

AND THE BUILD-ING GOES ON



CONSTRUCTION continues on the state-of-the-art new Garden Grove Police Department building now rising at Euclid Street and Acacia Parkway. It's a three-story structure with an attached parking structure. (Orange County Tribune photo)

One Is Killed, One Wounded in 'Altercation'

GGPD arrests a suspect, and the investigation continues

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

in the 13100 block of Yockey St. and was reported at 1:53 p.m.

An armed altercation within a family led to the fatal shooting of one person and the wounding of another in Garden Grove on Monday.

Arriving officers found two men suffering from gunshot wounds. It was learned that three family members were involved in a dispute. The suspect reportedly heard the "altercation" between two other family members and heard gunshots.

Arrested on a charge of murder is Omar Molina, 32, a resident of Garden Grove.

Molina then armed himself and "went to see what was happening," and allegedly fired the shots that

According to Sgt. Nick Jensen of the GGPD, the second victim was hospitalized in critical condition.

The incident took place

Continued on page 2

Inquiry continues into a murder at riverbed

The investigation is continuing into a murder last week on the Santa Ana Riverbed Trail.

According to the Santa Ana Police Department, the incident took place on Friday. SAPD officers responded at about 12:03 a.m. to a report of a man down at 2100 W. 17th Street.

Arriving officers found

the man – later identified as Elvis Alfonso Mojica Delgado, 28 – lying unresponsive on the bicycle path of the riverbed.

He had suffered a gunshot wound to the upper torso. Orange County Fire Authority personnel also responded to the location and pronounced him dead at the scene.

Continued on page 2

In The Trib



'Let's Don't Go to the Dogs'

ARTS & LIVING 5

City moving toward curbs on Kratom use

On a 7-0 vote, the Huntington Beach City Council acted to "place guard rails" on the dangers posed by the "supplement" Kratom that's been connected to a wide variety of health problems, and even death.

On Tuesday night the council directed the city manager to work with the city attorney and the

HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL

police department to prepare an ordinance prohibiting and/or restricting the sale or distribution of the substance in the city.

The issue was raised by Mayor Pat Burns, Mayor Pro Tem Casey McKeon and Councilmember

Continued on page 2

New student representative announced

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

A new student representative and a new way of increasing student representation were introduced at Tuesday's meeting

of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education.

Stephanie Heflin, assistant superintendent for secondary education, introduced Christy Getachew, a senior this fall at

■ GARDEN GROVE SCHOOL BOARD

Rancho Alamitos High School, as the new student representative who will serve as a non-voting member of the board.

Heflin also announced the creation of a new GGUSD Student Senate, which will consist of "senators" from the high schools who will be "chosen by their peers" to work with the existing Board Representative Council.

HB council

Continued from page 1

Gracey Larrea-Van Der Mark, who cited information about the possible ill effects such as addiction, hallucinations, seizures, liver toxicity, and worse.

Its popularity comes from its reputation not only in treating pains, but also its stimulant effects of "increased alertness, boosted physical energy, talkativeness and a more social behavior," according to drugs.com.

Riverbed fatal

Continued from page 1

The motive for the shooting remains under investigation. SAPD homicide detectives are seeking to identify and locate more witnesses who can provide additional information.

Anyone with relevant information is asked to call SAPD detectives at (714) 245-8390.

'Altercation'

Continued from page 1

killed the man.

The "exact nature of how things transpired, what caused the deadly altercation and the weapons used are still under investigation," according to Sgt. Jensen.

Anyone with relevant information is asked to call Detective Heine at (714) 741-5422.

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

News & Views

The quiet that come before the who knows what

I'm no economist. In fact, I think I fell asleep once in the economics section of the college library,

But I wonder if I've stumbled upon something in the category of "unintended consequences." Totally unscientific, but, still, sometimes

you get hairs standing up on the back of your neck.

Walking and driving around our West Orange

County cities, talking to folks it

just seemed like ... there are fewer people out. Stores and restaurants are emptier than usual. Traffic is markedly moderate, even for a weekend. Considering what's going on across the country it seems not unreasonable to infer that people (a lot of people) were hunkered down, laying low and – in the argot of an earlier era – playing hooky. Not going to work and not spending money. Home Depot, and the area around in it were strangely vacant and quiet, also as if we're all waiting for the next step. Feels unprecedented..

I'm not gonna sell off stocks – I wouldn't know how – or invest in crypto currency (whatever that is) – but if future economists refer to the "ICE recession," remember you read it here, first.

You're the One That We Liked Dept. Saw "Grease" at the Gem Theatre in Garden Grove at a fund raiser for the Rotary Club.

