

Aftermath: What Else Is a Danger?

Many questions unanswered about GKN Aerospace scare

By Amy Taxin and Christopher Webber
Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE (AP) — For many Orange County residents who were evacuated after a chemical tank overheated, the relief of finally being allowed to return home has been overshadowed by lingering fears of living near the aerospace plant that has faced problems.

A valve on the tank's cooling system failed and forced 50,000 people to evacuate in and around the Orange County city of Garden Grove last week as officials warned of the potential for a catastrophic explosion.

The tank cracked by chance, relieving pressure and eventually allowing residents to return home after the temperature remained stable without in-

tervention. Bobbi-Lee Smart returned home Monday but still has her suitcase, cat carriers and important documents ready so she can leave at a moment's notice.

"I won't even open the doors and windows in my house because I don't know for sure that the air is safe," said Smart, who lives in Anaheim, next to Garden Grove. "How do we know it is stable?"

Tuesday, when the final evacuation orders were lifted in California, a chemical tank ruptured at a Washington state mill in another hazardous chemical emergency, killing people and leaving others still missing a day later.

Tank contains highly flammable chemical

The tank at GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems, which makes cock-



JAN DE JONGE and fiancé Sher Stuckman set up a tent with their belongings and pet outside the Elks Lodge in Garden Grove on Monday, May 25. (AP Photo/Ethan Swope)

pit windows, canopies and windshields, contains 6,000 to 7,000 gallons (22,700 to 26,500 liters) of methyl methacrylate, which is highly flammable. Exposure to the chemical can cause seri-

ous respiratory problems, neurological issues and irritation to the skin, eyes and throat, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

On Wednesday, the temperature on the tank still

remained at a stable 91 degrees (32.8 C) without being sprayed by sprinklers, said Orange County Fire Capt. Brian Yau.

"The team will continually monitor the tempera-

Continued on page 2

In The Tribune



Rancho plays for CIF-SS Division 8 baseball crown

SPORTS Page 7



'Legally Blonde: The Musical' At Westminster

ARTS & LIVING Page 5

Oh, and there's voting to do, too

West Orange County voters might be a bit excused from concentrating on the primary election coming up on Tuesday.

But democracy goes on and the principal races at the local level are low-profile contests for seats in the state legislature.

Redistricting has jumbled some of the geography of

■ ELECTION 2026

who's representing whom.

In the 70th State Assembly (parts of Garden Grove, Westminster, Fountain Valley, Midway City, etc.) the race is between incumbent Republican Tri Ta and Democratic challenger Paula Swift.

In the 72 State Assem-

bly (parts of Huntington Beach, Seal Beach, Laguna Beach, etc.) candidates are Chris Klume, Matt Harper and Gracey Van Der Mark (all Republicans).

In the 36th State Senate race, incumbent Republican Tony Strickland faces Democratic challenger Chris Duncan.

The★Tribune **Covering Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster**

Phuc Long Coffee & Tea
Authentic Vietnamese Coffee & Boba Tea

Start your happy day with a cup of coffee
Start your fun day with a boba milk tea

10% off
When Mention O.C. TRIBUNE

phuclongusa
12936 Main Street
Garden Grove, CA 92840
(933) TEA-808A | (933) 832-2822

AZTECA MEXICAN RESTAURANT
12814

Great Food & Atmosphere for the Whole Family!
Enjoy our crazy Elvis-themed restaurant serving Awesome Mexican Food!

In the mood to sing? Join us for Family Karaoke on Friday & Saturday nights.

Azteca Restaurant & Lounge
www.AztecaOC.com
HISTORIC MAIN STREET • GARDEN GROVE

DOGS AND CATS AGREE:
“We love Dr. Leung!”

Looking for a veterinarian who is:
• compassionate? • experienced?
• fair-priced? • conveniently-located?

Alamitos Animal Hospital is a full-service facility and will treat urgent and routine medical, surgical, and dental issues. Albert Leung is experienced in all types of conditions and treatments. Beyond first-rate pet care, we make our clinic comfortable, kid-friendly, and a very calm environment so your pet – and you – can relax in the waiting room.

