

# AFTER FIVE

## THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2024 / 37th Year / No. 4

THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

### ON THE COVER

## MOZART REQUIEM

Mezzo-soprano Molly Mahoney (right) is among the featured artists scheduled to perform during the North State Symphony's 'Mozart Requiem' concerts on Feb. 17 at Laxson Auditorium in Chico and Feb. 18 at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. See page 5.

## ALICE IN WEAVERVILLE

Alice Di Micele, an Americana/folk singer-songwriter based in Southern Oregon, released her 17th album



in January titled *Interpretations, Vol. 1*, her first covering other artists' songs. She's scheduled to perform a free show at the Trinity County Brewing Company in Weaverville on Friday, Feb. 9 at

6 p.m. For an interview with Alice about the album and more, see page 10

## MUSICAL PRESCRIPTION

Vitamin String Quartet (or VSQ as fans have taken to calling them) has morphed into a revolving cast of arrangers, producers and string players whose catalog is massive. They are scheduled to perform Feb. 13 at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. See page 2 for an interview with the co-creative director for VSQ and one of the musicians.

## RIVERFRONT & AXIOM

In February, Riverfront Playhouse presents "The Last 5 Years," while Axiom takes on the challenge of 'The Elephant Man.' See story on both on page 14





PHOTO / Colin Pregent

Vitamin String Quartet is scheduled to perform Feb. 13 at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. Pictured left to right are Lauren Baba (viola), Earl Maneein (violin), Amanda Lo (violin), and Derek Stein (cello).

# From Taylor Swift to Tool, Vitamin String Quartet's catalog of songs is both massive and eclectic

By Aaron Williams

Looking for your daily dose of fun, great music and an experience like no other? Vitamin String Quartet has just the prescription.

Started before the turn of the century as Vitamin Records' experiment to transform rock and pop songs with classical instruments, Vitamin String Quartet (or VSQ as fans have taken to calling them) has morphed into a revolving cast of arrangers, producers and string players whose catalog is massive.

"The possibilities are endless," said James Curtiss, director of A&R and co-creative director for Vitamin Records. "We can be weird strange chemists who make something work on a record and then make it come alive during a live performance."

"There aren't too many shows where a string quartet plays Taylor Swift and then jumps into (Tool's) '46&2,'" cellist Derek Stein added.

Vitamin String Quartet comes to Redding's Cascade Theatre Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at [cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org).

For nearly a quarter century, VSQ has recorded hundreds of albums of covers ranging from artists such as Kanye West, No Doubt, Blink 182, Bon Iver, Nirvana and Pink Floyd, just to name a few.

"The VSQ show, especially the way we put it on stage, is a full concert that's more like a mini music festival," Curtiss said. "Coachella's lineup just got announced with Lana Del Ray and No Doubt and it's all music we've covered."

"We are a post pop world that all music fans are listening to."

Stein and Curtiss said VSQ fans at the Cascade show can definitely expect Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" - a song that's become their signature closer. But everything else is up in the air.

"It all starts with looking at the breadth of our catalog," Curtiss said. "What do people want to hear? What do we want to hear? What are you promoting? It's a confluence of all that. It's not just pop songs, but pop culture."

Which is fitting because fans of the wildly successful Netflix series "Bridgerton" have heard VSQ even if

they don't quite know it.

Yes, that was Ariana Grande's "Thank U, Next" playing as Daphne and London first met.

"Any time we play our shows and we mention 'Bridgerton' it gets a big reaction," said Stein, who will be among the quartet in Redding.

"It ('Bridgerton') wasn't the first, but it was certainly the biggest television show VSQ has been involved in," Curtiss said, adding VSQ has been featured in "Gossip Girls," "Modern Family" and "Westworld."

"Westworld certainly was a giant bump (in recognition), but we've almost become the de facto soundtrack (on "Bridgerton")," he said.

Stein said the mixing of a Victorian-era television program and VSQ's blend of stringed pop hits is a natural marriage.

"It's obviously not about the song, but the style," he said. "You can take an Ariana Grande song that's hyper-pop and arrange it for the strings that gives it a vibe (for the show)."

The cellist, who tours with VSQ but

also has other projects he works with such as Wild Up (self-described as "progressive noise makers"), grew up in a musical household where his father also played cello.

"Monday through Saturday, it was classical music, but Sunday was jazz (on the radio)," he said. "But around the sixth grade my peers were listening to other stuff and I found myself gravitating to anything with guitars, drums and bass. My first CD was Green Day's *Dookie*."

He said the link between pop, rock and string music is closer than most people think.

"I'm playing in Los Angeles with Wild Up and a photographer with the L.A. Times snapped a picture of me with my tongue out," he said. "No matter what music it is, I'm going to rock out, whether it's Tool or chamber music by Schoenberg."

Curtiss adds "It's easy for strings to become passive and sound like elevator music, but we like to find music we like and approach it in the way that makes us move."

# Now Selling

📍 Redding, CA

# D·R·HORTON®

*America's Builder*



**MONROE** 2654 Gates Head Way, Redding, CA 96003  
**1,501-1,825** SQ. FT. | **3-4** BED **2** BATH **1** STORY **2** CAR

America's Builder is proud to present Monroe, a collection of 20 new homes located in north Redding. All three of our spacious open-concept floorplans feature modern kitchens, walk-in closets and open concept layouts.

Model is open - schedule a tour today!

**(530) 564-1978** | [Monroe@drhorton.com](mailto:Monroe@drhorton.com)

**CHECK OUT OUR OTHER COMMUNITIES IN REDDING!**

For more information call or visit

**(530) 282-1121** | [drhorton.com/sacramento/redding](http://drhorton.com/sacramento/redding)



D.R. Horton is an Equal Housing Opportunity Builder. \*D.R. Horton is America's largest new home builder by volume according to Builder Magazine. Images are representational only. Homes are subject to prior sale. Home and community information, including pricing, included features, terms, availability and amenities, are subject to change at any time without notice or obligation. Square footages are approximate. D.R. Horton CA2, Inc.: CA DRE License #01239752; Contractor's License #750190.

# THE BEADMAN & GIFTS

*A picture is worth a thousand words...*

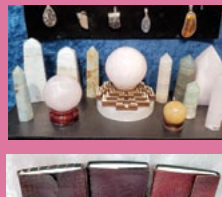
**ONE OF A KIND  
STERLING PENDANTS**



Beads,  
Beads,  
and more  
**BEADS!**



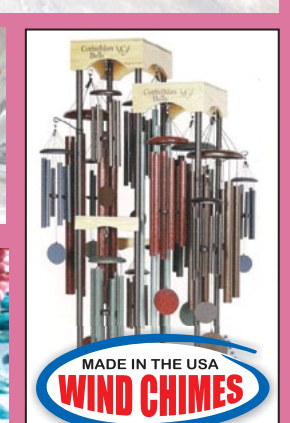
**STONE & CRYSTAL BEADS**



**TURQUOISE  
JEWELRY**



**BUTTERFLY WINGS  
JEWELRY**



**MADE IN THE USA  
WIND CHIMES**

**RINGS**



*Don't Forget  
Valentine's Day*  
February 14  
*Great Variety of Jewelry and other Gift Items*

**LOTS OF TIE-DYE**



**PROGRESSIVE COUPON**

**The More You Spend, The More You Save!**  
**Spend \$20 - Get 10% Off**  
**Spend \$50 - Get 15% Off**  
**Spend \$100 or More**

**Get 25% Off**

Your entire purchase

Limit one coupon per customer, per day.  
No layaways. Not valid with any other offer.  
Some items excluded. Expires 2/28/2024

