Bolinas Hearsay News

Happy Birthday!

March 8th
Roger Peacock
Dennis Dierks
Pam Fabry

March 9th
Bruce Bowser
Caleb Norton

Today's editors:
Leanne Kriz and Alex Bleeker

Today's printers:
Annie & Wiley Laufman

The Bolinas Hearsay News is produced on the ancestral occupied territories of the Coast Miwok Peoples. We recognize the erasure of Indigenous Peoples in California and the systemic inequalities that persist today because of our past and present state of colonialism.
A PERSPECTIVE ON EUCALYPTUS REMOVAL
BY
RICHARD PEDEMONTE

I read and appreciate Dale Posner's recent comments on the Eucalyptus trees. Here's a different perspective. I have been an off and on resident of Bolinas for over 50 years and I have firsthand experience with burning Eucalyptus trees in the Oakland Hills Fire of 1991. My family home was destroyed in that fire because it was located next to a Eucalyptus grove similar to the grove near Bolinas. Had that grove not been there our home plus five others in the neighborhood would still be there.

Regarding the grove at the edge of town, I remember those trees from all the way back to the 60's when I was a Bolinas kid. One day my buddies and I ventured into the grove. It was a formidable forest with many huge trees and a thick understory of smaller trees. The ground was knee deep with dry leaves and long pieces of dead bark that peeled off the immense tree trunks. Almost no other plants grew in the oily soil. I learned the meaning of monoculture even before I ever heard the word. And at eight years of age I also learned the meaning of foreboding. This was indeed an alien place that seemed alien to man, beast, or plants. We avoided playing there.

Coincidentally there was a similar stand of Eucalyptus trees behind our family's Oakland hills home. Like the Bolinas grove it too felt like an alien place and was generally avoided by everyone in the neighborhood. On a Saturday morning in 1989 the Oakland Hills Fire erupted a few miles away. As soon as I heard I raced over to see what I could do. By the time I got there thick smoke was everywhere and all I could hear was roaring flames and wailing sirens.

What I encountered as I made my way to our house was a blast of heat that literally knocked me off my feet, even singing my hair. It was a fire with an intensity I will never forget. I read that Eucalyptus trees were responsible for 70% of the energy released in the Oakland Hills fire and I believe it. Even from several hundred yards away the immense flames were so hot that I had to run for my life. I looked back to see trees 30' away from the fire exploding into giant torches. Several cars burned nearby, I began to hear explosions, and hot embers rained down everywhere.

But what is different today is the presence of nonnative trees like Eucalyptus with their extreme flammability and intense heat. This is not normal for our area. If either of the Eucalyptus groves near Bolinas burn it will be with a heat so intense that there will be no fighting the fire. Embers will be sucked high into the air to land all over town, the mesa, and beyond. Having stands of Eucalyptus trees near our town is akin to living near an oil refinery or munitions warehouse. Let's replace them with vegetation that is indigenous to our area.
Last Thursday night I drove into town about 7 pm, in the middle of Wharf Road there was a beat up car with BBP sprayed on the door. This being the month for recognizing intersectionality I have decided to write about what it might mean to people that are "brown skinned", of precarious legal standing, or of linguistic isolation in a country where English is the primary language. I was asked in January by Lisa Townsend to translate Stuart's article about the history of the border patrol, I said that I would post it for the Latine community around town but I did not ever do it.

If you are of Hispanic/South or Central America decent and a US citizen with naturalized English you have one corner of a 3-tiered experience of being latino in Bolinas. Also you can read this paper. If you are in the US with secure legal status but little understanding of the English language you are having a different experience but will have to ask someone to translate this English portion for you.

If you are of precarious legal status in the US and have limited English or literacy you are not reading this your self but grateful that it is being translated to you. This is the world of intersectionality as it applies to racism and the Latine population. It actually extends further to asians who are mistaken for Latines. I worked with a Philippine born naturalized Structural Engineer that was almost deported to Mexico on a San Diego beach because he did not have his ID to prove he was not Mexican and I had a Japanese friend who immigrated to Berkeley with her half white/half Japanese daughter Jessica who was constantly being spoken to in Spanish despite speaking only Japanese. This the assumed foreign and assumed illegal status of many non-whites. I often find myself speaking Spanish to someone who is fluent in English and tolerant of my need to learn Spanish. When I lived in Peru I was often in situations where I could not express the gratitude or need of the moment and felt that very human risk of being either abused or laughed at. So here is a moment of asking those who are not at risk to understand what it might be like to see Border Patrol for a town so far away from any US Border. A didg whistle is what I think they call it, you do not have to be racist to exercise racism. If you want to know what intersectionality of racism feels like then feel what it feels like to not be able to read this.

