

AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2022 / 35th Year / No. 12

THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

ON THE COVER

ROCKY HORROR

Tanya Stedman is Magenta and Robbie McFarlane is Riff Raff as 'The Rocky Horror Show' makes its return to Axiom Repertory Theatre Oct. 6-28. Director Ken Hill says this year's production features the same camp hilarity along with some new changes. See page 10

TOWER OF POWER

Fifty years later, Tower of Power founding member Emilio Castillo and the band are still creating their



unique music and are ready to bring that sound back to audiences with recognizable hits like 'You're Still a Young Man,' 'What is Hip?' and 'So Very Hard to Go.' The band's distinct sound is majestic on the turntable, but even better

... 'Down at the Nightclub.' In Redding, Tower of Power's 'nightclub' will be the Cascade Theatre as the band is scheduled for an Oct. 14 performance. Read about it in this After Five interview with Castillo on page 2

WITCHES ON BIKES

The 4th annual Witches on Bikes in Weaverville Saturday, Oct. 22, spreading enchantment and prosperity to local businesses. This and more happening in Trinity County. See page 11





Time for some East Bay R&B, Soul and Funk with Horns!

Tower of Power to hit the Cascade Theatre stage on Oct. 14

By Aaron Williams

The late concert promoter Bill Graham once said about the Grateful Dead “They’re not the best at what they do, they’re the only ones who do what they do.”

The same could be said about Tower of Power, the 50-plus-year-old band whose distinct sound gave inspiration for the many soul and funk bands who came after and provided some cache for the East Bay in the 1960s and ‘70s when the San Francisco Bay Area was a musical mecca.

“I think there’s a lot of jazz/rock/funk sounding bands out there, but Tower of Power has a unique sound that’s all our own,” said founding member Emilio Castillo. “There was a lot of pressure in the 80s to sound like everyone else, but we’ve always sounded like Tower of Power.”

“We’ve also found out that’s not a curse but a blessing.”

With a catalog that spans more than 50 years and includes such monumental and recognizable hits like “You’re Still a Young Man,” “What is Hip?” “So Very Hard to Go” and the incomparable “Squibb Cakes,” Tower of Power’s distinct sound is majestic on the turntable, but even better ... “Down at the Nightclub.”

In Redding, Tower of Power’s “nightclub” will be the venerable Cascade Theatre as the band is scheduled for an Oct. 14 performance. Tickets are available at www.cascadetheatre.org.

“A Tower of Power show should move you emotionally and physically,” said Castillo from Agoura Hills last month where he was working on Christmas arrangements for an upcoming ToP album of holiday music. “A live show should get you excited.

“There was a lot of pressure in the 80s to sound like everyone else, but we’ve always sounded like Tower of Power. We’ve also found out that’s not a curse but a blessing.”

- Emilio Castillo

It tweaks your moods when you hear those soul ballads. You should feel a plethora of emotions and be dancing and sweating.”

And while the band normally tours about 200 nights per year, Castillo said his goal as a young man in the East Bay was to focus about an hour east ... to be able to play Sacramento.

“I had a very small vision as a kid,” he said. “I loved the band and playing but there was a band called the Spiders who had a gig in Sacramento and I thought ‘If I could get to Sacramento’ I would have made it.”

“Like I said, I had small dreams.”

But Tower of Power came up in a time of not only social upheaval in the late 1960s/early ‘70s, but in perhaps the best place to be a musician at the time - the San Francisco Bay Area. From Santana to the aforementioned Grateful Dead to the Jefferson Airplane and Moby Grape, the scene was bursting with talent and new sounds.

And Tower of Power was among them.

“That was a unique time,” Castillo said. “For us, we came up at a time when the world was looking at the Bay Area.”

More than 50 years later, he and the band are still creating their unique music and ready to bring that sound back to audiences. Castillo, one of the two original members still with the band along with Stephen “Doc” Kupka, said that the break from touring because of the Covid pandemic was actually a bit of a blessing.

“Doc is my best friend and we see eye to eye on soul music, we see eye to eye in terms of songs and songwriting,” Castillo said of his longtime collaborator. “We’ve come through some dark times together. In sobriety and spirituality, we’ve been through it all.”

In addition to Castillo (tenor sax and lead vocals) and Kupka (baritone sax), Tower of Power consists of drummer David Garibaldi, keyboard player Roger Smith, lead tenor saxophonist Tom E. Politzer, Adolfo Acosta (trumpet and horns), Jerry Cortez (guitar), Marc van Wageningen (bass), Mike Bogart (horns) and vocalist Mike Jerel.

“It’s great to be back, live music

is my lifeblood,” Castillo said. “But at the same time, I had just remarried (around the time of the pandemic) and it was great to spend time with my wife. We have the same God and the same passions and it was a pleasure for me.”

But, he added, it’s time to get back on the road and do what makes Tower of Power so special ... to play live.

“We’re not the type of band that needs much time to get ready to go on the road, not when you’ve been playing 200 times a year for 54 years,” Castillo jokes. “We know what we’re going to do and if we need to work up a new song, we’ll take some time and do that.”

Castillo, however, knows that the Tower of Power formula is playing the songs that have made them famous.

“We’re in the business of giving the people what they want to hear,” he said, adding that the band has been sending a setlist back and forth for a few weeks leading up to the tour. “We play all the hits, but we can also add in an extemporaneous jam.”

‘Tis the season: Riverfront Playhouse presents ‘The Fall of the House of Usher’ Oct. 5 to Nov. 5

Just in time for Halloween, Riverfront Playhouse is proud to announce the opening of “The Fall of the House of Usher” by Jack Neary and based on the classic novella by suspense master Edgar Allan Poe.

The play, which runs Oct. 20 through Nov. 5, follows James Brookfield as he is invited to the home of his childhood friend, Roderick Usher, to “chronicle the evolution of the House of Usher.” What starts out as a pleasant distraction for James quickly turns into a maelstrom of horror as he uncovers the secrets buried within that old house.

Riverfront’s production is directed by John Welsh and it features Riverfront stage regulars Ian Dalziel and Sean Sampson as well as Erin Brennan, Chloe Freeland Davis, and newcomers Grace Coe, and Forrest Bryant.

For more information or to purchase tickets online go to riverfrontplayhouse.net. Tickets can also be purchased at Enjoy the Store, 1261 Market St., Redding, or at the box office one hour before show time (subject to availability). Riverfront Playhouse is located at 1950 California St., Redding.

