

High Schools Score Big in U.S. Rankings

La Quinta High
75th in all of
California



It was a clean sweep. Each year U.S. News & World Report releases its rankings of what it considers to be "America's Best High Schools" and the outcome shined glory on the Garden Grove Unified School District.

Evaluated based on college readiness, graduation rates and other factors, the nation's 18,000 high schools – public and private – were rated and all seven of the GGUSD comprehensive high schools ranked in the top 20 percent of the nation.

La Quinta High School

ranked 30th in the Los Angeles metro area, 75th in California and 512th in the nation.

Also, four of the six high schools – Bolsa Grande, Garden Grove, La Quinta and Pacifica – ranked in the top 10 percent in California.

"This national recognition

Continued on page 2

FOOTBALL IS BACK



THE EDISON HIGH football team, pictured here after winning a state championship in 2024, is expected to be strong again in 2026. Edison opened with a win in Hawaii on Saturday, and most everyone else will start in the Week Zero. **For the schedule for area teams, go to page seven.**

Man in wheelchair is fatally hit in a Huntington Beach crash

A man in a motorized wheelchair was fatally struck by a sedan in Huntington Beach on Tuesday afternoon.

According to Jessica Cuchilla, public affairs officer for the HBPD, the incident took place at

the intersection of Skylab Road and Able Lane.

At approximately 2 p.m. Huntington Beach police officers responded to a report of a traffic collision between a white Honda Civic and a black wheelchair. The man in

the wheelchair was a 74-year-old resident of Westminster and was found unconscious in the roadway.

Paramedics were called to the scene and the injured man was taken to

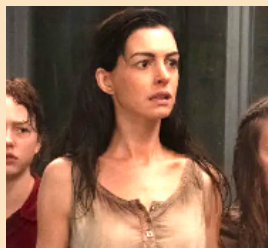
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In The Tribune



**Dodgers Bounce
Back From A
Losing Streak**

SPORTS Page 6



**'End of Oak Street'
combines dinos
with suburbs**

ARTS & LIVING Page 5

The mayoral election is cancelled

Stanton Mayor David Shawver can put his campaign signs back in the garage.

The long-serving presiding officer of the Stanton City Council will be serving four more years with-

Stanton City Council

out having to run a campaign this November.

On Tuesday, the council voted 3-0 (with council-

members Gary Taylor and John Warren absent) to cancel the Nov. 3 mayoral election because Shawver was the only candidate nominated.

Elections for other seats

Continued on page 2

The★Tribune

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Beach, Stanton and
Westminster

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Local schools ranked highly by US News

Continued from page 1

reflects the extraordinary commitment of our teachers and staff to preparing every student for success in college, career and beyond," said Board of Education President Bob Harden.

"The continued recognition of our high schools affirms the strength of our academic programs, the quality of instruction across our district and the outstanding opportunities available to GGUSD students."

The GGUSD serves most of Garden Grove and portions of Anaheim, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Stanton and Westminster.

Wheelchair rider killed in HB accident

Continued from page 1

a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The driver of the Honda, a 45-year-old Los Angeles man, was uninjured. He cooperated with investigators and impairment doesn't seem to be a factor with him, say police. It's unknown if it was a factor with the man in the wheelchair.

A preliminary investigation indicated the wheelchair was traveling southbound across Skylab when the Honda – moving eastbound on Skylab – collided with the wheelchair.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or events leading up to it is asked to call HBPD Traffic Investigator Rat-tanchandani at (714) 536-5231.

Stanton mayor

Continued from page 1

on the council will proceed as scheduled.

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News&Views

Getting specific with campaign promises to win

In my last column here, I groused about the sparse information that political candidates provide to the public in their signs, posts and mailings.

OK, you say, what should be on that stuff? Surely you don't expect a lengthy resume and biography to be crammed

onto a sign meant to be read while motorists drive by? Or by a voter who is thumbing through a fistful of campaign mail, along with an advertising circular from Vons?

I think such items should focus on a specific issue or project that will present the prospect of something that will appeal to the voters. Something that the city, schools or special district would find appearing and useful.

Here are my nominees for two cities. More next issue.

Garden Grove: At Chapman Avenue near West Street there's a flood control basin once known as "Kid's Haven." Back in the 50s and 60s, it served as a little dab of nature where kids could fish, camp out (all under adult supervision, of course), enjoy nature and otherwise recreate themselves in the midst of suburban sprawl.

