

Suspects in Arson Spree Arrested Here

Three agencies combine to find the couple

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

Through the combined efforts of Garden Grove and Westminster police, along with the Orange County Fire Authority, two persons have been arrested in connection with a series of arson fires.

According to Sgt. D. Flynn of the WPD, arrested were Alejandro Santiesteban Jr., 22, (male) of Westminster and Jade Anguiano, 22, (female) of Westminster, for arson of property.

The first incident occurred on Aug. 22 this year with a vehicle fire in Buckingham

Park at 6502 Homer Street in Westminster.

The owner of the vehicle told police that the car had been stolen from his home about two hours previously.

Suspecting a crime, WPD detectives worked with OCFA arson investigators and identified two possible suspects.

While that investigation continued, a residential fire took place in the 8900 block of Blossom Avenue in Garden Grove on Oct. 1-2. Evidence pointed to the fire having been deliberately set.

On Oct. 11, two cars parked in the driveway at that same home were set on fire. Evidence again suggested arson and two suspects. At this point Gar-

Continued on page 2

EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S WINDY



SANTA ANA winds buffeted West Orange County cities and brought high temperatures, but that should abate by Sunday and dip to the 70s by Tuesday. Above, palm trees bend in the breeze above the Village Green park in Garden Grove. For more weather news, see News Update on page 4 (Orange County Tribune photo).

Extension on extension request

A request for a one-year extension on a large proposed six-story apartment complex was itself extended by the Garden Grove Planning Commission.

The panel voted to delay consideration of the request by Investel Garden Resorts to delay plans to

Garden Grove Planning Comm.

build the project, which would consolidate four parcels into one for the 53-unit complex at 12233-12239 Choisser Road, east of Harbor Boulevard. The proposed project

would be built near the hotel district at Chapman Avenue and Harbor.

Plans for a 23-story tall Nickelodeon resort nearby have been approved by the city council, but action to begin building is being held up by a ballot measure to go before voters next year.

In The Tribune



'Take Me Out' on GWC stage

ARTS & LIVING Page 5



Dodgers lost to a better team

SPORTS Page 6

17% raise for HBPD mgrs. is back

Put off from the Oct. 6 meeting, the Huntington Beach City Council will again take up the issue of a proposed tentative agreement with the Huntington Beach Management Assn. when it meets on Tuesday.

Hunt. Beach City Council

The deal calls for a 17 percent agreement over a three-year period. The agreement – which would be retroactive to July 1 –

calls for an 8 percent raise for those in management roles, to be followed by a 4 percent increase effective on July 1, 2027, and then a 5 percent hike on July 1, 2028.

Starting on Jan. 7, 2027,

Continued on page 2

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HB city council to consider big pay hike deal

Continued from page 1

the city's maximum monthly contribution for health and other insurance benefits will increase by \$75 (employee only), \$150 (employee and one other person) and \$200 (family).

On Jan. 1, 2028, the city's maximum monthly contribution will increase by the same amount.

If approved by the council, it will be necessary to take \$270,000 from the city reserves in the first year of the deal.

A similar agreement with the Police Officers Association has been approved by the council. Both have been controversial as the city has had to dip into reserves to balance the municipal budget.

The council will meet in closed session at 4 p.m. and at 6 p.m. for the regular meeting in the Council Chambers, 2000 Main St. (at Yorktown Avenue).

Two arrested on arson charges

Continued from page 1

den Grove detectives joined the investigation.

On Thursday (Oct. 15), investigators from the three agencies located and arrested the two suspects.

They were booked into Orange County Jail for arson-related charges.

The investigation is ongoing and the WPD Detective Bureau is asking anyone with more information to contact Detective C. Chavez at (714) 548-3797.

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News&Views

Seeking a show of real contrition from GKN folks

So GKN Aerospace has agreed to pay out \$125 million to settle claims against itself arising from the Memorial Day weekend hazmat incident that led to the evacuation of 50,000 or so people from their homes, schools and businesses in Garden Grove, Stanton and surrounding areas.

