

AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

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THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

ON THE COVER

THE RAINMAKER

Riverfront Playhouse scheduled a play during the summer with the backdrop to the story that many in the north state can relate to – drought and the heat. Ian Dalziel portrays Bill Starbuck and Malorie Glavan plays Lizzie Curry in N. Richard Nash's 1954 play *The Rainmaker*. See page 2

HOMECOMING

Rafael Helbig-Kostka, an international tenor, returns to the north state where he grew up for a concert scheduled for 4 p.m., Aug. 6, at Sacred Heart Church in Red Bluff. There's no admission, but any donations will benefit the Sacred Heart Scholarship Foundation. See page 10



CONCERT AT I-M FAIR

Hometown country-western singer Jared Hovis, formerly of Burney and now living in Nashville, is slated to perform at the 105th Inter-Mountain Fair in McArthur Labor Day weekend. Also on tap are Enduro and Little Tykes races and a destruction derby. See page 9

DYAR SITUATION

Longtime Redding singer-songwriter Jim Dyar and his wife, Keli, known as *A Dyar Situation*, recently released their seven-song album, 'Glad to be anywhere.' See page 5



The Rainmaker



PHOTOS / Riverfront Playhouse

Above, left to right, Andrew Gibson as Noah Curry, Don Cingrani as H.C. Curry and Aydin Hauptman as Jim Curry.

Riverfront presents the N. Richard Nash play during the dog days of summer

Riverfront Playhouse scheduled a play during the summer with a backdrop that many in the north state can relate to – drought and the heat.

The Rainmaker, a 1954 play by writer and dramatist N. Richard Nash that's set in the 1930s, is the story of the Curry Family trying to keep hope and their ranch alive in a dry western town in the middle of a debilitating drought.

"Cattle are dying and there's no rain in sight," Erin Stuart, who is directing the Riverfront production of *The Rainmaker*, said in an email. "There's also a daughter who needs to find a husband and a deputy who is finished with women."

Onto the scene bursts Bill Starbuck, a self-proclaimed rainmaker who turns their whole world around.

"Despite the reluctance of some of

the family, the father pays the rainmaker \$100," said Stuart, as he also helps them remember how to believe in themselves and the power of having confidence in their dreams.

The play opens on July 28 and runs weekends through Aug. 13. All evening performances start at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets online visit riverfrontplayhouse.net.

Like most romantic comedies, Stuart said there are complications and resolutions and lots of laughs.

"I think Riverfront chose this show because it's a wonderful script and audiences like romantic comedies," she said. "I think it was placed in the summer part of the season because people who live here can relate to both drought and

heat, especially in the dog days of July and August. It may be set in the '30s but family life hasn't changed much and audiences can relate to the characters and their problems."

The Rainmaker is loosely based on the real-life story of rainmaker Charles M. Hatfield and has been brought to the screen a few times, including the first film adaptation in 1956 with Burt Lancaster as the bombastic and charismatic rainmaker, Bill Starbuck, with Katherine Hepburn playing the female lead, Lizzie Curry.

Hepburn was nominated for an Academy Award in 1957 for her performance (Ingrid Bergman won for *Anastasia*). Meanwhile, Lancaster reportedly wanted to play the part of Starbuck so badly that when William Holden backed out of the part, he called producer Hal B. Wallis and agreed to star in *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* (1957) if he would be given the role of Bill Starbuck in *The Rainmaker*.

Others to play Starbuck include Tommy Lee Jones in 1982 and Woody Harrelson in 2000. The play was also made into a musical in 1963 as *110 in the Shade*.

"And an interesting fact, *The Rainmaker* was the second show of the inaugural season of Riverfront Playhouse in 1981," Stuart said.

For the 2023 Riverfront Playhouse production, Bill Starbuck is portrayed by Ian Dalziel while Lizzie Curry is played by Malorie Glavan.

Others in the cast include Sean Sampson as File, Don Cingrani as H.C. Curry, Colin Peacock as Sheriff Thomas, Andrew Gibson as Noah Curry, and Aydin Hauptman as Jim Curry. (Elvis Presley tested for the part of Jim Curry

in the original film adaptation, a roll that eventually went to Earl Holliman who won a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor).

"This has been and continues to be a wonderful cast to direct, (and) it's not always like that," Stuart said.

She said she wanted to direct *The Rainmaker* because it has all of the elements she looks for when choosing a play.

"First of all, the play is well-written," she said. "Nash's simple language reveals profound truths about love and loneliness. The characters are layered and interesting, the action is engaging, and the play as a whole evokes sympathy as well as laughter from the audience."

Last year Stuart and Marla Frost O'Brien co-directed *Steel Magnolias* and they're working together on *The Rainmaker*.

"We had directed together in the early years (of Riverfront Playhouse) and fell back easily into our rhythm," Stuart said. "We have similar directing styles, except Marla is more patient than I am. In fact, Marla is the stage manager for this production of *The Rainmaker* and I'm grateful for her support and insight."

Stuart added that between this show and *Steel Magnolias* she's been able to work closely with the builders and painters, as well as the lighting and sound designer and emphasized how much work goes into a community theatre production.

"Few people understand the amount of labor and organization that goes into producing a finished set and technical design, but it's impressive," she said.

For example, Stuart said the sound and light designer has been at the theater for rehearsal many times and he will train the technician to run the cues during the show.

"And the builders have done everything from putting up the flats that become the walls, building stairs, and hanging doors to coming back to do the finish tasks like mounting pictures and adding trim and baseboards," she said.

