

# Lawsuit Is Filed Over Flower Show

## Violation of environmental law alleged by Protect HB

A lawsuit has been filed against the City of Huntington Beach to block a planned light show to be staged in the city's Central Park East.

The Protect HB group filed a petition in Orange County Superior Court on Thursday claiming that the light show – intended to bring more revenue to the cash-strapped city – violated state environmental law.

On Feb. 18, the council approved on a 7-0 vote the agreement with Flowers in the Sky Entertainment LLC for the management and operation of the

“Symphony of Flowers” light show on a six-acre site.

Critics claimed the event would risk environmental damage to the park – located at Talbert Street and Goldenwest Street – including the dislocation of wildlife.

The city would receive at least \$150,000 a year during the three-years of the contract, with shows for about six months annually.

At a report to the council on Feb. 4, a consulting firm told city leaders that Surf City will likely be running deficits annually through the fiscal year of 2033.

## EDISON CREW HELPED SAVE LIVES



The help of a Southern California Edison work detail and the quick arrival of Orange County Fire Authority crews combined to save the lives of the residents of a home on Lambert Circle in Garden Grove on Thursday morning. Firefighters were dispatched at 9:57 a.m. and arrived in just six minutes, but the SCE crew working in the area saw the smoke, drove to the house and pounded on windows and doors to alert the sleeping residents, assisting in their escape. No residents were injured and a cat was rescued. However two dogs in the home died and three SCE workers were taken to the hospital for evaluation due to smoke inhalation, but went home the same day. Help was provided by Anaheim Fire and Rescue and SoCal Red Cross.

## It's a light agenda this time

A relatively light and non-controversial agenda greets the Huntington Beach City Council when it meets on Tuesday evening.

Some big ticket items include:

- a contract with Data

### ■ HUNTINGTON BEACH COUNCIL

Ticket Inc. for the processing of citations and parking permits in the amount of \$1,950,000 for a three-year period;

- accept and approve a

state grant in the amount of \$203,142 to combat violence against women and a contract worth \$116,031 to Wayfarers for victim and witness assistance services.

- a three-year service

Continued on page 2

### In The Tribune



**Pitchers throw too hard now?**

SPORTS 6 and 7



**Fantastic farce with 'Family'**

ARTS & LIVING 5

## 7 arrested in att. burglary

An investigation is ongoing into the activities of what police believe is a “trans-national” gang that tried to burglarize a home in Westminster.

According to Com-

mander Andy Stowers of the WPD, seven people – two of them juveniles – were arrested on Sunday at a burglary in progress at 3:30 p.m in the area of Bushard Street and Haz-

ard Avenue.

A neighbor noticed suspicious activity and reported that he saw six suspects breaking into a house and noted two ve-

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# Seven arrested in burglary

Continued from page 1

hicles that might be associated with them.

Within three minutes, WPD officers arrived and saw several suspects entering two getaway vehicles. Officers tried to stop them and a pursuit ensued.

According to Stowers, one of the suspect vehicles tried to ram a police vehicle. The chase ended when a suspect's car drove onto a sidewalk and collided with the other suspect vehicle and a brick wall.

With the help of the Orange County Sheriff's helicopters, all seven suspects were found and taken into custody.

Arrested and booked into Or-

ange County Jail were five adult Anaheim residents Two Anaheim juveniles were taken to Juvenile Hall.

The adults are Anita Asna, 37; Florentina Stoican, 35; Elizabeth Chicio, 18; Mirabela Gheorghita, 38; and Florin Dumitru, 37 (the only male in the group).

They are charged with burglary, assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer, conspiracy and reckless evading.

The investigation indicated that the suspects are members of a transnational crime ring that may also be responsible for burglaries throughout California and other states.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Black at (714) 548-3835 or the WPD watch commander at (714) 548-3767.

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The Tribune covers Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster with editions on Wednesday and Saturday.

## HB council has a light agenda

Continued from page 1

agreement with Universal Protection Services for street sweeping in the amount of \$132,752.79.

The council will meet in the Central Library lower level theater, 7111 Talbert Ave. with a closed session at 4 p.m. and the regular meeting at 6 p.m.

