

Forecast Is For FOGG in the Green

Food-tasting, music, more in downtown Garden Grove

From a staff writer

Have you ever wondered just what might be great to eat around town without actually driving all over town?

An opportunity presents itself this Friday when the second annual “Foods of Garden Grove” event takes over the Village Green park in downtown.

Three dozen local eateries – with a wide array of cuisines, tastes and traditions from the all-American hamburger to exotic flavors from around the world – will offer samples of their best.

It’s fine cuisine, sandwiches, beers, BBQ, desserts, soups, seafood, baked goods, tacos and more reflecting the cul-



Foods of Garden Grove LIVE, also known as “FOGG,” will return to the downtown area of the city at the Village Green Park on Friday evening. (City of Garden Grove photo).

tural diversity of Orange County’s fifth-largest city. The event will run from 5:30 to 9 p.m., with ticket booths opening at 4:30 p.m.

Admission is free and the accompanying music concert is, too. Tasting

tickets must be purchased separately. Many have already done their pre-sale, but you can buy tickets at the event.

The fun pack buys you five tastings for \$15; foodie pack is 10 for \$30; the family pack is 20 for \$45

and the VIP lounge pack is 16 tastes and bite-sized appetizers for \$75 (must be 21 and claim wristband).

There’s more, so go to: <https://ggcity.org/food-sofgardengrove/live>.

Politics tops the agenda tonight

Several “political” items are on the agenda for Wednesday’s meeting of the Westminster City Council.

In addition to several pages of “housekeeping” items which include an update on the Central Cities Navigation Center for the homeless, the council will consider:

- a resolution to support the use of voter identification;
- a resolution “opposing VietRISE’s Promotion of Communist Propaganda

■ **WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

in Little Saigon and Reaffirming the City’s Commitment to Historical Truth and Freedom,” and

- a resolution “opposing any actions that dishonor the American flag.”

Additionally, the council will consider an item continued from the Sept.10 meeting considering the removal from office of Planning Commissioner Tony Bui, and also his re-

Continued on page 2

In The Trib



Mike hits 400th
SPORTS PAGES 6-8

‘Q-Street’ is back



ARTS & LIVING 6 & 8

Memorial for Kirk advances by 6-0

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

■ **HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL**

A somewhat modified proposal for artwork to memorialize slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk and honor freedom of speech was approved at a special meeting of the Huntington Beach City Council on Tuesday afternoon.

The vote was 6-0 with Councilmember Gracey Van Der Mark absent. The final motion called for a council ad hoc committee

composed of Mayor Pat Burns and Councilmen Chad Williams and Andrew Gruel to work with city staff to work toward creating some art form – a mural or plaque or statue – with that mission.

The original proposal from Councilman Chad Williams and co-sponsored by Mayor Pat Burns and Councilman Andrew Gruel drew more criticism from speakers than

Continued on page 2

Charlie Kirk memorial – adjusted – advances

Continued from page 1

support. Eleven people spoke against it with six in favor. One opponent, who said she was in the “hospitality business” said she felt the mural would increase

Huntington Beach’s reputation for political conflict and take away from its image as a fun place to visit and surf.

A supporter hailed it as a “great idea” to honor Kirk, calling him

a hero to many people.

Councilmember Butch Twining expressed general support for the concept but suggested that if the artwork was to be about freedom of speech, it should include other advocates of free expression such as Fredrick Douglas, Martin Luther King and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Finally, the motion was amended to broaden its mission. Members pointed out that no public money would be spent on the project and it might be placed on private or public property.

Westminster

Continued from page 1

removal from the Citizen’s Oversight Committee on Measures Y and E.

The council will meet in open session at 6 p.m. in the Rose Center Theater, 14140 All American Way.

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News & Views

From the science that brought you Clorox cures ...

Not since James Watt, secretary of the interior in the Eighties, shrugged his shoulders about the environment because he believed that the world was going to end soon anyway, has the U.S. had such an “interesting” Cabinet member as Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

A skeptic of vaccination, he is a non-scientific fella without any knowledge of science in the kind of “just common sense”



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

school of medicine that brought us a suggestion to try using Clorox as a treatment for the coronavirus.

