

THE DEVIL, YOU SAY!



Trevin Stephenson stars as a flamboyant Mr. Applegate (i.e., The Devil) in the classic baseball musical comedy "Damn Yankees" now on stage at the Gem Theatre in Garden Grove. See review by our Thom DeMartino on pages 5 and 8 (Photo by Ron Lyon).

Copter, Car, Foot Chase Ends in Jail

Good Samaritan lends a hand

A chase that started with a helicopter that included vehicle pursuits and a takedown on foot ended up with the arrest of two suspects Friday morning in Huntington Beach.

According to the HBPD, at about 10: a.m. the department's HB1 helicopter spotted a stolen white Prius traveling northbound on Pacific Coast Highway from Newport Beach into Huntington Beach.

HBPD officers noted that the white Prius was moving in tandem with another vehicle, a gray Prius.

A traffic stop was initiated, but neither vehicle stopped and a motor pursuit ensued northbound on PCH. The white Prius

went out of control while making a right turn onto 5th Street in the downtown area, colliding with a planter.

The female driver attempted to flee on foot and was tackled by a Good Samaritan. In her flight, the female discarded suspected narcotics and a firearm.

Other HBPD officers continued their pursuit of the gray Prius northbound on PCH. A spike strip was deployed at PCH and Warner Avenue, which slowed the vehicle and it eventually collided with a structure in the area of PCH and Park Avenue.

The male driver attempted to flee on foot, said police.

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Good news with the budget

Budgets, bongs and booms will be on the agenda for the Stanton City Council when it meets on Tuesday. The council will consider an adjustment to the municipal budget which is a matter of good news as in-

STANTON CITY COUNCIL

come for the 2024-25 fiscal year is up by \$1.1 million over the planned total, and expenses are down by \$815,662.

Also on Tuesday night, the council will consider a request for a second extension of expired cannabis cultivation permits. City staff is recommending denial.

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How to pay those service fees

If you have a financial transaction with the city and use a credit card, how should the service fees be paid?

GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday. Under items for consideration on the agenda for the council meeting is whether to implement a

merchant fee payment by customers for electronic payment transactions.

Currently the city's cost to handle credit card payments is \$450,000 annually. In an effort to

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In The Tribune



Outlook in in AL West

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'Yankees' darned good

ARTS & LIVING 5 and 8

Chase ends with arrests

Continued from page 1

and went into the adjacent harbor where he was apprehended with assistance from Huntington Beach Marine Safety, California State Parks personnel and the

Orange County Sheriff's Department.

There are no other suspects outstanding and the investigation is still ongoing.

Garden Grove City Council

Continued from page 1

recover that cost, there are two options: the city pays the processing company – Point and Pay LLC – but recovers the cost by charging the customer a convenience fee or the fees would be charged directly by Point and Pay to the customer.

Also on the agenda is:

- consideration of a request from Christ Cathedral to extend operating hours and have an exemption to the city noise ordinance for three separate events scheduled in 2025;
- the purchase of two vehicles for the police department at a total cost of \$247,912.

The council will meet in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. at 6:30 p.m.

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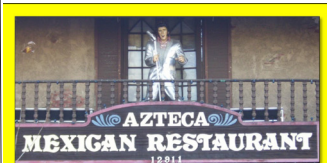
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Stanton council

Continued from page 1

Additionally, the council will take up proposed options for “strategies to deter the sale, purchase and use” of illegal fireworks in the city during the Fourth of July season.

The council will meet in its chambers in City Hall, 7800 Kattella Ave. (west of Beach Boulevard).



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News & Views

Crowded streets, empty seats in council chamber

Rome Wasn't Rebuilt in a Day Dept. And neither was West Orange County, apparently. Have you noticed that in the last week or two, there seems to be a big wave of road work? Underground utility work, asphaltting, curb repair....

I mean it's probably all good stuff, but when too many of those projects are clustered together, it creates a kind of maze or slow-speed slalom course.



Retorts

Jim Tortolano

It's enough to make a guy want to buy one of those two-sided STOP-SLOW signs and make his own traffic routes through town.

Get Out, Citizens Dept.: The recent meeting of the Huntington Beach City Council wherein some audience members grew so rowdy over the appointment of a seventh MAGA member to the council that police had to clear the room is both worrisome and instructive.

