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STAR-ADVERTISER ARCHIVE

Stepping into the inner room of China Sea Tattoo Co. on Smith Street is like walking into a sterile medical office where proprietor Mike Malone believes in cleanliness. Tattoo needles are encased in germ-free bags, next to sterilizing alcohol and gauze pads. These are part of the tools Malone used to put a samurai tattoo on Gary Massey's back, which took over a 3-month period.