

FLOWERING-UP FLOWER STREET



A volunteer puts some finishing touches on the displays unveiled to the public on Friday at the "Flower Street" event in downtown Garden Grove on Main Street between Acacia Parkway and Stanford Avenue. It continues on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free (Orange County Tribune photo).

Fireworks stand raffle on tap

It may just be February but it's not too early to make plans for the Fourth of July.

An otherwise routine agenda of the Huntington Beach City Council on Tuesday includes a presentation on the "Safe and Sane" fireworks stand ap-

■ HUNT. BEACH CITY COUNCIL

plication and lottery process for 2026.

The limit of permits is 16, with the categories of eligible non-profits being civic organizations (five), high schools (five), youth

sports (five) and city foundation/partnerships (one). In the category of high schools, four of the five would be public high schools and one for a private high school. If no private high school applies,

Continued on page 2

Re-bid for Norm Ross Park

Renovation of the Norm Ross Sports Park will have to wait a bit longer as the Stanton City Council on Tuesday night voted 5-0 to reject all submitted bids and re-bid for the contract.

According to a staff report, the city received six bids, but one was considered incomplete and five others were higher than what the city had budgeted for the project.

Tuesday's action not only

turned thumbs down on the bids received but will put the project out to bid again, "with a reduced scope of work."

Norm Ross Sports Park is located south of Ka-

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GG Main Library Undergoing A 2-Year 'Facelift'

Modernization and fresher furnishings

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

"Born" in 1969, the Garden Grove Main (originally "Regional") Library is now well into middle age, and – frankly – it could use a face-lift.

The two-story facility located in the Civic Center at 11200 Stanford Ave. (east of Euclid Street) has been closed since May 11, 2025 and construction is estimated to take a total of 18 to 24 months, according to Dan Serranilla, marketing and communications manager for the Orange County Public Libraries.

When the renovation is completed it will be a "more inclusive, eco-friendly and community-driven space," said Serranilla, with a better layout, upgraded lighting, modern furnishings, fresh paint and other improvements.

"The goal is to create a welcoming, safe environment that meets the community's needs," he said.

All that modernization is expected to cost \$7.1 million, with funding partially from the California State Library's Building Forward Library Facilities Improvement Program.

The transformation, however, will not include a face-lift for the now-defunct fountain in front of the library.

According to Serranilla,

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In The Tribune



Flag football on the fast track

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'Wuthering' is bold, shallow

ARTS & LIVING PAGE 5

Huntington Beach city council

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the four public schools would be entered into the lottery drawing for the fifth permit.

The period for applying for a permit is March 1 to March 31.

Also on the agenda are items in the closed session on the city's

legal battles with the State of California on voter ID, and a struggle with the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, which is trying to compel the city council to replace its "at-large" system for electing members of the city council with a "by-district" model. The council will meet in closed

session at 4 p.m. followed by the regular meeting at 6 p.m. in its chambers at 2000 Main St. (at Yorktown Avenue).

Main Library

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that's owned by the City of Garden Grove and "any decisions regarding its repair or replacement would fall under the city's purview."

Norm Ross Park

Continued from page 1

tella Avenue and west of Beach Boulevard and near the Stanton Civic Center.

The original design, approved in August 2022, called for a community building, a water play area, playground, skate park, Little League baseball field with an under-12 soccer field, a perimeter walkway, picnic area, dog park, basketball court and exercise equipment.

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The★Tribune

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News & Views

I respectfully refuse to kick that mess cook, Sir!

Should you do something illegal or even immoral just because someone in authority told you to do it?

This quandary is in the news as a federal grand jury refused last week to indict six members of a group of military and intelligence community members

for making a video urging those in the military and spy agencies to refuse to obey and carry out an illegal order.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Some people are surprised that the subject would ever even come up. Some think that if you're in the Army (Navy, etc.) the word of a superior officer is akin to that of the Almighty. Well, that's just not true.

