

High Schools Score High in US News List

La Quinta, F. Valley, Grove and Bolsa Grande in the Top 200

Four public high schools serving our West Orange County area have been ranked among the top 200 schools in California by U.S. News & World Report.

The evaluations are based on a variety of factors including graduation rates and college readiness, which refers to skills developed and coursework completed.

The highest-rated area school is La Quinta High School of Westminster, part of the Garden Grove Unified School District. Ninety-five percent of its students graduate after four years and 54.8 percent have completed work that qualifies them for admission to a four-year college or university.

LQHS is rated 63rd in California and 471st in the United States.

Fountain Valley High School is part of the Huntington Beach Union High School District and is ranked 100th in California and 761st in the nation. Ninety-six percent of students graduate in four years and 51.7 percent are “college-ready.”

Garden Grove High School is part of the Garden Grove Unified School District. It has a state ranking of 153rd and 1,171st in the U.S. The four-year graduation rate is 94 percent and “college-readiness” is 45 percent.

Bolsa Grande High School in Garden Grove is part of the Garden

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JASON SCHMITT is the new treasurer of the City of Huntington Beach. His appointment was approved on a 7-0 vote on Tuesday night by the city council (Orange County Tribune photo).

New city treasurer an admirer of 40th president Ronald Reagan

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

A new city treasurer was appointed by the Huntington Beach City Council when it met on Tuesday. The council voted 7-0 to select Jason Schmitt to serve as Surf City’s top financial officer.

A devotee of former President Ronald Reagan, he thanked the council for its decision and said that he admired the 40th president of the United States that the family dog has been named “Reagan.”

He vowed to use his office to help the city’s residents and quoted Reagan – the president, not the dog –

■ **HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL**

in saying “all great ideas start at the kitchen table.” Also on Tuesday night – without comment – the council approved on a 7-0

vote Resolution 2025-57, acknowledging that an earlier Resolution 2023-41 – which established the controversial “parent-community review board”

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Off on a mixed-use tour

Mixed-use development – combining different uses such as residential, office and commercial in one building or one area – is increasingly popular and is in use in many cities.

To get a close-up view of examples in the region, the Westminster

■ **WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

City Council will hold a special meeting Wednesday morning. The council will convene at 9 a.m. in the Community Services Building A/B room, 8200 Westminster Blvd. and

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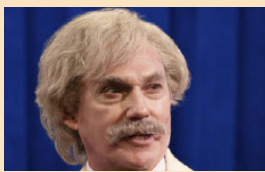
In The Tribune

Stetson, Rams survive Bolts



SPORTS PAGES 6-7

‘John-Boy’ Is Now Mark Twain



ARTS & LIVING 5 and 8

Mixed use tour for Westminster Council

Continued from page 1

then proceed on a vehicle tour of selected sites.

They are:

- Cloud House, 12435 Beach Blvd. in Stanton;

- The Magnolia, 500 W. Broadway, Long Beach;
- Shoreline Gateway, 777 Ocean Blvd, Long Beach;
- Bolsa Row, 15100 Brookhurst St., Westminster.

The next regular meeting of the

council will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 5 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd.

New treasurer is appointed by HB council

Continued from page 1

for the city's library system – was no longer in effect as a result of the passage of the citizen-approved Measure A in June.

The next meeting of the council is set for Tuesday, Sept. 2.

HS rankings

Continued from page 1

Grove Unified School District. Ninety-four percent of students graduate in four years and 47.1 percent are “college ready.” It's 184th in California and 1,346 in the U.S.

There are 2,586 public high schools in California and 24,140 across the nation.

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News & Views

Maybe library defeat calmed HB City Council

Not as MAGA Now Dept.: The approval by voters of Measures A and B in Huntington Beach in June appears to have had a moderating influence on the Huntington Beach City Council.

No more is every meeting an exercise in a controversial hardline conservative causes including gay flags, interfering with the operation of the city's library system or putting a "thumb in your eye" MAGA plaque in the Central Library.



Retorts

Jim Tortolano

More recent initiatives have included restricting the sale of a certain popular but dangerous drug and the future of the Surfing Museum.

I think the seven councilmembers believed that with a unanimous lineup every Tuesday they could indulge any partisan project on the Fox News checklist.