Healthy Shasta's



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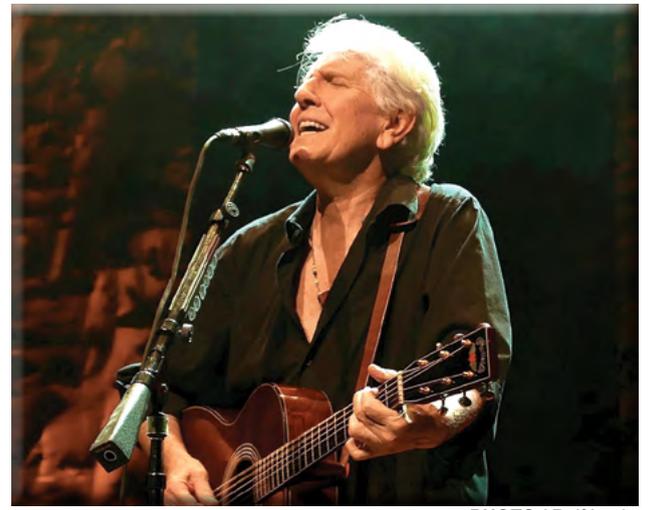


PHOTO / Ralf Louis

Graham Nash in Red Bluff

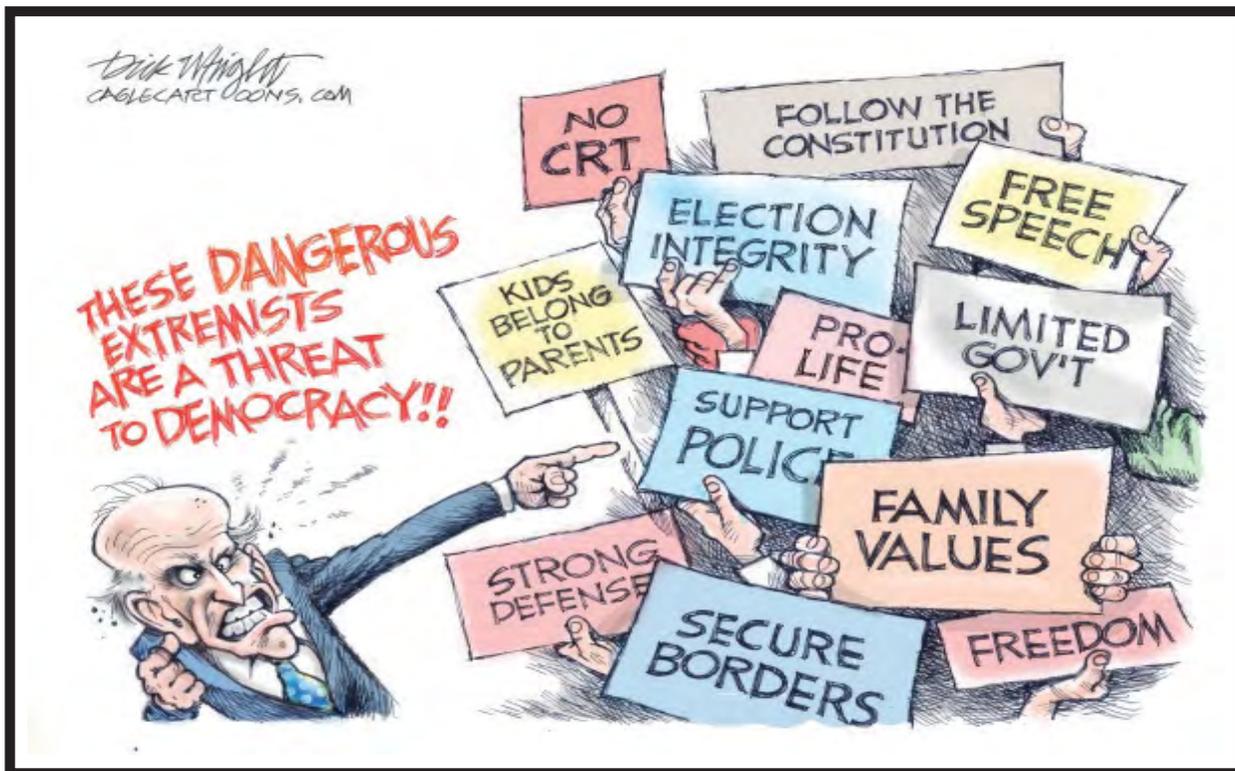
Two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee and founding member of Crosby Stills & Nash and the Hollies Graham Nash is scheduled to perform at the State Theatre in Red Bluff at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 7.

Nash is touring in support of his latest release, *Graham Nash: Live*, which finds Nash performing his first two solo albums, *Songs For Beginners* and *Wild Tales*, in their entirety, recorded on tour in the Northeastern U.S. in September, 2019.

Nash's remarkable body of work began with his contributions to The Hollies from 1964 to '68, including "Stop Stop Stop," "On A Carousel," "Carrie Anne," "King Midas In Reverse," and "Jennifer Eccles."

The original union of Crosby, Stills & Nash (& Young) lasted but 20 months but featured a wealth of classic songs, including Nash's "Marrakesh Express," "Pre-Road Downs" and "Lady Of the Island," from the first Crosby, Stills & Nash LP (1969). On CSNY's *Déjà Vu* (1970), Nash's iconic "Teach Your Children" and "Our House" (for Joni Mitchell) beseeched us to hold love tightly and to fend off the madness that was on its way.

For tickets and info., go to statetheatredbluff.com



AFTER FIVE The North State Magazine

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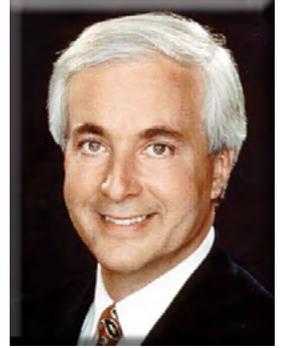
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Give me a news break

By Peter Funt



It wasn't exactly breaking news back in June, but it did stir interest among journalists when CNN's new boss, Chris Licht, conceded, "Something I have heard from both people inside and outside the organization is complaints we overuse the 'Breaking News' banner."

The term, he told his staff, "has become such a fixture on every channel and network that its impact has become lost on the audience."

Three months later CNN appears to have made modest progress in cutting back, but its three main broadcast competitors have gone dramatically in the other direction. Picking a recent Tuesday evening at random, I found that ABC's "World News Tonight" had the phrase on-screen for more than five minutes in its scheduled 21-minute newscast; "The CBS Evening News" used it for over six minutes, and NBC's "Nightly News" logged a ridiculous 10 minutes and 45 seconds.

Some would argue that all news is by definition breaking, otherwise it wouldn't qualify as news.

A fellow named Stu Paterson tweeted the other day: "The term should only be used on a story such as 'Putin shot in head.'" While pondering that I received a flash from the showbiz paper Variety—"Breaking News: Catherine Deneuve Is Not Ready to Retire and Has No Regrets."

NBC's efforts have become so extreme—and undisciplined—that on the night cited above, it used the "Breaking News" banner in an attempt to cover a portion of video with the words "CNN Exclusive."

The Associated Press gets credit for recognizing way back in 1906 that not all news is created equal. It coined the term "Flash" to signal clients that something really important was happening. In years to follow, news services used words like "Urgent" and "Bulletin" to flag the biggest stories. I used to get chills in the ABC newsroom on rare occasions when Reuters sent the designation, "Snap."

