

■ GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

# Anti-Camping Ordinance Gets Final OK

Will go into effect in 30 more days

By Jim Tortolano  
Orange County Tribune

In one month, the parks, sidewalks and other public places in Garden Grove will be off-limits to people seeking to camp out. On Tuesday night the city council voted 7-0 in favor of adopting an ordinance that is intended to reduce the number of homeless people bedding down in publicly-owned places.

It will take effect in 30 days.

The ordinance will ban camping in public places and interfering with public access. The new law will prohibit such activity on public property such as streets, alleyways, sidewalks, medians, parkways, driveways, rights of way, restrooms, public benches, bus shelters, parks, open space, storm drains, public buildings or parking lots.

Additionally, the ordinance would prohibit camping near the entrances to a wide variety of public and private build-

Continued on page 2

## Tight races as the vote count proceeds slowly

It was clear from the start that the November 2024 elections were going to bring new faces into local government. But which new faces remains a bit uncertain a week after Election Day.

In Garden Grove, Councilmember Stephanie Klopfenstein is continuing to hold onto a modest but steady lead over

### Election 2024

former council member Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen by about 1,600 votes

Philip Nguyễn appears to be the new councilmember for District 2, outpacing John Ramirez by about 1,100 votes.

But the race is tighter in

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## HOT WHEELS, INDEED



CHARRED BODY of a car in a fire in Garden Grove over the weekend (OCFA photo)

## Electric car fire extinguished

A fire that ignited after an electric automobile crashed into a building's exterior wall was kept from spreading Saturday morning in Garden Grove.

According to the Orange County Fire Authority, the

blaze was reported around 3 a.m. in a business parking garage in the 13100 block of Magnolia Street (south of Garden Grove Boulevard).

Firefighters were able to confine the blaze to the

vehicle and kept it from spreading to the adjacent building.

They continued to cool the vehicle to make it safe to carry it away on a tow vehicle.

There were no injuries.

### In The Trib

## Five teams in second round of CIF playoffs



SPORTS Page 6

## Votes for non-citizens? Santa Ana says 'no'

SANTA ANA (AP) — Voters in Orange County's second most populated city rejected a measure that would have allowed residents who aren't U.S. citizens to vote in local elections.

Measure DD was rejected by 60 percent of the voters in Santa Ana, a city of about 310,000 according to the county registrar of

### Election 2024

voters. Santa Ana, a predominantly Latino community, had more votes for Vice President Kamala Harris than President-elect Donald Trump. Experts say the rejection of the measure may indicate

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# Anti-camping ordinance passes

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ings, with distances ranging from 20 to 250 feet. Unattended or abandoned personal property may be removed by city staff. This new ordinance comes in consequence of the U.S Supreme

Court ruling in Grants Pass v. Johnson in 2024 in which the high court determined that imposing civil and criminal penalties for camping on public land didn't constitute cruel and unusual punishment of homeless people.

# Tight OC races, some new faces

Continued from page 1

District 6, as Ariana Arestegui has overtaken Tri Lam, and now leads by 159 votes.

In Westminster, incumbent Councilmember Carlos Manzo (District 2) was a comfortable winner, garnering 52.56 percent of the votes in a three-way race. New to the council will be Mark Nguyen (District 3), who polled 54.20 percent in another three-

way contest. In Huntington Beach, three city council incumbents –Natalie Moser, Dan Kalmick and Rhonda Bolton – have been turned out in favor of Chad Williams, Butch Twining and Don Kennedy. And in the race for the 47th Congressional District, Democrat Dave Min has a narrow – but so far, stable – 5,912- vote edge over Republican Scott Baugh.

# SA votes 'no'

Continued from page 1

that voters, especially Latino voters, are shifting their attitudes about immigration. "This is kind of in line with trends we've been seeing in both polling and elections of the Latino community getting more conservative on issues of immi-

gration," said Jon Gould, dean of the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine. The measure faced steep opposition from local officials and conservative groups such as Policy Issues Institute, which claimed it would be costly and litigious and expend citizens' rights. Carlos Perea, an immigrant rights advocate who supported the measure, said those groups "hit the panic button."



