

■ **HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL**

City Leaders Take on the OVSD Board

Library at center of dispute

By **Jim Tortolano**
Orange County Tribune

The political struggle over the future of the Huntington Beach Library System continued on Tuesday when the city council took aim at the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees.

On a 6-0-1 vote – with Mayor Pro Tem Casey McKeon absent – the council directed the city attorney’s office to “review the actions” of the OVSD board, and “if warranted, work with the mayor to file a complaint with the appropriate agen-

cy.” At issue is a recent vote by the OVSD endorsing a “yes” vote on Huntington Beach Measures A and B, which would abolish a review board for certain materials in the library system and state that the libraries’ operation could not be privatized without a vote of the public.

The council is alleging that the school board’s action may violate state law.

In a reply signed by OVSD Superintendent Julianne Hoefer and board president Patricia Singer, the board argued that “the

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GG/Harbor traffic fix is on the agenda

If you’ve tried to navigate the intersection of Garden Grove and Harbor boulevards, you know there’s often tangles of traffic due to the vast numbers of cars, trucks and other vehicles trying to get through.

A proposed solution to that bottleneck is on the

■ **GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

agenda for Tuesday’s meeting of the Garden Grove City Council.

The council will consider awarding a contract worth \$6,678,330 to PALP Inc. for street widening and

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A BERRY BERRY POPULAR TREAT



AT FRIDAY’S opening of the 65th annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival, Orange County Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen (above) helps hand out the strawberry cake. Parade grand marshals Sylvia Mendez (left) and Kate Linder flank festival association president Tony Lopez (Orange County Tribune photos).

In The Trib



Cold comfort as time passes

NEWS & VIEWS/3



Grand new flag

SPORTS PAGES/6

Accused killer of cats faces 4 years, 4 months in jail

A Santa Ana man is facing criminal charges of killing cats in Santa Ana and stealing a cat in Westminster.

According to the Orange County District Attorney, Alejandro Oliveros Acosta, 46, is accused of using food to attack cats and then beating and stomping them to death, offenses which carry maximum sentence of four years and four months if convicted.

Additionally, he faces a felony count of the theft of a companion animal – stealing a Bengal Lynx from a home in Westminster – as well as being in possession of a controlled substance when arrested.

He was released after posting the \$40,000 bail.

The Lynx was returned to its owner by authorities. Oliveros Acosta was scheduled for arraignment this week.

HBCC vs. OVSD board

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city has no jurisdiction or authority to undertake any type of 'investigation' into the actions of the OVSD," and "if the city approves such an investigation, OVSD will not cooperate in any way shape

or form."

The OVSD is a K-8 school system principally serving northern Huntington Beach.

Voting on Measures A and B are underway and will conclude on June 10.

Garden Grove City Council

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other improvements at that key intersection.

According to a staff report, the project "generally" consists of a 12-foot roadway widening to add an eastbound right-turn lane along Garden Grove Boulevard and a five-foot roadway widening to add a second left-turn lane along Harbor Boulevard.

Additionally, the project will widen existing "substandard" through lanes to a minimum width of 11 feet. All-new traffic signals will be installed at all four corners.

The funding will be 65 percent from the Orange County Transportation Authority and 35 percent from the city.

Also on the agenda is the awarding of a contract to Act 1 Construction Inc. for the Woodbury Revitalization and Expansion Project at a cost of \$10,992,000. The city council will meet at

6:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.

Public safety is before Stanton City Council

Issues of public safety are on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting of the Stanton City Council.

The council will consider a request by Councilmember Gary-Taylor to discuss the installation and use of red light (photo enforcement) cameras within the city.

Also to be discussed is a proposal by Mayor David Shawver to discuss the prospect of obtaining private security services to assist with the enforcement of the city's ordinances.

The Tribune

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News & Views

NEWS BRIEFS

Sometimes you can taste what history was like

It's interesting how some of the signposts in our lives are not just births, marriages, deaths and the like. Sometimes it's the passing of an institution or even a store.

Zlaket's closure on Main Street in Garden Grove was one of those things, signaling an end to nearly a century of small-town service to a community that grew from a village into a mid-size city.



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

This week I got the news that our local Rite-Aid was closing its doors and that we had a month to move our prescriptions to some other pharmacy. If you've noticed, this contraction of drugstore/pharmacies has been going on for several years and was probably predictable. There was a big expansion of that part of the market a while back and pretty soon there was – or seemed to be – on every corner a Rite-Aid, Walgreens or CVS.

