

'Harmony & Safety' Issue Gets Tabled

The vote was by a 5-2 margin

By Jim Tortolano
Orange County Tribune

After three hours of public comments and discussion on the dais, the Garden Grove City Council voted 5-2 on Tuesday night to indefinitely table a proposed controversial "harmony and safety" res-

GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

olution centering on the immigration crackdown in the city.

The councilmembers voting against tabling the resolution were Yesenia Muneton (District 5) and Ariana Arestegui (District 6).

The near-capacity crowd in the council chamber overwhelmingly backed the resolution authored by Arestegui and some dis-



SUPPORTERS of a "Harmony and Safety" resolution at Tuesday's Garden Grove City Council meeting display signs (Orange County Tribune photo).

played signs of support.

Of the 26 people who spoke on the issue, 20 were in favor with six opposed.

Some considered the resolution a necessary response to offer solace to members of the Hispanic community who may feel

targeted by Immigration and Custom Enforcement agents. Crystal Cervantes spoke of the "panic and

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It's a 'jungle' theme for a park in GG

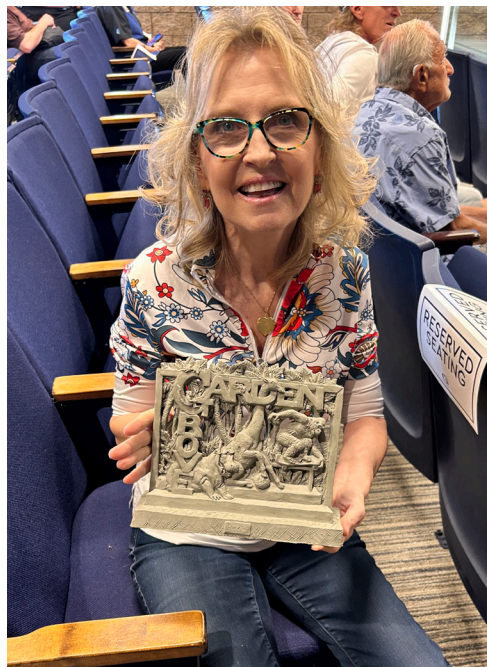
An historic upgrading of Woodbury Park will feature a bronze sculpture created by a local Garden Grove artist.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the city council approved a proposal to commission the jungle-themed work to Art by Jennifer, which is Jennifer Stewart, owner of the Azteca Mexican Restaurant on Main Street.

She is also president of the city's Downtown Commission and the Garden Grove Downtown Business Association.

The total cost of the art and fabrication is put at \$163,125.

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JENNIFER STEWART, artist behind the sculpture at Woodbury Park (Tribune photo)

Appointment of a director on agenda for Wednesday mtg.

The appointment of an interim community development director will be considered by the Westminster City Council when it meets on Wednesday.

What's proposed is the hiring of Steven Mendoza, a retired one-time executive director of Santa Ana's community development agency, as well as director of community development and public works for the City of Los Alamitos.

The position has been vacant since September 2024. If appointed,

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

Mendoza would be paid \$102.05 an hour, with a maximum annual cost of \$212,264.

Also on the agenda is consideration of waiving facility fees for board meetings of the Westminster Tet Parade Foundation for the use of city space for up to four meetings through June 30, 2027 as long as each meeting doesn't exceed four hours or "conflict with city needs."

The council will meet in closed session at 4 p.m.

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# ‘Harmony’ resolution at GG city council

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fear” that she saw among her neighbors.

Others saw it – at part – in political terms. TonyFlores began his remarks by saying, “God bless

law enforcement; God bless Donald Trump; God bless ICE.”

But the sentiment that seemed to sway the council was the feeling that the proposed resolution was an echo of an earlier resolution approved by the council

years ago, and in the new proposed resolution was in need of rewording.

The resolution would have said “the City Council of the City of Garden Grove fully supports the chief of police and the Garden Grove Police Department in not requiring officers to check, request, and/or verbally obtain proof of legal status in the execution of their duties, unless a suspect’s legal status is directly related to the incident leading to law enforcement intervention.”

Additionally, the proposed resolution stated that the GGPDP “does not participate in or assist with immigration enforcement activities subject to well-established California law.”

