

Farewell Steve, Hello Ms. Mayor

Diverse new council has a female majority now

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

Stephanie Klopfenstein is living history as the first directly-elected woman mayor in Garden Grove.

That's especially noteworthy, because her family embodies the history of the community, having been in the Big Strawberry for well over 100 years.

"My great-grandmother was born here in 1898," said Klopfenstein in an interview at SteelCraft, the downtown open-air eatery, "so we have five generations of women born in Garden Grove."

As a bridge from the city's past into its present and future, she has many plans for the community when she takes the oath of office at Tuesday's meet-

Jones steps down New faces are in

Bidding farewell to three outgoing members and the seating of three new members is the agenda for Tuesday's meeting of the Garden Grove City Council.

Leaving will be Steve Jones after eight years as mayor and council members John O'Neill and Kim Nguyen-Penalosa; installed as mayor will be Stephanie Klopfenstein and new council members Philip Nguyen (District 2), Yesenia Muneton (District 5) and Ariana Arestegui (District 6).



NEW MAYOR Stephanie Klopfenstein makes a point (Tribune photo).

ing of the Garden Grove City Council.

In the Nov. 5 election, she finished first in a field of seven candidates, which included two former councilmembers, a sitting councilmember and a

school board trustee.

Klopfenstein, now 44, was elected to the council first in 2016 and again in 2020 representing District 5. She's married to husband Erik and is mother to daughter Emerson, 13.

"First and foremost, I want to be accessible," she said. "I want people to know I'm going to be a mayor that will listen to their concerns and needs, and I want them to know

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Two meetings, one for the new member

For fans of meetings of the Westminster City Council, there's a treat: two sessions next week.

The first will be on Monday at 5 p.m. in the council chambers (8200 Westminster Blvd.), topped by consideration of making changes in the mixed-use districts and directing city staff to rezone mobile home parks in those dis-

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

tricts.

"Misinformation" suggesting that mobile home park residents might be evicted to make way for mixed-use developments is prompting those proposed modifications.

The other meeting will

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In The Trib 'Moana 2' film is dazzling but a bit dull



ARTS & LIVING Page 5

Busy night for the new and 'old' lineup

The new member of the Stanton City Council elected on Nov. 5, will have to wait a bit longer to take his seat on the dais.

Yes, Victor Barrios will be sworn in at Tuesday's meeting of the council as the new council member representing District 2 and John Douglas Warren for a second term for District 4 but those ceremonies

STANTON CITY COUNCIL

will be conducted toward the end of the meeting instead of the beginning, which is more typical.

The council has a heavy agenda, which includes:

- a public hearing on a proposed ordinance amending the municipi-

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Stanton city council meets

Continued from page 1

pal code regarding accessory dwelling units and junior accessory units to comply with recent changes in state law;

- a public hearing on a proposed ordinance establishing security standards for motels and hotels to curb their use for illegal activities;

- second and final approval of an ordinance limiting city council campaign contributions to

\$1000;

- second and final approval of an ordinance prohibiting sleeping, sitting, laying and or storing personal property in a way that obstructs access to public streets, sidewalks, etc.

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

Westminster city council

Continued from page 1

be on Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Rose Center Theater (14140 All American Way) for the administering of the oath of office to re-elected Councilmember Carlos Manzo (District 2) and newly-elected Councilman Mark Nguyen (District 3).

Additionally, the council will select a vice mayor, a post currently held by Kimberly Ho, the outgoing District 3 councilmember.

New GG mayor

Continued from page 1

that I'm going to roll up my sleeves and get to work." She praised the work of the current council and especially outgoing mayor Steve Jones. "He's definitely turned the city over to me in good hands."

Klopfenstein has a long list of priorities including having a unified city council, working to help small businesses, "maximizing growth" in the Harbor Corridor, continuing to tackle homelessness, neighborhood integrity and quality of life. "We have to have some fun."

Her ascension to the position of top-elected official in Garden Grove comes at a time when the council's makeup looks little like it has in past years.

"This is the most diverse city council ever," said Klopfenstein, noting that the new lineup will have two Hispanics, two "Caucasians" and three Vietnamese members.

