SWRR BABY SHOWER & OPEN HOUSE RETURNS TO ANDERSON

# AFTER FILLE MAGAZINE

APRIL 2023 / 36th Year / No. 6

THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

### **ON THE COVER**

# MAN AT WORK

Colin Hay knows his time with Men at Work has created a legacy that's allowed him to stay in the limelight, play music and make a living long after the 1980s band called it quits following a string of hits. But he also knows that his solo catalog can stand on its own with longtime fans. The singer from Down Under, who will perform at the Cascade Theatre on April 16, talks about that and more in an After Five interview on page 2

# **RUTHIE'S HEALING TIME**

Ruthie Foster, who has won numerous Blues Music

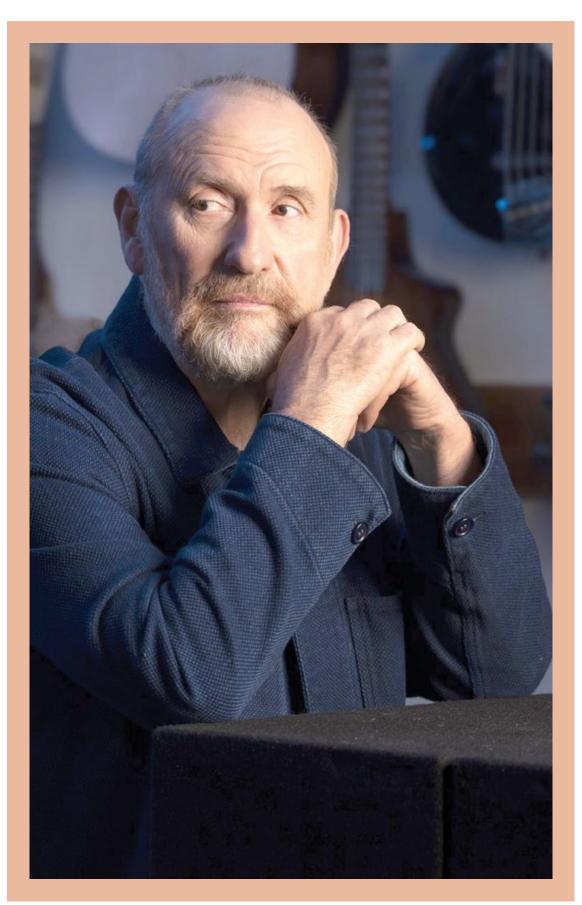


Awards and been nominated for three Grammys, is touring on the heels of her ninth and latest album, Healing Time, which was released in 2022. She's scheduled to perform on April 28 at the

Cascade Theatre in Redding. See page 5

# LARGEST SCALE SHOW

Featuring the largest scale show in their history, Axiom will present the play within a play comedy The Play That Goes Wrong. 'There's a reason this show sells out wherever it's produced and performed,' said Ken Hill, director for this Axiom production. See page 16





### Colin Hay to draw from Men at Work, 15 solo albums for Cascade show on April 16

By Aaron Williams

Colin Hay knows his time with Men at Work has created a legacy that's allowed him to stay in the limelight, play music and make a living long after the 80s band called it quits following a string of hits.

If you were around in the MTV era of the 1980s, you couldn't miss the ubiquitous sounds of "Down Under," "It's a Mistake," "Who Can It Be Now?" and "Overkill."

And while the songs live on with classic rock stations and satellite radio channels, Hay has kept moving. And performing.

He'll bring his acoustic West Coast tour show to Redding's iconic Cascade Theatre at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, April 16, along with opening act Lazlo Bane. Tickets are available at cascadetheatre.org.

"I've just kept moving forward really," Hay said recently in a phone interview with *After Five* from his Southern California home. "Men at Work is really the most successful thing I'll ever do unless something magical happens. But it's allowed me to carry on.

"Once the band was done, mainstream music was done with me and it allowed me to plot my own course."

Hay's tour celebrates not only the body of work from his days with Men at Work, but also his 15 solo albums, including the two he's put out since the pandemic - 2021's *I Just Don't Know What to Do with Myself* and 2022's *Now and the Evermore.* 

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And while the Men at Work name still draws fans, Hay also knows that his solo catalog can stand on its own.

"A lot of people who come are not coming to hear 'Down Under' because they've followed me for the last 30 years," he said. "It would be a wee bit glum if (Men at Work) was all I had to offer."

Nonetheless, he knows fans also like to reminisce with the hits from his past.

"They'll always work because they're big songs," he said, adding that playing those 80s hits never gets old. "It would get old if you treat it like you're important. Like you're an important ingredient in the equation. If you put the audience in the moment, it's much easier to enjoy. You're the messenger and that's your job at the end of the day.

"You can always find something about a song if you listen and get out of your way."

Hay, who still has his Scottish accent even after living in California for the past 32 years, said being a musician was always Plan A. There was no Plan B, he admits.

"That was the thing, there was a path and so I'm lucky; I just followed it. Never thought about anything else," he said.

And while Men at Work seemed to be in the right place at the right time for the advent of MTV and the music video boom, Hay recalled "a lot of work came into the illusion of being an overnight sensation."

Hay moved from Scotland to Australia at age 14 and was playing with "Most days it's a good feeling to get up on stage. You get up and people clap. It gives you emotional nourishment." - Colin Hay

Ron Strykery in the late 70s, adding Jerry Speiser and Greg Ham to form Men at Work.

"We had started to play in Melbourne and Sydney and we thought we had something special," Hay said. "We developed a strong live following, but didn't have a record deal. We had 'Who Can it be Now?' and had done well in lots of the world before it hit in America.

"We opened for Fleetwood Mac and that helped. MTV was icing on the cake."

Over the years Hay's work has also appeared in television and film, including the memorable season 2 opener of the television show "Scrubs," where Hay performs an acoustic version of "Overkill" in a clever integration into the storyline for the episode that's titled appropriately enough - "My Overkill." (You can check it out on YouTube).

He also has worked with Ringo Starr over the years, usually as a member of Starr's All-Starr Band. Hay began in 2003, toured again with them in 2008, and has been an ongoing member since 2018. They'll tour again this year in May and June, mostly on the West Coast.

But it's a friendship that has moved

beyond those tours. Hay wrote the title track to Starr's 20th album *What's My Name* in 2019. Starr returned the favor by playing drums on the title track of Hay's *Now and the Evermore*, a Beatles influenced song with lyrics that convey a self-awareness that as one gets older the realization begins to take hold that time waits for no one.

"Now And The Evermore' is a reminder to myself to make the most of what time I have left walking around on top of the planet," Hay said at the time of the release of the album in early 2022. "When I listen to it, it transports me back to when I thought I had all the time in the world. It is a song which is unashamedly inspired by the majesty of The Beatles, and the gift they gave us all. Having Ringo Starr play on the track is more than icing on the cake."

And after recording, it's usually time to hit the road again, whether with Ringo or his own band. Hay's band, pictured above, includes his wife, Cecilia Noel (background vocals/percussion), Scheila Gonzalez (keyboard/flute/sax/ vocals), San Miguel Perez (guitar/tres/vocals), Yosmel Montejo (bass/vocals) and Jimmy Branly (drums).

Hay says it's usually fun to get out and perform in front of a live audience.

"Most days it's a good feeling to get up on stage," he said. "You get up and people clap. It gives you emotional nourishment."

Ron Harrington contributed to this article.

