

# AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2022 / 36th Year / No. 1

THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

## ON THE COVER

### SEASONAL JOURNEY

*The North State Symphony will hold its second concert of the season Nov. 12 at the Cascade Theatre in Redding and Nov. 13 at Laxson Auditorium in Chico performing 'Masterworks 2: The Four Seasons' with guest violinist Chee-Yun. See page 14*

### DAVE MASON

*Rock out with Dave Mason and all his hits, including 'Feelin' Alright?,' 'Only You Know & I Know,' 'We Just Disagree,' among others at his Nov. 15 slated Cascade Theatre show. The 76-year-old Mason was prepping for his upcoming West Coast swing from his Gardnerville, Nevada home where he shared in an*



*After Five interview that after more than six decades in the business, getting to play live is still the golden ring he chases. See page 2*

### RANGER-LED HIKES

*Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is offering a series of Saturday morning ranger-led hikes this autumn. The hikes are approximately two miles in length and continue through Nov. 19. See page 17*



By Aaron Williams

If you want to know some rock 'n roll dirt, you'll have to wait until 2023 and read Dave Mason's tell-all biography "Only You Know & I Know" where the legendary rocker dishes all the juicy details of his more than 60 years making hits.

If you want to see Mason rock out with all his hits, including "Only You Know & I Know," "Feelin' Alright?" and "We Just Disagree" then you need a ticket for his Nov. 15 show at Redding's Cascade Theatre. Seats are available at [cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org).

The 76-year-old Mason was prepping for his upcoming West Coast swing from his Gardnerville, Nevada home where he said in a phone interview with *After Five* that after more than six decades in the business, getting to play live is still the golden ring he chases.

"I love playing live; it's great to make music," he said. "You play for a couple of hours and then spend the rest of the time waiting to get back up on stage (again). And as long as everyone (in the band) remembers what the hell they're doing and their parts, it's pretty damn good."

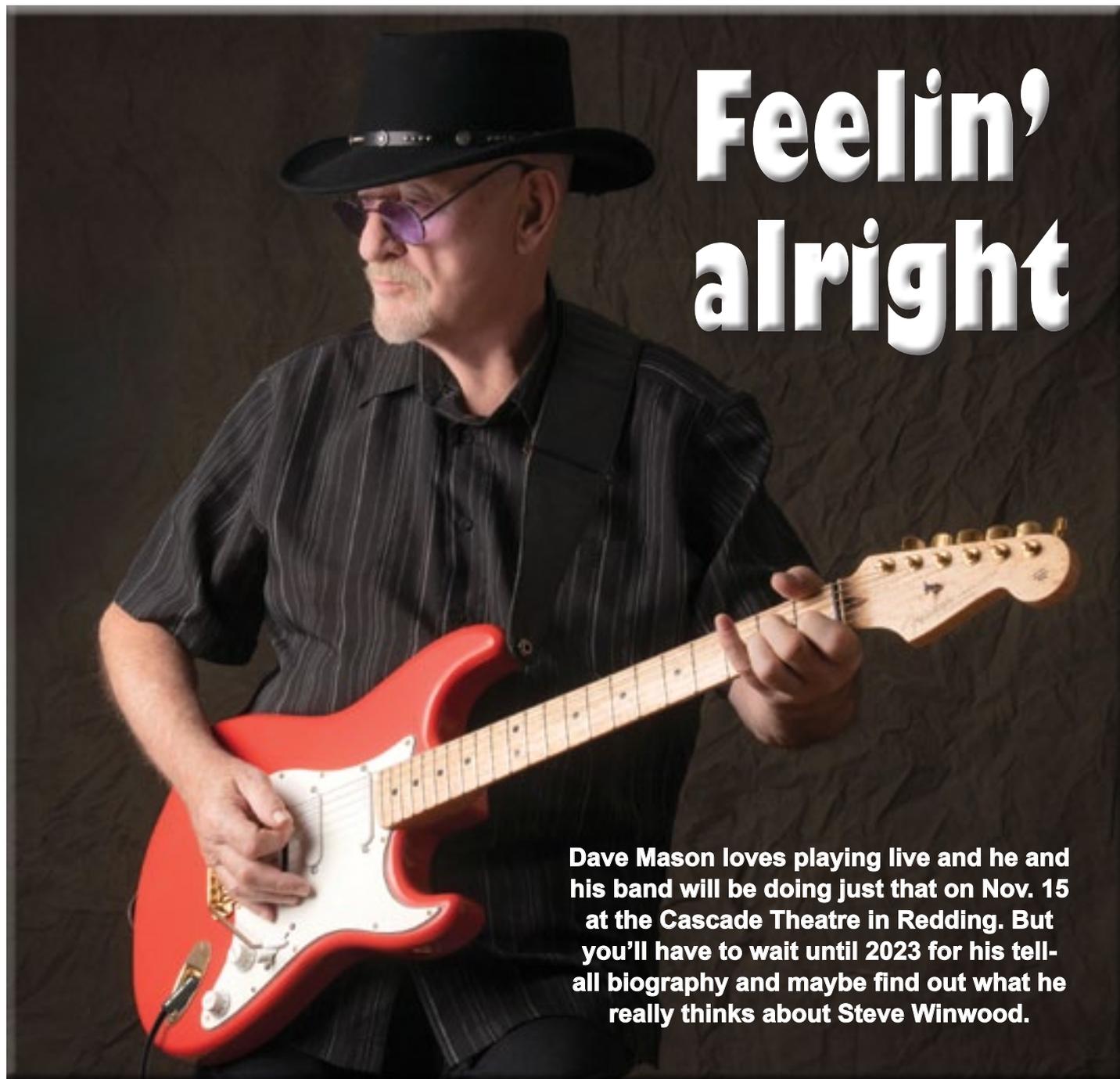
The band features longtime members Johnne Sambataro on guitar and vocals, Alvino Bennett on drums and newcomers Bill Mason on keyboards and vocals along with Ray Cardwell on bass.

Though Mason knows what it's like to be the front man, he really considers himself more of a "musical gunslinger." In addition to his litany of hits, Mason has been part of, or played on, some of rock's most influential recordings.

He was a founding member of one of rock's first super groups, Traffic, that also included Steve Winwood, Jim Capaldi and Chris Wood. They were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004.

Mason had a bit of a come and go time in the band. He left after their debut album, 1967's *Mr. Fantasy*, then returned midway through sessions for 1968's *Traffic* before departing once again. The latter album gave the world "Feelin' Alright?" - a song that's been covered by more than 50 artists including Coldplay, ELO, Grand Funk Railroad, Three Dog Night and, of course, perhaps the most recognizable version by Joe Cocker, who seemingly made it his own.

"I don't think it would be as popular without the Cocker version," Mason said. "The song's about not feeling good, but with Joe Cocker that's a different interpretation. It's a more



**Dave Mason loves playing live and he and his band will be doing just that on Nov. 15 at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. But you'll have to wait until 2023 for his tell-all biography and maybe find out what he really thinks about Steve Winwood.**

positive view."

Cocker's version was even slightly retitled as "Feeling Alright," leaving out the question mark.

