

Suspect Held In Murder Of Another Man

Victim name not released by police

Huntington Beach police have arrested a 48-year-old Huntington Beach suspect in the shooting death of a man.

According to Detective Sgt. Anthony Pham, Robert Emery was arrested and taken to the Huntington Beach City Jail on a single murder charge.

Information on the victim is being withheld pending the notification of next of kin.

On Sunday, Jan. 18 at

about 11:30 p.m., the HBPD received a call reporting shots fired at a home in the 4500 block of Scenario Drive, north of Heil Drive and west of Bolsa Chica Avenue.

Arriving officers found a man with gunshot wounds. He was taken to an area hospital for treatment. The suspect was detained.

The victim later succumbed to his injuries.

Based on interviews and evidence located at the scene, Emery was arrested.

Anyone with information related to the incident is asked to call Detective Sgt. Pham at (714) 878-5640.



THE NAVIGATION CENTER in Huntington Beach is showing progress in moving homeless people into permanent housing, shows a report (Tribune photo).

Progress reported on reducing crime and homelessness in city

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

■ **HUNT. BEACH CITY COUNCIL**

2023 to 78 in 2024 to 79 in 2025.

The Huntington Beach City Council, often scolded for its well-publicized interest in political issues, on Tuesday night heard an upbeat update on the city's strategic planning.

According to the report, the city has accomplished some hefty numbers reflecting improvement in

two of the "other" issues. Crime is reported to be down 26 percent in the city. "Public safety is the main responsibility of a city," said one city council member.

Additionally, the number of homeless people "excited to permanent housing" increased from 56 in

The council also heard a proposal from a European-based company called Landify, which is proposing to the city to authorize conducting a feasibility study on developing a former shooting range of eight acres in the east side of the Central Park East for increased recreational space.

Top staff, coaches, athletes lauded

The honoring of students, staff and teachers for their accomplishments filled the agenda and the board room chairs at Tuesday's meeting of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education.

■ **GARDEN GROVE SCHOOL BOARD**

Honored as Employees of the Month were Santiago High School teacher Vicky Lieu and Patton Elementary School clerk Jessica

Terrones. Recognized as high school Coaches and Athletes of Courage were:

- Bolsa Grande: Fentriss Winn (boys basketball coach), Lena Giang (cross

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In The Tribune



Can you outspell an 8th-grader?

NEWS & VIEWS PAGE 5



Rams found a way past Bears

SPORTS PAGE PAGE 6

GGUSD honors staff, coaches, athletes

Continued from page 1

country and track athlete);
 • Garden Grove: Michelle Hong (flag football and wrestling coach), Aros Ortega (wrestling, swimming athlete);
 • Hare: Noah Bulthuis (basket-

ball and flag football coach), and Jonathan Valenzo-Ortiz (flag football athlete);
 • La Quinta: Brian Dawson (baseball coach) and Ethan Nguyen (cross country, soccer and track athlete);
 • Los Amigos: Noah Devine (flag football and girls volleyball coach) and Beidy Ocampo (flag football and girls soccer athlete);
 • Pacifica: Olga Proskura (girls

water polo and swimming coach) and Greta Greaves (girls water polo and swimming athlete);
 • Rancho Alamitos: Bernice Mungai (cross country and track coach) and Isaac Roldan-Cardenas (cross country and track athlete);
 • Santiago: Tony Tran (boys and girls tennis coach) and Kimberly Tran (tennis athletes).

The GGUSD serves most of Garden Grove and parts of Anaheim, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Stanton and Westminster. The next meeting of the GGUSD board is set for Feb. 3.

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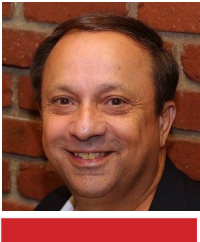
News & Views

Nothing more certain than sales without taxes

Show Me The Money Dept.: It's a new year (still), and that's a good time to address lingering problems and resolving ongoing conundrums (I love that word).