Shasta Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Presents An



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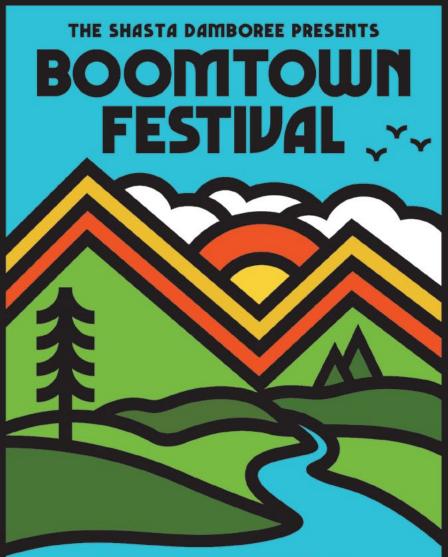
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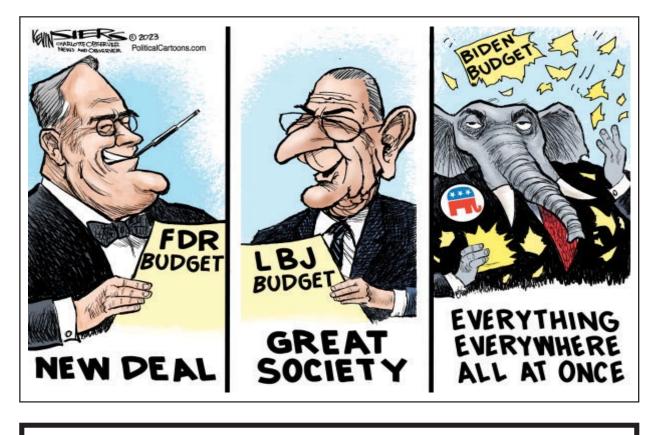
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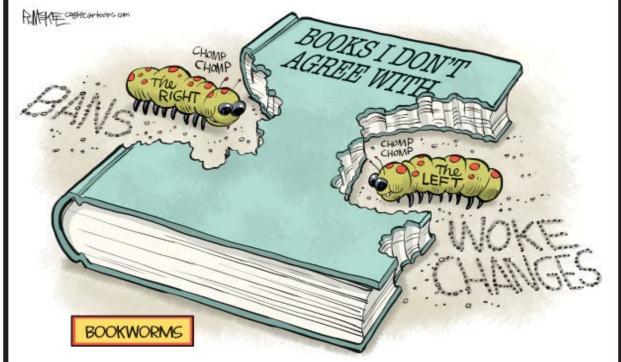
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## Baby Shower, Open House returns for the first time in four years for SWRR

For the first time in four years, Shasta Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation (SWRR) will host its annual Baby Shower and Open House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 8, at its Wildlife Center in Anderson River Park, 3752 Rupert Road, Anderson.



The last time they held the event was in 2019, but they still include special tours of the facility that are only conducted at this time of year, prior to the big influx of baby animals rescued during the coming spring and summer season.

Guests can get up close and personal with SWRR's educational animals and can visit an educational display table. Children's activities include making a gift for the wild birds in your yard, an animal face painter station and a publisher of children's nature books. The first 75 children to visit will receive baby shower favors.

Admission to the Baby Shower and Open House is free.

Volunteer opportunities abound with them as well. Want to get hands on and help save these lives? See their volunteer coordinator at the event.

Want to help the animals? Bring a baby shower gift of paper towels or toilet paper to help SWRR care for the needs of animals and defray the cost of running the center. Go to shastawildlife.org or call 530-917-0930 for a list of needed items. Or you can also see the SWRR wish list by going online to Amazon.com under Shasta Wildlife Rescue.

## **AFTER FIVE** The North State Magazine

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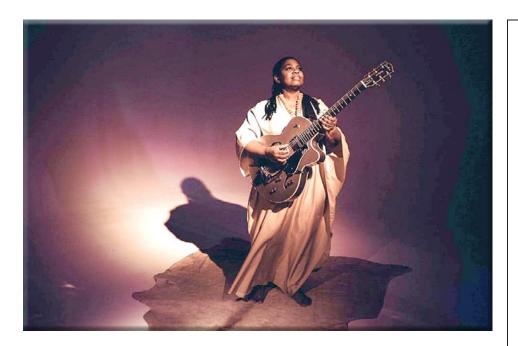
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# **Ruthie Foster going through a** 'Healing Time' on tour that includes a stop in Redding

Ruthie Foster's ninth studio album represents a new highwater mark for the veteran blues artist - a collection of songs possessing pure power, like a tidal wave of musical generosity.

Foster, who has won numerous Blues Music Awards and been nominated for three Grammys, is touring on the heels of her latest album, Healing Time. She's scheduled to perform at the Cascade Theatre in Redding at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 28. Tickets at cascadetheatre.org

For her latest, released in 2022, Foster, 59, contributed more to the writing process than she had on any of her previous albums.

"With this album, I dug deep and tried to go for the best way to write," she explained. "This album says a lot about the period we were making it in, and how I wanted to find my way out of it.'

Work on the album began in lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, as Foster enlisted previous collaborators like Gary Nicholson and Grace Pettis to pitch in during the writing process - as well as every member of her band.

"I wanted my band involved in the entire process of this album," she said, and they also played a large role in recreating the sound that Foster had become drawn to after spending time with her vinyl collection. "I was aiming to keep these songs sounding like they came from that era, which says a lot about where I am in my life, too.

Veteran producer Mark Howard (Willie Nelson, Lucinda Williams) came in to bring new ideas to Foster's table as recording began at Studio 71 West in Austin, Texas, New Orleans' famed Esplanade Studios, and Blue Rock Studio in Wimberley, Texas.

"Mark's ability to turn a song's arrangement upside down was intriguing and sometimes challenging for me, Foster said. "It was a lot to wrap my head around, but he made me think outside of the box I didn't even know I was in."

Producer Dan Barrett, who also worked with Foster on 2017's Joy Comes Back, then took the helm at Black Pumas, co-bandleader Adrian Quesada's famed Electric Deluxe studio in Austin.

"With Dan onboard we were able to find the glue to these songs sonically, and he brilliantly melded my familiar Texas blues-Americana sound with what Mark pulled out of me in New Orleans,' Foster said. "This combination gave these songs a breath of fresh air, and it all came together very organically."

Healing Time - as well as its burstof-sunshine title track, which features pedal steel legend Robert Randolph - is a reference not only to the trials many have faced over the last several years, but also the necessity of what Foster does as an artist.

"I hear fans tell me that the music we make is very spiritually healing," she said. "The experience of dealing with my own grief after losing a band member a year before the pandemic while navigating around zoom school with my daughter and trying to figure out what to do with myself was tough but necessary. When I look at it as a whole it was all very healing for me which is pretty much how I try to live my life. There's always time for healing, if you give it time."

Hailing from Gause, Texas, Foster comes from a family of gospel singers. According to her Wikipedia page, at the age of 14 she was a soloist in her hometown choir. She attended community college in Waco, Texas, where she fronted a blues band before joining the Navy. Following her tour of duty she headed for New York and eventually self-released her first album, Full Circle, in 1997.

She's gone on to garner three Grammy nominations: The Truth According to Ruthie Foster in 2010 for Best Contemporary Blues Album; Let It Burn in 2012 for Best Blues Album; and Promise of a Brand New Day in 2014 for Best Blues Album. Her numerous wins at the Blues Music Awards includes three for Best Female Vocalist and one for DVD of the Year for Live At Antone's. In 2016, she won the Koko Taylor Award for Best Traditional Female Blues Artist.



