

Local Schools Score Well in USN Rankings

La Quinta HS among top in California

Public high schools in our West Orange County area received a report card this week from U.S. News & World Report and most did pretty well.

The magazine annually ranks high schools across the country based on several factors with graduation rates and college readiness among the most prominent. Schools are ranked both by state and the nation.

La Quinta High School, located in Westminster and part of the Garden

Grove Unified School District, was rated 88th in California and 674th in the U.S. with a 93 percent graduation rate and a score of 53.1 in college readiness.

Garden Grove High, also part of the GGUSD, scored 134th in the state and 1070th in the nation. Bolsa Grande (GGUSD) High is 156th in California and 1,176th in the U.S.

Westminster High (Huntington Beach Union High School District) is 198th in the state and 1,454 nationally. Marina High (HBUHSD) is 242th in the state and 1,719th in the country.

The GGUSD did especially well, with all seven of its comprehensive high

Continued on page 2

Murder-suicide in an Anaheim apt. complex

An investigation into an apparent murder-suicide in Anaheim that took place on Thursday afternoon and evening is continuing.

According to the APD, police and Anaheim Fire & Rescue responded to a report at about 3:40 p.m. of a shooting at an apart-

ment complex at 891 South State College Blvd.

Arriving officers found Ana Monterrosa, 59, of Anaheim, suffering from at least one gunshot wound. She was taken to a local hospital where she succumbed to her wounds.

Police determined that

Continued on page 2

ORANGE YOU GLAD?



THE RECENTLY remodeled Magnolia Park (Magnolia Street and Orange-wood Avenue) in Garden Grove has an orange grove theme in observance of the land being used by the Wakeham family as both a home and a citrus grove from the 1920s into the 1960s (City of Garden Grove photo).

Inside The Tribune

High school baseball and softball titles



SPORTS PAGES Page 8

'Challengers' a spicy and fun movie

ARTS & LIVING Page 5

Arrest made in GG in hit-and-run probe from Santa Ana crash

An arrest was made in the pre-dawn hours Friday in Garden Grove of a suspect in a fatal hit-and-run accident in Santa Ana on Thursday.

According to the Santa Ana Police Department, Luis Duarte Ibarra, 51, of Santa Ana was taken into custody at about 4:45 a.m. He was booked for felony hit-and-run. At this time it's not known if alcohol or drugs were a factor in the incident.

At 4:32 a.m. on Thursday, the SAPD received

a report of a collision involving a pedestrian and a motor vehicle in the area of First and Sullivan streets. Responding officers found a male pedestrian lying unresponsive in the roadway.

Personnel from the Orange County Fire Authority on the scene responded and found the man dead. The involved vehicle was not at the scene.

An investigation revealed that the suspect vehicle was traveling westbound on

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Local schools get some good report cards

Continued from page 1
schools scoring higher than 75 percent of the high schools ranked both in California and the United States.

Among all Orange County schools, the top ranked are Oxford Academy in Cypress and Orange County School of the Arts in Santa Ana.

The Tribune's coverage area is for schools that serve the communities of Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster.

Investigation continues into murder-suicide in Anaheim

Continued from page 1
Brian Lawrence, 61, was the suspect in the woman's death. He was a resident in the complex and returned to his apartment after the shooting. At about 9:30 p.m. SWAT offi-

cers entered Lawrence's apartment and found his body, dead from an apparent suicide. APD homicide detectives are asking anyone with information about the incident to call (714) 765-1900.

Arrest made in GG in a hit-and-run probe in SA

Continued from page 1
First Street west of Clara Street when it struck the pedestrian and left the area. The SAPD is investigating the

incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective K. Catlin at (714) 245-8224 or the SAPD's traffic division at (714) 245-8200.

The★Tribune

Jim Tortolano
Editor and Publisher
Marilyn Lewis Tortolano
General Manager

The Orange County Tribune is published on Wednesdays and Saturdays with some exceptions. Address is 9402 Luders Ave., Garden Grove, 92844.

E-mail : orangecountytribune@gmail.com.

www.orangecountytribune.com.
Phone: (714) 458-1860.

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News & Views

NEWS BRIEFS



BAGPIPES are traditional at the Garden Grove Police Memorial. The 2024 observance is scheduled for May 16 (Orange County Tribune photo).