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News & Views

Diversity, etc. may be next HB battlefield

Now that the Huntington Beach City Council is painted bright-red MAGA with all seven members being on the same page, one has to wonder just what the next interesting step will be when the new lineup gathers on Dec. 17 for its open meeting.

According to exit and other polls, the single factor that moved Americans who voted to return Donald Trump to the White House was inflation.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

As James Carville famously said of Bill Clinton's victorious 1992 campaign, "It's the economy, stupid."

But now that the "HB Three" has been added to the original "Fab Four," there doesn't seem much that the council can do to lower the cost of living for denizens of Huntington Beach, so the most likely realm of action will be in the more emotionally satisfying area of culture wars.

During its 2022-24 session, the council majority offended gays by banning "identity politics" such as flying the "rainbow flag" associated with LGBTQ folks, cheated off library lovers and librarians by seeking to ban books – or at least banish them to other parts of the building – and continuing a long and expensive jousting with the State of California over housing, framing it as an issue of "local control."

My bet is that D.E.I. will be the next battleground. That stands for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness, and is the liberal successor to the often-controversial "affirmative action" programs of the late 20th century.

Continued on page 8

Molestation suspect arrested

Extradition process from Florida back to California underway

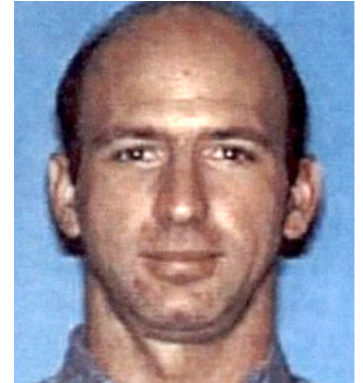
A suspect in several Huntington Beach child molestation cases has been arrested in Florida and is awaiting extradition to Orange County.

According to the HBPD, George Philip Foord, 54, commonly known as "Phil," has been arrested in Ridge Manor, Florida by the Hernando County Sheriff's office.

In October 2024, a victim contacted the HBPD to report child molestation crimes dating back to the 1990s. The investigation discovered three additional victims, aged 12 to 16 years at the time. The incidents took place throughout the 1990s and 2000s.

Foord was arrested on seven counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14, with bail set at \$1 million.

Police believe there may be more victims. Anyone with more information is encouraged to contact Detective M. Eskes at (714) 536-5967.



GEORGE PHILIP FOORD
Arrested on molest charges.

SLOW DOWN AND SIGN UP



Huntington Beach police are continuing to enforce laws about illegal and dangerous use of electric motor vehicles. This Surron – impounded by the HBPD – is considered an electric motorcycle and not an electric bicycle. The "EM" can require a license, registration and insurance, while the "EB" does not. Why? Because the electric bicycle typically has a top speed of 20 miles an hour and the motorcycle version can reach 100 miles an hour. Operation by underage and reckless riders have become safety hazards for riders, pedestrians and motorists, say police.

Sharks spotted off HB

Watch out for the sharks.

According to Huntington Beach lifeguards, sharks have been spotted in the waters near the shore.

Two young sharks were caught by anglers, but the fish freed themselves by biting through the lines and swimming into deeper water.

In an Instagram post HB lifeguards warned that "these sightings remind us that the sea is their home and we share these waters with marine life of all kinds."

Assistance has been requested from the state Department of Fish and Wildlife and with the HB-1 police helicopter to keep a watchful eye on the area for sharks.

Flipped car clogged traffic on GG Fwy.

A flipped-over vehicle blocked traffic on the Garden Grove Freeway Thursday morning in an incident that left at least one person injured.

According to the California Highway Patrol, the accident was reported at 9:02 a.m. near Harbor Boulevard in Garden Grove on the eastbound lanes of the freeway.

The vehicle was resting on its roof and blocking the middle lane of the freeway. A SigAlert was issued around 9:30 a.m.

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NewsUpdate

S. Korean President Is ‘Truly Sorry’

Martial law use backfires; could face impeachment

Facing impeachment over his decision to – briefly – impose martial law, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said he was “truly sorry” for his actions, speaking in a televised address.