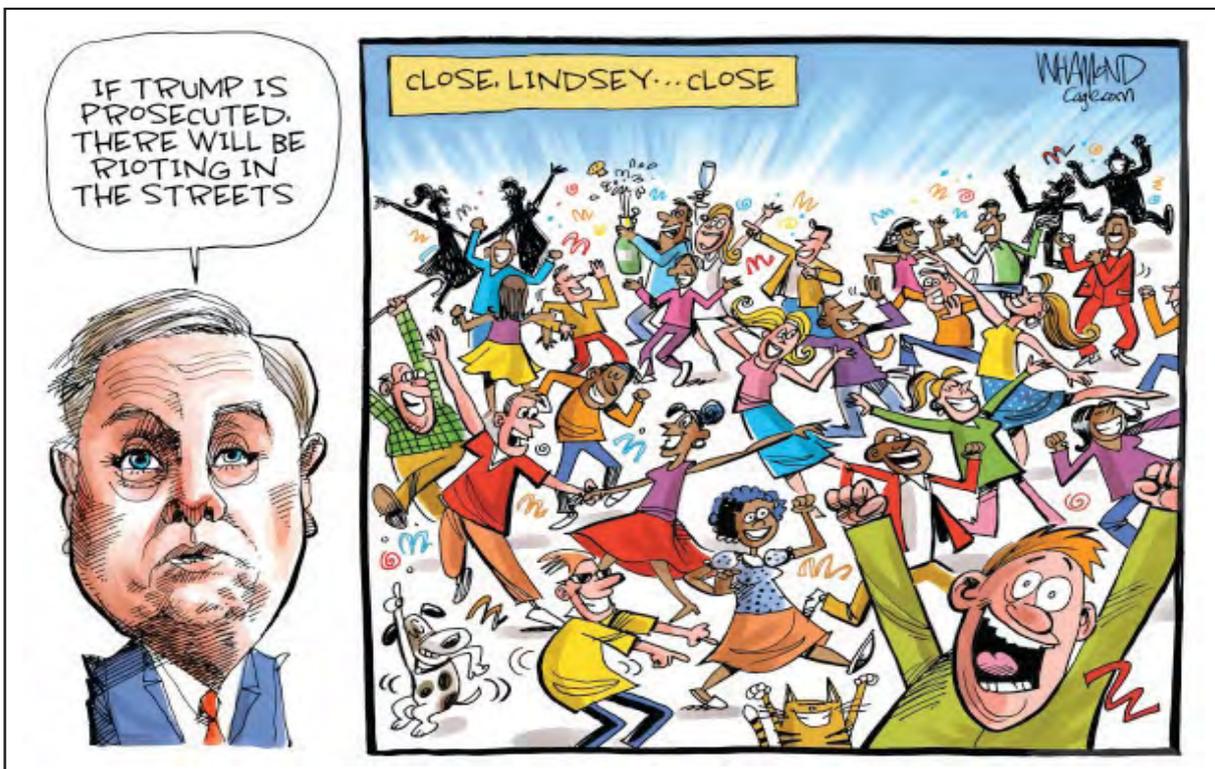
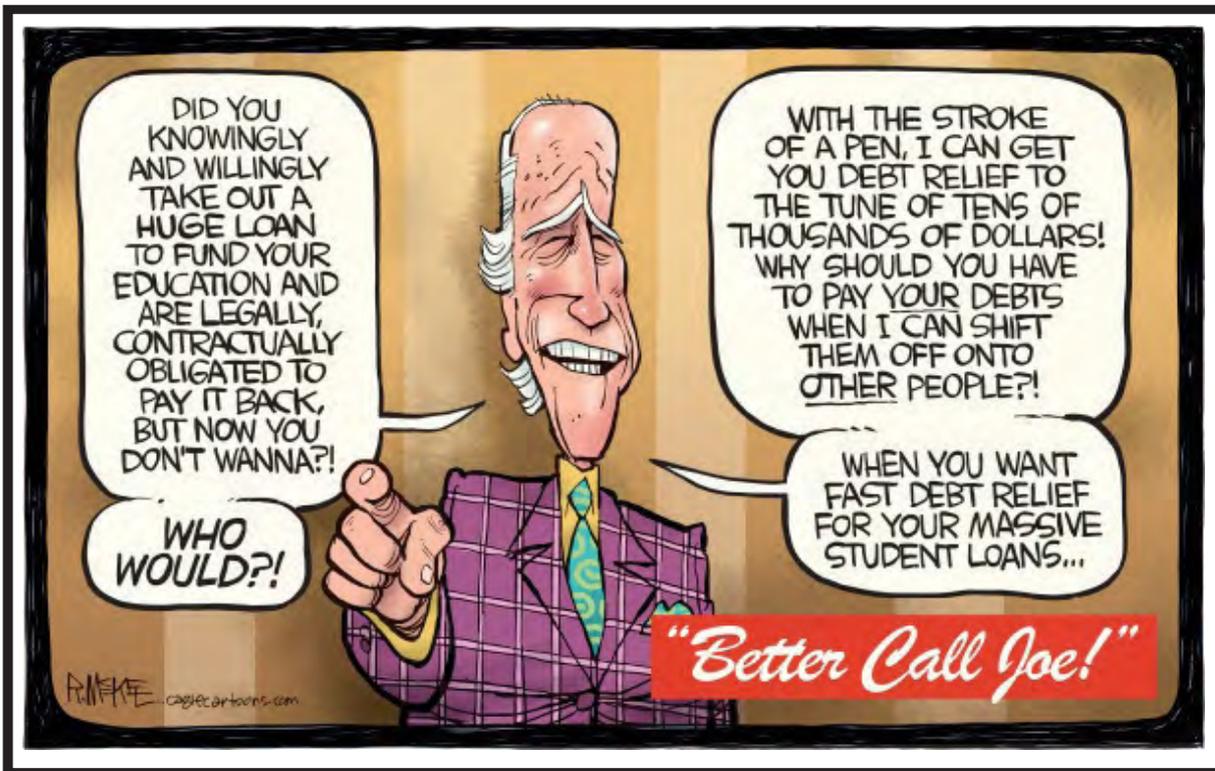
Cable-TV and the internet share blame for crying "Breaking"—or in Fox's case, "Alert"—whenever news seems remotely new or mildly important. With their 24-hour cycles it became necessary to notify viewers that news was, well, happening. It's an odd and unfortunate twist that the legacy broadcast networks feel the need to compete by suggesting that almost everything they report each evening, no matter how stale, is "Breaking News."

ABC, meanwhile, has decided that even better balderdash for conveying urgency is the word "tonight." In the broadcast cited above, David Muir and colleagues invoked the term "tonight" an incredible 64 times — an average of once every 19 seconds.

Of course, not all news happens at night and, despite what garish graphics say, most news isn't breaking. Coverage, however, does seem to be broken.

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Peter Funt's new memoir, "Self-Amused," is now available at CandidCamera.com.



