

AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

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THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

ON THE COVER

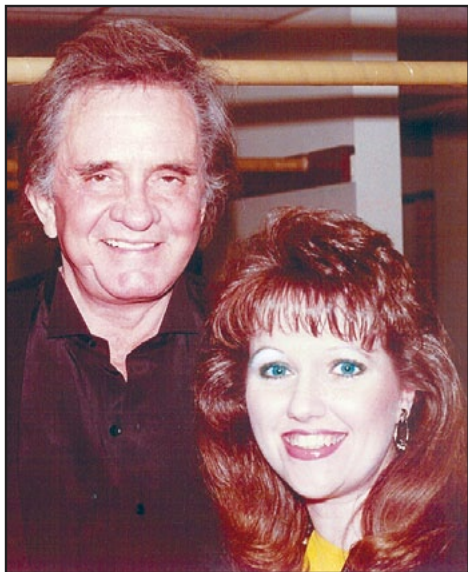
DOGGONE FUNNY

Axiom Repertory Theatre rings in 2024 with a play that's gone to the dogs. Well, one anyway. This month they present the A.R. Gurney comedy 'Sylvia,' scheduled Jan. 12-27. Pictured here, circling the kneeling dog Sylvia played by Erin Brown, are, from left, John Welsh (portraying Greg), Mat McDonald (playing three rolls - Tom/Phyllis/Leslie) and Kathryn Kirk (portraying Kate). See page 10

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

The Cascade Theatre brings two different kind of musical tribute concerts to the historic Redding venue in

January. One show on Jan. 24 features Johnny Cash on the big screen and, in the accompanying band to the video, the only woman to play lead guitar for Cash, Debbie Horton (shown here with Cash



in 1993). The other concert on Jan. 28 is arranged to take requests for Beatles songs from the audience to make up that night's play list. See page 2

BURNS AND WHISKY

The 26th Shasta Celtic Society's 'Burns Night Supper' is scheduled Jan. 27 at the Red Lion Hotel in Redding. Featured this year is an added Balvenie Scotch whisky tasting. See page 14



Two unique musical tribute shows to Johnny Cash and The Beatles scheduled at the Cascade Theatre

‘Johnny Cash: The Official Concert Experience’ Jan. 24 and ‘Yesterday and Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience’ Jan. 28

By Aaron Williams

The Cascade Theatre brings two musical tribute shows to the historic Redding venue in January.

But they’re not your typical tribute concerts. One features Johnny Cash on the big screen and, in the accompanying band to the videos, the only woman to play lead guitar for Cash. The other show is set up to take requests for Beatles songs from the audience to make up the play list for that night’s concert.

Johnny Cash Experience

Debbie Horton still remembers the first time she saw Johnny Cash on the late 60s television program “The Johnny Cash Show.”

“I was like 11 and thought ‘Who is this guy?’” she said by phone recently from her home in Nashville, Tenn. “We had always had music on around the house, country mostly, but twangy stuff that didn’t grab me. This was different.”

Little did Horton know that show and the Man in Black would set her life on a course in show business.

She famously played with Cash in Baltimore in the 1970s, joining him on stage for an impromptu “Big River” and gaining notoriety as “the only woman to play lead guitar for Johnny Cash.”

Years later, Horton is carrying on the legacy of Cash’s music in the touring production, “Johnny Cash: The Official Concert Experience.” The show comes to the Cascade Theatre in Redding at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 24. Tickets are available at cascadetheatre.org.

Sanctioned by the estate of the late singer, the show features a giant screen that projects scenes from the television show with accompaniment from Horton and a band who play his music as the legend sings his songs.

“The thing that makes this different from a tribute show is that I knew the real guy. It’s what attracted me to it,” Horton said. “It’s run by the estate of Johnny Cash and it’s him on the big, 20-foot screen with all the instruments culled from the show and him singing with our five-piece band.”

In between songs John Carter Cash, his son, tells stories and provides context to the vast catalog the band plays.

“It’s a celebration of his music, not just a tribute,” she said.

Horton grew up in Newport News, Va., and recalls seeing him at the iconic Hampton Coliseum before playing with him at that famous Baltimore show.

“I had known him for many years as the Virginia representative of his fan club,” she recalled. “I would get a chance to meet him before shows and I saw him and told him I’d learned to play like Luther Perkins (guitarist for Cash’s band the Tennessee Three).”

Cash called her up to the stage and asked her what she’d like to play.

“I said ‘Big River,’” she said. “It



PHOTO / Timothy Norris

“Johnny Cash: The Official Concert Experience” band includes Debbie Horton, right, “the only woman to play lead guitar for Johnny Cash.” Below, “The Interactive Beatles Experience Band” featuring the McGuigan siblings, Billy (center), Ryan (left) and Matthew (right).



defined my life. It was the mic drop moment. I realized that if I could do that I could do anything and since then I’ve had a career making a living in the music industry.”

Horton has played at the Grand Ole Opry, been a touring musician and hosted radio programs, but nothing, she said, compares to playing Johnny Cash’s music.

“His message and relevance - he’s been dead for 20 years or so - (remains to this day). People are still packing houses to see us play his music,” she said. “The message he relays in his music is a story of love and understanding and humility. He brings truth through his music.”

The same production company that brought “The Simon & Garfunkel Story” show to the Cascade Theatre last January produced the Cash show.

“They have a passion for doing them correctly,” she said, adding the audience is a mix of older people reliving the music of their past and younger folks who’ve discovered the timelessness of Johnny Cash.

“I get people telling me that they never got the chance to see him play and that this is what it must’ve been like,” she said.

Audience Request for Beatles songs

Fans of the Beatles likely know all the words to many, if not most of their songs. But how many can play every single song on stage at a moment’s notice?

Brothers Billy, Matthew and Ryan McGuigan can proudly raise their hands along with their “Yesterday and Today” band.

The brothers have been playing the music of the Fab Four on stage for nearly 20 years. But unlike other Beatles tribute acts, the McGuigans don’t dress up like Sgt. Pepper’s characters or with mop top wigs, instead letting the music speak for itself.