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# News & Views

## Don Draper, where have you gone, bro?

So, I'm sitting there watching a parade of commercials – interrupted from time to time by a football game – and I'm thinking ... why do the beer and pharma companies spend so much on their little mini-dramas about how manly you are if you drink a certain cerveza, or how much love you will get from your family if you swallow a certain pill ... and then it hit me.



### Retorts Jim Tortolano

Because it works. Democrats are depressed because they lost. Republicans will soon be anxious about their dilemma of trying to find someone with the same charisma as Donald Trump.

In short, each of them is – or will be – searching for a “brand” that will go beyond just one individual. So here's my free advice.

Instead of spending 90 jillion bucks crammed into a two-month period every four years, advertise the message of your party all year long. Every year. Build up an image that won't rely on an individual.

You think people drink Coca Cola because they like the CEO? You think folks drive Toyotas because they admire Aki Toyoda?

Democrats, unleash your inner Don Draper. Let's see heart-warming tales of elderly people rejoicing in having their Social Security checks. Or heart-broken families terrified of huge medical bills because Obamacare is at risk.

Republicans, you can do this, too. Show cute children getting presents because tax cuts allow their parents plenty of take-home. Or maybe immigrants

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## Escape from a predawn fire

### Resident had been in converted garage in Westminster

A pre-dawn fire in Westminster damaged a home but the person inside escaped alive Sunday morning.

According to the Orange County Fire Authority, the resident was asleep in a converted garage on Reading Avenue (near Bushard Street) but awoke to flames just after 5 a.m. and left the building.

Firefighters were able to knock down the fire in 20 minutes and kept it from spreading to adjacent homes.

Firefighter paramedics checked the resident for injuries but



**FIREFIGHTERS** kept fire on Reading Avenue in Westminster from spreading to adjacent homes (OCFA photo).

transportation to a hospital was declined.

The cause is under investiga-

tion; the Fountain Valley Fire Department assisted in the operation.

## APPRECIATING VETERANS



**THIS CEREMONY** with the presentation of flags by an honor guard at Hazard Elementary School in Santa Ana (part of the Garden Grove Unified School District) was held recently honoring the men and women who have served in the military for the United States of America since 1776 (GGUSD photo).

## Arrest made in women's death in Westminster

A suspect has been arrested in the death of a Westminster woman.

According to Commander Andy Stowers of the WPD, officers were dispatched to the 8200 block of 19th Street at 9:45 p.m. on Friday for a check on the welfare of a woman who had not been heard from in several days.

The woman was found deceased at her home as a result of a homicide. Her identification was not released pending notification of next of kin.

A search warrant was obtained and additional evidence was located. A person of interest was detained and brought to the police station. The person, identified as Irving Mondragon, 38, of Westminster, was taken into custody. He's related to the decedent, but the nature of their relationship was not immediately disclosed.

The motive for the incident remains under investigation. The suspect was booked into Orange County Jail for murder.

# NewsUpdate

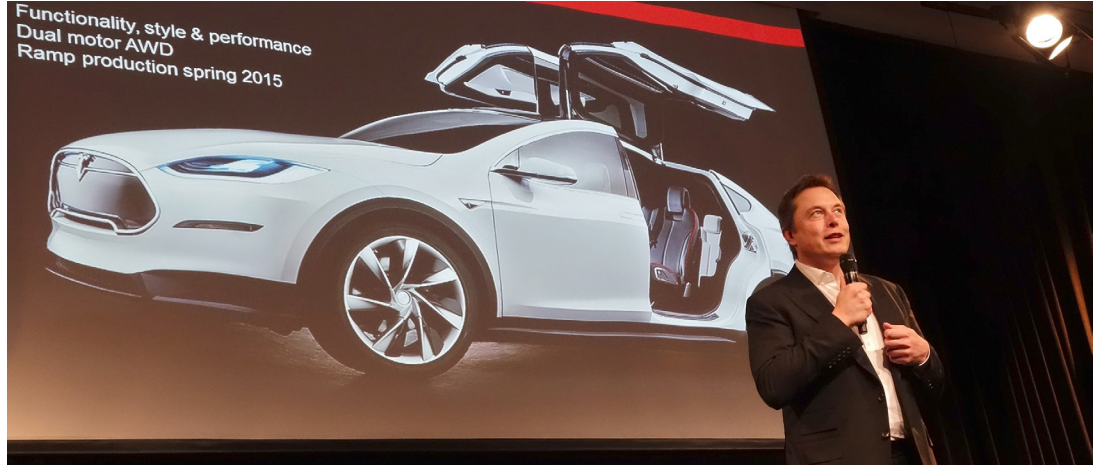
## Musk To Serve in 'Govt. Efficiency'

### Claimed he could cut \$2 trillion from U.S. budget

Elon Musk, the controversial billionaire behind Space X astronautics and Tesla electric cars, will join with former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy to lead a new "Department of Government Efficiency," President-elect Donald Trump announced on Tuesday.