JCA to hold 5 events during their month-long World Music Festival

Jefferson Center for the Performing Arts in Mount Shasta is holding their World Music Festival Sept. 24 to Oct. 21.

The five-event series kicked off Sept. 24 with the Chico Latin Orquesta. That will be followed by their Mount Shasta Oktoberfest on Oct. 1, Shasta Taiko & Goh Kurosawa on Oct. 8, QWANQWA from Ethiopia on Oct. 16, and Arjun Verma & William Rossel on Oct. 21.

Shasta Taiko

Shasta Taiko was founded by American taiko (Japanese drum) pioneers Jeanne Mercer and Russel Baba in 1985. Shasta Taiko has taught hundreds of Siskiyou County children and adults, exposed taiko to thousands through various performances, and presented leading American taiko artists at ShastaYama (2005-2016), the largest outdoor taiko festival in the country.

Goh Kurosawa

Scott Yanow, journalist for All Music & LA Jazz Scene, said of Kurosawa: "International touring musician Goh Kurosawa's music is beyond any simple classification. The guitarist improvises melodically, is open to the influences of pop, rock, flamenco, classical, Latin and Japanese music, and has his own musical identity."

QWANQWA

Brought together by a shared passion for the power of Ethiopian music, QWANQWA shines an experimentalism

based in the virtuosity of rooted traditions. With swirling masinko (one-stringed fiddle), wah-wah-violin, bass krar boom, and the unstoppable rhythm of heavy kebero (goat-skin drum) beats, and powerful traditional lead African diva vocals, QWANQWA keeps the people wrapped in celebratory attention.

Arjun Verma

Arjun Verma, sitarist, who was trained by the legendary Maestro Ali Akbar Khan, has spent his entire life steeped in the tradition of North Indian Classical Music.

As a composer, Verma has written commissioned works for documentary film, opera, and live performing arts. In 2021, Arjun released a solo album, *EPIPHANIES*, exploring his very personal relationship with the sitar and Indian classical music.

William Rossel

A disciple of legendary tabla maestro Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, Rossel is a talented tabla player, educator, composer, and inventor in the field of world music.

A professor of music at Yuba College, Rossel is the director of the Yuba College North Indian Music Ensemble, which he created in 2016, and he teaches a wide range of classes.

Tickets

For tickets and more information on all of the artists at this year's JCA World Music Festival, visit jeffersoncenterforthearts.com

JCA WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL
in MOUNT SHASTA continues through October 21st

GOH KUROSAWA & SHASTA TAIKO
SAT OCT 8TH 7PM

QWANQWA FROM ETHIOPIA
SUN OCT 16TH 7PM

ARJUN K VERMA SITAR & WILLIAM ROSSEL TABLA
FRI OCT 21ST 8PM

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THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

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Directed by John Welch

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October 21 - November 5

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"The Fall of the House of Usher (Neary)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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NEWS of the WEIRD

Angel Domingo of Toronto is a big fan of trading items on resell websites.

So when he moved into a new home and found a single cheese stick in the refrigerator, it was a no-brainer for him: Buy a billboard in Yonge-Dundas Square and offer the Black Diamond Cheese String in a trade for the best offer.

"This is probably the strangest thing that I've ever had to offer up," Domingo told Global News. "I guess some people really want it."

Indeed, he's received several offers for the cheese, the most unusual so far being a trade of two Persian cats. He hasn't made a deal yet, but he's in no hurry: There are months left before the cheese's expiration date.

Ranjita Kundu of Kodameta, India, has accused her husband of stealing and selling one of her kidneys four years ago, Oddity Central reported.

Kundu recently discovered after visiting the doctor that she has only one kidney; she believes that when she was treated for kidney stones four years ago, her husband secretly arranged for one of her kidneys to be removed and sold on the black market.

"I was unaware of the whole incident," she said. She even knows who he sold it to: Asim Haldar, who also lives in her district.

Kundu and her husband were married for 12 years before he took off with another woman eight months ago.

Kundu said with help from his sister, he sold the organ to make up for dowry money he believed he was owed. Police have taken him into custody and are investigating.

The recently renamed Washington Commanders are, understandably, trying to drum up excitement for their new brand, but one effort went disappointingly wrong, Yahoo! Sports reported.

In Week 1 of the NFL season, an official gear truck just outside the stadium, which is in Maryland, featured a mug with a big "W" on it and a silhouette of Washington state in the background.

Of course, the Commanders' Washington is the District of Columbia variety. The mugs were quickly removed from the inventory.

Pennsylvania State Police were called to a home in Monroe Township where a fight had taken place, WTAJ-TV reported.



When Jenn Ross returned home from the gym about 7 a.m., she found an unexpected guest in her Mount Maunganui, New Zealand, home: a young fur seal. Ross' husband, Phil, is a marine biologist but unfortunately wasn't home to meet the interloper, the Guardian reported. "I really missed my time to shine," he said. He believes the seal came in through the cat door and spent some time in the guest room and on the couch, but thankfully didn't relieve itself inside. "I think that would have been pretty terminal for the furniture," he said. It's not uncommon for the young seals to range far and wide at this time of year, Ross explained. "I guess, like all teenagers, they don't necessarily make sensible decisions," he said.

One of the combatants told officers that 35-year-old Brandon Shoop of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, had punched him after a disagreement about food.

Next, he said, Shoop picked up a half of a cinder block and swung it at the victim's head; he was able to partially duck, but the hit left a contusion behind his ear.

Shoop then tried to strangle the victim but was pulled off by a female witness; he was later charged with, among other crimes, aggravated assault.

In a "my bad" for the ages, the City of Philadelphia

erroneously chopped down 60 pounds of hops that belonged to the Philadelphia Brewing Co., Fox29-TV reported.

"Despite our clear signage and fenced-off area," the company wrote on its Instagram page, "the city ... took it upon themselves to completely destroy our hop garden," which they claim will cost them tens of thousands of dollars.

A spokesperson for the city said the incident was the result of "miscommunication and staff error" and "it appeared the lot was overgrown."

The Summit County (Colorado) Rescue Group

was in a helicopter looking for a lost hunter, KCNC-TV reported, when they spotted a man waving slowly and casually.

The crew radioed that they "had a subject that partially matched the description ... but his backpack was upside down so it was the wrong color," explained the group's Anna Debattiste.

"The pilot said, 'He's saying hi, he doesn't seem to be in distress,' so they left," she added.

In fact, it was the missing hunter, and in a classic case of blame-the-victim, Debattiste said he "should have" waved aggressively with both arms

overhead, or waved "a brightly colored piece of clothing."

Thankfully, the crew went back and retrieved the man, who was cold and dehydrated but otherwise unharmed.

Officials in Miami Beach, Florida, are weighing their options for dealing with the serious problem of invasive iguanas, Local 10 News reported.

The city has quadrupled its budget for iguana removal and paid a hunter to shoot and collect the pesky and destructive reptiles.

On Sept. 14, city commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez suggested a bounty.