According to the Associated Press, Yoon said he would not try to avoid legal or political responsibility for his actions. He also vowed to not repeat his controversial imposition of martial law.

That action led to widespread protests across the nation. Southern Korean legislators



SOUTH KOREAN President Yoon Suk Yeol

will be meeting on whether to impeach Yoon. A two-thirds majority vote – 200 out of 300 members of the National As-

sembly – is required for an impeachment resolution to pass.

Before that, the National Assembly will vote on a bill to ap-

point a special prosecutor to investigate allegations of corruption against Yoon’s wife.

Hunt continues for the killer of chief executive of UnitedHealth Care

A search is ongoing through a wooded area in New York’s Central Park for a suspect in the fatal shooting of Brian Thompson, CEO of UnitedHealth Care.

The New York Times is reporting that police have found a backpack they believe was left by the man they think killed Thompson.

Police now believe that the suspect – still unnamed – has probably left the city. The NYPD Chief of Detectives indicated that he was able to frustrate pursuit fleeing in a “zigzag” escape through Manhattan via bicycle, on foot, in a taxicab and on a



IS THIS the suspect? (NYPD)

bus. In searching for a suspect, there are security camera images of a smiling man wearing a hooded jacket, but experts disagree on whether that’s the image of the actual gunman.

Great Thoughts

“Tell me, and I forget. Teach me, and I remember. Involve me, and I learn.”

— Benjamin Franklin, inventor, writer, etc.

Verdict of \$965 million against Jones is upheld

A Connecticut panel of judges has upheld a \$965 million verdict against Alex Jones, a conspiracy theorist who claimed that the Sandy Hook massacre of children and teachers at an elementary school was a fake, staged event.

According to the Associated Press, the panel agreed with a 2022 decision that the “threats and harassment” promoted by Jones’ broadcasts justified the huge award.

In total, Jones now owes \$1.2 billion, including the \$50 million awarded in Texas to the parents of a child who was killed at Sandy Hook.

Twenty-seven people were killed in the December 14, 2012



ALEX JONES
Conspiracy theorist

incident, including 20 children, six adult staff members and the gunman.

Weather: It’s getting a bit cooler

The thermometer is heading south – for a while –for our West Orange County area. Saturday will be sunny and mildly warm with a daytime high of 76 with an overnight low of 48. But then the temperature will drop sharply on Sunday to 67 (49) under partly cloudy skies. Monday will be slightly cooler at 66 (50) with sun, which will last on a warmer Tuesday at 73 (49).

Arts & Living

'Moana 2': Dazzling But Dull

Cartoon art blends with cultural truths

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

The warm Polynesian spirit and open-sea sense of adventure is back in "Moana 2," but little of the original's humor or catchy songs finds its way into this heartfelt but lackluster sequel set three years after the original.

"Moana 2," which opens in theaters Wednesday, was originally put into development as a streaming series before it was rerouted to the big screen. Curiously, though, it's not scale or spectacle lacking here. Directors David Derrick Jr., Jason Hand and Dana Ledoux Miller have made an often dazzlingly animated film that is, visually, a step up from 2016's "Moana."

But in a story that brings in a literal boatload of new characters, it's hard to shake the feeling that "Moana 2" got caught in the crosswinds — too blown between shifting studio imperatives to really find its own way.

That's a shame because the original "Moana" is about the lightest, most joyful animated movie Disney has made in a decade — with the possible exception of "Encanto," which likewise bounced to the buoyant rhythms of songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda. (Miranda is crucially absent in "Moana 2," though "Hamilton" director Thomas Kail is currently developing a live-action "Moana.")

Photorealistic remakes have been the more dominant providence of the Magic Kingdom in recent years, a trend that's made more whimsical, imagination-filled animations like "Moana" all the more exceptional. Here was a movie that somehow balanced Pacific Island cultural authenticity with the cartoony delights of a demigod turned accidental shark



AULI'I CRAVALHO AND DWAYNE JOHNSON provide the voices for "Moana 2," which opened this week in theaters (Walt Disney Co.)

