

Decisions on Library Initiatives

Tuesday is last day to vote

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

■ **ELECTIONS 2025**

Decisions on two of the most politically controversial issues in recent Huntington Beach history will be rendered on Tuesday.

That'll be the last day the voters can cast their ballots on two voter-initiated measures.

Measure A would eliminate the "community-

parent review board" in the city's library system, while Measure B would specify that management of the system would never be "privatized" without a vote of the public.

Critics of the review board – which have included some newspapers and library officials across Southern California –



INTERIOR of the Huntington Beach Central Library (Flickr).

claim that the board, created by the city council, is censoring the content of the library's collection by moving some books and materials into "adults only" sections and influencing the books to be chosen for the children's library.

Supporters of the review board argue that they are seeking to keep children from being exposed to books and images that they believe amount to "pornography."

A proposal to contract with a private firm – which had connections with a

former city councilmember – to take over operation of the library system was met with much public outcry and was finally discarded.

The Orange County Registrar of Voters is conducting the election and the polls will close Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Getting some credit for forgotten history

One of Stanton's most historic and once iconic buildings is located in ... Buena Park.

The Stanton Depot, which harkens back to the days of the Pacific Electric ("Red Car") line that connected Orange County to Los Angeles County, played an important part in the development of the community that is now Stanton.

It was the "Hansen stop" on the P.E. line and was – according to newspaper reports – the catalyst for

■ **STANTON CITY COUNCIL**

the development of the town of Benedict, later renamed Stanton.

Walter Knott – it's reported – bought the building after passenger service was ended in 1950 and relocated it to Knott's Berry Farm, where's it became a ticket booth for the Calico Railroad attraction.

It's in recognition of all that that Stanton City Councilmember John Warren has requested that



THE STANTON DEPOT as it once appeared (Orange County Archives)

the possibility of partnering with the City of Buena Park on taking formal notice of that piece of history be discussed at Tuesday's

meeting of the council.

The city council will meet in the City Hall at 7800 Katella Ave.(west of Beach Blvd.)at 6:30 p.m.

■ **GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMM.**

In-N-Out, apartments approved

A proposal to build a 36-unit, four-story apartment complex in the heart of the city's biggest retail area was approved by the Garden Grove Planning Commission on Thursday night.

The planners voted 7-0 in favor of the project, which is to be located at 9562 Chapman Avenue

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In-N-Out, apts. approved

Continued from page 1

between Brookhurst and Gilbert streets.

It would bring a higher profile to the area sometimes referred to as “uptown” Garden Grove and will include four “very low-income” affordable housing units which entitles the developer of the Chapman Apartments to a density bonus.

Also approved by the commission is site plan approval and a lot line adjustment to make

changes in an existing In-N-Out fast food restaurant at Magnolia Street and Trask Avenue that includes adding more drive-thru “queuing” and to construct a 778-square foot free-standing outdoor dining patio structure.

Additionally, the commission approved a site plan for a new 50,300-square-foot shell industrial building at 7441 Lincoln Way (at Western Avenue) in West Garden Grove.

GG city council will take on the two-year budget

The approval of the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 biennial budgets and changes in the water user fee schedule top Tuesday’s meeting of the Garden Grove City Council.

It’s described as “structurally balanced” but to achieve that will require the transfer from the general fund’s unassigned fund balance in the amount of \$4 million to the worker’s compensation fund and \$3 million to the general liability fund, effective June 30, 2025.

The council will also be asked to approve changes in the water service user fee schedule that

should not affect – at least directly – the consumer financially.

What’s proposed is to charge builders an increase in the deposit for the construction meter with back flow device from \$2,800 to \$3,800 as well as increasing the rental fee of a construction meter with back flow a rental price of \$2 per day up from \$1 a day.

Restoration of water service after a non-compliant back flow testing will go from no cost to \$107.

The increases are intended to pay the city’s direct costs.

The council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.

The Tribune

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News & Views

Slam the door on intrusions by that spam

In these divided times, everyone's looking for a path forward. Democrats are wondering whether to get more working class or more woke. Republicans are asking "Where are we going to find another Donald Trump?"

Clearly, the search for something that can bring us together: a platform, a dream, an attainable goal that can bring a smile to (almost) every



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

American's face.

Banning spam phone calls. And don't mean that sponge-weak I the "no-call" list. That worked as well as Will Smith's anger management program.

I mean something no-nonsense, a no-nonsense agency whose officials who would show up at those call centers 15 minutes after they woke you from a sound sleep or summoned you from the shower.

