

GG'S NEWEST POWER COUPLE



COUNCILMEMBER Yesenia Muneton and Trustee Walter Muneton.

The Munetons power up

Santiago grads combine to help lead community

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

They're not exactly Barack and Michelle Obama, or Emily Blunt and John Krasinski, but they are Garden Grove's newest "power couple." Walter Muneton and Yesenia Muneton, as members – respectively, of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education and the Garden Grove City Council – these former Santiago High School students cover a lot of ground and have a lot of influence.

Together with Councilmember Joe DoVinh and school board trustee Dina Nguyen (also married) they represent an unusual combination in the public sphere. Walter, 33, was elected to the school board serving Trustee Area 3 in 2016 and re-elected in 2020 and 2024. Yesenia, 31, won election to the council seat for District 5 in November. "We met at Doig [Intermediate School] but we didn't really connect until college," said Yesenia. At Santa Ana College, she spotted him and barely recognized him. "I had long hair in high school," said Walter.

While Yesenia had been

Continued on page 8

Extensions granted on pair of major projects

One-year time extensions were granted for two major projects on Thursday night by the Garden Grove Planning Commission.

The panel voted 6-0 in favor of a site plan and tentative parcel map for construction of a five-

■ GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

story mixed use project at the northeast corner of Garden Grove Boulevard and Brookhurst Street.

Also the commission ap-

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New Era With New Mayor's Deep Roots

'State of the City' event at Hyatt Regency

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

The past, present and future merged at the annual Garden Grove State of the City event held on Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Orange County hotel in Garden Grove.

A highlight of the gatherings the first "state" address by new Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein, the city's first directly-elected female mayor.

"I'm excited to share what a really strong yer the city had last year," said Klopfenstein, "and how this year will be even more powerful."



MAYOR STEPHANIE KLOPFENSTEIN

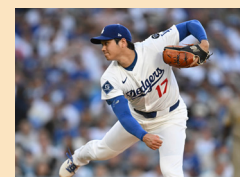
The new mayor – elected in November 2024 after serving on the city council – emphasized the importance of family, especially appropriate as she is a fourth generation Garden Grover.

"None of this is pos-

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In The Tribune

Shohei makes his first pitch



SPORTS PAGE 6

'Grease' takes us back to '58



ARTS & LIVING 5

New mayor and State of the City

Continued from page 1

sible without your family," she said, thanking members of her extended clan. "You need that rock."

She emphasized her confidence

in the city's standing and future. "Garden Grove is a key destination and for all the right reasons. Garden Grove is a city that embraces where we've been and where we're going and we are going places."

Giving Klopfenstein's appearance some context was an introduction by Garden Grove's first female mayor, Kathryn "Kay" Barr, who served from 1969-70 when the mayor was chosen

from among the council.

The mayor listed some projects for 2025-26 including the Civic Center Revitalization project which will contain a new police facility with adjoining parking structure, a renewed "Foods of Garden Grove" program and a newly-revamped Woodbury Park.

Other highlights of the "State of the City" included a rousing rendering of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Emma Monaco, director of post-acute care at Garden Grove Hospital & Medical Center and the introduction of Shelby, a golden retriever, who will join the Garden Grove Police Department's team of emotional support dogs.

The "State of the City" is a joint effort of the City of Garden Grove and the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce. Claudette J. Baldemor is president and CEO of the chamber.

GG planners OK extensions of two major projects

Continued from page 1

proved by a similar vote an extension to Freedomhouse OC Church for a new religious facility – including a bible college – at the southwest corner of Kattella Avenue and Euclid Street.

Additionally approved was a site plan for the construction of a free-standing steel structure for vehicle maintenance at Simpson Chevrolet (Trask Avenue and Brookhurst Street).

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Jim Tortolano
Editor and Publisher
Marilyn Lewis Tortolano
General Manager

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E-mail : orangecountytribune@gmail.com.

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News & Views

A case of pride going before the fall in HB

Winners and Losers Dept. Part One :The gap between the big winners and losers in the cities of Garden Grove and Huntington Beach could not have been wider if they were meeting at the Grand Canyon.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Huntington Beach City Council,

Mayor Pat Burns sat silently while speaker after speaker in the public comments portion of the event



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

tore into him and his fellow council members with insults and reproaches.

He kept his counsel because the council was about to agree – quite meekly – to stop doing what they've been doing, which is to try to enforce rules of procedure and decorum which the American Civil Liberties Union argued were illegal and unconstitutional.