The resolution, according to Arastegui, was partly prompted by “the fear and concerns expressed by many members of the community in response to the increased federal law enforcement presence in our city.”

The next meeting of the Garden Grove City Council will be on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

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## Jennifer to create art for GG park

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Stewart is the artist who created the sculpture of Jack Wallin in the Atlantis Play Center in Garden Grove Park and the ‘Strawberry Zest’ sculpture at a West Garden Grove fire station.

Woodbury Park is located at 13800 Rosita Place, near Woodbury Elementary School. The 3.8 acre park is undergoing a major revitalization and expansion project that will feature a recreational swimming pool, two playground areas, picnic shelters, a skate plaza, basketball courts, lighting, restrooms and a parking lot.

Construction is expected to be completed in spring 2026.

## Westminster CC

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and open session at 6 p.m. in the Rose Center Theater, 14140 All American Way.

The regular council chamber is undergoing construction.

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## The Tribune

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# News & Views

## More work for U.S.: coaches and nuns needed

It looks like the White House is having a good time dispatching National Guard troops to ever more cities ... mainly cities with Democratic mayors and electorates.

The troops are not – or should not be – involved in law enforcement under existing federal law, but currently they are functioning mostly as a “law enforcement presence.”



### Retorts

Jim Tortolano

That makes sense; most soldiers are not trained as cops. But only a complete dummy is going to try to hold up a liquor store when there’s an E-6 with a M-4 standing a few feet away.

So the idea occurred to me that if the feds want to have “boots on the ground” to deter bad behavior, there’s more ground to cover.

It’s been said that a man with a briefcase can steal more than a man with a gun. How about having IRS auditors standing outside big corporate headquarters, casinos or Tesla dealerships to warn against your white collar crime?

Physical un-fitness is a national problem and the health problems from obesity and alcoholism hike the cost to the taxpayer via Medicare and Medicaid. Let’s deputize P.E. teachers to stand outside of bars, bakeries and ice cream parlors and give them the authority to make the tipsy or chubby run laps.

Politicians are always a problem because – let’s face it – their ambitions lead them to streeettttchhh the truth. So the Federal Election Commission can hire nuns with rulers. They

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THE JC PENNEY department store in Westminster Mall will be closed in November, affecting 76 employees. After the closure the remaining OC stores will be in Santa Ana and Orange (Shutterstock).

## Farewell to JC Penney at Mall

*Closure planned for Nov. 21; 76 workers will be affected*

By a Staff Writer

Somewhere, John Cash Penney, who started his business empire with a meat market in 1898, is weeping.

The national chain of moderately priced department stores that carried his name will shrink by one more in November as his company announced the closing of its store in Westminster store.

According to an Aug. 18 letter the filing with the federal government, a letter by JCPenney OpCo LLC has been completed under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining and Notification Act providing notification to employees at the store in the Westminster Mall that 76 workers will be effected, starting on Nov. 10, including 19 cashiers, 16 sales floor associates and the store’s general manager.

The store will remain open to the general public through Nov. 16 with the final closing on Fri-

day, Nov. 21.

Employees of the store may seek employment at the other Penney stores in Orange County in Santa Ana and Brea.

The closing will represent a financial blow to the City of Westminster, as the mall saw taxable sales for the previous fiscal year (2023-2024) drop by 15.6 percent.

A plan to renovate the Mall as the mixed-use Bolsa Pacific

project has been outlined, but complete final approval has not been given

JC Penney was once a leading retailer in Orange County with stores in Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach and Orange.

As of February, JC Penney still had 656 stores open nationally, according to USA Today.

### History Minute

#### POW camp and anti-aircraft guns

Garden Grove was home to at least three military installations during World War II. They include:

- Haster Air Field: Now the site of Garden Grove Park and Bolsa Grande High, it was used as a training field in connection with the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station.
- Prisoner-of-war camp for German soldiers (right) near



what’s now Garden Grove Hospital.  
\* Anti-aircraft battery on Trask Avenue, now site of Auto Mall.

# NewsUpdate

## It's Official: Swift to Marry Kelce

Music, football stars announce their engagement

Taylor Swift, the singing star of her generation and Travis Kelce, one of the greatest football tight ends in NFL history, announced on Tuesday they were engaged to be married.

