

REMEMBERING GABRIEL



A candlelight observance was held Tuesday evening outside the Garden Grove Unified School District offices noting the passing of Gabriel Mafi, 9-year-old son of GGUSD superintendent Gabriela Mafi (center) and husband Eugene (Orange County Tribune photo)

New hotels on Harbor still on radar for G.Grove

By Jim Tortolano and Marilyn Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

In the modern world of city operation, fostering and managing development – stores, offices, housing, factories, etc – is crucial to balancing budgets, providing services and maintaining a good quality of life.

For a look at how Garden Grove stands, we sat

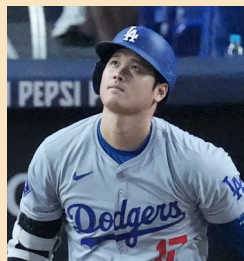
down with City Manager Lisa Kim,; assistant city manager/economic development and housing director Ursula Luna Reynolds and Niki Wetzel, community development director, for some updates.

This is an edited version of the conversation and some comments have been edited for length.

This is the first of several parts.

Continued on page 4

In The Trib



Shohei and Dodgers are off to Japan

SPORTS PAGE 6

■ GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

Progress Is Reported on Homelessness

Future plans outlined as well

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

A report on Garden Grove’s efforts to cope with the problems associated with homelessness won raves from the city council on Tuesday night.

In the presentation led by Asst. City Manager/Community Development Director Ursula-Luna Reynosa it was noted that the number of unhoused people counted in 2024 was a 39 percent decrease from 2022.

“The impact is dramat-

ic,” said Councilmember George Brietigam, going on to say that he believed that was the best record of any city he was familiar with.

In reporting to the council, various staff members reported on the functions and successes of the Navigation Center – a joint venture with the cities of Fountain Valley and Westminster.

Many of its residents have been connected with housing and others with employment. Sixteen of them

Continued on page 2

■ GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

3-story apt. complex site plan is approved

A site plan for a seven-unit, three-story residential apartment complex was approved at the March 6 meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission.

The project is to be built at the southwest corner of Lampson Avenue and Westlake Street on a 0.29-acre site – with one unit reserved for a “very low

income” resident.

The location of the project is west of Euclid Street near Ralston Intermediate School.

Also, the planning commission granted a request for a one-year time extension for a site plan to build a new 18,164-square foot shell industrial building at 11300 Western Ave. at Lincoln Way.

Homelessness update given to GG city council

Continued from page 1

have been hired to work this summer at Angel Stadium.

Other key points included:

- change in the demographics of the homeless toward younger people with fentanyl abuse issues;
- prospects for more permanent supportive housing and
- the effects of the city's anti-camping ordinance.
- new strategies to improve city efforts.

Suggestions made by councilmembers included providing liaisons with the homeless who spoke Vietnamese, Spanish and

other languages, as well as using the city's website to publicize programs available to the unhoused.



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News & Views

An especially taxing time to deal with taxes

It seems to me that this is a peculiarly unique moment to be filing your income tax.

At the same time that the IRS is gearing up to process the veritable mountain of returns that are already flowing into their offices, we are seeing plans to dramatically cut the staff of said service, offering some hope to those who chronically file late, or not at all.

Conversely, for those expecting a fat check from Uncle Sam's accountants, well, who's to say when that will arrive? And good luck trying to get through to their offices on the phone.

Our tax guy is in Nebraska and operates his practice in a room in his house, dressed in jeans and a T-shirt covered with a denim jacket. He's not your grandfather's tax preparer.

Conrad moved from California for a more affordable lifestyle, signifying how upside down our economy seems to be. "Nobody" can afford to buy a house in SoCal because the prices are so high, on the theory that "everybody" wants property here and sets the selling price on that basis.

The fella in The White House was elected – in part – because the price of eggs was too high – and now Wall Street is in a near-daily panic, shedding billions of dollars of stock value because Uncle Sam is poised to slap big tariffs on imports, consequently raising the price – potentially – of just about everything.

I know less about macroeconomics than almost anybody, but I can see how this is the time to invest in a nice blanket to pull over your head and hope the crazy times will soon go away.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Dog Bite Ends Freeway Chase

Pursuit of stolen Land Rover SUV began in G. Grove

After a chase across several cities and the ramming of two police vehicles, a fleeing suspect was finally subdued by a K-9 police dog.

According to Sgt. Nick Jensen of the Garden Grove Police Department, Jonathan McLaurin, 28, of Santa Ana, was arrested

Sunday afternoon after an extended pursuit that began in Garden Grove.

