

Heavy Prison Time Seen For DUI Suspect

Child reported “brain-dead” after hit-and-run collision

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

The motorist who allegedly drove his car through a family parade on bicycles in Garden Grove last Sunday is facing four felony charges and as much as 11 years in prison was driving with a blood alcohol content almost three times the legal limit, according to authorities.

Ceferino Ramos, 29, of Santa Ana has been charged with:

- one felony count of driving under the influence of alcohol causing great bodily injury;

- one felony count of driving with blood alcohol of .08 percent or more causing bodily injury;

- one felony count of hit-and-run with permanent injury or death, and
- one felony count of hit-and-run with injury.

There were also felony sentencing enhancements for causing brain injury and paralysis and for great bodily injury. The charges may be upgraded if the conditions of the injured worsen.

Five people were hurt – three of them seriously – in the incident on Haster

Continued on page 2

SOUNDING LIKE SWIFT



Melody Ebner channels Taylor Swift at Thursday’s concert in Eastgate Park in West Garden Grove. The show by “Taylor Nation” was the latest in the summer concert series sponsored by the City of Garden Grove and the Garden Grove Community Foundation. **Jim Tortolano has a comment in News & Views, page 3.** (Orange County Tribune photo).

HB air show deal controversy

A controversy emerged this week over a lawsuit settlement with the sponsor of a 2021 aerial exhibition over Huntington Beach.

The cancellation of the final day of the Pacific Airshow due to the closure of a city beach in the wake of an offshore oil spill resulted in a settlement in May 2023 of \$7 million for the show’s organizers – Pacific Airshow LLC – who claimed the event was wrongfully ended.

A California Public Records Act lawsuit has compelled the release of the details of the agreement, which had been considered “confidential” by the city attorney’s office.

In a joint statement by

Huntington Beach City Councilmembers Dan Kalmick, Rhonda Bolton and Natalie Moser, it’s alleged that the agreement could be considered “a gift of public funds.”

Among the details of the

settlement, in addition to \$7 million for claimed losses, Pacific Airshow gets a 10-year exclusive contract with three 10-year extensions, and will receive all recreational

Continued on page 2

HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL

Oil pipeline agreement tops Tuesday’s agenda

What looks like a rare non-controversial agenda will greet the Huntington Beach City Council when it meets on Tuesday.

A top item for consideration is a proposed ordinance to authorize an amendment to the fran-

chise agreement with Cardinal Pipeline LP for the operation of a pipeline system for the transportation of oil, gas and other hydrocarbon substances.

Also on the agenda are:

- a contract with All

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In The Tribune Today

Prep football entering a new world



SPORTS PAGES 6-7

Scarlett J. gives “Fly Me to The Moon” a lift



ARTS & LIVING 5

Suspect in DUI hit-and run facing potential long sentence

Continued from page 1

Street. A pair of parents – Angel Ramirez and Angela Hernandez-Mejia were riding e-bikes and towing their three children in trailers on Haster near Twintree Lane. They were riding on the right side of the road when Ramos’ vehicle drove into all of them and then sped away.

A witness called police and followed the car until police caught up with the suspect driver and arrested him.

The father suffered a fractured skull and a brain bleed and remained in a coma. The 5-year-old son was in a coma and de-

clared “brain-dead” after several days. The 6-year-old daughter was in critical condition after surgery. The mother and their 7-month old child suffered minor injuries.

“They were just riding their bikes, enjoying a hot summer day, and now that little girl, her brother, and their dad are just hoping to make it to her next birthday,” said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer. “This is a tragedy that should have never happened, but it did because of the selfish decision by a stranger to get behind the wheel drunk.”

Airshow deal controversy

Continued from page 1

parking revenue.

Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark said “the city’s settlement with Pacific Airshow LLC ensures the potential for future Airshow

events which bring in over a hundred million dollars in economic benefit to the region and tens of millions of dollars directly to the City of Huntington Beach each year.”

