

■ GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

Restriction of Nitrous Oxide Uses OK'd 7-0

‘Nox’ will be limited in use within the city

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

An ordinance restricting the sale and distribution of nitrous oxide was approved by the Garden Grove City Council on Tuesday night.

The vote on the second and final vote and adoption was 7-0.

This new law takes effect 30 days after adoption. It will restrict the use and possession of nitrous oxide to professional uses such as a mild sedative for medical and dental uses, certain foods (such as

whipped cream) and some auto racing purposes.

Aside from those uses, nitrous oxide – also known as “nox” – can be a highly addictive intoxicant, often favored by young persons. Several other Orange County cities – including Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster have adopted, or are considering adoption, of similar laws.

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, a presentation was made about the Garden Grove Tourism Improvement District, funded by the city’s 10 hotels. With the demise of Anaheim’s transit shuttle bus system, Garden Grove’s TID will spend \$600,000 for a city-branded bus sys-

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NEW TRANSIT buses for Garden Grove hotels.



FIRE ON SHERLOCK Circle in Garden Grove on Sunday was a spectacular sight, but it was extinguished quickly (OCFA photo)

A towering GG fire quickly conquered

A spectacular fire that lit up tall trees and spread across a residential property in Garden Grove was nevertheless knocked down by firefighters in a mere 18 minutes.

According to the Orange County Fire Authority, the incident on Sunday afternoon was on Sherlock Circle, between Chapman and Lampson avenues. Arriving firefighters found the house on fire, a recreational vehicle in flames in the backyard, a car on fire in the front yard, a neigh-

bor’s roof starting to burn and cypress trees engulfed in flames just behind the property.

Crews working this two-alarm incident were able to knock down the fire in those 18 minutes as well as search the area to make sure no one was inside the buildings or injured.

Garden Grove police officers kept the streets clear for firefighters and assistance was provided by the Anaheim Fire and Rescue Department.

Driver vs. a utility pole is a fatal crash

A motorist was fatally injured when the vehicle he was driving crashed into a utility pole in Garden Grove on Sunday morning.

According to the GGPD, the accident was reported at around 7:08 a.m.

The collision was in the 11200 block of Western Avenue, north of Chapman Ave.

The motorist was driving a 2003 Ford Mustang.

Orange County Fire Authority personnel assessed the driver’s injuries and pronounced the man dead at the scene.

The GGPD Neighborhood Traffic Unit is handling the investigation and the cause of the crash remains under review.

Anyone who witnessed the accident, has relevant information or video footage of the incident is asked to contact Investigator Lang at (714) 741-5823 or at mlang@ggcity.org.

Smoke alarms vital to escape from a fire

Smoke alarms sounding off enabled a family to escape their Garden Grove home as flames began to erupt on Monday.

According to the Orange County Fire Authority, the fire was reported at the house on Flannel Avenue, located in a tract

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Smoke alarm helped save a GG family

Continued from page 1

southeast of Katella Avenue and Brookhurst Street.

Firefighters were on the scene within five minutes and were able to knock down the blaze in 13 minutes.

One adult who had sustained minor injuries while rescuing their four dogs was assessed by firefighter paramedics. One dog did not survive.

One firefighter was transported to an area hospital for a preliminary evaluation. Assisting the OCFA in their operations were Anaheim Fire and Rescue, Garden Grove police and SoCal Red Cross.

GG council

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tem (see illustration).

The Garden Grove Police Department made a report on e-bike safety and enforcement, touching on the difference between e-bikes and the much-faster electric motorcycles.

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The★Tribune

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The★Tribune **Covering Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster**

News & Views

*Fool me once,
shame on me;
yes, it was me*

It just so happens that in three weeks it will be April 1, also known as April Fool's Day. This day creates an itch in me for mischief, preying both on my own appetite for practical jokes and the gullibility of some people.

While I consider my April Fool's prank for 2026, let me review some of my Greatest Hits.

In high school, we forged a "While You Were Out" pink telephone note for the student activities director and placed it on his desk while he was out. It was a fake – but urgent-appearing – message to call the Internal Revenue Service regarding his income tax return.