As cities in Orange County take a look at their budgets for 2026-27,

a keen eye may notice a certain ... uh ... divot ... in their bank accounts. I'm talking about "cash only" businesses



Retorts

Jim Tortolano

These are usually small retail operations where the proprietors – often “mom and pop” enterprises – don't collect sales tax. That has the effect of reducing the cost of a can of Dr. Pepper Zero to the consumer, but also deprives the city (or county, etc.) of tax revenue which goes to repairing streets, paying the police and fire, etc.

Thus a Butterfinger that retails for \$1 stays at \$1 when handed across the counter, no sales tax added.

Alternately some businesses don't record the bulk of their sales, at all.

There are a lot of reasons why this happens. Some retailers do it just to simplify bookkeeping. Some do it because they come from a culture where tax evasion is widely practiced because the government is corrupt or downright oppressive.

It is a tough problem to solve. The cost of canvassing each liquor store or nail shop would be prohibitive. The other reason is that such a canvass would be about as popular as the Stamp Act of 1765 that helped spark the American Revolution.

Continued on page 8

Police chase ends in crash, arrest

Westminster cops in an early Sunday pursuit on streets

Chase, crash, injuries and an arrest was the sequence of events for an incident early Sunday morning in Westminster.

According to the Westminster Police Department, the incident occurred around 1 a.m. near

Beach Boulevard and Westminster Boulevard.

A WPD police unit sought to stop a vehicle for California Vehicle Code violations when the motorist drove away, starting a short pursuit through the area,

During the chase, a WPD unit was involved in a crash with an uninvolved auto.

Minor injuries were reported and the motorist treated.

The suspect being pursued fi-

nally stopped and was taken into custody with help from the Anaheim Police Department.

The driver was booked on charges of felony driving under the influence and felony evading, according to police.

Further details about the suspect were not immediately released by Westminster police as the investigation into the incident is continuing.

Jordan student wins GGUSD Spelling contest

An eighth-grade student from Jordan Intermediate School in Garden Grove has won the 38th Annual Intermediate Spelling Bee of the Garden Grove Unified School District.

Minh Do took the championship trophy. It was the third year in a row that a Jordan student won top honors.

The top 10 spellers were Kaitlyn Yun (Lake), Elliana Nguyen (McGarvin), Joaquin Ablis (Fitz Language Academy), Daniyal Adil (Jordan), Mauri Tuvera (Alamitos), Quynh Vu (Doig), Jacob Vo (McGarvin), Katie Vu (McGarvin) and Aric Huynh (Irvine).

The district champion and nine runners-up will represent the district at the Orange County Spelling Bee, with the written segment set for Feb. 23 at the Orange County Department of Education.



MINH DO, 8th grader at Jordan Intermediate (GGUSD.)

Just in case you wonder ...

The Orange County Tribune began the year with a front page retrospective of news events affecting our cities of Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster.

Because of the press of breaking news, we suspended the feature. We will resume it at the first opportunity.

History Minute

What's in a (street) name nowadays

If you happen to find a bunch of old Thomas Bros. maps in the garage, you might notice a lot of familiar-looking streets with unfamiliar names.

The names have been changed over time. Here are some examples:

- Beach Boulevard was originally Huntington Beach Boulevard and also just called Highway 39.
- Warner Avenue was originally Delhi Road in Santa Ana and Wintersburg Road in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley.
- Edinger Avenue was originally Smeltzer Avenue.

NewsUpdate

Controversy Grows Over Greenland

Newsome calls for a 'backbone' from Europe

Greenland may be one of the coldest places on Earth with human occupants, but the controversy over the world's largest island continued to heat up.

According to the Associated Press, at a meeting Tuesday in Switzerland of the World Economic Forum, world leaders warned of the threat they feel posed by U.S. President Donald Trump's insistence that the United States assume control over Greenland, despite the resistance of Denmark, which is the national government there.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom lectured the European presidents and premiers. "It's time to get



NUUK is the capital of Greenland, under the authority of Denmark (Shutterstock).

serious and stop being complicit. It's time to stand tall and firm – have a backbone.”