H. Beach council preview

Continued from page 1

City Management Services for Crossing Guard Services;

- an update on the city’s short-term rental program;
- agreements with the cities of Costa Mesa and Irvine for public safety helicopter services.

The council will meet at 2000 Main St. with a study session at 5 p.m. and the regular session at 6 p.m.

The Tribune

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News & Views

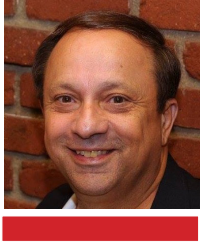
Star quality at Eastgate Park and in Stanton

Taylor-Made: The free summer concert at Eastgate Park in Garden Grove on Thursday was one in a series, and definitely one of a kind.

It was a performance by Taylor Nation, a “tribute band” fronted by Melody Ebner of San Diego.

In case you’ve been on the International

Space Station – or even if you haven’t – the real live Taylor Swift is the biggest thing in popular music since Michael Jackson.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Some “tribute bands” are just average imitators, but wow, this was just about an Event with a capital E. Ms. Ebner dressed, sang, danced and played guitar with the same voice, spirit and flair as the real article and a huge crowd – the biggest I’ve seen since the summer concert series began – appreciated it (see photos front page).

So, thanks to the City of Garden Grove and the Community Foundation which organized and paid for all of this merriment. It wasn’t exactly the real Taylor, but – based on the turnout and the crowd of sing-along, arms-waving fans – it was darn close.

No Travis Kelce, though.

Money Well-Spent: Hannah Shin-Heydom is not exactly a household name in Orange County, but she is a hero in Stanton, or should be.

That city manager just got a raise from the city council, and a good decision it was to reward a leader who has helped lead the charge for a wave of gleaming new development along Beach Boulevard that is going yards towards reversing

Continued on page 7



LINCOLN EDUCATION CENTER traces its history back to the opening of Lincoln Elementary School in 1910 in Garden Grove. It’s now undergoing renovations (GGUSD photo).

Still plenty of life left in Mr. Lincoln’s school

It’s commonly believed that Garden Grove High School (founded 1921; moved to current location in 1923) is the oldest established public educational institution in the city, but it turns out that’s not quite true, according to Leroy Doig in his book “The Town of Garden Grove.”

As renovation of Lincoln Educational Center proceeds (utilized for adult education and other purposes) on Garden Grove Boulevard (east of Euclid Street), the book tells that Lincoln Elementary School opened its doors in 1910 with a student body of 150 pupils.

Enrollment in the Garden Grove [Elementary] School District grew so much that another school – Washington – was built on Acacia Street.

After 24 years, the Washington School was declared unsafe and closed. It was later renovated and repurposed as the first Garden Grove City Hall in 1956.

Work at LEC will involve the replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning units in the permanent classroom buildings, main office and multi-purpose room and installing new fire alarms in the portable classroom buildings.

35 units of condos proposed

A public hearing on a proposed site plan and tentative tract map to build a 35-unit condominium project on Buaro Street goes before the Garden Grove Planning Commission when it meets on Thursday, July 18.

The proposed project would provide for three-story condos to be constructed on a 1.4-acre lot between Lampson Avenue and Harbor Boulevard at 12701 Buaro.

It’s a “flag lot” with an entrance lane on Buaro leading to a “landlocked” site with a two-story house, north of Stanford Avenue. Two of the units would be available for “very low income” households, which qualifies the project for a density bonus, concessions and reduced parking waivers.

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

Checkpoint for DUI is set July 25 in H. Beach

Don’t tipple if you travel, especially not in Huntington Beach on July 25-6.

The Huntington Beach Police Department will hold a DUI Checkpoint on Thursday, July 25, from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. at an undisclosed location within the city limits.

Checkpoint locations are chosen based on the history of DUI crashes and arrests.

The primary purpose of checkpoints is not to make arrests but to promote public safety by deterring drivers from driving impaired.