Now that may seem like a lot of money, and it is. But consider: this is a huge multinational corporation with lucrative contracts.

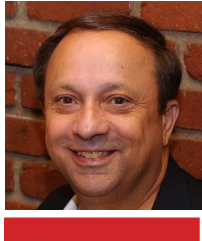
Paying out claims like this is just the cost of doing business and likely a tax deduction that will see no one on the board of directors missing a meal.

So, the way I look at it, this is just about compensation, not contrition. If I want to truly express regrets, I will go beyond just repair and offer a sign of good faith.

So here's my idea. Let's have GKN annually donate a sum of \$10 million to a non-profit organization or deserving government agency in each of the affected cities. I would nominate the Boys and Girls Clubs for a start in 2027, and follow that in 2028 with \$10 million for the police K-9 center on Chapman Avenue in Garden Grove.

Culturally valuable organizations such as the Gem Theater and the Garden Grove Community Foundation would get \$10 million in 2029. The list could go on and on ...

Again, that may seem like a lot of money, but a small contribution wouldn't carry the same degree of "We're so very sorry" that we seek.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

A Great White Visited HB

A section of the beach was closed off

Don't go in the water. Huntington Beach Marine Safety officers received a "credible" report of a 10 to 12 foot great white shark near lifeguard Tower 16 on Tuesday.

According to observers, the shark was circling – a behavior considered to be aggressive, according to Marine Safety's "shark response protocols."

The water was then closed from Seapoint Street to the Huntington Beach Pier as a precaution.

That's a distance of about one

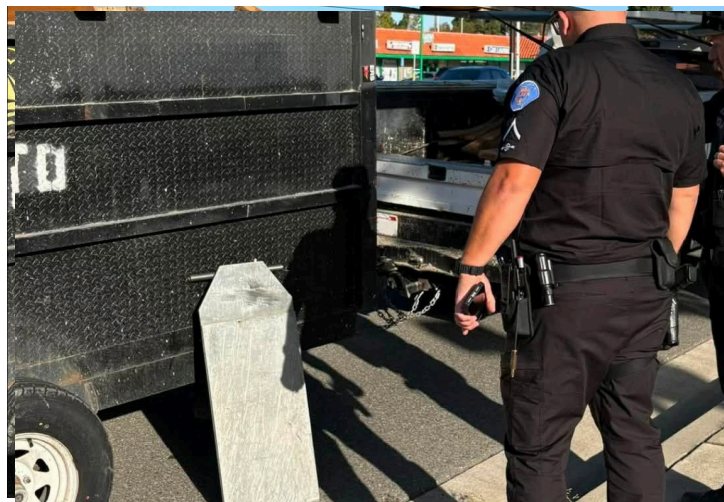


A GREAT WHITE shark was spotted in the waters off Huntington Beach, a section of which was closed (HBFD photo)

mile north and south of Tower 16.

Warning signs were posted to

notify beachgoers to stay out of the water. The closure lasted until 3 p.m. on Wednesday



NINETY INSPECTIONS and 90 violations noted when Garden Grove police held a checkpoint (GGFD photo).

GGPD wrote 90 tickets in commercial vehicle check

A perfect score for an imperfect situation.

The Garden Grove Police Department conducted a commercial vehicle enforcement checkpoint on Tuesday in an effort to keep roads safe and to make sure that such vehicles are complying with regulations.

Ninety vehicles were inspected and 90 violations were identified. A total of 55 citations were issued and nine vehicles were taken out of service.

Eight vehicles were towed.

New assistant super chosen for HBUHSD

Morgan Smith has been chosen the next assistant superintendent of human resources for the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

Smith steps into the role after serving two years as the director of certificated human resources and, most recently, as the interim assistant superintendent of human resources since July 2026.

