

Did Mayor Violate Free Speech Law?

ACLU letter cites Brown Act issues

Has the Huntington Beach City Council – more specifically Mayor Pat Burns – violated a state open meeting law?

At Tuesday’s meeting of the council, the final agenda item is a response to a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union alleging violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act. The recommended action is for the council to

■ HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL

“Without admitting any violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, the City of Huntington Beach hereby unconditionally commits that it will cease, desist from, and not repeat the challenged past action as described in the letter from the ACLU dated May 22, 2025, and analysis section of this staff report.”

The cease and desist letter argues that Burns violated the law – as well as the state and U.S. Constitutions – during the public

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Near-complete tally shows wins for A, B.

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

Election 2025

The latest results of the voting on Measures A and B before Huntington Beach voters confirmed what early returns indicated: the city council’s actions regarding the municipal library system were not popular.

According to the Orange County Registrar of Voters, as of 5 p.m. on Friday, two voter-initiated mea-

sures A & B were each winning by wide margins despite opposition by members of the city council.

Measure A was winning by 58.41 percent (34,750 votes) voting yes to 41.59 percent (24,748 votes).

Measure B was winning a larger margin, with 60.55 percent (35,993)

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IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN AND OC



A peaceful protest of about 300 people was held Wednesday in Santa Ana over the Trump Administration’s immigration enforcement crackdown and the use of troops in connection with the operation, Speaking (at right) is GGUSD board member Walter Muneton.



Car chase leads to arrests

A high speed chase Friday morning in Huntington Beach led to a “shelter-in-place” situation at two schools and the arrest of two suspects.

According to Corbin Carson, public affairs officer for the HBPD, the incident began around

8:45 a.m. in response to a report of the theft of a leaf blower from a gardener’s truck in the area of Yorktown Avenue and Goldenwest Street.

The suspects fled the area before police could arrive but with a vehicle description and a partial license

plate number, an officer spotted the car, which led to a high-speed chase.

As the vehicles approached the downtown area, the pursuit was cancelled for safety reasons.

The suspects abandoned their vehicle but with-

Continued on page 2

Tet Parade foundation approved

A new foundation to support the city’s annual Tet Parade was approved by the Westminster City Council on Wednesday night.

The city council voted 5-0 to have the city attorney file the appropriate



paperwork with the California Secretary of State for the creation of a non-profit “public benefit” foundation.

The suggested name for the new entity would be the Westminster Tet Pa-

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Huntington Beach City Council

Continued from page 1

comments period of the May 6 council meeting by announcing that “making crude gestures or use of foul language” would be considered disruptive conduct that would place audience mem-

bers at risk of removal or even arrest, by prohibiting speakers from addressing individual councilmembers by name during the public comment period, and by cutting off Wendy Rincon and others when they did attempt to address individual councilmembers by name.

“Additionally, the City Council’s published ‘Meeting Decorum’ rules are overbroad, and any attempt to enforce them as

written would violate the public’s statutory and constitutional rights.”

The meeting will be held in the lower level theater of the Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave. There will be a closed session at 4:30 p.m. with the regular meeting scheduled for 6 p.m.

Measures A, B

Continued from page 1

yes to 39.45 percent (23,455 votes) opposed.

A called for an end to the “Parent-community review board” that screened which books would be added to the library and whether they would be in the children’s section or otherwise in the collection.

B requires that the city’s library system wouldn’t be “privatized,” as in operated by a for-profit private company, without a vote of the public.

That’s something which was considered for a while by the council, before finally being rejected.

A possible flashpoint in the campaign was the council approving the placing of a plaque with the acrostic MAGA – generally recognized as President Donald Trump’s “Make America Great Again” slogan – in the Central Library.

Defenders on the council said it stood for “Magical Alluring Galvanizing Adventurous.”

Leaf-blower heist, high-speed car chase in H. Beach

Continued from page 1

nesses pointed in the suspects’ direction.

During the search, Dwyer Middle School and Smith Elementary School were placed in “shelter-in-place” status.

The suspects were caught and arrested and a loaded firearm and the leaf blower was recovered from the vehicle.

Arrested were Clayton Lohman, 27, a Florida man on various charges, as was Kurstin Pulliam, 28, a Texas woman.

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News & Views

Whirlwind is coming to a city near you

It's easy to be philosophical about things happening to other people far away.

It's when they come to your doorstep that things "get real." I'm thinking, of course, of the events emanating from Washington, D.C., the historic "crack-down" on illegal immigration.

