

RESCUE FROM A TIGHT SPOT



Firefighters with the Orange County Fire Authority do a lot more than put out fires, provide medical aid and rescue cats from trees and fences. On Friday at 6:24 p.m. a call was received of a man trapped between a residential wall and a commercial wall in the 13300 block of Beach Boulevard in Westminster. The man was unable to extricate himself, so the OCFA technical rescue team, using a technique called a “high point” rescue, was able to lift the man to safety uninjured. The technical rescue team spends “countless hours” preparing for such emergencies (OCFA photo).

Strickland takes early lead in 36th District

Huntington Beach City Councilmember Tony Strickland has a large lead in early returns Tuesday night in the primary election to fill a vacant seat in the California State Senate representing the 36th District.

Strickland, a Republican who has previously served in the state Senate, has polled 58,189 votes, or 49.74 percent of the vote.

In second is Democrat Jimmy Pham with 32,788

Election 2025

votes (28.05 percent). In third is Democrat Julie Diep with 17,182 votes (14.70 percent) followed by Republican John Briscoe with 8,780 votes (7.51 percent).

If any candidate receives a simple majority – 50 percent plus one vote – he or she is elected. If not, the top two vote-getters will compete in the general

Continued on page 2

Three Days Later, Victim Passes Away

A suspect is sought in shooting

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

An investigation into the shooting in Garden Grove of a man on Friday who succumbed to his wounds on Monday is underway.

According to Sgt. Nick Jensen of the Garden Grove Police Department, the victim has been identified as Trieu Huynh, 26, a resident of Garden Grove.

The incident began on Friday at around 11:20 p.m. in a parking lot near 9622 Garden Grove Blvd. where a report was made of a shooting that had just occurred.

The site of the incident is on the south side of Garden Grove Boulevard

between Gilbert Street and Belfast Drive in the “Koreatown” business district.

Arriving officers found a man with a gunshot wound to the head. Police rendered medical aid until Orange County Fire Authority paramedics arrived.

The victim was transported to a local hospital where he died from his wounds.

The investigation is ongoing.

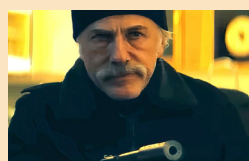
Anyone with information regarding the incident or who may have witnessed it is urged to contact Detective Rogers at (714) 741-5413 or GGGPD Dispatch at (714) 741-5704.

Inside The Trib



Cavs go for gold

SPORTS Page 6



‘Old Guy’ stale

ARTS & LIVING Page 5

Amy Phan West pleads ‘not guilty’ to bribery

Controversial Westminster City Councilmember Amy Phan West pleaded “not guilty” in court Monday to a misdemeanor charge of attempting to bribe a police officer.

She was not in court at the West Justice Center in Westminster, and the plea was made by an attorney

representing her, according to published reports.

A pretrial hearing was set for April 15. She denies the charges, claiming that they are politically motivated.

The legal action stems from an incident in April 2023 when – in an at-

Continued on page 2

Roof repair approved in GG

The Garden Grove City Council on Tuesday night took action to keep a dry roof over the heads of city employees and residents visiting city buildings.

The council voted 7-0 for acceptance of roof replacement work at:

- the Tibor Rubin Branch library in West Garden Grove;
- the Chapman Branch library near Magnolia Street;
- the Garden Amphitheater (phase two) in the Village Green Park.

The council also approved the

awarding of a contract to CJ Services for roof replacement at City Hall in the amount of \$374,766.

The next meeting of the city council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford.

Election

Continued from page 1

election on April 29.

The 36th District seat is vacant because Janet Nguyen resigned upon being elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Amy Phan West pleads 'not guilty'

Continued from page 1

tempt to get her husband's illegally-parked vehicle from being towed – she allegedly told traffic officers she was in the process of “getting raises for police department personnel.”

The★Tribune

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News&Views

Now, here are some interesting developments ...

Let's be frank when people talk about what's interesting that's happening in their community, what they want to know is "what's going in there," referring to retail, restaurant or commercial spaces where we can go to eat, shop to relax.

To that point, I and Marilyn (Marilyn and I?)

met with the Garden Grove city leaders Lisa Kim (city manager), Ursula Luna-Reynosa (economic development and housing director) and Niki Wetzel (community development director) to get some insight into the shape of things to come.

Too much to pack into one column – a more complete article is on the way – but here are some quick news bites to chew on.