On top of that, many other store chains – Target, Albertsons and Walmart – are now in the medicine business, so there's no worries that we will have to drive to the county seat to get our prescriptions filled.

It's just that the loss of familiar brands serves as an end-mark to memories and experiences that spread over decades.

Growing up, the big battle was between Sav-On and Thrifty Drug. We were a Sav-On family, but –frankly we were more likely to buy sweets, small appliances and soda than pharmaceuticals there.

Each had the loss leader of cheap ice cream cones. Five

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THE MCGARVIN INTERMEDIATE School Academic Pentathlon teams stood out (GGUSD photo).

There are some pretty smart owls at McGarvin

The McGarvin Intermediate School Academic Pentathlon team starred recently at Orange County Pentathlon at Bolsa Grande High School in Garden Grove.

That Owls 8th grade team achieved the highest score in all of California and the 7th grade team had the second-highest score statewide.

Serving as mentors were Elizabeth Nguyen, Thao Dinh, Cathy Diamo and Carie Nguyen.

The teams advanced to the national competition in San Antonio, Texas.

McGarvin is located in Westminster and is part of the Garden Grove Unified School District.

Code enforcement on the prowl

The City of Huntington Beach's code enforcement officers will be on the lookout for violations of city standards, especially as regards unlawful vending on the beach, the beach parking lot, service road, Dog Beach, lifeguard facilities, city pier, Pier Plaza, Pacific Coast Highway and downtown, especially in an area designated as a "special event."

Vending on the beach – even with a sidewalk vendor permit – is against the law and fines can be up to \$1000 per day.

Continued on page 10

Former WPD officer facing 22 years in a state prison

Once she was a Westminster police officer, enforcing the law and arresting lawbreakers.

Now Nicole Brown, 39, is accused of a variety of misdeeds and faces up to 22 years in state prison is convicted of all alleged offenses.

According to the Orange County District Attorney's office, she is charged with 15 felonies for stealing more than \$600,000 in fraudulent workers' compensation payments after she was spotted engaged in vigorous activities including dancing and drinking at the Stagecoach country music festival, skiing, running 5k races and going to Disneyland while she claimed she was completely disabled from a head injury she suffered at work.

That incident was reported on March 21, 2022 when – working as a WPD officer – she sustained a "minor abrasion" on the forehead with attempting to arrest and handcuff an "uncooperative" suspect.

Brown complained of a headache and dizziness, but an emergency room doctor who examined her released her back to work without restrictions.

However, she was diagnosed with "total temporary disability" and her benefits cost the city of Westminster over \$600,000 according to the OCDA.

Her stepfather, an attorney who practices workers' compensation law, has been charged in connection with the case for conspiring with Brown.

Peter Gregory Schuman, 57, of Buena Park faces two felony counts and faces up to eight years in state prison and possible disbarment.

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NewsUpdate

U.S. Blocks the Harvard Ban

‘Unconstitutional’ said the college in its response



HARVARD HALL on the university campus (Wikipedia).

In the ongoing struggle between Harvard University and the Trump administration, a federal judge on Friday blocked an executive order to ban international students from attending the prestigious private school.

U.S. District Court Judge Allison Burroughs in Boston put the ban on hold pending the outcome of a legal challenge by the university, which called the action an unconstitutional retaliation for refusing demands from the White House.

According to the Associated Press, over a quarter of the students enrolled at Harvard – about 6,800 – are international

students and many are active in helping to run labs, help professors and participate in sports. Under the order from the White

House, international students would be required to transfer to another school or lose their student visas.

Harvard has been accused of allowing anti-semitic acts including violence by Palestinian students against Jewish students.

Great Thoughts

“Stay hungry. Stay foolish”
– Steve Jobs, Apple co-founder

“You do not find the happy life. You make it.”
– Camilla Eyring Kimball, writer

“Who won in life? Me. Because I got to marry you.”
– Chip Gaines, actor, TV personality

New tariff threat against Apple and Europeans

The trade war prosecuted by the Trump administration saw the battlefield widen on Friday as warnings of tariffs aimed at products from the European Union and smart phones – such as Apple’s popular iPhone – were threatened.

The New York Times is reporting that President Trump threatened to slap a 50 percent tariff on products from the EU, and impose a 25 percent charge on

iPhones, which are manufactured outside the U.S.