A look came over his face like he'd just seen a TV broadcast stating that he was a Pickleball partner with Jeffrey Epstein. We watched him sweat for a long moment, then revealed the prank. He was so relieved he didn't even get mad at us.

One of the most popular cars in my era was the Volkswagen Beetle. It was so light that four motivated high school lads – I was one of them – could literally pick one up and carry it as far as we cared to.

Absent a plan, we simply moved it from its spot at the curb at the front of the high school and deposited it about 20 yards away on the school lawn.

We failed to match the feat – or maybe it was simply a legend – of the lads who hoisted a Beetle and somehow left it in a classroom (the room had sliding glass doors) in the middle of campus. Years later in college, our student newspaper published a front page article declaring that

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Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Nitrous oxide curbs on agenda

'Laughing gas' can be no laughing matter if it's to be abused

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

Westminster could be the next West Orange County city to pass an ordinance regulating the sale and distribution of "nitrous oxide" within city limits.

On the agenda for Wednesday's meeting of the city council is a

request from Vice Mayor Mark Nguyen to direct city staff to prepare such an ordinance.

Huntington Beach has already approved a law, and Garden Grove's city council has already approved for first reading an ordinance and was approved for final reading and adoption at its meeting on Tuesday.

Nitrous oxide, often referred to as "laughing gas" in its role as a mild sedative in dentistry and medicine, is also used recreationally as an intoxicant and abuse can lead to blood clots, paralysis and in some cases, death.

Also on Wednesday, there will be a special presentation honoring the 2026 Women of Distinction honorees.

IT'S AN OLD FLAME NOW



A CLOSE-UP look at the massive fire on Sunday on Sherlock Circle in Garden Grove. Story and another photo on front page (IOCFA photo).

Two from the GGUSD get honored as top employees

Two employees from the Garden Grove Unified School District - electrician Paul Dalmas and Student Supervision Assistant Debbie Guevara - have been recognized as Classified Employees of the Year by the Orange County Department of Education, placing them among nine honorees countywide.

Superintendent Gabriela Mafi made surprise visits to their work sites last week to share the news and thank them for their exceptional work ethic and unwavering dedication to GGUSD students, staff, and schools.

Debbie Guevara has served as a Student Supervision Assistant at Parkview Elementary School for 29 years.

She is known for her compassion, professionalism, and proactive approach to student safety, consistently going above and beyond to support students, families, and staff.

She fosters a welcoming and supportive campus culture by building meaningful connections with students and families, mentoring colleagues, and ensuring every child begins the day feeling safe, seen, and cared for.

Stafford is new police chief



CAPT. MATT STAFFORD

Captain Matt Stafford is the new Chief of Police Services for Stanton. He will begin his new assignment on Friday, March 6.

"We are proud to welcome Captain Stafford to this important leadership role," said Mayor David J. Shawver.

"His depth of experience, commitment to public safety, and

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NewsUpdate

Mine-Laying Ships Attacked by U.S.

*War claimed
1,800 lives so
far in Mideast*

American forces have attacked 16 Iranian mine-laying ships near the Strait of Hormuz, resisting an apparent effort to choke off the flow of oil to the world.

According to The New York Times, the U.S. Central Command said the incident came near a major oil route. Nine of the ships are reported to have been struck.

This is the latest development in the war between the U.S and Israel, and Iran. So far the conflict has killed more than 1,800 people and raised gasoline prices at the pump.

The United Nations is reporting that the war, which has spread across the Middle East, is



JETS ON DECK of USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier (U.S. Navy photo).

creating a humanitarian crisis by displacing nearly 700,000 people in Lebanon. An unknown

number of persons have been given evacuation orders in Israel. Seven American military service

men and women have been killed and 140 wounded, eight of them severely.

Crowded election for seat held by Marjorie Taylor Green

Fifteen candidates are on the ballot in a special election today to fill a Georgia district seat in the U.S. House of Representatives vacated by the controversial Majorie Taylor Green, according to the Associated Press.

If no candidate wins a majority, the top two vote-getters will meet in a runoff on April 7. But even the winner there couldn't rest.

When Green quit following a falling out with President Donald Trump, a vacancy was created.

The eventual winner in the 14th District will have a short term, because there will be another election in November for the 2027-2029 term. There will be a May 19 party primary and possibly a June 15 party runoff.