The spin they put on their show is that they let the audience select the songs through request cards passed out prior to the show.

“Yesterday and Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience” hits the Cascade Theatre stage at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 28. Tickets are available at cascadetheatre.org. This is the only scheduled show on this tour in California, Oregon or Nevada.

Billy McGuigan and his younger brothers began listening to John, Paul, George and Ringo at a young age

and their music has woven a tapestry through their lives ever since. And The Interactive Beatles Experience is as much a tribute to their father as it is to The Beatles.

“It all started with dad,” he said in a phone interview. “He joined the military when I was 3 and we lived in Germany and didn’t have a TV, but we had Beatles records and he started to teach us these songs.”

They later moved to Georgia and began doing concerts, asking people to tell them a song to play and why they wanted that song and an idea for a Beatles tribute show was born.

When their father passed, the music took on even more meaning for the brothers as a way to keep their dad around in their hearts.

“It kept us together as a family, as brothers, and the show allows us to share a piece of him,” Billy said. “And we love having people tell us why they love the Beatles.”

“Like us, the Beatles are the glue in a lot of families.”

Need more evidence of the impact they had on the McGuigans?

“Matthew’s daughter is named Lennon, Ryan’s son is named Harrison and we’ve all had a dog named Ringo,” Billy said. Poor Ringo.

And he quipped, audience members who come to the Cascade Theatre show get to be Billy Preston, an unofficial fifth Beatle, or George Martin, the legendary producer of nearly all of the bands’ iconic work.

Billy said the music star of the show - the common thread that brings it together - is the love of the music.

“It’s about what the music did to all of us,” he said. “I care about why you love ‘Love, Love Me Do’ and that it had that kind of impact on you.”

And, he said, the requests range from the sentimental to the simple.

“When we first started out, we were in a small town in North Carolina and there was a guy who wanted ‘Eleanor Rigby’ and had signed the card ‘The Undertaker,’” he said. “We asked why and this 6-foot-5 man dressed in all black stands up and says with his Southern accent, ‘Because I’m The Undertaker and it’s my favorite song.’”

“We played it and he got this giant smile.”

Other requests have included songs associated with lost loved ones, such as a “Hey, Jude” request from someone who remembered friends coming together at 16 at the funeral of his little brother - after all the grownups had left - and singing the song with all his friends.

“These requests come from a place of genuine love,” Billy said.

Billy McGuigan doubts no two shows have ever been the same with the 227 songs in the Beatles catalog.

And, yes, they can even play the German version of “She Loves You.” Yeah, Yeah, Yeah - it’s a fact.



Ovation

2023-2024 SEASON

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. Composers old and new have tried their hand at completing it, though what Mozart had in mind will never be known. This dramatic work is paired with George Walker's *Lyric for Strings*, as well as Bach' timeless double concerto for violin and oboe featuring concertmaster, Terrie Baune, and principal oboe, SusieLundberg. This concert reflects the human condition of life and death, birth and rebirth, and ultimately, the hope of resurrection.

Tickets available at NorthStateSymphony.org

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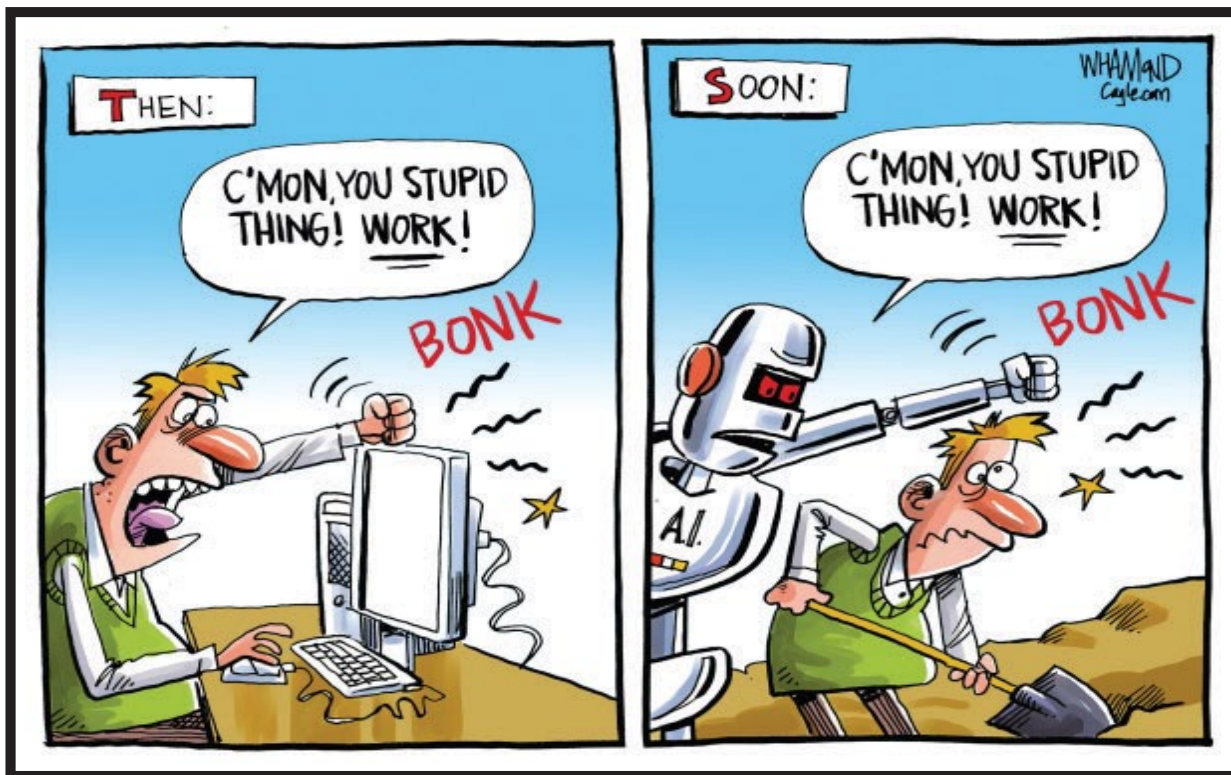


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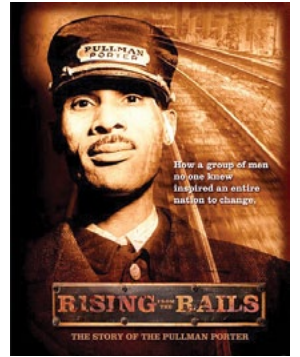


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Free screening Jan. 13 of 'Rising From the Rails'

"A valuable window into a long-underreported dimension of African American history."
- Newsday



"Rising From the Rails - The Story of the Pullman Porter" is scheduled for a free screening at 6 p.m., Jan. 13, at the First United Methodist Church Sanctuary, 1825 East St., Redding.