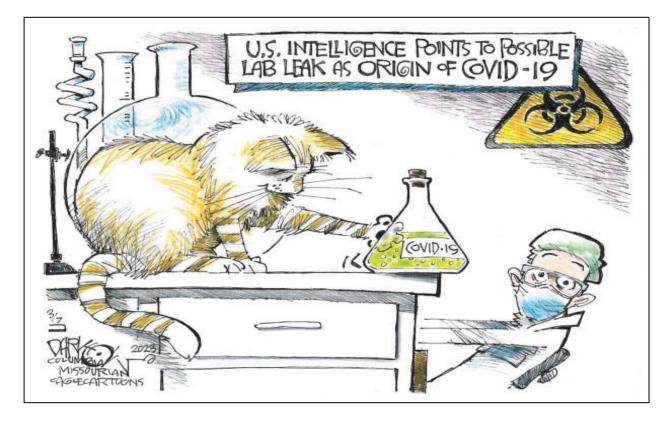
written by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields



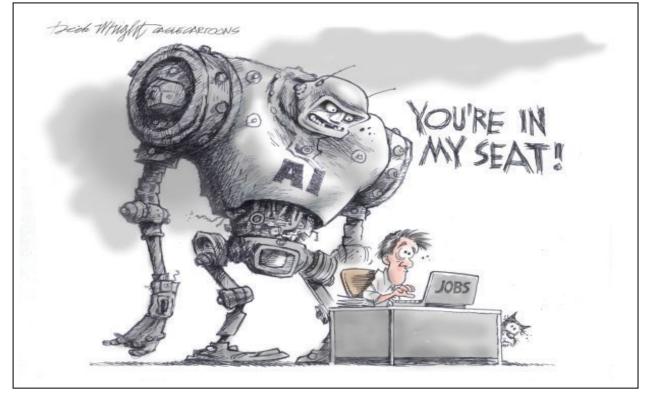
# **APRIL7-29** tickets at axreptheatre.com

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Spring broke

By Jase Graves

When my three semi-grown daughters were young (and since I work in the lucrative world of public education), we'd spend our spring break holidays riding bikes to the park, making dad-sized pillow forts in the living room, and raiding the gift shop at the zoo.



Now that two of the girls are in college and one is in high school, those days (and our gift-shop cash) are long gone.

This year, I spent most of my spring break competing with my youngest daughter to see who could sleep in the latest without developing bed sores. She usually won (barely), mostly because of the shame I would feel if I still had bed head when my wife came home from work.

My middle daughter also spent a good amount of her spring break in bed, only instead of just sleeping, she allowed the Chinese government to spy on her college laundry pile while she binged on TikTok videos to procrastinate from reading "an entire book" for her cruel and unusual college history class.

I only saw my eldest and most expensive daughter in passing as she spent her spring break going out to have her eyebrows waxed or to purchase "healthy" groceries that are missing the ingredients that make food edible – since, apparently, everything in our pantry is poisonous.

If I wasn't in REM sleep dreaming of the good old days when my kids still spoke to me without mentioning a credit card, I was nursing my lower back, which currently feels like it's identifying as a tackling dummy for the Dallas Cowboys defensive line. My doctor has encouraged me to relieve my pre-geriatric lumbar aches by performing several stretches that require me to get on the floor and contort my body into positions that frighten our pets.

These so-called therapeutic stretches have embarrassing names like the "child's pose," the "catcow" and the "pelvic tilt." I'm starting to think that having me do these stretches is just a ruse by the doctor to provide entertainment for my family–and to keep me from being able to get up off of the carpet and go bother him again.

But don't get me wrong. I did have some fun and adventure on my break.

Along with making several trips to Walmart for more toxic foodstuffs, I spent some quality "me" time inhaling microscopic fibers while vacuuming the masses of delinquent lint partying behind our dryer.

I also had the rare opportunity to re-install a toilet-paper holder that an overly-exuberant (and unnamed) potty patron managed to rip out of the sheetrock in my daughters' bathroom. (While I was on the floor, I did a few pelvic tilts.)

Seriously, though, I know there is no sense in whining about the travails of the present or longing for the spring breaks of old. Instead, I'm determined to savor the time I can still spend with my daughters – even if it mostly involves picking up their dirty laundry, asking them how much it would cost to have my eyebrows waxed or telling them I love them as they walk out the door.

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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.

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### WELCOME SPRING WITH THESE EXCITING SHOWS AT THE CASCADE THEATRE!







Donald Matthew Santacroce, 65, really wants to go to federal prison.

To that end, on March 6, he entered a Wells Fargo bank branch in Salt Lake City and handed the teller a note: "Please pardon me for doing this but this is a robbery. Please give me \$1. Thank you."

According to KSL-TV, the teller handed over a dollar and asked Santacroce to leave, but instead he sat down in the lobby and waited for police to arrive.

During his wait, he mentioned that it was a good thing he didn't have a gun, because the police were taking so long.

At that point, the manager ushered employees into a locked back room. The arrest report noted that Santacroce said that "if he gets out of jail, he will rob another bank and ask for more money next time" so that he'll be sent to federal prison.

Maine's vanity plate freefor-all is at an end. The state's review process for custom license plates was effectively ended in 2015, after which residents could – and did – put nearly anything on the tags, including profanities.

Lawmakers have now had enough: The state is reestablishing a review process and recalling hundreds of "inappropriate" plates, NBC Boston reported.

But resident Peter Starostecki wants to know: What's inappropriate about soy products? The state recalled his plate, "LUVTOFU," because it "could've been seen as a reference to sex instead of admiration for bean curd," as NBC put it.

Starostecki is one of 13 motorists to appeal their plates' recall so far, all of which have been denied.

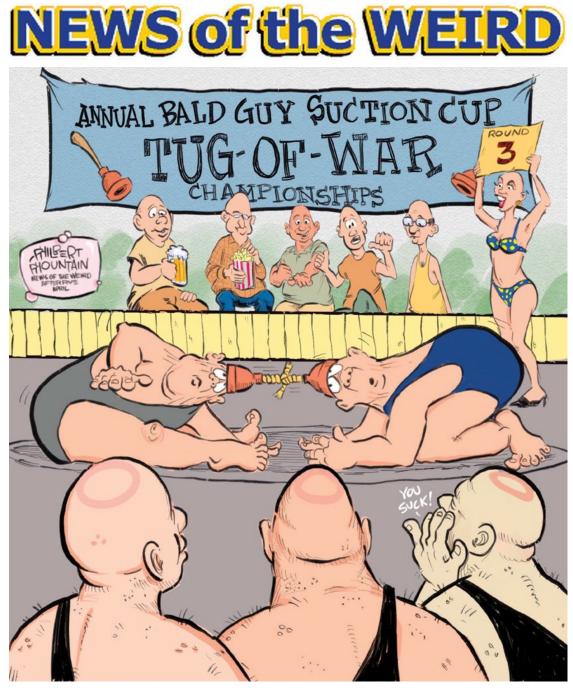
Secretary of State Shenna Bellows said vehicle owners can still express themselves – but that they should do so with bumper stickers, not stateissued tags.

