

Don't Blow Up Celebration of Fourth of July

Don't risk an injury, fire or a hefty fine

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune



The nation's 250th birthday is being celebrated all week, climaxing on Saturday with Fourth of July events including parades, picnics, carnivals and – especially – fireworks.

Although the tradition since the days of John Adams, the growth of urbanization and the use of especially dangerous pyrotechnics has led to many cities – including the four

in our West Orange County coverage area to step up efforts to curb the use of illegal fireworks and the unlawful modification of legal “safe and sane” versions.

Such abuses have led to fires, injuries and even deaths. Countless pets have been so terrified by the noise and bright lights that



A FOREST of American flags at the Village Green park in downtown Garden Grove in observance of Independence Day (Tribune photo).

they flee their homes.

This year, local governments have stepped up their efforts to curb the abuses that sometimes accompany the holiday.

Huntington Beach: Safe and sane *only* fireworks can be discharged on July 4 from noon to 10 p.m. The HBPD's aerial drones will be employed to keep

an eye on problem areas. Illegal fireworks can be reported to (714) 536-5683. Violators face a fine of up to \$1000 and six months in jail.

Garden Grove: Discharge of fireworks is only legal on Saturday, from noon to 10 p.m. Fines are up to \$1000.

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The big July 4th event in the area is the **Huntington Beach 4th of July Celebration** starting with the Surf City Run on Main Street (7&8 a.m.), the parade on Main at 10 a.m., a downtown carnival from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with fireworks at the pier at 10 p.m.

West Nile mosquitos in GG, Westminster

From a staff writer

Mosquitoes infected with the potentially dangerous West Nile Virus have been found in the cities of Garden Grove and Westminster.

According to the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District, the infected insects were found in traps in an area bounded by Hazard Avenue, Magnolia Street, Bolsa Avenue and

Newland Street in Westminster, as well as the area bounded by W. McFadden Street, Euclid Street, Euclid Street, Edinger Avenue and Ward Street in Garden Grove

The West Nile virus can cause encephalitis or meningitis in humans and other mammals, including horses, dogs and cats. There is no human vaccine or treatment.



WEST NILE MOSQUITO (Wikipedia).

While 80 percent of people infected have few or no symptoms, about 20 percent

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Policeman held for 'inappropriate' acts

A Garden Grove police officer has been arrested and relieved of his duties because of “possible inappropriate interaction (s)” with a juvenile female police Explorer.

According to Sgt. Nick Jensen of the GGPD, the accused is Roberto Machuca. He was arrested on Saturday, June 27 and booked into Orange County Jail in Santa Ana.

“The safety and security of our youth volunteers remains a top priority,” said Jensen.

The case will be handled by the Orange County District Attorney's office once the GGPD completes its investigation.

Police Explorers are a program for males and females age 14 to designed to “give insight into law enforcement careers.”

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The★Tribune

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

Mosquitos with West Nile Virus in local cities


Continued from page 1
develop a fever, headache, vomiting or a rash. In fewer than 1 percent when encephalitis or meningitis occurs, there may be confusion, neck stiffness or seizures.
Residents of the area, employees and visitors are encouraged by the OCMVCD to check (and empty) standing water and wear mosquito repellent at dawn or dusk, when they are most active.

250th birthday of the US of A should be safe

Continued from page 1
Stanton: Fine for the use of illegal, dangerous fireworks can be as high as \$10,000. Drones will also be employed.
Westminster: Fireworks can be discharged only on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The minimum fine is \$1,000

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News & Views

How our 'fiscal' year shapes up for West OC

July 1 has a special significance because it commonly refers to the starting of a new "fiscal year" for most businesses and government agencies.

So, in a sense, Wednesday was "New Year's Day" for 2026-27. Sorry you missed it?

As always, there's a lot of stuff that will pop up, news-wise for our West Orange County cities. Here's a look at some of them, city-by-city.



Retorts

Garden Grove: The steps taken by the planning commission and city council to clear the tracks for the new Nickelodeon-theme hotel et al on Harbor Boulevard are important, but will take a while to bear fruit ... at least two years.

But there are other changes brewing in that area. At Chapman Avenue, the Joe's Crab Shack seafood restaurant has closed, and work crews have been busy tearing down old signage and getting the building ready for ... what?

Published reports indicate a Yard House restaurant (famous for a huge selection of beers) coming to 11757 Harbor, which happens to be the location of the existing Buca di Beppo Italian restaurant.

