

FIREFIGHTERS work to extricate driver trapped in his vehicle after crash at Beach Boulevard and Orangewood Avenue in Stanton (OCFA photo).

Two hurt in multi-car crash

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

Two persons were injured early Monday morning when a vehicle crashed into Orange County Sheriff's Department units parked to block the scene of a vehicle fire at a gas station.

According to the Orange

County Fire Authority, the incident took place in the area of Beach Boulevard and Orangewood Avenue in Stanton.

Engine 46, serving Stanton, responded to the scene of the fire shortly after 2 a.m. OCSD vehicles were in place there blocking a lane for the OCFA to use.

A second vehicle crashed into the OCSD units and an adult male driver was trapped in his vehicle. An OCFA truck designed for auto extrication was summoned for the rescue of that driver, and the drivers of both vehicles taken to an area hospital for treatment of "unknown conditions."

Fatal shooting investigated

An investigation is underway into the fatal shooting of a man in Westminster on Sunday evening.

According to Sgt. Alan Aoki of the WPD, the incident took place in the 14000 block of Goldenwest Street, just south of Westminster Boulevard.

Police responded to a call at around 7:45 p.m. regarding a gunshot victim

at that location. Officers found a man – described only as a 30-year-old Hispanic – at the rear of a business having sustained multiple gunshot wounds.

Personnel from Orange County Fire Authority Station 64 also responded and treated the man for his wounds. He was taken to a local hospital where he succumbed to the effects

of the gunshots.

A suspect is described as a male Hispanic in his late 20s, bald and wearing a white T-shirt and black jeans.

The WPD Detective Bureau is conducting the investigation.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call the WPD watch commander at (714) 548-3767.

Kate Linder Is Celebrity Marshal

It's a familiar role for actress

Kate Linder, the veteran star on the "The Young and the Restless" television show, will be back as celebrity grand marshal of the 2025 Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Parade.

The theme of this year's festival is "Celebrating Cultural Diversity," and the theme grand marshal will be Sylvia Mendez, who was the defendant in the landmark case of Mendez v. Westminster which ended racial segregation in California public schools and which served as a precedent for the 1954 ruling in Brown vs. Board of Education, which banned segregation in public schools across



KATE LINDER famous as a daytime drama star

the nation.

The festival will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-26 at the Vil-

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In The Tribune



Angels on fire and in first

SPORTS 6 and 7



Nostalgia at our Naugles

ARTS & LIVING 5

Huntington Beach council votes new smoke shop rules

By Milles Gaskin
Orange County Tribune

On Tuesday night, the Huntington Beach City Council voted unanimously to approve new regulations on smoke and tobacco shops. The city council met at the Huntington Beach public library instead of city hall.

These regulations come amid concerns from the community that smoke shops in Huntington Beach are too accessible to younger people. The regulations limit the construction of new smoke and tobacco shops to commercial areas, and not residential ones.

The regulations also demand that all smoke or tobacco shops have a minimum of a 1,000 foot separation from hospitals, or youth populated areas, which include schools, childcare facilities, libraries, parks, and youth centers.

The regulations also require all smoke shops in Huntington Beach put up two specific signs in the front of their stores.

One sign is a notice that all children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to enter the store. The second has a phone number on it, where unlawful tobacco sales

can be reported.

The new regulations are an attempt to make smoke shops less accessible for young people, as well as limit the concentration of smoke shops in the Huntington Beach community.

Councilmember Casey Mckeon described the project as his "little tobacco baby" which had been in the works for a full year. "Residents have expressed concern about the over proliferation of tobacco shops, and the distance to sensitive areas like Edison High School."

Councilmember Dom Kennedy agreed with Mckeon and said he supported the new regulations.

Strawberry Fest

Continued from page 1

lage Green park at Main and Euclid streets. The parade will be held on Saturday, May 24. The parade route will start at Chapman Avenue and 9th Street and then proceed south on Euclid Street, concluding at the park.

This 65th annual event will feature charity games and food, carnival rides, free strawberry shortcake, free musical performances and more. Admission is free.

The★Tribune

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News & Views

The shame of my distracted driving stunts

April has been declared “Distracted Driving Month” by police and other traffic folks. I’m pretty sure what they mean by that is you should not be distracted while driving.

I am a pretty darn safe driver now, but in my youthful days I sort of – well – pushed the envelope a bit. I never drank alcohol and drove ...



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Indeed I never drank alcohol at all. These days my limit is one beer a month and never before getting behind the wheel.