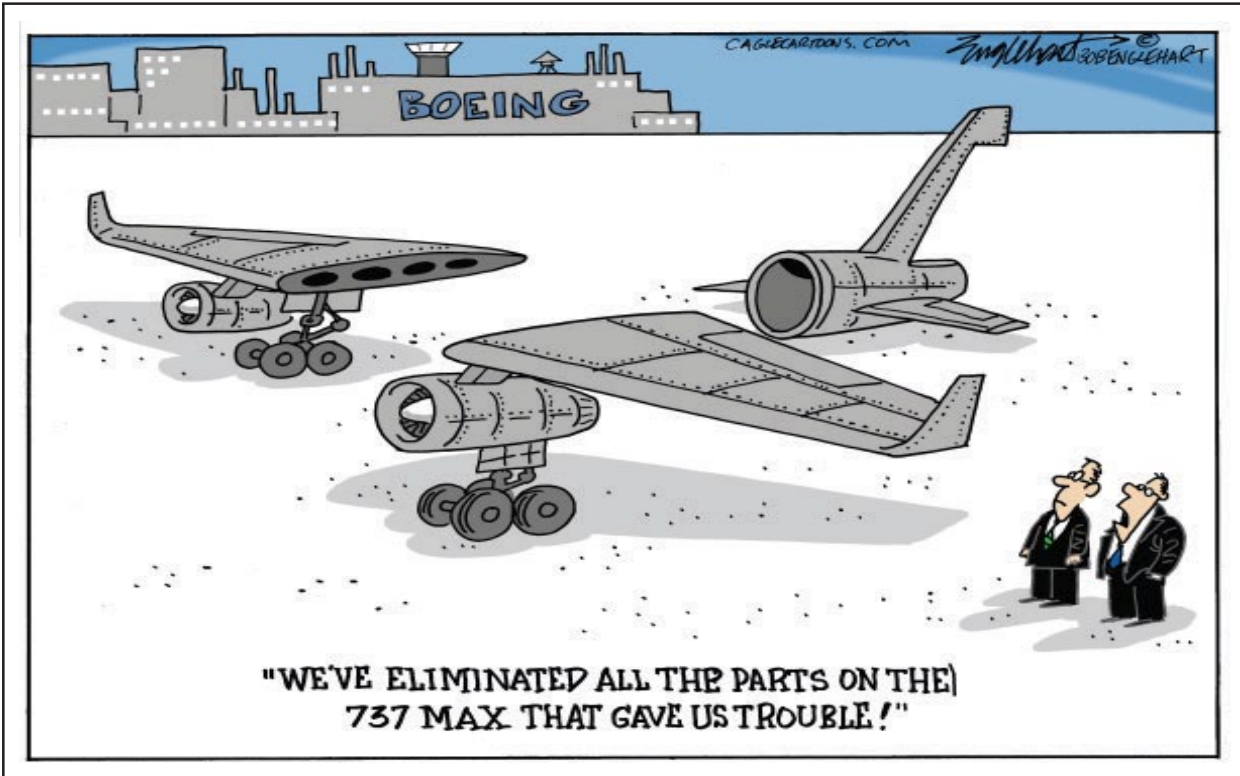


**Senior Discount  
Basic Jewelry Repair**

**Open 6 Days**  
Tues-Sat 10-5  
Sunday Noon-5

**2619 Park Marina Dr.  
Redding • 243-8808**





**The Temptations, featuring original member Otis Williams, in Redding**

The Temptations - often referred to as American Music Royalty and featuring Dr. Otis Williams, the sole surviving, original member since 1960 who turned 82 on Oct. 30 of 2023 - are scheduled to take the Cascade Theatre stage in Redding Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Known for so many classic songs, including "Get Ready," "Papa Was A Rollin' Stone," "My Girl," "The Way You Do The Things You Do," and "Ain't Too Proud to Beg," The Temptations celebrated their 60th Anniversary in 2022 by releasing a brand-new album, *Temptations 60*, with nearly all-original songs.

In addition to Williams, the group, which was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989, currently consists of Ron Tyson (since 1983), Terry Weeks (since 1997), Tony Grant (since 2021) and Jawan M. Jackson (since 2022).

In 2018, the story of the Temptations served as inspiration for the jukebox musical "Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations," written by Dominique Morisseau and based on the book "The Temptations" by Otis Williams. It opened on Broadway in March 2019 and was nominated for 11 Tony Awards, winning for Best Choreography.

Tickets and more information for The Temptations show in Redding are available at [cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org).

**AFTER FIVE**  
The North State Magazine

After Five is published monthly for the communities in the north state, covering eight counties, as well as worldwide on the web. Founded October 28, 1986. Advertising policies: The subject matter, form, size, wording, illustrations and typography are subject to the approval of After Five. Because a product is advertised in After Five does not necessarily mean we endorse its use. Display advertising rates are available as a PDF download at our website. The entire contents of After Five are copyright 2024 by After Five. Mailed subscriptions are \$60 per year. Editorial portions of the magazine may be reprinted by non-profit organizations. All other reproductions require the express written consent of the publisher. After Five is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts either by mail or email. Manuscripts or materials that are mailed but are unaccompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope will not be returned.

**Advertising and editorial deadline for the March 2024 issue is Thursday, Feb. 15**  
No telephone call submissions; email or regular mail only.  
**Prefer reading After Five with a digital device?**  
**Use the QR Code below or go to [northstate.news](http://northstate.news) to download a PDF version with hyperlinks.**

**AFTER FIVE**  
General Manager/Editor: Ron Harrington  
Publisher: Craig Harrington  
P.O. Box 492905, Redding, California 96049  
ON THE WEB [northstate.news](http://northstate.news)

**Advertising and Editorial**  
Phone: 530.275.1716  
Fax: 530.303.1528  
Email: [SLB@shasta.com](mailto:SLB@shasta.com) or [after5redding@gmail.com](mailto:after5redding@gmail.com)



*After Five is printed by the Klamath Falls Herald and News*



Nala Kathleen

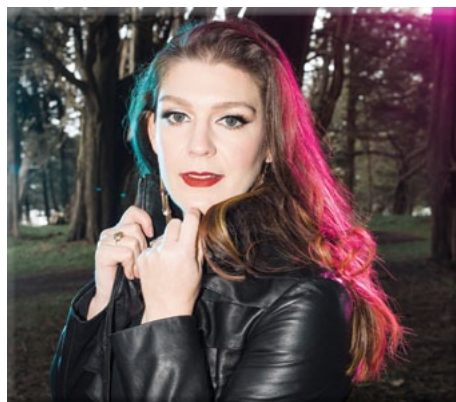


PHOTO ABOVE & COVER PHOTO / Vero Kherian  
Molly Mahoney



Daniel Yoder



Dashiell John Waterbury

## Symphony to perform Mozart's unfinished work 'Requiem'

An unfinished work by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will be the climatic piece at the North State Symphony's February concerts in Chico and Redding, which will feature several guest artists.

"Mozart Requiem" is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17, at Laxson Auditorium in Chico and 2 p.m., Feb. 18, at the Cascade Theatre in Redding. Tickets are available at the respective box offices or you can go online to northstatesymphony.org for links to both.

The concert will also include George Walker's "Lyric for Strings" and John Sebastian Bach's "Concerto for Violin and Oboe in C minor, BWV 1060R."

"Lyric for Strings" is a musical composition written by the American composer George Walker.

According to Wikipedia, the piece was originally titled "Lament" and it was first composed as the second movement of Walker's "String Quartet No. 1" in 1946 while he was a graduate student at the Curtis Institute of Music. In 1990, Walker expanded the work for string orchestra, retitling it "Lyric for Strings." It is cast in a single movement and has a duration of approximately six minutes.

The work is dedicated to Walker's grandmother, Melvina King, a formerly enslaved person, who died shortly before its completion.

"Those familiar with my programming know that we try to showcase living composers or neglected works by composers of the past," Scott Seaton, North State Symphony conductor and music director said in an email. "Lyric for Strings" is a work short in length packing a powerful emotional punch."

Next up will be "Concerto for Violin and Oboe in C minor, BWV 1060R."

"Bach was one of those foundational composers that influenced virtually every realm of music in the past several centuries," Seaton said. "I'm happy that

we get to showcase two extraordinary artists found in the North State Symphony as soloists in the Bach Double Concerto for Oboe and Violin."

Those two are North State Symphony concertmaster, Terrie Baune on violin, and the Symphony's principal oboe, Susie Lundberg.

The climax of the concert is "Mozart Requiem," a piece that was left unfinished at the time of Mozart's death, leaving many questions unanswered about the true intention of the work. He composed part of the Requiem in Vienna in late 1791, but it was unfinished at the time of his death on Dec. 5 of the same year.

Composers old and new have tried their hand at completing it, though what Mozart had in mind will never be known.

"This concert really delves into the realm of the sublime," Seaton said. "We will experience the 'Mozart Requiem' and its powerful explorations of life and death through the lens of one of the greatest composers that ever lived. Mozart had an uncanny ability to go beyond words to showcase realms of existence that were not possible outside his marriages of text and melody."

"Mozart Requiem" will include a number of featured artists including Nala Kathleen, soprano; Molly Mahoney, mezzo-soprano; Dashiell John Waterbury, tenor; and Daniel Yoder, bass-baritone. More information on the musical careers of all four can be viewed online at the North State Symphony's website for this concert: northstatesymphony.org/mozart-requiem

In addition, the Simpson Symphonic Choir, under the direction of Lauren Dillon, and the Shasta College Chorus, under the direction of Elizabeth Waterbury, will be performing at the Redding concert, while the Butte College Chorus, under the direction of Luke Nicolay, will be at the Chico concert.

Make your Valentine's Day Reservations Today!

