

**WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?**



You've heard of "The Masked Singer" on TV? This "masked dancer" was one of the centers of attention on Sunday at the fourth annual Westminster Fall Festival in the Westminster Civic Center (Orange County Tribune photo).

**■ GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Two Major Projects Win Approvals**

**Mixed-use residential and senior housing win by 5-0**

Approval was given to two major projects – one of which would involve a local landmark – by the Garden Grove Planning Commission when it met on Thursday night.

On a 5-0 vote, the commission voted in favor of a site plan and lot line adjustment for the construction of a seven-story, 98-unit multiple-family apartment complex on a 1.35-acre site on the north side of Garden Grove Boulevard between Galway Street and Brookhurst Way.

Long-time residents and those who regularly travel along Garden Grove Bou-

levard might recognize that as the site of the now-closed Vodie's Brakes with its giant neon-lighted bear sign.

The new building will combine two parcels and include 10 affordable housing units for "very-low income" residents.

The applicant, William Jager, noted that an attempt would be made to relocate the sign to a "neon" park in another city.

Also at that meeting the commissioners voted 5-0 in favor of a site plan, conditional use permit and other permissions to

Continued on page 2

**How to shorten those meetings**

City council meetings in Westminster have been well-known in recent years for their length and arguments. Proposals to change that are on the agenda at Wednesday's meeting.

In an apparent effort to curb both those trends,

**■ WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor Chi Charlie Nguyen is proposing an amendment of the process for placing items on the council agenda and an amendment to the policy to

limit the time each councilmember has to discuss an agenda item.

The proposed change would read: "When an item is not approved for placement on the agenda, then there is no majority interest at the time and it does not get placed on the agenda. The item requested cannot be requested again by any member of the council for a maximum of six months unless there is an urgency as determined by new information, litigation or policy."

The proposed limit to the time each councilmember could have to discuss an item would be five min-

**■ GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

Boulevard. The applicant-developer is Olson-Garden Grove 6, LLC. Also on the agenda is an amendment to a coopera-

Continued on page 2

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**15-unit project considered**

Approval of a final tract map for a housing development tops the agenda of Tuesday's meeting of the Garden Grove City Council.

The council will be asked to accept the map for the construction of a 15-unit multiple family residential unit at 12828 Newhope St., north of Garden Grove

**Inside today's OC Tribune**



**Playoffs start**  
SPORTS 6



**Retrievers read**  
NEWS & VIEWS 3

# Major projects are approved

Continued from page 1

develop a six-story mixed-use development on a 0.94-acre lot consisting of an 80-unit senior apartment complex and an 82-unit “residential care facility for the elderly.” It will include four affordable

housing units for four “very low income” residents. The site is at the southeast corner of Stanford Avenue and 9th Street at 11432 and 11462 Stanford Ave. The applicant is also William Jager.

# Westminster City Council

Continued from page 1

utes. After that the city clerk would immediately conduct a roll call on each of the requested items to determine if they will be

placed on the agenda or not. The council will meet in closed session at 4 p.m. and in open session at 6 p.m. at 8200 Westminster Blvd.

# ‘Homesteading’ in Stanton

A request to hold a study session on a review of city ordinances on homesteading within city limits will be on the agenda for Tuesday’s meeting of the

Stanton City Council. Councilmember Donald Torres is making the request. “Homesteading” refers to California state law that allows a homeowner to declare a portion of his or her property as “homestead” and thereby – mostly – beyond the reach of creditors.

The purpose of homesteading is to protect homeowners from being left homeless in times of economic strife.

The council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall at 7800 Katella Ave.

# Garden Grove City Council

Continued from page 1

tive agreement with the City of Stanton for the rehabilitation of Fern Street at a cost of \$64,000. The council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.



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# The Tribune

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# News & Views

## It's putting the people more in charge now

Who could have thought that having more politicians could be a good thing?

What I am talking about is the principle and practice of having city and school district elections conducted not at-large – as has been the practice for decades – but by districts.

Under pressure from a state law that was seeking to eliminate what was alleged to be the underrepresentation of minorities on such government bodies, most local agencies have – somewhat reluctantly – gone to the new system creating city council and school board districts of roughly equal size, based on population.



**Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

How has it worked out? Pretty well, I think. A wise adage says, “when everybody’s in charge, nobody is in charge.” Previously the council members and school board trustees were – theoretically – representing the whole community. But in point of fact that was not always the case. A councilmember, for example, might feel a certain affection for his or her neighborhood, but had no specific responsibility for it.

Now, each citizen has a representative pledged to represent the area from which he or she was elected, and this has had – I believe – a good effect. More attention is being paid to areas that might have been neglected.

Also, the smaller unit of electoral districts means that it’s less expensive to campaign.

In Garden Grove, for example, the result has been an expanded seven-member council with a mayor elected citywide and the

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## READING WITH ROCKY



Twenty students at Morningside Elementary School in Garden Grove got special reading partners over the past five weeks in the form of Lisa (a terrier), Rocky (golden retriever), Maverick (Labrador retriever) and Roxy (Newfoundland). The dogs met with students each week to listen to them read. The intention of the program is to not only provide fun for the pupils, but also to encourage them to “be brave and read confidently.” The Garden Grove Unified School District partnered with organizations such as Orange County Animal Allies (GGUSD photo).

## HELPING HANDS IN HELENE



Orange County firefighters are helping to assist with search and rescue missions in the Southeast to help local first responders coping with the effects of Hurricane Helene. The Orange County Fire Authority (which provides fire and paramedic service to Garden Grove, Stanton and Westminster) along with Anaheim Fire and Rescue and the Orange City Fire Department have dispatched a team to the Greenville area of South Carolina. They are conducting reconnaissance of damaged neighborhoods, assessing structures and working with urban search and rescue teams from Louisiana and South Carolina (OCFA photo).

## Witnesses are sought in area indecent exposures

Additional victims of “peeping” and indecent exposure incidents in Garden Grove and surrounding cities are being sought in the wake of the arrest of a suspect.

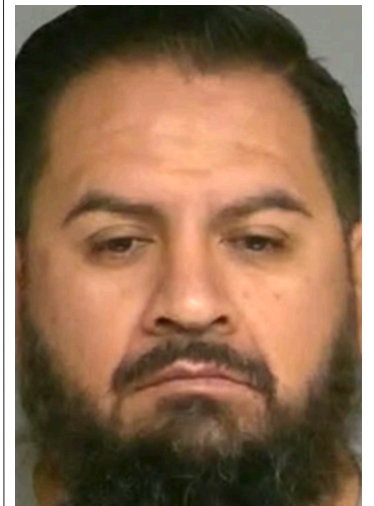
According to Detective Sgt. Mark Lord, Juan Ramirez-Bolanos, 42, of Garden Grove was arrested on Sept. 19 for multiple violations and has been formally charged by the Orange County District Attorney’s office.

The incidents occurred over the past seven months. According to police, the suspect would locate houses that had visible and street accessible windows before he approached them.

The suspect would then allegedly look into the windows while “exposing himself.”

These incidents usually occurred in the evening hours when he had the cover of darkness.

Police are asking that anyone who has been the victim of a similar incident to contact Detective Lazenby at (714) 741-5818 or GGPD Investigations at (714) 741-5800.



**JUAN RAMIREZ-BOLANOS**  
(GGPD photo).

# NewsUpdate

## Employment is back on the bounce

### 254,000 more jobs added in U.S. in September

Good economic news came out of the Department of Labor on Friday, as the September report showed that employers hired 254,000 more people, lowering the national unemployment rate to 4.1 percent.

The Associated Press reported that the latest figures are up from 159,000 job created in August and represent the second consecutive monthly decrease in the unemployment rate.

The Labor Department also revised its job estimates for July and August resulting in an average of 186,000 new jobs added each month for those three months, an improvement over 140,000 over the previous three-month period.



**HIRING IS UP** and unemployment is down across the U.S. (Shutterstock)

The biggest gains were for restaurants and bars, which added 69,000 jobs in September. Next

were healthcare companies with 45,000, government agencies with 31,000 and social assis-

tance employers with 27,000 and construction firms with 25,000 more hires.

### Will '24 election be peaceful? Biden isn't sure



**PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN**

At a White House press briefing on Friday, President Joe Biden expressed concerns that the presidential election on Nov. 5 might be marked by violence.