Movie Review

and Jemaine Clement as a singing, flaunting giant crab. Talk about win win.

Such inventiveness is harder to come by in the perfectly earnest but not especially inspired "Moana." It opens with a visibly grown Moana (Auli'i Cravalho, returning) engaged in a search for evidence of Pacific Islanders beyond her home island. She is by now a mythic figure, herself, to her people, idolized by youngsters for her courage and for being "superbesties" with the demigod Maui (Dwayne Johnson, also back).

When Moana turns up an artifact with evidence of a two-peaked island, Motufetu, fabled as the once binding center of their ancestors, she sets out to find the cursed island and reunite the disparate people of Oceania. This time, though, Moana is sailing with a more crowded boat.

Some of the old sidekicks — the rooster Heihei (with noises courte-

sy of Alan Tudyk) and the pig Pua — are back. But Moana decides she needs human help this time, and brings along a crew featuring the uber Maui fan Moni (Hualalai Chung), the engineer Loto (Rose Matefeo) and the curmudgeonly older farmer Kele (David Fane).

Each of these characters has one generic note to play, and while you could see the need to add in more personalities for a series (Moana also now has a cute little sister, voiced by Khaleesi Lambert-Tsuda), they are effectively dead weight in "Moana 2."

To me, the iconic image of these films is Moana as a solo adventurer, leaning against the wind in her camakau and setting an unknown course. Sure, Maui is inevitably her buddy-comedy partner in adventure, but Moana and her canoe should permit passengers no more than John Wayne did on his horse.

After an encounter with the coconut brigade of the Kakamora, Moana and Maui eventually reunite via a giant clam, where Maui has been trapped by Matangai (Awhimai Fraser, having fun), a myste-

Fair ★★

rious, bat-adorned figure who's a kind of villain for the movie. She's more interesting than some recent Disney antagonists and gets probably the best song ("Get Lost") in a movie that mightily misses Miranda's touch. (The songs are by Abigail Barlow and Emily Bear.)

That scene and the climactic one, with a sea of tornadoes spinning across stormy waters, are vividly drawn — enough, surely, to delight younger moviegoers. Coming fast on the heels of "Wicked," one of the most salient selling points of "Moana 2" may be its comparatively nimble running time. At 100 minutes, it's a full hour shorter than "Wicked."

Ironically, "Moana 2" — beefed up from a would-be series — has brevity in its favor. But the hopes for "Moana 2" should go beyond mere placeholder. Only a few times does the banter between Moana and Maui really remind

Continued on page 8

TheSportsPages

Coming soon from the MLB: Gift of GAB

The Powers That Be in Major League Baseball are pleased as punch with the changes they have wrought.

And they should be. The introduction of the pitch clock, restrictions on defensive shifts and bigger bases have indeed made the game quicker, boosted scoring and in general made it more appealing.

Now comes the latest – and arguably weirdest – proposed rule change: introduction of the “Golden At-Bat.”

Here’s the sitch: once a game, the team at bat would be allowed to bring to the plate their best hitter regardless of where he was in the batting order.

Let’s say the Dodgers are trailing in the bottom of the ninth. Bases loaded and Shohei Ohtani flies out for the second out of the inning. Under the Golden At-Bat, the Unicorn could come right back to the plate and take some more swings.

What do you think? Does it sound like the “lightning round” in those cheesy game shows to hold your attention toward the end of the program?

Or a last-second-reversal like you see in professional wrestling or in – bless its departed soul – roller derby?

I tend to lean that way, but I can see the appeal. Fans – especially LA-OC fans – who start to leave in the seventh inning to beat the traffic might linger a bit longer just in case.

And the folks at home might not click away as early, giving sponsors the chance to sell more beer or Toyotas, which is really the purpose of televised sports.

Of course, there will be trial

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Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano



KYREN WILLIAMS (23, with ball) has given the Rams a credible running game, something that’s sometimes been missing in previous seasons (Rams photo).

2024 Rams Need to Run

Next challenge is a red-hot Bills team on Sunday

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After struggling to run the ball consistently all season, the Los Angeles Rams finally made some progress on the ground in New Orleans.