**CHEESECAKES Unlimited**

**Restaurant & Bar**  
Monday - Friday 11 am - 8 pm

Happy Hour  
Monday - Friday 3-6 pm

1135 Pine Street Suite 113  
Redding, CA 96001  
530.224.1775

cheesecakesunlimited.com

www.facebook.com/ccuredding

## COMING UP AT AXIOM Repertory Theatre

**SYLVIA**  
By A.R. Gurney  
A comedy about a man and his dog.  
Directed by Ann Marie Scorsone  
January 12-27th

**Doggone Funny**  
Sylvia: Jan 12 - 27

"Sylvia" by A.R. Gurney is a comedic play that revolves around a middle-aged couple, Greg and Kate, living in New York City. Their lives take an unexpected turn when Greg brings home Sylvia, a stray dog, who he finds in the park. Sylvia becomes a central character, disrupting the couple's routine and sparking humorous and poignant explorations of love, marriage, and the complexities of human-animal relationships.

**The Elephant Man**  
By Bernard Pomerance

**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 Whitechapel Hospital. Under the care of physician Frederick Treves, Merrick is introduced to London society and becomes a favorite of the aristocracy and literati, only to be denied his ultimate dream - to become a man like any other.

**BEAUTIFUL**  
The Carole King Musical  
Music by Douglas McGrath  
Lyrics by Gerry Goffin & Carole King  
Book by Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil  
Sony Music Publishing

**You've got a Friend**  
Beautiful | The Carole King Musical: 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.

learn more and buy tickets at [axreptheatre.com](http://axreptheatre.com)  
2613 Bechelli Lane, Redding, California



# How I became a cat person

By Jase Graves



Disclaimer: No pets die in this column (but they sometimes smell like they did).

As I write, I'm trying to relax in my recliner on a cold winter's day next to a roaring fire, yet my feet are freezing because a large, semi-elderly cat named "Missy" – AKA "The Loaf" – is lounging on the fireplace hearth directly in front of the firebox and hogging all of the heat. "How did I reach this state?" you might wonder. So do I.

When my middle daughter was six years old, she looked up at me with her big, manipulative green eyes and said, "All I ever wanted was a baby Siamese."

Unfortunately, I've never been a "cat person." Most cats shed like middle-aged hippies, so if you spend any amount of time with them, you wind up looking like a body double for Chewbacca. Then there's that special feline/surly teenager personality. If only they could roll their eyes and call you "bruh."

Due to my lack of a backbone, however, I found myself on a quest to locate a Siamese kitten. Luckily, the search didn't take long, and I didn't have to go to Siam. I found Missy through a local rescue operation that was undoubtedly laughing at me as I drove away.

Life with Missy is all about her. Unlike many cats, Missy actually enjoys a limited amount of petting. I think she considers it a type of massage therapy. When I pet Missy, I feel like I'm performing a service and should be tipped afterward.

During daytime hours, her signal that she wishes to make an appointment to be petted is that she flops onto her side, just out of reach. She demands that I come to her, and it's often at the most inconvenient time imaginable – like when I'm sitting on the toilet. If I refuse her reluctant advances, she saunters away (giving me the high-tailed, one-eyed salute) and looks for the perfect rug to barf on.

A few days ago, I actually found myself leaning over her to operate my laptop to avoid disturbing her while she napped in my computer chair. Something is clearly amiss. I didn't want a cat in the first place, and now I can't go to the bathroom or buy underwear on eBay without feline interference.

But the true test of my pet tolerance came one evening when we were startled by the sound of glass shattering in the master bathroom, followed by the entrance into the living room of a bleeding (on the carpet, of course) and limping Missy. Scooping her up, I saw that she had a serious laceration on her forearm.

About an hour after I had rushed her to the local emergency vet clinic/cash vaporizer, Missy came out of surgery with assurances from the vet that she would be fine – and a recommendation that I carefully store all breakable items in my home (or sell them to help pay for the vet bill).

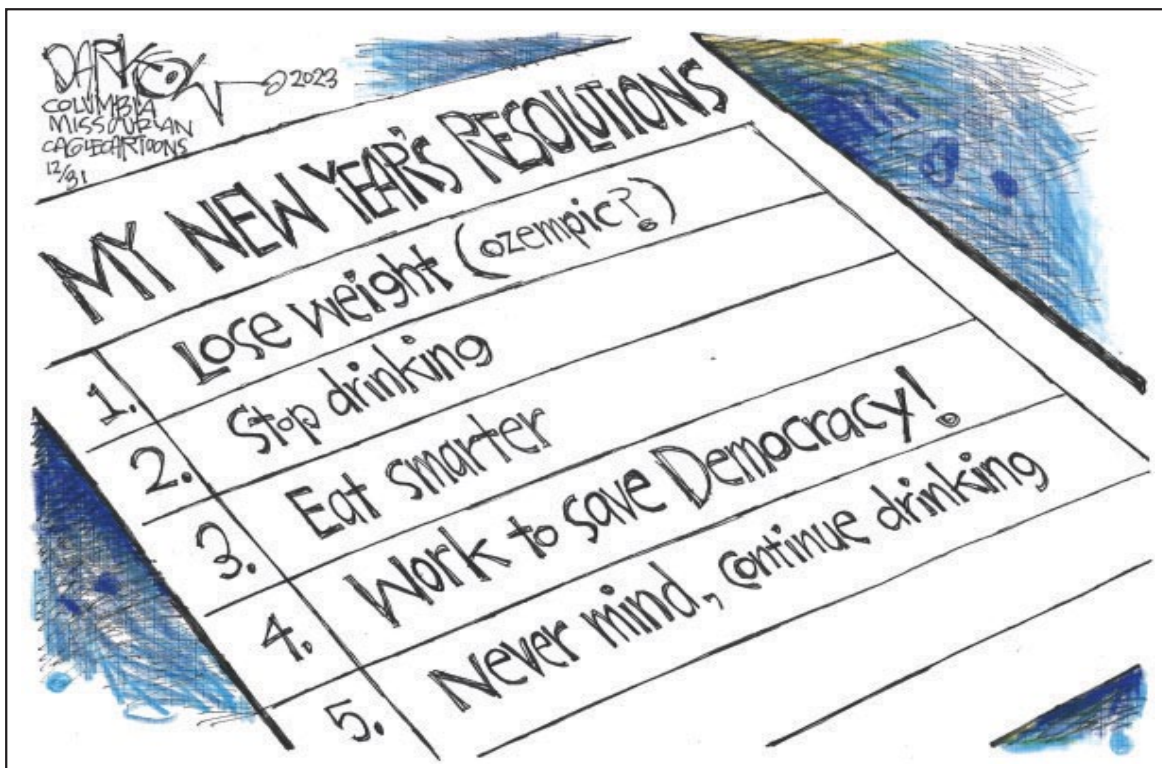
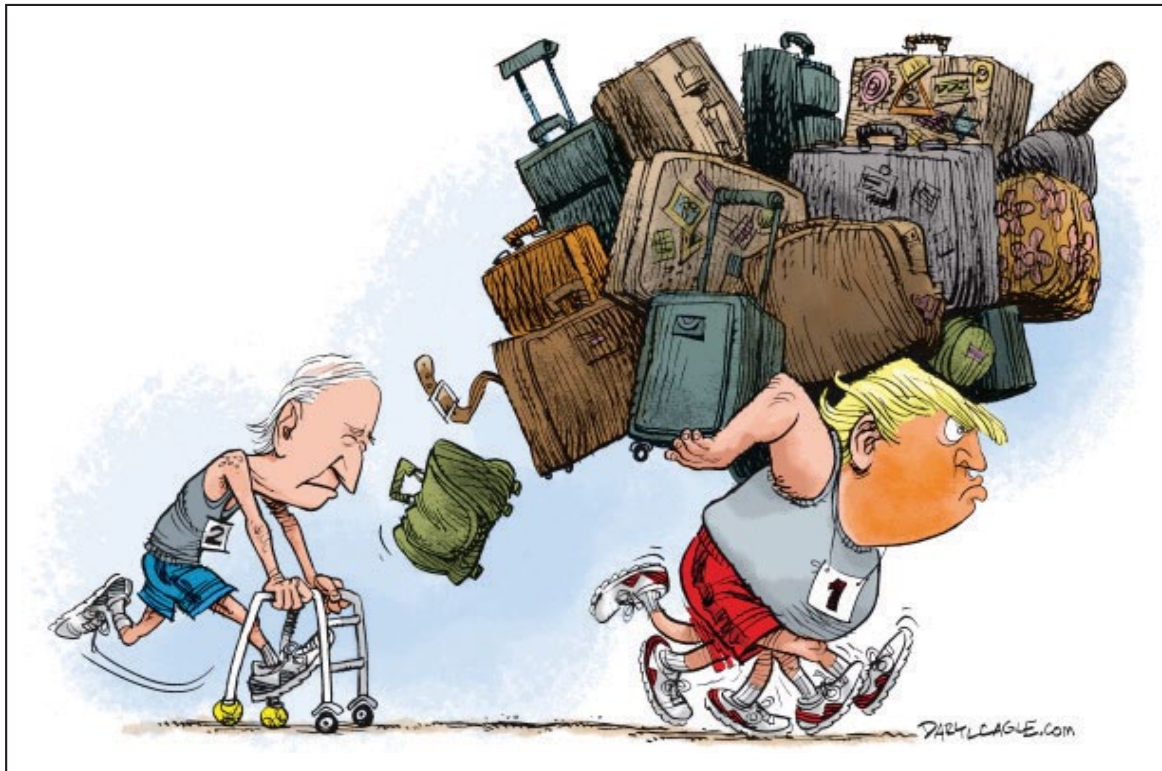
Missy is now 13 years old, which, in human years, is approximately 4,745 litter-box scoops. Since acquiring "Missy," we've also adopted two small doglets that Missy mainly ignores like tacky pieces of home decor.