In response to a question, Biden said "I'm confident it will be free and fair. I don't know whether it will be peaceful. The things that [former president Donald] Trump has said last time around when he didn't like the outcome of the election were very dangerous," according to United Press International.

In other election news, Republican presidential nominee Trump will turn to Butler, Pennsylvania on Saturday, the scene of an assassination attempt made against him on July 13.

Former president Barack Obama will travel with Democratic nominee Kamala Harris on a tour through swing states, starting with a visit to Pittsburgh on Thursday.

### Hurricane Helene's lingering aftermath

The powerful Hurricane Helene has passed after wreaking havoc from Florida to North Carolina, but its effects are lasting.

Electrical power, phone service and access to drinking water are still spotty across the Southeast, according to the Associated Press.

Rural areas in western North Carolina have been hit especially hard. "We have no water. We have no power," said Anna Ramsey of Asheville. "But I think

it's also been humbling."

To add to the other miseries, the flooding had disturbed underground nests of yellowjackets, bees and other insects leading to widespread reports of swarms and stinging.

To protect people who are allergic to insect stings, the state department of health and human services is buying Benadryl and epinephrine injections to distribute to hospitals, doctors and emergency medical personnel.

### Great Thoughts

"The windshield is bigger than the rearview mirror for a reason. Because what's in front of you is so much more important than what's behind."

— Jelly Roll (musician).

### Weather: It's near-perfect now

If you think perfect early autumn weather in West Orange County is with temperatures in the low 80s, here it is. The forecast for Saturday is for morning fog followed by sunshine, with a daytime high of 80 and an overnight low of 62. For the three days that follow here will be partly cloudy skies. Sunday will have daytime/overnight temperatures of 80 (62) follow by 83 (63) on Monday and 80 (62) on Tuesday.

# Arts & Living

## 'Outrun': True-Life Addiction Drama

Saoirse Ronan illuminates this movie

By Jocelyn Noveck  
AP National Writer

At some point during "The Outrun," it occurred to me that watching Saoirse Ronan act is a bit like looking into a magnifying glass: Everything somehow feels a bit clearer, sharper, more precise.

This singular actor gives one of her finest performances in a two-hour study of addiction that is poignant, sometimes beautiful but always painful to watch — and would likely be too draining if not for the luminous presence at its core. Would it even work — at all — if Ronan, who also makes her producing debut here, weren't onscreen virtually every second?

Luckily, we don't need to imagine that. Ronan, who plays a 29-year-old biology student named Rona (the name comes from a tiny island off Scotland) serves as both star and narrator, speaking the words — sometimes poetic — of the addiction memoir by Amy Liptrot.

The script, adapted by Liptrot and director Nora Fingscheidt, makes frequent use of fantasy and whimsy, even veering into animation. Some may find these deviations a distraction from the plot, but they are frequently mesmerizing.

Besides, plot is a loosely defined thing here. We go back and forth in time so frequently that sometimes only the changing color of Rona's hair indicates where we are on the timeline. It takes a while to get used to this, but the uncertainty starts to make sense. We are, in a way, inside Rona's mind, experiencing the fits and starts of her journey. And recovery is hardly a linear process.



"THE OUTRUN" stars Saoirse Ronan (Sony Pictures Classics release).

### Movie Review

There's a fine supporting cast, but the true second star is nature itself. The film is based mainly in the Orkney Islands off Scotland, a windswept landscape that can be both punishing and restorative. It can also be stunning, especially the sea. And the sea is where we start, learning that Orkney lore holds that when someone drowns, they turn into a seal, but at night they return ashore in human form and dance until dawn.

We see a seal underwater, and then we see Ronan herself dancing — bathed in red light on a dance floor — and then falling down, blind drunk.

After this flashback, we learn Rona has come back home to her childhood home for an extended visit, after a decade in London, where addiction took hold and ruined her relationships — especially with thoughtful boyfriend Daynin (Paapa Essiedu), who

achieved success as she disintegrated.