"I don't know - dead or alive. But if we pay per iguana, we're going to get more iguanas. People are going to go out and hunt them for money," she said. A committee has been formed.

An outgoing state representative from Pennsylvania who earned a DUI arrest after a crash has proposed a bill that would allow residents to register for a self-imposed ban on alcohol purchases, Action 4 News reported.

Matthew Dowling said the law would add "another tool to an addict or alcoholic's arsenal to help them live through recovery."

He doesn't expect the measure to pass before he leaves office, he said, but hopes his colleagues will move it through in the future.

Al Pacino, admittedly, has committed a whole lifetime of crimes on the screen. Now, Alpatchino Jeune, 25, is following in his footsteps in real life, The Smoking Gun reported.

Jeune was arrested for beating up his pregnant girlfriend, who was driving him to work.

She told police she asked him to "think of his unborn child," but he went on hitting her - so she jumped out of the car and ran to an emergency room across the street.

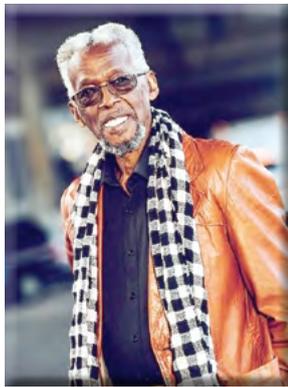
When Jeune didn't show up for his Sept. 1 court date, he was arrested again in Orlando, Florida, and his bond was revoked.

Toby Cohen and Jonathan Neman booked a rental home in the Hamptons for two weeks beginning on Aug. 22, to the tune of \$10,000. On Sept. 15, they filed a lawsuit, saying the home, owned by Agnese

-Please See Page 12



Allison and Victor



David Watson

Jazz in the Canyon returns in Dunsmuir

After a two-year hiatus, Dunsmuir will come together to celebrate one of America's own true art forms for the ninth annual Jazz in the Canyon.

A variety of musicians, vocalists, and bands will fill the autumn air with classic jazz, blues, bebop, and sambas, as well as jazz infused with folk, pop and originals.

Taking place in multiple venues, this year's three-day Jazz in the Canyon is scheduled Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.

Musical acts include the doctor of bebop, David Watson and his Portland-based It's a Hit band. Also featured this year is the Charles Valona Trio, Allison and Victor and The Midnight Band, Two5Live with Leanne Baxter on vocals, Honeybee Jazz, Nightsong and Jimmy Limo, fingerstyle guitarists Rick Garrett and the Lone Arranger, and jazz vocalist Scott Silber.

Food and drink specials and city-wide discounts, including treats for your pet and musical note tattoos, will be available.

For up-to-date schedules, artist information, including video links, and downloadable maps, visit jazzinthecanyon.com. The event is produced by Suzanne Scull and Allison Scull in association with AV Productions.



The Golinsky family and others in Kennett in the 19th century.

PHOTOS / Courtesy Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

Documentary on the underwater ghost town of Kennett scheduled for Oct. 15 screening at Riverfront

The Shasta Historical Society presents its October monthly program, "Kennett - The Town Under Shasta Lake," a documentary by Myra Buteau about the 19th century copper mining town.

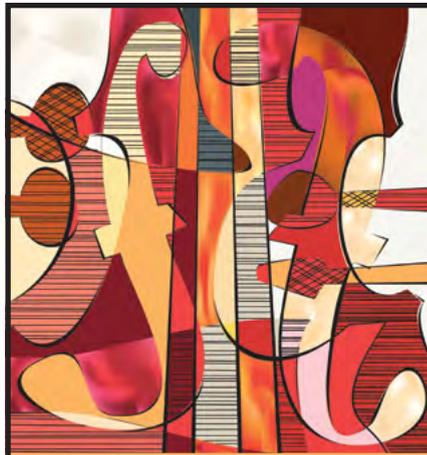
First, a Wintu Native American village, then known as Backbone in the Gold Rush era and later called Kennett when the railroad arrived, this town is now submerged 400 feet under Shasta Lake following the creation of Shasta Dam.

The event is free for Shasta Historical Society members and \$5 for non-members.

This program is in collaboration with the historical society's newest exhibit, "Hidden Treasures of Shasta Lake: What Lies Beneath the Waters?"

The exhibit explores the history that hides beneath the surface of Shasta Lake. Through this exhibit, learn why Shasta Dam was built and how Shasta Lake changed the landscape. Explore the mines and smelters built to extract and process ore and the communities that grew up around them in the late 1800s.

The exhibit runs through Jan. 8, 2023. The historical society is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. For more information, visit shastahistorical.org, email shs@shastahistorical.org, or phone 530-243-3720 extension 104.



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VIVALDI – *Four Seasons*

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Sunday, Nov. 13 | 2:00 p.m. | Laxson Auditorium, Chico



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The Cascade Theatre Box Office in Redding at 530-243-8877 or cascadetheatre.org

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Oct. 8.....HOOK (Big Bike Weekend)
Oct. 14 & 15.....HILL STREET BAND
Oct. 21.....MAGIC BUS
Oct. 22.....LUCKY BUCK BAND
Oct. 28-29.....THE STONE HEARTS

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Oct. 20 - CHRIS HAGGERTY
Oct. 27 - To Be Announced

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COVER PHOTO AND PHOTO ABOVE / Kim Mobely

The 2022 cast of Axiom's "The Rocky Horror Show."

If it's October, it must be time for the return of Rocky Horror Show at Axiom

"The Rocky Horror Show" makes its return to Axiom Repertory Theatre, from October 6-28, and Director Ken Hill says this year's production features the same camp hilarity along with some new changes.

"We're stoked about our fifth iteration of TRHS," Hill said. "Richard O'Brien's masterpiece deserves its accolades as one of the top ten post-WWII British plays.

Hill said that this year, they're really happy that Louie Licon returns as Dr. Frank n'Furter.

"Louie originated the role when we produced TRHS for the first time in 2016, upstairs in the ballroom at Old City Hall," he said. "We actually had to schlep the sets up and down the stairs, along with installing portable seating risers, curtains, lights, sound, and so forth there, but Axiom doesn't exist without Rocky. Now, it's a real luxury to have our own theatre, and it's awesome to have Louie back as Frank."

Licon played Brad the past couple of years, and with his move to Frank, Daniel Hill is stepping into Brad's shoes. Alongside him is Michaela Duarte as Janet.

"And we're very pleased to feature Trenton Eide as this year's Rocky," Hill said. "I've worked with Trenton for several years, and he's another exceptional talent in the north state."

Hill said they've come up with some other additions as well.

"Robbie McFarlane is this year's Riff-Raff, the role originated by Richard O'Brien himself," he said. "It was important that we find someone who can bring Richard's vision of Riff-Raff to life, and we've hit a home run with Robbie."

Also new to the cast this year is local filmmaker and actor, Tyler Lockamy, in the dual roles of Eddie and Dr. Scott.