Certainly your superior has the right to tell you to do some distasteful things. In my unit, after final formation, the lowest ranking soldier still in the building had to clean the latrines. I soon learned to bolt for the parking lot as soon as the commanding officer said, "Dismissed."

But we're talking about larger issues. The treatment of prisoners. Sexual or racial harassment. Hazing. Taking part in an unlawful military operation against another nation or your own country (it's not impossible).

Folks in many public occupations – ranging from school teachers to Green Berets – swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution.

It's a vow to support your nation, not an obligation to follow the whim of some hoopthead who just happens to

Continued on page 8



An arrest has been made in the theft of bronze plaques and letters from signs in Old Towne Orange. The theft of such items has occurred in other Orange County cities, including Huntington Beach. The increasing value of bronze has spurred a wave of thefts (OPD photo).

Suspect arrested in case of Old Towne sign theft

A Long Beach man has been charged with 10 felony counts of grand theft and 10 felony counts in connection with the theft of several bronze plaques including some in the City of Orange's Old Towne area of Chapman Avenue and Glassell Street.

According to the Orange Police Department, the suspect is Sean Paul Green. He is also a suspect in thefts of multiple bronze plaques in Huntington Beach,

Santa Ana and Tustin.

The thefts in Orange were reported on Jan. 20. Green was arrested on Feb. 5 and booked into Orange County Jail in Santa Ana.

On Monday, the Orange County District Attorney's office filed the charges against Green. Police say that bronze theft is a growing problem because of its high resale value to scrap metal dealers.

NEWS BRIEFS

Checkpoint for DUI/CDL set in HB on February 26

A police checkpoint to look for drivers without a valid driver's license or operating a motor vehicle while impaired by alcohol or drugs will be held on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. at an undisclosed location in Huntington Beach.

The checkpoint will be conducted by the Huntington Beach Police Department. The location is chosen based on the history of DUI crashes and arrests and the intent of the checkpoints, say police, is to promote public safety by deterring drivers from driving impaired.

Tet street closures set in Westminster

Westminster's annual Tet Parade is set for Saturday, Feb. 21. According to the Westminster Police Department, some streets will be closed on Friday, Feb. 20 and Saturday, Feb. 21

On Friday, southern Bolsa Avenue frontage between Purdy Street and Neece Street will be closed by 7 a.m.

On Saturday, at 3 a.m., these closures will be in force:

- Bolsa Avenue between Newland Street and Bushard Street;
- Bushard Street between Bolsa Avenue and Bishop Place;
- Magnolia Street between Greenville Avenue and Gables Lane;
- Bishop Place between Bushard Street and Belgrade Street.

Break room plan goes before GG planners

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19 by the Garden Grove Planning Commission on a request for a site plan approval to allow the construction of an employee break room.

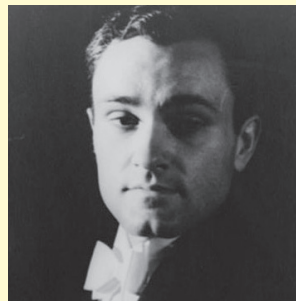
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History Minute

Dark past of Cathedral's architect

The Christ (formerly Crystal) Cathedral in Garden Grove is one of the brightest examples of modern architecture. However, the architect who designed it – Philip Johnson – had a dark past. In the 1930s he was an anti-Semite who admired Hitler. Later, he changed his mind and opposed fascism. His apology: "I have no excuse for such unbelievable stupidity."

He died in 2005 and few knew of his flirtation with the world's greatest evil.



PHILIP JOHNSON

NewsUpdate

Homeland Security Faces Shutdown

Budget logjam may stop the ICE crackdown

The Department of Homeland Security seemed certain to be shutdown today (Friday) as members of Congress prepare for a 10-day break and negotiations over the conditions of the immigration crackdown.

According to the Associated Press, Democrats are demanding that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents and other federal law officers wear better identification, have a new code of conduct and increase use of judicial warrants.