We've been unable to confirm with city sources any specifics about the future of these locations, but it seems likely there's some fire with the smoke.

The larger point may be that the Chapman-Harbor hotel district – which supplies tons of "bed tax" through its dozen or so hotels – could be stirring with new growth.

Westminster: As most peo-

Continued on page 8

FLIPPING YOUR LID



ON TUESDAY, a two-car traffic accident on Newland Street north of Slater Avenue resulted in this car getting overturned. The sole occupant of the vehicle "self-extricated" himself before firefighters arrived. The motorist was evaluated by Huntington Beach Fire Department firefighter paramedics who provided medical care and transported the patient to a local hospital (HBFD photo).

Upgrades for Sports Complex?

A relatively light agenda will greet the Huntington Beach City Council when it meets on Tuesday.

Among the items on the agenda will be:

- a study session on proposed improvements to the Huntington Beach Sports Complex;
- approval of additional compensation to the agreement between LM Investigations, LLC and the City of Huntington

Hunt. Beach City Council

Beach for background services for the Huntington Beach Police Department;

- implementation of the Huntington Beach Pier Stairs Project, authorizing the city manager to start a one-year pilot project

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History Minute

'Rainy Days' and Paul Williams

Some of the most prominent people in the entertainment world are out of the spotlight, or in and out of it. Paul Williams, a prolific writer of popular songs and sometimes a performer

as a solo artist, although born in Omaha was for a time a resident of Huntington Beach.

Among the hit songs he wrote were "Won't Last a Day Without You," "Rainy Days and Mondays," and "We've Only Just Begun" for the Carpenters and "You and Me Against the World" (Helen Reddy), "The Rainbow Connection" (Jim Henson as Kermit the Frog) and "Evergreen" (Barbra Streisand).

Long Beach man facing jail time in nude filming

A 59-year-old Long Beach man is scheduled to be arraigned on Aug. 6 in Westminster for allegedly secretly filming almost two dozen naked state lifeguards and other workers inside an employee locker room at the Bolsa Chica State Beach lifeguard headquarters in Huntington Beach and sending nude images of three different victims to two other men.

According to the Orange County District Attorney's office, Kevin Pearsall has been charged with five felony counts of eavesdropping, 23 misdemeanor counts of secretly filming another, and three misdemeanor counts of unlawful dissemination of private recordings.

He faces a maximum sentence of 18 years and eight months in Orange County Jail if convicted of all charges. He turned himself in on June 23 on a \$500,000 arrest warrant and was released on his own recognizance by a judge. His arraignment will be in West Justice Center in Westminster.

Pearsall was employed by the California State Parks since 1994 until he retired in July 2025 after he was placed on administrative leave while under investigation.

The investigation by the California Highway Patrol identified 23 men who had been filmed by a hidden camera allegedly placed in the employee locker room by Pearsall.



Now 85, he's also had a career in acting and is an avid skydiver, having completed over 100 jumps.

NewsUpdate

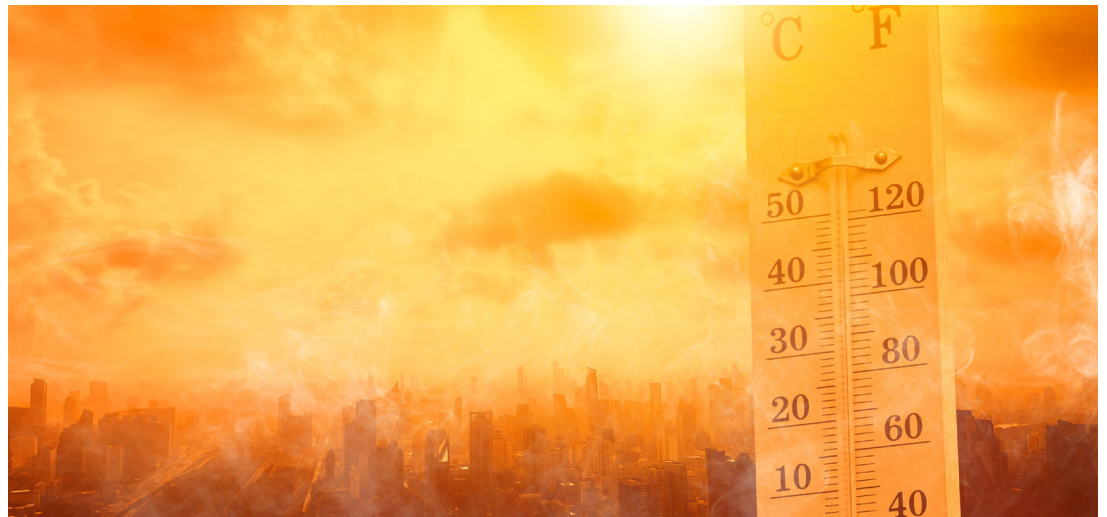
Dangerous Heat Wave Hits the U.S.

