

# GG Man Dies After He Was Hit by Auto

## Suspect due in court on June 2nd

A teenager accused of driving over and killing a Garden Grove man in El Monte is scheduled for a court hearing on June 2.

According to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, the 16-year-old boy is facing two counts of second degree robbery, and one count of murder.

The youth's identity is not public, as he is a juvenile. He will appear in Eastlake Juvenile Court to answer the charges.

He is accused of driving a car that ran over and fatally injured Kourosh Yaghoubi, 63, in a shoplifting incident on April 9.

The victim was trying to stop thieves who had taken goods from Giant Discount, a store owned by the victims' brother.

One of the suspects ran out of the store and was chased by Yaghoubi, who was allegedly struck and run over by a vehicle driven by the suspect.

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies believe there were at least four persons in the car – a blue sedan – and they are being sought.

Anyone with information

Continued on page 2

# Mother is arrested on child abuse charges

A woman accused of felony child abuse and child endangerment is due in court on Monday, May 5 after it was discovered that her 16-month-old child had tested positive for cocaine.

According to the Garden Grove Police Department, Quynh Gia Vo, 28, was arrested after she brought her child to Garden Grove Hospital where the pres-

ence of the drug was discovered during treatment. She pleaded not guilty and denied a sentencing enhancement for "great bodily injury" on a child below the age of 5 at her arraignment in a jail courtroom in Santa Ana.

Her appearance in West Justice Center in Westminster will be for a pre-trial hearing and a review of her bail.



TRUONG Minh Phu, 20, center, sits in a classroom with other students at a school for victims of Agent Orange in Da Nang, Vietnam, March 7, 2025. (AP Photo/Aniruddha Ghosal)

# War's legacy remains in the effects of the 'Agent Orange'

By Anirunda Ghosal and Hau Dinh  
Associated Press

DA NANG, Vietnam (AP) — The Vietnam War ended on April 30, 1975, when the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces. But millions of people still face daily battles with its chemical legacy.

Nguyen Thanh Hai, 34, is one of millions with disabilities linked to Agent Orange.

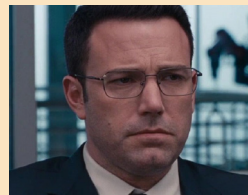
Born with severe developmental challenges, it's a struggle for him to complete tasks others take for granted: buttoning the blue shirt he wears to a special school in Da Nang, practicing the al-

SOME THOUGHTS about the war's unexpected aftermath. Page 3.

where departing troops left behind huge amounts of Agent Orange that have lingered for decades, leeching into food and water supplies in areas like Hai's village and

Continued on page 10

## In The Tribune



'Accountant 2' still adds up

ARTS & LIVING 5



Matt's return is rejoiced

SPORTS 6 and 8

# ‘Agent Orange’ legacy

Continued from page 1

affecting generations of residents.

Across Vietnam, U.S. forces sprayed 72 million liters (19 million gallons) of defoliants during the war to strip the enemy’s cover. More than half was Agent Orange, a blend of herbicides.

Agent Orange was laced with dioxin, a type of chemical linked to cancer, birth defects and lasting environmental damage. Today, 3 million people, including many children, still suffer serious health issues associated with exposure to it.

Vietnam has spent decades cleaning up the toxic legacy of

the war, in part funded by belated U.S. assistance, but the work is far from complete. Now, millions in Vietnam are worried that the U.S. may abandon Agent Orange cleanup as President Donald Trump slashes foreign aid.

## Decades of contamination

When the war ended, the U.S. turned its back on Vietnam, eager to turn the page on a painful chapter in its history.

But Vietnam was left with dozens of dioxin hotspots spread across 58 of its 63 provinces. Vietnam says the health impacts last generations, threatening the children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren of people exposed to the chemicals with health complications ranging from cancer to birth defects that affects the spine and nervous system.

But the science about the human health impact — both to those exposed to Agent Orange and the generations that fol-

Continued on page 10

# GG man is killed

Continued from page 1

about the case is asked to call the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department detective bureau at (323) 890-5500.

## The Tribune

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Established Aug. 6, 2016. All opinions expressed in The Tribune, unless otherwise stated, are those of the individual writer or artist and not necessarily those of The Tribune.

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# News & Views

## 50 years later, war's outcome looked unlikely

This week many in our Vietnamese community are observing – you surely couldn't call it "celebrating" the end of what we call the Vietnam War, a long-running tragedy that spanned three decades, killed several million people and changed the world.



**Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

Among those old enough to have lived through that time, it remains a series of images on TV screen – protests in the

streets, mounting casualties in the jungles and hills outside the cities of South Vietnam, the burning of draft cards, political posturing.

But for those who actually fought the war it was more than a report on the evening news. For some there was emotional as well as physical pain. For others it was a sense of loss in losing their homeland.

I was just young enough to miss being drafted. But my brother was conscripted and was sent – to his considerable relief – to Korea instead.

Years later when I joined the military, some of my fellow soldiers were Vietnam vets. They didn't care to talk about it except for the one who found it amusing to tell that his Purple Heart was for getting artillery shrapnel in his behind, not unlike Forrest Gump.

Looking at the war's end from the distance of 50 years, the question that comes to mind is this: what were we – on all sides – fighting for?

Our side was trying to stop Communism – their goal was to unify their country and stop capitalism.

Continued on page 8

## SCHOOLS ROUNDUP



**HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR** Sam Silberberg appeared last week at Huntington Beach High School as part of the "Courage to Remember" event at HBHS. It's the 80th anniversary of his escape from a Nazi death march on Jan. 26, 1945. A walk-through exhibit was open in the student center. (HBUHSD photo)).

## Latino/Hispanic 'Cultural Night' held for students in the GGUSD

The eighth annual "Cultural Night" celebrating Hispanic and Latino culture and tradition was recently held at Los Amigos High School in Fountain Valley.

The event was organized by student leaders of the Latinos United groups who bought together music, dance, food and fun at the event.

Student performances were from all seven comprehensive high schools in the Garden Grove Unified School District along with Alamitos Intermediate and Clinton and Newhope elementary schools.

Featured were mariachi and accordion music, along with folklorico (in photo) and salsa dancing, poetry readings and more. Food choices included tacos, tamales and chicharrones.



## Four arrests for DUI made at checkpoint

The Garden Grove Police Department is continuing its efforts to combat drunk driving.

On Friday a checkpoint was set up for persons "DUI" (driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, etc.) and racked up these statistics.

- 823 vehicles were screened;
- four DUI arrests were made;
- seven citations were issued for various vehicle code violations.

## Coffee with a cop at the mall next Monday at 9 a.m.

Want to sit down and have coffee with a cop? Ask some questions about police procedures, policies and maybe a career in law enforcement?

You will have your chance on Monday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Starbucks inside inside the Target department store on Bolsa Avenue at Goldwest Street.

You can enjoy a cup, talk with Westminster Police Department officers and command staff and meet Support K9 (that's a dog).

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The Tribune covers Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster each Wednesday and Saturday morning. It's non-partisan news for our towns.

# NewsUpdate

## Trump Will Soften Impact on Autos

### Offering rebate for first 2 years of the tariffs

In response to warnings that tariffs on automobiles and auto parts would have a negative impact on the U.S. economy, President Donald Trump signed executive orders on Tuesday to back off on some of the 25 percent tariffs he had promised.

“We just wanted to help them during this little transition, short term,” said the president. “We didn’t want to penalize them,” reports The Associated Press.

The administration’s goal is to bring automobile production jobs to the U.S., according to Scott Bessent, secretary of the treasury. What will be offered automakers that “finish their vehicles domes-



REBATES WILL BE OFFERED on automotive tariffs (Shutterstock).

tically a 15 percent rebate” this year to help offset the cost of the tariffs. The rebate will drop to 10

percent next year.

Those rebates would be available to domestic and overseas

companies with automobile plants in the United States, according to the AP.

### Great Thoughts

“Sovereignty lies in me alone. The legislative power is mine unconditionally and indivisibly.”

– Louis XV, King of France

“Concentrated power has always been the enemy of liberty.”

– Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States.

## Wisconsin judge is now suspended from duties

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan, the jurist who was arrested after allegedly trying to assist an undocumented immigrant avoid arrest was suspended Tuesday by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

According to USA Today, she was charged with two counts of obstructing a federal agency and concealing a person to prevent an arrest.

She has been temporarily re-

lieved of duty pending the outcome of her case.

She will continue to be paid her salary (\$174, 512 annually) while on administrative leave

Dugan allegedly escorted Eduardo Flores-Ruiz out a side door in the courtroom after learning that federal immigration agents were seeking him. FBI agents arrested her on the courthouse grounds.