La Historia de la BOLINAS BORDER PATROL por Stuart Chapman

La Patrulla Frontera se formó inicialmente a principios de los años 70 por los cultivadores forajidos en Bolinas. La marihuana porque era ilegal era un incentivo cultural comercial para Bolinas. Los cultivadores eran muy hábiles y cultivaban la mejor anisenta de California. Humboldt y Mendocino más tarde se hicieron famosos por el crecimiento de cannabis superior. Pero a principios de los años 70 Bolinas era el lugar para el cannabis de calidad.

La Patrulla por frontera fue formada para proteger a los cultivadores de ladrones. La reputación de Bolinas de maríhuana bueno atrae a los criminales, y a los estudiantes aventureros de secundaria, a venir a bolinas para robar las plantas.

Un miembro de la Patrulla Frontera vivía en Gospel Flats, cerca de la escuela. Cuando se suicidó la noticia de que se había producido un robo, el miembro de la Patrulla Frontera condujo su viejo camión a través de Bolinas-Queen Road, bloqueando efectivamente ambos carriles de la única carretera fuera de la ciudad.

El logotipo original de Border Patrol fue diseñado por Jon Goodchild, un talentoso diseñador gráfico que vive en Bolinas. Jon había trabajado para LA revista OZ en Londres y la revista Rolling Stone en San Francisco. Eligio a la Araña Viuda Negra como mascota de la Patrulla Frontera. Jon imaginó a la araña caminando boca abajo, así que la aterradora "figura de releo de arena" en la panza de la araña sería muy visible. El diseño era para aconsejar a los ladrones: "Cuidado, por la Patrulla Frontera!"

En 1977, yo (Stuart) me involucré con la Patrulla Frontera. Jon Goodchild me pidió que hiciera una serigrafía con el diseño de la Patrulla Frontera para imprimir camisetas. Soy experimentado con la serigrafía, así que fue relativamente fácil hacer una serigrafía casera de la Patrulla Frontera. "Las camisetas tienen que ser negras", Jon ordenó, "con tinta plateada." Nos reunimos en la casa de mi vecino e impresor 3 docenas de camisetas de color negro. Después de terminar el trabajo, todos nosotros pusimos camisetas de la Patrulla Frontera y posamos con el auténtico signo "BOLINAS 2" que mi vecino había ayudado a encontrar de la carretera. Las camisetas estaban de moda en la ciudad.

Pero las cosas se calmaron cuando los cultivadores se mudaron a Humboldt y Mendocino. Jon decidió moverse sobre la colina para ganar dinero en el diseño de paquetes de software. Antes de salir, Jon me presentó el diseño de la Patrulla Frontera. "Éste es para que usted mantenga y preserve el espíritu de la Patrulla Frontera." 

La Patrulla Frontera salió de moda, pero ocasionalmente impri mi camisetas de la Patrulla Frontera. Las camisetas solo estaban disponibles en la Feria del Invierno cuando la mayoría de gente son habitantes locales. Durante el verano, cuando llegaron los turistas y los posadores y me preguntaron sobre las camisetas de la Patrulla Frontera, yo respondía "Claro, acaba de venir a la Feria del Invierno".

En 1985 me había crecencantado con el diseño de la Patrulla Frontera. La araña viuda Negra era demasiado amenazadora. Quería que el diseño promoviera la comunidad - para servir y proteger. Decidi usar la estrella de siete puntas en un nuevo diseño que presenta el codorniz de California en lugar de la araña viuda negra. La Cadomz vigilaba el rebaño.