The consolation to life with Missy is that my three daughters love her dearly and she makes them happy. And I kind of like her, too. I guess I see her as a challenge, and after all these years, I'm still determined to make her understand who's in charge.

Now excuse me while I lean over Missy to search eBay for a second computer chair.

Copyright 2024 Jase Graves distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate.

Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas. His columns have been featured in Texas Escapes magazine, The Shreveport Times, The Longview News Journal, The Kilgore News Herald, and After Five Magazine. Contact Graves at [susanjase@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanjase@sbcglobal.net).





BAR & GRILL

Menu: [ThreeShastas.com](http://ThreeShastas.com) Happy Hour 4 to 6pm



Special Menu includes Filet Mignon with Grilled Shrimp; Flat Iron Steak Grilled with Pesto Chimichurri; Stuffed Airline Chicken Breast; Frenched 10 oz. Pork Chop. Desserts: Tiramisu, Charcuterie, Caramel Creme Brule. For complete menu & more information: [ThreeShastas.com](http://ThreeShastas.com)

LIVE MUSIC

Fri. and Sat. 8:30pm-Midnight

Feb. 2.....	D.J. GRIZZ
Feb. 3.....	THE HFD BAND
Feb. 9.....	DEAD LETTER
Feb. 10.....	D.J. GRIZZ
Feb. 16-17.....	CALIFORNIA COUNTRY
Feb. 23-24.....	HILL STREET BAND

\$5 cover

Live Music with **STEVE HERMANN**  
Every Wed. 6:30-9:00pm  
No Cover Wed & Sun

1830 Hilltop Drive  
Redding  
Red Lion Hotel  
530.224.6630

Sunday, Feb. 25  
**EDDIE SADLER**  
Solo Acoustic Show  
6:00pm-8:30pm

[ThreeShastas.com](http://ThreeShastas.com)



THE  
TEMPTATIONS  
FEBRUARY 7

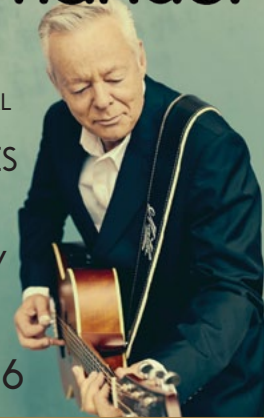


VITAMIN STRING  
QUARTET  
PERFORMING SONGS FROM THE  
HIT NETFLIX SERIES,  
BRIDGERTON  
FEBRUARY 13

tommy  
emmanuel

WITH SPECIAL  
GUESTS  
ROB ICKES  
&  
TREY  
HENSLEY

MARCH 6



TRAILBLAZING  
WOMEN OF COUNTRY

A Tribute to Patsy, Loretta and Dolly

MARCH 12



RIVERFRONT PLAYHOUSE  
January 26-February 11

The  
Last

DEDICATED TO CATHY  
DEDICATED TO CATHY  
DEDICATED TO CATHY

Written and Composed by  
JASON ROBERT BROWN  
Years

Originally Produced for the New York stage by  
Arielle Tepper and Marty Bell  
Originally Produced by  
Northlight Theatre, Chicago, IL

Directed by Lauren Stanfield  
Musical Director: Cheyenne Harrah

Tickets at [RiverfrontPlayhouse.Net](http://RiverfrontPlayhouse.Net)  
& Enjoy the Store • 1261 Market Street

THE LAST FIVE YEARS is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

GLENN MILLER  
ORCHESTRA



MARCH 13



THE  
LIGHTNING  
THIEF  
THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL

MARCH 21-30



CASCADETHEATRE.ORG

530-243-8877

WEBSITE

DONATE



# NEWS of the WEIRD

South Korean model Ain, also known as Angel Box Girl, is being prosecuted for obscene exposure following incidents from last fall, Oddity Central reported.

In Seoul and Gangnam, Ain walked through the streets wearing a large cardboard box with holes for her arms and legs – plus two more, which she invited strangers to put their hands in to grope her breasts and other body parts.

Naturally, she attracted large crowds that police were called to disperse.

“It’s freedom of expression,” she said. “I just wanted to market myself. I actually saw many positive reactions, with people telling me they support me and applaud my courage.”

If found guilty, Ain could face a \$3,800 fine or up to a year in jail.

Pet owners who are exceedingly attached to their furry friends sometimes go to the trouble of having them preserved through taxidermy after they die.

After her Roborovski dwarf hamster, Hammy, passed away last year, Jess Porter-Langson, 27, who lives in Brighton in the U.K., sought out Bea Ostrowska, a local taxidermist, hoping to immortalize her beloved pet as a pole-dancing stripper, Metro News reported.

“This hamster was so iconic, and all my friends knew Hammy and wanted to see him,” Porter-Langson said. “He needed something special.”

Ostrowska posed Hammy on a small platform with a pole and sewed a little thong for him to wear, which is stuffed with tiny dollar bills.

“He’s got this creepy little smile going on,” Porter-Langson said. “I was blown away. What is more iconic than a hamster on a stripper pole hustling for money?”

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration, in an effort to suck any remaining fun from highway commutes, has laid down the law: By 2026, states must ban messages on electronic highway signs that include references to pop culture or evoke a laugh.

Examples: “Visiting in-laws? Slow down, get there late” from Ohio; “Use Yah Blinkah” from Massachusetts; and “Hocus Pocus, Drive With Focus” from New Jersey.

The Associated Press reported that the agency wants the signs to be “simple, direct, brief, legible and clear” because clever messages might distract or confuse drivers. One Arizona



King, a rescue dog at the Lost Our Home Pet Rescue in Tempe, Arizona, enjoyed a brief reign among his shelter buddies, Fox10-TV reported. Sometime around midnight, King managed to break out of his kennel at the shelter and busted out several other dogs. He also found a stash of food and enjoyed a little feast. In the meantime, alarms were triggered; Jodi Polanski, the shelter’s founder, looked at video from the scene and saw the mess. “The police actually came because he set the alarm off,” Polanski said. The unnamed responding officer cleaned up after King’s free-for-all and got the dog settled back in bed. “I was just like, wow, amazing man that he did that,” Polanski said. The rescue’s website indicates that King is no longer looking for a home.

state representative, David Cook of Globe, was overwhelmed: “Prime example that the federal government is not focusing on what they need to be.”

The Lexington (Kentucky) Convention and Visitors Bureau appears to be desperate for tourists, the Associated Press reported.

It is using an infrared laser to send messages toward potentially habitable planets in a solar system 40 light years away, luring extraterrestrials with “lush green countryside ... (and) famous bluegrass.”

Lexington native Robert

Lodder, an expert in astrobiology and SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), conceived the idea, and linguistics expert Dr. Andrew Byrd consulted: “We included ... the molecular structure for water, bourbon and even dopamine ... because Lexington is fun!” he said.

Jessica Beatty, 42, of Clearwater, Florida, thought she might throw off the court by submitting someone else’s urine for a mandated drug test, The Smoking Gun reported.

She didn’t choose just any old random donor, though – she allegedly collected urine

from her aunt’s dog. Beatty was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license; she had priors for cocaine possession and other offenses.

When she was confronted for her “fraudulent urine sample,” she admitted that it wasn’t her pee. Her bond is likely to be revoked, sending her back to jail.

In Oklahoma, a proposed new bill, HB 3084, would prohibit students who “purport to be an imaginary animal or species” – i.e., furies – from participating in schools’ curriculum or other activities,

KOKH-TV reported. Rep. Justin Humphrey of Lane, Oklahoma, filed the bill; it would also require parents to pick up their furry offspring from school or risk them being turned over to animal control.

You’ll need your dictionary for this one. In York, England, signs have been popping up that appear to encourage citizens to “exercise obtundity,” the BBC reported.

Of course, no one knows what that word means: “Knowing the police, it could be anything,” said one resident.

Social media has come alive with speculation about the signs, but it turns out that “Exercise Obtundity” is the name of a training program involving the York City Council, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service, and the signs are merely warnings of streets that might be closed during the activities.

A man in Sulphur Springs, Texas, was arrested for stealing a Lamborghini in Houston, KLTU reported.

Everett Van Jennings, 34, parked the sports car in his own garage, police reported – along with two other vehicles he had nicked. Police said together they were valued at \$500,000.