It's located immediately north of the very underused (and underdeveloped) Westhaven Park. The potential to make this into something special – with the help of local non-profits – is huge.

Huntington Beach: It's called "Surf City," but one of it's most unappreciated assets is Golden West College, located at the very north edge of the municipality's limits. Walk across

Continued on page 8



Retorts
Jim Tortolano



Kiwanis Land is a private park owned and operated by Kiwanis of Garden Grove. On Sunday, Sept. 13, it will host the 8th Annual Car Show at the Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

8th annual Car Show coming to Kiwanisland

The 8th annual "Car Show at the Park" will be held at Kiwanisland in Garden Grove on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Theme for the event is "Celebrating Our Nation's 250th" birthday. The event will include vendors, food, raffle prizes and many classes of judging. The entry fee is \$30 and applications are

available at www.kiwanisland.com. The first 50 will receive an event T-shirt.

Proceeds from the event will go directly to supporting Kiwanisland and the teens its sponsors. It's located at 9840 Larson Ave.

For more information, call Steve Sanders at (714) 357-1446.

2 rescued from Jet-Ski accident

A 54-year-old man who was flipped off a Jet-Ski near Long Beach was reported missing on Sunday night and was rescued Monday morning near the Seal Beach Pier.

His companion, a woman in her

40s, was rescued by a "Good Samaritan" boater.

The missing man was last seen, according to the Long Beach Police Department, around 7 p.m. Sunday. Two skiers were

Continued on page 8

Crime overall declining in Westminster

Violent crime is up in Westminster, but property crime is down. However, there's a caveat on the latter.

In a report presented to the Westminster City Council this week for the second quarter of 2026 – compared to the second quarter of 2025 – crimes such as homicide (murder), rape, robbery and aggravated assault were up 12.88 percent.

Crimes such as burglary, larceny, stolen vehicles and arson dropped by 14.71 percent.

Much of the decrease in reported property crime came from the closing of Westminster Mall, where there were many instances of shoplifting.

Overall, crime was down by 11.08 percent in the city.

HB man gets college degree

John Patrick Critz of Huntington Beach was among the 595 undergraduates who received degrees from the University of Nebraska during a combined graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremony on Aug. 15 in Pinnacle Bank Arena.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree from the College of Arts and Sciences. There were graduates from 42 countries, 40 U.S. states and Puerto Rico and 55 Nebraska communities.

History Minute

Fullerton, Anaheim: Underground biz

When one thinks of Anaheim and Fullerton, the most common images would be of Disneyland (the Happiest Place on Earth!) and the colleges (Fullerton College and Cal State Long Beach), all quite respectable institutions.

But there have been wilder

times in those cities during the era of Prohibition (1920-1933). Those cities had substantial business districts, some of which – allegedly – harbored bootleggers, illegal bars and other unlawful businesses.

Beneath them were tunnels which – according to legend – served as corridors for flight from the law, or the movement of Demon rum.

Later construction unearthed

Continued on page 8



PROHIBITION DAYS

NewsUpdate

Wall Street Dips on Bonds and Oil

Treasury bond yields and price of petroleum

Rising bond yields and worries about high oil prices pushed three major stock markets down on Tuesday.

According to United Press International, the Nasdaq Composite dropped by 1.3 percent, while the Standard and Poor's 500 fell by 0.6 percent and the Dow Jones Industrial Average by 0.2 percent.

The downward swing is believed to have been influenced by the 30-year Treasury yield having passed 5.3 percent for the first time since the global financial crisis of 2007 which triggered the Great Recession.



WALL STREET shivered a bit at some economic news (Shutterstock).

Higher bond yields tend to push up interest rates, which can drive up costs to consumers for a va-

riety of categories, including mortgages and auto buying. Markets can also be sensitive to

the impact of higher petroleum prices as a result of the conflict between the U.S. and Iran.

Victory by progressive in Fla. Demo Senate primary

The somewhat unexpected string of electoral victories by progressives and "democratic socialists" in primary elections across the U.S. continued on Tuesday.

The New York Times is reporting that Angie Nixon, a "progressive firebrand," won an easy victory over Alex Vindman in the battle for the Democratic nomination for a U.S. Senate

seat from Florida. With 95 percent of the votes counted, Nixon had 56 percent of the vote to 44 percent for Vindman.

