

KEB' MO' AT THE CASCADE THEATRE SEPT. 19

AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

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THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

ON THE COVER

ROOTS REVIVAL

The fourth Redding Roots Revival is scheduled Sept. 22-23 in downtown Redding, featuring a number of new artists appearing at the festival this year, including G Love (pictured at right) with special guest drummer Chuck Treece. Also scheduled are Seth Walker, Chuck Prophet, Shawn Mullins and the return of the ever-popular Steve Poltz (Poltzy!) See page 2

AXIOM SEASON

Axiom Repertory Theatre kicks off their 2023-2024



season with an encore run of April's popular comedy The Play That Goes Wrong. "When we say 'back by popular demand,' it really is," said director Ken Hill. Pictured here from the

production are Tyler Lockamy as Robert playing Thomas (left, giving mint) Erin Sullivan as Sandra playing Florence (right, receiving mint), and Daniel Hill as Jonathan playing Charles (laying on couch). See page 10

WHISKEYTOWN 60TH

A virtual discussion panel is one of the week-long events scheduled in late September to mark the 60th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's visit to Whiskeytown to dedicate Whiskeytown Dam and what would later become Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. See page 18



G Love and many more at fourth Redding Roots Revival music festival

By Ron Harrington

The fourth annual (minus Covid) Redding Roots Revival is scheduled Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22-23, on three stages in downtown Redding, featuring a number of new artists appearing at the festival this year, including G Love with special guest drummer Chuck Treece. Also scheduled are Seth Walker, Chuck Prophet and The Mission Express, Shawn Mullins, and the return of the ever-popular Steve Poltz.

G Love & Chuck Treece

"I am so excited to have G Love on our stage," said Janis Logan, the former co-owner of Vintage Wine Bar & Restaurant who, along with Bridgehouse Bed and Breakfast owner Janelle Pierson and Redding singer-songwriter Jonathan Foster, originated the two-day festival.

"My friend, Kelle Clark, turned me on to him in 2006, and I will always cherish that connection," Logan said.

Clark, a friend of all three and many others, was a popular fixture in downtown Redding and the music scene who tragically passed away a few years ago.

"G Love has that laid-back vibe and his music is so much fun," Logan said. "It's a unique blend of blues, hip-hop and soul. It's a musical concoction. He's created songs with several artists, including Jack Johnson's 'Rodeo Clowns,' and one of my favorite songs, 'Cold Beverage,' featuring Keb' Mo'."

(Keb' Mo' is scheduled to perform at the Cascade Theatre earlier that week on Sept. 19).

G Love is usually joined by his band, Special Sauce, but it will just be him and Treece performing on Saturday at 7 p.m. on The Paseo stage.

According to Wikipedia, Treece is a session musician and professional skateboarder from Philadelphia, Penn., who, in 1984, became famous for being the first African-American skateboarder to be featured on the cover of Thrasher magazine.

His musical credits include starting the 1980s skate punk band McRad, remixing songs for Amy Grant and Sting, playing the bass line on "The River of Dreams" by Billy Joel, filling in on drums at a Pearl Jam concert, and touring with Urge Overkill, Underdog and Bad Brains. Treece currently plays bass in a thrash metal band called ACTIVATE and drummed on the album, *Mass*, by Canadian ska band, Bedouin Soundclash.



Clockwise from above: Steve Poltz, Seth Walker, Royal Jelly Jive and Chuck Prophet and The Mission Express.

Chuck Prophet and The Mission Express

Pierson said they reached out to Prophet after one of the Redding Roots Revival board members expressed an interest in having him and his band perform.

"One of our board members, local musician and writer, Jim Dyar, is a big fan of Chuck Prophet," Pierson said. "He really wanted to see Chuck perform so we reached out to him."

Chuck Prophet and The Mission Express are slated to perform at 9 p.m., Saturday, also on The Paseo stage.

If you're a big fan, Prophet will be performing a separate, more intimate show with his wife, Stephanie Finch, at Pierson and her husband's Bridgehouse Bed and Breakfast the night before the festival on Thursday, Sept. 21. It's a separate ticketed event with tickets available on the RRR website at reddingrootsrevival.org.

Seth Walker

Walker played at Vintage about 10 years ago when Logan had many musicians from out of the area perform at the restaurant. She and Pierson also regularly attend the Sisters Folk Festival.

"We (Janis and myself) saw him perform at Sisters Folk Festival in Oregon last year and when we talked to him after



the show they said they had come through Redding on their way and thought about us, but didn't know we were putting on a festival now, so we invited them to come," Pierson said.

Walker will be performing both days, first on Friday at 9:30 p.m. on the Cascade Theatre stage and then on Saturday at 6 p.m. on The Park stage.

"Seth is traveling a long way to perform, so we invited him to stay (and play) both nights," Pierson said. "With three venues, it is nice to have a second chance to see a band this amazing."

Shawn Mullins

Shawn Mullins is an American singer-songwriter who specializes in folk rock, instrumental rock, adult alternative, and Americana music. He's probably best known for the 1998 single "Lullaby," which hit number one on the Adult Top 40 and was nominated for a Grammy award. He performs Saturday at 2 p.m. on The Paseo stage.

Country fans? David Luning Band

As for the north state's large number of country fans, Pierson said the David Luning Band might appeal to them.

"(He's) more on the country side," she said. "They performed at the Redd Sun Music Festival at the Civic in 2018 with other country acts. They made many new fans here in Redding that night. David was on American Idol and Keith Urban had some very nice things to say about his music and his voice."

David Luning performs Saturday at 8 p.m. on the Cascade Theatre stage.

Many more performers

Also new to the festival this year are Royal Jelly Jive and Diggin Dirt along with some local artists who have not performed at the festival before, Pierson said.

Returning this year are David Jacobs-Strain and Bob Beach, Ashleigh Flynn and the Riverters, Brothers Reed and Danger Kitty.

And then there's Steve Poltz.

Poltz

"Steve Poltz is like family," Pierson said of the singer-songwriter, who is affectionately known by many of his fans as Poltzy.

