



R F N I

November - 2020

Issue No: 358

Thank You Michelle



Michelle set to Deploy for Six Months



As we all make plans for the upcoming holidays we should stop and think about the sacrifice Michelle and her family are making. While we are having our turkey dinners or opening presents on Christmas morning or maybe even celebrating the New Year. Michelle will be out at sea, aboard the USS Roosevelt, serving our country, while her family will be missing her every minute she is gone.

Michelle, somehow saying “thank you for your service” just doesn’t seem to be enough. So, I am dedicating this issue of the RFNL to **you AND your Family!** It’s almost impossible for us to understand what you, Dave and the boys are sacrificing to help our country. I know Dave understands as he has served us as well, but it must be very difficult for Owen and Rhys. However, I am also sure

that they are very proud of their mother and support her 100%.

Michelle, I remember when you were much younger and out on your own. I was always very impressed on how you just kept moving forward toward your goals. You showed so much tenacity and down right courage to take on this world by yourself. Move to the east coast to go to school... no problem! Off you went and earned your degrees. You have overcome so many challenges to become someone I really admire. You truly are a hero and I’m honored to have you as my niece.

Dave, I want to thank you for being there for Michelle. You have been so good for her. There is no way she could do the things she does without your full support and backing. I truly admire you and your commitment to your family and country.

Owen, Rhys, I know its hard not to have your mom there, especially during Birthday’s and holidays. Also, I’m sure you two understand that your mom Loves you very much. But what she does is important and will make a difference in a lot of peoples lives. I thank you boys for sharing her with the rest of us. It has been said that no single person can change the world. I disagree, your Mom has made this world a much better place to live in. She truly is an “American HERO”



They say things happen in 3's.

Two Friday's ago I got told I'm deploying for 6 months on the ROOSEVELT in a few short weeks. 🤖🤖

One Friday ago I found out I got selected for the Navy's Health Security Cooperation/Global Health Engagement Fellowship. 🎉👏

I wonder what this Friday will bring... 😊



You're about to see a flood of events and holidays celebrated early. Get ready. 😊

First up: Rhys's 6th birthday!! (Usually mid-December) three friends from school plus neighborhood kids came to celebrate in an all-outdoor scattered kind of day with lots of space and fresh air. In-person school means we could have a party but maintain our bubble with some smart maneuvering. 🎉👏😊



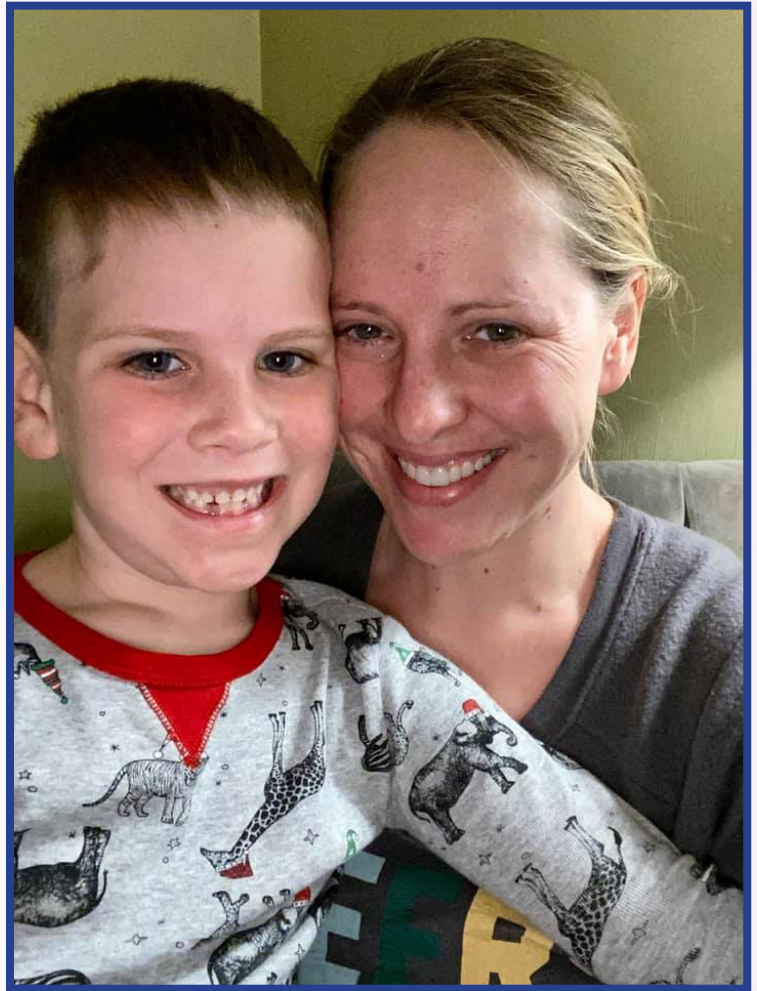
Cramming in a whole lot of stuff before I deploy! Never too soon for a Christmas tree and so much fun to decorate with my boys. ❤️