The council voted without comment 6-0 (Andrew Gruel was absent) to promise not to repeat requiring that speakers speak only to the mayor and not address councilmembers, and consider that yelling and waving signs were "disruptions" subject to possible ejection from the chamber and even arrest.

For the six MAGA council members to acquiesce like that without any resistance was as weird as watching Italians eating pizza with pineapple.

It's been a tough week for them. Last week the public at the polls overwhelmingly rejected their "parent-community review board" for library content and a proposal – dropped – to privatize the city's library

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SUSPECTS in an incident of persons shooting fireworks at people participating in a political demonstration in Santa Ana on June 11 (SAPD photo)

Seek suspects in incidents at demonstrations in SA

Suspects are being sought in connection with vandalism and the firing of illegal fireworks into a crowd at a political protest in Santa Ana.

According to SAPD, both incidents took place on June 11 from 10:30 to 10:45 p.m. in the area of 4th and French streets in downtown Santa Ana.

Detectives are working to identify two suspects who aimed fireworks downward toward people in the crowd (see attached photo). Anyone with information about identities or whereabouts is asked to contact Sgt. P. McClaskey at (714) 245-8438 or pmccclaskey@santa-ana.org.

Also, the public help is being sought in identifying three suspects involved in vandalism during the demonstration.

Also on June 11, the suspects were seen spray-painting graffiti along the southeast corner of 4th and French streets using black paint.

Two of them walked north into the crowd and one rode south on a scooter.

Suspect #1 is described as a female, white or Hispanic, 15-20 years old, wearing a white bag-

gy T-shirt, dark plaid shorts and her hair in bun.

Suspect #2 is described as a male Hispanic, 15-20 years old, wearing a black pullover jacket, gray shorts and a black face mask.

Suspect #3 is described as a male Hispanic, 15-22 years old, wearing a black pullover jacket, black hat, glasses and riding a black scooter with a camouflage backpack.

Anyone with information on their identities or whereabouts is asked to contact Sgt. D. Padilla at (714) 245-8377 or SPadilla@santa-ana.org.

Westminster police warn about use of fireworks

As Independence Day approaches, the Westminster Police Department is preparing for a significant increase in calls for service related to illegal fireworks, noise complaints, and other public safety concerns. The days surrounding the Fourth of July consistently rank among the busiest times of the year for the department.

The WPD urges all residents to do so safely, legally, and responsibly. Only safe and sane fireworks are permitted in the City of Westminster, and only during designated hours. For details, please visit the city's official website: www.westminster-ca.gov.

Illegal fireworks are not only dangerous—they are illegal. They pose serious risks of fires, injuries, and community disruption, and they are governed by various health and safety codes, penal codes, and Westminster municipal codes.

Additionally, illegal fireworks can severely affect pets and animals, many of whom experience significant distress from loud explosions.

To proactively address these concerns, Westminster Police

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That 'Stingy Alley' is now Taft Street

Taft Street (which runs between Garden Grove Boulevard and Trask Avenue) in Garden Grove was popularly known as "Stingy Alley" for a time because property owners on one side of the street paid for paving it, while those on the other side would not, giving the street a distinctly two-sided and unusual appearance.

History Minute



A VIEW looking west along Garden Grove Boulevard near Costco (Tribune photo)

NewsUpdate

'14-Day Clock' in the Iran Crisis

Two weeks to make a deal on nuclear issue

The possibility of U.S. intervention on behalf of Israel in its conflict with Iran continues as the White House considers its role as a mediator or a combatant.

The New York Times reports that President Donald Trump has a "14-day clock" for the arrival of an agreeable deal with Iran, which continues to exchange missiles with Israel.

It's possible that – considering the past difficulties in striking a deal with Iran – that the U.S. might use that time to make its military preparations.

At issue is the belief of Israel



EFFECTS of Israeli attacks in Tehran (Wikipedia).

and the Trump Administration that Iran is nearing completion of a nuclear weapon.

Iran has denied this, and National Intelligence Director

Tulsi Gabbard echoed that when speaking to Congress in March.

Other observers' viewpoints suggest that since Iran is getting the worst of its air battles

with Israel, that the prospect of adding the U.S as an adversary might push Iran into an early deal ... or at least one within 14 days.

Great Thoughts

"The first wealth is health."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live in."

– Jim Rohn

"A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor's book."

– Irish proverb

The Dodgers tangled in immigration controversy

Big league baseball and a big political issue are tangled up at Chavez Ravine, home of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

According to USA Today, after its much-criticized silence about the effects of the immigration crackdown, the team management took some action.

Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents – their

faces covered with masks – were denied entrance to the Dodger Stadium parking lot.

The Department of Homeland Security claims its agents were "never there" and claimed it was another agency.

The Dodgers on Friday pledged \$1 million toward families of immigrants "impacted by recent events in the region."

Troops in LA: the issue is now back in federal court

The same federal judge that initially sought to block the Trump Administration's use of National Guard troops and U.S. Marines in connection with an immigration crackdown is taking up another angle.

According to The Associated Press, Gov. Gavin Newsom has complained to U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco that the military deployed in the Los Angeles area

was in violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, which bans the military from conducting law enforcement on American soil.

A three-judge appeals panel disagreed with Breyer's ruling that the use of troops was unconstitutional. Now the issue is whether those soldiers and Marines are not just protecting federal property and federal immigrants agents, but actually making arrests.

Weather: Mid-70s for a while

A pattern of familiar weather will be with us in our West Orange County cities right through the weekend. Saturday will have morning clouds and afternoon sun. But the days that follow will be partly cloudy through Tuesday. Saturday will have a daytime high of 74 with an overnight low of 61. Sunday will peak to 78 (61), followed by Monday at 75 (61) and Tuesday at 74 (60).

Arts & Living

It's 1958 at the Gem Theatre

'Grease' is great in this return to the 'happy days'

By Thom deMartino
Orange County Tribune

Nostalgia's a hell of a drug. Has anyone else noticed the 20-year cycle of it? In the late 80's it was a resurgence of 60's fashions and themes; in the 90's, it was a flashback to the 70's; in the 2000's, it was a throwback to the 80's.

And in the 1970's? It was the 50's. (Think "Happy Days").

When the musical "Grease" originated in the early 70's it became a major success, and was later adapted into the well-known smash-hit film of 1978. This stage version, directed by Damien Lorton, takes the story back to its theatrical roots.

It's fall of 1958 at Rydell High, and the class of 1959 is returning from their summer break. The kids are welcomed back by Miss Lynch (Adriana Sanchez), after which the members of the respective cliques of the Burger Palace Boys and the Pink Ladies talk about what they did on their summer vacations.

The head of the greaser crew, Danny Zuko (Jack Janowicz), is telling the other members lascivious stories of the cute girl he'd met at the beach: meanwhile, the newest addition to Rydell, Sandy Dumbrowski (Alli Gainer) is telling her new friends in the Pink Ladies about the sweet boy she herself encountered at the same beach.

Of course, Sandy and Danny were each other's summer crushes, and it's not long before they cross paths at school – only now, Danny's trying to look cool and aloof to his boys, leaving Sandy feeling confused and rejected.

She begins bonding with the members of the Pink Ladies, including Frenchy (Sydney DeMaria), Jan (Evie Becerra)



ALLI GAINER as Sandy and Jack Janowicz as Danny, Evie Becerra as Jan, Sydney DeMaria as Frenchy, and Sasha Baker as Rizzo in "Grease" at the Gem Theatre (Ron Lyon photos).

Stage Review

and Marty (normally played by Courtney Hays, but portrayed by Julia Iacopetti on this Sunday matinee), though she rubs the leader of the group, Rizzo (Sasha Baker) the wrong way with her naïve, goody-two-shoes demeanor.

The teenage years are challenging enough even without all the relationship drama: can two star-crossed not-quite-lovers be able to find their way to each other through the storm of high school hormones?

Whether you've seen the film version or not, "Grease" is an electrifying production at the Gem, with magnificent performances, and a lot of fun.

The brand-new additions to the One More Productions troupe excel in this show, such as the animated Kyle Hill as Burger Parlor Boys member Doody with his delightful number "Those

Magic Changes," or Myles Williamson as Kenickie (another BPB member) and his energetic performance of "Greased Lightning." (We should also give a special mention to the charming Evie Becerra for her work as the Pink Ladies' adorable Jan.)

Not to be outdone, the OMP veterans do their customary high-caliber work as well: including Baker with Rizzo's acerbic number "Look at Me, I'm Sandra

Great: ★★★★★

Dee" and Trevin Stephenson's stellar turn as the seemingly Little Richard-inspired Teen Angel in the fantastic (and interactive) "Beauty School Dropout."

It's the leads of the show who really shine, though – there's splendid chemistry between

Continued on page 8

Summer Concert series underway

If it's June, it must be time for the free "Summer Concert Series" at Eastgate Park in Garden Grove. The series is on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The first show was Thursday, June 19 with The Dreamboats, but there's plenty more.

