



**A REPORT** of a possible burglary in progress in Westminster Friday morning led to the discovery of an alleged illegal drug lab (WPD photo).

# Burglary report leads to discovery of a ‘drug lab’

Officers responding to a report of a possible pre-dawn break-in uncovered what is allegedly an illegal drug manufacturing operation in Westminster. According to Commander Andrew Stowers of the WPD, the call came into police at 4:03 a.m. on Friday. The location of the reported incident was in the area of Beach and Garden Grove boulevards.

A report of “several individuals attempting to enter a building brought officers. The suspects had left before police could arrive, but there were “clear signs” that a burglary attempt had occurred.

Officers secured the building and discovered “materials and equip-

ment consistent” with a drug lab. WPD detectives were summoned, as well as the Orange County Bomb Squad, Orange County Fire Authority’s HAZMAT Team and fed-

eral law enforcement officers.

Several nearby businesses were temporarily evacuated while the hazardous materials team

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# Surf City Hit With Another Legal Setback

## New hearing on appeal gets a denial

By Jim Tortolano  
Orange County Tribune

Surf City continues to be appealing, but the result isn’t pretty.

A request for a new hearing on an appeal from an earlier federal district court ruling regarding California’s housing laws was rejected this week.

At issue is a state law that would require that Huntington Beach zone for – but not necessarily build – over 13,000 new housing units.

Michael Gates, the former city attorney now

working for the federal Department of Justice, argued in the original challenge to the state law that the Regional Housing Needs Assessment did not apply to Huntington Beach on the grounds that – as a charter city – it was exempt from certain state laws and regulations.

Such a position was rejected by the district court on November 2023 and on Oct. 30, 2024 the U.S. Court of Appeals took the same stance.

The three-member court not only rejected the “charter city” argument but also cast doubts upon the city’s standing on the grounds that the appellants “lack standing,” having not suffered any injury and – as the court

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## In The Tribune



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should be #1**

SPORTS 6 and 8

# GG’s In-N-Out plans dining area expansion

The place where they know what a hamburger is all about is ready to get bigger.

At the May 1 meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission, there will be a public hearing on a proposed expansion of the In-N-Out burger restaurant at Trask Avenue and Magnolia Street.

The applicant – In-N-Out Burgers, Inc. – is asking for approval of a site plan and lot line adjustment to construct a 778-square foot freestanding outdoor dining patio at the location.

The project will include the reconfiguration of the existing drive-thru lane

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# In-N-Out expansion

Continued from page 1

and parking area.

To accommodate that will require the demolition of the existing vacant Mae's Cafe building. Also before the commission will be a request for approval of a site

plan to add 1,806 square feet of building area to an existing industrial building at 7191 Acacia Avenue (at Pala Drive).

The commission will meet in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. at 7 p.m.

# Legal defeat for H. Beach

Continued from page 1

termed it – “ based on private constitutional predilections.”

The city was seeking a new hearing with 11 judges from the state's federal circuits, but failed to achieve a majority.

California Attorney General

Rob Bonta praised the decision. “We are pleased that Huntington Beach's latest attempt to exempt itself from our state's housing laws have failed,” he said.

A lawsuit by the State of California against Huntington Beach on this issue is pending appeal.

# 'Drug lab' is discovered

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assessed and secured the site. The investigation is continuing and no arrests have yet been

made. Anyone with more information on this incident is asked to call Detective J. Black at (714) 548-3835.

## The Tribune

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# News & Views

## How are your modalities this fine spring day?

Good ideas can become submerged under too much Bad English.

I don't mean incorrect spelling, grammar, etc. I refer to language so choked with slang, professional jargon and obtuse word choice that the average person will likely give it a hard pass and move on.

Recently I saw a press release about something called DA CBE, which stands for "Direct Assessment Competency-Based Education."

OK, acronyms known to only a privileged few are not useful if you want to communicate, but let's keep going.

The definition is "a teaching and leaning modality that empowers learners to progress at their own pace in prioritizing the mastery of skills and knowledge while making time variable."