According to the Associated Press, the celebrity couple revealed the betrothing via Instagram.

The engagement ring on Swift's finger attracted almost as much attention as the highly-anticipated reveal. The ring was designed by Kindred Lubeck and is of the "old mine brilliant cut."

No date has been revealed for the nuptials, and coverage of all the events preceding the proces-



**KANSAS CITY** Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) kisses Taylor Swift after the NFL Super Bowl 58 football game against the San Francisco 49ers, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, in Las Vegas. The Chiefs won 25-22. (AP Photo/John Locher)

sion toward the altar are bound to be newsworthy. She's won numerous Grammys and other hon-

ors and he has three Super Bowl rings as Super Bowl champions with the Kansas City Chiefs.

The famous couple have been dating for two years, and images of the two at Chiefs' games were common.

## Judge throws out suit against federal judges regarding deportations

Federal Judge Thomas T. Cullen on Tuesday threw out a lawsuit filed by the Trump administration against all federal judges in Maryland.

Cullen called the suit "novel and potentially calamitous." The legal action was an attempt to contest a standing order relating to the process for deporting undocumented immigrants.

The New York Times reported that Cullen wrote "Over the past several months, principal officers of the executive (and their spokespersons) have described federal district judges across the country as 'left-wing,' 'liberal,' 'activists,' 'radical,' 'politically minded,' 'rogue,' 'unhinged,' 'outrageous, overzealous, [and] unconstitutional, [c]rooked,' and worse," calling it both "unprecedented and unfortunate."

### Great Thoughts

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."  
— John F. Kennedy, president

"In a democracy, you believe it or not. In a dictatorship, you believe it or else."  
— Evan Esar

## Weather: A warming trend

A gradual trend toward warmer days and nights is forecast for our West Orange County cities. Wednesday is expected to have a daytime high of 86 with an overnight low of 66 under mostly cloudy skies. Thursday looks like 88 (68) and Friday like 85 (69), with partly cloudy skies. Saturday is expected to be sunny with a high of 87 (69).

## Trump asking for death penalty in DC murders in spite of a legal ban

Defendants convicted of murder in Washington, D.C. should face execution. President Donald Trump told his Cabinet on Tuesday,

United Press International reports that the president is urging federal prosecutors to seek the death penalty in the nation's capital, even though it's banned

there.

"If somebody kills someone, it's the death penalty," he is reported to have said.

The death penalty has not been imposed in the city since 1957.

Also on Tuesday, it was reported that the national debt forecast has been lowered by \$4 trillion from earlier estimates.

# Arts & Living

## 'Splitsville': Unromantic Comedy

The opening of this film really gets story going

By Jake Coyle  
AP Film Writer

You can say this: Michael Angelo Covino and Kyle Marvin know how to start a movie.

Their 2020 breakout film, "The Climb," begins with two best friends on a bike ride just before Kyle (Marvin) is to be wed. Mid-climb, Mike (Covino) confesses he slept with the bride-to-be. In one long take, an argument on two wheels ensues, with huffing and puffing in between.

Their new follow-up to that film, "Splitsville," likewise kicks off with heartbreak on the open road. This time, Carey (Marvin), a gym teacher, is driving along a highway with his life coach wife, Ashley (Adria Arjona). They seem happy enough, though there are hints of trouble. When Ashley says she wants to have new experiences, Carey suggests pottery. Ashley corrects him: "I meant sexual."

When an erratic driver careens off the road, they run to check on the passengers. Finding the woman thrown clear of the car, Ashley — faced with her own mortality — decides then and there to get a divorce.

In both "The Climb" and "Splitsville," these are just the first sharp turns in relationship roller coasters that unfold in clattering one-take set pieces mixed with nakedly frank heart-to-hearts. Their movies — Covino directs; they write together — are a little like Wile E. Coyote versions of a rom-com. And part of their considerable appeal is in how much Marvin and Covino are willing to put themselves through the ringer.