- June 26: Wild Shot (Guns & Roses Tribute)
- July 10: The Answer (Classic Rock)
- July 17: 80s vs 90s Show (New Wave Kids vs. Living in Stereo)
- July 24: Kelly Boyz Band (Country)
- July 31: Take on Taylor (Taylor Swift Tribute).

TheSportsPages

WNBA needs to get tough on the rough play

Watching replays of portions of Tuesday's highly-physical – you might say close-to-dirty – WNBA game between the Indiana Fever and the Connecticut Sun brings several things to mind.

First, it looks like not only is Caitlin Clark – as expected – the most influential player in the league but also the one star which the other teams seem to feel the biggest need to tee off on.

Second, anyone who thinks that women's sports are polite and ladylike hasn't been paying attention for like the last 50 years.

Five technicals, three players kicked out and two flagrant fouls.

Does that mean that women's sports have finally found parity with men's because they are now punching and tripping each other?

And finally, it revived an old memory of a faux-sport called roller derby in which men's teams and women's teams alternated in roller-skating on a banked track and tried to "lap" the other folks through as much violence – mostly fake but some real – as they could get away with.

But men, especially, seemed to get a thrill out of watching athletic women punch, elbow, shove and taunt each other. It's sort of like men's fascination with "cat fights."

It may just be an issue with officiating, but let's just hope that this new moment in the sun for women's pro sports isn't a phase in which they copy the worst aspects of the NBA.

That sort of play may make for a good clip on ESPN Sports Center, but it's a bad look for the league overall.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

It Was Shohei's Slow Start

He's feeling good after brief debut of one inning

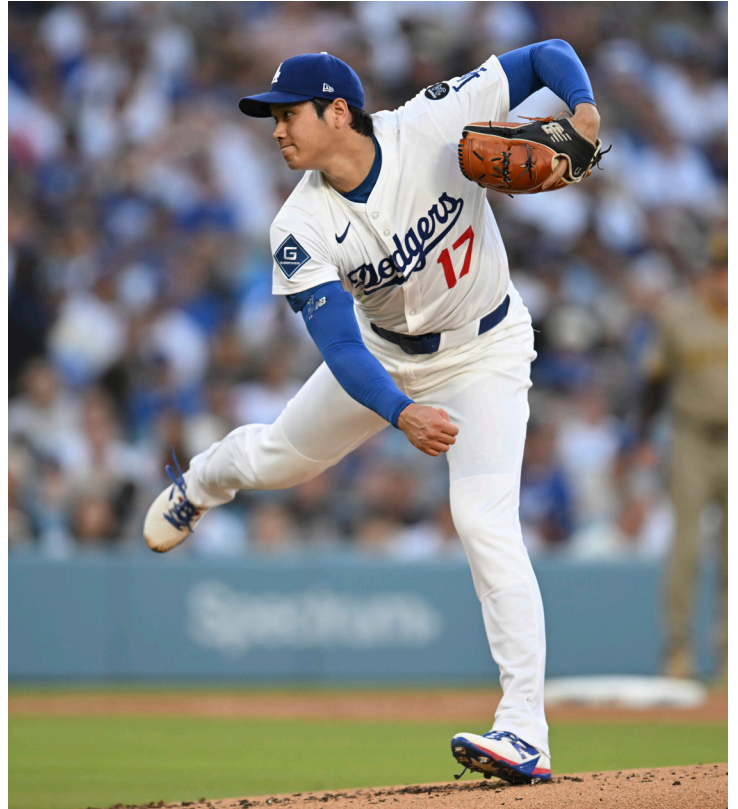
By Beth Harris
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shohei Ohtani came out of his pitching debut for the Los Angeles Dodgers in good order, even if he was his own worst critic.

The two-way superstar from Japan gave up a run and a pair of two-strike hits in one inning of work Monday night against San Diego as he returned from right elbow surgery. It was his first outing since August 2023 with the Los Angeles Angels. At the plate, he had two hits and two RBIs in the Dodgers' 6-3 win.

"I think he's just a little fatigued but feels good," manager Dave Roberts said Tuesday.

Ohtani was in his usual lead-off spot as the designated hitter Tuesday night against the Padres. He'll likely throw a light



LOS ANGELES DODGERS starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani throws to a San Diego Padres batter during the first inning of a baseball game Monday, June 16, 2025, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Kyusung Gong).