He was a founding member of the indie-rock band The Rugburns and collaborated on several songs with singer Jewel, including the 1996 single "You Were Meant for Me," which reached number 2 on the charts in the U.S. He's also in the video for that song.

"Every time he performs it is a totally different show," Pierson said. "We laugh from the moment he arrives until he leaves. You never know what he is going to say next."

Bridgehouse usually was the lodging place for the out-of-town performers who played at Vintage, including Poltz.

"My best stories of Steve are from the bed and breakfast," Pierson said. "He would serenade my guests with a love song like 'Everything About You,' which he wrote for the soundtrack of *Notting Hill* (1999 film). Or, because Steve is friends with 'The Waz' (Steve Wozniak) of Apple fame, he would call The Waz so my tech guests could say they spoke to him on FaceTime. He is just amazing."

Logan said there are so many memories of Poltz playing at Vintage.

"My favorite is when I told him I liked a song he had just performed on stage," she said. "He then proceeded to make up a song with the chorus, 'I like knowing what you like, Janis, I like knowing what you like...He then sang about me dressing up like Walter White (*Breaking Bad*), getting audited by the state, Kendal Pierson, Sierra Pacific windows, and whatever else he learned that day in Redding. He combined it all into a song that rhymed and he had the whole audience laughing and singing the chorus."

Poltz performs Saturday at 4 p.m. on The Paseo stage.

Tickets and More Information

"Our fourth annual festival is made possible by sponsorships from Dignity Health, McConnell Foundation and the Redding Tourism and Marketing Group," Pierson said. "To put on a festival like this, half of the budget comes from sponsorships and donations and the other half from ticket sales. This allows us to keep the ticket price low so more of the community can enjoy this type of event. It is a family friendly event and children, 10 and under, get in free."

The festival is located on three stages in downtown Redding: The Cascade Theatre is their indoor venue and where you would go first to check in or buy tickets; The Paseo (California Street alley) is where their largest outdoor venue is located; and the Food Truck Park is a free venue and highlights the festival's local bands as well as a couple of touring bands that will play on that stage as well as other stages.

Tickets are \$35 for adults for Friday only, \$79 for both days; those ages 11 to 18 are \$15 for Friday only.

For tickets and more information, including the entire lineup with bios and schedule, go online to reddingrootsrevival.org.

Double art show opens Sept. 9 at SAM in Dunsmuir

The Siskiyou Arts Museum in Dunsmuir will host a double art show opening from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 9 for the Siskiyou Artists' Association's (SAA) 65th annual Art Show in the Main Gallery. There will also be a silent auction of smaller works to raise funds for art student scholarships.

For this new exhibit, the SAA will have Charlie Mills as the critique artist. You can read more about Mills at charliemillsart.com.

Also on that day, an Invitational

Watercolor Exhibit curated by Lindsay Hanley opens in the museum gallery.

Participating watercolor artists are Aaron Hoerber, Bea Duran-Whiteman, Catherine McElroy, Chris Messer, Elizabeth Anderson, Joy Price, Kim Solga and Michele Allen Fulkerson.

Both exhibits will continue in their respective galleries through Nov. 4.

The Siskiyou Arts Museum is located at 5824 Dunsmuir Ave. For more information, visit them on the web at siskiyouartsmuseum.org.