Controversy over the conduct of HLS, ICE and the Border Patrol has widespread opposition to the crackdown, spurred especially



HOMELAND SECURITY is facing a temporary shutdown (Shutterstock).

by the fatal shootings of Alex Pretti and Renee Good in Minneapolis.

An earlier compromise in

Congress provided funding for most of the rest of the federal government, but a “carve-out” was created to separate money

for Homeland Security in order to get the overall budget package approved.

Vaccine mandates under attack now in various states

A new effort is underway to repeal long-standing laws requiring vaccination against childhood diseases such as measles and polio.

The New York Times is reporting that supporters of Robert F. Kennedy Jr., secretary health and human services have formed a “coalition” to promote a rollback of those vaccination mandates.

Opponents fear that such actions

would lead to widespread increase in outbreaks of dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases which have been held in check due to those injections.

“Ultimately, the goal is to remove mandates,” said Kim Mack Rosenberg of the Children’s Health Foundation.

“It’s about putting the power back in the hands of the individual,” she said.

Great Thoughts

“Never regret anything that made you smile.”
– Mark Twain

“Let us prepare our minds as if we’d come to the very end of life. Let us postpone nothing.”
– Seneca

“Better to sleep on things beforehand than lie awake about them afterwards.”
– Baltasar Gracián.

Weather: Clouds, then rain

Some true winter weather is on the way for our West Orange County cities. Saturday is expected to have a daytime high of 68 with an overnight low of 49 under partly cloudy skies.

Sunday should cool a bit to 66 (53) with cloudy skies. The rain is forecast to move in on Monday with temps of 60 (49).

Tuesday should be similar at 61 (47) with more rain.

USA hockey team begins play with win over Latvia

The American ice hockey team began its pursuit of a gold medal in the Winter Olympics in Milan, Italy with a 5-1 win over Latvia.

Brock Nelson scored two goals for Team USA, and Connor Hellybuyck had 17 saves on 18 shots.

The Americans and Canadians are favorites in the tournament.

As of our deadline, Norway is leading the medal count with 18

total medals, of which eight are golds for first place finishes. Italy, the host nation, is tied with 18 medals, but with six golds.

The United States is in third with 14 metals and four golds. Rounding out the top five are France with 10 medals (four golds) and Germany with 11 (four golds).

Arts & Living

Bold But Shallow 'Wuthering Heights'

Margot Robbie,
Jacob Elordi
star in re-remake

By **Llindsey Bahr**
AP Film Writer

It's hardly a surprise that filmmaker Emerald Fennell, who possesses a particular interest in shocking and riling her audience, was drawn to Emily Brontë's "Wuthering Heights." T

his is a novel that has vexed critics since the beginning, with one in 1848 decrying its "vulgar depravity and unnatural horrors." Nearly 179 years after its publication, "Wuthering Heights" may have been reappraised a classic, but it continues to haunt with that "wild, wicked slip" Catherine Earnshaw and her tumultuous relationship with Heathcliff, he of the "half-civilized ferocity."

It's not just because of the teenagers who can't make it work: Swirling around them are issues of class, race, property, education, inheritance, desire, revenge, trauma and the miserable weather of the Yorkshire moors.

Adaptations have taken various liberties with Brontë's story, cutting characters and plot points in vain attempts to condense and tame its wildness and stubborn amorality. A poster for the 1920 film carried with it the tagline "Emily Brontë's tremendous Story of Hate."

More than a century later, it's being sold as a great love story, but, you know, with a wink. This is love (if you want to call it that) of the tortured, toxic, obsessive variety.

In a noble attempt to do something different, Fennell decided to make a movie that captured how "Wuthering Heights" made her feel the first time she read it, at age 14.

It's a heady experiment — a defiantly anti-academic interpretation that lets Catherine (Margot Robbie) and Heathcliff (Jacob Elordi) finally do something



MARGOT ROBBIE and Jacob Elordi star in the 2026 "Wuthering Heights"(Warner Bros).

Movie Review

about all that pent-up lust. Those quotation marks on the title card promise that this is not Brontë's book at all.