"We're laughing our butts off in rehearsals," Hill said. "Tyler was great in Axiom's recent production of "Spamalot," and he's equally hilarious here as well."

Local triple-threat and dance instructor, Kylie Mannion, will don her tap shoes as she wears the iconic gold top hat as Columbia.

"We've had some great actors play the role, but this is the first time we've had a trained tap dance professional tackle

it," the director said. "She's amazing and gives us all goosebumps."

Returning cast member Jarred Newman reprises his role as the play's narrator, and original cast member Tanya Stedman returns in her dual roles as Trixie and Magenta. Stedman is also the costume designer for TRHS, and has some surprising new looks and pieces planned.

"I wanted to go with a 1950's sci-fi sensibility for this year's show, so we're bringing in some new looks while still retaining some of our favorite pieces from prior shows," she said.

Added Hill: "Every year we try to do something slightly different than the years before. This production is no exception."

Mikalea Raudman returns as a Phantom and is joined by newcomers Ann Marie Lockamy, Jennifer Keys, Hayden Kay and Nikki Leocorde.

Kay appeared in Axiom's inaugural production of Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," another top 10 British post war play, Hill said.

"It's good to have Hayden back in TRHS," he said. "And, as a group, this year's Phantoms are remarkable. It's a rock-solid, stellar cast from top to bottom. There's not a weak link in the chain."

Hannah Lafferty returns as the show's choreographer, and Mark Amacker rounds out the production team as Rocky's vocal director.

This year, following the opening Friday night and every subsequent Saturday night show, karaoke will follow in Axiom's Looking Glass Lounge, free of charge.

Also new for this year, Axiom is producing a full set of RHS trading cards.

"We've extensively photographed the cast and are creating a unique set of 'rookie' trading cards for 2022," Hill said. "Each pack of cards will feature all the characters you know and love, and after each show the cast will come into the lounge to sign your cards for you. Not every pack of cards will be the same, so trade them with your friends."

Tickets are available online at axreptheatre.com, by phone at 530-605-0500, or at the theatre, located at 2613 Bechelli Lane, Redding.

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axreptheatre.com/rockyhorror

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NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 8

Melbarde and Edouard Gass, was "uninhabitable."

Why? Because the thermostat had been set to "a minimum temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit and then locked," The Daily Beast reported.

The plaintiffs and their families, who wanted the A/C set at 68 degrees, were "forced to endure continuous discomfort for the duration" of their holiday, which ruined it for them.

When they complained to the owners, they said, they were told to "suck it up and deal."

Neman and Cohen also allege that workers showed up to spray "toxic chemicals" in the backyard during their stay, which forced them to stay inside for several hours.

The suit asks for a full refund of their rental fee and "any further relief this Court deems just and proper."

The Kitchen at London House, a popular restaurant on the Isle of Wight in the United Kingdom, put their foot down when they rolled out their new menu with no vegan items, the Daily Mail reported.

The eatery used to feature some vegan selections, but owner Sally Cooper said they stopped because of a "militant minority. ... (W)e got fed up with the arrogant, 'holier-than-thou' attitude. ... If you want vegan food, go to a vegan restaurant. ... Your choice does not fit with our style of cooking."

Elizabeth Leon, 18, was hired to babysit a 4-year-old in Aventura, Florida, from 1:45 p.m. until midnight on Aug. 15, Local10 reported.

When the child's mother texted Leon at 11:14 p.m. to say she was headed home, Leon texted back that she was "heading out ... because her mother paid for an Uber to take her back home and it arrived ahead of time," an arrest report said.

Leon told the mother she had locked the door and requested her \$168 payment.

The mother checked her Ring doorbell recording and saw that Leon had actually left at 9:45 p.m., leaving the child alone for more than two hours.

On Aug. 22, Leon was charged with child neglect and transferred to jail, where she's unlikely to be able to leave early.

Behold the cautionary tale of Eric Merda, who shared his harrowing story with WTSP-TV.

Merda was at the Lake Manatee Fish Camp in Myakka City, Florida, when he became lost in the woods.

When he found the lake, he decided to swim across: "Not the smartest decision a Florida boy could make," Merda said.

As he swam, a gator got hold of his forearm and dragged him underwater

three times, he said, and "when we came up the third time, she finally did her death roll and took off with my arm."

Merda, suffering indescribable pain, returned to shore and started to walk, trying to find his way out of the swamp.

Three days later, following the sun and power lines, he found a fence and a man on the other side. Merda told the man what had happened, and he summoned help.

Surgeons amputated what remained of Merda's arm; now he's speaking out about the danger of alligators.

"You guys know who you are, throwing rocks at them. Leave them gators alone."

Kindt Clinics in Amsterdam, which treats anxiety, phobias and PTSD, posted a job opening for someone who is able to vomit at will, NL Times reported.

The person who fills the part-time position will help patients who have a fear of vomiting, replacing a previous employee who retired.

Psychologist Maartje Kroesse, who posted the position, said the response has been overwhelming: "There are many more applications than expected. Our new transmitter is certainly among them." (Transmitter?) One hopeful applicant gushed: "Now I can finally share my art: vomit on command!"

During the U.S. Open tennis tournament on Sept. 6, as a match unfolded between Nick Kyrgios of Australia and Karen Khachanov of Russia at Arthur Ashe Stadium, two men in the stands stole the show for a few minutes, the Associated Press reported.

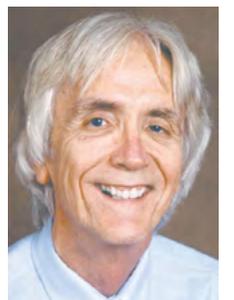
YouTube prankster JiDion donned a barber's cape while a second man gave him a trim with clippers – at least until tournament security arrived.

"They were escorted out of their seats and then off the grounds for disruption of play," USTA's Brendan McIntyre said.

"There's a first time for anything." However, it wasn't the first for JiDion: He got a trim at a Timberwolves vs. Mavericks game in March, and in July, he was banned for life from Wimbledon for blowing an air horn during a match between Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is with great sadness that we share the news of

Chuck Shepherd's death on Thursday, Sept. 8. Chuck was the originator of News of the Weird in 1988; he stopped writing the column in 2017. His great wit and eye for the "weird" made the column a huge success and a favorite among newspaper readers.



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OCTOBER 22 • 6-8PM—THE WHEELHOUSE • A ROCKY HORROR SHOW

OCTOBER 28 • 6:30-8PM—THE WHEELHOUSE • TRIVIA NIGHT

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Big change for big rigs: California unveils mandate to phase out diesel trucks

In another worldwide first, California would require new trucks to be zero-emissions in 2040. Large companies would gradually convert fleets. Truckers worry about the costs and practicality of electric trucks.

By Nadia Lopez, CalMatters.org
September 16, 2022

New big rigs and other trucks will have to be zero-emissions in 2040 — ending their decades-long reliance on high-polluting diesel — under a proposed regulation unveiled by the California Air Resources Board.