There were many fine voices, but standing out the most was Sandy (Alli Gainer) performing "Hopelessly Devoted to You." Shivers and the echo of Olivia Newton-John in 1978.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Investigation still on in fatal Stanton shooting

Stanton shooting took the life of a 15-year-old boy

The investigation is continuing into the fatal shooting of one youth and the critical wounding of another in Stanton on July 5.

According to the Orange County Sheriff's Department – which provides police services to Stanton – the incident took place shortly before 2 p.m. in the 11000 block of Court Street, northeast of Beach Boulevard and Orangewood Street.

Callers to 9-1-1 reported a shooting in which two male juveniles suffered gunshot wounds.

One of the victims, identified as Samuel Louie Vidal, 15, of San Bernardino, was taken to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

The second victim was hospitalized in critical condition.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call the OCSD at (714) 647-7000.

CTE students honored for internships

The Garden Grove Unified School District recently honored 993 Career and Technical Education students who completed a six-week summer internship across 52 local businesses and organization.

The event was held on Friday during a special CTE Internship Culmination Celebration at the Don Wash Auditorium on the Garden Grove High School campus.

GGUSD School Board Trustee Teri Rocco district leaders, business and community partners, students and parents all came together for the event.

These high school juniors



AMONG THE CTE "GRADS" honored (GGUSD photo).

gained hands-on experience in fields such as medical, computer science, media arts, hospitality and more, earning 136 professional industry certifications.

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

History Minute

The tragedy that ended the Stanton Police Department

Stanton once had its own police department. In 1983 a tragedy occurred which took the life of a 5-year-old child, attracted national attention and caused great grief to many.

At the Continental Gardens Apartments on March 3, 1983, a SPD officer mistakenly shot and killed a 5-year-old boy holding a toy gun.



STANTON POLICE BADGE IN THE EIGHTIES

In the aftermath, the city closed the department and since 1988 has contracted with the Orange County Sheriff's Department for police services.

DUI arrest of driver in death of pedestrian

A 62-year-old Costa Mesa man was arrested Saturday night in Huntington Beach in connection with a fatal traffic accident that took the life of a pedestrian.

According to the HBPD, the incident took place around 6 p.m. at Brookhurst Street and Crailet Drive and involved a white Toyota RAV4 sport utility vehicle and a pedestrian.

NewsUpdate

2,000 CNG Troops Going Home

But 2000 will stay, along with 700 Marines

The deployment of about 2,000 California National Guard soldiers to the Los Angeles area to back immigration enforcement activities is ending, the Pentagon announced on Tuesday.

According to the Associated Press, that would leave 2,000 CNG troops in place. The original force of 4,000 soldiers and 700 U.S. Marines was sent in response to protests against immigration raids in Los Angeles, Orange and other counties.

They had the responsibility of protecting federal buildings and immigration agents and –



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD troops (Wikipedia))

officially – were not involved in making arrests or transporting detainees.

It’s not known how long the remaining 2,700 troops will continue to be in place. Their

deployment came over the objections of Gov. Gavin Newsom and L.A. Mayor Karen Bass.

Health worker layoffs are official; terminations upheld by Supreme Court

Notices of layoffs for thousands of workers in the Department of Health and Human Services were finalized on Tuesday.

The New York Times is reporting that Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the Health Secretary, announced in March that he was ordering the termination of 10,000 employees.

Lawsuits challenging the decision – authorized by President Donald Trump – delayed en-

forcement of the order. However, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the move and overturned a lower-court action blocking the layoff.

Some workers have been offered their jobs back after the April firings, including those working in the fields of occupational health, lead poisoning response and food safety lab professionals.

Highs at 78 or 79; you choose

You don’t have to be a meteorologist to predict the weather over the next few days in our West Orange County cities. The forecast calls for morning clouds on Wednesday turning to sun that afternoon. Partly cloudy conditions will move in on Thursday through Saturday with daily highs of 78 or 79 and 64 at night.

Some Republicans want to recind some Trump ‘recissions’

President Donald Trump’s move to cancel \$9.4 billion in money that’s already been approved is now the subject of some Senate Republicans efforts.

According to The Associated Press, those senators are hoping to preserve an estimated \$1.1 billion in money for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (parent of the Public Broadcasting System/PBS) and about \$9.4 billion in foreign aid programs

that are believed to have saves millions of lives with its global health efforts.

That program was started by President George H. W. Bush and featured AIDs prevention in Africa.

The money that Trump is seeking to “claw back” has been identified as “wasteful” by the semi-official Department of Government Efficiency, started by Elon Musk.

