

AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

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THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

ON THE COVER

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

*For their summer musical, Shasta College presents **The Sound of Music**. More than 40 actors will take the stage, including Vanessa Davis-Sanchez as Maria and Henry Patterson as Captain von Trapp (photo at right). They'll be joined by a live orchestra of 35 musicians from the Shasta Symphony Orchestra. See page 5*

SHOELESS TOAD

Toad the Wet Sprocket - and the presumably shoeless Glen Phillips - are scheduled to play at Redding's historic Cascade Theatre on July 18 in the second



to last date of their summer tour. For the discussion with Phillips about the band's history and his choice of footwear - or lack thereof - read the After Five interview. See page 2

THREE AXIOM SHOWS

Axiom Repertory Theatre presents their Summer Repertory Season, which includes 'Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic,' 'Sister Act: The Musical,' and the Axiom Children's Theatre production of 'Mary Poppins Jr.' See page 10



Toad the Wet Sprocket looks to give you most 'All You Want' July 18 at the Cascade Theatre



PHOTO & COVER PHOTO / Chris Orwig

By Aaron Williams

You might think the Monty Python-inspired name of the band Toad the Wet Sprocket is the oddest thing about the band formed in Santa Barbara whose catalog spans four decades with a litany of instantly recognizable hits.

You'd be half right.

Certainly, the name is off-beat and quirky. (From a sketch written by Eric Idle in which a journalist delivers a nonsensical music news report. If you don't know the story by now, the rest of it is online).

The second half might be lead singer and co-founder Glen Phillips' footwear choice on stage – or lack thereof.

"I've got nothing against shoes," he said while on a stop in Birmingham, Alabama, en route to a show in PeachTree City, Georgia.

Still, Phillips chooses to go barefoot on stage. It's something he said just happened over the years and has kind of taken on a life of its own.

"I'm from California and tend to wear sandals because I like them," he said. "On stage, I'm a bit clumsy and find it hard to feel the foot pedals unless I can feel them (without shoes). I'm more comfortable (barefoot) and hey, this is a summer tour."

He said that on the rare occasion that he does don shoes, someone in the audience inevitably mentions it.

"The schtick is that when I do wear them, people give me crap," Phillips said. "So the schtick gets reinforced."

Toad the Wet Sprocket – and the presumably shoeless Phillips – are scheduled to play Redding's historic Cascade Theatre on July 18 in the second to last date on their summer tour. Opening is Mini Trees.

The band will bring such 90s classics as "All I Want," "Walk on the Ocean," "Something's Always Wrong" and "Fall Down" to the art deco theater in support of a revamped greatest hits album *All You Want (Bonus Edition)*.

The CD and 2-LP vinyl includes a new version of "Best of Me," the lead single from their 2021 album *Starting Now*, but sans the backing vocals of perhaps the greatest backing vocals singer of all time – Michael McDonald, a not too shabby lead vocalist either on such classic hits as "Takin' It To The Streets," "What a Fool Believes" and "I Keep Forgettin'."

"I had the background vocal idea and made a demo and thought 'That's a perfect Michael McDonald part,'" Phillips said. "I had a friend who knew Michael and played it for him and he said he'd do it. There was radio silence for a few months and then I opened an email with a DropBox link with McDonald's part."

"My favorite part was playing the track for friends and waiting for the look on their face. You can't mistake his voice. He's on half the songs I grew up with ... he's the soundtrack of a Michael McDonald playlist."

But the band said in the press release for this new version of the song that "...since (McDonald) was too busy to helicopter out on tour every night, we wanted to release the original version. This version of the track more closely aligns with the version (audiences) hear live and it's a frequent request from our fans, especially when we play this on tour."

Phillips said while it's great to make new music more than 40 years and a few breakups and reunions later, he and fellow founding members Todd

"Radio was wide open, before it became homogeneous. We were getting played on pop and rock radio and even country, and on stations that would sandwich (us between) Sarah McLaughlin and Soundgarden. We didn't have to fit a particular genre. We were just shy nerds after all."
- Glen Phillips on the group's success in the '90s

Nichols and Dean Dinning know that the ubiquitous sound of Toad the Wet Sprocket from the 1990s is the band's bread and butter.

"We're certainly not reinventing the wheel," Phillips said. "I feel lucky that I get to do what I love."

Toad the Wet Sprocket, he said, came about in an age where terrestrial radio still mattered and record companies were flush with cash due to the overlap of vinyl, cassette and CD sales.

"They really took time to invest in new groups," he said. "We had two albums out (*Bread & Circus* and *Pale*) where we were learning to write. It's not like we were an out-of-the-gate thing. We got time to develop."

The band's 1991 album *Fear* produced the hits "All I Want" and "Walk on the Ocean" and Phillips said it was a fun, if not a strange time in music.

"Radio was wide open, before it became homogeneous," he said. "We were getting played on pop and rock

radio and even country, and on stations that would sandwich (us between) Sarah McLaughlin and Soundgarden.

"It was really diverse and we were lucky to be in that time. We didn't have to fit a particular genre. We were just shy nerds after all."

Constant touring for *Fear* led to what Phillips said was the band's strongest recording, 1994's *Dulcinea*.

"We had toured hard and tightened up on the road," he said. "We were confident in our writing and still young enough that the shadow of doubt hadn't overshadowed me."

He said Nichols' guitars are the "signature sound" of Toad while the interplay with bass allows Dinning to "take up much more space" sonically.

Original drummer Randy Guss departed the band a few years ago, primarily because of his inability to tour due to the progression of osteogenesis imperfecta. Josh Daubin filled in for Guss for a time from 2017-2020 and has since become the full-time drummer for the band.

Phillips said the fun of being on stage is something he's allowing himself to take more joy in with the three original members now all in their early to mid-fifties.

"I've been having a great time on this tour," he said. "I don't think I could do this if it was just nostalgia."

"I still do side projects and I'm a creative person," he added, but said he's also grateful for the band's decades long success and how he believes they continue to improve in their live performances as the years go by.

"Even my ex-wife saw a show recently and said 'You sound really professional now.'"