No stranger to the HBUHSD, he also served as principal of

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MORGAN SMITH
New asst. super for HBUHSD

NewsUpdate

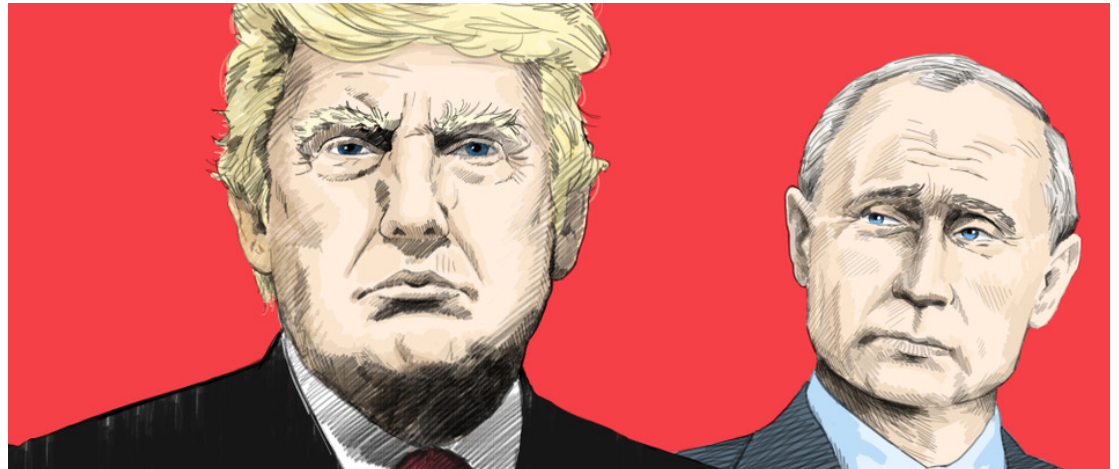
Sanctions Against Russia Are Lifted

Trump says it's in the national interest now

A series of economic sanctions against Russia signed into law last month will be put on hold. According to the Associated Press, President Donald Trump on Friday signed an executive order pausing the moves aimed at Moscow, stating the action was in the national interest.

The sanctions were aimed at helping Ukraine in its war with Russia. They were passed on bipartisan votes.

However, the president a week later announced that the United States would purchase diesel oil from Russia. High fuel



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP and Russian President Vladimir Putin (Shutterstock).

costs — especially for diesel, which is used heavily in trucking and agriculture — have driven the price for diesel to record highs and contributed to public concern about “af-

fordability” just a few weeks before the Nov. 3 mid-term elections.

Supporters of the war argued that the move by the president could shorten the war be-

tween Russia and Ukraine.

Critics say it was strictly political act to boost the chances of Republicans in the election, in which pollsters are suggesting a “blue wave.”

Shooter at Oregon school had his mother's shotgun

The shooter who killed four people — including three children and a teacher — in Bend, Oregon on Thursday, has been identified as John J. Griffin, III, 16 years old.

United Press International is reporting that Griffin's weapon was a pump-action shotgun which had been bought by his mother.

When the suspect entered a classroom, a teacher threw her cellphone at him to distract him, then tackled him. The parent of two preschool children at the school spotted the man as he drove by, and then fatally wounded the gunman.

Arriving police evacuated the students and staff from the school.

Cooler days are coming

The Santa Ana winds which blew leaves and tree branches all across our West Orange County cities should abate this weekend and the warm weather will cool. The forecast for Saturday is for partly cloudy skies with a daytime high of 91 and an overnight low of 65. Sunday will see temps drop to 86 (63) with sunny skies. Monday will continue the trend with temps of 83 (64) and mostly sunny skies. Tuesday will also be mostly sunny with temps of 77 (62).

Katie's five-day tenure as White House spokesman

Katie Zacharia has been dismissed from her post as White House press secretary after just five days on the job.

USA Today was told by White House officials that she was “transitioning out” of the job. That came after controversy over her claim to be an attorney. It appears that she did graduate with a law degree but has not passed a bar exam.