Great Thoughts

“Let food be your medicine and medicine your food.”
– Hippocrates

“The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like and do what you'd rather not.”
– Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)

“If you maintain a healthy diet, or at least are smart about your food choices, you'll see the pounds come off.”
– Misty May-Treanor

Weather: Warm days ahead

When was March ever this hot? Not sure, but the forecast calls for a couple of real warm ones this week for our West Orange County cities. Wednesday starts with a daytime high of 77 with an overnight low of 53 under partly cloudy skies. Thursday will jump to 93 (59) with mostly sunny days and Friday will be only a bit cooler at 88 (58) but mostly cloudy. Relatively cool weather should arrive on Saturday with temps of 82 (55). There will be clouds in the morning and sun in the afternoon.

VW is cutting 50,000 jobs as sales and profits slump

The company that makes Porsches, Audi, Lamborghinis, Bentleys and Volkswagens has announced plans to reduce its payroll by 50,000 jobs in the wake of reporting a 54 percent decline in pre-tax profits.

Those work force reductions will take place between now and 2030, according to United Press International.

Volkswagen is subject to a 25 percent tariff on imports to the United States, cutting into sales to the U.S.

Sales have also have declined in China, as well and Chinese automakers are seeking to move into the European market, which is VW's primary sales base.

Arts & Living

'The Bride' Has Quite A Pulse

Gyllenhaal's version shows much promise

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

Maggie Gyllenhaal's "The Bride!" is a big, brash swing at a new "The Bride of Frankenstein" that struggles to cohere its many parts. But I'll say this for it: It's alive.

Just months after Guillermo del Toro presented his lavish "Frankenstein," Gyllenhaal, in her follow-up to her excellent 2021 directorial debut, "The Lost Daughter," has set her sights on reimagining 1935's "The Bride of Frankenstein." The sequel starred Boris Karloff and, in the dual role of the Bride and Mary Shelley, Elsa Lanchester.

But in "The Bride of Frankenstein," the shock-haired Bride is only on screen for a handful of minutes at the end of the film. Gyllenhaal, who also wrote her film, has corrected the imbalance, refashioning the story from the Bride's perspective and concocting a protagonist of unfiltered feminist fury. As played by Jessie Buckley, she is both a victim of male control and a re-animated avenging angel.

Buckley is also, like Lanchester was, Shelley. In the movie's opening moments, Shelley speaks from the beyond directly to us. She has a story, she says, that's been stuck inside her, like a dream or a tumor. "What I wanted to say, I couldn't," she says. "I couldn't even think it." So Gyllenhaal has placed her story not in the early 19th century, when "Frankenstein" was written, or in the present day, but in the 1930s, around when "The Bride of Frankenstein" came out.

When Frankenstein's monster, here simply "Frank" (Christian Bale), stumbles along, he's been lonely for not just a few years



JESSICA BUCKLEY is "The Bride" with Christian Bale in tow (Warner Bros.)

Movie Review

but a century.

But first we meet Ida, a Chicago party girl who, out one night with a table full of gangsters, experiences a sudden eruption of raw honesty — the words spurt out of her uncontrollably — that quickly gets her killed.

When Frank turns up at the office of Dr. Euphronios (Annette Bening), his request of a companion is at first poorly received. "Give me a break, Frank," she retorts. "Everyone's lonely." But Dr. Euphronios, too tempted to push scientific (and ethical) boundaries, decides to do it, and quickly enough they've dug up a corpse (Ida's) and electrified her back to life. Easy peasy.

But as soon as she comes to, it's clear Ida — with platinum blond hair and an ink-blot stain on her cheek from the IV drip — isn't so keen on the plan. Informed that she's to be his bride, she spits up blood and laughs. Get married? "Frankly, no," she says.

In her new life, Ida is reinvigorated as much by Shelley's spirit as Dr. Euphronios' lab. She speaks full of puns and quips and literary references. Coming

off her award-winning performance in "Hamnet," Buckley clearly relishes the role, turning Ida into an unruly and raw vessel of female emancipation.

But while "The Bride!" very definitely has gender politics on its mind, Gyllenhaal is as set on having fun as much as she is prodding dated notions. This is a movie with an exclamation point in its title, after all. And Gyllenhaal delights in sending Ida and Frank on a fantastical adventure that pays as much homage to "Bonnie and Clyde" as it does "Frankenstein."