According to the Associated Press, the "DOGE" will not actually be a government agency, but an organization that will provide "advice and guidance" to the White House. Musk would not be a full-time government employee.

In earlier comments, Musk has



ELON MUSK, head of SpaceX, Tesla and the social media platform X.

suggested that he could find over \$2 trillion in savings, which would be about one-third of the annual federal budget.

Ramaswamy ran for the 2024

GOP presidential nomination, dropped out of the race and endorsed Trump.

In related news, Trump announced that his pick for secre-

tary of defense was Pete Hegeth, a combat veteran and a host on a Fox News television program, "Fox & Friends."

## Force of 50,000 gathers to attack Ukraine lines

The U.S. Department of State has confirmed that North Koreans are in combat against Ukrainian forces in the southwestern Russian area of Kursk.

According to United Press International, an estimated 10,000 or more soldiers from the Democratic Republic of Korea are in

action seeking to oust Ukrainians who have seized several hundred square miles in the area.

The addition of North Koreans may just be part of a larger effort. The New York Times is reporting that about 50,000 troops have massed in a combined planned assault.



FLAG OF UKRAINE (Shutterstock)



MIKE JOHNSON is Speaker of the House (Shutterstock).

## GOP near to House control

Republicans are within two seats of taking control of the House of Representatives. According to The New York Times, the GOP has won 216 of the 218 needed for a majority. Democrats have 207 seats.

Still "uncalled" are 15 seats, several of which are in California, one of the slowest-counting states. Republicans already have established a majority in the U.S. Senate with 52 seats, while Democrats have 47 seats.

### Weather: A chilly weekend

If it's too warm an autumn for you, just wait. Although the forecast for Wednesday is for a daytime high of 77 (and overnight low of 46), things will chill a bit, to 71 (53) on Thursday) and then to 65 (46/45) on Friday and Saturday. Sunny skies ill continue through this time.

### Great Thoughts

"There are three periods in life: youth, middle age and 'how well you look'." – Nelson Rockefeller

# Arts & Living

## Theft Leads to a 'Piano Lesson'

Theatrical gem gets fine movie treatment here

By Lindsey Bahr  
AP Film Writer

An heirloom piano takes on immense significance for one family in 1936 Pittsburgh in August Wilson's "The Piano Lesson." Generational ties also permeate the film adaptation, in which Malcolm Washington follows in his father Denzel Washington's footsteps in helping to bring the entirety of The Pittsburgh Cycle — a series of 10 plays — to the screen.

Malcolm Washington did not start from scratch in his accomplished feature filmmaking debut.

He enlisted much of the cast from the recent Broadway revival with Samuel L. Jackson (Doaker Charles), his brother, John David Washington (Boy Willie), Ray Fisher (Lymon) and Michael Potts (Whining Boy).

Berniece, played by Danielle Brooks in the play, is now beautifully portrayed by Danielle Deadwyler. With such rich material and a cast for whom it's second nature, it would be hard, one imagines, to go wrong. Jackson's own history with the play goes back to its original run in 1987 when he was Boy Willie.

It's not the simplest thing to make a play feel cinematic, but Malcolm Washington was up to the task. His film opens up the world of the Charles family beyond the living room. In fact, this adaptation, which Washington co-wrote with "Mudbound" screenwriter Virgil Williams, goes beyond Wilson's text and shows us the past and the origins of the intricately engraved piano that's central to all the fuss.

It even opens on a big, action-filled set piece in 1911, during which the piano is stolen from a white family's home. Another fleshes out Doaker's monologue in which he explains to the uniniti-



SAMUEL L JACKSON and John David Washington in "The Piano Lesson" (Netflix).

