

# AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2022 / 35th Year / No. 11

THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

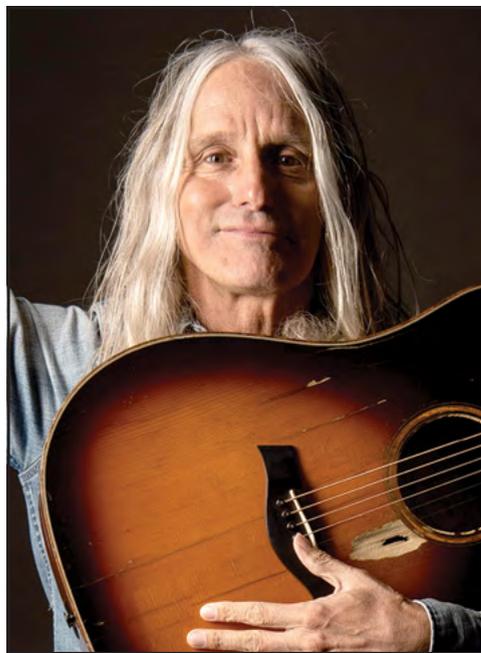
## ON THE COVER

### JOE SATRIANI

*Joe Satriani and his band will hit the stage for the first time in years, working their way to Redding's Cascade Theatre for an Oct. 1 performance at the iconic art deco venue. Read about it and more in this After Five interview beginning on page 2*

### ROOTS REVIVAL

*The Redding Roots Revival Music Festival is back for its third year and the jam-packed lineup*



*is the biggest and best yet, say organizers. Among those slated to perform is Steve Poltz (pictured here) as the music industry returns to pre-pandemic norms. The 2-day festival, Sept. 23-24, features 24 acts spread*

*throughout three stages and all within walking distance in downtown Redding. See page 16*

### LATIN FIREWORKS

*North State Symphony has announced they'll have a full and eclectic offering of concerts for this season centered on the theme 'Experience Joy' beginning with the joy and passion of Mariachi. On Sept. 24 in Chico and Sept. 25 in Redding, North State Symphony welcomes Los Angeles based Mariachi Garibaldi de Jamie Cuellar in a celebration of Latin composers. See page 21*



# Back On Tour

**Oct. 1 at the  
Cascade  
Theatre  
in Redding**



## With 2 new albums, Joe Satriani hits the road for the first time in years

By Aaron Williams

It's a sweltering August summer day in Redding, but Joe Satriani is comfortable and content in the San Francisco Bay Area, where the guitar virtuoso lives and took time out for an After Five interview as he prepared for his upcoming Earth Tour.

Satriani and his band will hit the stage for the first time in years, working their way to Redding's Cascade Theatre for an Oct. 1 performance at the iconic art deco venue. Tickets are available at [www.cascadetheatre.org](http://www.cascadetheatre.org).

"The only public performances I've had in what seems like forever have been a handful of art shows," the 66-year-old, Long Island-raised master of the six-string said by phone. "I miss that feeling (of being on stage). It'll be a bit of a homecoming in that you realize what you've been missing."

It's been so long since Satriani hit the road that the Grammy winner has two new albums of material that haven't been played in front of an audience.

"It's really hard to do a set list," he said laughing. "You've got to play the fan favorites, but you also want to bring out a certain amount of new material."

"I can't play every song from the new albums and then play the hits. We'd be there for hours and there really is such a thing as too much electric guitar."

**"I love being a musician. I enjoy the weird anticipation of the anxiety of performing. It still scares the hell out of me. I feel like I should turn the other direction and run. But I take those first steps and it's the best place ever."**

**- Joe Satriani**

Which seems odd coming from the commercially acclaimed rock guitarist.

"We have a big board of songs that we choose from," he added. "I'll talk to the guys about what they think... sometimes the bass player says not to put those two back-to-back because he needs to rest the fingers a little."

"It also factors in where we're playing. Playing slow songs in small clubs doesn't always work when you can hear beer bottles clanking in from the guy two feet from you."

But rest assured Satriani knows fans are coming to see the hits. And he's had scores over a career that stretches back to when he picked up a guitar at 14 after the death of Jimi Hendrix and at 16 playing New York state bars with his high school band.

After moving to the Left Coast in the '70s, he taught guitar to a Who's Who of axemen including Metallica's Kirk Hammet, Larry LaLonde of Primus and David Bryson of Counting Crows.

"I was also in this band the Squares, a power pop band," he said. "We weren't as good as say a Green Day or Blink 182 and never went anywhere."

He made ends meet by playing with the Greg Kihn Band and even singing backing vocals on Crowded House's eponymous album (he got that gig from a producer who remembered him singing with the Squares... "All my vocals were on the hit songs.")

And then, in 1986 and '87 things happened for Satriani... rapidly.

After receiving \$13,000 from a record company to make what Satriani told them would be "a celebration of guitar styles," he began working on what was originally going to be called *Lords of Karma*. The world knows the album as *Surfing with the Alien*, which spawned iconic tracks such as the self-titled song, "Ice 9," the ballad "Always With You, Always With Me" and "Satch Boogie."

"I remember putting the album out and it getting some serious love from stations across the country - Red Beard in Texas, The Loop in Chicago," Satriani said. "My agent called and said it debuted at 185 on Billboard and I

needed to go on tour."

Satriani was a little awestruck only to have his agent rebut "Get used to it, you might have a hit record on your hands."

And while 185 on the Billboard charts and playing 400-seat clubs on the West Coast were nice, a much larger audience was waiting to have *Surfing With the Alien* unleashed upon them.

Around the same time as he began touring in support of the album, Mick Jagger began looking for a replacement for Jeff Beck, who dropped off the solo tour the Rolling Stones singer was prepping for.

"I went from the Squares to releasing *Surfing With the Alien* to going on tour with Mick Jagger," he said. "I'll never forget being at the Tokyo Dome and standing on stage. And Mick was so awesome, he gave me a segment to play my stuff."

Two years later, *Flying in a Blue Dream* followed and the instrumentalists music began reaching a broad audience through sales and being featured in movies as well as video games.

"I love being a musician," he said. "I enjoy the weird anticipation of the anxiety of performing. It still scares the hell out of me. I feel like I should turn the other direction and run. But I take that first step and it's the best place ever."

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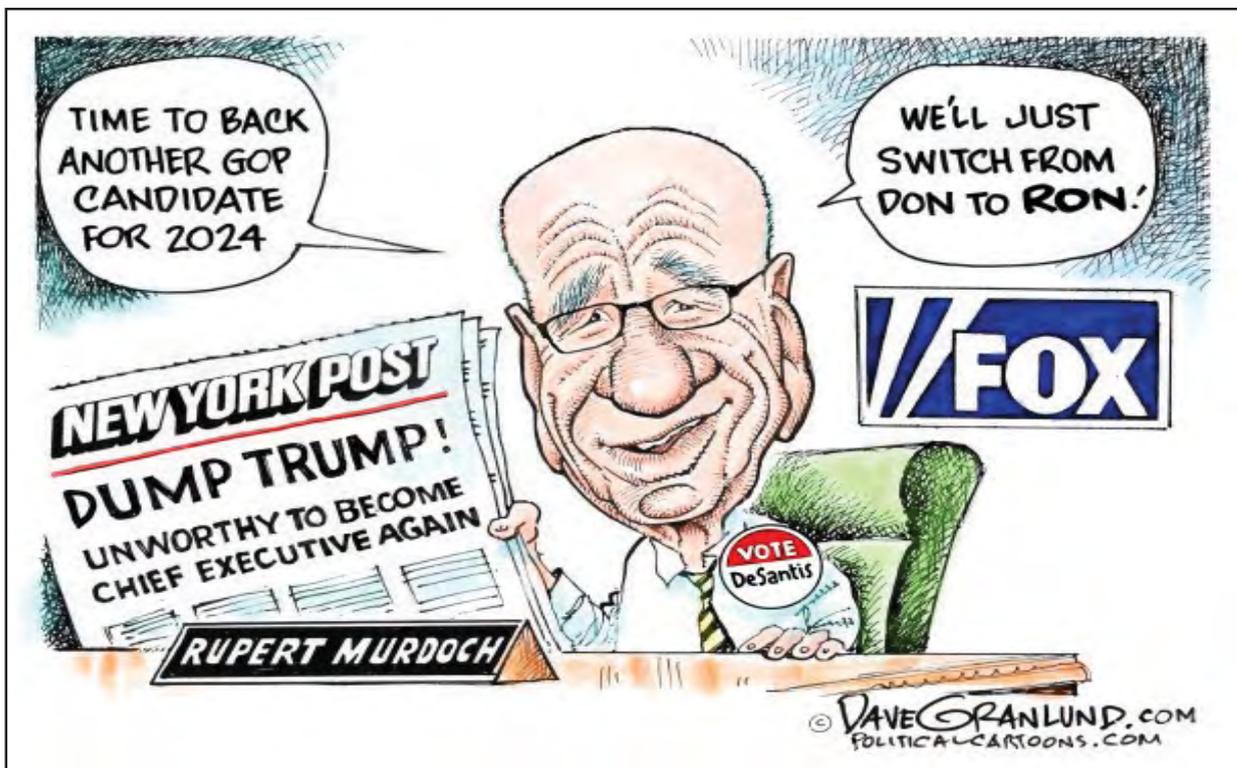
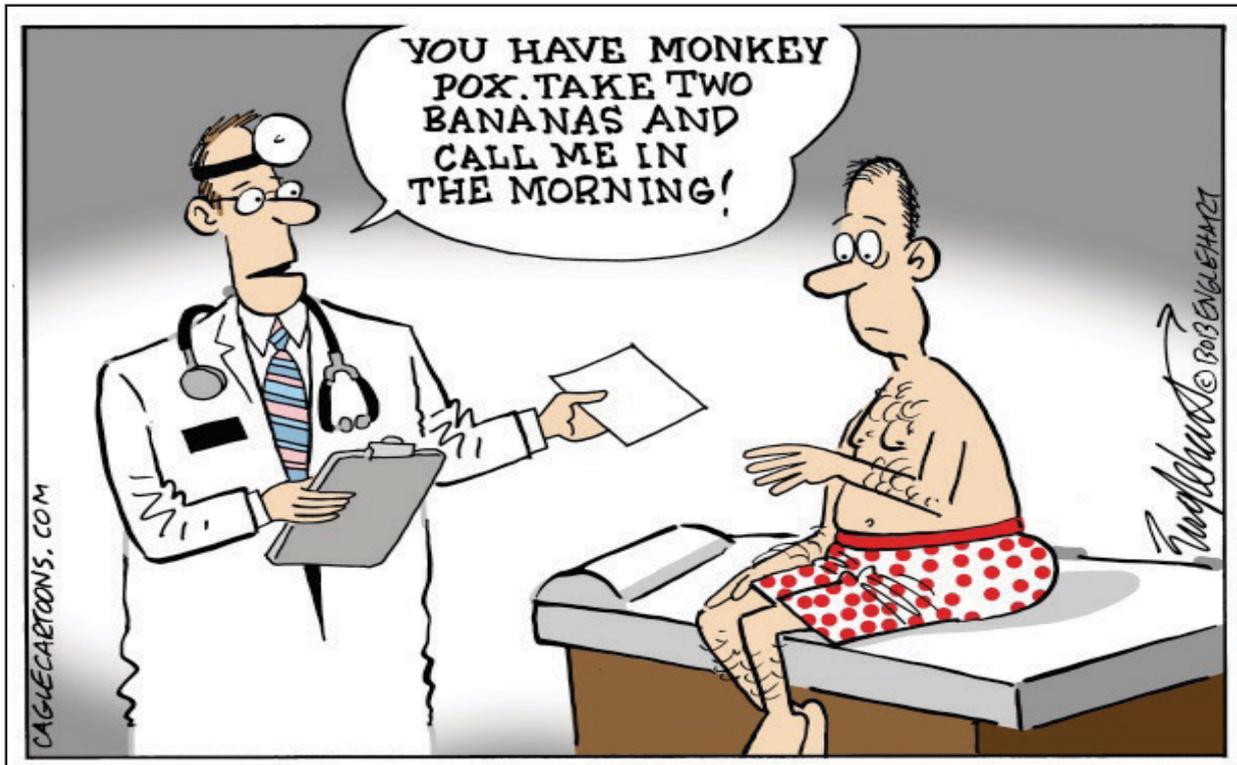
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## Steampunk Festival in Dunsmuir returns

