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AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

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THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY



ON THE COVER

GOLDEN PALOOZA

This year marks the eighth annual NorCal Golden Palooza where organizers are expecting between 450 to 500 Golden Retrievers and their loving owners at the Redding Civic Auditorium on Oct. 14. See page 8

THE WOLVES

Bailey Ferguson (right) portrays No. 25, the team captain, in the Shasta College production of playwright Sarah DeLappe's coming-of-age, nine player 'planet of teenage girls' soccer team in *The Wolves*. All characters in the play are identified only by their uniform numbers. And the play also will have a unique setup for the audience. See page 2



ROCKY RETURNS

If it's October, it must mean the return of Axiom Repertory Theatre's production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, which has been a staple since 2017. Axiom has just installed a brand new LED lighting system and state of the art sound and mic equipment, making for a whole new experience for the audience. There are also three new cast members and 11 returning from previous years. See page 13

SMITH & THE SAINTS

You may have heard about Shane Smith and *The Saints* from a friend who saw their live show, or heard the cast of *Yellowstone* give them a shout out in Season Four or saw the band play live on the Season Five premiere. Redding's Cascade Theatre presents Shane Smith and *The Saints* on Oct. 7. See page 6

The coming-of-age play *The Wolves* set for 7 performances

This month, the Shasta College Theatre Department presents a contemporary coming-of-age play examining identity, politics and loss as seen through the dizzying whirl of adolescent attitudes, anxieties, and vulnerability of a young womens' soccer team in *The Wolves*.

Playwright Sarah DeLappe takes a look inside the confidential circle of her teenage athletes to paint a picture of female camaraderie. It centers on the experiences of high school girls through their weekly Saturday morning pre-game soccer warmups. From the safety of their suburban stretch circle, the team navigates big questions and wages tiny battles with all the vim and vigor of a pack of nine adolescent American girls who ultimately just want to kick, pass and score some goals.

DeLappe reportedly referred to *The Wolves* as "a planet of teenage girls."

The play premiered off-Broadway to acclaim in 2016 at The Duke at 42nd Street. It received the American Playwriting Foundation's Relentless Award in 2015 and was a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Actress Sarah Mezzanotte (Marnie in the Netflix series *Chambers*) was a co-recipient of the 2017 Obie Award for Best Ensemble for her work in *The Wolves* as player No. 2 (the cast is identified only by their uniform numbers). She also received a special Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble for her work in *The Wolves*.

Dr. Greg Thorson, Shasta College theatre instructor and the director of the college's production of *The Wolves*, said the play intrigued him as he's both a sports fan and theatre fan.

"Theatre and sports have been the two greatest loves of my life," Thorson said. "So, when I heard about a play concerning a girls' soccer team I was immediately intrigued."

Thorson said he played sports growing up and that and theatre both have had a major impact on his life.

"The comradery I have experienced with those teams, and even more so with the theatre productions I have worked on, have formed some of the most memorable bonds of my life," he said. "I read an article recently that compared the dangerous health effects of loneliness to the dangers of smoking. Through sports or theatre, or really any group activity, we form the relationships that sustain us and bring meaning to our lives."

Grace Coe is one of the soccer players in *The Wolves* (No. 13), providing "the



PHOTO and COVER PHOTO / Peter Griggs for Shasta College

Four of the nine members of the Shasta College Production of *The Wolves*. Back row, left to right: Bailey Ferguson (No. 25), Sophia Hinchcliffe (No. 00) and Linze Zaniroli (No. 2). Front and center: Grace Coe (No. 13).

goofball comic relief" for the play, she said. Before her time onstage, she was a member of three junior soccer teams from ages six to eight.

"I wasn't particularly good...but one of my greatest accomplishments then was being given the Best Team Spirit award, or as my coach liked to call it, the Goofiest Goober award," she said.

Coe said it was the dialogue that really attracted her to *The Wolves* script and story.

"I remember prepping my cold read audition with my friend and we were just laughing over the fact that the dialogue was all stuff we would say or would overhear from others at our old high school," she said. "At times, I feel like Sarah DeLappe just went to a high school girls' soccer practice and recorded their conversations for writing material. It's that good and probably one of the most realistic teen girl dialogues I've seen. Sam Levinson (*Euphoria*), get out of the way."

Linze Zaniroli plays No. 2, the part originally performed by Mezzanotte. She was in the original cast when this play was scheduled at Shasta College in 2020 before the pandemic hit. She's been in 30 productions since the age of four and this is her seventh Shasta College production.

When the play was canceled in 2020,

Zaniroli said she struggled with the loss that brought.

"Our cast was incredibly close and the thought of never getting to perform with that same group of girls still makes me sad, but I am so excited about our new cast," she said. "We have already started bonding and becoming a theatre family and I know this is going to be an amazing show."

Zaniroli said she loved that the script was about the bonding the team experiences as they journey through their teenage years on their way to adulthood.

"Being 17 and recently graduated from Shasta High School, this play felt like a reflection of my real life," she said. "There are so many questions and uncertainties in life and this show touches on many of those struggles. When you're going through high school, it can feel like you're the only one struggling. You don't know how you really aren't alone."

Bailey Ferguson, (No. 25 and the team captain), said what was really interesting when she first looked into the play was that it was about soccer.

"And I personally haven't seen or read many plays about sports, so I thought that was fascinating," she said. "I also loved that it involved an all-female cast, so I knew I would feel really comfortable in that environment."

Like the others, Eva Franceschini (No. 46), said the script is so realistic and challenging and flows so well, which she found really interesting.

"Each character has a sense of relatability and human flaw that is so realistic," she said. "I feel like in the script the moments where they all relate or connect is really uplifting. Everyone has a sense of gratefulness for the group they have and not wanting to take that for granted."

Thorson echoed his cast's thoughts about how realistic the play is for the audience. (Note: *The Wolves* contains strong language and mature themes, so discretion is advised).

"The characters, language and situation are so real and raw," he said. "The players we watch are at times hilarious, or at times maddening and especially endearing. For this play to work the audience must be close to the action."

With that in mind, Thorson said they have reconfigured the Shasta College Theatre in order that the audience sits onstage with the performers.

"They are the fans, if you will, watching this team win, lose and especially grow," he said. "The *Wolves* is an all-female cast and runs for 90 minutes with no intermission. Attending this production will be a very unique theatre experience."