Although I'm not aware of any news events that have – as of this writing – taken place in Garden



Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton or Westminster, the evidence of the echo of a program to rid the nation of as many as 12 million people is all around.

In Los Alamitos, located west of West Garden Grove, is the Joint Forces Training Base. That's what California National Guard troops have been using as their staging area and there maybe more on the way.

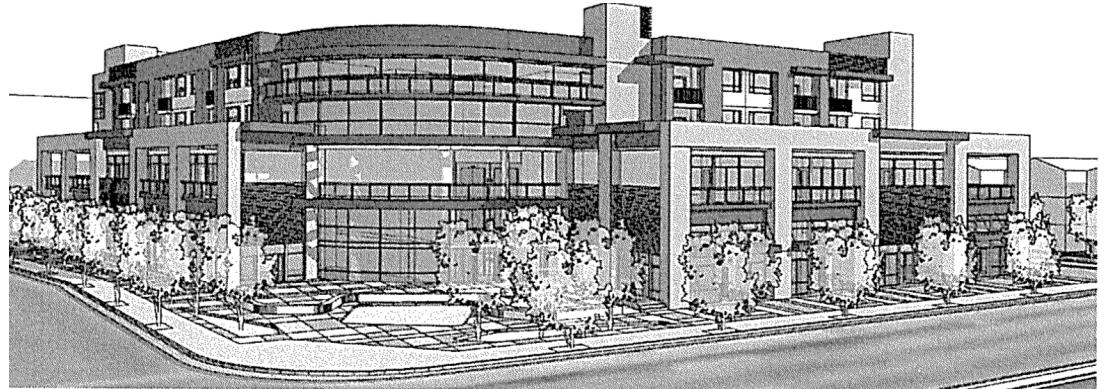
To our east in Santa Ana, ICE agents are being "supported" by National Guard soldiers. Protests of the president's recent actions and of this unprecedented turn of events are scheduled today (Saturday) in Huntington Beach, Anaheim, Laguna Beach and Mission Viejo.

I used to be based out of the JFTB in Los Al and we helped train Guardsmen (Guardswomen?) in riot control. I remember the phalanxes of soldiers with their shields and batons advancing in slow, boot-slapping steps to the accompanying command of "back!"

They'll never have to use this, I told myself.

Today (Saturday) is, interestingly enough, Flag Day.

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ARTISTS' RENDERING of proposed five-story mixed-use building at Brookhurst Street and Garden Grove Boulevard.

Time extensions are asked for two GG developments

5-story mixed-use and bible college projects on agenda

Wait 'till next year!

Two projects approved a year ago will go before the Garden Grove Planning Commission next Thursday as applicants request a one-year continuance on their developments.

Dr. Michael Dao is asking for the time extension on a five-story mixed-use building at the northeast corner of Garden Grove Boulevard and Brookhurst Street.

It is planned to be built on a 1.86-acre site with 5,312 square

■ GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION

feet of retail space, 3,548 square feet for art gallery use, 10,745 square feet of medical space and 52 apartment units.

Also asking for one more year is the Freedomhouse OC Church, which is planning to build at the southwest corner of Katella Avenue and Euclid Street a new religious facility including church services, an accredited bible college and a child day care within an existing 46,287 square foot tenant space.

Originally a Food Giant supermarket, the building most recently was occupied as a Walmart Neighborhood Market.

Also on the agenda is a public hearing on a request for site plan approval for the construction of a 3,625 square foot freestanding steel structure at the southeast corner of Trask Avenue and Brookhurst Street for Simpson Chevrolet.

The commission will meet at 7 p.m. in the Community Meeting Center.

Foundation for Tet parade OK by city council

Continued from page 1

rade Foundation.

A seven-member board of directors will be created, composed of members chosen by the city council, with each councilmember appointing one.

There would be no "seed money" for the foundation, but the cost of creating the non-profit corporation – estimated at \$5,000 – would be paid by the city, which would later be reimbursed.

In recent years, the organizers of the parade – held along Bolsa Avenue in the Little Saigon area of the city – have struggled to raise enough money to cover the costs of the event.

Why it's not now Santa Ana County

When the people of what used to be called the Santa Ana Valley sought to break off from Los Angeles County and form a new county, residents of Santa Ana objected to naming it Santa Ana County of the grounds that it would make Anaheim the county seat. Voters voted for the creation of Orange County in 1889 with Santa Ana as county seat.