Temperatures ranging from 90 to 102 degrees

What's being termed a "dangerous heat wave" is scorching the Midwest, South and Northeast and is considered likely to last through the Independence Day weekend.

According to the National Weather Service, over 165 million people in the Midwest and East are at risk of "major or extreme health-related issues" with triple digit highs during the day, falling to the mid-80s at night in some areas.

Temperatures in New York City's Central Park hit 100 degrees in the afternoon on Friday. High temperatures in certain cit-



TEMPERATURES in the nation range up to as high as 102 (Shutterstock).

ies included Boston at 97, Nashville (98), Washington, D.C. (104) and Cincinnati (98).

The South, where hot summers are not uncommon, is forecast to be experiencing temperatures

from Dallas (100) to Orlando (90), with Raleigh at 102 and New Orleans at 92.

'Travis Loves Taylor' held in secrecy and security at NYC Madison Square Garden

It's very hot in New York City, but the "hottest" ticket in the Big Apple is the wedding of football star Travis Kelce and superstar singer-songwriter Taylor Swift.

The event, to be held in Madison Square Garden on Friday evening, was taking place with tremendous security and secrecy.

According to CNN, the crowds

and traffic generated by the ceremony and the events surrounding it have led to streets being shut down and traffic jams ensuing all the way to New Jersey.

Among the guests, the Los Angeles Rams will be represented by quarterback Matthew Stafford, who was the NFL Most Valuable Player for the 2025 season.

Great Thoughts

"The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous." – Abraham Lincoln

"Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official, save exactly to the degree in which he himself stands by the country." – Theodore Roosevelt

"My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." – John F. Kennedy

Weather: West Orange County is traveling back to the Eighties

Not nearly as hot as is back East, but the Independence Day weekend will be warm here in West Orange County. The forecast for Saturday calls for a daytime high of 82 with an overnight low of 68 with mostly cloudy skies.

Sunday will be similar at 83 (64) and mostly sunny. Monday will also be familiar at 83 (64) and partly cloudy. Tuesday's daytime high inches up to 84 (64) and also partly cloudy.

Death toll in Ukraine rising as the Russians strike Kyiv

The number of people killed in Russian attacks on the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv has been raised to "at least 30 people," according to the State Emergency Service on Friday.

President Volodymyr Zelensky commented on social media that "First responders have already managed to clear a significant part of the rubble, but 10 people are still missing," he wrote. "The search operation will con-

tinue as long as needed."

United Press International is reporting that Russia launched an aerial attack of ballistic missiles and drones against Ukraine. About 25 ballistic missiles and 12 drones got past Ukrainian air defenses, says the government.

These attacks represent a flare-up of the long-stalled war between the two nations that began with a Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Arts & Living

'Supergirl' No Match for 'Toy Story' 5'

Audiences not sticking with a female superhero

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a setback for Warner Bros.' revamped DC movie operations, "Supergirl" was absolutely no match for "Toy Story 5" at the box office, opening a distant second to the Pixar blockbuster.

After a near-record debut for an animated movie, "Toy Story 5" remained No. 1 at the box office with \$70 million in domestic ticket sales and another \$89.1 million overseas, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Walt Disney Co. release has in two weeks quickly amassed \$585 million globally, making it one of the biggest hits of the year.

"Supergirl," however, failed to lift off. It opened with \$38 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters. It added \$30 million in overseas markets.

Craig Gillespie's superhero spinoff is the second big-screen release from James Gunn and Peter Safran, who were tapped to lead DC Studios in late 2022. Their first release, 2025's "Superman," grossed \$618 million worldwide, a strong-enough start for Gunn and Safran.

But "Supergirl" flopped with both critics and moviegoers. Reportedly trimmed significantly after test screenings, Gillespie's film landed poor reviews (56% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and a "B-" CinemaScore from audiences.