Fennell reduces her story to a more simplistic narrative about hate and its polluting ripple effects. The film begins with a hanging that has young Cathy (Charlotte Mellington) downright ecstatic, but she might just be a product of her environment:

Her father (Martin Clunes) is an abusive, unloving drunk and their home is shabby, cold and deteriorating under mounting debts and harsh conditions. Her only companions are essentially employees: a maid, Nelly (Vy Nguyen as a child and Hong Chau as an adult), and Heathcliff (Owen Cooper), whom she claims as her pet. No Hindleys or Haretons here.

The miserable Earnshaw way of life stands in stark contrast with their happier, gentler neighbors, the Lintons, who inhabit the primly manicured Thrushcross Grange. Their home is within walking distance of Wuthering Heights and yet, in a sheltered valley, it seems worlds away.

As in the book, Cathy decides to deny her heart for the promise of a comfortable life with Edgar Linton. Heathcliff overhears Cathy saying it would degrade her to marry him, and he disappears for years only to reemerge bathed, wealthy and with revenge and some light bondage on his mind. When they meet up again, their dynamic feels like "Wuthering Heights" by way of "Cruel Intentions."

In these sex-deprived times at the cinema, if some corset kink, power games and smoldering star power from two genetically blessed Australians is what you're looking for, "Wuther-

Fair ★ ★

ing Heights" might just satisfy that big-screen itch. There are myriad pleasures to be had in the bold, absurd pageantry and devilish scheming. Alison Oliver's comic timing as the naive, skittish Isabella Linton is a particular delight. With the right crowd, it could make for a fun night out at the movies.

Yet for all the big swings, Fennell's "Wuthering Heights" amounts to something oddly shallow and blunt: garish and stylized fan fiction with the

Continued on page 8

Every hair stays in place

It was a well-received movie. It was a well-received musical. It was a second well-received movie. And "Hairspray" will soon be coming to the Gem Theater in Garden Grove, Feb. 19 to March 6.

It's about race relations, rock and roll, romance, fashion, family and keeping your hairdo in place. For ticket information, call (714) 741-9550,



TheSportsPages

Now, here are some “people’s” winter sports

In the Tribune’s modest but scrappy sports section, you may ask, why is there not much coverage of the Winter Olympics?

Easy answer. Because I watched just a few minutes of TV coverage of the events and came to a conclusion:

I can’t do any of those things.

I can’t ice-skate, I can’t snowboard or play curling (which I have no idea how to play). And so on.

So my point here is that there must be some people like me who could relate more to winter sports if they came from everyday experiences.

For example, throwing snowballs. There is a rich background in American history for this. Angry patriots threw snowballs at Redcoats in 1773, leading to the infamous Boston Massacre, and triggering (partially) the American Revolution.

Making winter snowmen is also well-established, and there’s even a song dedicated to it, “Frosty the Snowman.”

And let’s not forget the beautiful art of ice sculpture, the chilly Minnesota hobby of ice fishing (as opposed to the Minnesota protests of ICE fishing) and the most dangerous event of all: shoveling the walk. Cardiologists will be standing by. Now, that’s the kind of Winter Olympics I’d watch.

We Will Miss You, Tony:

The acquisition of Anthony Rendon by the Angels is now widely-regarded as the worst trade in baseball history. He’s gone from the Halo dug-out – not that he spent much

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Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Flag Football’s Fast Track

Will soon be a college-level NCAA sport

By Maura Carey
AP Sports Writer

Thousands gathered in San Francisco in the days leading up to the most anticipated game on the NFL calendar. But before the Seahawks and Patriots took center stage in Super Bowl LX, it was the contactless version of the game that repeatedly found itself in the spotlight.

Whether it was the NFL’s top players going head-to-head in the Pro Bowl, the 2026 NFL Flag International Championship, or a number of showcases highlighting the talents of athletes across the globe, the rapid rise of flag football was represented accordingly in San Francisco.

A game once confined to recess has surged in recent years. It helps that three powerhouses are aligned in backing the growth of the sport: the NFL, NCAA and International Olympic Committee.

