

TLC Chosen to Manage the Rose Center

Vote is 4-1 with Manzo voicing his opposition

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

After nearly two hours of discussion and questions, the Westminster City Council on Wednesday night voted to direct city staff to begin negotiations with TLC Inc. to assume operation of the Rose Center Theater complex.

The vote was 4-1 with Vice Mayor Carlos Manzo dissenting.

In the rankings submitted to the council by a staff committee, the top-rated proposer was the Latin-Asian Hospitality Group (of Campbell, Califor-

Westminster City Council

nia), whose score of 43 was nearly twice as high of those of Friends of the Rose Theater (the current operator), TLC and Coffee Whipped.

Manzo termed the process of choosing a new operator “a dog and pony show,” adding “You are throwing away the advice of the experts.”

But the rest of the council disagreed with him on the choice for converting the theater, meeting space and more to a “multi-cultural center” that better “reflected the community.”

Councilmember Amy Phan West was especially impressed by TLC’s stated

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THE BLUE FLAG WAS UP



PACIFICA jumped out to a 20-0 lead and went on to a 48-0 non-league win over Garden Grove High Friday at Bolsa Stadium. The Mariners are 2-0 and Argos are 0-2, **For more prep football, go to page seven** (Tribune photo).

Police deal would tap reserves

A proposed labor contract – officially a “memorandum of understanding” – between the City of Huntington Beach and the police union calling for a 17 percent pay raise over three years would require taking \$2.7 million from municipal reserves.

When the city council

Huntington Beach City Council

meets on Tuesday, it will receive a presentation on the financial impact of the proposed contract with the Huntington Beach Police Officers Association on the city’s general fund,

along with “long range” staff projections about the contract, unfunded pension liabilities and reserve levels.

To balance the most recent city budget, \$15 million was moved from reserves.

The report also consid-

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In The Tribune



Planners consider design ideas for Little Saigons

NEWS & VIEWS 3



‘Sweeney Todd’ is a ‘killer’ musical, says our critic

ARTS & LIVING Page 5

Suspect arrested in an Anaheim market theft

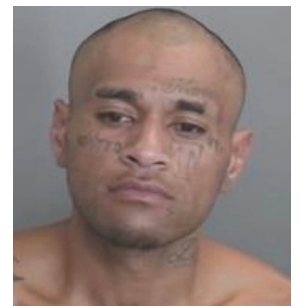
One of two suspects sought in the burglary of an Anaheim market earlier this month has been arrested.

According to the Anaheim Police Department, the incident took place on Aug. 11 at the LaReina Market

on N. East Street.

Surveillance video caught the image of the two and after the footage was shared publicly and on social media, community members came forth and provided information that

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MAKATAPU PAEA
Arrested by APD

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Rose Center

Continued from page 1

willingness to put up \$500,000 toward the arrangement. "This is the business model that I really like," she said.

The Rose Center has a 416-seat theater and banquet facility located in the Civic Center area. Ground-breaking for the center was in April 2001 with the official grand-opening on July 21, 2006.

Police contract

Continued from page 1

ered the possibility of bankruptcy, and additional revenue options – such as a cannabis tax, and increases in sales tax and utility tax – to balance the budget without taking more from reserves.

Following that, the council will take up the issue of approving or rejecting the proposed MOU with the police union.

The council will meet in a closed session at 3:30 p.m. with the regular meeting at 6 p.m. in its chambers at 2000 Main St. (at Yorktown Avenue).

Man arrested

Continued from page 1

helped the APD's Criminal Investigations Division detectives identify one of the suspects as Makatapu Paea, 34.

On Aug. 21, APD detectives found and arrested him in connection with the crime. Paea reportedly admitted that he was one of the persons depicted in the surveillance video and allegedly admitted to stealing from the business.

The investigation is ongoing.

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The★Tribune

Covering Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster

News&Views

What will be the eventual cost of hazmat scare?

Can't Buy Me Love Dpt.: GKN Aerospace spokesman Steve Carlson appeared on Tuesday night at the Garden Grove City Council and was – as is his fate – on the spot.