The poor opening weekend for "Supergirl" puts it behind the disappointing debuts of DC busts like "The Flash" (\$55 million in 2023) and "The Green Lantern" (\$53 million in 2011), and only barely ahead of "Joker: Folie à Deux" (\$37.7 million in 2024).

David A. Gross, who runs the



"TOY STORY 5" flew higher than "Supergirl" (Walt Disney Pictures).

Box Office

movie consulting firm FranchiseRe, noted superhero movies no longer drive the box office like they did pre-pandemic. There are fewer yearly releases, and the box office in the genre is down approximately \$3.5 billion annually from its highs in 2017-2019.

After huge successes like "Wonder Woman" (\$822 million in 2017) and "Captain Marvel" (\$1.13 billion in 2019), female-fronted superhero movies have also taken a downturn.

"You'll hear general explanations like 'the audience lost interest.' Yes, they did," said Gross. "But no one has been able to explain why it happened so suddenly and so completely. Why female superheroes in particular, after their sensational starts? We don't understand it either."

The stumble for "Supergirl," which cost \$170 million to make, comes as Warner Bros.

Discovery, the film studio's parent company, is preparing to be acquired by Paramount Skydance. David Ellison, Paramount chief executive, recently met with Gunn and Safran.

The next DC release is "Clayface," a body horror take on the DC character, to be released in October. Gunn's "Superman" follow-up, "Man of Tomorrow," is currently in production. It's

dated for July 2027.

Gunn, who serves as a producer on "Supergirl," handed directing duties to Gillespie, the filmmaker of "I, Tonya" and "Cruella." Milly Alcock, who briefly appeared in "Supergirl," stars as Supergirl, or Lara Zor-El, a younger cousin to Superman who's more of a party girl

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The concerts of summer '26

The 2026 Free Summer Concert Series is underway at Eastgate Park in Garden Grove. The next is on July 9, with Yachtzee (yacht rock; think Jimmy Buffet) performing at 6:30 p.m. On July 16 it's the Kelly Boyz Band (country) and on July 23 it's Start Me Up (Rolling Stones) Sponsored by the city and Community Foundation.

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JULY 30 BEE GEES FEVER (BEE GEES TRIBUTE)

USA 250

THE VOICE

July Concerts: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Local high school students compete for cash prizes and the title of "The Voice of Garden Grove"

TheSportsPages

One man can't carry all of the load, or blame

I was never one of those who called for tying a can to Perry Manasian, the recently-fired general manager of the perpetually last place Los Angeles Angels.

I figured that you can't blame the failure of an entire professional sports organization on one person.

On the other hand, who should bear the responsibility? The owner? The scouts? The third-baseman? How about the guy at the hot dog stand?

It seems to me that it makes more sense to decide (or discover) what makes for a winning team, whether it be



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

in sports or other enterprises. Such as:

- **Consistency:** Changing field managers every year or so – regardless of success – doesn't allow for a

manager to imprint his style and leadership on a group of young men. Anaheim wasn't built in a day.

- **Character:** Players shouldn't be recruited, traded-for or drafted based on skill alone. The guy who runs out every grounder, shows up early for batting practice and who doesn't need controlled substances is the guy you want.

- **History of Fitness:** Hard to predict, admittedly, but important. A player with chronic trips to the injured reserve list – regardless of how he did last year or years – is someone who will break your heart and drain your budget.

- **Leadership:** A 162-game season is bound to be wearing on anybody. A leader – be it a player or manager – who keeps the right attitude during

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Change In The Cards?

Mozeliak comes from St. Louis as interim Halo GM

By Mike DiGiovanna
Associated Press

ANAHEIM (AP) — John Mozeliak has a lengthy to-do list as interim general manager for the Los Angeles Angels, but the hiring of a new manager to replace Kurt Suzuki is not among his priorities.

"I met with Kurt and most of (the coaches) this morning, and I told them they're all fine for this year," Mozeliak, the former St. Louis Cardinals' baseball operations head, said at a news conference before a 5-2 victory win over the Athletics on Saturday night.

"There's nothing they have to worry about. ... They all have jobs moving forward. There's no reason for massive change right away."