Later, a clarification was issued to include Samsung and other makers of such devices, which are made overseas.

The Times estimates that moving iPhone production – currently assembled mostly in China and India, where labor costs are cheaper – would more than double the price of the devices to \$2000 “or more.”

Billy Joel cancels tours, citing health concerns

Singer-songwriter Billy Joel’s concert tour has been cancelled, pending recovery from a brain disorder that affects his hearing, vision and balance.

According to United Press International, Joel said in a statement that “I’m sincerely sorry to disappoint our audience and thank you for understanding.” The tour was to have had 17

stops. At present, Joel is said to have been undergoing physical therapy and heeding medical advice to refrain from performing during his recovery.

Joel, 75, is nicknamed “the Piano Man” and is a successful singer, songwriter and pianist, and has created several of the best-selling musical albums in the United States.

Weather: It’s a cool weekend

You probably won’t need a jacket or shorts this coming Memorial Day weekend if you’re headed to the Strawberry Festival in Garden Grove. Temperatures will be mild through Monday. Saturday (parade day) is expected to have a daytime high of 69 with an overnight low of 59. Sunday through Tuesday will be similar with highs of 70- to-72 and overnight lows of 59. Partly cloudy skies should continue.

Arts&Living

A Moving, Timely 'Sound of Music'

Through June 8
at Westminster
Comm. Playhouse

By Thomas Martino
Orange County Tribune

History may repeat itself – but it can be said, that love transcends all.

Westminster Community Playhouse is now presenting its annual musical, as they stage the beloved “The Sound of Music.”

Directed by Jesse Seann Atkinson and based on true events, it tells the story of Maria Rainer (Jessica James Lewis), petitioning to become a nun at a local convent in 1938 Austria, shortly before Germany takes over and the country becomes Nazi-occupied.

The Mother Abbess of the convent (played by Jennifer Walquist), not knowing what to do with the unconventional Maria, decides to assign her to play governess to the family of a decorated captain of the Austrian navy, Captain Georg Von Trapp (Edward Bangasser): but the seven children of the family have already driven away several previous governesses with their antics and pranks.

There's Liesl (Zoe Nauman) the eldest, smitten with the local messenger boy Rolf (Kai Maldonado); and her younger siblings Friedrich (Jaxon Finn Wolff), Louisa (Savannah Grace Mosley), Brigitta (Annika Kedhar), Kurt (Allan Bangasser), Marta (Caddie Murphy) and the youngest, Gretl (Oona Murphy).

But the strict Captain Von Trapp runs the household like a military unit, commanding the house staff Franz and Frau Schmidt (Karen Elder-Dohm & Mary-Pat Gonzalez) and even his children with the screeching sound of a boatswain's whistle. He expects no less from Maria.

But needless to say, that's not going to happen.



IN A SCENE from Westminster Community Playhouse's production of “The Sound of Music,” are (left to right) Allan Bangasser, Jaxon Finn Wolff, Oona Murphy, Jessica James Lewis, Annika Kedhar, Caddie Murphy, Zoe Nauman and Savannah Grace Mosley (Photo by Francis Santiago),

Stage Review

Right from the start, the novice nun-in-training brings brightness and joy into the once sterile house, as well as her infectious love of music. This chafes the captain, who hasn't allowed – or been able to bear – music in his home since the passing of his late wife.

But Maria's time in the household looks to be limited, as the children's father is already looking to marry the equally wealthy Elsa Schraeder (Amanda Webb) – even though their views differ on the potential Nazi annexation of their beloved country.

While the captain is devoted to Austria, family friend Max (Richard Comeau) mentions that the Germans have promised they won't invade – but wryly adds that if so, better to have friends on both sides.

A storm is brewing, whether the family – or even the country – is ready for it or not. Can the family and Maria find their strength together?

For a smaller, more intimate venue, this Westminster Com-

munity Playhouse production of “The Sound of Music” is larger than life.

With a cast as talented as it is expansive, this show is a marvel. Lewis as Maria is breathtaking – magical even – in her performance of such classics as “Do-Re-Mi” and “The Lonely Goatherd.” as well as a duet with Walquist's Mother Abbess for “My Favorite Things” (whose own remarkable vocal talents are witnessed herein – particularly with “Climb Ev'ry Mountain”).

The younger cast members do a remarkable job of their own, with heavenly melodies in their musical numbers including “The Sound of Music (reprise)”, and of course the beloved “So Long, Farewell.”