"We have a public interest in keeping phrases and words that are profane or may incite violence off the roadways," she said. So, Maine motorists, consider yourselves safe from tofu-induced road rage. For now.

Pop quiz: If you crashed

your car into a building, what would you immediately do? Maybe call emergency

services? See if anyone was hurt? We're betting you wouldn't



In Tsuruta, Japan, an annual sporting event was shuttered for three years during the COVID pandemic, but now it's back, Reuters reported. The Suction Cup Tugof-War, in which pairs of bald men attach suction cups to their heads and pull in opposite directions, took place on Feb. 22, with the city's Bald Men's Club gamely competing. "My head still hurts," said Toshiyuki Ogasawara, 43. "I think I need to ice it!" The club welcomes people who "view baldness in a positive manner" and want to "brighten the world with our shiny heads," its website reads. This year's champion was Mr. Ota, who has won three consecutive times.

answer with "get a manicure next door to the place I just destroyed," but that's what an Ontario woman did earlier this month.

Per CTV News Toronto, which obtained security footage of the incident, a Jeep plowed into the storefront of Guilty Pleasurez Dezzert Cafe, shattering windows and destroying merchandise.

Thankfully, the bakery – owned by siblings Tanvir and Simran Bawa – was not yet open for the day, and no one was inside.

Tanvir rushed to the scene after getting a frantic call from the pair's mother, while his sister got the news from a worker at KC's Nails and Beauty Shoppe, the nail salon next door to Guilty Pleasurez.

The employee told Simran that the driver was inside KC's, getting her nails done.

Tanvir told CTV that he spoke to the driver: "I was like, 'Are you OK?' ... and she's just giggling. She's like, 'Yeah, I'm fine."" His sister added, "I'm telling you, this whole time, not one single apology from them. ... This is pretty much my bread and butter."

Simran said the bakery had sustained "serious structural damage," but that their insurance provider was requiring the shop to stay open for the time being – despite the shattered glass and a front door that doesn't fully open.

In the kind of understatement only Canadians can pull off, Simran said, "It's not been the most pleasant time."

If you saw the phrase "cocaine cat" trending recently, here's why: A wild cat that was captured in Cincinnati tested positive for exposure to

cocaine, NPR reports. In events only recently made public, a big cat named Amiry escaped from his owner's car during a police stop. Soon after, local dog wardens started getting calls about a possible leopard stuck in a tree.

Responders retrieved Amiry,

brought him to a shelter and called in an expert.

Per NPR, "The expert suspected Amiry was actually a serval: a long-legged, bigeared wild cat that is native to sub-Saharan Africa and illegal to own in Ohio."

A DNA test confirmed that hunch – and also found narcotics in the cat's system. (After an incident last year involving a monkey on amphetamines, the shelter now tests all "exotic" animals that come through its doors.)

Amiry is currently living at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. He suffered a broken leg during his ordeal, but is recovering well, says lead trainer Linda Castaneda.

"Amiry is young and very curious," she said. "He is exploring his new space and eating well."

No charges have yet been filed against Amiry's former owner, but the case remains open.

Sometimes, even the selfappointed top bachelor needs a little help.

Robert Siegfried, 43, of Janesville, Wisconsin, was tired of dating apps and decided to try a new tactic, reports WISC-TV. He took out a billboard featuring a photo of himself; next to that are the all-caps words "DATE ROBERT" in what some might call a desperate shade of red, followed by "Wisconsin's #1 Eligible Bachelor."

The sign states that Robert is "looking for a local, honest woman." Said lucky lady can reach him at the number plastered on the billboard.

If you do reach out to Robert, you might want to ask him about the restraining order that was put in place against him last year, according to online court records, which is set to last for four years. Meh, that's probably nothing to worry about. Get dialing, ladies!

According to Berlin's local government, everyone will soon be allowed to go topless at the city's public pools, regardless of gender.

Up till now, women who bared their breasts at Berlin pools were asked to cover up or leave, and were sometimes even banned, reports NBC.

After a local woman filed a discrimination complaint with a government office for equal treatment, the Berliner Baeder-Betriebe (which runs the city's public pools) decided to update its policies.

Doris Liebscher, the head

–Please See Page 13

# 'Flora/Fauna' art show starts April 8 at Siskiyou Arts Museum, Dunsmuir

"Flora/Fauna" is the title of the Second Saturday Art Opening and Reception at the Siskiyou Arts Museum in Dunsmuir scheduled April 8 from 4 to 7 p.m. The exhibit includes these four artists from southern Oregon:

**Erin M Linton** paints with Gouache on used teabags. Learn more about Erin on her website orphangirlfineart.com

**Jay Gordon** experiments with all kinds of art, including portraiture, still life, figure drawing, illustration and printmaking. Learn more about Jay on her website jaygordonart.com

Jhenna Quinn Lewis is an American oil painter of avian and still-life subjects whose meditative compositions and detailed realism blend the tenets of Japanese "wabi sabi" with a sense of light like the old masters. Learn more about Jhenna on her website jhennaquinnlewis.com

**Julia Janeway** draws from her love of illustration to create lively carved ceramics. See some of her work at ashlandgalleries.com/aga-member-directory/pumphouse-studios.

The exhibit continues through June 3.

The Siskiyou Arts Museum is located at 5824 Dunsmuir Ave. Phone: 530-235-4711. Business hours are Thursday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. For more information, visit them on the web at siskiyouartsmuseum.org.

### Dream Makers Gala and Auction in Weaverville returns April 15

The 2023 Dream Makers Gala and Auction fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Weaverville. Doors open at 6 p.m. Dress to impress. Tickets are available by a Gala partner or online at trinitydreammakers.com. Tickets are \$50 per person.

Weaverville Rotary Club, Soroptimist International of Trinity County, and the Weaverville Lions Club are partnering with numerous community business sponsors to host this year's fundraiser.

The Gala will again feature a silent auction, live auction, hearty appetizers with dinner provided by local restaurateurs and other fine food enthusiasts. There also will be area wine and craft beer vendor tastings. Sen. Mike McGuire will return as the Gala auctioneer.

"We are really excited about this community collaboration to help local youth, local veterans and local community projects pursue their dreams, especially after the event has been dark for a few years, and to achieve related community goals," Debbie Laffranchini, co-chair of Dream Maker's Gala planning committee, said in a press release.

### Lakehead Bunny Festival April 8

The 35th Lakehead Bunny Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, rain or shine. Everyone is invited to attend.

A children's Easter egg hunt begins at 9 a.m. at the former Canyon School facility on Antlers Road. The Bunny Parade on Lakeshore Drive starts at 10:30 a.m. All types of entries into the parade are welcome. That will be followed by a hot dog lunch for \$5, auction and raffles, decorated cake judging, and a free carnival of outdoor games for kids – all at the Lions Hall on Mammoth Drive at Lakeshore Drive.

Proceeds of this fundraiser benefit the community support and improvement activities of the Lakehead Lions Club.

For more information and/or entry forms for the parade and contests, contact Ralph Collier, Lions Club Bunny Festival Chair, at 530-339-1818 or email lakeheadbunnyfestival@ gmail.com. You can also find them on facebook at Lakehead Bunny Festival.