RFK Jr.’s qualifications include denying that HIV and/or AIDS are real diseases and suggesting that chemical trails (commonly called “contrails”) might deliberately be laced with bad stuff for weather modification or population control.

Now comes an announcement from the White House suggesting a link between autism and Tylenol, a discovery sure to cheer the folks from Advil, Bayer aspirin and Aleve.

I feel a kind of sympathy with RFK Jr. because in my time I have advocated for certain – how shall I put this?– “research-light” – theories about health.

These are – no kidding – things I used to believe, or at least try...

- apple cider vinegar as an antibiotic or antiseptic applied directly to a wound, burn or bite. OWWWWWWThcch!
- wheat germ as a flea-repellant on dog food. All four paws down from Cassie, the retriever.

Continued on page 8



FLAG OF REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (center) in 2020 Tet Festival parade along Westminster Avenue in Garden Grove (Tribune photo).

Vietnam Flag Honored?

U.S. Representative Derek Tran (D-45th District) has introduced a Congressional resolution honoring the significance of the Vietnamese heritage flag as an emblem of “cultural identity, freedom, and the struggle for democracy and human rights.”

The resolution formally recog-

nizes the Vietnamese heritage flag as the official symbol of the Vietnamese American refugee community, and of the Republic of Vietnam veterans who fought alongside U.S. forces in defense of freedom and democracy during the Vietnam War.

“The Vietnamese heritage flag is not just a reminder of a shared experience of loss among the Vietnamese community – the loss of our homes, our livelihoods, and our beloved country after the fall of Saigon – it’s a reminder of our strength, determination, and resilience,” said Tran.

His district includes all or parts of Garden Grove, Westminster,

Fountain Valley, Buena Park and Yorba Linda in Orange County and Cerritos in Los Angeles County.

“Fifty years ago, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees, including my own parents, were forced to leave the only home they knew in search of freedom and democracy.

“Our heritage flag symbolizes the grit and determination rooted in our community, and how far we have come despite immeasurable odds. As the first Vietnamese American to represent Orange County’s Little Saigon in Congress, I am proud to introduce a resolution

Continued on page 8

Five-story, 34-unit apartment complex OK’d by planners

A site plan for proposal to build a five-story, 34-unit apartment building was approved by the Garden Grove Planning Commission when it met on Thursday.

The vote was five in favor and one opposed.

The applicant, William Jager, plans to construct the project at 13040 Coast Street, between Garden Grove Boulevard and Larson Avenue on an approximately half-acre lot. The location is generally between Beach Boulevard and Magnolia Street, near Stanton.

The project would include three affordable units for “very low income” households and three affordable units for “moderate” income households.

History Minute

Encyclopedia Lots of Huntington Beach

If you think land lots in Orange County are small now, consider the “encyclopedia lots” of Huntington Beach. From 1914 to 1919, salesmen of expensive Bibles sweetened the deal with a tiny lot – 25-inches by 112 inches -- of land in HB. The lots were virtually useless until the



discovery of oil made then immensely valuable to drillers and developers.

NewsUpdate

Trump: Ukraine Can Get Back Land

Surprising shift after meeting with Zelensky

President Donald Trump on Tuesday delivered some surprising remarks on the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, according to the Associated Press.

In the past, the president has expressed skepticism about Ukraine's prospects and suggested that it might need to trade land for peace.

But after meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, he posted this on social media: "I think Ukraine, with the support of the European Union, is in a position to fight and WIN all of



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP with Ukrainian President Zelensky (Shutterstock).

Ukraine in its original form. With time, patience and the financial support of Europe, and, in par-

ticular NATO, the original borders from where this war started is very much an option."

"Trump is a game-changer by himself," Zelensky said after their meeting.

Israeli forces are moving further into Gaza City

To the sound of tanks, drones and gunfire, Israeli troops are pushing further into Gaza City.

United Press International reports that tanks have moved into the west of Gaza's largest city, an area called Beach Camp on Tuesday. Others were spotted south of the Islamic University on Monday.

