

■ **GRADUATIONS 2026**

Farewell to school will be commencing

More than a dozen years in the classroom will be coming – for a while, anyway – to a close for young men and women graduating from high schools this week, next week and – and in some cases – even later.

Here’s a list of the commencements for the graduating class of 2026 for public high schools serving the communities of Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster.

For times and locations, check with the school.

Bolsa Grande: Tuesday, May 26, 2 p.m.

Edison: Thursday, Thursday, June 11, 4 p.m.

Garden Grove: Thursday, May 26, 2 p.m.

Huntington Beach: Wednesday, June 10, 4 p.m.

La Quinta: Tuesday, May 26, 6 p.m.

Los Amigos: Wednesday, May 27, 3 p.m.

Magnolia: Wednesday, May 20, 2 p.m.

Marina: Thursday, June 11, 4 p.m.

Ocean View: Wednesday, June 10, 5 p.m.

Continued on page 2

Suspect is arrested in Anaheim fatal

A Hawthorne resident has been arrested for the fatal shooting of an Anaheim woman who was a former girlfriend.

According to the Tustin Police Department, charged with murder is Juan Marquez, 47. He was taken into custody on

Saturday, May 16.

Investigators have discovered that on May 14, Marquez allegedly laid in wait near the workplace of Sandra Fernandez, 42, at the intersection of Yorba Street and Medford Avenue. She sustained fa-

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U.S.’s 250th Birthday Celebrated At Festival

66th Strawberry celebration on Village Green

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

Steve Sanders hasn’t been around the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival since it was founded but it might be easy to jump to that conclusion.

Sanders, 72, a retired police lieutenant and a graduate of Santiago High School, is doing his second tour of duty as president of the Festival Association, that all-volunteer organization that’s kept the event going since its inception in 1958 (or 59), depending on who’s doing the counting.

After service as a security police officer in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam Era, he came to Orange County and Garden Grove by way of the Merced County Sheriff’s Office.

Once with the GGPD, he worked with the Festival Association to assess possible threats to the event, which annually attracts as many as 250,000 people to the four-day celebration over the Memorial Day weekend.

“I was able to see what they did and the funds they raised and what they did for the common



STEVE SANDERS is (once again) the president of the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Assn. (Tribune photo).

good,” said Sanders. “I started volunteering in 1981.”

He points out that all 21 of the directors who com-

prise the leadership of the Association are volunteers and not paid. “Everything we raise goes back into

Continued on page 2

■ **FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS**

66th Garden Grove Strawberry Festival

Memorial Day Weekend May 22-25 Village Green, 12732 Main St.

■ **Friday: 1-10 p.m.** ■ **Saturday 10-10**
■ **Sunday 10-10** ■ **Monday 10-9**

■ **Free admission, concerts, contests**
■ **Festival parade 10 a.m. Saturday Chapman west, Euclid south**

In The Tribune



Baseball, softball second round results here

SPORTS Page 7



You may or may not like the new films coming out

ARTS & LIVING Page 5

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The★Tribune

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66th Festival

Continued from page 1

the community.”

Not only does the festival give grants to non-profit organizations annually – the most recent festival in 2025 donated almost \$149,000 – but the event also helps non-profits who sponsor booths at the festival to raise money for their sports teams, band boosters, civic organizations and more.

How has the event managed to prosper through two-thirds of a century despite all the changes that society has gone through?

“It’s a family-based event,” said Sanders. “We do what we can to make it fun and affordable for everyone. You don’t have to buy anything at all. You can buy a wristband for the rides, but you can also just walk around and enjoy it.”

“Come out and have some fun and support the non-profits.”

Graduations

Continued from page 1

Orange: Wednesday, June 10, 3 p.m.

Pacifica: Wednesday, May 27, 8 p.m.

Rancho Alamitos: Wednesday, May 27 at 3 p.m.

Santiago: Tuesday, May 26, 6 p.m.

Western: Wednesday, June 10, 5 p.m.

Westminster: Wednesday, June 10, 5 p.m.

Fatal shooting

Continued from page 1

tal gunshot wounds and died at the scene.

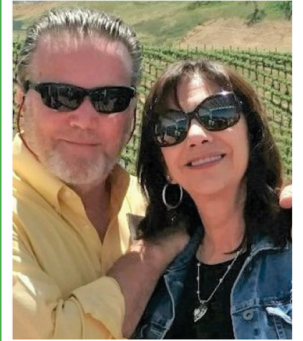
Police say that following the incident, Marquez fled across the border into Mexico at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

Officers obtained a warrant for his arrest and U.S. Custom and Border Protection agents detained Marquez as he sought to return to the U.S., through the border checkpoint.

