

Council Says Yes to Letter From ACLU

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

■ HUNTINGTON BEACH
CITY COUNCIL

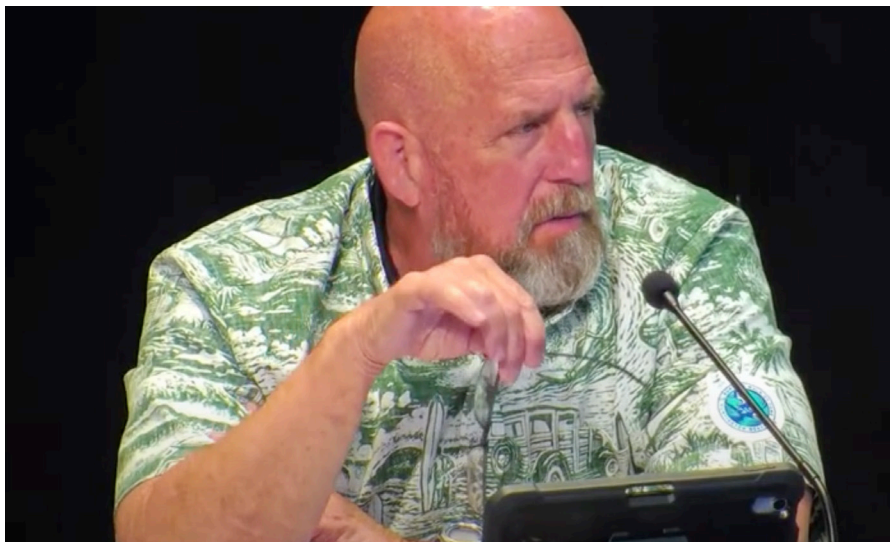
A subdued Huntington Beach City Council on Tuesday night acted — without comment — to agree with a demand letter from the American Civil Liberties Union to not repeat alleged violations of a state open meetings law.

At the conclusion of an unusually short council meeting — done by 7:15 p.m. — the council voted in favor of abandoning certain rules and policies of council meetings, including prohibiting speakers in the public comments

portion of the session from addressing individual members and instead directing all comments to the mayor.

The vote was 6-0 with Councilmember Andrew Gruel absent.

The wording read: “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



HUNTINGTON BEACH Mayor Pat Burns (File photo)

the ACLU dated May 22, 2025, and analysis section of this staff report.”

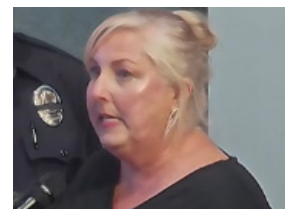
While the council was silent on the matter, Wendy Rincon, the initiator of the complaint, was not.

“Mayor Pat Burns violated my First Amendment rights and the Brown Act when he shut me down during public

comments simply because he didn’t like me directing comments to [Councilmembers] Chad Williams and Don Kennedy in my speech,” she said.

“Let me be clear: it is not illegal to criticize elected officials.

“What is illegal is silencing dissent, violating open meeting laws and sup-



WENDY RINCON

pressing speech in a public forum.”

Murder at a hotel on Beach Bl. in Anaheim

A 59-year-old Anaheim resident is in jail, the suspect in a fatal shooting on Saturday.

According to the Anaheim Police Department, at around 6:12 p.m., officers were sent to the Villa Inn, 733 S. Beach Blvd. in response to a report of a shooting at the Anaheim motel.

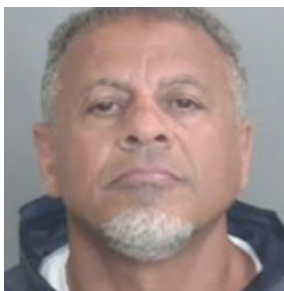
They found the victim — whose name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin — suffering from at least one gunshot

wound. He was identified only as a male in his 60s.

Anaheim Fire & Rescue paramedics treated him at the scene and he was transported to a local hospital, where he died an hour later.