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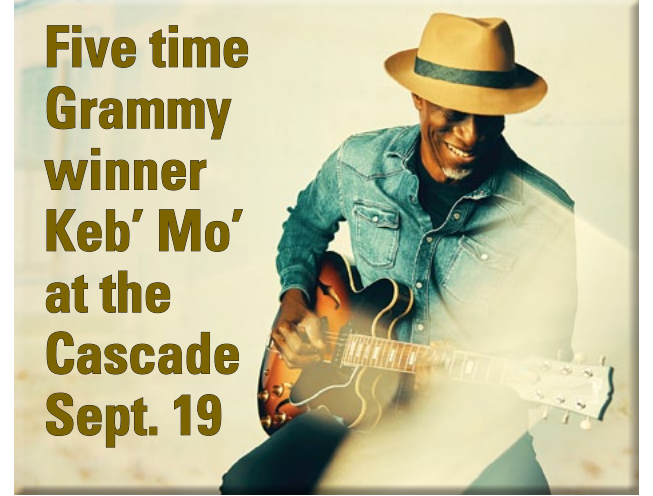
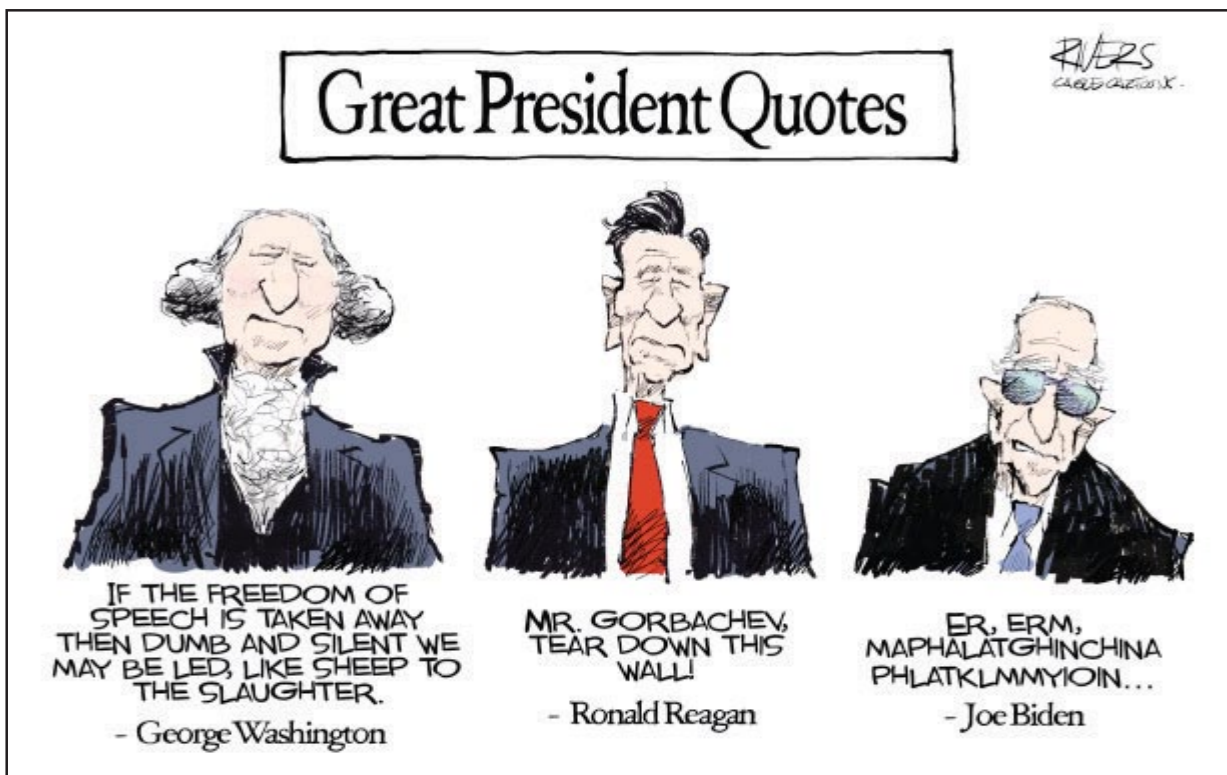
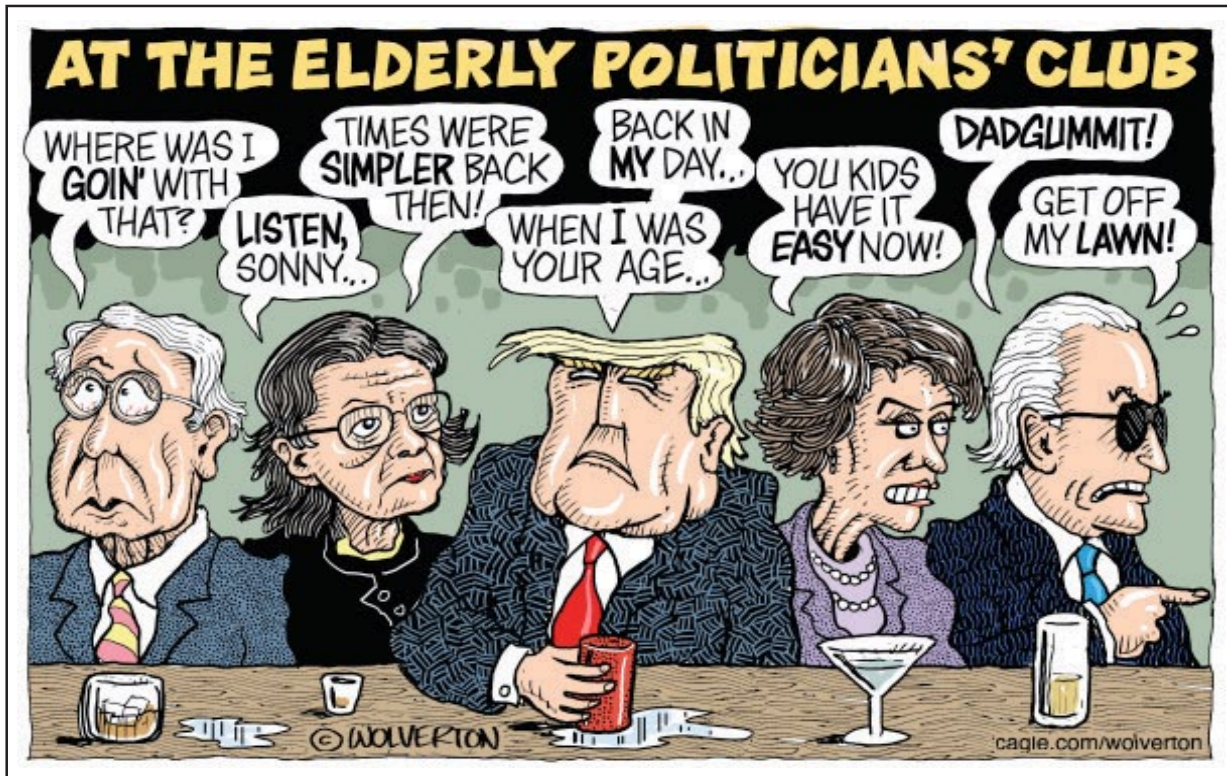
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With five Grammys, 14 Blues Foundation awards, and a groundbreaking career spanning nearly 50 years under his belt, Keb' Mo's got nothing left to prove. Just don't tell him that.

"I may be turning 70," Mo' says in his bio, "but I'm still breathing and I'm still hungry. I'm still out there going for it every single day."

Keb' Mo' is scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 19, at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. For tickets, go online to cascadetheatre.org.

Born and raised in Compton, Mo' began his journey at the age of 21 when he landed his first major gig playing with Jefferson Airplane violinist Papa John Creach. For the next 20 years, he would work primarily behind the scenes, establishing himself as a respected guitarist, songwriter, and arranger with a gift for linking the past and present in his evocative playing and singing.

Though he recorded a one-off album in 1980 under his birth name, Kevin Moore, it wasn't until 1994 that he would introduce the world to Keb' Mo' with the release of his widely acclaimed self-titled debut. Two years later, he garnered his first Grammy award for Best Contemporary Blues Album with *Just Like You*.

For more on Keb' Mo,' check out his official website at kebmo.com.

AFTER FIVE

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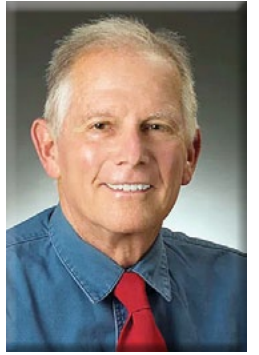
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Downtown Dunsmuir, Dunsmuir Ave

A red carpet for Afghanistan and Ukraine, but not for Hawaii

By Joe Guzzardi

Survivors of the deadly fires in Maui are being offered a \$700-per-household payment by FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and temporary shelter.