Coe said she thinks one of the play's biggest strengths is its ability to reach out to multiple generations within its audience.

"No matter what age, everyone, whether it's past or present, can relate to the highs and lows of adolescence. I hope young teens are able to laugh at a sex joke, like the ones they make with their friends. I hope adults are able to cringe at a stunt, like the ones they would've made when they were that age. I hope we're able to form a bridge between the audience and the story we want to tell."

Tickets and Dates

Performance dates are at 7 p.m., Oct. 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21 in the Shasta College Theatre, with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on Oct. 15 and 22.

Tickets can be purchased for \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students, and are available at shastacollege.edu/ArtsEvents or by calling the box office at 530-242-7573.

The Wolves is produced in special arrangement with Samuel French, inc. Lighting is by Tim Dye, set design by David Fraser, costumes by Hilary Fahey, and hair and makeup by Matthew McDonald.

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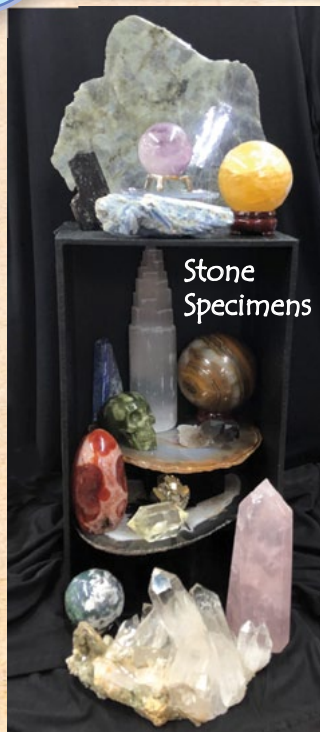
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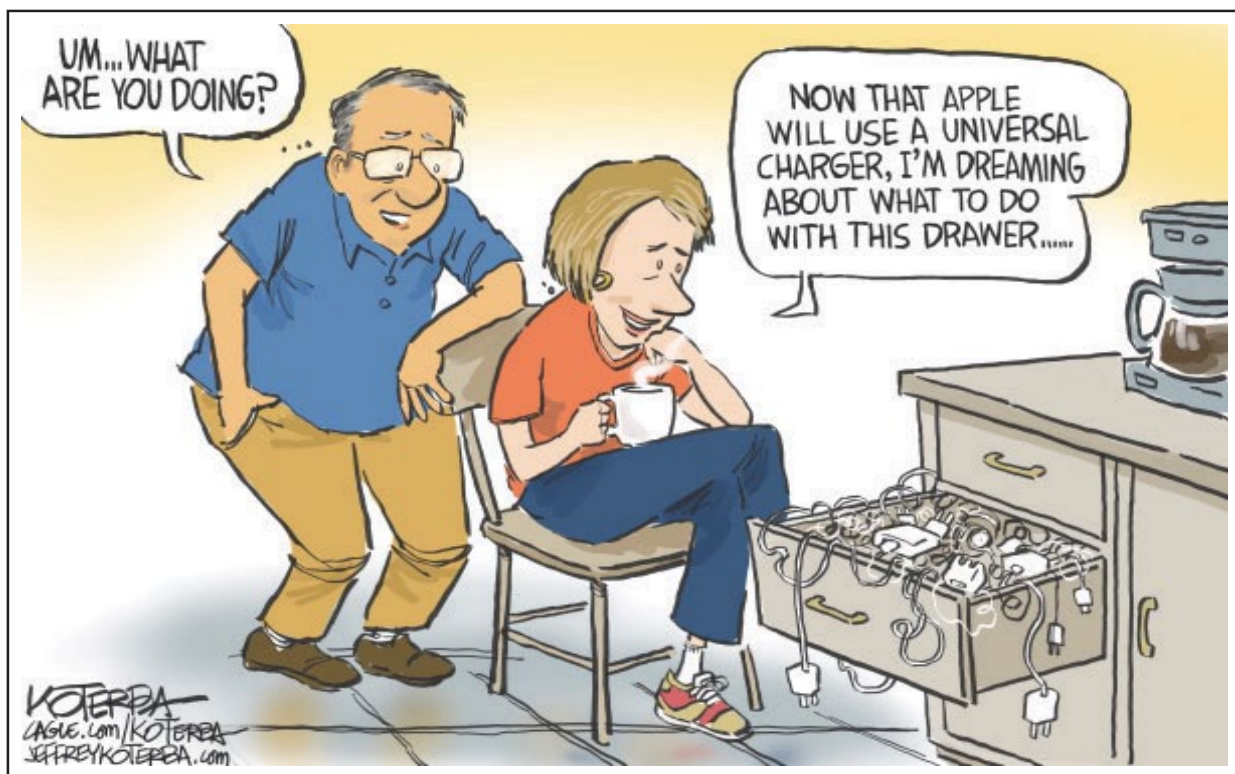
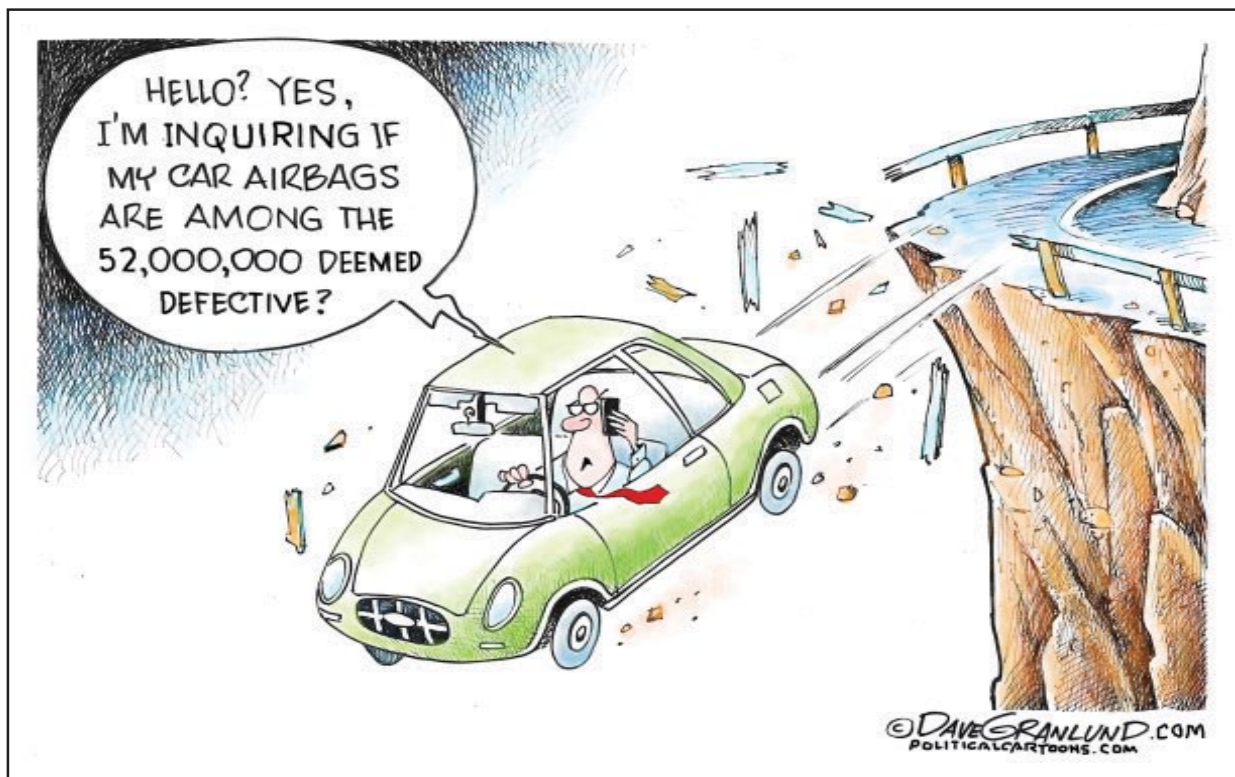
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Shane Smith & The Saints at the Cascade on Oct. 7