REDDING'S HISTORIC



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SEASON

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the
Sweet
Sprocket**

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JULY 21

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**KEB'
MO'**

SEPT 19

**MASTERS
OF
ILLUSION**

SEPT 21

**SHAKY
GRAVES**

OCT 6

**Shane
Smith
AND
THE
SAINTS**

OCT 7

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NOV 5

NOV 8

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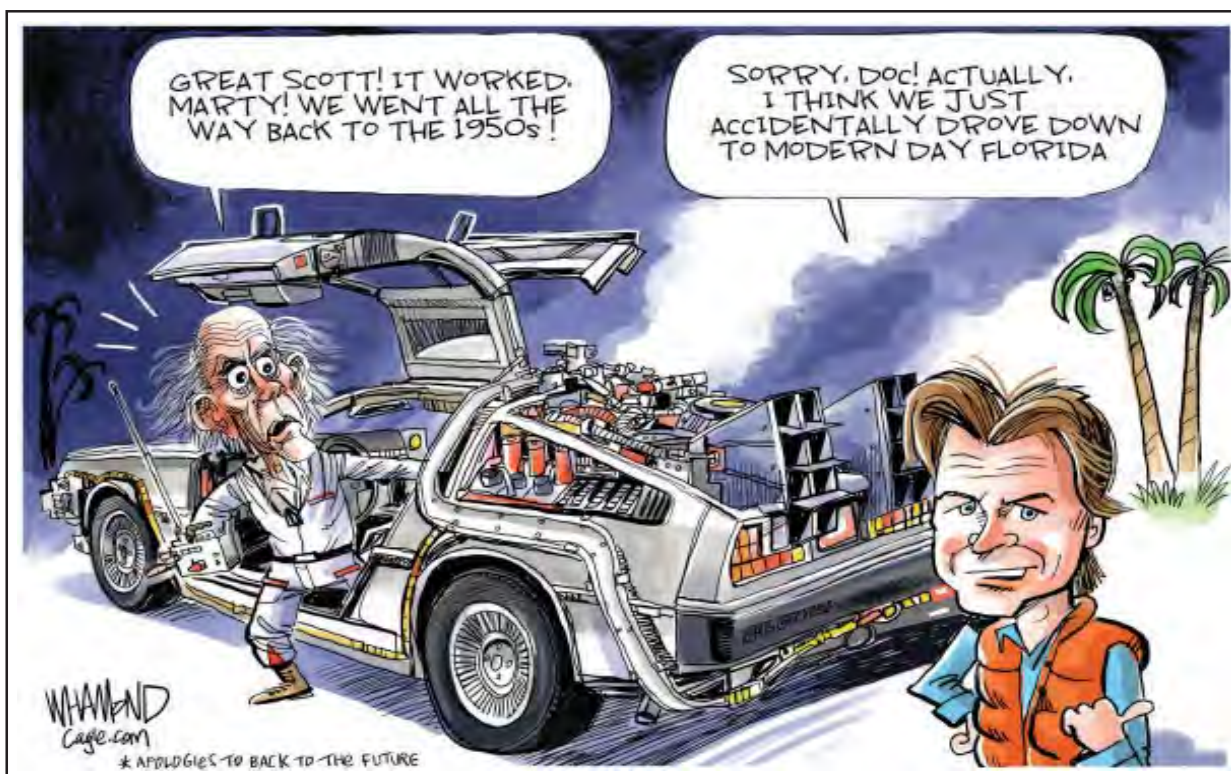
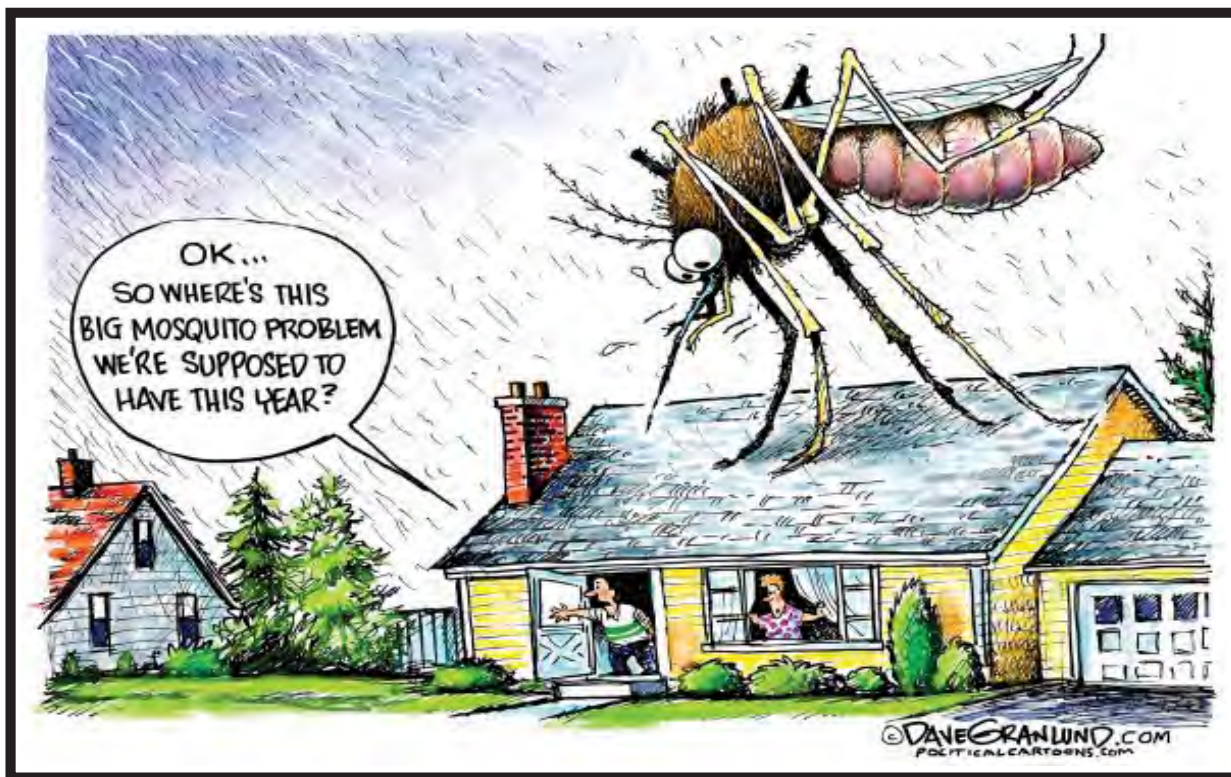
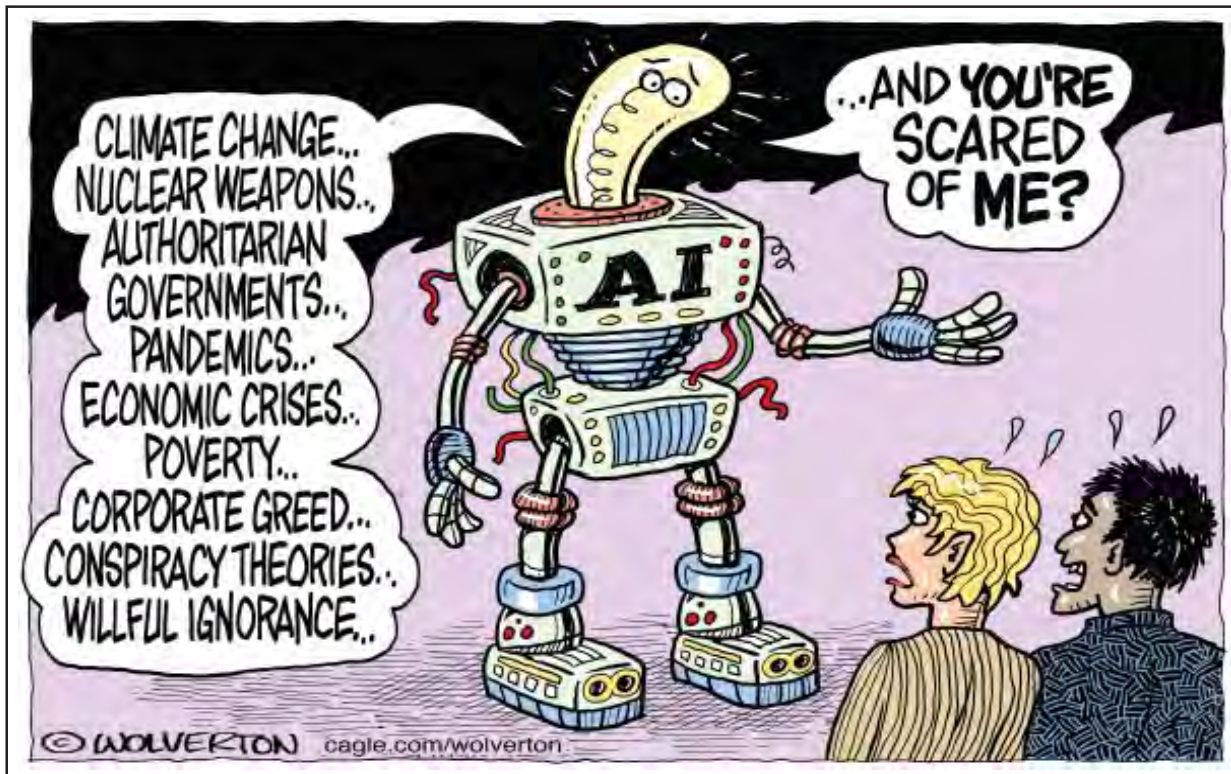
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The Sound of Music to feature cast of over 40, live orchestra