But in Maui, \$700 doesn't go far. Estimated monthly living costs for a family of four are \$7,203. The token \$700 represents less than 10 percent of a family's living costs, an insult to the suffering residents who have, in some cases, lost everything they own.

Public outcry over the First Family's perceived indifference has more or less forced Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, to visit Maui.

But for Afghanistan and the Ukraine, the Biden administration can't shell out money fast enough, with no limit to its wasteful ways. In early August, Biden asked Congress for about \$40 billion in new spending to support the efforts of the Ukraine to beat back invading Russia. In its letter to lawmakers, the White House Office of Management and Budget asked for \$13 billion in new military aid and \$8.5 billion in additional economic, humanitarian and security assistance for Ukraine and other war-impacted countries.

The White House's funding request also includes other forms of assistance for Ukraine, including more than \$12 billion for disaster relief and for other emergency domestic funds, like hurricanes, as well as tens of millions of dollars to boost pay for firefighters battling the wildfires that have hit many parts of the country.

In Biden's mind, wildfires in Ukraine are a more urgent concern than the Maui wildfires that destroyed the town of Lahaina and took the lives of at least 114 people, with 1,000 missing at the time of this writing.

In total, the U.S. has sent more than \$100 billion to Ukraine. Displacing millions of people, the 18-month-old proxy war has left a reported 500,000 dead or injured. And there is no end in sight. Biden said that the U.S. will remain committed for "as long as it takes," which means that taxpayers will continue to fund a war in which they have no stake.

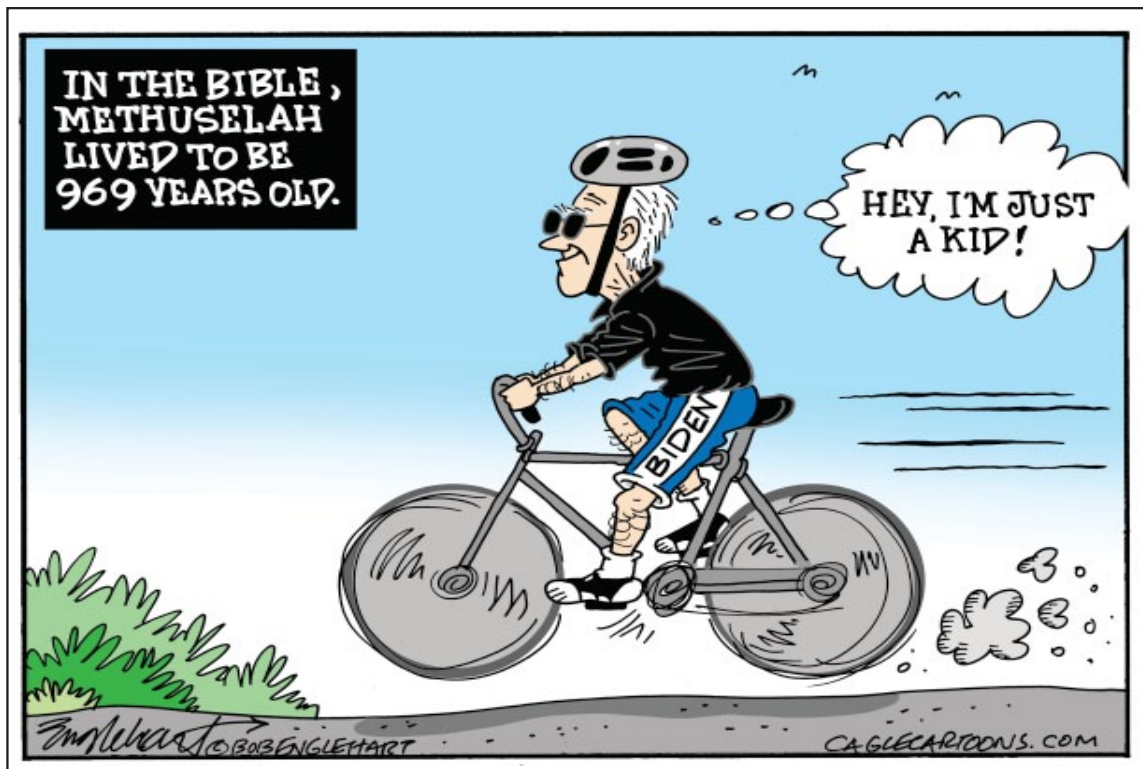
In Afghanistan, the U.S. is supporting the Taliban-controlled government with more than \$2.35 billion since the botched 2021 withdrawal. John Sopko, the special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction, admitted in his April report to the House Oversight Committee that he "cannot assure this committee or the American taxpayer we are not currently funding the Taliban." Further, he said the Biden administration has blocked any and all investigative efforts as to whether American dollars sustain the Taliban or "other nefarious groups" like ISIS.

While neglecting the home front, and funding corrupt foreign countries, Biden also has provided for them on U.S. soil. Programs such as "Uniting for Ukraine" and "Operation Allies Welcome" have made available resettlement benefits and parole – an immigration status that includes work permission – to many thousands of foreigners. Additionally, more than 70,000 Ukrainians have not arrived via Biden's official program but rather have come illegally through the Southwest border. Thousands of Afghans have been successfully resettled since America's hasty and ill-conceived Afghanistan withdrawal.

Both Afghan and Ukrainian nationals have been granted Temporary Protected Status, which officially protects them from removal even though such an action would be unlikely under all but the most extraordinary circumstances. The status also includes employment authorization. With that, program recipients can compete with citizens or other legal immigrants for jobs.

The Biden administration's multi-billion-dollar outlay to Ukraine and Afghanistan and its red-carpet acceptance of those countries' nationals, with minimal vetting, proves that no matter how dire conditions may be for U.S. citizens, e.g., Hawaiians, foreign governments receive priority, despite their crooked backgrounds.

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NEWS of the WEIRD

Sigh. Security guards at the Eiffel Tower in Paris discovered two American tourists sleeping near the top of the structure as they prepared to open to visitors, Yahoo! News reported.

Paris prosecutors said the two dodged security the night before and “appear to have got stuck because of how drunk they were.”