ALAMITOS ANIMAL HOSPITAL
7122 Garden Grove Blvd., Westminster
(just west of Knott and Goldenwest)
Call (714) 893-3591 or go to:
Alamitosanimalhospital.com
Open Monday through Saturday

The★Tribune

Ijm Tortolano
Editor and Publisher
Marilyn Lewis Tortolano
General Manager

The Orange County Tribune is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays with some exceptions. Address is 9402 Luders Ave., Garden Grove, 92844.
E-mail : orangecountytribune@gmail.com.
www.orangecountytribune.com.
Phone: (714) 458-1860.
Established Aug. 6, 2016. All opinions expressed in The Tribune, unless otherwise stated, are those of the individual writer or artist and not necessarily those of The Tribune.
The Tribune is a member of The Associated Press, the Garden Grove Downtown Business Association and Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce.

The★Tribune **Covering Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster**

What else is a danger, too?

Continued from page 1

ture,” You said.
Health officials have assured residents that no contamination or fumes were released, and that they will keep monitoring the air for several months and checking the sewer and storm drains.
Smart said the company should have been scrutinized earlier because it had a record of violations. She feels the company needs to leave the densely populated, working class neighborhood that’s home to family-owned shops, but not before compensating residents and business owners.
“The reality is the company has broken the public trust,” Smart said.
Based in the United Kingdom, GKN Aerospace said it was cooperating with authorities and working with nonprofit organizations to help the community recover.


Angry residents call for accountability
A lawsuit filed on behalf of a couple who live near GKN says the company failed to protect neighbors from “foreseeable chemical releases, toxic vapor migration, evacuation conditions, and catastrophic industrial failures.”

The lawsuit says residents reported strong odors, respiratory irritation, headaches and dizziness and are worried.
At a city council meeting Tuesday night, residents questioned why the chemical plant was allowed to operate so close to homes.
The Orange County District Attorney’s office is investigating. Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein pledged the company would be held accountable.

Last year, GKN agreed to pay state regulators more than \$900,000 to settle violations involving recordkeeping, permitting issues and nitrogen oxide emissions, according to a report on the South Coast Air Quality Management District website.
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has inspected the company’s Garden Grove facility four times since 2018, which resulted in 10 violations.

READ THE ORANGE COUNTY TRIBUNE every day online and the Wednesday and Saturday e-newspaper.

You have friends in Real Estate



The team of **Scott and Rebecca Weimer** will put their 74 years of combined experience and expertise to work for you. They are caring, honest, knowledgeable, hard-working and ethical. They’ve put the client’s best interests first since 1978.

They offer diversified real estate sales and services with the personal touch.

Weimer & Associates

AN INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

714-534-0992

12866 Main St,
Suite 100, Garden Grove
Garden Grove CA 92840

News & Views

Hey, folks are you thankful enough yet?

For a while, it seemed like it would never end. But it – what we will call “The Great Chemical Crisis of 2026” – did nevertheless bring out both some lofty and some wince-able moments.

The communities at large of Garden Grove, Stanton and

Westminster deserve praise for their generally stoic and responsible conduct during the nerve-testing week, what with terms like “giant explosion” being spoken.

There were just a few stories of theft or looting, but conduct was far more mature than a typical Fourth of July firework extravaganza of dangerous immaturity.

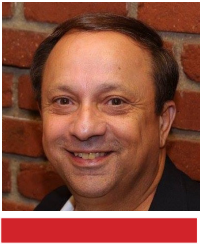
As someone who was not exactly thrilled about the dissolution of the Garden Grove Fire Department into the Orange County Fire Authority, I can’t say that the OCFA put a foot wrong through any of this. The leaders combined quick action with appropriate reserve.

The most praise has to go to those firefighters sent into the “heart of the beast” — the nearly overheated and potentially explosive chemical vats within the GKN factory.

In that situation, I would be one of those people saying, “No, you go ahead first. I’m right behind you. Far behind you.”

Turning now to those folks who don’t deserve a lot of “at-taboys” are those who used the opportunity to speak at a community meeting on Monday to blame city leaders for not being able to predict the future.