She said she had taken a bar

exam but “the results were inconsequential” because she moved to China where passing a bar exam was not a requirement to practice law there.

Her first and only press conference lasted just 15 minutes and was widely criticized for only calling on “friendly” news outlets and her “halting” answers.

“Look,” said President Trump. “She has suffered over the last few days. Maybe it's not for her.”

Great Thoughts

“Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are gonna get.”

— Forrest Gump

“Well, nobody's perfect.”

— Some Like it Hot

“Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer.”

— Godfather, Part II

Arts&Living

Home Run for GWC's 'Take Me Out'

Baseball gets a first-ever openly gay superstar

By Thom deMartino
Orange County Tribune

For being America's "national pastime," baseball isn't all that welcoming to everyone. Particularly those trying to live their truth.

There's a striking, powerful production currently staging at Golden West College's Mainstage Theater, the baseball-themed "Take Me Out." Written by Richard Greenberg and directed by Martie Ramm, it revolves around the fictional New York Empires baseball team, particularly their star center fielder, Darren Lemming (Samuel R.J. Hanke).

Narrated by his friend and team shortstop Kippy Sunderstrom (Ian Pedersen), the story follows the events — and the fallout — after the charismatic (and bi-racial) Darren comes out as gay to his teammates, and the world at large.

While the centerfielder is nonchalant about his revelation, it's not long before the reverberations of his announcement begin shaking the team and its morale. Because while he might be trying to be true to himself, the other players are suddenly uneasy, self-conscious and defensive with a member of the LGBTQ+ community in the clubhouse as they dress and prepare for games.

The anger and discomfort is palpable: although the catcher Jason Chenier (Tyler Pedersen) initially praises Darren, saying how he's in awe of him, infielder Toddy Koovitz (Robert White) gets defensive. He complains how he has to worry about walking around naked and being "checked out" by the gay player — culminating in him angrily throwing the epithet "queer" in Darren's face.

With his popularity and superstar status, he'd thought himself immune, untouchable: but Darren



TYLER PEDERSEN, Daniel Forrest and Samuel R.J. Hanke in Golden West College's production of "Take Me Out" on the Mainstage Theater through Sunday, Oct. 18.

Stage Review

soon discovers the downside to being so open in the hyper-masculine sports environment. It's not just the muttering and the uncomfortable stares, but the undertone of him becoming something lesser in the eyes of his former compatriots, save for Kippy.

There's already some noticeable segregation within the clubhouse, with the black and Latino players being on one side of the clubhouse, and the white players on the other: but now they seem united in their passive-aggressive interactions and quiet homophobia towards him, while Darren continues to rise above it.

There are some bright spots, however — such as when his new accountant/financial advisor Mason Marzac (William Dawley) praises the centerfielder for his openness, inspiring him to become a fan of the sport, as well as Darren.

But all of this comes to a head with a new addition to the team roster, the rural relief pitcher Shane Mungitt (Daniel Forrest.) Brought in as a closer, his work helps the team start coming from behind in the league... But at a cost. While

he's immensely talented, Shane is also arguably damaged: having lived through a devastating childhood trauma, it's clearly taken its toll on him (whether he acknowledges it or not.)

And when an interview goes sideways after Shane ignorantly spouts off racial and homophobic slurs (including calling the black players "colored"), the team — and Darren — are left wondering what effect this highly publicized outburst will have on the franchise, as well as Darren's own life. This is a deceptively powerful

Great ★ ★ ★ ★

production being staged by Golden West's Mainstage Theater: wrapped in the guise of a baseball story, it distinctly revolves more about identity and acceptance, and the cost one can pay for being true to themselves.

Presently, there are no openly gay players in Major League Baseball, and the only ones who have actually come out (in the nearly 25 years since the play was penned)

Continued on page 8

Dance to the devil's tunes ...