During the checkpoint, officers will look for signs that drivers are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

The HBPD reminds the public that impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Some prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving.

Always follow directions for use and read warning labels about driving or “operating heavy machinery,” which includes driving a car.

While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is illegal.

If you plan on drinking or taking medications that may impact your ability to drive safely, plan on staying at home.

Drivers charged with a first-time DUI face an average of \$13,500 in fines and penalties, as well as a suspended license.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

NewsUpdate

Biden: "I'm Not Going Anywhere"

President is still resisting requests to stop campaign

Battling headwinds of members of his own party urging him to drop his candidacy for a second term in the White House, President Joe Biden stood his ground on Friday.

At a high school gym in Detroit, Biden said "I'm not going anywhere." The crowd chanted "Don't you quit!" He blamed the assembled news media for giving former president and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump a "free pass."

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries revealed that he had met with Biden and discussed with him the concerns of fellow members of their party over the prospects for Nov. 5.



PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN (Shutterstock photo).

One of them, Mike Levin of California, said on Friday, "I believe the time has come for Pres-

ident Biden to pass the torch." While the New York Times' average of national polls shows Trump

ahead by 47 to 45 percent, a new Marist College poll shows Biden leading Trump 50 to 48 percent.

Manslaughter case vs. Baldwin is dismissed

The involuntary manslaughter case against actor Alec Baldwin was dismissed Friday by a New Mexico judge.

The case was dismissed by Judge Mary Marlow Sommer because of misconduct by police and prosecutors over the withholding of evidence from Baldwin's defense team.

He had been charged in connection with the fatal accidental

shooting of a cinematographer during the making of the motion picture "Rust."

Baldwin wept, then hugged his lawyers and his wife. Judge Sommer said actions of police and prosecution were "so near to bad faith to show signs of scorching."

In addition to dismissing the case, Sommer prohibited its filing again.



RUDY GIULIANI (Wikipedia photo).

Rudy's bankruptcy busted

Former New York City Mayor and Donald Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani won't be able to escape his debts by claiming bankruptcy. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane threw out his case on Friday and set the stage for his creditors to go after his assets to settle a \$148 million defamation judgment.

The judge slammed Giuliani for failure to comply with court orders, disclose sources of income and failure to hire an accountant to check his bookkeeping.

Creditors can now seek to get some of the money owed them, including seeking a court order to seize his apartments.

Those rolling weather hills

The patterns of heating and cooling continue to undulate in our West Orange County area under partly cloudy skies.

Saturday is expected to have a daytime high of 81 with an overnight low of 66.

Sunday will warm slightly to 83 (64), followed by declines to 82 (64) on Monday and 81 (64) on Tuesday.

Arts & Living

Scarlett J. Helps “Fly Me” Rise A Bit

What if NASA’s moon shot didn’t go off smoothly?

By Lindsey Bahr
AP Film Writer

“Fly Me to the Moon” is better than it looks.

This is not a slam against the marketing campaign for the space race rom-com about a straight-laced NASA man and the Madison Avenue marketing savant brought in to sell the mission to the moon. It’s more about the state of theatrical moviegoing.

A film like this, with legitimate movie stars in Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, a slick, glossy look, an original concept, and a sparkling title, is not a commonly occurring phenomenon at the local cineplex.

We’ve been conditioned to see something like this and assume one of two things: It’s the product of a high-spending streamer, or it’s fake, like one of those movies-within-a-movie that’s mostly there for laughs but also at least somewhat plausible.

Both assumptions are on point, but the former is essentially true: This is an Apple production that like “Napoleon” and “Killers of the Flower Moon” is going to theaters first, on Friday, through a traditional studio (Sony’s Columbia Pictures). It’s not just a gesture to theaters either — it’s streaming date has yet to even be announced.