Bart de Wever, prime minister

of Belgium, echoed Newsom's stand. "If you back down now, you're going lose your dignity.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott

Bessent defended the president's claims on Greenland. "Calm down the hysteria. Take a deep breath," he said.

U.S. stock market takes a big drop over Greenland

Punitive tariffs may be levied against nations that oppose President Donald Trump's plan to take over Greenland.

According to United Press International, Trump made the threat in comparison to how he handled nations which paid different prices for prescription drugs.

"I may do that for Greenland on countries if they don't go along

with Greenland because we need Greenland for national security," he said.

Greenland is under the jurisdiction of Denmark, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. A military move by the U.S. into Greenland might bring America into a conflict with Denmark, France, Germany and other NATO nations.

Weather: Feeling a bit winter-y

After last week's warm days and nights, our West Orange County cities are experiencing a bit of a (relative) cold snap. The forecast for Wednesday is for a daytime high of 66 with an overnight low of 51. Thursday will be slightly cooler at 64 (51) and mostly cloudy. Friday is expected to have morning clouds and some sun in the afternoon with a high of 65 and a low of 50. Saturday will be partly cloudy with temps of 55 (47).

DOJ subpoenas Minnesota governor, other officials; it's called 'partisan distraction'

Several Minnesota officials have been served with subpoenas by the Department of Justice, claiming that they are part of a "conspiracy" to interfere with federal immigration officers. United Press International reports that Gov. Tim Walz, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and St. Paul Mayor Kaohly Her and others have been targeted by the DOJ, which accuses – with no evidence of its claims – that they "encouraged violence against law enforcement" and were practicing "terrorism." Walz' office called the subpoenas a "a partisan distraction."

Great Thoughts

"Drink because you are happy, but never because you are miserable,"

– G.K. Chesterton

"Alcohol may produce all the effects of drunkenness."

– Oscar Wilde

"I would not put a thief in my mouth to steal my brains."

– William Shakespeare

Arts & Living

Good Cops, Bad Cops in 'The Rip'

Damon and Affleck in a buddy flick

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

Lines between cop and criminal get murky in Joe Carnahan's "The Rip," a crime thriller set across one foggy Miami night, starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck.

Damon and Affleck, of course, are so closely associated with Boston — most recently they produced the 2024 heist movie "The Instigators" there — that a detour to South Florida puts them, a little awkwardly, in an entirely different movie landscape. This is "Miami Vice" territory or Elmore Leonard Land, not Southie or "The Town."

In "The Rip," they play Miami narcotics officers who come upon a cartel stash house that Lt. Dane Dumars (Damon) says may have \$150,000 hidden in the walls. It turns out to be more than \$20 million, though, and their mission immediately turns from a Friday afternoon smash-and-grab into an imminent siege where no one can be trusted.

"The Rip," which debuts Friday on Netflix, is a lean and potent-enough neo-noir where almost all the characters are police officers, yet it's a mystery as to who's a good guy and who's not. It's a nifty and timely premise, even if "The Rip" literally tattoos its message across itself.

When Dane sits down with the young woman (Sasha Calle) at the stash house who seems plausibly innocent, she looks at tattoos on his hands and asks what they mean. On one: "AWTGG": "Are we the good guys?"

As much as the answer might seem a foregone conclusion in a movie starring Damon and Affleck, who are also producers, "The Rip" plays with and against type in ways that can keep you engrossed. (The cast also includes



MATT DAMON and Ben Affleck in "The Rip"(Netflix).

Movie Review

Teyana Taylor, Steven Yeun and Kyle Chandler.) However, the exposition is so light and hurried in "The Rip" that that's almost all it plays with. We know almost nothing about our characters outside of the action in the movie, making all the potential double crosses ring hollow.

Carnahan opens the film with a flurry of internal interrogations. The Miami police department is full of finger pointing after the fatal shooting, seen in the movie's first moments, of a detective (Lina Esco). Cutting quickly between angry accusations and equally furious defensiveness, we get the sense that nobody in the department knows who's clean and who's dirty.

"I hate it, man," Dane tells Byrne. "I hate being a cop."