History Minute



SEAL OF THE OC

NewsUpdate

Iran Retaliates Against Israel

Nuclear armss research is the motivation

Iran is retaliating against Israel's attack on its nuclear sites with a barrage of long-range missiles, many of them in Tel Aviv. At least 34 people have been wounded.

According to the Associated Press, Israel's earlier attacks – which also included targeting generals and scientists killed 78 people and wounded 320 others, as claimed by Iran's UN ambassador.

As Iranian missiles and Israeli intercept weapons duelled in the sky, Ali Ayatollah Khomeini, the supreme leader of Iran, said he would not allow Israel



IRANIAN AIR DEFENSES near nuclear facilities (Wikipedia).

to "escape safely from this great crime."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that his nation

had been in planning for months to "roll back the Iranian threat to Israel's very survival."

Iran has been seeking to develop

a nuclear capability for years. It's believed that the Iranians have not yet manufactured an atomic weapon.

Great Thoughts

"Most people don't grow up. Most people age. They find parking spaces, honor their credit cards, get married, have children, and call that maturity. What that is, is aging."

-- Maya Angelou

"The afternoon knows what the morning never suspected."

-- Robert Frost

Court says troops can stay, but appeals panel will decide on Tuesday

Late Thursday night, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals placed on hold a lower court order that had ruled that President Donald Trump has broken the law by federalizing California National Guard troops in connection with immigration enforcement.

The issue will go before a

three-judge panel on Tuesday. According to The Los Angeles Times, two of the judges were appointed by Trump during his first term, and the third by President Joe Biden.

U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer of San Francisco has issued the original temporary restraining order.

Many protests planned for Saturday across US

An estimated 2,000 protests against President Donald Trump's policies are expected across the nation, according to The New York Times.

Some of the demonstrations are in reaction to the use of military force in connection with immigration enforcement efforts. Some –the "No Kings" movement – had been planned for months on the same day that

Trump will preside over a military parade in Washington, D.C.

The largest protest is expected in Los Angeles where 2,000 California National Guard troops and U.S. Marines have been deployed.

There's been some injuries and some violence in clashes between law enforcement and protesters, but no reported fatalities.

Weather: It's 80s all over

All over our West Orange County cities, that is. The forecasts call for summer-y temperatures as least through Tuesday.

Saturday's outlook is for a daytime high of 81 with an overnight low of 62. There should be clouds in the morning and sun in the afternoon. Sunday and Monday will hit 84 degrees (62 and 64 at night) with partly cloudy skies. Tuesday will be sunny with temps of 85 and 64.

Arts & Living

'Materialists': Rom-Com and Cash

Who should she go for? Rich guy or sweet schmo?

By Jocelyn Noveck
AP National Writer

The problem with so many rom-coms — one of the problems, anyway — is how often we're asked to conveniently dismiss our knowledge of life's realities. Particularly economic ones.

How does this person live in a spacious, light-filled apartment when they have a beginner's salary, for instance? (In London, or Manhattan!) How can they buy chic designer clothes, or afford those long taxi rides?

By this metric alone, Celine Song's "Materialists" is something else entirely. Song's characters tell us bluntly what their salary is, or how much their apartment costs. Economic reality, in fact, drives the narrative.

Still, it's understandable how one can watch the trailer for "Materialists," with the starry trio of Dakota Johnson, Pedro Pascal and Chris Evans, and feel a little concerned.

Especially if you loved "Past Lives," her stunning debut film that explored not only love and longing but the very idea that our romantic choices, right or wrong, bring lifelong consequences. Compared to that soulful film, "Materialists" looks suspiciously like it could be glossy, superficial and ... OK, loads of fun! But perhaps a bit more Bridget Jones than Celine Song.

Let's look at the similarities, though. Again, Song is writing about a triangle of a woman and two men, each deserving of our empathy and understanding (no cad-like Hugh Grant character here).

And Song, who based "Past Lives" on an experience she had when contacted by a former love, is again writing what she knows. For six months in New York, while a struggling playwright,



DAKOTA JOHNSON and Chris Evans star in "Materialists (A24 Release Films).

Movie Review

she worked for a matchmaking firm.

As does Johnson's Lucy, who's good at what she does. Passing a good-looking guy, she stops: "Hey, are you single?" She offers her card. That man will become a client, and his demands are chilling: at 48, he's ready for a slightly older woman than usual.

No, not in her 30s. Even 27 is pushing it. Another man gives the maximum BMI his partner can be. Men are usually the villains here, but women aren't immune to being superficial jerks, either.