As for his version of his song? "I got lucky with two chords and some words..." he paused before adding fuel to his upcoming book release "and it's me singing, not Winwood." He added that "you'll have to read the book" when pressed about a rift he's had with Winwood, a member of not only Traffic, but the Spencer Davis Group and Blind Faith before launching

**"I don't think it would be as popular without the Cocker version. The song's about not feeling good, but with Joe Cocker that's a different interpretation. It's a more positive view."**

**- Dave Mason talking about his song "Feelin' Alright?"**

roll was in his future as a young kid, only that "I knew I wasn't going to be a 9-to-5 guy," he said. "I knew I was just passing through - I've always had a bit of gypsy in me and wanted to run away with the carnival."

Mason was born in post-World War II England, his father born in 1894 who fought in World War I and his half-brothers in WWII.

As for music... "My inspiration was The Shadows and Hank Marvin," he said of the 1950s and '60s band whose hits include "Apache" and "Kon-Tiki."

"I wanted to be Hank Marvin with a shiny red Fender Stratocaster," Mason said. "(Actually) I started playing with model airplanes and then fell into playing guitars."

And he's been playing ever since. Other classic albums or artists he's performed with include appearing on "Street Fighting Man" for the Rolling Stones' *Beggars Banquet* album as well as George Harrison's classic three disc album *All Things Must Pass*. He was also a session player with Paul McCartney and joined Fleetwood Mac for a time in the mid-1990s.

"London was such a small scene in the '60s," he said. "And my time with Fleetwood Mac showed me it takes a lot to replace a guy like Lindsey Buckingham."

With such a diverse array of songs to choose from, Mason says his setlists consist simply of "the most fun stuff to do night after night."

a long solo career of his own.

Mason landed on his feet after his Traffic days, having struck up a friendship with a guy named Jimi Hendrix. He is featured on backing vocals on Hendrix's hit "Crosstown Traffic" and played rhythm guitar on the legendary guitarist's cover of Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower," a version so iconic that it's almost become synonymous with Hendrix.

"The first time I saw him was in a little club in London and I thought 'Oh shit, who is this? I guess I better look for another instrument' (to play)," Mason joked. "I mean, I can play, and (Eric) Clapton is great, (Jeff) Beck can play, but they weren't Hendrix."

"Everyone (at the time) was trying to copy the next blues lick, but Hendrix went beyond that somehow. The studio was an instrument for him. He was just so innovative."

Mason said he didn't know rock 'n



**Dave Mason, center, and his band, left to right: Bill Mason (keyboards), Alvino Bennett (drums), Ray Cardwell (bass) and Johnne Sambataro (guitar).**

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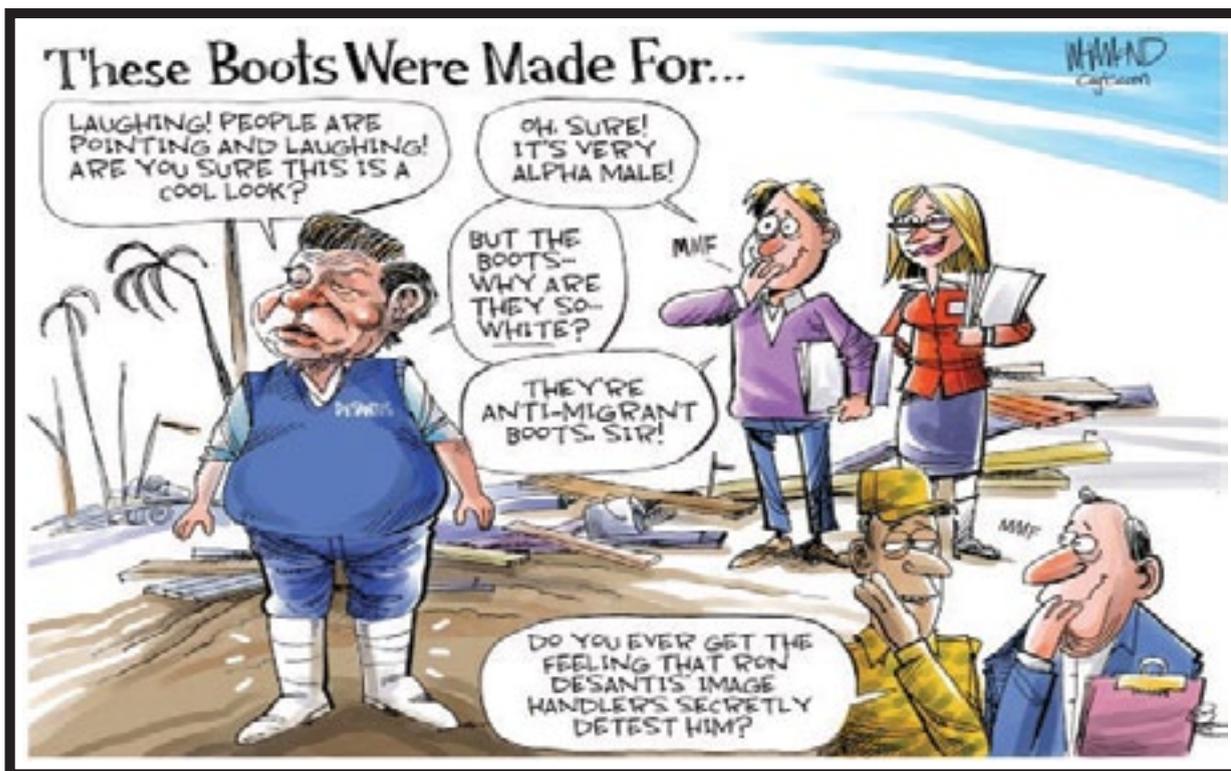
## Martin Sexton in Redding Nov. 9

Headlining venues from The Fillmore to Carnegie Hall, Martin Sexton has influenced a generation of contemporary artists. He tours with what Rolling Stone calls his "soul-marinated voice," acoustic guitar, and a suitcase full of heartfelt songs.

Sexton is scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 9, at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. For tickets, go online to [cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org).

A native of Syracuse, New York, Sexton got his start singing in the streets and subways of Boston in the early 1990s. He released his 10th studio album, *2020 Vision*, in September of 2021. It was produced by three-time Grammy-nominee John Alagia with John Mayer guesting on guitar.

Said Mayer: "The best live performer I've ever seen. I may just quit my job and go follow Martin and make a fuss everywhere I go, just to make sure that people don't go their lives without hearing this man sing to them."