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**Jim Tortolano**  
Editor and Publisher  
**Marilyn Lewis Tortolano**  
General Manager

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

E-mail : [orangecountytribune@gmail.com](mailto:orangecountytribune@gmail.com).

[www.orangecountytribune.com](http://www.orangecountytribune.com).

Phone: (714) 458-1860.

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# News & Views

## Big stores may make comeback some fine day

I saw a discussion on social media the other day about the long-vacant Sam's Club store at Beach Boulevard and Lampson Avenue in Stanton.

There was much speculation about the reasons why it's been closed for at least a decade and suggestions as to what could fill that cavernous building.

One poster said that Sam's is at a disadvantage competing against Costco because there's no gasoline station there. I find that hard to believe – I mean why wait in a long line to get a dime or quarter a gallon off your fuel? – but there's no denying that it's a factor of contributing to the huge traffic jams at the Costco stores in Huntington Beach and Garden Grove.



**Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

Another issue raised is the prevalence of homeless persons in the area. Stanton – which has limited resources – seems to have had less success in reducing the number of highly visible street people than adjoining cities.

Ironically, it now turns out that Stanton underestimated its revenue and overestimated its expenses on its latest budgets, so it had more money than it thought.

Competition was cited in the discussion. There's a large Walmart not far to the south and a Target not far to the north. Big box retailers seem to be in decline – Kohl's, May Co, perhaps even JC Penney – except for the one's that aren't (Target, WalMart).

But you never know. These things run in cycles. Long-time residents can remember big

Continued on page 8

## Cat-napping victim found, is back home

### Westminster police are seeking suspect; asking public help

A suspect is being sought in the theft of a male Bengal Lynx cat from a home in Westminster, and the cat has been found and returned to its owner.

According to the WPD, the incident took place on Wednesday afternoon in the 10000 block of Finchley Avenue, southeast of Brookhurst Street and Hazard Avenue.

Sought by police is a male, 40 to 50 years old, 6-feet tall, with a medium build. He was wearing a long-sleeved orange shirt, black jeans and a white hat.

The owner of the cat said that when she returned to her home around midnight she found that "Clubber" was missing. The AirTag attached to the cat's collar was found outside near her driveway.

Video surveillance footage showed a man seeking to lure the cat with food and then grabbing it. Suspect and feline left the scene in a white pickup truck, possibly a Toyota Tacoma.

Officers received information that the animal



**CLUBBER**, the Bengal Lynx.

was at a home in Santa Ana. Officers were able to recover Clubber unharmed and to reunite the cat with the owner. The suspect is still at large.

Anyone with information that can identify the suspect or his vehicle is asked to contact the WPD at (714) 898-3315.

## 10 GGUSD schools are 'Distinguished'

Ten elementary schools in the Garden Grove Unified School District have been named to the list of 2025 California Distinguished Schools.

They are: Anthony, Barker, Brookhurst, Cook, Eisenhower, Excelsior, Hill, Patton, Peters (K-3 and 4-6) and Zeyen.

The award goes to the schools that "demonstrate exceptional outcomes or show great success" in closing academic achievement gaps.

GGUSD schools were 10 of the 44 honored in Orange County. The district has 6.5 percent of OC's pupils, but 23 percent of the "distinguished" schools in the county.

### Maggie makes her mark

Maggie Ratananapratum, a data specialist in the district office of

## News Briefs



**MAGGIE RATANANAPRATUM.**

the Huntington Beach Union School District, has been honored as another outstanding veteran employee of the district.

She's been with the HBUSD for 25 years and credits her co-workers for their cooperation. "This type of workplace allows me to stretch my skills and learn more."

### Bunny Hops Soon

The annual City of Westminster Bunny Hop is coming to a city park – four of them, actually – in April.

There will be egg hunts, crafts, games and treats, as well as photos with the Easter Bunny.

On Saturday, April 12, the event will be at Bolsa Chica Park from 10-11:30 a.m. and at John Land Park from 1-2:30 p.m.

On Saturday, April 19, the event will be held at Coronet Park from 10-11:30 a.m. and Tony Lam Park from 1-2:30 p.m.

