

## **CORD-CUTTERS**

My traveling companion and I finally got sick of Comcast Xfinity's absurdly high rates and generally lousy customer service, so we pulled the plug, unbundled our services, got Sonic for phone and internet, and signed up for internet TV streaming service PlayStation Vue for \$50 a month. We get almost all of the channels and networks we need (plus a few new ones we discovered we like). We pay a bit extra for Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Showtime. Even with the add-ons, we save more than \$100 a month. We watch live or record favorites, and the system stores it in our individual "My DVR" queues in the cloud, with no limits. We picked PlayStation Vue based on Tom's Guide (tomsguide.com) and Consumer Reports recommendations, but for a similar monthly amount you can get YouTube TV, Sling TV, Hulu TV, Direct TV, or other. They all work pretty much the same way. You need a device to connect your TV to the internet and navigate to live and recorded shows. Of Amazon FireStick with Alexa, Chromecast with Google Assistant, and Roku, we prefer the Amazon remote with voice control. And 100 bucks a month buys a lot of popcorn.

## **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK**

Cracks are appearing in the rebuilt Highway 1 roadway near the Big Sur town of Gorda, according to aptly named Caltrans spokesman Jim Shivers.

## **FUNKY FICTION**

Tanya Menezes, a senior at St. Francis High School in Mountain View, took a sweet scene of a youthful affection and drove it right off a creepy cliff. And that effort won her the grand prize in this year's Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, the annual competition that celebrates the very best worst opening line for a novel. At 17 years old, Menezes is the youngest grand prize winner in the contest's history...Here's the entry that won her the crown (and a \$250 prize): "Cassie smiled as she clenched John's hand on the edge of an abandoned pier while the sun set gracefully over the water, and as the final rays of light disappeared into a star-filled sky she knew that there was only one thing left to do to finish off this wonderful evening, which was to throw his severed appendage into the ocean's depths so it could never be found again — and maybe get some custard after." ...The contest, started in 1982 by retired San Jose State English Professor Scott Rice, is named after Edward Bulwer-Lytton, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century English writer whose claim to infamy is the oft-mocked opening sentence to his novel "Paul Clifford," a florid sentence that opens with "It was a dark and stormy night." ...The contest draws thousands of

entries from around the world, with winners and "dishonorable mentions" in more than a dozen categories from historical fiction to children's literature. You can read the best of the worst at [bulwer-lytton.com](http://bulwer-lytton.com) (excerpted from Sal Pizarro's Mercury News column).

### **GRAMMARJAMMER**

A mixed metaphor walks into a bar, seeing the handwriting on the wall but hoping to nip it in the bud.

### **SWAMI SEZ**

"A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip." (Swami Umami)

### **MAYBURRITOVILLE**

- Email: [Mayburrito@Goofbuster.com](mailto:Mayburrito@Goofbuster.com)
- Blog: [PacificaRiptide.com](http://PacificaRiptide.com)
- Copy Editor: [Goofbuster.com](http://Goofbuster.com)