You may have heard about Shane Smith and The Saints from a friend who saw their live show, or from a playlist on your favorite streaming service. Perhaps you heard the cast of Yellowstone give them a shout out in Season Four or saw the band play live on the Season Five premiere.

With a reputation as a high-energy live act with four-part harmonies, Smith follows in the footsteps of such Lone Star songsmiths as Chris Stapleton, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Hayes Carll, and Ryan Bingham.

Redding's Cascade Theatre presents Shane Smith and The Saints at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 7. Opening is Nashville singer-songwriter Matt Koziol. Tickets and more information are available online at cascadetheatre.org.

A native of Terrell, Texas, Shane Smith made music a full-time pursuit after moving to Austin where he soon connected with Bennett Brown (fiddle), along with other musicians including those who now make up The Saints: Dustin Schaefer on lead guitar, Chase Satterwhite on bass, and Zach Stover on drums.

Their first album, *Coast*, was released in 2013, and two years later came *Geronimo*, followed by *Hail Mary* in 2019.

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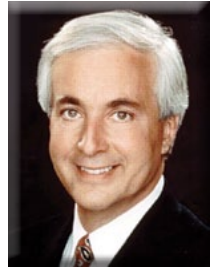
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Strikes make a humorless campaign even more so

By Peter Funt

NBC's "Saturday Night Live" hasn't cracked a Joe Biden joke since April 15 when cast member Michael Che quipped, "President Biden has tried to downplay the recent leak of classified U.S. documents that were posted on social media, because when you're over 80 a couple of leaks are nothing to be embarrassed about."



With strikes by writers and performers in their fifth month (a tentative agreement was reached between writers and studios on Sept. 24), late night TV remains shuttered and with it most political humor. That benefits all politicians, of course, but none more profoundly than President Biden.

One month after the strike began, you'll recall, Biden tripped over a sandbag on a stage at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and took a spill that could have been comedy gold. It was reminiscent of the fall Gerald Ford had while exiting Air Force One in 1975 — an incident that SNL mined for over a year, making Chevy Chase, who played Ford, a big star, while contributing to Ford's loss to Jimmy Carter in 1976.

But with late night TV dark, there were no Biden-as-a-stumbler routines. Dana Carvey, who does a great POTUS impression, was left to perform his Biden bit for a theater audience of about 1,300 in Monterey, California. Falling flat on his face, he assured the crowd in perfect Biden pitch, "Feeling good. Watch me run — cause I know how to run!" (Carvey jumps to his feet and "jogs" while barely moving his feet but furiously pumping his arms.)

Were it not for the strikes, Donald Trump's four criminal indictments would also be cause for a late night comedy frenzy, similar to Bill Clinton's impeachment woes. On SNL, Darrell Hammond portrayed Clinton (sounding very much like Trump): "If I didn't know better, I'd say people like me more when I'm screwing up. I was better off when I was smoking pot in England and grabbing ass in the White House."

In researching my book "Playing POTUS," I found that Trump was history's most lampooned president. Clinton was tied for second place with Ronald Reagan. What distinguished Trump and Reagan, however, is that they seemed to relish the attention. Rich Little, who was Reagan's friend and mimic, told me Reagan loved jokes at his own expense, even when Little mocked the president's advanced age and frequent memory lapses.

Trump was a bit more brittle — often slamming Alec Baldwin, who played him on SNL — but it was largely an act. Trump was never damaged by the jokes; indeed, much of the comedy fueled his base, just as recent criminal indictments appear to have done.

While Trump is living confirmation of the adage that all publicity is good publicity, Biden is the opposite. Favoring a low profile, he doesn't pal around with comedians as Reagan did with Little, George H.W. Bush did with Carvey, and George W. Bush did with a lesser known comic named Steve Bridges. Even Gerald Ford, who suffered from barbs delivered by Chevy Chase, invited Chase to perform with him at the White House Correspondents' Dinner and spoke kindly of him after leaving office.