### Movie Review

ated, Fisher's Lymon, and the audience, the tortured history of the thing. While it might have been nice to keep the camera on Jackson, such a great, grounding presence throughout, the good news is that he really makes narration shine as well.

Wilson purists will certainly have opinions on these artistic choices; But they let the film breathe a bit, offering some respite from the living room with the looming piano.

And most of the film stays right there, in 1936. Boy Willie and Lymon descend early one morning, uninvited, on the Pittsburgh home of Berniece and her uncle Doaker.

It's a family reunion with an agenda: They've driven a truck full of watermelons up north from Mississippi, and Willie, Berniece's younger brother, wants to sell the watermelons and then the piano.

The dusty old instrument represents to him a chance to let the

past go and start a future. With the money, he wants to buy the land that his enslaved ancestors worked. Berniece has other ideas about the piano, namely keeping it. It's a connection to the past, not an anchor. Besides, it might be haunted.

Yes, "The Piano Lesson," in theaters Friday and streaming on Netflix on Nov. 22, isn't just a meditation on family history. It's also a literal ghost story, with creaks, spooks and shadows lurking when the piano is disturbed.

Deadwyler is electric as Berniece, who bears the brunt of the haunting, walking on eggshells in her life, trying to care for her young daughter and fend off passes from men who assume she can only be fulfilled with one at her side.

Now she must deal with her somewhat manic brother who might, Doaker wisely reminds, actually, annoyingly, have a point. Perhaps the film academy will make up for their snub of her performance in "Till" with this turn.

### Good ★★★

Regardless of your familiarity with Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, "The Piano Lesson" is a worthwhile, captivating and moving watch full of charismatic performers.

Talent isn't always genetic, but the Washington family is putting in the work to prove otherwise.

And with "Fences," "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and now "The Piano Lesson," they're making a mark with a bold and ambitious project that is probably long overdue. Only seven more to go.

"The Piano Lesson," a Netflix release in theaters Friday and streaming Nov. 22, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "strong language, violent content, some suggestive references and smoking." Running time: 125 minutes.

# TheSportsPages

## He's a grand young Flagg for Duke, NBA

The last Next Big Thing in pro basketball – Caitlin Clark – made a huge splash and put the women's game on the front of the sports section.

The Next Big Thing in pro hoops may not be as big a deal, but could represent a significant moment in the sport.

His name is Cooper Flagg.

He's just starting his freshman season at Duke, but he's already turning heads and soon – turning turnstiles.

Still only 17 years old, he's not only shone

in the Blue Devil's first two games – both wins – but once hit two-of-three three-pointers over LeBron James in a contest between the USA Olympic team and its junior version, the USA Selects.

At 6-8 or so, he's shown that he can prosper in a variety of roles, including rebounding and assists, as well as scoring. He's considered a shoo-in for national college player of the year before making the leap to the NBA, perhaps as soon as next season.

He also has – in addition to a great name – one other major asset. He's ... you know ... a white guy.

Race has long been a consideration in pro hoops. There was a time – the 1950s and 1960s – when it was an unwritten rule that while you could start three Black players at home, you used no more than two when on the road.

In the 1970s and 1980s, with NBA's appeal slumping, the claim was that the league was “too Black” for a primarily white audience. Aside from Larry Bird, there were few pale

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## Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

# Five Survivors Pressing On

## CIF-SS football second round Thursday, Friday

Five local high school football teams survived the first round of the CIF-SS playoffs and will be in action this week in quarterfinal play.

One game – El Rancho at Los Amigos – will be played Thursday at Garden Grove High's Monsoor Stadium.

The other four – Edison at Bonita, Huntington Beach at Summit, Pacifica at the Brentwood School and Pioneer at La Quinta at Bolsa Stadium – will be played on Friday.

Here are some details:

• **El Rancho at Los Amigos:** The Lobos are 11-0 and champions of the Sigma League. They advanced to the second round with a 17-16 win over Calvary Chapel of Santa Ana. They are led by Issac Galindo, who is averaging 133 yards per game rushing. The Dons are 7-4 and finished third in the Del Rey League. They advanced with a 31-28 win over Bell Gardens. This is a Division 11 game.