The 2006 film, based on the best selling book by Larry Tye, tells the story of how George Pullman began recruiting Southern blacks as porters in his luxurious new sleeping cars, where the former slaves, suffering under Jim Crow laws, found his offer of a steady job and worldly experience irresistible. They quickly signed up to serve as maid, waiter, concierge, nanny, and occasionally doctor and undertaker to cars full of white passengers, making the Pullman Company the largest employer of African American men in the country by the 1920s.

In the world of the Pullman sleeping car, where whites and blacks lived in close proximity, porters developed a unique culture marked by idiosyncratic language, railroad lore, and shared experience. They called difficult passengers "Mister Charlie"; exchanged stories about Daddy Jim, the legendary first Pullman porter; and learned to distinguish generous tippers such as Humphrey Bogart from skinflints like Babe Ruth.

At the same time, they played important social, political, and economic roles, carrying jazz and blues to outlying areas, forming America's first black trade union.

Drawing on extensive interviews with dozens of porters and their descendants, the film documents the complicated world of the Pullman porter and the vital cultural, political, and economic roles they played as forerunners of the modern black middle class.

AFTER FIVE The North State Magazine

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No telephone call submissions; email or regular mail only.

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How my sister 'gave' us Sandra Day O'Connor

By Michael Reagan

Recently, America said its final goodbye to Sandra Day O'Connor.

The first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court was eulogized at Washington National Cathedral by President Joe Biden and Chief Justice John Roberts.

Justice O'Connor was appointed in 1981 by my father, served nearly a quarter century and died Dec. 1 at age 93.

As Chief Justice John Roberts said, she was "a strong, influential, iconic jurist. Her leadership shaped the legal profession, making it obvious that judges are both women and men."

Most people know about Justice O'Connor making history as the first woman justice. But few people know the story behind her selection and the role my sister Maureen played in making it happen.

Even Justice O'Connor didn't know the backstory until I made a point of telling it to her when she visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library out here in Simi Valley.

The deal my father made with Maureen took place during the 1980 Republican primaries when he was running hard for the party's presidential nomination. Maureen was closely involved in the Reagan campaign, giving speeches around the country to Republican women's groups and local party officials.

There was a big problem with her, however.

At the time she was a fiery and ardent advocate of the ERA – the controversial Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution that would have guaranteed equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of sex. But my father, Republicans and conservatives in general were strongly opposed to the ERA.

The brain trust of my father's campaign – Lyn Nofziger, Michael Deaver and Stuart Spencer – became seriously worried about Maureen's public support for the ERA and called her in for a meeting with her father. They told Maureen her father could not have her on the trail campaigning for him and the ERA at same time and wanted to know what could be done to get her off the ERA trail.

Now Maureen was a smart and tough cookie. She knew how to play the game to get what she wanted.

At the meeting, her father was sitting in front of her, to her left, and Nofziger, Deaver and Spencer were sitting to her right. She turned to the trio and said, "If you can get your candidate to guarantee me that his first Supreme Court appointment will be a woman, I'll stop campaigning for the ERA."

Their candidate – her father – said, "Done. Deal."

Maureen turned around to her father, who had his hand out. They shook hands, agreeing that if he got elected his first nominee to the Supreme Court would be a woman.

The deal was made between Maureen and her father, not anyone else. And it was done solely to get her to stop campaigning for the ERA.

Maureen kept her part of the bargain. But later that year at the GOP national convention in Detroit she had a little fun at the expense of her father's handlers.

She had some campaign buttons made – some small and some large – that had "E-R-A" written on them in big letters and passed them out to her friends and family. I had a small one. My wife Colleen had a small one. And Maureen wore a huge one.