I believe they now realize that a unanimous council doesn't mean a unanimous populace and that as much fun as it was to tweak the libs, there are lots of issues that Surf City needs to deal with that don't line up red or blue.

Good for them.

Unarmed Logic Dept.: Not sure I see the need for National Guard troops in DC., but I'm just as mystified by people who are horrified by the idea that the soldiers might be armed.

Well, if they are there to keep order, isn't that kind of the point?

It reminds me of the old joke about unarmed English bobbies who (allegedly) had to say to

Continued on page 8

Shooting suspect fatally shot

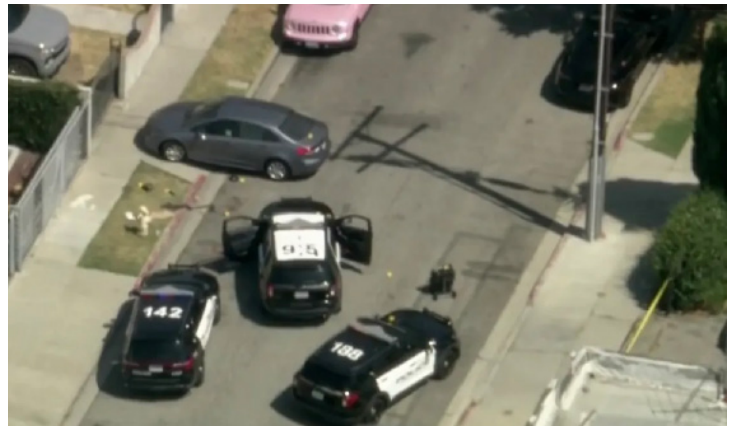
A woman suspected of shooting a man in a Huntington Beach store on Monday morning was herself fatally shot in South Gate later in the day.

According to authorities, she was stopped by police at San Carlos Avenue, north of Firestone Boulevard around 9:30 a.m.

Police say she she got out of her vehicle "wielding a gun," and they opened fire, wounding her.

The woman – who was not immediately identified – was later pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

She was the suspect in a shooting of a man in the parking lot of a California Closets store at



AERIAL VIEW of fatal South Gate shooting.

Springdale Street and Skylab Road in Huntington Beach.

The man was taken to a hospital in an unknown condition.



TWO BICYCLISTS were arrested for outstanding warrants.

Bikers make it easy for police; two arrests, bikes impounded

A pair of suspects made it easy on Huntington Beach police last Wednesday.

According to the HBPD, around 5 p.m. on Aug. 13, police stopped a bicyclist for vehicle code violations. The rider gave a false name in the apparent belief that police couldn't discover his real identity, or his outstanding arrest warrant.

But cops found he was in possession of marijuana and was arrested.

While booking the suspect at the HBPD jail, officers spotted another bicyclist ride right up to the police gate. He told police he was there to ... "drink a beer."

Officers discovered that he also had an outstanding warrant and arrested him as well, resulting in two arrests and the impounding of two bicycles all in one afternoon.

STANTON PLANNERS

Public hearing on liquor permit

A public hearing on a request for a conditional use permit to allow the off-sale of beer, wine and distilled spirits in an existing non-conforming retail business goes before the Stanton Planning Commission when it meets on Wednesday.

The business is located at 7451 Cerritos Ave, west of Beach Blvd. The commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Stanton City Hall, 7800 Katella Ave.

History Minute

Those kids had an appetite for fame

Twenty-seven students at Warren Elementary School in Garden Grove on June 11, 1974 set a new world record by consuming a 20-foot-long banana split in 10 minutes, according to Jim Sleeper's 2nd Orange County Almanac, published in 1976.

NewsUpdate

Security Clearances Revoked

Retribution by Trump toward 37 employees?

The security clearances of 37 current and former federal government officials have been revoked in what's termed by some to be "retribution."

The Associated Press is reporting that the announcement was made in a memo posted online by Tulsi Gabbard, a former Democratic Congresswoman and now the director of national intelligence.

Those affected were accused of the "politicization or weaponization of intelligence" and a



TULSI GABBARD, director of national intelligence (Wikipedia).

"failure to adhere to professional analytic tradecraft standards." According to the AP, many of

those noted have been critical of the Trump Administration or supported an intelligence assess-

ment that Russia had interfered in the 2016 presidential election on Donald Trump's behalf.