GG Police Memorial Scheduled for May 16

The 37th annual “Call to Duty” Memorial of the Garden Grove Police Department will be held on Thursday, May 16 from 5-6 p.m..

The event pays tribute to the six Garden Grove police officers who gave their lives in the service of the community. It is held annually in front of the GGPD headquarters building, 11301 Acacia Parkway.

The observance is open to the public, but Acacia Parkway will be closed to vehicle traffic at Euclid Street.

New name for Westminster Post Office?

Legislation to rename the U.S. Post Office in Westminster as the “Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office” has been introduced by Rep. Michelle Steel (R-Cypress).

“The Vietnam War, and the brave Americans who fought and served during that time, hold particular significance for the Vietnamese community in Little Saigon,” said Steel in a statement.

There are three U.S. Postal Service offices in Westminster. Two are on Goldenwest Street and one on Bolsa Avenue.

Firefighters appreciated at Great Wolf

In observance of International Firefighters Day, the Great Wolf Lodge Southern California – located on Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove – is offering discounts and programs.

Savings of up to 30 percent will be available, and for every five rooms booked, Great Wolf Lodge will donate a room to the Orange County Fire Authority.

Booking dates are from May 4-5 and stay dates from May 4 to June 20.

Book Review

‘Lost Landmarks’ is a gem of local oddities, history

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

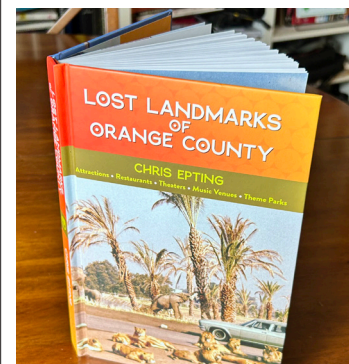
Harry Truman once wrote (or said) that “The only thing new under the sun is the history we don’t know.”

Here in Orange County, where it seems “the past” seems to only stretch as far as our high school yearbooks it’s often refreshing to find that there is indeed a rich and sometimes quirky backstory of people, places and events worth knowing about. Chris Epting, author of 45 books – mostly on local history – had written a gem of a book about the forgotten gems of the OC.

“Lost Landmarks of Orange County” recalls the days when alligators, buffalo, movie stars (in wax), rock stars (in progress) dotted the landscape all across the area from Brea to San Clemente.

Most everyone can point to Disneyland, Angel (formerly Anaheim) Stadium and Knott’s Berry Farm as places of interest in the county, but this book pulls the dusty cover off the county’s role in pioneering punk rock music, hot rod racing, surfboard riding and an extensive military presence, including a prisoner

Continued on page 7



“LOST LANDMARKS of Orange County.”

DMV: Dept. of Monstrous Visages, right?

Blame it on the DMV. How much does your drivers license picture make you look good? Or at least not like you just ran a marathon in the rain? Mine looks like ... well, let me put it this way. I would never commit a felony because when authorities are searching for a suspect,

they distribute to the news media a mug shot from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Best crime deterrent ever.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

This is my round-about way of addressing the legal battle between the State of California and the City of Huntington Beach over that latter’s plans to require voter ID in its 2026 election – which, by the way, the city plans to take over from the Orange County Registrar of Voters.

I hate having to produce that plasticized piece of modern art at airports and other locations. I shouldn’t have to, right? Isn’t it my right to drive a motor vehicle or fly on an airliner?

Well, no.

You have a constitutional right to vote, provided you are old enough and meet certain other objective standards. That’s central to a democracy or republic, whichever term you prefer. But to drive your Honda or Ford on our increasingly dangerous boulevards and freeways, no.

Thereby hangs the issue of voter ID. Born from a fear of voter fraud by The Other Side, advocates of such requirements often say, “You need ID to ...” do a bunch of things: buy liquor, rent a car, pay by check (at some places), etc.

When the Founding Fathers

Continued on page 8

NewsUpdate

Trump Lawyers Spar with Witness

National Enquirer ex-editor testifies in 'hush money' trial

Lawyers for former president Donald Trump worked Friday to discredit the prosecution's first witness in the "hush money" case in which Trump is accused of trying to prevent negative news coverage during his 2016 presidential campaign.