But she won't be the favorite against the Republican nominee, Ashley Moody, who polled 79.6 percent in the GOP primary.

Republican voters in the primary outnumbered Democrats 1.6 million to 1.2 million.

Weather: Warm days and some warm nights for West Orange Co.

It's T-shirts, shorts and A/C for the next few days in our West Orange County cities. Each day Wednesday through Saturday will have a daytime high of 88 or 89 and overnight lows of 69 to 70. The forecasts for Wednesday and Friday call for partly cloudy skies. Thursday is expected to have morning fog and afternoon sun, Saturday should be mostly sunny.

Soda drinking may be tied to gastric cancer: study

A new study released on Monday suggests that drinking one sugar-sweetened beverage a day or more doubles a person's chances of developing gastric cancer.

According to USA Today, the study refers not only to regular sodas but also energy drinks and fruit juices to which sugar is added as a sweetener.

The study by the Mass General Brigham Center qualified

its conclusions by noting that artificially sweetened low-calorie drinks were not associated directly with a high risk, but persons with weight gain, inflammation or insulin resistance might be especially susceptible.

The study was conducted across a sample of 100,000 persons across decades of data.

In the U.S., 63 percent of adults reported drinking such beverages one or more times a day.

Great Thoughts

"A cat will be your friend, but never your slave."
—Theophile Gautier

"Cats choose us; we don't own them."
—Kristin Cast

"A cat is a lion in a jungle of small bushes."
—Indian proverb

Arts&Living

'End of Oak Street' Is a Hoot

Suburbia and
'Jurassic Park'
come together

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer

At the end of the block in David Robert Mitchell's "The End of Oak Street," is a cul-de-sac with a telephone pole in the middle and wires radiating out like the cables of a big top. It's a fitting touch for a breakneck, carnivalesque movie made with throwback showmanship.

Summer movies, of course, are not known for lacking in circus-like mayhem. But much of the pastiche delight of the 1980s-set "The End of Oak Street," a mid-August surprise, is how it absorbs an Amblin-style blockbuster spirit and conjures, without winking irony or belabored homage, a summer thrill ride seemingly designed for the drive-in.

Mitchell's breakthrough was the nifty 2014 horror "It Follows," which he followed up with an admirably ambitious but shaggily self-indulgent Los Angeles neo noir, "Under the Silver Lake." But any indulgences in "The End of Oak Street," about a 1980s suburban family whose neighborhood is transported through time, are for the audience. "The End of Oak Street" is a bonkers blast.

It's best going in not knowing anything about the movie's twists, so tread carefully on the rest of this review. That's not to say that an enormous amount of "The End of Oak Street" isn't immediately familiar, starting with the central family.

The Platts live in what looks like a San Fernando Valley neighborhood full of split levels and tidy little streets. Denise (Anne Hathaway) and Greg (Ewan McGregor) have two kids and a dog named Starbuck. Audrey (Maisy Stella) is a teenager and Brian (Christian Convery) is her younger brother.

But from the moment we meet them, during a neighborhood fair,



ANNE HATHAWAY stars in "The End of Oak Street" (Warner Bros.).

Movie Review

there are obvious cracks in their all-American life. Greg is working a side job delivering pizzas while Denise is secretly typing up a maybe-aspirational novel about a woman dreaming of leaving her family. The kids have their own secrets, too. They suspect their parents are on the cusp of divorcing, and so, seemingly, do Greg and Denise.

Such a framework for sci-fi cataclysm is, naturally, Spielberg 101. But while "The End of Oak Street" is sure to test and restore their familial bonds, Mitchell, who also wrote the script, takes a route that leans more into horror, absurdism and outright silliness. In any case, yes, there are dinosaurs. It's both skillful and a lot of fun how Mitchell teases them out. The first signs are mysterious. A flash of light. A strange exotic flower in a neighbor's backyard. A giant mound of feces in another's.

But soon, the Platts find that their neighborhood is overrun with primordial beasts and surrounded by jungle: Oak Street is suddenly a suburban island in a prehistoric

world.

It's a perfectly "Twilight Zone" plot that inadvertently solves the problems that have plagued the "Jurassic Park" movies for 20 years. If those films have struggled to find an off-island setting, "The End of Oak Street" instead brings the dino isle straight into suburbia. Encounters with raptors and worse transpire across front porches and shag carpets.