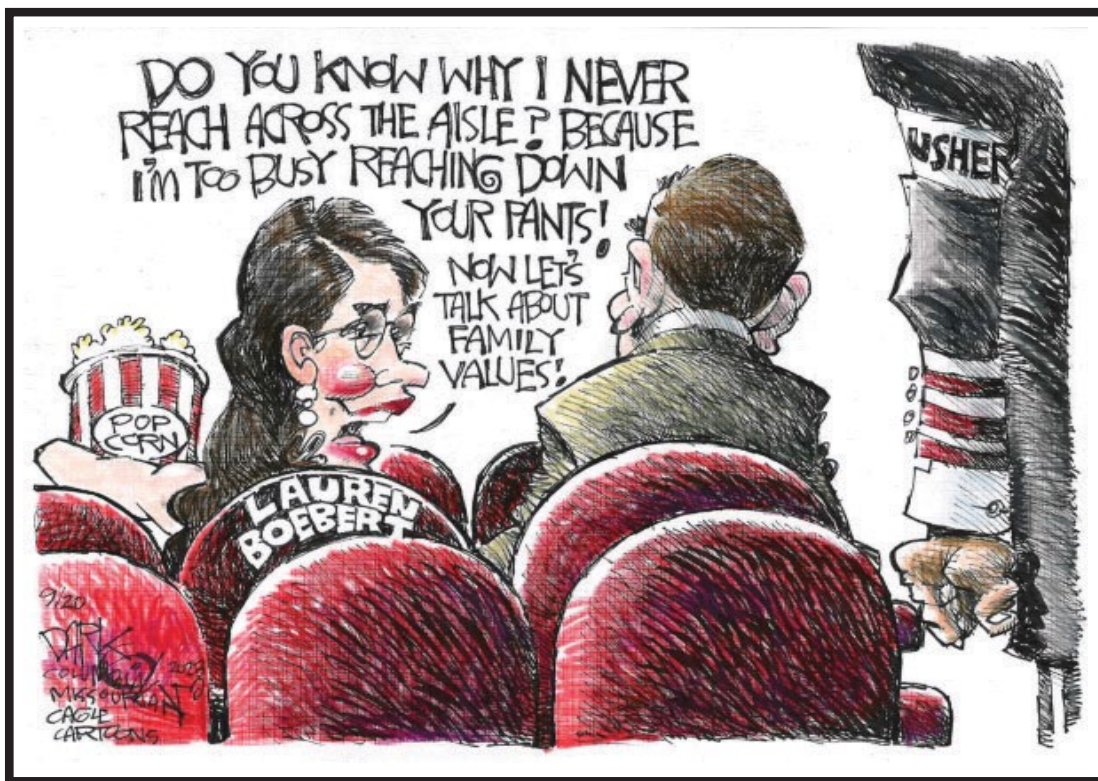
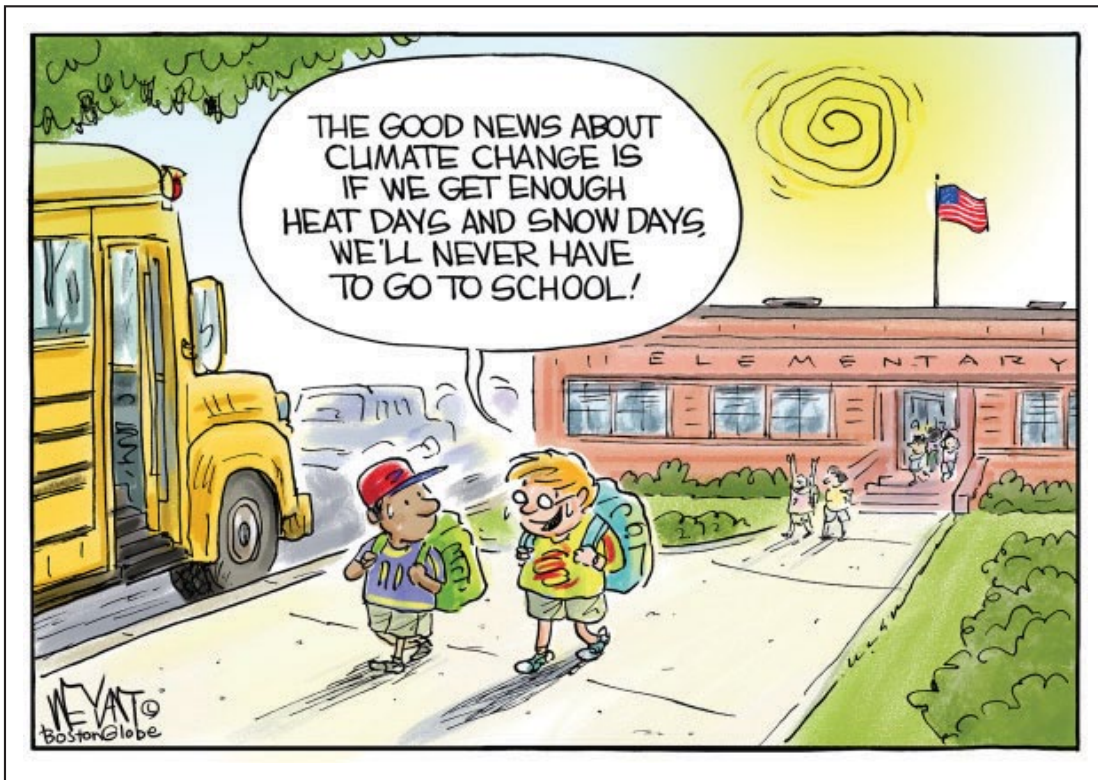
In 2020 the pandemic gave Joe Biden literal shelter from the rigors of campaigning and now, as the 2024 race takes shape, strikes have put the kibosh on jokes that could damage his re-election prospects. The last president to experience such a comedy moratorium was Lyndon Johnson in 1963, following the Kennedy assassination. The nation was numb and comics were temporarily silenced.

Unfortunately for LBJ, when performers like Tom and Dick Smothers finally went back to work they roasted him so brutally for several years — primarily over his Vietnam War policies — that Johnson surprised the nation by withdrawing from the 1968 presidential race.

As with Vietnam, plus civil rights protests in the tumultuous 1960s, the current state of the nation and presidential politics aren't really laughing matters. Yet, comedians tend to disregard that, unless a strike gets in the way.

At the Correspondents' Dinner in 2022 Trevor Noah said, "I stood here tonight and I made fun of the president of the United States, and I am going to be fine." How fine Joe Biden will be in the coming months after comics get back to work is another matter.