### Beef 'n Brew April 1 in McArthur

The Intermountain Cattlewomen's ninth annual Beef 'n Brew is schedule for 6 p.m., April 1, at the Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds Skuce Pavillion. The evening includes the popular saddle cow riding event and a women's calf flag race. There will be beer tasting, live and silent auctions, a beef dinner and dancing. Beginning March 25, tickets are \$40 each and are available at Mad Mountain Wireless in Burney, McArthur Farm Supply and McArthur Mini Mart in McArthur, Plumas Bank in Fall River Mills, and Big Valley Market in Bieber. For more information, call Diane Estes at 530-592-5871 or Sandi Kaul at 650-703-1687.



# MASTERWORKS 4: RACHMANINOFF & DVOŘÁK

### Guest Artist Charlie Albright, piano

Join North State Symphony as they capture in sound the iconic beauty of nature's endless charm. A highlight for this performance is the World Premier of *Lassen Awakes!* by composer Marko Bajzer, 2022 Artist-in-Residence at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Bajzer was awarded a co-commission by the North State Symphony to produce this original piece, and it will be performed before a live audience for the first time at this concert.

### **PROGRAM:**

BAJZER - Lassen Awakes! \*World Premiere\* RACHMANINOFF - Piano Concerto No. 2 DVORAK - Symphony No. 8

Saturday, May 13 | 7:30 PM | Cascade Theatre, Redding Sunday, May 14 | 2:00 PM | Laxson Auditorium, Chico



northstatesymphony.org

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# Riverfront to present the Pulitzer Prize winning 'Rabbit Hole'

A play about grief and love and the way that loss can simultaneously isolate and bind us in ways that we never could have imagined is the theme of the next production for Riverfront Playhouse, said Malorie Glavan, the theatre's manager who also happens to play the lead in the show.

"Rabbit Hole centers around a family who has endured an unimaginable pain and explores the different ways that each individual member of that family is fighting to find their way back to each other through that pain," Glavan said in an email.

"The action of the play sees this family at the moment where they must choose how they will respond to the fallout of their loss," she added. "They are at that pivotal moment in the grieving process where they can either choose to stand together or allow their pain to break them apart."

Glavan portrays Becca in *Rabbit Hole*. In the original Broadway production, actress Cynthia Nixon won the Tony Award for her performance as Becca while Nicole Kidman played the part in the later film version.

Glavan said David Lindsay-Abaire's script does a beautiful job of showing very real people having very real and raw reactions to what is happening to them. *Rabbit Hole* was the 2007 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

She said she was drawn to try out for the part of Becca for the challenge it presented.

"We see Becca at a pivotal moment in her life. She is standing at the edge of a precipice," Glavan said. "She is a mother who no longer has a child, a wife who feels disconnected from her husband, and a daughter who can't bear to be mothered. She is struggling to find her new identity and some kind of meaning in the things that have happened to her. She is running through some very intense emotions and as an actor it is always a thrill to take on a challenge like that."

She added that everyone can relate on some level to loss and she thinks that everyone will be able to see themselves to a certain extent in at least one of the characters in the play.

"A production like this seeks to give



PHOTOS / Samantha Fork

lan Dalziel portrays Howie and Malorie Glavan is Becca in the Riverfront Playhouse production of *Rabbit Hole*.

people an opportunity to experience some very real emotions in a safe environment and come away with hope," Glavan said. "Hope that we can all move forward and that we are stronger than we believe. There can always be something to hold on to, a new rabbit hole to go down, a happier version of yourself to find."

Glavan said that in the end, there is incredible hope to be found in accepting that things might never be "nice" again but that they can still be good and you can move through the pain together. "No one can avoid grief or loss entirely but we can all choose how we move through that grief and loss and there is no one right way to grieve," she said.

In addition, Glavan said that she believes it is incredibly important to address this kind of deep grief.

"So often we are told to hide our grief and hide our emotions so we can just soldier on," she said. "We bury these very real feelings until they eat us up inside. I'm hoping that my portrayal of Becca will allow audiences to empathize with and perhaps process some of their own moments of grief.

"I also love that Becca is not by any means a hopeless character. Even in her lowest moments she is still fighting and clawing for life. I find that really beautiful."

*Rabbit Hole*, directed by Samantha Fork and assisted by Nadia Elwood, is scheduled to be performed April 21 to May 6 at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. for Sunday matinees. A special preview night show for \$15 is scheduled on April 19. Tickets can be purchased online at riverfrontplayhouse.net or in person at Enjoy the Store. Riverfront Playhouse is located at 1950 California St., Redding.

Glavan, who has a B.A. in theater performance from George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon, has been acting in Redding for the last 11 years. Her first role in Redding was as Francis in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* which was also directed by Fork. In 2019 she won a Best Actress award for her role in *The Laramie Project* at Riverfront Playhouse. More recently she has been seen as Mrs. Peacock in *Clue*, Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, and Catherine in *Proof.* 

In addition to Glavan, others in the cast include Ian Dalziel, who plays Howie and has been acting in Redding for more than a decade. He'll be going from one show to the next having also appeared as Bill in Riverfront's March production of *On Golden Pond*. Other recent performances include portraying Wadsworth in *Clue* and Brookfield in *The Fall of the House of Usher*.

Other cast members for *Rabbit Hole* are Michelle Longee, Samantha Robinson and Silas Harris.

The play is for mature audiences and not recommended for children.

"This play deals with some heavy subject matter but I hope that audiences will be willing to travel this path with us," Glavan said. "I think that they will be surprised by how much they need experiences like the one provided by sharing in the journey that *Rabbit Hole* will take them on. And I think that they will come out of it feeling a little more connected and a little more certain that no matter how dark you feel there is always a light somewhere and there is always hope for a road better traveled."

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Cast of *Rabbit Hole*, left to right: Silas Harris (Jason), Samantha Robinson (Izzy), Ian Dalziel (Howie), Malorie Glavan (Becca) and Michelle Longee (Nat).





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# **NEWS of the WEIRD**

#### -From Page 8

of the office involved, praised the decision because "it establishes equal rights for all Berliners, whether male, female or nonbinary, and because it also creates legal certainty for the staff at the Baeder-Betriebe."

#### . . . . . . .

Owners of Club Castaway, a strip club in Whately, Massachusetts, are looking for a way to stand out in a "saturated" market, Boston.com reported.

So they've decided to transition their business into a topless cannabis dispensary.

"We do have some experience on the cannabis side and some on the nudity side," said co-owner Nick Spagnola.

"We want to replace this nightclub scene and alcohol with something that is harmless in comparison."

Club Castaway shut down during the pandemic and has not yet reopened; details and licenses for its new incarnation are still being worked out.

The Exmoor Squirrel Project, a conservation endeavor in the United Kingdom aimed at saving the native red squirrel, has proposed that people set live traps for the non-native grey squirrel and that restaurants serve its meat, the BBC reported.

"Our woodlands, landscape and the biodiversity isn't set up to deal with the behaviors of the grey," said the group's manager, Kerry Hosegood.

"We're going to introduce them to restaurants in the Exmoor area because they actually make for good eating," she added.

"This isn't something that we like to do ... just target greys ... It's a very serious project."

She said the grey squirrels have caused about 40 million pounds' worth of damage to trees annually.

#### . . . . . . .

Madison County (Illinois) coroner Steve Nonn solved a nearly year-old mystery when he released the results of an autopsy a few weeks ago on Richard Maedge of Troy, Illinois.

Maedge's wife, Jennifer, had reported him missing in late April last year after he failed to come home from work, KTVI-TV reported. His car, wallet and keys were at the house, but she couldn't find him.

Police searched the house, which they described as a "hoarder home," but did not locate him.