But way back long ago I created new categories of distractions. Back before Barnes & Noble, the best big bookstore in Southern California was Pickwick Books in Hollywood.

So once a month or so, I would drive my Chevy Nova up there and if I had snagged a tasty literary gem, I would ... hold your breath ... start reading it on the drive home. I mean, I did glance up regularly to assess the traffic situation, but ...

Back in the OC, my favorite pizza place was Marri’s in Anaheim on Katella Avenue. So I would order the pizza in advance, pick it up and drive back home to GG while ... hold your breath ... I would eat the entire pizza (medium) on the journey back to Main Street.

In those days my metabolism was so amped-up that I could chow like that for each meal and still keep that (somewhat now departed) flat tummy without much effort.

My most homeric driving offense was on the 99 Freeway along the spine of California going south from Redding to

Continued on page 8

Blaze involves two houses

Fire Friday night on Moran Street in Westminster

A fire that involved two houses in Westminster on Friday night was put out by crews from the Orange County Fire Authority.

The alarm was sounded at 8:18 p.m. on a fire in the 14500 block of Moran Street near Hazard Avenue, according to the OCFA.

When Engine 66 arrived firefighters found a home engulfed in flames with “significant fire” coming from the rear of the home.

At the same time, a neighboring house was beginning to ignite as well.

OCFA crews responded with a coordinated effort, attacking the



ENGINE 66 on the scene fighting a blaze on Moran Street in Westminster (OCFA photo).

main fire and keeping it from spreading further to the adjacent home.

A search was conducted for victims, but none were found.

Damage in the first home was limited to less than half of the structure and the adjacent home was saved.



NAUGLES is back on Beach Boulevard in Stanton.

Naugles: the return of classic fast food

By John M. Borack
Special to the Tribune

I’ve always been a sucker for culinary nostalgia: restaurants such as Farrell’s Ice Cream Parlor (remember the Zoo and the Pig’s Trough?) and Bob’s Big Boy have always held an appeal that goes beyond the dishes they

Chow Lines

serve. These sorts of eateries always bring to mind good times with family and friends and sometimes wistful memories of the past.

(For example, I vividly re-

Continued on page 8

STANTON CITY COUNCIL

Budget is a bit fatter than before

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

It’s not often that a city council gets to readjust the budget because there’s more money in the municipal treasury than expected, but it happened on March 25.

The Stanton City Council voted 5-0 to make the changes. Income for the 2024-25 fiscal year is up by \$1.1 million over the planned total and expenses are down by \$815,562.

Also at the meeting:

- the council approved a co-sponsorship of the Stanton Community Foundation’s 22nd Annual Car Show with a value of \$160;

Continued on page 8

NewsUpdate

Wins for both GOP and Democrats

Musk handed setback in Wisconsin

Both Democrats and Republicans had reasons to cheer the results from elections across the nation on Tuesday.

Republicans defended their narrow edge in the House of Representatives with two victories for vacant seats in Florida, but margins were closer in the solidly-red districts than in the 2024 election.

The most publicized struggle was in Wisconsin where Democrats were able to retain a majority on the state Supreme Court.

According to the Associated Press, Dane County Judge Susan Crawford defeated Waukesha County Judge Brad Schimel, allowing liberals to retain their



DONALD TRUMP backed a candidate for Wisconsin Supreme Court (Shutterstock).

4-3 majority on the state's high court. The race had national implications because court may reject the districting arrangement under which a state that usually votes Democratic has

just two Congressional seats out of eight.

Billionaire Elon Musk campaigned heavily for Schimel, claiming at one point that Tuesday's vote it was the most impor-

tant election in American history. President Donald Trump also backed Schimel

Also at issue is the validity of an century-old Wisconsin law that outlaws abortion.

Great Thoughts

"It is part of the cure to wish to be cured."
-- Lucius Annaeu Seneca., philosopher and statesman

"The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time."
- James Taylor, singer-songwriter

"Personally, I'm non-partisan, but politically I go for whoever offers the most dough."
- Fibber McGee, radio character.

Val Kilmer played Batman, Doc Holiday, Jim Morrison

Val Kilmer, the film actor who portrayed a wide variety of famous people – real and fictional – has died at age of 65, The New York Times reported that Kilmer had died of pneumonia.

Kilmer achieved stardom in the 1991 film "The Doors," playing Jim Morrison.

He was less acclaimed when he took on the role of the caped crusader in "Batman Forever."