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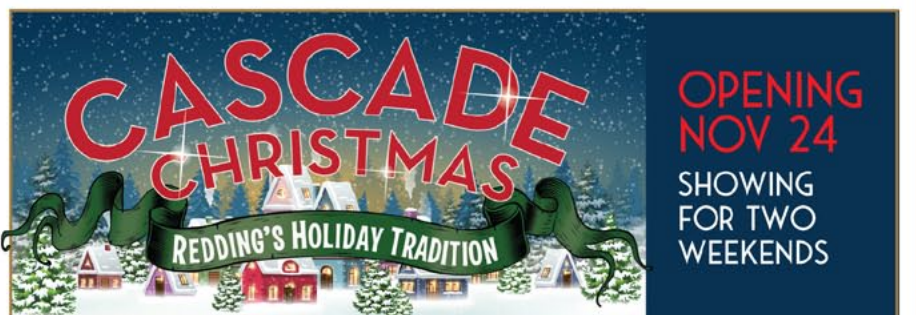
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Some 500 Golden Retrievers expected at 8th annual NorCal Golden Palooza

The NorCal Golden Lovers group was organized in April of 2016 when Golden Palooza event founder Amber Moore was walking her two Golden Retrievers, Lexi and Levi, at the Redding Convention Center where she bumped into three other golden retrievers and their owners. A new common interest friendship was sparked and they joked that they should start a NorCal Golden Lovers group. The result?

This year marks the eighth annual NorCal Golden Palooza where organizers are expecting between 450 to 500 Golden Retrievers and their loving owners at the Redding Convention Center (aka Redding Civic Auditorium) on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"This is a few hours of pure fun, where the people are smiling and even the dogs are smiling" Moore said.

The high point of this year's event, she said, will be a display booth by NorCal Golden Retriever Rescue from Menlo Park with information on adoptions and fostering Golden Retrievers.

The event has all the vibes of a Disney feel good story and the group continues to expand, Moore said.

"The Golden Retriever lives their life each day like they just discovered a swimming pool full of tennis balls and bacon," Moore said. "The Golden Retrievers are described as intelligent,



PHOTO / Gary Moore

Two Golden Retrievers take a dip in the Redding Civic Auditorium fountain at a previous NorCal Golden Palooza.

confident, reliable, trustworthy and friendly."

A snack bar will be presented by the Buckeye Cuties Baton Twirling organization, professional photographer Lowel Martinson will be there taking portraits (there's even a kissing booth) and NorCal Golden Palooza t-shirts will be available for purchase.

The NorCal Golden Lovers group began in April of 2016 with a Golden Retriever meet up that attracted seven

goldens in the first year. In 2017 they attracted 21.

That same year, the NorCal Golden Lovers group entered the pomp and circumstance of the Redding Lighted Christmas Parade. The parade theme that year was "Marching with the Toys" and the golden group entered 11 in the parade with a glistening array of lights and a cardboard cutout in the shape of a key that was strapped to their back as if they were a wind-up toy. The Nor Cal Golden Lovers were awarded first place in the novelty category.

Since then, Golden Palooza's attendance has swelled each year to 36 dogs in 2018, then 55 in 2019, 127 in 2020, 233 in 2021 and last year 384 were in attendance.

"This year we already have 389 pre-registered and are expecting over 500 to be in attendance," Moore said.

Also on hand this year will be Benebone from Westport, Connecticut, who will be offering delicious and nutritious dog bones and treats, Treats All Natural Pet Marketplace, State Farm Insurance from Fair Oaks who will be talking about pet insurance (yep... you can't get affordable fire insurance, but you can get pet insurance), and Health and Wellness from the Millville Veterinarian Clinic. In addition, Woof Training from Anderson will be doing a live training demonstration and the Spa Paw and Salon will be trimming toenails on dogs.

This year the event wraps up with a Golden Retriever Parade across the Sundial Bridge.

"Watching hundreds of Golden Retrievers playing and swimming together, hanging out and socializing is a sight to be witnessed by all," Moore said.

She said the goal of NorCal Golden Lovers group is to celebrate the Golden Retriever comfort of socialization in a safe and friendly environment. There is no membership fee to join although they ask the attendees to bring a slightly used toy, leash, collar or bed to be donated to the local Shasta Lake animal shelter.

For more information or to register go online to norcalgoldenpalooza.com.

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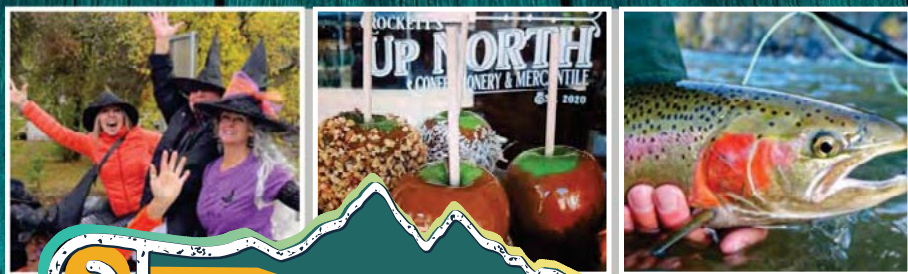
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NEWS of the WEIRD

A resident of Trail in British Columbia called police to complain of a man wearing camouflage pants, which he believed to be a violation of some rule, the Toronto Sun reported.

The caller, 27, said he was “offended on behalf of the military” and requested that an officer find the man and remove his pants.

When the officer said he could not do that, the caller said he would remove the man’s pants himself “under order of (the) king of England.”

The local Royal Canadian Mounted Police did look for the camouflage wearer, presumably to warn him about the caller, but couldn’t find him.



After the long-awaited capture of escaped fugitive Danelo Cavalcante, Pennsylvania State Police Lt. Col. George Bivens held a press conference to share the details of the arrest, Huff Post reported.

One attendant, a podcaster named Michael Rainey, gets the prize for the most bizarre question posed to Bivens: “Was there any concern he (Cavalcante) would team up with another small man to step inside of a trench coat, ‘Little Rascals’-style?”

What?

On X (formerly know as Twitter), Rainey said he “knew no one else would ask the questions that needed to be asked. Also, they were very polite in asking me to leave.”

Bivens shot a curt “No” back to Rainey’s question before the podcaster was encouraged to hit the exit.



Pedro Carvalho, CEO of Destilaria Levira, a wine distillery in Levira, Portugal, assured citizens that the 600,000 gallons of red wine that spilled from the facility on Sept. 10 and covered the city’s streets would not leave a lingering smell because it was “good quality wine.”

The New York Times reported that one tank collapsed because of a “structural failure,” knocking over another tank.

The distillery promised to “take full responsibility for the costs associated with damage cleanup and repair,” which included one basement that was flooded.