TPD officers took Marquez into custody and booked him into Orange County Jail on a charge of murder. He’s being held without bail.

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News & Views

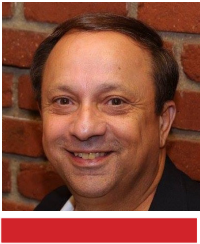
Volunteers in a community can stand tall, strong

The expression puzzled me, at first.

A neighbor, observing the mini-forest in our backyard, remarked, "That's a nice volunteer."

A what? "A volunteer tree." That, I learned, it refers to a tree that springs up from a dropped seedling without any human intervention.

There's a lot of literature (on line and elsewhere) about how to remove, kill or just complain about such a cheeky growth.



Retorts

Jim Tortolano

To put it another way, they're just not sufficiently appreciated.

But, in our case, the "volunteer" popped up in a gap in our tree line. What had looked like the smile of the an ice hockey player right after winning a rough face-off became the junior member of our choir of Mother Nature.

My point – and I do have one – is that "volunteers" can fill a gap in a community without getting paid, without much recognition and even appreciation from the folks who benefit from their work.

I am reminded of this because of the all-volunteer Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association, which organizes one of the biggest community events in the western United States, is in the process of unveiling another event that has transcended all the changes that have come to the community and outlived one of the deadliest epidemic in modern history.

So, if you're one of the estimated 250,000 people who will watch the parade (in person or on TV), ride the rides, eat the many strawberry-themed

Continued on page 8



SURF CITY BIKE VALET can watch over your bicycle while you shop, dine or surf downtown (City of HB photo).

Surf City Valet will watch your bike in downtown

Starting on May 16, the City of Huntington Beach and Visit Huntington Beach has launched the Surf City USA Bike Valet program, a free bike valet service available to all who wish to park their bikes in a secure zone while they shop, dine, and play in "Surf City USA."

The Surf City USA Valet works like a typical valet service. Riders can hand their bikes to valet attendants, who issue a claim stub to the owner to identify the bike for storage. This program operates on a first-come, first-served basis and has a capacity of approximately 45 bikes, which are staffed throughout operations.

The valet area is located in the breezeway next to F45 Training and can be accessed by turning onto 5th Street from Pacific Coast Highway or Walnut Ave.

History Minute

Truly a city of (many) festivals

Garden Grove's Strawberry Festival isn't the first or only festival in the community's long history.

In 1937, the Chamber of Commerce organized "Grover's Day" complete with a parade down Euclid Street (now Main Street).

The Chamber also pioneered the first "Strawberry Festival" in 1958. Intended to be a one-shot, it was so successful it became an annual event in 1959, celebrating the city's dominant crop of the area.

Other festivals that have come and gone: the Korean Festival (Garden Grove Boulevard between Magnolia and Brookhurst, "Koreatown"), Tet Festival (Vietnamese, in Garden Grove Park), Atab-American Festival (Village Green). There was even a one-time International Festival (Garden Grove Park) advocated by Mayor Bill Dalton.

Garden Grove Festival Assn. gave \$148,695 in grants for '25

Grants worth a total of \$148,695 have been issued to non-profit community groups and agencies in Garden Grove by the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association.

Nearly \$185,000 in funding requests have been submitted to the GGSFA:

The 2025 recipients are:

- North Garden Grove Little League
- Garden Grove Historical Society
- Garden Grove Assistance League
- Alzheimer's Orange County
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Garden Grove
- Kiwanisland
- City of Garden Grove
- Orangewood Academy
- Epilepsy Support Network Of Orange County
- Woman's Civic Club of Garden Grove
- Thomas House Family Shelter
- Garden Grove Host Lions Club.
- Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA).

For more than six decades, the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival has remained committed to its mission: to give back to the community through charitable donations, scholarships, and support for local non-profits. The 2025 grant awards continue this legacy, ensuring that vital programs and services can thrive.

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival is one of the largest and longest-running festivals in the western United States.

Held annually over Memorial Day Weekend, the Festival celebrates the city's rich agricultural history – strawberries, of course – while raising funds for local charities.

Since its founding in 1958, the Festival has donated millions of dollars to community organizations.

NewsUpdate

An Agreement on Lawsuit by Trump

‘Compensation fund’ for those who believe they were treated wrongly

The U.S. Justice Department on Tuesday announced an agreement with President Donald Trump to resolve a lawsuit filed by Trump against Biden-era investigation against him.

Under the terms of the agreement – according to a one-page document posted on the Justice Department’s website and signed by acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, the Department of Justice promises to refrain from pursuing any matters – including tax returns – of the president, his families or his business holdings.