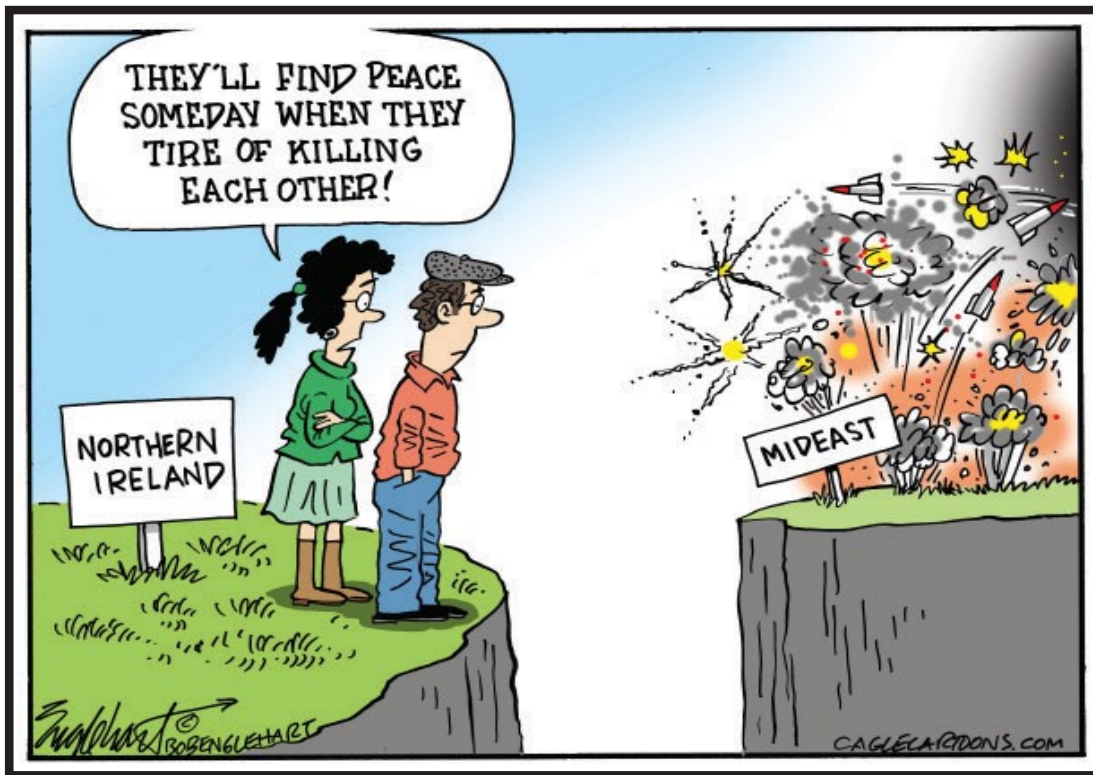
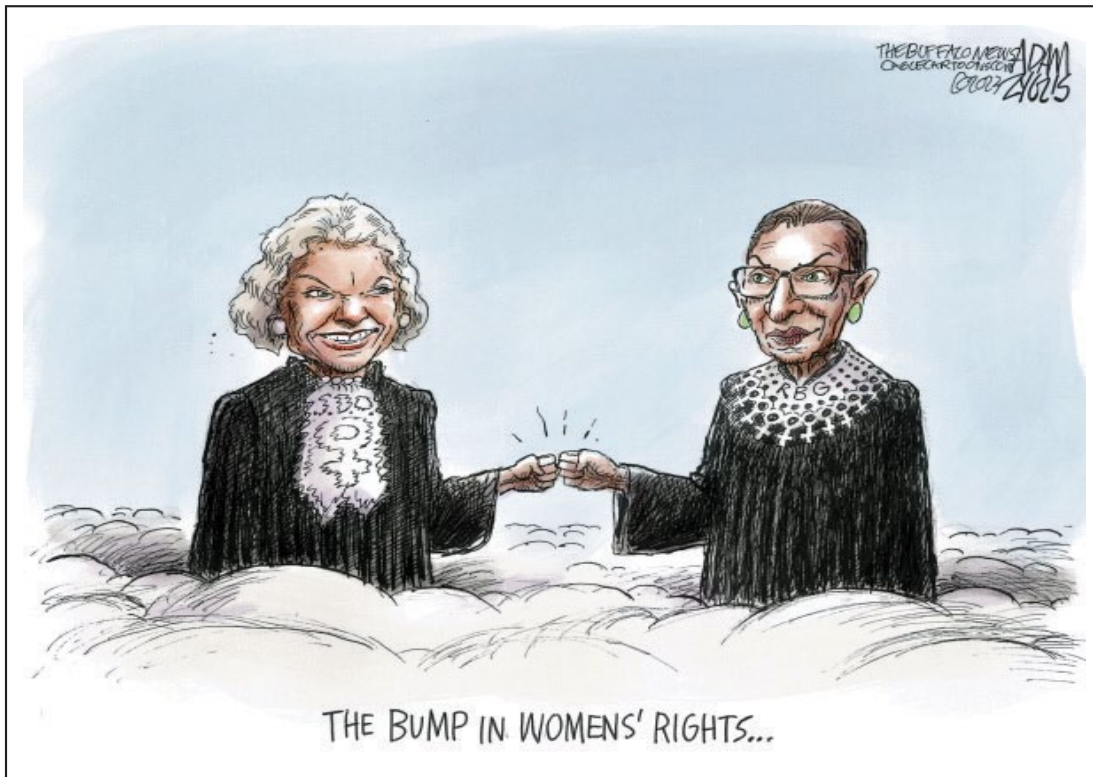
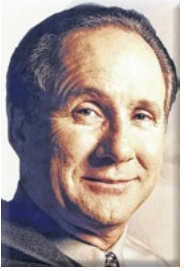
The Reagan campaign staff bosses were worried that she had gone back on her word and was supporting the ERA again. But she hadn't flipped. If you got up really close to the button and read the tiny print under the letters "E-R-A," you got the joke.

It said simply, "Elect Reagan Anyway."

And that's the backstory about how my late sister Maureen used her smarts to get Ronald Reagan to put the first woman on the Supreme Court – who turned out to be the great Sandra Day O'Connor.

P.S. It's because I know the O'Connor backstory and other backstories from my father's time in office that the people who run the Reagan Library kiddingly refer to me sometimes as "The Prequel."

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COMING UP AT
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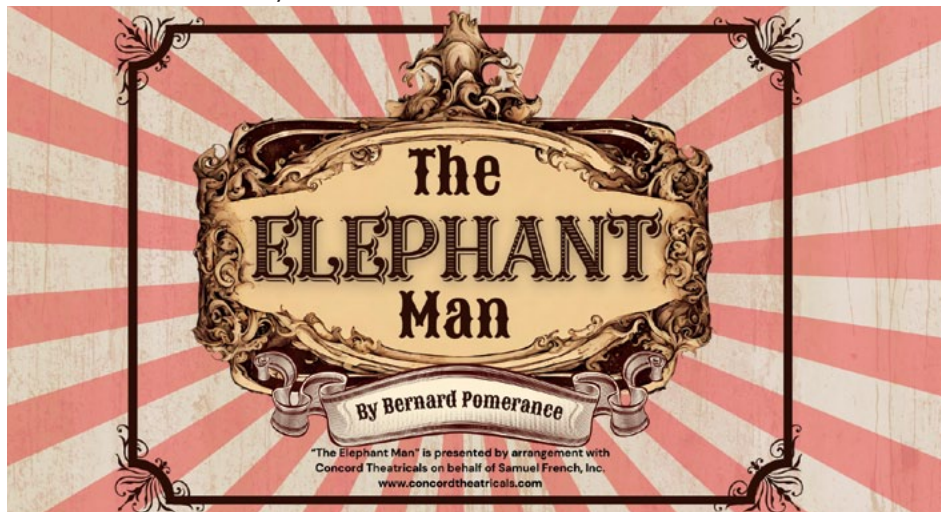
By *A.R. Gurney*

A comedy about a man and his dog.
Directed by Ann Marie Lockamy

Doggone Funny

Sylvia: Jan 12-27

Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after twenty-two years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg's career as a financial trader is winding down, while Kate's career, as a public-school English teacher, is beginning to offer her more opportunities. Greg brings home a dog he found in the park—or that has found him—bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her name tag. Don't miss your chance to see this heart felt comedy.



