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JULY 2023

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Tina Turner

"People think my life has been tough, but I think it has been a wonderful journey."

— Tina Turner

What's Inside ...

Calendar of Events Flashback 6 Classifieds 8-9 Song Preview 10 11 In The Spotlight Book Club 14 Tina Turner 16 Off The Beaten Path 17 18 On The Road Again Gadget Geezer 19 Fabulous Finds 20 Tinseltown Talks 21 Busy Boomers 23 Life After Mother 27 Movie Preview 28

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Voices in the Dark



It was about 10 p.m. and my

wife and I were engrossed in

a television murder mystery.

Some of the characters in the

story had foreign accents that

made it hard for me to under-

stand at times what they were

saying. My wife and I were sit-

ting there in front of the televi-

sion with the lights out when

suddenly in the darkness a

voice started talking. I had no

clue what it was, but my wife

calmed me down by telling me

it was Alexa.

think each home will have a robot doing chores, even walking the dog, and picking up after him or her. Can you imagine the fright of being tapped

on the shoulder at 6 a.m. for the first time by a robot because it was time for you to get up for work?

Of course, Alexa and Siri have their good points. You can ask them a question and they will give you a quick answer. If it's complicated, they will produce references to books or a newspaper person and say this is what I found. Then you can copy that information to get

right to the sources you need. It's funny but my dogs pay no attention to Alexa or Siri. They just treat them as if they are part of the furniture.

By Jim McDevitt

I draw the line though at having a robot drive me around. What would happen if two robots were trying to get ahead of each other on the Interstate? Not good. The good news is that when I heard the voices in the dark it wasn't a deep baritone voice, they sounded like they were mad at me.



Alexa is a voice-activated device you can talk to and ask questions and it will give you an answer. One of the characters on television must have used her name and said something to her which set her off. That incident I am sure has caused me to lose more of my thinning hair. We have another device that goes by the name of Siri that does the same things. It is getting spooky up here in the mountains late at night.

Can you imagine what would happen if Alexa and Siri had a misunderstanding and got into a shouting match? I wonder what the police officers would think if they got a disturbance call that turned out to be two machines arguing. Someday I





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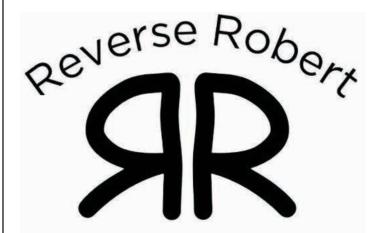
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July is a great month to go out and enjoy all the events that are going on, from fairs and festivals to art shows and more.

Grab the grandkids and head out to any or all of these exciting events happening in July before they disappear.

Festival of Arts Laguna Beach July 5 – Sept. 1

Come discover the Festival of Arts in Laguna Beach, a juried fine art show featuring 140 of Orange County's top artists in an open-air gallery setting. A world-renowned art destination, visitors can take tours of the exhibit, catch an art demonstration, dine at one of the onsite restaurants, create their masterpieces, or simply enjoy the creative atmosphere. Weekends are jam-packed with live music and special events providing entertainment for all. At 650 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach.

Pageant of the Masters "Art Colony: In the Company of Artists" Laguna Beach July 7 – Sept. 1 Shows Nightly at 8:30 p.m.

The Pageant of the Masters is one of the most unique productions in the world. Each evening during the summer season, classic and contemporary works of art are faithfully re-created with theatrical illusion and real people posing as living pictures. Enjoy art that comes to life under the stars in the Pageant's outdoor amphitheater. In 2023, the Pageant of the Masters will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the first presentation of "living pictures" at the Festival of Arts. From that humble beginning, the Pageant has continued to evolve and grow into the world-class entertainment it is today. The 2023 production, "Art Colony: In the Company of Artists," will acknowledge the deep connections and memorable stories of artists assisting one another throughout the world and history. Tickets start at \$35 per person (Including a season pass to the Festival of Arts Fine Art Show). At 650 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. Tickets, www.foapom. com; call, 949-497-6582, or 800-487-3378.

From Dinosaurs to People Santa Ana July 9

It's Dino time: Together with vendors from all over Orange County, there will be demonstrations of histories and cultures here in SoCal in a family and pet-friendly event. At, Heritage Museum of OC, 3101 W.

Harvard St., Santa Ana. Call 714-540-0404.

The Orange County Fair Costa Mesa July 14 – Aug. 13 Wednesdays-Sundays

Tickets for the annual OC Fair are on sale, but with limited daily capacity this year, days could sell out. The annual Orange County Fair is the premier family attraction in Southern California offering a wide variety of exhibits, foods, entertainment, rides, and hands-on activities. There is something for everyone at the fair including the summer headline concert series, working farm, petting zoos, thrill rides, contests, and games. Tickets must be purchased in advance. There will be no transaction fees on fair admission. Fairgoers should make sure to get tickets for special days and group adventures now. At, OC Fair & Event Center, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa. Call 714-708-FAIR.

Dachshund Races -Huntington Beach July 16

Noon check-in, race starts at 1 p.m.

See these short-legged but swift "Wiener Dogs" race to the finish line once a month at Old World Village. The Wiener Dog Races are always one of the most popular attractions at Old World, and while the races are usually held once a month, during Oktoberfest enjoy the "Running of the Wieners" every Sunday between 3 and 4 p.m. Placed into one of four weight classes, the Dachshunds run a 22-yard course with their owners at the finish line, luring their dogs to run toward them with colorful toys, food, cheers, and the occasional begging. Entry and admission prices vary. At, Old World Village Festival Hall, 7561 Center Ave., No. 49, Huntington Beach.

Sigler Park Splash Pad Tustin Through Sept. 4 12-5 p.m.

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Sawdust Festival Laguna Beach Through Sept. 3

Outdoor arts and crafts festival where you can watch artists create their work and buy directly from the artists while enjoying the unique atmosphere. At, 935 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. Call 949-494-3030.



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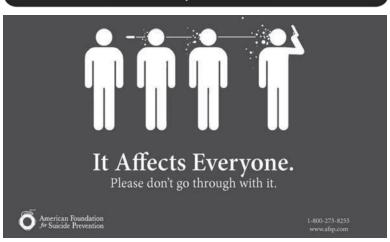
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'The Coolest Drive in Town' By Randal C. Hill

In 1960, Chubby Checker's multi-million-selling "The Twist" spent four months dominating the Top 40 airwaves. But, as with any hit tune, it eventually faded from favor and ended up on the volumi-

nous heap of Golden Oldies.

Nearly two years later, though, Checker's dance disc began earning radio spins again. For the second time, "The Twist" rocketed to No. 1 on "Billboard's Hot 100" singles list — but only briefly; the Chubster was soon knocked off the top spot by newcomers Joey Dee and the Starliters with their "Peppermint Twist."

The New York City-based ditty was ear candy with a heavy dance beat and lyrics that probably didn't cause Bob Dylan any sleepless nights:

Well, they've got a new dance and it goes like this

(Bop shoo-op, a bop bop shoo-op)

Yeah, the name of the dance is the Peppermint Twist

(Bop shoo-op, a bop bop shoo-op)

And where may we do such a dance, Mr. Dee?

Meet me baby down on 45th Street

Where the Peppermint Twisters meet

And you'll learn to do this, the Peppermint Twist.

The difference between the dances? While Chubby's uncomplicated moves were akin to shuffling one's feet to extinguish a dropped cigarette butt, the short-lived "Peppermint Twist" dance involved pointing toes, crossing feet, and employing elements of the Charleston.

The Peppermint Lounge was located at 128 W. 45th St. in the Times Square area and featured an interior that reeked of spilled beer and stale cigarette smoke. Entering patrons had to walk the length of a battered, 40-foot-long mahogany bar and traverse a mirrored hallway that opened to an absurdly small rectangular dance floor at the back. That's where, on a raised platform, Joey and company rocked each night.

Then a sea change transformed the little-noticed locale. Middle-aged jet setters became tantalized by recent newspaper puff pieces from New York Society Columnist Cholly Knickerbocker (actually the nom de plume of fashion meister Igor Cassini). He had spread the word that the watering hole had suddenly become the social epicenter for Gotham movers and shakers.

Eventually seen gyrating among the hoi polloi were such A-listers as Marilyn Monroe, Truman Capote, Greta Garbo, Norman Mailer, Judy Garland, and Tennessee Williams. (But not, as was sometimes reported, First Lady Jackie Kennedy, although she occasionally did groove with Checker's iconic dance at some private gatherings.)

Every weekend, the famous, the infamous, and the anonymous arrived. The back of a Joey Dee album proclaimed, "For every motorcycle that pulls up to the front door, there is a Rolls Royce right behind it."

The raucous joint wasn't for everyone, though. Drama critic John McLean claimed it "possessed the charm, noise, odor, and disorder of an overcrowded zoo." Overcrowded, for sure; the legal number of partiers allowed in was 178, but many more than that sardined into the back room each night.

fad-fueled hot Like any spot though, the Peppermint Lounge became unhip when the hipsters moved to other venues. Few people cared- or even noticed when the club closed its doors in 1965.

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The Last Word in Hucksterism

By Randal C. Hill

Motorists zooming between Los Angeles and Las Vegas to-day will pass a highway sign announcing a turnoff at Zzyzx (ZY-zix) Road. Most drivers shoot past the isolated exit in their mad dash to Sin City, 100 miles northeast. Those who take the road end up at the Desert Studies Center, a part of the California State University system. At one time, though, this place was a con artist's personal paradise.