A medida que pasaban los años y Estados Unidos se dirigía hacia la derrota, las palabras "BORDER PATROL" se asociaron con seguridad nacional y la policía de la frontera. Al mismo tiempo teníamos más migrantes de habla hispana viviendo en Bolinas. Las palabras "BORDER PATROL" ya no era solo la protección local. La Patrulla Frontera de los Estados Unidos fue un ejemplo vergonzoso de un estado policial. Me encantó la Patrulla Frontera Bolinas. Odiaba a la Patrulla Frontera del Estados Unidos. Fue un dislma.

En 2017 llegó a inspiración. Keith Hansen y yo colaboramos en una tarjeta de Navidad para la oficina de correos. Su simple dibujo de un Kingfisher me atrajo como mascota nueva para la insignia de la Patrulla Frontera. Keith es un pajero devoto. Fue cuando me apropié - "Oh wow, el BIRDIE PATROL (Birdie es inglés para pajaro) en lugar de la BORDER PATROL. Cambiar la letra cambió el significado del diseño. Cambié el texto en la parte inferior de la insignia de la comunidad a TODAS ESPECIES. La BIRDIE PATROL era más grande que la BORDER PATROL. Esto es donde somos ahora - la protección de la comunidad incluye la protección de todas las criaturas.
Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Renaming Update

Board of Supervisors Hearing Tuesday, March 9

Dear District 4 Resident,

After many months of community meetings and robust discussions, the proposed renaming of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard will come before the Marin County Board of Supervisors Tuesday March 9th at 1:30pm. I invite you to participate and share comments with help from instructions on the County website and prior review of our agenda, staff report and attachments.

If you prefer to submit a written comment regarding the renaming of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to the Board of Supervisors, please email BOS@marincounty.org or use this form here; please write SFD agenda item 12 in the subject line. Written comments submitted by 3:30pm on Monday will be included in the BOS packets, and later emails sent separately. More details on how to participate, including an overview of how to comment before or during the meeting can be found here.

Listed below are the recent actions taken by the five jurisdictions involved in the renaming discussion (County, Larkspur, Ross, Fairfax, San Anselmo) thus far:

- On January 14 Ross’ council voted to retain the current name.
- Larkspur’s council voted February 17 to retain Sir Francis Drake Boulevard as the legal name, adopt as a c-name what the consensus of the other jurisdictions is, and in the absence of that explore a historical designation or a ceremonial name.
- On March 3 Fairfax’s council voted to change the name.
- San Anselmo’s council plans to vote on the evening of March 9.

Read below to review meetings and outreach to date as well as SFD resources available:

Last June the SFD Working Group hosted a community-wide Zoom listening session. Community members were invited to voice their opinions on the zoom, or via email. Click here to view.

In August, in response to the range of comments, questions, varying historical accounts coming out of listening session, the Working Group partnered with the Marin County Free Library (MCFL) to host a learning session. Visit the Marin County Free Library’s Drake Boulevard History Resource Page to review the learning session in both English and Spanish as well as online resources about Sir Francis Drake, Coast Miwok history, and about the Boulevard (click here for Dewey Livingston’s “Sir Francis Drake Boulevard: Road of Many Names”).

January of this year Supervisors Rice and I hosted a virtual informational meeting for residents and businesses along the corridor in the unincorporated areas of the Ross Valley and West Marin, followed last month by many community conversations for different communities along the SFD corridor.

For additional questions please contact RKulter@marincounty.org or email me at DRodoni@marincounty.org.

Regards, Dennis J. Rodoni

Submitted by Leanne Kriz

Just in Time for California Arbor Week, PG&E Offers New Safety Resource to Help Customers Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

SAN RAFAEL, Calif.—Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is kicking off California Arbor Week (March 7-14) by unveiling its new comprehensive web resource for its customers and communities that includes rules, tips and guidelines for planting trees safely near electric and gas lines. The Right Tree, Right Place web resource can be found at pge.com/righttree/rightplace and includes free downloadable brochures on how to plant with fire safety in mind and creating defensible space.

"Trees play a vital role in our environment and make California a beautiful place to live, work recreate. They also need space to grow both above and below ground. Planting the right tree in the right place helps promote fire safety, reduces power outages, provides shade benefits, enhances property values and ensures beauty for years to come," said Tony Walls, Vegetation Management Supervisor for the North Bay. "If the right tree is not planted in the right place and too close to power and gas lines, it can create public safety issues and power outages."

