

■ **CAMPAIGN 2024**

Election Races Are Officially Off, Running

Voters will have their say in four West OC cities

■ **COMMENTS** on the 2024 local elections in Jim Tortolano's Retorts column on page 3.

The campaigns for public office in our West Orange County area have begun with the confirmation of the lineup of candidates for city council, school board and other positions in the cities of Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster, as well as a county supervisor seat.

Election Day is on Nov. 5, although early voting will again be available.

The list below is taken from the Orange County Registrar of Voters. Candidates whose name is marked with asterisk (*) are incumbents.

In the case of the Westminster School District Board of Trustees, since there are no challengers to the incumbents, there will not be an election there and the two candidates will be automatically appointed to those seats, ac-



CAMPAIGN SIGNS are already "flowering" all over the West Orange County area, as in this image shot on Garden Grove Boulevard, west of Brookhurst Street, in Garden Grove (Orange County Tribune photo)

ording to the registrar's office.

Garden Grove Unified School District

- Area 1: Terri Rocco* and Nicholas Dibs
- Area 5: Dina Nguyen* and Khao Dao
- Orange Unified School District**
- Area 3: Ana Page* and

Dan Nguyen

- Area 4: Sara Pelly* and Armando Perez-Serrato
- Area 7: Stephen Glass* and Steve Rocco
- Huntington Beach Union High School District**
- Area 3: Susan Henry* and LeeAnn Corral
- Huntington Beach City School District**
- Area 1: Brian Burley,

Cindy Barrios

- Ocean View School District (2)**
 - Keith Jorgensen, David Clifford, Keri Corsage, John Briscoe, Gina Clayton-Tarvin.*
 - Orange County Board of Supervisors**
 - Area 1: Janet Nguyễn and Frances Marquez
- Continued on page 2

Split council votes a censure of Amy West

In another marathon – and sometimes loud – meeting that lasted nearly four and a half hours, a split Westminster City Council voted in favor of a resolution of censure against Councilmember Amy Phan West late Wednesday night.

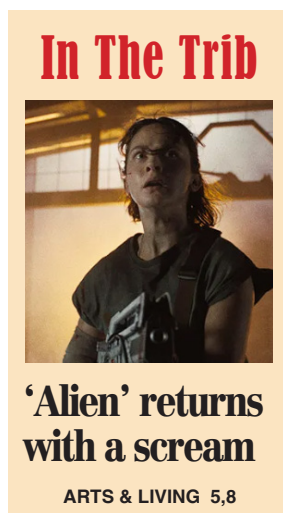
Voting in favor were Mayor Chi Charlie Nguyen, Vice Mayor Kimberly Ho and Councilmember Car-

■ **WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

los Manzo. Opposed were West and Councilmember NamQuan Nguyen.

West was accused of 30 violations of the council's code of conduct and city policy. The resolution claimed she was disruptive during council meet-

Continued on page 2



'Alien' returns with a scream

ARTS & LIVING 5,8

County sues to reclaim 'plundered' relief cash

The County of Orange is suing a non-profit organization for recovery of millions of dollars intended for the relief of elderly Vietnamese residents which were allegedly instead "plundered" for the benefit of the "personal gain" of associates of the Viet-America Society.

According to the lawsuit filed on Thursday, the VAS

diverted the money from providing meals for aged residents to personal use, including buying houses and other items unrelated to relief during the coronavirus pandemic.

The money was directed to VAS by Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do, a former Garden Grove City Council member. He

Continued on page 7

Election 2022 candidates

Continued from page 1

Westminster School District

Area 1: David Johnson*

Area 4: Frances Nguyen*

Garden Grove Mayor

Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen, John O'Neill, Lan Quoc Nguyen, Musaab B. Mughal, Phat Bui, Stephenie Klopfenstein, Thomas Tai Nguyen.

Garden Grove City Council

District 2: John Ramirez and Phillip Nguyen

District 5: Mariyan Bahadarakhann, Sandra Thomas and Yesenia Muneton.

District 6: Ariana Arestegui and Tri Lam

Huntington Beach City Council (3)

Amory Hanson, Natalie Moser*, Don Kennedy, Butch Twining, Marissa Jackson, Dan Kalmick*, Chad Williams, Rhonda Bolton.*

Huntington Beach City Clerk

Lisa Lane Barnes, Regina Blankenhorn.

