

**A SIGN OF SPRINGTIME**



**EVER GALVEZ**, the artist who painted the original murals on the Courtyard Center in the Village Green park in Garden Grove is back, doing some work to touch up and add new color to the work (Tribune photo).

**Arrest made in HB shootings**

An arrest has been made in an incident in Huntington Beach Sunday night in which two persons were wounded in what may be a gang-related shooting. According to the HBPD, officers responded around 8:50 p.m. to reports of shots fired near the intersection of Mandrell Drive and Koledo Lane near Oak View Center Park. Arriving officers found two men suffering from gunshot wounds. They were taken to local hospitals and their wounds are not considered to be life-threatening. Arrested was Raul Bustillos, 27, of Huntington Beach. Detectives are

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**High school coach is held**

A 26-year-old Anaheim man has been arrested in Westminster for allegedly committing several "lewd acts" on an underage girl. The suspect, James Gaviola, was a walk-on athletic coach at Westminster High School. On Friday, WPD officers responded to reports of an illegal relationship between the coach and the girl. Gaviola was contacted at the school and arrested. He is charged with four offenses, including intercourse, and booked into Orange County Jail. The Huntington Beach Union High School District is working with the WPD and the investiga-

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**HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL**

**Andrew Gruel  
New Member  
of Council**

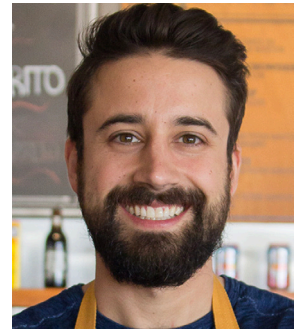
**Replacing Tony Strickand**

By Miles Gaskin  
Orange County Tribune

The Huntington Beach City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to appoint Andrew Gruel to fill the council seat vacated by Tony Strickland, who was elected to serve in the California State Senate.

Before the meeting, the three potential candidates for this seat were Gruel, Valentia Bankhead, and Ken Babineau, but Bankhead and Babineau declined their nominations during public comments.

Gruel's appointment was not without controversy



**ANDREW GRUEL** is new HB councilmember.

and many Huntington Beach residents loudly expressed their disapproval for the appointment during the meeting.

There was so much re-

Continued on page 2

**In The Tribune**



**Angel player most missed**

SPORTS 6-7



**'Black Bag' sleek, sexy**

ARTS & LIVING 5 and 8

# Andrew Gruel chosen as new HB councilmember

Continued from page 1

As residents were forced out of the city council meeting, a few residents in opposition to the appointment began chanting "no more MAGA, no more MAGA," as they were being escorted out by police officers.

When all the residents were fi-

nally cleared out, Gruel's nomination was finally completed.

Gruel is a chef, and the owner of several Orange County restaurants. He has also appeared as a judge on "Food Networks: Food Truck Face Off."

He expressed his excitement at the opportunity to be serve the city of Huntington Beach

"I want to thank all of you for believing in me and putting me in this position. Everything that we do here is emblematic of a movement to be able to focus on local politics, but also to represent true American values, family, freedom etc."

"People might look at my position and say what does a chef know about all that stuff? Look, chefs are inherent at cutting waste, it is what we do."

## Coach arrested

Continued from page 1

tion is ongoing.

"Due to the coach's access to children in the sports community, we are seeking information identifying any other victims," said Deputy Chief Cameron Knauerhaze.

Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Detective Bell at (714) 548-3724 or the WPD Watch Commander at (714) 548-3767.

## HB shootings

Continued from page 1

investigating the possibility of other suspects.

Anyone with more information is asked to call Detective Isai Rodriguez at (714) 536-5970.

## The★Tribune

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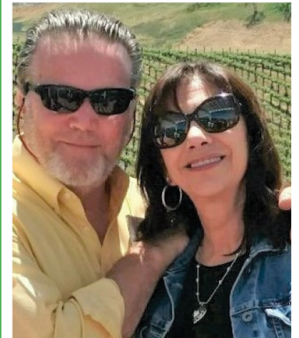
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# News & Views

## Verbal fencing in a delicate era of angry politics

We are in a particularly “touchy” time in our political history. As you may have noticed, stuff is happening that has never happened before and more “interesting” news is bound to show up on your digital device, TV screen or –alas, less likely – the front page of your newspaper.