Morrison's portrayal of "Doc" Holliday in "Tombstone" was widely acclaimed by movie critics.

Booker makes history with a 25-hour address

Sen. Corey Booker (D-New York) set a new record Tuesday for the longest speech in U.S. Senate history, orating for 25 hours and five minutes.

Criticizing President Donald Trump and his administration for its alleged "lawlessness," Booker said he was seeking to give voice to many Democrats looking for someone to speak out strongly against the

changes brought by Trump and supporter Elon Musk.

According to NBC News, after his long address, Booker said, "There's a lot of people out there asking Democrats to do more and to take risks and do things differently."

"This seemed like the right thing to do. And from what my staff is telling me, a lot of people watched."

Weather: Warming trend coming

The windy, chilly days of the first part of the week are expected to give way to sunnier and warmer times in our West Orange County cities. The forecast for Wednesday calls for a daytime high of 67 with an overnight low of 49 under sunny skies. Thursday may cool a bit to 65 (47) but when warm to 68(49) with sunshine again. Saturday will reach 73 (50) with mostly sunny conditions.

Arts & Living

‘Working Man’ Jason in Action

Blue-collar hero beats up a lot of very bad guys

By Mark Kennedy
AP Entertainment Writer

Jason Statham is cosplaying a construction laborer when “A Working Man” begins. He’s making sure the rebar is spaced correctly and the concrete is correctly mixed. But we all know where his real strengths are: Beating up people, ferociously.

Soon enough — faster than this one-time springboard diving champion used to hit the water — Statham will be doing what he does best in an action movie made by millionaires that hopes to tap into blue-collar chic.

Statham plays a sort of hero-laying-low in director and co-writer David Ayer’s latest collab — they previously teamed up on “The Beekeeper” — with the addition of a co-writer who knows a thing or two about lone-wolf underdogs — Sylvester Stallone.

When the 19-year-old daughter of his boss is snatched during a night out with girlfriends in Chicago, they turn to Statham, a former anti-terrorist commando for the UK’s Royal Marines, which at least explains the British accent.

But he can’t help them — he’s given up that old life. “I’m a different person now,” he says. It’s not who I am anymore.” Admittedly, he says this shortly after fighting off a gang messing with one of his workers, attacking them with a bucket of nails, an ax and a bag of gravel.

He’s a widower and a single father saving up money to fight — legally this time — for more custody by sleeping in his Ram truck. His in-laws want to limit his visitation, alleging he suffers from PTSD, a very cynical use by the movie-makers of a



JASON STATHAM takes aim in “A Working Man” (Amazon MGM Studios).

Movie Review

popcorn flick with a body count north of a hundred. “I hurt, too,” he tells his daughter.

A visit to an old military buddy — David Harbour, superb — helps change his mind. “God help them,” says Harbour’s character after the decision is made. He knows what’s in store for anyone getting in the way of Statham’s oddly named Levon Cade (scramble the letters and you get “Novel Aced,” go figure).

So begins Statham’s version of “Taken” mixed with a blue-collar version of “John Wick.” Our construction worker-turned-vigilante is reassuring to the family of the missing teen. “I’m gonna bring her home. I promise,” he vows.

We soon plunge into an underworld of Russian mobsters, designer drugs, human trafficking, corrupt cops and a vicious biker gang run by a guy who sits on a throne of motorcycle parts.

People are waterboarded, shot, stabbed, smashed with animal skulls, blown up by grenades and burned with hot coffee.

“All of this is for a girl?” asks one incredulous Russian mob boss, who is hogtied and dangled over his own swimming pool as Statham tortures him while munching on some toast he’s made in his fancy kitchen.

Shall we talk about the rich now? The upper-level mobsters wear cravats, bow ties and hold gold-tipped walking sticks. One even wears a cape and uses a cigarette holder, like a sort of Mister Burns from “The Simpsons.” The drug dealers wear buffoonish designer duds, “do business” in restaurant banquets and all have attache cases with stacks of banded money, like it’s still the ‘80s. They are all venal, foppish and perverted. The big finale takes place in a tucked-away farm casino with fancy-dressed fat cats.

This is in contrast to Statham, an orange safety vest kind of guy with a soldier’s moral compass. He at one point throws into the

Fair: ★★

air enough \$100 bills to buy a Lamborghini. But he’s not doing it the money, even though he needs it. He’s there for the girl.