- Yes, the hotels on Harbor Boulevard (currently represented by big vacant lots) are still in our future. We get to be patient for the ultimate big reward.

- At the Promenade center (old-timers still think of it as "Orange County Plaza") at Chapman Avenue and Brookhurst Street on the way soon to fill the space vacated by Party City will be the second Burlington store; the first one is at Garden Grove and Harbor boulevards.

- In the Cottage Industries project (east of Civic Center, from 7th to 9th streets), planning for opening in March is Junbi, with "matcha," coffee, snacks, soft serve and blended drinks.

Matcha, by the way, is a kind of green tea with lots of health benefits.

The Holy Roly ice cream joint is pending; no firm opening date yet.



Retorts

Jim Tortolano

■ AREA NEWS BRIEFS



STUDENTS at Ocean View High School in Huntington Beach recently held their Winter Rally on campus. They celebrated their sports teams, announced the winter dance court and drummed up support for the upcoming Mardi-Gras-themed dance (HBUHSD photo).

Schools recognize the their stars, veterans

February Employees of the Month for the Garden Grove Unified School District were honored at the GGUSD Board of Education Meeting on Feb. 18.

They are Anita Garcia, community liaison at Clinton Elementary School and John Miller, music teacher at Bolsa Grande High School.

Mariners rack up the gold

The Pacifica Encore team began its competitive season recently at the San Diego Sings! show choir competition in Chula Vista.

When it was all over, the Mariner choir team took first place in music, show and overall. The M's also won for best tech crew. Best Soloist honors went to Alex Case and Best Performer honors to Hazel Fleck.

HBUHSD educators honored

The Huntington Beach Union High School District is honoring some of its long-serving certificated employees.

Among them are:

- Robert Rasmussen, principal at Ocean View School (20 years with HBUHSD).
- Rick Royce, athletic director at Edison High School (25 years with HBUHSD).
- Tara Bearden, physical education teacher at Fountain Valley High School (10 years with HBUHSD).
- Jacqueline Harris, math teacher at Edison High School (20 years with HBUHSD)
- Morgan Molido, culinary arts teacher Marina High School (10 years with HBUHSD).

Great Lodge offers a spring with warmth

The weather reports are calling for some chilly weather in our West Orange County area as February turns into March and the Great Wolf Lodge in Garden Grove is giving families a guaranteed warm and cozy, 84-degree getaway filled with family fun and absolutely no chance of rain with a variety of spring-themed activities to escape the chilly outdoor temperatures.

Between March 6 and April 27, spring sunshine can be found at Great Wolf Lodge with spring-time crafts and stories, flowery new games like bingo and tic-tac-toe, a "spring inspired" dance party and more to reenergize and bond your Pack between splash sessions in the water park.

Families can feel the warmth of spring the moment they walk into any of our lodges, with bright and cheery décor that celebrates the reawakening of the forest – the sprouting of new flowers, vibrant green trees, and a kaleidoscope of colors.

Kids can also keep their eyes peeled for photo opportunities with their favorite Great Wolf Lodge characters as they emerge from their dens.

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

NewsUpdate

Deal on 'Rare Minerals' Settled?

U.S. and Ukraine would share oil, minerals and gas

An agreement between the United States and Ukraine that would smooth American access to "rare earth minerals" has reportedly been reached.

According to The Associated Press, the arrangement would cover the reserves in Ukraine of natural gas, oil and certain minerals.

President Donald Trump called the agreement "a very big deal" that could be worth a trillion dollars.

The deal does not include – the AP reports – a provision that would require Ukraine to give the U.S. \$500 billion of profits in



PETROLEUM (OIL) is one of the "rare earth minerals" in the reported deal (Shutterstock).

compensation for wartime military assistance. The alternative is that the two nations would have joint ownership of the fund

and would contribute 50 percent of profits.

Ukraine's leadership is hoping that the deal will increase the

chance that "security guarantees" will emerge from negotiations between the U.S. and Russia.

Judge blocks suspension of program to assist refugees into the USA

An executive order by President Donald Trump to suspend a program that admits thousands of refugees into America was blocked Tuesday by a federal judge in Seattle.

According to The New York Times, Judge Jamal N. Whitehead issued a preliminary injunction to restore the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program as well as its funding.

The judge ruled that "it appeared likely" that Trump had exceeded his legal authority over a program established by Congress in 1990 and that the plaintiff's argument that the order was an "effective nullification of congressional will" was "likely to prevail."

Since its inception more than 3 million refugees have been admitted to the U.S.

