

Ohtani really covers fans' bases

Asian Americans love the superstar for his baseball skills, and for shattering stereotypes.

By TERESA WATANABE

Katherine Siew, a Pasadena attorney, has never much followed baseball — until Shohei Ohtani grabbed her attention by signing with the Dodgers in a record-smashing 10-year, \$700-million deal. She felt a surge of pride that the superstar athlete was Asian, representing her heritage at the highest level of excellence in a path relatively few Asian Americans tread.

“You don’t really see many Asian faces on TV across any field, let alone sports,” said Siew, 34, who is Chinese American. “I think if growing up, we had seen examples in arts or sports ... I could point to that and say: ‘Look, Mom, we can be successful in that, too. It’s not just always doctor, lawyer.’ I just hope it gives the younger generation a different chance.”

Jon Kaji, a Torrance city councilman, has been a Dodgers fan for six decades, attending games with his dad when the team still played at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The 68-year-old Japanese American was excited when Hideo Nomo joined the Dodgers in 1995 as one of the game’s Asian pioneers, but Ohtani means even more to him.

With his athletic prowess and endearing charm, Kaji said, the two-way talent is eviscerating long-held and still lingering stereotypes of [See Ohtani, A7]



MEN WATCH the surf from a balcony in Faria Beach in Ventura as huge waves crash on the shore Thursday.

BRIAN VANDER BRUG Los Angeles Times

FLOODS, HEAVY SURF SLAM COAST

Amid evacuation orders, forecasters advise people to stay out of the water.

By KAREN GARCIA AND ASHLEY AHN

California’s first huge swells of the winter are wreaking havoc on the state’s coastline as an incoming atmospheric river storm forces evacuations amid flooding of beach and coastal roads.

The extreme weather has been blamed for several injuries, ocean rescues, flooding and evacuation orders at coastal cities through the state. Ventura County was particularly hard hit.

In Ventura County, waves of up to 12 feet have already been reported, and the Central Coast has seen 18- to 20-foot swells, said Mike Woford with the National Weather Service’s Oxnard office.

High surf advisories remained in effect throughout Ventura County on Thursday, with local officials imploring the community to stay away from the water as multiple rescues were conducted in the morning.

Eight people sustained minor to moderate injuries and were taken to the hospital after large waves caused flooding near South Seaward Avenue at approximately 10:50 a.m. Thursday, Ventura County Fire Department Capt. Brian McGrath said.

Of the injured, some were located in the Inn On The Beach, a boutique hotel lo [See Surf, A7]

A struggle to survive war-torn Gaza

One in 4 households face extreme hunger amid ‘acute food insecurity’

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip — In wartime Gaza, death can come quickly or slowly. Starvation is slow.

With the war between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas now in its 12th week, more than 20,000 deaths, about a third of them children, have been reported by Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip.

The great majority of fatalities have been the result of Israeli bombardment, officials say. But hunger’s grip is tightening by the day.

The United Nations and other agencies last week raised the alarm over “acute food insecurity” in the blockaded enclave, saying 1 in every 4 households were facing extreme hunger.

A 42-year-old Palestinian father, Mustafa Shandojli, described a recent meal for his family of seven, displaced from Gaza’s Jabaliya refugee camp: He [See Gaza, A4]



AHMAD HASABALLAH Getty Images

PEOPLE in the Gaza Strip were routinely without food for a day or more at a time, the U.N. reported. Above, food is distributed in Rafah.

IGNACIO E. LOZANO JR., 1926 - 2023

Publisher of La Opinión spoke to and for Latinos

Ignacio E. Lozano Jr. loved to tell the story about arriving in Los Angeles in 1948 from the University of Notre Dame with a journalism degree, taking a look at his family’s business — and immediately fearing it was doomed.