Some folks like to argue politics. In my callow youth, I used to enjoy that, believing – vainly – that my erudite discourse (i.e., hot air) would convince others and vindicate the position(s) of the Major Political Party to which I belong(ed).



**Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

Well, hooley.

These days feelings are running so high that I feel that discretion is the better part of valor. If I believed I could convince you (or them) I might be willing to give it a try, but so far – and it’s been several decades – no luck.

But if the conversation does turn to politics, you can’t just stare at them. Social convention requires a response.

My favorites include:

- “Amazing.”
- “Things sure are changing.”
- “You’ve given me a lot to think about.”
- “I never saw that coming. Did you?”
- “You’ve given that a lot of thought.”

If those don’t work, you can always rely on the time-honored replies of ..

- “Gotta take this phone call” or, the oldie but a goodie ...
- “How ‘bout them Angels?”

Almost as depressing as the political news, eh?

## H. Beach, GG among happiest

### Wallethub.com ranks near the top in Calif., U.S.

Huntington Beach and Garden Grove are among the happiest cities not only in Orange County and California but also across the United States.

According to Wallethub’s annual survey, Huntington Beach is the 10th happiest city in the nation. Irvine is third, with Fremont and San Jose – both in California – in first and second.

Garden Grove ranks seventh in the state and 20th nationwide, Anaheim is ninth in the state and 30th in the nation. The survey covers 180 of the largest cities in the U.S.

The ratings are based on several



**STREET SCENE** in Fremont, California (Wikipedia).

factors including emotional and physical well-being, income and employment rank and community/environment rank.

Among the reasons for Garden Grove and Huntington Beach are access and proximity to recreation and entertainment opportunities. Huntington’s three beaches and large park system boosted Surf City’s scores and Garden Grove’s proximity to Disneyland and Angel Stadium count for the Big Strawberry.

The only Los Angeles County city in the state’s top 10 is Santa Clarita (10th), which ranked 31st in the nation.

The least happy in the U.S. is Cleveland.

WalletHub also ranks nations for happiness and rated the United States 23rd. Topping the list were Finland (first), Denmark (second), Iceland (third), Sweden (fourth) and Israel (fifth).

Canada is 15th and Mexico is 25th.

For more, go to [wallethub.com](http://wallethub.com).

## News Briefs

### A bridge to somewhere at Edison

Edison High School’s Academy of Sustainability and Engineering recently completed another successful ASE project.

Students were tasked with engineering a bridge made with Popsicle sticks, which had to include a drawbridge, span at least one meter (a little over a yard) long and have a clearance of at least 30 centimeters (11.81 inches) when the bridge is lowered and 50 centimeters (19.68 inches) when it was raised.

The final test was to see how much weight the bridge could bear with some projects holding over 40 pounds.

Edison is part of the Huntington Beach Union High School District, which serves Huntington Beach and parts of Fountain Valley and Westminster.



**THE POPSCICLE BRIDGE** at Edison High. (HBUHSD photo).

### A new java joint to open

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 20 at 11 a.m. for Mornings Coffee Garden Grove at SteelCraft, 12900 Euclid Street.

### Crosby’s Lucas honored

Garden Grove Unified School District custodian Kurt Lucas was selected as an Orange County Finalist for the Garden Grove Department of Education’s Classified Employee of the Year pro-

gram.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Tahnee Phan made a surprise visit to Crosby Elementary School to announce the news to Lucas, who has 45 years of service.

Lucas takes on the role of Santa Claus each year and in 2022 demonstrated quick thinking when he intervened to save a kindergarten student from choking during lunch.

# NewsUpdate

## Chief Justice Roberts Rebukes President

Chief Justice John Roberts issued a rare rebuke to President Donald Trump on Tuesday, replying to Trump’s statement that a federal judge issuing a ruling blocking the expulsion of migrants to El Salvador should be impeached.

Roberts’ statement read: “For more than two centuries it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision. The normal appellate review process exists for that purpose,” according to The New York Times.

Trump’s demand was posted on his Truth Social platform. “I’m just doing what the VOTERS wanted me to do. This judge, like many of the Crooked Judges’ I am forced to appear before, should be IMPEACHED!!!”

## Federal judge orders USAID staff restored

Efforts by Elon Musk and the Department of Governmental Efficiency to shutter the U.S. Agency for International Development “likely violated the U.S. Constitution in multiple ways” a federal judge ruled on Tuesday.

According to United Press International, U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang ordered in a 68-page ruling granting to USAID employees and contractors access to electronic systems, including e-mail and payment.

