

A WET WESTMINSTER



Areas of Huntington Beach and Westminster were inundated with rain-water Thursday and Friday by the storm that hit Orange County this week. In the area around Edinger Avenue and Golden West Street near the San Diego (405) Freeway streets were flooded, motor vehicles were unable to move and stranded motorists were rescued by police, fire and public works personnel. Above, the area of Pembroke and Joyce in Westminster shows how the scene looked Thursday night (Photo by Camilla MB).

Scam suspect arrested in Ky; guilty plea in motorcycle fatal

A Garden Grove man was arrested Thursday in Franklin County, Kentucky for allegedly “scamming” several elderly residents.

According to the county sheriff’s office, Adil Farooq Saudager, 45 – going by the alias of “Mr. Grey” – scammed a woman he met in a Walmart parking lot out of paying him \$80,000.

Authorities were able to make an arrest after the woman cooperated in a

■ NEWS BRIEFS

kind of “reverse sting” in which she arranged to meet with “Mr. Grey” and give him \$100,000 worth of coins.

Guilty plea in fatal cycle crash

A Westminster man pleaded guilty Wednesday for his role in a deadly hit-and-run accident that took the life of a motorcyclist in Westminster.

The incident took place on March 8, 2025 at Beach Boulevard and McFadden Avenue when Abdallah Hussein Ali Eid’s vehicle struck the cyclist, inflicting fatal injuries, according to police.

Eid fled the scene, according to police, but was arrested by police. He was found to be driving while intoxicated.

The victim was identified as Nathan Philip Perreault, 38, of Huntington Beach.

196 Months in Prison For Hit/Run Killer

Incident took place in GG in July 2024

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

A drunk Santa Ana motorist who who struck and killed a 5-year-old boy being pulled in a bike trailer on a Garden Grove street has been sentenced to 16 years and four months – 196 months – in state prison.

The child’s father and 6-year sister were also seriously injured in the incident.

The motorist, Ceferino Ascencion Ramos, 30, drove away from the scene of the crash without stopping. He was followed by a witness and then stopped and apprehended by Garden Grove police, according to the Orange County District Attorney’s office.

Ramos pleaded guilty to one felony count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, one felony enhancement for fleeing the scene after committing felony manslaughter and five other charges related to the incident.

The crash took place on

Continued on page 2



Our holiday hiatus

The Tribune e-paper will not be published on Nov. 26 and 29. We will resume our regular schedule on Dec. 2. Have a great T-giving!

DOJ now says that Gates did resign his post

The question of whether former Huntington Beach City Attorney Michael Gates resigned from his post in the federal Department of Justice in Washington or was fired may have reached a conclusion.

Gates, who is seeking to come back to the city attorney’s office as chief assistant city attorney, on Friday posted on social

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Gates did resign, DOJ now says

Continued from page 1

media a letter from John P. Butchko, director of operational management of the DOJ.

"Please accept this letter as formal notification that the De-

partment of Justice Civil Rights Division has accepted your voluntary resignation from the position of Deputy Assistant Attorney General, effective November 9, 2025," read the document.

It also stated, "Accordingly, the Division rescinds and will remove from your personnel record any previous reference to your termination" and would place in his official electronic folder a statement that "you voluntarily

resigned from your position."

Previously, copies of apparently official records indicted that Gates had been terminated "for cause." He denied that and asserted his departure was entirely because of his desire to return to his family and Huntington Beach.

Fatal hit-run

Continued from page 1

Sunday, July 7, 2024 around 7 p.m. on Haster Street near Twin-tree Lane.

Witnesses said the family was riding on the right side of the road when Ramos' vehicle crashed into them, then sped away. When arrested he had a blood alcohol content of three times the legal limit.

Jacob, 5, was fatally injured. His father, Angel Ramirez, was in a coma after suffering a fractured skull and a brain bleed.

The 6-year-old sister was in critical condition.

The mother and another child suffered minor injuries, according to the Orange County Dis-

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The★Tribune

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News & Views

*Just when is an order not one?
If it's unlawful*

In Case You Were Wondering Dept. The conduct of men and women in our armed forces is governed by the Universal Code of Military Justice. It says that no one in uniform is required to obey an unlawful order.