Israel has ordered inhabitants to leave the area, and an estimated

640,000 people have fled.

At the United Nations, more nations have joined in their recognition of an independent Palestinian state.

The new supporters are Andorra, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, and San Marino, all of them small European states.

They follow earlier action by Great Britain, Australia and Canada.

It's gonna get a bit cooler

It's not yet time to get out your sweaters, but there's a cooling trend coming to our West Orange County cities. The forecast for Wednesday is for a daytime high of 84 with an overnight low of 67 along with sunny skies. Thursday will see the thermometer drop to 80 (69) under partly cloudy skies. Friday should chill a bit to 78 (68) with mostly cloudy skies; Saturday will be the same at 78

Play ball! With a robotic umpire's help in MLB starting with '26 season

The competition committee of Major League Baseball voted on Tuesday to approve the use of what are called "robot umpires" in calling balls and strikes.

According to The Los Angeles Times the Automated Ball/Strike System will debut in the big leagues by 2026.

It won't be some monster made of metal; it will be a

video-computer system that won't be calling all the pitches except that each team will be allowed to challenge two calls per game, with more umpiring calls if a game goes into extra innings.

The challenge can be made by a pitcher, catcher or batter. As in football, a successful challenge is retained.

Great Thoughts

"Science can never solve one problem without creating ten more problems."

– George Bernard Shaw

"One machine can do the work of 50 ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man."

– Elbert Hubbard.

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom."

– Isaac Asimov

Arts & Living

'Mature' Puppets at The Gem

It's naughty and fun, but it's not for everyone

By Thom deMartino
Orange County Tribune

The dirty puppets have returned to the Gem!

But once more, for the folks in the back: YES, this is a puppet show; but with its adult humor, NO, this show is definitely NOT for kids.

Following its wildly popular run at the Gem Theater back in 2022, "Avenue Q" has returned to entertain and shock the sensibilities. Directed by Damien Lorton, it's like adult Sesame Street, but with (often hilarious) mature situations and themes.

College graduate Princeton (Matthew Rangel) is traversing the city and wondering what to do with his English B.A., as he's looking for a place to live – so when he stumbles upon the "for rent" sign on Avenue Q, it seems like Kismet... particularly when he meets the charming neighbor, kindergarten teacher Ms. Kate Monster (Sasha Baker).

There's also a motley array of new neighbors for him as well, including aspiring comedian Brian (Charlie Massey); his fiancé, the colorful Christmas Eve (Evie Becerra); and then there's the Trekkie Monster (Peter Crisafulli), and the pair of bachelors, Rod and Nicky (again, Matthew Rangel and Peter Crisafulli). Rounding out the crew is the apartment superintendent, former child television star Gary Coleman (Trevin Stephenson).

What follows are the trials and tribulations of these puppets and players, living in the city, each with their own lives and challenges: but even here on Avenue Q, there's plenty of life lessons to be learned by all.

With the success of the 2022 production, audience demand brought back this fun, uncon-



"AVENUE Q" IS BACK on stage at the Gem Theater in Garden Grove ... for adults.

Stage Review

ventional and edgy musical, and it has been worth the wait. "Avenue Q" takes on a number of contemporary topics, including racism, homelessness, sexual identity, internet porn and more. The language is spicy and often laced with profanity – which, coming from puppets, only adds to the hilarity.

The quality of the performances is outstanding: particularly when you consider that the actors are often playing multiple roles, even voicing two characters at the same time (such as the marvelous work of Baker switching seamlessly between both Kate Monster and Lucy the... um, "cabaret singer"? ...as they interact with each other... or Rangel's remarkable quick-changing between Princeton and Rod.)

The stand-out musical numbers will pleasantly surprise as well, not only for the language but for the comedic handling of the subject matter: whether it's "The

Internet Is For Porn", "Schadenfreude", or "Everyone's a Little Bit Racist", themes that could never be broached a typical kids-type show get explored, with hysterical results.