Originally named Soda Springs, it was a long-deserted army fort deteriorating on the shore of a vast salt flat. In 1944, Curtis Howe Springer, an imposter who claimed to be a minister and psychiatrist but was neither, convinced government officials to rubber-stamp his request for a 12,000-acre mining claim; he had explained that refining the salts there could provide possible health benefits. He also changed the name to Zzyzx, a nonsense word he created in order to become the last listing in any phone book or dictionary.

To fulfill a utopian vision he had, Springer recruited homeless men from Los Angeles's skid row, offering free round-trip bus rides, food and shelter in tents in exchange for their labor. Eventually the Zzyzx Mineral Springs and Health Resort grew to include a 60-room hotel, a recording studio, a private airstrip, a cross-shaped swimming pool and a manmade lake. (Springer was able

to tap the Mohave River, which flowed underground nearby.)

Much of his income came from donations generated by his popular evangelical radio broadcasts that aired on 221 stations in America and 102 overseas. On his taped half-hour shows, the charlatan merged a homespun philosophy, gospel recordings, "the facts about life and how to live it," and the marketing of various health foods and cures.

And what cures they claimed to be! Miraculous powers were said to be had from a concoction of celery, carrots, turnips, parsley and brown sugar. A mixture of laxative herbs was sold as Antediluvian Tea. There were also curatives for everything from to baldness to sore toes to cancer.

Zy-Pac was a typical product. People were told to rub the area's salts vigorously over their scalps, then bend over and hold their breath for as long as possible. The resulting flush on the cheeks and scalp proved the salts' beneficial action. Or so the quack claimed.

Some visitors, usually the elderly and handicapped, became full-timers after making "appropriate" donations to the Springer Foundation. Zzyzx residents soaked in mineral water and/or mud, basked in the sun, and pursued a diet that included rabbit meat (rabbits

were abundant in the area), fruit and ice cream. Twice a day, bombastic Springer sermons boomed over loudspeakers on the grounds.

In the late 1960s, officials learned that the fraud was marking building sites that he didn't own and allowing people who donated large sums of money to erect houses there.

By 1974, Springer was kicked off the premises. He died in Las Vegas at age 88 in 1985, his name and misdeeds probably still bringing a scowl to a few elderly faces.

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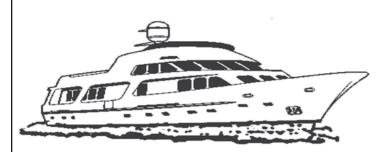
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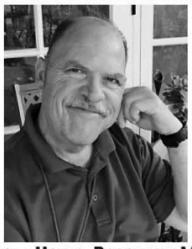
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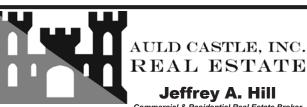
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"I've been wanting to do this for a long time, but didn't know how to start. I'm not a writer and so time seems to just keep slipping away."

Continued on page 13



The once-ubiquitous Andrews sisters – Patty, Maxine, and Laverne – premiered "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" in the 1941 Abbott and Costello comedy film "Buck Privates." For the beloved Minnesota trio, that perky ditty became their 24th consecutive Decca Records winner.

Written by Don Ray and Huey Prince, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" has always been associated with World War II, even though the song was recorded in January 1941 — nearly one year before the Pearl Harbor attack, and soon after the establishment of a peacetime military draft imposed by Franklin Roosevelt's administration.

The original cheerful tune featured a storyline - good for laughs but an obvious fantasy - about a hip Chicago street musician/army draftee. Apparently, without his bandmates, the cat couldn't do justice to blowing a buoyant rendition of "Reveille" when he was ordered to play it to announce the dawning. But his good-natured company leader ("The Cap") saved the day by assembling a barracks-based band for the frustrated musician, who could then handily offer a spirited wake-up call for the snoozing soldiers.

In 1973, it would take a rising young star to bring the song to a contemporary audience.

Bette Midler, born in Honolulu in 1945, earned a bit part as an extra during the 1966 filming of James Michener's novel "Hawaii." Flushed with confidence, she moved to New York to try her luck in the entertainment world. She rose to Big Apple prominence in 1970 when she began singing in the Continental Baths, a Gotham gay bathhouse. There she built a loyal following, along the way growing close to her pianist, the then-unknown Barry Manilow. (Reflecting on her bathhouse times later, Midler professed, "I'm still proud of those days. I feel like I was at the forefront of the gay liberation movement, and I hope I did my part to help it move forward.")

Manilow produced Bette's future classic debut Atlantic Records offering, "The Divine Miss M," which spent 76 weeks on "Billboard's" album chart and featured the track that first brought her to national prominence. When Midler made "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" a summertime Top 10 single, a new generation of music fans came to embrace an iconic tune that had all but faded into the mists of history.

Most music historians credit the story's inspiration to Chicago musician Clarence Zylman (who hailed from Muskegon, Mich.) for the "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" lyrics. Ironically, Clarence had enlisted in the Army – he wasn't drafted – on June 9, 1942, long after the snappy hit had come and gone. It is said that Zylman got his fellow soldiers jitterbugging to his unique style of "Reveille." In 2018, he was honored with a statue erected at the Veteran's Museum in Muskegon.

Recording hit songs new and old wasn't the only pursuit for the versatile Midler. During her five-decade career, she earned a head-spinning three Grammy awards, three Emmy awards, two Tony awards, four Golden Globe awards, and a Kennedy Center honor, in addition to nominations for two Academy Awards.

Wow!

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In The Spotlight

For the Love of Teaching Gerald C. Tilley Recalls His Profession

In the school year 2020–21, there were 3.0 million teachers in public schools, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. While some have retired, and gone from full-time to part-time, they say once a teacher always a teacher.

It's a profession that many love like Gerald Charles Tilley, of Laguna Woods who spent a good portion of his life teaching others.

"I have been a teacher for over 30 years and have published 22 books on theology and church history. I love teaching because I learn so much during preparation," he said.

Here's more about Tilley, a resident of SoCal since 1975 and who decided to share his journey with the "Senior Reporter" this month.

Senior Reporter: How did you choose your profession?

Gerald Tilley: While in my undergraduate years, I did some speaking and loved it. I trained to be a high school teacher (12 years), then became a youth minister (eight years), and then a college professor.

Q: Did you teach any place unique?

A: I taught for one year in China and seven summers in Ukraine, and one summer in Armenia.

Q: Where were you born and

A: I was born in La Junta, Colo., and I was raised in Sa-

Q: When you look back on your career what was the highlight?

A: Teaching college here and overseas.

Q: What do you do now in your retirement years?

A: Some part-time teaching, writing books on world religions, theology, and church history.

Q: Secret to a happy life?

A: A career you love and a working relationship with God.

Q: Family?

A: First marriage: four kids,13 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; second marriage for 33 years to Nancy.

Q: Hobbies?

A: Reading, playing chess, writing, and gardening. I love my wife, kids, and my dog.

Q: Advice to those who may want to follow in your footsteps in terms of career?

A: Get your education completed early. I didn't complete my Ph.D. until age 70.

Q: Favorite things?

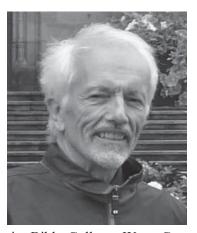
A: Public speaking, teaching, singing, and writing.

Q: Education?

A: Bachelor's and Master's in

Education, a second Master's in Biblical Studies, Ph.D. in Theology. Graduate degrees in social science education, biblical studies, and theology.

Q: Where did you teach in CA? A: In California, I have taught for American Intercontinental University; Kaplan Intl, Bap-



tist Bible College, West; Cerritos College (15 years); and California Biblical University, where I am still an adjunct professor. I still teach occasionally.



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July Crossword Puzzle

15

24

30

50

21

31

44

32

45

18

35

53

34

Across

- 1. Cabinet wood
- **4.** "Do others ..."
- 8. Fruity snack
- 14. Third letter
- 15. Golda of Israel
- 16. Nile's locale
- 17. Stored, as wine
- **19.** Like winter skies, say
- 20. Annual award from a sports network
- 21. Not nude
- 23. Trashy pads
- 25. "Earth's Children" series author Jean
- 26. Secretly include in an email
- 29. Eli, to Archie Manning
- 30. Louise's film cohort
- 33. Sleek, informally
- 34. Wheat & barley
- 36. Took it easy
- 38. Looks upon
- 40. Irritates
- 41. Circumvented
- **42.** Pub obligation
- **43.** Cataract surgery implant
- 44. Riddle or puzzle
- 46. Campus in the Sooner

State capital: Abbr.