The Lamborghini’s owner tracked the car using a GPS device and set off the lights and alarms, but Jennings claimed to be out of town and unable to return home.

Law enforcement got a search warrant and along with the cars found materials used in VIN swapping. Jennings was charged with at least two felonies.

OK, everyone knows that opening a bag of potato chips can be as challenging as breaking into a bank vault, especially if you’re hungry.

But on Jan. 3, a 75-year-old man in Dalton, Georgia, used an unorthodox – and dangerous – method that landed him in the hospital, The Charlotte Observer reported.

The man tried to use a lighter to get his chips open, resulting in third-degree burns to about 75% of his body and the recliner he was sitting in.

Chips, with their high concentration of fat and carbohydrates, are highly flammable.

With freezing weather causing slippery surfaces, NHS Scotland, the country’s health service, is advising people on

–Please See Page 12





**ONE PILL.  
ONE TIME.  
COULD BE THEIR LAST.**

**TALK TO YOUR KIDS  
ABOUT FENTANYL.**

**[ThinkAgainShasta.com/fentanyl](http://ThinkAgainShasta.com/fentanyl)**



**Shasta County  
Health & Human  
Services Agency**

# Alice Di Micele releases first album of cover songs; in Weaverville Feb. 9

Alice Di Micele, an Americana/folk singer-songwriter based in Southern Oregon, has released 16 solo albums since 1988. No. 17, titled *Interpretations, Vol. 1* that was released in mid-January, is her first covering other artist's songs, including those by Christine McVie, Sting, Tom Petty, Neil Young and the Grateful Dead.

She's scheduled to perform a free show at the Trinity County Brewing Company in Weaverville on Friday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Yes, you read that right... free. All ages are welcome.

She'll follow that with a show at the Arcata Playhouse on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, and are available at [humanitix.com](http://humanitix.com), which, as they say, "takes the booking fees we all hate paying and dedicates 100 percent of profits to charity."

Di Micele will be joined by award winning finger-style guitarist Andy Casad.

In advance of her Weaverville show, After Five did a short email interview with Alice about the new album and what's up next for her.

**After Five:** You've released 17 albums since 1988, but your latest, *Interpretations, Vol. 1*, is your first to cover a wide range of songs by other artists. What made you decide to do this project now?

**Alice Di Micele:** When the pandemic hit, I had a nine-month tour booked and had just done the first show. In order to not absolutely lose my mind, I started writing lots of songs and then I bought some recording gear and started recording. I got good at recording my own guitar and vocals and then sending them to my bandmates who all have home studios, too.

It was a lifesaver in so many ways to have a creative outlet while at home. I also spent time learning songs that I never really had time for. After I completed my 16th album, *Every Seed We Plant*, I just dove into recording these cover tunes. At first, I was just going to release a couple of singles, but I really enjoyed the process of interpreting these songs with my own voice and style (thus the title of the record) and I decided I'd like to keep going. I have a very diverse taste in music, so the album is a bit all over the map, but I think I did my best to bring it together in my own style.

**After Five:** There are nine songs on the album. What made you decide on the songs that you did choose? For example, what made you decide on covering the late Christine McVie's Fleetwood Mac song "Over My Head"? How about "Harvest Moon" and "Old Man" by Neil Young, and the other songs you covered?

**Di Micele:** When Christine passed, I was heartbroken. And I dove into her music. The fact is, "Over My Head" was the first song I ever heard her sing and it stuck with me all these years. When I was a girl, most singers had these high soprano voices, so when I



**Alice Di Micele is scheduled to perform a free show Friday, Feb. 9, at Trinity County Brewing Company in Weaverville. She'll be joined by finger-style guitarist Andy Casad.**

heard this beautiful smooth alto voice it just hit me deeply and she became an inspiration as a girl with a smokey lower voice.

All of the songs have some special meaning for me. "Give Yourself to Love" by Kate Wolf is such a classic and I recorded it to be played at a friend's memorial because I couldn't be there due to my tour schedule.

"Death Don't Have No Mercy" is the only song I could sing for a couple months after my dog Roxy passed in July of 2020, and when one of my best friends passed a couple years later, I just had to record it.

When I was 17 and the singer in a rock band, I went to see David Grisman Quintet at Carnegie Hall. Afterwards I called up the guitar player in the band and he taught me Neil Young's "Sugar Mountain" on my mom's old beat-up guitar over the phone. Neil has been a longtime influence. Originally, I had only planned to do "Old Man" but I just really love "Harvest Moon" so much and had learned it for a gig on the harvest moon 2022 that it just felt right to record it.

Tom Petty is another long-time inspiration. I have a side project band called Petty Thievery and we do all Petty, all the time. The first time I heard the *Highway Companion* album I listened to "Square One" six times in a row on the way home from tour and came home and learned it.

Jazz singer/songwriter Abbey Lincoln is another long-time inspiration and having the opportunity to record "Throw It Away" live in my studio with Mimi Fox on guitar was a dream. Mimi

of recording an album without a record label, specifically the royalties part? How does that work with other songwriter's songs and the payment of royalties? Once you pay the fee, are you done and any sales of the album are yours or do you have to continue paying a percentage of sales of the album for the songs that were recorded? Always been curious about how that works.

**Di Micele:** Recording is an expensive process. I always pay the musicians and engineers well, because I believe in fair compensation for our work. For a project of nine cover songs, the royalties for using these cover songs was close to \$2,000. I'm not complaining, it's just that is what it costs and I was happy to pay the writers for their work. These are great songs and writers deserve their share. Every time I do a new printing, I have to pay that fee again. I also had to pay that fee even on demo and promo CDs and also digital downloads.

This album is a labor of love and not really a profit-making enterprise. Hopefully folks will buy CDs and t-shirts and hoodies and other swag to help me to keep doing what I love.

**After Five:** So I assume people will be able to buy the CD at the show, but where else can they buy it from or download it?

**Di Micele:** I'll have all my CDs that are in print plus shirts and other swag at the show. Folks can buy stuff at my website, too, at [alicedimicele.com](http://alicedimicele.com)

**After Five:** What can those attending the show in Weaverville expect?

**Di Micele:** We'll do a couple or maybe a few from the new album, but we are also working on new original music and we'll also be playing stuff from my back catalog. I have a lot of music.

**After Five:** What are your plans for the future? Are you going to tour more for this album? How about your next album...original songs for a solo album? *Interpretations Vol. 2?*

**Di Micele:** I've got some very cool stuff lining up for the spring and summer. My band, Alice Di Micele & Force of Nature of which Andy is a part, will be doing some fun festival stuff. We are working on new original music which is generally my priority at shows and with recording. But, yes, I want to do a Volume 2, maybe even 3, and I'm also hoping to do a recording with Mimi Fox as well.

**After Five:** Anything else we didn't ask or that you'd like to mention?

**Di Micele:** I'm really grateful to get the opportunity to speak with you. Thank you so much. We'll be in Weaverville Friday the 9th and then at the Arcata Playhouse on Saturday the 10th. Hope to see some old friends and meet some new ones. The best part about touring is meeting all the wonderful people on the road.

## Alice Di Micele with Andy Casad

**Where:** Trinity County Brewing Company, Weaverville  
**When:** Friday, Feb. 9, 6pm  
**Cost:** Free. No charge. All ages welcome. Food and beverages available for purchase

and I had a duo together in the early '90s before I went deep into the folk world and she deep into the jazz world. It's great to have come back together again to share more music.

Back in 2005, when I lost my dog Blue, I literally listened to Sting's "The Hounds of Winter" over and over and over, so I asked my current accompanist/guitarist Andy Casad to work out an arrangement with me. It is such a special song and I really enjoy singing it.

And anyone that knows me knows I've always been a Deadhead back from my days of being "on-tour" in the early to mid '80s, so I needed to bring a Grateful Dead song into the mix. "Sugaree" is one of my favorites. I really have always heard it as more of a soul/motown/old school R&B type of song and had fun putting my own spin on it.

**After Five:** You recorded a YouTube video during your Indiegogo campaign to raise money for this album where you talk about the expenses, including paying the royalties for cover songs. Can you go over the finances

# Visit

## Weaverville & Trinity County



**Highland Art Center**  
Art Gallery

LOCALLY HAND CRAFTED  
ARTISAN GIFTS  
Jewelry + Pottery + Glass & More

LOVELY TREASURES FOR EVERYONE IN YOUR LIFE  
530-623-5111 + 691 MAIN ST. + WEAVERVILLE

Join us every First Saturday

LIVE MUSIC ART GALLERIES  
SHOPPING SPECIAL EVENTS  
DINING AND DRINKS

**First Saturdays**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
WEAVERVILLE, CA  
**February 3 \* March 2**

**Joss House**  
Chinese New Year Celebration  
Year of the Dragon  
Saturday, Feb. 17  
11am-3pm

Lion Dance \* Chinese Fireworks \* Chinese Teas \* Kid's Crafts

**Merchants Mall**

Over 35 Vendors  
Over 6,000 Sq. Ft.  
(530) 623-2475

- Antiques & Collectibles
- New Toys • Gifts
- Unusual Items
- Jewelry • Furniture
- ...and much, much more!

Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm  
1400 Main Street, Weaverville

**Alice Di Micele**  
with Andy Casad  
Friday, February 9 • 6pm  
Free Show

**Trinity County Brewing Co.**  
Our Story...  
Owners Jacob Corella and Neil Peterson first met in 2011 while hiking the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada. Thanks to their shared love of beer and the outdoors, Trinity County Brewing Company was born and the beer started flowing in May of 2020. Founded on their unshakeable belief that beer brings people together, Jacob and Neil strive to create a friendly, community-oriented hub in Weaverville.

**SCIENCE ON TAP**  
Wed., Feb. 28  
Informal Science Discussions

**Comic PETE NELSON**  
From Humboldt County • 6pm, Feb. 16 • Free Show

**Trinity County Brewing Company**

- Cold Beer • Cider & Wine, too!
- Tasty Grub (Daily Specials)
- Family Friendly • Pet Friendly

trinitycountybrewingcompany.com

530.423.4114  
301 Main St. (Hwy 299W) Weaverville

Check our website & social media for the latest

**TRINITY**  
*Yes*

**TRINITY COUNTY, CA**

@VisitTrinity 530/623-6101 VisitTrinity.com

# NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 8

how to safely move about the streets, STV News reported.

Experts suggest that folks “walk like a penguin,” with toes pointed out slightly, knees loose and arms extended out from the sides.

Walkers should take short steps and keep their center of gravity over their feet.

“While it may seem silly to walk or waddle like a penguin, the alternative may be a nasty injury or even time in hospital,” said Dr. Emilia Crighton, director for public health at NHSGCC. “Penguins know best.”

In southwest London, patrons outside a Greggs bakery are being warned of attacks by hungry, hungry crows, The Sun reported.

Paras Singh, 23, who works nearby, said, “It’s happening every day. They all swoop down in a frenzy.”

Jay Baiz, 27, a barber, said, “On Thursday, a woman was eating a bacon sandwich. The crow tried to rip it out and nearly scratched her head.”

Locals are hoping the city council will call in a falconer to scare the crows away.

The Laconia (New Hampshire) Daily Sun reported that police were called to the Market Basket super-market in Tilton the day before after a “fruity fracas” broke out in the produce section.

Social media posts indicated that a watermelon had been used in an assault, and Sgt. Andrew Salmon of the Tilton Police Department confirmed that his department is investigating.

Salmon said one person went to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries “from being struck by a produce item.”

A worker who answered the phone at the Market Basket said, “We have been instructed not to say anything.”

Rodney Holbrook, a 75-year-old retired postman from Wales, had been noticing for a couple of months that small messes in his shed were being

mysteriously tidied overnight, the BBC reported.

So he set up a camera and caught a little mouse picking up pegs, corks, nuts, bolts and bird food.

Holbrook aptly named the rodent Welsh Tidy Mouse.

“Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the mouse will tidy up throughout the night,” Holbrook said.

“I don’t bother to tidy up now, I leave things out of the box and they put it back in its place by morning. I’ve added different things to the desk to see if they can lift it,” he said.

LuLu Lotus of Mississauga, Ontario, has earned a Guinness World Record for an impressive, if dubious, skill: She blew a 44.1-decibel whistle through her nose.

United Press International reported that Lotus visited Aercoustics Engineering Ltd. to have her whistle measured in a special room.

She said her 5-year-old son has recently discovered he, too, has a nose-whistling ability: “It would be a dream come true if he beat my record one day,” Lotus said.

The story about the Alaska Airlines plane that lost a panel while flying at 16,000 feet is all over the news.

But it’s the little human-interest stories that really capture us: When the panel flew off and the hole gaped open midair, someone’s iPhone got sucked out and landed on a roadside in Washington state, Yahoo! News reported.

Sean Bates, who found the phone, posted a photo on X showing the phone’s intact screen and a battery life of 44% remaining: “Pretty clean, no scratches on it, sitting under a bush,” he posted.

Jennifer Homendy of the NTSB said all found phones would be returned to their owners.

Kathleen Murray of Sandford, Tasmania, credits bandicoots for helping her win the first-ever World’s Ugliest Lawn competition, The Guardian

reported. The marsupials, Murray said, have “actually liberated me from ever having to mow it again. I’m all for guilt-free weekends, especially since my ex-husband left with the lawnmower back in 2016.”

The contest began as Gotland’s (Sweden) Ugliest Lawn, which was conceived to encourage water-saving and environmentally friendly gardening in 2022.

“All of (the lawns) were hideous and well worthy of winning, but the winning entry was really, really bad,” said Gotland’s Mimmi Gibson.

“It brings me a lot of joy to see all the little creatures who now feel safe to come out during the day in my yard,” Murray said.

Wayne State University in Michigan has announced its 15th annual list of 10 “long-lost” words that should be resurrected, United Press International reported.

The Word Warriors program has identified “blatherskite” (nonsense), “curglaff” (the shock felt upon diving into cold water), “rawgabbit” (a person who speaks confidently but ignorantly), and “pawky” (having a cynical sense of humor), among others.

As an Air Canada flight prepared to leave Toronto for Dubai, a passenger who had just boarded opened a cabin door and stepped out, falling about 20 feet to the ground, CTV News reported.

The passenger was injured, and emergency services were called, the airline said. The flight was delayed but eventually took off. There was no explanation for why the person jumped out.

A 32-year-old woman who had been arrested for assault in Boone, North Carolina, took her aggression out on the police car’s backseat, The Charlotte Observer reported.

Boone Police Sgt. Dennis O’Neal said a “substantial amount of padding” had been chewed away, adding up to \$650 in damages.

The department’s Facebook post suggested they “may need to invest in Kevlar seat covers.” Authorities were still deciding whether to charge her in connection with the car’s damages.

The Bean Monger, a coffee shop in Indianapolis, Indiana, next to a wedding venue site, was the site of a “pop-up” marriage on Dec. 31 – with no prior notice that the happy couple and their guests were planning to converge, the New York Post reported.

Twenty to 30 people, including an officiant, photographer and guests, crowded into the small store, where they treated the unsuspecting workers as if they were hired staff.

“They were asking us to take coats, purses and watch personal items as if they had rented us out,” one person said.

The wedding party blocked the entrance to other patrons, and when a barista asked them to move, the photographer replied, “No, wait at least five minutes.”

The store typically charges \$500 for private events, which they have requested from the bride, but she deemed the amount “unreasonable.”

Roderick Jackson of Waskom, Texas, is suing Walmart for \$100 million – or “unlimited free lifetime shopping” at any location – in relation to a vague incident from an Omaha Walmart in March 2021.

NBC News reported that Jackson alleges there was a “false pretense of shoplifting” that was a violation of his civil rights “based on race/color.”

Walmart responded that the suit is “almost identical to a lawsuit he filed against our company in 2021 that was dismissed.” The earlier suit said he suffered emotional stress and pain from the handcuffs.

Joao Pimenta da Silva, 71, of Minas Gerais, Brazil, repeatedly dreamed that gold lay deep under his home, the New York Post reported.

To that end, over a year ago, he began digging a hole in his kitchen floor that ended up being 130 feet deep and about 35 inches in diameter.

But on Jan. 4, Pimenta’s dreams died when he lost his balance and plunged to his death at the bottom of the cavity.

His neighbor Arnaldo da Silva tried to discourage the project, but Pimenta was convinced his dream would come true. In the fall, he suffered head injuries and broken bones.

**Railroad Park Resort**

- Caboose Lodging
- RV & Tent Camping
- Authentic Dining Cars
- Restaurant Open 7 Days  
Sun-Thurs 9am-8pm  
Fri & Sat 9am-9pm
- Full Bar

**Your fall and winter wonderland escape.**  
Off Season Rates  
Call to reserve today

*A truly unique North State experience at the foot of Castle Crags*

530-235-4440  
rrpark.com

I-5 at Railroad Park Road - Exit 728, just South of the City of Dunsmuir

**Breakfast Served All Day**

**LOW & SLOW SMOKED Prime Rib, Tri Tip, Chicken, Sausage, and our Famous 14 Hr. Smoked Brisket**

**OLD MILL EATERY & SMOKEHOUSE**

4132 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
Shasta Lake, CA  
530-275-0515

**Burgers • Sandwiches Salads**

**omesmokehouse.com ORDER NOW**  
DINE-IN • TAKEOUT • DELIVERY • LAKE DELIVERIES • CATERING



# Redding Trail Alliance presents the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival

Redding Trail Alliance presents "Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival" at the Cascade Theatre in Redding Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. "Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival" is one of the largest mountain festivals in the world. Hot on the heels of the Festival that is held every fall in Banff, Alberta, Canada, the "Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival" world tour hits the road with stops planned in over 600 communities and more than 40 countries. The tour celebrates amazing achievements in outdoor storytelling and filmmaking worldwide. From the more than 400 entries submitted into the Festival each year, award-winners and audience favorites are among the films that are carefully selected to play in theatres around the world. Go online to [banffcentre.ca/banffmountainfestival](http://banffcentre.ca/banffmountainfestival). General admission tickets are \$25 each and are available at [cascadetheatre.org](http://cascadetheatre.org) or at the box office, 1733 Market St., Redding. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and two hours prior to showtime on event days. For more information, go online to the website or call 530-243-8877.