You could chalk it all up to good dumb fun. And it is mostly that, with set pieces built to make an audience groan in anticipation or

Good ★ ★ ★

cheer for the successful swing of a sledgehammer. But where "The End of Oak Street" succeeds where so many others fail is in the sincerity it has for its characters. Ridiculous and over-the-top as the concept is, the Platts are firmly grounded. (Hathaway, especially, helps in this department.) The combination of an earnest family drama with CGI hijinks, plus increasingly nutty plotting, make

Continued on page 8

'Sweeney' will come to Gem

One of Stephen Sondheim's "sharpest" musicals is coming to Garden Grove's Gem Theatre.

One More Productions is presenting "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" at the historic theater starting on Thursday and running through Sept. 27.



TheSportsPages

Gary Davidson: OC's greatest sports figure?

Who was the most important high school athlete ever to come out of Orange County, and – more specifically – Garden Grove?

Be careful, because this is a trick question. Although he played football, basketball and baseball and ran track for the Garden Grove High Argonauts in the 1950s, he never became a truly standout athlete.

Indeed, even where he did make his mark, he did so in association with three highly visible – but influential – failures in professional sports.

We're talking about Gary Davidson, a lawyer, entrepreneur and real estate promoter who organized three short-lived but highly impactful professional leagues: American Basketball Association, World Hockey Association and World Football League.

In the current NBA, several franchises – Indiana Pacers, Denver Nuggets and Brooklyn Nets (originally the New Jersey Americans) were in the ABA. His influence brought the three-point shot and slam dunk contests to professional basketball.

Next was the World Hockey Association in which its rivalry with the National Hockey League quadrupled player salaries, contributed four teams to the NHL (including the Edmonton Oilers) and helped kill the reserve clause.

His World Football League venture gave us Thursday night football and introduced the idea of expanding American football overseas.

And he never forgot his Orange County roots, placing an

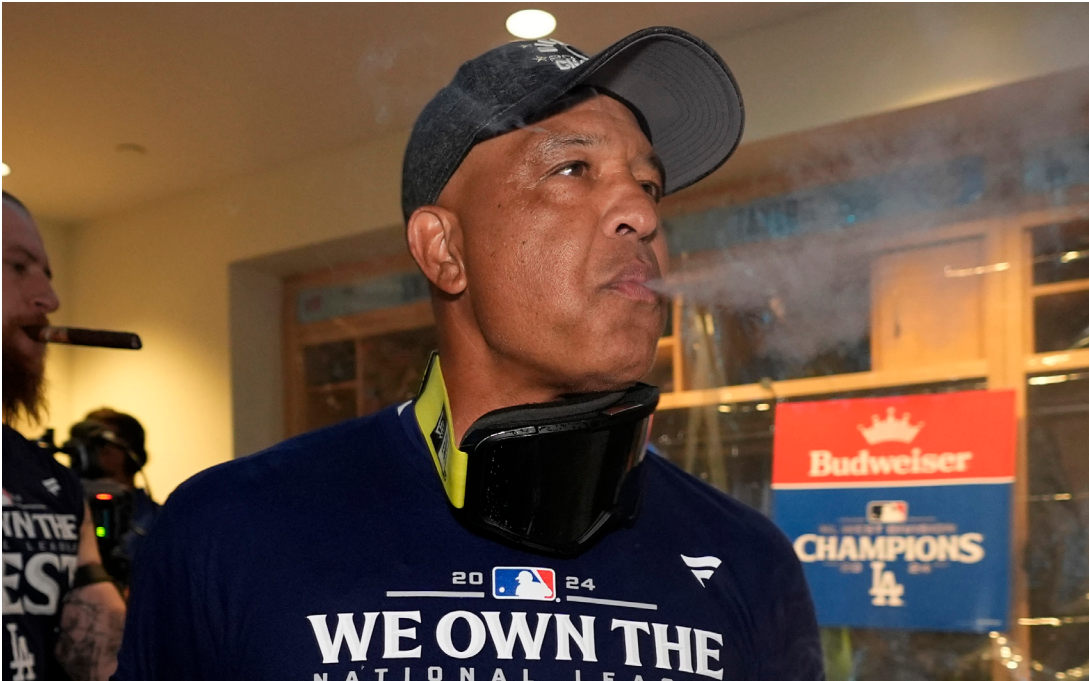


Sports Retorts

Jim Tortolano

neur and real estate promoter who organized three short-lived but highly impactful professional leagues: American Basketball Association, World

Continued on page 8



DAVE ROBERTS has had many accomplishments with the Los Angeles Dodgers to celebrate, but the team's slump had him a bit worried (AP photo).