## Canada’s Liberals will need help crafting a majority

The result from Monday’s parliamentary elections in Canada show the Liberal Party has fallen short of achieving a majority.

As reported by The New York Times, the Liberals – the party of Prime Minister Mark Carney – have won 169 of the 343 seats in the Parliament government. The Conservatives have 144 seats.

The Liberals therefore must seek to create a coalition from

members of the Green Party or New Democrats. If they can do that, it will mean a fourth consecutive term in office for them.

According to The Times, the Conservatives – led by Pierre Poilievre – were heavily favored to prevail until U.S. President Donald Trump spoke of annexing Canada. That ignited a nationalistic sentiment that worked to the advantage of Carney and the Liberals.

### Weather: If you like clouds ...

You will like our weather in our West Orange County cities for the next few days. Wednesday is forecast to have a daytime high of 69 with an overnight low of 57 with clouds in the morning and sunshine in the afternoon. Thursday and Friday will be similar at 68 (56) and 70 (58). Saturday should cool to 66 (54) with clouds all day.

# Arts & Living

## 'Accountant 2' Not A Write-Off

Ben Affleck has the bad guy's numbers

By Jake Coyle  
AP Film Writer

Hordes of horror films line up for Halloween and a sleigh full of Christmas movies arrive annually in December, but there is slightly less competition around the paper-pushing rite of Tax Day.

Yet on the heels of tax season, here is "The Accountant 2," Gavin O'Connor's sequel to the 2016 film that did not, exactly, leave audiences clamoring for another. But in a movie world where anything successful immediately gets a second one,

"The Accountant 2" has the benefit of not having much to live up to. Just balancing the books a little would count as a win for "The Accountant 2."

And by the low standards of the original, O'Connor's film, an untidy thriller about a fastidious CPA (Ben Affleck) whose powers of deduction are enhanced by his autism, just succeeds at punching up the numbers for "The Accountant" in this belated follow-up.

It's a role that was always an odd fit for Affleck. In a way, that's the intention. Affleck's Christian Wolff is a monotone bean counter who used to help criminal organizations launder money and clean their books. Now, he's a combination of stickler and vigilante whose insight into tax filings and other paper trails helps him hunt down any clue.

The best scene in "The Accountant 2" might be when he exposes a human trafficking scheme at a pizza company by rapidly calculating a dubious gap of underreported pizza box expenses. (There, if ever, is a reason to



BEN AFFLECK returns in "The Accountant 2" (Amazon/MGM Studios).

### Movie Review

keep your receipts.)

Affleck, of course, has always been a more garrulous, charismatic screen presence. The role of savant wasn't for him; it was for his "Good Will Hunting" costar, Matt Damon. Here, though, he's an emotionless android who speaks in clipped sentences and avoids eye contact. And while the "Rain Man" shtick of "The Accountant" always feels forced, you can tell Affleck is enjoying himself.

In "The Accountant 2," that's most true when he's paired up with Jon Bernthal. He plays Wolff's more outgoing and free-wheeling brother, Braxton, who has a knack for bloody mayhem but harbors hurt feelings from his brother's distance in recent years. The two make a fine action duo of opposites. The problem? It takes a long time in Bill Dubuque's unhurried and disordered script to get to them.

The movie begins with a set piece of misdirection that adds to the muddled nature of the first act. Retired FBI financial crimes boss Raymond King (J.K. Simmons) is meeting someone at a restaurant who might help in

his search for a family of Central American refugees. It's a hit job, though, with snipers in position, and a separate, mysterious assassin (Daniella Pineda) lurking about. The scene ends with King's body taken out with a message he's written on his forearm: "Find the accountant."

Marybeth Medina (Cynthia Addai-Robinson), King's former protege and financial crimes deputy, takes up the case. She knows enough about Wolff to know how to summon him — not with a Bat signal, exactly, but by phoning a neurological research center in New England and leaving a message with a receptionist.

Wolff is living contentedly out of an Airstream RV, with an office back at the research center full of young autistic computer hackers. The scenes here are clunky and don't always move the story along — there's an aimless but moderately funny one of Wolff speed dating. But once Braxton shows up — another awkward and labored character introduction, by way of a "Wizard of Oz" surrounded by dead bodies — "The Accountant 2" clicks into idiosyncratic place.

What that place "The Accountant 2" occupies probably

**Fair: ★★**

wouldn't stand up to scrutiny, let alone an audit. For a movie about a detail obsessive, it's curiously messy. But — and this might matter more — the film has a reasonably firm sense of just how serious and how knowingly silly a movie about an uber-talented accountant ought to be.