Wow. OK, there's a germ of a good idea here, but what – to the average person – is a modality? Sounds like something for people with a cane. And "time variable"? Has someone at one of our colleges – this is from the California Community Colleges – figured out time travel? How come this hasn't been publicized?

The explanation goes on with more jargon, like "educational pathways" and "diverse abilities."

Having spent years in communications-averse institutions like education, corporations and the military, I think I can figure out what they're trying to say:

"We got a way to study stuff and take tests at your own speed."



**Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

Continued on page 8

## Cat-killer suspect arrested

### Many felines stolen in SA, Westminster

A "serial cat killer" suspect has been arrested by Santa Ana police after allegedly stealing and killing many cats in Santa Ana and Westminster.

According to the SAPD, arrested on Wednesday was Alejandro Acota Oliveros, 45, of Santa Ana.

Reports have been made over a several-week period in the two cities of a man – images caught on home security cameras – grabbing cats from yards and whisking them away in his vehicle.

Many any of the animals – the count is unknown – have been



**POLICE** arrested a suspect in cat-killing spree in Santa Ana and Westminster (SAPD phopgraphy).

found deceased.

One of the more publicized incidents involved the taking of a

10-month old Bengal Lynx – "Clubber" – from a home in Westminster.

## 'Social host' ordinance is approved

By Jim Tortolano  
Orange County Tribune

### STANTON CITY COUNCIL

Neighbors shooting off illegal fireworks and saying to police, "it's not me, it's my uncle"?

There's a new law coming to Stanton, a "social host" ordinance which makes the property owner legally responsible for fines and other punishments for igniting unlawful pyrotechnics, whether it be on the Fourth of

July or any other time.

The council approved the ordinance 5-0 at its meeting on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, the council approved on a 5-0 vote an ordinance regulating the sale of nitrous oxide ("laughing gas") in the city.

The gas is often used in dental procedures but can also be used

an an intoxicant.

Additionally, the city council also voted 5-0 to adopt a 3.41 percent raise in the master fee schedule for city programs and services.

## Front-yard 'Gem' submission delay

The deadline for residents to nominate their front yard for Garden Grove Gems, the City of Garden Grove's home beautification program, has been extended to Monday, April 28. From all the nominations received, four will be selected at random to receive \$100 Home Depot gift cards. Gift card winners will be announced the week of Monday, April 28. To nominate your home, complete an online application and photo submission at [www.ggcity.org/gems](http://www.ggcity.org/gems).

To self-nominate your home, applicants must: reside in or own the nominated home; include their complete address in the online application form for verification purposes; and submit one photo

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# NewsUpdate

## FBI Agents Arrest Milwaukee Judge

### Hannah Dugan charged with obstruction

A Milwaukee judge was arrested by FBI agents after she allegedly helped a man to escape federal immigration agents.

According to the Associated Press, federal agents took Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan into custody on Friday, a week after her act.

She was arrested on the courthouse grounds, made a brief appearance in federal court and then released. Dugan is faced with charges of “concealing an individual to prevent his discovery and arrest” and obstructing or impeding a proceeding.

Her attorney said that Dugan “wholeheartedly regrets and pro-



MILWAUKEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE (Flicker).

tests her arrest. It was not made in the interests of public safety,” the AP reports.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, issued a statement accusing the Trump administration

of using “dangerous rhetoric to attack and undermine our judiciary at every level.”

### Great Thoughts

“Our Constitution is color-blind and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens.”

– U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan

“All the measures of the Government are directed to the purpose of making the rich richer and the poor poorer.”

– William Henry Harrison, 9th President of the United States.

## Santos is sentenced to seven years in prison

A sentence of seven years in federal prison was handed down for former New York Congressman George Santos on Friday.

According to United Press International, the judge also sentenced Santos to two years of supervised release. He must also pay \$373,000 in restitution.

Santos, a Republican, was convicted on federal wire fraud and aggravated identity theft charges. “My conduct betrayed by support-

ers and the institutions I swore to uphold,” he told the judge.

Earlier this month, Santos said on a podcast that he would ask President Donald Trump for a pardon.

Santos has pleaded guilty to the charges, which include using money from political donors to buy expensive clothing, Botox injections and Only Fans – often used to broadcast pornography – subscriptions.