When the political structure of a city – all at-large council seats, and elected – not appointed – city attorney and clerk meets up with a highly politicized moment, it can blot out a voice for the minority, which may nevertheless represent a big chunk of the population.

I'm not saying that disrupting a city council meeting is the "best practices" for democracy, but neither is calling out the cops to roust the folks in the gallery.

Compromise, in a marriage as well as in government, is the key to avoiding ruinous confrontation and disunion. Let's all think of the other guy before we get too convinced of our own righteousness.

Pride goeth before a fall, y'all.

FIRE ON SENNIT AVENUE



A blaze on Sennit Avenue (east of La Quinta High School) in Garden Grove Wednesday afternoon brought firefighting crews not just from the Orange County Fire Authority but also the Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley fire departments. Arriving units found heavy flames coming from the house and downed power lines in the backyard. After making sure no one was in the house, firefighters make their attack. However a partial roof collapse and an unsecured open natural gas line forced them to fight the fire from the outside and protect the adjacent houses (OCFA/OC Hawk).

Stanton's plans for Norm Ross Park

It's been a long time coming, but it's on its way.

The final design is in progress and construction is planned to begin this year for a renovated Norm Ross Sports Park in Stanton.

Located at 11111 Cedar Street (adjacent to Stanton Park, south of the civic center and west of Beach Boulevard), the four-acre park will include an event plaza, a community building, a multi-purpose sports court, community garden and storage structure, dog park/dog run, picnic areas, exercise equipment, playground, baseball field, landscaping and irrigation, perimeter trail, shade structures and a new connecting bridge over the storm drain channel to Stanton Park.

Completion is expected in fall 2026.



IMPOUNDED E-BIKE

Showing off to the cops has payback

A youngster who decided it would be fun to defiantly "pop a wheelie" in front of Huntington Beach police officers learned a lesson earlier this week.

According to the HBPD, officers were able to track down the "rebellious teenager. They went to his home, issued him a citation and impounded his e-bike for 30 days.

News Briefs

GGUSD's Job Fair to be held on April 4

The Garden Grove Unified School District is holding a Job Fair for prospective employees in Friday, April 4 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Lincoln Education Center, 11262 Garden Grove Blvd. (east of Euclid Street).

Jobs available include campus safety assistant, food service workers, instructional aides and school community liaisons.

You can speak directly with hiring staff and even complete an application on-site.

The GGUSD serves most of Garden Grove and parts of Cypress, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Stanton and Westminster

NewsUpdate

Migrants Lose Work-Study Permits

Affected were those from Latin America

Temporary resident status will be revoked for over a half-million Latin Americans staying in the United States.

According to the Associated Press, the Department of Homeland Security will issue an order – effective April 24 – affecting Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans who were here on two-year permits to work or study.

There’s already a legal challenge to the order, filed on behalf of American citizens and immi-



WORK-STUDY permits for those from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela are affected (Shutterstock)

grants. DHS has already stopped processing new applications for the program.

According to the Associated Press, the Biden Administration had allowed up to 30,000 people

a month from the four countries for two years with eligibility to work.



TERMINAL AT HEATHROW AIRPORT (Wikipedia)

Fire, power failure closed Heathrow Airport in UK

A fire in an electrical substation in London brought Heathrow Airport to a standstill Friday, idling one of the world’s busiest centers of air travel.

The New York Times is reporting that after being forced to cancel or divert over 1,000 flights, some flights resumed and “100 percent” operation is expected by Saturday.

Metropolitan Police are investigating the cause of the blaze that knocked out the power, but are not treating the fire as “suspicious.”

The airport is dependent on a single substation, which held 25,000 liters of cooling oil that fueled the fire that shut down the airport.

George Foreman, boxer and pitcher, dead at 76

George Foreman, the heavyweight boxer who fought Muhammed Ali in “The Rumble in the Jungle,” is dead at the age of 76.

The cause of his death was not immediately revealed.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Foreman – twice the heavyweight champion of the world – was well-known to later generations as the pitcher for his George Foreman Lean Mean Grill.

Foreman became famous in the 1968 Olympic Games when he defeated the Soviet fighter for the gold medal and waved



GEORGE FOREMAN in 2009.

a small American flag, a stark-contrast to “Black Power” protests by others.