Using the free safety guides, customers can learn which trees are safe to plant near electric and gas lines, and in which regions; information on what to do before planting; how to plant and care for a tree; characteristics of recommended small trees and more. For example, residents and business should always call 8-1-1 at least two days before landscaping or planting trees to have underground lines marked to ensure safe digging.

Before planting trees near overhead lines, it’s also recommended to know if you live in an area of increased fire risk by visiting the California Public Utilities Commission’s High Fire-Threat District (HFTD) map.

- If the property is outside a HFTD, any trees that can grow taller than 25 feet at maturity should be planted at least 50 feet away from power lines.
- If the property is within a HFTD, follow safety clearances of the following zones, which are categorized by the horizontal distance between power lines and desired plant:
  - Small zone: Within 15 feet away from the power line easement (along the ground), plant only low-growing plants less than 12 inches at maturity that have high moisture, and low sap or resin content.
  - Medium zone: From 15 to 50 feet away from the power line easement, plant trees that reach no taller than 40 feet at maturity.
  - Tall zone: At least 50 feet away from the power line easement, trees that grow taller than 40 feet at maturity are acceptable.

PG&E reminds its customers and the communities in Central and Northern California that everyone can do their part to help reduce wildfire risks by choosing the right plants, trees and shrubs and by following vegetation and fire safety standards that require greater clearances between trees, limbs and power lines.

Submitted by: Deanna Contreras
The Iroquois designated wise and honest people among them as "Tall Trees" and gave them seats of honor at the councils.

Each soul must meet the morning sun,
The new sweet earth,
and the great silence alone...
Dakotah Sioux

I found these writings in a journal I had kept during the year of 1997 and thought them worthy of reprinting...

The Principles of Attitudinal Healing

1. The essence of our being is love...
2. Health is inner peace. Healing is letting go of fear.
3. Giving and receiving are the same.
4. We can let go of the past and of the future.
5. Now is the only time there is and each instant is for giving.
6. We can learn to love ourselves and others by forgiving rather than judging.
7. We can become love finders rather than fault finders.
8. We can choose and direct ourselves to be peaceful inside regardless of what is happening outside.
9. We are students and teachers to each other.
10. We can focus on the whole of life rather than the fragments.

11. Since love is eternal, death need not be viewed as fearful.
12. We can always perceive ourselves and others as either extending love or giving a cry for help.

Center for Attitudinal Healing

Peace is not a matter for discussion
Shut up, and like the Buddha, sit down under the old tree....
Roshi

You ain't what you ought to be,
but, thank God, you ain't what you used to be.
Dr. Irene Moore

You may think I am a shadow
but inside
I am a sun
Damia Gates
4th grade

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Minutes from the January 28th, 2021, Bolinas Fire Protection District Board Meeting. Via Zoom.

Pres. Molesworth called the meeting of the Bolinas Fire Protection District to order at 7:02 P.M. Vice Pres. Kimball, Dir. Torrey, Dir. Dunne, and Dir. Martinelli were present. Also present: Chief Krakauer and Administrative Manager Isaac Taylor

MSC Torrey/Kimball (unan.) to approve the Agenda with the amendment to move items 5a and 5b to the beginning of the meeting.

Discussion – FIRESafe Bolinas (John Cozzi, Mark Fraser, and Jonna Alexander-Green)

Pres. Molesworth welcomed John Cozzi, Mark Fraser, and Jonna Alexander-Green, and asked them to introduce the project they have been developing to the full Board of Directors.

John Cozzi began by reading the group’s mission statement, “Wildfire Safe Bolinas is a nonprofit community initiative formed to address hazardous conditions that pose a risk to Bolinas. Our aims are to enlist community-wide participation to protect our town and its unique character from major loss due to wildfire; contribute to sustainable management of an eventual eradication of hazardous invasive tree species in the Bolinas community, including the eucalyptus, especially along the evacuation route, community refuge areas, and other hazardous locations, while respecting and preserving heritage trees; restore native and fire-safe, less volatile vegetation in areas affected by the removal of hazardous trees, while retaining the integrity and health of native wildlife habitat and the natural, biodiverse beauty of our Bolinas peninsula (butterfly tree stands would be preserved as well); and to educate our community and citizens throughout West Marin about defensible space, wildfire-safe practice, native flora and fauna of our Bolinas bioregion.”