## Student visas restored, but maybe not for very long

Thousands of international students unexpectedly had their legal status to study legally in the United States restored on Friday.

The New York Times is reporting that the change by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency – commonly known as “ICE” – emerged during a hearing Friday in federal court in Washington.

According to The Times, the change was perhaps only a re-

prieve for those students, pending the creation of a new mechanism for evaluating the records of those students and possibly terminating their visas and legal status later.

An unknown number of international students have left the country, fearing deportation. The issue arose in March when the Trump administration acted against foreign students who had taken part in protests against Israel over its war with Gaza.

### Weather: Showers and then sun

Hang on to your umbrella and sun hat, because you are going to need them both in the next few days in our West Orange County cities. The forecast for Saturday is for a daytime high of 62 with an overnight low of 52 with a 83 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy conditions will set in on Sunday and Monday with highs of 65 and 69. The sun is expected to break through on Tuesday with a high of 73 (56).

# Arts & Living

## 'Swift Horses': Love, Atomics

Gay trauma and threat of nuclear war

By Mark Kennedy  
AP Entertainment Writer

Muriel, a waitress in 1950s America, seems to be the quintessential June Cleaver. She's got a loving husband, a suburban house with a white picket fence in California and nice outfits. But not everything is as it seems, like her secret gambling. And her eye for a neighbor.

"On Swift Horses," based on Shannon Pufahl's novel of the same name and adapted by Bryce Kass, is all about how a dominant culture can suppress natural impulses. More specifically, it's a queer tale set against the post-Korean War status quo. "We are all just a hair's breadth from losing everything, all the time," Muriel is told by a woman also hiding her truth in plain sight.

But despite a brilliant performance by Daisy Edgar-Jones, "On Swift Horses" gets lost in a meandering plot and clunky symbols, including olives, atomic bomb tests, a tiny gun and a horse, the universal sign of the unbridled self that is just sort of dumped here. The execution is often slack and then veers into melodrama in the last 15 minutes. And there's a weird noir vibe that doesn't really work.

That's a shame because a film dealing with hidden homosexuality is very relevant as some forces seem to seek to return America to the '50s — two genders, no queer accommodation, definitely nothing trans.

The neat and tidy world of Edgar-Jones' Muriel becomes unmoored by the emergence of Julius, her husband's brother. Julius — played by a forever-smoldering Jacob Elordi with an ever-present cigarette, which



WILL POULTER, Daisy Edgar-Jones in a scene from "On Swift Horses." (Sony Pictures)

### Movie Review

goes from acting prop to crutch — brings an anarchic energy. He's a cad, but a lovable one.

He recognizes something in Muriel — a wistfulness, a restlessness. "I think you see all through all of it," he tells her. She soon overhears horse racing tips at work and uses them to earn thousands, hiding the winnings from her husband. She also seems to connect in a flirtatious way with neighbor Sandra (Sasha Calle, excellent).

Meanwhile, Julius has ended up in Las Vegas, falling in love with a co-worker, played by a soulful Diego Calva. They're employed by a casino to watch over gamblers and make sure there's no cheating. They are basically pairs of eyes removed from the world, watching from a perch above the action.

The Julius storyline — the push and pull of whether these two closeted men should be outlaws or live in the system — yanks focus from Muriel's storyline. Gambling is used as a metaphor for being queer at a time when it was dangerous, but it rarely lands.

Director Daniel Minahan and the cast concentrate on small coded gestures — a glance, a lingering touch, a matchbook passed along — to indicate desires, but they are undone by massive symbols, like that silly horse.

One moment sticks out that has no dialogue at all: a powerful scene where Muriel's husband unexpectedly finds his wife outside the neighbor's house and they share a silent ride home. His mind is turning just as the wheels do.

Edgar-Jones shows equal parts vulnerability and steeliness, superb at communicating what her slippery character is really feeling even as she blends in on the outside. Heartbreakingly, she

**Fair: ★★**

turns to her husband (Will Poulter, underwritten) at one point and asks: "Did you ever want this?"