Stellar work by all, especially considering how few cast members there are: there's marvelous performances by both Baker and Becerra, excellent work by Rangel playing his double roles, and

Great: ★ ★ ★ ★

some extremely funny bits by the "Bad Idea Bears" played by Allie Kyte and Peter Crisafulli... honestly, there's too many humorous elements to name, it's just something you must see for yourself.

Continued on page 8

Fall Festival this week

The 4th annual Westminster Fall Festival will be held this Thursday through Sunday (Sept. 25-28) in the Civic Center, 8200 Westminster Blvd. (between All American Way and Beach Boulevard) with carnival rides, food and entertainment. Admission is free; rides and food are not. Hours are Thursday 5-9 p.m.; Friday 5-10 p.m.; Saturday: 12-10 p.m.; Sunday, 12-9 p.m.



TheSportsPages

Robots will be taking over the balls and strikes

One of the fast-disappearing charms of baseball is its tolerance of quirkiness. Some of that resistance to rigid conformity will disappear as Major League Baseball in 2026 employs the Automatic Ball/Strike system which will allow each team to challenge umpire's pitching calls at the plate twice in a game.

In some ways this is a long-needed reform. There's a specific definition of a batter's strike zone in the rule book, but — in reality — it varied from player to



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano

player, from day to day, umpire to umpire and even league to league. As an umpire in "A League of Their Own" said in the closing credit roll, "Tomorrow it might be a ball, but today it's a strike."

The ABS may correct some injustices, but will likely remove much of the color from the game. Catchers are notorious — or legendary — for how they might use psychology to influence the Men in Blue.

A pitch that's actually outside can appear to be inside the strike zone through careful positioning of the catcher's glove. A catcher might complain constantly about a umpire's decision-making and therefore bully him into getting more favorable treatment.

And then there's the MakeUp Call, in which an ump recognizes he made a mistake, then seeks to make amends by awarding an incorrect benign call to the wounded party next time up.

Not any more. You won't even be able to yell, "Kill the umpire." All you can say is "Reboot his processor!" Doesn't have the same charm, does it?

Trout Hit No. 400 Out

It was on his 'to-do' list for Angels' star

By Chris Meyer
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A difficult season for Mike Trout and his Los Angeles Angels team came with a historical benchmark Saturday.

The three-time American League most valuable player and 11-time all-star hit his 400th career home run in the eighth inning of a 3-0 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

The 485-foot solo shot to left center field off a 98-mph sinker from Rockies reliever Jaden Hill extended the Angels' lead to 3-0 as the club snapped an eight-game losing streak.

"It's one of the things coming into the season that was on the list," said Trout, who entered the season with 378 career homers. "I'm just happy it's over. I'm enjoying it, obviously. It sucks the family wasn't out here, but they watched it on TV. My boys back home, my two sons, and my wife



LOS ANGELES Angels designated hitter Mike Trout watches his hit clear the wall for a home run in the eighth inning against the Colorado Rockies on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, in Denver. (AP Photo/RJ Sangosti)

got to see it on TV. My buddies back home and my family back home in Jersey, they can stop texting me to hit the 400th. It means a lot to me."

The homer was the 10th longest in famously hitter-friendly Coors Field history since the ad-

vent of Statcast in 2015.

After the game, Trout received the ball from the fan who caught it. Trout gave the fan, his wife and his two young children three autographed bats and two

Continued on page 7

Dodgers bit by by D-backs; Angels lose the 9th of 10

The **Los Angeles Dodgers** got a lesson in "it ain't over until it's over" on Tuesday as they lost a lead in falling 5-4 to the Arizona Diamondbacks as well as one game of the lead that they had in the National League West over the San Diego Padres, who have won four straight.

The Blue Crew (now 88-69) were leading 4-3 when the D-backs rallied with two runs in the bottom of the ninth on Gerardo Perdomo's walkoff single.

Teoscar Hernandez led the Dodgers attack with a home run and a triple for three RBIs. Shohei Ohtani pitched six shut-

THE ROUNDUP

out innings, yielding five hits and striking out eight batters.