According to The New York Times, the announcement followed Trump’s agreement to drop his lawsuits against the DOJ for the creation of a \$1.8 billion “compensation fund” for those he believes were treated wrongly by federal investigations or prosecutions.

Blanche said he would not rule compensation for those convicted in the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE in Washington, D.C.(Wikipedia).

Security guard at SD mosque praised for battling attackers

Officials at Monday’s shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego revealed the names of the three persons who were killed at the mosque by two suspects, who later killed themselves

According to USA Today, the victims are Nadir Awad, Mansour Kazhla and Amin Abdullah, who was the security guard.

Abdullah reportedly engaged the two attackers in gunfire and is credited with keeping the death toll from being larger.

The incident will be treated as a hate crime, “until it’s not,” said San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl. The attackers reportedly left messages attacking various religions.

Weather: Cooling toward weekend

A cooling trend is emerging this weekend fore heaven our West Orange County cities. The forecast for Wednesday is for sunny skies with a daytime high of 86 with a overnight low of 60. Thursday will cool to 78 (59) with partly cloudy skies. Friday and Saturday will be similar with temps of 74 (59) and with partly cloudy conditions.

Steyer raised \$192 billion in his campaign for governor; polls show him running third

A total of \$192.4 million has been given by billionaire candidate Tom Steyer in his campaign to become the next governor of California.

According to The Los Angeles Times, Steyer has spent almost \$1 billion on his 2020 presidential campaign and on national Democratic candidates and causes as well as advocating for a successful ballot measure to redraw Congressional seats to benefit Democratic candidates.

In an average of recent polls, Republican Steve Hilton is running first, followed by Democrat Xavier Becerra and Steyer in an open primary.

According to The Times, California voters have often been skeptical of wealthy self-funded candidates.

Great Thoughts

“There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of you in your philosophy.”

– William Shakespeare

“The mind is its own place, and in itself Can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven.”

– John Milton

“When the eyes of the soul looking out meet the eyes of God looking in, heaven has begun right here on Earth.”

– A.W. Tozer.

Arts & Living

Movies You “May” Like ... ‘May Not’

A big rush of new films and the summer

By Lindsey Bahr
AP Film Writer

As spring turns toward summer, Hollywood will churn out more “Star Wars” fare, more bloody horror, a film about Dwight D. Eisenhower and how tough it is to be a father.

A look at the new films about to be in release:

May 20

“Tom Clancy’s Jack Ryan: Ghost War” (Amazon MGM Studios and Prime Video, streaming): John Krasinski’s Jack Ryan finally gets a movie of his own.

May 22

“The Mandalorian and Grogu” (Walt Disney Studios, theaters): Pedro Pascal’s bounty hunter makes his big-screen debut, alongside his adorable green counterpart. “He’s a bit different from when we first met him, but he’s still, at his heart, a gunfighter and a warrior,” filmmaker Jon Favreau told the AP.

“Tuner” (Black Bear, theaters): Leo Woodall plays a gifted piano tuner who finds out he also has a knack for cracking safes in this character-driven thriller (with romance! Drama! Heists!) from Daniel Roher (who won an Oscar for his documentary “Navalny”). Woodall, Roher told the AP, “has this boyish charm, this absolute hunkish, dreamy quality, but there’s also the melancholy there ... that he deputizes to great effect.”

“I Love Boosters” (Neon, theaters): Keke Palmer stars in Boots Riley’s new comedy about a group of professional shoplifters who call themselves the Velvet Gang. Demi Moore, LaKeith Stanfield, Don Cheadle, Taylour Paige, Eiza González and Will Poulter also star.

“Passenger” (Paramount Pic-



BRANDON FRASER (left) in the film “Pressure” as Dwight D. Eisenhower (Brittanica).

tures, theaters): A van life adventure turns terrifying in this horror, with Melissa Leo.

“Ladies First” (Netflix, streaming): Sacha Baron Cohen plays a chauvinist who turns up in an alternate world where the gender dynamics are reversed. It’s based on a French film, and Rosamund Pike co-stars.

“Corporate Retreat” (Western Film Service, theaters): A company getaway goes very wrong in a bloody horror, with Odeya Rush, Alan Ruck and Rosanna Arquette.

“Saccharine” (Independent Film Company and Shudder, theaters): A medical student takes part in a wild weight-loss experiment. Side effects may include terror at the hands of a sinister force.

May 29

“The Breadwinner” (Sony Pictures, theaters): Nate Bargatze is in over his head as a stay-at-home dad to three daughters while mom (Mandy Moore) is away in this family comedy.