Huntington Beach City Treasurer

Alisa Backstrom.*

Stanton City Council

District 2: Victor Barrios and Hong Alyce Van*

District 4: Mike Montgomery

and John Douglas Warren
Westminster City Council
 District 2: Thanh Dang, Carlos Manzo* and Hau Wie Tieu
 District 3: Joseph Ngo, Mark Nguyen and K.C. Wolbert.

Censure of West passes on 3-2 vote

Continued from page 1

ings and placed "her self-interest" ahead of the needs of her constituents.

West was unrepentant, saying that "the majority is just trying to silence me."

Mayor Nguyen said "this action is necessary at this time," but offered the possibility of rescinding the censure in the future, if "positive change" was demonstrated by her.

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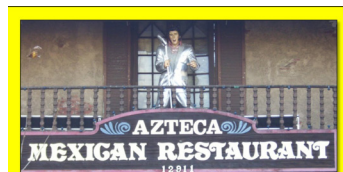
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News & Views

Election season: drama, comedy and surprises

Every election season is an adventure in drama, comedy and uncertainty. No matter how much we think we can correctly anticipate the outcome, Fate seems to throw in some surprises, monkey wrenches and this cycle is no different.

And I'm not just talking about the national extravaganza. Already there we've had an attempted assassination, an incumbent president stepping down from his candidacy and groundless accusations of couch-love and part-time escort work.

The most closely-watched local elections may be in Garden Grove and Huntington Beach. Steve Jones, who joined the city council in 2007 and who has been the mayor since 2016, is stepping down.

Into that void flows seven candidates, which include four current or former council members.

The others are relative unknowns, except for Lan Quoc Nguyen, a member of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Education.

In Huntington Beach, the three liberal councilmembers are seeking re-election to a body that's been dominated by four conservative – some would say ultra-conservative – members.

If all three incumbents win, it would seem to be a rebuke to the controversial actions of the majority, but the vote will still be 4-3.

The real test won't come into 2026 when the Big Four come up for re-election.

For those who think politics can be entertaining, Steve

Continued on page 8



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

NEW VALLEY VISTA PRINCIPAL



Stacy Robison is the new interim principal of Valley Vista High School in Huntington Beach, part of the Huntington Beach Union High School District. She comes to Valley Vista from Huntington Beach High, where she served as interim principal at HBHS for the 2023-24 school year.

K-9 training facility debuts in Pioneer Park in G. Grove

On Tuesday, the City of Garden Grove and the Garden Grove Police Department held a ribbon cutting for the Garden Grove Police Canine Training Facility, a first-of-its-kind in Orange County.

A two-year pilot program, the Garden Grove Police Canine Training Facility will provide field training for apprehension dogs as well as support canines for law enforcement agencies in Orange County. The training field is located in Pioneer Park, north of Warren Elementary School, at 12722 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove.

At the ribbon cutting, Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones thanked community partners such as the Garden Grove Unified School District, for the successful completion of the regional Garden Grove Police Canine Training Facility, including nearby residents. "Our valued collaboration with GGUSD has been crucial in establishing this pilot program in Pioneer Park."

In October 2023, the Garden Grove Police Department identified the need to create a centrally-located regional police canine training facility.



THE CROWD at the Canine Training Facility ribbon-cutting.

HBPD's plan for safety on Labor Day and more

As the end of summer approaches and families prepare for Labor Day celebrations, the Huntington Beach Police Department is reminding motorists to prioritize safety on the roads. Drivers are encouraged to make responsible choices behind the wheel and never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

"We want everyone to enjoy their end-of-summer travels and Labor Day festivities, but it's imperative to do so responsibly," HBPD Sergeant Mike Thomas said. "Driving under the influence not only puts your life at risk but also endangers everyone else on the road.

"Our goal is to reduce preventable crashes and save lives."

The HBPD offers the following tips to Go Safely:

- **Plan Ahead:** If you know you'll be drinking, arrange for a designated driver and use a ride-sharing service, taxi, or public transportation.
- **Buckle Up:** Wearing a seatbelt is one of the simplest ways to protect yourself in a crash.
- **Stay Alert:** Avoid distractions such as texting or eating while driving. Keep your focus on the road.
- **Follow Speed Limits:** Speeding reduces your reaction time and increases the severity of crashes.
- **Watch for Pedestrians and Bicyclists:** With more people enjoying outdoor activities, be extra vigilant and share the road responsibly.
- **Take Breaks:** If traveling long distances, take regular breaks to rest and avoid fatigue.