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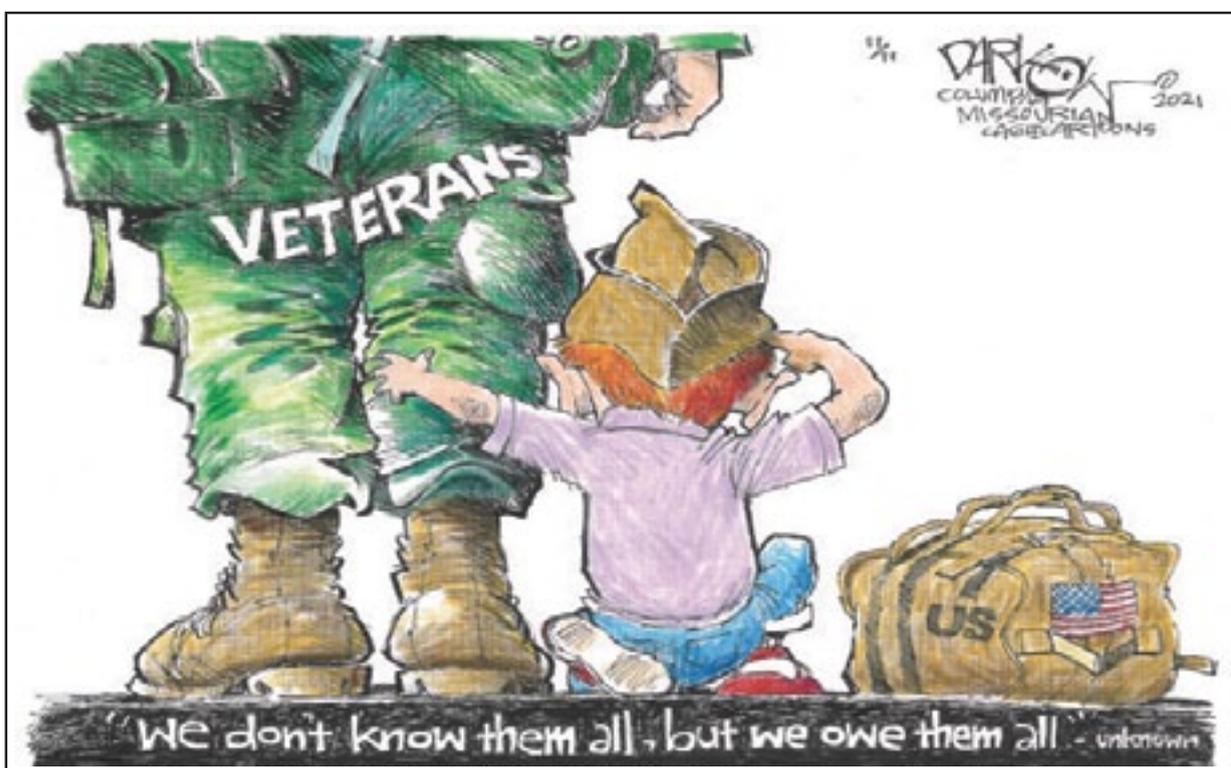
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# What's in my name?

By Jase Graves



I've experienced a lifelong identity crisis, of sorts, because of my name (or names), and I've actually kind of enjoyed it – most of the time.

The controversy began in 1970, around the time that I made my almost 10-pound newborn debut (sorry, Mom). Apparently, the discussion between my parents centered on whether to name me “Jase” or “Jason,” both names originating from a Greek word meaning “healer” or “royal pain in the rear.”

Other than referring to me as their massive baby who was like delivering a propane tank, my parents finally settled on the more formal “Jason” for my birth certificate—thinking that I could later go by “Jase” if I wanted to pretend to be cool.

They then proceeded to call me by my family nickname, “Bub,” from that point forward. In fact, it didn't really sink in that I had any other name than “Bub” until I entered public school. All I had heard myself called for the first 5 years of my life was “Bub.”

“Bub, get that battery out of your nose!”

“Bub, don't drink the aquarium water!”

“Bub, stop licking the television screen!”

I initially responded with disbelief when my parents advised me that my kindergarten teacher would call me “Jason” anytime she asked me to stop eating the Elmer's glue. But I eventually accepted the idea – sort of.

Shortly before kindergarten began, I proposed that I be called “Bub-Jase-Jason” at school – until my big brother assured me that such a name would probably guarantee me a weekly wedgie from my classmates.

I finally settled on “Jase” for educational settings, which, by the time I entered high school, had been corrupted to “Jass” by my thoughtful and loving closest friends. (The “J” was silent, by the way.)

In my post-mullet teen years, I worked as a lifeguard during the summers and wore a pair of knock-off Ray-Ban Aviator sunglasses, which prompted some of the more nearsighted swimmers to boost my ego by calling me “Maverick” after the “Top Gun” character. My abs were actually out of the closet back then. I miss them.

By the time I went off to college at Texas A&M University, I was back to “Jase,” thank goodness, but the fun didn't end there. On the first day of my Spanish III class, I noticed that I was the only student in the entire room whose name was of non-Hispanic origin, and when the professor reached my name on the roster, I guess she didn't want me to feel left out, so she pronounced it “José Gravez.” (I still ask my wife to call me that when we're eating Mexican food.)

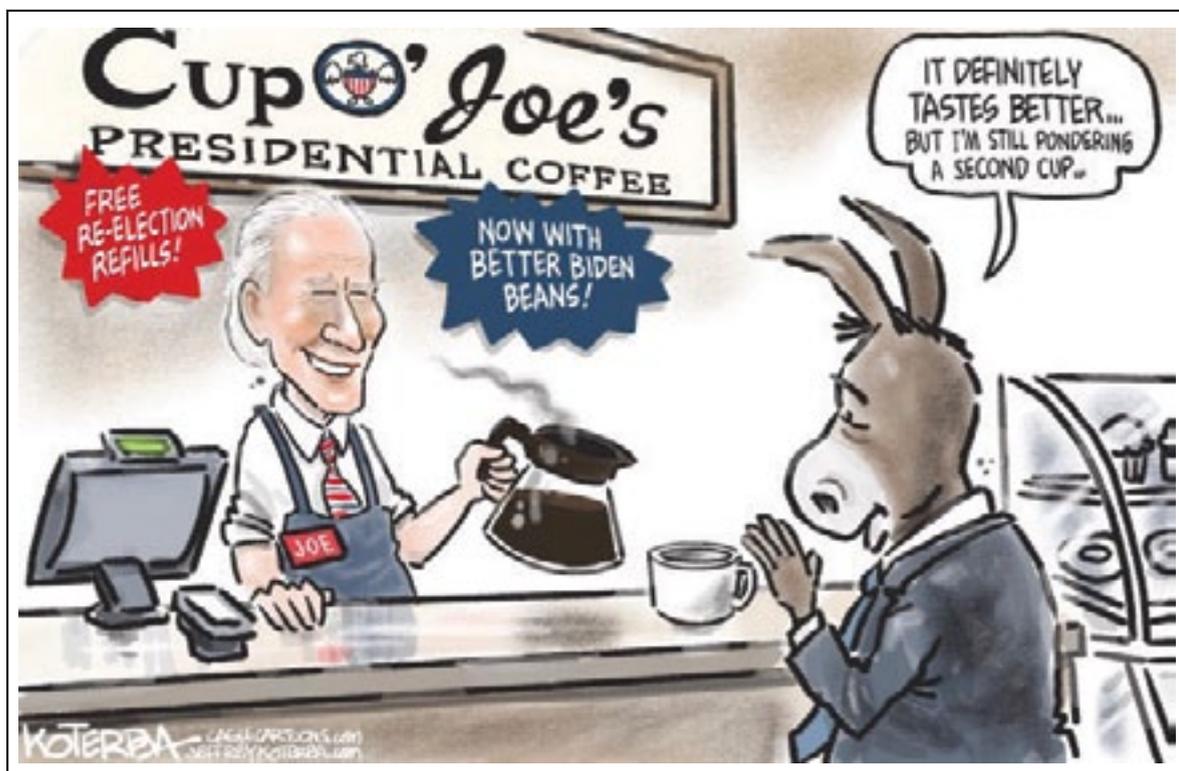
These days, the most fun I have with my name is when my social media friends hit the wrong key and address me as “Jade.” I always just laugh it off and tell them I expect to see them in the front row at my next drag show.

Yes, my names have been varied throughout my life, but I've appreciated them all in one way or another, especially after becoming a father. At home, I'm mainly addressed as “Dad,” “Diddy” or “Can I use the credit card?”

And it surely is comforting that I can still go visit my parents and hear their familiar advice, “Bub, get that battery out of your nose!”

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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).