So Full of Dreams

The Elephant Man: Feb 9-25

The Elephant Man is based on the life of John Merrick, a horribly deformed young man – the victim of rare skin and bone diseases – who becomes the star freak attraction in traveling sideshows. Found abandoned and helpless, he is admitted to London's prestigious Whitechapel Hospital. Under the care of celebrated young physician Frederick Treves, Merrick is introduced to London society and slowly evolves from an object of pity to an urbane and witty favorite of the aristocracy and literati, only to be denied his ultimate dream – to become a man like any other.



You've got a Friend

Beautiful: Mar 8-24

Before she was hit-maker Carole King – she was Carole Klein, a spunky, young songwriter from Brooklyn with a unique voice. From the chart-topping hits she wrote for the biggest acts in music to her own life-changing, trailblazing success with Tapestry, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical takes you back to where it all began – and takes you on the ride of a lifetime.

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NEWS of the WEIRD

The Kyiv Post reported that Russia's security service, the FSB, has released its 2024 propaganda fund-raising calendar, and it's a doozy!

The front cover features "art" of an improbably ripped Vladimir Putin giving his best sultry stare while leaning on a big, black compensator vehicle.

Meanwhile, the apocalyptic November image depicts an FSB special forces soldier standing before the U.S. Capitol while drones and helicopters attack it.

Is this a popular gift in Russia? Who knows. The bigger question: Why does the FSB need to fundraise?

Gatorland in Orlando, Florida, can boast a fascinating new resident: a leucistic white alligator, born on Dec. 7, CNN reported.

The female gator is believed to be one of only eight in the world and the only one born in human care.

She was hatched along with a normal-colored brother of the same size (about 19 inches long).

"Leucistic alligators are the rarest genetic variation in the American alligator," the park said. They have bright blue eyes, as opposed to albino gators, which have pink eyes. The public is invited to vote on a name on the park's social media sites.

In Louisville, Kentucky, a bronze statue of President Abraham Lincoln has been seated on a rock, overlooking the Ohio River, since 2009, the Louisville Courier Journal reported.

But Lincoln's top hat, which rested at his side on the rock, disappeared sometime at the beginning of December.

The sculptor, Ed Hamilton, suspects the hat was stolen: "It was anchored down into that monolith rock," he said.

"I don't know what they could have used, maybe some more manpower or some crowbars. Bring the hat back, because you can't wear it," he warned potential thieves. Police and park officials are investigating.

An unnamed 22-year-old man from Taiwan was detained at the Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok after he was found to be transporting two Asian small-clawed otters and a prairie dog, Metro News reported.

The man had the animals stuffed into three separate socks and taped into his boxer shorts; security officers became suspicious about the



Scientists at Northwestern University in Chicago have created teeny-tiny VR headsets for laboratory mice, Sky News reported, so that they can experience the freedom they will never have. The Miniature Rodent Stereo Illumination VR has two lenses and two screens to give the little dudes a realistic 3D picture of ... aerial threats, like an owl coming in for a meal. The goggles help the mice "engage with the environment in a more natural way," said lead scientist Daniel Dombeck.

large bulge below the man's waistband.

They believe he purchased them at a market in the city. The animals were taken to the Wildlife Conservation Office; the smuggler was arrested.

"We will catch anyone who tries to take animals on planes," a Thai customs department spokesperson said.

Cops in Genoa, Italy, were stumped by a drug-trafficking case in their city, BNN reported – that is, until they noticed a large number of bald and beardless men visiting a local barbershop.

Investigators initiated surveillance and searched the shop, where they found 100 grams of cocaine, precision scales and packaging materials.

They also found hashish at the barber's home and evidence of ongoing communication with inmates in a Genoa prison. The 55-year-old barber is awaiting sentencing at the Marassi prison.

The Burnside Shelter in Portland, Oregon, hit the jackpot earlier in the year when workers discovered a pair of gold sneakers at the bottom of a donation bin, United Press International reported.

Turns out, the Air Jordan 3 kicks were commissioned by Spike Lee for him to wear at the 2019 Academy Awards – and they're valued at more than \$10,000, according to Sotheby's.

The auction house will donate 100% of the proceeds, expected to be as much as

\$20,000, to the Portland Rescue Mission, which operates the shelter.

Sergey Vladimirovich Ochigava was arraigned in Los Angeles federal court after a bizarrely uninterrupted trip from Denmark to L.A., the Associated Press reported.

The Russian flew in November without a ticket, passport, visa or seat assignment.

Flight crew members told investigators that he wandered around the plane and switched seats while talking with other passengers.

When U.S. Customs and Border Patrol searched his belongings, they found "Russian identification cards and an Israeli identification card," court documents outlined. Ochigava

gave a variety of explanations, including that he hadn't slept in three days and wasn't sure how he got through security in Copenhagen.

Michael Green, 50, and Byron Bolden, 37, were sentenced in Colorado's 18th Judicial District for felony theft after they shoplifted about \$2,100 worth of items from a Kohl's store, The Denver Gazette reported.

In Colorado, theft under \$2,000 is a misdemeanor, which is why their defense counsel creatively argued that the store was having a sale, and the men had coupons, which brought the value of the items down below the threshold for felony theft.