The director is television veteran Greg Berlanti, whose films include “Love, Simon” and “Life as We Know It.” Here he seems to have taken a stylistic and tonal page from Peyton Reed’s “Down with Love,” that 1960s via 2003 Rock Hudson/Doris Day pastiche starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. The script, by Rose Gilroy and story, by Bill



SCARLETT JOHANSSON and Channing Tatum star in “Fly Me To the Moon” (Apple/Columbia)

Movie Review

Kirstein and Keenan Flynn, is lighthearted and breezy with a pleasing screwball energy, giving Johansson the opportunity to use the full wattage of her movie star power as the shrewd, self-made Kelly Jones.

She’s a kind of female Don Draper minus the melancholy and dalliances, but with some secret baggage and the ability to charm and persuade just about anyone.

If you make it past the opening montage, a cringey history lesson that has all the depth and nuance of a half-page, single-space elementary school report on the space race, you’re in for a mostly pleasant, if meandering, ride compliments of Johansson, who produced, Tatum and a talented roster of supporting actors (Woody Harrelson, Ray Romano, Jim Rash).

Tatum might be a little miscast

as the NASA launch director (and Korean War vet) Cole Davis. Though he is a good match for Johansson and the bevy of knit sweaters he sports throughout, his portrayal makes Cole too instantly likeable for there to be any sort of dramatic stakes or tension.

Whether this was a miscalculation on the script level, the direction or the casting is hard to say. But there is no will-they-won’t-they, only when-will-they, which is not compelling storytelling when your runtime stretches over two hours.

This is a movie that is in no rush to get anywhere fast. In fact, the main selling point of the trailer, that Kelly has been hired to stage a fake moon landing in case anything goes wrong with Apollo 11, isn’t even introduced until deep into the film.

It’s not the point of the story at all, just an aspect of it, which is a little disorienting during a first-time viewing. Rash, as a diva director-for-hire for this top-secret

Good: ★★★

film project, makes these scenes very funny (although the recurring Kubrick jokes fall flat). Most attempts to reference the era beyond the great costuming and production design are also quite superficial — it’s a kind of rose-colored-glasses version of the late 1960s in which racism and homophobia are practically nonexistent. Misogyny and former President Richard Nixon are punchlines and tolerable nuisances.

Another blunder was spending too much time with the Apollo 11 astronauts, down to the obligatory launch — a sequence that we’ve seen so many times and so much more effectively that there is little to be gained in clumsily shoehorning it in this kind of film. It’s just an expensive distraction, grasping at grandeur that it didn’t really

Continued on page 8

TheSportsPages

Blues for the Blue Crew as season moves on

Going Bats Dept: Who has had a worse July? Joe Biden's speech coach or the Los Angeles Angels? As of this writing (Thursday afternoon) the Halos have won two games in this seventh month of the year.

They've lost in blowouts and walk-off nail-biters. The variety is nice, but the outcome isn't.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are doing a little better, but their collapsing starting rotation is cause for worry.

The Blue Crew is so far ahead

in the National League West race that the second place San Diego Padres – currently seven and one-half games back – will need to sign “Shoeless Joe” Hardy in order to make up the difference.

(Literary note: “Shoeless Joe” is the character in the “Damn Yankees” musical and movie who sells his soul to the Devil to be a big league baseball star for his beloved Washington Senators).

The race isn't the real issue. The Dodgers had a great season last year and ran away with NL West, outpacing the second-place Arizona Diamondbacks by 16 games. They were solid favorites for the World Series, but were ambushed by those same D-backs in the playoffs, being swept in three games in the NL Division Series.

Where have you gone, Clayton Kershaw?

Working For Dad Dept: I sort of feel sorry for Bronny James, the new Laker draftee who is the son of LeBron James (also known as “Big Game James,” as am I).



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Continued on page 8



RANCHO ALAMITOS (in white uniforms) has won (or tied for) six consecutive Garden Grove League football championships and this fall it will move into the new “Sigma League” as part of the “competitive equity” policy of the CIF-SS (Orange County Tribune photo)

It's A Whole New World for Preps

“Competitive equity” creates new leagues

By David Arthur/Orange County Tribune

July may seem to be a bit early for thinking about high school football, but now that the season starts in August instead of September, the first kickoff is just over the horizon.