"On Swift Horses" belongs in the same category as other hushed '50s-set same-sex romances, like Todd Haynes' "Carol" or Luca Guadagnino's "Queer." But this adaptation hasn't made the leap to the screen very well. Sometimes swift horses stumble.

"On Swift Horses," a Sony Pictures Classic release, is rated R for sexual content, nudity and some language. Running time: 119 minutes.

### 'Ordinary Days' at Gem

The musical "Ordinary Days" open at the Gem Theatre in Garden Grove on Friday, May 2.

Featuring themes of love, connection and finding meaning in the hustle and bustle of modern life, "Ordinary" is set against the backdrop of New York City. It follows four characters — strangers at first — whose lives unexpectedly intersect in ways that change them forever.

The cast features Courtney Hays as Claire, Caden Fraser as

Continued on page 8

# TheSportsPages

## The draft in its very, very early development

Earlier this week in this space I took Cooper Flagg to task for shrugging off the “old college try” and deciding to go for The Benjamins and declare for the NBA draft.

This got me to thinking that the process of a draft was a lot like “choosing sides” on the playground or in P.E. class. Like the

NBA draft, there are lot of considerations and complications that don't immediately meet the eye.

A typical schoolboy (or school-girl) “draft” would go like

this. Two Alpha lads (or lassies) would emerge as “captains” and after determining which would pick first, the selection process began.

Usually, Captain One would pick his best friend, regardless of relative usefulness to the team. That left Captain Two the pick of what remained. But sometimes practicality reigned and the best (or, in the case of basketball, tallest) was the number one draft pick.

Now, what if the captain had a brother in the bunch? That raised many ethical and familial issues. Usually that brother was a younger brother., which usually meant a fellow of lesser ability (or height). From a strictly practical point of view, the captain should select him not first but in a following round.

I mean, you didn't want to go home after the game with little bro complaining and having to answer to Mom about “Why didn't you pick your brother?”

But if the younger brother was actually a captain, he knew he'd better pick his older (and bigger) brother or else face a

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**Sports Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

# Why Mr. Flagg is No. 1

## Duke star goes to NBA draft this June 25th

*Editor's note: Cooper Flagg is a heavy favorite to be selected first in the NBA draft set for June 25. This article reflects on why he deserves it.*

By Aaron Beard  
AP Sports Writer

Duke star Cooper Flagg is headed to the NBA as the favorite to be the No. 1 overall draft pick.

The program announced Flagg's move in a social media post Monday following a lone college season that saw the 18-year-old become only the fourth freshman named as The Associated Press national player of the year while leading the Blue Devils to the Final Four.

Flagg had reclassified to get to Duke a year early, and his decision was expected all year, even as he generally declined to spell out plans about his professional future as the season pushed into March or mentioned how much fun he had playing in college.

“I mean, it's been an incredible



**COOPER FLAGG** took Duke University to the Final Four as a freshman. He won the Naismith Trophy as top college basketball player (Duke University photo).

year with a really great group of people,” Flagg told the AP in March after winning national player of the year.

The 6-foot-9, 205-pound forward from Newport, Maine, averaged 19.2 points, 7.5 re-

bounds, 4.2 assists, 1.4 blocks and 1.4 steals to lead the Blue Devils in each category.

He's a versatile threat who showed the ability to thrive as a scorer, playmaker and defender.

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## Dodgers fall to Pirates; Angels to Minnesota

Mike Trout burst out of his slump – somewhat – with a home run and a single, but more of his Los Angeles Angels teammates remained mired in a hitting daze as they lost 11-4 to the Minnesota Twins Friday night in Minneapolis.

Likewise the sometimes-powerful Los Angeles Dodgers batting order also underperformed, losing 3-0 Friday to the visiting Pittsburgh Pirates at Chavez Ravine.

With their loss – their seventh in 10 games – the Halos (12-13)

### THE ROUNDUP

tumbled into last place in the American League West.

For the Blue Crew, it was three consecutive defeats and a 16-10 mark, good for third place in the National League West.

Against the Twins, Trout ended up with two RBIs and Logan O'Hoppe added a solo homer in the sixth. Trout is fourth in the American League with eight home runs, but is batting an un-

Continued on page 8

## Lakers fall to the Timberwolves

A strong second-half lifted the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 116-104 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night and a two games to one edge in their first round NBA Western Conference series.