- **49.** Gilbert Sullivan
- 50. In due time
- **51.** Stage, as a play
- 53. They can't learn new tricks, it's said
- **56.** Wall support
- 57. Panda food
- **60.** Sleeveless undergarment
- **62.** One lacking pigment
- **63.** Scurried, poetically
- **64.** Org. whose final telethon was in 2014
- **65.** Standard car feature
- 66. Soeur's summers
- 67. Downcast

Down

- 1. Availability
- 2. Takes care of

3. Something offered in assistance

14

17

20

23

29

38

41

43

49

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62

65

58

59

39

- **4.** Thurman of filmdom
- **5.** Uncool sort
- **6.** Cake layer
- 7. Baptisms of fire
- 8. It may get you all worked up for no reason
- 9. "__ the Earth Move"
- 10. One with a degree
- 11. eBay try
- **12.** Hardware franchise
- 13. Wasn't colorfast

- 18. Caustic cleaner
- 22. Arithmetic result
- 24. No longer fresh

26. 1970s fashion items (they're seen in 3-, 8- and 31-Down)

- 27. Saskatchewan native
- **28.** Fish of the family Gadidae
- **31.** Feature of a mysterious old **50.** Without equal house, maybe
- 32. Fanny Brice's double?
- **33.** -Seltzer
- 35. Piston attachments

37. Available by the mug

9

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36

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47

57. Disparaging word

58. Brewpub staple

59. Wharton degree

61. Wallet items

48

- 38. Fleck with a banjo
- 39. Like two
- **40.** Cleaning item
- 42. Actor Juliette ("Jet Lag")
- **45.** Land of
- **47.** "I been a contender!"
- 48. Like zombies
- **52.** Maine
- 53. Words abt. one departed
- **54.** Walk or trot
- Answers on

Page 24

55. Disney animated pirate

Tell Your Life Story...

Continued from page 10

Or...

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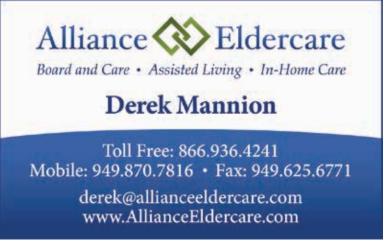
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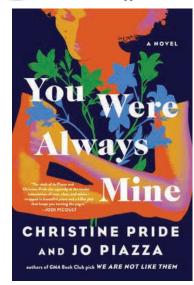
July Book Club

You Were Always Mine A Novel By Christine Pride and Jo Piazza

Whether you're sitting by the pool, rocking in a hammock, or enjoying the cool confines of your home, summertime is a great season to enjoy a good book.

From mysteries to fiction and non-fiction, whatever your pleasure is, be sure to take time out to read this summer.

Here are some new books to put on your list and enjoy!



"Cinnamon Haynes has fought hard for a life she never thought

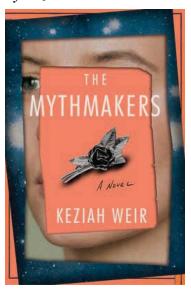
was possible — a good man by her side, a steady job as a career counselor at a local community college, and a cozy house in a quaint little beach town. It may not look like much, but it's more than she ever dreamed of or what her difficult childhood promised. Her life's mantra is to be good, quiet, and grateful. Until something shifts and Cinnamon is suddenly haunted by a terrifying question: 'Is this all there is?'

"Daisy Dunlap has had her share of problems in her nineteen years on earth — she also has her big dreams for a life that's barely begun. Her hopes for her future are threatened when she gets unexpectedly pregnant. Desperate, broke, and alone, she hides this development from everyone close to her and then makes a drastic decision with devastating consequences.

"Daisy isn't the only one with something to hide. When Cinnamon finds an abandoned baby in a park and takes the blonde-haired, blue-eyed newborn into her home, the ripple effects of this decision risk exposing the truth about Cinnamon's past, which she's gone to great pains to portray as idyllic to everyone ... even herself.

"As Cinnamon struggles to contain old demons, navigate the fault lines that erupt in her marriage, and deal with the shocking judgments from friends and strangers alike about why a woman like her has a baby like this, her one goal is to do right by the child she grows more attached to with each passing day. It's the same conviction that drives Daisy as she tries to outrun her heartache and reckon with her choices," according to Publisher Atria Books.

The Mythmakers By Keziah Weir



"Sal Cannon's life is in shambles. Her relationship is crumbling, and her career in journalism hits a low point after it's revealed that her profile as a playwright is full of inaccuracies. She's close to rock bottom when she reads a short story by Martin Keller: a much older author she met at a literary event years ago. Much to her shock, the story is about her and the moment they met. When Sal learns the story is excerpted from his unpublished novel, she reaches out to the story's editor — only to learn that Martin is deceased. Desperate to leave her crumbling life behind and to read the manuscript from which the story was excerpted, Sal decides to find Martin's widow, Moira.

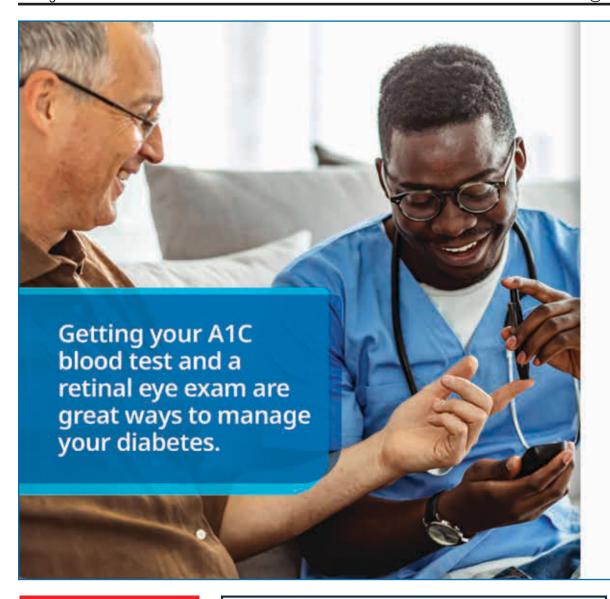
"Moira has made it clear that she doesn't want to be contacted. But soon Sal is on a bus to Upstate New York, where she slowly but surely inserts herself into Moira's life. Or is it the other way around? As Sal sifts through Martin's papers and learns more about Moira, the question of muse and artist arises — again and again. Even more so when Martin's daughter's story emerges. Who owns a story? And who is the one left to tell it?

"The Mythmakers is a nesting doll of a book that grapples with perspective and memory, as well as the battles between creative ambition and love. It's a story about the trials and tribulations of finding out who you are, at any stage in your life, and how inspiration might find you in the strangest of places," according to Publisher S&S/ Marysue Rucci Books.

Wife' and 'Carolina Built,' an inspiring novel based on the remarkable true story of Virginia's Black Wall Street and the indomitable Maggie Lena Walker, the daughter of a formerly enslaved woman who

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A Right Worthy Woman A Novel By Ruth P. Watson "In the vein of 'The Engineer's Continued on page 25 Page 15 SENIOR REPORTER Online@www.seniorreporterofoc.com JULY2023



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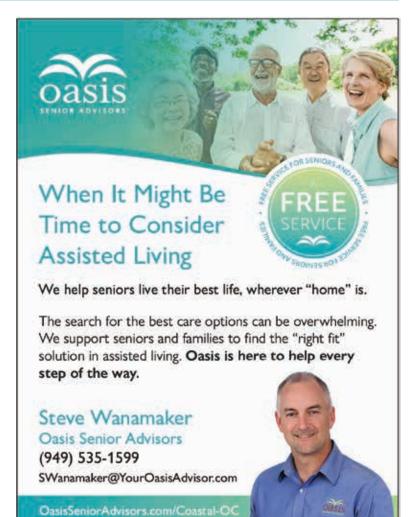


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A Tribute to Tina: The Queen of Rock 'n Roll

By Les Goldberg

"...Left a good job in the city Working for the man every night and day

And I never lost one minute of sleeping

Worrying 'bout the way that things might have been

Big wheel keep on turning
Proud Mary keep on burning
And we're rolling, rolling
Rolling yeah
Rolling
Rolling on the river
Rolling on the river ..."

As the news sinks in about the recent death of Tina Turner, it is only natural that our thoughts turn to her most iconic performance.

The song originally performed by the Creedence Clearwater Revival with lead singer and songwriter John Fogarty would



propel Turner's career into blockbuster stardom and crown her the undisputed "Queen of Rock 'n Roll" by her fans worldwide, the media and the music industry.

And it saved her life.

It was 1968 and she was due to go on stage for a concert when her backstage aides noticed something was very wrong with her. She was rushed to the hospital where it was determined that Turner tried to take her own life.

In her book, "Happiness Becomes You," she wrote:

"At first, I was disappointed when I woke up and realized I was still alive. I thought death was my only chance at escape. But it was not in my nature to stay down for long."



Shortly after, she recorded her own rendition with her infamously abusive husband, Ike, and instantly became a nationally recognized singing sensation.



The couple had yet to make a big impression on America at large — until "Proud Mary" busted down that door in 1971. After the single's enormous success (it rose to No. 4 on "Billboard's" pop chart, sold more than 1 million copies, and earned Turner the first of her 12 Grammy Awards), it also planted the seeds of her liberation as an artist and a woman.

Today, 52 years later, "Proud Mary," remains a staple of popular culture. In recent years, performances of Turner's version have appeared on "The Voice" and "The Masked Singer," and in 2005 Beyoncé sang it in Washington, D.C., when Turner was recognized at the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors.

Besides the physical beatings she endured, she had to put up with Ike's dismissal of her creative ideas for her music. However, when she heard CCR's "Proud Mary" on the radio in early 1969, she knew she had to record it. Ike disliked the song and refused. Turner put her foot down anyway. As she says in her 2020 book "That's My Life," "Whatever happens to me when it's time to get some-

thing done, I do it." The result was the career breakthrough she and Ike had long been fighting for.

Some artists get resentful about how others render their songs, but Fogerty loved Turner's cover. The CCR frontman was thrilled when he first heard her blistering version, as he recounted to "American Songwriter" magazine. And in Turner's "That's My Life," he's quoted as saying, "Thank you, beautiful Tina, for shooting my song into the stratosphere."