Banging on the door, clad in black (or military green) and de-manding to know who called Phylis Glass during her favorite soap opera or awakened Bob Fish when he had just got to sleep 15 minutes ago after pulling a double-shift at an Amazon fulfillment center.

"You have the right to remain silent," the SCU (Stop Calling Us) official would say. "So, too, should the phones at these people's homes be silent instead of folks being constantly being harassed and interrupted by calls from people wanting you to buy or sell something, by someone whose native language seems to be Mumble or Speak-MuchTooFast."

A team of black-clad Privacy

Continued on page 8

GOODBYE TO JOSEPHINE



JOSEPHINE Le of Bolsa Grande High School was honored at Tuesday night's meeting of the Garden Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees for her service as student representative to the board for 2024-25. Le, who maintained a 4.9 grade point average at Bolsa, while attend UCLA in the fall where she will study pre-statistics and data science (GGUSD photo).

Classified, teaching honorees are honored by school board

Nine workers in the Garden Grove Unified School District who are nominated for the Orange County Department of Education's Classified Employee of the Year program were honored at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting.

They are:

- Jennifer Birmingham, lead IBIA
- Isabel Chojnacky, cook-baker at La Quinta High School
- Gabriela D'Angelo, BTW (Behind the Wheel) instructor
- Elsa Gonzalez, school community liaison at Russell Elementary Language Academy
- Shannon Lacey, secretary at Peters 4-6 Elementary School
- Kurt Lucas, head custodian at Crosby Elementary
- Nancy Minaret, student supervision assistant at Lawrence Elementary (at the time of nomination; now serving as paraeducator at Bryant Elementary
- Shannon Underwood, software and application specialist
- Jessie Prentice, painter.

Also honored were three nomi-

nees for the OCDE Teacher of the Year program. They are:

- Kristine Corder, first grade teacher at Rosita Elementary
- Susanne Russo, English teacher at McGarvin Intermediate School
- Kate Setum, fifth grade teacher at Patton Elementary. She was one of only 15 semi-finalists in the 2025 Orange County Department of Education's Teacher of the Year program.

Suspect in jail over homicide near civic center in Westminster

A suspect is in jail, charged with a fatal beating of a man in Westminster on Monday..

According to Commander Andy Stowers of the WPD, James Metcalf, 54, of Westminster is being held in Orange County Jail in Santa Ana for a murder in which the body was found south of Westminster Civic Center on 13th Street.

The victim, whose name is being withheld pending notification of the next-of-kin, is believed to have died several hours before the discovery of the body around 6:15 p.m.

He had injuries to his face and head, arriving officers determined.

Metcalf had been arrested earlier in the day on an unrelated vandalism charge.

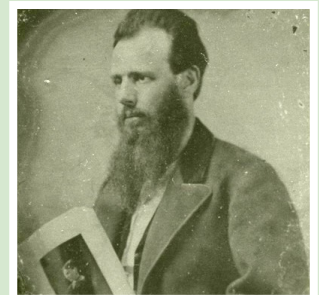
During the homicide investigation, additional evidence was found linking Metcalf to the crime, according to Commander Stowers.

Anyone within information about the incident is asked to contact Detective Tran at (714) 548-3810 or telephone the WPD Watch Commander at (714) 548-3767.

The Founding Father of The Big Strawberry

In 1874, Alonzo Cook founded the village of Garden Grove at what's now the area of Main Street and Garden Grove Boulevard. When he left six years later the community had a church, a school, a post office and several shops and stores. It incorporated as a city in 1956 with 44,000 residents and today has a population of about 175,000.

History Minute



ALONZO COOK

NewsUpdate

Can Trump and Musk Make Up?

Republicans urge an end to public feud

President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk, once powerful allies, are having a spectacular breakup in the media. But will it last?

The Associated Press is reporting that both parties were quiet on that issue as of Friday afternoon, but that followed some acidic comments.

During an interview on Friday morning, Trump referred to Musk as “the man who has lost his mind.”

“Without me, Trump would have lost the election, Dems would control the House and the Republicans would be 51-49 in



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP and Elon Musk (Shutterstock).

the Senate,” alleged Musk on Tuesday, The New York Times reported.

Trump has threatened to end Musk’s government contracts

and Musk claimed that Trump was in the “Epstein files,” referring to accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein.

But many prominent Republicans

are urging the two to make up. “The world is a better place with the Trump-Musk bromance fully intact,” said Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah).

Great Thoughts

“They said it was against the rules to take sides on a controversial issue. I said, ‘I wish you had told me that during World War II, when I took sides against Hitler.’”
– Howard K. Smith, news broadcaster.

“I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”
– Albert Einstein, physicist

U.S. economy adds 139k new jobs to work force

The American economy added 139,000 non-farm jobs in May, according to United Press International.