Oklahoma will screen teachers for 'ideology'

Applicants for teaching jobs in Oklahoma who come from California and New York must take and pass an exam aimed at safeguarding against "radical leftist ideology," according to the Associated Press.

Ryan Walters, superintendent of schools in Oklahoma, is promoting the requirement of the test, the complete contents of

which have not been made public. It's been created by PragerU, a conservative non-profit organization.

"This MAGA loyalty test will be yet another turnoff for teachers in a state already struggling with a huge teacher shortage," said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers union.

Weather: Little change ahead

There will be little variation in the weather for our West Orange County cities as we move toward the weekend. The daytime high will hover from 85 to 86 with overnight lows from 67 to 70. The skies will be mostly sunny each day.

Texas Democrats return and maps pass, but legal action is now expected

Ending a two-week walkout over Republican plans to redistrict Texas congressional districts to support their party's slim lead in the U.S. House of Representatives, Democratic state legislators returned to Austin on Monday, allowing the proposed new maps to pass.

The Democrats' absence had prevented the Texas House of Representatives from having a quorum to do business. Faced with threats of fines and arrests, the Democrats finally showed up. Opposition to the map isn't over,



said Democrats. Legal action will be taken, and some states such as California may seek to match Republican efforts with new maps of their own.

Great Thoughts

"The next strike brings you closer to the next home run."
- Babe Ruth

"More than anything else, preparation is the key to success."
- Alexander Graham Bell

"What is truth? A difficult question; but I have solved it for myself by saying it is what the 'voice within' tells you."
- Mohandis Gandhi

Arts & Living

John-Boy Ages Well as 'Twain'

One-time TV star explores his ever-present wit

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Richard Thomas has not one but two big shoes to fill when he goes out on the road this summer in a celebrated one-man show.

The Emmy Award winner and Tony Award nominee is portraying the great American writer Mark Twain in a play written and performed for decades by the late Hal Holbrook.

Thomas immediately accepted the offer to star in the 90-minute "Mark Twain Tonight!" that tours more than a dozen states this summer and fall before wondering what he'd gotten himself into.

"I walked down to the street and I said, 'Are you crazy? What are you out of your mind?'" he says, laughing. "I had to grapple with who's the bigger fool — the man who says, 'Yes, I'll do it' or the man that says, 'No, I won't'?"

Holbrook portrayed the popular novelist and humorist for more than a half century starting in 1954, making over 2,300 performances to a collective audience of more than 2 million. He and Thomas were fond of each other and would see each other's work. The show mixes Twain's speeches and passages from his books and letters to offer a multidimensional look at an American icon, who toured the U.S. with appearances. "I'm going to feel very much like I'm not only following in Hal's footsteps, but in Twain's as well," says Thomas, who began his career as John-Boy Walton on TV's "The Waltons" and became a Broadway mainstay.

Thomas jokes that Holbrook had 50 years to settle into the role and he has only a year or so. "I have the advantage on him that he started when he was 30 and he was pretending to be an old man. I'm



RICHARD THOMAS as the great American humorist, Samuel Clemens.

74 so I'm right there. That's the one area where I'm up on him." "It's time for Twain"

The new tour kicks off this week in Hartford, Connecticut — appropriately enough, one of the places Twain lived — and then goes to Maryland, Iowa, Arkansas, North Carolina, Kansas, Tennessee, New York, New Jersey, Utah, California, Arizona, Alabama, Utah and Florida by Christmastime. Then in 2026 — the 60th anniversary of the Broadway premiere — it goes to Texas, Colorado, Wisconsin and Ohio.

"It's time for Twain, you know? I mean, it's always time for Twain, always. He's always relevant because he's utterly and completely us, with warts and all," says Thomas.

The actor will travel with a stage manager and a trunk with his costumes, but all the other elements will be sourced locally by the venues — like desks and chairs, giving each show local touches.

"There's something about doing a show for people in their own community, in their theater that they support, that they raise money for. They're not coming to you as tourists. You're coming to them."

Thomas has done a one-man show before — "A Distant Country Called Youth" using Tennessee Williams letters — but that allowed him to read from the script on stage. Here he has no such help. "One of the keys is to balance the light and the shadow, how funny, how outrageous, the polemic and the darkness and the light. You want that balanced beautifully," he says.