As for the rest of his agenda, which includes transforming into a winner a club that has suf-



JOHN MOZELIAK is the new interim general manager of the Los Angeles Angels. He spent 30 years with the St. Louis Cardinals (Angels photo)

fered 10 straight losing seasons and entered Saturday with an American League-worst 34-49 record, Mozeliak plans to dive right in.

"There's a short view and a long view, and the short view is going to be coming through the draft, addressing the trade deadline, finding another new general manager," Mozeliak said. "And then, ultimately, hope-

fully, we lead to that foundation and structure that provides perpetual winning for the Angels."

Mozeliak, who replaced the fired Perry Minasian on Friday, said he will have a limited role in the July 11-12 amateur draft in which the Angels have the 12th overall pick, leaving the selections to scouting director Tim McIlvaine.

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Dodgers win it on a grand slam

From staff writers

MLBaseball

In recent seasons, a clash between the San Diego Padres and the Los Angeles Dodgers often had a bearing in the race for glory in the National League West. But now, with the Blue Crew running away with the division title, Friday's contest at the Chavez Ravine was a just a fairly interesting game with a fairly predictable outcome.

A late rally by the Dodgers resulted in a 4-3 victory. After falling behind 3-0 by the sixth inning, the World Series champs flipped the script with a four-run rally in the bottom of the seventh.

Two fielding errors by the Padres loaded the bases for Teos-

car Hernandez, who slammed a game-winning grand slam home run.

With the win, the Dodgers are 58-31 with the best record in baseball. The Padres (43-44) slipped into third place with the loss.

Red Sox 5, Angels 2: A two-run home run by Jose Siri in the eighth inning was too-little, two-late as the Halos lost to Boston in Anaheim.

Angel starter Reid Detmers (3-6) put the home team in a hole in the early going. He pitched five innings, giving up seven hits and five earned runs. He struck out five Bosoxx but walked three. With the loss the Angels are 36-

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	45-43	.511	--	7-3
Seattle	45-44	.506	1.5	5-5
Houston	43-47	.478	3	3-7
Athletics	40-47	.466	5.5	7-3
ANGELS	36-53	.404	9.5	4-6

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	58-31	.652	--	8-2
Arizona	43-43	.500	13.5	4-6
San Diego	43-44	.494	14	3-7
San Fran.	36-51	.414	21	5-5
Colorado	36-53	.404	22	5-5

53, fifth and last in the American League West. The visitors aren't much better with a 38-48 mark and fifth in the AL East.

■ Prep Sports Spotlight

Ocean View Seahawks to open season vs. Barons

The Ocean View High Seahawks football team posted a winning record in 2025 and earned a trip to the CIF-SS playoffs and hope to do as well or better this year.

In 2025, the Hawks were 7-4 overall and 3-2 in the Sigma League. Here's the coming season schedule, as published by MaxPreps.com. League games are marked with an asterisk.

- # Friday, Aug. 21 hosting Fountain Valley, 7 p.m.
- # Friday, Aug. 28 hosting Peninsula, 7 p.m.
- # Thursday, Sept. 3 at Buena Park, 7 p.m.
- # Friday, Sept. 11 hosting Linfield Christian, 7 p.m.
- # Friday, Sept. 18 at Gahr, 7 p.m.
- # Friday, Oct. 2 at Costa Mesa, 7 p.m.*
- # Friday, Oct. 9 hosting Saddleback, 7 p.m.*
- # Friday, Oct. 16 at Anaheim, 7 p.m.*
- # Thursday, Oct. 22 at Katella, 7 p.m.*
- # Friday, Oct. 30 hosting Rancho Alamitos, 7 p.m.*

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'Supergirl' vs. Toy Story 5'

Continued from page 4

than a world saver. Paramount Pictures' "Jackass: Best and Last" was the weekend's other new wide release. The latest stunt compilation from Johnny Knoxville and company opened with a modest \$8.4 million from 2,855 North American theaters. While that's a good result for a movie that cost just \$10 million to make, the 2022 installment, "Jackass Forever," debuted with \$23 million before ultimately grossing \$80 million worldwide.

Olivia Wilde's dinner party comedy "The Invite" notched one of the best per-screen averages of the year. Opening on seven screens in New York and Los Angeles, it debuted with \$379,104, good for a per-screen average of \$54,158.

Wilde's third film as director stars herself, Seth Rogen, Penélope Cruz and Edward Norton as

a pair of San Francisco couples who meet for an impromptu night together. A24 acquired the film after its buzzy Sundance Film Festival premiere. The indie distributor is hoping "The Invite," which will expand next week and go nationwide on July 10, can revive the largely dormant summer comedy.