That total was a bit better than had been predicted. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that employment by the federal government fell by 22,000 in May (59,000 since January), while health care jobs increased by 62,000 and leisure and hospital-

ity (hotels, entertainment, travel) rose by 48,000.

The unemployment rate remained at 4.2 percent. Four percent is considered “full employment.”

Decreases in government employment appear to be connected to the mass layoffs prompted by the semi-official Department of Government Efficiency, according to UPI.

Deportee is now back from El Salvador prison

Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, who had been deported to El Salvador in error, is back in the United States.

According to The New York Times, he will be held in a jail in Tennessee and will face charges of transporting illegal aliens.

When it was discovered that his deportation was a mistake, courts ruled that he had to be returned from the maximum security anti-

terrorism prison in El Salvador where he was being held.

But Department of Justice lawyers resisted and came close to being cited for contempt as compliance with court orders didn’t materialize.

Federal prosecutors accuse Abrego Garcia of being a member of a notorious El Salvadorian gang.

Weather: It’s unofficial summer

The arrival of summer isn’t technically until June 21, but in our West Orange County cities, it seems like it will soon arrive. Saturday will have a daytime high of 77 with an overnight low of 61 under mostly sunny skies. Sunday will be similar at 76 (61) and partly cloudy. Monday should be slightly cooler at 75 (62) with morning clouds and a sunny afternoon. Tuesday sees a warming direction with a high of 78 (62) and partly cloudy skies.

Arts & Living

Hey, Where's Our Mr. Miyagi Now?

Sequel to that 'Karate Kid' is missing something

By Krrysta Fauria
Associated Press

Mr. Miyagi was known for waxing poetic. So the fact that "Karate Kid: Legends" has nothing to say is all the more disappointing.

One of the most interesting aspects of the original "The Karate Kid" and its early sequels is Mr. Miyagi's radical proclivity for mercy, often mistaken for cowardice by those around him. He doesn't just teach Daniel (Ralph Macchio) how to fight. He teaches him a subversive way of living, and, in doing so, becomes a kind of father figure to the fatherless boy.

As is often the case, it seems the spirit of the franchise was lost somewhere in the creation of an entire universe — including six films and six seasons of "Cobra Kai." Although "Karate Kid: Legends" does eventually allude to this philosophy of compassion, it lacks both the heart and grit of those earlier films. It's neither entertaining, nor thought-provoking, which makes one wonder whether this was solely a means of capitalizing on the renewed audience the franchise boasts thanks to "Cobra Kai."

In some ways, the film follows the playbook of its predecessors. Li Fong (Ben Wang) moves to New York from Beijing with his mother and deals with the clashing of cultures and the struggles of being an outsider. And while Li does eventually, like in previous films, fight the jealous ex-boyfriend of his new romantic interest, their rivalry is hardly the focal point of the story.

Instead, Li's main struggle is internal, as he deals with the grief of witnessing his brother get fatally stabbed by a disgruntled opponent after a kung fu



"KARATE KID: LEGENDS" brings back Ralph Macchio, but not the real star (Sony Pictures)

Movie Review

match back home. But even that internal struggle is buried under other subplots and is hardly dealt with in the end.

You might be wondering how Macchio and Jackie Chan fit into this story. They are, after all, on the movie poster. But neither is meaningfully in the film until about an hour into it, when they decide they need to help Li prepare for his karate match. Chan starred as a kung fu master in the 2010 remake, and the impressively choreographed fight scenes in this movie are more akin to his previous film — the convergence between Macchio's karate and Chan's kung fu is never really fleshed out.

"Karate Kid: Legends" is the first project in the franchise to connect Chan and Macchio, and does so in a way that feels forced. Once Chan and Macchio are finally on screen, there are a few endearing moments between the pair. But not enough to save the film. The attempt to

tell a different story, while laudable, turns the film into a convoluted one, with no real character development or stakes.

Part of the problem is that the movie takes itself so seriously, making some of the irreverent humor of "Cobra Kai" unattainable. (One of the best moments of the film is William Zabka's cameo as Johnny Lawrence in a light-hearted coda.) For the most part, the film struggles ton-

Fair ★★

ally, thanks in part to the upbeat music set against a backdrop of violence and trauma.

That's not to say the previous films haven't always suffered from trying to do too many things. But there were moments of poignancy in the earlier movies that are absent in this latest

Continued on page 8

'Grease' to open at the Gem

The modern musical comedy classic "Grease" will open at the Gem Theater in Garden Grove on Thursday, June 12 and continue through July 20.