Firefighters were dispatched to collect the men, who were questioned by police; Eiffel Tower management company Sete said it would file a criminal complaint, although the pair didn’t “pose any apparent threat.”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
In more news from Paris, an “experienced climber” got to the top of the Eiffel Tower early and parachuted off before guards could stop him, The Guardian reported.

The unnamed man landed safely after the leap from about 1,100 feet and was promptly arrested for endangering the lives of others.

“This kind of irresponsible action puts people working at or near the tower in danger,” scolded Sete, the tower’s management company.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Sure, Mountain Dew has been compared to battery acid, but one suspect thought a can of the stuff could save her from being fingered as a killer.

Fox35-TV reported that Nichole Maks, 35, was charged with first-degree murder in the death of her 79-year-old roommate, Michael Cerasoli.

Cerasoli was discovered beaten and stabbed in the home they shared in Daytona Beach, Florida, on July 1.

Officers tracked down Maks around 3:30 the next morning at a Krystal’s restaurant, where she had blood on the side of her leg and part of her shirt had been torn or cut away.

As they approached, she dropped a knife and hammer she’d been carrying; she told officers she often carried such items.

Police said that as they questioned her about her roommate, she became “agitated” and asked for a drink; they gave her a can of Diet Mountain Dew, which she poured over her body and hair, hoping to eliminate any evidence on her person.

Unsurprisingly, that stunt didn’t work, and her DNA was found on the knife used to kill Cerasoli. She currently resides at the Volusia County Jail.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
TikTokker Michaela Witter was on Day 20 of a series she was posting about “100 solo



A mysterious man is taking pacifiers out of the mouths of babes in Harlow, England, Sky News reported. The incidents started in February, with the most recent one taking place on Aug. 7. One of the children was also assaulted. The suspect is a young, slim white man with brown eyes and yellow teeth, police said; they are soliciting information from anyone who has any knowledge of the cagey Dummy Bandit (our moniker, not theirs). “As a parent myself, I understand the level of concern,” said chief inspector Paul Austin.

dates” – activities like reading in the park or buying herself flowers.

On Aug. 7, as she browsed in Barnes & Noble in Burbank, California, Witter inadvertently captured a stalker on video as he followed her, knelt behind her and sniffed her (and another woman) repeatedly.

Fox News reported that Witter’s post unleashed a torrent of similar experiences – even with the same stalker.

“Bro that same man was crouching behind me and following me thru Marshalls today,” one commenter posted. “The same thing happened to me at Ralph’s in Burbank,” another said. One TikTokker had the same experience in the same bookstore.

Glendale police arrested

Calese Carron Crowder, 37, on Aug. 11, but a judge placed him on probation and released him on Aug. 15. Los Angeles County Jail records show Crowder has been booked there 41 times.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Street performer Lino Tomasen, 32, of Havana, Cuba, retired from boxing after a blow delivered to his opponent fractured the man’s skull and killed him instantly, he told Reuters.

Tomasen gave all his fight winnings to that man’s family and took to the streets, where the “Ironman” now beats on himself and collects tips.

He uses a sledgehammer to slam his wrists, elbows and forearms for horrified onlookers, but seems to be

unharmful by the abuse.

“It’s all real, nothing fabricated,” said Edward Carbonell, who watched Tomasen’s “show.”

“I want to be remembered as someone who pushed the limits of what was possible,” Tomasen said.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
At a sunset “furmeet” in Huntington Beach, California, one furry took offense when a man in street clothes started filming the spectacle on his phone, the Toronto Sun reported.

Someone in a black wolf costume asked the filmer to stop, then amplified his message with a megaphone: “Leave or we will make you leave.”

When the filmer didn’t

budge, the wolf hit him over the head with the megaphone. Others jumped into the brawl, which was finally broken up by California State Parks officers.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The California Public Utilities Commission voted to allow Cruise and Waymo to offer paid driverless rides to customers during the day, The New York Times reported.

On Aug. 15, as Paul Harvey, 74, looked on, a Cruise vehicle in San Francisco drove into a city paving project and became stuck in wet concrete. “I thought it was funny,” Harvey said. “It illustrated how creepy and weird the whole thing is to me.”

Rachel Gordon with the San Francisco Department of Public Works noted that no one was hurt, but added, “That portion of the road has to be repaved at Cruise’s expense.”

Paul Leonardi, a professor of technology management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, chalked up the experience to a teaching moment: “It needs to experience a diverse set of use cases so it can learn, and driving into wet concrete is one of those use cases.”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
At Stoke Fruit Farm on Hayling Island in England, the sunflowers have been in full bloom for several weeks. The colorful fields offer a perfect background for photo shoots, but, the BBC reported, the farm has seen an “increase of reports of naked photography taking place” since July 28.

“People are having fun and taking pictures for their Instagram but we just ask that they keep their clothes on,” said Sam Wilson, who runs the site.

In an Aug. 11 Facebook post, the attraction cautioned that “this must not happen during our public sessions please.”

One commenter said her son “got a right eyeful” after stumbling across a woman wearing just a thong. “Should have seen his face!”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
When the European Space Agency shared a composite photo taken by the James Webb Telescope in late July, highlighting two actively forming stars, another shape in the photo caught the attention of Earth-bound gazers: an orange formation in the shape of a question mark.

Kai Noeske, ESA communication program officer, explained to NPR what scientists think the shape is: “a group or a chance alignment of

–Please See Page 12



Masters of Illusion Sept. 21

Starring some of the world's greatest award-winning magicians, *Masters of Illusion* is filled with modern illusions and arts of deception, performed live on stage.

Based on the CW TV show hosted by Dean Cain, the live version of *Masters of Illusion* is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Sept. 21, at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. For tickets, go online to www.cascadetheatre.org.

Audiences will be held at the edge of their seats by the jaw-dropping grand illusions while also entertained by the comedy magic as performers combine fantasy, fervor and flair with magic created in front of their eyes.

Masters of Illusion has performed live in front of tens of thousands of people around the U.S. for the past six years, and has been seen by over 100 million viewers on the CW network, as well as in 126 countries around the world.