Continued on page 8



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Big dining deal at pricey Fogo

\$10 burger part of Happy Hour at Bella Terra

By John M. Borack
Orange County Tribune

As someone who loves to dine out and is also forever on the hunt for a good deal, there seems to be fewer and fewer options lately. Sure, there are always coupons and app deals for fast food joints and some restaurants that offer decent specials for those who subscribe to their mailing list (hello, Black Angus), but a good quality meal at an affordable price is getting scarcer than hen’s teeth.

(For those who may be unfamiliar, the term “scarcer than hen’s teeth” is a rural American colloquialism that originated nearly 100 years ago. It plays on the biological fact that birds have no teeth, meaning that finding one is virtually impossible. Thanks, AI.)

Anyway, I believe I may have come across one of the best dining deals in recent memory at—believe it or not—Fogo de

Homelessness declining now in Hunt. Beach

The homelessness problem in Huntington Beach hasn’t been solved yet, but efforts to reduce the number of un-housed people in “Surf City USA” appears to be headed in the right direction.

According to the latest 2026 data, the homeless population declined by 17 percent compared to the previous 2024 “Point in Time” count, continuing a trend. In 2022, the city counted 188 unsheltered people. By 2026 the

Continued on page 8

■ CHOW LINES



THE TRES LECHES CAKE is a hit, too.

Chão Brazilian steakhouse. Well-known by meat mavens for their all you can eat experience that includes fire-roasted picanha (top sirloin), bone-in ribeye, lamb chops, and roasted chicken, it’s an indulgent behemoth of a meal that is not inexpensive. (It runs \$55 per person

for lunch and \$74 a head for dinner.)

But here’s the deal: Fogo also has a dandy burger special that is served throughout the day. It’s their \$10 Picanha Burger, part of what they call their All Day Happy Hour menu.

Continued on page 8

History Minute

The kingdoms of the peat bogs

The peat bogs – cousin to the swamp and wetland – were a big factor in the history of West Orange County. That somewhat spongy land, with a high water table below the surface, made construction challenging. The Westminster Colony (founded 1870) at what’s now Beach Boulevard and Westminster Boulevard found that burial was so difficult that its community



cemetery was located at what’s now Magnolia Street and Chapman Avenue (Garden Grove) because the ground there was more solid.

Some of the West Justice Center courtrooms started to sink into the turf in the 1970s, so the buildings had to be demolished and rebuilt

Continued on page 8

NewsUpdate

Trump Name Coming Off JFK Center?

Judge says the name change was against the law

The addition of President Donald Trump's name to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts was illegal, a federal judge ruled on Friday.

According to the Associated Press, U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper, ruled that the Kennedy Center's board vote on March 16 to close the facility to make changes, "was ill-informed and seemingly preordained" without considering its legal obligations.

In response, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform, "Unless I am free to do what I do better than anyone else to bring



THE TRUMP-KENNEDY Center must be returned to its original name, says judge (Wikipedia).

this institution back, physically, financially and artistically, I have no interest in continuing what could only be a hopeless

journey into NEVER NEVER LAND."

Cooper's position was that the center was given its name by

Congress and only Congress can change it. He ordered the changes to be undone within two weeks

U.S judge stops \$1.8B fund over alleged 'weaponization'

A federal judge in Virginia on Friday stopped the establishment of President Donald Trump's \$1.8 billion fund that would be created to make payments to those he claims were injured by the federal government.

According to The New York Times, the controversial "anti-weaponization" fund was struck down Friday by Judge Leonie M. Brinkema of the Eastern

District of Virginia.

The ruling bars the establishment of the fund or processing payments to anyone until hearing a lawsuit challenging the fund.

Trump claimed that the Justice Department of President Biden had been "weaponized" to prosecute Republicans and conservatives, including – possibly – those persons convicted of the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6.

Great Thoughts

"We accept the love we think we deserve."
– Stephen Chobpsky

"Only once in your life, I truly believe, you find someone who can completely turn your life around ... You can be yourself and not worry about what they think of you because they love you for what you are."
– Bob Marley

"There is never a time or place for true love. It happens accidentally, in a heartbeat, in a single flashing, throbbing moment."
– Sarah Dessen.