Dodgers Must 'Play Clean'

Dave Roberts: Team not consistent in recent weeks

By Dan Greenspan
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts called out his struggling club after a 6-2 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday cost them a significant tiebreaker in the race for home-field advantage.

"I say this because it's just been four or five, six weeks of below average production in our offense. It's just the truth, and I think we have just haven't played clean baseball for quite some time, and that speaks to the defense," Roberts said.

The Dodgers lost three of four in the key series against the Brewers, who are three games ahead of Los Angeles in the chase for the National League's best record and hold the head-to-head advantage for postseason seeding if the teams end up in a two-way deadlock.

Los Angeles is 5-11 in its past 16 games, having been swept by

AL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
Houston	63-63	.500	--	4-6
Texas	62-64	.492	1	4-6
Seattle	59-67	.465	4	3-7
ANGELS	50-76	.397	13	5-5
Athletics	49-77	.389	14	4-6

NL West Standings

	W-L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	76-51	.598	--	6-4
San Diego	68-59	.533	8	8-2
Arizona	66-61	.520	10	4-6
San Fran.	51-74	.408	24	3-7
Colorado	50-76	.397	25.5	5-5

the Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs and losing series to the Arizona Diamondbacks and Brewers in that span. Since July 1, the back-to-back World Series champions are 18-21.

Their issues putting together effective at-bats were evident in the final two games against the Brewers, totaling three runs on

Continued on page 8

Angels and Dodgers post welcome wins

The Angels and Dodgers, two teams at the opposite ends of division standings but who have been struggling lately, had good news on Tuesday night.

Both teams posted wins, with the Blue Crew holding off a late surge to defeat the Colorado Rockies 7-6 in Denver, and the Halos getting a superb pitching performance as they beat the AL West Division-leading Houston Astros, 3-1.

The Dodger win can signal a turnaround in a stretch which – at one point – they lost seven games in a row. The Angel victory allowed the team to escape last place in the American League West, leapfrogging the A's.

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■ Prep Sports Spotlight

Week Zero is finally here for the West OC gridiron

It's starting almost a month earlier than it used to, but high school football begins in the West Orange County area now with Week Zero, stretched across Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Actually, it's already begun with Edison traveling to Hawaii on Saturday and defeating 'Iolani 41-27 in what we guess could be called Week Double Zero, like in the James Bond movies.

Here's the game lineup for our area, focusing on teams serving our coverage area of Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster. Some teams won't start their season until Week One (next week). All these games are scheduled for 7 p.m., unless otherwise stated. Opponents, times, locations subject to change without notice.

THURSDAY

- Pacifica at Beckman at Tustin High.
- Saddleback at Santiago at Monsoor Stadium (GGHS)
- Huntington Beach at Millikan

FRIDAY

- Bolsa Grande at Garden Grove
- Brea Olinda at Marina
- North (Torrance) at Orange (Fred Kelly Stadium).
- Western at Salesian
- Fountain Valley at Ocean View
- Westminster at Sunny Hills
- St. Bernard at Los Amigos at Monsoor Stadium.

Roberts: The team has to 'play clean'

Continued from page 6

11 hits and three walks.

"It's been a long time since we've been consistent offensively," Roberts said. "For me, it's winning a 2-1 pitch and not chasing. Winning a 3-2 pitch, taking the walk. Not chasing the first pitch to then be 0-1. I see our guys, we're chasing off in, chasing away, and I just don't see the consistent plan of attack, 1 through 9."

Even Shohei Ohtani, the centerpiece of the Dodgers' big spending and bigger winning, was not immune. He grounded into an inning-ending double play with runners on first and third in the seventh.

"I think that urgency of every single pitch is important. I don't think we have that intent, and some guys are scuffling at that with their swings and things like that, which is real. But I think

other guys are not valuing every single pitch," Roberts said.

Compounding those stumbles have been frequent defensive breakdowns. Second baseman Tommy Edman had two errors in the series finale, resulting in three runs.

The first came when he did not cleanly handle Mookie Betts' throw for a force that would have ended the inning with the bases loaded in the second, allowing the Brewers to score their opening run.