In fact, they searched twice, as Jennifer was also looking for the source of a "sewerlike" odor in the dwelling.

Finally, on Dec. 11, as Jennifer pulled out Christmas decorations from a concealed storage space, she discovered Richard's mummified body.

The coroner ruled that Maedge hanged himself and that there was no foul play in his death.

#### . . . . . . .

Mushrooms have been in the news a lot lately, but you probably didn't know

that Texas has a state mushroom: the Devil's Cigar or Texas Star.

KXAN-TV reported that the Lone Star State's designated fungi is ultra-rare, growing only on decomposing cedar elm or oak tree stumps and roots in the U.S. and Japan.

It comes out of the earth in a cylindrical shape, then "will open up into a three- to eight-pointed star," said Angel Schatz of the Central Texas Mycological Society. That's when it releases its spores and sometimes hisses. "It is a very cool mushroom to have as our state mushroom," Schatz said.

#### . . . . . . .

Kansans take their tornado sirens seriously, so it was no surprise that on March 4 in the Wichita suburb of Park City, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place to mark the reinstallation of the city's oldest Thunderbolt siren, KSNW-TV reported.

The sirens are remnants of the Cold War, and four of them are still in service in Sedgwick County.

"About a year ago, we took them down, had them refurbished, and put them back up in our system," explained Jonathan Marr, deputy director for Sedgwick County Emergency Management. The feted siren had been in use for 70 years.

#### . . . . . . .

Tattoo artist Dean Gunther of Manchester, United Kingdom, has made one man's body goals come true: He's inked a ripped six-pack on the man's torso, freeing the man from eating right and exercising more, the Daily Mail reported.

"He decided that by getting a sixpack tattoo, he will always look summerready while still being able to enjoy beer and good food," Gunther said of his customer. The artistic tat took two days to complete.

#### . . . . . . .

At a preliminary hearing in San Francisco Superior Court, police officers offered testimony about an incident in which Dmitri Mishin fired a replica gun inside a synagogue, The San Francisco Standard reported.

As officers interrogated Mishin, he explained that the shooting was an act of prayer he was giving for his neighbor's bird.

Mishin, who pleaded not guilty, told officers he lives on a submarine and talks with North Korean and Japanese leaders, and that weapons found in his home were movie props.

After the shooting at the synagogue, he waved goodbye and left. Unsurprisingly, this isn't Mishin's first run-in with the law; his mother testified that he suffers from mental illness. The hearing was ongoing.

#### 

David Jimenez, 65, of Maui, Hawaii, was arrested for "pursuing a humpback whale," CBS News reported.

Jimenez, who calls himself Dolphin Dave, was allegedly harassing the

whale and dolphins in Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park, where he was snorkeling.

Jimenez was unrepentant, though: He told officers "he's not going to stop swimming with whales and dolphins 'because it's magical and others do much worse things." Humpback whales are protected under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

#### . . . . . . . .

In China, women modeling lingerie for online retailers violates the country's rules about spreading obscene material, Insider reported.

Instead, underwear companies are hiring men to model the clothing – and it's working out better than you might think.

"The guy wears it better than the girl," one online commenter posted. Others argue that the restrictions are "depriving women of job opportunities."

"We don't really have a choice," said one business owner, Mr. Xu. "The designs can't be modeled by our female colleagues, so we will use our male colleagues to model it."

. . . . . . .

You missed it again. Key West, Florida's annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest took place on March 4, with Carol Whiteley of Ontario, Canada, winning the women's division and Brian Cardis of Macon, Georgia, taking the men's top prize.

Entrants of all ages were judged on quality, novelty, duration and loudness, the Associated Press reported.

Michael and Georgann Wachter from Avon Lake, Ohio, impressed the audience with a shell and vocal duet of Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog."

Whiteley said she toots her shell to celebrate sunsets at her riverside home. Time to start practicing for next year!

Your Mates Brewing Co. has recalled cans of its Watermelon Sour Beer because of "excess alcohol," United Press International reported.

The Australian brand said the beer could pose a risk of illness; it was unintentionally fermented twice, causing it to have a higher alcohol content and carbonation. The brand is sold in Queensland and online Down Under.

#### Belinda H. Miller, 50, was in jail four days after an incident at a Popeye's restaurant in Richmond County, Georgia, WJBF-TV reported.

Miller became angry when her order was missing biscuits, the store's manager told police, and the mistake was corrected – but that didn't appease her.

Instead, she allegedly drove her SUV into the store's front window, narrowly missing a worker standing inside.

She continued driving until debris inside the building stopped her car. Miller was charged with aggravated assault and criminal damage to property.

. . . . . . . .

Hayato Baba, 21, of Narashino, Japan, was taken into custody in March because he allegedly assaulted another man and stole his wallet outside a convenience store, Japan Today reported – all because the guy was taking too long in the restroom.

Baba admitted to punching the victim twice in the face and taking the wallet.

#### . . . . . . .

Trevyn Wayne Hill, 21, of Las Vegas, let it all hang out on Jan. 28 when he approached another guest in a stairwell at the Des Moines (Iowa) Downtown Marriott, KCCI-TV reported.

Court documents said Hill was naked and brandishing a toilet plunger when he yelled, "I'm going to (expletive) get you" while chasing the other person.

Hill cruised around the hotel in his birthday suit, destroying a sprinkler system and pulling several fire alarms before finally being subdued by firefighters.

Hill pleaded not guilty to assault, firstdegree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.

. . . . . . .

Early on the morning of Feb. 5, 20-year-old Lantz Kurtz broke into a gas station in Palm Coast, Florida, and stole multiple items.

He exited via the front door, apparently unaware that he'd left a big clue behind: his debit card, Fox35-TV reported.

Officers responding to the alarm found the card and tracked down Kurtz, who told them he had intended to come back to the store and pay for the items.

But Sheriff Rick Staly wasn't having it: "Leaving a debit card behind does not absolve you from theft or committing a burglary," he said.

#### . . . . . . .

Jose Ruben Nava, former director of the zoo in Chilpancingo, Mexico, is under fire after officials learned that he slaughtered four pygmy goats to serve at the zoo's year-end dinner, MSN reported.

Fernando Ruiz Gutierrez, director of wildlife for the state's environment department, said serving the goat meat "put the health of the people who ate them at risk because these animals were not fit for human consumption."

Nava is also accused of trading a zebra for tools. He was let go from his position in January after the death of a deer at the zoo.

#### . . . . . . .

Jesse and Deedee O'Dell of Tulsa, Oklahoma, normally spend around \$10 for their Starbucks coffees, but on Jan. 7, their bill was considerably more, KOKI-TV reported.

A few days later, when Deedee tried to use the same card at a mall, it was declined.

That's when the couple discovered that Starbucks had given itself a \$4,444.44 tip on their \$10.90 bill.

They contacted the district manager, who said there'd been an "issue" with the network, and they received two checks to cover the enormous gratuity – but both checks bounced.

While they wait for replacement checks, they've had to cancel a family vacation, "and the tickets are nonrefundable," said Jesse.

A Starbucks representative said new checks are on the way and the mistake was caused by "possible human error."