He and his employers were, depending on the speaker, responsible not just for the hazmat incident in May that led to the evacuation of over 50,000 people, also, for the Hamas-Israeli conflict and capitalism in general, which allegedly places profit over people.



Retorts

Jim Tortolano

What he had on his side, though, was substantial. He brought – metaphorically – was the gift of \$100 million in compensation for hotel bills, lost wages, lost income, etc.

Calculators have been clicking and – assuming that everyone has the same claim and all are legitimate – that is said to work out to \$2000 a claim. Of course, that \$100 million won't cover the theoretical costs of “emotional distress” and “lowered property values.”

I don't doubt that most of those are real, but I also see the prospect of some bold grifters who will inflate or invent their losses, seeing an easy payday. Lawyers will also begin to circle, dreaming of their 33 percent.

There's little doubt that, based on previous violations, GKN Aerospace has not exactly been fanatical about safety. And those regulatory bodies who are supposed to be protecting us from such may not have been as “johnny-on-the-spot” as they should have been.

All told, this is not exactly the

Continued on page 8

Designing ‘Little Saigons’

GG planners to consider adopting design guidelines

A public hearing to consider and recommend that the city council adopt non-binding design guidelines for the “Little Saigon” areas in in collaboration with the cities of Fountain Valley and Santa Ana tops the agenda for the Garden Grove Planning Commission when it meets on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

The proposed guidelines, which will include signage, building design and other factors, is an attempt to “advance Little Saigon as a premier statewide destination for cultural tourism, while simultaneously supporting economic development, business growth and job creation.”

Funding for the projects was provided by the California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative Catalyst Program.

Westminster – which has the highest proportion of Vietnamese-Americans in the county and the state – is not part of this



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE rendering of a Little Saigon streetscape in Garden Grove. This is not an official product from the cities or consultants (Shutterstock)

program, but some local officials have expressed optimism that coordination with that city's eco-

nomics development programs would eventually and inevitably develop.

Dual immersion program coming to Anthony school

Anthony Elementary School in Westminster will become the Garden Grove Unified School District's second Vietnamese Dual Immersion school, beginning with a transitional kindergarten class in the 2027–28 school year.

The new program will provide students with the opportunity to learn academic content in both English and Vietnamese, beginning a pathway toward becoming bilingual, biliterate and bicultural.

It will launch with students entering transitional kindergarten and expand by one grade level each year as the inaugural class

progresses through elementary school, eventually becoming a full TK–sixth grade program.

“GGUSD is proud to bring its Vietnamese Dual Immersion program to Anthony Elementary, expanding a proven model that has earned prestigious accolades and recognition,” said Board President Bob Harden. “This innovative educational opportunity will build upon the academic excellence and strong school community that already make Anthony an outstanding school.”

The announcement follows a review of enrollment, demo-

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History Minute

Westminster's pious pioneers

Rev. LP Webber is considered the founder of Westminster and was such a straight arrow as a Presbyterian minister that you had to pass a kind of moral test to get into his colony, established in 1870.

Webber, it's written, vetted the moral standings of each new member of the community, where “manufacturing, buying or selling intoxicating beverages except for sanitary or scientific purposes was prohibited.”

NewsUpdate

U.S. Controls Venezuelan Oil Share

Trump calls it the biggest deal in world history

The United States has made an agreement with the government of Venezuela to assume control of 65 million barrels of that nation's oil reserves, President Donald Trump said on Friday.

According to the Associated Press, the agreement was negotiated by Marco Rubio, secretary of state, along with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Delcy Rodriguez, interim president of Venezuela.

Writing on his Truth Social internet platform, Trump said, "The United States of America has just entered into an agreement with country of Venezuela



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP with wife Melania (Wikipedia).

on THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY."

Almost nine months ago U.S.

military forces arrested Nicolas Maduro — then president of Venezuela — and took him to

the United States to stand trial for alleged narcoterrorism and drug trafficking offenses.