Great Thoughts

"In the war between falsehood and truth, falsehood wins the first battle and truth the last."

– Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh patriot

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face ... You must do the thing which you think you cannot do."

– Eleanor Roosevelt, First lady, writer and diplomat

Elon Musk and his use of controversial 'R-word' brings some resistance

Billionaire Elon Musk and semi-official trimmer of the nation's budget is at the center of a new controversy.

USA Today is reporting that his use of "the R-word" as an insult to his critics is offensive to people with mental disabilities.

The term, originally a medical term, is now being seen as a slur,

and the authorized substitute is now "intellectual disability."

In the last week, Musk used "the R-word" in tweets on his X social media site (formerly "Twitter"), according to the newspaper.

Musk has not formally responded to requests to him to cease using it publicly.

Weather: Rain on the way?

We in our West Orange County cities can enjoy a gradual cooling period through Thursday and then grab a jacket afterwards for chilly weather and a chance of rain. The forecast for Wednesday is for a daytime high of 77 with an overnight low of 52 with fog in the morning followed by sun in the afternoon. Thursday will drop to 75 (54) under partly cloudy skies and a 14 percent chance of rain. Friday and Saturday will be 65 (53) with a 15 percent chance of rain on Saturday.

Arts&Living

'Old Guy' Has Style, Misses Target

Action-comedy-with Chris Walz is no bulls-eye

By Lindsey Bahr
AP Film Writer

A boomer hit man is given a nightmare final assignment to train his own Gen Z replacement in Simon West's lifeless action-comedy "Old Guy."

Christoph Waltz's Danny Dolinski is the one at an unwellcome crossroads in the film. He's only partially healed from a hand injury that's rendered him dependent on pills and unable to aim a gun as well as he used to.

Dolinski also seems to be in the throes of a full crisis: We meet him not on the job, or even in flashback to his pre-injury glory, but out clubbing. The next morning, Dolinski emerges in a bathrobe to gaze proudly upon the several much younger women who have spent the night.

But a room full of scantily clothed model-types who seem to be there willingly is only a temporary balm for poor Dolinski. While he might still be a viable specimen for the 20-something party girls of London, his game does not hold the same appeal in the workplace.

Soon he'll be getting the dreaded "we're going younger" talk from his boss, and she's talking about him, not his love interests. This is a guy who is certain he's got a lot left to give in the assassin game, and not as a mentor to a "hitman prodigy," as Cooper Hoffman's character Wihlborg is described.

Is a familiar conceit like the wise veteran and the cocksure newcomer tired or a classic? Well, it's all in the execution. And "Old Guy," stylishly filmed though it may be, is not one of the better attempts, likely hampered by the script from Greg



CHRISTOPH WALTZ in a scene from "Old Guy" (The Avenue).

Movie Review

Johnson. Generational clashes should be easy enough comedic fodder for a screenwriter and two capable actors, but here it lands with a thud. One likes to drink! The other doesn't even like to be around alcohol!

The more serious ethical questions about hitman etiquette are similarly inelegant. Take this gem from Wihlborg: "Where I come from one does what one needs to do to survive. That includes killing a kid."

Hoffman, so perfect leading "Licorice Pizza," is not served well by this script, which never quite justifies why he's such a prodigy at such a young age and doesn't give him or Waltz any room to play off one another in a natural way.

Waltz also can't seem to choose a lane with Danny, an eccentric

hedonist with a soul who doesn't think it's necessary to kill kids on the job. He's also working with his normal accent which is all well and good until the movie very unnecessarily introduces his Irish mother.

And because action movies of this variety need a woman, Lucy Liu, who deserves much, much better than this (they all do, but mostly her), goes along for the ride.

Her character Anata is the glamorous manager of a Soho karaoke bar that might also be a front for a brothel, but that's never really explored. What is deemed important here is that she's Dolinski's longtime confidante, and tags along on their mission to Belfast for...wait for it...a date. It's a very strange little subplot in which Anata does go to this date only to be broken up with. The guy she's been seeing is not connected to the larger plot in any way, except as the narrative push to have her ultimately fall

Poor ★

in Dolinski's arms.

West is an action and studio system veteran behind "Con Air," "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" and various Jason Statham vehicles. There's lots of shoot-em-up action and bullets to the head for anyone looking for that, but not much more to hang on to. "Old Guy" feels very of this moment in the fact that it looks good and has a good cast and yet can't seem to deliver something that's either entertaining or meaningful.