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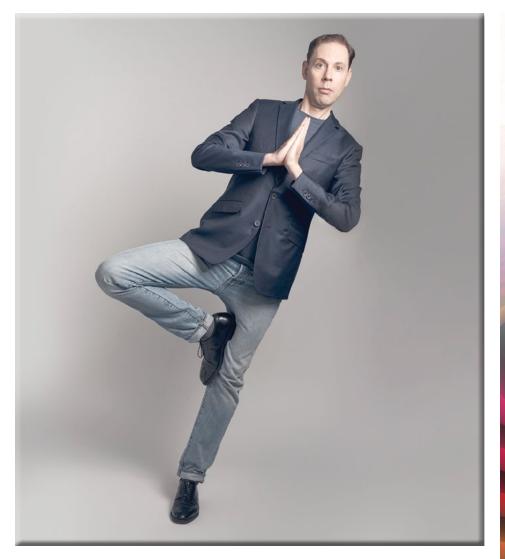
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# Back from serious injuries after getting hit by a bus, Ryan Hamilton is set to perform his comedy act April 22 at the Cascade Theatre

"One of the most reliably funny regulars at the Comedy Cellar, an observational comic who often riffs on the absurdity of his own wholesomeness." - The New York Times

Armed with the unique perspective of growing up in rural Idaho, Ryan Hamilton became a favorite in the New York standup comedy scene. Besides his 2017 hit stand-up special on Netflix, "Happy Face," Hamilton was named by Rolling Stone as one of the five comics to watch in 2012, and he has appeared on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. He's toured with Jim Gaffigan and also Jerry Seinfeld in 2019, who he calls a mentor and someone he has become friends with off stage.

Hamilton is scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 22, at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. For tickets and information visit cascadetheatre.org.

The comic also managed to bounce back from serious injuries that hospitalized him in early 2022 after being hit by a bus in Salt Lake City, Utah. He told EastIdahoNews.com in November 2022 that he suffered 10 broken ribs, a broken arm and a punctured lung following the Jan. 1 accident.

"I'm able to do everything that I used to do. I'm still working on physical therapy stuff, but I'm able to travel to the shows," he said in a zoom interview . "It is an inherently funny accident to get into, I have to admit," he added.

"Getting hit by a bus, people go, like, how did that happen? How did you not see it? It's a bus. They're so big."

Hamilton said it has obviously become part of his act.

"I've never had something that I had to talk about and I had to talk about this, so it will occupy a lot of the show," he said prior to some dates he was scheduled to perform at in Idaho in late November.

According to his Wikipedia page, Hamilton was born in 1976 in Ashton, Idaho, a small potato farming community. He attended BYU-Idaho, receiving an associate degree in journalism and public relations before transferring to Brigham Young University where he earned a bachelor's degree in public relations.

He started performing in Salt Lake City, Utah clubs and has lived and performed in Seattle and other major cities, including Boston. He has appeared in several festivals and competitions including winning the Sierra Mist "America's Next Great Comic" search in 2005 and winning "The Great American Comedy Festival" in 2011. He has also been a regular performer at the "Just for Laughs" comedy festivals, including Montreal and Sydney, and was a two-time semi-finalist on "Last Comic Standing."

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Rabbit

by David Lindsay-Abaire

Directed by Samantha Fork April 21-May 06

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North State Visitors Guide



PHOTO / Tim Nascimento

The cast for Axiom Production's April play, *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Pictured from left to right: Daniel Hill as Jonathan, Ann Marie Lockamy as Annie, Tyler Lockamy as Robert, Mike Spence as Chris, Jet Thomas as Dennis, Nick Brown as Max, Erin Brown as Sandra and Jarred Newman as Trevor.

# Featuring the largest scale show in their history, Axiom presents the play within a play production of the comedy 'The Play That Goes Wrong'

Ever want to go backstage to see what happens behind the scenes of a play you're watching? That's sort of the plot of the comedy *The Play That Goes Wrong,* which Axiom Repertory Theatre will present in April.

"We knew that *The Play That Goes Wrong* was a show we had to produce at Axiom Repertory Theatre," Ken Hill, director of the local production, said in an email.

Hill said the story is built around a small community theatre group that, though earnest, has struggled recently mounting their plays through a series of mishaps. With their current production - the night's scheduled presentation of "The Murder at Haversham Manor" - the dramatic society finally has found a play with the same number of characters as there are members of the group. And, to celebrate, they've also built the biggest set of their entire history.

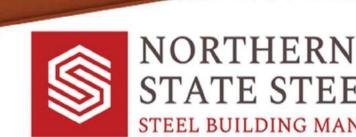
"However, even before the play begins, and despite their best and most valiant attempts presenting the show, things begin going horribly wrong, wrong, wrong," Hill said.

That doesn't stop the cast from their determination to finish the show, despite things breaking, lines being forgotten, props missing, and even the set itself threatening to collapse.

"So it truly is a 'play within a play,' Hill said. "We're watching the drama society's production of their murder mystery, but the show is about everything that goes wrong during the production. Just about no one and nothing goes unscathed."

The Play That Goes Wrong was written in 2012 by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields for a London production. According to Wikipedia, the play premiered at the Old Red Lion Theatre in London in 2012 before moving to Trafalgar Studios in 2013. The play then opened at the Duchess Theatre in the West End on Sept. 14, 2014, where it remains to this day as the longest-

- Please see Axiom, Page 17



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# Axiom

running play since the theatre opened in 1929. They recorded their 3,000th performance in January of this year. Among its accolades, it won Best New Comedy at the 2015 Laurence Olivier Awards.

The play had its U.S. Broadway run beginning in April 2017, featuring the original London cast and the debut of film director J. J. Abrams as a theatrical producer. It won a Tony Award for Best Scenic Design of a Play. The Broadway production closed in January 2019 before reopening off-Broadway at New World Stage where it continues.

"It's literally one of the funniest plays I've ever seen," Hill said. "It's so funny that it's almost impossible to get through rehearsals. Everyone's laughing all the time.

"And it's also one of the most complicated productions out there. It's literally the largest scale show in Axiom's six season history. We simply had to go for it."

Hill said that for this production, they enlisted the talents and skills of University of Alabama Scenic Designer Alan Schwanke.

"Alan honed his craft working for many years as a designer for both the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the Oregon Cabaret, and other theatres around the country," Hill said. "Alan has created a two-story English drawing room set that is spectacularly beautiful, and also will do things on stage that the audiences will likely never see coming."

Jet Thomas plays the actor, Dennis playing the butler, Perkins. (Remember a play within a play). There's Tyler Lockamy who is Robert/Thomas, Nick Brown is Max/Cecil and Arthur, Michael Spence appears as Chris/ Carter, Jarred Newman is Trevor. Daniel Hill is Jonathan/Charles, Erin Brown is Sandra/Florence, and Ann-Marie Lockamy is Annie.

The cast is rounded out by Shawn Beringer and Erin Beringer as the hapless stage hands trying to hold the set - and play - together.

"I don't want to say too much in trying not to give anything away, but it's hard to believe what one is going to see before them, live on stage," Hill said. "There's a reason this show sells out wherever it's produced and performed. Once word gets out, there's likely going to be a mad rush on tickets. The interest in this particular show is extraordinarily high. Make sure to not miss this one. People will be talking about it for years to come."

Tickets and show dates

The Play That Goes Wrong is scheduled to run April 7-29 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets and more information are available online at axreptheatre.com.

