

## ■ THE THREE WISE FRIENDS



The Fourth Annual Toy Drive organized by Kiwanisland of Garden Grove and the Historic Main Street Friday Night Cruise was held on Dec. 12. Also partnering were the Garden Grove Police Association, Kiwanis of Garden Grove, many from District 30, Rotary, Lions and Women's Civic Club. Also supporting the effort were Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein, Councilmember Cindy Tran, City Manager Lisa Kim and other city leaders. This year's car show participants donated 1,300 toys which will be distributed by the Garden Grove Boys and Girls Club. At left and right are Kiwanians Gerry Newkirk (Santa) and Steve Sanders. At center is Dianne Bain (car show operator).

## 'Tis the season to drive safe

### News Briefs

It gets dark earlier. There's a bit of fog and mist. There's a lot of Christmas shopping traffic. Some people have already begun "celebrating" early.

So, it is the season to

drive safely.

As a preemptive measure, the Garden Grove Police Department held a driving under the in-

fluence/driver's license check point on Dec. 13.

Five DUI arrests were made during the check-point, five cars were towed and 10 citations were issued.

Continued on page 2

## Six-hour standoff ends in arrest

A marathon six-hour standoff ended Thursday with the arrest of a man suspected of "significant injuries" inflicted on another man in Huntington Beach.

According to Jessica Cuchilla, public information officer for the HBPD, the incident started at

around 3:30 p.m. at a home in the 5700 block of Edinger Avenue (west of Springdale) with a report of a "fight in progress."

Arriving police officers located the victim and he was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

The suspect retreated in-

side the home after being contacted by police and ignored commands to come outside. A crisis negotiation team made "numerous attempts to de-escalate the situation" but "the suspect remained uncooperative."

Continued on page 2

### Weather Forecast

**67 53**

Saturday: 67/53 mostly cloudy  
Sunday: 68/53 fog/clouds  
Monday: 66/53 mostly cloudy  
Tuesday: 64/51 pm. rain

# Reprise For Rose Center Is Approved

## Six-month extension passes 4-0

### ■ WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

group's contract to operate the 415-seat facility in the Civic Center to the end of June 2026.

Another extension could be granted if the planned requests for proposals from other potential operators of the theater weren't ready.

If the RFP wasn't ready after the fourth month of that extension, there would be the option for the council to extend it again for an additional three months.

Additionally, the current operators would pay \$5000 per month.

"Although we agreed [tonight] to this we didn't get exactly what the consultant's recommendations

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### In The Tribune



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**Rams lead early and lost it late**

SPORTS PAGE PAGE 6

# Six-month extension for Rose Center Theater

Continued from page 1

were," said the mayor, "which was for \$5200 a month and \$2 per seat charge so the city is still going to take a loss."

He was referring to a consultant's recommendation for a new

contract for the FRCT. Earlier, Manzo rebutted the mayor's comments about "the loss" the city takes for providing services to operate the theater, such as maintenance. "What about the parks?" he asked. "That's a service to the public. How about the Tet Fest

tival Parade? We spent money on that."

Thursday's action by the council undid a decision on Nov. 12 to end the Friends' management of the Rose by the end of the year.



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## The Tribune

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## Standoff in HB

Continued from page 1

The joint efforts of the police department's SWAT team, Major Crimes Unit detectives, drone team and Huntington Beach Fire Department responded to the scene and negotiators "continued dialogue with the suspect."

Finally concluding that the suspect wasn't going to yield, at about 9:15 p.m. the SWAT team deployed "specialty munitions" into the home. Several minutes later, the suspect – later identified as Zachary Romanak, 49, of Huntington Beach – was arrested and taken to Huntington Beach City Jail. Charges are pending.

Anyone with information related to the incident are asked to call Detective Sgt. Anthony Pham at (714) 878-5640.

## Rollover crash

Continued from page 1

Another DUI checkpoint will be conducted by the GYPD on Jan. 2, 2026 from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. at an "undisclosed location."

### Injury accident Thursday on Garden Grove streets

A layer of fog may have contributed to a rollover automobile accident that injured two people in Garden Grove.

The crash occurred around 11:14 p.m. in the intersection of Garden Grove Boulevard and Magnolia Street.

Two persons injured in a Toyota Corolla were trapped in the wreckage and had to be extracted mechanically, and then were taken to UCI Medical Center in Orange for treatment.

The driver of the other car – A Hyundai Elantra — was arrested at the scene.

He didn't appear injured, but he may have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol, say authorities.