Written compliance of the court order is required as well.

### Great Thoughts

“The meaning of life is whatever you ascribe it to be. Being alive is the meaning.”

– Joseph Campbell, writer and professor

“I can’t say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is they must change if they are to get better.”

– George C. Lichtenberg, writer

### Weather: Rain gone, cool stays

The rain that complicated life a bit in our West Orange County cities is gone, but temperatures will remain on the cool side. The forecast for Saturday is for a daytime high of 65 and an overnight low of 47 with mostly sunny skies. On Sunday, temps are predicted to warm to 69 (50) with cloudy skies and a 24 percent chance of rain. Monday will cool a bit to 65 (47) and the skies will stay cloudy. Tuesday warms a bit to 67 (48) and sunny.



A KID’S KINGDOM play area.

## More on the shape of the things to come in GG

*To our readers: To get an update on development of business in Garden Grove, we sat down with City Manager Lisa Kim; Economic Development Director/Assistant City Manager Ursula Luna-Reynosa; and Community Development Director Niki Wetzel. This is the second part of that discussion. The conversations have been edited for length.*

**[Tribune] Mixed uses in a single building don’t seem to be very successful. In the case of some mixed-use buildings with residential above and commercial on the first floor, those ground floor units are usually vacant. We’ve seen that in Anaheim, Huntington Beach and at the Garden Brook Senior Village on Garden Grove Boulevard. What’s going on?**

[Ursula] For that kind of building, it needs to be designed very well. In some circumstances, the developer plans as if the commercial spaces are going to be vacant. You have to have the right retail. In real estate it’s always location, location, location. I don’t think that a coffee shop is the right use, but some sort of medical support use, an urgent care, or a primary care doctor could work there.

**[Tribune] What are some of the new commercial developments coming to Garden Grove?**

[Lisa and Ursula] Niki’s team has received a pre-application for a development. This is just the beginning of what will be a test of what will a viable site. It’s called Kid’s Empire. It’s real next-generation retail. It’s a big kids’ indoor play gym with food and entertainment. It would be a great addition to the westside [Tribune side-note]: There are Kids’ Empire locations across the U.S., with the nearest being in Anaheim and Fullerton.

**The role of AI (artificial intelligence) in planning and development.**

[Ursula and Lisa] We’re all into the use of AI. We’re not real estate brokers or developers. We’re here to facilitate. [Tribune side-note] What followed was a discussion of tools such as Placer.ai, which can track foot traffic across retail, restaurants, etc. to help spur growth and SizeUp, which provides data to help spur growth and SizeUp, which provides data to help small business customers with market research and other insights to help them grow. The latter is available to the public at <https://ggcity.org/sbi-small-business-intelligence>.

# Arts & Living

## 'Black Bag': A Sleek Spy Thriller

Soderbergh is director of this tale of love, fear

By Jake Coyle  
AP Film Writer

If you're hosting a dinner for half a dozen British intelligence agents with the aim of ferreting out a mole, what should you cook?

For George Woodhouse (Michael Fassbender), who's preparing for four colleagues, plus himself and his wife, Kathryn St. Jean (Cate Blanchett), who, like him, is a high-level operative, it's chana masala with a few drops of truth serum.

"Will there be any mess to clean up?" Kathryn asks her husband as they're getting ready.

"With any luck," he responds.

So goes much of the crackling patter of "Black Bag," Steven Soderbergh's delicious marital drama cloaked as a sleek spy thriller. Lean and taut, the 93-minute "Black Bag" is more a sizzling amuse-bouche than full-course meal, but it's simmered to perfection.

George and Kathryn, as fellow agents at London's National Cyber Security Centre, don't seemingly have what you might call a traditional marriage. Each has their own secret ops, leaving large swaths of their lives off limits to the other. When George asks where Kathryn is flying off to on Wednesday, she shrugs with a smile, "Black bag."

In the movie's opening scene — a slick tracking shot that trails George into and out of a nightclub — an agent named Meacham (Gustaf Skarsgard) gives him the assignment to track down the mole, with the added wrinkle that Kathryn can't be dismissed as a possible suspect.

A cyber-worm device called Severus that's capable of hacking into nuclear facilities has



"BLACK BAG" is directed by Steven Soderbergh (Focus Features).

### Movie Review

gone missing.

The fate of the world, as it so often is, is said to be at stake.