The **Los Angeles Angels** suffered their ninth loss in 10 games, falling 8-4 to the Kansas City Royals in Anaheim.

The Halos (70-87) were outthit 15-5 and no player had more than one hit. Bryce Teodosio had a two-run home run in the fifth inning.

Taylor Ward hit his 35th homer of the season in the bottom of the ninth, knocking in two runs for the losers.

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Seattle	88-69	.561	—	9-1
Houston	84-73	.535	4	5-5
Texas	79-78	.503	9	2-8
Athletics	74-83	.471	14	7-3
ANGELS	70-87	.445	18	1-9

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	88-69	.561	—	6-4
San Diego	87-71	.551	1.5	7-3
Arizona	80-77	.510	8	7-3
San Fran.	77-80	.494	11	2-8
Colorado	43-114	.274	45	3-7

The team is now five games out of fourth place with five games to play as they wind up the last week of their 10th consecutive losing season.

'Twas the Week Before League Play...

By the way, it was another Edison victory

For most of our West Orange County high school football teams, this is the last week before league play starts. Many will be idle, and some will have pre-league games before starting conference play on or about October 3.

The High Five this week is nearly identical to last week, with Edison again atop the ladder, followed by Huntington Beach, Western, Orange and Marina. On the bubble are Paci-

Prep Sport Spotlight

fica and Westminster. Rankings are determined by MaxPrep.com math.

Speaking of Edison, for reasons that passeth understanding, it was hard to find the outcome of the "Bell Game" between long-time rivals Edison and Fountain Valley right after the game.

This year, the outcome was typical, with the Chargers winning 34-7 over the Barons.

Starring for the green-and-gold were quarterback Sam Thomson (passed for 119 yards and a TD),

The High 5

Rankings of the top five area high school football teams.

SEPT. 24, 2025

- | | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Edison Chargers | 4-1 |
| 2. Hunt Beach Oilers | 4-1 |
| 3. Western Pioneers | 4-1 |
| 4. Orange Panthers | 3-2 |
| 5. Marina Vikings | 4-1 |

On the bubble: Pacifica (2-3), Westminster (2-3).

Sam Edmisten and Anthony Godinez (each rushing for two touchdowns).

It was the 21st consecutive win for Edison, who will retain the victory bell once again.

Speaking of rivalry games, Garden Grove (1-3) and Ran-

cho Alamitos (3-1) will meet on Friday. They started playing each other in 1958.

The Vaqueros have to be favored with the better record but the Argonauts have played a tough schedule. It should be close.

Here's the schedule of local prep football games. Most teams are idle. Most games are set for a 7 p.m. start. As always, times, locations, and even opponents are subject to change without notice.

FRIDAY

Edison (4-1) vs, La Serna (2-3); Garden Grove (1-3) vs. Rancho Alamitos (3-1); La Quinta (2-1-1) vs. Compton Early College (1-3); Los Amigos (3-1) vs. Eisenhower (2-3).

SATURDAY

Bolsa Grande (1-3) vs. Channel Islands (0-4),



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Mike Trout finally hit his number 400 out

Continued from page

autographed balls and, at the fan's request, briefly played catch with him out on the field. "Once they get older and realize, that'll be an awesome memory for the dad to tell the kids, to experience that," Trout said. "I know how I felt when I went to a ballgame with my dad."

He became the 59th player in MLB history with at least 400 home runs and the third player to reach the mark while in an Angels uniform, joining Dave Winfield and Vladimir Guerrero. He's the 20th player to hit each of his first 400 home runs with one franchise.

Additionally, he's the fifth player ever to hit at least 400 home runs and steal at least 200 bases by his age-33 season, with Willie Mays, Sammy Sosa, Barry Bonds and Alex Rodriguez also in that group. Among active players, only Giancarlo Stanton

has hit more career home runs than Trout.

He reached 1,000 career RBIs in July with home run No. 397. Trout, a career .294 hitter, is batting just .229 this season, though his 22 homers and 59 RBIs are his most in three years after he

Continued on page 8

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Eagles Blocked an Epic Rams' Victory

Another heartbreaker vs, Philly

By Dan Gelsron
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Call him Karty B — as in, blocked. Joshua Karty went from automatic for the Rams — four straight field goals, including a 51-yarder — to being barely

able to get his kicks off the ground.