Under the proposal, manufacturers couldn't sell new medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks fueled by diesel or gasoline that operate in California, instead turning to electric models. In addition, large trucking companies would have to gradually convert their existing fleets to zero-emission vehicles, buying more over time until all are zero emissions by 2042.

In another worldwide first, California aims to amp up its efforts to end the use of fossil fuels by setting requirements for clean-burning big rigs, garbage trucks, delivery trucks and other large trucks. Transportation is California's largest contributor to climate-warming greenhouse gases as well as smog and other air pollutants.

Chris Shimoda, a senior vice president at the California Trucking Association, which represents truck drivers, said zero-emission truck technology has great possibilities, but truckers worry about "the practical unknowns," such as the high cost of the trucks, a lack of charging stations and the limited range of the vehicles.

"We're flying blind into some pretty major questions about the practicality of actually implementing this rule," Shimoda said.

The air board did not include cost estimates for trucking companies and truck drivers in its proposal, only saying that their upfront costs would be high but they'd save money over time.

About 1.8 million heavy-duty trucks on California's roads would be affected by the regulation, according to the report.

The proposed rule could put about 510,000 carbon-free medium and heavy-duty vehicles on California's roads in 2035, increasing to 1.2 million in 2045 and nearly 1.6 million in 2050, according to the air board. Currently there are only 1,943 zero emission medium and heavy duty vehicles on the state's roads, and nearly all of them are buses.

The new truck mandate is "really a critical piece of the state's climate and clean air objectives," said Patricio Portillo, a clean transportation advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council. "A common sight on California's highways are trucks clogging lanes, blowing thick smoke into the sky while overheated trucks rest at the side. It's so normal that we stop thinking about it, but that exhaust permeating the air harms our lungs and bodies."

The air board will hold a public hearing on the proposal on Oct. 27, after a 45-day public comment period. It comes just a few weeks after the air board passed another far-reaching mandate that bans sales of gas-powered cars by 2035.



PHOTO / Martin do Nascimento, CalMatters

Shipments of cargo leave the Port of Oakland on July 25, 2022. California is scaling up efforts to ban diesel trucks and phase in zero-emission trucks.

California has been ratcheting down emissions from diesel-powered trucks and buses for decades in an effort to combat the state's severe air pollution. The new proposal builds on a clean trucks regulation passed in 2020, which gradually increases the number of zero-emission trucks that manufacturers must sell, starting in 2024.

The provisions requiring turnover of existing fleets would apply only to federal agencies and so-called "high-priority fleets," which are owned or operated by companies with 50 or more trucks or \$50 million or more in annual revenue. Included are trucks weighing 10,001 pounds or more and package delivery vehicles of 8,500 lbs or more, including U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, UPS and Amazon fleets.

These large companies and federal agencies would have a choice on how to comply: They could purchase only zero-emission vehicles beginning in 2024 while retiring diesel trucks at the end of their useful life. Or they could phase-in zero-emission trucks as a percentage of their total fleet, starting with 10% of delivery trucks and other types that are the easiest to electrify in 2025, then ramping up to 100% between 2035 and 2042.

The requirements for converting fleets would not apply to smaller companies, unless they were using a larger company's trucks. They could keep their trucks as long as they want under the proposal, although their new purchases would have to be zero-emission by 2040, according to Tony Brasil, chief of the air board's transportation and technology branch.

"We also believe that some of the market dynamics will probably encourage fleets to replace their trucks earlier," Brasil said. "As new zero emission trucks become available, the cost of operation is considerably lower."

Working toward the 2040 ban on new diesel and gas trucks, the proposal has other deadlines for phasing in new sales, varying based on the type of truck.

Drayage trucks — used largely to transport cargo from ports and railways — would have the strictest timeline. New models would be zero-emission in 2024, while diesel and gas drayage trucks must retire after 18 years to guarantee that they meet a zero-emission requirement by 2035.

In addition, half of all new trucks purchased by state and local governments would be zero-emission

in 2024, increasing to 100% by 2027. Some exemptions are allowed, if there is a lack of available models. Counties with small populations, including Inyo, Butte, Mendocino and Tuolumne, would be exempt until 2027.

The new rule banning sale of diesel vehicles would not apply to emergency vehicles, such as ambulances.

Some manufacturers have already announced plans to ramp up sales of electric truck fleets. Tesla plans to roll out electric semi trucks with 500 miles of range later this year, while Volvo Trucks and Nikola Inc. have launched electric big-rigs and other models with ranges of up to 350 miles. Volvo Trucks this year set a global goal that half of its truck sales would be electric by 2030.

"We are determined to lead the transformation of the transport industry," Roger Alm, president of Volvo Trucks, said in a statement. "The interest among customers is high and it's quickly becoming a competitive advantage for transporters to be able to offer electric, sustainable transports."

But challenges with the transition remain.

Many electric heavy-duty trucks currently on the market still lack the range needed to transport cargo statewide and across state lines. Some vehicles like drayage trucks are better suited for electrification because those vehicles may not need as long of a vehicle range, said Shimoda of the California Trucking Association. But for long-haulers, the mandate could pose serious problems, he said.

Long-haul diesel trucks can operate up to 1,000 miles before needing to refill the tank, which takes 10 to 15 minutes to fill up. But electric models have to be charged often because they have "significantly shorter range" and they take hours to charge.

"The charging infrastructure that is necessary to support these trucks is basically non-existent today. Even the fastest available chargers right now are going to take three to four hours to charge up to a full state," said Shimoda, who represents California truckers.

Todd Spencer, president and CEO of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, said charging times of more than two hours could "cause total disruption" of the industry.

"Neither the technology nor the interstate infrastructure will be available

in the foreseeable future to support a zero-emission requirement for long-haul interstate trucks," he said.

Some new technology, however, has already surfaced that dramatically cuts the charging time. The newest model of the Volvo eVNR tractor-trailer can recharge to 80% in just 90 minutes.

The mandate also would increase demand on the state's already-fragile electric grid.

"These charging stations are going to be a huge, huge power draw," Shimoda said. "To put into context, the Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara on a game day uses around 300 to 350 kilowatts of power. A charging station needed for a big rig is going to be like 30 times larger."

Stanley Young, an Air Resources Board spokesperson, said many concerns over the charging infrastructure are already being addressed under the buildout of the grid outlined in the state's proposed scoping plan, its climate change blueprint.

Though new model prices are high, electric trucks would need much lower maintenance costs over time compared to fossil-fueled engines and would save money to recharge with electricity than diesel.

Shane Levy of Proterra, an electric vehicle technology company, said the company has rapidly scaled up its battery technology in recent years. It is currently working with more than a dozen manufacturers to electrify medium- and heavy-duty trucks and has delivered battery systems for more than a thousand commercial vehicles.

He said the new rule could accelerate the market.

"Commercial vehicles are ripe for electrification — benefiting not only how we move people around cities and towns, but also how we provide goods and services to the communities we live in," he added.

Some state and federal subsidy programs could also help provide relief to companies and truck drivers.