“A Working Man” fetishizes its blue-collar ethic at a time when extremely wealthy Americans have taken key roles in the second Donald Trump administration and the world’s richest man, Elon Musk, is slicing at government jobs (Veterans are increasingly facing the burden.)

Trump himself donned an orange vest when he cosplayed a garbage man on the campaign trail. Everyone loves the working class these days.

Anyway, we’re not here for a lesson, we’re here for some ultra-violence. “A Working Man” does it well, especially a struggle in the confined space of a moving van.

The plot gets a little stretched over two hours — including a ludicrous motorcycle chase scene when enough bullets are fired at

Continued on page 8

TheSportsPages

Torpedo bats could sink an old tradition

Oh, I want one of them “torpedo” bats.

The big news out of the baseball world this week has been the emergence of those odd-shaped sticks with a relocated “barrel” that’s enabled the New York Yankees – as if they needed any help! – hammer 15 home runs in three games, nine in one game.

Any of us who have played The National Pastime at any level – from park softball to serious

hardball – can remember when we first traded in a traditional

Louisville Slugger – that venerable hunk of wood from Kentucky – for a sleeker aluminum version.

Ping! The ball flew off the bat joyously – for the batter, anyway – and could turn “banjo” hitters into bad-asterisk hitters. The metal bats were quickly adopted for financial reasons: wooden bats broke but metal ones didn’t.

But there was another reason. The ferrous versions were more fun. More scoring. More action. Guys who used to hit a lot of pop flies starting slamming line drives to the wall, or fence, or your neighbor’s garage.

The new bat conquered the worlds of softball and baseball right up through college. The only holdout is pro baseball.

Of course, the “torpedo” bat isn’t aluminum, but it does raise a point. In the competitive world of sports-as-entertainment, wouldn’t the casual – or potential – fans rather see a 14-10 slugfest than a tedious 2-1 “classic?”

A century ago, big league baseball left behind the old “dead” ball for the springier “live” ball which made Babe Ruth possible.

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Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

The Angels Are on Fire

Another late win puts the Halos in first in AL West

By Pete Zarustica
Orange County Tribune

Having finished last season buried in last place in the American League West, who could believe that the Los Angeles Angels would come roaring back into first place in the American League West?

With Tuesday’s stirring extra inning 9-7 win over the St. Louis Cardinals, the Halos are 4-1 and in first by a half-game over the Texas Rangers.

More incredibly, the Orange County team has made a habit of heart-pounding late rallies to win games.

On Tuesday, they blew a one-run lead in the eighth inning and a three-run in the 10th, but had two two-out clutch hits to win it in the 11th.

For the third game in a row, Kyren Paris – what a great name! – had the key hit, this one an RBI single in the 11th to snap a 6-6 deadlock.

Paris – an unknown a few days ago – is now batting .444. Conversely, Mike Triut is hitting



LOS ANGELES ANGELS’ Kyren Paris celebrated with his teammates after hitting a home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox on Sunday (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh).

.118, but he made his contribution with a two-run double.

Of course, five games – no matter how stirring – do not a season make. The Angels have demonstrated grit and spirit and have already exceeded expectations.

The Halos have made a history of fast starts in the spring, only to flame out by summer.

Regardless, the lamp of hope has been lit in Anaheim, and this group looks like they might keep it burning for a while.

Dodgers rip records with 7-0 start

By David Arthur
Orange County Tribune

How high can they go? The undefeated Los Angeles Dodgers won their seventh consecutive victory on Tuesday, besting the winless Atlanta Braves 3-2 and looking a lot like the team that stormed to the World Series crown last year.

With each win, the Blue Crew extends its team-record start to 7-0. Against the Braves at Chavez Ravine, the Dodgers



MOOKIE BETTS hit a two-run home for the Dodgers (File photo)

did it with some timely hitting and strong pitching performance by Dustin May.

The key hit was a two-run home run by Mookie Betts in the sixth inning that gave the Dodgers a 2-1 lead.

On the pitchers’ mound, May was impressive, working five innings and giving up just one hit and one run. He struck out six batters and walked three.

The Dodgers will try to make it eight straight on Wednesday, against the Braves.

Top teams face challenges

It's often said that success breeds more success and that seems to continue to be the case for high school baseball and softball teams in our West Orange County area.

Long-time baseball powerhouse Huntington Beach (10-1) is rated number one in our West Orange County area of schools serving the cities of Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster.