Weather: Peak and then fall

Life is full of ups and downs, and so is your West Orange County weather. The forecast is for a daytime high on Saturday of 78 and a low of 59. The skies will be partly cloudy. Sunday will warm to 82 and 60 with more cloudy skies. Monday is expected to cool to 79 (60) with more of those cloudy skies. Tuesday cools further to 76 (60) but with mostly sunny skies.

When will a cease-fire with Iran be approved by the President Trump?

President Trump on Friday entered the Situation Room of the White House to consider – with his national security team – a final decision on the approval of an extended cease-fire with Iran.

United Press International reports that the president posted on Truth Social some parts of the proposed agree-

ment.

"Iran must agree that they will never have a Nuclear Weapon or Bomb. The Hormuz Strait must be immediately open, no tolls, for unrestricted shipping traffic, in both directions."

When those and other conditions are met, the U.S. naval blockade would be lifted.

Arts & Living

Very Smart 'Blonde' at Westminster

Adaption of film makes for sharp musical version

By Thom deMartino
Orange County Tribune

Stereotypes are made to be broken.

The Westminster Community Playhouse is now staging “Legally Blonde: The Musical” for a limited time at the popular community theater. Directed by Dan Blackley, this adaptation of the beloved film introduces the audience to Elle Woods (Sammy Spiegler), the president of the Delta Nu sorority (Malibu chapter) with the seemingly perfect life.

This includes her ambitious boyfriend, Warner Huntington III (Garrett Claud) – that is, until he upends their relationship by saying he needs a more “serious” wife to help his aspiring political career. But rather than just suffering the indignity of being dumped, the determined Elle decides she can prove her former beau wrong about her worth: by applying to and attending the esteemed Harvard Law School.

The sharp-minded sorority girl studies relentlessly until she can score a 175 on her law school admission test (LSAT), and dazzles the admissions office with not an application, but a colorful, sprawling dance number.

When the unconventional Elle surprises Warner on Harvard’s campus, he is shocked to see her, and none too thrilled either: particularly as he already has a budding relationship with the straightlaced Vivienne (Josie Larkin).

Elle’s got her work cut out for her, as she attends classes with the demanding, imperious Professor Callahan (Tom Proprofsky) but finds a helpful ally in his teaching assistant, Emmett (Ramy Alhawari).

There’s even an oasis for her to relax with a new friend in the



SAMMY SPIEGLER is Elle Woods in “Legally Blonde: The Musical” at the Westminster Community Playhouse.

Stage Review

local beauty salon, courtesy of owner Paulette (Mallory Kerwin), who encourages Elle at her lowest points and inspires her to continue.

The resolute Elle buckles down – at the behest of the encouraging Emmett – to try and land one of the four coveted internships with Callahan: and it’s not long before the professor and his team get involved with a high-profile murder case surrounding a famous fitness guru, Brooke Wyndham (Jenna Van Ommeren).

It’s no longer just G.P.A.s at stake, but a woman’s life: is Elle savvy enough to get Brooke her freedom, and prove her critics wrong beyond a shadow of a doubt?

The Westminster Community

Playhouse stages one musical per season, and this is a particularly rousing and remarkably fun one. The overwhelming pink of the background sets the mood of the

Great ★ ★ ★ ★

piece, and the pink and white checkerboard pattern of the floor actually highlights the deft choreography of the cast, and makes the intimate theater feel that much more expansive.

Even if – especially if – they’ve never seen the original film, audiences will adore their introduction to Spiegler’s bubbly Elle, who turns the stereotype of the ditzy sorority girl completely on its head with her wit, wiles and plucky attitude. Pair this with the actress’s stellar vocals and beautifully empathetic character, and you have a marvelous lead – with some keenly talented actors backing her up.

While Alhawari’s Emmett initially stays on the sidelines at the fore of the story, he becomes a guiding light for her, as he showcases his own vocal talents with songs such as “Chip On My Shoulder” and the excellent duet “Legally Blonde” with Spiegler.

The ruthless, colorful Callahan is a delight to watch in Proprofsky’s hands, and there’s a rich menace in his performance of “Blood In the Water”. There’s also an intriguing chemistry between Claud’s Warner and Larkin’s Vivienne: one can actually see some of that charm Elle fell

Continued on page 7

A Tribute to the GGCF

Garden Amp in Village Green in Garden Grove is holding “Celebration of 27 Years of the Garden Grove Community Foundation” on Friday, June 12. Performers will include Redneck Rodeo, Rocket Queen USA (Guns and Roses tribute) and The Blue Brydes (“classiest” classic rock).