David Pecker, former publisher of the National Enquirer tabloid, has testified that Trump was involved in a "catch and bury" arrangement in which he allegedly paid

the magazine to buy up the rights to potentially scandalous stories and suppress them.

Trump's facing criminal charges because he is accused of falsifying business records by reporting any "hush money" as legal expenses.

Under cross-examination, Pecker conceded that he never used the term "catch and bury" in a meeting with Trump and that money terms were not discussed. The trial will resume Tuesday.



LAWYERS for Donald Trump worked to try to discredit the first prosecution witness on Friday in the "hush money" trial (Shutterstock).

Ukraine to receive \$6B in arms, etc. from USA

In an apparent attempt to slow the impact of recently authorized American military aid, Russia on Thursday night launched strikes at railroads at three spots in Ukraine.

Officials in Ukraine reported at least six civilians were killed and 31 others wounded.

On Thursday, the Russian defense minister



UKRAINE to be getting more US aid (Shutterstock).

said "We will increase the intensity of strikes on logistics centers and storage bases of Western weapons."

In a related story, the U.S.

will send an additional \$6 billion to Ukraine to enable its military to buy weapons and ammunition directly from American arms manufacturers.

Biden will debate Trump, but when and where uncertain

Responding to an earlier challenge from former president Donald Trump to debate, President Joe Biden on Friday said he would.

"I am, somewhere, I don't know when," said Biden. "But I'm happy to debate him."

Trump replied "everyone knows he doesn't really mean it."

Traditionally the televised debates are between

the official nominees of the major political parties.

But although both Biden and Trump have won enough delegates to win their party's nomination, the process is completed at national conventions.

The Democrats will convene in Chicago Aug. 19-22 and the Republicans in Milwaukee on July 15-18.

West OC is warming up

Time to put away your jackets for a while ... or least that's what the forecasts say for our West Orange County area. The next four days are predicted to be partly cloudy, but daytime highs are expected to be in the mid-70s. Saturday should be 72 (with overnight low of 54), followed by Sunday at 74 (55), Monday at 76 (56) and Tuesday at 74 (56).

King Charles III in public soon?

British King Charles III will be returning to his public duties after receiving treatment for cancer.

The king, crowned almost a year ago, issued a news release stating that he and wife Camilla will visit a cancer treatment

center on Tuesday.

"As the first anniversary of The Coronation approaches, Their Majesties remain deeply grateful for the many kindnesses and good wishes they have received from around the world throughout the joys

and challenges of the past year," the palace said.

Charles' medical team is "sufficiently pleased with the progress made so far that The King is now able to resume a number of public-facing duties."

Arts & Living

'Challengers' Stylish and Sexy

Tennis drama is over-the-top but quite fun

By Lindsey Bahr
AP Film Writer

"Challengers" is a bit of a tease. That's what makes it fun.

There is plenty of skin, sweat, close-ups of muscly thighs and smoldering looks of lust and hate in this deliriously over-the-top psychodrama. But get that image of Josh O'Connor, Zendaya and Mike Faist sitting together on the bed out of your mind. Most of this action takes place on the tennis court.

It's still a sexy tennis movie about friendship, love, competition and sport set to a synth-score from Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross — it just might not contain exactly what you think it does. But remember, Luca Guadagnino is the one who filmed Timothée Chalamet with that peach, perhaps more memorable than any actual sex scene from the past decade. Manage expectations, but also trust.

And like "Call Me By Your Name" did for Chalamet, "Challengers" is one of those rare original big-screen delights that firmly announces the arrival of a new generation of movie stars. Zendaya and Faist already had a bit of a leg up. She has played significant supporting roles in some of the biggest movies of the past few years, from "Spider-Man" to "Dune," and he had had his big cinematic breakthrough as Riff in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story."

But it's O'Connor who really comes out on top, effectively shedding any lingering image of him as a whiny, dweeby Prince Charles in seasons three and four of "The Crown." In "Challengers," his Patrick Zweig is the cocky, flirty, slightly mean, slightly dirty and slightly broken



"CHALLENGERS" is about more than just tennis and romance (MGM).

Movie Review

bad boyfriend of our fictional dreams.