There is also just a wisp of real-life relevancy. By centering an accountant thriller on the fate of a migrant family, "The Accountant 2" might even be said to be timely. The Trump administration is in the midst of cutting IRS employees, some of whom, including acting commissioner Melanie Krause, have resigned in part over a decision to use IRS data to help deport undocumented immigrants. For departing IRS workers, "The Accountant 2" might just be the most cathartic movie of the year.

"The Accountant 2," an Amazon MGM Studios release that opens in theaters Thursday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong violence, and language throughout. Running time: 125 minutes.

# TheSportsPages

*Or maybe some timely rain-outs now and then ...*

In assessing the Los Angeles Angels' prospects for 2025, I told anyone who would listen that "well, they finished last in 2024. They can't do worse than that."

So ... is finishing last two years in a row worse?

On Sunday, the Angels lost 5-0 to the Minnesota Twins in the Gopher State to see their record fall to 12-15 – last place in the AL West.

They're even below the home-less Athletics (14-14). They may be regarded in

the same breath as the fictional Ruppert Mundys (see the "The Great American Novel" by Philip Roth).

Now, of course, it's much too early to concede the season.

In fact, there's one aspect in which the Halos are improved over last year's version. In 2024, they couldn't pitch or hit well. This year, the pitching is decent, but after an early flurry of homers, the batting has gone further south.

To date, the team is hitting .213, next to last in MLB, and just ahead of the pathetic White Sox (7-21)).

I'm not trying to be mean. Batting in the big leagues is about as difficult a thing to do as there is in sports, and hitting is down for both leagues, as it was last year.

There are lots of remedies for such a hitting hiccup. They include working on your batting mechanics, getting better at other things – like base-running – to maximize the effect of the hits do you get – or simply fixing your timing.

All good ideas, but as an observer of baseball for many

Continued on page 8



## Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

# Matt's Back (For Now)

*QB's return may make the Rams a contender again*

By Greg Beacham  
AP Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a second offseason of financial discontent, Matthew Stafford is glad to be back at work with the Los Angeles Rams.

The Super Bowl-winning quarterback attended the start of the Rams' voluntary offseason workout program last Monday several weeks after getting a substantial raise on the contract extension he received three years ago when the Rams won it all. Stafford got a restructured deal for the second straight offseason after challenging the Rams for better terms.

The 37-year-old Stafford didn't go into many details about the standoff, which was much shorter this season after it stretched up to the start of training camp in 2024. The quarterback also acknowledged he did "due diligence" on potential landing spots in a trade before the Rams gave him what he wanted.



**MATT STAFFORD** has ironed-out the details for a new contract and looks forward to the fall (Rams photo).

"There's so many positive things about our organization, about our team," Stafford said. "Never really wanted to leave, so just happy to be back and happy that the Rams want me back, and hopefully we can

move forward and have a great season."

Stafford, who began his career with 12 years in Detroit, will play his fifth season in Los Angeles after strongly considering

Continued on page 8

## Halos still in last place; Dodgers rise into first

The Los Angeles Angels and Los Angeles Dodgers continued their ways on Tuesday night.

The Angels (12-16) continued to skid, falling 5-3 to the Seattle Mariners in the Northwest, keeping them in fifth and last place in the American League West.

The Dodgers (20-10) continued to win, defeating the Miami Marlins 15-2 to take over first place in the National League West.

In Seattle, the Halos staged a late rally but fell short. Logan

### THE ROUNDUP

O'Hoppe hit a solo home run in the seventh, his seventh round-tripper of the season.

Zach Neto, now in the leadoff spot, singled, walked and scored a run.

At Chavez Ravine the Blue Crew pounded out 18 hits, including Shohei Ohtani's seventh home run and Andy Pages' sixth.

Teo Hernandez batted 4-for-5 and drove in four runs.

## Clippers, Kings backs to the wall

The Los Angeles Clippers lost 131-115 to the Denver Nuggets in the Mile High City on Friday to fall behind three-games to two in their NBA West playoff series.

Ivica Zubac had 27 points and five rebounds for the Clips.

In NHL Stanley Cup playoffs, the Los Angeles Kings trail the Edmonton Oilers three games to two after losing to the Oilers 3-1 at home.

Andrei Kuzmenko scored the lone Kings goal.