"Plus there's so much painting to do and it's all organized by the painting supervisor who knows lots of shortcuts and techniques," Stuart added. "Then there's the program designer, the theater manager who posts on social media, and the many people who appreciate community theatre and lend us props and furniture."

"I'm genuinely in awe of these folks who give their time and talents behind the scenes and with little public understanding of their contribution."



Malorie Glavan as Lizzie Curry and Sean Sampson as File.



Colin Peacock as Sheriff Thomas.

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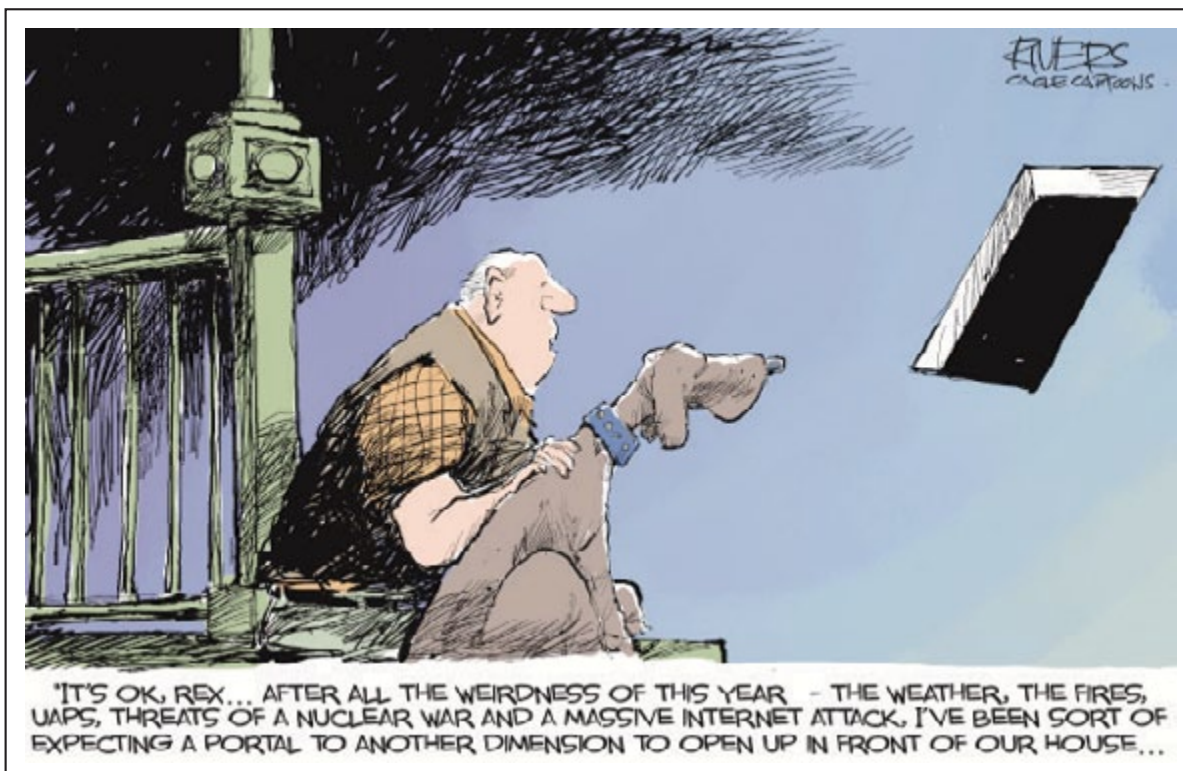
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I took on debt fairly early in life, when I borrowed money to help cover the cost of my Penn State degree.

That turned out to be a terrific investment — I got a good communications job at a high-tech company right out of college and paid it all back without incident — so that modest debt turned out to be a wise decision.



Debt in and of itself is not a bad thing and often a good thing.

I've been lucky to buy a house and a few other properties because of affordable debt. Luckily my credit is solid and I qualified for 3% financing — a bargain that isn't expected to return any time soon.

In 2020, I borrowed money to buy a new Toyota Tacoma truck. I borrowed about half the value of the truck and almost have it paid off.

Thanks to covid and the many poor decisions our government bodies made in response to it that disrupted the used car market, according to Kelly Blue Book, the truck is worth anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000 more than I paid for it.

Sure, I've had some positive experiences in my life with debt — but I've had far more unpleasant experiences with it.

Early on in my freelance writing career, I had to borrow money just to meet my April 15 tax obligations.

Nothing is more painful than borrowing credit-card money at high rates to pay off self-employment income taxes that confiscate my earnings at even higher rates.

I share with you my experiences with debt over the years because of a recent study, conducted by OnePoll on behalf of Beyond Finance for National Financial Freedom Day, that finds that the average American has about \$54,000 in debt.

"People's biggest debt hurdles include credit card debt (57%), mortgages (30%), automobile loans (30%) and medical debt (28%)," the survey reports.

Inflation, which spiked to about 8.5% last year and is now 4%, is one of the key driving forces of debt. People have been borrowing just to make ends meet.

Medical debt is also a major issue — our medical system is a financial burden to millions.

I'll never forget meeting a Home Depot employee one Sunday. We got to chatting and he told me that he had to take on a second job because his teen-age daughter became ill.

He explained that when the government last "reformed" our healthcare system, his company's medical insurance deductible shot up from \$3,000 a year to \$9,000 for his family plan.

His daughter's illness maxed out his deductible two years in a row, putting him \$18,000 in the hole.

The Beyond Finance study didn't get into the \$1.5 trillion in student-loan debt that is causing pain to millions who made bad financial decisions — and an extra shot of pain to those who didn't understand that a president can't wave a magic wand to make their repayment obligations disappear.