But unlike so many of its peers, this one amazingly was not made by a streamer.

"Old Guy," a The Avenue release in limited theaters and on VOD Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "language, violence, some drug use." Running time: 93 minutes.

TheSportsPages

Teams need to hang on to Matt and Mike

Against the background of Elon Musk's personnel decisions, we now see some sports commentators lobbying for some employment moves which I find similarly imperfect.

There's been a wave of suggestions — one might call them pushes — to trade Rams quarterback Matt Stafford for any number of lesser lights whose resumes do not approach that of Our Guy.

It's true that Matt is 37 and his regular season stats in 2024 were not spectacular.

But he was nearly perfect in the post-season and has expressed a desire to finish his career in LA.

It's not just a matter of loyalty. Matt is — as we used to say — a "right guy." Still pretty durable, he's a dedicated and savvy quarterback who led the Rams to their only Super Bowl victory when playing as an LA (OC) team.

Frankly, we don't see any other comparable talent available out there. Patrick and Jalen and Josh all seem to be tied up.

Perhaps the real reason is salary. By swapping Matt away, it's supposed that management can free up some cash to meet certain other needs.

Don't do it. He's still The Man. When he no longer can do it, we'll be able to tell.

Similar are "suggestions" to trade Mike Trout. More bad timing. Trout is the only "big name" left on the roster. When he goes, the only memorable name in red will be catcher Logan O'Hoppe, because it's so cool-sounding.

The off-season acquisitions the Angels made impressed no

Continued on page 8



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Cavaliers Go For the Gold



SANTIAGO'S DEFENSE (white uniforms) was tough against Pacifica (OC Tribune photo).

Santiago visits Ramona at Ontario venue

By David Arthur
Orange County Tribune

When the Santiago Cavalier boys' basketball team travels to Ontario's Toyota Arena on Saturday, they'll face a tall — and quick — order in overcoming the Ramona Rams of Riverside for the CIF-SS Division 4-AA title.

The Rams, who finished second in the River Valley League, overall posted a 26-6 record and

CIF-SS Boys' Basketball 4-AA

• **Santiago Cavaliers** (21-11) vs. the Ramona Rams (26-6) on Saturday at Toyota Arena in Ontario, 9:30 a.m.

are riding a seven-game winning streak into the title game. Their leading scorer is the 6-foot 4-inch Troy Terrell, averaging 17.8 points per game.

Andrew Green, 6-foot, 5-inches tall, is the rebound leader with 11.9 caroms per game and Garrett Pickens is averaging 9.8 as-

sists and 4.1 steals a game.

Eric Tabatabai is the coach.

The Cavaliers are used to tough schedules. Their 21-11 record includes a fistful of close games, including five decided by two points. Coach Matt Moorehouse's team finished third in the Coast League at 5-3 and has a closing kick of four straight wins.

In their CIF-SS 4-AA semifinal game on Friday against Garden Grove district rival Pacifica, Jordan De La Mora scored 25 points, including five that came on three-point shots. Jayden Baude was also crucial to the 50-43 win, scoring 10 points and adding six assists, three rebounds and two blocked shots.

Ducks fall to Sabres; Lakers top Mavs

The Anaheim Ducks blew a 2-0 lead and lost 3-2 to the Buffalo Sabres on the road Tuesday night.

With power play goals by Leo Carlsson and Mason McTavish, the Orange County team led by two goals after the second period. But the home team rallied for three goals in the third period to take the win.

■ NBA and NHL

The loss snapped the Ducks' five-game point streak, and the teams' record settled at 25-25-7, good for 57 points and sixth place in the NHL Pacific Division.

Next up for the Ducks is a Friday at Honda Center hosting the Vancouver Canucks.

Lakers 107, Mavericks 99; LeBron James scored 27 points and Luka Doncic added 19 more against his former team as the Lake Show pulled away in the fourth quarter for the win.

The Lakers are now 35-21 and in first place in the NBA Pacific Division.

On Thursday they will host the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Robot umpires debut in spring training

Could be used
as early as 2026
in regular play

By Ronald Blum
AP Baseball Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A computerized system that calls balls and strikes is being tested during Major League Baseball spring training exhibition games starting Thursday after four years of experiments in the minor leagues.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred is an advocate of the Automated Ball-Strike System, which potentially as early as 2026 could be used to aid MLB home plate umpires, but not replace them.

Starting in 2024, MLB focused testing on a challenge system in which the human umpire makes each original call. Data from the spring training test could cause



HUMAN UMPIRES won't be replaced by "robots." (Shutterstock).