Damien Lorton is both the director and musical director of this tuneful look at the 1950s, with Jack Janowicz as Danny, Ali Gainer as Sandy and Trevin Stephenson as Teen Angel.

The Gem is at 12852 Main St. For tickets, call (714) 741-9550.



TheSportsPages

Restless teams are nothing new to sports

Brooklyn Dodgers. San Diego Chargers. Oakland Raiders. St. Louis Browns. Philadelphia Athletics.

These are just some of the lost team names that dot the national sports landscape.

As with Americans in general, big (and small) league franchises seem to like to move every so often. Al-

most always, the reason is money. The owner(s) can make a bigger profit by pulling up roots and going to what they think are greener pastures.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

But those

moves always bring heartache to diehard fans. When the Dodgers moved to LA from Brooklyn, you'd think that everyone in Flatbush's dog has just died. On the other hand, when the Rams decided to move back from St. Louis, I was as happy as a hog in soft dirt (to use the gentler form of the metaphor).

The thing about franchise shifts is there's always a winner and a loser and sometimes that happens twice. The Athletics started in Philadelphia, moved west to Kansas City, then west again to Oakland. They're now in purgatory (West Sacramento) while their new home in Las Vegas is being built.

The A's are so ... let's say restless ... that no one will be surprised if, after a generation or so, they find a bigger, better deal in Memphis or San Antonio.

If this rush to El Dorado seems like a modern thing, it's not. The genealogy of the New York Yankees started off as the Baltimore Orioles (in 1901) and the present day O's were the St. Louis Browns, which were originally the original Milwaukee Brewers.

Second Verse May Rhyme



RAMS' JARED VERSE (8) rushes Rams' quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (11) in a workout this week (Rams photo)

After a great rookie season, ready to repeat

By Dan Greenspan

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jared Verse came as advertised in his debut season for the Los Angeles Rams, offering explosive pass rush prowess en route to AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year honors.

After totaling 77 pressures, 11 tackles for loss and 4 1/2 sacks last season, the outside linebacker isn't worried about a sophomore slump.

"I don't really feel too much pressure," Verse said Tuesday after practice during organized team activities. "If I'm who I am, if I take the strides needed to take, I'm going to be the best version of me, and I'm going to be able to help the team in any facet or way that they need."

Verse already has one year of dealing with immense expectations under his belt. Drafted 19th overall in 2024, the Florida

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Angels move into third; Dodger hits don't get runs

Nolan Schanuel singled home Chris Taylor with what proved to be the winning run in the fifth as the **Los Angeles Angels** defeated the Seattle Mariners 5-4 Friday night in Anaheim and moved the Halos into third place in the American League West.

The home team (29-33) rallied three times to tie the game. Other key hits were Travis d'Amaud's two-run homer in the fourth and Taylor's RBI double in the fifth.

Kyle Hendricks (3-6) was battered a bit through six innings giving up eight hits and four runs, but the bullpen pitched a

THE ROUNDUP

no-hitter the rest of the way.

For the **Los Angeles Dodgers**, the National League West race tightened as they lost 5-0 to the St. Louis Cardinals and the San Diego Padres blanked Milwaukee 2-0 to move within one game of the division lead.

The Blue Crew's offense never could convert its 10 hits into any runs. Mookie Betts had three hits and Andy Pages had two but the Dodgers (38-26) batted 1-for-13 with runners in scoring position.

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	35-26	.556	—	7-3
Seattle	32-30	.516	2.5	3-7
ANGELS	29-32	.468	5.5	4-6
Texas	29-35	.453	6.5	3-7
Athletics	29-40	.375	11.5	1-9

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	38-26	.594	—	5-5
San Diego	36-26	.581	1	6-4
San Fran.	35-28	.556	2.5	4-6
Arizona	31-31	.500	6	5-5
Colorado	12-51	.190	25.5	3-7

Justin Wroblewski (1-2) took the loss, giving up six hits and four runs in six innings. He struck out five batters and walked three others.

'Go, Pacers! say diehard Sonic fans

By Andrew Destin/Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — It's logical to think someone like Danny Ball is a fair representation of Seattle these days.

Ball, a hoops fan who runs an Instagram account called "Iconic Sonics," is pulling for the Indiana Pacers over the Oklahoma City Thunder in the NBA Finals.

There are no deep ties between Seattle and Indianapolis. The Seahawks play the Colts this December, so the cities will be foes that weekend. Caitlin Clark and the Indiana Fever probably won't be warmly welcomed when they visit the Emerald City later this month to play the Seattle Storm.

But right now, Seattle may as well be an Indy suburb.

Seattle fans lost their NBA franchise, the SuperSonics, in 2008 when it was stolen from them and rebranded in Oklahoma City.