As much as they get off on the wrong foot, Ida and Frank are drawn together out of outcast necessity. And, after a night at a dance club that turns darkly sinister, Ida realizes that sexual assault is more of a threat from other men than it is from her presumptive groom. Frank, played with endearing earnestness by Bale, is more of a big softie than a monster. His favorite things in the world are musicals.

Frank and Ida frequently stop in at movie theaters on their journey, which takes them to New York. (A lightbulb-festooned Times Square is vividly rendered in Karen Murphy's lush production design.) The movie star Frank is most fond of, Ron-

Fair ★ ★

nie Reed, is played by Maggie's brother Jake Gyllenhaal, whose frequent on-screen appearances add another dose of levity to "The Bride!"

So do the detectives on the pair's trail (Peter Sarsgaard, Penélope Cruz), whose dynamic is another, more real-world commentary on gender roles. The whole group comes together around the time Frank leads a song-and-dance routine to "Puttin' on the Ritz," a nod to Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein" (1974).

Led by a careening, foot-stomping Bale, the scene could well be about when the feeling takes hold of "The Bride!" being just a little too much. The tonal extremes and multilayered theatricality of Maggie Gyllenhaal's movie-mad movie are, by any measure, a lot. But I would argue such ambitious gambits are exactly the kind that a filmmaker in their sophomore outing ought to be taking. "The Bride!" feels constantly like an act of plate-spinning that's about to collapse. That it doesn't is a fever-dream feat, one that makes me eager to see what Gyllenhaal does next.

TheSportsPages

Predicting the baseball races... what a gamble!

Predicting or handicapping a baseball season is really more like rolling dice in which one falls off the table and rolls under the refrigerator.

That is, your guess is as good as mine. No two seasons are alike, and yesterday's stars can

be starting their path to the Injured Reserve; the new talent intimidated by 100-mile an hour fast balls may shake off the willies and start pounding line drives into the gap.

In other words, nobody knows. Past is not always prologue.

Having said that.... The "experts" don't seem to see it that way.

The **Sportsnaut** website predicts that the Angels will have another season of sighing, winning just 69 games and finishing last in the AL West. Their summation: "One of the worst teams in Major League Baseball."

On the other glove, the Dodgers are crowned as another NL West champ with a 100-62 mark. May not be much of a pennant race; the Arizona Diamondbacks are calculated to win 86 games, a mere 14 games back.

USA Today predicts a third consecutive last place finish for the Angels with a 72-90 record and notes that the Halos are projected to have nine players 33 to 39 years old on the roster on opening day.

In the NL West the Dodgers should win a mere 98 games, 13 games ahead of the San

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Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

It's A High Price to Pay

'NIL' could hit colleges hard, and trim sports

By Eddie Pells
AP National Writer

President Donald Trump predicted the destruction not just of college sports but the entire U.S. collegiate system unless the industry is fixed quickly — something some sports leaders who joined him Friday at a White House summit agreed could only happen by raising more money to pay players.

Trump suggested he would write an "all-encompassing" executive order within a week in hopes it would spark action from Congress.

He said he expected the order to trigger a lawsuit that could put the issue back in front of the court system that approved industry-changing payments to players for their name, image and likeness.

That new system has left many schools drowning in red ink, while rules governing their payments to players are only slowly taking hold.

"The whole educational system is going to go out of business because of this," Trump explained, when asked why he was devoting time to college sports with the war in Iran and other issues dominating the headlines.



THE IMPACT of "name, image and likeness" pay for college athletes has wide-ranging effects (Shutterstock).

During the meeting in the East Room — which included lawmakers, conference commissioners, the president of the NCAA and CEO of the U.S. Olympic team but none of the NCAA's 550,000 college athletes — Trump said, "I thought the system of scholarships was great."

He was harkening to the recently ended era in which players received little to nothing beyond

financial aid.

He said the "horrible" court settlement that led to the current system — a settlement that virtually everyone in the room agreed to — "threw the sports world and the college athletic world into 'tithers.'"