July marks the return of Shasta College's summer musical and this year they've chosen to perform the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, *The Sound of Music*.

"I wanted to do a show that had a wide appeal to a Redding audience," Dr. Greg Thorson, who is directing the production, said in an email. "At the same time, I want to do plays and musicals that are emotionally and intellectually interesting."

He added that the *Sound of Music* is amusing, entertaining and heartwarming while at the same time "promotes a message of the dangers of hatred and fanaticism that remains very timely."

For those who don't know it by now, the story concerns Maria Rainer, an irrepressible young postulant at Nonnberg Abbey, who is sent to act as governess for seven children of a retired naval officer, Captain von Trapp. Maria brings music and laughter back into the von Trapp household, and audiences are swept up in the ensuing love story. The play is set in Austria during the tumultuous times leading up to WWII, and the struggles and choices such circumstances eventually require.

The *Sound of Music* won five Tony awards in 1959, including Best Musical, while the subsequent 1965 Academy Award-winning film adaptation with Julie Andrews as Maria went on to become one of the highest grossing movies of all time.

While most are familiar with the film, few have seen the stage production.

"Superfans of the Julie Andrews



PHOTO & COVER PHOTO / Peter Griggs

Capt. von Trapp, played by Henry Patterson, being a stern taskmaster in a scene from the Shasta College production of The Sound of Music. The von Trapp children pictured left to right: Violet Schlegel (Gretl), Antonio Sanchez (Kurt), Kira Reed (Marta), Julia Swope (Brigitta), and Macie Molter (Liesl).

film are likely to notice dozens of little adaptational changes between the two," said Assistant Director Dalton Fitzgerald. "Musical numbers are cut or moved around and lines have been rewritten."

He also noted that much of the film was shot on location

"Robert Wise, the director of the film version, went out of his way to shoot on location and really anchor the film to the Austrian landscape," Fitzgerald said. "However, any film, no matter how accomplished, always lacks the immediacy of the live theatrical

experience. In our production, you'll be in the same room as the actors and the full orchestra, knowing that each actor, no matter how well-practiced, is giving you a slightly different performance than they ever have before or ever will again."

With a cast that includes several parts for children, Fitzgerald said they set about to reach out to the local schools to fill the rolls.

"We're lucky in Redding," he said. "Our local community is very rich with younger performers who have put a lot of time and effort into developing their skills

as actors and singers. By reaching out to local schools and other populations, we were able to audition many, many different children who could have filled these roles with great aplomb."

The *Sound of Music* was the last musical of the Rodgers and Hammerstein partnership and featured a number of never forgotten numbers, including "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "My Favorite Things," "Do-Re-Mi," "Maria," "Sixteen Going On Seventeen," and the titular number.

"These two men are among the most influential American theatre artists in our country's history," Thorson said. "They essentially invented the integrated musical with Oklahoma, where the plot, songs and dancing are integrated and complement each other. They continued to develop the form over their careers and I think *The Sound of Music* is their defining accomplishment."

Thorson said another reason he wanted to do this production was to bring a large group of people to work on a collaborative project.

"We have over 40 actors, including 25 nuns, and a live pit orchestra of 35 musicians."

The cast will be joined by select members of the Shasta Symphony Orchestra, performing Richard Rodgers' score under the baton of conductor and music director Dr. Jeff Specht.

"The orchestra under the direction of Dr. Jeff Specht is marvelous and worth

- See Sound of Music, page 7

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Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL CROUSE