Dunsmuir will see the return of the Steampunk Festival on Sept. 24-25.

"This is that one event you don't want to miss," said Cindy Foreman, Steampunk chair and board officer with the Dunsmuir Chamber of Commerce, which is sponsoring the event.

Time travelers gather to celebrate all that is steamy in Victorian exuberance.

"Dress yourself and your pet in your finest or not so fine Victorian/sci-fi costume," Foreman said.

There will be costume prizes for first, second and third.

"Get your picture taken randomly for purchase or ham it up in our photo booth," Foreman added. "You can also have a go at winning your first cornhole tournament or buy a locally made fruit pie."

Foreman said you will experience great music, a Rat Rod show, Steampunk bikes, vendors, gadgets, sidewalk sales and specialties at the local businesses. There also will be face painting and games for the kids.

Music on Saturday will be Hill Street Band, Blackwell Family, Heavy Dose of Blues, Jazzxx and Andre Mottershead. On Sunday it will be the Anna Jae Trio, Blue Sky Ramblers and Allison and Victor.

Saturday's Steampunk runs from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday it's 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information visit [dunsmuir.com](http://dunsmuir.com).

## AFTER FIVE The North State Magazine

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## Blackberry Music Festival returns

The Mt. Shasta Rotary Club presents the return of the Blackberry Music Festival to Shastice Park in Mt. Shasta on Sunday, Sept. 4.

"Mt. Shasta Rotary is excited to be reviving the Blackberry Music Festival after having to cancel it these last two years," said Merle Anderson, president of the club's foundation.

From noon to 6 p.m. the festival will feature The Brothers Reed, the Scott Durbin Trio with Cindi Titzer, and Secret Society Handshake. Admission is free. On-site sales of adult beverages, blackberry pie and event T-shirts are provided by Rotary. All sales will contribute in some way to the community projects and partners of the Mt. Shasta Rotary club.

Rotary Club President Lorinda Forrest-Meyer said there will be plenty of things to do for kids as well.

"We love to provide free children's games to help the young people in your life enjoy the festival as much as you (and we) do," she said. Sack races and water balloon toss games are planned.

Visit the event website at [MtShastaBlackberry.com](http://MtShastaBlackberry.com) for current information or contact Forest Meyer via email at [info@MtShastaBlackberry.com](mailto:info@MtShastaBlackberry.com). Additionally, you can follow Rotary on social media @MtShastaRotary.

## Two new art shows in Dunsmuir

The Siskiyou Arts Museum, 5824 Dunsmuir Ave., Dunsmuir, will host two new exhibits for their Second Saturday Art Opening and Reception from noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Members of the Siskiyou Artists Association (SAA) will present their 64th annual art show of original art and a silent auction of small art that helps fund the association's Art Scholarship. You can read more about the SAA show at [siskiyouartists.org/show](http://siskiyouartists.org/show)

Also opening on Sept. 10 is an invitational drawing exhibit: "Penciled In: 9 Artists Celebrate the Fine Art of Drawing." This exhibit is co-curated by Alice Poremski, a Redding artist and custom furniture designer, and Lindsay Hanley, SAM's head gallery show curator.

Both art shows will continue in their respective galleries through Nov. 5. For more information, stop in during business hours, follow them on Facebook, visit them on the web at [siskiyouartsmuseum.org](http://siskiyouartsmuseum.org), or call during business hours at 530-235-4711.

## Pickleball tourney in Mt. Shasta

The Mount Shasta Pickleball Club is having its third annual pickleball tournament in Mount Shasta from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 10-11.

The tournament, on four brand new courts, will be held at 1000 Siskiyou Lake Blvd. at W.A. Barr Road, next to the Mount Shasta Resort. Entry is free for spectators; interested players should register no later than Sept. 7 at: [pickleballbrackets.com](http://pickleballbrackets.com). There will be local vendors, a tournament raffle, fun door prizes and a silent auction.

## 66<sup>th</sup> Shasta Gem Show Oct. 1-2

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society is holding its 66th annual Gem Show at the Shasta District Fairgrounds in Anderson on Oct. 1 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Oct. 2 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) The event is free to attend.

In addition to displays of gems, there will be a silent auction, raffle, free door prizes and more. Vendors will be selling crystals, jewelry, minerals, dinosaur bone, rough rocks and slabs. Gold panning demonstrations will be provided by the Shasta Miners & Prospectors. For more information, call 530-722-7133 or visit [shastagemandmineral.org](http://shastagemandmineral.org).

## Labor Day Picnic on tap Sept. 5

Five Counties Central Labor Council will hold their 36<sup>th</sup> annual Labor Day Family Picnic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sept. 5, at the Anderson River Park main barbecue.

Free children's events include a fishing derby that starts at 10 a.m. Bring your own bait and pole. There will be live music by The Fire Mountain Rock Band. Meal tickets for hamburgers, hot dogs or chicken, beans and chips are \$5. Children under 6 are free. Proceeds benefit scholarship programs. For info., call 530-949-7795.



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The Cascade Theatre Box Office in Redding at 530-243-8877 or [cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org)



# If you can't beat the heat, join it

By Jase Graves

East Texas is hot, and not in the way you compliment your wife when she's mad at you for performing an epic cannonball while she's lounging by the pool with her laptop.



For the past few weeks, Texas (and much of the world) has been suffering through a distressing phenomenon known as summer – that time of year when we all remember what it's like being toddlers walking around with drenched undergarments.

I realize that my opinion may seem blasphemous to those who enjoy a good lower-body heat rash, but I've always preferred the fall and winter over summer. Yes, I get bushy-tailed at the first hint of pumpkin spice wafting through my ample nose hairs. Besides, when you're cold, you can always put on more clothes, but when you're hot, you can only take off so much without getting arrested or traumatizing your family members and pets. Just ask our cat.

This summer has been particularly brutal so far, with temperatures regularly reaching the triple digits and placing everyone's lawn in hospice care. Our home air conditioner has been running non-stop for approximately four weeks and is now demanding a significant raise, enhanced benefits and casual Fridays. Yet I still have to expose at least one whole leg and an elbow outside of the bed covers at night (and risk being attacked by monsters) in order to sleep.

When I asked my wife about our latest electric bill, she refused to show it to me, simply suggesting that I find a second job and develop a taste for bologna sandwiches – minus the bologna.