But Lucy has somehow beaten the odds. Early in the film, she's being feted at the offices of Adore, the firm she works for: Charlotte and Peter are getting married, and it's the NINTH wedding of Lucy's making! Still, there's one woman whose prospects Lucy despairs of. So-

phie (a superb Zoe Winters, both vulnerable and dignified) reports having a wonderful time on her date. Lucy, delighted, calls the man, who did not. "She's 40 and fat," he says.

Lucy promises Sophie that she will soon find and marry the love of her life. But privately to her colleague, she admits there may not be a guy who "just wants a nice girl."

At Charlotte's wedding, Harry (Pascal), the groom's handsome brother, notices Lucy and starts to flirt. Turns out, he's everything a woman could want: Rich, successful, nice, the right height. To Lucy, he's a "unicorn" — and an ideal client.

Then the cute waiter drops off her favorite drink combo before she can ask: a beer and a Coke. It's John, a former boyfriend. He looks like ... well, like Chris Evans. He's scruffy and adorable, but he's a cater waiter and struggling actor. The two had split up

Good: ★★ ★

years ago, we learn, over money — meaning, his lack thereof. Money, Song points out repeatedly here, is not merely a side-line issue; It's a driving force in relationships, even good, honest ones. Anyone who's ever fought bitterly over money with a loved one can understand this. Many movies seem to think we don't.

And so our triangular love story progresses over tricky terrain. (Johnson, Pascal and Evans, expertly cast, all do excellent work). Harry doesn't want to be Lucy's client, he wants HER. "The math doesn't add up," she protests. "I'm the kind of girl you go home with once and never call again."

But Lucy lets herself be wooed — how can she resist a \$12 million Tribeca duplex? With those

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TheSportsPages

So far, call the 2025 Angels a real success

If you're an Angel fan – let's face it – the bar for success is pretty low.

When you consider the fact that the Los Angeles Angels have not had a winning season since 2015 ... have not been to the playoffs since 2014 ... have not won a playoff game since 2009 and did all of this while having a roster with six American League MVP wins over that span, well ...

As I write this, the Halos (as headline writers often refer to them) are 33-34 and surging toward the potential holy grail of a .500 season.

Other fans, like those of the Boston Red Sox, for decades used to pray to the baseball gods for a World Series championship to finally break the grip of the Curse of the Bambino.

Our own Los Angeles Rams won the NFL title in 1951 and couldn't repeat the feat until the 2021 season, a lifetime later.

So you can't exactly say that Orange County fans have been spoiled by success.

Yet here are some very encouraging signs. In 2024, under new manager Ron Washington, the Angels hit rock bottom, losing their last six games in a row and finishing last in the American League West with 99 losses.

So now, as the team sits in second place in the AL West, winners of three straight, my bruised hearts longs to freeze time. Let's call a .493 winning percentage "close enough."

Let's call this the year we build on next year's playoff spot.

I'm afraid that otherwise, expectations will be crushed and that the only bar we'll be concerned with is where to go to drown our sorrows.



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano

Chargers' Mack is Back



KHALIL MACK considered retirement from the Chargers but he's back for the 2025 season hoping to return with a winning team this year (CreativeCommons).

Picking return over retirement was 'no-brainer'

By Beth Harris
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Khalil Mack mulled retirement early in the offseason. It didn't take long for him to decide to return to the Los Angeles Chargers.

He agreed on a contract extension in March, never becoming an unrestricted free agent.

"Got tremendous leadership here, very familiar with guys already here," he said Wednesday at minicamp. "It was a no-brainer."

Mack, who turned 34 in February, is in his 12th season in the league and fourth with the Chargers. Despite nine Pro Bowl selections and a Defensive Player of the Year honor, he has never won a playoff game in five appearances.

"You're chasing that feeling of wanting to win," Mack said. "I couldn't give up on that dream

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Friday the 13th: both Angels, Dodgers lose

It was a real Friday the 13th for both the Los Angeles Angels and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Both teams lost, in tight races, and lost ground. The Angels, who fell 2-0 to the Orioles in Baltimore, tumbled from second place in the American League West into fourth and the Dodgers, who lost 6-2 to the San Francisco Giants at home, found themselves tied for first in the National League West with their NorCal rivals.

At Camden Yards, the Angels (33-35) outlit the O's but couldn't score against the home team, especially Charlie Mor-

THE ROUNDUP

ton, who pitched five innings, giving up five hits while striking out 10 batters and walking just one.

The Halos wasted a pretty good bullpen game pitching performance, but give up two solo home runs that decided the game.