Turner's rise to fame is even more remarkable considering her early life. Born to a share-cropping family in the segregated South, Anna Mae Bullock and her elder sister were abandoned by their sparring parents early on.

After her grandmother's death, she eventually moved to St. Louis to reunite with her mother. This opened up a whole new world of R&B nightclubs to the precocious 16-year-old.

Continued on page 22



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Spending time this summer with the grandkids? If you don't want to hear the usual mantra, "We're bored," here are a handful of things you can do with your grandkids that should be fun for everyone!

Many of these suggestions are budget-friendly and do not involve any equipment or take a lot of planning or effort on your part so keep in mind that it's not the money you spend on them that's important, it's that you are spending time with them that matters.

Go to the Beach

It may seem like a lot of trouble but not if you keep it simple. A beach towel, a few beach toys, and lots of sunscreen are all you need. You can also bring folding chairs and a sun umbrella as well. Bring lunch or snacks along with a few cold drinks. These can easily fit inside a couple of cloth bags with an ice pack if you don't have a cooler. If you have a car, leave the cooler and valuables in the car. This way, you'll have no problem leaving stuff on the beach while you play with the grandkids in the water. Keep in mind that even if there are lifeguards, you need to stay very close to your kids. The younger they are, the closer you are! Sunscreen is very important. Buy the highest UV protection you can and don't be afraid to



pay a few dollars more for the good stuff and remember to get the sand out of the bathing suits before you start going home.

Bowling

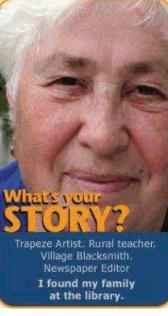
Most bowling alleys have lanes with "bumpers" that block the gutters, so the kids are almost guaranteed to hit some pins. It's also a great place to be on a really hot day because bowlers hate to sweat so you know the air conditioning will be just right.

Explore Your City

A lot of people grow up in a city and never take in the sights so why not take the grandkids and explore? Most downtowns have a lot of old stores with a lot of unique things in them and some may even have some history to them. Explore different parks or check online for festivals and events. Become a tourist in your town by taking a tour bus. You may just discover things about your home town that you never knew.

Fishing

Old fishing rods, hooks, and *Continued on page 26*







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On The Road Again ...

How 'Sin City' Got Its Name

By Shana McCann

If you are planning a trip to Las Vegas and want to explore the city beyond the casinos, The Strip, and the megastar live show entertainment, I have just the place – The Mob Museum.

That's right! One of the most unique museums in America sits just a stone's throw from the downtown Fremont Street Experience, providing a startling peak into the infamous – and notorious – history of the city.

Here is where you'll learn how the gangsters of Chicago, New York, and other eastern cities found easy pickings in their



quest to conduct gambling, prostitution, bootlegging, corruption, and other illegal activities without fear of reprisal.

Yes, there is a reason why Las Vegas is called "Sin City." But before I describe the museum, let me offer a brief background of how the "mobsters of the East" infiltrated the desert city. In the early 1940s, Bugsy Sie-

gel arrived in Las Vegas, believing the city, located just a few hours drive from Los Angeles in southern Nevada where gambling was legal and laws less restrictive, was ripe for the mob and organized crime.



With the financial backing of Siegel and his East Coast gangster friends, including Meyer Lansky, the mob took over horse race betting, gambling, and investments in casinos, including the city's first — The Flamingo — then the Thunderbird, Desert Inn, Dunes, El Cortez and what became The Strip of casinos on Las Vegas Boulevard.



The reign of illegal activity lasted for almost three decades until billionaire Howard Hughes went on a buying spree of several mob-connected hotels and casinos. It resulted in a new era of corporate conglomerates and limited the mob's ability to invest in the city's future as an entertainment mecca.



The idea for the Mob Museum did not emerge until 2002 when then Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, himself a former Mob defense attorney, proposed to turn a former post office and federal courthouse into a cultural landmark.

Opened in February 2012, the anniversary of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre, the museum offers a wide array of themed sections depicting the Mob's illegal activities. For instance, you can expect to see:



- The actual brick wall where the massacre took place.
- Graphic photos showing famous Mafia murderers in the "Mob's Greatest Hits" exhibit.
- The first-floor museum gift shop where you'll find a complete history of organized crime, a replica electric chair, tapes of actual wiretaps, and experience a real interactive crime lab.
- A fully operational distillery

in the basement where the museum makes its own 100 percent corn moonshine in a custom-built pot still.

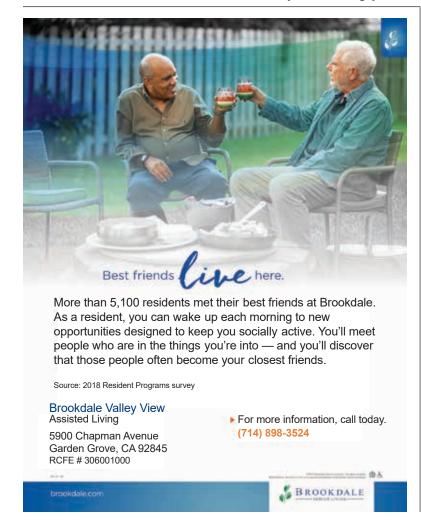
 A realistic basement Speakeasy with a clandestine cocktail lounge where visitors can imbibe before and after their tours.

What I enjoyed most about the museum was how the information is presented. All three floors have exhibited an expertly crafted blend of imagery, audio, video, physical artifacts, interactive screens, and written placards.



It was like stumbling into a new movie set every time you turned the corner. One of the most interesting is the courtroom where the Kefauver Hearings took place. It is perfectly restored to its 1950s grandeur. You could sit on the wooden benches and watch videos from the hearings that exposed organized crime in the U.S.

Tickets to the non-profit Mob Museum start at \$32.50 for the basic tour. Take it from me, it is well worth the time and money – especially if you are seeking an escape from the "Sin City" glitter, glamor, and gambling.



The Gadget Geezer

By Les Goldberg

How to Choose Your Smartphone

It's a fact: today's seniors are more tech-savvy than ever before. If you are in your 50s or older, a majority of you have been exposed to, had limited use of, or could be considered bona fide experts at collaborating with most consumer electronics, like personal computers, laptops, and, of course, smartphones.

For most of us in the greying category, we have become an integral part of the overall cellphone market. However, the type of phone you buy depends not only on your savviness but on your needs.

If you need a phone for calling, texting, family photos, doctor appointments, and medication schedules, you should opt for a device with just the most basic features. On the other hand, you might be willing to pay more for a "fully loaded" phone to allow for your specialized applications (apps), global-positioning satellite capabilities (GPS), online banking, emergency signaling, reminders and alarms, restaurant reviews, and the latest 5G connectivity.

Once you've decided why you want to upgrade or buy a new phone, you will also want to consider the physical features of the device:

Is the display bright enough? Can you zoom into the text to make it easier to read? Does it allow you to increase the font size?

Are the buttons easy to reach and click? Are the speakers loud enough? Can you hear a call easily?

Does the phone have a virtual assistant, such as Siri or OK, Google? This is especially important if you have dexterity or vision challenges.

What about the camera and battery life?

Most modern smartphones have high-quality cameras. They are so good that I rarely use my traditional stand-alone "point and shoot" digital camera that I am thinking about burying in a time capsule.

A smartphone should also offer a battery life of at least 12 hours minimum. Unfortunately, battery life decreases with time and repeated charging over its lifetime.

Finally, a really smart smartphone also incorporates high-end security features, like thumbprint readers, passcodes, and facial recognition technology. Especially designed for seniors are phones with built-in emergency calling via a designated 9-1-1 button and no password or fingerprint requirement.

Of the boatload of smartphones on the market today, here are my best recommendations:

The Lively Jitterbug Smart3



phone yet. Its features include an easy-to-navigate menu, voice typing, video chat, an urgent response button, hearing

This is Lively's

simplest smart-

aid compatibility, powerful speakers, and a quality camera.

Cost: \$149.99 with a \$19.99 unlimited talk and text plan. There are no long-term contracts or cancellation fees.

Apple iPhone 13 mini



Apple boasts that its iPhone 13 mini has the "most advanced dual-camera system ever on the iPhone." Incorporated in its durable design, features include the fast A15 Bionic chip, extra-long battery life (up to 17 hours), a brighter Super Retina XDR display, and 5G Ultra-Wideband internet connectivity for a greater range of use. It also allows video streaming

for up to 13 hours. Cost: \$16.66/mo. for 36 months with zero percent interest (APR).

Galaxy A23 5G



What makes the Samsung Galaxy A23 5G stand out from the smartphone crowd are its Quad Camera System with a 50-megapixel

Continued on page 22



Page 20 SENIOR REPORTER Online@www.seniorreporterofoc.com JULY2023

Fabulous Finds

By Debbie L. Sklar

Summer can be hard on your skin, your hair, and your body in general. From swimming in chlorinated waters to being exposed to the sun's harsh rays, you need to take care of yourself.

Here are some terrific **Fab Finds** from intimate pads for bladder weakness to a way to reduce dark spots, these new products can help you get through the summer season.

Sensitive Care Pads

TENA incontinence and skin care products, launched **Sensitive Care Pads**, bladder weakness pads enriched with its gentle SkinComfort Formula to help protect intimate skin.