Thank you [Fabine Bryant](#) for these beautiful family photos. They will certainly brighten my stateroom when I am far away from home! ❤️

The boys wanted to talk about the election at dinner last night. I said the thing I wish, more than who is the President, is if both sides could work together to do the right things for this country. Because at the end of the day, good leaders do what's best for the people they have the privilege of leading. We need a Senate, a House and a President that works together and can adjust to come up with solutions that addresses both sides. Period. Regardless of the party that has the majority or lives in the White House.

I voted. I care. But all of it is temporary.



Yesterday was hard, but the day before was pretty epic. Boys got a remote-control drone & monster truck. We celebrated a little mini Christmas. And it really was lovely.



News From New Zealand

By Dustin Benesch

Hi Family,

Hope everyone is well! The New Zealand Beneschs are doing great! We had a fun Halloween in New Zealand, although it's quite a different feel than in the States as it's springtime and getting brighter, and in general it's not a very popular holiday in NZ. We dressed up as 2 ninja turtles, 1 ninja, a pumpkin, and a couple of pirates to boot. We went to the one square block in our area that gives out candy, and there were about 3k adults and kids with about 15 houses giving out candy. They ran out of candy by 6pm, but the kidos got their fill early so everyone was very happy. We are lucky(at least for now), to not have any Co-

vid community transmission, so it was as normal as a Halloween as you can get in NZ.

The kids are doing well, growing and always eating! We can't seem to keep the pantry stocked these days... Holden is 9, plays soccer and just started lacrosse (proud Dad). Grayson is 5 1/2, in swim lessons and also starting lacrosse (very proud dad). Lawson now 3 1/2 is in swimming and loves it. Paxton now 2 is a ham and a handful, talking up a storm of which we can understand only a portion.

Lauren is doing an amazing job homeschooling and working on a fun project on the side called the Atlas of Motherhood. She's doing lots of interviews with mothers around the world about pre/postnatal practices, trying to find the best from each culture and synthesize with some expert advice as well (more to come soon). I've been working my bum off at Vodafone, getting to act in a Senior, vacant role for a few weeks which is a lot of fun, really interesting, but long hours.

I miss you all terribly, and am thrilled at the news of a possible Covid vaccine so that we can eventually open the borders and let family in (and us out for vacation). Hopefully we'll see you all in the not so distant future!

Love ya,
Dustin, Lauren, Holden, Grayson, Lawson, and Paxton





We decided to spice things up this year and pull out the hot sauce. Kieran spent his first Halloween as a Sriracha hot sauce bottle. Mom was Cholula and dad Tapatio! Since he still has no teeth, he couldn't have any candy (or tacos). Daddy Sorem wanted to make sure Kieran looks back and sees the importance of hot sauce as a San Diegoan, which is in Kieran's blood!



These
Sorems
are HOT



Halloween Covid Style

By Birdy Hartman Hall

It is hard to enjoy anything in this pandemic world because we truly face fears on a daily basis. And for children, this pandemic is robbing them the precious time that they get to be a kid. Schools are not the same and playing outside is no longer a no brainer. We are constantly scanning the horizons for Covid surfaces.