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SEPT. 22ND & 23RD

TWO DAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Downtown



Redding



Axiom kicks off 2023-2024 season with encore of 'The Play That Goes Wrong'

Axiom Repertory Theatre is bringing back a play in September that they did in the spring which connected so well with audiences they felt that had to do another run.

Back by popular demand from April, *The Play That Goes Wrong* kicks off Axiom's 2023-2024 season Sept. 8-24.

"This show was so well received audiences asked us over and over again to bring it back," Ken Hill, the director of the show, said in an email. "It's sometimes tough to tell who's having more fun, the cast or the audience. So when we say, 'back by popular demand,' it really is."

Hill said they've produced a lot of shows over the years, and when he travels he always tries to go to theatre productions whenever he can.

"In all the shows I've ever produced, seen, or been a part of - hundreds and hundreds - I have never seen a show where the audience laughed so hard and continuously from beginning to end. Never, ever, anywhere."

A bit of hyperbole? Well, some of the audience reviews from April seem to bear out Hill's assessment.

"Okay, so I admit that I felt like it was an exaggeration when I was told that the entire show was funny from start to finish, but I was literally laughing the entire time." - Lizzie Stoxen.

"What an absolutely outstanding experience. The actors were beyond excellent, the set totally amazing and the story went way better than expected... Axiom has hit it out of the ballpark." - Diana Gifford-Tuggle.

"It was so much fun. Even my hubs, who is not a big theatre guy, enjoyed it." - Emory Hornaday.

"I've seen a lot of comedies. I've acted in a lot of comedies. So believe me when I say that this is the funniest comedy I have ever seen. The sheer comedic physicality is mind boggling. Thank goodness I had a Kleenex with me to wipe the constant flow of tears." - Kathryn Kirk.

So if you missed it the first time, or saw it but want to see it again, this will be your last chance, Hill said.

"Once this run is over we're going to break the set down," he said. "So when it's over this year, it's over. This is it."

So what's this play about? Well, have you ever wanted to go backstage to see what happens behind the scenes of a play you're watching? That's sort of the plot - part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes - of this Olivier Award-winning comedy of a play within a play that was written in 2012 by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields for the original London production.

Welcome to 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. This 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone



PHOTO & COVER PHOTO / Kim Mobeley

Daniel Hill as Jonathan playing Charles (laying on couch), Jet Thomas as Dennis playing Perkins (sitting).

thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences.

Axiom's cast includes Mike Spence as Chris/Inspector Carter, Jet Thomas as Dennis/Perkins, Trenton Eide as Max/Cecil/Arthur (new to the cast), Tyler Lockamy as Robert/Thomas, Erin Brown as Sandra/Florence, Ann Marie Lockamy as Annie, Daniel Hill as Jonathan/Charles, Shawn Berenger as Trevor and Erin Berenger as stage crew.

"I play one of the stagehands (and) I try desperately to make everything happen when it should, even though we're pretty much doomed from the beginning," Berenger said. "We aren't giving up, though. The show must go on. Also, I sweep up a lot of snow."

Lockamy said the play has been a dream of his as someone who likes to make others laugh.

"Whether it's during rehearsal or during a live performance, we have so much fun on stage," he said. "The writing is impeccable. Ironically, it's a pretty difficult play to mess up."

Daniel Hill, who plays Jonathan (who is portraying Charles Haversham) said Jonathan is no bad actor, but he's been known to slip up on an entrance now and then.

"Embodying Jonathan is an absolute thrill as it involves a mix of physical comedy and precise timing," he said.

The play runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Reserved seats are \$30 each with discounts for students and seniors.

Tickets can be purchased at axreptheatre.com/wrong, by calling 530-605-0500, or at the door, located at 2613 Bechelli Lane, Redding.

Other shows scheduled for the 2023-2024 season include the return of the ever-popular *Rocky Horror Show*. That will be followed by William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, *A Christmas Carol* - *The Musical*, *Sylvia* by A.J. Gurney, *Elephant Man*, *Beautiful - The Carol King Musical*, Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville*, and *Avenue Q*.

For more information, including purchasing season tickets, go online to axreptheatre.com.



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NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 8

two or three galaxies.

The upper part of the question mark looks like a distorted spiral galaxy, maybe merging with a second galaxy."

Galaxy mergers result in "all kinds of beautiful shapes and structures," said Macarena Garcia Marin, a Webb project scientist. They are "a normal phase in the life and evolution of galaxies."

An unnamed man called his dangerous stunt "a joke" after being arrested in Ostrobothnia, Finland, Sky News reported.

The man allegedly stored 26 pounds of dynamite in his friend's two cars before calling the owner and telling him.

The owner wasn't laughing: He alerted police, who evacuated nearby buildings. "In addition to the dynamite, detonators were also confiscated from the cars," said Tony Rauma, detective chief inspector with the Ostrobothnia Police. The jokester told police he did not intend to blow up the cars, and links to terrorism have been ruled out.

The infamous "Lake Tahoe Foot Fonder" couldn't outrun authorities forever, the New York Post reported.

On Aug. 1, Mark Anthony Gonzales, 26, was arrested in Atwater, California,

and charged with burglary and battery after two early July incidents at the Club Wyndham South Shore hotel in Nevada.

According to police, Gonzales "entered two ... condominiums by opening unlocked screen doors. Once inside, he positioned himself at the foot of the bed and rubbed the feet of two separate adult females" in two different units.

Gonzales fled when his victims woke up and confronted him. He is also suspected of trespassing and stealing women's shoes for sexual pleasure. He was being held for extradition back to Nevada.

Pinellas County (Florida) deputies are pleading with the public to stop calling them about manatees in canals and shorelines along the Gulf Coast, Fox13-TV reported.

People think the manatees are in distress because they're swimming in herds and thrashing about, but officials stress that the sea cows are only mating.

"IF YOU SEE THIS ... DON'T CALL US," the sheriff's office warned via Facebook post.

"We can assure you they are more than fine. Manatees actually mate in herds like these and often they are near

the shore. ... There's no need to call, they are a-okay!"

In a stunning stroke of genius, the Alpha and Omega Funeral Home in Ahuachapan, El Salvador, started offering Barbie-themed coffins last year, the New York Post reported.