Patrol officers identified as a suspect Amir Karkehbabadi who was detained at the motel. A handgun was found at the scene.

APD homicide detectives are continuing to investigate the circumstances leading to the incident.



AMIR KARKEHABADI
(Anaheim PD photo).

Karkehbabadi was arrested and booked at the Anaheim police headquarters on suspicion of murder. More details are not being disclosed at this time while the investigation continues.

Camping crackdown leads to two arrests

Somewhere where you don’t belong? Huntington Beach police may find a temporary home for you in jail.

According to the HBPD, two persons were arrested on Monday for unlawful camping on public property.

They are Paul John Bryant, 62, and Morgan Patrick Woods, 64, both of Huntington Beach.

Also on Monday, arrests were made for lodging

■ POLICE LOG

without consent, otherwise known as “squatting” in which a person moves into vacant property without the property owners’ permission or agreement.

Kyland Arthur Bishop, 30, of Huntington Beach was arrested by the HBPD and the day before taken into custody was Jonathan Richard Gomez, 30, of Anaheim.

G. Grove salutes its college grads

On Tuesday, June 10, the City of Garden Grove recognized nearly 40 local college graduates at the 2025 Garden Grove College Graduates' Reception.

The private reception honored

the academic achievements of Garden Grove residents, awarding over \$5,000 in opportunity cash prizes, including gift cards, giveaways, and services. Graduates also received local, state, and federal certificates of recognition.

During the event, Garden Grove Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein shared her personal journey of growing up in Garden Grove,

working abroad, and ultimately returning to contribute to her hometown.

"I share this with you to highlight a meaningful point: consider building your future right here in Garden Grove," said Mayor Klopfenstein.

"With the kind of talent you bring, our future has no limits. If you're thinking about settling down, you'll find some of the most modern and affordable new homes in Orange County right here in Garden Grove. And our schools are among the highest-achieving districts in the country."

Title sponsors for the event were Embassy Suites by Hilton Anaheim South, Shield Litigation Injury Attorneys, Thirsty Cow Korean Barbeque, and Garden Grove Shell #1. Master's sponsors include the Garden Grove Police Association and Garden Grove Unified School District.

Photos from the reception can be viewed on the City's Facebook page @GardenGroveCityHall or by searching #GardenGroveGrads on Instagram. For the complete lists of graduates and sponsors, visit www.ggcity.org/grads.

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News & Views

Laugh, clown, laugh ... it's all you can do

I'm reading the autobiography of Dave Barry, the long-time nationally syndicated humor columnist.

It's great, but if you think that his life has been a progression from one cheery triumph to another, well ... it wasn't.

As he writes in "Class Clown," he had his share of ups and downs and downs ...



Retorts Jim Tortolano

The man once considered the nation's premier humorist, the guy who was the first – and probably only ever funny boy ever to win a Pulitzer Prize – divorced his first two wives. The third is still in office.

His father, though a prince of a guy, was an alcoholic, His mother was chronically depressed and killed herself. This seems to be a pattern with our most adept rib-ticklers.

They polish their jokes, routines and general foolishness in order to cover up their pain and sense of isolation.

Robin Williams was shy and bullied as a child, suffered from depression and finally, with an advance of Parkinson's Disease, killed himself.

Steve Martin's father was reportedly a bit of a martinet;

Brian Wilson – who passed away just this week – had a dad who was hypercritical.

So the next time you see or hear someone surrounded by adoring, laughing fans just pause for a second to think about the rough path he or she took to get that applause.

There's an old joke about a man who goes to a psychiatrist in a state of melancholia. The

Continued on page 8



INTERIOR of the suspect vehicle. How did police find a weapon in that mess? (HBPD photo)

Leaf-blower heist leads to high-speed chase, 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 witnesses pointed in the suspects' direction.

During the search, Dwyer Middle School and Smith El-

ementary 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 Kurtsin Pulliam, 28, a Texas woman.