Written by playwright Justin Kuritzkes (who is married to "Past Lives" filmmaker Celine Song) "Challengers" is a prickly treat, about fractured relationships, egos, infidelity and ambition. Set during a qualifying match at the New Rochelle Tennis Club, outside New York City, the intricately woven story reveals itself through flashbacks that build to a crescendo in the present-day match.

O'Connor's Patrick and Faist's Art are old boarding school roommates turned tennis teammates. It's a relationship that's at turns brotherly, erotic and competitive.

Whatever it is, they are definitely too close and not remotely prepared for Zendaya's Tashi Duncan to enter the mix.

Tashi, in high school, is well on her way to becoming the next big tennis superstar. Art and Patrick watch her play, mouths agape at her technical form and physical beauty. Later, they both

ask for her number, leading to a revealing night in a grungy hotel room. She promises her number to the one who wins the singles match the next day.

Tashi just wants to see some good tennis, she says, but she also knows how to motivate and manipulate.

Because of the fractured timeline, we know that Tashi in the present day does not play tennis anymore. She was injured at some point and never recovered, unlike her husband, Art, who is now one of the most famous players in the world.

The two of them are wildly wealthy, living in a ritzy hotel and fronting Aston Martin ad campaigns. At night, Tashi uses Augustinus Bader cream to moisturize her legs. Guadagnino, who likes to wink at and luxuriate in wealth signifiers, enlisted JW Anderson designer Jonathan Anderson to do the costumes, which will surely populate summer style inspiration boards the way his "A Bigger Splash" and "Call Me By Your Name" have in the past.

But while they are technically at the top, Art is also on a losing

Good: ★★★

streak, so Tashi sends him to a low-stakes tournament where he can get his confidence back.

That's where they encounter Patrick, who has not been so fortunate over the years and who has fallen out with his old friends. Of course, it's all building to Patrick and Art playing one another in the final match, a part of which is so wildly and comically drawn out that you can almost envision the "Saturday Night Live" spoof.

"Challengers" is a drama, but a funny and self-aware one. It doesn't take itself very seriously and has a lot of fun with its characters, all three of which are anti-heroes in a way. You might have a favorite, but you're probably not rooting for anyone exactly — just glued to the screen to see how it all plays out on and off the court.

"Challengers," an MGM re-release in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "language throughout, some sexual content and graphic nudity." Running time: 131 minutes.

TheSportsPages

Giving batting tips to a great hitter isn't silly

I have to admit that I got a kick out of the Associated Press story (see page seven of today's Tribune) about how the Dodgers are trying to improve Shohei Ohtani's hitting.

As of this writing (Friday morning), Shohei is hitting .368 with six home runs and 16 RBIs. Not too shabby

But there's a little more to this. The Dodgers are focusing on his strike zone, meaning that perhaps — just a little — their two-way star is a bit two-willing to swing at a pitch that's a biscuit out of the strike zone, especially with runners on base.

As a sports writer one of the statistics that catch my eye when perusing a box score is: RISP, which stands for how a team batted with runners in scoring position.

It often doesn't matter how many hits a team gets over the course of a game so much as when those hits occur. And there seems to be a correlation between the setting and the actual batting.

The Angels, for instance, seems to have a pattern of fading out at the plate when the game is on the line.

"Baseball is 90 percent mental," said Yogi Berra. "The other half is physical."

Which means that batters — who, after all, are human — often tense up, or try to over-perform when the crowd is chanting and his fellows are out there on the basepaths. Perhaps even swinging at a pitch just a little bit out of reach ...

Hence, giving batting advice to, yes, even the best hitter in big league baseball.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano



STETSON BENNETT in Rams' training camp (Wikipedia).

The Return of Stetson Bennett

Absence still remains a mystery

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Quarterback Stetson Bennett has rejoined the Los Angeles Rams for the start of their offseason program after missing his entire rookie season for undisclosed reasons.

Bennett is attending team meetings and lifting weights with his teammates at the Rams' training complex, coach Sean McVay confirmed Tuesday. The team hasn't yet started its on-field workouts.

"He looks good," McVay said of Bennett. "He's had a good look in his eyes. He's been attentive in the meetings."