### Woman of Distinction

At Tuesday's meeting of the Stanton City Council, recognized were Celia Lopez, Maria Soldeda Montes and Guadalupe Vigil for their contributions to the city.

# NewsUpdate

## Layoff Battles Continue in Court

### White House wins one and loses another

The controversial executive orders issued by President Donald Trump continued to find their way into federal court, and they sustained one victory and one setback on Friday.

According to the Associated Press, an appeals court ruled that the president can fire two members of agencies overseeing labor issues.

They are Cathy Harris of the Merit Systems Protection Board and Gwynn Wilcox of the National Labor Relations Board.

A federal court in New York on Friday ordered a halt to the Trump administration's plan to end the Voice of America.



**TWO FEDERAL JUDGES** on Friday handed President Donald Trump a judicial victory and a defeat (Shutterstock).

The U.S. Agency for Global Media, parent of Voice of America, was served with a

temporary restraining order preventing it from permanently discharging 1,200 persons – jour-

nalists, engineers and others from the VOA.

### Great Thoughts

“Keep your face always toward the sunshine – and shadows will fall behind you”

– Walt Whitman, poet

“We are all living in cages with the door wide open.

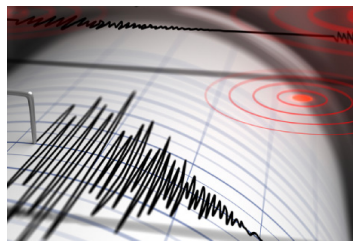
– George Lucas, filmmaker

### Quake slams Myanmar; at least 144 people dead

The southeast Asian nation of Myanmar – formerly known as Burma – suffered a major earthquake on Friday, inflicting at least 144 fatalities and injuring another 732 people.

The New York Times is reporting that the quake – measured at 7.7 on the Richter Scale – knocked down both modern buildings and ancient religious monuments.

The casualty count may reach as high as 10,000 people, consider-



**MEASURING QUAKES**

ing the very high density of the population of the area affected by the quake.

### Stock markets on Friday see widespread plunges

With worries about inflation and the possibility of a recession taking their toll, U.S. stocks on Friday fell to some of the lowest levels in several years.

According to United Press International, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell by 715.80 points (a loss of 1.69 percent).

The S&P 500 declined by 112.37 (1.97 percent) and

Nasdaq was down 481.04 or 2.7 percent.

Hit by sharp declines were Amazon (4 percent), Alphabet (5 percent) and Apple (3 percent). Alphabet is the parent company of Google.

Gold rose \$27.10 per ounce.

The best economic news of the day was that the unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in February.

### Weather: Things will be cool-ish

Cool-ish days will continue in our West Orange County cities. Saturday is predicted to have a daytime high of 68 with an overnight low of 53 with partly cloudy skies.

On Sunday, a high of 66 with a low of 52 with cloudy skies and an 11 percent chance of rain.

Monday will warm slightly to 67 (53) with showers. Tuesday cools slightly to 67 (53) with mostly cloudy skies.

# Arts & Living

## Fantastic Farce with 'Family'

Funny stuff on stage at WCP through Sunday

By Thom deMartino  
Orange County Tribune

The doctor is in – trouble. Deep trouble.

Director Stephen Gomer and the Westminster Community Playhouse are presenting the classic 1987 Ray Cooney farce, "It Runs In the Family", now playing through Sunday, March 30 at the popular community theater.

"Family" opens with the renowned Dr. David Mortimore (Jon Korbonski) pacing and prepping for his speech to a group of fellow neurologists... and his frayed nerves are not helped by the presence of his boss, Sir Willoughby Drake (Paul Hunn) pushing him to be entertaining in his speech. Nor is he amused by the antics of the whimsical Dr. Mike Connolly (Sina Siassi) distracting him as he desperately tries to prepare. Could the pressure get any worse?

Obviously, yes it can – in the form of former nurse Jane Tate (Laura Lejuwaan), looking to speak with the keynote speaker. It's been more than 18 years since she mysteriously vanished from the hospital... just after she'd had a fling with the married Dr. Mortimore.