But, really, the state of George and Kathryn's marriage is what interests us. Extreme though their situation is, their union is one that, like any couple, is built on trust and devotion, even if their professional lives demand the inverse.

When George, lying on top of Kathryn tells her he'd do anything for her, she coos, "Would you kill?" It's a fair-enough test to the bounds of wedded bliss, sure, but her second question matters even more. "Would you lie?"

Over that dinner — a scintillating set piece around a darkened dinner table inside their London town house — we can quickly gather just how much the truth means to George.

He's renown for his powers with a polygraph. As a youngster, he even brought down his own father, uncovering his affair. "I don't like liars," George says through clenched teeth.

They're joined by Colonel

James Stokes (Regé-Jean Page); the in-house psychologist Dr. Zoe Vaughan (Naomie Harris); the carousing spy Freddie Smalls (Tom Burke); and the newest NCSC recruit, cyber specialist Clarissa (Marisa Abela). Both are paired off in clandestine relationships that quickly emerge, among other secrets. More than state secrets, infidelity dominates the conversation.

Fassbender's spook is an agent of precision. He wears gleaming black-framed glasses. When only a few drops of sauce land on his cuff, he immediately withdraws to change his shirt.

Hard as it would seem, Fassbender has found a character almost as dispassionate and monotone as his methodical assassin in David Fincher's "The Killer."

This time, though, he's not a loner. Blanchett's Kathryn is kept more at a remove from us. She's mysterious and aloof — a femme fatale, maybe, we're led to wonder. An "aroma of hostility" accompanies her, Zoe tells her in a psych evaluation. Is she the mole?

This is an insular film, taking place mainly in crisply composed interiors, aside from the

**Good: ★★★**

lake George occasionally fishes for bass in. There, in a fitting encapsulation of a movie full of smooth surfaces with currents twisting underneath, the camera gently rests on the water's surface.

"Black Bag" follows a run of agilely directed thrillers by Soderbergh made with screenwriter David Koepp ("Presence," "Kimi"). They are both at the height of their almost-too-easy powers; the script, especially, is peppered with delectable dialogue.

Their movie adopts the air of menace and suspicion of a John Le Carré novel, yet hinges on the sturdiness of its married couple, like a super spy version of Nick and Nora from "The Thin Man" or a more cerebral "Mr. & Mrs. Smith."

All of the supporting players — while they make up a fine ensemble — are ultimately playthings in their game of love. In a casting coup, a former James Bond — Pierce Brosnan — drops in late in

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# TheSportsPages

## Who is the Angel player I miss the most?

As the Los Angeles Angels poise to start another season with no one in the roster known to anyone outside of their immediate families, it's tempting to reflect on the great players who have starred under the Big A.

I mean you've got great pitchers – Dean Chance and Nolan Ryan – and heavy hitters – Don Baylor and Mike Trout. And there's no questioning that Shohei Ohtani exceeded all standards during his seven-year stint with the Halos.



### Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

But if you wanted to single out one player who provided the most pure entertainment, it had to be Vladimir Guerrero.

Vlad attracted my attention in two ways. One, was that he was often the key player in the Angels' glory years, leading them to five division titles in six years.

The other thing was that Vlad would swing at anything. He was regarded as the best "bad-ball hitter" in the sport, once hitting a pitch that bounced in front of home plate. Amazingly, he hit that ball even after the bat struck the ground. Try doing that at home. Statisticians say he swung at pitches outside the strike zone 45.5 percent of the time, and yet had a lifetime .319 batting average.

In a game that emphasizes "working the pitcher" and being patient, he hit 126 of his 449 homers the first pitch of an at-bat. In short, he was delightfully unpredictable and therefore a terror to the other teams.

When was the last time that any Angel (other than, perhaps Shohei) scared anybody? He's the only Angel in the Hall of Fame wearing the halo, and deservedly so.

# Who'll Stop The Reign?

## Dodgers have the talent and the money

By Ronald Blum  
AP Baseball Writer

Shohei Ohtani was in the batter's box for the season's first pitch Tuesday, arriving at the Tokyo Dome coronated a World Series champion.

Twenty-nine other teams will be trying to dethrone his Los Angeles Dodgers, who flexed their financial might again during the offseason hoping to become the first repeat champion since the 1998-2000 New York Yankees.