# News & Views

## *Big malls gave way to smaller, thriving rivals*

The Big Mall is dead. Long live the Smaller Mall.

As you may know, what was once the largest shopping mall in Orange County is, well, no more.

Westminster Mall opened in 1974 with a then-stunning four major department stores. It became the heavy-weight commercial force in West Orange County. It was such a hard-punching player in the retail world that

it had at least a couple of big effects that echo today.

Convinced that there would be an endless flow of lucre into city coffers, Westminster set its property tax rates homericly low, a decision that haunts the All American City even now. The other impact of the new huge emporium was the near-destruction of Garden Grove's Orange County Plaza at Chapman Avenue and Brookhurst Street.

Established in 1956 (and mostly completed in 1959) the "Plaza" went from a light heavyweight to a "Palooka" in a few years. Several facelifts had varying levels of success.

But online shopping, the decline of major department stores and other forces saw Westminster's commercial hub slowly implode, and Garden Grove's "uptown" of The Promenade and Pavilion Plaza became a place to be for the middle-range shopper.

No brilliant insights here except "all glory is fleeting" and "if it ain't broke, break it." If you can't change with the times, the times will change you.



### Retorts

Jim Tortolano

## SOMETIMES, IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Participants in the Fourth Annual Toy Drive held on Dec. 12 on Garden Grove's historic Main Street included folks from the Kiwanisland of Garden Grove, the Historic Friday Night Cruise, other organizations, city leaders and more. **For another photo and more information, see photo and caption on page one.**

## GG services during holiday period

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays from Thursday, December 25, 2025, to Thursday, January 1, 2026, the City of Garden Grove facilities and services listed below will adhere to the following schedules.

### Garden Grove City Hall

Garden Grove City Hall will be closed from Thursday, December 25, 2025, through Thursday, January 1, 2026.

### Resource Centers

The Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, H. Louis Lake Senior Center and Magnolia Park Family Resource Center will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2025, through Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Thursday, December 25, 2025, Wednesday, December 31, 2025, and Thursday, January 1, 2026. Both facilities will remain open on all other days. For more information, visit [ggparksandrec.com](http://ggparksandrec.com).

### Street Sweeping

Street sweeping services will not be provided on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, Thursday, December 25, 2025, and Thursday, January 1, 2026. Streets will be swept as scheduled on all other days. For more information on street sweeping, call the Parking Enforcement and Street Sweeping mainline at (714) 741-5382.

### Trash Services

Trash pickup will not be provided on Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025, and Thursday, January 1, 2026. If your pickup is scheduled for Thursday or Friday, the service will be delayed by one day.

### History Minute

## Birthdays can be moving targets

Garden Grove will have a 70th birthday in 2026, having become incorporated in April 1956. But it actually has at least two other birthdays.

The community was started as a small village in 1874. An election to make it into a city was held (third try!) on April 7, 1956. But there were legal challenges so the matter wasn't finally settled until June 18, 1956 when the California Secretary of State ruled it to be officially the City of Garden Grove.

## NewsUpdate

# Some Epstein Files Are Released

*Not much new or startling in small reveal*

Thousands of files about the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein were released by the Department of Justice on Friday, but those people expecting blockbuster revelations are likely to be disappointed.

According to the Associated Press, the incomplete set of documents and photos revealed little new about the alleged connections between Epstein and powerful people.

The material released included photos of former President Bill Clinton with Epstein, but little about another Epstein friend, President Donald Trump.



**PRESIDENT** Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein (Shutterstock).

The records included call logs, photos and grand jury testimony, but portions were redacted.

Trump had originally opposed the release of the files, but many Republicans in Congress joined Democrats in demanding

release of the files, which – so far – have contained not much startling news.

## Settlement reached in the Skaggs family vs. Angels

An undisclosed settlement was reached Friday in the wrongful death suit of the family of Angels' pitcher Tyler Skaggs against the Los Angeles Angels.

According to the Los Angeles Times, the agreement was released after 31 days of trial testimony. Some observers indicated that some of the jurors believed that the

baseball team had at least some responsibility for Skaggs' accidental death in 2019.

The pill that is said to have been connected to the fatality was given to the pitcher by-then-Angels communications director Eric Kay, who is now serving a 22-year sentence in federal prison.

### Great Thoughts

“A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman of the next generation.” – James Freeman Clarke.

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.” – Ronald Reagan.

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” – Lord Action.