Even the youths' acting is outstanding, such as with the conflict in Nauman's Liesl with the change in her boyfriend as he is taken in by the Nazi rhetoric, or the undertone of unease and fear on the face of Mosley's Louisa as the family performs under pressure before members of the Reich. (Bonus points for Comeau's delightfully charming Max.)

Great: ★★★★★

It's a stunning and moving production, something for the whole family to appreciate and take in – and while so many may be familiar with the film version, there is something striking and special about seeing it brought alive on the WCP stage.

A show for young and old, whether you're a fan of the film or have never seen it before, “The Sound of Music” at the Westminster Community Playhouse is a thing of beauty and grace, to fall in love with and be enchanted by.

“The Sound of Music”: Jessica James Lewis, Edward Bangasser and Jennifer Walquist star in this beautiful production of the Rogers & Hammerstein classic. Now playing through June 8 at the Westminster Community Playhouse, 7272 Maple St, Westminster. Ticketing information available online at <http://www.wcpstage.com>, or call (714) 893-8626. Appropriate for all ages.

TheSportsPages

Money seems to have no real rival in football

Tradition in football is not only getting trampled, it's getting kicked to the curb, so to speak.

The Los Angeles Times is reporting that there's a chance – a strong one – that the annual intersectional clash between USC and Notre Dame might not be annual after all ... or at all.

According to Ryan Kartje, it's all about the constantly-evolving College Football Playoff.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

The issue appears to be how many automatic qualifiers

will be guaranteed to the Big 12 (actually the Big 16, but who's going to quibble about that).

That conference is so packed with strong programs – having gutted the Pac-Whatever – that it could be that the fifth-best in the nation could still end up playing in the Bakersfield Petroleum bowl.

Apparently, Notre Dame wants a long-term extension of the series, which is usually one of the most closely-watched college football games of the season. But – as reported – the Trojans are playing things a little cagey, wanting just a year-to-year deal, like a month-to-month rent on an apartment.

Already many rivalries have been sundered in this menudo of conference realignment.

For 2025, USC will only keep Notre Dame and UCLA on its menu, while taking on such powerhouses as Missouri State and George Southern.

The Bruins will return only USC and Washington and appears to actually have a tougher schedule.

This whirlwind of conference-cracking has filtered down

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It's a Grand New Flag



LOTS OF ENTHUSIASM during was shown during tryouts for the 2025 USA National Men's Flag Football team. The 2028 Olympic team, however, is likely to be stocked with NFL stars (USA Football photo)

NFL players now likely to play Olympic football

By David Campbell

AP Sports Writer

EAGAN, Minn. (AP) — NFL players in the past three Pro Bowls have had a taste of flag football under the new format for the all-star game.

For a select few, the Olympics could be next.

League owners have unanimously approved permission for players to participate in flag football for the 2028 Olympics.

The vote at the spring meetings in Minnesota on Tuesday authorized the league to negotiate safety provisions and scheduling logistics with the NFL Players Association, the sport's international governing body and the relevant Olympic authorities before it becomes reality during the next Summer Games in Los Angeles.

The excitement throughout the league and momentum in global growth of the game have

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Angels win 8th straight; Dodgers triumph in 13

THE ROUNDUP

With their eighth straight win, the **Los Angeles Angels** climbed back to .500 and moved to within a half-game of second place in the American League West.

The Halos took a 4-0 lead and held on for a 7-4 victory over the Miami Marlins in Anaheim, powered in part by their continuing long ball offense.

Taylor Ward hit his 15th home run of the season, and Jorge Soler added his seventh as the home team rapped out 14 hits.

Yusei Kikuchi (1-4) posted his first win of the season in fine style, working 5.2 innings and yielding seven hits and no runs.

He struck out four batters and walked four.

The Angels (25-25), who have not lost a game since May 14, will host the Marlins on Saturday.

In New York City, the **Los Angeles Dodgers** and New York Mets battled into the 13th inning and the Blue Crew emerged with a 7-5 victory.

The Dodgers (31-19) maintained a 1.5-game lead in the National League West with the win. They lost an early lead and were forced into extra innings

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Seattle	29-21	.580	—	7-3
Houston	26-25	.510	3.5	5-5
ANGELS	25-25	.500	4	8-2
Texas	25-27	.481	5	4-6
Athletics	22-29	.431	7.5	1-9

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	31-19	.620	—	5-5
San Fran.	30-21	.598	1.5	6-4
San Diego	28-21	.571	2.5	3-7
Arizona	26-25	.510	5.5	5-5
Colorado	9-42	.176	22.5	2-8

when they gave up three runs in the bottom of the ninth to tie the score at 5-5.