With the movie's summer success, undertaker Isaac Villegas said they've been swamped with orders and have sold out of the hot pink caskets.

"We wanted to promote the pink coffin as it has become a trend," Villegas said. "Of the 40 people who inquired about it, we have already closed a contract with at least 10 new clients."

Similarly, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, funeral home Funeraria Olivares is offering a "Barbie House" coffin, "so you can rest like a Barbie."

One manufacturer gushed about their product: "This coffin, with its striking bright pink color, represents the spark and energy of those unforgettable moments they lived." One El Salvadoran commenter conceded, "Eternal rest doesn't look so bad anymore."

Divers Ken Fleming and Doug Bishop were searching for clues in missing persons cold cases in Doral, Florida, when they stumbled upon an investigatory treasure chest, WSVN-TV reported.

"We realized we had 32 cars un-derwater," Fleming said. The divers work as volunteers and have a huge

database of missing persons.

"We have 40 that we're targeting right now of folks that disappeared, anywhere from two or three months ago to 30, 40 years ago," he said.

Statewide, Fleming said they have found 60 submerged cars that may be linked to crimes. They'll work with the county to get the vehicles removed and collect and deliver any pertinent information from them.

People living in the Travis Heights neighborhood of Austin, Texas, are thinking twice about venturing outdoors – and it's not because of the heat.

A red-shouldered hawk is terrorizing pedestrians – to the point that U.S. mail delivery has been suspended in the area indefinitely, KTBC-TV reported.

"Imagine walking out of your house and knowing that you're going to get punched in the back of the head by an animal with large talons," said Alfred Del Barrio.

He said he avoided the hawk on a run because he saw its shadow. Nicole Netherton of the Travis Audubon Society said the hawk is protecting its young.

"Trying to ignore them so that they can get their business and breeding done is probably the best advice," she said.

State and federal laws protect migratory birds. Meanwhile, residents are asked to pick up their mail at a local post office until further notice.



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Whiskeytown to mark 60th anniversary of Kennedy's visit with week of events

Virtual discussion panel, moonlight kayak adventure, clean up, possible speech viewing at Oak Bottom Amphitheater and more

By Aaron Williams & Ron Harrington

On Sept. 28, 1963, President John F. Kennedy stood atop Whiskeytown Dam to dedicate it and what would eventually become the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Sixty years later, memories of that day, where some 10,000 people turned out, still resonate with Shasta County residents who were there or were involved with the event and Whiskeytown plans to mark the occasion with a week of events in late September, said Tyler Compton, Whiskeytown NRA interpretive park ranger - supervisor.

Events scheduled include a virtual discussion panel on President Kennedy and his visit on the actual 60th anniversary where people from anywhere will be able to join in online on Thursday, Sept. 28.

"(People will be able to join) National Park Rangers and community members to learn about the importance of the 60th anniversary of Kennedy's dedication of Whiskeytown Dam and the creation of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area," Compton said in an email.

Community members expected to take part include Don Reynolds, president of the Friends of Whiskeytown, and Pat Carr, whose uncle, James K. Carr, served as undersecretary of the interior to Stewart Udall in the Kennedy administration.

And it was James and his brother, Laurence Carr (Pat's father), who helped pave the way for Kennedy's visit as it wasn't even a sure thing the President would make a stop at Whiskeytown as part of his five-day, 16-city Conservation and Resources Tour that September.

Carr said it was his uncle who was the key person in having Whiskeytown become what it is today.

"Without Uncle Jim there would be no Whiskeytown National Recreation Area," he said. "They wanted to make it a county park."

Although some events were tentative at press time, the virtual discussion was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. **For more information on the time and how to join online, visit Whiskeytown's event calendar at nps.gov/whis/planyourvisit/calendar.htm. You can also follow their Facebook and Instagram pages.** Compton said plans were still being ironed out on how to do the virtual event, whether by zoom, Facebook live, or some other way.

Other events scheduled that week include National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 23 - a fee free day for all to come enjoy any public land for no charge. At Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, they will use that day to host a clean up volunteer event.

"As Kennedy said 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country,' so we will be doing a public clean up at the Tower House Historic District," Compton said. "We will meet at 9 a.m. and have a couple projects planned for the public to assist as we prepare for upcoming events."

Compton said volunteers should arrive at the Tower House at 9 a.m. and



PHOTOS / Cecil Stoughton. White House Photographs. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

President John F. Kennedy attends the dedication of the Whiskeytown Dam and Reservoir in Whiskeytown. Among those pictured, above, left to right, front row, second from left: Governor of California, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown; President Kennedy and Laurence Carr. Second row, between Kennedy and Brown, is Clair Hill of CH2M Hill. California Congressman Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson (on the right with glasses looking at Kennedy) and Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall (far right looking straight ahead). Photo above right, some of the estimated 10,000 people on hand for the event. Also shown is the Glory Hole and one of the helicopters on the left after it had landed on the 1,000 feet of asphalt on the dam that had been created earlier in the month for the visit.



"bring a water bottle and clothes that can get dirty."

For more information, email whis_information@nps.gov or call the Visitors Center at 530-246-1225.

Whiskeytown has also extended their annual Moonlight Kayak program through the end of September to mark the 60th Anniversary. On Wednesday, Sept. 27, and Saturday, Sept. 30, you'll be able to join a National Park ranger on a moonlight kayak adventure.

"Recreation and space exploration were both important to President Kennedy," Compton said. With that in mind, you can join them for the two-and-a-half hour tour. However, reservations must be made online at recreation.gov/ticket/facility/274349.

The kayak program begins at 7:30 p.m. Participants should bring appropriate water clothes, shoes and water bottles. All kayaks, paddles and lifejackets are provided. More information can be found about the tours at the previous link.

Other possible events still in the planning stages included Friday night, Sept. 29, at Oak Bottom Amphitheater where Kennedy's speech and another video of the visit may be shown on their large screen, Compton said.

"It's not quite like a drive-in movie, but it's getting there," he said.

Park staff and guest speakers will likely be part of that event as well.

Also being considered were possible patio boat tours on Sept. 28-29 that would head over to the dam.