Firefighters collected some of the wine and removed it to a wastewater treatment plant.



Sure, if you work for the Walt Disney Co., you expect to have mice all around you on the daily. But at the company’s



Porch pirates, meet your leader. Robin Swanger of Arnco, Georgia, was charged with felony theft after he allegedly stole an entire porch from a neighbor’s yard, Fox News reported. The 8-by-10-foot wooden porch was left on the property when the house was moved away, but investigators said Swanger ignored “no trespassing” signs and removed the “very well-constructed” structure. “Some people may shrug their shoulders and say it’s not a big deal,” said county investigator Chris Stapler, “but when you take someone’s property without their consent and the value of this porch is \$3,000, you can’t just go and take stuff off someone’s property.” Well said.

headquarters in New York City, advertising staffers on the fifth floor were advised on Sept. 11 to clear out “immediately” because the building was infested with the happy little rodents (oh, and also fleas), the New York Post’s PageSix reported.

“Risk management and facilities teams are aware of these issues and working to quickly resolve them,” the email to personnel said.

One source said the existing building is set to be demolished and “there’s no incentive for upkeep. At any given time, most of the elevators are broken.”

Police in Wiltshire, England, were called out when a neighbor spotted a grisly scene by the

side of the road – an arm and two bloody feet hanging out of a garbage bin.

Wiltshire Live reported that as officers scoured other nearby trash cans, one resident alerted them that the body parts were fake and he had placed them in a neighbor’s bin as a prank.

“It’s just a practical joke that got out of hand,” he said. “I’ve put them in a bag so they can’t be seen now.”

Rock climbers in British Columbia’s Squamish area, north of Vancouver, have a new convenience available to them: Waste Alleviating Gel (WAG) bag stations. Yep, they’re poop bags for humans.

The CBC reported that after

an “explosion in the usage of our back-country areas ... increasingly we are finding that there are issues with human waste, particularly in our more remote crags (cliffs with climbing routes),” according to Ben Webster, chair of Squamish Access Society.

Katy Holm, an owner of a store called Climb On, called the bags “totally robust. You don’t have to fear that it’s going to explode or anything.”

Michael Gordon Dick, 61, of Beaverton, Oregon, was sentenced to 90 months in prison following his guilty plea for felony public indecency, KPTV reported.

Dick was arrested last year after someone reported

him standing on a bench in a backyard, naked from the waist down and looking into neighbors’ backyards. He was on probation for the same crime when the incident took place.



Looking for something else to do in Washington, D.C., besides endless monuments and galleries? Check out the Museum of Failure, WUSA-TV suggested.

The brainchild of Dr. Samuel West, the Museum of Failure is a traveling exhibition that features some of history’s biggest busts, from Crystal Pepsi to Thirsty Cat (fish-flavored water for your cat).

“We need to be better at learning from failure,” West said. “I want visitors to recognize that failure is an essential aspect of progress and innovation.”

The museum also includes a Failure Confessional, where visitors can leave their own personal flops behind. The museum will be open until Dec. 10.



If there was ever a place where it would be better to let a dropped Apple Watch go, a Michigan woman found it.

ABC News reported that a passersby called police when they heard a woman yelling for help from within an outhouse.

The unidentified woman had lowered herself into the outhouse toilet to retrieve her Apple Watch, which had fallen into the unmentionable muck below.

Unable to climb back out, the woman resorted to yelling for assistance, and she was eventually lifted out via strap by first responders.

State police issued a statement with a warning to any fumble-fingers who might follow the woman’s poor example: “If you lose an item in an outhouse toilet, do not attempt to venture inside the containment area. Serious injury may occur.”



Grocery shoppers in some BILLA supermarkets in Europe are finding themselves face to face with the latest innovation in food technology, fresh ... off the printer.

Austrian-based food-tech startup Revo Foods has developed a 3D-printed vegan fish filet “inspired by salmon,” which Popular Science reported “relies on mycoprotein made from nutrition-heavy filamentous fungi” that “naturally offers a meat-like texture.”

The company has
–Please See Page 14

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Axiom's Rocky Horror Show has come a long way since its early days

It's October. It's Halloween time. You know what that means, right?

The return of *The Rocky Horror Show* from Axiom Repertory Theatre in Redding. The show has been a staple every year since its challenging beginnings in 2017 at Old City Hall.

Among those there from the start is Tanya Stedman, who is the costume designer and has portrayed Trixie every year and also Magenta in 2021 and 2022. She will do so again this year.

"You know what's wrong with this town, I used to tell anyone who'd listen," Stedman said of the show's beginnings. "There's nothing to do for Halloween. We need Rocky Horror. The closest thing was the rumor of a Rocky Horror Shadowcast in Red Bluff."

It was fortuitous that Stedman's desire to have *The Rocky Horror Show* in Redding met up with Axiom's decision to produce the cult classic, although the timing for her could have been a little bit better.

"A friend came to me in the dead heat of summer, two days before I was supposed to leave for the biggest vacation I've ever taken and with no cell phone coverage for seven days, and Axiom - who's Axiom? - is holding auditions the next day for *The Rocky Horror Show*," Stedman said. "I'd never auditioned for anything before."

Stedman said she had to come up with a monologue (which she had no idea what that was) and a song (she said she was better prepared for that requirement).

"But I thought my audition went so badly, I couldn't believe it when they told me I got the part of Trixie - the girl that sings at the beginning and end - and a Phantom."

For those still clueless about *The Rocky Horror Show*, the 1973 musical revolves around sweethearts Brad and Janet, stuck with a flat tire during a storm, who discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters, including a rocking biker and a creepy butler. Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named Rocky. Two years later it became a film (*The Rocky Horror Picture Show*) and then a huge cult classic after audiences began to dress up and interract - sort of - with the film at midnight screenings.

"Axiom's 'Rocky' has evolved in a major way since its inception in 2017," said Halie Benfer, who has portrayed Janet most years, including this year. "Although we've undergone many changes from the venue, to the actors, to the audiences, one thing remains the same each year: It's a party."

There are three new cast members and 11 returning from previous years.

Che Stedman, who is the backstage manager and narrator, remembers the difficulty in producing *The Rocky Horror Show* when it was at Old City Hall.

"We're lugging (stuff) up the stairs, but not any stairs," he said. "No, they're historical landmark stairs. The railings are period correct, and the ceiling is so low you can easily reach up and touch it. This matters because what we are lugging is four 12-foot tall, four-foot-wide triple panel set pieces. No scratches allowed."