The oath I took stated – in part – that I vowed to “support and defend the Constitution” and “and obey the lawful orders of the President of the United States.”



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

An unlawful order, whether it comes from a Democratic president or a Republican president, is no order at all. We now return you to Retorts' usual silliness.

Raining Cats and Dogs Dept: At Tuesday's meeting of the Huntington Beach City Council there was a lot of interest in the idea of a dog voting. That wasn't quite what happened, but it got me thinking. What or whom would a dog – or a cat – vote for? And could they do any worse than some people in this world?

Dogs are pack animals. Domestic dogs are close to their owners, whom we might characterize as “government.” They tend to want more and more from their “government,” but are somewhat grateful. Cats are more individualistic. They may receive food and shelter from people, but don't really want to take orders from “government” and aren't especially grateful for its “benefits.”

Dogs accept their collars as signs of connections to their home. They will go meekly

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Donations for needy sought

The “Holiday A Family in Need Drive” of the Women's Civic Club of Garden Grove will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Donations of nonperishable item are needed. They include: rice, beans, canned tuna, canned

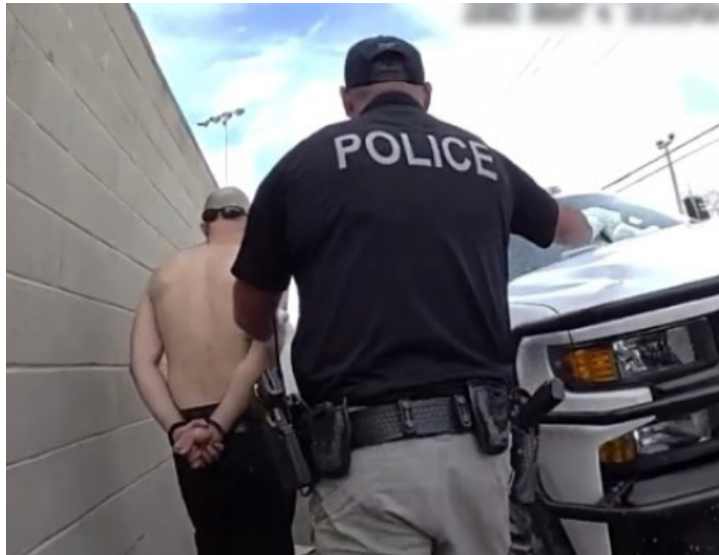
chicken, dried pasta, peanut butter, mixed mac & cheese, ramen, canned fruit, canned soup, granola bars, canned pasta sauce, dry cereal, crackers, instant mashed potatoes and other dried perishables.

Also needed are full size bar

soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, body lotion, feminine hygiene products.

For donations drop-off times and other questions, call (714) 404-4976.

TAGGER GETS TAGGED



The Homeless Task Force of the Huntington Beach Police Department on Wednesday morning spotted a man “tagging” under a railroad overpass. The man was detained for trespassing and vandalism and was not only on parole, but also in possession of drug paraphernalia and suspected methamphetamine. Michael Alan Garnett, 26, of Midway City was arrested for trespassing on railroad property, possession of narcotic paraphernalia and violation of parole (HBPD photo).

History Minute

The Two Chapmans in Orange Co.

Visitors to Orange County – or even some long-time residents – might wonder as they drive along the Orange (57) Freeway why there are two different off-ramps for Chapman Avenue.

That's because those are named for two different Chapmans. The one that runs through Fullerton (near Cal State Fullerton) is named for Charles C. Chapman, the first mayor of Fullerton.

The second Chapman (which runs through Garden Grove as well as Orange) is for Alfred B. Chapman, who helped found the City of Orange in 1871. He was an attorney and a real estate investor.

■ STANTON COUNCIL

Demolitions, tennis courts, kratom are on the agenda

Demolitions, tennis and drugs top the agenda for the Stanton City Council when it meets on Tuesday.