Some families take the opportunity this time of year to vacation in cooler climates where deodorant actually works and you don't have to wring out your briefs after waking to or from your car. But not our family. This summer, I took my wife and three teenage daughters on a road trip to sample the sweltering delights of New Orleans, Louisiana, where being outside during the summer is like walking around in a wet fur coat after wearing it in a hot tub full of gumbo. And we just returned from a short excursion southward to San Antonio, Texas, (named after the patron saint of scorching parking lots) – because it's always smart to get as close to the equator as possible in early August.

Due to the extreme heat and the dangers associated with it, numerous media outlets are offering tips for surviving in navel-soaking temperatures. Here are a few of my own:

1. Stay hydrated, meaning you should drink as much fluid as possible so that you can spend lots of time enjoying the refreshing confines of an air-conditioned restroom. (The porcelain is delightfully cool.)
2. During the hottest part of the day, keep family pets indoors – where they can annoy you more effectively with their incessant noise, booty scooting, and staring at you when you snack. The same applies to children of any age.
3. Eat small meals, and eat more often. I'm not sure why this works, but I'm for it, especially the "more often" part.
4. Check on the elderly (and ask them to prepare you a meal if possible-see No. 3).
5. Set the air conditioner to a low temperature, and keep it there. If you're worried about your electric bill, remember the bologna sandwiches (or see No. 4).

America experienced a previous heat wave in 1980 when I was ten years old, and my main concerns were catching the next episode of *The Muppet Show* and sorting out my strange new feelings for Brooke Shields. I don't remember much about the weather, other than it was summertime and people were walking around in t-shirts that read, "I survived the 1980 Texas Heat Wave." I guess I thought it was kind of cool, but not cool enough to distract me from Miss Piggy and Brooke in her Calvin Kleins.

These days, though, I take assaults on my sweat glands more seriously, and I hope you, too, will benefit from the tips I've offered as we all pray for cooler temperatures and sales on Wonder Bread and bologna.

Copyright 2022 Jase Graves distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate. Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in *Texas Escapes* magazine, *The Shreveport Times*, *The Longview News Journal*, and *The Kilgore News Herald*. Contact Graves at [susanjase@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanjase@sbcglobal.net).

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# NEWS of the WEIRD

Skydiver Gary Connery, 53, was sentenced in Oxford Crown Court in England, the BBC reported, for grievous bodily harm after he threw his girlfriend, Tanya Brass, down a staircase.

The assault, which shattered Brass' shoulder, took place in October 2020.

The now-infamous abuser previously achieved his 15 minutes of fame when he served as Queen Elizabeth II's stunt double in the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games, when he and "James Bond" (another stunt double) leapt out of a helicopter and parachuted into the Olympic stadium.

After the stunt, Connery told the BBC it had been "an amazing experience." Perhaps he can relive it during his 18 months in prison.

Residents of South Auckland, New Zealand, were the lucky – or not-so-lucky – recipients of the contents of an abandoned storage container, Stuff reported.

But when they got the loot home, they discovered a surprise among the items: human remains.

The new owners called police, whose first priority was to identify the remains, detective inspector Tofilau Faamanuia Vaaeula said.

A neighbor who previously worked at a nearby crematorium noted "a wicked smell" coming from the home: "I knew straight away and I thought, where's that coming from," he said.

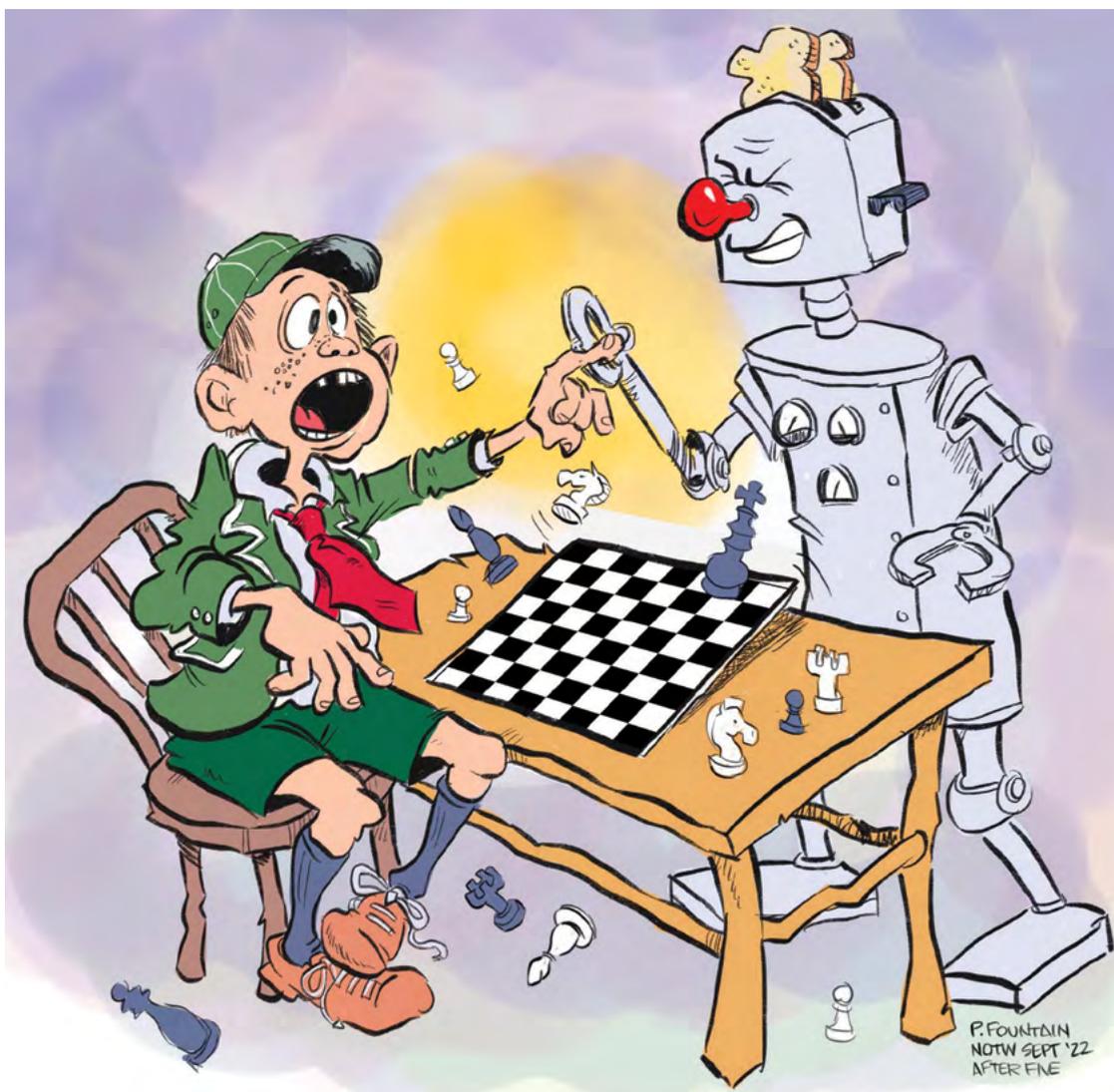
His mother reported that detectives and forensic teams had been seen recoiling in shock from the scene. The investigation is ongoing.

Keisha Bazley, a mother of nine children in Houston, turned to Child Protective Services for help with her 14-year-old daughter, who had been running away and getting into trouble at school.

Instead, according to Fox26 Houston, her daughter told her that a "worker had been telling her she should (become a prostitute)," so the girl videotaped the CPS support staff member.

"If me, the parent, was to do something like this to my child," Bazley said, "I would be called a horrible parent. I would lose my kids."

She filed an official complaint, and the commissioner of CPS in Texas, Jamie Masters, came to Houston to personally apologize to Bazley and her daughter. The worker was dismissed from her position.



At the Moscow Open chess tournament, a chess-playing robot apparently became unsettled by a 7-year-old player's quick move in the game, so it grabbed the child's hand and snapped one of his fingers, the Guardian reported. "The robot broke the child's finger," said Sergey Lazarev, president of the Moscow Chess Federation. "This is of course bad." Ya think? Another official explained: "There are certain safety rules and the child, apparently, violated them. When he made his move, he did not realize he first had to wait." The player, Christopher, returned to the tournament the next day. His parents have contacted the public prosecutor's office.

Aug. 12 started as a pretty typical day for 1-1/2-year-old toddler Ethan and his mom, Brittany Moore, of Senoia, Georgia.

They were playing with bubbles in the backyard of their home when Ethan chased one to the fence and noticed something in the woods beyond, ABC4 News reported.

When his mom asked him what he saw, he said, "Feet."

Ethan had discovered 82-year-old Nina Lipscomb, who had been missing for four days.

Lipscomb was alive but disoriented; her daughter said she had wandered away from a nearby home where she was visiting family.

"Her sister lived here in this house, but she passed away in

March," Karen Lipscomb said.

The Lipscombs and the Moores got together to celebrate the little boy who probably saved Nina's life.

"It took a child ... that was being worked by God," Brittany said.

A 911 operator in San Luis Obispo, California, received a call from the Zoo-to-You facility in Paso Robles, but when the dispatchers tried to call back, there was no answer, ABC7-TV reported.

Sheriff's deputies responded to the zoo, but no one there would take credit for the call – except one 10-month-old Capuchin monkey named Route.

The deputies determined that the monkey had gotten his hands on a cellphone left in a

golf cart and made the call.

"We're told Capuchin monkeys are very inquisitive and will grab anything and everything," the sheriff's office remarked.

James Hunt, 41, and his girlfriend got into it at a Clearwater, Florida, Burger King, because "the victim was not eating her food," The Smoking Gun reported.