# Vaqs put spikes in 2 league volleyball titles

The Rancho Alamitos boys' volleyball team faced off against Flintridge Prep in the first round CIF-SS Division 5 game on Tuesday and came away with an advance to the second round contest against the winner of the Saugus-Chaminade on Friday at 6 p.m.

This year's team has brought home the Garden Grove League championship after a long dry spell going back to 2012.

After the two previous years of just falling short of the championship, this year's team that has put together a 18-9 record and been led by Marcus Tran, Vi Lien Hung, Alex Madrid and Sean Nguyen.

Under new coaches Karyn Allen and Kevin Allen, since starting 2.5 years ago, they have put together a record of 37 wins and 13 losses



**THE RANCHO ALAMITOS** boys' volleyball team won the Garden Grove League title this year and advanced to the CIF-SS Division 5 playoffs this week (GGUSD photo)..

between both boys' and girls' programs.

They have also brought home a Garden Grove League championship for the girls' program which had the best season (18-5) in school history.

The team was led by Angela Alvarez, Miley Morales, Jaelin Tabaniag, Christina Trinh, Sophia Tran, Riley Way and Anjia Pham after a long dry spell of a not winning a league title.

## Prep Sport Spotlight

### West County Scores

#### Monday baseball

Villa Park 5, Ocean View 2

#### Monday softball

Bolsa Grande 17, Saddleback 5  
Huntington Beach 9, Los Al. 4  
Rio Hondo Prep 10, La Quinta 1

#### Tuesday baseball

Bolsa Grande 5, Santa Ana Valley 1  
Magnolia 8, Saddleback 3  
Hunt. Beach 18, Edison 1  
Orange 5, Savanna 0  
Rancho Alamitos 6, Western 0  
Garden Grove 5, Westminster 3

#### Tuesday softball

Los Osos 14, Western 0  
Fountain Valley 3, Edison 1

#### Tuesday CIF-SS boys' v-ball

Rancho Alamitos 3, Flintridge 2  
Bolsa Grande 3, Torrance 2  
Ocean View 3, Palmdale Aero 1  
Garden Grove 3, Eastside 0



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# Stafford: tanned, rested and ready for 2025

Continued from page 6

the possibility of starting over elsewhere.

The sides have gently downplayed the seriousness of their negotiations, with coach Sean McVay saying that he never seriously thought Stafford would leave. But Stafford definitely thought about it: His agent got permission from the Rams to gauge the quarterback's potential value in a trade, and Stafford was quickly linked to theoretical deals with the Raiders and Giants.

"I think anytime those kind of things come up, you're obviously doing due diligence and looking around," Stafford said. "You obviously poke your head around and see what's going on. Obviously, wanting to be back with the Rams was my No. 1 priority, so I'm glad it worked out and I don't have to worry about it."

Heading into his 17th NFL season, Stafford has made it clear he will decide his future on a year-to-year basis from here on out, and the Rams seem content with that — for 2025, at least.

There's also the distinct possibility that the Rams will attempt to draft their quarterback of the future this week, either with the 26th

overall pick or by moving up.

"Whoever we draft, I hope they come in and help our team win," Stafford said. "You look at it last year, our first two picks were guys on defense that made huge impacts on our team. So for me, I'm just trying to load this team up with as many good players as we possibly can."

"If a quarterback comes along and they feel the need to take him, (I'd) welcome him with open arms and try to teach him as much as I possibly can."

Stafford will have the entire offseason program to forge a bond with Davante Adams, his longtime rival in the NFC North. The star receiver signed a two-year deal last month with the Rams, who also released Super Bowl MVP Cooper Kupp, Stafford's longtime favorite target.

"He's been an unbelievable player for a long time," Stafford said of Adams. "Obviously had

a special connection with Aaron (Rodgers) there in Green Bay for a long time, which was great to watch as long as I wasn't on the other sideline watching it. ... Great hands. Can finish plays down the field with scores as well. I'm excited to get to work with him. I've been a fan of his for a long time as a player, so hopefully I can give him the rock and he can do his thing."

Stafford's return cements the Rams' chances to be a Super Bowl contender again this season after winning the NFC West and narrowly losing to Philadelphia in last season's playoffs.

That stability behind center will allow the Rams to conduct their offseason with no worries about late-summer surprises.

"It's huge," right tackle Rob Havenstein said. "Having (No.) 9 in the building is always a good thing."