But the Oilers may not prove to be invincible. They squeezed past district rival Fountain Valley 3-2 earlier this year and lost 4-1 to La Mirada.

The race for the Sunset League flag may be complicated.

The orange-and-black are in first (2-0) and have a relatively light schedule ahead with three games against the last place Corona del Mar team.

However, after that, HB has three games against a strong Los Alamitos team (11-2-2 overall, 4-2 in league).

Pacifica (9-5), the top softball team in the area lost 4-2 to Cypress on Tuesday.

At 3-1, the Mariners still lead the Crestview League over Cypress (11-6, 2-1), but the teams will meet twice more: on April 17 at the Mariner field and on May 6 at the Cypress diamond.



LOS AMIGOS CATCHER Alina Mendez tosses back ball to catcher in game against Santiago. Lobos are 8-2 and Cavaliers are 8-4 (GGUSD photo).

Prep Sport Spotlight

West County Prep Baseball/Softball Results

Saturday baseball

Seegerstrom 7, Los Amigos 1

Saturday softball

Dana Hills 9, Edison 1

Sanata Margarita 4, Edison 1

Monday baseball

Pacifica 6, Irvine 3

Tuesday softball

Cypress 4, Pacifica 2

Los Alamitos 14, Edison 2

Marina 1, Corona del Mar 0

Mayfair 5, Garden Grove 1

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Chow Lines: Nostalgia at Naugles on Beach

Continued from page 3

call frequenting three local Big Boy restaurants in the San Gabriel Valley with my parents and childhood pals.)

Another establishment that is currently trading on this sort of nostalgia is of the fast-food variety: Naugles. The fondly remembered Mexican-American chain operated locations in several states (including California) during the '70s and '80s until most of them were converted to

Del Taco restaurants by the early '90s. In 2015, an Orange County-based entrepreneur named Christian Ziebarth worked with a few others to revive the Naugles brand, which led to the opening of a brand-new location in an industrial park in Fountain Valley.

Five years later came the opening of a Stanton location, located on the site of the former Mad Greek restaurant.

I recently stopped at the Stanton location for a quick bite on a Tuesday afternoon. I was greet-

ed by a friendly cashier who cheerfully took my order of an Ortega Burger and a cheese burrito (and called me "dear" several times in the process).

The food was prepared quickly and was served hot and tasted fresh. The Ortega Burger includes an all-beef patty, Monterey Jack cheese, lettuce, white sauce, tomato and a sweet green Anaheim Chile. It was definitely very tasty and brought back memories of those good old days. (The new Naugles does their best to replicate the original recipes they used back in the day.)

The star of the show, though, was the cheese burrito. It sounds simple enough: heaps of grated cheese and sauce inside a tortilla, but the taste is sublime. The green sauce is tangy and flavorful without being too spicy and it serves as a perfect complement to the warm, gooey cheese. 10 out of 10.

The Stanton Naugles also has a drive-thru, which is great for those who are on the go.

There is not a ton of seating inside the restaurant; as a matter of fact, there is only onetable and a bunch of counter seats. (There are also several tables outside if you don't mind the constant

Beach Boulevard traffic noise.) I sat at the indoor table, which had a piece of bright red duct tape covering what must have been a rip in the booth.

But if you're looking for good old fashioned Mexican fast food with a side of nostalgia, ignore the lack of atmosphere and head over to Naugles.

They are at 12120 Beach Blvd. in Stanton and their website is www.nauglestacos.com.

Jim's Retorts goes driving

Continued from page 3

the OC. My Chevy Blazer's A/C was kaput and it was a hot summer's day.

So, natch, I rolled down the driver's side window, and – what the heck – decided to cool off my left foot (not like Daniel Day-Lewis) by sticking it out the window.

Luckily I have always been an ace one-foot pedal jockey, or I would not be here to write this confessional.

To paraphrase my parents: don't do as I did, you dumb son-of-gun. You think you're immortal?

Stanton budget looking better

Continued from page 3

- agreed (with some exceptions) to a second extension of expired commercial cannabis cultivation permits;

- passed a program of methods to manage fireworks for the July 3 season including business license revocations, a social host liability ordinance and drone enforcement.

Sports Retorts

Continued from page 6

Perhaps some smart entrepreneur will launch an off-season aluminum bat league. Oh, and how about an aluminum torpedo bat league? The possibilities boggle the mind and – maybe – ring the cash register.



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Garden Grove Rotary

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Garden Grove Rotary

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Garden Grove Rotary.

