

PRESS-TELEGRAM

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

\$2.50 | FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026 | PRESSTELEGRAM.COM

MOTORSPORTS

Longtime Grand Prix CEO stepping down



Grand Prix of Long Beach President and CEO Jim Michaelian appears in front of a wall of photographs in 2024. Michaelian's last day helming the Grand Prix Association of Long Beach will be June 30. **DREW A. KELLEY — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Jim Michaelian has helmed Long Beach street race since 2001, involved since 1975

By Kristy Hutchings and Chris Haire
STAFF WRITERS

Jim Michaelian, the leader of the Grand Prix of Long Beach for the past quarter-century, will step down from that role after this year's race, the association in charge of the annual three-day event announced on Thursday morning.

Michaelian's last day as president and CEO of the Grand Prix Association of Long Beach will be June 30. He will be succeeded by Jim Liaw, the former general manager of Performance

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Inside: Jim Liaw is ready to bring his years of motorsport experience to the Grand Prix of Long Beach. **Page A6**
Inside: Here are some key moments from Jim Michaelian's Grand Prix of Long Beach career. **Page A7**



Jim Michaelian, president and CEO of the Grand Prix Association of Long Beach, left, gets a hug from Rich Archbold on Apr. 20, 2024, in the Grand Prix of Long Beach media center. **PHOTO BY HOWARD FRESHMAN**

Exiting president loved auto racing since his hot rod days as a teenager



Rich Archbold
COLUMNIST

Jim Michaelian has had a passion for auto racing long before he became the president and CEO of

the Grand Prix Association of Long Beach. That love, in fact, began when he was 12 or so, when he learned how to drive a car on the back roads of his grandmother's vineyard in Fresno during summers.

As a teenager back at his home in Alhambra, he graduated to driving hot rods. His love of fast cars brought

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VIOLENT DEATHS

Trio found shot dead at home in Lakewood

Bodies of man, woman, teen discovered; authorities say they are not seeking suspects

By Sydney Barragan
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Two adults and a 17-year-old girl were shot and killed in Lakewood on Thursday morning, authorities said.

Sheriff's deputies and Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel responded about 7:55 a.m. to the 5800 block of Lorelei Avenue, near South Street, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

A man, a woman and a girl were found with gunshot wounds and pronounced dead at the home. Their identities were not immediately released.

Investigators did not release details about the circumstances of the shooting, or the relationships between the three.

Authorities are not searching for a suspect or suspects, sheriff's Lt. Daniel Vizcarra said.

Another woman was inside the home at the time of the shooting but was not injured.

The shooting occurred in a residential neighborhood near Stephen Foster Elementary School.

The Sheriff's Department asked anyone with information about the case to call its Homicide Bureau at 323-890-5500.

LONG BEACH

New chief lays out his vision at State of the Port

Hacegaba emphasizes growth, goal as world leader in clean cargo flow

By Donna Littlejohn
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Celebrating a record-setting cargo year along with advances to become the world's first "green port" — and a future embracing an ambitious \$3.2 billion, 10-year capital improvement program — Port of Long Beach CEO Noel Hacegaba hailed an era of impressive progress in his inaugural State of the Port address on Thursday.

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EDUCATION

LBUSD superintendent intends to retire

Baker led district through COVID, other challenges

By Kristy Hutchings
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Jill Baker, the Long Beach Unified School District's first woman superintendent, will retire from her leadership role at the close of the 2025-26 academic year.

The district announced Baker's retirement on Thursday. Baker, who has

worked within LBUSD for more than 34 years, has served as the district's leader since August 2020.

"Dr. Baker has led Long Beach Unified with integrity, vision and deep humanity," LBUSD Board of Education President Diana Craighead said in the news release. "Her commitment to students, staff and community has strengthened our District and positioned us well for the future."

Baker began her career as teacher in 1992 at Burnett Elementary School, which is now Smith Elementary,

according to LBUSD. Those early years of her career, Baker said in a Thursday video message, helped inspire the remainder of her nearly four-decade career in education.

"From my very first classroom experience, students have shaped who I am as an educator and as a leader," Baker said. "They have humbled me, inspired me and reminded me every day why this work matters. Serving the Long Beach community has been the greatest honor

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Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Jill Baker, second from right, cheers on students as they arrive for the new academic year on Aug. 26 in Lakewood. **PHOTO BY HOWARD FRESHMAN**

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