Seventy-seven percent of women with bladder weakness claim to experience skin irritation and discomfort while wearing incontinence protection. That's why TENA is addressing intimate skin health with its Skin-Comfort Formula which incorporates TENA's skin-friendly layer in combination with soft and 100% breathable materials, to help protect intimate skin.

TENA Sensitive Care Pads deliver the same triple protection from leaks, odor, and moisture and are dermatologically approved by the Skin Health Alliance. With cushiony foam side barriers, a Duolock core, and a secure comfortable fit, TENA Sensitive Care Pads offer the ultimate protection for women with incontinence.

Leakage or overnight protection for worry-free nights – all TENA products can be found online at your local mass retailer, grocery, or drug store, or at Tena.us.

Reduce Dark Spots



Hyperpigmentation, sun spots, sun damage, and discoloration were some of the highest growing skincare concerns in 20221, all consequences of premature skin aging. To visibly reduce dark spots and repair the skin barrier, La Roche-Posay introduces the newest addition to its anti-aging serum profile **Nia-cinamide 10 Serum.**

La Roche-Posay skincare solutions are dermatologist-tested and backed by powerful anti-aging ingredients to restore and rebalance skin. Formulated with a high concentration of 10% pure niacinamide, Niacinamide 10 Serum is the first mass-market niacinamide serum that is clinically proven to help reduce dark spots, clarify discolorations, and rebalance the appearance of uneven skin tone. Up to 90% of visibly premature skin aging is caused by the sun, known as photoaging, and Niacinamide 10 Serum directly repairs signs of photodamage, targeting hyperpigmentation.

UVA and UVB light can stimulate an overproduction of free radicals, which can trigger visible skin effects including dark spots and discoloration. Niacinamide 10 Serum inhibits this melanin from rising to the skin's surface, therefore helping to reduce dark spots. The new Niacinamide 10 Serum has a suggested retail price of \$39.99 (30ml) and can be purchased at CVS, ULTA, Target, Walgreens/Duane Reade, and laroche-posay.us, Amazon, Dermstore, LovelySkin, SkinStore.

Bolden F-Hydra Moisturizer



Formulated with Vitamin F,

Bolden's F-Hydra Moisturizer boasts a powerful combination of Omega 3 and Omega 6 essential fatty acids which are clinically superior at locking in hydration while improving the appearance of hyperpigmentation. The antioxidant-rich formula is rounded out with ceramides, peptides, glutathione, and ferulic acid, all of which work synergistically to strengthen the skin barrier and aid in environmental stress recovery. The F-Hydra Moisturizer launches on boldenusa. com and amazon.com; 1.7 fl. oz./50 ml, \$24.50.

TULA Skincare



Skincare brand TULA has released a limited-edition summer radiance kit designed to meet your summer skin needs complete with an exclusive skincare pouch. This kit includes six of TULA's bestsellers to make up a summer skincare routine that helps to cleanse, brighten, protect, and enhance the skin's natural radiance. Every product is packed with good-for-you ingredients like prebiotics and probiotic extracts that help to nourish and maintain skin balance.



Continued on page 22

Page 21 SENIOR REPORTER Online@www.seniorreporterofoc.com JULY2023

Tinseltown Talks

By Nick Thomas

Donny Osmond's Summer Tour

Fans of Donny Osmond won't have to travel to Las Vegas to experience the singer's long-running popular stage show currently headlining at Harrah's Casino. The 70s teen idol begins his summer tour in July, his first in almost seven years (see www.donny.com for cities and dates).



Photo courtesy Denise Truscello.

"I'm taking it across the country for people who can't get to Las Vegas," said Osmond from Las Vegas. "I'm bringing the entire company – singers, dancers, musicians, and full video production. I'm really looking forward to it because I was born on the road!"

While longtime fans remember Osmond as part of the Osmond family singers, not to mention the "Donny & Marie" variety show from the 70s, the "Donny & Marie" daytime talk show in the late 90s, and a string of musical theater roles on Broadway, Osmond has continued to reinvent himself

to keep up with changing times.

He hosted a TV game show ("Pyramid") in the early 2000s, was

a runner-up

in the first season of Fox's "The Masked Singer" in 2019, and won season 9 of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" a decade earlier.

"That was probably the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," he said. "And to win the trophy was probably one of my favorite accolades."

Photo courtesy Denise Truscello.

For the Utah native, those accolades began at age five when he joined four of his brothers in 1963 on "The Andy Williams Show" singing his debut song "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" on Williams's lap. Later in the program, he belted out his first solo performance on television, "You Are My Sunshine."

"I remember doing the show

Photo courtesy Denise Truscello.

and have a lot of respect for that man because he gave me my start," recalled Osmond. "In fact, I do a duo with Andy Williams singing 'Moon River' on the big screen behind me in the show. It's become a very emotional part of the evening and people tell me quite a tearjerker. It's included in my rap song that looks back on my career."

Wait, the kid who tore up the pop charts in the early 70s with hit singles such as "Go Away Little Girl," "Puppy Love," and "Too Young," not to mention recording 65 albums over his career, does rap?

"I sure do," said Osmond laughing. "It's become one of the most popular parts of my show where I do a 10-minute rap in front of a big screen video projection outlining my six-decade career."

Like many entertainers, Osmond's career had its low

points, and these are not excluded from his biographical rap review. "I did one Broadway show that opened and closed on the same day!"

Another favorite Osmond song for younger fans is "I'll Make a Man Out of You" from Disney's 1998 film "Mulan." While appearing in a Chicago stage production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Disney spotted Osmond and asked to join the vocal cast for their new animated feature.

"We turn the whole theater into a 'Milan' moment with a 6-minute full production number including a stick fighting dance on stage and my character, Captain Shang, on the big screen behind me," said Osmond. "I had no idea the song would become a Disney classic."

Photo courtesy Denise Truscello.

Currently, the YouTube video of the song has over 160 million views and may still be a hit with the grandkids.

Of course, not everyone is a Donny Osmond fan, and the 65-year-old singer often chuckles when he looks out into the audience during a show. Photo courtesy Lee Cherry.

"Recently, there was a bearded guy in the front row who looked like one of those Grateful Dead Deadheads and by his attitude, I could tell his wife had dragged him to the concert!" laughed Osmond. "But at the end of the show, he was the first on his feet to give me a standing ovation. So, it's very satisfying to win over people like that. I'm sure audiences on the summer tour will not only enjoy the music but learn about what I've accomplished over my six-decade career."

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University in Montgomery, Ala, and has written features, columns, and interviews for numerous magazines and newspapers. See www.getnickt.org.



Page 22 SENIOR REPORTER Online@www.seniorreporterofoc.com JULY2023

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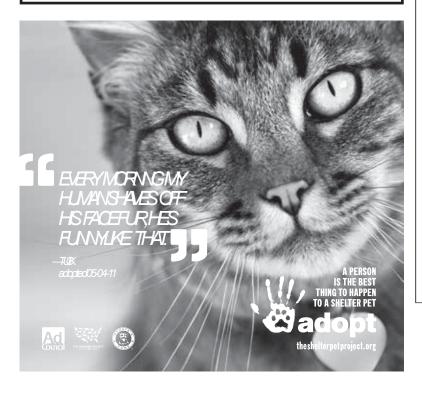
for Detailed Information www.buenapark.com/seniors

The City of Buena Park's Community Services Department is excited for you to join us at one of the best FREE events for Boomers and Senior in Orange County. This amazing event will be full of usefulinformation, resourcesfor healthy aging, education, and so much more. This yearly favorite takes place on Saturday, August 12 and is FREEto the public. There will be entertainment, ample parking, and great information for peoplelooking for resources for themselves or for their loved ones.

Our vendors are excited to participate once again and thrilled to provide FREE

health screenings; including stroke screenings, glucose testing, blood pressurecheck, and so much more! Many of the exhibitors will provide free samples, discounts and opportunities to win great prizes.

Come for yourself or to gather precious resources for your loved ones, all ages are welcome. It is never too early to start planning for the golden years. This event will be taking place at the Buena Park Senior Activity Center located at 8150 Knott Avenue in the Ehlers Event Center. For more information, please call (714) 236-3870.



The Gadget Geezer

Continued from page 19

main camera and 8 MP front camera and its 44-hour talk time.

Also notable are its 6.6-inch LCD, super-fast charging at 25 watts, advanced portrait mode, expandable memory of up to one terabyte (sold separately), and fingerprint sensor. Cost: Starting at \$13/mo. for 24 months and no down payment is required.

Moto G Pure



Motorola's popular Moto G Pure smartphone falls into the "it does everything you need most of the time" category. If you want to watch movies and shows, visit websites, or play games, this device does well with its 6.5-inch Max Vision HD display.

For taking photos and videos, the phone's camera features automatic depth sensing and fast focusing. Other key features include two-day battery life, 3 gigabytes of memory, 32 gigabytes of storage, a fingerprint sensor, and easy access to Google apps using the Android operating system. Cost: \$109 retail or \$19/mo. for six months.



Tina Turner

Continued from page 16

Called up to sing onstage with Ike Turner's Kings of Rhythm in 1956, she displayed a natural talent for performing which Ike was willing to develop. Soon, her aspirations of becoming a nurse were forgotten. When the band recorded the first song "A Fool in Love" with her as the lead singer, and it became a hit, Ike changed her name to Tina Turner.