The DA wasn't having it: "Just because an item is on sale doesn't mean it's free to steal," said John Kellner.

"Retailers in our community are fed up with theft, and my office will actively prosecute these offenders."

As first responders were assisting a person "experiencing an altered mental state" in Columbia County, Florida, Stanley Williams, 35, hopped into the waiting ambulance and drove away, ClickOrlando reported.

But officers didn't have to chase him down – Williams drove to the sheriff's office operations center and stopped near the main entrance, where he was arrested and taken to a hospital for examination. Williams faces grand theft and evading law enforcement charges.

Leonard Thuo Mwithiga, 52, a Kenyan executive, followed his wife of 22 years to the United States, hoping to convince her to return home to him, Oddity Central reported.

But when she refused, Mwithiga allegedly decided she must die.

During an Uber ride, Mwithiga told the driver he was "very, very mad" and needed a hitman.

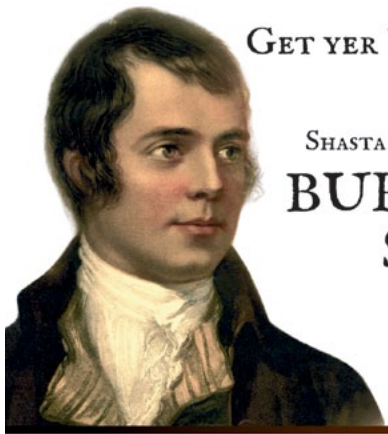
The Uber driver got in touch with Connecticut State Police, who enlisted him as an informant.

Between September and December, the two engaged in multiple conversations about the plot, all of which were shared with authorities.

Mwithiga wanted his wife "injected with something to make her very sick, like a cancer," and he wanted her to die a slow death.

Finally, the informant

–Please See Page 12



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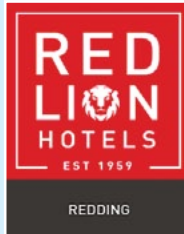
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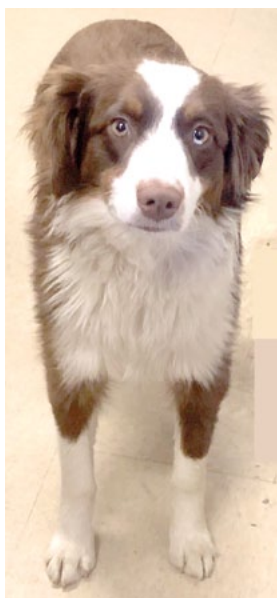
BLUES JAM

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NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 8

introduced Mwithiga to a “hitman,” i.e., undercover cop, who was paid an advance on the job.

Mwithiga asked that she be killed while he was away in Kenya, so he would have an alibi. Instead, he was arrested and held on \$5 million bond.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Kathryn Tunison Smith, 67, of Midvale, Utah, already had five outstanding arrest warrants against her, two involving her neighbors, when she sealed her own fate, ABC4-TV reported.

She was arrested after a TikTok video came to light depicting Smith making racist and crass comments to a neighbor.

In one interaction, Smith came onto the neighbor’s property and “began ripping up (the neighbor’s) garden and continued ... until the neighbor chased her away with a stick,” the charges allege.

Mayor Marcus Stevenson posted on X, “I’m hopeful that this is a positive step for the healing of the targeted family, the affected neighborhood, Ms. Smith and our entire community.” She was booked and released on her own recognizance.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Arnaldo Chamorro, chief of staff for Paraguay’s Agriculture Ministry, lost his position after an embarrassing episode in which he signed a “proclamation” with the United States of Kailasa, Fox News reported.

Trouble is, the USK doesn’t exist; the fictional country is the brainchild of a fugitive guru, Nithyananda, who is wanted in India on several charges including sexual assault.

Chamorro admitted during a radio interview that he was not familiar with Kailasa but said he signed the agreement because the country offered to help Paraguay with a variety of issues, including irrigation.

News of the Weird has reported before (March 2023) about the pos-ers, who have also fooled the United Nations and Newark City Hall in New Jersey, which signed a sister city agreement with the country.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Can’t a grandma send her grandson home with an early Christmas gift without raising suspicions among the TSA?

No, she can’t.

Actor Brett Gaffney headed back to Los Angeles on Nov. 25 after spending Thanksgiving in his native Kansas, People reported.

At Kansas City International Airport, he said, “I got stopped at the airport security, and ... it was because of this briefcase my grandma gave me as an early Christmas gift, and she said don’t open it until you get to California.”

Gaffney followed her directions, but TSA wasn’t having it.

“They asked me what was inside, and I said, ‘I don’t know, I don’t know.’ They said, ‘What do you mean? You’re bringing a briefcase and you don’t know what’s inside?’”

Turns out, Gaffney’s nana had gifted him a vintage Smith-Corona typewriter.

“Who am I, Tom Hanks?” Gaffney joked. He continued his story on TikTok: “I didn’t think I’d use this, but here we are. It’s so calming. All I want to do is stay home and type on my typewriter.” Thanks, Grandma.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

After getting a Waffle House logo tattooed on his calf in St. Petersburg, Florida, 33-year-old Max Alexander Krejckant of Clearwater “refused all options to satisfy his debts,” police said – which amounted to \$250.

As a result, The Smoking Gun reported, he was arrested at the Ink Godz shop; police found only \$6 and a driver’s license on his person when he was frisked (although they noted he was under the influence of something).

Krejckant bonded out and pleaded not guilty (huge Waffle House tattoo evidence notwithstanding).

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The mystery of who has been slashing tires in the southern Italian city of Vastogirardi has been solved, The Guardian reported.

The wave of damaged tires began in July and ramped up again in October in the town of about 600 residents, forcing police to place undercover

cops on patrol. Finally, they mounted surveillance cameras, and in late November, they collared their suspect: a dog named Billy, who was suffering from a painful case of gingivitis.

