season. There are also interactive experiences where fans can try to hit an Ohtani pitch.

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Retorts recalls junior high life

Continued from page 5

ing the first harsh word. You'll regret it later. Try to understand that the "mean kid" might well be reacting against some awful situation at home.

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'The Nether' on stage at Golden West

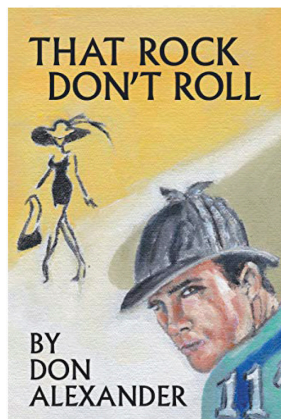
Continued from page 5

"The Nether": Christopher Spencer, Carolyn Feres and Story Gemmati star in this futuristic story of the dangers of technology, and the depths of the human soul. Playing through Sunday, March 16 at the Golden West College Mainstage Theater, 15751 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

Tickets available through the box office at 714-895-8150, x1 or at www.gwctheater.com. Some adult subject matter.

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- The Orange County Tribune

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Work consists of installing new LVT flooring and rubber base, painting of walls, ceilings doors and moldings, and replacement of existing light fixtures in two model guestrooms.

Bids are due by 2pm on Wednesday (3/19/25). Please reach out to Carlos Garcia (cgarcia@mcguirebuilders.net) for the bid documents.

Orange County Tribune
March 15, 2025

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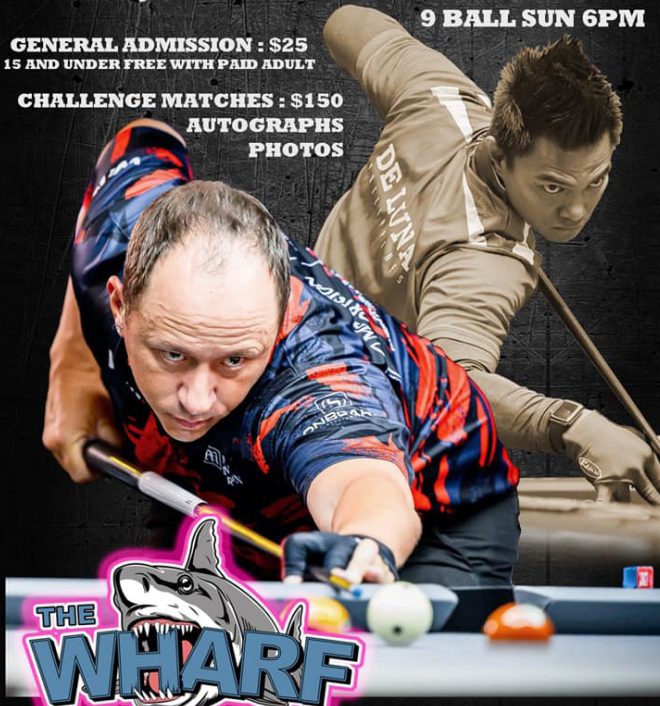
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