Here are some notes about the outlook for the 2024 prep football season for West Orange County:

A Whole New World

The old leagues have been swept away – for football at least – as new “alphabet” conferences have been created by the CIF-SS in the interests of competitive equity.

League names – with two exceptions – are based on the Greek letters of the alphabet, as in Alpha League, Bravo League ... etc.

These leagues are based on team performance for the previous two

Continued on page 7

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Late rallies lift the Dodgers and Angels

Shohei Ohtani hadn't exactly been knocking the cover off the ball as the Los Angeles Dodgers staggered against the Philadelphia Phillies.

But he stepped back into the hero spotlight on Friday when his ground rule double in the top of the ninth drove in Chris Taylor with what proved to be the game-winning hit as the Blue Crew tamed the Tigers in Detroit, 4-3.

The victory snapped a four-game losing streak and improved their record to 56-39 (still atop the National League West) and it gave them a rousing come-from behind victory.

They trailed 3-0 early but managed to tie it on Freddie Freeman's fourth-inning two-run homer and Teo Hernandez' RBI single in the eighth.

Once again, the Dodgers didn't get a solid starting pitching performance. James Paxton was tagged for five hits and three runs in 3.2 innings, walking four while striking out just one. But the bullpen held up for the rest of the game, yielding just three hits and no runs.

The win went to Michael Peter-

Continued on page 8

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Seattle	52-44	.542	—	5-5
Houston	50-44	.532	1	7-3
Texas	44-50	.468	7	6-4
ANGELS	39-55	.415	12	3-7
Oakland	36-60	.375	16	6-4

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	56-39	.589	—	4-6
Arizona	48-47	.505	8	7-3
San Diego	49-48	.505	8	3-7
San Fran	45-49	.484	10	5-5
Colorado	33-62	.347	23	4-6

Coming this fall: a new prep grid scene

Continued from page 6

years. They're be in place for two more (2024, 2025) and then the dice will be rolled again.

A Powerful County

MaxPrep.com covers high school sports nationally and its ranking of the Top 25 teams in California include seven teams. They are: Mater Dei (fourth),

Mission Viejo (fifth), Servite (eighth), Santa Margarita (11th), Orange Lutheran (13th), JSerra (22nd) and Edison (25th).

It's interesting to point out that five of those seven are private schools.

Those Wacky Leagues

The previous "neighborhood" or "traditional" leagues give way for the next two seasons.

Here are the leagues involving West Orange County teams.

Delta: Western, Capistrano Valley, Trabuco Hills, El Modena, Cypress and Tustin.

Epsilon: Huntington Beach: Laguna Hills, El Dorado, La Habra, Foothill and Crean Lutheran.

Foxtrot: Laguna Beach, Northwood, Orange, Fountain Valley, Aliso Niguel and Dana Hills.

Kappa: St. Margaret's, Segerstrom, Westminster, Brea Olinda, Esperanza and Garden Grove.

Lambda: Beckman, Fullerton, Marina, Sunny Hills, Valencia and Kennedy.

Omicron: Pacifica, Univer-

sity, Portola, Woodbridge, Buena Park and Katella.

Sigma: Estancia, Rancho Alamitos, Santa Ana Valley, Calvary Chapel, Los Amigos and Ocean View.

Tango: Santiago, Costa Mesa, Bolsa Grande, La Quinta, Anaheim and Loara.

Zeta: Saddleback, Godinez, Savanna, Magnolia and Century.

How's This for Openers?

The teams can start practicing on July 29. The season starts with Week Zero on Aug. 22-24.

Here are some openers of interest.

• Edison will host Clovis West on Friday, Aug. 23.