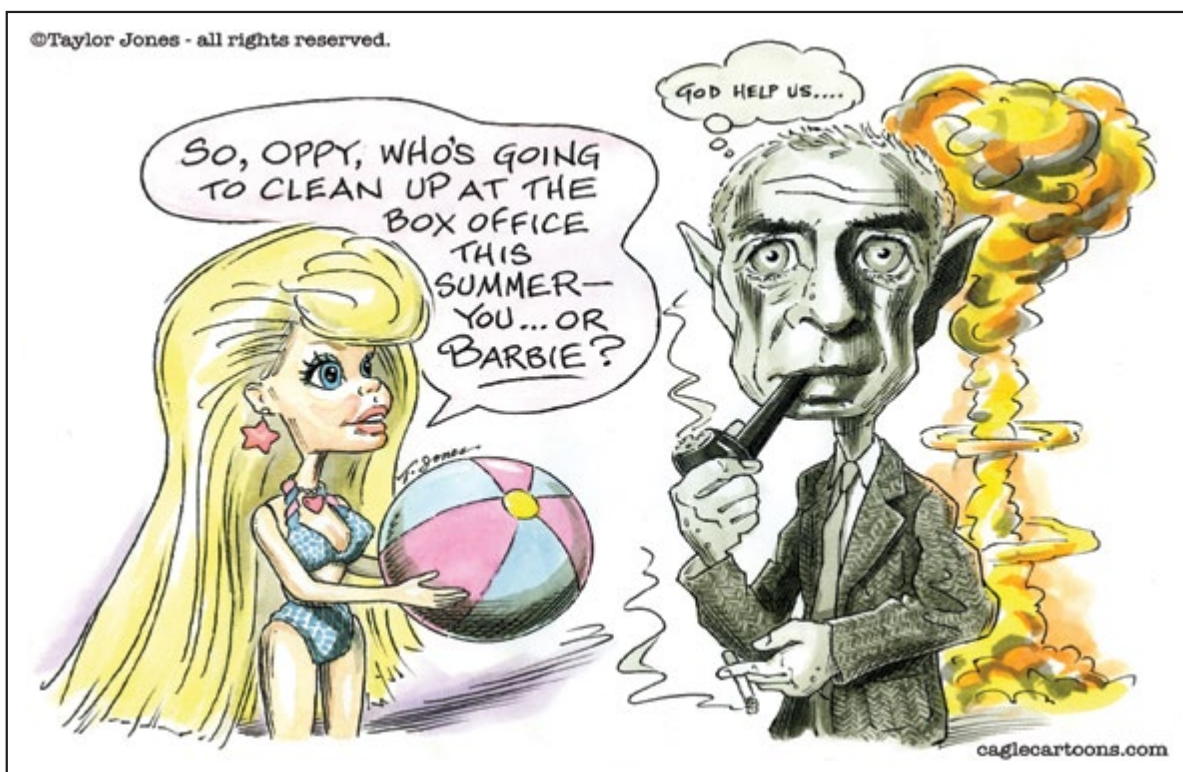
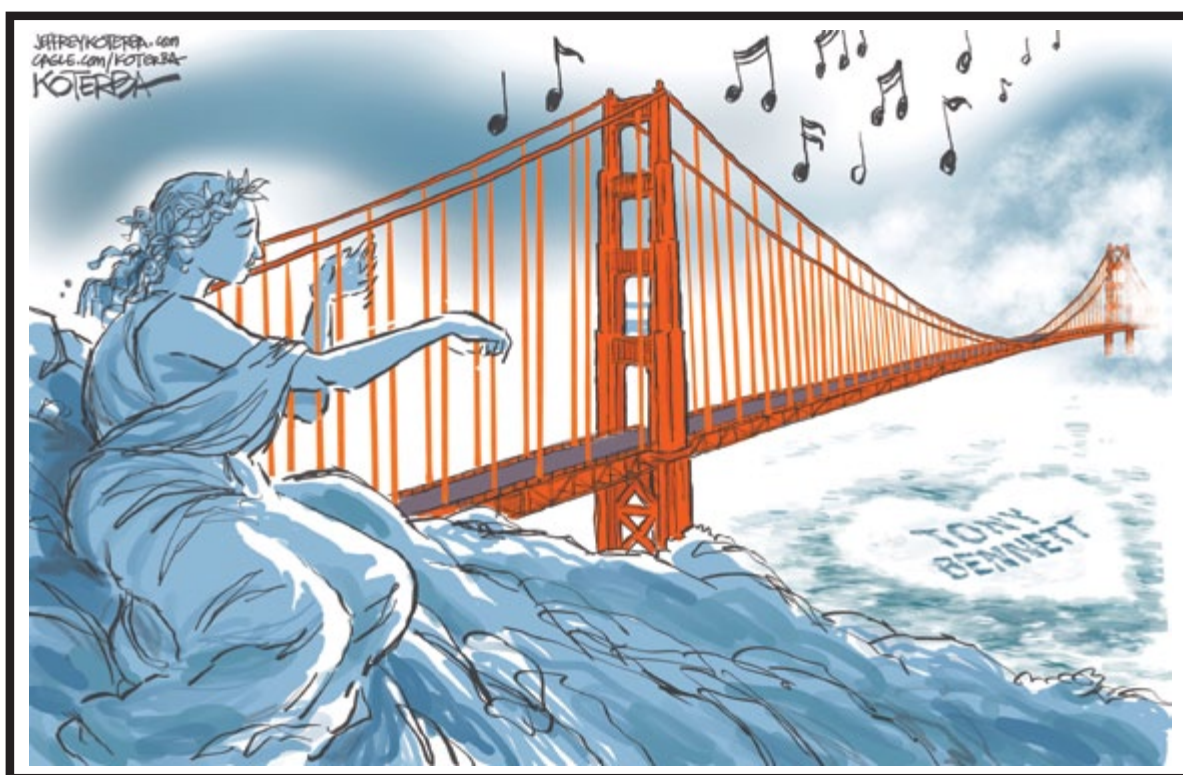
Debt stinks.