**LA Services**  
*Special, Valentines Day*  
**MASSAGE GIFT CERTIFICATE PACKAGE**  
 (Roses, Candles, Chocolate Covered Strawberry Aromatherapy, Hands & Feet Organic Coconut Sugar Scrub)  
**CALL OR PLACE ORDER ONLINE.**  
 Linnéa Anderson  
 CMT, CPT  
**530-356-3410**  
[LinneaFit.com](http://LinneaFit.com)

# Discover Timeless Treasures

Antiques • Collectibles • Vintage • Retro • Shabby Chic • Refurbished

**THRIFTY BOUTIQUE**  
 WE HAVE AMISH MADE ITEMS  
**530-215-1811**  
 TUES: 10AM-4PM  
 WED-SAT: 10AM-5PM  
 5012 SHASTA DAM BLVD  
 Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube icons  
 NCTHRIFTSHOP.COM

*New Creation*  
**Thrift Shop**  
 Shasta Lake CA.

*Antique Cottage and Garden*  
 French Home & Garden Decor  
 530-275-4451  
 3270 Cascade Blvd., Shasta Lake  
 AntiqueCottageAndGarden.com

**The Vintage Market**  
*Local Pop Up*  
 Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays 11am-4pm  
 Check Facebook Page for Additional Days  
 530.941.1401 • 838 Butte St., Redding  
 Instagram, Facebook icons  
 #TheVintageMarketRedding

*Memory Lane Antiques*  
 Vintage & Collectables  
 HOURS: Mon & Thu-Sat 10-6 ♦ Sun: Noon-5  
*Antiques, "Mantiques" & More*  
 Shasta Gateway Center (Between Eddie Bauer & Maurices)  
[MemoryLaneAntiquesandVintage.com](http://MemoryLaneAntiquesandVintage.com)  
 530-365-1399 ♦ 1773 State Hwy. 273 ♦ Anderson



**KC FarmHouse**  
*Vintage Inspired*  
 Friday & Saturday 11am-4pm  
 "For You, Your Home & Garden"  
 360-789-9097  
 20941 Front St. • Historic Cottonwood  
[kcfarmhousemercantile.com](http://kcfarmhousemercantile.com)  
 Instagram, Facebook icons



Find a unique Valentine's Day Gift for that someone special this year

# Riverfront to present its first musical at new theatre

'The Last 5 Years' tells the love story of a couple in a unique reverse order for each character

Riverfront Playhouse presents their first musical at their new facility, *The Last Five Years*, written by Jason Robert Brown and directed by Lauren Rose-Stanfield with musical direction by Cheyenne Harrah.

In its unique presentation, the musical tells the love story of Jamie Wellerstein and Cathy Hiatt as they move through time towards each other and then eventually apart.

"The story is told in two timelines with our character Cathy telling the story of their failed marriage backwards and Jamie telling it forwards," Rose-Stanfield said in an email. "What this musical is about is relationships in our modern times and how two people can be affected by the others actions. There are all these great moments in the show where one person's success and happiness is paralleled in the others timeline with grief and pain. It displays emotions in a very realistic way."

"The way Jason Robert Brown composed this show has a beautiful and powerful impact on showcasing the harsh realities and complications of a relationship," Harrah added, also in an email. "They're only having a true and prolonged interaction in the musical during their wedding as they tell their sides of the same story from the opposite direction. It serves as a means to emphasize their disconnect. Almost as if he's saying, 'we were never able to meet each other where the other was.'

"The parallels are nuanced towards the message of the show. Sometimes people just don't work out."

The two characters are Jamie Wellerstein, an author in New York City, and Cathy Hyatt, an up-and-coming actress.

Jamie is portrayed by Sam Read, who recently appeared in Axiom Repertory's *A Christmas Carol*, *Cinderella*, *Shakespeare in Love* (as the titular role), and *Young Frankenstein*. Cathy is portrayed by Madison Nascimento.

"Madi has been performing and singing since a very young age and has appeared in many musicals," Rose-Stanfield said. "She recently attended PACE in New York for her degree in stage management."

In fact, Madi and Sam met each other singing in shows and, unlike the rolls they play, are currently in a relationship, Rose-Stanfield said.

But this isn't a play, it's a musical, and it has a wide variety of genres among the 14 songs performed by the two characters.

"The range of genres this show crosses drives the story in significant ways that other musicals do not," Harrah said, noting it proved to be top of its league right off the bat winning the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music and Lyrics during its off-Broadway premier in 2002.

"At face value, the music is the most important aspect of the show, completely



PHOTO / Cheyenne Harrah for Riverfront  
**Maddie Nascimento portrays Cathy and Sam Read is Jamie at the point in "The Last 5 Years" where their stories converge.**

outweighing dialogue and spoken interaction," Harrah said. "In this show, dialogue is used to enhance the impact the music has on the audience."

Diving deeper into the composition, Harrah said Brown's contemporary approach takes the listener on a cultural journey, utilizing techniques and styles such as rock, jazz, pop, and Broadway tunes with a couple not so subtle nods to Klezmer music and Jewish Cantors.

"Throughout the story, Brown alternates between genres as well as slow and fast paced pieces emphasizing where Jamie and Cathy are in their respective timelines," she said. "Each genre is utilized in a variety of ways to further drive the show, whether it adds

storyline context or evokes emotions.

"The show, as complex as it is, was brilliantly written by Brown and is easily enjoyed by anyone, which I think is a really powerful aspect. I could go on and on about this subject, but I will spare you the novel."

Although it may seem unconventional to have a second director for such a small cast, Harrah said she and Rose-Stanfield have been able to leverage their strengths to bring this show to fruition.

"Cheyenne is very musically gifted and I personally am not," Rose-Stanfield said. "Cheyenne helps our performers sound good and I try to make them look good. However, this show is definitely a collaborative effort between both of us. I didn't know Cheyenne before she asked me to direct this musical, but we clicked right away and I feel the relationships built during this project shows onstage in a very positive way."

Contrary to Rose-Stanfield, this is Harrah's directorial debut. She grew up in the performing arts doing dance, voice, theater, choir, and show choir through childhood and adolescence and had the opportunity to be a student conductor for the Butte College Choir in college.

"Lauren's visually creative mind and ideas have brought a beautiful take on the show, and I am incredibly lucky to have been able to work alongside her

- Please see Page 15

## Merrick's story brought to the Axiom stage in 'The Elephant Man'

*The Elephant Man*, based on the life of John (Joseph) Merrick who lived in London during the latter part of the nineteenth century as a horribly deformed young man – a victim of rare skin and bone diseases – and became the star freak attraction in traveling sideshows, is the next scheduled Axiom Repertory Theatre production. The play, directed by Ken Hill, is scheduled to run Feb. 9-25. Tickets and more information are available at [axreptheatre.com](http://axreptheatre.com)

"*The Elephant Man* is an incredible work of dramatic literature," Daniel White, who portrays Merrick in the Bernard Pomerance-penned play for Axiom, said in an email. "It is not a historical fact, although it does draw on history."

In Pomerance's story, Merrick, found abandoned and helpless, is admitted to London's prestigious Whitechapel Hospital. Under the care of celebrated young physician Frederick Treves (portrayed in Axiom's production by Tyler Lockamy), he 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.

According to Wikipedia, Joseph Carey Merrick (Aug. 5, 1862 – April 11, 1890), often erroneously called John Merrick, was an English man known for his severe physical deformities. He was first exhibited at a freak show under the



PHOTO / Kim Mobley for Axiom  
**Daniel White, left, portrays John (Joseph) Merrick and Tyler Lockamy is Frederick Treves in the Axiom Repertory Theatre production of 'The Elephant Man.'**

stage name "The Elephant Man," and then went to live at the London Hospital after meeting Sir Frederick Treves, subsequently becoming well known in London society.

"Playing John (Joseph) Merrick is a privilege," Hill said. "It's not an easy show to pull off, but I feel very confident in my ability to bring the role to life as the author intended."