Everyone at the meeting agreed that the industry needs to be saved from the spiraling costs

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Ducks dominate, Lakers rally to win

NHL and NBA

The Anaheim Ducks defended their position in first place in the NHL Pacific Division by defeating the Winnipeg Jets 4-1 Tuesday at Canada Life Center.

Four Ducks — Alex Killhorn, Ryan Poeling, Tim Washe and Jackson LaCombe — lit the lamp for the Orange County team. Lukas Dostal made 13 saves in goal for Anaheim.

The Jets scored first, but the Ducks dominated the rest of the

game. With the win, Anaheim is 36-25-3 (75 points) and is fourth in the NHL Western Conference and first in the NHL Pacific Division.

The next game for the Ducks is Friday in Montreal.

Lakers bite the T-Wolves: Back in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Lakers — still playing

without the ailing LeBron James — rallied from a first-quarter deficit to post a 120-106 win on Tuesday night over the Minnesota Timberwolves at home.

Luka Doncic and Austin Reaves each scored 31 points to lead the Lake Show, which is now 40-25 overall with three consecutive victories and six of seven wins.

They're fourth in the NBA Western Conference and first in the Pacific Division.

■ **Prep Sports Spotlight**

Los Amigos unbeaten in early baseball play

Now that the high school “winter” sports season (basketball, et al) has concluded, it’s time to take a look at the spring sports, especially baseball.

Most of the teams serving our West Orange County cities have not played many games, and just a few have dipped their cleats into league contests.

Here’s a list of local baseball teams listed by won-loss record by MaxPreps.com as the week began.

This is not a ranking of teams by strongest to weakest (using percentage of wins). Indeed some of the better teams can have middling records because of their strength-of-schedule.

We expect to have a High Five ranking later this month.

We’ll take a look at West Orange County softball in our next edition on Saturday.

■ **The Top Five (or so)**

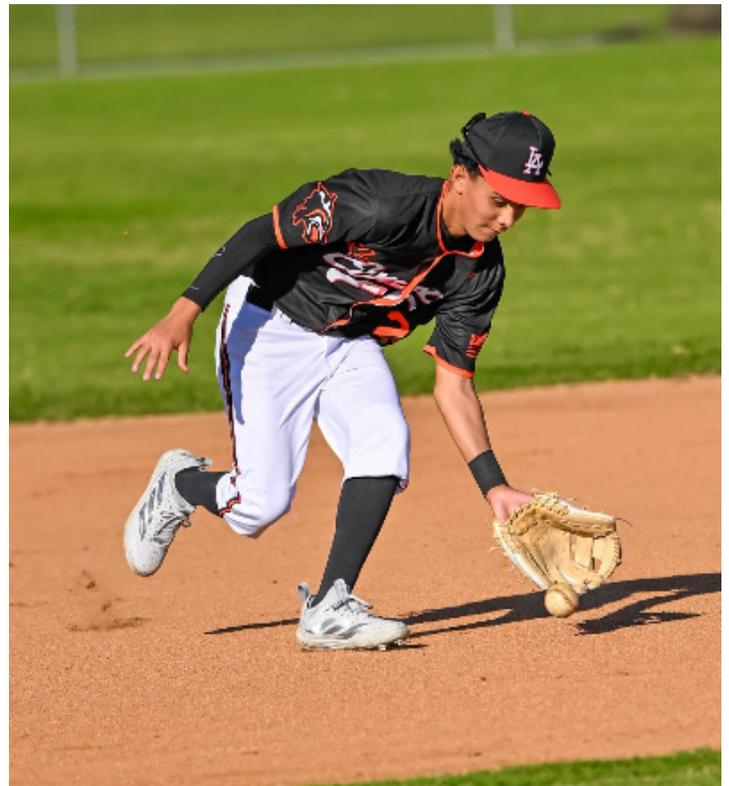
Los Amigos (4-0), Rancho Alamitos (3-1), Western (3-2), Orange (3-2), Magnolia (2-2), Marina (2-2), Pacifica (2-2).

■ **The Next Five (or so)**

Garden Grove (2-3), Ocean View (2-5), Westminster (2-5). Bolsa Grande (1-2), Huntington Beach (1-2-1),

■ **Room to Improve**

La Quinta (1-6), Santiago (0-7).