It turns out the product of that affair is waiting downstairs – Leslie (Roxy Payne). Newly turned 18, she's looking to find her long-lost father, whom her mother has told her almost nothing about – other than he's a doctor at this very hospital. Mortimore is thoroughly unprepared for this news, and wants Jane to keep it under wraps... and away from his wife, Rosemary (Jen Dibble.)

Which would be easier, if the delinquent Leslie wasn't now



**JEN DIBBLE** as Rosemary Mortimore, Bobby D. Lux at Dr. Hubert Bonney, Laura Lejuwaan as Jane Tate, Judy Jones as Mother and Roxy Payne as Leslie (Westminster Community Playhouse).

### Stage Review

rampaging through the hospital halls searching for her dad, while the police sergeant (Jack Millis), who tried arresting her earlier in the evening for drunken driving, is in hot pursuit.

The minutes are slipping away, as Mortimore's speech to his colleagues draws inevitably closer: and he decides to confide in Dr. Hubert Bonney (Bobby D. Lux), to help run interference with both his new-found daughter, and the rest of the staff.

Time is running out for the Dr. Mortimore, in more than one way. Is there any escape from this parental predicament for him?

At least once or twice per WCP season, the troupe has presented some great comedies: and "Family" is a marvelous one for the books. There's plenty of fun

awkward moments and visual gags, not to mention the splendid pacing and comic timing by the players.

Korbonski does amazing work as Mortimore – a protagonist that the audience finds themselves not as much sympathizing with, as much as waiting for the other shoe to drop for this seemingly unrepentant cad; Siassi's Connolly is a lovable buffoon, with some wonderful comedic moments; not to be outdone, Lux's Dr. Bonney has some excellent shenanigans himself over the course of the show, trying to cover for Mortimore; Lejuwaan's Jane is charming, striving to both placate her daughter, while still protecting the father's identity; and Payne's Leslie is a whirlwind – alternating between anger and endearment, as she draws closer to finding her real dad.

A particular scene-stealer is Da-

**Great: ★★★★★**

vid Stevens as Bill, the elderly patient wheeled into the common room, whose random non-sequiturs and cheery energy are delightful in any scene he's in. Only one weekend remains for "It Runs In the Family" at the Westminster Community Playhouse, so you'd best get out to see it before the curtain falls... doctor's orders.

*"It Runs In the Family": Jon Korbonski, Laura Lejuwaan and Roxy Payne star in this fun romp about family, secrets, and what lengths we go to to keep them from colliding. Playing through Sunday, March 30 at the Westminster Community Playhouse, 7272 Maple St, Westminster. Ticketing information available online at <http://www.wcpstage.com>, or call (714) 893-8626.*

# TheSportsPages

## Buzzer-beaters the best play in basketball

It's hard to imagine a more unlikely conclusion to a professional basketball game than the Lakers' 117-115 loss to the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night.

The Lake Show, which fell behind early and built what appeared to be a comfortable fourth quarter lead, was ahead 115-100 with just a few seconds to play.

But veteran superstar LeBron James made a crucial turnover and the Bulls hit two three-pointers — including a half-court buzzer beater by Josh Giddey — to pull out the unlikely win.

I haven't seen such a turn of events involving the Lakers since Jerry West's half-court heave in the NBA playoffs against the New York Knicks in 1970 but even that wasn't quite as dramatic, since it wasn't a three-pointer and therefore only sent the game into overtime, which the Lakers ended up losing.

That's the drama of the desperation heave-ho — close relative to the "hail-mary" pass in football — that makes up for so much of the ho-hum action in the NBA.

In this case, it was well worth the wait, and now you know (again) why they have "bonus rounds" in TV game shows.

**But let us not** judge quality based on one game, or else we would burn our stuffed Rally Monkey and toss aside our 2002 World Series DVD after the Los Angeles Angels' sad and disappointing opening day 8-1 loss to the Chicago White Sox on Thursday.

Still 160-plus games to play, fans.



**Sports  
Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

# Don't Throw So Hard

## Coping with rise in injuries that sideline pitchers

By Steve Megargee  
AP Sports Writer

GOODYEAR, Ariz. (AP) — Figuring out a cause for the skyrocketing number of arm injuries among pitchers is easy. Finding a solution could prove much more challenging.