The other came in the ninth inning, when Edman could not field a grounder to turn a possible double play, extending their deficit to 6-1 and further reducing the Dodgers' long odds of staging a comeback.

Roberts trusts his group can get back on track, but only by putting in the hard work necessary to get through this extended funk.



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Angels/Dodgers

Continued from page 6

Against Colorado, the Dodgers pounded out a 7-4 lead, including Shohei Ohtani's 30th home run of the season, and held on. It was his sixth straight 30-home run season.

In Houston, George Klassen (2-1) pitched seven one-hit innings against the division leaders. He struck out seven Astros and walked three.

Josh Lowe hit his 10th homer of the year and Zach Neto and Nolan Schanuel each had two hits for the Orange County team.

On Wednesday, the Angels take on the Astros again in Houston and the Dodgers will try to get a third straight win in the Mile High City.

Jet-ski rescue

Continued from page 3

reported missing.

The pair was knocked off the water vehicle, say police. She was able to remount it, but he was unable to do the same, so he yelled for help. She wanted to rescue him, but the waves took her out beyond the break wall away from him.

She was found by fire department rescue boats, and was transported to a local hospital in stable condition.



Who helped eradicate the plague of polio?
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Sports Retorts: A great figure

Continued from page 6

ABA franchise in Anaheim (Anaheim Amigos) and a WFL team (Southern California Sun) at the Big A.

Not a bad athletic career for a guy who was a second-string high school running back.

Movie review: 'Oak Street'

Continued from page 5

"The End of Oak Street" a fairly nonstop hoot.

Composer Michael Giacchino does his best John Williams impression to match.

But Mitchell's film also increasingly detours from the Spielberg playbook. Only Mitchell would take a moment for a freaked-out Audrey to sneak into the car to pop a cassette in and listen to Steve Winwood's "Valerie."

And while it would be pushing it to say there's that much underneath "The End of Oak Street," its characters are united in keeping certain things secret out of fear that their spouse or kids or parents can't handle the truth. The swiftness that the dinosaurs invade their neighborhood could be symbolic of any ecological disaster, but the subsequent

challenges prove each member of the family can handle quite a bit more than expected — even when the parental assurance that everything's going to be OK, like when a giant snake is slithering through their home, is laughably disputable.

It adds up to a gonzo good time that gives an old-school family adventure a darker, modern spin. Mitchell has quickly made suburbia his evident domain, where "it," or something else, is sure to follow.

"The End of Oak Street," a Warner Bros. release in theaters Thursday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for some strong violent content, bloody images, some strong language and suggestive material. Running time: 99 minutes.

Hstory Minute: Underground

Continued from page 3

these passages, but the explanation was they were really just for water pipes, underground cable, etc.

On the other hand, Anaheim Landing (now Seal Beach) was a prime landing location

for rum-runners who smuggled the stuff into town, using a wide variety of routes.

Maybe it's all just urban legend.

But as Harry Truman once said, the only thing new under the sun is the history that hasn't been uncovered yet.

Retorts: Getting specific

Continued from page 3

McFadden Avenue and you're in Westminster.

For reasons unknown, the college has kept a very low profile in the community. It can't really reasonably present itself as representative of HB's "Surf City" culture, being located so far away from the shore.

The GWC football team is on a roll. The 2025 team was 12-1, won the conference title and came within a point of winning the state community college crown.

And yet its home "stadium" is a roll-away set of bleachers that most high school programs would find ... underwhelming.

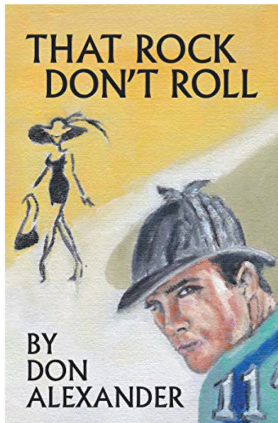
The city could cement its relationship with the college by working on a joint project to build a small gem there, useful to both football and soccer and as a venue for community events and outdoor entertainment for the oft-overlooked northern part of town.

In each case, a candidate would have something specific to point to as representative of a desire to create a project lasting and innovative more than the commonplace vagueness of most suburban politicians.

If you want to win, sometimes it's useful to stand out from the crowd.

Some serious fun

Murder, corruption, sex, humor, sports and lottery



That Rock Don't Roll

"A fun story set in the OC that is sometimes tongue-in-cheek and sometimes deadly serious."

— 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.