When the 53-year-old woman left the restaurant, Hunt followed her and launched his cheeseburger at the back of her head, allegedly causing her to fall over a curb onto the ground and hit her chin and lip.

How did cops know? There was blood on her shirt and shorts and cheese in her hair. Hunt admitted hitting her with the cheeseburger but

didn't think it caused her to fall. Nonetheless, he was charged with felony domestic battery and held on \$15,000 bond.

Stephen McCarthy, 31, a physician's assistant in Allentown, Pennsylvania, has been under suspicion of trafficking steroids and stimulants, LehighValleyLive reported.

Federal agents were on the case, but no charges had been filed.

That is, until McCarthy got in touch with one of the DEA agents, threatening to disfigure and rape him.

"I hope you get into a car accident and die," McCarthy added for good measure.

His attorney, John Waldron, said his client was frustrated with the ongoing investigation and "couldn't deal with it anymore."

McCarthy was indicted and released on \$100,000 bond.

A 31-year-old man in Seoul, South Korea, has been ordered to pay his ex-girlfriend \$1,150 after an argument ended with him urinating into her Louis Vuitton handbag, Oddity Central reported.

The incident took place as the couple argued about her spending habits; the spiteful boyfriend retrieved the bag, unbuttoned his pants and let loose into the bag as the woman looked on.

He later tried to cover up the evidence by pouring liquid deodorant into the bag, but DNA tests confirmed the presence of urine and tied it to him, and he confessed.

Miller High Life has a new product introduction: Ice Cream Dive Bar, United Press International reported.

The collaboration with Topsy Scoop, maker of alcohol-infused ice cream, comprises all your favorite flavors from a dive bar: beer, peanuts, tobacco smoke, caramel and dark chocolate.

The bars contain up to 5% alcohol, which you may need after you see the price: \$36 for a six-pack.

News of the Weird generally eschews world record stories, but this one seems happily adventurous.

Peter McConville and Pavel "Pasha" Krechetov of Austin, Texas, and Abdullahi Salah, of Minneapolis, broke a world record by traveling to all 50 United States in five days, 13

–Please See Page 16

# DINING

*& entertainment*



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Dining, Brewery and Entertainment Guide Map on page 14.

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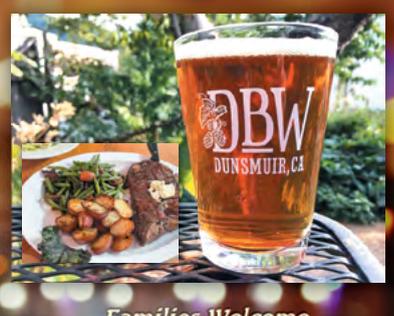
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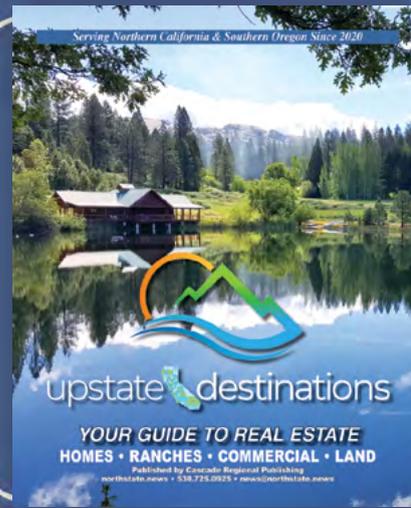


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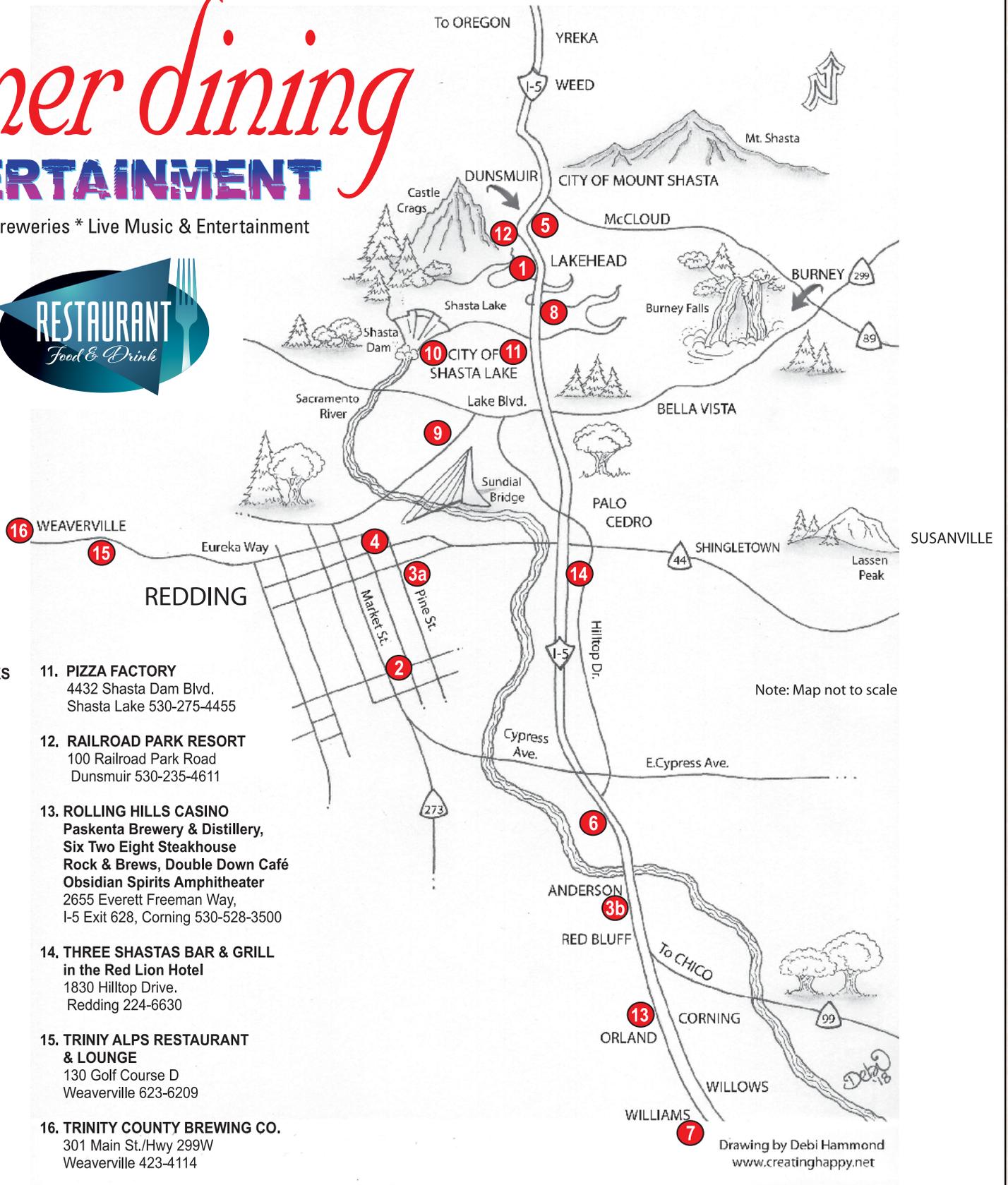
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Note: Map not to scale

Drawing by Debi Hammond  
www.creatinghappy.net



PHOTO / Kim Mobley

The cast from Axiom Repertory Theatre's production of Machinal. Left to right for the first three: Trenton Eide, Michelle Longee and Wylie Ernst. Then right, top to bottom: Keith Rose, Britney Williams and Isaac Hines.

## Axiom kicks off season 6 with Sophie Treadwell's 'Machinal'

Axiom Repertory Theatre kicks off Season Six with "Machinal" by Sophie Treadwell. The play is directed by Lauren Standfield and is scheduled to run Sept. 9-24.

"Machinal is loosely based on the real-life trial of Ruth Snyder, the first woman in New York to receive the death penalty by electric chair," Stanfield said in an email. "It is told by Sophie Treadwell, a journalist who reported on the trial at the time of its occurrence and it tells the story of Helen Jones's life as a young woman, who couldn't take the inescapable feeling of being trapped in the machine of life."

Performers in the Axiom production include Wylie Ernst, Keith Rose, Trenton Eide, Isaac Hines, Britney Williams and Michelle Longee

Standfield said "Machinal" is a piece she's very passionate about.

"It is a rare piece of expressionism theater, a style rarely performed in the modern day," she said. "Expressionism is a style of performance that puts emphasis on emotion, both in the story

that is told on stage and those of the audience as they watch."

Standfield said "Machinal" is a piece that seeks to make us understand how and why Helen Jones (based on the real life Ruth Snyder) could commit murder by showing her perspective.

"It shows her everyday horror and her struggle for freedom, to seek an understanding of a woman who is trapped," Standfield said.

Also on the nine-show 2022-2023 Axiom season are: The return of "Rocky Horror" (Oct. 7-29); "Hamlet" (Nov. 7-29); "A Christmas Story – The Musical" (Dec. 9-27); "Dead Man's Cell Phone" (Jan. 13-28); Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" (Feb. 10-25); "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" (March 10-25); "The Play That Goes Wrong" (April 7-29); and "Sister Act" (May 12-27).

Tickets and more information are available at axreptheatre.com You can also buy tickets at a discount of 20% off the purchase of multiple tickets of 4, 8 and 16 with their special Star Pass.