"And the floor we are holding the show on? No scuffs allowed. This matters because every person in the show is wearing 6-inch heeled platforms...and they need to dance in them. Scuffing is



PHOTO / Kim Mobley

Tanya Stedman as Trixie.

a prerequisite. It's that or broken ankles. When the show closed, we got on our hands and knees and scrubbed."

"It was very strict rules," Tanya Stedman said of the early years at Old City Hall. "We put chairs on risers for the audience and had to break everything down after every weekend because there were dance classes in that space on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It was so much work. But it was so much fun."

Six years later at Axiom's own theatre there are no more stairs.

"The stage is custom built, sound deadening and matt-black," Che Stedman said. "Scuffing is impossible."

And Axiom has recently installed a brand new LED lighting system and state of the art sound and mic equipment, making for a whole new experience for the audience.

Tanya Stedman not only won the part of Trixie that first year, but she also became the costumer designer.

"We had zero budget," she said. "I kept saying I'm not wearing that so many times that I eventually put my money where my mouth was and became costume director."

Tanya Stedman said audiences back in those days were a mixed bag.

"A few people dressed up," she said. "Then there were some veterans who knew the callbacks and clapped vigorously, and that's all we needed."

She told everyone at Axiom that they needed to do this every year.

"I told anyone who would listen," she said. "Build on what we've done the year before and make the show better and better. It's a habit. People will see it over and over again."

Over the years, the audiences have gotten bigger and louder and now, she added, almost everyone dresses up.

"This begs a lot of professionalism from the cast," she said. "You'd better know your lines and dance steps really well when you have hundreds of glittery, corset-wearing fans screaming callbacks at you, trying to throw you off your game."

"*The Rocky Horror Show* is a bit of an obsession and I'll tell anyone who's listening. It's our happy place."

The show runs Oct. 6-28 at Axiom Repertory Theatre, 2613 Bechelli Lane in Redding. Audience members are encouraged to dress up for the show, and prop bags are available to purchase for the audience to participate in the action.

Tickets are available at axreptheatre.com/rockyhorror, or by phone at 530-605-0500, or at the door.

The show is directed by Ken Hill, with choreography by Hannah Lafferty and music direction by Mark Amacker.



COMING UP AT AX REP

Time Warp

The Rocky Horror Show: Oct 6-28

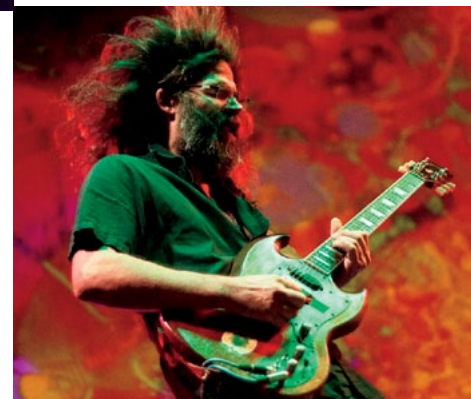
In this cult classic, sweethearts Brad and Janet, stuck with a flat tire during a storm, discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters. Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named "Rocky."



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Broadway heavy hitters, Alan Menken (Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Little Shop of Horrors) and Lynn Ahrens (Ragtime, Seussical, Once on This Island), breathe fantastic new life into the classic tale of A Christmas Carol. Revel in this magical holiday extravaganza at Axiom Rep this December.

learn more and buy tickets at axreptheatre.com
2613 Bechelli Lane, Redding, California



NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 10

announced that The Filet will be available on its webstore on Oct. 1, but sorry, U.S.-based wannabe print-pescatarians: Revo ships to the EU only. The company expects to reach the U.S. market by 2025.

A Krispy Kreme driver delivering doughnuts to an Express convenience store on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska learned the hard way to lock up his van whenever he leaves it, after a pair of doughnut thieves raided his ride and got their fill.

And when you're talking about a mama bear and her cub, that's a lot.

"They ate 20 packages of the doughnut holes and I believe six packages of the three-pack chocolate doughnuts," said Shelly Deano, manager of the Express store.

KTUU-TV reported that no humans or bears were injured during the doughnut raid, and base security was able to convince the bears to leave by blasting loud sirens.

As dog-walkers passed the Seascape Cafe in Chapel St. Leonards, England, they were startled to see what they thought was a "ritual mass murder" inside, United Press International reported.

Police were called to the scene, but it turns out the people lying on their backs were just taking part in a yoga meditation exercise.

The class's teacher, Millie Laws, said class members had dispersed before officers arrived, and assured the community on her Facebook page that "(w)e are not part of any mad cult or crazy clubs. ... They were all participating in a beautiful deep relaxation, and it could have never run through any of our minds that it could be taken this way."

Zach Swope, 32, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, had a worthy goal in mind when he set out to capture a Guinness World Record: He wanted to raise awareness for mental health issues.

To that end, Regal Cinemas donated \$7,777.77 to the American Federation for Suicide Prevention after Swope saw 777 films in 365 days, United Press International reported.

He started in July 2022 with "Minions: Rise of Gru" and finished with "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny."

Swope wisely bought a Regal Unlimited Membership for \$22 per month, which allowed him to see as many films as he could.

He said he generally saw up to three movies every weekday after work and

a few on the weekends, but he was not allowed to take bathroom breaks or have snacks or drinks during the films.

What was his favorite? "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse."

In Brezna, Montenegro, seven individuals are competing for the resort village's coveted title of "Laziest Citizen," Reuters reported – and all they have to do is lie down.

The contest, which promises a prize of \$1,070, is held every year; it started in 2012 to mock a popular stereotype of Montenegrins being lazy.

In 2022, a record of 117 hours was set. But after 20-plus days and nearly 500 hours, seven of the 2023 lazy competitors – down from the 21 who started – were still at it. (Don't worry: Each person gets 10 minutes every eight hours to visit the restroom.)

Last year's champion, Dubravka Aksic, 38, said they all "feel good, excellent, there are no health problems, they are pampering us, all we have to do is remain lying down."

"Time goes by quickly," said Filip Knezevic, 23, who is determined to take the prize.

A Swiss airlines flight from Zurich to Bilbao, Spain, took off without one key element in place: the passengers' luggage.