TheSportsPages

Learn how to jump (and land) in baseball

Doggone It Dept. Along with catching, batting, running, etc. the skills necessary to being a successful professional baseball player is ... don't be afraid of dogs.

Probably the most interesting baseball news of the week came out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The local Dodgers AAA affiliate – the Drillers – had a cute promotion in which they used a dog (the four-legged kind) to retrieve discarded bats, like bat boys are more typically employed.

At the conclusion of an at-bat, the bat dog “shot out of the dugout” to retrieve a bat, when



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Kendall George – reportedly a top Dodger prospect – jumped in the air to avoid the hard-charging. When Kendall landed he did not do so very gracefully, suffering a “moderate” boo-boo to this left knee. He complained most bodaciously.

The Drillers decided that the bat dog program was too much of a risk and suspended it.

What a bunch of scared-y cats. Does Kendall think that the rigors of hardball are less dangerous than having a 100-mph fast ball being thrown at you, than the eagerness of a pooch?

Is he going to walk to second on a ground ball rather than slide because “that’s too dangerous.”

Is he going to wear socks in the dugout because walking around in spikes can be a mite slippery?

Maybe Mr. George would like to pursue a less dangerous occupation, like working as vat cleaner at a plastics manufacturer in a suburban neighborhood?

Ram for More Seasons

Sixth year for last year’s Most Valuable Player

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Reigning NFL Most Valuable Player Matthew Stafford has agreed to a one-year contract extension through the 2027 season with the Los Angeles Rams.

The Rams announced the deal last week without immediately revealing its value. ESPN reported the 2027 deal is worth \$55 million with a potential to increase to \$60 million, a raise from his salary for the upcoming season.

The deal indicates that the 38-year-old Stafford is at least strongly thinking about staying with the Rams past 2026. That’s notable because Stafford has professed a year-to-year mentality about his future ever since he led the Rams to a Super Bowl championship in February 2022, and he only confirmed he would



A SIXTH YEAR with Rams for Matt Stafford (Rams photo)

return for the upcoming season while accepting his MVP trophy in February.

The Rams then surprised the league by drafting Alabama quarterback Ty Simpson with the 13th overall pick last month, throwing Stafford’s long-term future into momentary doubt — until head coach Sean McVay made it quite clear that Stafford is the Rams’ starting quarter-

back for as long as he decides to play.

“Whenever that time comes for (Simpson) to get an opportunity to be Matthew’s successor will be on Matthew’s terms,” McVay said at the time. “I didn’t want that to ever be misunderstood. ... It is Matthew’s football team.”

Stafford is coming off one of

Continued on page 8

Dodgers win 4-2, Halos lose

MLBaseball

A late rally by the Los Angeles Angels came a bit too late on Friday night as the Halos lost 8-5 to the Tampa Bay Rays at Tropicana Field.

The Orange County team led early 2-1 but fell behind later by 8-2. Their comeback with three runs in the eighth raised hopes, but fell short.

In the top of the eighth, Vaughn Grissom doubled in Zach Neto. Jo Adell then brought in Mike Trout from third base on a shallow outfield out. Wade Meckler’s ground out brought in Grissom from third.

But that was it to drop the last place team in the American League West.

Neto was 2-for-4 with two runs scored and one RBI and was one

of five Angels with two hits. Grissom was 2-for-5 with two RBIs.

Dodgers 4, Phillies 2: By contrast with the Angels, the Los Angeles Dodgers built up an early lead and held off rallies in beating the Philadelphia Phillies 4-2 at home.

The Blue Crew rolled on four solo home runs: once each by Freddie Freeman., Max Muncy, Shohei Ohtani and Will Smith.

Ohtani batted 3-for-4 to raise his batting average to .279.

That was all in support of Justin Wroblewski (7-2), who gave up just one hit and one run while striking out nine batters over seven innings.