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**MACHINAL**  
by Sophie Treadwell

**SEPT 9-24**

[axreptheatre.com/machinal](http://axreptheatre.com/machinal)

# 3rd annual RRR Music Festival has biggest lineup yet

Mother Hips, Joe Craven & The Sometimers, Steve Poltz, Rainbow Girls among the 24 acts slated to perform

By Aaron Williams

The Redding Roots Revival Music Festival is back for its third year and the jam-packed lineup is the biggest and best yet, say organizers.

"Everyone we reached out to said 'yes,'" organizer Janis Logan said. "That usually never happens, but everyone was ready."

And that's kind of the sentiment in general as the music industry returns to pre-pandemic norms. The Redding Roots Revival Music Festival did play in 2021, and Logan said everyone was ready for that after 18 months of covid cancellations. But this year should be even bigger.

"This is our best lineup yet," she said.

And how.

The two-day festival - Sept. 23-24 - features 24 acts spread throughout three stages all within walking distance in downtown Redding. The main stage will be at the Chain Gang Bike Shop (1540 Division St.) while a second stage will be at The Park food truck location in Library Park off Placer. A third location is being worked on and should be announced soon, Logan said.

Tickets are available at [www.reddingrootsrevival.org](http://www.reddingrootsrevival.org). Early bird two-day passes before Sept. 23 are \$45 for adults and \$30 for teens (ages 13-19); single day tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for teens. All tickets include fees. Kids 12 and under get in free.

There will be a beer garden, merchandise and information booths to promote downtown Redding's amenities.

"All venues are two blocks from the downtown parking garage," Logan said. "We want to encourage people to ride bikes since everything is downtown."

"We really want to encourage people to come to downtown, fill up the restaurants and stores and see what downtown Redding is all about now."

Logan, who was at the genesis of the downtown revival when she co-owned Vintage Wine Bar & Restaurant, said she couldn't wait to see in 2006 what it has become today.

"It's finally happening," she said. "I can't wait to see the shops full. The whole goal is to have the festival spread throughout downtown."

Perhaps the only drawback to the festival might be which acts to see in case two favorites overlap set times.

After all, with the lineup of Mother Hips, Joe Craven & the Sometimers, Rainbow Girls, Steve Poltz, Andre Thierry, AJ Lee & Blue Summit, Coffis Brothers and more, there's going to have to be some choices made.

Other scheduled performers include The Brothers Reed, Megan Slankard & The Wreckage, Big Richard, Wolf Jett, Hattie & The Moon Howlers, Veronica May & The Magnetics, Robbie Schaefer, Jonathan Foster, Soul Punch, A Dyar Situation, One Sol, Allison Scull and Victor Martin, The Stone Hearts, Honeybee, Annie Coty, Across the Grain and the Anna Jae Band.

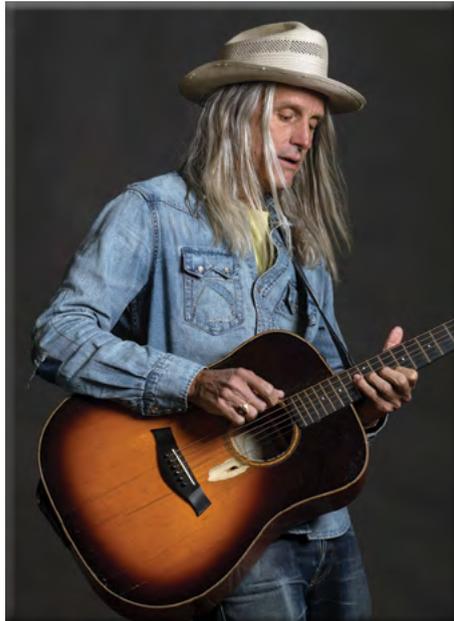


PHOTO / Michael Weintrob



Clockwise, top left: Steve Poltz, Joe Craven & The Sometimers, Rainbow Girls and The Mother Hips. Bottom photo is AJ Lee and Blue Summit.



"There really is something for everyone," Logan said.

Mother Hips, a San Francisco Bay Area indie, folk rock group that's been around since the 1990s, would be considered the headliner. They've toured with legendary acts like Johnny Cash, Tom Petty and the Black Crowes.

A highlight for Logan is Steve Poltz, who co-wrote Jewel's 1995 hit "You Were Meant for Me" and is a founding member of the indie-rock band The Rugburns. He performed a few times for Logan at Vintage.

"He is so wonderful," she said. "I saw him at the Sisters Folk Festival playing his guitar and singing while running up and down the aisles all over the venue. He's a high-energy guy."

A house concert with Poltz is scheduled the night before the festival at Bridgehouse Bed & Breakfast. See the website for details.

The one returning act the festival has from last year is Andre Thierry. And while the Redding Roots Festival might skew toward a bluegrass feel, Logan said he's the accordion guy who gets everyone dancing.

"We ask around to see who people want to see come back and he's definitely the people's choice," she said.

She also gave a nod to the all-female groups Big Richard and Rainbow Girls, but said again the festival is so



packed you're going to want to check the set times and figure out a plan of attack for your personal "must-see" bands.

"AJ Lee is super good too," she added. "In fact, it's all good."

Logan said a lot of the inspiration for the Redding Roots Revival came from the Sisters (Oregon) Folk Festival, a two-day event spread throughout the small town just outside of Bend.

"They take over the town and people

come to town to listen to music, shop and eat at the restaurants," she said.

The Redding Roots Revival Music Festival's mission is to "promote downtown Redding with a weekend of live American roots music in a community enrichment festival format..." and to "create a professional and sustainable multi-day event that promotes our city, live music, community partnerships and culture for years to come."

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# NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 8

hours and 10 minutes, starting on May 13.

They started in Vermont, KXAN-TV reported, and finished the continental part in Washington, then flew to Alaska and finally Hawaii, having spent about \$12,000 and 120 hours in a rental car.

McConville said the Grand Canyon in Arizona was his most memorable moment of the trip: "I can't even describe what that experience was, not only because we were so tired, but we were seeing so much at once," he said.

The group's record is listed by All Fifty States Club, as Guinness discontinued listing speed records in 1996.

Remember the fatal lightning strikes in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 6? Those shocking events were responsible for the deaths of three people, WUSA-TV reported.

Amber Escudero-Kontostathis, 28, of Newbury Park, California, was with the group huddling under trees during the storm, and she was the lone survivor.

Escudero-Kontostathis suffered burns down the left side of her body and initially couldn't walk, but she's now using a walker and looking forward to getting back to her job.

What saved her?

She and her mother, Julie Escudero, think the thick rubber soles on her Dr. Martens boots helped out.

But she also credits the first responders and traveling nurses who happened to be in the park for their quick action.

"The trauma doctor ... said she's an absolute miracle," Julie said.

It's hot everywhere, but Texas is showing off with consecutive days above 100, or even 110. Some wild animals have a unique way of dealing with the heat, and it even has a fun name: splooting.

WFAA-TV in Dallas reported that squirrels are taking to the street, literally: lying facedown with all their limbs spread out.

The rodents don't sweat or pant, so splooting in the shade helps them cool down. One little guy was even spotted splooting on a sidewalk vent.

Jim Battan, 57, of West Linn, Oregon, figured out a way to pay off his \$110,000 backyard luxury pool: Since September 2020, Battan has hosted about 9,000 swimmers through an app called Swimplify, NBC New York reported, making \$177,000.

Battan admits there's more to the job than providing towels. He and his wife spend 12 to 14 hours a week managing bookings and doing maintenance.

"I love the income, but I generally caution people from it," Battan said. "It takes a lot of time to learn about pool chemistry and maintenance. I look at my pool chemicals probably five to 10

times a day."

But at \$70 per hour for five people, it's worth it to him. And his customers like it, too – he has a high return rate.

KDKA-TV reported on July 19 that attorney Lauren Varnado, who was defending a Pittsburgh corporation in a courtroom in New Martinsville, West Virginia, accused Judge David W. Hummel Jr. of pulling a Colt .45 pistol out of his robes during the proceedings in March.

Varnado alleged that Hummel pointed it "in a waving motion, like he was scanning, first at the defense counsel, and then (placed) it on the bench and slowly (turned) it to make sure the barrel of it is pointed at me."

Because of the trial's contentious nature, Varnado had a security detail, but Hummel wouldn't allow them into the courtroom, saying, "I have bigger guns than they have."

Varnado said she is working with the FBI and the West Virginia Judicial Investigation Commission. "He cannot stay on the bench," she said.

Ultra-marathoner Dave Proctor, 41, set a cross-Canada speed record on July 21 when he arrived in Victoria, British Columbia, the CBC reported.

Proctor, of Okotoks, Alberta, set out from St. John's, Newfoundland, 67-1/2 days earlier, running an average of 66 miles per day.

"I feel like I'm on top of the world," Proctor said upon his arrival. "I've just seen the most beautiful country in the world."

Proctor ran through 12 pairs of shoes and consumed 9,000 calories per day.

"Cinnamon buns and scones, I'm still not sick of it," he said. Achieving his "lifelong dream" came on his second attempt; in 2018, he succumbed to a back injury after 32 days of hitting the pavement.

Joan Hutchinson, 75, appealed to the Cardiff (Wales) Magistrate Court after her boss at Asda, a supermarket, suggested she might want to retire because of her increasing dementia, Metro News reported.

The panel upheld her claims of age and disability discrimination, which may make her eligible for compensation from the store chain.

Colleagues noticed that Hutchinson was forgetful and confused when trying to stock items, and her boss, Stacey Weston-Laing, reportedly brought up retirement with her several times.

"It made Ms. Hutchinson feel she was being pushed out or that Asda felt she was too old to be there," employment judge Alison Frazer said.