"We're still ironing out details (for all of the events)" Compton said in late August.

All events will be updated at nps.gov/whis/planyourvisit/calendar.htm, the Whiskeytown website at nps.gov/whis, and their Facebook and Instagram pages.

Kennedy's Visit

Kennedy arrived in Redding the previous evening of the dedication on Sept. 27, 1963. He came in on Air Force One and was taken to Lassen Volcanic National Park by helicopter with, among



Something only a President could get away with, Kennedy feeding a deer at Lassen Volcanic National Park.

others, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and California's Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown.

According to Thomas G. Smith's book "John Kennedy, Stewart Udall, and New Frontier Conservation," the party arrived at the Devastated Area and rode in cars to Manzanita Lake shortly before sundown. While a park naturalist led Udall and members of the press corps on the nature trail around the lake, Kennedy retired to the Manzanita Lake Lodge manager's residence (present day Discovery Center) to rest.

The press quoted Kennedy as saying that the park superintendent had "the best job in the world" and he was photographed feeding a deer. Despite the dubious message contained in this image of the president feeding the park's wildlife, it was a golden photo opportunity for the Park Service and Lassen Volcanic in particular.

When considering whether to include Whiskeytown, the advance team also looked at Shasta College's Thompson Field as a possible site given some issues with Whiskeytown, including parking (people were later bused to the event) and a problem with the ability to land helicopters at the dam.

"When they found out he was coming, they had to build out a platform and pave 1,000 feet of asphalt on the dam in order to land (the) helicopters," Pat Carr said.

Official confirmation of the Whiskeytown visit by Kennedy didn't come until the middle of September.

James Carr would've been master of ceremonies for the Whiskeytown event,

his nephew said, but Interior Department business had pulled him away to Europe. So in stepped Pat's father, Laurence Carr, chairman of the Shasta County Democratic Central Committee, to be master of ceremonies.

Video of Kennedy's visit and speech can be found on YouTube. Following Kennedy's keynote address, Carr said Kennedy leaned over to his father and told him "Let's go meet the people."

"At this, he sent the Secret Service into fits," Carr said his father later told them as Kennedy immersed himself in the crowd. In hindsight, it was a chilling account given what happened in Dallas less than two months later.

He added that despite Shasta County being a largely Democrat-dominated region at the time, the era of cooperation was very much alive.

"They made sure Clair Hill (of CH2M Hill engineering company in Redding), a staunch Republican, was involved," Carr said. "He was in the second row behind Kennedy (during the ceremony). They worked together to get things done for the north state."

Less than two months after Kennedy's visit to Whiskeytown, he was assassinated in Dallas.

To remember and honor the slain leader, locals banded together and donated funds to create a small memorial at the site where President Kennedy had given his speech. Shasta County designated the roadway leading to Whiskeytown Dam as John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive, and on Oct. 11, 1964, the President John F. Kennedy Memorial was dedicated on the side of Whiskeytown Dam.

James K. Carr, in his 1964 dedication of the memorial to honor the late President, said in his speech that "Other Septembers and Novembers will come and go. On this nearby mountain, 6,000 feet high (Shasta Bally) that looks down on this lake he helped create, each fall the forested slopes will turn color and people will be reminded of his visit here, his last to California."

How seniors can save on prescription drug costs

Dear Savvy Senior,

I take several medications for multiple health conditions and the prices keep going up, even with my Medicare prescription drug insurance. Can you recommend any tips that can help cut my costs?

- Tapped Out Tina

Dear Tina,

The high cost of prescription drugs is an ongoing problem that stings everyone, but it usually affects seniors more because they have a greater need for medications and because Medicare doesn't cover all their drug costs.

While the Inflation Reduction Act that was signed into law last year will help seniors save on their medications by negotiating lower drug prices and capping out-of-pocket spending at \$2,000, it will be a few years before the law is fully enacted. In the meantime, here are some different strategies that can help reduce your costs so you can afford what you need.

Talk to your doctor

A good first step is to review your medications once a year with your doctor to find out if any of them can be stopped or reduced. If you're taking any brand-name drugs check to see if they are available in a cheaper generic form.

Also, for any drugs you're taking long-term, ask your doctor for a cheaper



By Jim Miller

CostPlusDrugs.com or HoneybeeHealth.com. With these, you may spend less in some cases than you might with insurance.

Buy from Canada

Because prescription drugs are often much cheaper north of the border, many Americans have chosen this option for years. While this is technically illegal in most states, the Food and Drug Administration generally does not stop people from doing it. If you want to explore this option use PharmacyChecker.com, an online tool that will help you identify reputable Canadian and international online pharmacies.

Get more help

If your income is limited, you may also be able to get help through Medicare's Extra Help program (Medicare.gov/basics/costs/help/drug-costs), your state pharmaceutical assistance program (Medicare.gov/plan-compare/#/pharmaceutical-assistance-program/states) or patient assistance programs (Medicare.gov/pharmaceutical-assistance-program). Visit each website to see if you're eligible and to apply.

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.

three or six-month prescription versus a one month.

And find out if any of the pills you're taking can be cut in half. Pill splitting allows you to get two months' worth of medicine for the price of one. If you do this, you'll need to get a prescription for twice the dosage you need.

Review your insurance

Carefully review your drug coverage during the open enrollment period, which runs Oct. 15 – Dec. 7 for Medicare beneficiaries. Make sure all your regular medications are covered in the plan's formulary; that your current pharmacy is in the plan's network; and that your plan covers additional medication coverage in the gap.

To shop and compare Medicare prescription drug plans go to Medicare.gov/plan-compare.

Pay cash

Not using insurance for prescriptions seems counterintuitive, but in some cases it may save you money. For example, many chain pharmacies and big-box stores like Walmart and Costco have their own prescription savings programs that may be lower than your insurance copayment. Or you can use coupons through GoodRx.com or RxSaver.com that can save you up to 80 percent off the list price of generic and some brand-name drugs in certain pharmacies.

Shop online

You can also save on regularly used medications by having them sent to you from a mail-order pharmacy. Check with your health insurer or regular pharmacy to see whether it will get you a better deal. If not, check online pharmacies like

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