Various divisions intermingle, including the DEA agent Mateo "Matty" Nix (Chandler) and FBI agent Del Byrne (Scott Adkins). The omnipresence of drug cartels and the dysfunction in the department has made the police

force into a den of thieves, in its own right. When we catch up with Dane's crew, they don't look particularly official. On a Friday afternoon, they're sitting around outside drinking, with armored vehicles parked next to them.

When Dane says he's got a CrimeStopper tip he wants to check out, they go in civilian cars. With him are four other detectives: JD Byrne (Affleck), Mike Ro (Yeun), Numa Baptiste (an underused Taylor, which, coming off "One Battle After Another," should be illegal) and Lolo Salazar (Catalina Sandino Moreno). Dane and JD, naturally, are tight. But after they find the money, the

Fair ★ ★

tone shifts. Dane doesn't call the money into their superiors, and instead asks his crew to turn in their phones to him. Everyone begins to wonder: What's going on? Is Dane crooked? A mysterious phone call comes in: Take \$150,000 and go, or everybody dies. It's not the cartel calling. Carnahan, who also wrote "The Rip," has said the movie is inspired by real events as described to him by a Miami detective. But little in how the movie plays out will strike many as particularly

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Friday Night Fever

Each Friday Night the Historic Main Street Car Show is held on a block of Main Street in downtown Garden Grove from 4-8 p.m. There are games, a raffle, an opportunity drawing and live music. There's a \$5 entry fee for these bringing your classic automobile.



TheSportsPages

These games themselves were winners

It Was A Kick Dept.: I often complain about what I find off-putting, silly or needlessly money-obsessed about big time sports. But sometimes athletics rise to a level of entertainment that combines the best elements of drama and artistic accomplishment.

I'm talking about two football games — one on Sunday and one on Monday — that made me remember why sports can touch us more like myth than just a means to sell beer and prescription medicine.



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano

The NFC Divisional Game between the Rams and Bears was an example of that. Spectacular catches and heart-stopping interceptions. Two smart coaches trying to outsmart each other; two brilliant quarterbacks trying to outplay the other.

Add to that the symbolic aspects of a team from sunny California in a do-or-die showdown against a team playing near the bone-freezing Lake Michigan and you've got more entertainment value than Taylor Swift singing duets with Frank Sinatra.

It's a good thing that the game was settled by a relatively anticlimatic field goal. Don't know how much more my blood pressure could have taken.

The College Football Championship was almost as good. Another clash of cultures and superstar quarterbacks. Miami Vice sophistication against Hoosier Aw-shucks.

Although it wasn't the game-winning play, Indiana QB Fernando Mendoza's dive through the 'Canes defense for a score seemed to combine ballet and

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Matt, Defense Cage Bears

Rams will now face Seahawks in a rematch

By Andrew Seligman
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Matthew Stafford and Sean McVay shot knowing glances at each other, then went to work on the drive that got the Los Angeles Rams one step away from the Super Bowl.

Stafford and the Rams survived an incredible throw by Caleb Williams that forced overtime, beating the Chicago Bears 20-17 on Sunday night to advance to the NFC championship game.

Harrison Mevis kicked a 42-yard field goal in OT after Kam Curl intercepted a deep pass by Williams on the Bears' first possession of the extra period. Stafford glanced at his coach prior to the winning drive, then completed three passes for first downs — including a 16-yarder to Puka Nacua to get the Rams into field-goal range.

"I looked right at Sean, he looked right at me," Stafford said. "And I'm like, 'Here we go.' That's what it's all about. What an unbelievable job by our defense today, getting us the ball over and over again. Whether it be fourth-down stops or turnovers, they were clutch



HARRISON MEVIS kicked the game-winning field goal against the Chicago Bears (Rams photo).

■ **RAMS** will visit the Seattle Seahawks Sunday, 3:30 p.m. on Channel 11 in NFC Championship Game.

and timely."

So was Mevis.

The "Thicker Kicker," as he's known, ended the Bears' season. Teammates mobbed him while a crowd that was rocking earlier watched in near silence at the conclusion of a cold, snowy night.