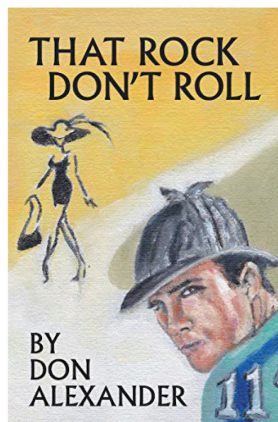
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

READ THE ORANGE COUNTY TRIBUNE every day online and the Wednesday and Saturday e-newspaper.

Movie Review: 'Working Man'

Continued from page 6

Statham as were expended in the Battle of Fallujah — but a bright moment is having the snatched teen (a very good Arianna Rivas, someone to watch) step into her own power.

"A Working Man" is exactly what you expect when you unleash Statham on a noble mission. "You killed your way into this," he's told by his buddy. "You're gonna have to kill your way out of it." In other words, let Statham work, man.

"A Working Man," an Amazon MGM Studios release in theaters this Friday, is rated R for "strong violence, language throughout and drug content." Running time: 116 minutes.

Torpedos away! New bat could go far

By Larry Fleisher
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New torpedo bats drew attention when the New York Yankees hit a team-record nine homers that traveled a combined 3,695 feet on Saturday.

Using a strikingly different model in which wood is moved lower down the barrel after the label and shapes the end a little like a bowling pin, Paul Goldschmidt, Cody Bellinger, Austin Wells, Anthony Volpe and Jazz Chisholm Jr. homered in New York's 20-9 rout of the Milwaukee Brewers.

The Yankees hit four more homers in a 12-3 win Sunday and their 15 homers through the

first three games matched the 2006 Detroit Tigers for the most in major league history.

"That's just trying to be the best we can be," manager Aaron Boone said Sunday. "That's one of the things that's gotten pointed out. I say to you guys all the time, we're trying to win on the margins and that shows up in so many different ways."

MLB has relatively uncomplicated bat rules, stating under 3.02: "The bat shall be a smooth, round stick not more than 2.61 inches in diameter at the thickest part and not more than 42 inches in length. The bat shall be one piece of solid wood." It goes on to state there may be a cupped indentation up to 1 1/4 inches in depth, 2 inches wide and with at

least a 1-inch diameter, and experimental models must be approved by MLB.

Former Yankees infielder Kevin Smith posted online Saturday that Aaron Leanhardt, a former Yankees front-office staffer who now works for the Miami Marlins, developed the torpedo barrel to bring more mass to a bat's sweet spot.

"You're going up with a weapon that can be better," Smith wrote. "Your just misses could be clips, your clips could be flares, and your flares could (be) barrels. And it was true, it's fractions of an inch on the barrel differentiating these outcomes."

Goldschmidt, batting leadoff for the first time, opened with a 413-foot homer off Nestor Cortes and Bellinger followed with a 451-foot drive that initially didn't register with Statcast. Aaron Judge, using a bat with a conventional shape, hit a 468-foot shot that made the Yankees the first team to homer on each of a game's first three pitches since MLB's records began in 1988.

Bellinger first was presented with the torpedo-shape concept in a batting practice session last season with the Chicago Cubs but did not use it in a game. He was given a more advanced ver-

sion during spring training this year.

"I started swinging this one in spring or before spring, kind of early on, and I was like, 'Oh it feels good,'" Bellinger said. "It was an ounce lighter than the one I was swinging, but I think the way the weight was distributed felt really good."

Bellinger, the 2019 NL MVP with the Los Angeles Dodgers, switched from a maple Louisville Slugger to a birch bat and cited MLB's 2010 rule change narrowing the maximum diameter from 2.75 inches.

"I'm usually a maple guy, but birch for me allows me to get the bigger barrel because I wasn't grandfathered in," Bellinger said. "So it's all within regulation. They made sure that before the season even started, knowing that I imagine at some point the way these bats look that it's probably going to get out at some point."

Volpe, who homered for the second straight game Saturday, began using the torpedo in spring training.

"The concept makes so much sense. I know I'm bought in," Volpe said. "The bigger you can have the barrel where you hit the ball, it makes sense to me."

Chisholm homered twice Sunday, hitting behind Judge for the second straight day. He said he started using the torpedo bat after hitting a double and a homer in spring training with Volpe's bat.

"I love my bat," Chisholm said with a slight laugh. "I think you can tell. It doesn't feel like a different bat. It just helps you in a real way I guess."

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