Back in LA, the Giants jumped out to an early 5-1 lead and the Dodgers (41-29) couldn't do much to close the gap, except a seventh inning home run by Teo Hernandez, his 12th homer of the season.

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	39-30	.565	—	7-3
Seattle	34-34	.500	4.5	2-8
Texas	34-36	.486	5.5	6-4
ANGELS	33-35	.485	5.5	7-3
Athletics	27-44	.380	13	4-6

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	41-29	.586	—	5-5
San Fran.	41-29	.586	—	8-2
San Diego	38-30	.559	2	4-6
Arizona	35-34	.507	5.5	7-3
Colorado	13-56	.188	27.5	4-6

Blue Crew starter Yoshi Yamamoto was roughed up early, working 4.2 innings while giving up six hits (including two home runs) and five runs.

Oilers made their mark even while falling (a bit) short

The Huntington Beach High Oiler baseball team continued to be a powerhouse in 2025, as evidenced by the Orange County All-Star team.

Four area players were named first team and one each on the second and third teams. Those six were the only such honored except one player from Garden Grove High.

On the first team from HBHS are pitcher Jared Grindinger, a sophomore, as well as catcher Trent Grindinger, a senior and outfielders Trevor Goldenetz (senior) and Ethan Porter (senior).

The second team includes pitcher Otto Espinoza (senior). A third team pick is first baseman Jayton Greer (senior). Also on the third team is utility player Rohan Ramos of Garden Grove (senior).

The Oilers had an epic season winning the Sunset League title and posting an overall 24-5 record, but fell short of winning the CIF-SS Division 1 title, losing 6-5 to Santa Margarita after leading 4-1 going into the sixth inning of a second round game.

HBHS finished ranked 47th in the nation, and sixth in the state.

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JUN 12TH - JUL 20TH

Chargers' Mack is back with desire

Continued from page 6

and that goal for myself and the franchise.”

Defensive coordinator Jesse Minter said having Mack return “means everything.”

“Khalil is one of the best ever to do it,” he said.

Mack was at the Chargers facility to train in February and March, setting a tone for his teammates.

“The impact that he had on other people to train at his level is

pretty incredible,” Minter said. “For young guys to have him around, it just makes everybody better.”

Around the same time Mack re-signed, the Chargers released defensive end Joey Bosa. He later signed with the Buffalo Bills. “I texted him the other day saying it was weird not having him in the room breaking the silence with his little awkward jokes,” Mack said.

Second-year cornerback Tarheeb Still influenced Mack’s decision to stay.

“Just the mindset he has. His is the same approach and mindset when I train,” Mack said. “I want to be a machine, move people easy.”

Will this be Mack’s final season?

“I’m trying not to speak too fast or too far in the future,” he said.

“My wife says, ‘You keep saying you’re going to retire. Why you keep doing that?’”

Movie review: Honest view in ‘Materialists’

Continued from page 5

expertly sliced radishes at breakfast?

Still, Lucy can’t erase John from her mind — mid-30s John who lives in a cramped apartment with roommates who swipe his charger and leave dirty condoms on the floor (Song does not make this cute-funny. It’s also sad.) A life Lucy thought she had left.

Then there’s Sophie. The sharpest scene in the film is a devastating confrontation between Lucy and her trusting client. On a date, something terrible has happened. Is it Lucy’s fault that some people are bad humans? No, but it shines a light on a sordid part of the dating world. And it shakes Lucy to the core.

Obviously there’s a final act here. How Song resolves this

particular triangle is certainly different from the resolution in “Past Lives,” where an Uber car arrived to separate two people we ached to see together, somehow.

In “Materialists,” I confess I found myself wondering if, in the end, Lucy would really make the choice she does — or even if we’re supposed to believe it’s a final choice. But that doesn’t mean the experience rings hollow.

A smart rom-com that tries to be honest about life and still leave us smiling — that math seems to add up just fine.

“Materialists,” an A24 release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association “for language and brief sexual material.” Running time: 116 minutes.

Retorts: Sad time for Flag Day

Continued from page 3

It’s supposed to be the day to treasure the Stars and Stripes as a symbol of freedom, equality and unity.

But it’s not going to be a day of unity. The immigration “crisis” has been building for decades. Neither major party has had the courage to address

it thoughtfully.

One party didn’t want to alienate a constituency; the other party didn’t want to force businesses to shed low-pay employees who helped feed the profits.

Now we are reaping the “whirlwind,” as it says in Hosea 8:7, and no one can predict how all of this is going to turn out.