Great Thoughts

“Hardship often prepares an ordinary person for extraordinary destiny.”

– Christopher Markus

“The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.”

– Plato

Arts & Living

Lexi Venter, 7, Stars in 'Go to The Dogs'

Movie is set in fading days of 'Rhodesia'

By Jocelyn Noveck
Associated Press Film Writer

"Are we racists?" That's the blunt question posed by Bobo, a white girl living on a farm in Africa, to her horrified (and defensive) mother.

There are so many ways this three-word line reading could land wrongly — or just seem forced or mannered. But it feels thoroughly organic when voiced by Lexi Venter, an extraordinary first-time actor who gives, at age 7, one of the more compelling child performances in recent memory in "Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight."

It's a performance that was seeded, watered and nurtured by Embeth Davidtz, an extraordinary actor herself who wrote, directed and stars in this adaptation of Alexandra Fuller's admired 2001 memoir. One imagines Davidtz, in her triple role (and as a first-time director), had hundreds upon hundreds of decisions to make. Her most important, though, was finding and casting this youngster possessed of a wild nature, a mop of unruly hair and a face like a broad canvas waiting to be painted.

The movie, which chronicles one family's life in the turbulent, waning days of white rule in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), was not always going to be narrated by a child. Davidtz's first attempt at adapting the memoir, told in third person, was too remote, she herself has said. Then she zoomed in on the idea of telling the tale uniquely from Bobo's perspective.

Davitz, who spent much of her childhood in South Africa, was drawn to the project because it recalled her own experience growing up in a world where racial inequality and violence were everywhere, but none of the



LEXI VENTER shines in "Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight" (Sony Pictures Classic).

Movie Review

adult explanations made much sense.

The director's own family life also included, like the Fuller family's, mental illness and alcoholism; she has said that neither the outside world nor home life felt safe.

And that's how it is for Bobo, 8 years old when we meet her, the younger of two daughters of Nicola and Tim Fuller. We will soon learn that another daughter died as a toddler in a tragic drowning — one of the reasons Nicola (Davitz) is so emotionally tied to the family farm, as conveyed in one particularly brutal scene brimming with rage. She may not be native to the land, but her offspring is buried in its soil.

We begin with Bobo explaining how she's afraid to go alone to pee in the night. "Terrorists," as they've been described by the adults, might lurk anywhere, even on the way to the bathroom, carrying a gun or knife or spear.

But imaginary threats are accompanied by real ones. During the day, a trip into town with her mother necessitates an escort vehicle. "I really hope we don't die in an ambush today," Bobo says casually to an armed guard. This is a child who helps Dad pack his ammo at breakfast.

The film, shot in South Africa, is set in the days before and after the 1980 parliamentary election — a crucial vote that will bring the Black majority to power in Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe. Visiting her parents' home, Nicola patronizingly in-

Good: ★ ★ ★

structs their Black servants on which candidate to support.

At home, Nicola's desperation rages. She drinks bourbon by the bottle and sleeps with a huge gun. She doesn't spend much time with her daughters, which leaves Bobo plenty of time to hang out with the animals, ride her motorbike, and smoke cigarettes.

Such habits earn Bobo the disapproval of her most valued

Continued on page 8

Better music in the 80s or 90s?

The City of Garden Grove's 2025 Free Summer Concert Series continues this Thursday in Eastgate Park in West Garden Grove.

On the Showmobile Stage will be the "80s vs 90s Show" showcasing tributes to the outstanding popular music of those eras.

The show will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Next week (July 24) is the Kelly Boyz Band with some country music tunes.



TheSportsPages

Trout has been a world champ for many years

The brightest light in the baseball universe is Shohei Ohtani, the “unicorn” who may eventually be proclaimed the greatest of all time.

That glare may be enough to forget that it wasn’t so long ago that another player who got his start in an Angel uniform was considered a great as well.

That player, of course, is Mike Trout. Despite several recent seasons – including this one – in which his powers were diminished by injuries – he is on the cusp of reaching milestones that will propel him further toward the Hall of Fame.

Going into the All-Star Break, Trout in his 15th season with the Halos has hit 395 home runs and driven in 995 runs. A few more weeks of baseball and he’ll be past those and on to new statistical glory.

Three times he has been named American League Most Valuable Player, despite performing for a uniformly mediocre team. Thrice more he was second in the MVP race.

The all-awing stat of WAR (Wins Above Replacement) indicates that – on average – he was responsible for the Angels winning nine more games a season than they otherwise would have.

Hobbled by injury and age, he’s hitting a below-average .236 but nevertheless has 17 home runs and 41 RBIs so far in 2025.