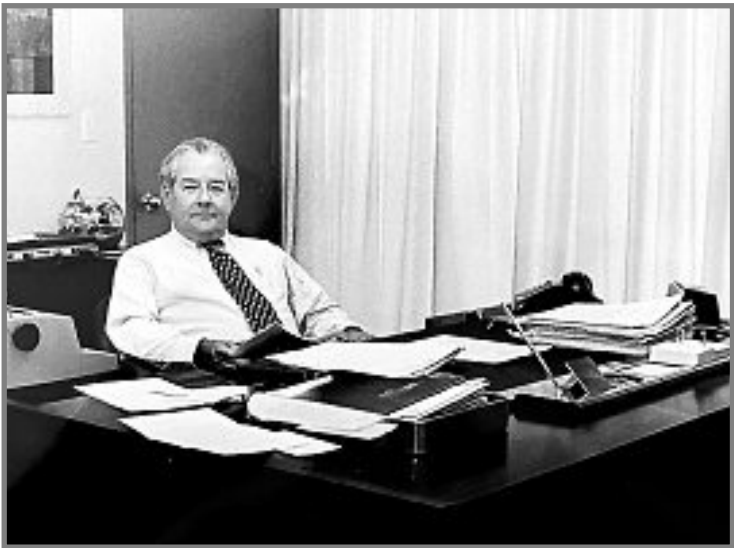
His father, Ignacio E. Lozano Sr., was a pioneering publisher who founded a Spanish-language daily in San Antonio before launching La Opinión in L.A. on Mexican Independence Day in 1926. His broadsheet quickly earned a following in L.A. and beyond by serving as a portal back home to the hundreds of thousands of Mexican immigrants who, like him, had fled their country’s political chaos and settled in Southern California.

Lozano Jr. became associate publisher under his father, and at 27 succeeded him as publisher after the elder Lozano died of cancer. The way the young heir saw it, though, La Opinión’s days were numbered. Mexican migration to the United States had slowed, and second-generation Mexican Americans didn’t seem to crave the same news their parents did.

“The Mexican-American would be totally assimilated into the community,” Lozano told The Times in 1976.

He turned paper’s focus to local issues that English-language media flubbed or ignored

By Gustavo Arellano



A SKEPTICAL HEIR

Lozano once thought the paper was doomed, and that Mexican Americans “would no longer speak, much less read, Spanish.”

“They would no longer speak, much less read, Spanish.”

Fortunately for the family business, he was wrong.

Lozano died in Los Angeles on Wednesday of age-related complications. He was 96.

In the decades after his serendipitously erroneous prediction, migration from Latin America radically transformed Los Angeles and made Spanish the city’s second language. La Opinión under Lozano expanded from focusing largely on foreign news to covering local issues important to Latinos that the English-language media either ignored or grossly misinterpreted.

As La Opinión’s influence spread and Latino migration continued, government officials sought Lozano’s counsel. He was made a consultant to the State Department by President Lyndon Johnson, was appointed to the Council of the Californias by Gov. Ronald Reagan, and joined President Nixon’s Advisory Council on Spanish-Speaking Americans.

His political rise reached an apogee in 1976, when President Ford appointed him as U.S. ambassador to El Salvador. He and his wife embarked [See Lozano, A10]

Maine removes Trump from the ballot

Secretary of state’s decision follows Colorado Supreme Court ruling.

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI AND DAVID SHARP

PORTLAND, Maine — Maine’s Democratic secretary of state on Thursday removed former President Trump from the state’s presidential primary ballot under the Constitution’s insurrection clause, becoming the first election official to take action unilaterally in a decision that has potential electoral college consequences.

Although Maine has only four electoral votes, it’s one of two states to split them. Trump won one of Maine’s electors in 2020, so having him off the ballot there should he emerge as the Republican general election candidate could have outsize implications in a race [See Trump, A7]

Pushed by U.S., Mexico clears border camp

López Obrador says he received a worried phone call from Biden seeking help in stemming a surge in asylum seekers. **WORLD, A3**

Haley has a history of avoiding ‘slavery’

The GOP candidate walks back an evasive answer on what caused the Civil War, one that echoed her comments years ago. **NATION, A5**

Technology that readers would rather do without

Gripes submitted to columnist Brian Merchant include Ring doorbells, self-checkout and digital billboards. **BUSINESS, A6**

Weather
Morning fog.
L.A. Basin: 66/54. **B6**



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