## Swing into the holidays with Big Voodoo Daddy

The Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Holiday show is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16 at the Cascade Theatre in Redding.

Earlier this year in April marked the 29th anniversary of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's arrival onto the music scene. Since its formation in the early 1990s in Ventura, California, the band has toured virtually nonstop, performing on average over 150 shows a year, and has produced a sizable catalog of recorded music, with sales of over 2 million albums to date. Some of their more well known songs are "Go Daddy-O," "You & Me & the Bottle Makes 3 Tonight (Baby)," and "Mr. Pinstripe Suit."

The band, co-founded by singer Scotty Morris and drummer Kurt Sodergren, was at the forefront of the swing revival of that time, blending a vibrant fusion of the classic American sounds of jazz, swing, and dixieland, with the energy and spirit of contemporary culture.

For tickets and more info., visit [cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org).



## Foster in Dunsmuir, Weaverville

Authentic roots music for the ears of old souls, award-winning and Redding-based singer-songwriter Jonathan Foster is a recording artist and nationwide touring musician who is slated to perform at two north state venues this month.

Over the past 10 years he has released five independent studio albums, including his latest, *Lantern Shade*.

Said Americana Highways about his latest album: "The bottom line is that, when listening to *Lantern Shade*, you feel like you are sitting around a campfire with a man and his guitar who is telling you musical stories and talking to your soul."

Added The Canton Rep and its Best Music of 2021: "A breezy songwriting style, alternating between lyrical introspection and worldly observation, takes listeners on the road with him across America, admiring the beauty of rivers and forests while appreciating individuality along the way."

Foster is scheduled to perform at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19, at Pops Performing Arts and Cultural Center in Dunsmuir. Admission is \$10. Two days earlier on Nov. 17, he'll be performing a free concert at Trinity County Brewing Co. in Weaverville. That performance begins at 6 p.m. Foster also performs regularly at Three Shastas Bar & Grill at the Red Lion Hotel in Redding.

For more on Foster, visit [jfmusic.net](http://jfmusic.net)



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



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LEONTOVICH/HAYMAN - *Carol of the Bells*  
HERBERT/LANGEY - *March of the Toys from "Babes in Toyland"*  
VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS/GREAVES - *Fantasia on Greensleeves*  
ANDERSON - *Sleigh Ride*

HANDEL - *Hallelujah Chorus*  
CUSTER - *Winter Wonderland*  
SCHOENFELD (Arr. Simeone) - *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*  
RUTTER - *Magnificat, IV "Et misericordia"*  
RUTTER - *Magnificat, I "Magnificat anima mea"*  
FINNEGAN - *Christmas Carol Sing A Long*

Friday, Dec. 9 | 7:30 PM | Laxson Auditorium, Chico

Saturday, Dec. 10 | 7:30 PM | State Theater, Red Bluff

Sunday, Dec. 11 | 2:00 PM | Cascade Theatre, Redding



Daun Weiss, soprano

Tickets to both performances are available at  
[northstatesymphony.org](http://northstatesymphony.org)

# NEWS of the WEIRD

A British artist known as Mr. Doodle (real name: Sam Cox) has doodled throughout his entire mansion in Tenterden, Kent, United Press International reported.

Everything is covered: walls, furniture, kitchen appliances, textiles, floors, ceilings.

Cox shared The Doodle House with the world on a YouTube video, taking viewers through the process from stark white to completely doodled.

It took him two years, 240 gallons of white paint, 401 cans of black spray paint and almost 2,300 black pens to complete the project. His wife, Alena, is all in with the doodle decor.

Keith Tyssen of Sheffield, England, has maintained a striking topiary he calls "Gloria" in his front garden since 2000 – the bush depicts a woman lying back in a reclining position with her knees bent.

But, MSN reported, Tyssen has a problem with random "drunken louts" entering his yard, usually during the night, and becoming intimate with the shrub. For one thing, he said, the noise wakes him up. But more disturbing, the "act" damages Gloria's figure.

"Someone will squeeze the breasts," he said, "so that will damage it. They're climbing on top of her and pulling her legs apart – you know, it's disgusting."

Now Tyssen is begging his community to leave Gloria alone; one Twitter user suggested he grow a thorny vine through her to deter the assaults.

An American man who appeared to be about 50 years old asked to see Pope Francis at the Vatican in Rome, CNN reported.

When he was told that would not be possible, he hurled a Roman bust to the floor in the Museo Chiaramonti, then upset a second one as he rushed out. The man was detained by Vatican police and turned over to Italian authorities.

Both statues were around 2,000 years old. Press office director Matteo Alessandrini said the busts were "affixed to the shelves with a nail, but if you pull them down with force they will come off." He said restoration work had already begun.

KTUU-TV reported a small boat carrying two men landed near the community of Gambell on northern St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. According to town clerk Curtis Silook, the men told villagers they had



Can't sleep? Pack your bags and head for Sussex, England, where you can spend a night next summer in a "luxurious" double bed at the Shleep Sanctuary, according to the Daily Star. As you drift away, numbered actual sheep will mill around the grassy hillside outside the glass dome enclosing your bed. Emma Sleep, a tech company, is offering the one-night stay, which includes dinner, morning yoga and breakfast. "Counting sheep is more than an old wives' tale," said Dr. Dennis Schmoltzi, CEO. "It's a tried-and-true visualization technique that Brits are relying on to send them to sleep." Zzzzzzz.

sailed over 300 miles from Egvekinot in northeastern Russia and were trying to escape the Russian military draft.

Sen. Dan Sullivan conferred with the Department of Homeland Security, and Gov. Mike Dunleavy said they were transported to Anchorage, where federal authorities were sorting out their status.

"We don't anticipate a continual stream of individuals or a flotilla," Dunleavy said.

Tyler Monk, 34, an exterminator in Kinder, Louisiana, is ... changing. That is, his skin is darkening from white to black, apparently because he briefly tried Prozac

in January 2021 to help with anxiety, the New York Post reported.

"The fact is, (doctors) don't know why I'm changing colors," Monk said. After two months, Monk's arms and face took on a grayish tone that continued to darken even after he stopped the drug.

"First they thought it was photosensitivity ... but I've been covering up and I'm still getting darker," he said.

He has seen eight specialists, and more appointments are on his calendar. His family is supportive: "We really don't mind the color change, as long as he's healthy and OK with it," said his wife, Emily.

Time to decorate the man cave? Three men were arrested in Hernando County, Florida, after an off-duty detective spied them using saws to cut traffic lights off the poles, WFTV reported. By the time deputies arrived at the scene, the men had put three lights into their van.

Aaron Wood, James Donnelly and Oleksiy Naumenko were arrested for theft and admitted to stealing the lights. Each is valued at \$5,000.

An unnamed 32-year-old woman didn't get far in the Mini Cooper she stole in Lakewood, Washington, Fox News reported.

The driver, who had her 4-year-old son in the back seat and a bottle of whiskey in her hand, steered the car right into a section of wet cement that had just been poured by city crews.

When she emerged from the car, she threw a television and an Instant Pot out of the car before trying to walk away.

All items were stolen from the suspect's mother's home. After her arrest, crews went back to work on the pavement.

The Bay County (Florida) Sheriff's Department has declared it's "officially out of the bonfire business" after an incident at A. Crawford Mosley High School in Lynn Haven, the Panama City News Herald reported.

Although the agency has assisted with bonfires for many years, the 2022 homecoming event blew up when the bonfire literally exploded.