One thing led to another, Tina became pregnant, and they were married in Mexico. Tina gave birth to two sons – the first a result of an earlier relationship with a musician, the second with Ike. Despite their ensuing touring success, especially in Europe, Tina became fed up with Ike's abuse, became suicidal, and decided to get a divorce in 1976.



Her solo career took off with performances alongside the likes of Rod Stewart, Olivia Newton-John, and others including The Rolling Stones



who introduced her to the rock market she so wanted to pursue.

If you want to learn more about Tina Turner, listen closely to the lyrics of her other major chart-topping hit, "What's Love Got to Do with It?" I guarantee you will be humming that tune along with the words from "Proud Mary" whenever you see or hear the many past Tina Turner performances.

Fabulous Finds

Continued from page 20

The kit includes: The Cult Classic Purifying Face Cleanser, Protect + Glow Daily Sunscreen Gel Broad Spectrum SPF 30, So Polished Exfoliating Sugar Scrub, and Rose Glow + Get It Cooling & Brightening Eye Balm. The TULA x Steffi Lynn Summer Radiance Kit retails for \$92 and is available exclusively on tula.com.



Busy Boomers

By Les Goldberg

RV Lifestyle Alive and Well

On a recent road trip to a popular campground in the Cleveland National Forest, I found the Middletons, Josh, 64, and Marlene, 62, of Garden Grove relaxing outside their 5th-wheel camper trailer. The couple told me they were enjoying their retirement years "in the peaceful and friendly surroundings of the California countryside" — without city traffic, high rents, mortgages, and the high cost of living.

The Middletons are not alone. More Boomers are opting for the simplicity and camaraderie offered by the RV lifestyle. A recent study by the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association showed that RVing is a major boost to the U.S. economy to the tune of \$114 billion – and is expected to grow in the years ahead.



In addition to RV manufacturing, sales and distribution, the accessory business, and attendance of national campgrounds, the industry has contributed nearly 600,000 jobs resulting in more than \$32 billion in wages.

Interestingly, the study revealed that the camping community, for decades comprised of people over 55, is now attracting



campers from the GenZ and Millennial generations. Camping is also becoming more diversified with people of color.

Additionally, people are exploring camping as a way of life compared to just a weekend getaway. Since the onset of the pandemic, more folks favor full-time RVing because of the flexibility of working remotely and in an isolated environment. Stepping into the RV lifestyle - and an RV itself - requires some careful consideration and planning, however. It can be a daunting task if you act too quickly, especially for seniors. So, here are some helpful hints from the RVIA:

Rent First

If you've never RVed before, it can be hard to know what type of RV is right for you. It's best to compare the various models, ideally by visiting a dealership or browsing RV internet sites. You can choose from the larger travel trailers that are up to 35 feet long, the smaller expandable trailers and pop-up campers, to truck campers and Class A or B motorhomes that sleep up to eight people.

The advantages of renting range from avoiding buyer's remorse to deciding which size RV suits your needs and abilities to manage the maintenance. Numerous platforms exist for RV rentals like Outdoorsy, RV share, and RVezy where you can rent for a few days or weeks and get the hang of RV living.

Take Advantage of Senior Discounts



In addition to the many typical discounts at restaurants, pharmacies, and stores, you can save on parks and campgrounds as well. For example, an AARP membership will get you a 10 percent discount at participating campgrounds. And if you are over 62, \$80 you can get a lifetime America The Beautiful Pass to more than 2,000 sites managed by the National Park Service.

Handrails are Available

RVs are usually high off the ground. So, to make getting in and out of your RV easier and safer, you can install a handrail. Many are standard on the vehicles, but if not, you can find them online.

Driving and Maintenance

Finally, after you've decided

to rent or buy an RV, whether a big, long motorhome or a small pop-up camper to be towed by your car or truck, the question becomes: How am I going to drive it? and how are we going to keep it on the road?

Operating an RV for the first time can be easier when you prepare properly. RVs don't drive like cars or minivans – they accelerate and brake slower, and the blind spots are much larger. That is why it's important to do everything you can about your vehicle – its height, length, width, typical mileage, mirrors, blind spots, and exterior and interior features.

If you've never driven a large vehicle, check with your local driving schools for classes. Also, if you are not mechanically inclined, your best bet is to take your RV to a professional mechanic for a complete checkup, including tires, fluids, propane, doors and hatches, mirrors, driver seat adjustment, windshield wipers, etc.



Entering the exciting and growing world of RVing, camping and life on the road requires good planning, good health, and a strong sense of adventure. It's also a good idea to take the advice of the Middletons:



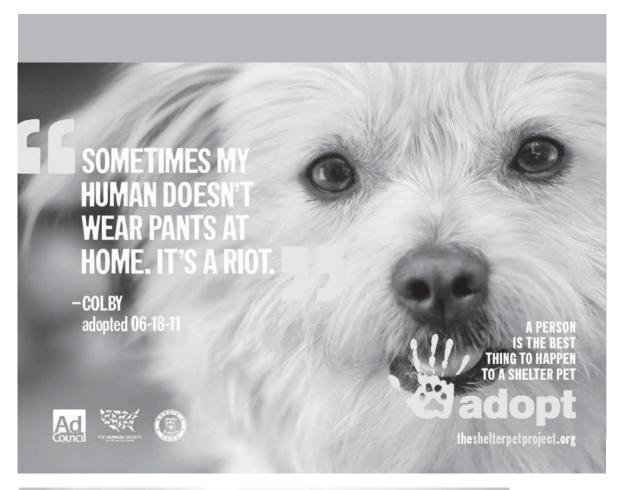
"Don't be afraid to take it slow. When you're on the road, it can be tempting to see as many places in as little time as possible. There's so much to see. But this pace can quickly get exhausting, especially for seniors like us. It's better to take your time. Spend a few days or weeks in one area. You will enjoy it more and have more fun. And isn't that the point of it all?"



Bill Thomas at

(714) 458-5703

Page 24 SENIOR REPORTER Online@www.seniorreporterofoc.com JULY2023









For information on donating your body to medical education and research, call: 949-824-6061



or visit:

https://medschool.uci.edu/community/willed-body-program

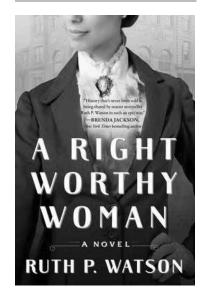
No cost to donor or family. Final cremation and scattering at sea ncluded.

Crossword Puzzle Answers from page 12

¹ A	² S	³ H		⁴ U	⁵ N	⁶ T	⁷ O		⁸ F	9 	10 G	¹¹ B	12 A	¹³ R
¹⁴ C	Е	Е		15 M	Е	I	R		16 A	F	R	ı	С	Α
¹⁷ C	Е	L	18 L	Α	R	Е	D		19 L	Е	Α	D	Е	N
²⁰	s	Р	Υ		²¹ D	R	Е	²² S	S	Е	D			
²³ S	Т	ı	Е	²⁴ S			25 A	U	Е	L		²⁶ B	²⁷ C	²⁸ C
²⁹	0	N		30 T	31 H	32 E	L	М	Α		33 A	Е	R	0
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38 B	39 E	Н	0	L	D	S		40 R	Α	N	K	L	Е	S
41 E	V	Α	D	Е	D		⁴² B	Α	R	Т	Α	В		
43 L	Ε	N	S		⁴⁴ E	45 N	ı	G	M	Α		46 O	⁴⁷ C	48 U
49 A	N	D		⁵⁰	N	0	N			⁵¹	⁵²	Т	0	N
			⁵³	L	D	D	0	⁵⁴ G	⁵⁵ S		⁵⁶	Т	U	D
57 B	58 A	59 M	В	0	0		60 C	Α	М	61 	S	0	L	Ε
62 A	L	В	ı	N	0		63 H	ı	Е	D		64 M	D	Α
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July Book Club

Continued from page 14



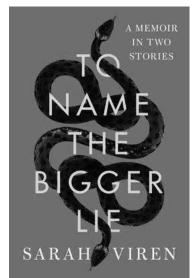
became the first Black woman to establish and preside over a bank in the United States.

"Maggie Lena Walker was ambitious and unafraid. Her child-hood in 19th-century Virginia helping her mother with her laundry service opened her eyes to the overwhelming discrepancy between the Black residents and her mother's affluent white clients. She vowed to not only secure the same kind of home and finery for herself, but she would also help others in her community achieve the same.

"With her single-minded determination, Maggie buckled down and went from school-teacher to secretary-treasurer of the Independent Order of St. Luke, founder of a newspaper, a bank, and a department store where Black customers were treated with respect. With the help of influential friends like W.E.B. DuBois and Mary Mc-Leod, she revolutionized Richmond in ways that are still felt

today. Now, her rich, full story is revealed in this stirring and intimate novel," according to Publisher Atria Books.

To Name the Bigger Lie A Memoir in Two Stories By Sarah Viren



"Part coming-of-age story, part psychological thriller, part philosophical investigation, this unforgettable memoir traces the ramifications of a series of lies that threaten to derail the author's life — exploring the line between truth and deception, fact and fiction, and reality and conspiracy.

"Sarah's story begins as she's researching what she believes will be a book about her high school philosophy teacher, a charismatic instructor who taught her and her classmates to question everything — in the end, even the reality of historical atrocities. As she digs into the effects of his teachings, her life takes a turn into the fantastical when her wife, Marta, is notified that she's been investigated for sexual misconduct at the university where they both teach.