The Rams drafted the two-time national championship-winning quarterback from Georgia in the fourth round one year ago. Bennett participated in the Rams' offseason program and played extensively in the preseason, but was placed on the reserve/non-football illness list five days before Los Angeles' regular-season opener.

Bennett was expected to be Matthew Stafford's backup as a rookie, but he didn't return to the team in 2023. The Rams never announced a reason for Bennett's absence.

The Rams signed Jimmy Garoppolo last month to back up Stafford in 2024, but Bennett took additional steps toward a return when he met with Dave Ragone, Los Angeles' new quarterbacks coach.

With Bennett is ready to resume his pro career, it dissuaded the Rams from selecting a quarterback with a high pick in the draft this week.

SPORTS

WRAPUP

Ohtani homers as Dodgers roll; Halos still sliding

Shohei Ohtani answered the boo-birds at Rogers Centre in Toronto with a home run on Friday as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Blue Jays 12-2.

With the win, the Blue Crew is 17-11 and has won five straight games. The victory puts the Dodgers three games ahead of San Diego in the National League West race.

Blue Jay fans were booing Ohtani because Toronto was one of six teams considered by Shohei in his free-agency search. The homer was his seventh of the season.

The Dodgers had 19 hits, including home runs also by Max Muncy and Will Smith. Gavin Stone (2-1) picked up the win, working seven innings and yielding only two hits and one earned run. He walked two batters and struck out two.

Clippers fall to Mavericks

The Dallas Mavericks took a 2-1 lead in their NBA Western Conference playoff series with a 101-90 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

James Harden and Norman Powell each scored 21 points to lead the Clips. Luka Doncic had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Mavs.

Angels continue to skid

The Los Angeles Angels rallied from a 5-0 deficit but fell short, losing 5-3 in Anaheim. It was their eighth loss in nine games and dropped the team's record to 10-16, fourth in the five-team American League West Division.

Mustering only five hits, the Halos scored single runs in the sixth, eighth and ninth innings. Mike Trout was 0-for-3, dropping his batting average to .230, but he did draw two walks.

Nolan Schanuel drove in two runs.

Widening Shohei Ohtani's strike zone

By **Byon Kerr**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dave Roberts thinks Shohei Ohtani can be even better with more plate discipline with runners in scoring position.

The Los Angeles Dodgers manager approached the two-time AL MVP about a week ago

to discuss how Ohtani could better control the strike zone.

"I thought he was expanding a little bit more than he needed to," Roberts said Tuesday. "So, I just wanted to have a conversation with him."

Ohtani hit his 176th home run on Sunday, surpassing Hideki Matsui for the most in Major League Base-



SHOHEI OHTANI
(Dodgers photo).

ball among players born in Japan. Ohtani entered Tuesday night's game in Washington leading the major leagues in batting average (.368), hits (35), doubles (11) and total bases (63).

"Any time he swings the bat he can change the game, and now being even more disciplined in the

strike zone just makes him more scary," Roberts said.

Ohtani left the Los Angeles Angels and joined the Dodgers in December for a record \$700 million, 10-year contract. The two-way star had elbow surgery last September and won't pitch this season.

Roberts has noticed Ohtani getting comfortable in his surroundings, acclimating with his new teammates and coaches. "He is doing a great job with everyone," Roberts said.

"The hitting coaches are kind of building a really good relationship and trust. I see him more (now). Before you sort of just see him when he gets in the batter's box.

"So, he's around a lot more, which is good thing too."



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Book review: "Lost Landmarks"

Continued from page 6

of war camp in Garden Grove.

Epting's writing (and research) is engaging and far-reaching; his prose is composed with a twinkle in his eye. For those who might think of the OC as a bland land of pink stucco condos and never-ending freeways, here is the antidote to point out that Orange County has long had its quirky corners.

Especially appreciated in "Lost Landscapes" is the format. It's a hard-cover, 300-page volume with lots of black and white and color photographs. My only quibble is there's no index. Maybe there will be one in the second printing which will be necessary if this fine history gets all the attention (and sales) it deserves.

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Cents beat M's in baseball; M's sweep softball

League races decided and playoffs on tap for West OC teams

The regular season for area high school baseball and softball teams is over; titles decided and the CIF-SS playoffs are starting next week.