No one was injured, and firefighters were already on hand as a precaution.

Sheriff Tommy Ford said it was unclear what had caused the explosion, but his agency would take responsibility for the incident. The district also announced that they would no longer host bonfire events.

Two men were arrested in Palm Coast, Florida for a heist of goods valued at \$5,000, Fox35-TV reported.

Rui Gen Lin, 48, and Rong Chen, 41, were caught red-handed by a deputy making a security check at Woody's Bar-B-Que; the two men wore headlamps as they transferred a substance from a vat behind the restaurant into a box truck with large storage containers inside.

Here's the weird: They were stealing used cooking oil, about 7,000 pounds of it.

Lin owns L&L Recycling, a company that buys and recycles cooking oil.

"But in this case, they tried to increase their profits by stealing the oil," said Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly.

Who knew used cooking oil was so useful? It can be recycled for use in diesel fuel and other substances, Staly noted.

Brian Taylor, a custodial and grounds worker for the Wayne Township Public School District in New Jersey for the last 27 years, has filed a lawsuit against the district, NJ.com reported.

In the suit, he claims his performance evaluations were

–Please See Page 13

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**American Legion Luncheon**

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# NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 8

always “superior or above average” and that he earned a manager certificate from Rutgers University – but he was still passed over for promotions.

Why? Taylor asserts that his managers gave higher-paying jobs to people with Italian last names. For example, he says, his groundskeeping duties, which offered more opportunity for overtime, were transferred to the Italian-American brother-in-law of a supervisor.

“This unfortunate reality makes working for the (district) very difficult for a person like Taylor, as he is a man of integrity,” the suit reads.

The board of education “disputes all allegations made by Mr. Taylor and looks forward to presenting the district’s case in court,” attorney John G. Geppert Jr. said.

A Lithuanian potato chip company called Chazz has just introduced a new limited edition flavor that’s intended to cater to sex-starved millennials, Indy100 reported.

The P— Flavour crisps will transport consumers to “your wildest love adventures, your first real love,” reps for Chazz promise. “The Chazz team is young, bold and socially responsible,” and the snack is meant for those who are “brave” and “free.”

The company also suggests the chips can be a humorous gift or can “initiate a romantic evening.” Unfortunately (fortunately?), at this time, they’re available only in Europe.

President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus took the opportunity of a meeting at Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Oct. 7 to present Russian President Vladimir Putin with a birthday gift, the Associated Press reported.

Putin turned 70 years old that day, so naturally, Lukashenko presented him with a gift certificate for a Belarusian tractor. (Tractors are a source of pride in that country’s industry.)

Lukashenko told reporters that he uses a similar model in his own garden; Putin, however, did not comment on the gift.

Instead, he addressed issues such as conflict between ex-Soviet nations, fighting terrorism and illegal drugs.

Electric cars, trips to space, Twitter – it’s never enough for serial entrepreneur Elon Musk.

Now, Reuters reported, the joke’s on buyers who snapped up 10,000 bottles of Musk’s new perfume, Burnt Hair, in just a few hours – at \$100 a pop.

“With a name like mine, getting into the fragrance business was inevitable – why did I even fight it for so long?” Musk wondered on Twitter.

The perfume is described on The Boring Company’s website as “the essence of repugnant desire.”

“Just like leaning over a candle at

the dinner table, but without all the hard work,” it boasts. The scent won’t start shipping until September 2023, so you can cross it off your Christmas list for this year.

Ray Ruschel may not be the fastest or strongest defensive lineman on the North Dakota State College of Science football team, but he brings his best game and more to the team, the Associated Press reported.

Ruschel, 49, works as a night-shift mechanic at a sugar beet factory. He decided to enroll at the college to study business management, and he learned he was eligible to try out for the football team – reviving his high school career of more than 30 years earlier.

Ruschel’s coach gives him high marks: “His personality ... he’s just a really likable guy with an ambition not to leave any stone unturned,” said Eric Issendorf, who’s one year younger than Ruschel.

With about a dozen plays per game, Ruschel has helped his team secure a 4-1 record for the season, and they’re hoping for a national championship.

On Oct. 6, Burlington (North Carolina) police officers responded to a call around 7 a.m., the News & Record reported.

A homeowner told them that as he walked from his car to his front door, an armed man approached him and tried to force his way inside the house.

The two struggled, and a gunshot grazed the victim’s chest, but he wasn’t seriously injured.

The victim was able to slam the door on the suspect – or, more precisely, on the suspect’s hand.

As investigators processed the scene, they found a glove with a severed finger inside, which they used to identify Vernon Forest Wilson, 67.

He was booked on multiple charges in Alamance County and held on \$250,000 bond.

Youth pastor Cory Wall of the Fairview Baptist Church in Greer, South Carolina, misstepped in a big way on when he distributed “I (heart) hot youth pastors” stickers to the young members of his congregation, Only Sky reported.

After some social media backlash, Wall admitted that his “joke” was a “mistake,” but his church was more reticent about the incident: First, the church sent a private email to members saying it had discussed the matter with Wall and he “understands this should not have been shared with the students.”

When that wasn’t enough, Fairview issued a public statement, allowing that the sticker was “offensive to some” and confirming that Wall had been placed on administrative leave. Upset congregants are reportedly praying for more.

Police in Smithfield, Utah, responded

to a domestic violence call on that didn’t turn out how they expected, KUTV reported.

Rachelle Clingo Walker, 35, told officers that her husband had struck her during a psychotic episode, but Walker’s husband had video that portrayed a different story.

In the video, Walker can be seen “trying to bring out the victim’s ‘other personality’ by speaking in incantations,” the report noted.

She’s shown gripping his arm “tighter, cutting into his hand with her nails.” When the husband tells her to stop, Walker grabs a pair of scissors and holds them “above her head in an intimidating fashion,” not allowing him to escape.

He finally got away from her, and she called police. Walker was arrested for aggravated assault, unlawful detention and other charges.

In Seminole, Florida, 56-year-old Paul James Sinclair summoned his inner 8-year-old as he attempted a bank robbery.

Sinclair, according to The Smoking Gun, entered a Chase branch with his hand under his shirt making “the shape of a gun with his finger,” arrest records said.

He advised teller Desiree Stefanik not to “push any buttons” as he waited for her to hand over the loot. Sinclair got away with only \$120 and was arrested shortly after the incident.

One can only imagine the heavenly eye-rolling that must be ensuing.

The Signatry, a Christian foundation based in Overland Park, Kansas, is funding a \$100 million media campaign designed to redeem Jesus’ “brand” from the damage done by his followers, Religion News Service reported.

The program will include a website, billboards (“Jesus let his hair down, too”), an online store with free stuff for those who forgive someone or welcome a stranger, and the creme de la creme, come February: a Super Bowl ad.

“Our goal is to give voice to ... those who are ready to reclaim the name of Jesus from those who abuse it to judge, harm and divide people,” said Jon Lee, a principal at Lerma, the Dallas ad agency driving the “He Gets Us” campaign.

He hopes people who see the ads will consider whether Jesus might be relevant to themselves.

Ophthalmologist Katerina Kurteeva, who practices in Newport Beach, California, shared with her Instagram followers a troubling video, Oddity Central reported.

Dr. Kurteeva documented the removal of “forgotten” contact lenses from an elderly patient’s eye – 23 of them, to be exact. Some of them were so old they had turned green.