The vehicle had been stolen during a commercial burglary in Garden Grove earlier in the day. The chase began around 1:52 p.m. when a GGPD officer spotted a reportedly stolen vehicle in the area of Garden Grove and Harbor boulevards. The vehicle – a black Land Rover Sport – did not yield to the officer's attempt to make a traffic stop and a pursuit ensued.

During the chase, said Jensen, the

suspect "intentionally rammed" two separate police vehicles before finally coming to a stop on the Riverside (91) Freeway east of Imperial Highway.

A police armored vehicle was deployed to keep the Land Rover from fleeing again. After several attempts to get the suspect to leave the car on his own, a police dog was used and the suspect was taken into custody.

He was taken to a local hospital for treatment and booked into Orange County after receiving medical treatment.



RUDY'S MEXICAN GRILL is at Lampson Avenue and Knott Street in West Garden Grove (Tribune photo).

Rudy's Grill is small, chicken taste is big

By John Borack
Special to The Tribune

My former place of employment (for more than 25 years) was in West Garden Grove, so I was constantly searching for new places to dine in the area. These days I travel through Garden Grove quite often on my way to work, so the search for something new and different continues.

While driving to work recently, I decided to check out a

Chow Lines

place I had passed by for years but for some reason never tried: Rudy's Mexican Grill, located at the corner of Knott Street and Lampson Avenue, in a rather nondescript strip mall across from Pacifica High School.

I stopped by Rudy's Mexican Grill on a recent Thursday afternoon for an early dinner and

Hit-and-run takes life in Westminster

A 24-year-old Westminster man is facing manslaughter and other charges in the aftermath of a fatal traffic collision early Saturday morning in Westminster.

According to Commander Michael Harvey of the WPD, Abdallah Hussein Ali Eid was booked into Orange County Jail on charges of felony driving under the influence, felony hit and run, vehicular manslaughter and driving on a suspended license.

Around 2:03 a.m. police received several calls regarding a traffic collision involving an automobile and a motorcycle. Arriving officers found an adult motorcyclist on the ground in the southbound lanes of Beach Boulevard at McFadden Avenue.

The driver of the automobile – later identified as Ali Eid – was seen running southbound on Beach from the scene of the accident. Officers found the victim in the roadway suffering from severe injuries.

Orange County Fire Authority personnel responded to assist and declared the victim – whose identity was not released pending notification of the next of kin – pronounced dead at the scene.

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Continued on page 8

NewsUpdate

Education Dept. Staff Will Be Cut By 50%

The federal Department of Education is cutting half of its staff, as President Donald Trump has vowed to “wind the agency down.”

According to the Associated Press, more than 1,300 of its employees will be laid off, it was announced on Tuesday. With the terminations and previous buyouts and firing of probationary employees, the total number of employees in the Education Department – established in 1979 – is described as half of its previous numbers.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said that reduction in “bloat” would make it possible to direct more money to local education.

The next federal agencies to face downsizing is the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Social Security Administration, reports the AP.

Threat of big tariff hike vs. Canada is withdrawn

President Trump’s threat to double tariffs on the importation of steel and aluminum products from Canada on Tuesday was withdrawn a few hours later.

The New York Times is reporting that the province of Ontario threatened to slap a surcharge on electricity sold into the U.S., which prompted a threat from Trump to hit back with higher tariffs.

The president said that he would “probably” reduce the tariffs on metals from Canada.

Great Thoughts

“There is no indispensable man.”
– Woodrow Wilson, American president

“It is only with the best of intentions that the worst work is done.”
– Oscar Wilde, Irish writer

Weather: Rain through Thursday

The outlook for our West Orange County area is for more rain toward the weekend. Wednesday should have a daytime high of 60 with an overnight low of 51 with showers. More rain is predicted for Thursday with temps of 58 (43) and a 73 percent chance of the wet stuff. Afternoon showers are forecast for Friday with a 57 percent chance of rain and temps of 55 (46). On Saturday, there’s a warming trend to 65 (47) with partly cloudy skies.



LISA KIM, Ursula Luna-Reynosa, and Niki Wetzel (Orange County Tribune photo).

Developing The Future of the Big Strawberry

Continued from page 1

Question: What’s the status of the three major hotels planned for Harbor Boulevard which still stand on empty lots?