For the scornful, that means one thing: Go Pacers.

"I'd love to see the Pacers pull it off in six games," Ball said. The NBA Finals began Thursday night, with the Pacers winning 111-110.

For some in Seattle, it'll be a heaping helping of fresh salt on the wounds that opened when the Sonics were taken away. And people like Ball, who was born in Seattle and heard stories of Sonics legends Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton from his father, aren't exactly rooting for Oklahoma City right now.

The Thunder are heavy favorites to beat the Pacers. Should they pull it off, the Thunder would claim their first NBA title in Oklahoma City, but technically their second as a franchise after Seattle won the title in 1979.

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JUN 12TH - JUL 20TH

Jared Verse to build on rookie success

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State product had to handle the belief he would help the Rams to navigate the retirement of eight-time All-Pro defensive lineman Aaron Donald.

The pass rush was able to do just that, but Verse said it came from a collective effort rather than his or any other individual performance. Verse, fellow Seminole rookie Braden Fiske and second-year standouts Kobie Turner and Byron Young

combined for 28 1/2 sacks and 43 tackles for loss in the regular season.

It took time for Verse and Fiske to recognize fully integrating into the defense required more than working off one another the way they had in college.

"I think we did good, but I think we became more so focused on helping the team than trying to do our own thing and have a good little duo going on," Verse said.

"But I think we kind of have learned the opportunities that we have to work together." Combined with Verse's improved understanding of how quickly the game moves in the NFL as the season went on, he

closed out the campaign with a fumble return for a touchdown in an NFC wild-card round win over the Minnesota Vikings and two sacks and three tackles for loss in a six-point divisional round loss to the eventual Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles.

"The number one thing you hear is how much faster the game is at this level versus college," Verse said. "Everybody's always like, 'Oh, it's not.' The hell it is, man. You're thrown in that fire, nah, it's a lot faster. Yeah, it was surprising, but once I got the hang of it, it became just like college, it became just like high school, slowed down a lot more."

Verse already feels well ahead of where he was at this time last year. He was determined to make the most of a full offseason without having to prepare for the draft or handle the uncertainty that comes with going through everything for the first time.

That included a full review of all of Verse's game film from last season. The study allowed him to see how many chances he missed out on as a rookie.

"Probably the biggest thing I realized was how many sacks, not even just sacks, but big plays I missed out on," he said.

"You know, dropping in coverage I could have done this, or rushing the passer could have

done that. Even in the run game a couple times, there's a couple things where I'm a little too far inside, a little too far outside, and I could have made a big impact play.

"So realizing that this really is a game of inches, whether it's just like stopping the ball or actually just doing your job, there's a couple things I could have done better."

All those steps, along with continued development from his work with outside linebackers coach Joe Coniglio and defensive line coach Giff Smith, were evident to defensive coordinator Chris Shula in Verse's work during practice.

"You can tell he's really taken the techniques that Joe and Giff are really teaching him and applying them on the field," Shula said. "And I think things have slowed down for him a little bit, and he's playing really fast right now."

Verse has one more week of work in Southern California before the Rams hold their mandatory minicamp in Maui.

The loquacious Verse is looking forward to a return visit after vacationing there for first time earlier this year, but don't expect to see him wading out in the Pacific Ocean during his free time. "I don't know what's out in that water," Verse said. "I'm good."



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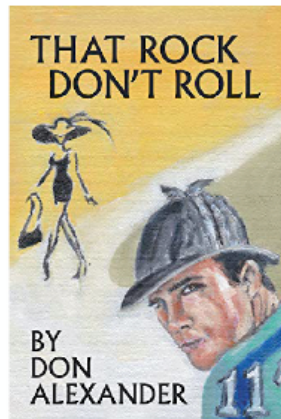
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Don Alexander has been a sports columnist, a sports broadcaster, talk show host and a college instructor. This is his first novel.

Retorts: Hang up on spam

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Commandos yank all the auto-dial phones at the call center out of the wall and throw them in a wood-chipper, like Steve Buscemi.

"And you, sir," the SCU of-

ficial says, "You are hereby restricted to operating only a rotary-dial phone on a party-line for a period of three months. Have a nice day."

Now, see, I would vote for that.

'Karate Kid: Legends'

Continued from page 5

installment of the franchise.

Despite its sprawling universe, there's no need to have kept up with it to understand most of what's going on.

But rewatching the first wouldn't hurt, even if it will make you nostalgic for what's

missing in "Karate Kid: Legends."

"Karate Kid: Legends," a Sony Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for martial arts violence and some language. Running time: 94 minutes.