“They were essentially glued together after sitting under the eyelid for a month,” she wrote. “Don’t sleep in your contact lenses!” she warned.

The South China Morning Post

reported that a new health fad is trending among elderly Chinese: crocodile crawling.

Hundreds of people in eastern China, who call themselves the Crocodile Group, dress in matching uniforms and chant rhythmic slogans while they crawl, single-file, on their hands and feet around a jogging track.

Afficionados say the exercise helps with back pain.

“I previously had problems with a herniated disc,” said Li Wei, the group’s coach.

“After doing this for eight months, I don’t feel any pain anymore.” One doctor explained that the movement is similar to pushups, except you’re moving forward.

Residents of the city of SeaTac, Washington, are on high alert about a “very aggressive” owl at North SeaTac Park, KIRO-TV reported.

The bird, likely a barred or great horned owl, hasn’t injured anyone – yet – but officials say people visiting the park should “wave (their) arms slowly overhead to keep the birds at a distance.

Other protective actions include wearing a hat or helmet, or carrying an umbrella.”

Chase Gunnell with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife also noted that owls will typically hoot repeatedly before attacking.

In Fort Myers, Florida, Lee County deputies stopped to investigate a Nissan Altima that was parked blocking a bicycle lane, NBC2-TV reported.

Officers found a man reclining in the driver’s seat; after giving them a false name, he was asked to exit the vehicle.

That’s when Randy Austerman, 34, reached into the console and removed a 3-foot-long steel sword, then paused to attach a dragon-shaped handle to the blade.

Police backed off as Austerman poked the sword out the car’s window at them. As he tried to escape through the passenger door, Austerman was subdued and arrested; officers found methamphetamine, marijuana and a glass pipe in the car.

Ryan Boria and Amy Schaner were really hoping for a slow night at the Wendy’s where they both worked.

So, as they drove to the restaurant in Tilden Township, Pennsylvania, they made a short stop, WFMZ-TV reported.

Along the train crossing at Industrial Drive, Boria “placed a shunt on the track. He got back in the car with (Schaner) and they proceeded to Wendy’s,” Officer Frank Cataldi of the Tilden Township Police Department said.

“They told us that their intentions were that if the gates could malfunction and they could somehow block traffic, then that would prevent people from getting to Wendy’s, and they could have a slow night at work.”

Both were arrested on multiple charges, including causing or risking a catastrophe.

# Masterworks 2: The Four Seasons

## Featuring Chee-Yun

The North State Symphony will hold their second concert of the season at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Cascade Theatre in Redding and 2 p.m. on Nov. 13 at Laxson Auditorium in Chico as they perform "Masterworks 2: The Four Seasons."

Journey through the seasons in a concert that pairs Antonio Vivaldi's most popular work, "The Four Seasons," with Astor Piazzolla's rendering in the style of the Argentinian tango.

The soloist for the evening, violinist Chee-Yun (right), has enraptured audiences on five continents with her flawless technique, dazzling tone, and compelling artistry.

Strings Magazine writes: "Chee-Yun has not only extraordinary talent, but the poise and natural self-confidence of a seasoned veteran and born performer. Her technique is brilliant and utterly secure, her tone like butter— smooth, rich, and flawless."

Maestro Scott Seaton will give a free talk on the performance beginning one hour before each concert. For tickets and information visit [northstatesymphony.org](http://northstatesymphony.org).



# Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' to be performed at Axiom Theatre

Axiom Repertory Theatre presents William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" Nov. 11-24.

In this classic tragedy, the ghost of the King of Denmark encourages his son Hamlet to avenge his murder by killing the new king, Hamlet's uncle. Hamlet feigns madness, contemplates life and death, and seeks revenge. His uncle, fearing for his life, also devises plots to kill Hamlet.

"Hamlet" is directed by John Truitt and stars Nick Brown as Hamlet, Jessica Cox as Ophelia, Jesse Myers as King Claudius, and Chelsea Bailey as Queen Gertrude.

Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays (except Thanksgiving), Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. Additionally, Axiom will offer special matinee performances of "Hamlet" for local high school students, many of whom have not been on a field trip since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

For more information on "Hamlet," and to purchase tickets, visit [axreptheatre.com/hamlet](http://axreptheatre.com/hamlet).

Axiom Repertory Theatre is located at 2613 Bechelli Lane in Redding.



PHOTO / Kim Mobley

Nick Brown is Hamlet and Jessica Cox portrays Ophelia.

# Thanksgiving Interfaith Service scheduled Nov. 20 at LDS Church in Redding

Shasta Interfaith is presenting their Thanksgiving Interfaith Service on Sunday, Nov. 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3410 Churn Creek Road, Redding.

Shasta Interfaith is an association of more than 20 faith-based communities in Shasta County that serve the area by promoting and advocating for respect and appreciation for diversity.

This free family-friendly event will feature readings, prayers, reflections and practices of giving thanks from various faith traditions. The program includes the following traditions: Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Native American, Jewish, Quakers, Baha'i and others.

Cookies and beverages will be served following the service. Donations collected at the event will be donated to Western Service Workers Association.

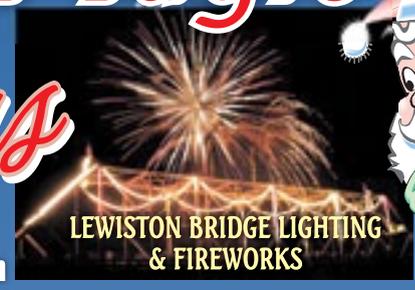
For more information find their Facebook page @Shasta Interfaith or text/call: 530-243-8862.



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# Rooting for my baseball heroes

By Tom Purcell

It was one of the most awesome experiences of my childhood.

It happened 50 years ago on an overcast day in Pittsburgh on Sept. 30, 1972.

My Little League team had cheap-seat tickets in right field in Three Rivers Stadium.

My dad and some coaches took us to the game and all of us had one thing on our minds:

Would our hero, Roberto Clemente, get his 3,000th hit that day?

At that time there were only 10 other major league players who had reached that milestone — and we prayed he'd reach it that day.

In the bottom of the fourth inning Clemente crushed a line-drive double and the stadium went wild.

My dad was jumping and shouting as we all were. It wasn't just a great moment in sports, but a great moment with my dad I will forever cherish.

I don't follow major league baseball much anymore, in part because my team, the Pirates, haven't been very good for a very long time.

But I'm following the MLB's playoffs this year because of one player: New York Yankee superstar Aaron Judge.

Judge recently broke Roger Maris' American League home run record by hitting 62 in one season.

Barry Bonds, Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa each hit more than 61 home runs in a season in the late 1990s, but allegations that their slugging power was enhanced by performance-enhancing drugs lead some to conclude that Judge is the true owner of the HR record.

That inside-baseball debate aside, the humbleness Judge displays reminds me of Clemente.

Both Clemente and Judge were blessed with incredible gifts to hit baseballs hard and far and throw them fast and with precision.

Clemente was not boastful in any way about his talents and accomplishments. He thanked God for all he'd been given.

First Things reports that "during the 1972 season, when he was asked if he expected to get his 3,000th hit that year, he said:

"Well, you never know . . . because God tells you how long you are going to be here, so you never know what can happen tomorrow."

Clemente would be taken that year on New Year's Eve in a plane crash off the coast of his native Puerto Rico. He was on his way to deliver relief supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

Clemente was much more than one of the greatest baseball players ever.