"Based in part on a viral 'New York Times' essay, 'To Name

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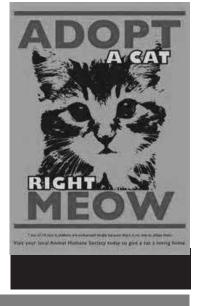
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the Bigger Lie' follows the investigation as it upends Sarah's understanding of truth. She knows the claims made against Marta must be lies, and as she uncovers the identity of the person behind them and then tries, with increasing desperation, to prove their innocence, she's drawn back into the questions that her teacher inspired all those years ago: about the nature of truth, the value of skepticism, and the stakes we all have in getting the story right.

"A compelling, incisive journey into honesty and betrayal, this memoir explores the powerful pull of dangerous conspiracy theories and the pliability of personal narratives in a world dominated by hoaxes and fakes. 'To Name the Bigger Lie' reads like the best of psychological thrillers — made all the more riveting because it's true," according to Publisher Scribner.





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Page 26 SENIOR REPORTER Online@www.seniorreporterofoc.com JULY2023

My Wolfman Jack Experience

y Byron Laursen

n a recent "Wall Street Journal," NPR's David Brancacio, a veteran reporter on financial matters, paid tribute to the late Wolfman Jack, a disc jockey from the Sixties but meant for the ages. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the film classic "American Grafitti," which was directed by George Lucas just prior to Wolfman played a central role as a small-town record spinner who encourages newly graduated Curt, played by Richard Dreyfuss, to dream big as he goes out into the world.

Wolfman, a Brooklyn-born guy whose real name was Bob Smith, unifies the film's plot from his broadcast studio. He delivers the thrilling songs and the sexy, fun patter all the kids hear as they cruise through the California summer night.

Brancacio was only eight when "American Grafitti" hit the screen. He was too young to understand some of the movie's escapades, but he did get one thing loud and clear: He wanted to grow up and become, like Wolfman Jack, a guy people would want to listen to on the radio.

Also this year, work is beginning on a documentary of Wolfman's life. At the helm is Danny Tedesco, who produced a terrific documentary about two years ago called "The Wrecking Crew," about the cadre of Hollywood's top musicians who played on literally hundreds of Top 40 hits.



Photo courtesy Google.

They were the musical equivalent of ghost writers, laying down tracks for The Byrds, The Beach Boys, Sonny and Cher, Frank Sinatra, the Mamas and the Papas, and too many others to list.

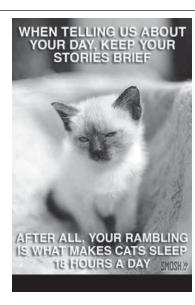
In my career as a ghost writer, I got picked to write Wolfman Jack's autobiography, entitled "Have Mercy! Confessions of the Original Rock and Roll Animal." It was, as you'd expect, an amazing experience. For all his booming confidence when he was behind a live mic at a high-voltage "border blaster" radio station, his voice covering a huge swath of the USA and sometimes pinging all the way to Sweden, in our private interviews he often turned shy. We would be in a small room and he would light cigarette after cigarette. I absorbed so much second-hand smoke that afterwards I smelled like a two-packs-a-day man. But the stories he told were more than worth the tobacco exposure I endured.

The shyness probably resulted from how often he skipped school while growing up, in favor of hanging around a radio station just to be around music and to learn the craft and the art of the disc jockeys he admired. His only higher education was taking a course to qualify for being on the air. But he was extremely bright, even if he didn't know all the big words, and the Wolfman character was a genius-level creation.

Wolfman inspired people in many walks of life. He made each show feel like a great party in progress, and made every listener feel invited.

As a ghost writer, it's been my privilege to serve many people – some famous and some not, but all extremely memorable – in harvesting their life stories so they can be available to the world. Whether they are simply a gift to one's family, or intended to be published nationwide, they have the power to inspire, and that's precious.

See ad on page 7.





Continued from page 17

need a fishing license in your area so do a little research. Since you're near water, you need to stay very close to the grandkids and you will need to put the worm on the hook for them. Use a lot of sunscreen, give them a hat, pack a snack and you're ready to go. Find out where the best fishing spots are for kids but be prepared to cut it short. Some kids might not find it exciting so don't force them to stay. Plan on going for a short time and then make it longer the more you go. Catch and release is great but if you happen to catch something big and you know how to properly prepare and cook it, bring it home as a special dinner treat.

Swimming

Learning to swim is something that every parent should have their kids do at an early age. It's a skill they will never forget and may save their lives. The younger they are, the closer you must be to them. This must also be the rule at the beach, a public pool, or even in a small wading pool in your backyard. Never leave them alone. If you can, bring plastic balls or Frisbee to play in the water since kids love to make diving catches. Pool noodles, boogie boards, and beach balls are great fun but again; don't forget to bring sunscreen.

Fly a Kite

If you can find an open space free of power lines and gopher holes, you can fly a kite. Start with the inexpensive ones found at the department store and try them out. If the grandkids like it, you may want to invest in a nice kite and watch them perform acrobatics in the sky.

Whatever you decide, just have fun, and enjoy your grandkids and their glowing smiles!







Life After Mother

By Lyn Jensen

'Exploring probate and estate issues from personal experience.'

Curb Appeal

If my mother had to choose between the giant evergreen in her front yard and her house, she probably would've chosen the tree — and tried to persuade somebody to build her a treehouse so she could live like Jane in search of "*Tarzan*." She once declared she wanted to make the tree part of Anaheim's historical preservation program — never mind that there was nothing historical about it.

As for what kind of a tree would grow to such dimensions that it would threaten to flatten the house, my neighbor says he remembers it being a "Plantation Pine," and I'll take his word for it, although I've found nothing about any such species either online or in the gardening books I've checked. Whatever it was, it was damaging the house, and — contrary to what my mother would've thought — I chose to keep the house.

The tree-removal company followed a scorched-earth policy and removed other plants from the front yard, too, leaving only an uneven expanse of scraggly weedy grass, which doesn't do much for the house's curb appeal.

At least the lawn stays fairly green — thanks to an automated "smart" sprinkler system that took me months to get the



hang of, and I still sometimes wonder if I fully understand. I've moved some surplus plants and decorative ironwork that was cluttering up the backyard around to the front, making the appearance a little more inviting.

In front of the porch remains an eyesore. Where I have memories of ivy and jasmine growing, the transitional space is now bare except for a sparse sprinkling of weeds, a hose faucet, and a trio of bulky wheeled garbage cans — one for trash, one for recyclables, and one for yard waste — that cities like Anaheim are so fond of issuing these days.

My well-meaning neighbor kindly pointed out to me that the city wants people to store their garbage cans out of sight. That's all I need, some busybody squawking to the city about the sight of garbage cans in my yard, and if you're wondering why I can't just put them in my garage, which would require an explanation long enough to fill another column. Neither of my side yards has a walkway suitable for wheeling the garbage cans back and





forth, either so that means I must now consider some major re-landscaping for the front and back yards. The backyard has its own set of issues, with





a half-dead scraggly weedy lawn, and trees that need to be cut down or transplanted. I'm looking into the possibility of getting some financial assistance to do some drought-resistant landscaping.



Combat Fraud: Don't Click & Don't Answer

by Rosemary Lewallen and Monica Kovach

The attendees at the May 22nd Benefits Trafficking and Financial Abuse workshop at St. Irenaeus Parish Hall were eager to hear how to protect themselves from financial abuse scams, benefits trafficking, and human trafficking. Two Federal Bureau of Investigation experts, a Special Agent and Victim Specialist, gave valuable information on how to spot these scams and not become a victim. We were also honored to have Cypress Mayor Anne Hertz-Mallari and Cypress Police Captain Chris Revere in attendance to offer remarks.

The best form of prevention for telephone or online scams is DON'T ANSWER and DON'T CLICK. If you answer a robocall, it only encourages more calls, further harassment and intimidation. Screen all calls. DON'T ANSWER a call unless you recognize the phone number. Let it go to voicemail. If no message is left, block that number. If you want to stop robocalls, contact your phone carrier as well as the Federal Trade Commission (1-888-382-1222 or www.ftc.gov). If you don't recognize an email address or website, DON'T CLICK on the address OR the link within the email, simply delete. A secure website has an "s" in the "https" portion of the address (i.e. https://sticypress.org).

Most healthcare fraud is the re-Continued on page 28 Page 28 SENIOR REPORTER Online@www.seniorreporterofoc.com JULY2023



This summer, Tom Cruise is back on the big screen as the international spy/adrenaline junkie Ethan Hunt for the seventh (but not final) "Mission: Impossible" flick, this one subtitled "Dead Reckoning Part One." (Part Two comes out in June 2024.)

Back in 1996, very few movie buffs would have expected such an enduring franchise to emerge from the original "Mission: Impossible" releases. In the 26 years since Brian De Palma's espionage thriller first exploded onto the silver screen, we've seen five sequels and witnessed a film series that have proven to be Hollywood's slickest action film series ever. Christopher McQuarrie, now in charge of writing, directing, and producing, helmed the previous two "Mission: Impossible" blockbusters, "Fallout" and "Rogue Nation."

Paramount's recently released movie trailer revealed little about "Dead Reckoning's" central premise but highlighted the high-octane stunts we've looked forward to over the years.

There are three main action set pieces here. One is a smash-'em-up 20-minute car chase through Venice, Italy. Another is when Cruz and his latest protagonist fight on a high-speed train. But we experience the primary head-spinner when Cruise ramps off a mountain cliff on a motorcycle before jumping off and opening a parachute.