• **Edison at Bonita:** The Chargers are 7-4 overall and finished third in the Alpha League. They advanced with a 24-0 shutout of North High of Torrance. Julius Gillick led the green-and-gold with 1,679 yards rushing and 24 touchdowns. He also caught 22 passes for 168 yards and one score. The Bearcats are 11-0



ISSAC GALINDO of Los Amigos in first round CIF-SS football playoff action (GGUSD photo).

and are champions of the Sierra League. Bonita defeated the Cathedral Phantoms 35-20 in the opening round of Division 3. Travis Lippert passed for 1,906 yards and 28 TDs.

• **Huntington Beach at Summit:** The Oilers are 7-4 and finished third in the Epsilon League. They won last week 56-39 over Western High of Anaheim. Gary Edmunds this season has thrown for 3,102 yards and 34 touchdowns. The Skyhawks are 10-1 and champs of the Sunkist League. They beat West High of Torrance 37-7 in the D-5 opener. Mark Mitchell has rushed for 1,231 yards and 17 scores.

• **Pacifica at the Brentwood School:** The Mariners are 6-5 and champs of the Omicron League. They opened the D-10

playoffs by besting La Canada 7-3. Addison Adams has scored seven TDs and Noah Lewis has completed 63 percent of his passes. The Eagles are 8-3 overall and took second in the Gold Coast League. They beat St. Monica 38-32 last week in D-10 action. Patrick Sterling has rushed for 656 yards and eight scores.

• **Pioneer at La Quinta:** The Aztecs are 8-3 overall and finished fourth in the Tango League. They won their Division 14 opener 21-10 over Saddleback. Cooper Starnes has rushed for 1,639 yards and 28 touchdowns so far. The Titans are 6-5 and took third in the 605 League. Adrian Lopez is averaging 68.4 yards per game. Pioneer beat Vasquez 41-0 in the D-14 first round.

# Lakers, Clips, Ducks, Kings in action

All four LA-OC “winter” pro sports teams will be in action on Wednesday night.

The Los Angeles Lakers will be hosting the Memphis Grizzlies. They're 6-4 so far, good for seventh in the NBA Western Conference. They are 5-0 at home, but 1-4 on the road.

Memphis is 7-4 and a half-

## ■ NBA and NHL

game ahead of the Lakers.

The Los Angeles Clippers will be in Houston playing the Rockets. They're 6-5 and are eighth in the Western Conference. They're 3-4 at home and 3-1 on the road. The Rockets at 7-4 and tied with Memphis.

The Los Angeles Kings will be in Denver playing the Colorado Avalanche. They're 9-5-3 (good for first place in the NHL Pacific Division) The Avs are 8-8-0 (16 points) and in fourth place in the Central Division. The Anaheim Ducks (5-7-2) will be at Honda Center, hosting the Vegas Golden Knights.

# Chargers with inside track to wild card

## Bolts beat Titans for third straight victory, 27-17

By Joe Reedy  
AP Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD (AP) — The combination of steady play by Justin Herbert and a strong defense has given the Los Angeles Chargers their best start in six years.

Herbert threw for a touchdown and ran for one, and the Chargers had seven sacks in their third straight victory, 27-17 over the Tennessee Titans on Sunday. The Chargers are 6-3 — their best start since going 7-2 in 2018 — and have won four of five to surpass last season’s victory total.

“A complete, total team win. When you look at the offense, the drives that we put together ... tough, gritty type of conver-



JUSTIN HERBERT has led the Chargers into a strong playoff position (Chargers photo).

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sions on third down and fourth down,” coach Jim Harbaugh said. “They’re playing lights out on the defensive side. And then special teams, another big return by our punt return unit.”

Herbert completed 14 of 18 passes for 164 yards and had 32 yards rushing. He is the seventh quarterback since the NFL-AFL merger, and the first since Philip Rivers in 2018, to have a passer rating of at least 90 in each of the first nine games of the season.

The defense — which is allowing a league-low 13.1 points per game — is the fourth since 1990 and the first since the 2013 Kansas City Chiefs to allow 20 or fewer points in each of its first nine games.

“Rush and coverage. We have some of the best rushers in the league and that allows us to make plays,” safety Derwin James said.

The Titans (2-7) came in with the NFL’s top-ranked defense overall and against the pass but forced Los Angeles to go three-and-out only twice in nine possessions.

Calvin Ridley scored both of Tennessee’s touchdowns and had five catches for 84 yards.