From nightlife in Hackney, London, to a sheep farm in Scotland, where the days of sobriety are ticked off for us — 30, 90, 117. The challenges here are different. Rona's father, Andrew (Stephen Dillane), is loving but suffers bipolar episodes. Due to his debilitating illness he lives away from his wife, Annie (Saskia Reeves), who has turned to religion to cope — and that's the only solution she can offer Rona.

Deeply lonely and always on the precipice of relapse, Rona sees a crack of light in the darkness when she takes on volunteer work with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, given the job of surveying the Orkney Islands for the disappearing corncrake. This bird needs help to survive, and soon it seems to represent Rona herself.

But Rona's troubles follow her no matter how deep into the countryside she goes. As she

**Good: ★★★**

tells fellow addicts in a devastating flashback from her alcohol recovery group, what she misses most is how good alcohol made her feel.

At another point, she tells someone she'll never be happy if she's sober — and you believe her. In yet another harrowing scene, a relapse has her howling to her mother: "All that praying didn't help me, Mum!"

Eventually, Rona, aiming to get even farther from civilization than mainland Orkney, repairs to the tiny island of Papay — an island, as she notes, that is off an island, off another island, off another island.

Here, during a brutal winter in a tiny bird warden's house, interacting only with the town's sparse population, Rona starts to heal. (Liptrot spent two winters here, writing her memoir.)

Perhaps Ronan's most impres-

Continued on page 8

# TheSportsPages

## Questions from the Awesome Autumn season

My friend and former sports-writing colleague Don Alexander once wrote that October is the perfect time – the sweet spot – for sports observers of all stripes because it represented the intersection of all four major sports – football, baseball, basketball and hockey – happening at the same time.

(I would revise that list to six sports: pro football, college football, baseball, basketball, hockey and sports gambling.)

I like it because it is the perfect time



### Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

to pose probing – and sometimes discomfiting – questions. Such as:

- Are Southern California fans so spoiled that they grieve more about the Dodgers getting knocked out of the playoffs in the first round twice than celebrate the amazing success the team has had?
- Having had a worst-ever 2024 (which includes a last-place finish in the weak American League West), are the Angels fated to improve in 2025 based on the theory that “things can’t get worse”?
- If – as I suspect – Shohei Ohtani gets back to pitching next year and re-conquers that field, does that set him up to become Dodger manager in 2026, or perhaps take up pro soccer in the off-season?
- If Bronny James has an off-day playing for the Lakers, will dad LeBron take away the keys to his Lamborghini and make him write “I will box out for rebounds” 100 times?
- How soon will UCLA, USC, Stanford and Cal come crawling back to the Pac-12, which will eventually become the Pac-24?

# Flaherty to open vs. Padres

## NLDS starts on Saturday at home against San Diego

By Beth Harris  
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jack Flaherty will start Game 1 of this weekend’s National League Division Series for the Los Angeles Dodgers, with rookie Yoshinobu Yamamoto set for Game 2.

Dodgers general manager Brandon Gomes said Wednesday that the team hasn’t finalized plans for Games 3 and potentially 4, but Walker Buehler and rookie Landon Knack will be involved.

The Dodgers will play the winner of the NL Wild Card series the San Diego Padres, who won the series in two games over

### NL Division Series

- Game 1: Saturday. San Diego Padres at Dodgers
- Game 2: Sunday. San Diego at Dodgers.
- Game 3: Tuesday. Dodgers at San Diego.
- Game 4: Wednesday: Dodgers at San Diego (if needed).
- Game 5: Friday. San Diego at Dodgers (if needed)



**JACK FLAHERTY** will pitch Game 1 for the Dodgers.

the Atlanta Braves.

The best-of-five NLDS opens Saturday at Dodger Stadium.

Yamamoto has made just four starts since coming off the injured list, having missed nearly three months with an arm injury. The right-hander allowed two runs at Colorado in his final tune-up last weekend. He pitched five innings, his longest outing since returning.

Yamamoto may be an MLB

rookie, but he’s got plenty of big-game experience in his native Japan, including pitching in the 2022 Japan Series, where he led the Orix Buffaloes to victory, and in the Tokyo Olympics,

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# After bad news vs. Bears, how will Rams pack up the Packers?

By Greg Beacham  
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Rams have faced significant second-half deficits in all four of their games this season, and they’ve only rallied back to win once.