## Look out (up) for the rain

Cooler days and nights, along with some rain, are coming to our West Orange County cities. Daytime temps will range from 68 to 64. The forecast for Saturday predicts a daytime high of 67 with an overnight low of 53 with mostly cloudy skies. Sunday will warm slightly to 68 (53) with morning fog and afternoon clouds. Monday will cool to 66 (53) with mostly cloudy skies. Afternoon rain is expected Tuesday with temps of 64 and 58.

## U.S. forces launch attacks across Syria in strikes vs. 70 Islamic State targets

What are being described as carrying out “major air strikes against the Islamic State in Syria are being done by United States forces. According to the New York Times, the actions come as vengeance for the deaths of two U.S. Army soldiers and a civilian U.S. interpreter last Saturday.

Fighter jets, attack helicopters and long-range artillery blasted at 70 targets suspected to be located across central Syria in what President Donald Trump called a “massive strike.”

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, in a social media post, said, “This is not the beginning of a war – it is a declaration of vengeance.” He added: “Today, we hunted and killed our enemies. Lots of them. And we will continue.”

# Arts & Living

# The Best of Rob Reiner's Films

From 'Spinal Tap' to 'Harry Met Sally'

By Lindsey Bahr  
AP Film Writer

Rob Reiner made the kind of movies that we all rewatch already. They're the films that we quote without having to think about it, the ones we hold up as gold standards of comedy, romance, drama and suspense, the ones we wish they made today.

Before his death Sunday, it was not uncommon, or unwarranted, to marvel at his incredible streak of films from 1984, when he made his directorial debut with the mockumentary "This Is Spinal Tap," through 1995 with "The American President." Not to mention his comedic excellence in front of the camera, where he made a feast out of even the smallest roles, whether it was telling Tom Hanks about tiramisu in "Sleepless in Seattle" or yelling at Leonardo DiCaprio for his credit card bill in "The Wolf of Wall Street."

When people bemoan that they don't make movies like they used to, Reiner's genre-spanning films from that decade are often the kinds they're talking about. There might not be a best picture winner in the bunch, but it hardly matters. He made films that we remember.

Here are some of the best and where to watch them.

## "This Is Spinal Tap" (1984)

"There's a fine line between stupid and clever," Christopher Guest's guitarist Nigel Tufnel observes in "This Is Spinal Tap" and Reiner's almost entirely improvised film about a British heavy metal group's disastrous tour is proof. In its unabashed commitment to silliness, it captured truths about rock 'n' roll, the music industry and ego. Reiner even



"WHEN HARRY MET SALLY" starred Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan.

## Retrospective

based his documentary filmmaker character Marty DiBergi on Martin Scorsese in "The Last Waltz," which he might have been a little upset about at first but has come to love over the years. While Reiner and his friends never dared take credit for the mockumentary, he did say that perhaps they made the first "mock rock doc."

**MOST MEMORABLE LINE:** "These go to 11."

**WHERE TO WATCH:** Streaming on Roku, TCM, DIRECTV Stream and HBO MAX. Also available to rent or buy.

## "Stand by Me" (1986)

This coming-of-age classic, adapted from a Stephen King story, follows four 12-year-old boys on a search for a missing kid in 1950s Oregon. It helped make a star out of River Phoenix, along with Wil Wheaton, Corey Feldman and Jerry O'Connell, and it came to Reiner only because Adrian Lyne had dropped out. In 2021, Reiner told The Guardian that the film meant more to him than any other he'd made. "It was the first time I did a film that reflected my own personal sen-

sibility; it had a mixture of melancholy, humor and nostalgia," he said. "I was 12 in 1959, so the music was the music I listened to and the feelings I had in relation to my father, I injected into the film. When it came out and was accepted it validated me."

**MOST MEMORABLE LINE:** "I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was 12. Jesus, does anyone?"

**WHERE TO WATCH:** Streaming on Netflix, fuboTV and Philo. Also available to rent or buy.

## "The Princess Bride" (1987)

Carl Reiner famously gifted his son William Goldman's novel, which became his favorite and set him on path to adapt it for the big screen, which many had already tried and failed to do. Norman Lear came to the rescue once more (he funded "Spinal Tap") and gave Reiner the money to make "The Princess Bride." They assembled one of the great ensembles with Robin Wright, Cary Elwes, Chris Sarandon, Wallace Shawn, Mandy Patinkin, Carol Kane, Billy Crystal, Peter Falk and André the Giant to bring to life this very singular, very clever tale of love, adventure and storytelling that would have

many more lives as a home video staple.