Twain represents America

Other actors — notably Val Kilmer and Jerry Hardin — have devised one-man shows about the creator of Huckleberry Finn and

Tom Sawyer, who still manages to fascinate. A new biography of Twain by Ron Chernow came out this year, which Thomas is churning through.

Thomas sees Twain as representing America perfectly: "He just lets it all hang out there. He's mean-spirited; he's generous. He's bigoted; he is progressive. He hates money; he wants to be the richest man in America. All of these fabulous contradictions are on display."

Thomas has lately become a road rat, touring in "Twelve An-

Continued on page 8

'Foods of GG' on Sept. 26

The popular "Foods of Garden Grove" will be returning to downtown on Friday, Sept. 26 on Main Street with a live musical concert at the Garden Amp in the Village Green park.

It's an opportunity to sample many examples of the varied cuisine available in the city and enjoy backlight street art, interactive installations and an ultraviolet art exhibit.

The event will from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Food sampling packs range from five tastings for \$75 to the VIP lounge (16 tastings and bite-sized appetizers).



TheSportsPages

Are there too many MLB teams, or ...?

Few issues get imaginations racing faster in sports than the subject of expansion. Major League Baseball, in particular, seems ripe for a broader reach, and the franchise fees to be paid to the existing teams by new entrants are hard to ignore.

The last time new teams were added was 1998 when the Arizona Diamondbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays were established.

Commissioner Rob Manfred has been generally positive about the prospect and various booster organizations have formed to try to grab a franchise. The cities considered most likely to prevail are Nashville and Montreal (former home of the Montreal Expos, now the Washington Nationals) with a half-dozen other candidates. But adding two more teams would likely open the door to realignment; adding more would almost make it necessary.

Some voices want to dissolve the time-honored American and National leagues. More would like to do what the NFL did when it added the AFL and recast the teams into conferences.

Acting from a geographical impulse, a National Baseball Conference might have a West Division of the Dodgers, Padres, Giants, Rockies and Diamondbacks. The ABC might consist of the Angels, Sacramento, Mariners, Athletics and Portland. Other contenders for expansion might be teams in San Antonio, Austin, Vancouver, Charlotte, Raleigh and Salt Lake City.

What do you think? Some people feel that baseball talent — especially pitching — is spread too thin as it is. I'll have more to say about this in a subsequent column.



Sports Retorts
Jim Tortolano

He's Cool Hand Bennett

Shakes off flub and leads Rams to another win

By Greg Beacham
Associated Press

INGLEWOOD (AP) — Another quarterback might have been a bit shaken after throwing a fourth-quarter interception to a 305-pound defensive tackle — and then getting run over by the big man while he rumbled downfield with the ball.

After two national championship runs at Georgia, Stetson Bennett knows more about pressure situations than most quarterbacks currently getting snaps in the preseason.

He shook off his only major mistake Saturday night and coolly led the Los Angeles Rams to another preseason win.

Bennett hit Tru Edwards with an 8-yard touchdown pass with 5 seconds left, rallying the Rams to a 23-22 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers.

Bennett passed for 324 yards and three scores in his second straight sharp preseason performance —



LOS ANGELES Chargers defensive lineman Te-Rah Edwards (94) runs through Rams quarterback Stetson Bennett after intercepting one of his passes. Stetson recovered to throw a game-winning pass (Chargers photo/Joaquin Torre).

even if he failed to anticipate the ball-hawking skill and silky lateral movement of TeRah Edwards, the hulking rookie who made the play of the night.

"I ain't touched the ball in years, so, yeah, it was blessing," Edwards said. "I was trying to take

it as far as I could, man. I ain't never scored a touchdown in my life, so I was trying. Played a little running back in my Little League days, you know. I've always been a lineman, so that's always a big guy's dream."

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Dodgers slam the Rockies; Angels fall 6-4 to Reds

The **Los Angeles Dodgers** kept their two-game lead in the National League West over the San Diego Padres with an 11-4 win over the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday in Denver.

A 7-0 lead after three innings held up as the Blue Crew improved to 72-54. Shohei Ohtani hit his 44th home run of the season and Alex Call batted 4-for-5, including his fourth homer of 2025.