On top of his statistical achievements with a bat, he’s been one of the premier center fielders for decades and has remained stoutly loyal to the team that drafted him.

That’s not a jab at Shohei. A chance to play for a World Se-

Continued on page 8



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano



WILL ROBOT umpires take the MLB field in 2026? Could be (Shutterstock)

Robot Umps in 2026?

All-Star game use could herald their use in MLB

By Robert Blum
Associated Press Baseball Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Tarik Skubal views the strike zone differently than robot umpires.

“I have this thing where I think everything is a strike until the umpire calls it a ball,” Detroit’s AL Cy Young Award winner said

ahead of his start for the American League in Tuesday night’s All-Star Game.

MLB has been experimenting with the automated ball-strike system in the minor leagues since 2019 and will use it in an All-Star Game for the first time this summer. Each team gets two challenges and retains the challenge if

it is successful.

“Pitchers think everything is a strike. Then you go back and look at it, and it’s two, three balls off,” Pittsburgh’s Paul Skenes, starting his second straight All-Star Game for the National League, said Monday. “We should not be the ones that are challenging it.”

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Home-Run Derby decides the All-Star Game; National League snaps a skid

The 2025 Major League Baseball All-Star game ended not with a whimper but a bang.

After a 6-6 deadlock at the end of the ninth, the unprecedented took over.

The game was concluded with a mini-Home Run Derby and the National League snapped Dodger manager Dave Roberts’ 0-for-3 streak. Phillies’ Kyle Schwarber’s three “homers” provided the margin of victory for the NL in the game at Trust Field in Atlanta.

The National League All-Stars built up a 6-0 lead, but the American League All-Stars ral-

■ THE ROUNDUP

lied late in the game late to tie it up in the top of the ninth.

After a couple of days off, the teams will be back in action on Friday.

The Los Angeles Dodgers (58-39) who are in first place in the NL West will host the Milwaukee Brewers for a three-game set through Sunday.

The Los Angeles Angels (47-49) are in fourth place in the AL West and will resume play in Philadelphia against the Phillies, also Friday through Sunday.



KYLE SCHWARBER came through for the National League/

Robot ump's could be calling strikes

Continued from page 6

MLB sets the top of the automated strike zone at 53.5% of a batter's height and the bottom at 27%, basing the decision on the midpoint of the plate, 8 1/2 inches from the front and 8 1/2 inches from the back. That contrasts with the rule book zone called by umpires, which says the zone is a cube.

"I did a few rehabs starts with it. I'm OK with it. I think it works," said three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers. "Aaron Judge and Jose Altuve should have different sized boxes. They've obviously thought about that. As long as that gets figured out, I think it'll be fine."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred anticipates the system will be considered by the sport's 11-man competition committee, which includes six management representatives.

Many pitchers have gravitated to letting their catchers and managers trigger ball/strike appeals. Teams won 52.2% of their challenges during the spring training test.

Batters won exactly 50% of their 596 challenges and the defense 54%, with catchers successful 56% of the time and pitchers 41%.

Hall of Famer Joe Torre, an honorary AL coach, favors the system. After his managing career, he worked for MLB and helped supervised expanded video review in 2014.

"You couldn't ignore it with all the technology out there," he said. "You couldn't sit and make an excuse for, 'Look at what really happened' the next day."

Now 84, Torre recalled how his Yankee teams benefitted at least twice from blown calls in the postseason, including one involving the strike zone.

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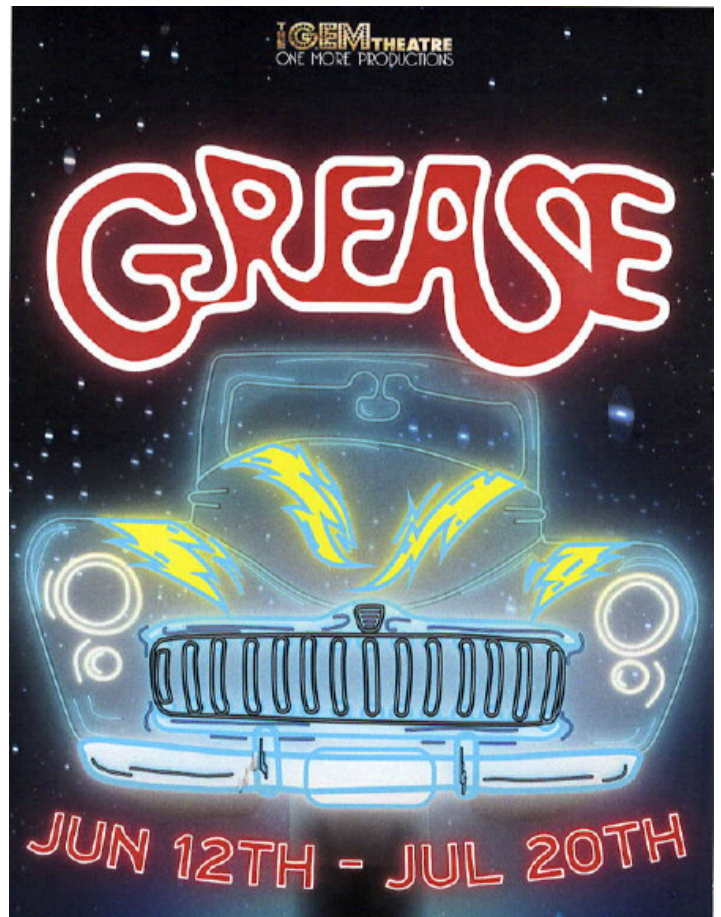
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Robot ump's could be calling strikes in 2026