To help keep our community safe, the HBPD will have additional officers on patrol from August 16 through Labor Day (September 2), looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

NewsUpdate

Harris Unveils Economic Plans

Tax cuts, help in buying homes, breaks for parents

Proposing a major attack on the cost of living for millions of Americans, Vice President Kamala Harris on Friday announced a fistful of plans for the economy if she is elected president. Speaking in Raleigh in the swing state of North Carolina, Harris – the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate – said, “Look, the bills add up.”

“Building up the middle class will be the defining goal of my presidency,” she said.

Among her proposals are a federal ban on price gouging by food producers and grocers, and \$25,000 in down-payment help for certain first-time buyers and tax incentives for builders of starter homes.

She also proposed tax cuts for families, including reductions



KAMALA HARRIS took the wraps off her economic proposals (Shutterstock).

for middle- and lower-income persons and promising to increase the child tax credit to \$3,600 and as high as \$6000 for children up to age 6.

Such proposals depend on the approval of Congress, which is currently narrowly split between a Democratic-controlled Senate and a Republican-controlled

House of Representatives. A spokesman for the Donald Trump campaign called her proposals “a socialist and authoritarian model.”

Talks will continue on an end to war in Gaza

Negotiations will continue on efforts to end the war in Gaza although no deal was announced on Friday.

The United States, Egypt and Gaza are seeking to broker a peace in the ongoing struggle between Israel and Hamas, which has resulted in a reported 40,000 Palestinian deaths.

Those talks are aimed not only at reaching a cease-fire but also heading off a possible expansion of the conflict that might include Iran.

The proposed agreement is based on a proposal made by President Joe Biden in May and later getting an endorsement from the United Nations Secu-



rity Council. Biden said, “We are not there

yet. But it’s much, much closer than it was three days ago.”

Weather: Warmth is on the way

It should be a relatively cool (for summer) weekend in our West Orange County area, but things will heat up as the work week begins. The forecast calls for daytime highs of 80 and 81 degrees on Saturday and Sunday, rising to 85 and 87 on Monday and Tuesday. Overnight lows will range from 64 to 67. Saturday is expected to have morning clouds followed by afternoon sun. Partly cloudy conditions will return on Sunday and Monday, but sunny skies are expected on Tuesday.

Great Thoughts

“The first and great commandment is, Don’t let them scare you.”

– Elmer Davis.

Arts & Living

It's Another Scary 'Alien' Movie

It's not a sequel but it will be loud, familiar

By Jocelyn Noceck
AP National Writer

"In space, no one can hear you scream," went the tagline for the original "Alien" in 1979, a terrifying thought on multiple levels. There may indeed be a scientific rationale for a space scream to be inaudible, but isn't it scarier to simply realize nobody's around to hear you? That was the case for Sigourney Weaver's Ripley, once she became the last one standing against the fearsome Xenomorph. Nobody could hear her scream — nobody human, that is — because, duh, everyone was dead.

In any case, hearing won't be a problem here on Earth at any multiplex showing "Alien: Romulus," the much-anticipated new installment to the "Alien" franchise (not a sequel, but we'll get to that in a minute.) This is a very big, very (very!) loud, very jumpy horror flick, and the screams will come, and they'll be audible. Which is precisely what "Alien" fans are surely waiting for.

And speaking of Ripley, no, neither she (nor Weaver) are present in this new version by Fede Álvarez, closer in feel to the horror roots of Ridley Scott's original than James Cameron's more action-focused 1986 "Aliens." But now we have Rain Carradine, played by rising star Cailee Spaeny ("Priscilla"), a new-generation Ripley in everything but name. Spaeny takes up the mantle of badass space fighter with aplomb, and is easily the best part of a movie that, like the 1979 original, is short on character development.

There are many other parallels (and winking nods) to the original (Scott is a co-producer here).



CAILEE SPAENY stars in "Alien-Romulus" (20th Century Studios)

Movie Review

But like we said, don't call it a sequel. In fact it's an "interquel," which wouldn't be a bad horror film title in itself.