A strong backing is one of the reasons why flag football is on track to move through the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women program at a pace few sports have experienced.

“With any sport that we’ve had move through the program, and



AFC tight end Dalton Kincaid, left, of the Buffalo Bills, runs against NFC cornerback Keisean Nixon (25), of the Green Bay Packers, during the first half of the NFL Pro Bowl football game in San Francisco, Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

flag being a good recent example of this, when there are multiple entities that are behind it and are working together towards the shared goal, that’s been a lot more successful for growth,” Gretchen Miron, the NCAA’s director of education and external engagement, told The Associated Press.

The emerging sports program has helped eight women’s sports

reach championship status since its creation in 1994: beach volleyball, rowing, ice hockey, water polo, bowling, wrestling, stunt and acrobatics & tumbling.

Once in the program, a minimum of 40 schools must sponsor the sport at a varsity level for it to be considered for the next stages. It’s a benchmark

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King James’ gets triple double in win

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James became the oldest player in NBA history with a triple-double when he put up 28 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds in the Los Angeles Lakers’ 124-104 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday night.

At 41 years and 44 days old,

James broke the record held by Karl Malone, who recorded a triple-double for the Lakers when he was 40 years and 127 days old.

James scored 14 points in a dominant first quarter, and had 22 points and 12 assists heading to the fourth. He grabbed his 10th rebound with 2:06 to play and checked out moments later, wrapping up another sensational game in his unprec-

edented 23rd NBA season.

James is headed to the All-Star Game this weekend after being selected for the 22nd time. He got his most recent triple-double on Feb. 1, 2025.

Naji Marshall and Max Christie scored 19 points apiece for the Mavericks, who lost their ninth straight to fall into their longest skid in 28 seasons.

NBA scoring leader Luka Dončić didn’t suit up.

The next big sport? Time to raise the flag

Continued from page 6

that sports like equestrian and rugby haven't been able to meet after years in the program. Flag football, which entered the program in mid-January, is expected to have well beyond 40 varsity programs by the spring.

The sport also offers a solution to equity questions that college athletics have long grappled with. In a college sports landscape historically dominated by men's football and basketball, women's flag football offers a new way to broaden participation opportunities.

At the very least, it could help with Title IX compliance, which calls for athletic departments to offer opportunities that adequately reflect the student population.

"One of the reasons why we see lots of schools add women's sports is because they are continuing to evaluate and make sure that they're balanced from a Title IX perspective," Miron said.

Equestrian and rugby require larger rosters, so a school with a slight imbalance might opt for a smaller addition. Flag football, with rosters averaging around 20 to 25 athletes, could help fill that gap.

"I would say that we have really high participation numbers right now for women," Miron said. "But there is still a significant gap between men and women as far as overall participation opportunities."

In 2023, the IOC voted in favor of adding flag football as an official Olympic sport set to debut at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, signifying just how broad its reach has become.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell pointed to access as a driving force behind that growth.

"It's one of the hottest sports in the world," Goodell said in the days leading up to the Super Bowl. "I'm tremendously inspired when you see people who didn't have access to this

game and they have a chance to play. That's particularly true for young women."

An Olympic presence can only help an emerging sport, according to the NCAA Office of Inclusion. The visibility associated with being on the biggest stage can lead to increased participation levels and an accelerated path through the NCAA pipeline.

The Olympic announcement unlocked a future that some of the best flag football players in the game, like quarterback Diana Flores, had only dreamt of.

"The Olympics is the pinnacle of any athlete's career," Flores said. "As a young girl, I grew up watching the Olympics every four years and just, like, wondering how it could be to have that opportunity because flag was not even considered. ... The door was not even there. It's a dream come true just to have the opportunity to be part of that — for me, for all the flag football community worldwide."

AP Sports Writer Pat Graham in Bormio, Italy, contributed to this report.

Edison advances with a win

Just one local team has survived into the quarterfinals of the CIF-SS boys' basketball playoffs.