“Backrooms ” (A24, theaters): YouTube phenomenon Kane Parsons adapts his popular horror shorts into a feature starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Renate Re-

Movies

insve. The concept, Parsons told the AP, is “like the exaggerated idea of being stuck in an atomizing monospace for the rest of your life ... like the back space of a Sears or something.”

“Pressure” (Focus Features, theaters): Brendan Fraser plays Dwight D. Eisenhower in the tense 72 hours before D-Day in this historical drama, with Andrew Scott, Kerry Condon, Chris Messina and Damian Lewis.

“Propeller One-Way Night Coach” (Apple TV, streaming): John Travolta is director, writer

and narrator for this ode to the golden age of aviation, about a young boy and his mother’s cross-country flight.

“Miss You, Love You” (HBO Original Films, streaming): Jim Rash wrote and directed this drama about a grieving widow (Allison Janney) who plans her husband’s funeral with her estranged son’s assistant (Andrew Rannells).

May 31

“Speed Demon” (Maverick Film and Complex Corp, VOD): The demon Asmodeus follows Katie Cassidy and William H. Macy onto a New York bound train.

Los Lobos lands at Amp

Los Lobos, a group from East Los Angeles that blends rock, Tex-Mex, country and traditional music comes to the Garden Amp at the Village Green park at Main and Euclid streets in Garden Grove on Saturday, June 6.



TheSportsPages

The ridiculous age of endless tournaments

Bob Boyd used to coach the men's basketball team at USC. In his 1972 season, the Trojans — who at one point in the season were ranked first in the nation — won 24 of 26 games ... but didn't earn a spot in the NCAA tournament

Why? Because back then, only conference champions made it to the post-season. Although USC was second in what was then the Pac-8, and their only losses were close defeats by top-ranked UCLA, they didn't get a chance to go to "the big dance."

I bring this up because it's an example of one end of the bonehead spectrum of college



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano

sports play-offs. As you may have read in The Tribune last week, there's considerable agitation for a 24-team field for the major college football tournament.

For most of history, there was no college football tournament at that level. Then there was a ridiculous championship game between two teams, then four, then six and now 12.

The next step would be to 24 or more, advocated because that "might still leave out some good football teams" as one college athletic director said.

And why not? In college hoops, the field is 76 for the Division I championship. It's called "March Madness," which it certainly is, primarily because all of those contests between Goobar State and Obscure Tech are televised and that brings in ... fill in the blanks, my friend.

Sports have gone from one end — David vs. Goliath — to the other end — Every Team that Has At Least Broken Even vs. Another Team that Finished

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Shohei's 'Little League' Homer

Against Angels, Ohtani may have found his stroke

By Dan Greenspan
Associated Press

ANAHEIM (AP) — A few days off seems to have helped Shohei Ohtani get on track as the Los Angeles Dodgers slugger drove in a season-high five runs against his old team Saturday night.

Ohtani went 2 for 4 with two walks and scored two runs in the Dodgers' 15-2 win over the Angels — and even had a Little League home run in the eighth inning.

"We were hoping to get a reset with a couple days off," manager Dave Roberts said, "and I think that's what happened."

With another large contingent of Dodgers fans in attendance for the second game of the three-game Freeway Series, Ohtani got back to his highlight-reel self late in the game.

He ripped a ball into the right field corner in the eighth and it took an awkward bounce off the



LOS ANGELES DODGERS' Shohei Ohtani, center, scores on his two-run triple after a throwing error as Los Angeles Angels catcher Logan O'Hoppe, right, stands at the plate in the eighth inning of a baseball game Saturday, May 16, 2026, in Anaheim (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

■ **DODGERS** also won on Sunday, 10-1. More coverage below.

netting down the first-base line. Jo Adell didn't play the ball at first, calling for a ground-rule double.

But when no ruling was made, Adell was left trying to play catchup.

His throw into the infield wasn't

on target, allowing Ohtani to score on the error after a two-run triple.

The netting down to both foul poles is a new addition to Angel Stadium this season and was not here when Ohtani won two American League MVP awards in six seasons with the Angels from 2018-23.

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Sac fly wins it for Dodgers

Angels hammered 14-6 by Athletics at home in Anaheim

Andy Pages' sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth brought in Alex Call with the winning run as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the San Diego Padres 5-4 on Tuesday night.

The razor-close victory pushed the Blue Crew into first place over the home team by a half-game in the National League West.

It took nine pitches in the duel between Pages and Padres' closer Mason Miller to decide the outcome.

Each team scored a pair of runs



FREDDIE FREEMAN

in the first inning, and then the Padres (now 29-19) took a 4-2 lead with two more runs in the third. The Dodgers scored single runs in the fifth and sixth to set up the decisive ninth.