The dictionary explains that it's neither sequel nor prequel, but rather a "middlequel" between installments, known as "quels." Just kidding! It's not in the dictionary. But it's worth noting that Álvarez, in placing his movie between existing versions to form a new trilogy, yet aiming also for standalone entertainment, risks some tonal confusion. Not that you'll be able to hear your thoughts, should this occur to you.

The premise is new, sort of. Álvarez, who co-wrote the screenplay with Rodo Sayagues, has said he got the idea from a deleted scene from Cameron's

film, in which young kids were seen amongst workers in a mining colony, and wondering what their lives would be like when they reached their 20s.

At the beginning, we find out: life is bleak indeed in the colony on Jackson's Star, owned by the worker-exploiting Weyland-Yutani firm.

Rain's miner parents have died of lung ailments. They've left her a caring brother, Andy, who is actually a "synthetic," or humanoid robot. The "human" element is crucial because it allows an empathetic David Jonsson, in the role, to connect to the audience in a way that otherwise only Spaeny does — the rest of the cast is given virtually nothing to work with.

In any case, the two are not long for Jackson's Star. After Rain is turned down for a travel permit to finally escape dark colony life, she and Andy join a risky

Fair ★ ★

venture.

There's an (apparently) decommissioned space station hovering above, and if they can raid it of hardware and other loot, they can bypass the brutal wait for permits and finally make it to a new home. And so, reluctantly, the two agree to join the others — Rain's ex-boyfriend Tyler (Archie Renaux), his sister Kay (Isabela Merced), Bjorn (Spike Fearn) and Navarro (Aileen Wu) — on a bumpy flight to the Renaissance station.

Surely we're not spoiling much to say that it's best not to get attached to anybody.

Because, we all know what's waiting up there, don't we? It's already been teased in the opening, with the rickety old station looking much like USCSS Nos-

Continued on page 8

TheSportsPages

Should pitchers have to pitch 6 to shorten game?

Baseball, struggling to keep up after years of being static while other sports zoomed past it in fan appeal, has started making big changes in an effort to catch up.

This season, MLB has put into place several rules changes, including time limits on pitchers and batters, bigger bases, curbs on defensive shifts and more.

The latest idea being floated involves how much time – how many innings – a starting pitcher should work.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

In days of old – about 10 years ago – starting pitchers were expected to be on the mound for as long as they were doing well, or – at least – Ok.

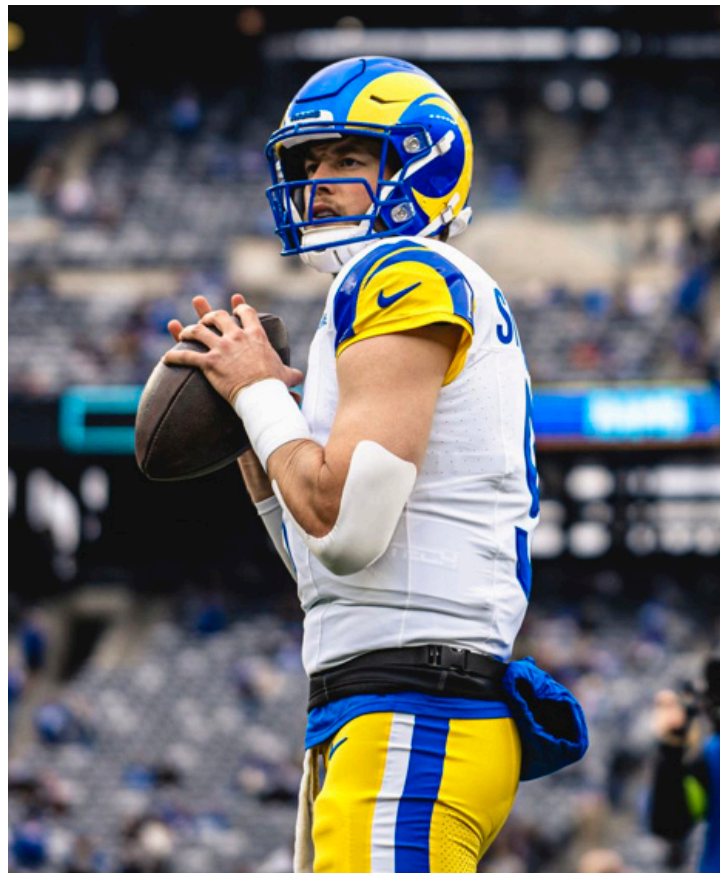
The starter might go, say, seven innings, followed by a middle reliever who was in for two innings, and then the “closer,” usually a fireballer capable of striking out the side.