Debt makes you do work you don't like for the money you need to repay it.

Debt can bring you to your knees until it is finally repaid and you are truly free to live a frugal and happy life — a dream, sadly, that too few Americans will ever get to enjoy!

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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.



New Local Album Release



A Dyar Situation is 'Glad to be anywhere'

Longtime Redding singer-songwriter Jim Dyar and his wife, Keli, known as A Dyar Situation, recently released their seven-song album, *Glad to be anywhere*.

"It's a bit of a post-pandemic album where we genuinely feel 'glad to be anywhere' making music and performing it live for audiences," Jim Dyar said in an email interview.

The title track emerged from a quick, simple conversation Dyar said he was having with a former bandmate (Eric Day) before a concert in Paradise.

"I'm just glad to be anywhere" Dyar said he told Day, who responded: "You should write a song about that. So my wife Keli (Tims Dyar) and I did just that."

Dyar said if anything unites all the songs on this album, he thinks it's the idea "that we have to appreciate -- to the best of our ability -- the positive elements of life. Keli and I need to keep moving, both physically and artistically. Moving forward always motivates us, which is why I hope this is a great road-trip album."

Performing live in the area for more than 15 years, Dyar's previous band incarnations included the Jim Dyar Band and Muletown, during which he recorded three albums: *Magical Land* by the Jim Dyar Band (2009), *Muletown* by Muletown (2011) and *Rembrandts on Red Walls* by the Jim Dyar Band (2013). Among his other musical accomplishments, he has a co-songwriting credit on north state country music legend Merle Haggard's song "Christmas in Cabo San Lucas."

Dyar said the latest band incarnation is scaled down to just he and Keli, "with our musician friends helping us form the 'band' you hear on the album."

In addition to the title track, the album features an ode to "plugging out" from the daily grind of work and stress, which Dyar said he tried to capture with "Slow Lane" (their first single).

"There are also a pair of songs that we package together in our live shows (and on the album), "Red-Eyed Nights" and "Love Song Too," a breakup song followed by a song about finding new love."

The song "Whiskeytown," he said, represents those who chased fortune, like in the 1800s gold rush, but had to alter course when they came up empty.

"And 'To The Sea' is a jolly-old pirate song I wrote with songwriters Jonathan Foster and Morgan Hannaford that closes out the album," he added.

The married duo sing on all the songs while Jim plays electric and acoustic guitars, and Keli plays a variety of instruments, including mandolin, guitar, piano and even guitalele.

Honeybee's Morgan Hannaford plays mandolin

- Please see page 6

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A Dyar Situation

on "Trinity Street" while his wife and fellow Honeybee, Martha Hannaford, plays fiddle on "Whiskeytown."

Other musicians include Clinton Kane playing acoustic guitar on "Red-Eyed Nights" and "Love Song Too," and Jonathan Foster on harmonica for the songs "Slow Lane" and "Trinity Street." Chicago-based steel drum player Kent Arnsbarger performs on "To The Sea," while Bruce Turgon, who produced the album at his After Hours Recorders studio in Redding, plays bass guitar on all of the tracks.

The album will be streaming on all music sites (Spotify, Amazon, iTunes, etc.) beginning on July 27.

Upcoming performances where they will be playing all seven tracks of the new album include Pops Performing Arts and Cultural Center in Dunsmuir at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 26. In September, they'll be performing at the Redding Enjoy Store from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 1, at Kelly's Pub and Wine Bar in Redding from 7 to 10 p.m. on Sept. 8, and at the Shasta Land Trust's 21st annual Wildways Fundraiser on Sept. 30.

For more information and to connect with A Dyar Situation, you can find them on Facebook at facebook.com/jimdyarband.

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Advertising and editorial deadline for the September 2023 issue is Wednesday, August 16

No telephone call submissions; email or regular mail only.

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FEBRUARY

Mozart Requiem

February 17, 2024 | Laxson Auditorium, Chico | 7:30 p.m.
February 18, 2024 | Cascade Theatre, Redding | 2:00 p.m.

Mozart's beloved Requiem was left unfinished at the time of his death, leaving many questions unanswered about the true intention of the work. This performance reflects the human condition of life and death, birth and rebirth, and ultimately, the hope of resurrection.

NOVEMBER

Swan Lake

November 11, 2023 | Cascade Theatre, Redding | 7:30 p.m.
November 12, 2023 | Laxson Auditorium, Chico | 2:00 p.m.

Featuring Young Artists winners Allie Brailo on piano and Amanda Michelle Britt, soprano, along with the MTAC Youth Orchestra in the Chico performance and the Shasta College Youth Strings in the Redding performance.

MAY

Sounds of the Cinema

May 11, 2024 | Cascade Theatre, Redding | 7:30 p.m.
May 12, 2024 | Laxson Auditorium, Chico | 2:00 p.m.

The orchestra will perform classics from Dr. Zhivago and John Williams' unforgettable score to E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, as well as familiar sounds from Disney, Harry Potter, and Pirates of the Caribbean.