The council will consider awarding a contract worth \$150,000 for the demolition of buildings at 8900 and 8811 Pacific Avenue, a location plagued by homelessness and its effects.

According to a staff report, the Pacific neighborhood has been impacted by incidents of trespassing and breaking into vacant buildings.

Homelessness-related incidents have increased 102 percent from 2023 to 2024 in Stanton.

Also, the council will take up the awarding of a contract to A2Z Construct, Inc. for the renovation of the tennis courts at Stanton Central Park on Western Avenue.

The value of the contract is \$380,100.

Additionally, the council will consider approval of the introduction of an ordinance banning the sale and distribution of kratom and kratom products within city limits.

Those items are sold as supplements to “ease pain, increase alertness and energy,” but are connected to a variety of health problems including addiction, hallucinations, seizures and more.

NewsUpdate

RFK Jr Ordered 'Autism' Wording Change

Health Secretary skeptical of value of vaccination

Vaccines to prevent disease are facing skepticism from the Centers for Disease Control.

The New York Times reports that Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. confirmed in an interview with The New York Times that he personally told the CDC to remove from the agency's website support for the safety of vaccines with regard to being the possible cause of autism.

The website now states that the position that vaccines don't cause autism is not "evidence-based." In the interview he conceded that while there's no evi-



ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR. speaking at a memorial for Charlie Kirk (Wikipedia/Gage Skidmore)

dence of a connection, there's no proof that there isn't.

New York University's Dr. Arthur Caplan told The Times that

"You can't prove that Coca Cola doesn't cause autism, either."

Kennedy is not a medical doc-

tor nor does he have any experience with medical research, critics of his theories have pointed out.

Trump and Mamdani meet and getting along just fine

Surprise of the week: President Donald Trump and Zohran Mamdani, mayor-elect of New York City, met on Friday and got along fine.

According to the Associated Press, Trump said, "I think he is going to surprise some conservatives, actually," and "I really would [be comfortable living in New York City under Mamdani], especially after the meeting."

Mamdani, a self-described democratic socialist, and Trump, a hardline conservative, had criticized each other, but expressed a willingness to compromise.

Great Thoughts

"I prefer lazy person to do a hard job. Because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it."

— Bill Gates

"Laziness may appear attractive, but work gives satisfaction,"

— Anne Frank

"Laziness is nothing more than the habit of resting before you get tired."

— Jules Renard

The rain is gone ... we think

Our West Orange County cities will start drying out on Saturday ... we hope. The forecast for Saturday is for morning clouds and afternoon sun. The daytime high should be 72 with an overnight low of 53. Sunday should be sunny. The high is expected to hit 70 with a low of 54. Monday will be partly cloudy with a high of 67 and a low of 55.

Tuesday should see a return of sunny conditions with a high of 73 and a low of 55.

'Extremely difficult choice' for Ukraine in peace plan

The U.S. sponsored plan to end the war between Russia and Ukraine could make the smaller country face an "extremely difficult choice," the Ukrainian president said on Friday.

According to United Press International, Volodymyr Zelensky — in a post on social media — said his nation faced "either the loss of dignity or the risk of losing a key partner." — an apparent reference to the United States.

"Either 28 complicated points or the hardest winter yet."

The proposed settlement would mean that Russia could annex some Ukrainian territory in its eastern regions, and reduce the size of the Ukrainian armed forces..

President Donald Trump said the deadline for Ukraine to accept the plan was Thanksgiving (Nov. 27), but he might be willing to extend the deadline.

Arts&Living

Fresh, Modern 'Much Ado' at GWC

On stage at Mainstage to Sunday

By Thom DeMartino
Orange County Tribune

There are fewer things more destructive than gossip on the wrong person's lips.

Golden West College and director Martie Ramm are now presenting a limited staging of the classic Shakespearian comedy, "Much Ado About Nothing" at the campus's Mainstage Theater.