1,900 are feared missing in Nepal avalanche, floods

The total number of people reported missing after a major flood struck the mountain nation of Nepal on Wednesday has risen to 1,900.

The New York Times is reporting that the tally of the missing has more than doubled since hydropower producers on Friday released their own count of their workers not accounted for.

Nepal, located between China and India, has often been beset with "glacial failures" in which

ice and rock avalanches and floods plunge down mountains and into populated areas.

Survivors of the incident told The Times that they heard the sound of the avalanche and ensuing ice and water flood before they could see it.

An estimated 90 Americans are known to have been in the area, but the State Department said it was "not aware" of any deaths along them.

Weather: Cooler days coming, but not by a wide margin

Things are getting cooler in our West Orange County cities, but still not what would be considered "cool." The forecast for the next few days calls for daytime highs of 91 slipping down to 85 by Tuesday. Saturday should be sunny with daytime high of 91 and an overnight low of 71. Sunday is also sunny, and the daytime high drops to 87 (68). Partly cloudy conditions move in for Monday and Tuesday with highs of 85 during the day and 66 to 68 overnight.

Norway's King Harald V dead: new king is Haakon

The king of the Scandinavian nation of Norway was reported dead on Friday. According to United Press International, Harald V died in a hospital where he was being treated for a blood disorder. He was 89.

The new monarch will be Haakon, 53. Harald's cousin, King Charles III of Great Britain, paid his respect in a message and wished Haakon "success and good fortune" in his new role.

Norway is a nation of 5.7 mil-

lion people on land along the northern side of the Scandinavian peninsula along with a long border with Sweden. Originally a home of Viking raiders, Norway was later merged with Sweden, winning its independence in 1905.

It was invaded and occupied by Nazi Germany in 1940 over Norway's vast natural resources of petroleum, natural gas and lumber. It was liberated in 1945 with the success of the Allies.

Great Thoughts

"A well-spent day brings happy sleep."
— Leonardo de Vinci

"You know when you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams."
— Dr. Seuss

"It is a common experience that a problem difficult at night is resolved in the morning after the committee of sleep has worked on it."
— John Steinbeck

Arts&Living

'Sweeney Todd:' Killer Musical

On stage now
at Gem Theater
in Garden Grove

By Thom deMartino
Orange County Tribune

A word of advice, Paleo enthusiasts: steer clear of the meat pies.

The macabre masterpiece "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" has raised its bloody curtain at Garden Grove's Gem Theater. The Stephen Sondheim classic, directed by Damien Lorton, opens with a pair of seafarers having just arrived in London: the youthful, aptly-named sailor Anthony Hope (Aiden McGuinness) and the mysterious man whom he saved at sea, the brooding, intense Mr. Sweeney Todd (Bryan Fraser).

As the pair part ways, Todd makes his way down the seedy streets and alleys of Fleet Street. He crosses paths with a disheveled beggar woman (Erika Baldwin) who begs, then propositions the pale figure — and yet, she seems to have a glimmer of recognition... has she seen him before?

It seems Todd is no stranger to these cobblestones: something the local purveyor of meat pies, Mrs. Lovett (Nicole Cassesso) suspects when he first appears at her door. She coyly relates to the stranger the terrible tale of a barber condemned to prison, unjustly... and of his wife, cruelly stolen and betrayed... Come from this very house, would you believe it?

The besmirched barber is, of course, Todd himself: but from the ashes of his former life, has become an almost demonic presence — fixated on nothing less than unrelenting vengeance.

And like a twisted Lady of the Lake, Mrs. Lovett offers up the sacred relics she's been caretaking all these years — his precious, silver-handled straight razors. And with this fateful meeting, a murderous partnership is born.

Yet, the shadow of the man who coveted his wife and destroyed his



NICOLE CASSESSO in "Sweeney Todd: The Mad Barber of Fleet Street" (Ron Lyon photo).

Stage Review

life, the corrupt and falsely pious Judge Turpin (James Scognamiglio) ever-looms over Sweeney, creeping into the mouldering corners of his mind.