Los Angeles (1-3) is far from finished, but even coach Sean McVay realizes that his team’s inability to stay out of an early hole is not promising. For a team that appeared to be headed for a challenging season from the moment Aaron Donald retired in March, falling behind only makes everything tougher.

“There were multiple opportunities for us to take control of that game early on,” McVay said Monday. “I thought our defense came out ready to go. I thought we moved the ball. We didn’t finish drives. ... We stayed in it



**RAMS DEFENSE** didn’t live up to the teams’ needs vs. Chicago last Sunday (Brevin Townsell)

and we had our opportunities to be able to ultimately come away with the result, but we didn’t do it.”

The Rams were competitive with

the Chicago Bears throughout their 24-18 loss Sunday, not falling behind until midway

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# League play starts and races begin

## Magnolia gets its first win; Lobos, Marina unbeaten

Two of our West Orange County high school football teams remained unbeaten Friday night as league play started for almost all area squads.

Also, two previously winless teams notched their first victories.

Marina (6-0) bested Sunny Hills (0-6) by 21-6 in the first game of the Lambda League schedule. The Vikes are fourth

in our High 5 rankings of teams from our West Orange County.

Los Amigos (6-0) won its Sigma League opener, defeating Ocean View 27-6. The Lobos are rated fifth.

Getting their first victories were Orange (1-5) – winner by 21-14 over Fountain Valley in the Foxtrot League – and Magnolia (1-6), which beat district rival Savanna 29-28 in Zeta League play on Thursday.

The only area non-league play saw Edison (5-2) defeat Helix High of La Mesa 42-14.

Julius Gillick ran for five touchdowns in that game, including a 50-yard scoring run. The Green

## High School Football Results

### THURSDAY

Estancia 14, Rancho Alamitos 7  
Magnolia 29, Savanna 28

### FRIDAY

Capistrano Valley 35, Western 25  
Hunt. Beach 42, Laguna Hills 3  
Orange 21, Fountain Valley 14  
Brea Olinda 49, Westminster 0  
Esperanza 42, Garden Grove 6  
Marina 21, Sunny Hills 6  
Pacifica 42, University/Irvine 0  
Los Amigos 27, Ocean View 6  
Santiago 24, Costa Mesa 22  
Edison 42, Helix 14  
La Quinta vs. Bolsa Grande, late

and Gold are atop the High 5.

Alpha League play starts for the Chargers on Oct. 18 against Los Alamitos (4-2).

The second-ranked Huntington Beach Oilers (4-2) won their Epsilon League match by 42-3 over Laguna Hills.

Third-ranked Western (3-3) fell 35-25 to Capistrano Valley.

Our “on the bubble” teams had a tough week. Rancho Alamitos (4-2) lost 14-7 to Estancia and Westminster (2-4) was thumped by Brea-Olinda 49-0.

In the Kappa League, Esperanza beat Garden Grove 42-6. The Argos are 1-5.

## Yamamoto will get start in Game Two of NLD Series

Continued from page 6

when Japan won a gold medal.

“I don’t think Yama’s going to be fazed by the big moment,” Gomes said on a teleconference.

“If anything, I think he’s going to thrive on it.”

Flaherty joined the Dodgers from the Detroit Tigers at the July trade deadline. The deal brought him back to his hometown. The right-hander had a 3.58 ERA in 55 1/3 innings over 10 starts for the Dodgers.

Shohei Ohtani will continue throwing bullpen sessions as he rehabs from his second elbow surgery a year ago, but there are no plans for him to face live hitters, Gomes said.

“We don’t anticipate him pitching in the postseason,” the GM said.

Instead, the Dodgers will rely on his bat to help carry them, as Ohtani did in his record-setting first season with the team.

The Dodgers finished the regu-

lar season with the best record in baseball (98-64), earning the No. 1 seed in the NL and guaranteeing home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

That gave them a bye and once again the team is off for five days going into the NLDS. The layoff hasn’t been kind to them the last two years. They were swept out of the Division Series by Arizona last year and lost to the Padres 3-1 in 2022.

“Our guys are tired of it,” manager Dave Roberts said of the early exits.