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Halos lose Wash, game; Dodgers outlast Nats

The Los Angeles Angels on Friday lost more than the opening game of a series with the Houston Astros. They lost – temporarily, it's hoped – field manager Ron Washington, who's being sidelined with shortness of breath and fatigue.

Bench coach Ray Montgomery took over as the Angels lost 3-2 in Anaheim. Trailing 2-0 early, they caught up with solo home runs by Jo Adell and Christian Moore. but lost the game in 10 innings.

The home team had a chance to win it with bases-loaded in the eighth, but couldn't score,

THE ROUNDUP

Now 36-39, the Halos fell into fourth place in the American League West.

The Los Angeles Dodgers (47-30) held off late rallies by the Washington Nationals and won 6-5, bringing their lead in the National League West to 4.5 games.

Miguel Rojas homered and batted 2-for-3, scoring twice and driving in two runs. Andy Pages was 2-for-4 and Shohei Ohtani 1-for-3 with two walks and an RBI.

Teo Hernandez added a single and a double.

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	44-32	.579	—	8-2
Seattle	38-36	.514	5	5-5
Texas	37-39	.487	7	6-4
ANGELS	36-39	.480	7.5	5-5
Athletics	32-46	.410	13	6-4

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	47-30	.610	—	7-3
San Fran.	42-34	.553	4.5	4-6
San Diego	40-35	.533	6	3-7
Arizona	38-37	.507	8	7-3
Colorado	17-59	.224	29.5	5-5

Clayton Kershaw (3-0) had a decent start, working five innings while giving up five hits and two earned runs. He struck out four Nats and walked two.

Ohtani may pitch again this weekend

Continued on page 8

bullpen in the next few days. How did Ohtani rate his pitching?

"Not quite happy with the results overall," he said through a translator. "But I think the biggest takeaway for me is that I feel good enough to be able to go out for my next outing."

He threw 28 pitches — 16 for strikes — and his fastball topped out at 100.2 mph — the second-hardest pitch thrown by a Dodgers hurler this season.

"What I noticed is that when I warm up to pitch in the game, I'm already really warmed up going into the game," he said. "So I did feel a lot better overall than when I'm just DHing."

When is Ohtani's next start?

Roberts indicated Ohtani could pitch Saturday or Sunday when the Washington Nationals are in town.

"It's kind of a week situation,"

he said, "but it's not like a hard and fast seven days."

The Dodgers open a six-game trip at Colorado on Tuesday, but it seems unlikely Ohtani would pitch in Denver's high altitude where the thin air reduces the movement of pitches, particularly fastballs and curveballs, and favors hitters.

Will Ohtani add an inning in each start?

The team has the option to add an inning in his next start or keep him at one. The decision will be made between the medical staff and Ohtani, Roberts said.

How are the Dodgers managing Ohtani's mound return?

Carefully and cautiously. Despite a pitching staff that has been decimated by injuries, the team is not putting pressure on their \$700 million man.

In fact, it was Ohtani who told the Dodgers he wanted to test

Six local players honored as CIF-SS baseball picks

All CIF-SS teams for baseball and boys' lacrosse have been announced, with six local youths honored.

In Division 1, they are Trevor Goldenetz, a senior outfielder, and Trent Grindlinger, a senior catcher, both from Huntington Beach High.

In Division 7, Rohan Ramos, a senior pitcher-first baseman, and Sebastian Vallejo, a senior, both from Garden Grove High, were honored.

In Division 8, Johnny Forte, a junior pitcher-third baseman, and Riley Rakowski, a senior second baseman, both from La Quinta High, were named

The sole local representative on the CIF-SS boys' lacrosse teams is Will Minter of Huntington Beach on the Division 2 squad.

himself in a big league game rather than face hitters in simulated at-bats as he'd been doing over the last three weeks.

"This is a unique situation," Dodgers general manager Brandon Gomes said. "We have to

make sure that we're also keeping one of our best hitters in the lineup. So much of it is the back and forth and how he's feeling and making sure that every step we've done along the way is just erring on the side of caution."

Follow local high school and professional sports each Wednesday and Saturday in The Orange County Tribune.