But the New Normal is nothing like that. In many cases, a team will begin with an “opener,” who is only expected to throw for an inning or two. After that comes one expected to go for four or five innings, followed by as many relievers as a team has in its bullpen. The result is that in many games, a manager might throw 10 hurlers into the mix of a single contest.

So why does MLB care about that? One reason is that it slows the game down, all that pitcher-switching. Another is that it requires more pitchers on the roster, limiting the number of position players, the fellas who score runs.

The bigwigs seem to feel that a 10-9 slugfest has more fan appeal than a 2-1 squeaker, and

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RAMS QUARTERBACK MATT STAFFORD experienced some hamstring tightness in practice this week (Rams photo).

Muscle Tightness Is Not A ‘Problem’

By Dan Greenspan
Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford came out of a joint practice with the Dallas Cowboys on Wednesday early because of hamstring tightness, a team spokesman said.

Stafford missed approximately the second half of the workout, but the 36-year-old remained on the sideline in pads and did not show any apparent signs of injury during or after the two-hour session.

“(Stafford) operates at a world class level,” offensive coordinator Mike LaFleur said. “But we know that every rep is going to be valuable for him, no matter how many plays he’s had. Unfortunately, he had some tightness.”

Jimmy Garoppolo worked with the first-team offense in Stafford’s absence, which is valuable because Garoppolo did not play

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Dodgers ride homers to rally past the Cards

By Arthur David
Orange County Tribune

A five-run rally in the top of the sixth inning carried the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 7-6 win over the Cardinals in St. Louis on Friday.

Home runs by Mookie Betts and Kevin Kiermaier provided the power for that outburst.

The Blue Crew had 12 hits with five batters getting two each. Leadoff batter Shohei Ohtani continued in a bit of a slump, going 0-for-5 and striking out twice. His batting average is down to .291, third among Dodger hitters

Justin Wroblewski (1-1) got the win despite being touched three times for home runs. He lasted five innings, yielding four hits and four runs.

He walked two batters and struck out three. The Dodgers used a total five relievers in the game.

With the win, the team is 72-51 and remains in first place in the National League West and three games ahead of the surging Arizona Diamondbacks and San Diego Padres, each 69-54 and tied for second.

The Dodgers will take on the Cards again on Saturday.

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	65-56	.537	—	8-2
Seattle	63-60	.512	3	4-6
Texas	56-66	.459	10	3-7
ANGELS	53-69	.434	12.5	4-6
Oakland	52-70	.426	13.5	6-4

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	72-51	.585	—	6-4
San Diego	69-54	.561	3	8-2
Arizona	69-54	.561	3	8-2
San Fran	62-62	.500	10	5-5
Colorado	45-78	.366	27	4-6

Matt's hamstring tightness 'not a problem'

Continued from page 6

in the preseason opener against the Cowboys on Sunday and is unlikely to do so in the two remaining exhibition games. Garoppolo is suspended for the first two games of the regular season for a violation of the NFL's policy on performance-enhancers.

"Anytime you get those ops, particularly against a defense like this with all the players

they got, is going to be valuable," LaFleur said. Stetson Bennett took Garoppolo's snaps with the backups three days after he threw four interceptions before leading a last-minute touchdown drive against the Cowboys.

Coach Sean McVay said Tuesday that Bennett would need to show "more body of work" after being away from the team last season to focus on his mental health to secure the No. 2 spot behind Stafford for the games at the Detroit Lions on

Sept. 8 and Arizona Cardinals the following week. "He did some good things, but we got to work on the turnovers, no doubt," LaFleur said. "But there were a lot of positives for him to be able to get out here and practice."

Halos overcome deficit in 3-2 win

By Pete Zarustica
Orange County Tribune

A two-run home run by Logan O'Hoppe in the fourth inning and an RBI double in the sixth by Mickey Moniak were enough to lift the Los Angeles Angels to a 3-2 win over the At-

lanta Braves in Anaheim Friday night.