Having emerged victorious from a recent battle, Don Pedro (Andrew Tyrell-Smith), Count Claudio (Benjamin Rasmussen) and their comrade Signore Benedick (Salvatore Messina) arrive at the Governor's villa in Messina, Sicily. The estate is home to the governor, Leonato (Brendan Beach) and his daughter Hero (Catherine Dosier), as well as his niece, the sharp-tongued Beatrice (Kristin Nemecek) ... and who is constantly getting under the skin of Benedick (and vice versa.)

As the soldiers are introduced to the Governor's family, Don Pedro introduces his half-brother Don John (Jonathan West), a self-described villain and agent provocateur. Meanwhile, Claudio finds himself instantly smitten by the lovely Hero, and sets his mind to court her – while his good friend Benedick is determined that fate will never befall himself, as he is no fan of matrimony.

Yet, it's not long before Don Pedro and Claudio conspire to matchmake for Benedick, looking to pair the confirmed bachelor with none other than the fiery Beatrice. However, at the same time Don John is looking to sabotage the budding relationship between Claudio and Hero, to sow discord and take revenge and shame his brother and Leonato.

Which will prevail, love or treachery?



SALVATORE Messina as Benedick, Benjamin Rasmussen as Claudio, Andrew Tyrell-Smith as Don Pedro and Katherine Anderson as Conrade in "Much Ado About Nothing" at GWC.

Stage Review

The thing that frequently can stymie new viewers to the works of Shakespeare is the nearly 500-year-old language; but it's the performance of the players that makes the Bard's words more easily comprehended. This cast is a monumental example of that – bringing to life that brilliant storytelling throughout the show, and delighting the viewer with the variety of antics of the various players. It's a production that doesn't pause for an intermission, nor does it need it: with the marvelous, mesmerizing work of the cast, it's a show that absolutely flies by.

There are a plethora of excellent supporting performances throughout, (West's leisurely and menacing Don John, Ian Pedersen's irascible constable Dogberry, Syrhaan Albuquerque's unrepentant Borachio), but it's the main players who truly shine.

Beach's Leonato has great gravitas to him, Dosier's Hero is elegant and engaging, Tyrell-Smith's buoyant Don Pedro shines, and Rasmussen's Claudio is eager and charming (at least

until an untruth is whispered in his ear.)

But it's the dynamic between Messina's colorful Benedick and Nemecek's brassy Beatrice that really leaves the audience enraptured. His is a cheery, sharp-witted demeanor – with just a touch of vulnerability – that can't help but meet its match in the cunning, strong-minded young woman. The pair play off each other brilliantly, the back-and-forth interplay enrapturing the viewer.

A classic comedic work that's as apt today as it was centuries ago, "Much Ado About Nothing" is a brilliant interpretation in a modern setting, with uproarious performances and a remarkably fast

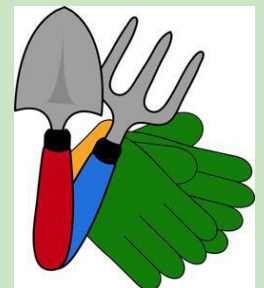
Great: ★ ★ ★ ★

pace, that is truly a delight for viewers to experience. And with only three shows left, you're going to want to check it out before it's history.

"Much Ado About Nothing", Kristin Nemecek, Salvatore Messina and Benjamin Rasmussen star in this hilarious tale of budding relationships and those who would thwart them. Now playing through November 23 at the Golden West College Mainstage Theater, 15751 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

Get your gardening on

If your idea of leisure includes a green thumb, the Cherry Street Community Garden in Westminster is now accepting applications for rental of plots 4 feet by 4 feet (\$50) and 4x8 (\$1000). Submit a rental agreement to Community Services. Call (714) 895-2860.



TheSportsPages

There's good news in sports, believe it or not

I know that I sometimes spend a lot of ink (electrons?) criticizing various aspects of sports, but this year I feel this there's a lot to feel good about as 2025 winds down.

Baseball is on a rise in more ways than one. The new rules have sped up the game and boosted the offense. Attendance and TV

viewership are up.