MARCH

Extraordinary Beethoven

YOUTH CONCERTS

March 5, 2024 | Cascade Theatre, Redding
March 6, 2024 | State Theatre, Red Bluff
March 7, 2024 | Laxson Auditorium, Chico

Learn about the incredible life of one of the most influential composers in history, Ludwig van Beethoven, through an exploration of some of his most iconic music.



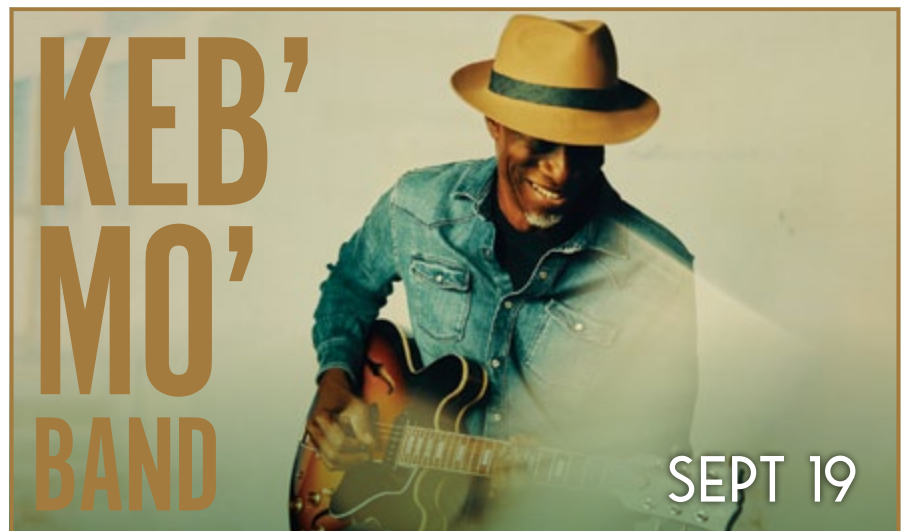
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NEWS of the WEIRD

At a Lancashire, England, gas station, Quinn Kelly stepped into the store for a snack and was shocked as he came out to see a man filling up his tank while completely nude – except for boots.

Stuart Gilmore, 44, of Manchester was “casual about it,” Kelly said. He said Gilmore is a “naturist” and “goes around naked to spread positivity and has been doing it for a few years,” according to Fox News.

“I don’t take any notice when people take photos,” Gilmore said. “I don’t do it for attention. I’m doing it to promote naturism and the benefits,” which he said include improved mental health.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
A pair of Dutch tourists hiking in the Alpujarra mountain range in Granada, Spain, got a rude reception from a mountain goat, the Daily Star reported.

The Iberian ibex, who was presumably aggressive because it was mating season, knocked a 64-year-old woman off a cliff, where she tumbled about 65 feet and landed on a ledge with both wrists broken.

The goat also knocked the other person unconscious. Rescue workers, hampered by weather, took almost a week to recover the fallen hiker, who suffered hypothermia along with her broken wrists.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Wow! Things went literally and physically south at a press dinner on New York’s Upper East Side in support of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s presidential campaign.

According to Page Six, as Kennedy answered questions, someone posed one about climate change, but before Kennedy could answer, Doug Dechert, the event host, screamed, “The climate hoax!” Which brought a scold from art critic Anthony Haden-Guest, who called him a “miserable blob.”

The two continued their exchange, with Kennedy calmly looking on, until Dechert loudly released a “prolonged fart” while yelling, helpfully, “I’m farting!”

After attempts to change the subject and more verbal antics, the evening wound down. The next day, Dechert told Page Six, “I apologize for using my flatulence as a medium of public commentary in your presence.” How does someone get on this guest list?

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Notre Dame quarterback Sam Hartman, who sat out some of last season with Wake Forest University, underwent surgery in August 2022 to



remove blood clots and the rib closest to his collarbone, 247Sports.com reported.

Hmmm, what to do with that extra rib?

Hartman’s mom, a nurse, is making a necklace for him with the bone. “It’s actually clean. It is well on its way to becoming a necklace,” he said. “I asked her to try and make it like a puka shell-type deal with the riblike shark’s tooth at the end.”

Hartman said the jewelry might appear in a couple of pregame warmups. “It won’t be worn a lot.”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Australian sailor Tim Shaddock, 51, of Sydney and his dog, Bella, became stranded in the Pacific Ocean after they set out from Mexico for French Polynesia, a

Emerald Downs racetrack in Auburn, Washington, switched things up with a Grandparents Race, WMTV reported. It was part of Grandparents Weekend, where nanas and pop-pops received free admittance and could participate in prize drawings. About 25 grandparents competed in the race, charging out of the horse gates toward a finish line about 40 yards away. Two of the racers stumbled and fell during the sprint, but no one was hurt. Steve Butler of Everett, Washington, was declared the winner.

3,700-mile trip, in April. The boat became damaged in storms, the BBC reported, and Shaddock drifted until mid-July, when a helicopter spotted him.

A tuna trawler picked up the pair, who were in surprisingly good health. Shaddock said they ate raw fish and collected rainwater, and he sheltered from the sun beneath the boat’s canopy. “I have been through a very difficult ordeal at sea,” he said. “I’m just needing rest and good food.”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
In Glastonbury, Connecticut, 11 boats took off from the Seaboard Marina on July 12 – make that with the marina.

WTNH-TV reported that a 200-foot section of dock with 11 boats attached broke off and started floating down

the Connecticut River, later passing through Cromwell, Portland, Middletown and Haddam.