The Philadelphia Eagles blocked two straight attempts by Karty on Sunday. The first set up Philly's drive for a go-ahead touchdown late in the fourth quarter, and the second came on the final play of the

game with the Rams trailing by one. Jordan Davis knocked Karty's potential game-winner to the ground, scooped the ball and returned it 61 yards for a touchdown to seal Los Angeles' 33-26 loss.

The Rams blew a 19-point, third-quarter lead, and that can't all be blamed on Karty. But there was clearly something wrong with his approach on the final two kicks.

As with a pitcher tipping his pitches, the Eagles noticed some tells.

"The way we talked about it on the sideline, we knew especially off his last kick, we knew his angle, we knew his launch point," Davis said. "We just hit the gap, put our hands up at the right time and I saw the ball on

the ground at the right time." Karty didn't attempt a field goal in the season opener and went 2 for 2 in last week's win over Tennessee. He entered the game 31 of 36 overall in his two-year career with the Rams. "Whether we found a way to make that kick or whether we ended up having that result right there, we've got to be able to keep it moving," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "We've got a lot of football left and that's what you're going to see."

The Rams led 26-21 midway through the fourth when Jalen Carter blocked Karty's 36-yard try, and Jalen Hurts then led the Eagles on a 17-play, 91-yard touchdown drive. That left 1:48 on the clock for Matthew Stafford, who led the Rams into position for Karty's 44-yard attempt with 3 seconds left.

McVay and Stafford each lamented other blown opportunities — such as failures to convert on third down — that led to yet another loss to the Eagles.

Trout's No. 400

Continued from page 5

endured injury shortened seasons in 2023 and 2024.

Entering Saturday's matchup, Trout had just one home run in his previous 36 games.

"I enjoy playing this game," Trout said. "Obviously, there's going to be ups and downs. That's part of it. It's always going to be a grind. That's what I love about it. You get humbled a little bit when you feel like you go out there and you have so much success and then you go through rough stretches. That's what I've been going through. It's good to finally get this milestone."

Jlm's Retorts

Continued from page 3

- more people died from the improper use of mayonnaise (cole slaw, macaroni salad and potato salad) than drunk driving and gunshot wounds. OK, an exaggeration, but not by much.

Those ideas may sound ridiculous, but they said the same thing about malaria being caused by swamp gas. Oh, wait, that was UFOs, wasn't it? ...

'Avenue Q' not for kids

Continued from page 5

It's a funny, over-the-top experience, reminiscent of the muppets you remember from childhood — only a little more twisted, in just the right way. It's definitely something different for theatergoers — and even if it may not be for everyone, the adventurous viewer won't regret taking a stroll down "Avenue Q."

Sasha Baker and Peter Crisafulli star in this delightfully racy adult take on the puppet-based shows of our childhoods. Now playing through October 12 at The Gem Theater 12852 Main St, Garden Grove, CA, 92840. Call 714-741-9550 x221 or email boxoffice@onemoreproductions.com for ticketing information. Mature language and themes, not appropriate for children.

"Avenue Q", Matthew Rangel,



Who helped eradicate the plague of polio?
Garden Grove Rotary

Who sponsors a defibrillator program to save lives when heart attacks strike?
Garden Grove Rotary

Who recognizes 6th grade students for achievement in academics and scholarship?
Garden Grove Rotary

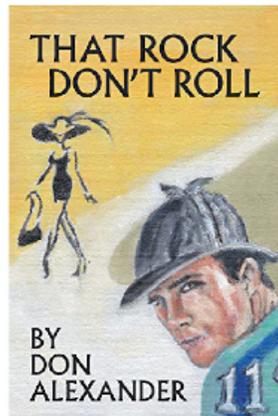
Who sponsors and contributes to training high school students on leadership and citizenship?
Garden Grove Rotary

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- The Orange County Tribune

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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.

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