Blake Snell and prized rookie Roki Sasaki joined a pitching staff headed by Yoshinobu Yamamoto, who started the opener in his native Japan against the Chicago Cubs. Ohtani and the Dodgers have been the key to Major League Baseball boosting Asian audiences; they opened last season against San Diego in Seoul, South Korea.

"We'd normally spread things among the teams a little differently," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "We felt like we had a unique opportunity with a unique person and are trying to do everything we can to capitalize on it."

MLB increased revenue to a record \$12.1 billion last year, up from \$11.6 billion in 2023. Attendance increased 0.9% to an

### BASEBALL PREVIEW



**BASEBALL'S MOST** successful team has the sport's most popular player as the 2025 season begins (AP photo).

average of 29,568, the highest since 2017 and the first increase in consecutive years since 2011-12, and Manfred predicts MLB will top 70 million for the third straight year. The Dodgers' five-game World Series win over the Yankees averaged 15.81 million viewers, the Fall Classic's high since 2017.

Three of the four League Championship Series teams were among the biggest spenders: The Dodgers were second in payroll and luxury tax at \$374 million, trailing only the New York Mets at \$430 million and \$400,000 ahead of the Yankees.

At the bottom, the Athletics spent just \$66 million during their last year in Oakland, and the increased disparity has led to renewed talk of owners seek-

ing a salary cap when the current five-year labor contract expires after the 2026 season.

"There's no reason for us to be focused on collective bargaining," Manfred said. "We haven't even formulated a bargaining position."

Mets owner Steve Cohen, flush with his hedge fund fortune, made the biggest offseason move when he lured outfielder Juan Soto from the Yankees with a record \$765 million, 15-year contract.

"I'll compete under any circumstance," Cohen said. "You tell me the rules, and I'll compete against them."

Teams with lesser resources know payroll doesn't always equate with success through

Continued on page 8

## Dodgers win; Ducks fall; Clippers cruise

### ROUNDUP

The Los Angeles Dodgers opened the 2025 MLB season several thousand miles from Chavez Ravine, defeating the Chicago Cubs 4-1 in Tokyo.

Shohei Ohtani singled twice and scored twice from the lead-off position against the "home" Cubs. Yoshinobu Yamamoto (1-0) pitched five strong innings, giving up just three hits and one

earned run. He struck out four batters and walked one.

#### Ducks lose lead, fall in OT

The Anaheim Ducks got out to a 3-2 lead on two goals by Leo Carson and one by Wyatt Johnston, but ended up losing 4-3 in overtime to the Dallas Stars on

Tuesday.

With the loss, Anaheim is 29-31 and sixth in the NHL Pacific.

#### Clips duel the Cavaliers

Kawhi Leonard scored 33 points to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 132-119 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers. It was the Clips (39-30) fourth consecutive victory.

# Area scholar-athletes are honored

High school students do more than play sports and have romances. The CIF-SS, the governing body for prep athletics, also honors athletes with top academic honors.

Here are the “Student Athletes of the Year” from schools in our West Orange County area.

- Edison: Adelaide Bellinger (lacrosse), Kai Hara (cross country, track and field);
- Garden Grove: Adam Pena (cross country, track and field), Ortega Zamine (swimming, water polo).
- Huntington Beach: Alia Pasternak (flag football, track and field); Kailan Gan (volleyball).
- La Quinta: Simon Pham (tennis), Katelyn Vo (basketball);
- Ocean View: Morgan Carles (swimming), Santiago Valle (swimming, water polo);
- Orange: Natalie Ramirez (tennis), Xavier Valentine (football);
- Westminster: Robert Lapine (baseball), Thy Bui (tennis).

Students honored are nominated by their schools.

They must be a senior with a minimum of 3.5 GPA over the past three years with a letter in at least one varsity sport and participating in extracurricular activities. (music, drama, service groups, etc.)



**RANCHO ALAMITOS** has a powerhouse boys’ volleyball team. The Vaqueros are 14-4 overall and 5-0 in league action. Here they defeated La Quinta 3-2. Next is Rancho vs. Santa Ana Valley, 9-4. (GGUSD photo)

## Prep Sport Spotlight

### West County Baseball/Softball Results

**Monday baseball**

Bishop Marshall 4, Pacifica 1  
Marina 5, Tesoro 0

**Monday softball**

Santiago 10, Estancia 0  
Los Amigos 15, Orange 2  
Valencia 16, Ocean View 0

**Tuesday baseball**

Los Amigos 15, Western 0  
Loara 6, Rancho Alamitos 0  
Magnolia 19, Bolsa Grande 11  
Anaheim 5, Katella 2

**Tuesday softball**

Marina 3, Edison 0  
Huntington Beach 6, Gahr 0

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# 'Black Bag' a sleek spy thriller

Continued from page 5

the film as Arthur Stheiglitz, the head of NCSC. In his handful of scenes, Brosnan is rageful and ferocious, chomping into both Ikizukuri (prepared live fish) and the scenery.