One part of the errant dock was still floating downstream the next day; officials said it was likely that flooding in Vermont had caused the high waters that set the structure free.

Teddy Charton of Middletown said he “got a call that my boat was floating down the river ... It ended up all the way down in Chester.” Eventually all but one of the boats was recovered.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Multiple wrecks tied up northbound I-95 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on July 17, all attributed to one cause: A tractor-trailer was leaking human waste onto the roadway,

which caused a motorcyclist to lose control and crash, the Associated Press reported.

Several vehicles crashed into each other or concrete barriers on the slippery roads, and another truck skidded into a state police cruiser, which then rammed into another cruiser.

No one was seriously hurt in the pileup. The driver was charged with reckless endangerment and reckless driving, as officers believed he knew of the gross leak but kept driving.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
To demonstrate the deadly heat inside a closed car, the staff of the National Weather Service in Midland, Texas, baked a batch of chocolate chip cookies on a car’s dashboard on July 18, United Press International reported.

While it was 105 degrees outside, the dashboard registered 190 degrees – high enough to bake the cookies in about 4-1/2 hours.

“Even though ours weren’t golden brown, we can confirm that they are done and delicious,” NWS employees wrote on Facebook.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
When a backyard bunny breeder bundled their belongings and said bye-bye to Jenada Isles, a community in Wilton Manors, Florida, they left behind between 60 and 100 lionhead rabbits, who have now infiltrated the neighborhood and are driving residents bonkers.

Click Orlando reported that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has declined to intercede, so resident Alicia Griggs is heading up an effort to raise the money needed to capture, neuter, vaccinate and rehome the rabbits – to the tune of \$20,000 to \$40,000.

“People don’t realize they’re exotic pets and they’re complicated,” Griggs said. “They have to eat a special diet. You can’t just throw any table scraps at them.”

Residents complain that the bunnies dig holes, chew wiring and leave droppings on sidewalks and driveways. Others think the rabbits are cute, but experts say their heavy coats and finicky digestive systems aren’t conducive to living wild in Florida.

“They are not equipped to thrive on their own,” said Eric Stewart, executive director of the American Rabbit Breeders Association.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Michael Raduga, 40, founder of the Phase Research Center

–Please See Page 18

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International tenor returns to his roots for an Aug. 6 concert in Red Bluff

International tenor Rafael Helbig-Kostka, who was born in Germany but grew up and went to school in the Red Bluff and Redding area, returns to the north state on Aug. 6 for a 4 p.m. concert at Sacred Heart Church, 515 Main St., Red Bluff.

Helbig-Kostka first sang publicly as a young Sacred Heart student and later attended University Preparatory School in Redding. In 2011, he was named the North State Symphony's Young Artist winner.

Following high school, he attended Shasta College and later CSU Stanislaus, where he continued in those schools voice programs.

But he didn't stop there.

Helbig-Kostka went on to get his Masters Degree and Graduate Diploma from the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts.

Now based in Europe, Helbig-Kostka won the Austrian Opera "Oscar" for emerging male vocalists. Since 2020, he's been the soloist of the Music Theater's Ensemble at the Opera House in Meiningen, Germany. Later this fall, he'll be joining the soloist ensemble of the Nationaltheater Mannheim as a lyric tenor.



Rafael Helbig-Kostka

His Red Bluff performance is scheduled to be an eclectic mix of musical styles where he plans to perform songs from Mozart, Rogers and Hammerstein, the Gershwin brothers and even Bob Dylan...plus more.

Admission is free, but any donations are welcomed and will help benefit the Sacred Heart Scholarship Fund.

For more on Helbig-Kostka, visit rafaelhelbigkostka.com.

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OCTOBER

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- 7 Nickel Creek
- 11 Cirque Mechanics *Zephyr*
- 13 Sheng Wang
- 22 Mariachi Herencia de México



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- 6 Storm Large
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Note for Note, Cut for Cut



FEBRUARY

- 3 *Dreams Come True (Again):*
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- 21 Brian Regan
- 28 Voctave



MARCH

- 1 Tres Souls & Grupo Bella
- 14 American Ballet Theatre



APRIL

- 4-5 Banff Film Festival
- 11 Book in Common Lecture:
Clint Smith *How the Word is Passed:
A Reckoning with the History
of Slavery Across America*
- 21 Wynona Wang

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We're Number 3!

Puffs runs through August 18th

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.

Take Me to Heaven

Sister Act runs through Aug 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.



Satisfaction

The Unauthorized Rolling Stones - August 25th

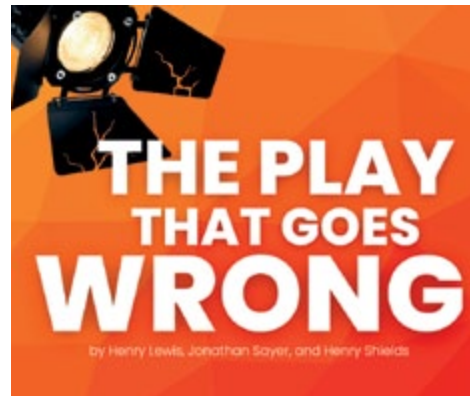
For two decades Bay Area icon Rudy Colombini has brought the excitement, energy, and all the hits of a live Rolling Stones show to stages across the country as the frontman for The Unauthorized Rolling Stones.



Album Release Party

Danger Kitty - August 26th

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From Mischief, Broadway masters of comedy, comes the smash hit farce. It's opening night of the Shasta Highlands Actors Repertory Theatrical Society's newest production, *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous.