He was a great human being who used his fame and influence to "open up clinics, schools, charities and an ambitious sports complex in his native Puerto Rico, to help rescue underprivileged and misdirected youth," reports First Things.

Today Aaron Judge is also using his fame to give back.

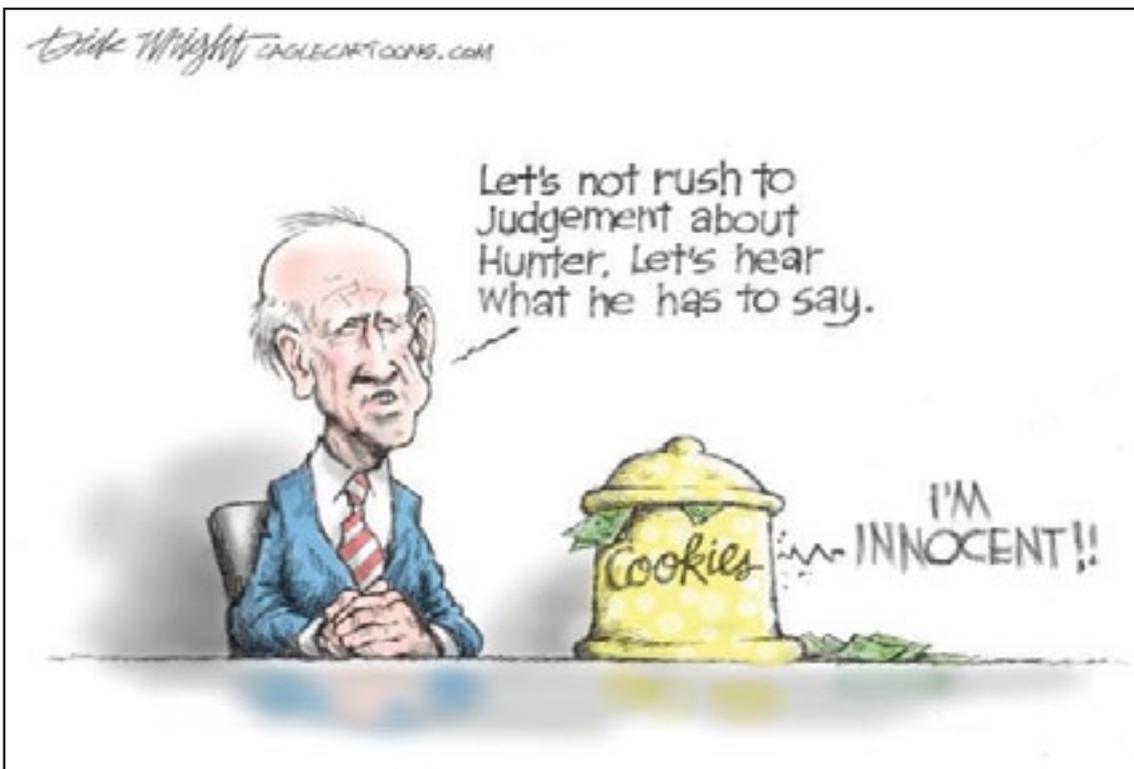
Adopted by his school-teacher parents the day after he was born in Sacramento, he praises his parents for giving him good values and a Christian upbringing.

When he slammed his record-breaking home run, he said it was his honor that God put him in a position to do so.

When asked before the season about his baseball future, Judge gave the New York Post an answer Clemente would have given: "It's all in God's hands."

As for charitable endeavors, Judge also is using his fame and fortune to help underprivileged kids from the community where he grew up have a chance to flourish in life.

And that's why the Yankees slugger has renewed my interest in baseball. I sure hope he gets to showcase his talents in the 2022 World Series.



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Tom Purcell, creator of the infotainment site *ThurbersTail.com*, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at [Tom@TomPurcell.com](mailto:Tom@TomPurcell.com).

## Whiskeytown offering ranger-led hikes Saturdays including some where you can bring your dog

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is offering a series of Saturday morning ranger-led hikes this autumn. The hikes are approximately two miles in length and the schedule is as follows...

- B.A.R.K. in the Park Hike: Oak Bottom Water Ditch Trail Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Meet at the trailhead across from Oak Bottom Campground Store. Bring your dog and learn all about proper pet etiquette in the park. At the end of the program and upon completion of a small workbook, you and your faithful companion will become official Whiskeytown B.A.R.K. Rangers.

- Boulder Creek Falls Hike Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at the top of Mill Creek Road, located above Judge Francis Carr Powerhouse. Explore post-fire ecology on the way to the most recently reopened waterfall in the park.

- Crystal Creek Water Ditch Hike Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Meet at the trailhead located on Crystal Creek Road near Highway 299. Explore industrial histories of the California Gold Rush while walking along the park's signature historic water ditch.

- B.A.R.K. in the Park Hike: Crystal Creek Falls Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Meet at the trailhead up Crystal Creek Road. Join a park ranger on this wheelchair-accessible path. Bring your pooch and learn all about proper dog etiquette in the park. At the end of the program and upon completion of a small

## 'Art in Caldwell Park' scheduled to be held Nov. 3-5 in Redding

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Redding will host "Art in Caldwell Park 2022" 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 3, 4 and 5 at the North Valley Art League/Carter House Gallery. The event, which includes a silent auction, is a scholarship fundraiser for graduates of Shasta College pursuing a 4-year degree. Co-sponsors include the City of Redding Parks and Recreation Department and the North Valley Art League.

The Art Show at the Carter House Gallery will feature works by AAUW artists and special art demonstrations on Nov. 5. No charge although donations are always welcome.

The "Starry Night of Art and Wine" gala will be held the evening of Nov. 4 at the Carter House Gallery from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door with a no host wine tasting for \$10. Meet the AAUW artists and enjoy hors d'oeuvres.

Then, the following day on Saturday, Kids Artfest in nearby Caldwell Park Recreation Center will inspire young artists ages 4 years and up with activities reflecting art from around the world. Cost is \$5 per child, ages 4 and up who are accompanied by an adult. No charge for adults.

For tickets and information or to place bids for the Silent Auction between Oct. 17 and Nov. 6, go to [aauwredding.org](http://aauwredding.org).

workbook, you and your pet will become official Whiskeytown B.A.R.K. Rangers.

The public is kindly reminded that entrance passes are required to attend ranger-led hikes and recreate in the park. Passes can be purchased at the Visitor Center. Additionally, dogs are welcome on the hikes and are required to be on leash. You are asked to please pick up after your pet.

For more information, go online to [www.nps.gov/whis/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/whis/index.htm), contact Scott Einberger, Supervisory Interpretive Park Ranger, at 530-242-3450 or email [Scott\\_Einberger@nps.gov](mailto:Scott_Einberger@nps.gov).

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# California to end the Covid state of emergency

**The state of emergency gave Newsom wide-ranging powers to issue mandates and enter into billions of dollars of emergency response contracts.**

by Kristen Hwang and  
Ana B. Ibarra  
CalMatters.org  
Oct. 17, 2022

California's Covid-19 state of emergency will end Feb. 28, 2023, nearly three years from its initiation, officials from Gov. Gavin Newsom's office announced in mid-October.

The announcement came as new variants spur concerns that there will be another deadly winter surge across the country and as test positivity rates plateau in California following a nearly three-month decline. More than 95,000 Californians have died as a result of Covid-19, according to state data.