Yahoo! News reported that although passengers waited for two hours in Spain for their luggage to arrive, it never did.

Company spokesperson Kavin Ampalam explained: "There was a shortage of ground staff," and after waiting for more than an hour, they decided to take off anyway.

The pilot apologized to passengers for the delay but failed to mention the lack of luggage on board.

"We understand the situation is not favorable for the people involved, and of course we regret the inconvenience," Ampalam said.

Or worse: "Our vacation is ruined," said passenger Carsten Redlich.

Travelers aboard a Delta flight from Ghana to New York made an unexpected 12-hour detour to remote Terceira Island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, the New York Post reported, and the airline didn't have much sympathy for them.

The plane experienced a "mechanical issue with a backup oxygen system," a Delta spokesperson said.

Nana Asante-Smith, one of the passengers, said people on board were enclosed in a "partitioned section" because of visa regulations and "had no access to food" or water.

Finally, the airport provided sandwiches, juice boxes and crackers.

Flyers couldn't get any information from Delta, and one airport staffer told the group they "shouldn't start a revolution" and should be grateful that their plane didn't crash into the sea.

When a replacement plane arrived, the group's luggage was not transferred to the new aircraft, and some travelers waited days for their items to be

recovered.

Researchers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), exploring the Gulf of Alaska in early September, stumbled upon a "golden orb" on the ocean floor that they can't identify, Yahoo! News reported.

Scientists used a remotely operated vehicle to survey deepwater habitats; the object, which was about 4 inches in diameter and had a tear near its base, was perched on a rock 2 miles deep.

"While we were able to collect the 'golden orb' and bring it onto the ship, we still are not able to identify it beyond the fact that it is biological in origin," NOAA said.

Reza Baluchi just can't stop getting into trouble with the U.S. Coast Guard, NPR reported.

The Iranian-born man from Florida was arrested after officers tried for three days to convince him to abandon his plan: running across the Atlantic Ocean in a "hamster wheel" fitted with buoys, with his destination being London, England – 4,000 miles from his starting point.

He tried similar stunts in 2014, 2016 and 2021, "all of which resulted in USCG intervention," said Coast Guard Special Agent Michael Perez.

In a short documentary made about Baluchi by Vice, he explained his motivation: "If you drive a boat, nobody cares. Bubble, nobody did before. ... Make me crazy. They stop me every time, they save my life. I don't need it, save my life."

After the 2016 incident, the Coast Guard sank Baluchi's bubble, so he redesigned and built a new one. He faces charges of obstruction of boarding and violation of a captain of the port order.

The North Wales Police are warning residents about a new strategy being used by burglars, Sky News reported.

Criminals are leaving Christmas gnomes in people's front gardens, then watching to see if the little figurines are moved.

That way, they can discern whether residents are away and the home is an easy target.

"We would advise residents to be vigilant," a spokesperson for the police said.

A wedding at Maison Albion in Albion, New York, recently sported an unexpected extra member of the wedding party, People reported.

J, a llama, was hired to be a surprise groomsman by the bride's mother, who knew her daughter wants to own a llama farm one day.

Llama Adventures provided J and outfitted him in a tux that made him look as if he was wearing white gloves and standing on two legs, and he gamely stood with the other groomsman as the nuptials took place.

"The bride was absolutely delighted," said photographer Cathy Craft, "and the guests thoroughly enjoyed it."

Three vaccines seniors should consider getting this fall

Dear Savvy Senior,
Which vaccines are recommended for Medicare seniors this flu season?
- Just Turned 65



By Jim Miller

getting one this fall. Even though the Covid public health emergency has ended and the number of cases has gone way down, it has been surging in recent months causing an increase in hospitalizations, especially among the elderly.

The updated Covid vaccine targets the XBB omicron subvariants that are some of the most dominate coronavirus variants circulating in the U.S. It will also provide protection against the EG.5 variant (Eris), which is closely related to the XBB.

Covid booster shots are covered 100 percent by Medicare Part B.

When and Where

Most health officials agree that it's safe to receive the flu and Covid booster at the same time. But because the RSV vaccines are new this year, many doctors are recommending a two-week window between an RSV shot and the flu and/or the COVID shots.

You can find all three vaccines at most pharmacies, medical clinics and health departments, or you can do a search at Vaccines.gov.

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 Just Turned,
There are actually three different types of vaccines seniors should consider getting this fall to protect against a repeat of last winter's "triple-demic" of respiratory illnesses, which included flu, RSV and coronavirus.

Here's a rundown of the different vaccines the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending and how they are covered by Medicare.

Senior-Specific Flu Shots

For people age 65 and older, there are three flu vaccines (you only need one) that the CDC recommends over traditional flu shots.

These FDA-approved vaccines provide extra protection beyond what a standard flu shot does, which is important for older adults who have weaker immune defenses and have a greater risk of developing dangerous flu complications compared with younger, healthy adults. The three senior-specific options include the:

- **Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent vaccine**, which contains four times the amount of antigen as a regular flu shot does, creating a stronger immune

response for better protection.

- **Fluad Quadrivalent vaccine**, which contains an added ingredient called adjuvant MF59 that also helps create a stronger immune response.

- **FluBlok Quadrivalent vaccine**, is a recombinant protein (egg-free) flu vaccine that contains three times the amount of antigen as compared with a regular flu shot.

There isn't enough evidence yet to indicate whether one of these three vaccines provides superior protection over the other two for seniors.

As for side effects, you should know that the Fluzone High-Dose and Fluad vaccines can cause more of the mild side effects that can occur with a standard-dose flu shot, like pain or tenderness where you got the shot, muscle aches, headache or fatigue. The side effects of Flublok tend to be a little less frequent.

All flu vaccines are covered 100 percent by Medicare Part B as long as your doctor, health clinic or pharmacy

agrees not to charge you more than Medicare pays.

New RSV Vaccines

Anyone age 60 and older, especially if you have any heart or lung conditions, diabetes, kidney or liver disorders that make you vulnerable to the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) should consider getting one of the new FDA approved RSV vaccines (either Arexvy or Abrysvo).

These vaccines, recommended by the CDC, will help protect older and immunocompromised adults from respiratory illness, which is responsible for 6,000 to 10,000 deaths and at least 60,000 hospitalizations each year in seniors 65 and older.

The new RSV vaccines are covered by Medicare (Part D) prescription drug plans.

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