Perhaps most important is that baseball now has the most popular and accomplished professional athlete: the incomparable Shohei Ohtani.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

The 2025 World Series was dramatic and full of memorable moments, many of them supplied by the Dodger superstar. Players used to call major league baseball "The Show." Right now, it's "The Sho."

Speaking of the horsehide, lots of variations are popping up. The Long Beach Baseball club is a new professional team that will debut in the independent Pioneer League starting in 2026.

There will be familiar faces, too. Troy Percival, an Angels' star pitcher from the glory days, has been hired as manager of the team and an assistant coach will be another Angel standout, Troy Glaus.

I'm also delighted with the growth of flag football for girls. The gridiron has long been the The Frontier for females, and – guess what? – nearly all area schools have embraced the sport. And guess what, else? It's often more fast-moving and dynamic than boys' tackle football and is fun to watch.

I'm not thrilled with all the rules, but if baseball can evolve, so can any sport.

Big Game: USC v. Ducks

Implications for both teams re: CFB playoffs

By Anne M. Peterson
AP Sports Writer

Southern California will need to overcome its road woes in big games this weekend against Oregon if it hopes to secure a spot in the College Football Playoff.

Of course, the Trojans would have to win the season finale against rival UCLA, too. But there's no arguing Saturday's game against the No. 6 Ducks (9-1, 6-1 Big Ten, No. 7 CFP), is crucial for everything to fall into place for No. 16 USC (8-2, 6-1, No. 15 CFP).

"It's good to be in the hunt, and it's good to have a team like this that you believe in, and looking forward to the next one," Trojans coach Lincoln Riley said.

USC has largely fallen short in big games on the road since joining the Big Ten. The Trojans are 2-2 away from home this season, with both losses coming to ranked teams, Illinois and Notre Dame. USC lost all three of its road games against ranked opponents last year.

The Ducks pose an additional challenge. USC hasn't won in Eugene since 2011 and the Trojans have lost three straight to



LINCOLN RILEY knows the game against Oregon is the biggest of the year (Wikipedia).

Oregon overall.

For Oregon, the stakes are also high. Lose to USC and the Ducks are out of the playoff, and the slim chances of a second straight Big Ten title — should Indiana or Ohio State dip in the final two games of the season — also vanish.

Oregon coach Dan Lanning was asked earlier this week if he enjoyed games of this magnitude and all the attention.

"The challenge is always fun. This (USC) is certainly a team that is a challenge. They play

really good football," Lanning said. "These moments are fun. Obviously, when 'College GameDay' is coming to come see you twice, there's a reason. It speaks volumes about our fan base, it speaks volumes about our program and their program as well. When you get opportunities like that, that's something you want to take advantage of."

Oregon is coming off a 42-13 rout of Minnesota on Friday night. Dante Moore threw for 306 yards and two touchdowns

Continued on page 7

The Kings fall in overtime to Bruins

By Hugo Baker
Orange County Tribune

If you like good defense, you would have liked Friday's clash at the crypto.com Arena between the Los Angeles Kings and the Boston Bruins.

On the other hand, if you get excited about high-scoring ice hockey, not so much.

The visitors prevailed in overtime 2-1, improving the Bru-

ins record to 13-10-0 while the Kings fell to 10-6-6.

With the overtime loss, LA has suffered a third consecutive defeat. The team stands fourth in the NHL Pacific Division, trailing the regional rival Anaheim Ducks who are in first with a 13-7-1 mark.

After scoreless first and second periods, each team scored once.

■ NBA&NHL

Joel Armia lit the red lamp for the Kings at the 13:03 mark. In overtime, Morgan Geekie got his second goal of the night at 2:27.

The Kings, 14th in the Western Conference, will try to get back on track on Sunday when they host the Ottawa Senators (10-6-4, third place in the NHL Atlantic Division.)

The Ducks were off Friday and will host Las Vegas next.

Mariners, Chargers Have Unfun Friday

Both teams find semifinal foes a bit too strong

It was a night of frustration for the two West Orange County teams playing in the CIF-SS football semifinals on Friday.

Both teams lost, but gave a good accounting of themselves.