Ursula: In general, interest rates are a huge factor for investors. It’s not a great environment for borrowing and construction costs are getting higher and not just for commercial construction. We still see interest in building those hotels but they are multi-billion dollar investments.

How long do we hang on to them? They’re almost ready to pull building permits. There’s no better or higher use. I think we’re willing to hold on.

Which are some developments pending for Garden Grove?

Ursula: Our first Dutch Bros. coffee will open on Brookhurst Street by the end of March. Lisa: It has a huge cult following ... everybody’s waiting for Dutch Bros. to open. Ursula: The Office Depot building has been demolished and the Costco gas station will be moved to that spot [facing Garden Grove Boulevard] and replaced with parking [at the former gas station site]. Lisa: Many residents visit the Costco two or three times a week. One of my colleagues drives to the Garden Grove Costco because

the gas here is less expensive.

What’s the status of retail and commercial development?

Lisa: Big retailers are not doing that well because of the Amazon effect. We’re focusing on independent operators.

The Thirsty Cow [Korean BBQ under construction in Eastgate Plaza at Chapman Avenue and Valley View] is 9,000 square feet. It will generate income equivalent to a Cheesecake Factory.

Ever since COVID-19, people have been dining out more.

Ursula: We have been over-retailed in the United States for some time.

I am actually attending a conference in Los Angeles called Entertainment Expo and it’s this conference that focuses on developers who are interested in taking over, kind of defunct retail space and creating this experiential kind of retail-food entertainment kind of thing.

There have been studies that Garden Grove needs more entertainment. We are a destination right next to Disneyland. We have done really well but there really is a need for more entertainment.

Next: Mixed use and its challenges.

Arts & Living

He's Got The Worst Job Ever

'Mickey17' needs worker's comp in this career

By Jocelyn Noveck
AP National Writer

So you think YOUR job is bad? Sorry if we seem to be lacking empathy here. But however crummy you think your 9-5 routine is, it'll never be as bad as Robert Pattinson's in Bong Joon Ho's "Mickey 17" — nor will any job, on Earth or any planet, approach this level of misery.

Mickey, you see, is an "Expendable," and by this we don't mean he's a cast member in yet another sequel to Sylvester Stallone's tired band of mercenaries ("Expend17ables"?). No, even worse! He's literally expendable, in that his job description requires that he die, over and over, in the worst possible ways, only to be "reprinted" once again as the next Mickey.

And from here stems the good news, besides the excellent Pattinson, whom we hope got hazard pay, about Bong's hotly anticipated follow-up to "Parasite."

There's creativity to spare, and much of it surrounds the ways he finds for his lead character to expire — again and again.

The bad news, besides, well, all the death, is that much of this film devolves into narrative chaos, bloat and excess. In so many ways, the always inventive Bong just doesn't know where to stop. It hardly seems a surprise that the sci-fi novel, by Edward Ashton, he's adapting here is called "Mickey7" — Bong decided to add 10 more Mickeys.

The first act, though, is crackling. We begin with Mickey lying alone at the bottom of a crevasse, having barely survived a fall. It is the year 2058, and he's part of a colonizing expedition from Earth to a far-off planet. He's surely about to die. In fact,



ROBERT PATTINSON stars (repeatedly) in "Mickey 17" (Warner Bros.).

Movie Review

the outcome is so expected that his friend Timo (Steven Yeun), staring down the crevasse, asks casually: "Haven't you died yet?"

How did Mickey get here? We flash back to Earth, where Mickey and Timo ran afoul of a villainous loan shark. This man likes to dine while watching his goons torture delinquent borrowers. Needless to say, the two young men need to escape — and far.

So they join the expedition to planet Nilfheim. Filling out his job application, Mickey, a hapless chap with an American grifter accent apparently subconsciously inspired by Steve Buscemi in " Fargo," fails to read the fine print. He's distracted by the smell of a woman's hair.

It's rather a shock, then, when he learns what he signed up for. During the four-plus year journey, he'll be a human guinea pig, subjected to countless fatal indignities. Sending him out to absorb cosmic radiation, they ask Mickey to track the moment

his skin burns and the moment he becomes blind. When his hand falls off and floats by the ship's windows, nobody takes notice.

That's because a human "printer" awaits — looking a lot like an MRI machine — ready to reprint him, with memory backup. Human printing has been banned on Earth, but is legal in space, where there is also, unfortunately, no worker's comp.