Like "The Climb," "Splitsville" is a relationship farce that keeps amplifying and recycling. From the scene of the accident, as the



DAKOTA JOHNSON, Michael Angelo Covino, Adria Arjona and Kyle Marvâin in "Splitsville"

credits unspool, Carey trudges seemingly aimless across the countryside. (Splitsville is Nowheresville.)

Eventually, though, he arrives at the handsome lakeside home of his childhood best friend, Paul (Covino), who lives there with his wife Julie (Dakota Johnson) and young son Russ (Simon Webster).

Paul and Carey have a close enough relationship that Paul comes right into the shower to check for ticks on Carey. Later that night, he and Julie casually acknowledge that they have an open marriage. Julie, for instance, could sleep with anyone.

Even Carey, they note. Much of the fun of "Splitsville" is seeing how things topple from here, but it's obvious enough that Julie and Paul's agreement will get tested, very quickly. From there, the four central characters of the film — Carey, Paul, Julie and Ashley — will take various turns in less of a romantic triangle than an adult game of musical chairs.

Though there are elaborately choreographed long takes that smack of contemporary moviemaking, "Splitsville" belongs more to a screwball tradition

stretching back to the 1930s. This is — even here in the low ebb of late summer — an uncommonly adult farce of infidelity that Cary Grant and Irene Dunne might have chuckled at, even if they didn't get the "Vanilla Sky" reference, the digs about New Balance sneakers or the delight of seeing Nicholas Braun turn up, late in the film, as a mentalist.

I'm convinced, though, that the performer here who would have been most at home in that by-

gone comedy heyday is Johnson. For the second time this year, following "Materialists," she finds herself caught between the affections of two men. Here, just her watchful poise brings a welcome perspective on the mostly male mayhem around her.

The twists and turns of "Splitsville" can grow a little tiresome. Reversals pile on top of each other. But in a movie about infidelity where everyone is lying more to themselves than to their

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## Fall comes to Westminster

Here's an early warning for those interested in sponsoring — or attending — the fourth annual Westminster Fall Festival, which will be held Sept. 25-28 in the Westminster Civic Center, 8200 Westminster Blvd. Attendance over the four-day event is expected to top 12,000 visitors. The free

event — presented by the City of Westminster — will include carnival rides, live entertainment, food, music, a beer garden and more. For sponsorship packages that include your company logo and a color ad in the official program, submit artwork in PNG or JPEG format to FallFestival@Westminster-ca.gov, no later than Sept. 5. Call Vanessa Johnson at (714) 548-3667 for more information.



# TheSportsPages

## Realignment? Small markets in big leagues

To our readers: In his Sports Retorts column, Jim Tortolano recently advanced some ideas about the realignment of Major League Baseball based chiefly on geography. Now AP writer Noah Arister offers a different plan, based on economics.

Commissioner Rob Manfred caused a bit of a stir recently when he said during an ESPN telecast that expansion and realignment could be on the table soon.



**Sports Retorts**  
Jim Tortolano

That led to a number of suggestions and ideas about what baseball's league and divisional structure might look like in the future, with geography and traditional rivalries driving much of that discussion.

But there's another factor that in theory can be used to reorganize the sport: market size.

With a collective bargaining fight looming, competitive balance — and how to improve it — is likely to be a major point of contention. If owners pursue a salary cap, that could lead to particularly nasty negotiations and even the possibility of a work stoppage. But what if you could achieve greater competitive balance through realignment — by having two divisions of large-market franchises and two of small-market teams?

Consider the following proposal, which attempts to divide teams into geographic conferences, with divisions based mostly on market rankings from baseball's current collective bargaining agreement.

Let's assume for the sake of this exercise that the new expansion teams would be in Nashville and Salt Lake City —

Continued on page 8

# He's Always A Classy Sho

## Hit by a pitch? Let's be friends and play baseball

By Greg Beacham  
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A heckler next to the Los Angeles Dodgers' dugout spent his entire Sunday giving an earful to the visitors, including a nonstop barrage of digs and chirps at Shohei Ohtani for his hitless performance in a portentous weekend series against the San Diego Padres.

When Ohtani crushed his 45th homer and delivered the knockout blow in the ninth inning of the Dodgers' 8-2 victory, the normally decorous three-time MVP detoured on his way back to the dugout to slap hands — and get the last word — with the chagrined Padres fan.