Armed man is arrested at 'No Kings' rally in HB

During Saturday's "No Kings" protest in Huntington Beach, police arrested a man who was in the middle of the street, waving a Mexican flag and carrying a loaded handgun.

According to Corbin Carson, public affairs officer, Eduardo Pineda, 25, was arrested on multiple charges from an incident in the area of Main Street and Pacific Coast Highway, a few blocks from the pier, at around 3:30 p.m.

Officers say they spotted a man – later identified as Pineda – "actively shouting at a pedestrian and challenging him to a fight."

After contacting Pineda, officers learned that he had active warrants for his arrest related to previous charges of battery and vandalism.

During a search, officers found a loaded handgun concealed in his waistband.

It was later discovered that Pineda is a convicted felon and prohibited from owning a firearm.

He was booked for being a felon in possession of a firearm, challenging another person to fight in public and for outstanding warrants for battery and vandalism.

Where in OC was the "Gospel Swamp"?

There's an area from south Garden Grove to Huntington Beach that was once called "Gospel Swamp." With a high water table it frequently flooded, created little temporary islands. On these vacant pieces of "worthless" land, itinerant evangelists would erect tents and hold the "revival meetings" that gave the area its now-forgotten name.

History Minute



THIS Fountain Valley church is a remnant of the "Gospel Swamp" area.

NewsUpdate

Is Iran Really a Nuclear Threat?

Trump says yes; Gabbard had said no

National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard, testifying before Congress, has said that Iran was not building a nuclear weapon. On Tuesday, President Donald Trump said, "I don't care what she said," adding that Iran was "very close" to having an atomic bomb, according to The Associated Press.

Gabbard claimed the news media has misconstrued her remarks. But in March she told Congress, that U.S. intelligence "continues to assess that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon and Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has not authorized



IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER Ali Khamenei at a reading of the Koran (Wikipedia).

the nuclear weapons program he suspended in 2003."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has referred to Iran's nuclear potential and that is a motivating factor in Israel's at-

tacks on Iran.

Gabbard was expected to testify Tuesday in a closed session, the AP reports.

On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump urged Iran's

top leader to submit to "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER," and added, "He is an easy target, but is safe there now – We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least, not for now."

Great Thoughts

"All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The Earth is the mother of all people and all people should have equal rights upon it."

– Chief Joseph.

"We need to be courageous and stand up for our values, even when it is difficult."

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

U.S. Senate passes a cryptocurrency bill, now it's up to House of Reps

By a vote of 68-30, the U.S. Senate on Tuesday passed a bill to regulate cryptocurrency, according to USA Today.

Called the GENIUS Act, the bill – if passed by the House of Representatives – would create "guardrails" for the industry such as requiring that such companies have a reserve of assets so "stablecoin" investors could

get their money back out, just as you can withdraw from a bank.

Cryptocurrency is not "real money," but a "digital or virtual currency secured by cryptography (codes)" making it difficult to counterfeit or use twice.

The Trump family is heavily invested in cryptocurrency and Donald Trump earned about \$57 million from it in 2024, according to CNBC.

CBO report: 'Big Bill' may add 3.4 T to the U.S. debt

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office is estimating that the "Big Beautiful Bill" passed by the House of Representatives would – if passed by the U.S. Senate – add about \$3.4 trillion to the national debt, according to The New York Times.

The CBO report said that the combination of tax cuts and new spending would add \$2.8 trillion to the debt, and be \$3.4 trillion

if the costs of borrowing are added.

Should the level of public debt continue at this rate, the report added, it would amount to about 124 percent of the U.S. economic output by 2035.

According to President Donald Trump, the CBO estimates in the past have been inaccurate and politically influenced.

Weather: It's 80s all over

The thermometer has risen for a week, bringing temperatures in the 80s for our West Orange County cities. But what goes up ... The forecast for Wednesday is 85 with an overnight low of 63. But on Thursday, it drops to 79 (63), then on Friday to 77 (63), and then on Saturday to 75 (62). June gloom will be with us through Friday, but sunshine will appear on Saturday.