Jonna Alexander-Green delivered prepared remarks, describing fourteen areas of blue gum eucalyptus identified by an arborist as posing potential danger to Bolinas, recommending their removal, and requesting the support of the Bolinas Fire Department for this project by way of resource allocation and/or fiscal sponsorship. Jonna acknowledged the enormous size of undertaking eucalyptus grove removal, but stated that the group sees the project as an opportunity for education and community engagement. Jonna noted that the group was prepared to undertake all required fundraising.

Pres. Molesworth clarified that this is an initial discussion only, with no actions or decisions by the board of directors or Bolinas Fire Protection District.

John Cozzi described a troubling “intuitive vision” he had in the wake of the Tubbs Fire in Sonoma County, of a similar event devastating the town of Bolinas. He described their group’s extensive vegetation management and fuel reduction outline as requiring “a whole lot of work and a whole lot of money.” He stated that he believes that the hurdles of finance and community opposition could be overcome. As to the opposition, John noted his appreciation for their intentions and love of the eucalyptus, but remarked that all trees on the group’s list posed a specific threat due to poor health, proximity to structures or power lines, or encroachment on egress, and that if every identified tree were removed, approximately 60-70% of eucalyptus on the Bolinas peninsula would remain. John ended by arguing that the time is right to undertake this project cooperatively, and that it has been “put on the back burner for far too long.”

Mark Fraser noted the potential existential threat from events like last summer’s Woodward Fire, the increasing threats associated with climate change, and the immediate need for cooperation with the District to mitigate these risks.

Pres. Molesworth asked for questions from the board of directors.

Vice Pres. Kimball asked the group for their opinion on fuel reduction in the understory, rather than tree removal. He noted the high cost of removal, as well as legal barriers to removal projects posed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). John Cozzi agreed that in some cases this type of fuel reduction is an acceptable alternative, but that burning in the canopy remains a significant risk due to alling trees. John admitted his unfamiliarity with CEQA, but stated that the group will get educated about these requirements.

Dir. Torrey asked about the request for fiscal sponsorship. Jonna responded that the group believes that partnering with the Bolinas Fire Department could be ideal, but that they are also just asking for support.

Pres. Molesworth and Vice Pres. Kimball clarified that the Bolinas Fire Protection District is not legally permitted to serve as a fiscal sponsor, but that the Bolinas Volunteer Firefighters Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and could theoretically function this way, but lacks the administrative and managerial expertise to serve as a fiscal sponsor. Jonna noted that the group is also considering pursuing a 501(c)3 designation.

Dir. Martinelli gave appreciation for the level of interest shown by the group and community, and recommended investigating Firewise communities, a program of the National Fire Protection Association. Vice Pres. Kimball echoed this recommendation, and noted several Marin communities are already Firewise communities. Vice Pres. Kimball urged the group to be very thoughtful about using community resources, noting the multifaceted and ongoing nature of wildfire preparedness, regardless of any particular fuel removal or reduction initiative.

Chief Krakauer commended John, Mark, and Jonna for their efforts toward community-based preparedness. He expressed support for community-based preparedness, and cautioned that we proceed at a speed which allows us to take everything into account. He noted that he will be meeting with the group and representatives from FIRESafe Marin.

Vice Pres. Kimball clarified that his comments are not intended to suggest opposition to wildfire risk mitigation, and he acknowledged the town has a longstanding need to address these risks. He urged everyone to constructively pitch in for the shared goal of preserving the town.

Dir. Martinelli recommended reviewing the new 2021 Marin Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) available through the FIRESafe Marin website.

Pres. Molesworth opened up the discussion to public comment. Dale Poliisar expressed skepticism about the possibility of a devastating
wildfire in Bolinas, noting significantly different conditions from areas like Paradise, CA. He also noted his personal appreciation for the character of eucalyptus trees. Mark Fraser stated his opinion that Bolinas will ultimately face a choice between keeping eucalyptus trees and preserving the town, noting the increasing risk factors of climate change and extremely low humidity. Judy Molyneux commented that wildfire could still pose an existential threat to Bolinas, even if some eucalyptus trees are removed. She suggested alternate mitigation strategies, such as fire towers and utilizing water drops from Bolinas Lagoon. Pamela Dake expressed gratitude for everyone’s care and concern, and expressed hope that the town can come together to make evacuation routes and the town safer. Eleanor Lyman also expressed gratitude for the efforts toward improved safety, but gave her support for mitigation efforts which do not contribute to deforestation, noting the benefits trees represent for wildlife and air quality. Rick Gordon echoed Eleanor’s sentiments, acknowledged the need for risk mitigation, and advocated for a fuel-reduction plan with a more limited scope for tree removal. Rick also argued for separating the issues of fire safety and native plants.