Although the board provided no cost data, staff said the long-term economic net benefits are expected to save companies about \$22 billion over the life of the regulation and will save more than 5,000 California lives between 2024 and 2050, according to air board staff's estimates.

Environmental groups say the deadlines should be accelerated by four years, from 2040 to 2036 for all sales of new zero-emission trucks.

Portillo, of the Natural Resources Defense Council, said speeding up the transition would have health benefits for low-income, disadvantaged communities that live near highways, railyards and ports, where trucks spew toxic diesel exhaust and smog-forming pollutants.

Diesel exhaust is one of the most harmful pollutants that threaten Californians' health, containing more than 40 carcinogens as well as particles that contribute to cardiovascular and respiratory disease.

CalMatters.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization explaining California policies and politics. Read more at calmatters.org.

How to find an old former company 401(k)

Dear Savvy Senior,
How do I go about looking for an old former company 401(k) plan that I think I contributed money to many years ago, but forgot about until recently?

- Retired in Rochester

Dear Retired,
If you think you may have lost track of an old 401(k) retirement account, you aren't alone. As Americans move from job to job, many leave scraps of their company sponsored 401(k) plans behind, believing they'll deal with it later, but never do.

In fact, according to a recent study, Americans have left behind around \$1.35 trillion in retirement accounts that are connected to previous employers. To help you look for an old 401(k), here are some suggestions along with some free resources that can help you search.

Call Your Former Employer

The first way to look for an old 401(k) account is to contact your former employer's human resources department. Ask them to check their plan records to see if you ever participated in their 401(k) plan, and if so, how much it's worth. You'll need to provide them your Social Security number and the dates you worked for them.



Savvy SENIOR

If you need help tracking down your former employer because it may have moved, changed owners or merged with another firm, help is available from the Labor Department (AskEBSA.dol.gov, 866-444-3272) and the Pension Rights Center and Pension Action Center (PensionRights.org/find-help).

If there was more than \$5,000 in your 401(k) account when you left, there's a good chance that your money is still in your workplace account.

Your former employer should be able to either get you the forms necessary to roll over your retirement money to a different 401(k) or to an IRA, or to give you contact information for any outside financial institution overseeing the plan on your employer's behalf. By following the appropriate instructions, you'll be able to move your retirement money where

you want.

But if your old 401(k) account was under \$5,000, your former employer has the option of transferring the money to a default individual retirement account without your consent. Your cash may go into an interest-bearing, federally insured bank account or to your state's unclaimed property fund.

If this is the case, and your old employer cannot tell you where your 401(k) funds were sent, you'll need to track it down yourself.

Searching Tools

While there's no federally run national database where you can look for all the retirement accounts that are associated with your name, a good place to start your search is with the Department of Labor's abandoned

plan database at AskEBSA.dol.gov/AbandonedPlanSearch. And [FreeErisa \(FreeErisa.BenefitsPro.com\)](http://FreeErisa.com), which maintains a rundown of employee benefit plan paperwork.

There's also the National Registry of Unclaimed Retirement Benefits at UnclaimedRetirementBenefits.com. This site works like a "missed connections" service whereby companies register with the site to help facilitate a reunion between ex-employees and their retirement money. But not every company is registered with this site.

To see if your 401(k) money was turned over to the state's unclaimed property fund, use the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators website (Unclaimed.org) to search. Or you can do a multi-state search in 39 states at MissingMoney.com.

Or, if you think you were covered under a traditional pension plan that was disbanded, call the U.S. Pension Guaranty Corp. at 800-326-5678, or use the trusted plan search tool at PBGC.gov/search-trusted-plans.

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



By Jim Miller

After fires and rising building costs, maybe a "tiny house" is the way to go

Kurt Bowden, a local home designer who has been designing in Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity counties since 1985, is thinking twice about retirement. A resident of Lakehead for over 30 years, he and his wife have experienced plenty of threats from wildfires. Just in the last several years the Carr, Hirz and Delta fires and, most recently, the Salt fire, which burned within a 1/4 mile of their home.

"Watching families lose their homes, many of which I designed, is tragic. It's clear to me that wildfires are now a part of living in the North State," Bowden said. "The beautiful wooded environment that enticed us to buy, build and live here is now our biggest enemy."

Since 2008, Cal Fire has implemented fire safe building construction methods for "Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zones" and continues to upgrade those standards year after year. Do these new building standards save homes and save lives? Requiring non-combustible exterior finishes such as stucco and tile roofs, and requiring new homes in these areas to have sprinkler systems undeniably helps make the home safer. However, when hit by the intensity of fires like the Carr Fire in 2018, stucco exteriors and tile roofs failed miserably.

"I'm not offering a disaster proof home," Bowden said. "What I can offer is a way to rebuild in a less expensive manner. I'm not talking about alternative residential construction methods like rammed earth, IFC (insulated concrete forms), straw bale, or concrete block. I'm suggesting designs using conventional construction methods (wood frame) that are easier and less expensive to build."

A comment that Kurt says he hears often from past clients who have lost their homes in recent fires is that they realize that they just don't need a "big house" anymore. The "tiny house," which has been a popular trend in recent years, seems to have people thinking about living simpler and more minimalized lives. Moving from a 3,000 square foot home into a 640 square foot tiny house obviously is not for everyone. But if you consider what you really need to be comfortable, sometimes smaller is better.

There are very basic ways to make a home more affordable from a design aspect. Simplified foundations and roofs are at the core of that concept. Creating a compact, "fun" design that brings the outdoors into most or all of the rooms of the home can make the living experience more unified. Roll-up or large pocketing window walls that bring all the rooms together around a water or fire element can bring the family closer as a unit while maximizing the natural features of the property you fell in love with.

If the idea of rebuilding your home in a more creative and less expensive way sounds attractive, contact Kurt Bowden at Fine Line Design and let him share some of his ideas with you.

Kurt Bowden, designer, Fine Line Design
(530) 238-2914 * finelinehouse@shasta.com

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ONE PILL CAN KILL



Shasta County
Health & Human
Services Agency

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose

THE BACK PAGE

November Deadline
Friday
October. 14

(530) 275.1716 • (530) 725.0925

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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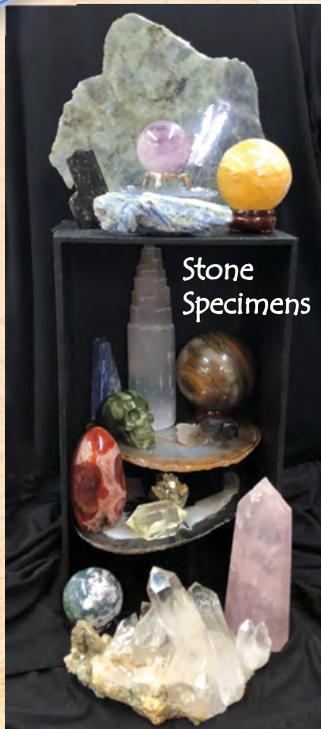
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A5

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