## Rams fall 23-15, face Pats next

With their offense struggling to find the end zone, the Los Angeles Rams lost 23-15 to the Miami Dolphins at SoFi Stadium on Monday.

It was the teams’ sixth straight loss to the Florida team, but more importantly, it snapped a three-game win streak and dropped the Rams (4-5) into third place in the four-team NFC West Division.

Rookie Josh Karty kicked five field goals — a sixth was negated due to a penalty — but the offense was unable to scoring a touchdown.

The Rams are back in action Sunday, visiting the New England Patriots (3-7).

Will Levis, who missed the last three games with a shoulder injury, was 18 of 23 for 175 yards, but the sacks limited his effectiveness.

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# Chargers defeat Titans for third straight

Continued from page 7

“It was a nice start. It was cool to get the ball downfield and get that shot dialed up, something we’ve been waiting on,” Levis said. “Second half, I think for me personally, a couple situations where I could have just got the ball out of my hands earlier, help the line with pressure.”

Herbert gave the Chargers a 13-7 lead with 1:55 remaining in the first half on a 4-yard run

off right tackle out of the shotgun formation on fourth-and-1. “I thought we did a great job from start to the end being able to move the ball, run the ball, pass the ball however we needed to move it,” Herbert said. “I thought the guys up front did an incredible job and to be able to put that together against a very good opponent, it means a lot to me.”

The game turned with 21 seconds remaining in the first half. The Titans appeared to tie it at 13 when Roger McCreary ran back Herbert’s fumble 20 yards into the end zone. After a replay review, the call was changed to an incomplete pass because of-

officials determined Herbert’s arm was going forward, leaving Titans coach Brian Callahan incensed.

Callahan said officials initially told him the call was going to stand before they and the replay center in New York took another look.

“I’ll let you guys decide what you think the call should have been, but I don’t want to lose any money,” he said.

Harbaugh and Herbert said the reversal was huge.

“To be able to go to halftime with the lead and to avoid a play like that is big time,” Herbert said.

And then the Chargers took control in the second half.

Herbert extended the lead to 20-10 with three minutes to go in the third quarter on a 16-yard pass to Quentin Johnston in the right corner of the end zone.

Hassan Haskins, who spent two seasons with Tennessee,

extended the advantage to 17 points with a 1-yard dive up the middle. That capped an 11-play, 95-yard drive that ate up seven minutes.

“It was just steady. It’s like death by a thousand paper cuts when you play that way, and we kind of gave up just enough yards every time on a 95-yard drive to allow them to go punch it in for seven when we had them backed up on the 5,” Callahan said.

Ridley’s day

The Chargers got a 21-yard field goal from Cameron Dicker on their opening possession before the Titans answered with Levis’ 41-yard strike to Ridley. Levis faked a handoff to Tony Pollard and had plenty of time in the pocket. Ridley caught it at the Chargers 6 and had a couple yards of separation on defensive back Ja’Sir Taylor before scoring his second touchdown this season.



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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**

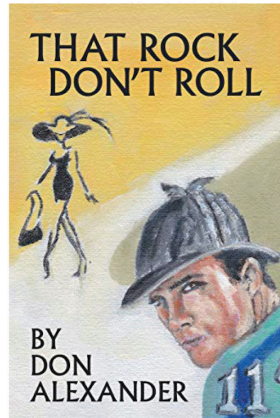
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## Some serious fun

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: You deserve a tax break or maybe it’s the real thing

Continued from page 3

deported back home in Nicaragua, saying, “Me alegre de estar de vuelta en Managua. Gracias, republicanos.” (“I’m glad to be back in Managua. Thanks, Republicans.”)

Of course, to be effective, these messages – as with beer ads – would have to be shown all year long. It would be like all-elections, all-the-time! Democracy 24-7!

On the other hand ... maybe my idea needs some refinements. There is such a thing as too much of a good thing.

## Sports Retorts: Good news

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hoopers playing at the highest “celebrity” level. Films like “White Men Can’t Jump” underscored the myth that .. well, you know. The internationalization of the league has changed that. Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets has been the NBA’s MVP three times, for example.

It’s widely believed that there’s a certain element of the fan base who would enjoy someone who looks like them.

So, there’s that unspoken notion that any team that is able to – here comes the pun – raise the Flagg in the next NBA draft will be getting more than just a good basketball player.

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