Continued from page 7

With the 1998 World Series opener tied and the bases loaded with two outs in the seventh inning, Tino Martinez took a 2-2 pitch from San Diego's Mark Langston that appeared to be a strike but was called a ball by Richie Garcia.

Martinez hit a grand slam on the next pitch for a 9-5 lead, and the Yankees went on to a four-game sweep.

Asked whether he was happy there was no robot umpire then, Torre grinned and said: "Possibly."

Then he added without a prompt:

"Well, not to mention the home run that Jeter hit."

His reference was to Derek Jeter's home run in the 1996 AL Championship Series opener,

when 12-year-old fan Jeffrey Mair reached over the wall to snatch the ball above the glove over Baltimore right fielder Tony Tarasco.

'Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight'

Continued from page 5

friend, Sarah (Zikhona Bali, in a warm and nuanced performance), one of two adult servants who work on the farm.

The other is Jacob (Fumani N. Shilubana), who warns Sarah that her relationship with Bobo is too publicly affectionate in these precarious times. Besides,

he tells her, Bobo thinks of her as a "stupid village girl." But there is real affection between the two.

Privately, they laugh and share stories. And Sarah, conscious of the risks, tries to be the attentive parent Bobo lacks. When she catches the girl, messy-haired and smudgy-faced, smoking — at age 7! — she scolds her. "There's nothing wrong with me, I'm perfect!" Bobo replies, with the self-belief that comes from a childhood spent bossing around people like Sarah.

You can direct moments like this, as Davidtz does expertly while somehow turning in a heartbreaking and increasingly unhinged performance of her own. But you can't manufacture lightning in a bottle — for example, the infectious joy Venter exudes, even while her family is losing everything, singing a rowdy song about a stripper.

Davidtz has said she searched far and wide to find her star, interviewing experienced child actors but not finding the "feral" girl she needed. A Facebook search yielded Venter. Davidtz

knew she was right before even meeting her in person. Working with the girl three hours a day, she did not give her a script, but rather provided guidance and let her improvise.

Nobody's perfect, though Bobo may think she is. But in Venter's performance, Davidtz has found something pretty close: a child actor who can carry an entire film and never seem like she's acting. Bobo's story has now been told; let's hope we see young Venter telling many more.

"Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight," a Sony Pictures Classics release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for violent/bloody images, language, sexual assault, and some underage smoking/drinking." Running time: 98 minutes.

Sports Retorts

Continued from page 6

ries title is hard to pass up.

But let's never forget that Mike Trout has been a world champ in his own quiet way for years.

Driver arrested in death of pedestrian in H. Beach

Continued from page 3

The pedestrian — not immediately identified — was found unconscious in the street.

She was taken to a local hospital where she was later pronounced dead.

The driver of the Toyota cooperated with investigators. Police believe that impairment was a factor in the incident. He was arrested for driving under the influence.

It's unknown if the pedestrian

was impaired.

The preliminary investigation indicated that the RAV4 was traveling northbound on Brookhurst and struck the pedestrian south of the intersection with Crailet Drive.

Anyone who may have witnessed the accident or the events leading up to it is encouraged to contact HBPD Traffic Investigator C. Houlston at (714) 536-5559.



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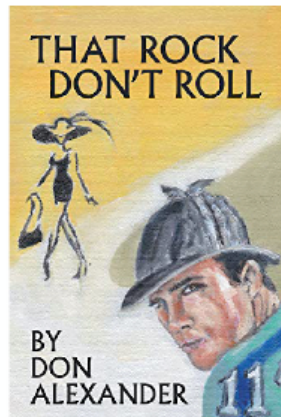
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.