“It is a peaceful village – we knew it couldn’t be anyone from outside as we are always aware of any suspicious movements,” said deputy mayor Remo Scocchera. “It’s a positive thing that the per-petrator wasn’t a person in the village.” Still, Billy’s owner will probably have to pony up for the damaged tires – not to mention doggy dental work.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Rosemary Hayne, 39, lost her temper (and rice, and sauce, and everything else) when she berated a Chipotle manager in Parma, Ohio, and then threw a bowl of food at her, Food & Wine reported.

Hayne tried to run out of the restaurant, but other diners captured her license plate number and contacted police, who arrested her on Sept. 5.

On Nov. 28, Judge Timothy Gilligan offered Hayne one of two sentences for her “not acceptable” behavior: the standard sentence of a fine and 180 days in jail, or 60 days in jail and working 20 hours a week at a fast-food restaurant for two months.

Hayne apologized to the court and the victim and accepted the custom sentence.

“She could have punched me in my face or pulled a gun out,” said the victim. “I’m lucky that I only got a bowl thrown in my face.” She has found a job at another restaurant.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Yeah, yeah, another flight diverted because of unruly passengers.

This story gets bonus points: On Dec. 5, just before a Breeze Airways flight took off from Orlando, headed to Providence, Rhode Island, a couple on board got into a heated argument, News4Jax-TV reported.

It seems the man was unhappy because he wanted to get off the plane – which wouldn’t have been such a big deal, but during the discussion, the word “bomb” came up.

Passenger Rachael Corrigan said, “The people were talking about or claiming the other person had a bomb ... The people around them ... reported it to the airline, and they’re obligated

to land the plane.” The pilot diverted to Jacksonville, Florida, where the man and woman were met by FBI agents and arrested. Breeze Airways canceled the flight.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

In Stenlille, Denmark, a vehicle fire also damaged a nearby house, InShort reported.

Police issued a warning to the community after the fire, cautioning people against using toasters under the front of cars to keep EV batteries warm.

While there were no injuries, the car was heavily damaged, and the owner likely will have to pay a fine.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

In Venice, Italy, tourists once again behaved badly – and this time they ended up all wet. The Guardian reported that travelers from China were riding in a gondola through the city’s canals, shifting around and standing to take selfies, when the gondola capsized, dumping them in the cold water.

The gondolier had repeatedly asked them to stay seated, but as he maneuvered under a bridge, the vessel became unbalanced.

He, too, ended up in the water, where he assisted his passengers to safety.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Christopher Boyd, 32, was riding in a car in Evansville, Indiana, when it was pulled over for an obscured license plate, The Smoking Gun reported.

Boyd was patted down, and officers found a “small bag with multiple pills” in his sock.

Boyd told them he uses Percocet for pain from a bullet lodged in his spine.

Police noticed he “tensed up” when being searched in his groin area; they asked if he had anything stuffed in his groin or buttocks, and he said he did not.

But when they arrived at the station, Boyd was “walking with a limp and appeared to be clenching his buttocks.”

A trip through a scanner identified a large object – a Smith & Wesson handgun of about 5 inches in length – in his rectum. (The manufacturer does claim the pistol is “perfectly suited for concealed carry”)

It was not reported whether the weapon was loaded. Boyd also had two plastic bags of marijuana “tucked” next to his scrotum. He was booked into the Vanderburgh County jail.

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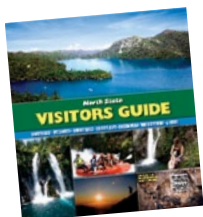
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Balvenie Scotch whisky tasting added to this year's 'Burns Night Supper'

The 26th Shasta Celtic Society's "Burns Night Supper" is scheduled Jan. 27 at the Red Lion Hotel in Redding featuring new this year, an added Balvenie Scotch whisky tasting.



The annual celebration of the life and poetry of Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns, has as its theme this year "The Whimsy of Burns."

"In his short life, Robert Burns wrote so many poems and songs that made us laugh, cry and smile. He was so important in his time and ours," said Chris Alexander of the Shasta Celtic Society.

Alexander said that in Shasta County, they follow closely the traditional format found in Scotland for Burns Night, "so you can save on the plane fare and join us at the Grand Chieftain Hall at the Red Lion Hotel." There, you'll be able to indulge in a traditional feast of haggis, neeps and tatties, and a full buffet dinner.

And since they always raise a glass every year to honor Robbie Burns anyway, the Shasta Celtic Society decided that this year, for the first time, there will be a Scotch whisky tasting experience featuring the Balvenie single malt Scotch whisky.

"We chose a high-end scotch, the Balvenie, and included a tasting from an aged 21-year-old for a true experience," Alexander said.

This event will be hosted by brand ambassador including tasting of the Balvenie 12 year, the Balvenie 14 year, and, Alexander said, the highly sought after Balvenie 21 year.

"And there will also be a fourth surprise tasting to enjoy," he added.

During his short life, Burns wrote

many poems and songs that inspired so many in his time and remains relevant in today's world.

Robert Burns was born January 25, 1759 and died at the young age of 37. He was admired not only for his verse and great love songs, but also for his character and his high spirits. He came to fame as a poet when he was 27 years old, and his lifestyle of wine, women and song made him famous all over Scotland. Among the songs Burns wrote was "Auld Lang Syne" in 1788.

Whether you have Scottish heritage or just appreciate a great time with old and new friends, you can celebrate the Shasta Celtic Society's "Burns Night Supper." Don't forget to wear your tartan and bring your best Scottish accent.

Tickets and more information

Advance tickets for "Burns Night Supper" in Redding are \$55 each for dinner or \$25 more to include the Scotch tasting (\$80 total), which has limited tickets. Tickets for the tasting will be \$30 at the event, but you still must have a dinner reservation ticket in order to purchase the tasting ticket, if available. There is no Scotch tasting ticket available separately from the dinner ticket.

Dinner and Scotch tasting tickets are available online through January 23 at shastacelts.org and then clicking on the link that will take you to the threeshas.com website for ticket reservations. You can also access the threeshas.com website directly to purchase tickets. In addition, the Red Lion Hotel has discounted room rates available for that night at threeshas.com

The Scotch whisky Balvenie Tasting Experience begins at 4:30 p.m. Doors open for the gathering and dinner ticket holders at 5 p.m. The program starts promptly at 6 p.m.