Cruise, who turns 61 this month, has admitted that this last feat was by far the most dangerous he has ever attempted. (He performs nearly all his stunts.) He endured 500 hours of skydiving training to prepare, made 1,300 practice motorcycle jumps, and ran through his paces six times before filming.

Cruise is joined by a fine supporting cast, which includes Ving Rhames as tech wizard Luther Stickwell, Simon Pegg as fellow field agent Benji Dunn, and Rebecca Ferguson as former M16 operative Ilsa Faust. Esai Morales, best remembered as Ritchie Valens's half-brother in the biopic "La Bamba," takes on the new primary bad guy role.

Henry Czerny's character of Eugene Kittredge, a former Impossible Missions Force Director whom we haven't seen since the first "Mission: Impossible" nearly three decades ago, plays a major role in connecting the dots to Hunt's legendary past.

Film locales include Italy, Norway, the Middle East, and England.

McQuarrie got his movie title from a particular deadly source that poses the greatest threat yet to Ethan Hunt and his team. "'Dead reckoning' is a navigational term, explains Christopher. "It means you're picking a course based solely on your last known position ... There are many things emerging from Ethan's past." He pauses, smiles, then decides to explain nothing further.

The action begins on July 14.

Combat Fraud

Continued from page 27



The photo attached was taken by the office of Cypress Mayor Anne Hertz-Mallari. It shows, from left to right, Cypress Mayor Anne Hertz-Mallari, Cypress Police Captain Chris Revere, Monica Kovach, Carol Reed and Donna Kriesel.

sult of over-billing for medical services, or billing for procedures or supplies not actually provided. As a prevention, always review monthly your EOB's (Explanation of Benefits) statements and report any discrepancies or questions.

Common financial fraud schemes include investment fraud, romance or imposter tech support, elder fraud, grandparent scams, identity theft, as well as benefits trafficking of Veterans, Medicare or Social Security benefits. Protect your personal identification by never providing personally identifiable information, such as your name, address, Social Security number, Medicare number, account numbers, date of birth, etc., unless you know the recipient, verify the number or website. Shred all documents with such personally identifiable information. Be cautious what information is posted on online social media sites because this personal information is easily accessible, possibly including answers to identity questions used for authentication (i.e., name of high school attended). Run a yearly credit report through one of the big three credit bureaus to review details of your credit report. Report any items that are incorrect to the credit bureau. IRS scams are also prevalent. The federal government will NEVER call to ask for money.

scams, advanced fee scams,

Don't use phones as computers. Phones contain a huge amount of personal information. To prevent fraud, use computers rather than phones for placing online orders to verifiable companies, use strong passwords that are not shared with others, and NEVER provide remote access to your computer. If you realize that a scammer has remote control of your computer, log off the Internet/Wi-Fi, severing the access.

Older adults, especially the recently widowed, may become targets of a romance scam. A red flag is when the scammer rushes a person into believing they're in a relationship, then asks for money, personal information or other valuables. If the scammer requests money, NEVER transfer funds online, withdraw cash from a bank or investment account, or purchase gift cards for the scammer.

Talk with your grandchildren about grandparent scams. This is when a scammer calls to say that the grandchild is hurt or was in a car accident and needs money which the grandparent is asked to send.

If, despite your best efforts, fraudulent activity occurs, report it to the FBI so they can investigate if a crime has been committed and then assign a Special Agent criminal investigator as well as an FBI Victim Specialist once a victim is identified. Cypress Police Captain Chris Revere also noted that it is important to contact the local police department for assistance, resources and to establish if a trend is occurring.

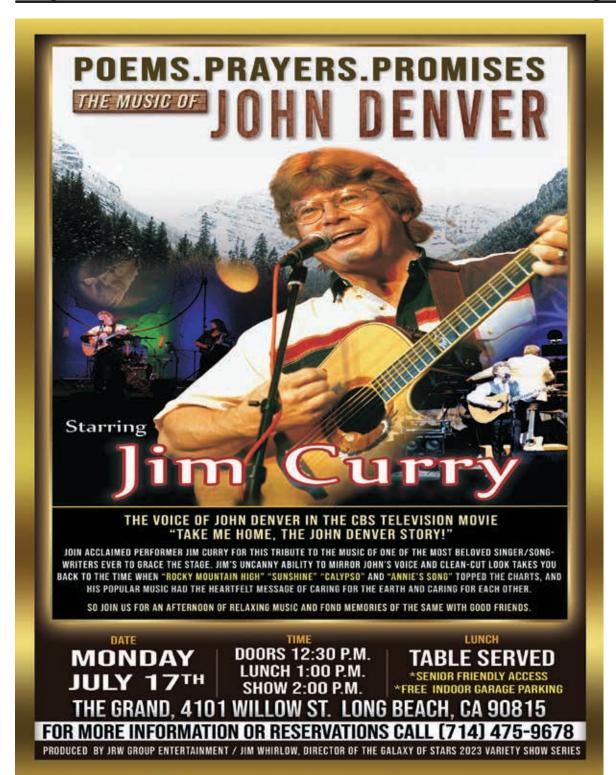
Here are some valuable resource numbers:

National Elder Fraud Hotline1-800-372-8311 (1-800-FRAUD-11) - a great reporting resource National Credit Reporting Agencies: Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 (www. equifax.com Experian:1-888-397-3743 (www. experian.com)) Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289 (www. transunion.com) Annualcreditreport.com (to request annual credit report) National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888 Identity Theft Resource Center: 1-888-400-5530 (www.idtheftcenter. Adult Protective Services (APS)

Adult Protective Services (APS) 1800-451-5155 (to report elder and dependent adult abuse) FBI: file a complaint at https://ww

FBI: file a complaint at https://www.ic3.gov/

Page 29 SENIOR REPORTER Online@www.seniorreporterofoc.com JULY2023











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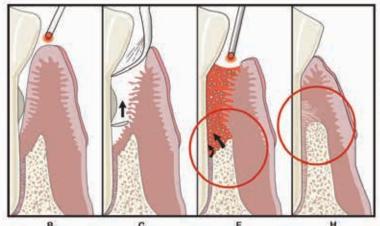
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1. Gregg RH II, Gregg DM. Laser-assisted periodontal regeneration with the LANAP protocol. Dent Today 2019 May;38(5):78, 80-83 FDA Clearance K151763





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Bits and Pieces

This month I'm going to touch on a few different bits and pieces of Medicare for you to know:

1. ER or Urgent Care?

Do you know where your closest ER or Urgent care is located? Call your doctor's office to find out.

Here are some reasons to go to Urgent Care vs. ER.

A. Urgent care centers are ideal for non-emergency care. Things like a cough, sore throat, body aches, colds, sinus infections, allergies, eye irritations, muscle sprains, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. When you can't get into see your doctor right away, then an urgent care is available.

- B. Emergency Rooms are for life threatening or disabling conditions. If you think you have had a stroke, heart attack, or you've been in an severe auto accident with injuries, a loss of consciousness, uncontrolled bleeding, poisoning, or sudden severe abdominal pain, please go to the emergency room.
- 2. Eye Exams are more than what they seem. Did you know that an eye exam can detect things like heart disease, diabetes and more? When was the last time you had your eyes examined? Most Medicare plans include yearly routine eye exams.
- **3. Dental Care** can detect things like cancer, nutrition issues and osteoporosis, just to name a few. Dental care is one of the more expensive health-

care items and most Medicare plans include some dental care. If your plan does not include dental care, please call your preferred dentist and talk with them about what dental plans they accept.

- **4. Assistant Dogs** are invaluable for certain disabled people. If you or someone you know in California has a licensed assistant dog due to a disability they may be eligible to receive \$50/mo. from the State of California. Call 916-657-2628 or www.cdss.ca.goc/assistance-dogs to learn more.
- **5. Vaccines** are an important part of staying healthy. Medicare covers vaccines like: Shingles, Tetanus Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping cough), Hepatitis A & B, Flu shots, Pneumococcal and Covid to name a few. Talk to your doctor about which vaccines are right for you.
- 6. Does Medicare cover vaccines for free this year? The Inflation Reduction Act says that beginning in 2023, adult vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are free for Medicare beneficiaries with prescription drug coverage. So, you need to have a Medicare Advantage plan that includes Part D prescription drugs, or a standalone Part D prescription drug plan to get free vaccines. However, 1 in 11 Medicare beneficiaries do not have a prescription drug plan therefore they will have to pay for certain vaccines.

7. I don't take any prescriptions so why do I need a Part D prescription drug plan?

You may not think you need a prescription drug plan right now because you don't take any medications, but like above, the Part D prescription drug plan covers more than just your everyday medications. AND if you don't sign up for a Part D prescription drug plan when you first take Medicare you will be subject to a late enrollment penalty if you decide to sign up for a plan later. There are certain exceptions to this rule.

- 8. How much was that ambulance ride? Most Medicare Advantage plans cover ambulance services at a reduced rate. However if you have a only original Medicare, you will be responsible for 20% of the Medicare approved ambulance charge. Check with your plan and know your costs. Medicare Part B covers the cost of an ambulance in emergency situations if the trip meets several criteria:
- A. Ambulance is medically necessary.
- B. It's the only safe way to transport the patient.
- C. It's going to a Medicare approved location like a hospital, skilled nursing facility or back home after care.
- D. The destination is the nearest qualifying facility that can treat you.
- E. The transportation company meets he Medicare standards.

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