Arts&Living

'Dragon' Redeems Live-Action Film

It even looks a bit better than the 3-d version

By Lindsey Bahr
AP National Writer

Ever wanted to soar through the skies on the back of a friendly dragon? The new "How to Train Your Dragon" may be the ticket, from a decidedly safer, though possibly still vertigo-inducing, distance.

This live-action adaptation of the underdog adventure story sends the audience cascading through the clouds with the teenage Viking boy Hiccup and his dragon friend Toothless.

It's the kind of immersive sensation and giddy wish fulfillment that might just have you forgetting momentarily to breathe and, maybe more importantly, that you're still in a movie theater. Credit to veteran cinematographer Bill Pope, no stranger to fantasy worlds, whether it's "The Matrix" or "Scott Pilgrim vs. The World."

"How to Train Your Dragon" doesn't stray far from the original, from shots to story beats. Gerard Butler once again plays Berk's Chief Stoick the Vast.

The new Hiccup, actor Mason Thames, even sounds a bit like Jay Baruchel. But unlike so many live-action remakes of animated films, it also doesn't feel superfluous, or, worse, like a poor imitation of its predecessor that trades the magic of animation for photorealism.

Perhaps that's because filmmaker Dean DeBlois, who made the three animated films, stayed in the director's chair. Who better to kill their darlings than the one who brought them to the screen in the first place? And, crucially, to know where live-action might actually enhance the fabric of the world created by author Cressida Cowell.

It helps that dragon technology has come a long way since, say, "DragonHeart." These fire-breathing CG creatures feel disarmingly



MASON THAMES stars in "How to Train Your Dragon" (Universal Pictures)

Movie Review

real. And though it might look like "Lord of the Rings" or "Game of Thrones," the tone stays light enough for younger filmgoers. There are a few intense sequences, but none that takes it any further than the animated film did 15 years ago.

"How to Train Your Dragon" does start a little slow, however, which is odd because it also begins with a fiery battle between the Vikings and the dragons on the Isle of Berk.

There's a lot of exposition and introduction that needs to happen before you can just give yourself over to the story.

In this more multicultural version, the warriors on Berk have been recruited from tribes around the globe to try to defeat the dragons.

Hiccup is a Viking nepo baby. As the chief's son, he sits in a place of privilege, but he's also a general

outcast in this world of ruthless warriors — skinny and weak, he just longs to be part of the action, not sharpening the weapons.

Killing dragons is currency in this society, and his crush Astrid (Nico Parker) happens to be one of the most promising up-and-comers. His sole champion is Gobber (a delightful Nick Frost), the blacksmith and dragon slayer teacher, who convinces the chief to give the clever Hiccup a shot.

The film finds its internal engine when Hiccup finds Toothless, the wide-eyed "Night Fury" dragon whom he can't bring himself to kill.

Instead, he decides to study this discovery, who he finds is not as nearly fearsome as everyone assumes. "How to Train Your Dragon" teaches empathy and ingenuity without a sermon.

Thames, a teenager himself, is the perfect embodiment of adolescent awkwardness and boldness. You can have all the cute dragons you want, but the audience would be lost if the human conduit to

Good: ★ ★ ★

the relationship isn't up to the task. Butler seems to be having a good time, resplendent in fur and chest-thumping ideas about ancient duties.

And Parker gives Astrid a relatable depth — the best in the bunch who is outshone in an unequal fight.

Kids deserve movies that are made on the biggest possible canvas. "How to Train Your Dragon" is one that's worth the trip to the theater. It might just spark some young imaginations, whether it's to go back and read the books or dream up their own worlds. And, chances are, no one is going to be yelling "chicken jockey."

"How to Train Your Dragon," a Universal Pictures release, opened in theaters Friday and is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for "sequences of intense action and peril." Running time: 125 minutes.