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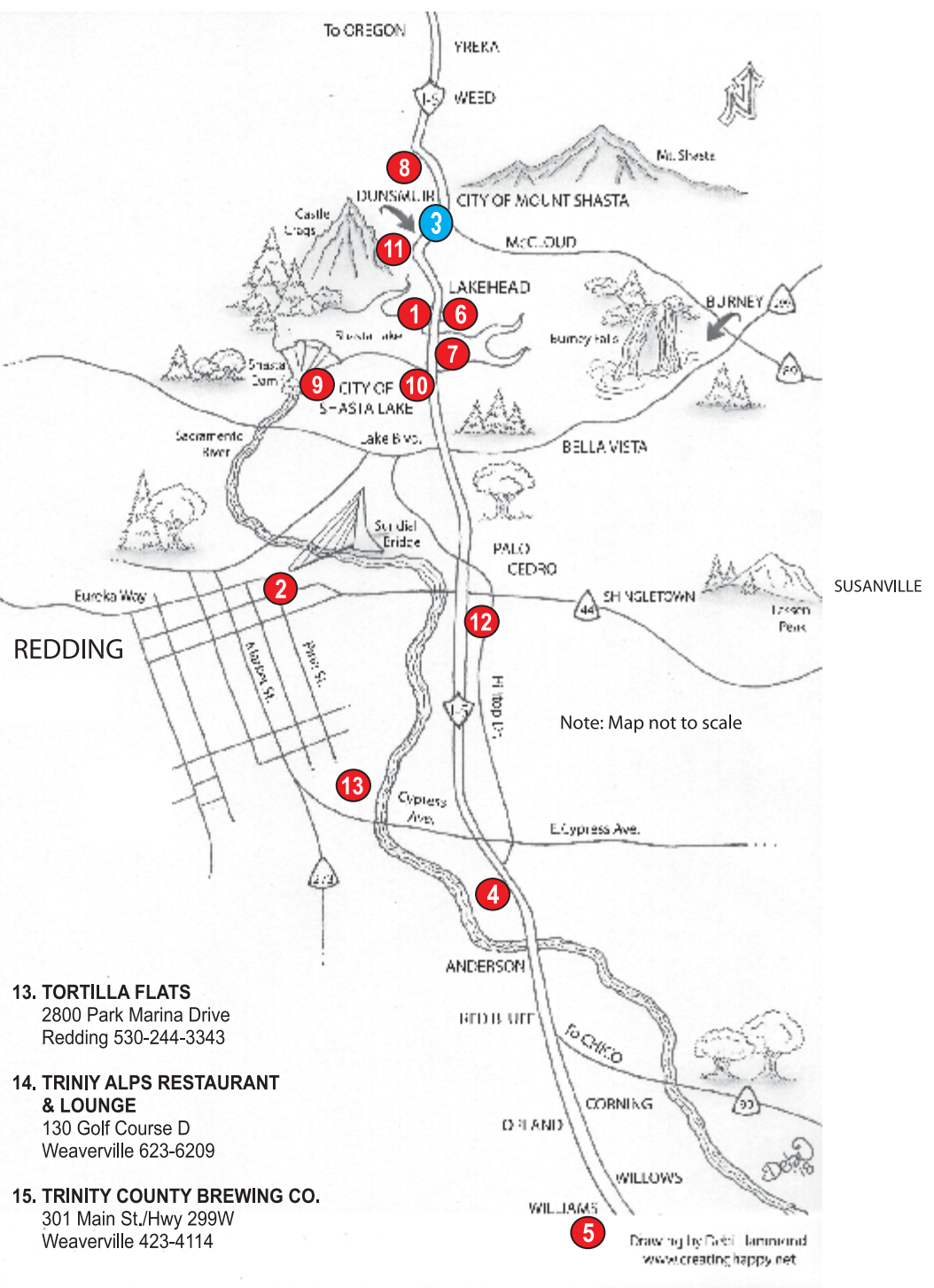
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NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 8

in Rus-sia, but – critically – NOT a doctor or neurosurgeon, nearly lost his life when he tried to implant a chip in his brain on his own, in his living room in Kazakhstan.

The Daily Mail reported that Raduga lost more than a liter of blood in his quest to control his dreams. He said he practiced on five sheep's brains and watched hours of neurosurgery on YouTube before starting on his own head.

"During the first 30 minutes I was ready to give up many times because ... I was afraid I could just lose consciousness," Raduga said. "I finished the surgery, I took a shower and I worked for 10 hours straight. People didn't know."

But neurosurgeon Alex Green of the University of Oxford wasn't having it. "This is an extremely dangerous thing to do," he said. "We are probably decades away from being able to synthesize new experiences."

Oddity Central reported that a young woman named Xiaohua in Huizhou City, China, suffered a ruptured eardrum following a moment of passion with her boyfriend.

When she went to the emergency room because of loss of hearing, a doctor saw blood on her eardrum and asked if she'd had any physical trauma to her ear. Nope, she said, but, "When he kissed my ear, he sucked it hard and it made a 'pop' sound. After that, I couldn't hear in my left ear."

The hospital's deputy director of otolaryngology head and neck surgery, Fu Jia, said eardrums usually heal on their own.

"Frog Lady" Helen Claypool of Kirksville, Missouri, passed away in December 2022, KTVO-TV reported, so the time has come to liquidate her collection of frogs.

Claypool had more than 15,000 frogs – so many that she and her late husband, Don (nickname: Toad), had to build an addition on their house.

She started collecting at age 6 and kept 47 logbooks, documenting each one, complete with photos. The Claypools even opened their home to the public as Helen's House of Frogs Museum. Now the whole frog fantasy is on the auction block.