Things are bleak on the ship. Food is rationed severely. Sex takes up too many calories, so it is banned, by none other than Kenneth Marshall, the wealthy, pompous, thin-skinned leader of the expedition (Mark Ruffalo) and his unpleasantly perky wife, Ylfa (Toni Collette). This is inconvenient for Mickey, whose shipboard life is made bearable only by Nasha (Naomi Ackie), his brave and loving girlfriend, but they seem to get it on nonetheless, between Mickey's deaths and new lives.

Marshall's supporters wear red baseball caps, which gives you a pretty good hint as to which real-life leader Ruffalo, and Bong, are trying to evoke here. Current political references aside, Ruffa-

Fair: ★★

lo relies mainly on an eccentric facial tic, and it must be said that both he and Collette grow more buffoonish, and hence more tiresome, as time goes on.

But Pattinson's Mickey is the life (um, lives) we care about. By the time he falls into a crevasse and meets up with some presumably terrifying but also cute native animals — creepers, they're called — sure to eat him alive, he is Mickey 17.

But somehow, he miraculously survives. And things really get complicated when he gets back to the ship and meets — what? — Mickey 18. Oh no! Suddenly he's not only an Expendable, he's a Multiple. This is bad news.

Pattinson does double duty in the now-dual role, with one Mickey much more violent and nasty than the other as the two fight for survival. It's his movie, and he saves it from Bong's tendencies to overstuff the proceedings. In an extremely physical, committed, even exhausting

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TheSportsPages

Mo was mo of a pain to Halos than an asset

For which party do you feel worse for? Mo Vaughn or the Angels?

Vaughn, the 1995 MVP in the American League, left the Boston Red Sox and signed as a free agent with the then-Anaheim Angels for a six-year \$80 million contract in 1999.

He was widely-touted as the solution to the forever-struggling Halos both on the field and in the clubhouse, regarded as a leader who would inspire other Angels to greater feats.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

As our more mature readers will remember, in his first game with the team, he was chasing a foul ball and fell into the visitors' dugout, badly spraining his ankle and missing an entire season.

He was not exactly a washout in Anaheim, but he was not popular for his forceful – some would say obnoxious – personality with other players and nobody wept when he was traded to the Mets.

He's back in the news now after admitting in an interview with The Atlantic that he had used HGH (human growth hormone) in an effort to overcome knee problems.

He remains a cautionary tale for the Angels, who continue to pursue success on the field by signing expensive free agents who are either over-the-hill or pains in the keister, or both.

Strange Sighting Dept. Saw a newspaper headline the other day reading "UCLA wins Big Ten title."

For a second, I thought, that somebody had made a mistake. UCLA's not in the ... oh, yeah Big time college sports are going a bit nutty ... I remember now.

Dodgers Ready for Japan

Blue Crew will face Cubs on March 18 and 19

By David Brandt
AP Sports Writer

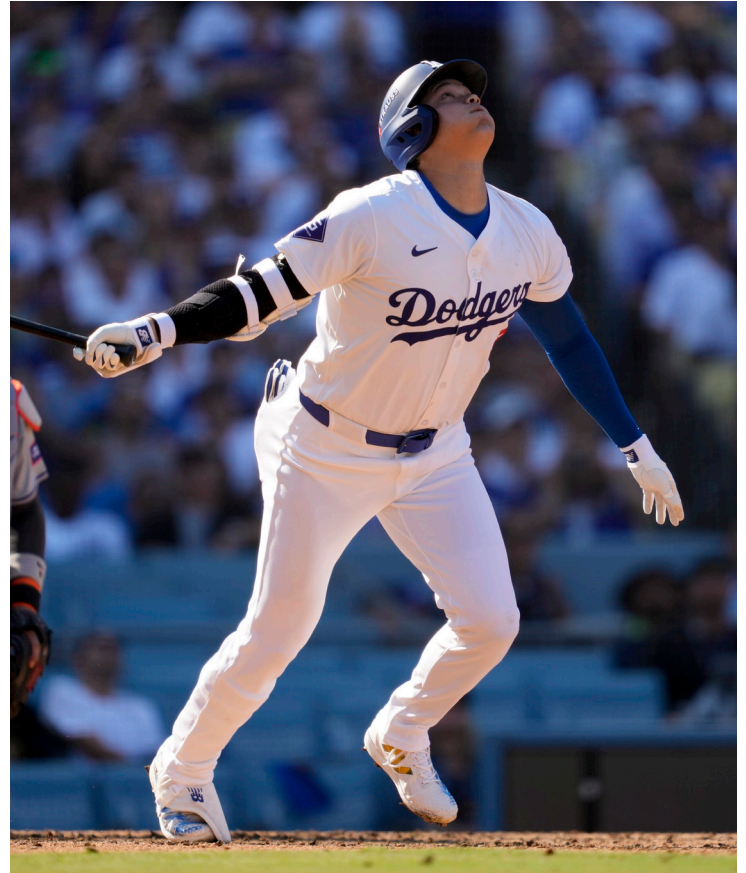
GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Shohei Ohtani's bat is ready for the Los Angeles Dodgers while Shota Imanaga has looked good on the mound for the Chicago Cubs with less than 10 days remaining before baseball's regular-season opener in Japan.