For more information visit shastacelts.org or call 530-547-5517.

Whiskeytown seeks artists to apply for its spring artist-in-residence program

Now through Jan. 21, 2024, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area invites artists to apply for its spring 2024 Artist-in-Residence program.

Applications will be reviewed by a professional jury and the two selected artists will camp for free in the park for two to three weeks this spring. The chosen artists will get to explore and draw inspiration from the national recreation area's historic structures, recreational features, mountains, woodlands, and water.

Program requirements involve selected artists to allow the park to showcase at least one piece of their art digitally for interpretive purposes. The artist will also conduct a talk or other public program spotlighting their experience and work at Whiskeytown.

Applicants should submit the following to scott_einberger@nps.gov no later than Jan. 21:

1. Artist resume including exhibition/performance record.
2. Statement of intent for the residency at Whiskeytown, including a) your reason for wanting to be in residence here, b) what you would like to work on or produce at Whiskeytown, and c) how this work relates to Whiskeytown.
3. Three to five samples of artistic work.
4. Preferred residency dates.

In its two selections, the Selection Jury will strive to select one Northern California based artist and one artist from farther afield. Additionally, the jury will seek to select one well-established artist and one developing artist, with at least one artist who is focused on performing arts and/or the written word. Artists with a diverse background are especially encouraged to apply.

For more information and to view previous artists' work, see nps.gov/whis/getinvolved/artist-in-residence.htm

Essential topics you need to discuss with your aging parents

Dear Savvy Senior,
My siblings and I don't know much about our elderly parent's financial situation or their wishes if and when something happens to them. They are both in their mid-eighties. What's the best way to handle this and what all should we know?

- Apprehensive Daughter



By Jim Miller

Dear Apprehensive,
Many adult children don't know much about their elderly parent's financial situation or end-of-life plans, but they need to. Getting up to speed on their finances, insurance policies, long-term care plans and other information is important because some day you might have to help them handle their financial affairs or care, or execute their estate plan after they die. Without this information, your job becomes much more difficult. Here are some tips that can help.

Have the Conversation

If you're uncomfortable talking to your parents about this, use this column as a prompt or see TheConversationProject.org, which offers free guides that can help you kick-start these discussions.

It's also a good idea to get all your siblings involved too. This can help you head off any possible hard feelings, plus, with others involved, your parents will know everyone is concerned.

When you talk with your parents, you'll need to collect some information,

find out where they keep key documents and how they want certain things handled when they die or if they become incapacitated. Here's a checklist of areas to focus on.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- **Contacts:** Make a list of names and phone numbers of your parent's doctors, lawyer, accountant, broker, tax preparer, insurance agent, etc.
- **Medical information:** Make a copy of their medical history and a list of medications they take.
- **Personal documents:** Find out where they keep their Social Security card, marriage license, military discharge papers, etc.
- **Secured places:** Make a list of places they keep under lock and key such as safe deposit boxes, safe combination, security alarms, etc.
- **Digital assets:** Make a list of their digital assets – everything from social media accounts to online banking. It should include usernames and passwords.

- **Pets:** If they have a pet, what are their instructions for the animal's care?
- **End of life:** What are their wishes for organ or body donation, and their funeral instructions? If they've made pre-arrangements with a funeral home, get a copy of the agreement.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

- **Will:** Do they have an updated will or trust, and where is it located?
- **Power of attorney:** Do they have a power of attorney document that names someone to handle their financial matters if they become incapacitated?
- **Advance directives:** Do they have a living will and a medical power of attorney that spells out their wishes regarding their end-of-life medical treatment? If they don't have these documents prepared, now's the time to make them.

FINANCIAL RECORDS

- **Financial accounts:** Make a list of their bank accounts, brokerage and mutual fund accounts, and any other

financial assets they have.

- **Debts and liabilities:** Make a list of any loans, leases or debts they have – mortgages owed, car loans, student loans, medical bills, credit card debts. Also, make a list of all credit and charge cards, including the card numbers and contact information.

- **Company benefits:** Make a list of any retirement plans, pensions or benefits from their former employers including the contact information of the benefits administrator.

- **Insurance:** Make a list of the insurance policies they have (life, long-term care, home, auto, Medicare, etc.) including the policy numbers, agents and phone numbers.

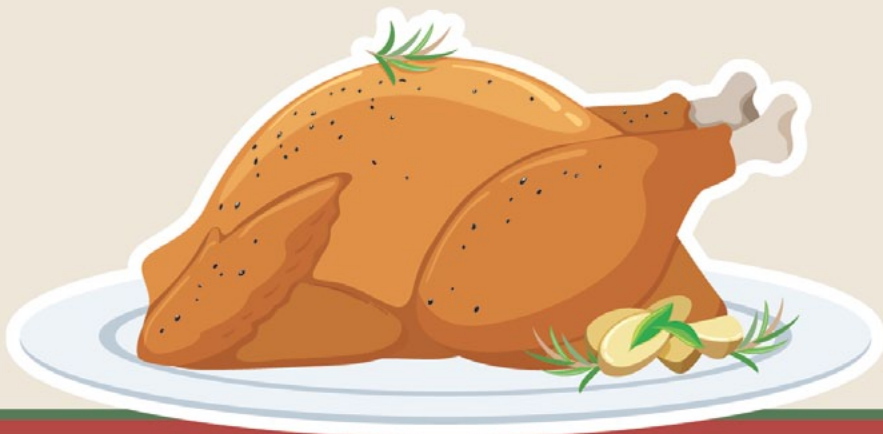
- **Property:** Make a list of the real estate, vehicles or other properties they own, rent or lease and where they keep the deeds, titles and loan or lease agreements.

- **Taxes:** Find out where they keep copies of past year's tax returns.

You're probably not going to get all this figured out in one gathering, so it's important to keep the conversation going to ensure your parent's wishes will be accurately executed.

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

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