Oh, they're not really satanic at all. But if you're in the mood for some music for the scary season, you might want to check out the "Prince of Darkness Halloween Bash" at the Garden Amp in Garden Grove's Village Green park, featuring tribute bands channeling Black Sabbath, Alice Cooper, AC/DC, and Ozzy Osbourne. It's on Friday, Oct. 23.



TheSportsPages

Better team going to the World Series

All Good Things Dept: The Los Angeles Dodgers, on their way to a third consecutive Fall Classic, had a classic fall in the National League Championship Series.

Many fans of the Los Angeles Angels wish their team could play like the Dodgers. Against the Milwaukee Brewers, the Dodgers played more like the Angels.

The signs were there for anyone who cared to pay attention. In the last time the two teams — Dodgers vs. Brewers — played, the boys from Wisconsin won three of four.

Symbolic of all this was the injury-influenced slump of superstar Shohei Ohtani. In 2025, he batted .282 with 55 home runs and 102 RBIs. In 2026, he dipped to .275 with 30 home runs and 81 RBIs. That wouldn't look bad for most players, but not for the G.O.A.T.

More relevant to the outcome of the NLCS series are his batting stats for the 2026 postseason. This year, he hit .192 with one home run and three RBIs. In 2025, his average was .265 with 14 RBIs and eight home runs.

Of course, you can't put the blame on one person. The Brewers were simply the better team. They won more games (103 to 100) and went into the playoffs riding a five-game winning streak.

And, frankly, Southern California fans are a bit spoiled. We're used to an annual October parade to the top, while the Brewers haven't been to the World Series since 1982.

Continued on page 8

No Excuses, Fans

Roberts: The Dodgers were just outplayed

By Beth Harris
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There won't be a three-peat for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Their dream of becoming the first team to win three consecutive World Series titles since the New York Yankees from 1998-2000 — and the first National League club ever to accomplish the feat — faded with anemic offense, a shaky bullpen and an ailing Shohei Ohtani slumping in the postseason.

Ohtani hit a three-run homer that helped stake the Dodgers to an early 4-0 lead in Game 4 of the NL Championship Series on Thursday, but the younger Milwaukee Brewers pulled off yet another comeback in a 6-4 win to complete a four-game sweep. "I'm not used to those consolation speeches," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "I personally told our guys that there's no apologies, there's no sorrys. We gave it everything we had, and it wasn't good enough. That's part of life."

Los Angeles batted under .100 with runners in scoring position



LOS ANGELES Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani is hit by pitch during the fourth inning of Game 3 of baseball's National League Championship Series between the Milwaukee Brewers and the Los Angeles Dodgers, Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill)

during the postseason, and wasted multiple opportunities over the final four innings Thursday. Trailing 5-4, the Dodgers had a runner at third base in the sixth, seventh and eighth.

Max Muncy struck out to end the sixth, Mookie Betts grounded out to end the seventh and Teoscar Hernández struck out to close the eighth.

The Dodgers went down in order in the ninth to end their season.

"We got outplayed in all facets," Roberts said. "Those guys played flawless. Defensively they pitched better than we did, they hit better than we did, they slugged more than we did. You've got to sometimes just tip your cap."

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It's a crucial Sunday for both the Rams, Chargers

This is not quite a do-or-die Sunday for the Rams and Chargers, but it's close.

After a heart-breaking loss last week to the Buffalo Bills, the Rams are 2-3 and really need a win to square their record and keep hopes for another playoff run within sight.

Luckily, the Rams will be playing the Arizona Cardinals (1-4) in the friendly confines of SoFi Stadium in Inglewood on Sunday. Also important is that this

is a division game, and a team's record in division play can be a factor in determining wild card status at the end of the season.

As for the Chargers, this is one of those games in which — if they don't win or at least come close — many job may soon be in jeopardy. The Bolts come into the game with an 0-5 record — along with the Miami Dolphins and Tennessee Titans — and an 0-6 mark may makes it almost impossible to have any chance

Weekend in Football

- **Rams vs. Cardinals**, Sunday, 1:05 p.m., Channel 11.
- **Chargers at. Kansas City**, Sunday, 1:25 p.m. Channel 2.
- **UCLA vs. Oregon**, Saturday, 4:30 p.m., Channel 4.
- **UCLA at Oregon**, Saturday, 12:30 p.m., Channel 2.

of playing in the postseason without a gridiron miracle.