The teams will play two games at the Tokyo Dome on March 18 and 19.

The early start to the season — more than a week before the schedule begins domestically — has led to a truncated spring schedule for the Dodgers and Cubs, though both teams have managed to navigate the shorter preparation time in fairly good health.

They're trying to keep it that way as they navigate a fun, but unique week that includes long flights to and from Japan, along with a 15-hour time difference between the two locations.

"It's two games and we're not going to exhaust everything to get ready for two games," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said early in camp. "But also, we want to be ready and prepared to win two games in Tokyo while appreciating that when we come back, we'll have time to get ready for the domestic opener."



SHOHEI OHTANI won't be pitching until May — at the earliest — but all eyes will be on him at bat when the Dodgers play in Japan next week (AP photo).

All eyes have been on Ohtani, the reigning National League MVP, who is still recovering from offseason surgery on his left (non-throwing) shoulder. The 30-year-old has looked fine at the plate during Cactus League play with a .357 average in 14 at-bats, including a double

and a homer. The two-way star won't pitch in Japan and has slowed his work on the mound in recent days as he concentrates on being the designated hitter in Tokyo. Roberts believes that Ohtani could return to the mound in May,

Continued on page 8

Kings win; Clippers and Ducks fall

Seven players scored in double figures as the New Orleans Pelicans defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 127-120 on Tuesday night.

The Clippers were led by Kawhi Leonard with 29 points, including four three-pointers. James Harden added 25 (with four treys) as the teams' record slipped to 35-30. That's good for second

■ NBA and NHL

place in the NBA Western Conference and second in the Pacific Division.

The Anaheim Ducks lost 7-4 to the Washington Capitals at the Honda Center. Jacob Trouba, Drew Helleson, Pavel Mintyukov and Frank Vatrano scored

for Anaheim. With the loss the Ducks are 28-29-27.

The Los Angeles Kings (34-20-9) beat the New York Islanders 4-1. Scoring were Philip Danault, Quinton Byfield, Drew Doughty and Vladislav Gavrikov. The team's seventh in the NH: Western Conference and third in the NHL Pacific.

Oilers – no surprise – are number 1

HBHS posts an 8-3 victory in season opener

The Huntington Beach Oiler baseball team has only played one game this 2025 season but it is already highly ranked nationally and – of course – in The Tribune’s baseball High 5.

The orange-and-black, ranked sixth in the nation and third in California, opened with an 8-3 win over Harvard Westlake.

They’ll be back in action on Thursday hosting a pretty good Fountain Valley (3-2) team and then visit district rival Marina (6-2), which is our third-ranked team for the West County area.

Edison (4-2) is rated second. In fourth is Ocean View (4-3) and Orange is fifth with a 4-3-1 mark. These records don’t reflect results of games scheduled on Tuesday, some of which may have been postponed due to wet weather.



MARINA HIGH freshman Aubree Gutierrez (center) won the CIF State Wrestling title in the 110-lb. division competition in Bakersfield (HBUHSD photo)

Southern California claims many of the top prep baseball teams in the country. According to MaxPreps, at the top is Corona High (3-0).

Other area teams are La Mirada (seventh, 3-0), Santa Margarita (13th, 4-0) and Mater Dei (21st, 5-0).

Also highly-ranked are Laguna Beach (6-0), Corona del Mar (5-

1), Foothill (6-2), Brea Olinda (5-1), Warren High of Downey (7-1), Los Alamitos (5-0-2), Mission Viejo (4-2), Servite (5-1) and Aliso Niguel (7-3).

Most teams have not yet begun league play, but some will play this week and others will play a split league season with some games before tournaments and some afterwards.