The Halos were out-hit eight to six but got their hits when they needed them as they overcame an early 2-0 deficit. O'Hoppe's homer was his 17th of the year. After starter Jose Soriano was roughed up a bit in 3.1 innings,

the Angels threw the bullpen at the Braves, using five relievers.

Friday's win ended a three-game losing streak of the Angels. The team is now 53-69 and still in fourth place in the AL West. The victory kept them from falling into a tie with the A's for last place in the division.



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Orange County sues a non-profit group

Continued from page 1

is not being sued. His daughter, Rhiannon Do, worked for the organization, which was not disclosed at the time of the assignment of the

funds to VAS. She is named in the lawsuit.

The lawsuit alleges that the defendant could not provide adequate accounting of how the money was spent.

VAS attorney Mark Rosen – also a former Garden Grove councilmember – defended the society, saying the distribution of food was being done urgently during an emergency and that the lawsuit and associated investigations were a "witch hunt."



GARDEN GROVE'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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'Alien-Romulus' is familiar, but not a sequel

Continued from page 5

tromo, that ill-fated space tug in the original.

We hardly needed the hint, though. This is an "Alien" movie and it's all about the Xenomorph, that terrifying creature who is diabolically "perfect," able to survive in any atmosphere and to multiply, obviously, in the most disgusting of ways.

It's not really a party — or a movie — until the creatures show up. And that, they do. Much has been made of this film's use of practical effects, rather than a CGI-created universe. The actors have said this — as well as shooting in a linear fashion — helped them feel the genuine horror needed for their

portrayals.

Does all this elevate the film beyond any of its predecessors? Like so many franchises that depend on intense fandom, that truly depends from what vantage point you're joining in. Fans of the original will appreciate the many respectful echoes of that film (and perhaps the fact that,

thank the lord, there's no longer a gratuitous skimpy panty scene.) Fans of Cameron's take will appreciate the action that comes later in the film.

And while some will applaud the wild, outlandish, creative and possibly ridiculous swerve of those final minutes — not to spoil it — others may even

laugh rather than scream.

It's all good, though. In space, probably no one can hear you laugh, either.

"Alien: Romulus," a 20th-Century Studios release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for bloody violent content and language."

Retorts: A wild election

Continued from page 3

Rocco is running again for a seat on the Orange Unified School District. He's the reclusive, controversial former trustee elected in 2004 without campaigning in any way.

(Some cynics suggest that voters in the OUSD were not quite ready to vote for his opponent with the last name of

Martinez).

Rocco's election made national news and constant embarrassment for the district with his conspiracy rants and other antics, including — after his term ended — his arrest and conviction for stealing a half-bottle of ketchup from the cafeteria at Chapman University in Orange. Well, he's back. Thanks, Fate!

Sports Retorts: Should pitchers have to pitch 6?

Continued from page 6

they are probably right.

Being floated now is a requirement that a starting pitcher — presumably barring being struck by lightning or a six-homer barrage — would have to last for six innings. That would likely speed up the game. And let's face it, a tiring pitcher might be expected to give up more hits, runs and walks.

Of course, the problem with scoring or game speed might be more systemic. Maybe there's not enough true big league talent to fill out the rosters of 30 teams? Maybe the trend of African American athletes toward football and basketball is shrinking the talent pool? Perhaps too many one-time Little League star hurlers find that their arms burn out from overuse just a few years into reaching "The Show"?

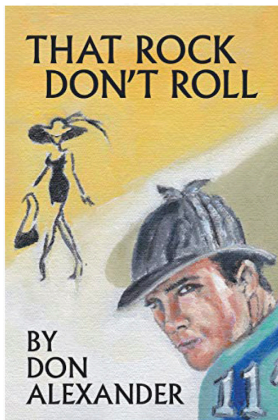
It's nice that the folks in the commish's office are thinking "outside the box." I'm just not sure that this isn't an idea bound to curve foul, if you know what I mean.

You want teams to make their pitchers stay in longer? Limit their numbers on the roster. If they run out of hurlers, make one of the catchers go out to the mound.

Now, that would be entertaining.

Some serious fun

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That Rock Don't Roll

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