Even Halloween has brought other fears to mind. The thought of going door to door to face strangers is enough to put a spike of fear down your spine. So many folks decided to make a change to this holiday experience by creating new Halloween fun. I saw Listy create a scavenger hunt with clues for her grandchildren to run around her house finding treats behind each spooky decoration.



I went to Craig and Ana's home where they had set up a mini Halloween carnival for the three Covid families in their clan. Josie and Corbin helped out with the games by decorating flags and different stations. I liked the tin can bean bag toss. They also had a cool mini golf putting green with ghostie faces on flags that you got to putt through. But the favorite of the kids was the mini cake walk. It really wasn't the cakes and candies that they desired. It was just the fun of winning that made this traditional game so fun.

In my own home, our neighborhood was very organized. Our street was assigned from 4:00 to 5:30 for trick or treaters. We placed a table at the end of the driveway filled with bagged candies and a pile of books (which is my favorite thing to give out on Halloween). Kids came by in their costumes and we waved from the top of the driveway. Our biggest treat was seeing Liam Keith come by with his gruesome crew. He was all smiles and loved telling them that this was his Aunt's house.

In the end, I think everyone figured out a way to allow their child to dress up and I am pretty certain that no one went candy-less. However, if you didn't get your fill, come on by. We have leftovers and we would be happy to fill up your bags. Happy Halloween!

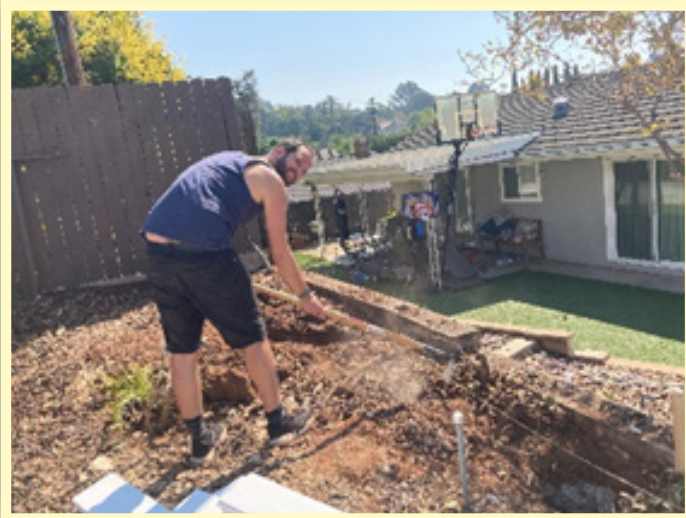


Home Improvement Continues at the Gillingham's



By Listy Gillingham

As everyone knows, moving into a new house is the gift of projects that keeps on giving. October proved to be a great time to take out the old fence and put in a new one. The idea started when we were having a conversation with our neighbors who wanted to remove a tree in their backyard. Bob offered to help haul it out and take out the stump. After it was clear, it seemed like a good time to negotiate with them sharing the cost of a new fence. They agreed (who would turn down an offer to have a new fence installed for materials only?) and so off to the store Bob went. Bob



consulted with Google and found a product that looked fairly easy to work with and put the order in so we would be ready to go after returning from a weekend get away in Palm Desert.



The plan was to take this pile of plastic and turn it into a pretty fence. That meant removing the old fence and digging post holes in what seemed like soft dirt but turned out to be closer to clay and cement. Lucky for us, Tim and Federico decided to come to San Diego to get a reprieve from the smoky air in San Francisco and were staying in our pool house. Tim, being the gracious guest, offered to help Bob and was tasked with removing the old fence and helping Bob with the Lego-like assembly.