The Dodgers loved to see it, along with just about everything else that transpired in the final four innings of a win that evened the NL West race yet again with 31 games left.

"It was very out of character from Shohei, (but the heckler)



**SHOHEI OHTANI** shook off being hit by a pitch on a 3-0 count and showed real sportsman ship toward the Padres and a mouthy Padres fan (AP photo).

was wearing him out the whole game," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "So it was good to see Shohei initiate a high-five from him. That was great. That was fun. It was good to see

Shohei show his personality." Ohtani didn't speak to reporters afterward, but he didn't need a loudmouth fan to tell him that he was 0 for 10 with two walks

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## Texas corrals the Angels Blue Crew beats Reds

The **Los Angeles Dodgers** remained one game ahead of the San Diego Padres in the National League West pennant race by defeating the Cincinnati Reds 6-3 at home on Tuesday night.

That win allowed the Dodgers (76-57) to stay one game ahead of the Padres (75-58), who beat the Seattle Mariners 7-6 to stay close.

Leading 2-1 early, the Blue Crew scored what proved to be the winning four runs in the sixth inning. Will Smith homered and Miguel Rojas doubled in two runs. Finally, Shohei Ohtani singled in Rojas.

### THE ROUNDUP

Clayton Kershaw (9-2) pitched five solid innings, yielding just two hits and one run. He struck out six batters and walked none.

With seven losses in 10 games, the **Los Angeles Angels** are moving closer to the possibility of again finishing last in the American League West.

The Halos fell behind early 6-0 to the Texas Rangers in Arlington and would have been shut out except for a three-run rally in the ninth. They lost 6-3.

With the loss, the fourth place

### AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	72-60	.545	—	4-6
Seattle	71-62	.534	1.5	3-7
Texas	67-67	.500	6	6-4
<b>ANGELS</b>	<b>62-70</b>	<b>.470</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3-7</b>
Athletics	62-72	.463	11	7-3

### NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
<b>DODGERS</b>	<b>76-57</b>	<b>.571</b>	—	<b>6-4</b>
San Diego	75-58	.564	1	6-4
San Fran.	64-68	.485	12.5	5-5
Arizona	64-69	.481	12	4-6
Colorado	38-94	.288	36	5-5

Angels are 62-70, just one game ahead of the fifth place Athletics. The Angels' late rally consisted of Zach Neto's 23rd home run and Jo Adell's 30th.

# Prep Football Goes Big-Time at SoFi

The “big game” for high school football teams from our West Orange County cities will be Friday in the biggest venue in Southern California: SoFi Stadium in Inglewood.

Garden Grove and Pacifica – district and city rivals – will meet in an 8:30 p.m. contest in the home of the Rams and Chargers in a non-league clash. Both teams are 0-1 after Week Zero defeats, but both squads showed promise. The Argonauts lost a slugfest 42-36 to another district rival, Los Amigos, but showcased a new star in Quentin Pacelli, who rushed for 380 yards and four touchdowns. For the Mariners, James Anema passed for two touchdowns in a 35-13 loss to Kennedy.

Here’s the schedule for other games, details always subject to change.

**Thursday:** Bolsa Grande (1-0) at Ocean View (0-1); Yorba Linda (1-0) at Edison (1-0) at Sheue Field; Rancho Alamitos

## Prep Sport Spotlight

(0-0) at Santiago (0-1) at Monsoor Stadium.

**Friday:** Huntington Beach (1-0) at Trabuco Hills (0--0); Villa Park at Western (1-0); Laguna Hills (1-0) at Orange (0-1) at Fred Kelly Stadium; Bolsa Grande (1-0) at Ocean View (0-1); Godinez (1-0) vs. La Quinta (0-0) at Bolsa Stadium; Marina (1-0) at Westminster (0-1); Los Amigos (1-0) at Silver Valley.

**Rankings and such:** Orange County high school football rankings this week have Edison tied for seventh (with Tustin) and Western (tied for 15th with Corona del Mar and Huntington Beach). Edison is ranked 22nd in California while Huntington Beach 120th and Western 158th.

The Tribune will start its High



SOFI STADIUM in Inglewood.