MLB to make alterations to the system for Triple-A games this season.

How does the Automated Ball-Strike System work?

Stadiums are outfitted with cameras that track each pitch and judge whether it crossed home plate within the strike zone. In early testing, umpires

wore ear buds and would hear "ball" or "strike," then relay that to players and fans with traditional hand signals.

The challenge system adds a wrinkle. During spring training, human umps will call every pitch, but each team will have the ability to challenge two calls per game, with no additions for extra innings. A team retains its

challenge if successful, similar to the regulations for big league teams with video reviews, which were first used for home run calls in August 2008 and expanded to many calls for the 2014 season.

Only a batter, pitcher or catcher may challenge a call, signaling with the tap of a helmet or cap; and assistance from the dugout is not allowed. A challenge must be made within two seconds, and the graphic of the pitch and strike zone will be shown on the scoreboard and broadcast feed. The umpire then announces the updated count. MLB estimates the process averages 17 seconds.

Where will ABS be tested?

MLB has installed the system in 13 spring training ballparks that are home to 19 teams. The Florida stadiums, all in the Florida State League, are the stadiums of Detroit, Minnesota, the New York Mets, New York Yankees, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Toronto, plus the ballpark shared by Miami and St. Louis.



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Mariners win lucky 13th starting season

There are a lot of powerful high school softball programs but in this area, it's hard to argue that the title doesn't belong to the Pacifica Mariners.

Over the years, the M's have won dozens of league titles, a fistful of CIF-SS championships and even one national crown.

Coming off a state championship last year, Coach Tony Arduino's 2025 team is already off and running with a 6-5 win over

Prep Sport Spotlight

Notre Dame of Sherman Oaks and 10-2 victory over King High of Riverside.

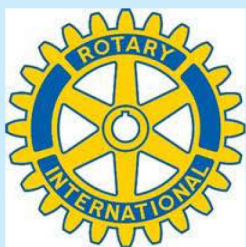
Taken together with last year's record, the blue, black and white have won 13 games in a row.

The Mariners are ranked 37th in the nation and will be next in action on Thursday against La Habra High's Highlanders, who are off to a 3-1 start.

After that, they'll play Gahr High of Artesia on Saturday to open a tournament.



THE 2025 PACIFICA HIGH VARSITY (GGUSD photo).



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

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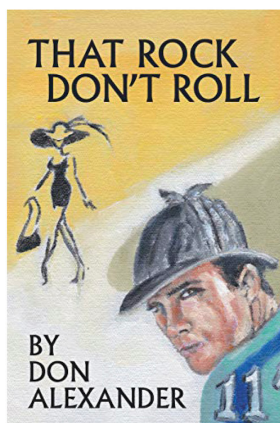
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— The Orange County Tribune

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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.

Great Wolf Lodge in spring

Continued from page 3

Some of the Spring Breakout activities that will be in bloom at Great Wolf Lodge this spring include:

- **Seasonal Games:** Families can enjoy some family fun competition playing numerous spring-themed games like our NEW spring tic-tac-toe and bingo games as well as Grasshopper Ring Toss, Beehive Beanbag Toss, Crazy Caterpillar Game, Pin the Frog on the Lily Pad, and more.

- **"Tree to Be" Yoga Tails:** Families stretch, flex and breathe in fun exercises designed to stimulate energy, imagination and self-expression.

- **Spring-Themed Crafts:** Kids can let their imagination run wild with activities such as Build Your Own Bug Jars, Hand-made Flowers, Beaded Butterflies and Dragonflies, Make Your Own Bunny Origami, Coloring Sheets and Create Your Own Leis.

- **Sunshine Celebration Dance Party & Storytime:** During the nightly Dance Party, guests will

gather in the lobby to enjoy the sights and sounds of spring with a sing-along to the Sunshine Celebration theme song. This flows into a lobby dance party and Great Wolf's nightly story time tale Adventures of the Great Wolf Pack: An Epic Story Time.

- **Character Photo Ops:** Families can marvel in the budding spring decor providing Instagrammable moments throughout the resort, while spotting Great Wolf's lovable characters roaming the resort and capturing memories and photo ops with props, selfie stations and spring-time backdrops.

For more information, visit www.greatwolf.com.

Sports ReTorts: Keep Matt, Mike

Continued from page 6

one. As long as we're going to suffer through another sub-500 season, we might as well do it with last star we still have.

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