The victory – their fifth straight

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Seattle	28-29	.491	—	6-4
Athletics	27-29	.482	.5	4-6
Texas	26-31	.456	2	4-6
Houston	26-33	.441	3	7-3
ANGELS	22-36	.379	6.5	5-5

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	36-20	.643	—	8-2
San Diego	32-24	.571	4	4-6
Arizona	31-24	.564	4.5	4-6
San Fran	22-35	.386	14.5	2-8
Colorado	21-39	.362	16	2-8

– improved the LAD to 36-20, worth first place in the National League West, four games ahead of the San Diego Padres.

■ **Prep Sports Spotlight**

Rancho off to Rancho (Cucamonga) for title

It will be quite a trip, but probably well worth it. The Rancho Alamitos High baseball team will travel to Loan Mart Field in Rancho Cucamonga on Saturday at 2 p.m. to play Schurr High of Montebello for the CIF-SS Division 8 championship.

The Vaqueros are 15-11 overall and have won four games in a row. The Spartans are 15-16 overall and have won six consecutive games.

New Argo Coach: Kevin Nichols is the new head football coach at Garden Grove High School. It will be his first head coaching job after three years as offensive coordinator at Century High in Santa Ana. The Centurions were 4-5-1 last season and finished in third place in the Zeta League.

Top Athlete: Quentin Pacelli of Garden Grove High has been named Golden Empire Conference Athlete of the Year for 2025-26.



GARDEN GROVE'S BEST KEPT SECRET

What is behind that big old house and windmill on Euclid Street south of Chapman Avenue?

Stop by any 1st or 3rd Sunday of every month at 1:30pm and let us show you the history of Garden Grove

Private tours are available by appointment

Stanley Ranch Historic Village
12174 Euclid Street, Garden Grove 92840
714-530-8871
gardengrovehistsoc@att.net

‘Legally Blonde: Musical’ with strong character at Westminster Playhouse

Continued from page 5

for, though one wonders whether he can really be a partner to his shrewd fiancée, or would he demand the spotlight?

It has to be acknowledged here though, that the viewer could probably very easily enjoy a show entirely surrounding Kerwin’s Paulette.

Larger-than-life does not begin to cover it, belting out her song “Ireland” as she weaves the tale of her broken relationship and her precious dog her ex-boyfriend absconded with. She is a shining jewel in an already radiant show.

A deceptively inspirational tale with a stand-out cast and excellent choreography, “Legally Blonde: the Musical” is an splen-

did introduction to a strong female character that refuses to be pigeonholed into a stereotype, and instead discovers her inner strength and talents through her struggle. It’s appropriate for all ages, and definitely one worth bringing the family along for. Even if you’re not fluent in jurisprudence.

“Legally Blonde: the Musical”: Sammy Spiegler, Mallory Kerwin and Ramy Alhawari star in this uplifting musical adaptation of the popular film. Playing through June 7 at the Westminster Community Playhouse, 7272 Maple St, Westminster. Ticketing information available online at <http://www.wcpstage.com>, or call (714) 893-8626.

GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA

Historic MAIN STREET Car Show

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT 4:00pm-8:00pm

FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!
Games, Raffle, Opportunity Drawing
LIVE MUSIC, Great Shops & Restaurants.
A BLOCK PARTY
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT!

\$5.00 entry at the gate on Acacia Pkwy. Opens @ 4:00pm

T-Shirts Printed by Von Hot Rod

Follow us on Facebook @ Historic Main Street Car Show

The Tribune

Covering Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster

Matt Stafford: A Man for (One) More Season

Continued from page 3

the best seasons of his career in which he won his first MVP award, edging New England's Drake Maye in the voting.

Stafford passed for an NFL-best 4,707 yards and a career-high 46 touchdowns against just eight interceptions before he led the Rams to two road playoff

victories and a spot in the NFC championship game.

The upcoming season will be Stafford's 18th in the NFL and his sixth with the Rams, who acquired him in a trade with Detroit in 2021. Stafford is the sixth-leading passer in NFL history with 64,516 yards, and he is seventh with 423 touchdown passes, two behind Philip Rivers.