Freddie Freeman hit two homers for the Dodgers (30-19) and ended up with three RBIs. Shohei Ohtani was 2-for-3 with

a run batted in.

The two teams will play again on Wednesday.

Athletics 14, Angels 6: Six runs would normally make for a pretty good game for the Los Angeles Angels, but not when the other team — the Athletics — starts off with a six-run lead.

The team got 10 hits but stranded 10 batters and not even Mike Trout's 12th home run of the season was very comforting as the Orange County team suffered its seventh loss in eight games.

The outcome allowed the first place A's to remain in first place in the AL West at 24-24. The Angels (17-32) sunk further into last place with the worst record in Major League Baseball.

■ Prep Sports Spotlight



GARDEN GROVE HIGH boys' volleyball team finished runner-up in CIF-SS Division 6, their third CIF finish since 2016. Argos were 20-16 overall and champs of the Golden West League (GGUSD photo).

2nd round baseball, softball

BASEBALL (Tuesday)

Division 1 (pool play)

La Mirada 14, Hunt. Beach 1

Division 3

Dos Pueblos 10, Edison 7
Agoura 3, Pacifica 0

Division 4

Marina 11, La Quinta (SD) 7

Division 7

Norwalk 4, Garden Grove 1

SOFTBALL (Monday)

Division 2

Huntington Beach 11, Camarillo 8

Division 3

Edison 10, El Toro 3

Division 8

San Bernardino 17, Bolsa Grande 4 (Bolsa finishes 19-6)

■ CIF-SS Baseball/Softball

Three locals win, and will advance in playoffs

Just one of four local high school **baseball** teams won their CIF-SS playoff games to advance to next round on Tuesday.

Marina defeated La Quinta of La Quinta (San Diego County) by 11-7 in Division 4 play. The Vikings, who are now 15-15 overall, will face Grand Terrace (19-7) on Friday. The Titans are 19-7 after blanking Palm Desert 4-0.

In Division 3, Edison lost 10-7 to Dos Pueblos and finished fourth in the Sunset League and had an overall record of 13-16. Pacifica fell 3-0 to Agoura in Division 3 and was third in the Freeway League. Overall, the Mariners were 16-13.

Garden Grove lost its Division 4 contest with Norwalk 4-1. The Argonauts finished with a 20-10 record and as champs of the Orange Coast League.

Two of three local high school **softball** teams playing in the CIF-SS second round won on Monday and will advance to the quarterfinals.

In Division 2, Huntington Beach (20-10) defeated Camarillo 11-8 and will play San Clemente on Wednesday.

In Division 3, Edison (18-11) bested El Toro 10-3 and will take on Great Oak on Wednesday.

In Division 8, Bolsa Grande lost 17-4 to San Bernardino. The Matadors finished the season with a 19-6 record.



GARDEN GROVE'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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Retorts: Go red

Continued from page 3

desserts or just stroll around the grounds enjoying the “county fair” atmosphere that has largely disappeared from our modern, too-hectic world, send a kind thought to the folks in the red polo shirts who made this annual gift to you possible.

Sports Retorts

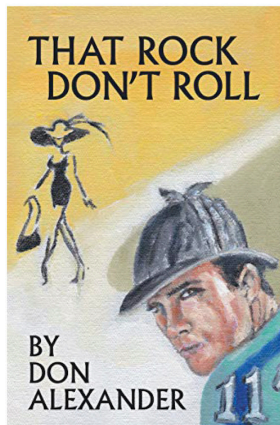
Continued from page 6

Fourth Or So.

Too many of anything dilutes its appeal. I know that Stalin once said that “Quantity has a quality all its own.” Yeah, but he was trying to defeat Nazi-ism. Too much quantity might defeat the public’s appetite for these so-called “tournaments of champions.”

Some serious fun

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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.

Ohtani’s odd ‘homer’

Continued from page 6

“I just kept running,” Ohtani said through a translator in a postgame television interview.

Angels manager Kurt Suzuki challenged the play in vain, hoping a fan had touched the ball when it hit the net before going back into play.

Ohtani then cracked a double with the bases loaded in the ninth, drawing “MVP” chants while notching his first game with five RBIs since June 22,

2025. It was his third extra-base hit in two games, including a double in the fifth inning on Friday, after getting one in the first 12 games in May.

The loss of power started during an 0-for-17 slump from April 29-May 4.

“Just happy to be performing in front of both Dodger fans and Angels fans,” Ohtani said. “I’m really happy I was able to contribute a lot today.”

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66th Annual

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