Open Every Day 1pm-2am

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

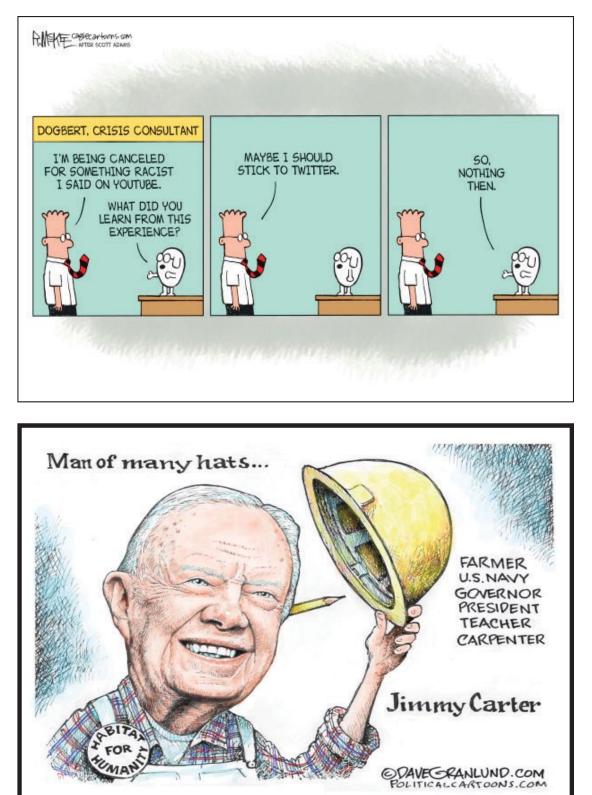




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# Let's get our kids behind the wheel

#### By Tom Purcell

The sun is shining today and Spring is upon us.

Such days remind me still of the excitement I knew when I turned 16 in April and was finally able to get my driver's license — a wondrous rite of passage fewer and fewer teens choose to experience today. According to a 2019 article in The Wall



Street Journal, in the 1980s half of all 16-year-olds were driving. But by 2020 it was just 25 percent.

Why?

Driving tests began getting stricter and more challenging in many states in the mid-1990s — though passing my test in a 1976 "Starship-Enterprise-sized" station wagon was no easy feat.

The cost of cars has risen and today's teens are able to get around easily enough using ride-sharing services.

But the biggest reason is simply that many teens have zero desire to drive on their own — because the hunger to get out of the house and socialize is no longer a big incentive.

A study by Common Sense Media finds that teens are spending an average of 8 hours a day on social media apps.

They may think their online habits are enabling them to socialize with "friends," but several studies, including a 2021 Journal of Adolescence study, see a clear correlation between the explosion in social media in 2012 and increasing isolation, depression and anxiety in teens.

A 2020 Netflix documentary, "The Social Dilemma," explains in detail how the nature of social media encourages teen isolation and depression.

When you're online, powerful artificial intelligence tools algorithms — monitor everything you do. Plus, the tools know your full name, marital status, gender, age, birthday, political views and several of your interests.

Every time you "like" an item, click on a news story or interact with other users, you help these AI tools determine precise personal details, such as who you are dating and whether you are lonely or sad.

The more these tools know about your private life, the more money advertisers will pay to custom-tailor precise ads that will appeal to you or shape your opinion on everything from what kind of socks are cool to the political candidate they want you to vote for.

The more they know about you, the more often items will appear in your newsfeed that are designed to give you dopamine spikes and keep you online as long as possible — so their advertisers have never-ending access to sell to you.

As you spend time online with social media apps, you are constantly being psychologically manipulated — constantly comparing your looks to famous people, constantly seeking praise and "likes" from strangers or suffering deeply if someone online in any way mocks or criticizes one of your posts.

It's pretty clear that young people, whose brains are still developing, are being profoundly impacted by social media in many important and trivial ways we don't fully understand yet.

Which brings us back to driving. Instead of becoming excited at age 16 that they can learn to drive a car and come and go freely, too many kids are content to sit alone in their rooms endlessly texting each other or consuming TikTok.

It's too bad. Kids today don't know how much fun, freedom and real social interaction they're missing without cars.

Cruising the park in a 1972 VW Beetle with my friends is one of the best memories I have of my teen years.

I know the social media challenge is complex, but here's a good start:

Hey, kids, the weather is breaking. Get your license, turn off our phones and go for a cruise in the park!

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Purcell, creator of the infotainment site ThurbersTail.com, which features pet advice he's learning from his beloved Labrador, Thurber, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

# Tips and tours for traveling with grandchildren

#### Dear Savvy Senior,

My husband and I are interested in taking our two grandkids on a big trip this summer and are looking for some good ideas. Can you recommend some travel companies that offer special travel packages for grandparents and grandkids?

- Doting Grandmother

#### Dear Doting,

Grandparents traveling with just their grandchildren has become a growing segment of the multigenerational travel industry. Not only is this type of travel fun, it's also a terrific way to strengthen generational bonds and create some lasting memories.

To help you with your traveling aspirations, there are a number of travel companies today that offer specialized grandparent/grandchildren and multigenerational trip packages. This is a nice way to go because they plan everything for you with most activities together, but some just for adults so you can get an occasional breather.

Available in various trip lengths and price ranges, these tours are designed for children, typically between the ages of six or seven up to 18, and are usually scheduled in the summer, or sometimes during winter breaks when the kids are out of school. Here are some top tour companies to check into that will take you and your grandkids on a fun, wellplanned vacation.



Road Scholar (RoadScholar. org): This well-established notfor-profit organization has offered educational travel to older adults since 1975. They currently offer 83 different programs geared to grandparent and grandchildren. About 75 percent of the grandparent trips are domestic; 25 percent are international.

Some of the many popular trip destinations include the U.S. National Parks, Washington D.C., Canada, France, Italy, Iceland, Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands. The average cost per person per night is around \$265 for domestic trips, \$365 for international.

Intrepid (IntrepidTravel.com): An adventure travel tour operator that offers "grandparent holiday" tours that bring together the young and the young at heart. They offer 35 one and twoweek tours in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, as well as in Alaska and Wyoming. To find these trips, go



to Intrepidtravel.com/us/theme/family/ grandparents.

**Tauck (Tauck.com):** This is a large tour operator that offers 19 foreign and domestic multigenerational trips called Tauck Bridges Family Tours. Some of their most popular trips are Costa Rica, the European riverboat cruises, and the Cowboy Country, which tours you through Wyoming and South Dakota.

#### **Smithsonian Journeys**

(SmithsonianJourneys.org): They offer 10 different family journey trips to Iceland, New Zealand, Italy, Greece, Japan, Ireland, Costa Rica, South Africa, Yellowstone and a Rhine River cruise.

Journeys International (JourneysInternational.com): They offer customized multigenerational trips primarily to Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. Grandkids Travel Documents Depending on where you go and your mode of transportation, you'll need to gather some documents for your grandchildren to make sure everything goes smoothly. In general, most travel experts recommend you bring a notarized travel consent form (letter of permission from the parents), and a medical consent form in case any emergencies or problems arise. Also bring copies of insurance cards.

If you're traveling domestically, you should know that airlines and trains don't require any form of ID for children under 18. But if you're traveling to Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, or other areas of the Caribbean by land or sea, grandchildren 15 and under will need certified copies of their birth certificates. And if your grandkids are 16 or older, or you're traveling to these locations via air, passports will be required.

If you're traveling overseas, all children, even infants, must have a passport. Some countries also require a visa for entry, and vaccinations may be required in some cases. Before booking a trip, check the U.S. Department of State's website at Travel.State.gov for country-specific information.

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.

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