In 1973, Nissim Kahlon was living in a tent on a beach north of Tel Aviv, Israel, the Associated Press reported. He started scratching into a sandstone cliff wall along the beach, and eventually excavated a cave and moved in.

Fifty years later, his created home is a sandcastle, with multiple floors, staircases, detailed mosaic floors and plumbing.

But now Israel's Environmental Protection Ministry is moving to evict Kahlon, saying the structure is ille-gal and threatens the coastline. He said he

first got a demolition order in 1974, but since then the government has left him alone, even connecting his home to the electrical grid.

"I am not leaving here," Kahlon, 77, said. "I am ready for them to bury me here. I have no other home."

French President Emmanuel Macron now has the singular distinction of being the first French head of state to receive a body part in the mail, the Evening Standard reported.

On July 10, a severed finger belonging to a "living human being" arrived at the Elysee Palace, where it was "initially put in a fridge where the police put their snacks," a source said.

"This was to make sure it was preserved and could be analyzed as quickly as possible."

The former owner of the digit was identified and given "full medical support," but it was unclear what the meaning behind the delivery was.

Lakewood, Colorado, police are searching for a serial panty thief, The Denver Gazette posted.

The unknown suspect, described as having short black hair, a black goatee, dark eyes and a muscular build, allegedly lifts women's underwear from laundry rooms at the Lakewood Towers at Belmar apartments.

Over the course of at least 26 incidents, he "has taken approximately \$4,881 worth of items," Lakewood police said.

The Toronto Zoo has a favor to ask of visitors to Nassir the gorilla: Please don't show him photos or videos on your phone.

Like any other 24-year-old primate, Nassir is "fascinated by videos, and screen time would dominate his life if he had it his way," according to the zoo's website.

The Toronto Star reported that Maria Franke, director of wildlife conservation and welfare, is noticing the effect of visitors sharing their content.

"It was causing him to be distracted and not interacting with the other gorillas ... He was just so enthralled with gadgets and phones and the videos."

A sign now warns visitors: "Some content can be upsetting and affect their relationships and behavior within their family." Phones down, humans.

An 8-year-old boy faces multiple charges, including first-degree robbery, after he carjacked a vehicle at gunpoint in Montgomery, Alabama, WSFA-TV reported.

Officers tried to stop the car, but the little driver wouldn't stop and later crashed into another car. A witness, "Snake" Knapp, said he saw the kid pick up two adults along the way.

"I think parents just really need to know where their kids are, what their kids are doing," Knapp mused.



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A5

How does Medicare cover preventive health services?

Dear Savvy Senior,
How does Medicare cover preventive health screenings? I'm due to get a physical and a colonoscopy this year, but I want to find out what I'll have to pay for before I go in.
- Just Turned 65



By Jim Miller

Dear Just Turned,
You'll be happy to know that Medicare covers a wide array of preventive and screening services to help you stay healthy, but not all services are completely covered. Here's what you should know.

Free Preventive Benefits

Most of Medicare's preventive services are available to all beneficiaries (through Part B) completely free with no copays or deductibles, as long as you meet basic eligibility standards. Mammograms; colonoscopies; shots against flu, pneumonia, COVID-19 and hepatitis B; screenings for diabetes, depression, osteoporosis, HIV, various cancers and cardiovascular disease; and counseling to combat obesity, alcohol abuse, and smoking are just some of Medicare's lengthy list of covered services. But to get these services for free, you need to go to a doctor who accepts Medicare "on assignment," which means he or she has agreed to accept the Medicare approved rate as

full payment.

Also, the tests are free only if they're used at specified intervals. For example, cardiovascular screening blood tests once every 5 years; or colonoscopy, once every 10 years, or every two years if you're at high risk.

Medicare also offers a free "Welcome to Medicare" exam with your doctor in your first year, along with annual "Wellness" visits thereafter. But don't confuse these with full physical examinations. These are prevention-focused visits that provide only an overview of your health and medical risk factors and serve as a baseline for future care.

Cost Sharing Services

There are, however, a few Medicare preventive services that

do require some out-of-pocket cost sharing. With these tests, you'll have to pay 20 percent of the cost of the service after you've met your \$226 Part B yearly deductible. The services that fall under this category include glaucoma tests, diabetes self-management trainings, barium enemas to detect colon cancer, and digital rectal exams to detect prostate cancer.

For a complete list of services along with their eligibility requirements, visit [Medicare.gov/coverage/preventive-screening-services](https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/preventive-screening-services).

If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan, your plan is also required to cover the same preventive services as original Medicare as long as you see in-network providers.

Hidden Costs

You also need to know that while most of the previously listed Medicare services are free, you can be charged for certain diagnostic services or additional tests or procedures related to the preventive service. For example, if your doctor finds and removes a polyp during your preventive care colonoscopy screening, you will pay 15 percent of the doctor's service fee. Or, if during your annual wellness visit, your doctor needs to investigate or treat a new or existing problem, you will probably be charged here too.

You may also have to pay a facility fee depending on where you receive the service. Certain hospitals, for example, will often charge separate facilities fees when you are receiving a preventive service. And you can also be charged for a doctor's visit if you meet with a physician before or after the service.

To eliminate billing surprises, talk to your doctor before any preventive service procedure to find out if you may be subject to a charge and what it would be.

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

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Hanna from Germany, 17 yrs.
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Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs.
Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

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ASSE International Student Exchange Program is a Public Benefit, Non-Profit Organization.

For privacy reasons, photos above are not photos of actual students



LESSON #4



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