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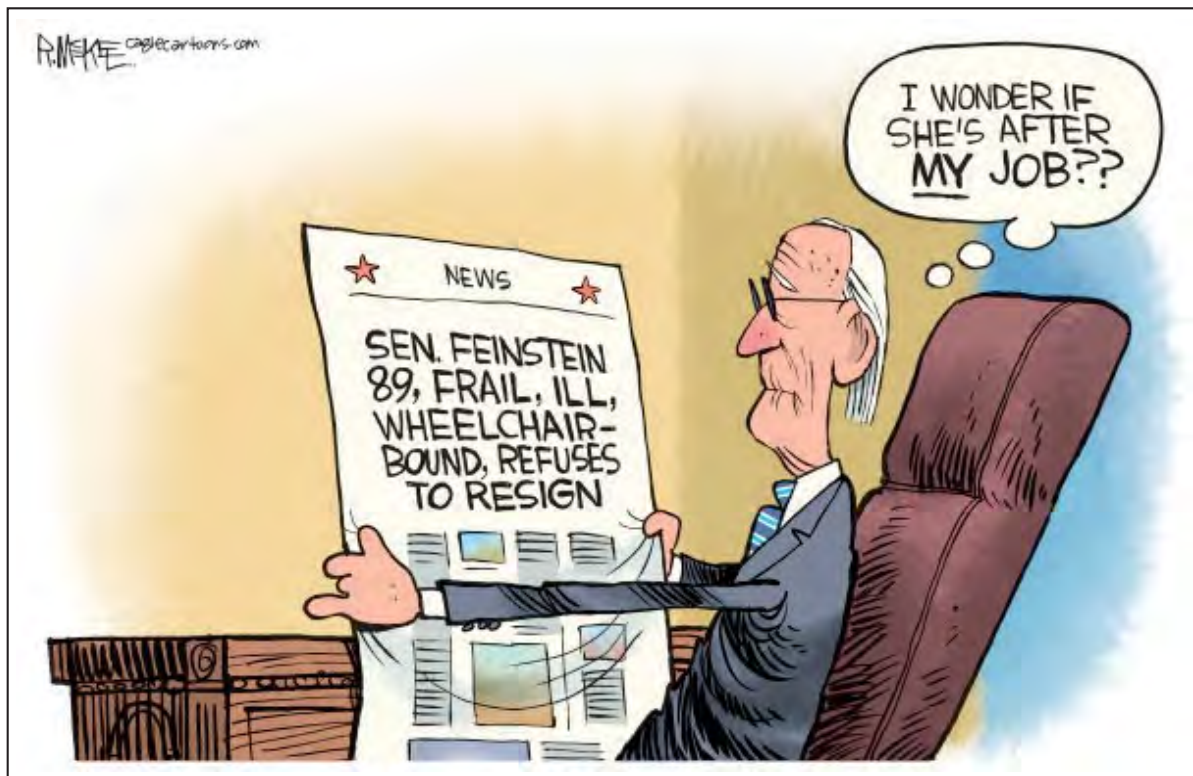
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Big box blues

By Jase Graves



As I have mentioned in previous columns, I look forward to bathing-suit shopping with my daughters almost as much as major dental surgery without anesthesia. But that's exactly where I found myself recently when my youngest daughter informed me that we were a few days away from an upcoming high school end-of-year swim party, and if she didn't get a new swimsuit, she might have to wear a modified Hefty bag (which didn't sound all that bad to me).

Needless to say, I soon found myself in Target. Yes, this was before the Satanist clothing designer-Pride display debacle officially "hit the fan." I do think I saw a Pride display out of the corner of my eye, but I could have seen President Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin mud wrestling – in the nude – and not been distracted. I was on a mission to find a modest bathing suit for my daughter – and then find the exit as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, I didn't consider the fact that a dad doesn't just take his daughters into a big box store like Target and purchase only one item. To complicate matters, I also brought my middle daughter, who is home from college for the summer, for moral support.

I spent the first part of this expedition leaning against a display of men's briefs while my daughters argued in the dressing room about which swimsuits I would reject for revealing too much elbow. In fact, they were in there for so long that I could have crocheted them an appropriate 1800s-style bathing gown myself.

Instead, I began pondering the potential loss of another big box store since Bed Bath & Beyond recently filed for bankruptcy. I really enjoyed shopping at Bed Bath & Beyond. It was one of the few places where I could choose from a wide selection of toilet brushes, spatulas and Mother's Day cards – sometimes all at once. Besides, the whole store smelled kind of like my wife's shower soap, which I may or may not use when I get the urge to feel refreshed and moisturized.

Once the girls came out and assured me that their swimsuit choices would be suitable for a Sunday night hymn sing at church, I tried to head to the checkout line – but they redirected me first to the pool toy section, then to the grocery section, and then to the toiletries and cosmetics.

Here is a list of our purchases (Mind you, we went in for one dad-approved bathing suit.):

- Two swimsuits (including one bikini that I told my youngest daughter I would be wearing before she does)

- Two jumbo inflatable pool floats (that someone will puncture within the week)

- A pack of strawberry lemonade green bubble tea (I'm still not exactly sure what that is.)

- Two enormous bags of gourmet popcorn with Himalayan salt (I didn't think it tasted Himalayan at all.)

- A sparkly-purple ergonomic woman's razor (I didn't ask questions.)

- A large jar of birthday-cake shea sugar body scrub (Huh?)

- Some "blush fantasy" tinted lip balm (Whatever happened to Chapstick?)

- A giant container of Extra-Strength TUMS (for me)

Once I recovered from the shock over the total on my receipt, I resolved to be grateful for the time spent with my daughters. I also promised myself that the next time someone asks me for a new swimsuit, I'm heading to Walmart for some Hefty bags.

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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.



Sound of Music

- Continued from page 5

the price of admission alone," Thorson said.

Vanessa Davis-Sanchez, who portrays Maria, said she found out about the production by chance.

"I heard about the production from Dr. Specht," she said. "He was my music theory professor a few years back during my time at Shasta College. I ran into him and his wife at the store one day and he suggested I should audition. When he told me that he was conducting the music, I knew I had to be a part of the production."

Davis-Sanchez said it was a bit daunting to take on such a well-known and well-loved part as Maria.

"Julie Andrews is a household name and her role as Maria in *Sound of Music* is one of legends," she said. "Knowing that these are large shoes to fill, while incorporating my own adaptation to the part, is one of the challenging aspects."

In addition to Davis-Sanchez, Henry Patterson portrays Captain Georg von Trapp while Gwen Rooker is Mother Abess.

Davis-Sanchez added that one of the most enjoyable aspects of rehearsals so far has been working alongside what she said are such professional and talented kids.

"The children playing the von Trapp children are amazing to work with and I'm excited for the community to watch them perform," she said.

The von Trapp children are portrayed by Macie Molter (Liesl), Dylan Dahlberg (Friedrich), Keara Lowe (Louisa), Julia Swope (Brigitta), Antonio Sanchez (Kurt), Kira Reed (Marta) and Violet Schlegel (Gretl).

Others in the cast include: Jocelyn Olson (Sister Margaretta), Njeri Mwaniki (Sister Berthe), Deborah Leedy (Sister Sophia), Glorianna Junokas and Angela Junokas (postulant), Robbie McFarlane (Rolf Gruber), Ashley Olson (Elsa Schraeder), Isaac Ramsour (Max Detweiler), Elijah Higgins (Franz), Megan Pittman (Frau Schmidt), and Mercedes Moutard (Ursula).

The *Sound of Music* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. Choreographer is Diana Christensen, sets are by David Fraser, costumes by Hilary Fahey and makeup by Mat McDonald. Stage manager is Carolyn Murray.

Evening performances will be held in the Shasta College theatre at 7 p.m. on July 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 with Sunday matinee performances at 2 p.m. on July 16 and 23.

Tickets are priced from \$10 to \$20 and are available on eventbrite.

For more information go online to shastacollege.edu/ArtsEvents.