TheSportsPages

So, who is winning now? Check the stats

For those Angels' fans tired of living in the shadow of the Dodgers, consider this. In the all-time record between the teams, the Halos lead with 78 wins to 73 for the Blue Crew. And that isn't just ancient history ... The last time these two geographical rivals met was back on May 16-18 when the Halos swept a three-game series in Dodgers Stadium. It was the start of an eight-game win streak which put the Orange County team at .500.



Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

Regional matchups seem to bring out the emotions and unexpected results that make them so interesting and turns the ... turnstiles.

One of the shortest such rivalries is the Los Angeles Rams against the recently Los Angeles Chargers which is 7-6 in favor of the older team, although the Bolts won their last meeting by 31-10 in 2023.

Probably the most one-sided of these domestic clashes is the Lakers vs. the Clippers. As you probably guessed, the Lakers hold a big advantage by 107-66 since the Clips moved to LA from San Diego. But included were some truly terrible LAC teams from 1984-2013 when the franchise was owned by the tight-fisted Donald Sterling.

On the ice, the longer-established Los Angeles Kings have (regular season and playoffs) won 84 games against 68 losses and 11 ties or overtime losses to the Anaheim Ducks. That might seem a little one-sided until you get out the slide rule and realize that the "stronger" Kings team have won just 51.4 percent of those games.

Of course the best approach is to be a fan of both teams in a rivalry. It's always nice to have a win-win situation.

Ex-Ram Flies with 'Hawks



COOPER KUPP has left the Rams after eight years with the Southern California team and is now preparing for his first season with the Seattle Seahawks (Rams photo).

Cooper Kupp is back in his old Washington area

By Andrew Destin

AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — When it comes to food recommendations in the Seattle area, new Seahawks wide receiver Cooper Kupp is open to suggestions.

Just not from fellow newcomer and quarterback Sam Darnold.

The veteran quarterback invited Kupp to get dinner with him earlier this offseason, and some of the suggestions caught the 31-year-old wide receiver off guard when recalling the night after the first of two minicamp practices at Virginia Mason Athletic Center, which concluded Wednesday.

"The way he came off was he wanted to go get some fries and chicken strips," Kupp said on Tuesday. "Look, I have a 6-year-old. I can bring you his food. I can bring that, and I'll go eat something good. It ended up being fine. He ventured out and

Continued on page 8

Angels blank Yankees; Dodgers defeat Padres

The Los Angeles Angels may be in fourth place in the American League West, but for two games in a row they have been better than the first place team in the American League East.

With a 4-0 win over the New York Yankees on Tuesday night, the Halos have won the first two games of a three-game set in the Bronx and outscored them 5-0 overall.

Kyle Hendricks (5-6) pitched six strong innings for the Orange County team, yielding four hits and striking out nine batters while walking one.

The Angels had eight hits, with Zach Neo and Luis Rengifo

THE ROUNDUP

each getting two. Taylor Ward drove in two runs.

With the win, the Angels are 35-37 and moved to within a half-game of the third place Texas Rangers in the AL West.

The Los Angeles Dodgers took on the San Diego Padres and a five-run sixth-inning outburst carried the Blue Crew to an 8-6 win at home.

Andy Pages had an outstanding day at bat, going 4-for-4 with three RBIs and three runs scored. He homered twice.

Will Smith also went deep en

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	42-31	.575	—	7-3
Seattle	37-35	.544	4.5	5-5
Texas	36-37	.493	6	7-3
ANGELS	35-37	.486	6.5	6-4
Athletics	30-45	.380	13	5-5

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	45-29	.608	—	7-3
San Fran.	41-32	.562	3.5	6-4
San Diego	39-33	.542	5	3-7
Arizona	36-36	.500	8	5-5
Colorado	16-57	.219	29.5	4-6

route to a 3-for-4 performance and two RBIs.

The Dodgers are 45-29 and lead the National League West by 3.5 games.

New Ducks player joins former mates from NY Rangers

By Greg Beacham
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM (AP) — Chris Kreider has known for months that his long, decorated tenure with the New York Rangers would probably end this summer.