Hutchinson had stopped driving after going the wrong way around a roundabout, and she once walked to work because she forgot where the bus stop was. Hutchinson quit her job in response to Weston-Laing's inquiries.

Gina Sheldon of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, arrived home from Europe and opened her luggage to find \$3,000 of gifts gone, WMUR-TV reported.

The items were "replaced with dog food, an old T-shirt, a shaving cream bottle," Sheldon said; she believes those items were used because they look like a "real luggage product" when scanned.

She had spent 11 days in Italy and a few in Paris and believes the switcheroo happened in the baggage area of Charles DeGaulle Airport in Paris.

Sheldon had bought a leather jacket for her teenager and "these really cute leather wristlet band purses" for other family and friends.

Delta Airlines and their partner Air France are looking into the incident.

According to the Associated Press, Suyin Ting, collections manager for vertebrate paleontology at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, is retiring, so researchers in Alabama and South Carolina honored her with a unique gift: They named a prehistoric shark species after her.

Carcharhinus tingae lived 40 million years ago and was identified using fossilized teeth in the museum's collection.

"I am very honored to be recognized by my peers for my work," said Ting on her retirement day.

McDonald's locations in Guangdong and Shanghai, China, are testing new in-store seating: exercise bikes.

A spokesperson said the bikes are part of McDonald's Upcycle for Good initiative, which promotes sustainability, United Press International reported.

They generate electricity, which customers can use to charge their devices. Oh, and they help customers stay healthier while gobbling a Big Mac and fries.

As bad weather kept Kristin Livdahl and her 10-year-old daughter inside, they looked for some fun challenges to do: "... laying down and rolling over holding a shoe on your foot," for example, Livdahl explained on Twitter.

But when the child asked Amazon's Alexa for a challenge, Fox News reported, it suggested she plug a charger cord about halfway into a wall, then hold a penny against the exposed prongs.

Fortunately, Livdahl was there with her and yelled, "No, Alexa, no! like it was a dog," she said.

Later, Livdahl received an email from Amazon, apologizing for the incident and promising to follow up.

It appears that red-winged parrots in Australia can't hold their liquor, according to Broome Veterinary Hospital in Kimberley.

It's the end of mango season, and the ripe fruits are falling to the ground, where they ferment in the sun.

The parrots indulge in the boozy treat – sometimes to their demise, ABC News reported.

"A lot of them, unfortunately ... don't make it to the clinic because they pass away before people find them," said veterinarian Paul Murphy.

It's not just the alcohol that kills them, but drunken behavior; Murphy said they fly into windows and sit on the ground, where they're vulnerable to predators.

When Olivia Crump tried to leave her apartment in Milledgeville, Georgia, she was surprised to find a crucial structure missing: the stairs to the ground floor.

According to the Daily Mail, Crump said the management company did not notify her about the stairs being removed for construction.

"It was impossible to get down without climbing over the ledge with a ladder or scaling the side with a decent drop below," she said.

She and her dog were trapped in the apartment for about four hours, during which the dog almost had an accident.

While Crump doesn't plan any legal action, she did note that the absence of stairs could be a fire hazard, and she hopes the management company will compensate tenants for putting them in a dangerous situation.

Alvis Parrish, 54, of Jacksonville, Florida, got tired of hearing her boyfriend, William Carter, talk so she gave him "just enough" poison in his lemonade to shut him up.

Then she called police "so he wouldn't die," clickorlando.com reported.

When officers arrived, Parrish was on her front porch, where she was handcuffed. "Do whatever you want," she told them. "If you don't take me, I will kill him."

A deputy who spoke to Carter, 61, said he was difficult to interview because he was so tired.

Carter said the lemonade tasted funny, then collapsed on the floor. Parrish is facing a charge of poisoning food or water with intent to kill or injure a person.

At a funeral at Rolling Hills Memorial Park in Richmond, California, a family brawl broke out after the deceased's son and daughter started arguing, SFGate reported.

Police were called to the scene around 1:30 p.m., where up to 20 family members abandoned the service to fight with each other.

The 36-year-old brother got into a vehicle and "attempted to drive toward his sister in an aggressive way, but instead he struck another female and sent her to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries," said Sgt. Aaron Pomeroy of the Richmond Police Department.

He also managed to knock over headstones and vases and break a water main, causing the funeral plot to fill up with water.

The coup de grace was knocking over the casket; fortunately, the deceased did not fall out. When the brother finally emerged from the car, someone hit him with a cane to subdue him. The brother was later charged with felony assault with a deadly weapon and vandalism.

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# Everclear's 30th anniversary tour includes Sept. 4 show in Corning

Everclear is doing what they like to do most summers—tour as much as humanly possible, often with fellow '90s alt rock brethren on the bill. But this year, the band's calendar features a major milestone as 2022 marks Everclear's 30th anniversary as a band. It's as good a reason as any to kick things up a notch.

In honor of this auspicious occasion, Everclear embarked on a North American 30th Anniversary Tour, which includes a stop at 8 p.m. on Sept. 4 at The Obsidian Spirits Amphitheater at Rolling Hills Casino in Corning. Fastball ("The Way") will open.

Vocalist, guitarist and founder Art Alexakis hints that the sets will run the gamut of Everclear's career, all the way back to some very early material, including songs from their currently out-of-print full-length debut, 1993's *World of Noise*. See [rollinghillscasino.com](http://rollinghillscasino.com) for tix.

"We're gonna do a couple of songs off *World of Noise* for sure, and maybe even some hidden gems from back in the day that were B-sides," Alexakis says. "And, of course, we'll still play all the hits and fan favorites."

The original 1993 release of *World of Noise*, paired with the band's significant efforts to break into college radio, attracted the attention of major labels, including Capitol Records, which signed the group soon after.

Thus began Everclear's major-label career, beginning with 1994's *Sparkle and Fade*, and its massive hit, "Santa Monica." The fan-favorite song was the subject of a 30th Anniversary Tour teaser video the band issued, showing them



performing the track in the early days and then flashing to clips of them playing it literally all over the world.

Alexakis notes that the early Everclear music from the *World of Noise* era captures him artistically in much leaner times. Back in 1992, after the demise of his band Colorfinger, Alexakis was struggling to make it in Portland, having moved from San Francisco with his pregnant and future wife. That extremely difficult personal and creative period was the crucible that forged Alexakis into the fiery songwriter heard on the early Everclear demos, the *Nervous & Weird* EP (1993), and ultimately the *World of Noise* LP, released in 1993 on

the Portland independent label Tim/Kerr Records.

"I was angry back then," Alexakis reflects. "I was 30 years old, broke, and the band I put four years of my life into just dissolved overnight - and I was living in a place that didn't like me because I was from California. People were constantly cutting me off when they saw my plates and flipping me the finger—even old ladies. I liked Portland. I wanted to fit in there, but man, people were just making it hard for me. But that was okay. I knew how to deal with adversity."

Determined to give band life one last shot, Alexakis placed ads in the local Portland music papers seeking

musicians for a new project, sending out cassettes with acoustic versions of the songs to those who responded. Future bassist Craig Montoya and drummer Scott Cuthbert were among those who answered the call. Those three would be responsible for getting Everclear not just up and running but soaring within the Portland scene.

"We just started plowing away," Alexakis recalls. "We sucked at first, but we got better and better and played lots of shows and just grinded it. Then we went in and made a demo for 400 bucks. It eventually became our first album, *World of Noise*."

Since then, Everclear has enjoyed a lengthy career by any measure, spanning 11 studio releases, including four that have been certified Gold or Platinum, selling over six million records, and achieving 12 Top 40 Hit Singles on Mainstream Rock, Alternative, and Adult Top 40 radio, including "Santa Monica," "Father of Mine," "I Will Buy You A New Life," "Wonderful" and "Everything To Everyone."

Three decades later, Alexakis doesn't plan on slowing down, despite the toll that the years, the substances, and now his recent battles with multiple sclerosis (MS) have taken on his frame.

"To me, it's a reason for celebration," he said. "I'm almost 60 years old. I've got MS. I've been through the ringer - a lot of it I put myself through - but I'm still here. The music's still here. Everclear is still here."

*Story from Everclear's bio and press release on the 2022 tour.*



## Staind at Rolling Hills Sept. 15

Formed in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1995 and known for such songs as "It's Been Awhile," "So Far Away," and "Right Here," Staind has hit the road for a tour in September that includes a stop at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 15, at the Obsidian Spirits Amphitheater at Rolling Hills Casino and Resort. Over the course of their career, the band has released seven studio albums and eight Top 10 singles, selling over 15 million albums worldwide. *Break The Cycle*, released in 2001 and RIAA certified five times platinum, featured the single, "It's Been Awhile," one of the most played songs in modern rock radio history, spending 20 weeks at Number 1. Tickets are available at [rollinghillscasino.com](http://rollinghillscasino.com)



## Beach Boys with Mike Love set for shows in Redding, Chico

The Beach Boys with Mike Love and featuring longtime member Bruce Johnston, are scheduled to perform two shows in the north state this month. The group is slated to be at Laxson Auditorium in Chico on Sept. 7 ([chicoperformances.com](http://chicoperformances.com)) and the next night, on Sept. 8, at the Cascade Theatre in Redding ([cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org)). Founded in Hawthorne, California in 1961, The Beach Boys, who were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988, were originally comprised of the three teenaged Wilson brothers: Brian, Carl and Dennis, their cousin Mike Love, and school friend Al Jardine. The original group has over 100 million records sold worldwide. Rolling Stone ranked their album, *Pet Sounds*, No. 2 on its list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time," and the Beach Boys No. 12 on its list of the "100 Greatest Artists of All Time." Brian Wilson continues to perform with Al Jardine in his band, including touring this past summer with Chicago.