He won the heavyweight title in 1973 by defeating champion Joe Frazier – who had beaten Ali – and regained it in 1994 at the age of 45.

Weather: That Seventies’ show

Temperatures in our West Orange County will stay in a comfortable range in the 70s through the weekend and into the new week. The forecast calls for a daytime high of 73 and an overnight low of 54 with mostly sunny skies. Sunday will be similar at 73 (52) with partly cloudy skies. Things will warm up a bit on Monday to 78 (54) with partly cloudy skies, and then cool slightly to 75 (53) with mostly cloudy skies on Tuesday.

Arts & Living

'Damn Yankees' is Darn Good

Selling a soul
for the long ball
at Gem Theatre

By Thom deMartino
Orange County Tribune

What would you sacrifice to gain your deepest wish?

Middle-aged insurance underwriter and baseball superfan Joe Boyd (William Jordan) knows – his will only cost him his immortal soul.

With their first big show of the year, the Gem Theatre and One More Productions bring the classic Broadway favorite "Damn Yankees" to their Garden Grove stage.

It's the tale of a fanatic follower of the floundering baseball team the Washington Senators, Joe Boyd, who, after lamenting how his team desperately needs a long-distance hitter, gets a sudden visit from the mysterious, smooth-talking Mr. Applegate (Trevin Stephenson).

The literal devil-in-disguise makes Joe an offer he can't refuse: to be transformed into the young, athletic Joe Hardy (Aaron Gibbs) and take the baseball world by storm as the newest star player of the Senators.

But being the clever businessman, Joe won't agree without including an escape clause – he can still change his mind, but no later than midnight of September 24... as the season draws to a close.

Suddenly the team has a new prodigy, much to the surprise of the players, as well as the team manager Van Buren (Lew Stowers).

However, the mysterious new player has also caught the attention of sports reporter Gloria Thorpe (Kellie Petrosian) – who nicknames him "Shoeless Joe," and wants details on where he comes from, where he's been... questions Joe is keen to avoid.



"YOU GOTTA HAVE HEART," sings Senators' manager Van Buren (Lew Stowers) in the Gem Theatre's production on "Damn Yankees" now on stage (Ron Lyon photo)

Stage Review

But even though he may be living his dream as a young man, his devoted wife Meg (Rosie Quintana) remains waiting for him, thinking him gone on an extended business trip – and Joe finds he can't stop thinking about her either, frequently taking nightly strolls down the street where he's lived with her. He even rents a room from her (as his alter ego), he's so desperate to still be part of her life.

This proves to be a thorn in Applegate's side, and the devilish salesman is driven to unleash his secret weapon: the irresistible seductress of Hell, Lola (Briana Bauer), to turn her charms upon the lovelorn and pining player and distract him from his thoughts of Meg.

But Joe's running out the clock, and the devil will have his due. Will he have enough time to lead the Senators to the pennant – or will it be game over for his immortal soul?

The Gem Theater and OMP have such a variety in the shows

they produce, it's always fun to see what they do with the classics. They've already put their unique spin on shows such as "Cabaret," "The Producers," "Gypsy" and "Oklahoma!"... and do no less of a stellar job with this one.

Stephenson's performance as Mr. Applegate is delightfully devilish and charmingly campy – at times, he even interacts with the audience. ("Laugh, or you're going to hell" he says dryly at one point, with a mischievous yet menacing gleam in his eye.) His solo of "Those Were the Good Old Days" is a phenomenal one.

Outstanding work by the pair of Joes: both older and younger versions. Jordan's elder Joe is the eager and obsessive baseball fan, but one sees the deep love he holds for Meg; Gibbs' work as the younger Joe is enchanting (no pun intended), bringing the full force of his musical talents to the role.

There are many talented new faces in this show to welcome into the fold; not the least of which is Ms. Quintana as Meg – making a marvelous debut on

Great: ★★★★★

the Gem stage with her stirring vocal work. And when the talents of both she and Gibbs are combined (such as with the "A Man Doesn't Know" reprise), it is truly something special to behold.

It should also be noted there is excellent choreography in this show, as well as the work by the cast as a whole – bringing a flair to even the minor characters with their performances.

Of particular note should be Bauer's alluring, empathetic Lola – not only with her splendid vocal skills, but her deft work with said choreography as well.