While the close of his run on Broadway is undeniably bitter-sweet, he's also thrilled to raise the curtain on his next chapter on the West Coast.

The Anaheim Ducks acquired Kreider and a fourth-round pick from the Rangers on Thursday in a trade for prospect Carey Terrance and a third-round pick.

Kreider waived his no-trade clause to join former New York teammates Jacob Trouba, Ryan Strome and Frank Vatrano in Southern California after Rangers general manager Chris Drury

decided he needed salary cap space more than Kreider, the left wing who played a key role in New York for more than a decade.

The 34-year-old Kreider, who was the Rangers' longest-tenured player, didn't deny a bit of melancholy about his New York exit.

"I think I've probably gone through the spectrum — anger, sadness, grief, whatever you want to call it," Kreider said. "But I keep on arriving at gratitude for how I was treated, the opportunities I was given, for the connections I was able to make, the relationships, the friendships, the experiences that I was able to have."

He's taking it to Orange County, where he'll join a team that appears ready to emerge from a



CHRIS KREIDER is the newest Anaheim Duck (Ducks photo).

lengthy rebuilding phase under general manager Pat Verbeek.

The Ducks have missed the playoffs for seven consecutive seasons, but they made a 20-point improvement in the standings this spring before hiring three-time Stanley Cup-winning coach Joel Quenneville last month to lead a roster impressively stocked with blue-chip talent.

"Having played with some of those guys, it's a team that

I've followed probably closer than other teams out West, just checking in on them, seeing how things are going," Kreider said. "It's an incredibly deep roster. They've got some fantastic vets with great track records of winning, in the prime of their careers, and they've got a wealth of young talent, of speed, of size, of skill. ... There's so much potential there."

"I think it's a really exciting time to be a Duck."



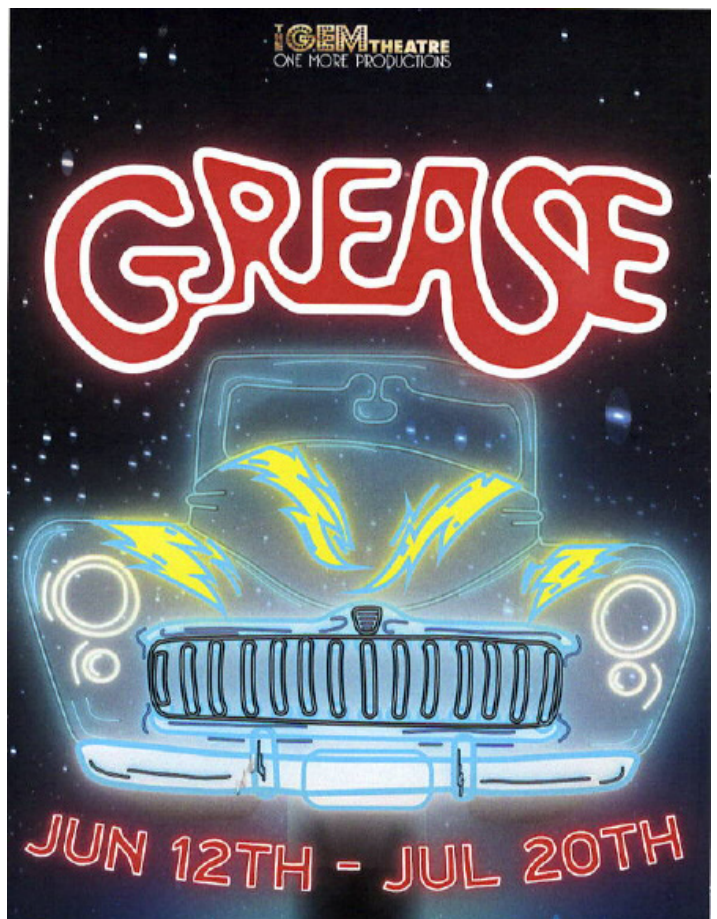
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Cooper Kupp is now a Seattle Seahawk

Continued from page 6

was, like, OK. He was at least willing to try some stuff. I may have misread him. We'll see. Time will tell."