It doesn't help that the Bolts will be in Kansas City facing the unbeaten (4-0) Chiefs and Patrick Mahomes.

Mariners and Seahawks Winning Big

Pacifica rolled along with a 38-0 victory

Pacifica improved its record to 7-1 with a 38-0 win over Kennedy in Sigma League action Friday night.

The Mariners are 2-1 in league play and are tied for second in Sigma with Marina (4-4, 2-1). They jumped out to a 31-0 halftime lead in beating the Fighting Irish (2-6, 0-3).

Pacifica will next face Marina on Oct. 23.

On another Sigma League match, Ocean View (7-1, 3-0) defeated Anaheim 54-42 in a wild shootout. The Seahawks kept pace with Rancho Alamitos for first place. They'll face the Vaqueros in their final league contest on Oct. 30.

In some Tango League play, La Quinta defeated Savanna 32-19 in a game that puts them in

Prep Sports Spotlight

FOOTBALL

Thursday

Rancho Al. 14, Costa Mesa 13
Hunt. Beach 34, Western 14
University 27, Garden Grove 14
Los Amigos 28, Estancia 14

Friday

Pacifica 38, Kennedy 0
Ocean View 54, Anaheim 42
Godinez 14, Santiago 7
La Quinta 32, Savanna 19
Orange 51, Beckman 14
Cypress 42, Marina 7
Magnolia 26, Century 14

third place with a 4-2 mark (5-3) overall. The top three teams qualify for the CIF-SS playoffs. In other Tango action, Godinez (3-5, 3-3) bested Santiago (2-6, 1-5) 14-7 and Magnolia (3-5, 2-4) won by 26-14 over Century (0-7, 0-5).

On Thursday, the Rancho



THE LA QUINTA girl volleyball team has won the Coast League crown with a 10-2 record. It's the Aztecs' 18th league title overall and fifth in nine years (GGUSD photo).

Alamitos football team rallied from a 13-0 halftime deficit to defeat Costa Mesa 14-13 to lock up at least a CIF-SS playoff berth and stay on track for a possible Sigma League title.

With the win, the Vaqueros are 8-0 overall and 3-0 in league. The rest of the season for the green and gold will be tough, playing Ocean View and Anaheim.

Quarterback Oswaldo Ramos ran for two touchdowns in the

crucial game at Bolsa Stadium.

In Delta League action, Huntington Beach (8-0, 3-0) stayed unbeaten with a 34-14 win over winless Western (0-8, 0-3).

Omicron League action saw Garden Grove (1-7, 1-2) lose 27-14 to University High of Irvine and Los Amigos (7-1, 3-0) besting Estancia 28-14.

In the Argonauts' loss, Manny Martinez rushed for 101 yards on 28 carries and scored one touchdown.



The City of Garden Grove Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is comprised of volunteer citizens trained in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. As a CERT member, these skills will help you take care of yourself, as well as assist your family, friends and community during and following a disaster.

2026 CERT Academy

Our upcoming CERT Academy is scheduled for **October 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th**. To register, visit <https://ggcity.typeform.com/ggcert> or scan the QR code. Follow the prompts to submit your application. Attendance at all classes is required for successful completion and certification. The Academy is open to individuals 18+ years, living or working in the City of Garden Grove.



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GWC hit a home run in 'Take Me Out'

Continued from page 5

have been after they retired. The writing does an outstanding job of displaying the uncomfortableness of the other players, who nearly universally think it's about them — is Darren looking me over, sizing me up? Considering the way society has frequently objectified women as being the sum of their appearance, it's ironic to see the players so concerned about being the subject of a different flavor of the "male gaze."