LOS AMIGOS infielder makes a sharp play in season opener against Bolsa Grande, winning 8-7. The Lobos were unbeaten through their first four games (GGUSD photo).



GARDEN GROVE’S BEST KEPT SECRET

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Will NIL be the end of college sport?

Continued from page 6

associated with the onset of NIL payments.

They also mostly agreed that a bill called the SCORE Act that would provide the NCAA with a limited antitrust exemption (opposed by many Democrats) and would preempt state laws regarding NIL could be the base of any change.

House Speaker Mike Johnson suggested the bill, which has struggled to get through the lower chamber, could now have enough support to pass.

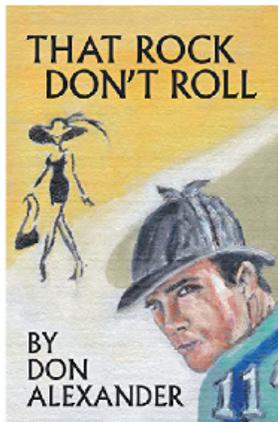
An essay published earlier this week by the University of Louisville's president and athletic director went through an unflinching list of the way payments to players have recalibrated college sports and sent much of the industry spiraling into the red.

It said Louisville's athletic department is running a \$12.5 million deficit and is hardly alone.

How to generate more revenue — and the wide differences that exist over how to fund the growth — received less attention at the White House meeting full of big-picture speeches about the perils facing college sports.

Some serious fun

Murder, corruption, sex, humor, sports and lottery



That Rock Don't Roll

"A fun story set in the OC that is sometimes tongue in cheek and sometimes deadly serious."
- 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.

New Stanton police chief

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collaborative leadership style will serve our community well."

The Orange County Sheriff's Department provides police services for the City of Stanton.

Stafford expressed his enthusiasm for joining the Stanton community.

"I'm honored to stand beside the men and women who deliver exceptional service to the great City of Stanton," he said.

"I appreciate the opportunity to bring my experience and leadership to support and strengthen this dedicated team."

Stafford joined the Sheriff's Department in 2004 and served in custody operations where, early in his career, he began laying the

foundation for his investigative expertise. When he promoted to patrol operations in the City of Lake Forest in 2010, earned several specialty assignments, including becoming a Field Training Officer and working on the Special Enforcement Team. Captain Stafford became an investigator in 2015 and worked a variety of assignments, including the Regional Narcotics Suppression Program.

After promoting to sergeant in 2020, Stafford worked at the Central Men's Jail before serving as supervisor for the North Narcotics, VICE and Human Trafficking teams.

Sports Retorts: MLB bets

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Diego Padres. Oh, there's the additional bonus of having a) the greatest player in baseball history and b) the most world-famous player in baseball history all in one.

Columnist Will Leitch for **MLB.Com** does nothing to dispel the idea that 2026 will look a lot like 2025. He ranks the Dodgers as the top team in Major League Baseball (and consequently in the NL and NL West).

And here's comforting news. He doesn't rank the Angels as 30th of 30 MLB teams. Just 29th. On the bright side, Mike Trout, one of the best players in the sport, will be around for at least one more season. See him before he's gone.

No surprises here ...

Spring training MLB records as of Monday ... Dodgers are 11-6 and second in the Cactus League ... Angels are 8-11 and 12th in the 15-team Cactus League ...

Retorts: The power of prank

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it had won the Pulitzer Prize for journalism.

It seemed like the most outrageously, obviously false story possible, but in the months and years later, when I told people I had been on the staff of (what was then called) The Forty-Niner, they often said (totally seriously), "Hey, didn't you guys win a Pulitzer a while back?"

Pulling a "fast one" has such a thrill that even dead-serious people practiced it. When I covered Westminster for the old Orange County Evening News, the public information guy for the police was a fella — we'll call him Lt. John — who clearly hated reporters, and never offered any of us any tidbits of news unless we pestered him like a black flat-coated retriever eyeing a pastrami sandwich.

But one day he cheerfully handed me a press release about a remarkable policy change in the PD. This was news — or would have been — if I hadn't noticed that the memo was signed by Capt. Abe Rifule.

Darn ... the smile should have tipped me off. Almost pranked.



Covering Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster

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