# Symphony to 'Experience Joy' during new season that begins in September

North State Symphony has announced they'll have a full and eclectic offering of concerts for the 2022-23 season centered on the theme "Experience Joy."

Under Music Director Scott Seaton, the North Sacramento Valley's professional symphony invites audiences of all ages to celebrate live symphonic music and bring some much-needed joy into your lives.

No music is more full of joy and passion than Mariachi. On Sept. 24 in Chico and Sept. 25 in Redding, North State Symphony welcomes Los Angeles based Mariachi Garibaldi de Jamie Cuellar in a celebration of Latin composers. The three-time Grammy-winning ensemble tours widely and will join Seaton and musicians exploring works by Arturo Marquez, Juventino, Rosas and many more.

On Nov. 12 (Redding) and Nov. 13 (Chico), violinist Chee-Yun joins North State Symphony to perform the popular "Four Seasons" by Antonio Vivaldi. In a unique pairing, the symphony will also perform Astor Piazzolla's the "Four Seasons of Buenos Aires" in the style of the Argentinian tango.

New to the North State Symphony season is Holiday Pops! The symphony will fill the halls with joyous music of the season on Dec. 9 (Chico), Dec. 10 (Red Bluff), and Dec. 11 (Redding). With special guest soprano Daun Weiss, expect carols, selections from "The Nutcracker" and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at this fun, family-friendly concert.

A concert titled "Haydn's Drumroll" features works by Saint-Saens, Schubert, Telemann and Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 103 "Drumroll" as the anchor. This dazzling concert Feb. 11 (Chico) and Feb. 12 (Redding) will feature the recipients of the North State Symphony's 2022 Young Artist Awards and the MTAC Youth Orchestra and the Shasta College Youth Strings.

March 7 (Chico), March 8 (Red Bluff),



**Three-time Grammy winners Mariachi Garibaldi de Jamie Cuellar will be the guest performers for the North State Symphony's first concert of the 2022-2023 season.**

and March 9 (Redding), North State Symphony's annual young audience concert will feature Paul Dooley's "The Conductor's Spellbook" in which young Tony Stradivarius discovers a book of spells and uses it to fantastically control the orchestra.

The "Experience Joy" season comes to an extravagant close on May 13 (Redding) and May 14 (Chico) with blazing pianist Charlie Albright performing Rachmaninoff's prodigious "Piano Concerto No. 2." The concert and season conclude with the orchestra performing Antonin Dvorak's life-affirming "Symphony No. 8."

#### Tickets

Tickets for the upcoming North State Symphony season are on sale now and can be purchased for Redding patrons at [cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org) (530-243-8886), and for Chico patrons at [chicostatetickets.com](http://chicostatetickets.com) (530-898-6333).

More information on the upcoming season can be found at: [northstatesymphony.org](http://northstatesymphony.org).



PHOTO / Michael Killingbeck

Cast members for Riverfront Playhouse in a scene from Susan Sandler's "Crossing Delancey." From left: Cindy Robertson (Hannah), George T. Reed (Sam) Hollys Hanson (Bubbie) and Emory Hornaday (Isabelle / Izzy).

## Riverfront Playhouse presents 'Crossing Delancey'

Riverfront Playhouse presents "Crossing Delancey" by Susan Sandler. The show opens Sept. 9 and runs weekends through Sept. 24.

Directed by Marla Frost O'Brien, "Crossing Delancey" is the charming story of Izzy, a young Jewish woman, who is struggling to navigate between the traditional world she knows and the exciting newness of the unknown. She is caught in the middle with a handsome local author on one side and a gentle unpretentious pickle vendor on the other with her spirited and outspoken Bubbie prodding her from the center.

Join Izzy on her journey to discover herself and all the wonder that life can hold if you just get out of your own way a little bit. Sometimes you realize that your dreams look different than you thought they would and you see a slight change in perspective can upend your whole world.

O'Brien recently directed "Steel Magnolias" at Riverfront Playhouse. "Crossing Delancey" features Hollys Gallegos, Emory Colvin Hornaday and Cindy Robertson who all also starred in "Steel Magnolias." "Crossing Delancey" also features two newcomers to the Riverfront stage: Josh Connelly and George T Reed.

"Crossing Delancey" is a story of love and family and the traditions that hold us together. You won't want to miss this heartwarming and hilarious production.

For more information or to purchase tickets online go to [riverfrontplayhouse.net/tickets/tickets/](http://riverfrontplayhouse.net/tickets/tickets/) Tickets can also be purchased at Enjoy the Store in Redding or at the box office one hour before showtime (subject to availability).

*Riverfront press release.*



PHOTO / Brandon Baumann

Brenna Yeary, left, plays Percy and Lizzie Stoxen is Shelby in a scene from the Redding Performing Arts Center production of "The Spitfire Grill."

## Redding Performing Arts Center's 'The Spitfire Grill' includes live band

Redding Performing Arts Center presents the musical "The Spitfire Grill," Sept. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17 with a live band and a cast that features Brenna Yeary, Lisa Collins, Lizzie Stoxen, Jessica Fletcher, Spenser Deardorff, Jesse Myers and Scott Graham. The musical is directed by Brandon Baumann.

Baumann said the story is a beautiful and poetic folk musical about hope. "The Spitfire Grill" was a 1996 American film written and directed by Lee David Zlotoff. The off-Broadway play was written by James Valcq and Fred Alley.

The story revolves around a feisty parolee, Percy, who follows

her dreams, based on a page from an old travel book, to a small town in Wisconsin and finds a place for herself working at Hannah's Spitfire Grill. The Grill is for sale, but there are no takers for the only eatery in the depressed town, so newcomer Percy convinces Hannah to raffle it off. Entry fees are \$100 and the best essay on why you want the Grill wins. Soon, mail arrives by the wheelbarrow and things really start cookin' at the Spitfire Grill.

Performance are at the Redding Performing Arts Center, 3274 Bechelli Lane, Redding.

Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$18 for students and are available at [reddingpac.com](http://reddingpac.com)

# Frustration spurs California parents to run for school boards

Some parents who have been outspoken in their criticism of local school districts are finding allies in community members opposed to Covid safety protocols and other education policies. Buoyed by that support, they are now running to become school board members.

By Joe Hong - Calmatters.org  
Aug. 18, 2022

Across California, parents' pandemic-era frustrations over everything from Covid school closures and safety protocols to the power of teachers' unions are driving them to run for school boards.

Some are motivated by national controversies, such as critical race theory and LGBTQ+ education. Others want to make sure the record amount of money pouring into California schools benefits students directly. According to the California School Boards Association, about half of the approximately 5,000 school board seats in the state are up for election this year, but there's no official count of how many parents are running for these offices that have drawn so much ire during the pandemic.

"It's clear that we're really investing in our public schools," said Taylor Kayatta, a parent and school board candidate in Sacramento. "Whatever money we're making this year should be spent on this year's students. I don't like the idea of putting money away just to put it away."

Kayatta said he wants to streamline the clunky bureaucracy at Sacramento City Unified, which he and his family experienced first-hand. As he goes door-to-door to speak to voters, he starts the conversation with the story of his son and the struggle to get him a speech therapist through the district.

"There was a year or two where every day I'd wake up and say, 'Is this the day when we put our house on the market and move to Folsom?'" he said. "Because if I couldn't get my son the services he needed, there was only so much I could push."

The 37-year-old attorney is seeking public office for the first time. Kayatta's campaign for school board is a throwback to pre-pandemic times: more transparency, better communication and fiscal responsibility.

The local teachers union at Sacramento City Unified endorsed him, but Kayatta knows the endorsement might be a liability. Antagonism towards teachers unions fueled much of the parent activism during the pandemic.

"People might say that I'm a lackey," he said. "But I've told the union that I'm not going to silence myself."

In other parts of the state, parents who believed their personal liberties were violated by mask and vaccine mandates and sex education curricula found allies among school choice advocates and longtime opponents of teachers unions. The state Republican party has been tapping into this "parental rights" platform to support candidates it believes are aligned with its agenda.

Still, some school boards are struggling to find viable candidates, in some cases leaving candidates some consider extremists, like Dennis Delisle



PHOTO / Rahul Lal, CalMatters

**Taylor Kayatta (left) and parent-teacher Vanessa Cudabac during a door-to-door campaign strategy on Aug. 13, 2022. Kayatta is running for Sacramento City Unified School District Board Area 6.**

in Morgan Hill, to run unopposed. In Sacramento County, Jeffrey Perrine, who last year told the Sacramento Bee that he was a member of the far-right extremist group Proud Boys, is running for the board of the San Juan Unified School District.

Kayatta said he's more focused on making sure his district spends its money on teachers, avoids future labor disputes and attracts more families to its schools. He said Sacramento City Unified has been insulated from the national controversies that have plagued other districts during the pandemic.

"In urban districts, those aren't huge issues," Kayatta said. "I think it's something of a blue bubble maybe."

But even in San Diego, school board candidates struggled to see eye-to-eye with voters who seemed to only want to talk about sex education and critical race theory, an academic framework that examines how race is a construct of society and its laws.

"I told them parents always had control, that they could always opt out and that there were no critical race theory-based classes," said Lily Higman, who ran in the June primary for San Diego Unified's school board and lost. "But they were pushing these issues so hard."