It took Bob two weekends to complete the project, but in the end, it came out nicely. He had one surprise discovery as he was working behind the pool house. Apparently, wasps can create nests in abandoned gofer holes. So as Bob was trying to use the auger to create a post hole, he disturbed a nest of wasps who were not very happy with his project. They swarmed at him and stung/bit him several times on his arms and legs. Bob stayed away from that spot until the evening and then got the best of them by spraying some insect killing potion into the hole. He ignored the injury until the next day when he noticed his arms and legs were bloated from the stings. Thank goodness for Benadryl which may have made Bob take a break from working for the afternoon (or was it the golf game on TV?). Thanks to Tim and Bob, we completed the project and now have an updated-looking pool area that is beautiful and ready for the next family event once we are free the COVID 19 pandemic!



FAMILY SHORTS

The HogWash Hour



Call the show at (619) 209-6007



A chronicle of San Diego people, places and music.

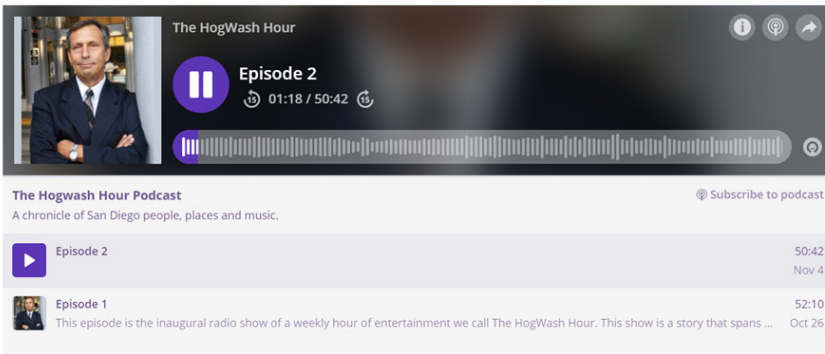
Show Links:

- [The HogWash Hour Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Youtube](#)
- [Podcast RSS](#)

• [Email the Show](#)

About Rich Riel

Rich Riel is a member of [The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina](#), Legendary Class of 1969. He is a self proclaimed philosopher and Co-founder of the HogWash Party. His entire life has been dedicated to searching for the Truth.



Rich Riel, HogWash candidate for Mayor and San Diego reformer has signed a contract to broadcast the HogWash Hour on The Answer San Diego 1170AM. The HogWash Hour will debut this Sunday on the Answer San Diego 1170AM at 10AM.

San Diego is the Athens of the 21st Century. We are poised on fulfilling the destiny of greatness that is our City's future.

The HogWash Hour on "the Answer San Diego" is a chronicle of our City's progress through the 21st Century. We will fearlessly report the seething corruption that currently exists, not only in San Diego, but in America. We will report the revolution that is underway to change how America perceives its leaders. With Truth as our shield and HogWash as our sword we will lead the revolution to take back America from the Plutocrats.

But corruption is only part of the San Diego story. The HogWash Hour is about San Diego as it goes fearlessly into the twenty second century. Together we will explore the emergence of the cannabis industry as it becomes a major economic force in California. We will seek out the good in our City as well as expose the wicked. The HogWash Hour will be the light leading the best that abounds in our City. Together we will fearlessly go into the future secure in the knowledge we live in the best of all possible worlds.

Join us as we tell the San Diego story one hour at a time on the HogWash Hour.

<https://theanswersandiego.com/radio-show/8925>

the truth is always richinspirit

Rich Riel aka richinspirit

Thanksgiving 2020

Unfortunately for the first time in more than a quarter century (is that right? or add the number of years) the Riel family thanksgiving celebration will not be held at the Riel/Mehan's. The COVID restrictions make it unsafe to bring all of our wonderful families together. We will undoubtedly gather in smaller groupings which will have to be the way it is this year.

We will however host two zoom parties one at 10:00am and one at 3:00pm. Everyone is invited to either or both. We picked these times to be before and in between lunch and dinner on the west coast and to give people from overseas a time to join us. Here is the link to join either zoom party - <https://pepperdine.zoom.us/j/97311366261> We wish everyone a safe and happy thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing and talking to all of you virtually.

Margaret and Bud