The state of emergency gave Newsom broad, often controversial, powers to issue masking and vaccination mandates and temporary stay-at-home orders in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. It also enabled the governor to enter into nearly \$12 billion dollars worth of no-bid emergency response contracts with testing facilities, personal protective equipment suppliers and temporary workforce agencies. Some of those contracts were with untested vendors who failed to deliver services.

Today, 27 provisions from the 74 executive orders issued under the state of emergency remain in effect, officials said. More than 500 provisions have already ended. The Newsom administration would not allow the press to name the senior officials who participated in an embargoed media briefing about ending the state of emergency.

"The State of Emergency was an effective and necessary tool that we utilized to protect our state, and we wouldn't have gotten to this point without it," Newsom said in a statement. "With the operational preparedness that we've built up and the measures that we'll continue to employ moving forward, California is ready to phase out this tool."

Newsom has extended the state of emergency five times over the course of the pandemic, most recently in June.

The federal government most recently extended its own Covid-19 public health emergency through Jan. 11. Federal officials have said they will give states a 60-day notice before the federal emergency order is lifted. Some pandemic-era expansions and protections that Californians have benefitted from come from the federal order — like expansions in telehealth services and Medi-Cal's renewal freeze, which has helped keep thousands insured throughout the pandemic.



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**- Gov. Gavin Newsom**

The duration of the state of emergency has been controversial among state Republican leaders who attempted to overturn the governor's power during a Senate emergency meeting in March. The resolution to terminate the state of emergency was voted down 8-4, with senators voting along party lines.

At the time, representatives for frontline health workers, including the California Hospital Association, stated flexibilities allowed under the executive orders were critical to expanding capacity. It allowed health care officials to hire thousands of out-of-state workers who typically need to be licensed in California to practice, among other emergency measures.

The state's early adoption of stay-at-home orders, which lasted on-and-off for 10 months, were successful in delaying spikes in case and hospitalization rates, but the first winter surge in January 2021 saw more than 21,000 hospitalizations at its peak. Since that time, hospitals across the state have repeatedly warned of impending collapse as various waves of the pandemic intensified worker burnout and shortages.

California is currently reporting

a 14-day average of 1,854 Covid hospitalizations, two-and-a-half times fewer hospitalizations than the same time last year during the tail end of the delta variant surge.

In February, the administration unveiled the SMARTER plan, its \$3.2 billion long-term strategy for combating Covid-19. The strategy outlined preparedness measures such as stockpiling 75 million masks, increasing testing capacity to half a million tests per day and investing in the health care workforce and local community health organizations. The SMARTER plan's rollout has been a key component in eliminating the need for emergency provisions, officials said.

"The administration has determined that rolling back the remaining 27 executive order provisions will have largely minimal operational impact," an unnamed official said.

The duration of the state of emergency through the winter months is "no accident," officials said, emphasizing that it will ensure flexibility through a winter surge. However, hospital association President Carmela Coyle said her organization is "deeply concerned" about the announcement and was not consulted about the end date of the state of emergency.

"It forces California hospitals to scale back on our capacity to care for people at a time of high uncertainty about the future," Coyle said. "We find ourselves in the month of October as we are approaching the winter months, which typically are challenging because we see more people in need of care for things like the flu, on top of the pandemic. It's really a bad time to think of scaling back on the capacity we have available."

Flu season typically lasts until May. In addition to eliminating workforce

flexibility, ending the order will also eliminate hospitals' "space waivers," which grant hospitals permission to create temporary additional beds, Coyle said.

Officials emphasized that the state has four months to prepare for the end of the order and any potential changes.

The administration plans on pursuing permanent legislative changes for two temporary provisions allowed under the executive order: allowing nurses to order and administer Covid-19 antiviral treatments like PAXLOVID and allowing laboratory assistants to process Covid-19 tests.

In recent months, as the "crisis" phase of the pandemic petered out, legislators abandoned attempts to make the Covid-19 vaccine mandatory for school children and to allow teenagers to get vaccinated without parental consent. Vaccine and testing requirements for some workers like teachers have also been lifted. A high percentage — 72% — of eligible Californians have been vaccinated against Covid-19, according to state data.

Senate Republican Leader Scott Wilk of Santa Clarita has been outspoken in his criticism of Newsom's unfettered ability to issue no-bid contracts during the state of emergency, characterizing it as "one-man" rule. In response to the automatic renewal of the state's controversial \$1.7-billion Covid-19 testing contract with Perkin Elmer, Wilk authored a measure requiring no-bid contracts larger than \$75 million to undergo legislative review before renewal.

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

# Top financial scams targeting seniors today

Dear Savvy Senior,  
 What are the most common scams today that target elderly seniors? My 75-year-old mother has been swindled several times over the past year, so I'm being extra cautious.

- Paranoid Patty



By Jim Miller

Dear Patty,  
 Great question! While many scams today are universal, there are certain types of fraud that specifically target older adults or affects them disproportionately. And unfortunately, these senior targeted scams are on the rise.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in 2021 there were 92,371 older victims of fraud resulting in \$1.7 billion in losses. This was a 74 percent increase in losses compared to 2020.

Here are five of the most common senior scams that were reported last year, that both you and your mom should be aware of.

### Government imposter scams

These are fraudulent telephone calls from people claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service, Social Security Administration or Medicare. These scammers may falsely tell you that you have unpaid taxes and threaten arrest or deportation if you don't pay up immediately. Or they may say your Social Security or Medicare benefits are

in danger of being cut off if you don't provide personal identifying information. They may even "spoof" your caller ID to make it look like the government is actually calling.

### Sweepstakes and lottery scams

These scams may contact you by phone, mail or email. They tell you that you've won or have the potential to win a jackpot. But you need to pay a fee, or cover taxes and processing fees to receive your prize, perhaps by prepaid debit card, wire transfer, money order or cash. Scammers may even impersonate well-known sweepstakes organizations, like Publishers Clearing House, to fool you.

### Robocalls and phone scam

Robocalls take advantage of sophisticated, automated phone technology to carry out a variety of scams on trusting older adults who answer the phone. Some robocalls may claim that a warranty is expiring on their

car or electronic device, and payment is needed to renew it. These scammers may also "spoof" the number to make the call look authentic.

One common robocall is the "Can you hear me?" call. When the older person says "yes," the scammer records their voice and hangs up. The criminal then has a voice signature to authorize unwanted charges on items like stolen credit cards.

### Computer tech support scams

These scams prey on senior's lack of knowledge about computers and cybersecurity. A pop-up message or blank screen usually appears on a computer or phone, telling you that your device is compromised and needs fixing. When you call the support number for help, the scammer may either request remote access to your computer and/or that you pay a fee to have it repaired.

### Grandparent scam

The grandparent scam has been

around for several years now. A scammer will call and say something along the lines of: "Hi Grandma, do you know who this is?" When the unsuspecting grandparent guesses the name of the grandchild the scammer most sounds like, the scammer has established a fake identity.

The fake grandchild will then ask for money to solve some unexpected financial problem (legal trouble, overdue rent, car repairs, etc.), to be paid via gift cards or money transfers, which don't always require identification to collect.

### Other Scams

Some other popular scams targeting older adults right now are romance scams through social media and online dating sites, COVID-19 scams, investment scams, Medicare and health insurance scams, and Internet and email fraud.

For more information on the different types senior scams to watch out for, along with tips to help your mom protect herself, visit the National Council on Aging website at NCOA.org, and type in "the top 5 financial scams targeting older adults" in the search bar.

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.

# THE BACK PAGE

December Deadline  
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