Five rankings for West OC teams next week.

**Raise the flags:** Orange County is dominating girls flag football nationally. The top 10 teams as ranked by MaxPreps

are all from California, and four of them from Orange County.

The top local schools are Orange (52nd), Rancho Alamitos (146th) and Santiago (210th).



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# Sports Retorts: Different look at realignment

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and we'll start both of them in a small-market division.

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
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Small Market Division: Rays, Tigers, Marlins, Orioles, Guardians, Cardinals, Pirates, Reds

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
Big Market Division: Angels, Dodgers, Cubs, White Sox, Giants, Rangers, Astros, Mariners  
Small Market Division: Athletics, Diamondbacks, Rockies, Padres, Royals, Brewers, Nashville, Salt Lake City

The top three teams in each division could make the postseason, with division champs earning byes. Now even if the Mets outspend the Marlins by a huge margin, it's still not clear which you'd rather be if the goal is to make the playoffs on a regular basis.

There would certainly be drawbacks. Wealthier teams would complain the small-market teams have it too easy. And if

teams play more games within their divisions, the small-market teams might face an attendance drop if New York and Los Angeles don't come to town as often. Also, at least on paper, this format could lead to more playoff mismatches. But we've seen

enough postseason baseball to know that anything can happen in a short series — and if you're a team like Pittsburgh or Kansas City, this setup could provide a better path to contention, without a divisive push for a salary cap.

## Trash talk is answered with courtesy and homer

Continued from page 6

in the series before his 409-foot homer off Yuki Matsui.

His fellow Dodgers had already delivered by then, with rookie Dalton Rushing's tie-breaking three-run shot in the seventh inning sandwiched between clutch homers in back-to-back innings by Freddie Freeman.

"I think he was just kind of talking to Shohei the whole game, so I'm glad Shohei was able to give him a little something else to cheer about," Freeman said with a grin.

Freeman and the rest of the Dodgers heard plenty of yapping from the stands during the weekend in the latest chapter of what might currently be the liveliest rivalry in the sport. The noise intensified as Los Angeles lost the first two games while managing just five combined hits — but the defending champs still managed to head home smiling and even with the Padres at 74-57.

When asked if the rivalry is the best in baseball, Rushing replied: "I think so. I think it's pretty safe to say. You see the atmosphere we play in, whether it's here or in LA. I think it's pretty special. There's something to it. There's a lot of superstars on the field, and

it's fun to play in these games." Both teams could find reasons to be optimistic after wrapping up the regular season matchups between two World Series contenders that have also met in three of the past five postseasons, with the Dodgers winning two of those matchups.

The Dodgers have already won the season series with San Diego 9-4, giving them the tiebreaker if the clubs are still even 31 games from now.

San Diego still took two of three on the weekend with phenomenal starting pitching from a club that already has a bullpen that could be the best in the majors — its poor performance Sunday notwithstanding, of course.

Jeremiah Estrada gave up a homer in his second consecutive game when Rushing connected, while Wandy Peralta and Matsui also surrendered late homers. But Yu Darvish, Nestor Cortes and Nick Pivetta combined to allow just four hits and three runs by the Dodgers over 18 innings. In a short October series, the Padres are confident they've got the arms to match Ohtani, Freeman and the Dodgers' lineup.

## Movie review: Unromantic

Continued from page 5

partners, those patterns effectively lead back to where everyone started.

"Splitsville," a Neon release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language throughout, sexual content and graphic nudity. Running time: 100 minutes.

## Retorts: Playing fair for all of us

Continued from page 3

can stand next to candidates (or incumbents) while they give speeches or address the news media and when a gross lie/exaggeration/fabrication is said, Sister Margaret walks up and teaches their knuckles a lesson. Just like the National Guard:



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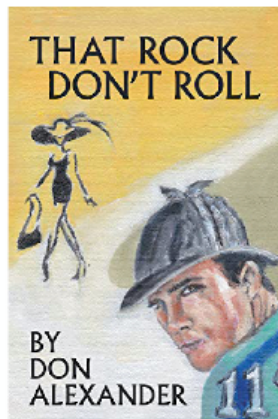
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### That Rock Don't Roll

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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.