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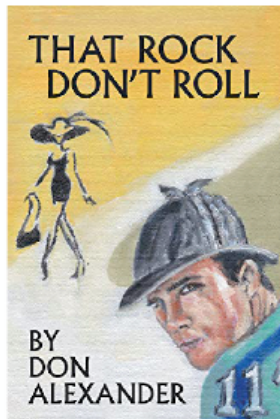
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**Don Alexander** has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

## Sports Retorts: Take a break

Continued from page 6

years (as well as a streaky slo-pitch softball fellow) what seems to work the best is to just ... take a break.

I'm not taking about benching the bad hitters ... right now, that's most of the lineup. I'm saying send them to the beach or Disneyland or to Coldstone. Anything to get their minds off baseball.

With luck, they'll be more relaxed in a few days and do better. As for working on their batting mechanics, remember the wisdom of Ted Williams, the last man to hit .400 in the big leagues: "Don't let anybody \*bleep\* with your swing."

## Retorts: 50 years after Black April

Continued from page 3

Ironically, it looks like both sides won something. There is one Vietnam and it flies a red flag, but it's no more "communist" than Nebraska. It remains an unfree dictatorship, it also has a huge capitalistic economy where Nike is venerated alongside Ho Chi Minh.

Vietnam and the U.S. are tied together in many ways. Vietnam's traditional historic enemy is China, which is looking like a big rival to the United States.

Vietnam is among America's leading trading partners and the amount of Yankee dollars that flood into Southeast Asia from refugees who came to America penniless and visited well-off the nation of their birth is

incalculable.

Concern about "the domino effect" that would bring Karl Marx all the way to Brisbane never developed, except for the horror that struck when the Khmer Rouge seized power and committed near-genocide against their own people, killing millions.

Today the "Kingdom of Cambodia" is a constitutional monarchy and multi-party state, not rich but not a graveyard, either.

So this is a week to remember — perhaps to grieve — and also to consider that once war is unleashed there's no way of telling how it will all turn out.

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Continued from page 6

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# The Vietnam War's legacy: 'Agent Orange'

Continued from page 3

low — remains unsettled. This is partly because when the two countries finally started working together in 2006, they focused on finding dioxin in the environment and clearing it instead of studying the still-contentious topic of its impact on human health, said Charles Bailey, co-author of the book "From Enemies to Partners: Vietnam, the U.S. and Agent Orange." "The science of causality is still incomplete," said Bailey.

Vietnam identifies Agent Orange victims by checking family history, where they lived, and a list of health problems linked to the poison. And Hai's disabilities were very likely linked to the spraying of the defoliant,

added Bailey.

The 34-year-old dreams of becoming a soldier like his grandfather, was unable to leave home for years, waiting alone while his family went out to work. It was only five years ago that he began attending a special school.

"I am happy here because I have many friends," he said. Other students at the school hope to become tailors or makers of incense sticks.

The contamination also denuded Vietnam's natural defenses. Nearly half of its mangrove trees, which shield shores from strong storms, were destroyed. Much of its tropical forest was irrevocably damaged, while the herbicide also leached the soil of nutrients in some of Vietnam's

most climate-vulnerable areas

## A massive cleanup begins

In the decades after the war ended, the recovering country fenced off heavily contaminated sites like Da Nang airport and began providing support to impacted families.

But the U.S. largely ignored growing evidence of health impacts — including on its own veterans — until the mid-2000s, when it and began funding cleanup in Vietnam. In 1991, the U.S. recognized that certain diseases could be related to exposure to Agent Orange and made veterans who had them eligible for benefits.

Since 1991, it has spent over \$155 million to aid people with disabilities in areas affected by Agent Orange or littered by unexploded bombs, according to the U.S. State Department.

The two countries have also cooperated to recover war dead, with the U.S. aiding Vietnam's search for its own missing.

Cleaning up Agent Orange is expensive and often dangerous. Heavily polluted soil needs to be unearthed and heated in large ovens to very high temperatures, while less contaminated soil can be buried in secure landfills.

Despite years of work, large sites still need to be cleared. In Da Nang, where an air base was contaminated during storage and transportation of Agent Orange, the U.S. completed a \$110 million cleanup in 2018 but an area the size of 10 soccer fields still remains heavily contaminated.

Cooperation on war legacy issues also laid a foundation for growing U.S.-Vietnam ties, culminating in 2023 when Vietnam elevated the U.S. to its highest diplomatic status of comprehensive strategic partner.

"The United States considers Vietnam a key partner in advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific," former U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in Vietnam in 2023.

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