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NEWS of the WEIRD

In the Burns Beach community of Perth, Australia, a dispute has arisen between a woman named Sarah and her neighbor, Perth Now reported.

"Could you please shut your side window when cooking please," Sarah wrote on behalf of her family. "My family are vegan and the smell of the meat you cook makes us feel sick and upset."

On the front of the envelope, she wrote, "PLEASE TAKE SERIOUSLY." But no such luck: The letter was posted to Facebook, where commenters were merciless: "I'm offended by the smell of the kale she always cooks," one said, while another said they'd be "firing up the bbq and inviting the entire street."



In Enid, Oklahoma, officers were called to a farm where someone had reported hearing shouts of "Help!"

Officers David Sneed and Neil Storey arrived at the scene and also heard the cries for help: "I think it's a person," Sneed says on bodycam video.

When they discovered the source of the hollering, it wasn't a person at all, but a goat. A person working at the farm then approached the officers and explained that the loud goat was "a little upset because I separated him from his friends," People reported.



Protesters at the Massachusetts Statehouse bared more than their souls as they demonstrated against climate change, according to an NBC-10 Boston report.

Shouts began to rain down from the public gallery just after 1 p.m. from eight members of Extinction Rebellion, an international environmental movement, followed by a warning: "We are going to be mooning you ... You can look away if you wish."

At that point, the octet turned their backs on the senators and dropped trou, revealing pink thongs and bare buttocks emblazoned with the words "stop passing gas."

The protesters continued with chants of "You're a senator, not an ass, why are you still passing gas," and "Butts out for climate" for about an hour before they were arrested and escorted out of the chamber.



A first edition of George Orwell's "1984" has been returned to the library ... 65 years late.

UPI reported that the Multnomah County Public Library in Portland recently received the return from an



Elephants at the Houston Zoo are a limber group, thanks to the yoga practice they begin learning soon after they're born, Chron reported. In fact, Tess, 40, can lift her 6,500-pound body into a handstand. Adult elephants do the sets of exercises twice a day to help keep their joints moving and are rewarded with fruit or bread, said Kristen Windle, the zoo's elephant manager. "We want them to constantly be learning new things," she said. "They are really smart and they want to be constantly working and learning."

86-year-old patron. The patron attached a note to the book, explaining that they meant to return it in 1958 after checking it out as a Portland State University student, they just "never got around to it."

But talk about excellent timing: The library just went fine-free.



A dispensary in Baltimore faces fines for blowing smoke ... literally.

WMAR-2 in Baltimore reported that the Cookies dispensary opened May 27, only to be shut down less than a week later after a surprise inspection revealed a laundry list of violations, including "large plumes of medical cannabis smoke being blown

from a large gun apparatus into the mouths of persons outside the dispensary," according to the suspension notice.

Cookies is part of a franchise, and Cookies San Francisco was the first to utilize a "Flame Thrower" smoke blower, created by Jeff Dick of Colorado. The blower has since become part of the Cookies brand.



Relatives were mourning Bella Montoya, 76, at her wake in Ecuador when they heard strange sounds coming from the coffin.

"There were about 20 of us there," the woman's son, Gilberto Barbera, said.

"After about five hours of the wake, the coffin started to

make sounds." The supposedly deceased had been declared dead the Martin Icaza Hospital in Babahoyo earlier that day, but that evening, "my mom was wrapped in sheets and hitting the coffin, and when we approached we could see that she was breathing heavily," Barbera said.

Montoya was rushed back to the hospital, but the Associated Press reported that she was intubated and is not expected to recover. Ecuador's Health Ministry has launched an investigation into the incident.



Workers for American Plate Glass in Sunapee, New Hampshire, learned an important lesson about locking up their valuables.

But it wasn't at the hands of the typical thief, and the valuables weren't the usual tools or construction materials.

Curtis Fidler was working onsite when he noticed movement in his peripheral vision: "I turn and it was a bear nonchalantly just having lunch in the front seat of the truck."

The bear enjoyed all the snacks it could find, left the truck and disappeared into the woods.

Fidler FaceTimed his mother-in-law, Melinda Scott, who watched the encounter live and later told WHDH-7 News that "There is not a single scratch on the box truck. He did no damage. He just had lunch and took a nap."



The hopes of Bangkok residents were slightly deflated as a long-awaited art installation in Victoria Harbor lost steam.

Dutch artist Forentijn Hofman's giant rubber ducky installation, which tours cities around the world and captured the affections of Bangkok residents when it visited there back in 2013, returned to the city earlier this month, this time with two giant rubber duckies, which the artist said would bring "double luck."

Unfortunately, Yahoo News reported that rising temperatures put one ducky – and residents – at risk.

The "rubber duck skin had become strained because the hot weather has caused air pressure to rise," organizers said in a statement. They deflated the duck as a precaution.



Theatergoers in Thailand have a new pet-friendly place to bring their furry friends.

Yahoo News reported that the country's largest movie theater chain, Major Cineplex Group, started offering weekend showtimes for patrons who want to bring Fluffy or Fido with them.

Of course, there's a catch: Pets must weigh under 11 pounds and either wear a diaper or be kept in a carrier. Visitors turned out in droves for a pets-welcome showing of "The Little Mermaid," cosplaying their creature companions as Sebastian the crab and Ariel the mermaid.

Not everyone's a fan, however; as one former resident said, "It's so ridiculous dogs are not allowed in (most Bangkok) parks but they can go to a movie or cafe. What comes next, you bring your dog or cat to a massage parlor?"



–Please See Page 12

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REDDING - July 4 Freedom Festival, 7pm, Redding Civic, Vendors, Live Music, Fireworks 10pm.
ANDERSON - July 3 Anderson Explodes, Shasta District Fairgrounds Live music Chad Bushnell 7pm, Fireworks 10pm
WEAVERVILLE - Independence Day Celebration June 30-July 4 Lots of activities all five days, Fireworks July 3
MT. SHASTA - July 4th Celebration July 1-4. Lots of activities Fun Run/Walk, Fireworks July 4 at Lake Siskiyou

BURNEY - Burney Basin Days June 29-July 2. Parade July 1. Lots of activities, Fireworks July 1 at Burney High
RED BLUFF - July 4 Fireworks at Elks Lodge
WILLOWS - July 4 Parade, Activities, Fireworks
LOS MOLINOS - July 4 Parade 10am
ALTURAS - July 1 Fandango Days, Parade 10:30am
OROVILLE - July 4 Fireworks **BIGGS** - July 4 Parade & Fireworks
SUSANVILLE - July 4 Lassen County Fair Auto Races & Fireworks



SUMMER OF SHOWS

I Feel Summer Creepin' In

The Refugees - July 8th

Recreating all the signature guitar solos and rich vocal harmonies down to the smallest detail, The Refugees can make even die-hard Petty fans feel like they are at another Tom Petty concert.