It stayed that way until Teoscar Hernandez doubled in the winning run in the 13th.

Two down in baseball; softball plays on

GG, LQ suffer close losses

West Orange County's two remaining survivors in the third round of the CIF-SS baseball playoffs met a similar fate on Friday afternoon.

In Division 7, Garden Grove traveled to San Pedro to take on Mary Star of the Sea and suffered an 8-7 loss. The Argonauts (21-10) were the Orange Coast League champions, and all three of their playoff games were decided by one run.

In Division 8, La Quinta (17-8) lost 3-2 to Fillmore High. The Aztecs led 2-1 going into the sixth inning, but the Flashes scored twice in the bottom of the sixth to secure the win.

The blue-and-gold finished second in the Grove League.

IN SOFTBALL, two area schools remain in CIF-SS playoff action on Saturday.

Westminster (16-11) takes on the Rancho Mirage Rattlers (17-10) in a Division VII quarter-final contest.

In another quarterfinal game, the Yorba Linda Mustangs (16-12) will host the Marina Vikings (17-13) in a Division III game.



THE GARDEN GROVE HIGH baseball team had a good season, winning the Orange Coast League title and advancing to the third round of the CIF-SS playoffs (GGUSD photo).



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Now, NFL sets sights on the Olympics

Continued from page 6

made this a seemingly inevitable advancement.

"I think the world finally has an opportunity to see the greatest athletes in the world participate," league executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent said.

The 10-player Olympic rosters will be selected by the national committee for each country, with six teams each in separate tournaments for men and wom-

en. Only one player per NFL club would be allowed for each country. The game itself is a 5-on-5 competition on a 50-yard field.

With the 2028 Olympics scheduled from July 14-30, the flag football gold medal game could practically be staged before teams report to training camp, a provision that NFL executive vice president of club business and league events Peter O'Reilly indicated has already received informal support.

Tryout and training periods for the national teams would also fit in offseason quiet periods for NFL clubs, O'Reilly said.

At least seven athletes have

appeared in an NFL game and an Olympics in the same year, including safety Nate Ebner in 2016 (rugby) when he was with the New England Patriots and running back Herschel Walker in 1992 (bobsledding) when he was with the Eagles. The others were in track and field.

"I do believe you'll see the hands go up from those who are not just currently playing but those veterans, those individuals, who have not had the professional career they were looking to have or the professional experience," Vincent said.

Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson attended the news

conference along with teammate Brian Asamoah, a backup linebacker and special teams ace whose parents were born in Ghana and could potentially play for his country of heritage.

While Jefferson would provide some serious star power, players of his stature might not be willing to risk injury right before the season.

He said he'd have to consider his participation, but as one of the league's global ambassadors for the sport he's a true champion of flag football.

"The Pro Bowl game was honestly way more fun," he said. "We felt like kids out there."



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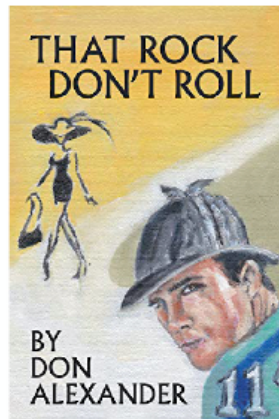
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

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He ended up batting 2-for-5 with three RBIs and two runs scored. They two teams will play again on Saturday.

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News Briefs: Stanton's State of the City

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State of City: Stanton

The 2025 Stanton State of the City event will be held on Thursday, June 26 at Stanton Central Park (10660 Western Ave.) from 6-8:30 p.m. City leaders will speak about Stanton's future, including upcoming projects, This family-friendly event also offers a

chance to connect with your neighbors.

The first 100 registered participants will receive a free dinner, and the event will conclude with a Symphony on the Go performance.

Call (714) 890-4270 or RSVP at StantonCA.gov/SOTC.

A 'Walk and Talk' with GG officials

Get to know local elected officials and enjoy an active morning with neighbors and friends by joining the Garden Grove City Council for the next two "Walk & Talk" events in City Council Districts 5 and 6.