Discussion – Sirens (Judith Shaw)

Judith Shaw stated that her focus is less on saving the town, but rather saving lives in the case of a wildfire or other emergency. She recalled that two years ago, she arranged a visit to Bolinas by a representative of Colorado-based Senty Sirens. She noted the potential extreme danger posed by limited exit routes from Bolinas, and gave the cautionary example of the fatal 1991 fire in the Berkeley Hills. Recalling the successful efforts to raise money for the construction of the Bolinas Fire Station, she expressed confidence that money could be raised to finance installation of sirens. She referred to the possibility of partial funding through a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant program. Judith reiterated her strong belief in the need for sirens, and urged the District to seriously investigate the possibility of acquiring such a system.

Pres. Molesworth thanked Judith Shaw for bringing her concerns before the board, and asked Vice Pres. Kimball to summarize the related work he has been doing as a board member of the newly-designated Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA). Vice Pres. Kimball noted that the new tax-funded agency will receive approximately $20 million per year for the next ten years. These funds will be allocated as follows: 60 percent for core projects (wildfire detection, evacuation, and improvements; grants for defensible space projects; public education), 20 percent for defensible space evaluations; 20 percent to local fire agencies. Kimball noted that MWPA is currently working on countywide detection and evacuation coordination as a top-priority project.

Pres. Molesworth asked Dir. Martelloni to share his perspective on discussions within Marin County Fire regarding sirens. Dir. Martelloni noted that sirens are one tool for emergency notification, with certain benefits and disadvantages. He agreed that MWPA are researching many different emergency tools, and may recommend sirens in some cases. However, he cautioned for the need to work in alignment with the county, to ensure that our systems are fully interoperable with countywide systems.

Pres. Molesworth asked Chief Krakauer to explain the rollout of NOAA emergency weather radios. Chief Krakauer noted that several radios were obtained from FIRESafe Marin, and information has been added to the District website about the radio functions and purchasing instructions. Chief Krakauer explained that the District can relay a detailed message to the Marin Office of Emergency Services, which would go out to these radios with an emergency alert. In the case of a power outage, radios operate with batteries. Vice Pres. Kimball noted that the radios can potentially interface with the county’s evacuation system in the near future, highlighting an advantage of an integrated approach to emergency preparedness.

Judith Shaw acknowledged the advantages of emergency radios, but voiced her concern that radios may not reach everyone in town at the time of an emergency. She noted that the Sentry Sirens operate on batteries, and again advocated for the opportunity through the USDA grant program. Pres. Molesworth highlighted the purpose of MWPA to establish standard wildfire prevention measures countywide. Judith Shaw acknowledged the value of this approach, but cautioned that sometimes an individual town may need to act on its own to address its own unique needs. Judith Shaw thanked the directors, Fire Chief, and Isaac Taylor for the discussion opportunity, and was thanked in return for bringing this important discussion to the board.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION
No additional general public expression.

Wednesday March 10, 8:30 AM on Zoom: Stephen Sparks from Point Reyes Books will speak to Rotary Club of West Marin. All are welcome—email annerw@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation. Visit www.rotaryclubwestmarin.com to learn more about Rotary!

Thanks!

Submitted by: Anne Sands

868hearsay@gmail.com

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LOST & FOUND

LOST: RING in the restroom of the Bolinas Community Center. Call to describe 415-450-8362

LOST MAIL KEY SUNDAY, 1/31.
My mail key fell out of my pocket somewhere between Buzz’s shop and the groin. It’s on a NMDLND keychain (little white van). If found, please return to post office or call x9632. Thank you.

PERSONALS

the town is a hag but one who can dazzle us periodically