PHOTOS / Kim Mobley

Deloris Van Cartier, center, plays Aronnest Grayson in *Sister Act: The Musical*. Also pictured are, left, Christina Newton as Mother Superior and Daniel Hardy Jr. as Detective Eddie Souther.



We're Number 3!

Puffs - Opens July 13th

This clever and inventive play "never goes more than a minute without a laugh" (Nerdist) giving you a new look at a familiar adventure from the perspective of three potential heroes just trying to make it through a magic school that proves to be very dangerous for children.

3 shows for Axiom summer season

Axiom Repertory Theatre presents their Summer Repertory Season, which includes *Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*, *Sister Act: The Musical*, and the Axiom Children's Theatre production of *Mary Poppins Jr.*



Left to right: Daniel Shahbon as Wayne Hopkins, Samantha Bautista as Professor McG and Lili Gregory as Megan Jones in "Puff..."

Take Me to Heaven

Sister Act - Opens July 20th

A woman hiding in a convent helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she rediscovers her own. This feel-good comedy smash is based on the hit film.



Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic is directed by Beka Bee and runs July 13 to Aug. 18.

Puffs is a comedy about a boy, Wayne, who goes to a Certain School of Magic for seven years - at the same time as a very famous boy wizard. But Wayne is just your average boy wizard, he is not special or 'chosen.' *Puffs* is a story for anyone who was never destined to save the world.

"This show is hilarious, but it is also extremely heartfelt," Bee said. "It has messages about kindness, hard work, the importance of failure and never giving up, and our importance to others, even if we feel unimportant."

"Honestly, as I've dug into this show, it has become my all-time favorite script. It is extremely clever, hilarious, warm and creative. I have a weakness for clever comedy that shares a beautiful message."

"After 100 read throughs, *Puffs* has yet to fail in making me laugh," said Daniel Shahbon, who portrays Wayne Hopkins. "Still, this production is a good balance of comedy and emotion and has me cackling in one scene and sobbing in the next. Nerds all around will appreciate the genius that is *Puffs*."

Axiom Children's Theatre presents *Mary Poppins Jr.* Based on one of the most popular Disney movies of all time, it is directed by Samantha Bautista and produced by Lizzie Stoxen with music direction by Sarah Richards and choreography by Kylie Mannion. The play runs July 27-29.

"I loved *Mary Poppins* as a child and now I get to experience the stage version with 70 kids from 6 years old to outgoing eighth graders," Bautista said. "One aspect of ACT that I absolutely love is that we don't cut any children at auditions. We take all that register, find the right place for them in the show, and nurture their talents."

Lead actors include: Roxanne Rataj as *Mary Poppins*, Abby Claycamp as Bert, Lanson Zaniroli as George Banks, Devyn Brown as Winifred Banks, Evelyn Schlega as Jane Banks, and Benjamin Read as Michael Banks.

Tickets and more

Tickets to *Sister Act* and *Puffs* are \$30 for adults and \$25 for students and seniors. *Mary Poppins* tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at axreptheatre.com, by phone at 530-605-0500, and at the box office at 2613 Bechelli Lane in Redding.

The theatre also features a full service bar, The Looking Glass Lounge, open to patrons during all performances for snacks and beverages.

See multiple shows and save with the Axiom Star Pass! Purchase bundles of 4, 8, or 16 tickets to use on any Axiom produced play or musical and save 20%.



Spoonful of Sugar

Mary Poppins Jr. - July 27-29

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The Miracle Worker

The Trinity Players present "The Miracle Worker," the story about Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan. The cast includes kids and adults from all over Trinity County. The show is scheduled for six performances, with 7 p.m. shows on June 30, July 4 and 7 and matinee performances at 2 p.m. on July 1, 2 and 8. All performances are at the Trinity Alps Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 and are available at tapaonline.org or at the door.



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ON TAP FOR July

Independence Day Celebrations - Weaverville	2-4
The Miracle Worker Trinity Alps Performing Arts Center - Weaverville	1, 3, 4, 7, 8
Trinity County Fair - Hayfork	13-16

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NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 8

Almost exactly 34 years after it was thrown into the sea in Newfoundland, a message in a bottle was recovered in Quebec.

"I was so excited. I mean, what I'm looking for all the time is a note in a bottle," Trudy Shattler told Saltwire of her discovery.

After some social media sleuthing, she learned that the bottle belonged to one Gilbert Hamlyn, who was known for writing messages on cigarette packs, stuffing them in bottles, and setting them to sea.

Sadly, Mr. Hamlyn passed away two years ago, but his son, Rick, was all too happy to hear of the bottle's recovery, and intends to place it at his father's grave.

A Florida scientist who calls himself "Dr. Deep Sea" resurfaced ... after spending 100 days underwater.

CNN reported that Dr. Joseph Dituri, 55, a biomedical engineer who teaches at the University of South Florida, began his research mission on March 1, when he dove to the bottom of the Emerald Lagoon in Key Largo, Florida.

Dituri stayed in Jules' Undersea Lodge, an underwater hotel, during his record-setting stint below the surface, and he hopes that the data gleaned from all that time underwater will help researchers understand the effects of compression on the human body.

"My greatest hope is that I have inspired a new generation of explorers and researchers to push past all boundaries," Dituri stated in a news release.

Police in Clintonville, Ohio, are on the hunt after brazen thieves who used a U-Haul truck to rip a safe out of a drive-thru ATM in the early hours of June 15.

WCMH-TV reported that the suspects used a chain secured to the truck to pull the safe free of the machine, then absconded in a getaway vehicle, leaving the U-Haul behind.

Authorities had no description of the

other vehicle or how much money the thieves stole, but they believe at least two suspects were involved.

Ripleys.com (of "Believe It or Not!" fame) claims that orange lobsters are even rarer – to the tune of 1-in-30-million – than the blue variety.

So, one can imagine the surprise of Captain Peter Pray, a lobsterman working in Casco Bay near Portland, Oregon, when he caught his third orange lobster in a week on June 15.

WGME-13 reported that Pray, who is one of the lobster suppliers for Harbor Fish Market, made his latest catch, a female, using the same trap with which he caught the others, which were male.

A tweet from Harbor Fish Market asked the question on everyone's mind: "What's up Casco Bay? What kind of lobster magic is happening in your waters?"

In Japan, people who are just being freed from COVID mask-wearing mandates feel they've lost their ability to do a simple thing: smile.

Sky News reported that 20-year-old Himawari Yoshida, among many others, has enlisted the help of a "smile instructor," Keiko Kawano.

"I hadn't used my facial muscles much during COVID," Yoshida said.

One-on-one sessions cost about \$55. Kawano has students stretch the sides of their mouths and hold up a mirror to smile into.

"Culturally, a smile signifies that I'm not holding a gun, and I'm not a threat to you," Kawano said.