Will Smith was 3-for-5 and pushed his batting average to .308.

Emmet Sheehan (4-2) got the win, lasting six innings and giv-

THE ROUNDUP

ing up six hits and four earned runs. He struck out seven batters and walked two.

In Anaheim, the **Los Angeles Angels** (60-66) got two home runs from Jo Adell (his 27th and 28th) but it wasn't near enough in a 6-4 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

Adell had a 3-for-4 night with three hits and two RBIs. Mike Trout doubled, singled and scored a run for the Halos. He's batting .234 so far this season for the Angels.

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	69-57	.548	—	4-6
Seattle	68-59	.535	1.5	4-6
Texas	62-65	.488	7.5	2-8
ANGELS	60-66	.476	9	5-5
Athletics	57-70	.449	12.5	6-4

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	72-54	.556	—	5-5
San Diego	70-56	.556	2	6-4
San Fran.	61-65	.484	11	2-8
Arizona	61-66	.480	11.5	5-5
Colorado	36-90	.286	36	6-4

Kyle Hendricks lasted six innings, yielding eight hits and four earned runs.

He struck out three batters and walked three.

It's Week Zero for our West OC footballers

Week Zero football for area high school football teams will kick off Thursday and Friday for teams in our West Orange County cities.

Here's the lineup. Most games will start at 7 p.m., but check with the host school to be certain.

Thursday

- Huntington Beach at Orange (Fred Kelly Stadium)
- Salesian at at Western
- Foothill at Marina (Bill Boswell Stadium)
- Savanna at Bolsa Grande.

Friday

- Garden Grove at Los Amigos (Bolsa Stadium)
- Santiago at Saddleback
- Sunny Hills at Westminster
- Clovis/West at Edison (Sheue Field)
- Magnolia at Costa Mesa
- Pacifica at Kennedy.

Prep Sport Spotlight

Follow the Flags

Fall doesn't belong just to tackle football (primarily boys). Flag football (primarily for girls now) is under way and will continue through mid-October, followed by CIF-SS playoffs.

The local athlete getting the most attention is Roxie Shaia of Huntington Beach High. The Oiler quarterback threw for 7,465 yards and 99 touchdowns in 2024.

The orange-and-black start the season with games against Yorba Linda and Millikan (Long Beach). Their chief rival will be the defending Sunset League champs of Newport High.

Bennett stays cool and gets Rams a win

Continued from page 6

Edwards, who never had an interception in five seasons split between Northwestern and Illinois, picked off Bennett's throw, thundered downfield and even threw a head fake before plowing over Bennett. He finally tripped at midfield to end his 29-yard return with 6:35 to play, setting off an unsurprisingly unhinged celebration on the Bolts' sideline.

"It was a great play," Bennett said with a shrug. "It was hard to see. It was a really good play, (but) then we've got to go win a football game, and our defense gave us a second opportunity after we didn't convert on the first one."

Indeed, after the Rams' (2-0) next drive ended on downs, Bennett reset himself and drove his offense downfield in the waning seconds. Brennan Presley made an acrobatic 40-yard catch between two defenders with 11 seconds left, setting up Edwards' winning catch on the next play.

"When you give up an interception in that situation and you come back and you just respond, that's what life is about," said Aubrey Pleasant, who served as the Rams' head coach for the game.

"That's what we want to see specifically from a quarterback. ... I just really understand his cool, calm demeanor. We've all seen him win a couple of national championships in college, and you see some of that threadwork."

Sean McVay handed the reins for the night to Pleasant, his assistant head coach and passing coordinator.

Justin Herbert went 2 of 5 for 46 yards while playing the opening series in his first-ever preseason game for the Chargers (2-1), who were the visiting team at the clubs' shared stadium.

Luke Grimm returned a punt 66 yards for the Bolts' go-ahead touchdown with 12:36 left.

Trey Lance passed for 121 yards, and Tre Harris had six catches for 85 yards.



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College football season is starting this Saturday

Associated Press

After a long and busy season for college athletics, the football season arrives with a host of tantalizing angles. A look at some of the big games among the top teams, what's at stake and the hurdles that must be cleared on the way to the national championship.

When does the college football start?