Kyren Williams and rookie Blake Corum carried the Rams (6-6) to a 21-14 win that kept them squarely in the playoff race for another week.

Los Angeles racked up a season-high 156 yards rushing against the Saints, with Williams going for 104 yards and a touchdown while Corum added 42 yards on a season high-tying eight carries.

The game was the inverse of most afternoons this season for the Rams, who came into the week averaging fewer than 100

Area Football Weekend

- Chargers (8-4) at Kansas City Chiefs (11-1) on Sunday, 5:20 p.m. Channel 4.
- Rams (6-6) host Buffalo Bills (10-2) on Sunday, 1:25 p.m., Channel 11.

yards rushing per game.

The running game was sturdy and productive, while Matthew Stafford and his receivers struggled to get into a rhythm at the

Continued on page 8

Edison will test perfect home mark

There is, indeed, no place like home for the Edison High School Chargers football team. Now the CIF-SS Division 3 champions, the green-and-gold will be hosting the Granite Hills Eagles of El Cajon on Saturday at Sheue Field at 7 p.m. in a CIF Southern Regional title game.

The winner will play for the

state championship next week.

Edison doesn’t have an on-campus field, but plays their home games on the historic field at Huntington Beach High. While the team is 10-4 overall, they are invincible there, winning all six games.

On the other hand, the visiting Eagles (11-2) have their own

spotless mark: they are 5-0 on the road.

Edison is led by running back Julian Gillick, who has rushed for 2,112 yards and 32 touchdowns.

Granite Hills can counter with star Max Turner, who has carried for 1,928 yards and 29 touchdowns.

Pacifica top boys hoops team, Aztecs girls (so far)

It's not officially winter, but "winter" sports such as basketball are in full swing for area high schools. The teams are involved in tournament and pre-league games and will be through the end of December, with league play starting in January. Here's a (very brief) look at how

Prep Sport Spotlight

the local teams in our West Orange County area are doing so far. Records are through Thursday's games.

The girls' squads with the very best record are La Quinta (6-3), Bolsa Grande (4-2) and Los Amigos (4-2). In the next tier are Orange (3-2), Magnolia (3-3) and Huntington Beach (1-1).

The team with the most room to improve is Edison at 0-6. Among the boys' teams, the squad with the best record so far is Pa-

cifica (6-2), followed by Magnolia (5-3), Santiago (5-3) and Los Amigos (5-3). Next is Garden Grove (5-4).

Looking forward to better days are Magnolia (0-2) and Bolsa Grande (1-5).

We want news about your team. Send results, photos, feature ideas, etc. to orangecountytribune.com.

Can Chargers break the streak vs Kansas City?

Associated Press

On Sunday the Los Angeles Chargers (8-4) will be on the road to Kansas City, hoping to break a six-game winless streak against the Chiefs (11-1).

Here are the spec:

- Series record: Chiefs lead 70-58-1.
- Last meeting: Chiefs beat Chargers 17-10 on Sept. 29, 2024.
- Last week: Chargers beat Falcons 17-13; Chiefs beat Raiders 19-17.

- Chargers offense: overall (24), rush (18), pass (24), scoring (18).
- Chargers defense: overall (14), rush (14), pass (10), scoring (1).
- Chiefs offense: overall (15), rush (19), pass (12), scoring (11).
- Chiefs defense: overall (8), rush (3), pass (23), scoring (8).

Chargers player to watch

WR Ladd McConkey has been dealing with shoulder and knee injuries but still had nine catches for 117 yards in the Chargers' win over the Falcons last week. He has the second-most yards re-

ceiving of any rookie this season and has quickly become one of Justin Herbert's go-to options in the passing game.

Chiefs player to watch

RB Isiah Pacheco was predictably eased back into the lineup in last week's win over the Raiders after he was sidelined since Week 2 with an ankle injury. He only had seven carries but popped one of them for 34 yards and ended up with a team-best 44 yards rushing. Pacheco was

more productive than Kareem Hunt, who had seven carries for 15 yards.