The micro-budget horror phenomenon "Obsession" continued to hold unusually strong. It took third place on the weekend with \$9.8 million in its seventh weekend of release. Curry Barker's film, made for less than \$1 million, has now collected \$233.9 million domestically for Focus Features, plus \$108.9 million internationally.

Such legs, however, haven't materialized for Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller "Disclosure Day." In the Universal Pictures' third weekend of release with \$8.1 million in domestic theaters.

Huntington Beach council

Continued from page 3

for pier stairs advertising and amend the contract with Rio Media and Advertising to expand the scope of services to include pier stairs advertising.

The council will meet in its chambers at 2000 Main St. with a closed session at 4 p.m. and a regular meeting at 6 p.m.

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From Cardinals to Angels: Can Halos take flight?

Continued from page 5

“My philosophy on the draft is, let the scouting director and his team do their jobs,” Mozeliak said. “Even when I sat in the GM seat for 18 years, I never scouted amateur players. I felt that was their responsibility. So they’re going to have a lot of autonomy to do it.

“The only real input I’m gonna have is understanding their process ... and if there are some financial decisions that are being baked into who we pick and why.”

Mozeliak said he has not received any direction from owner Arte Moreno or team president Molly Jolly on whether the Angels should embark on a rebuilding process by trading

valuable pieces such as pitchers Reid Detmers and Jose Soriano and outfielder Jo Adell.

USA Today reported last week that Moreno prefers to retain those players.

“In time, I think we will come up with a trade-deadline strategy that we are all comfortable with, from ownership to Molly,” Mozeliak said. “And my job will be to help execute it.”

Mozeliak said he already has formed a list of GM candidates

and will begin seeking permission from teams to interview them after the Aug. 3 trade deadline.

He hopes to have a new GM in place well before his contract expires in December, though he didn’t rule out the possibility of remaining with the Angels longer.

“When my contract ends, depending on who ends up getting hired, what the team looks like, there could be a position or a role that makes sense for me to stay around. ... But on a personal level, I’m just not ready to give away my life again for, you know, 80 hours a week, 100 hours a week, to just do baseball,” he said.

Fiscal year for OC cities

Continued from page 3

ple know, the old Westminster Mall has been demo’d in favor of a new mixed-use project called Bolsa Pacific. That could be a big deal, but it’s also years away from being a reality and in the meantime the city is facing a looming financial crisis.

The council is considering raising the city’s “transient occupancy tax” paid by guests at a hotel or motel. Westminster has a bunch of motels, but no major

hotels – although at least one is planned for Bolsa Pacific.

Also being considered has been cannabis business, but Stanton has gone that route and the return has been something less than spectacular. One theory is that legalizing pot has made the illegal variety more attractive because what you can buy “on the street” is often cheaper and returns no tax revenue to city hall.

More future-gazing next issue.

Sports Retorts: Blame who?

Continued from page 3

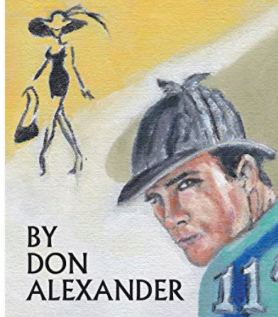
winning streaks and losing strings is worth his (or her) weight in Benjamins.

• **Work Ethic:** Branch Rickey once said, “The harder I work, the luckier I get.” Any team needs “lucky” players and, yes, general managers, too.

Some serious fun

Murder, corruption, sex, humor, sports and lottery

THAT ROCK DON'T ROLL



That Rock Don't Roll

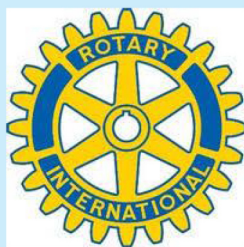
“A fun story set in the OC that is sometimes tongue-in-cheek and sometimes deadly serious.”

– The Orange County Tribune

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

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

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

The **Garden Grove Rotary Club** has been serving the community since 1953. The modern club is part of a worldwide service organization of over 1 million men and women.

Interested in doing good work in your town and enjoying fellowship and fun with like-minded leaders in Garden Grove? Contact us for meeting times and more information. E-mail: journaldon@aol.com. Website: gardengroverotary.com.