When Corinea Stanhope, 36, of Powell River, British Columbia, Canada, found a dead deer on her property, she and her grandfather set up a trail camera, hoping to catch some interesting wildlife attracted to the carcass.

Instead, Fox News reported, Stanhope said she captured something quite different: "two witches holding a carcass-eating ritual. Grandpa said he'd got naked people on the camera and I said, 'No you didn't.' So he showed

me," Stanhope said. She said the two people showed up shortly after sunset and appeared to be wearing long wigs.

"You can't really tell from the photos, but the hoof was brought right up to her mouth. I don't know if she was kissing it, smelling it or eating it, but to touch a decaying carcass like that makes me feel sick."

Stanhope hopes the incident was a prank; she decided not to contact police because there was no crime committed.

Go As You Please, a funeral company in Edinburgh, Scotland, is hoping to "break the taboo" of talking about final arrangements, Sky News reported, by offering custom-made coffins.

For instance, general manager Scott Purvis said, the company created a coffin that looked like a Dyson vacuum box for someone whose history included repairing vacuum cleaners.

"Most of our coffin designs come from having honest conversations with the person when they are still alive," Purvis said. Other designs they've made include a pint of Tennent's lager and a Greggs sausage roll.

A phone repair store in Miami Gardens, Florida, was the target of a robbery in the early hours, NBC6-TV reported.

The suspect, 33-year-old Claude Vincent Griffin, employed a brilliant disguise: He wore an ill-fitting cardboard box over his head as he smashed the glass countertop and reached into a case, grabbing 19 iPhones and \$8,000 in cash.

Naturally, it's hard to see through cardboard, so Griffin at one point removed the box and revealed himself to a surveillance camera.

The store's owner, Jeremias Berganza, did some sleuthing around the area after the robber left the store and found him at a nearby liquor store, drinking with friends.

Griffin was charged with grand theft, burglary, cocaine possession and resisting an officer.

The Woolshed nightclub in Adelaide, Australia, is in apology mode after running a sketchy promotion offering free drinks based on bra size, 9News

reported. The campaign promised one free drink for an A cup, two drinks for a B cup, etc., and included hanging bras up in the bar.

"The bigger the better," a social media post read. Patrons weren't impressed: One woman said she would choose to go somewhere else.

The Woolshed apologized and said future promotions would be reviewed by senior management to ensure an "inclusive environment" for all patrons.

As the debate about appropriate hot dog condiments (Relish? Mustard? Ketchup?) rages on, a worker at an Espanola, New Mexico, Sonic threw a new hat into the ring when he customized a patron's order a bit more than she liked.

Fox News reported that as the woman bit into her hot dog, she encountered a plastic bag with a white powdery substance inside.

She contacted police, who tested the powder and found it to be cocaine.

It seems that as Jeffrey David Salazar, 54, was preparing her order, he allegedly dropped his stash; video surveillance showed that Salazar began to frantically search the area "as if he had lost something."

He admitted to police that he had bought the coke from someone in the restaurant parking lot.

Rocketry enthusiasts gathered near Alamosa, Colorado, over the Memorial Day weekend to ... enthuse about rockets, but one person's rocket got away from them in a most inconvenient location: a hotel room at the Comfort Inn, according to the Alamosa News.

"There was a malfunction with the motherboard in the rocket which caused the motor to catch on fire," explained Alamosa Fire Department Deputy Chief Paul Duarte.

The resulting explosion caused "enough pressure in the room to dislodge the drywall and panels in the ceiling to fall." The 4-foot-8-inch rocket had to be disarmed by firefighters to mitigate any further risk.

Duarte didn't believe the guest was injured in the incident. Hotel clerks didn't expect any charges to be filed.

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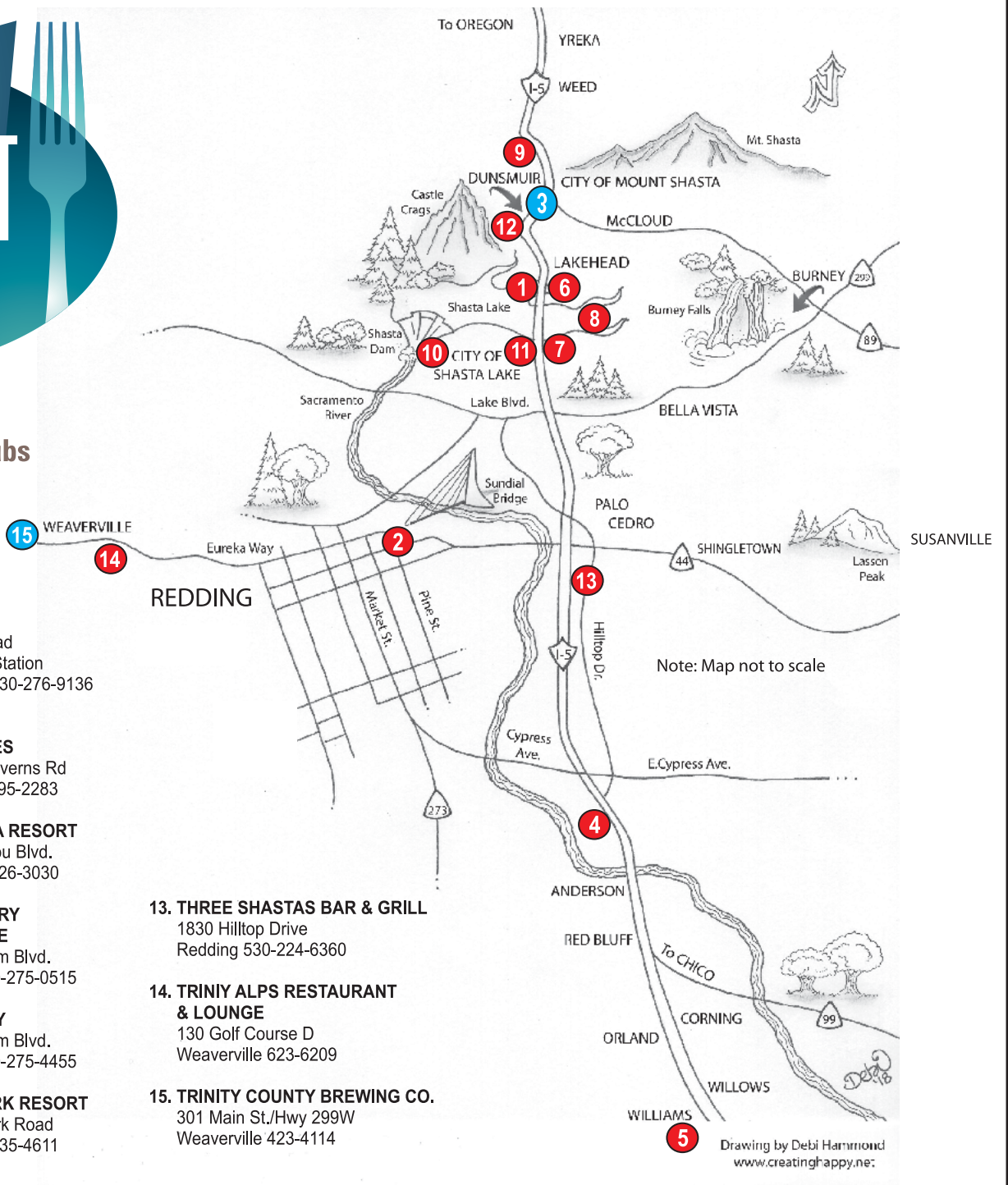
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June 30 JINX	July 28 STONE HEARTS
July 7 THE BILLIES	August 4 FULL THROTTLE
July 14 HILL ST BAND	August 11 SERENA KARESE BAND
July 21 SPECIAL WHEN LIT	