Councilmember Yesenia Muñeton will host a "Walk & Talk" on Saturday, June 7, in District 5, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and

Councilmember Ariana Aristegui will host a walk on Saturday, June 14, in District 6, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Garden Grove Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein and City Manager Lisa Kim will also participate in the walks.

On Saturday, June 7, participants can join at any stop along the District 5 route, below:

1. Orange County Fire Authority Station 86 / Westhaven

Park – Starting location, 12252 West St.

2. Donut Star – 12052 Chapman Ave.

3. Walton Intermediate School – 12181 Buaro St.

4. Violette Elementary School – 12091 Lampson Ave.

5. Orange County Fire Authority Station 86 / Westhaven Park – Returning location, 12252 West St.

Bye to rivalry?

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to the high school level. For example, Garden Grove and Rancho Alamitos high school football teams played a rivalry game every year since 1958, but lately the two schools have been strangers, gridiron-wise.

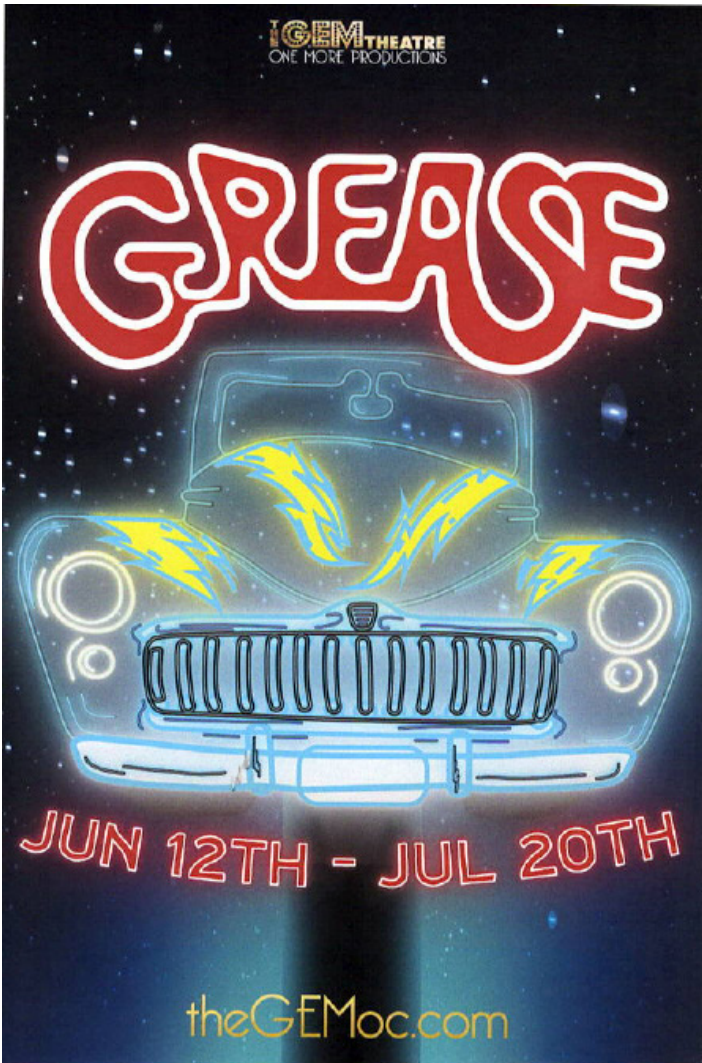
On the other hand, some "big games" have lost their luster. For years Edison and Fountain Valley grappled for the Sunset League title, but the Barons haven't won that meeting since 2004.

I like rivalries. In the Georgia Tech school fight song, one of the most-cheered parts is "to hell with Georgia." Can you imagine the Trojan faithful shouting "to hell with the Michigan State Bears, whoever they are"?

Retorts

Continued from page 3

(later 10) cents for one scoop and 10 (later 15) cents for two scoops. I preferred Sav-Ons (great chocolate chip) but the general consensus was that Thrifty's ice cream was the standard of the drug stores. That was so widely-believed that when Thrifty was absorbed into Rite-Aid in 1994, they kept the ice cream service. That was such a big deal that you could smell the familiar Thrifty's aroma long after the sign was replaced by the new owner. Now it looks like it's Rite-Aid's turn to become a fond memory. It's hard to know what's next, but I wouldn't be surprised if pretty soon you'll be able to get Thrifty ice cream at the drive-through window at Starbucks.



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