Major League Baseball issued a 62-page report in December that showed how the focus on throwing with increased velocity and using maximum effort on every pitch was a likely reason for the increase in injuries. The study provided numerical data backing a thesis already supported by conventional wisdom. "It makes sense," Cleveland Guardians right-hander Tanner Bibee said. "You do anything at a max capacity, you're going to be at more risk for injury. If you try to squat your absolute max, you're going to get hurt more often than if you're squatting a plate and a bar. It's just kind of the nature of anything you do in life."

The study showed that major league pitcher injured list placements increased from 212 in 2005 to 485 in 2024. Days on the IL rose from 13,666 to 32,257.



**RESEARCH** is showing that pitchers are throwing too hard and too young, making them vulnerable to problems (AP photo).

**"It makes sense. You do anything at a max capacity, you're going to be at more risk for injury. It's just kind of the nature of anything you do in life."**

Tommy John surgeries for major and minor league players increased from 104 in 2010 to a peak of 314 in 2020, though they slipped to 281 last year. The study recommended "considering rule changes at the

professional level that shift the incentives for clubs and pitchers to prioritize health and longevity." Instituting those types of rule changes could prove challenging when pitchers of all ages understand how much MLB organizations are emphasizing velocity.

"I don't know if rules are the right way to go about it," said Chicago Cubs left-hander Matthew Boyd, who underwent Tommy John surgery in 2023. "You can't tell someone to throw softer. But I was a guy in college that threw high 80s. I would randomly throw a hard

Continued on page 7

## Clips, Dodgers and Ducks victorious

Kawhi Leonard and Ivan Zubac scored a combined 52 points as the **Los Angeles Clippers** blew out the Brooklyn Nets 132-100 on Friday night.

It was the Clips' eight win in 10 games and their second straight. With the win, the team is 42-21 and moved into a playoff spot in the NBA Western Conference in sixth place.

They're also in second place in

the Pacific Division, trailing the Lakers by two games.

The **Los Angeles Dodgers** remain unbeaten (3-0) in the young 2025 MLB season by defeating the visiting Detroit Tigers 10-5 in 10 innings.

In the bottom of the 10th, the Blue Crew trailed 5-3, but rallied for five runs for the victory. The winner was a three-run walkoff

home run by Mookie Betts.

A three-goal third period rally sent the **Anaheim Ducks** into overtime on Friday and they ended up with a 5-4 win over the New York Rangers at Honda Center. Mason McTavish scored the game-winner for the home team.

The Ducks are 32-32-8 and have won two straight.

# Pitchers' arms are wearing out

Continued from page 6

number, but I didn't know how to do it consistently right. But I got outs. But I knew that some wise people ahead of me told me outs are going to get you to the big leagues, velocity's going to get you drafted. So therein lies the problem."

Perhaps most concerning were the statistics involving younger pitchers.

Prospects who threw 95 mph or higher at the Perfect Game National Showcase for top high school players increased from three in 2018 to 36 in 2024. Thirty-five players selected in the top 10 rounds of last year's amateur draft had Tommy John surgery, up from four in 2005.

The evidence of increasing injuries isn't limited to this study. An Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine study showed there were five times as many injuries among Pac-12 baseball players in 2021 as in 2016, though that applied to all players and not just pitchers.

## Problems are starting early in the pipeline

Those numbers help explain why one school of thought suggests any changes need to start at the youth level.

That idea has the support of Eric Cressey, who trains more than 100 pro baseball players though his Cressey Sports Performance facilities in Florida and Massachusetts.

Cressey also is the New York Yankees' director of player health and performance, but he was speaking only on his own behalf and wasn't representing the Yankees on this issue.

"I've long maintained that everything begins with fixing what's happening at the younger levels, and there will eventually be a trickle-up to the big leagues," Cressey said.

Cressey noted the problems at the youth level by citing the videos he sees of young pitchers with "arms and legs flying everywhere" as they enter throwing programs when their bodies aren't prepared to handle it.

He believes that young pitchers throwing max-effort showcases in the offseason and disregarding basic warmup guidance has contributed to significant injuries.

"Thirteen-year-olds should never be blowing out ligaments," Cressey said. "That should just not be happening. And every time it happens, it's because someone made a terrible, terrible decision on that child's behalf, whether it's a coach or a parent."