Higman's platform included hiring more counselors and addressing chronic absenteeism. But voters' obsession with national education controversies consumed the conversation, she said.

"I didn't let them shape my platform, and that was probably to my detriment," Higman said. "There's such a big group of kids that have fallen behind, and while voters agree with that, they can't get off critical race theory and sex ed."

Vladimir Kogan, a political science professor at The Ohio State University who has written about local politics in California, said he's skeptical that the most vocal voters are representative of a community. He said a large body of research shows that candidates often misperceive public opinion.

"That is always the danger of democracy," he said. "It's always hard to know what your constituents want because it's so expensive to poll."

## 'The year of the parent'

In Orange County, opposition to Covid safety protocols converged with advocacy for charter schools. The Orange County Board of Education drew public attention during the pandemic when it sued Gov. Gavin Newsom for mandating masks on campuses.

"They were saying, 'I don't want my kids vaccinated and I don't want my kids masked,'" said former board president Mari Barke. "I think this is going to be the year of the parent."

Barke was mentioned in a Salon article in March that pointed out that her husband, Jeff Barke, a physician who denied the severity of Covid-19, had founded a charter school that uses curriculum provided by a Christian college. Barke said she recused herself when the county board voted to approve the charter school. But her opponents remain critical.

In June, Barke was up for re-election, a race that was characterized as a referendum on her leadership. Barke defeated Martha Fluor, a former board member at Newport-Mesa Unified. Fluor ran with the teachers union endorsement and lost with 32% of the vote to Barke's 59%. Barke said she wanted to run to protect the rights of "mama bears and papa bears."

"I think just naturally, if you are uncomfortable with the mandates at your local district, then you might want more options, whether that's to attend a virtual school or a charter school in the area," Barke said. "When people feel their parental rights are being diminished to a degree, I think they want more options."

Fluor, a former Republican who left the party after the Jan. 6 insurrection, said she ran to defeat what she called an extremist coalition subjecting schools to its political agenda. Fluor said the county board would often pray before meetings and opposed masks and vaccines. She said she and other like-minded candidates would have won if the election had been held in November, when more people are likely to vote.

"This race was really about political, ultra-conservative ideology versus what's in the best interest of kids," Fluor said. "The low voter turnout was our downfall."

Political scientists have long suspected that the parents who show up at board meetings don't necessarily represent the majority of their communities.

"It's probably the case that the most vocal people on both sides are really the vocal minority, and they're not speaking for most parents," said Kogan, the political science professor. "That's especially going to be true in urban districts serving the most disadvantaged students."

One of the most vocal organizations has been Let Them Breathe, which started as a group of parents opposing mask mandates at school districts in Southern California. Sharon McKeeman, founder of the group, is now running for the Carlsbad Unified school board in northern San Diego County. In 2021, Let Them Breathe sued San Diego Unified,

the second-largest district in the state, over its vaccine mandate.

McKeeman said she's seeking office after witnessing teachers unions using students as a "bargaining chip" and delaying the reopening of schools after they were shut down in the early days of the pandemic. She said she'll refuse to reinstate any mask mandates, even if teachers unions push for them.

"We will provide them with the resources so they can focus on teaching," she said. "I'm just not going to bow to union interests."

McKeeman said most teachers wanted to come back to in-person instruction sooner. She said she would be open to salary increases for teachers, considering how much money is going to public school districts. She wants to hire more art teachers in particular and reduce class sizes to raise math and reading test scores.

But she's also calling for more parental oversight of what's being taught in classrooms, especially when it comes to sex education. Parents who became politically active by opposing vaccine and mask mandates also seem to oppose lessons that "divide the family unit," McKeeman said.

"Parents saw the government overreach and force their children into masks," she said. "Those parents are looking into what else is going on in their children's school and curriculum."

In Sacramento, Kayatta said parents support masking and vaccines. He said districts need to remain vigilant and reinstate masking policies if the number of cases and hospitalizations rises again.

"A lot of school districts in the country are like, 'That's over now,'" Kayatta said. "I don't think we're quite there yet. I think we need to keep an eye on it."

When it comes to local school governance, parent activists want transparency in how districts are handling the billions of dollars in federal relief money they are receiving.

"Before Covid, if you asked parents to name a member of their school board, I guarantee most would have come up with nothing," said Megan Bacigalupi, the founder of CA Parent Power, a parent advocacy group established during the pandemic.

Bacigalupi said parents are most concerned about the quality of education and the mental health of students. "Risk of Covid infection is dead last," she said.

"I don't mean to keep talking about Covid but there's certainly money being spent on it," she said. "Where parents want the money to be allocated is very different."

Kayatta said he disagrees with large parts of the growing parent coalition, but he believes the new interest in politics among parents has made it easier to campaign.

"I think parents are paying a lot more attention now on either side," Kayatta said. "A lot of that came from having your kids at home. That's not going away any time soon."

*CalMatters.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization explaining California policies and politics. Read more at [calmatters.org](https://calmatters.org).*

# How the Inflation Reduction Act will lower your drug costs

Dear Savvy Senior,  
 What kind of changes can Medicare beneficiaries expect to see in the Inflation Reduction Act that was recently signed into law? I'm enrolled in original Medicare and have a Part D prescription drug plan but spent more than \$6,000 out-of-pocket last year on medications alone.

- Overpaying Paul



By Jim Miller

will begin in 2025 when out-of-pocket spending on Part D prescription drugs will be capped at \$2,000 per year. This will be a major savings for the more than 1.5 million beneficiaries who currently spend more than \$2,000 out-of-pocket each year.

2026

When Medicare's Part D program was enacted in 2003, negotiating lower drug prices was forbidden. But because of the Inflation Reduction Act, starting in 2026 Medicare will be empowered to begin negotiating prices with drug companies for 10 of the most expensive drugs covered under Part D. In 2027 and 2028, 15 drugs would be eligible for negotiations and in 2029 and subsequent years, 20 drugs would be chosen.

And, in addition to all the Medicare improvements, the Inflation Reduction Act also extends the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) premium subsidies for three years that have helped millions of Americans gain coverage before they're eligible for Medicare.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Dear Paul,  
 The climate, tax and health care bill known as the Inflation Reduction Act that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden last month includes significant improvements to the Medicare program that will kick-in over the next few years.

These changes will lower prescription drug prices for millions of seniors by allowing the government to negotiate drug prices for the first time and capping seniors' out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000 annually. Some other popular changes will include free vaccinations, lower insulin costs and expanded subsidies for lower income seniors.

Here is a breakdown of the changes to expect in Medicare and when they will roll out.

2023

Starting this January, all vaccines covered under Medicare Part D,

including the shingles vaccine, will be free to beneficiaries. And the skyrocketing cost of insulin will be capped at \$35 per month. This will be a significant saving for the more than 3 million Medicare enrollees who currently use insulin to control their diabetes.

Also starting next year, drug makers will be penalized in the form of "rebates" that they would be forced to pay to the government if they impose price increases that exceed general inflation.

2024

Cost sharing for catastrophic coverage in Part D will be eliminated. Under the current Part D benefit, once your out-of-pocket costs reach \$7,050 in 2022, you enter "catastrophic" coverage but are still responsible for 5 percent of your prescription drug costs, with no limit.

But in 2024, people with Part D

coverage will no longer be responsible for any out-of-pocket drug costs once they enter catastrophic coverage. This is significant for seniors who use expensive medications for conditions like cancer or multiple sclerosis.

Also starting in 2024 through 2029, Part D premiums will not be allowed to grow faster than 6 percent per year.

And for lower income Medicare beneficiaries, eligibility for the Part D Low Income Subsidy (also known as Extra Help) will be expanded to 150 percent of the federal poverty level, from today's limit of 135 percent. This change will mean about 500,000 more seniors will qualify for financial assistance to help pay some or all of their prescription drug premiums and deductibles.

2025

One of the biggest cost reduction measures for Medicare beneficiaries

## Can you detect self-neglect?



KNOW ABUSE | REPORT ABUSE

Self-neglect happens when older people no longer take care of themselves well. The behavior is usually unintentional. Seniors may not recognize these signs – but you can. Check in on loved ones, friends and neighbors. Take action when elders need help.

Watch for warning signs:

- Self-isolation or isolation caused by others
- Lack of adequate food, water
- Dirty clothing or hygiene
- Unusually messy home, or a change in previous tidiness
- Lack of medication or medical aids; Untreated medical conditions
- Unpaid bills, eviction notices or utilities shut off



Do you suspect self-neglect or elder abuse?

Call Shasta County Adult Protective Services

**(530) 225-5798**

24-hour hotline. Don't wait to help someone in need.

# THE BACK PAGE

October Deadline  
Friday  
September 16

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## Need to run a LEGAL NOTICE?



The InterMountain News is adjudicated and accepts legal notices for Shasta, Lassen and Plumas counties

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Adult(s) with special needs lives with you in your home, and you mentor them towards a better future.  
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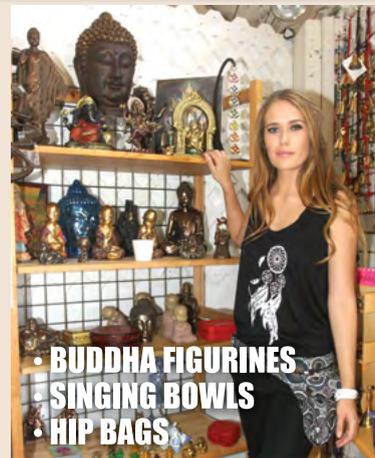
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**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**

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