The Rams (14-5) will visit NFC West rival Seattle next Sunday in their first trip to the confer-

ence championship game since the 2021 team won the Super Bowl. The Seahawks beat San Francisco 41-6 on Saturday.

"It was like, all right, the football gods are smiling on us," McVay said. "The weather had calmed down. There wasn't a lot of wind right there. ... I was really happy for him, and I was very confident that he would make that."

Los Angeles led 17-10 in the final minute of regulation and the Bears faced fourth-and-4 from the 14-yard line when Williams backpedaled to avoid

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Lakers win, Clippers are slapped

Luka Doncic scored 38 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and had 10 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Denver Nuggets 115-107 in the Mile High City on Tuesday night.

LeBron James added 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists in the win. The Lakers are now 26-16 and in fifth place in the NBA Western Conference and in first place in the Pacific Division. The Lake Show fell behind by 14

■ NHL and NBA

points in the first half, but rallied in the second half by outscoring the Nuggets 58-36. It was the team's fifth win in 10 games and second straight.

Clippers clipped by Bulls: With the Chicago Bulls raining long-distance shots on them, the Los Angeles Clippers went down to a 138-110 defeat on Tuesday night. The home team hit 25 three-point

shots in rolling to the easy win. The Bulls hit 23 of 47 shots from outside the arc as they snapped a six-game LA winning streak. The Clippers had started the season with a 6-21 record but turned it around with 13 wins in 15 games.

James Harden led the visitors with 24 points, followed by John Collins with 23 points.

The Lakers and Clippers will meet on Thursday.

Some crucial games for titles, playoff spots are coming up now

Local high school basketball league races are reaching the point where teams vying for titles and playoff spots need to move into their highest gears.

Here's a look at how area boys league situations are shaping up. We will look at girls' races on Saturday.

Orange League: Bolsa Grande and Loara began the week with each having 3-0 league records. They will meet on Tuesday in a battle for first place in the Matador gym.

Sunset League: Edison is third (4-2) in the seven team league, with Marina (2-4) in fourth and Huntington Beach (1-5) tied for sixth. The Chargers will need wins over Marina and Huntington this week to stay in contention for post-season.

Golden West League: Garden Grove (2-2) is third behind

Prep Sport Spotlight

Laguna Hills (4-0) and Godinez Fundamental (3-1). The Argonauts could move up with upset wins on Thursday against Godinez and LHHS. It's possible as the Argonauts' earlier losses to those teams were by margins of four and five, the latter in overtime.

Coast League: La Quinta (3-1 in league) holds a narrow lead over Rancho Alamitos and Estancia (each 2-1). The Aztecs have make-or-break games coming up on Friday (against Estancia) and next Monday against Rancho Alamitos. One edge for the blue-and-gold: they're both home games.



CHRISTINE PHAM of Bolsa Grande. The Matadors are 3-0 in the Orange League and 17-3 overall (GGUSD photo).

North Hills League: Esperanza (3-1 in league and 20-3 overall) is locked in a tie with Brea Olinda (3-1, 11-12) and Troy (3-1, 12-11) for first. Pacifica (0-4 and 14-10) is pretty much out of the race barring a late-season reversal.

Grove League: Western (3-1) is on top at 3-1 in league, although

7-14 overall.

Orange Coast League: Ocean View (3-1 in league, 8-16 overall) is locked in a battle for first with Segerstrom (3-1, 13-9). The Seahawks host Westminster (0-4, 0-17) this week and face Segerstrom on Jan. 29 at home in the next-to-last game of the season.



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Deja DoR Art Fair Week

Rams got some luck, and not too much snow

Continued from page 6

the pass rush and heaved the ball to Cole Kmet for the tying touchdown with 18 seconds left. Although officially a 14-yard pass, the ball traveled 51.2 yards in the air, according to the NFL's Next Gen Stats.

Bears coach Ben Johnson thought about trying for a go-ahead 2-point conversion but decided to send out Cairo San-

tos for the extra point.

Williams threw for two touchdowns but was intercepted three times as the Bears (12-7) — who pulled off seven fourth-quarter comeback wins in Johnson's first season — came up short this time.