"Just like you or I wouldn't let our kids have candy for dinner or run with scissors or something like that, some of the things that I see in the youth space are nothing short of embarrassing." Cressey recommends imposing a scouting dead period for the months of October, November and December.

"It's absurd for us to ask a still immature 17-year-old to go out and throw 95 miles an hour in November when major league players are resting during that time period," he said.

Continued on page 8

## Prep Sport Spotlight

### West County Prep Baseball/Softball Results

#### Thursday baseball

Huntington Beach 12, Carlsbad 4  
Anaheim 7, Santiago 2

#### Thursday softball

Fountain Valley 2, Hunt. Beach 0  
Edison 19, Corona del Mar 1  
Pacifica 3, El Modena 2  
University 4, Ocean View  
La Quinta 13, Estancia 12

#### Friday baseball

Huntington Beach, 9, Vista 1  
Savanna 6, Orange 1  
Bolsa Grande 21, Santa Ana Valley 1  
Los Alamitos 6, Marina 3  
Ocean View 2, Laguna Hills 1  
Godinez 7, Santiago 4  
Garden Grove 4, Valencia 3

#### Friday softball

Santa Ana Valley 13, La Quinta 0  
Loara 11, Orange 3  
Santiago 10, Los Amigos 0  
Westminster 16, Godinez 2  
Calvary Chapel 8, Ocean View 7

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# Too much effort, too much speed = injuries

Continued from page 7

Of course, not all MLB pitchers rest during that time.

Pro pitchers don't rest like they used to

San Francisco Giants pitching coach J.P. Martinez says he doesn't have a problem with major leaguers throwing throughout the year, though he acknowledges high-effort throwing year-round could make them more susceptible to injury.

"There's quite a lot of guys that don't shut down throwing at all nowadays," Martinez said. "I think that gets vilified a little bit when a lot of the time they're just keeping the arm moving and keeping the range of motion and workload at a certain level, so when they do ramp up, it's less of a transition. You're not going from zero to 60. You might be going from 30 to 60."

The level of workload pitchers attempt in the offseason is notable because data shows that

more injuries happen at the start of the season or in the preseason than at any other time of the year.

The MLB study released in December showed that over 40% of the injured list placements due to elbow injuries from 2010-24 came in either March or April.

"That is generally because I don't think guys are ramping up correctly," Martinez said.

Guardians pitching coach Carl Willis said he'd like to see an industry-wide emphasis on "turning the clock a little bit to a more old-school and traditional type of way" that relies on locating pitches and changing speeds and shapes. Willis believes that approach could allow pitchers to realize they don't have to go full-throttle every time they release the ball.

"To prevent some of these injuries, that's kind of the direction we have to go," Willis said. "You can't take away the power and the profiles that these guys can create, but you can take a little bit of the pressure off."

## Jim's Retorts goes shopping

Continued from page 6

stores like White Front, Two Guys, Gem Co. FedMart and even Zody's.

You never know when the time will come – quite unexpectedly – when there's a big demand for a new kind of big store over at Lampson and Beach.



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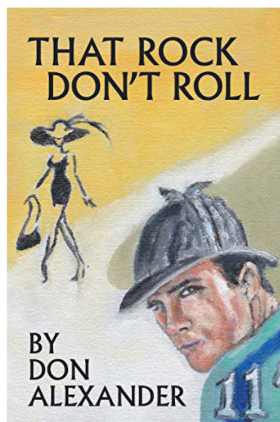
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### That Rock Don't Roll

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– 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.

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THE WHARF | 12941 MAIN STREET | GARDEN GROVE | CA 92840

# SHANE VAN BOENING

**MARCH 29 - 30TH 2PM**  
**EXHIBITION AT THE WHARF**

**SVB VS. JEFFREY DE LUNA : 10 BALL SAT 6PM**  
**9 BALL SUN 6PM**

**GENERAL ADMISSION : \$25**  
**15 AND UNDER FREE WITH PAID ADULT**

**CHALLENGE MATCHES : \$150**  
**AUTOGRAPHS**  
**PHOTOS**

**THE WHARF**

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