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

Who sponsors and contributes to training high school students on leadership and citizenship?

Garden Grove Rotary.

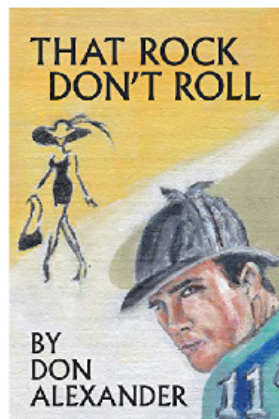
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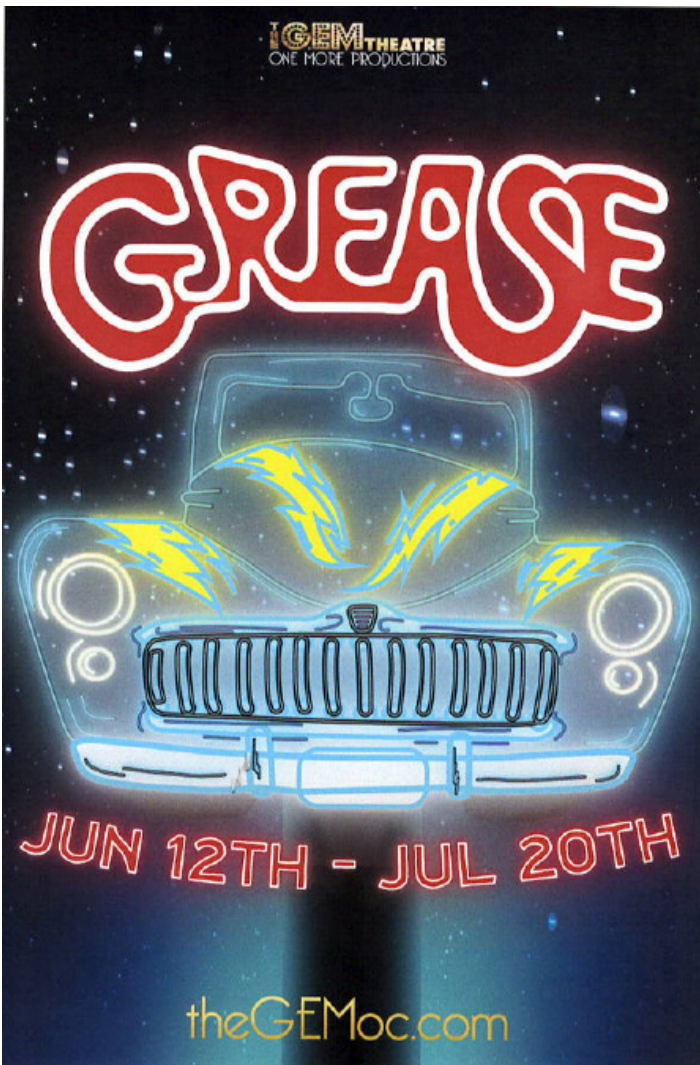
Tyler Curry of Huntington

Home Repair deadline looms

Beach, a senior mechanical engineering major at Grove City College in Grove City Pennsylvania has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester.

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Retorts: Why it's grand

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Sports Retorts

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**RAMS
COULDN'T**

Angels' Thomas ... materialized, with just three players logging at least 110 games at designated hitter during the 2023 season. That trio includes Angels two-way star Shohei Ohtani, Braves slugger Marcell Ozuna and the Nationals' Joey Meneses.

By The general consensus at this

NHL Pacific

David Brandt
AP Baseball Writer

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Prep Sports SPOTLIGHT

SEMIFINALS, Friday, Nov. 17

DIVISION 5
Orange Vista 63, Western 45
DIVISION 6
Simi Valley 32, Huntington Beach 29

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) – The universal designated hitter has been part of Major League

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34-16-4
31-17-6
This is the 27th year when winter high school sports playoffs intersect with the start of spring athletics.

Friday's 4-AA semifinal boys basketball game (see page 6) between the Pacifica Mariners (21-10) and the Santrago Cavaliers (20-11) guaran-

Baseball for two full seasons and, much to the chagrin of some National League traditionalists, the sport has survived a n d e v e n

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THE 2025 PACIFICA HIGH VARSITY

JOEL QUENNEVILLE
coach of the Chicago B



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Pacifi
West
Lagun
La Q
Katell
San J

Girls
Bolsa
Los A
Hunt.

MAJOR LEAGUE

LOS AMIGOS HIGH

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