A handful of games kick off the season Aug. 23, with the most intriguing a Big 12 matchup between No. 22 Iowa State and No. 17 Kansas State that will take place in Dublin, Ireland. Both teams are considered contenders in their wide-open conference. Kansas State quarterback Avery Johnson threw for a school-record 25 touchdowns last season and ran for seven more. Iowa State played in the conference title game last year. The following weekend has some doozies: No. 9 LSU faces No. 4 Clemson, No. 6 Notre Dame visits No. 10 Miami and defending champion No. 3 Ohio State hosts No. 1 Texas. Before

the College Football Playoff expanded to 12 teams last year, a game like that might have been make or break. Now, teams have second chances and can afford three (maybe four) losses and still get in.

Who are the favorites?

The AP Top 25 and the coaches poll both list Texas as the preseason No. 1 team and the Longhorns are currently the favorite (plus-450, or 9-2 odds) to win the national championship, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. Ohio State is right behind them (plus-525), followed by No. 5 Georgia and No. 2 Penn State (both 7-1) and then Clemson and No. 7 Oregon (both 9-1).

Key games to watch

Preseason No. 7 Oregon visits No. 2 Penn State on Sept. 27 in a rematch of last season's Big Ten title game. Penn State also has a game against Ohio State on Nov. 1. ... Speaking of the Buckeyes, the national title helped them get over their fourth straight loss to preseason No. 14 Michigan.

That rematch is in its usual spot, Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 29 at the Big House. ... TCU at North Carolina (Bill Belichick's coaching debut) on Sept. 1 ... Oklahoma vs. Texas on Oct. 11 ... USC at No. 6 Notre Dame on Oct. 18 ... LSU at No. 8 Alabama on Nov. 8 ... No. 11 Arizona State at Colorado on Nov. 22.

The 12-team playoff

The College Football Playoff remains at 12 teams this year with one significant tweak: Unlike last year, conference champions will not be guaranteed a bye in the first round.

Seeds 5-8 will host first-round games against 9-12 on Dec. 19 (one game) and Dec. 20 (three games). The quarterfinals will be at the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 1, then at the Orange, Rose and Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1.

The semifinals will be Jan. 8 at the Fiesta Bowl and Jan. 9 at the Peach Bowl.

The title game will take place at Hard Rock Stadium outside of Miami on Jan. 19.



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Garden Grove Rotary

Who sponsors a defibrillator program to save lives when heart attacks strike?

Garden Grove Rotary

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Garden Grove Rotary

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Garden Grove Rotary.

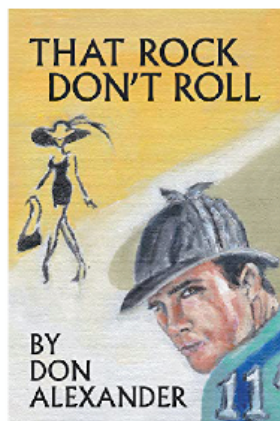
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- The Orange County Tribune

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

A new 'old' Mark Twain'

Continued from page 5

gry Men" from 2006-08, "The Humans" in 2018 and starring as Atticus Finch in Aaron Sorkin's adaptation of "To Kill a Mockingbird" from 2022-24.

Orin Wolf, CEO of tour producer NETWORKS Presentations, got to watch Thomas on the road in "To Kill a Mockingbird" and says having him step into Twain will strengthen the theater community across the country

"It's so rare nowadays to have a true star of the road," Wolf says, calling Thomas "a breed of actor and artist that they rarely make anymore."

"I'm delighted to be supporting him and delighted that he's chosen to do this because I think this is something he could also take

on for hopefully many years," he adds.

After Twain, Thomas will next be seen on Broadway this spring opposite Renée Elise Goldsberry and Marylouise Burke in David Lindsay-Abaire's new comedy, "The Balusters."

But first there's the eloquence and wry humor in a show about Twain that reveals he was often a frustrated optimist when it came to America.

"I think it reflects right now a lot of our frustration with how things are going," says Thomas. "Will things ever be better and can things ever better? Or are we just doomed to just be this species that is going to constantly eat its own tail and are we ever going to move forward?"

Jim's Retorts: Calm council

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fleeing miscreants: "Stop! Or I will be forced to say 'stop!' again. Don't make me use my whistle!"