The visiting Lakers led 58-54 at halftime, but the T-Wolves outscored them 62-46 the rest of the way. LeBron James led all scorers with 38 points.

Top scorers from Minnesota: Jaden McDaniels (30) and Anthony Edwards (29 points).

# Mariners closing in on a Crestview title

It hasn't been a typical season for the Pacifica High softball team. The Mariners won a CIF-SS Division 1 title last year and were nationally ranked, losing only one game that season.

The M's have a more modest 15-8 record so far in 2025, but have showed some moxie in shaking off two three-game losing skids earlier this campaign and charging to the front of the tough Crestview League.

On Thursday, they slammed Esperanza 11-0, opening up a tight 1-0 game with 10 runs in the fifth inning. That triggered the "mercy rule" and the M's improved their league record to 7-2.

After Thursday's win, the Mariners have a two-game lead over Canyon and El Modena (both 5-4) with three games to play.

Abby Amezcuita, a junior, went 2-for-3 against the Aztecs, hitting a homer, scoring twice and finishing with four RBIs.

She's currently among the Division 1 state leaders in stolen bases, slugging average and runs batted in.

The winning pitcher was senior Ellena Ediss, who worked all five innings and gave up no runs and just three hits.

She struck out five batters and walked two.

Pacifica is currently ranked 21st in California by MaxPreps and 13th in the CIF-SS.

The "smart money" may be on Norco (22-2) or



**ABBY AMEZQUITA** homered and had four RBIs in Pacifica's 11-0 win over Esperanza on Thursday (GGUSD photo)..

Orange Lutheran (20-3), but – considering history – you can never count the M's out come playoff time.

## Prep Sport Spotlight

### Baseball, Softball Scores

#### Thursday softball

Pacifica 11, Esperanza 0  
 Royal 13, Hunt. Beach 7  
 Thousand Oaks 7, Hunt. Beach 4  
 Edison 10, Los Alamitos 3  
 Marina 22, Corona del Mar 0  
 Westminster 13, Orange 8

#### Friday softball

Hunt. Beach 12, Burroughs 4  
 Orange 13, La Quinta 7  
 Kennedy 14, Ocean View 4  
 Los Amigos 4, Savanna 3  
 Anaheim 11, Western 0  
 Santa Ana Valley 23, Bolsa Gr. 4

#### Friday baseball

La Quinta 13, Western 2  
 Corona del Mar 5, Edison 1  
 Newport Harbor 6, Hunt. Beach 3  
 Bolsa Grande 13, Santiago 7  
 Fountain Valley 6, Marina  
 Ocean View 5, Tustin 4  
 Century 8, Orange 2

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# Cooper Flagg: ready for the NBA at age 18?

Continued from page 6

“His highlights, his statistics, the ways he impacted the game on both ends of the floor, really in every category, was off the charts — as good of a freshman season that a guy has had here,”

Duke coach Jon Scheyer said in a social media video from the program about Flagg’s NBA declaration.

“But to me the separator and the joy of coaching Cooper is

the person he was every day, the teammate that he was — never about statistics or anything other than creating an environment and helping his team to win.”

The statistical highlight came when Flagg scored 42 points to set an Atlantic Coast Conference freshman record against Notre Dame in January, along with having 30 points, six rebounds and seven assists to help Duke hold off the Arizona Wildcats in the NCAA Tournament’s Sweet 16.

There were plenty of impressive single plays, too, that demanded highlight-reel placement like his transition dunk



**COOPER FLAGG** (Duke University photo).

The Blue Devils had led by 14 with about 8 1/2 minutes left but faltered late, with Houston scoring the game’s last nine points in the final 33 seconds and Flagg missing a late shot for the lead.

Still, he was an elite and hypercompetitive force for one of college basketball’s top teams all season with a game far more advanced than his age, capable of making an impact from baseline to baseline and sideline to sideline.

He won’t turn 19 until December, which would be roughly two months into his rookie season.

Flagg is the third Duke player to announce an early exit for the NBA in the past week, joining freshman wing Kon Knueppel and the junior guard Tyrese Proctor.

through a defender against Pittsburgh in January.