In a Division 10 contest in Riverside, the Pacifica Mariners' effort to win the school's first-ever CIF-SS football title fell short, losing 39-20 to the Hillcrest

Prep Sport Spotlight

High Trojans.

The M's were close in the first half, leading 7-6 early and trailing only by 16-14 at the end of the first quarter and 19-14 at the half.

But the Trojans pulled away after halftime, outscoring the visitors from Orange County by 20-6.

Pacifica scored twice on runs, and the last TD for the black,

blue and white came late in the third quarter on a 40-yard pass from James Anema to David Carlsson.

The Mariners finished the season with considerable honors: nine wins (9-4 overall), a second consecutive Omicron League title and reaching the final four of the division.

In Division 3, Edison lost 23-10 to the Palos Verdes Sea Kings on the road (actually at the PVHS stadium) a team they'd bested by one point back in September. The game was close for the first half, with the Chargers trailing

only by 10-7 at halftime.

But the Sea Kings outscored Edison 13-3 in the third quarter and the fourth quarter was scoreless, ending the green-and-gold's season with a 7-6 record, balanced by two playoff wins and a trip to the semifinals.

That's quite the accomplishment for a team finishing last in the very tough Alpha League with Mission Viejo, Los Alamitos and San Clemente, a conference second only to the Trinity-League, stocked with national powers like Mater Dei.

Trojans need a win to have hopes for the playoffs

Continued from page 6

and his 90% completion rate (27 of 30) was an Oregon single-game record. He's thrown for 2,190 yards and 21 touchdowns with five interceptions this year. USC scored 19 straight points in

a 26-21 comeback win at home over Iowa on Saturday for the Trojans' fourth straight Big Ten victory. But the win was costly with safeties Kamari Ramsey and Bishop Fitzgerald and left guard Elijah Paige all suffering

injuries. Their status for Saturday's game was not known.

"We're gonna have to kind of do what we've done all year and that's been a strength of ours. It's been a strength of theirs," Riley said. "I mean, you get two

teams that have won as many games as these two teams have, you're more than likely going to be pairing a lot of strengths against strengths. And that's what this matchup is going to

Continued on page 8

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Oregon and SoCal: old Pac-10 rivals meet again

Continued from page 7

be like."

Stopping Makai

USC receiver Makai Lemon averages 109 yards a game, second in the nation, and has eight touchdown catches. In all, he's caught 71 passes for 1,090 yards, with five games of 100-plus yards.

He's also run for two touchdowns and has seven kickoff

returns for 144 yards and four punt returns for 32 yards. He ranks seventh nationally with an average of 126.9 all-purpose yards.

"I think a lot of times you see the best players are able to make an impact on special teams. He's obviously one they utilize there.

"But yeah, he's a dynamic player and that's certainly a challenge," Lanning said.

Offense vs. defense

In the end, it may come down to USC's much-improved offense against Oregon's stout defense.

The Trojans are sixth-best in

total offense in the country, averaging 488.9 yards per game. The Ducks' D allows opponents

an average of 235.4 yards a game, third in the nation.

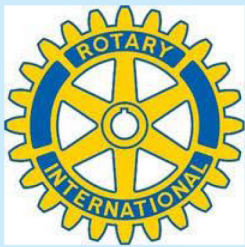
Retorts: Political dogfight

Continued from page 3

(usually) to the vet or groomer. Cats don't care for collars very readily and as for a trip to the vet ... have you ever been able to stuff a feline into a "cat carrier" without much effort and

several nasty scratches?

As for political independents, I'm thinking goldfish. They don't have a lot of choices and don't get a lot of attention. On the other hand, it looks peaceful in that bowl.



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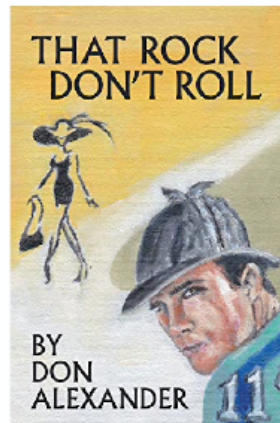
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- The Orange County Tribune

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