• Garden Grove will host Bellflower on Friday, Aug. 23

• Western will visit Los Alamitos on Friday, Aug. 23

• Huntington Beach will host Orange on Friday, Aug. 23

• Westminster will visit Marina on Friday, Aug. 23

• Pacifica will host Kennedy on Friday, Aug. 23

• Rancho Alamitos will host Savanna on Thursday, Aug. 29

• Los Amigos will visit Santiago on Thursday, Aug. 22

• Ocean View will host Fountain Valley on Friday, Aug. 23

• Bolsa Grande will visit Savanna on Friday, Aug. 23.

• La Quinta will visit Godinez Fundamental on Friday, Aug. 30.

Retorts: "Taylor" and Hannah take star turns here

Continued from page 3

the city's sometimes wobbly image.

She doesn't want the credit, pointing instead to the city council.

But as she solves problems, the next big problem for the city council will be to figure out a way to keep bigger cities from poaching her.

Jim Tortolano's Retorts column appears on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



Who helped eradicate the plague of polio?

Garden Grove Rotary

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‘Fly me to the Moon’

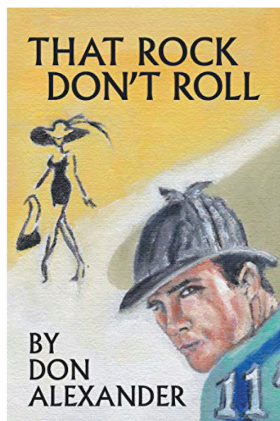
Continued from page 5

need. “Fly Me to the Moon” is best when it’s not taking itself too seriously. And the most worthwhile concept it sold is the idea of Johansson and Tatum (which, by the way, is a great reminder to rewatch “Hail, Caesar!”) as a modern Day and Hudson. They have the charm. They just need material that does it justice

“Fly Me to the Moon,” an Apple Original Films/Columbia Pictures release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 for “some strong language, smoking.” Running time: 132 minutes.

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

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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.

A tough month, and Bronny’s burden

Continued from page 6

I’m not feeling sorry for the “mere” reported four-year \$7.9 million contract he signed, especially since he “only” made \$5.9 million in NIL (name, image and likeness) money when playing hoops for USC.

My heart goes out to him because he – essentially – will be working for his dad. Oh, I know the Lakers have a new coach – JJ Redick – but LeBron has

tons for influence and experience and will no doubt have a lot to have about Bronny’s play, on and off the court.

I remember working on the car with my father when I was a teenager, not much younger than Bronny. My job would be to hand him tools while he labored under the Chevy or Dodge of the moment.

“Hand me The Thing,” he would say. “What Thing?” I

would ask, my psychic abilities hadn’t quite developed yet. He would let out an exasperated grunt and repeat – very usefully – “the Thing, the Thing!”

To this day I have no idea whether he was referring to a wrench, pliers, a screwdriver or a Boston Cream Pie. What I do know is that working for your father is surpassed in exasperation only by working for your father-in-law (except mine, who was nice).

Late rallies lift the Dodgers and the Angels

Continued from page 6

son (3-0) in relief and the save to Dan Hudson, his fourth. The Dodgers will take on the Tigers again at Comerica Park Saturday with Justin Wroblewski (0-1) getting the start.

Angels win it in 10

The Los Angeles Angels rallied three times from deficits on Friday night against the American League West-leading Seattle Mariners and won 6-5 in Anaheim.

Willie Calhoun was the star, hitting a pair of two-run homers

– the second being the walk-off game-winner in the bottom of the 10th.

The Halos trailed 2-0 and 4-2 but were able to knot the game up. But in the top of the 10th, Mitch Garner knocked in a go-ahead run with a ground-rule double for the Mariners.

Tyler Anderson – who will represent the Angels in the All-Star Game – made the start for the Angels, lasting six innings in which he gave up six hits and four runs. He struck out four batters and walked none.

Hans Crouse (2-0) got the win

in relief although he gave up the fifth Seattle run.

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