Worse still, the sanctimonious official has been raising the barber's young daughter Johanna (Sydney DeMaria) as his ward... but a recent, more debauched look in his eye betrays his lecherous desires towards his proxy daughter.

Despite the judge's inappropriate overtures, Johanna's heart belongs to another — none other than her real father's savior, Anthony. Still, Turpin's servile toadie the Beadle (Trevin Stephenson) seems always at hand to thwart the sailor's efforts to reach his lady-love, as well as to do the judge's dirty work.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Lovett and Todd have made a move on the territory of the local barber-surgeon, the arrogant and self-aggrandizing Pirelli (Peter Crisifulli). With their social stock on the rise and the name Sweeney Todd gaining recognition, it's only a matter of time before the right "gentleman" walks through Todd's door... And

under his blade.

But revenge is never that clean-cut.

Besides the beautifully rendered background of a foggy, sprawling London street, something the audience will first notice is the striking effect of the lighting upon the players: painting the stage in ghastly green and arterial red in the opening number, with the mesmerizing colors and hellish hues providing the perfect atmosphere all way to the (literal) bloody end. The 12-piece orchestra behind the scenes, conducted by Adrian Ran-

Great ★ ★ ★ ★

gel-Sanchez, gives the perfect, darkly-textured accompaniment to an exemplary ensemble.

For a piece that walks such a tightrope between humor and horror, you need a deftly-skilled actor anchoring it: and Mr. Fraser is the perfect choice to answer that call. His seething, sustained rage as Sweeney feels both authentic and chilling. The performance of such moody pieces as "My Friends"

Continued on page 8

We want to see: 'The Dog Stars'

A superflu has wiped out most of mankind. A lone survivor and his dog survive. He flies his Cessna looking for intruders and more encouraging signs.

One day, he gets a scratchy radio transmission, which could mean good ... or bad news. He and his dog set out to learn the truth. "Dog Stars" is rated R for strong language and violence. Now in cinema in Orange County.



TheSportsPages

Hey, let's get international in sports

Our U.S. national men's soccer team started off well, then kind of fizzled in the World Cup, but don't despair. Our jocks are still dominating the world of sports.

As most people know, the USA usually "wins" the Summer Olympics, especially in basketball, swimming and — sometimes — track and field and gymnastics.

Our national pastime of baseball has truly become international especially with the World Baseball Classic — now dominated by Japan — and with the variety of nationalities represented in most MLB rosters.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Basketball is clearly worldwide now and softball, too. The last hill to climb has been football, by which I mean American football, not the variety that is actually played mostly with the foot.

Uncle Sam's gridiron reach has long been confined to the 50 states and Canada, which has a slightly different brand of pigskin (only three downs. Imagine that).

On Sept. 10-11, the Los Angeles Rams and San Francisco 49ers will play an actual NFL game in Melbourne, Australia in a stadium with a capacity of 100,000.

It's the latest sign that the world is finally ready for our latest export: scantily-clad cheerleaders, concussion protocols and the wild card scramble.

Hear me know and believe me later. There will be an NFL team in London ... before the Angels win a another pennant. Now, that's looks like a safe bet, doesn't it?

Rams Go Down Under

Facing 49ers on Sept 10 in Australia

LONDON (AP) — The NFL will play a record nine games internationally this season and they include three cities hosting for the first time: Melbourne, Australia; Rio de Janeiro; and Paris.

Jacksonville and San Francisco both play two games abroad: the Jaguars back-to-back in London; the 49ers in Melbourne and later in Mexico City.

Here's some handy information about the games and locations of the first contest,

Melbourne, Week 1

Talk about pushing boundaries. The Los Angeles Rams face the San Francisco 49ers in a game at Melbourne Cricket Ground. The league has never staged a regular-season game so far from



MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND has a seating capacity of 100,000 fans. Will they cheer for Rams or Niners?

home. It's a nearly 16-hour flight from the West Coast. The NFL West matchup will kick off at 10:35 a.m. local time Friday, Sept. 11, in Melbourne — which will be 8:35 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, on the U.S. East Coast.