**MOST MEMORABLE LINE:** "Have fun storming the castle!"

**WHERE TO WATCH:** Streaming on Hulu, Disney+ and DIRECTV Stream. Also available to rent or buy.

## "When Harry Met Sally..." (1989)

Reiner enlisted Nora Ephron to help take an honest look at dating and relationships in what would become one of the most beloved romantic comedies, following Meg Ryan's Sally and Crystal's Harry across 12 years. Reiner's mother, Estelle, was the key to the most iconic scene in Katz's Delicatessen, a location which took on a new fame as well. Around the film's 30th anniversary, Reiner reflected on its longevity.

"I think people see some basic truths about men and women when they watch that movie," he told The Associated Press. "To me, the dance that happens between men and women is forever."

**MOST MEMORABLE LINE:** "I'll have what she's having."

**WHERE TO WATCH:** Streaming on Roku, STARZ and DIRECTV Stream. Also available to rent or buy.

# TheSportsPages

## Name it and it's yours, weary fans of the Halos

*"What's in a name? That which we call an orange by any other name would smell as sweet."*

With apologies to Bill Shakespeare, let's consider the possibilities of the sad decade of Angels' frustration not being connected to injuries, bad trades and a revolving door of field managers.

Maybe the solution is simpler.

How about a new name?

It's not like it's a new idea. The team began as the Los Angeles Angels in

1961, then became the California Angels when they moved to Anaheim, shifting to Anaheim Angels for the Disney era. That was followed by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and now, circled back to Los Angeles Angels.

I'm not seriously promising that a new monicker would put them in the MLB playoffs, but ... frankly, has anybody else got a better (i.e. more successful) idea?

The first, most obvious idea would be the Orange County Angels. That's a little broader than "Anaheim" and more realistic than "Los Angeles."

Or maybe the team name, "Angels," is the real culprit. "Angels" sounds nice, but maybe too nice. It doesn't evoke the spirit of hard-playing, nome plate-stealing team like, say, the Dodgers (used to be).

To combine a local feature with a grittier image how about "The Sons of the Beaches"? (Crossing that out as witty but too controversial ...).

I'm stumped for now. But if being a little "out-of-the box" has worked for the "minor league" Savannah Bananas, maybe it could work for us.



### Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

# Head Coach-In-Waiting

Chargers' Minter on short list of other NFL teams

By Dan Greenspan  
Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO (AP) — There's a good reason why Chargers defensive coordinator Jesse Minter has been on those lists of prospective head coaching candidates all season long.

The past two weeks, including a 16-13 win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday, have only served to solidify why the 42-year-old Minter will be in demand.

With quarterback Justin Herbert dealing with a broken non-throwing hand behind a makeshift offensive line and working with an erratic run game, Minter's defense has stepped up to put the Chargers (10-4) on the brink of a playoff berth.

"It has just been great," coach Jim Harbaugh said. "Just calling a great game and coordinating and getting us ready for it."

In a 22-19 overtime win against the Philadelphia Eagles on Dec. 8, the defense forced five takeaways, didn't allow a red-zone touchdown in two opportunities and held strong on third down (4 of 13).

To complete the Chargers' season sweep of the Chiefs, the de-



**DEFENSE** has been a big part of the Chargers' success this season (Joaquin Torre/Chargers photo).

fense came up with five sacks, allowed 2.3 yards per carry and was generally able to limit Patrick Mahomes.

Minter successfully deployed linebacker Daiyan Henley as a spy after Mahomes scrambled for a 12-yard touchdown on Kansas City's opening drive, helping keep the Chiefs out of the end zone for the final 53:52.

Those sorts of adjustments have Minter in line for a promotion in short order.

"I'm Jesse Minter's biggest fan," Harbaugh said. "I don't know of

■ **CHARGERS** will visit the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday at 10 a.m. on Channel 11.

anybody who's a bigger fan of Jesse Minter than I am. In fact, the Harbaughs love the Minters."

The son of longtime college and NFL coach Rick Minter, Jesse got his first NFL seasoning under John Harbaugh in Baltimore starting in 2017 before joining Jim Harbaugh at Michigan in 2022.

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# Rams lead it early and lost it late

By David Arthur  
Orange County Tribune

The Los Angeles Rams haven't lost much this season but when they have, it's been in some odd ways: blocked field goals, blocked extra points and spectacularly blown leads.

In Seattle on Thursday night, the Rams built a 30-14 lead and looked to get a lock on the undisputed top seed from the NFC

## ■ PRO FOOTBALL

West Division in the playoffs when everything fell apart and they lost 38-37 in overtime against the host Seahawks.