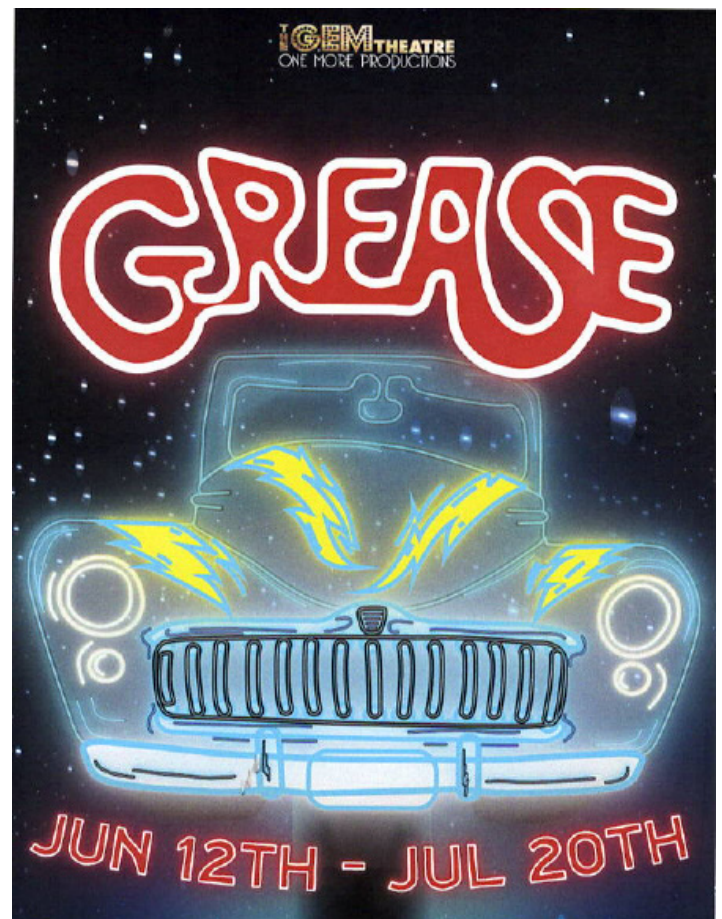
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The Munetons: GG's new power couple

Continued from page 1

an involved and active student at Santiago, Walter was ... not. "My main goal was to get a high school diploma," he said.

Now married for 11 years, they traveled toward their present roles in different ways. For Walter, it was a college assignment from Cal State Dominguez Hills that led him to attend a mayoral debate between incumbent Bruce Broadwater and challenger Bao Nguyen.

He approached Nguyen to offer his support. From there he sufficiently impressed the new mayor, who urged him to seek public office.

"In the span of a couple of months I went from doing a school project to running for school board," he said. He won. "I've always been involved," said Yesenia. "I've always had a passion for service." Impressed by her husband's ability to have an impact in the community, she ran for the council seat being vacated by now-mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein and won.

They have two children, a 5-year-old daughter and a 2-year-old son and seek to involve their children in their roles

as public servants, taking them to family-friendly events.

Walter is a social worker with the Long Beach Unified School District and Yesenia is a teacher in the Magnolia School District and they've worked through pandemics and are now grappling with the impact of the immigration crackdown.

But that's the job. Walter recalls the time when, as president of the school board, he was approached by a "sweet-looking old lady" after a particularly tense meeting.

"I pray that you go to hell," she said.

Ouch. But just part of the price of power, of a being a power couple.

Parks on the agenda for the Stanton council

Parks will be front and center for meetings Tuesday of the Stanton City Council.

The council will consider a variety of actions for the renovation of the Norm Ross Sports Park, including the conceptual site plan for the property with which the city had a joint use lease agreement with the Garden Grove Unified School District.

Also on the agenda is consideration of a item raised by Councilmember John Warren on creating a policy for the naming and renaming of city-owned parks and facilities.

Westminster and fireworks

Continued from page 3

Department officers and undercover detectives will be conducting enforcement operations in the days leading up to and on the Fourth of July.

These operations will focus on identifying and citing individuals in possession of or using illegal fireworks.

Violations may result in criminal charges, citations, and fines up to \$1,000.

Retorts: Gap

Continued from page 3

system.

If the council members can learn from these experiences and desist from advancing "culture war" initiatives that no one seemed to ask for, they can reclaim their status as leaders. Let's see if they've learned from this, and get back to business.

Next Wednesday: Stephanie makes a splash.

'Grease'

Continued from page 5

through July 20 at The Gem Theatre 12852 Main St., Garden Grove, CA, 92840.

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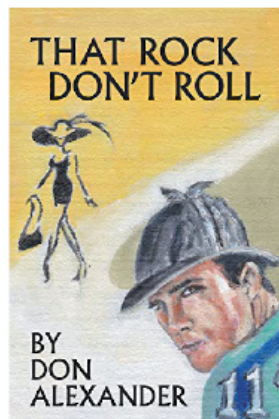
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