The 100,000-capacity stadium,

known as "The G," is the largest on the NFL schedule this season. Aussies call American football "gridiron" so as not to confuse it with Australian Rules Football. Visitors might want to look up Shane Warne to get a flavor of Australian cricket history.

Halos slammed late, lose 5th in row

By Pete Zarustica
Orange County Tribune

Another ninth inning collapse sent the Los Angeles Angels to a 5-3 defeat by the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday night in Anaheim and deeper into last place in the American League West.

The Halos led 3-1 going into the top of the ninth when Edmondo Sosa hit a grand slam home run off Sammy Peralta and sent the home team home with a fifth consecutive defeat.

That outcome ruined a strong starting effort by Reid Detmers, who worked six pretty good innings. He yielded eight hits but just one run and struck out only two but walked no one.

With the loss, the Angels are 52-83 and are guaranteed another losing season. They're now one game behind the fourth place Athletics.

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	68-67	.504	—	5-5
Texas	66-69	.489	2	5-5
Seattle	67-71	.474	4	5-5
Athletics	53-82	.393	15	4-6
ANGELS	52-83	.385	16	3-7

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	81-54	.600	—	7-3
San Diego	72-63	.533	9	5-5
Arizona	72-64	.529	9.5	6-4
San Fran.	55-80	.407	27	4-6
Colorado	52-83	.389	29	2-8

At bat, the home team gathered just three hits. Wade Meckler had the best night at bat, with one hit, one RBI and one base-on-balls.

The Angels will try to end their skid on Saturday by sending Ryan Johnson (3-7) to the mound.

Skubal tames Detroit Tigers

Tarik Skubal didn't get the win in the box score, but there's no question who was the most responsible for the Los Angeles Dodgers' 2-1 win over the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park.

He pitched six strong innings, giving up just four hits and one earned run. He struck out seven Tigers and walked none to lower his ERA to 2.84.

With the score tied at 1-1, the winning run for the Dodgers came in the top of the eighth when Freddie Freeman's line drive single to center brought in Teoscar Hernandez.

Their first run came in the top of the sixth when Miguel Rojas singled in Enrique Hernandez.

Week One Wasn't A Weak One

'Star' leads OHS to win; Mariners blank Argonauts

Orange High's well-named "star" quarterback – Star Thomas III – had another outstanding performance as the Panthers defeated Laguna Beach 28-21 at LBHS on Friday night.

He passed for 280 yards and three touchdowns. His top receiver was KJ Woodbury, who caught seven passes and one score.

Orange is now 2-0 and will next hit the road to take on Elsinore (1-0) in Wildomar.

At Bolsa Stadium in Garden Grove, long-time district rivals Pacifica and Garden Grove met but it wasn't much of a nail-biter.

The Mariners (2-0) jumped out to an early 20-0 lead seconds into the second quarter and went on to a 48-0 victory over the Ar-

■ Prep Sports Spotlight

FOOTBALL

Thursday

H. Beach 31, Los Alamitos 15
Villa Park 55, Western 20
El Toro 42, Marina 21

Friday

Pacifica 48, Garden Grove 0
Westminster 21, Buena Park 7
Orange 28, Laguna Beach 21
University 43, Bolsa Grande 19
Magnolia 20, Compton EC 7
Rancho Alamitos 35, Godinez 14
Pinnacle 32, Edison 28
Westminster 21, Buena Park 7
La Quinta 40, Pioneer 20

gonauts.

Grove is now 0-2 after two losses against former Garden Grove League opponents. The Argos will try to get in the win column on Thursday when they host Westminster (1-1). The Lions defeated Buena Park 21-7.



PACIFICA DEFENSE (in blue) shut down the Garden Grove running game on Friday night (Tribune photo).

Pacifica will next take on Canyon (2-0) of Anaheim.

Rancho Alamitos had its season-opener on Friday and bested Godinez Fundamental 35-14. The Vaqueros will go for another win next Friday against Pioneer of Whittier. The Titans are 0-2 after losing 40-20 to La

Quinta, which also opened its season with a win.