Roberts has noticed a different attitude in the clubhouse this time around

“I see some more hunger, I see some more edge. I like that,” he said. “Not to say that guys weren’t prepared or trying or cared, but there’s a different level of intensity.”

The Dodgers can actually use the extra time off this year, with several players trying to heal

and the heavily taxed bullpen needing some rest.

All-Star first baseman Freddie Freeman and shortstop Miguel Rojas are making progress after getting injured recently. Roberts said he’s confident Freeman will be in the starting lineup, although his right ankle injury could limit him defensively.

Freeman is taking swings in the batting cage and will likely face live pitching either Thursday or Friday.

Rojas has a tear in his left adductor muscle. He received an injection last week and will require surgery after the season, but he’s expected to play.

## GARDEN GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY STANLEY RANCH MUSEUM FALL BARN SALE



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# Rams defense faces test vs. strong Green Bay attack

Continued from page 6

through the second quarter. Los Angeles could have tied it early in the fourth, but missed on a 2-point conversion attempt — and the Rams were outgained 83-44 while managing only three points the rest of the way.

This wasn't as embarrassing as the Rams' blowout loss at Arizona two weeks earlier, but McVay was curt and business-like after his defense gave up a decisive 70-yard touchdown

drive by Caleb Williams early in the fourth quarter.

"What I'm not going to do is ride the emotional roller coaster that this season will take you on," said McVay, who is 1-3 for the first time in his eight seasons as a head coach. "What an amazing, traumatic turn of events from week to week, and we just saw that. When you look at this game today, there's things that can be improved upon. The reasons we didn't execute were very correctable."

No team with a 1-3 start made the playoffs in either of the past two NFL seasons, but the Rams have a recent history of beating odds: They started 3-6 last season, but still reached the play-

offs by going 7-1 after their bye. "That team did a great job of being able to stay in the fight (and) play their best ball after the bye," McVay said. "That led to some continuity. I thought we were able to build as that season went on, and I thought we played quality football even if we weren't always getting the results. That's the thing that I want to see."

## What's working

Running back Kyren Williams remains remarkably productive behind a patchwork offensive line, racking up 94 yards rushing and a TD on just 19 carries while catching four passes. The third-year pro has been the Rams' most consistent offensive player, and he has rushed for a score in a franchise-record seven consecutive games.

## What needs help

Los Angeles' red zone offense was looking particularly inept after four drives deep into Chicago territory in the first three quarters ended in three field-goal attempts and a fumble. A struggling offensive line is one reason, but McVay's red zone play-calling has been questionable for long stretches of his

stellar career. "Did a really poor job of finishing drives," McVay said.

## Stock up

Defensive tackles Braden Fiske and Kobie Turner had strong games at Chicago, and rookie edge rusher Jared Verse had another disruptive game that could have been much bigger if he had finished more of his impressive rushes with tackles.

# 'The Outrun' movie review

Continued from page 5

sive accomplishment is how she delineates the stages of Rona's journey with such clarity — even down to the physical movement of being drunk, first a bit, then a lot (she worked with the talented choreographer Wayne McGregor) and how one changes physically during recovery.

And then there's her face. We see a translucent quality in it as Rona begins to embrace nature — her own, and that around her — and look to a new future. A future that may even include laughter.

"The Outrun," a Sony Pictures Classics release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for language and brief sexuality."

# Retorts: Who's really in charge?

Continued from page 3

other six being voted in from their areas of the city.

It has led to more representation for minorities and women.

Most entities in our West Orange County governments have gone to the by-district system.

One of the last holdouts is Huntington Beach. Considering how much rancor and division has emerged from that council chamber over the past two years, maybe it's time for Surf City to consider a different way to approach how it chooses its representatives.



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**

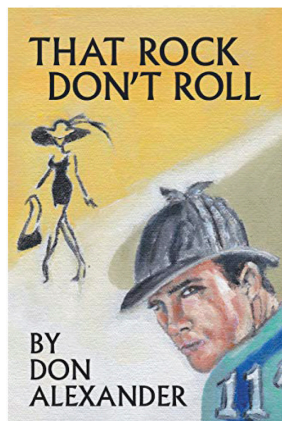
Who sponsors and contributes to training high school students on leadership and citizenship?  
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**Don Alexander** has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.



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