Key matchup

The Chargers WRs against the Kansas City secondary. The Chiefs have struggled mightily in the back end since cornerback Jaylen Watson was lost to a season-ending injury. They allowed the Raiders' Aidan O'Connell to throw for 340 yards and two touchdowns without an interception last week.

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Rams' playoff hopes may run through ground game

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Superdome.

Coach Sean McVay always prefers to use his run game to set up the pass, and it finally worked for once this season.

"I thought Kyren ran really well," McVay said. "I thought Corum ran really well. I thought our offensive line set the line of scrimmage in the run game. We really started slow in the pass game, but I thought Matthew

was excellent in the second half. We were able to get some different things off of those run actions going, and that ended up being the difference in the game."

Not coincidentally, the Rams' running game worked well on the Sunday when the offensive line finally had a starting five uncompromised by injuries or suspension for the first time all season. Right tackle Rob Havenstein returned from an ankle injury, making the group whole around rookie center Beau Limmer, who has beaten out high-priced free agent Jonah Jackson for a starting job.

The Rams still had yet another slow start in a season full of them. They ran only three plays

in the entire first quarter, and they were held scoreless in the first half when their other two drives resulted in a turnover on downs and a punt.

But Los Angeles rebounded with an 11-play scoring drive to open the second half featuring seven runs by Williams. He eventually moved up to fifth in the NFL with 926 yards rushing despite averaging just 4.2 yards per carry — nearly a yard less than he had last season, and the lowest average among the league's top 10 rushers this season.

The Rams have thrived without a strong rushing attack before: They averaged just 99.0 yards per game on the ground, ranking 25th in the NFL, during their Super Bowl championship season in 2021-22.

But McVay prefers his first option to be a strong running attack, which he had during his first three seasons in charge with Todd Gurley in the backfield and Andrew Whitworth at left tackle. "Anytime the guys up front are moving them, and (Williams) is making great reads and moves on the second level, then that is a fun feeling for the offense," Stafford said. "It's great when

you can hand the ball off and get big creases. We converted when we needed to in short-yardage stuff. I thought our guys did a really great job up front, and Kyren ran it great."

The Next Steps

The Rams are home underdogs this week against powerhouse Buffalo, followed by a Thursday night game at San Francisco. Getting even one win out of these two matchups will be difficult, but probably necessary to keep pace with Seattle and Arizona in the NFC West.

'Moana 2'

Continued from page 3

you of the fun that characterized the original. In one such moment, Moana corrects Maui after he calls her — perhaps confusing Moana for many other Disney protagonists — a princess. His comeback? "Well, a lot of people think you are."

"Moana 2," a Walt Disney Co. release is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for action/peril. Running time: 100 minutes.

'Golden At-Bat' for MLB?

Continued from page 6

runs in the minors first, but considering the boost the sport got from the last wave of tinkering with the game, this idea has a pretty "golden" chance of making it to a baseball stadium near you.

Retorts: Should DEI be dumped?

Continued from page 3

DEI has become the most deeply-rooted in college and universities where the prospects for candidates for professor positions may hinge on their support for DEI, which is basically the proposition of making special efforts to place emphasis not just on qualifications but on membership in — or enthusiasm for — hiring "underrepresented" minorities.

I can't judge the motivation for opinions that reject DEI, but I know they will "play in Peoria," as the saying used to go. The basic America idea — at least since the passages of the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 — has been that discrimination and segregation based on race, religion, etc. is and should be unlawful. A fair field and no favor.

You can't legally now hire or fire someone because of those factors, but human nature being what it is, "color-blind" policies have sometimes turned into "color-binding" practice. "Preferences" based on "underrepresentation" can look a lot like a twisting of fairness.

At least that's the way it will be pitched. Stay tuned for the Second Act.



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

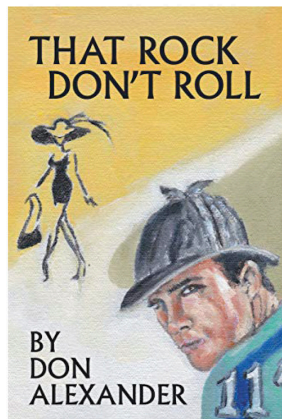
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That Rock Don't Roll

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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.