It's another beloved Broadway staple brought to bewitching life on the One More Productions' stage, a little something for both sporting and musical fans alike. Playing through April 13, "Damn Yankees" is another home run for the Gem Theatre -- one that you'll want to witness for yourself.

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TheSportsPages

*You gotta have
hoax, people
like a hoax ...*

After seeing “Damn Yankees” at the Gem Theater in Garden Grove on Sunday, I’m reminded of how much sports inspires entertainment, everything since from Abbott and Costello’s famous “Who’s On First” routine to “Jerry Maguire” and “Remember the Titans.”

But we are given to understand that those are made-up tales. From time to time, though, made-up sports tales are passed-off as the real stuff, illustrating both how much we love athletics and how “we’ll believe anything.”

Pretty much forgotten but arguably the greatest sports hoax of all time involved the Plainfield Teachers College football team.

In 1941, the gridiron world was intrigued by the winning streak of this plucky New Jersey small college team which won seven straight games, the last three by a combined score of 85-0.

The invention of a stockbroker and a sports writer, the “result” of these games were phoned – with a straight face – into the wire services and major papers – including The New York Times.

They also concocted their own All-American candidate in Johnny “The Celestial Comet” Chung, who ate rice at halftime to boost his energy.

Eventually the hoax was exposed, but it demonstrated that journalists love a good story, true or not.

Baseball’s biggest hoax was an April 1, 1985 “feature” in Sports Illustrated on Mets phenom Sidd Finch who – using Eastern mysticism – could

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Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Look Out for Mariners

*Astros will be
strong as well
and Angels not*

By **Stephen Hawkins**
AP Baseball Writer

The Houston Astros will certainly look different when trying to continue their impressive run of AL West titles, after letting two of their best hitters go and with Jose Altuve likely moving to left field.

This could be the season that another team finally overtakes the Astros as division champs. Seattle has dynamic young center fielder Julio Rodríguez while seeking five consecutive winning seasons for the first time in franchise history.

The Athletics are no longer in Oakland and suddenly did some offseason spending, while the Los Angeles Angels are coming off a franchise-record 99 losses with Mike Trout finally healthy again but surrounded by a lot of young players.

And the Texas Rangers hope to renew a unique pattern for four-time World Series champion manager Bruce Bochy after missing the playoffs last season. Texas became World Series champs in 2023, as a wild card, after Bochy was hired.

For his three titles with San Francisco from 2010-14, the Giants missed the playoffs after each of the first two, then rebounded to win another the fol-



MIKE TROUT is healthy and back and relocated to right field for the Angels in 2025 (Wikipedia).

AL West Preview

lowing year.

The Astros last year failed to make it to the AL Championship Series for the first time in eight seasons, a stretch when they were World Series champs twice and the only time they didn’t win the West was the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

How They Project

1. **Texas Rangers:** The top of the starting rotation is in good shape after Nathan Eovaldi resigned, and two-time Cy Young

Award winner Jacob deGrom and Tyler Mahle both made late-season debuts last year after recovering from elbow surgery. There were spring setbacks with right-hander Jon Gray (fractured right wrist) and lefty Cody Bradford (elbow soreness) to start the season on the injured list.

There is no defined closer after All-Star Kirby Yates left in free agency, but veteran Chris Martin joins his hometown team for a prominent role in a restructured bullpen.

First baseman Jake Burger and two-time World Series champ Joc Pederson add pop to an offense that last year hit 57 fewer homers and scored a run less per

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Clippers rally and race past Grizzlies

■ ROUNDUP

Trailing at halftime? No problem, at least not for the Los Angeles Clippers, who surged in the second half and defeated the Memphis Grizzlies 128-108 in Inglewood on Friday night.

It was their fifth straight victory and eighth in nine games. With the victory, the Clips are 40-30, good for seventh in the NBA Western Conference and third in

the Pacific Division.

The home team trailed by six points at intermission, but rallied and outscored the visitors by 20 in the third period. James Harden led the way for the winners, scoring 30 points, grabbing four rebounds and contributing nine assists. He also

blocked two shots.

Kawhi Leonard added 23 points and 10 rebounds and Ivica Zubac scored 17 and had 10 cars-oms and two blocked shots.