On Friday night, Edison defeated Valencia High of Valencia 58-56 in Division 2 action.

The Chargers will advance to the final eight teams and will on Tuesday play the winner of the Roosevelt-Servite game to be played on Saturday.

In Division 7 play, La Quinta lost 58-51 to Salesian, and in Division 8, Bolsa Grande fell to Twenty-Nine Palms 51-45.



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'Wuthering Heights' a bold but shallow film

Continued from page 6

scope and budget of an old-school Hollywood epic.

As Heathcliff, Elordi is certainly brooding, effectively passionate and surprisingly pro-consent, although it's hard to ac-

cept the idea that he could pick up a grown woman by the corset string, as tantalizing a prospect as that might be. But for a character famous for his rage, there is little of that primal ferocity he showed so well through all those

prosthetics in "Frankenstein." As an actor, he was more unsettlingly toxic as Elvis.

This Heathcliff is mostly there to pine for, protect and punish Cathy. Fennell removes the racial component of Heathcliff's otherness completely by casting Shazad Latif as Edgar Linton. Instead, Heathcliff is just an orphan from Liverpool with a chip on his shoulder.

Robbie plays her role as a kind of gothic Scarlett O'Hara, selfish, vain, vindictive and bored. Her most interesting moments are those in which she's flustered by stirrings she doesn't quite understand. It's the only thing she can't seem to control and manipulate.

There is also a conscious artificiality to the film, especially at the Grange. Costume designer Jacqueline Durran was beholden to no specific period and drew on all manner of inspiration to create the looks, including 1950s soundstage melodramas. The set design is a little absurd too — Catherine's bedroom has been painted to match her skin color (moles and veins and all). It's not uninteresting to look at, but as a storytelling aid, the surreal, pop art choices are often more distracting than additive. Is it a good

thing if the audience is wondering why Catherine is wearing a cellophane dress for her wedding night? If that red skirt is latex (it's not)? Or why all the white hands adorning the fireplace?

A disposition for provocation put Fennell on the map with "Promising Young Woman," a colorfully subversive tale of revenge. "Saltburn" might have lost the plot in all the gleeful debauchery, but there's usually at least a loose justification for everything she chooses to show — even a bathtub-slurping social climber.

In her own messy but literate way, she is exploring human capacity for vulgarity and, in turn, pushing mass audiences to the edge into a sometimes tantalizing, sometimes exhausting zone of entertainment and embarrassment. One might suspect that "crowd-pleasing" would be the greatest insult you could throw at her films; still, audiences seem to, well, lap them up. "Wuthering Heights" may also hit a nerve.

Fennell clearly has so many ideas swirling around, which is fitting for a story like "Wuthering Heights." And yet as a viewing experience, it is an undernourishing feast, neither dangerous nor hot enough.



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Garden Grove Rotary

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Garden Grove Rotary.

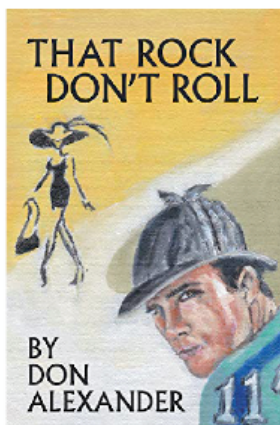
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

**Happy Valentine
Dear Marilyn !!!!**

Sports Retorts: Super ideas

Continued from page 6

time there, as he was injured more or less non-stop — and that seems to be good news.

But the team is still on the

hook for \$38 million. Ah, Tony ... you may be departed, but that contract is the gift that keeps on giving. Or taking.

Retorts: If it's not legal ...

Continued from page 3

have lots of rank.

Granted, it takes a lot of fortitude to take that path. There can be a cost which many people might not be willing to

pay.

But — in some cases — the most patriotic thing one can do is to say, is "No ... sir."

News Briefs

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Included would be a 1,504-square foot one-story building with a 1,202 square foot roof deck and a 529-square foot open air patio.

The location would be at the GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems Facilities, located at 12122 Western Ave.

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