Edison (1-1) suffered a rare early season defeat, losing 32-28 to the Pinnacle Pioneers of Arizona.

On Thursday, Huntington Beach beat Los Alamitos 31-15 at Sheue Field.

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Stage Review: 'Demon Barber of Fleet St.'

Continued from page 5

and "Epiphany", as well as the playful "A Little Priest" (a witty back-and-forth duet with Mrs. Lovett) are a testament to his talents.

As for his comedic foil, the lovestruck Mrs. Lovett? This will certainly go down as one of Ms. Cassesso's most celebrated roles, in a career already award-winning and storied. Her portrayal of the smitten pie-maker is instilled with manic energy, bittersweet in her utter devotion to a man whose all-encompassing thirst for vengeance eclipses everything else. From her introduction with "The Worst Pies In London", to her daydreaming about her (unlikely) romantic plans with Sweeney

in "By The Sea", to her motherly, comforting manner towards the young Tobias Ragg (JD Ceruti) in "Not While I'm Around", Cassesso's performance gives a multi-layered dimension to a character that could just be played for laughs, and yet leans into the tragedy of her blind adoration.

Aiden McGuinness as Anthony shows the breadth of his impressive vocal talents in his perfor-

mance, just as Sydney DeMaria shines in her turn with her beautiful work as Johanna.

Peter Crisifulli is marvelously over-the-top as the boastful Pirelli (and arguably diabolical, as the audience later discovers); and James Scognamillo's Judge Turpin, with his booming, authoritative voice and brief-lived inner conflict about his lustful desires, gives an almost sympathetic depth to a reprehensible character. But we need to talk about the beggar woman.

While Erika Baldwin's character has her notable moments centerstage, the keen-eyed audience member will notice her uncannily on the periphery of the crowd scenes: wild-eyed and bawdy, broken mind spouting nonsense... but is it, really? Yesterday as today, often the unhoused are overlooked and dismissed... despite being someone's child, someone with a face, a name, an identity. Yet throughout the tale are sprinkled breadcrumbs to her mystery

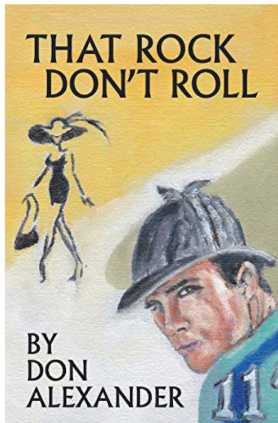
— particularly note her telling micro-expressions and reactions as she observes the events of the story. It's an extraordinary supporting performance.

"Sweeney Todd" is an unforgettable, kaleidoscopic array of color, harmony, and stagecraft — with some of the finest, most powerful performances you'll see all year. Playing for a limited engagement at the Gem Theater, this one should be on everyone's bucket list... sooner rather than later.

"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street", Bryan Fraser, Nicole Cassesso and James Scognamillo star in this gripping tale of murderous revenge... and savory pastries. Now playing through September 27 at The Gem Theater, 12852 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA, 92840. Call 714-741-9550 x221 or email boxoffice@onemore-productions.com for ticketing information.

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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.



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Vietnamese dual immersion program for Anthony School

Continued from page 3

graphic and program data as well as continued interest from families in GGUSD's highly sought-after Dual Language Immersion programs. The launch presents an exciting opportunity to ensure more families have access to a high-quality Vietnamese dual language education.

Anthony was named a 2025 California Distinguished School for its academic achievement, instructional practices and commitment to student success.

"By bringing this successful program to Anthony, we are investing in the school's future while providing more families with access to the lifelong academic, cultural and career advantages that come from learning in two languages," said Board of Education Vice President Lan Nguyen.

GGUSD launched its first Vietnamese Dual Immersion

program at Murdy Elementary School in 2017.

Murdy's program has helped the school attract new families and grow its enrollment. Today, Murdy has a waiting list of families interested in enrolling and has earned an Excellence Award from the California Association for Bilingual Education for its implementation of bilingual education.

Retorts

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human race at its finest. All I think I know is that \$100 million is just the opening bill.

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