Jaren Jakson Jr. scored 23 points for the Grizzlies (43-28).

The team next Sunday hosts the Oklahoma Thunder (58-12) and then the New York Knicks (43-26) on Wednesday.

Halos will have Trout and a lot of youth

Continued from page 6

game than in 2023.

2. **Seattle Mariners:** Even with four consecutive winning seasons, the Mariners made the playoffs only once in that span, and got swept by Houston in the 2022 AL Division Series after ending a 20-season postseason drought. The 24-year-old Rodríguez, the AL Rookie of the Year three seasons ago, could be set for a breakout year. Seattle has to hit better after a .224 average — only the 121-loss Chicago White Sox were worse. While right-hander George Kirby (13-10) opens the season on the IL with shoulder inflammation, the Mariners still have right-handers Luis Castillo (11-12), Logan Gilbert (9-12, 220 strikeouts in major league-high 208 2/3 IP), Bryce Miller (12-8) and Bryan Woo (9-3).

3. **Houston Astros:** The Astros traded outfielder Kyle Tucker and longtime third baseman Alex Bregman left in free agency. They then made a major upgrade at first base with the ad-

dition of Christian Walker, but he dealt with an oblique issue in spring training. Yordan Alvarez, the DH who is still 27, has had four consecutive 30-homer seasons. Framber Valdez returns after a 15-win season to lead a rotation that will open with several young arms but that could get a boost in the summer with the expected returns of Cristian Javier and Luis Garcia from Tommy John surgery.

4. **Athletics:** After an emotional 57th and final season in Oakland, when the A's showed progress with a 19-win improvement, their home for at least three seasons is a Triple-A stadium in Sacramento. They hope to start 2028 in Las Vegas, where their new stadium still has to be built. They still likely lack the depth needed to compete for a playoff spot after having MLB's lowest payroll for three straight seasons, but tripled the total number of \$60 million deals in franchise history with three this offseason: for young outfielder Lawrence Butler (\$65.5 mil-



JACOB deGROM is back with the Rangers after leaving the Mets. He's won two Cy Young Awards (Wikipedia).

lion over seven years), slugger Brent Rooker (\$60 million over five years) and free agent right-hander Luis Severino with a team-record \$67 million, three-year deal.

5. **Los Angeles Angels:** The Angels are hoping to start their climb after hitting rock-bottom last year, when they lost a club-record 99 games and extended the majors' longest streaks to nine consecutive losing seasons

and 10 straight non-playoff seasons. On paper, there's not much indication they'll take a major step forward, but they're hoping for another year of growth from their young core.

Trout is moving to right field to preserve his health after four straight injury-plagued seasons. Anthony Rendon needs hip surgery, and the \$245 million third baseman won't be back this season.

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'Damn Yankees' Sports Retorts

Continued from page 5

"Damn Yankees." Trevin Stephenson, Aaron Gibbs and Briana Bauer star in this modern, baseball-inspired Faustian tale of what a man will give to see his dreams come true. Playing through April 13 at The Gem Theater 12852 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA, 92840. Call 714-741-9550 x221 or email boxoffice@onemoreproductions.com for ticketing information.

Continued from page 6

throw a fast ball 168 miles an hour.

For a while the story in a prestigious national magazine was taken at face value, but there were some clues to the watchful. None of the photos in the article showed Finch's face, and there was a humorous acronym imbedded into the article's first sentence.

On the other hand, if I heard the Angels had a pitcher that homeric, I'd want to believe it, too.



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

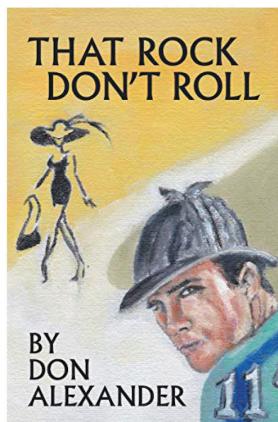
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

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SHARK AT THE WHARF



JUAQUIN DE LA CRUZ lines up a shot at The Wharf on Main Street in downtown Garden Grove. On March 5, The Wharf hosted the SoCal APA Poolplayer Qualifier Tournament and he won an entry to the \$15,000 Finals of the APA 8-Ball Championships at the Westgate in Las Vegas, April 27-May 3.

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