What may have been the oddest event of the game occurred when a backwards pass from Sam Darnold dropped into the Rams end zone. A Seattle player picked it up, and the officials ruled it was a live ball and

therefore a successful two-point conversion, one of three such by Seahawks.

Matthew Stafford had a spectacular night, passing for 457 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions. Puca Nacua caught 12 passes for 225 yards and two TDs.

Kyren Williams was the top rusher with 70 yards on 23 carries for the Rams.

Continued on page 7

# Chargers' Jesse Minter

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Minter then followed Harbaugh to Los Angeles after helping the Wolverines winning the national championship, and he has overseen two outstanding defenses for the Chargers.

They rank second in yards allowed (279.1) and sixth in yards per play (4.95) this season, elevating their performance just in time for the stretch run.

If the defense can maintain this strong form into January, other teams might have to wait a little longer before trying to hire Minter.



**JESSE MINTER**  
Chargers defensive coordinator

## Rams lose 38-37 in OT

Continued from page 6

Sam Darnold threw for 270 yards and two scores along with two interceptions. The top Seahawk rusher was Kenneth Walker III with 100 yards on 11 rushes and one score.

"I love this team. And man,

when you put out as much as this group does and you care so much about something and you come up short, it's incredibly disappointing," said Rams head coach Sean McVay.

The Rams (11-4) will next host the Atlanta Falcons on Dec. 29.



## GARDEN GROVE'S BEST KEPT SECRET

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## ■ Prep Sports Spotlight

### Football leagues unveiled for the 2026, 2027 seasons

Every two years the CIF-SS football world plays a game of gridiron musical chairs and the result of next year's dosey-do has been announced.

Here's where area high school teams will sit for the 2026 and 2027 seasons.

- **Alpha League:** Edison
- **Delta:** Huntington Beach, Western
- **Foxtrot:** Orange
- **Iota:** Marina, Pacifica
- **Lambda:** Westminster
- **Omicron:** Garden Grove, Los Amigos
- **Sigma:** Ocean View, Rancho Alamitos
- **Tango:** Bolsa Grande, La Quinta, Loara, Magnolia, Santiago.

A couple of thoughts. In the Iota League, there's Marina and Pacifica, whose team name is the Mariners. Bet that's gonna tie the tongues of some game announcers.

Also, we note that the Tango League has eight teams, four of which are former Garden Grove League members.

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# Dodgers' World Series shares: A mere \$484,748

NEW YORK (AP) — A full postseason share for the World Series champion Dodgers totaled \$484,748, up from the amount Los Angeles players earned in 2024 but still down from the winner's figure in 2022 and 2023.

The total postseason pool of nearly \$128.2 million was down slightly from the record \$129.1 million in 2024, the commissioner's office said Thursday.

The yearly pool amount is impacted by ballpark capacities. Los Angeles players voted 82 full shares and 12.5 partial shares for 94.5 full share equivalents plus \$340,000 in cash awards in dividing a pool of \$46.1 million.

Houston received a record full share of \$516,347 in 2022, when the World Series champion Astros divided their pool into 59 full shares, 14.14 partial shares and \$940,000 in cash awards. A full share on the 2023 champion Texas Rangers was worth \$506,263, and the 2024 Dodgers' full share was \$477,441.

Full share equivalents have risen in recent years. San Francisco had 56.65 when it won the

title in 2014.

All players and managers eligible for the World Series who were with the team or on an injured list from June 1 or later get a full share. Those not with the team on or after June 1 are eligible to get a full share or percentage share as voted by that team's players along with two certified athletic trainers and one strength and conditioning coach.

Spring training coaches, scouts and the grounds crew are eligible for cash awards but not shares.

Executives such as general managers, assistant GMs, directors of baseball operations, team physicians and resident security agents are not eligible for any part of the pool.

A full share for the AL champion Toronto Blue Jays came to \$354,118 just below the \$354,572 last year for the New York Yankees when they lost to the Dodgers in the World Series. Toronto had 70 full shares, 15.44 partial shares and \$508,5000 cash awards.



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**

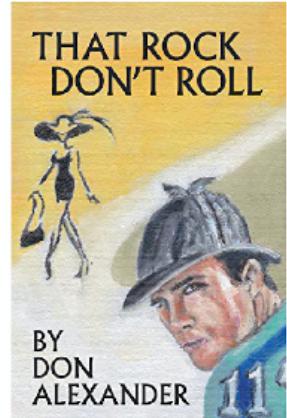
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— The Orange County Tribune

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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.

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