

The Hobo Corner: Our Musical Bakery



By Jack Kauppila

Hey Everyone – It's Jack here, from the Hobo Bakery in Vernonia, my new hometown.

Talk about your unforeseen consequences...

Okay, we've covered the flour-a-demic and the yeastie-pocolypse. We've come to terms with the fact that all we like to do is eat out, touch our faces, and hug everyone. I haven't quite mastered the mask thing yet. I've been working on a meditation:

Breathing in, I am being safe

Breathing out, I am keeping others safe

But so far, for the most part, it's been more like:

Breathing in, I have coffee breath

Breathing out, I steam up my glasses

I'll keep practicing.

Nope, the consequence I never could have seen coming, the greatest surprise, the biggest challenge to my daily serenity is how incredibly, soul-achingly sick I am of ALL MY FAVORITE MUSIC!!!!

Sure, it was all cute at the start. I had to lay off the staff, but I was still in the bakery daily, making bread for the Markets, so it was just Jack and His Infinitely Annoying Playlist for 15 hours a day.

The first week looked like this;

- Day 1-3: All Springsteen, All Day Long! Yay!
- Day 4: The Beatles in Reverse - Abby Road to Meet the...
- Day 5-8: My Favorite Playlists According to Pandizzle, or Amazizzle or Spoti-fizzle
- Day 9 and on: 2/3rds of the day is half-Springsteen, the rest is the Beatles White Album, *Number 9* on endless repeat (it only played once, but would NOT leave my head!) and the rest was "*Hey Google Lady, skip this song...*"

Our dear Katie came in during one of the

Springsteen marathons and, after a while, said "You know I've never listened to him before, but now I know why people really hate him."

Ouch

We used to have so much fun.

I have a few Pandizzle stations that I've crafted over the years:

- Old-Guy Radio
- Hipster4Ever
- Hobo Dance Party

We played little games with the stations, me and my wonderful, adorable staff. In the morning it was Old-Guy Radio, so we'd put a little wager on which mandatory old-guy song would play first - *American Pie*, *Please Come to Boston*, or *Piano Man*. But, of course, if *Cat's in the Cradle* played ALL BETS WERE OFF! Because that song has ruined the life of young fathers and fathers-to-be LONG ENOUGH!

In the afternoon it was Hobo Dance Party. We put on some Top Pop station and When *Happy* by Pharrell played it was a mandatory dance party for everyone there. Or if *Can't Stop the Feeling!* by Justin Timberlake (I'll admit it, got me some love for that Justin Timberlake) it was a mandatory dance party. Of course, if Taylor Swift played ALL BETS WERE OFF! Because, really... However, if Beyonce played any time that day

we had blanket-immunity and we could sing along to TayTay, because, you know we wanted to!

Oh, simpler times...

Now I've got my streaming services so screwed up about what I want to hear that I'm stuck in a constant loop of Creedence Clearwater Revival, Paul Simon, The Offspring, and the Girl from Ipanema. Whatever.

I've been happy to bring back some staff over the last few weeks and the music of the bakery is back in my heart. It's so much better with other people! I've even started giving over control of the music to the kids, although I'm a bit concerned they are just playing 'revenge music' to torture me for the mandatory dance parties.

We're making our own playlist, here at the Hobo Bakery. It's quirky and, let's say *Eclectic* (because schizo sounds so mean). It's ever changing, *Thank the Lord!* because there actually is a limit to how many times you can get Stuck in Lodi hearing 50 ways to Leave Your Self Esteem on a beach in Brazil...

Well, that's all from the Hobo Corner this month. We're happy to be open with reduced weekend hours and we would love to see you! Let me know if there's anything I can make for you.

Peace and Happy Happy Toasting.

¡BIENVENIDO EL AMIGO!



Vernonians were lining up for the opening of *El Amigo*, a Mexican food truck located in the courtyard of *Black Iron Grill*. *El Amigo* is open 7 days a week, 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.

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