In baseball, the Cypress Centurions defeated the Pacifica Mariners twice this week and won the Empire League with a 5-3 victory on Thursday. The Cents needed to win both games to claim their 12th league title in a row.

Cypress finished 9-1 in league and 18-9-1. Pacifica is 8-2 and 18-8 overall.

In the Garden Grove League, Los Amigos is the champion with a 13-2 league record (17-10 overall). Also getting playoff spots are Rancho Alamitos (10-5, 14-9) and Bolsa Grande (8-7, 13-10).

Ocean View (10-0, 20-7) is the unbeaten Golden West League pennant winner. Garden Grove (5-5, 14-13) made a strong closing run, winning its last three league games by a combined score of 38-0.

That's good enough for fourth place, so the Argonauts will have to hope for an at-large berth.

A tight race for the Sunset-Surf crown ended with Huntington Beach (7-2, 20-8) finishing first, followed by Fountain Valley (6-3, 18-9) and Los Alamitos (5-4, 21-7).

Corona del Mar (9-3, 18-9) won the Sunset-Wave championship; Marina (4-8, 10-18) took third.

In the Orange Coast League, Orange (3-9, 6-19) finished sixth. In the Orange League, Magnolia (4-6, 6-10) and Western (3-7) closed out fourth and fifth.

PREP SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

High School Baseball/Softball

Wednesday baseball
Santa Ana 3, Orange 0

Wednesday softball
La Quinta 13, Bolsa Grande 0
Marina 5, Edison 2
Savanna 5, Western 4
Garden Grove 5, Segerstrom 0
West. Chr. 24, Orangewood 1

Thursday baseball
Corona del Mar 5, Marina 3
Los Alamitos 5, Hunt. Bch. 1
Fountain Valley 3, Edison 2
Cypress 8, Pacifica 3
Magnolia 3, Western 1
La Quinta 4, Bolsa Grande 3
Gar. Grove 7, Westminster 0

Thursday softball
Pacifica 15, Kennedy 0
La Quinta 5, Loara 0

Friday softball
Pacifica 5, Capistrano Valley 1

Softball finishes

Pacifica's nationally-ranked team – 11th in the U.S. and third in California – concluded another unbeaten Empire League season (10-0, 23-2). The M's beat Capistrano Valley High 5-1 on Friday in a non-league contest.

Cypress (8-2, 19-9) took second in the EL.

In the Garden Grove League, La Quinta had a strong stretch run, winning its last three games – including a 5-0 victory win Thursday over Loara – to finish in third place (6-5, 10-11) and a playoff spot.

Santiago (10-0, 13-6) is first and Los Amigos (8-2, 14-6)



SANTIAGO HIGH SCHOOL won the Garden Grove League softball title, winning all 10 of its league games (GGUSD photo).

second.

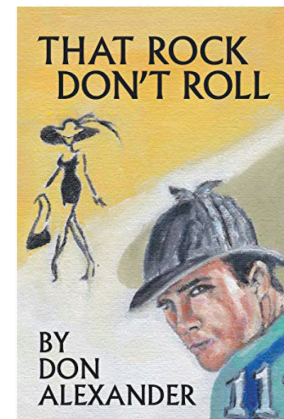
Garden Grove (10-0, 15-9) finished an unbeaten Golden West League season with a 5-0 win over Segerstrom. Ocean View (5-4, 12-10-1) is third, while Westminster (0-10, 5-22) is sixth.

Sunset League play saw Los Alamitos (10-0, 2-5) finish ahead of Huntington Beach (10-2, 16-7). Marina (6-6, 17-9-1) was fourth and Edison (5-7, 10-14) fifth.

Orange (4-6, 9-9) concluded Orange Coast League play in fourth. In the Orange League, Anaheim and Savanna (each 9-1) tied for first. Western (6-4, 10-11) is third and Magnolia (1-9, 2-15) is fifth.

Some serious fun

Murder, corruption, sex, humor, sports and lottery



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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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

Retorts: Picture me voting

Continued from page 3

(and Mothers) wrote or spike of "unalienable rights" they were not referring to puttering down to the Costco to purchase a 48 pack of toilet paper or buying a 12-pack of Modelo at Ralphs.

But there's room for compromise. Let people substitute a more flattering photo on their CDL and I might not mind whipping mine out on the fifth of November.

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