His presence both enlivens a movie already humming with the uber-cool chemistry of Blanchett and Fassbender while transforming "Black Bag" into a twisty rejoinder to that notoriously skirt-chasing spy.

Here, Mr. Bond, is how sexy monogamy can be.

While directing a satellite to peer down upon his wife on some unknown mission in Europe, George explains their mystifying dynamic to Clarissa: "I watch her, and she watches me. If she gets into trouble, I will do everything in my power to extricate her."

In her response, Clarissa speaks for everyone: "That's so hot."

*"Black Bag," a Focus Features release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language including some sexual references, and some violence. Running time: 93 minutes.*



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# Baseball 2025: Who can stop the Dodgers from dominating?

Continued from page 6

multiple playoff rounds and player attrition as bodies buckle under data-driven maximum effort.

The only top spenders to win titles since the current luxury tax started have been the 2020 Dodgers, 2018 Boston Red Sox and 2009 Yankees.

## Athletics and Rays to play home games in minor league ballparks

The A's left the Oakland Coliseum, where they had played since moving from Kansas City for the 1968 season, and will spend at least three seasons at 14,000-capacity Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento before moving to a planned ballpark in

Las Vegas.

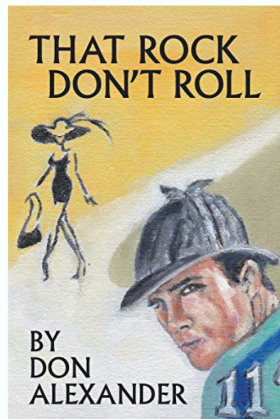
"The ballpark is charming," Manfred said. "I do think that fans are going to have an opportunity to see Major League Baseball all season long in a really intimate environment."

The Tampa Bay Rays were forced from Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg this season following damage caused by Hurricane Milton and will play home games across Tampa Bay at 11,000-capacity Steinbrenner Field, the Yankees' spring training base.

"The opportunity to play on the Tampa side could give insights into the Tampa Bay market as a whole that could be useful for the club moving forward," Manfred said.

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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.

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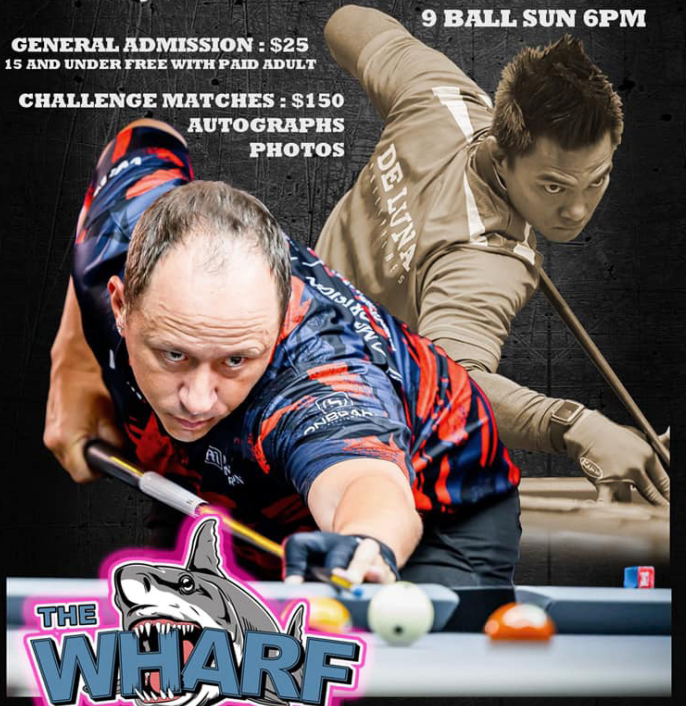
# SHANE VAN BOENING

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**EXHIBITION AT THE WHARF**

**SVB VS. JEFFREY DE LUNA : 10 BALL SAT 6PM**  
**9 BALL SUN 6PM**

**GENERAL ADMISSION : \$25**  
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