The roll of Merrick in *The Elephant Man* play originated at the Hampstead Theatre in London in 1977 by actor David Schofield, later known for such films as *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead*

*Man's Chest* (2006) and *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* (2007), as well as *An American Werewolf in London* (1981), *Gladiator* (2000) and *Valkyrie* (2008). The roll of Merrick has also been performed on stage by such actors as Philip Anglim (who was nominated for a 1979 Tony Award for his performance), David Bowie, Mark Hamill, Bruce Davison and Bradley Cooper.

Many people are familiar with the 1980 film, *The Elephant Man*, directed and co-written by David Lynch with John Hurt as Merrick and Anthony Hopkins as Treves. It was nominated for eight Academy Awards, winning none.

But it was not based on the play.

In fact, when Mel Brooks optioned an original screenplay on the same subject (also called "The Elephant Man" by Christopher DeVore and Eric Bergren) the producers of the popular stage production immediately sued, claiming financial infringement in the use of the title. But since suing over a title like "The Elephant Man," which Merrick had been known by for years, was an uphill battle, the lawsuit was settled rather simply with Brookfilms' agreeing to disavow in its announcement and advertising any link to the play.

Although there are some similarities between the two, one of the main differences is in how Merrick is portrayed in his physical deformity. In the movie, Hurt attempts to look like Merrick (in his

unmasked scenes). In the play, however, Anglim, Bowie and the others who have had the role have been content to suggest Merrick's deformity with a few contortions of limb and voice.

"The introductory note by the author (of the play) at the beginning of the script actually advocates for this" White said, and he takes the same approach.

"Merrick's face was so deformed he could not express any emotion at all," the introductory note for actors portraying "The Elephant Man" in the play states. "His speech was very difficult to understand without practice. Any attempt to reproduce his appearance and speech naturalistically – if it were possible – would seem to me not only counterproductive, but, the more remarkably successful, the more distracting from the play. For how he appeared, let slide projections suffice."

Other members of the Axiom cast: Amanda Casserilla (Mrs. Kendall), Collin Peacock (Carr Gomm), Don Potter (Ross), Shaun Berenger (Policeman), Silas Harris (Conductor), Rudy Lurchigian (Snork-Bishop Walsham How), Carlie Baumgardner (Nurse Sandwich), Emilee Larkin (Princess Alexandra), Pam Carney (Duchess), Brandon Nascimento (Pinhead No. 2), Don Potter (Pinhead Manager), Ben Kline (Policeman-Porter), Ryan Locke (Lord John), Ryan Locke (Lord John), Amy Fish (Pinhead No. 1), Natalie Parvin (Crowd).

# Do I need to file a tax return this year?

Dear Savvy Senior,  
What are the IRS income tax filing requirements for retirees this tax season? I didn't file a tax return the past two years because my income was below the filing threshold, but I got a part-time job late last year, so I'm wondering if I'm required to file this year.  
- Retired Worker



By Jim Miller

Dear Retired,  
Whether or not you are required to file a federal income tax return this year will depend on how much you earned last year (in 2023), as well as the source of the income, your age and filing status.

Here's a rundown of this tax season's IRS tax filing requirement thresholds.

For most people, this is pretty straightforward. If your 2023 gross income – which includes all taxable income, not counting your Social Security benefits, unless you are married and filing separately – was below the threshold for your filing status and age, you probably won't have to file. But if it's over, you will.

- Single: \$13,850 (\$15,700 if you're 65 or older by Jan. 1, 2023).
- Married filing jointly: \$27,700 (\$29,200 if you or your spouse is 65 or older; or \$30,700 if you're both over 65).
- Married filing separately: \$5 at any age.
- Head of household: \$20,800

(\$22,650 if 65 or older).

- Qualifying surviving spouse: \$27,700 (\$29,200 if 65 or older).

To get a detailed breakdown on federal filing requirements, along with information on taxable and nontaxable income, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of the "1040 and 1040-SR Instructions for Tax Year 2023," or you can see it online at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040gi.pdf).

### Check Here Too

Be aware that there are other financial situations that can require you to file a tax return, even if your gross income falls below the IRS filing requirements. For example, if you earned more than \$400 from self-employment in 2023, owe any taxes on an IRA, Health Savings Account or an alternative minimum tax, or get premium tax credits because you, your spouse

or a dependent is enrolled in a Health Insurance Marketplace plan, you'll need to file.

You'll also need to file if you're receiving Social Security benefits, and one-half of your benefits plus your other gross income and any tax-exempt interest exceeds \$25,000, or \$32,000 if you're married and filing jointly.

To figure all this out, the IRS offers an online tax tool that asks a series of questions that will help you determine if you're required to file, or if you should file because you're due a refund. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete.

You can access this tool at [IRS.gov/Help/ITA](https://www.irs.gov/Help/ITA) – click on "Do I Need to File a Tax Return?" Or you can get assistance over the phone by calling the IRS helpline at 800-829-1040.

### Check Your State

Even if you're not required to file

a federal tax return this year, don't assume that you're also excused from filing state income taxes. The rules for your state might be very different. Check with your state tax agency before concluding that you're entirely in the clear. For links to state tax agencies see [Taxadmin.org/fta-members](https://www.taxadmin.org/fta-members).

### Tax Preparation Help

If you find that you do need to file a tax return this year, you can free file through the IRS at [IRS.gov/FreeFile](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile) if your 2023 adjusted gross income was below \$79,000.

Or, if you need some help, contact the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (or TCE) program. Sponsored by the IRS, TCE provides free tax preparation and counseling to middle and low-income taxpayers, age 60 and older. Call 800-906-9887 or visit [IRS.treasury.gov/freetaxprep](https://www.irs.gov/freetaxprep) to locate services near you.

You can also get tax preparation assistance through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide service. Call 888-227-7669 or visit [AARP.org/findtaxhelp](https://www.aarp.org/findtaxhelp) for more information. You don't have to be an AARP member to use this service.

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

## The Last 5 Years

to bring it to life," Harrah said. "The collaborative efforts between the entire crew shows on and off stage. This show has truly become our baby, and as they say, "it takes a village."

This is Rose-Standfield's fifth show that she's directed, including *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* at Riverfront. Prior to that, she directed *May 4th Voices*, *Lion in Winter*, and *Machinal* with Axiom Repertory.

"Prior to this, I had no experience directing musicals, though I've been in one or two," she said. "It's been a humbling and rewarding experience directing a musical for the first time. I'm grateful every day I have Cheyenne to

work with. "

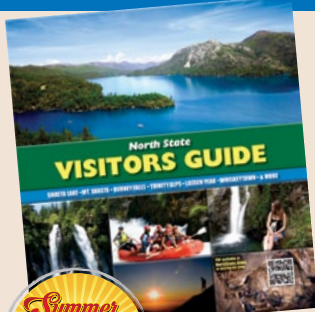
And how was the production shaping up during rehearsals?

"As Cathy sings," Rose-Standfield said, "I think you're really gonna like this show. I'm pretty sure it doesn't suck."

### Ticket and show information

*The Last Five Years* opens at Riverfront Playhouse on Jan. 26 and runs weekends through Feb. 11. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees starting at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [riverfrontplayhouse.net](https://www.riverfrontplayhouse.net), in person at Enjoy the Store, or at the theater box office beginning one hour before the show starts.

## Want to Reach Tourists?



The largest and most widely distributed Visitors Guide of its kind in the North State. 60,000 copies all summer long and into the fall.

Online, too! All Year  
[northstate.news](https://www.northstate.news)

530.275.1716 or [SLB@shasta.com](mailto:SLB@shasta.com)  
for advertising information.



## North State Visitors Guide



### REPORT SEWER BACKUPS, SPILLS, OR OVERFLOWS

### TO THE CITY OF REDDING WASTEWATER UTILITY

CITY OF  
**REDDING**  
CALIFORNIA  
[reddingsewer.com](https://www.reddingsewer.com)

Redding Utilities  
Work for Redding Residents  
Call 530.224.6068

LARGE PARTIES & WEDDINGS WELCOME • TAKE OUT ORDERS & CATERING

# THE ORIGINAL SHACK IS BACK!



LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF MARKET ST. & EUREKA WAY • REDDING • DINE-IN & PATIO DINING OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



ESTABLISHED IN 1954 BY THE LAKMANN'S



FEATURING  
THE ORIGINAL  
SHACKBURGER  
& BROASTED  
CHICKEN

- ★ TRIVIA NIGHTS
- ★ SPORTS TV
- ★ LIVE DJ DANCING ON THE PATIO

HAPPY  
HOUR  
2 TO 6PM  
DAILY



WITH  
CELEBRITY  
GUEST  
LIVE MUSIC  
APRIL 20TH



SHACKREDDING.COM • FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK @THESHACKREDDING



## 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's timeless double concerto for violin and oboe featuring concertmaster, Terrie Baune, and principal oboe, Susie Lundberg. This concert reflects the human condition of life and death, birth and rebirth, and ultimately, the hope of resurrection.

Tickets available at [NorthStateSymphony.org](http://NorthStateSymphony.org)