Los Angeles is among the pre-season Super Bowl favorites again this year despite using its

first-round pick on a quarterback who now seems unlikely to play for at least two years. Simpson has said he is eager to learn behind Stafford, calling it "a perfect situation" for a quarterback who was a starter for only one season with the Crimson Tide.

The Rams' organized team activities began this week.

The upcoming Super Bowl is at the Rams' home SoFi Stadium, one week after Stafford's 39th birthday. He also led the Rams to their championship in a Super Bowl played at SoFi.

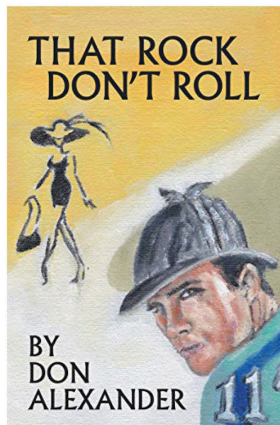
Peat Bog cities

Continued from page 3

with deeper foundations and at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, the Math/Science building also declined into the wet stuff and rebuilt in the 1990s.

Some serious fun

Murder, corruption, sex, humor, sports and lottery



That Rock Don't Roll

"A fun story set in the OC that is sometimes tongue-in-cheek and sometimes deadly serious."

- The Orange County Tribune

Available through Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble for \$19.99. Special offer: For a signed copy, including the cost of shipping and handling, send a check for \$15 payable to Don Alexander, 9814 Bird. Ct, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Include your name and return address.



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



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.

The **Garden Grove Rotary Club** has been serving the community since 1953. The modern club is part of a worldwide service organization of over 1 million men and women.

Interested in doing good work in your town and enjoying fellowship and fun with like-minded leaders in Garden Grove? Contact us for meeting times and more information. E-mail: journaldon@aol.com. Website: gardengroverotary.com .

A big deal at pricey Fogo

Continued from page 3

The burger is ground fresh in-house, and it's topped with smoked provolone cheese, romaine lettuce, tomato, onion, and a zesty chimichurri aioli, served on a brioche bun. It also comes with a side of crispy polenta or french fries.

I visited the Fogo de Chão in Huntington Beach recently and ordered up the burger and a side of polenta for lunch though Fogo's menu mentions that the All Day Happy Hour menu is available in the bar and patio only, I was seated in the main dining room with no problem. Our waitress was friendly and attentive and even brought over some tasty, complimentary cheese bread before the burger was served.

The burger itself? Absolutely delicious. The smoked provolone and the chimichurri aioli added a unique flavor without overpowering the taste of the beef, and the patty was ample and juicy. I wasn't a huge fan of the polenta, though; it had an oddly bland flavor and something of a cardboard-like texture.

(My lunch companion let me sample their french fries, which were topped with parmesan cheese; I'll definitely order those next time.)

Since we each had a coupon for a complimentary dessert, I ended my meal with the Tres Leches Cake: a slice of vanilla sponge cake soaked in three types of milk, topped with toasted meringue and mixed berries. Creamy, sweet, but not too heavy, it was a perfect way to end the meal.

Fogo's All Day Happy Hour menu also features reasonably priced items such as Brazilian Empanadas and Spiced Chicken Sliders, but for my money, the burger special is the star of the show. As one commenter mentioned on Reddit, "I don't think you're going to find a better deal than this." Agreed.

Fogo de Chão is located at 7901 Edinger Ave. (at Beach Blvd.) in Huntington Beach. Their phone number is (657) 332-0333, and you can find them on the web at fogodechao.com.

Homelessness decline in HB

Continued from page 3

number dropped to 143.

There's also a reduction in "sheltered homelessness" as more people were placed in permanent housing through city agencies. Since 2022, 214 persons have exited homelessness.

"Addressing homelessness re-

mains one of the city's top priorities, and these numbers reflect the communication, hard work and collaboration of our city staff, public safety personnel, service providers and community partners," said Huntington Beach Mayor Casey McKeon.

Retorts: Stay on topic, friends

Continued from page 3

And then there were the candidates for Most Annoying Off-Topic Speaker who tried to blame the crisis on capitalism and connect it to the Gaza-Israeli mess.

Perspective, folks. Look at the True Score Board. Injuries: Zero. Deaths: Zero. Chances to Give Thanks: Every day.