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Allison and Victor to have an official release party July 4 in Dunsmuir for their latest album Nation of Jubilation

The latest album from Siskiyou County's sax, guitar and vocal duo, Allison Scull and Victor Martin, is Nation of Jubilation and was released in May. But it took a while for the final product to reach the finish line.

"The album was a longer journey than the others to finish," Martin said in an email. "The recording process started before the pandemic and it features more Redding area musicians. It's more soulful and jazzy and reflects our growth, musically."

With Scull on guitar and vocals and Martin on saxophone and vocals, the two create a fusion of musical forms uniquely their own by blending jazz, folk, blues, a little funk, originals and some jazz standards laced with some French lyrics.

Scull learned French where she grew up in Belgium while Martin was born and raised in Middletown, Delaware.

The title track of their latest album is an original song that Scull said is autobiographical about their travels.

"It's about all of the people we meet along the way and how they become our friends and family and the common ground between all humans," she said.

Martin added that there is a special guest appearance by their friend Ignacio "Nacho" Chavez from Mazatlan, Mexico who can be heard on electric guitar.

Another track, co-written by the duo, is "Blisters on Her Feet."

"It's a song about Victor's step-mother who walked the historic march in Washington D.C. in 1963 where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his 'I have a dream speech,'" Scull said.

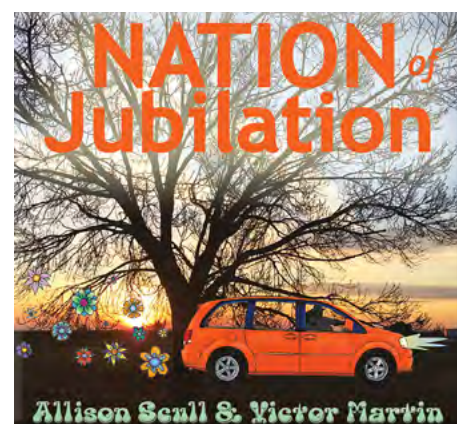
She added that the recording features two duets and highlights the intermingling of vocals and sax on the jazz standard "Day by Day."

Aside from Martin on saxophone and vocals and Scull on guitar and vocals, others performing on the album are Mike Harris on percussion, Bruce Calin on stand-up bass, Patrick Wiseman on drums, Stefan Schittko on keyboard, and Bruce Turgon on electric bass.



PHOTO / Marguerite Lorimer

Allison Scull and Victor Martin (above) and the cover of their new album Nation of Jubilation (below).



The album was recorded at Turgon's After Hours Recorders in Redding and both Martin and Scull said it was a real pleasure to work with him.

"We are so excited to share our music and proud of the musicians who played on the album," Scull said.

An album release party is scheduled at 6 p.m., July 4, at Pops Performing Arts and Cultural Center, 5819 Sacramento Ave., Dunsmuir with more information on their website.

The album is available on CD and custom flash drives with peace sign keychain on their website allisonandvictor.com. It will also be available soon on all streaming platforms.

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How to handle Social Security benefits when a loved one dies

Dear Savvy Senior,
How are Social Security benefits handled when someone dies? After a long illness, my 68-year-old father has only weeks left to live. I am helping my mom figure out her financial situation going forward, including what to do about my dad's Social Security after he passes away but could use some help.
- Only Son



By Jim Miller

To apply for survivors' benefits, your mom will need to call Social Security at 800-772-1213 and schedule an appointment. She can't do it online.

You should also know that survivor benefits are available to former spouses and dependents who meet SSA qualifications – see SSA.gov/benefits/survivors.

Also note that if your mom collects a survivor benefit while working, and she's under full retirement age, her benefits may be reduced depending on her earnings. See SSA.gov/pubs/EN-05-10069.pdf for details.

Death Benefit

In addition to survivor benefits, Social Security will also pay a one-time payment of \$255 to your mom (the surviving spouse) if she was living with your dad at the time of his death. If they were living apart, she may still receive this one-time payment if she's collecting spousal benefits on his work record. In the absence of a surviving spouse, the lump-sum payment can go to a son or daughter who is eligible for benefits on the deceased's work record.

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.

Dear Only,
I'm very sorry about the impending loss of your father. To help you and your mom understand what Social Security provides and what needs to be done when a family member dies, here are some key points you should know.

Your first order of business will be to make sure the Social Security Administration is notified when your father dies, so his monthly benefits will be stopped. In most cases, the funeral home providing his burial or cremation services will do it. You'll need to provide your dad's Social Security number to the funeral director so they can make the report. But, if they don't offer that service or you're not using a funeral home, you'll need to do it yourself by calling Social Security at 800-772-1213.

When Benefits Stop

There are a couple of things to be aware of regarding your dad's Social Security benefits. For starters, you

need to know that a person is due no Social Security benefits in the month of their death.

With Social Security, each payment received represents the previous month's benefits. So, if your dad were to pass away in August, the check for that month – which would be paid in September – would need to be returned if received. If the payment is made by direct deposit, you would need to contact the bank or other financial institution and ask them to return any benefits sent after your dad's death.

Survivor Benefits

When your father passes away, your mother may be eligible for survivor benefits on his record if she's at least age 60 (50 if disabled). Here's how that works depending on her situation.

If your mom is currently receiving

Social Security benefits based on your father's work record, her spousal benefit will automatically convert to survivors benefits when the government gets notice of your dad's death. She cannot receive both spousal and survivor benefits at the same time.

Widows are due between 71 percent (at age 60) and 100 percent (at full retirement age) of what the husband was getting before he died.

If, however, your mom is eligible for retirement benefits (but hasn't applied yet), she can apply for retirement or survivors benefits when her husband passes away and switch to the other (higher) benefit later. Or, if your mom is already receiving her retirement benefits on her own work record, she could switch to survivors benefits if it offers a higher payment. She cannot, however, receive both benefits.

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