

Caption It!

By STEVE BREEN



LAST WEEK'S WINNER



CAPTION IT!

Introducing *Caption It!* creator Steve Breen

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Like most people who work in the print news business, Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Steve Breen wanted to help find ways to attract and keep readers.

About 10 years ago, Breen began giving readers of The San Diego Union-Tribune a weekly opportunity to caption one of his drawings. The idea grew into a regular, now syndicated, comic strip titled *Caption It!*

"Young people are now getting humor from creating, viewing and sharing memes, GIFS, TikTok videos, etc. I love traditional comic strips and there are still some really excellent ones. I just like *Caption It!* because it gets people more involved. I wish we could run 20 captions every week instead of one," Breen said.

Beginning this week, *Caption It!*, becomes a weekly feature of the *Keizertimes*. The cartoon and winning caption from a previous week run

What I try to do is tee up a good piece of art so that someone out there can hit it out of the park.

— STEVE BREEN
Creator and artist, CAPTION IT!

alongside a new un-captioned image.

Breen got his start as an editorial cartoonist in college, his work in that field garnering him a pair of Pultizers as

of the park. I try to think of a weird but helpful set-up," Breen said.

Choosing the winning caption is a

he grew. He credits his sense of humor, and satire, though with influences such as *Mad Magazine*, *Saturday Night Live* and *SCTV*. Pat Oliphant, Paul Conrad and Jeff MacNelly were some of the major influences combining his humor with cartooning.

When it comes to serving up a *Caption It!* image, there much more going on than simply putting an odd image to the page.

"What I try to do is tee up a good piece of art so that someone out there can hit it out

whole other art itself but, here's is a hint: the best jokes take time.

"If I draw a clown eating a hamburger, I'm going to get a million Ronald McDonald gags from people and most of those captions will be bland and predictable. I'm looking for something that comes out of left field," he said. "I look for originality, brevity and something that makes me laugh out loud. Humor works, most often, when something is unexpected."

He also encourages local teachers to use *Caption It!* as an exercise in creativity.

"We have some fantastic San Diego-area teachers who do the Union-Tribune's contest with their students every week and some of our best submissions come from this demographic. Try to come up with ten captions and then bounce them off your parents and siblings, then send the three that get the biggest laughs. Oh, and avoid Ronald McDonald gags,"

Entries can be sent to cartooncontest@sduniontribune.com by 10 a.m. Tuesday of every week.

911 Supply moving south

911 Supply is moving from its long-time location at 4484 River Road N. to the corner of Sunset Avenue North and River Road North.

According to a Facebook post, the move to the new building is expected to be complete by mid-April. The new address is 4101 River Road N.

911 Supply is a local, full-service shop offering uniforms, custom tailoring,



body armor, footwear, tactical gear, outerwear, alterations, heat press and embroidery.

Watercolor classes at KAA

Keizer Art Association is offering online art classes. There are three watercolor classes available on March 20, March 27 and April 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Each class is \$20 each.

The class on March 20 will cover watercolor technique and color theory. The next class will be practicing watercolor with the creation of landscapes on paper. The last class focuses on how to start a bigger watercoloring project and apply the methods of the previous classes to your work.

Information about the online classes, a material list and how to sign up is available on their website: keizerarts.com/classes.php