Flagg closed with 27 points and seven rebounds in a loss to Houston in the national semifinals.

## MLB roundup: Angels vs. Twins; Dodgers/Pirates

Continued from page 6

characteristic .172.

The Halo leadoff batter Taylor Ward is hitting .214 and the team average is .217, 28th out of 30 Major League teams.

The Dodgers are doing somewhat better, batting .230, good for 20th place.

Aside from Freddie Freeman

(2-for-4), the best performance for the Dodgers on Friday night was by the starting pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto, who lasted five innings, giving up five hits and only one earned run.

He struck out five batters and walked four.

Each team will face Friday’s opponent again on Saturday.

## ‘Ordinary Days’ opens at Gem Theatre May 2

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Jason, Sean Hawkins as Warren and Sasha Baker as Deb. Damien Lorton is director musical director.

“Days” will run from May 2 to 18. For ticket information call (714) 741-9550 or go to theGEMoc.com. The theater is located 12852 Main St.

## Retorts: Illiteracy of a different kind

Continued from page 3

And this is not even the worst example of why some folks regard the educated classes and professions to be snobby and clubby, looking down on others without certain paper certificates.

Language doesn’t always mean you are communicating. If you don’t understand that, you may be playing checkers all by yourself.



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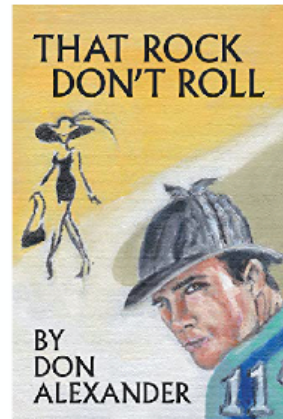
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# Conservative commentator seeks governor seat

HUNTINGTON BEACH (AP) — Conservative commentator Steve Hilton announced Tuesday that he's joining the 2026 race for California governor, running as a Republican to replace Democrat Gavin Newsom, who is prevented by law from seeking a third term.

Hilton, who hosted a show on Fox News for six years and worked as an adviser to former British prime minister David Cameron, faulted state Democrats during a formal campaign launch in Huntington Beach for the state's notoriously high taxes, soaring home prices and "the destruction of the California dream."

He said he would welcome a candidacy by former Vice Presi-

dent Kamala Harris, a one-time California U.S. senator and attorney general who has not ruled out a run for the job.

He said the governor's job is not a "consolation prize to be handed out to a failed and rejected machine politician from Washington ... who thinks she should get this job because of her identity, not her ability."

Harris is the daughter of a Jamaican father and an Indian mother and would become the first Black woman elected governor in the U.S., if she runs and wins.

Hilton also blamed the vast scale of January's Southern California wildfires on "Democratic extremism and incompetence," along with the party's

"industrial complex" of activists, unions and bureaucrats.

The causes of the deadly Palisades Fire and Eaton Fire remain under investigation. Both ignited Jan. 7 during powerful Santa Ana winds in a region that had been bone dry for eight months. The Palisades Fire, the largest of the blazes, destroyed more than 6,800 structures and killed at least 12 people. The

Eaton Fire destroyed more than 9,000 structures and killed 18 people.

Hilton did not specifically detail what he was blaming on Democrats. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, a Democrat, later ousted the fire chief amid a public rift over preparations for a potential blaze and finger-pointing between the chief and City Hall over responsibility for the devastation. The water system used to fight the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles buckled under the demands of what turned out to be the most destructive fire in city history, with some hydrants running dry. Bass has faced criticism for being out of the country when the blaze started.

With the theme "Golden Again: Great Jobs, Great Homes, Great Kids," his campaign said Hilton will be "reinforcing his commitment to positive, practical solutions instead of today's ideology and dogma," according to a statement.

## Deadline for 'Gems' in GG

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of their home in a JPG, PNG, or PDF format. Photo must be taken after January 1, 2025, and cannot be digitally enhanced or altered.

For more information, program guidelines, and online application, visit [ggcity.org/gems](http://ggcity.org/gems) or call (714) 741-5200.

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