Prep Sport Spotlight

Baseball/Softball

Monday baseball

Rancho Alamitos 6, Saddleback 3
Edison 2, Katella 0
Savanna 9, Los Amigos 3
Magnolia 7, Western 5

Monday softball

La Quinta 13, Godinez 12
Portola 18, Orange 3
Savanna 16, Magnolia 0
Calvary Chapel 13, Westminster 4

Tuesday baseball

Garden Grove 10, Bolsa Grande 3

Tuesday softball

Corona del Mar 9, Western 3

Coaches, parents, fans, etc. are encouraged to submit scores stats, photos, feature ideas to orangecountytribune@gmail.com.

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Dodgers and Cubs will face off in Japan

Continued from page 6

though the manager said he's keeping the timeline intentionally vague.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto and rookie Roki Sasaki are expected to start on the mound for the Dodgers in the regular-season games in Japan. The 23-year-old Sasaki was dominant in his first spring outing with five strikeouts over three scoreless innings.

Yamamoto will throw on Monday and Sasaki on Tuesday in their final spring training starts. Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman has smacked three homers so far in the Cactus

League, appearing to recover well from offseason ankle surgery. Mookie Betts has been solid in his transition to a role as the full-time shortstop.

Both teams will have a 31-man

travel roster in Japan that will be reduced to 26 for the two regular-season games. All 31 players will be available to play in exhibition games against Japanese teams on March 15 and 16.

Rudy's menu: small type, big choices

Continued from page 3

it did not disappoint. The first thing I noticed upon entering is the menu on the wall behind the counter: it's pretty massive and the print is extremely tiny. There's also a printed menu on the counter ... but unfortunately, that's just as tiny.

Since my eyesight isn't what it used to be, I turned my attention to the daily specials listed near the counter. Below the specials I spotted two words that immediately caught my attention: chicken mole.

Chicken mole (pronounced mo-lay, if you're unfamiliar) happens to be one of my favorite Mexican dishes, and one that is not always served at Mexican restaurants.

Mole sauce is highlighted by the twin flavors of chili and chocolate—yes, chocolate—and is slightly sweet, slightly smoky, and very tasty—when done properly. (I've had a few awful mole experiences, including one at a restaurant that shall remain unnamed in the city of Orange, where it tasted like the poor chicken had been bathed in a melted Hershey bar. Yuck.)

At any rate, after ordering at the counter, my dinner was served promptly and cheerfully. Most chicken mole dishes I have tried in California use boneless chicken breasts, but Rudy's comes with a leg and a thigh, along with rice, beans, and four tortillas.

After the first bite of chicken, I was suitably impressed: the

meat was so tender it was literally falling off the bone. The beans and rice were pretty standard, but I was able to flavor them up a tad more by adding several drops of jalapeno salsa from the salsa bar. (They have 10 different varieties available.)

The corn tortillas were hot and fresh, and perfect for dipping in the mole sauce. The cost for the dinner was \$14.99, which was perfectly reasonable given the amount and quality of the food.

Rudy's Mexican Grill is a family-owned business and recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary in Garden Grove, and while it's definitely nothing fancy, the food is definitely high-quality and super fresh. Just remember to bring a magnifying glass along to read the menu. (I kid.)

Rudy's is located at 12525 Knott St. in Garden Grove and they're open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. They do not seem to have a website, but you can find them on Yelp.

Fatal hit & run in Westminster

Continued from page 5

WPD officers were able to quickly locate Eid in the area with the help of several witnesses. They determined that Eid was the driver of the car and arrested him for several traffic felonies.

He was taken to a local hospital for injuries he'd suffered in the crash before being booked at Orange County Jail.

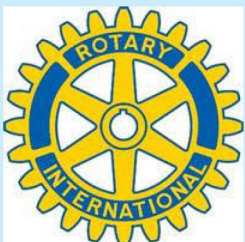
Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact Sergeant Kent at (714) 898-3315, ext. 3790.

'Mickey 17'

Continued from page 5

performance, Pattinson takes what could have been an unwieldy mess and makes it much less, well, expendable.

Hopefully he's recovering well. "Mickey 17," a Warner Bros. release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for violent content, language throughout, sexual content and drug material." Running time: 139 minutes.



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

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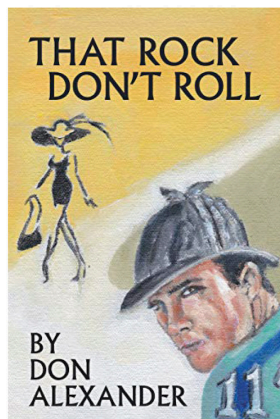
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.