Time will also tell how well Kupp fits in with a new franchise after spending each of the past eight seasons with the Los Angeles Rams and signing a three-year, \$45 million contract with the Seahawks in March. In some ways it's a homecoming for Kupp, who grew up watch-

ing the Seahawks, is from Yakima, Washington and played at Eastern Washington.

He still has plenty to acclimate to, though, after all that time with an NFC West rival. Kupp referred to joining a new team as "exciting."

"It's been a long time since I learned a new offense, a long time since I sat in a meeting and had to put a face on the board and what's this guy's name?" Kupp said. "That's a stressful situation. That's a high-stress situation. It's good, though. I'm excited about what we're doing, and it is fun."

He's eager to work with new offensive coordinator Klint Kubiak, whose system has some

similarities to what is run by the Rams and their coach, Sean McVay, as well as San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan and his scheme. Kubiak was the 49ers passing game coordinator in 2023 when Darnold was also with the team.

"There's going to be the nuances here and there, things like that, but a lot of similar stuff, a lot of similar ideas in how you're attacking a defense," Kupp said. "I believe in this offense and what it takes to make it successful and the detail that's involved with it. ... There's definitely some stuff that accentuates the things that I've done in the past."

All Kupp has done in the past is produce — and more recently, struggle a bit to stay on the field. Each of the past three seasons, Kupp has failed to play in more than 12 games, which in part led the Rams to let the Super Bowl 56 MVP leave in free agency.

Kupp said that he felt good physically, and he looked the part each day of minicamp when running routes.

He faces quite the task in adding to a receiver room that is paced by third-year wideout Jaxon Smith-Njigba, who is fresh off his first 1,000-yard season.

Veteran receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling is also on the team, and he spent half of last season playing under Kubiak when the latter was the New Orleans Saints' offensive coordinator. Seahawks coach Mike Macdonald has been impressed by both wideouts' approaches to learning Seattle's offense.

"They're attacking every day, man," Macdonald said. "Just

trying to master the playbook, all the formations, all the route steps, all the timing. If you have that spirit about you every day, I mean, it's contagious, one, with the rest of the room, with the rest of the offense, the whole team. It makes it fun to go to work and enjoy the process. But, of course, that's going to expedite your growth when you have guys like that."

Still, Kupp recognizes he has much learning to do between now and when the Seahawks open their season on Sept. 7 against the 49ers. It's in part why he's already spent a bunch of time in Macdonald's office picking his brain.

Kupp has enjoyed settling in with a new team and that the internal belief is what has resonated with him most.

"For any of this stuff to work, for all the goals and all the things we want to set out to achieve, it's the understanding that we're going to ultimately achieve it together," Kupp said.

"It's going to be playing for each other. ... Man, what can I do to be better for the guy next to me? This is a place that guys embody that, and they believe it. I think that makes it a fun place to come into, a fun place to come work."

Retorts: funny

Continued from page 3

doctor suggests he go to a performance of a famed comedian to get cheered up.

"But doctor," the patient replied. "That comedian is me."



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Garden Grove Rotary

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Garden Grove Rotary

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Garden Grove Rotary

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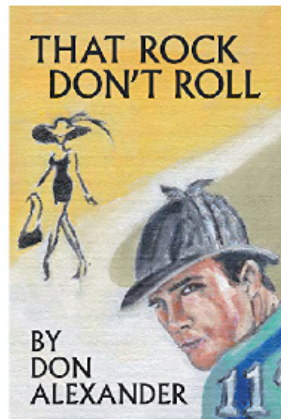
Garden Grove Rotary.

The **Garden Grove Rotary Club** has been serving the community since 1953. The modern club is part of a worldwide service organization of over 1 million men and women.

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Some serious fun

Murder, corruption, sex, humor, sports and lottery



That Rock Don't Roll

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

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