Hanke excels in his role as Darren, with his seemingly boundless confidence — only it's not too long before he's feeling the effects of his unexpected revelation. He doesn't want to be a symbol, and chafes at the thought

of being seen as a victim... He simply didn't want to hide who he is anymore. And for all his bravado, it's heartrending seeing the events increasingly affecting him, chipping away at that formerly nonchalant attitude.

As to Ian Pedersen, this is without a doubt his best performance to date. He's done excellent work in his other appearances at the Golden West College theater, but his Kippy shines with his intellect and empathy. His deliberate pacing in his narration, his sympathy — even as it may mask his own unease — towards Darren, display his complexity as a character, as he tries to negotiate the fraught events, even with the troubled closing pitcher.

Forrest's Shane is a mess — and

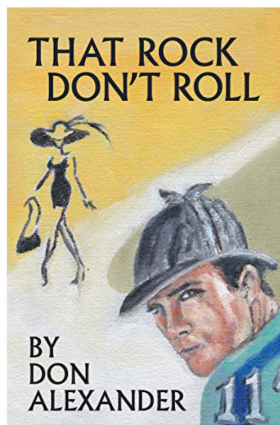
that's exactly how he's meant to be. His performance is troubling, disturbing... and immensely powerful. Seeing and understanding the tragedies that shaped him by no means excuse his prejudice and antiquated views on human rights, but it does illustrate how our pasts shape us — and how some may never rise above it, particularly when they can't even see how it's left them walking wounded, hurting others.

"Take Me Out" is more than the sum of its parts: not just a baseball story, not just one man's truth and his struggle to openly live it, but of them and our society at large — and how the winds of change are ever wearing away at the stony face of our own biases, whether we're ready for it or not.

"Take Me Out." Ian Pedersen, Samuel R.J. Hanke and Daniel Forrest star in this gripping tale of both baseball and identity... And the cost of being true to oneself. Now playing through Oct. 18 at the Golden West College Mainstage Theater, 15751 Gothard St, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

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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.

Sports Retorts

Continued from page 6

Simply put, it was their year. As we used to say when the Dodgers played in Brooklyn, "Wait until next year!"

Brewers better than Dodgers

Continued from page 1

Los Angeles hit .185 overall against the Brewers, including .148 with runners in scoring position (4 for 27). The Dodgers were outthomered 7-1.

Ohtani and Will Smith slumped badly throughout the Division Series win over Atlanta in four games and the NLCS defeat. Ohtani's homer was his first since Aug. 18.

Overall, he batted .192 (5 for 26) in eight playoff games with 10 strikeouts, four walks, three RBIs and three runs.

Smith was even worse. The All-Star catcher went 3 for 31 (.097) with nine strikeouts, two doubles, no homers, one walk and two RBIs.

"I know there wasn't one pitch, one at-bat," said first baseman Freddie Freeman, who was 0 for 3 with a strikeout on Thursday. "They just outplayed us in the series, which is kind of how it goes. We had our opportunities. We didn't get the job done."

New leader for HBUHSD

Continued from page 3

Marina High School from 2021 to 2024 and principal of Fountain Valley High School from 2015 to 2021.

HBUHSD Superintendent Dr. Carolee Ogata said, "Dr. Morgan Smith is an outstanding leader who truly understands the heart of HBUHSD. Throughout his years in the district, he has built meaningful relationships, supported our staff, and always kept students at the center of his decisions. It's exciting to see Dr. Smith step into this position, where his integrity, compassion, and positive attitude will continue to inspire those around him."

The HBUHSD serves Huntington Beach and parts of Fountain Valley, Garden Grove and Westminster.

Retorts

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I am reminded of the probably mythical notion that if Bill Gates dropped a \$100 bill, he wouldn't bother to bend over and pick it up because during the few seconds that took, he's making thousands of dollars.

Of course, since this is my idea, I might be entitled to a modest finder's fee. I await



Who helped eradicate the plague of polio?
Garden Grove Rotary

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.