They won the NFC North after finishing last in the division a year ago.

"Our guys are feeling it right now," Johnson said. "They all believed, man. They all believed that we could find a way to win each and every week. And so it's disappointing like that. I'm proud of the group. It's a special group."

Stafford led a 91-yard touchdown drive in the fourth quarter, with Kyren Williams scoring from the 5 to give the Rams a 17-10 lead with 8:50 remaining. Nacua kept the possession going on the previous play with a 2-yard run on fourth-and-5.

The Bears then drove to the 2, but Omar Speights broke up Williams' fourth-down pass to Luther Burden just inside the goal line.

Chicago got the ball back at midfield with just under two minutes remaining after Ethan Evans shanked a 33-yard punt, setting up Williams' heroics.

yards and took four sacks. Nacua had 56 yards receiving after going for 111 in a wild-card win over Carolina, and Kyren Williams ran for 87 yards and two scores.

"I definitely didn't get into a great rhythm today, there's no question about that," said Stafford, who sprained the index finger on his throwing hand against the Panthers.

"I had some opportunities in the pass game, just some things that made it tough. Obviously, I can be better. But playoff football is about winning the football game."

Caleb Williams completed 23 of 42 passes for 257 yards. Moore had a touchdown catch, and D'Andre Swift ran for 76 yards.

"In these moments you feel that you let your team down, you feel this and that," Williams said. "It's a good lesson learned for us, first time being in this situation for me and for us as a team."

"I'm excited for what's to come, but obviously going to go back and watch this and see how I can be better."

Overtime off to slow start

In overtime, the Bears won the toss and deferred. They quickly got the ball back when the Rams went three-and-out. Los Angeles was forced to punt after Blake Corum got stopped for a 1-yard loss on third-and-1 at the 36.

Chicago took over at the 16. Williams kept the drive going with a 3-yard keeper on fourth-and-1 near midfield.

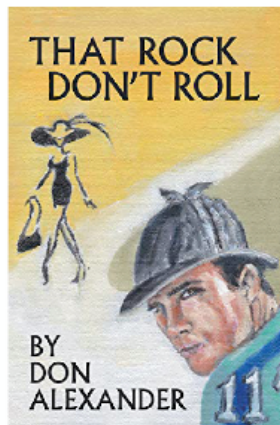
But Curl picked off Williams' pass intended for DJ Moore two plays later.

Stafford was 20 of 42 for 258

Fireworks in the fourth

Some serious fun

Murder, corruption, sex, humor, sports and lottery



That Rock Don't Roll

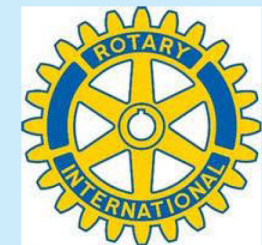
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- The Orange County Tribune

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Jim's Retorts

Continued from page 3

But for whatever tax money is essentially "withheld" that has to be made up elsewhere or represents a public service gone without. Something to think about in 2026.

Sports Retorts

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Superman-heroics.

If they gave Oscars for best sports game, these would win in a tie. And I think the fans won, too.

Movie review: 'The Rip'

Continued from page 5

plausible. Yet Carnahan, achieving of the same dense atmosphere of his Liam Neeson wolf thriller "The Grey," albeit with a lot less snow, imbues "The Rip" with a good cop-bad cop muddiness that makes his film feel resonant.

Affleck and Damon have made more than a dozen movies together, but their collaborations seem to be increasing in frequency. They've often found often interesting ways — like in Ridley Scott's "The Last Duel" — to shape and contort expectations for themselves on screen. Usu-

ally, that's meant roles that are far from heroic, and often part of an ensemble. (Their production company, Artists Equity, operates with unusual profit participation for the cast and crew.)

As a B-movie with a couple of A-listers, "The Rip" will probably go down as a minor and flawed genre exercise. But even in their lesser efforts, the sincerity of Damon and Affleck's buddy routine remains winning. Even in Miami.

"The Rip," a Netflix release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for violence and pervasive language. R