

AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2022 / 35th Year / No. 3

THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY

ON THE COVER

HIGH CALIBER WIN

Historically, Fall River football – at least for the past three or four decades – has been a model of consistent excellence, leading to a state football title, the first for a gridiron team in Shasta County. Head coach Todd Sloat describes the formula that works both on and off the field to make a champion. See page 8

HITCHCOCK PARODY

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python, and you have the comedic stage play, 'The 39 Steps.' 'This play is definitely a parody of the Hitchcock film, 'The 39 Steps,' said Russell Piette, who is directing the play for Axiom Repertory Theatre in Redding, with performances scheduled Jan. 14-30. See page 7



CULTURAL CRUISE

Visitors will be able to view examples of fabulous art, see historical artifacts, hear great music by local performers and get a sampling of the North State culture and arts Jan. 28, 4-8 p.m. The Redding Cultural Cruise is back after taking a pandemic hiatus. Participating venues are the Redding City Hall, Turtle Bay Exploration Park and The Mosaic Restaurant gallery, Shasta Historical Society, Shasta Arts Council – Old City Hall, Behrens-Eaton House Museum, North Valley Art League, and California Street Labs hosting Enterprise High School. See page 2



Redding Cultural Cruise returns Jan. 28-29

The annual Redding Cultural Cruise is back after pandemic hiatus, scheduled to take place on Friday, Jan. 28. That will be followed on Saturday, Jan. 29, with an opportunity to try some creative pursuits yourself.

Redding Cultural Cruise Jan. 28, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Visitors will be able to view examples of fabulous art, see historical artifacts, hear great music by local performers and get a sampling of the North State culture and arts.

The evening begins at 4 p.m. and continues through 8 p.m. Participating venues are the Redding City Hall, Turtle Bay Exploration Park and The Mosaic Restaurant gallery, Shasta Historical Society, Shasta Arts Council – Old City Hall, Behrens-Eaton House Museum, North Valley Art League, and California Street Labs hosting Enterprise High School. (Please note, Shasta State Historic Park will be closed for renovations).

Drive, bike or walk to all the Cruise stops - free admission at all venues between 4 to 8 p.m. Cultural Cruise printed guides will be available at each location and can also be downloaded and printed from Shasta County Arts Council's website at www.shastaartscouncil.org.

Turtle Bay Exploration Park will celebrate the opening of several art exhibitions, among them "Ansel Adams: Masterworks 20th Anniversary Exhibition," "Famous Artists Children's Art Exhibition" and "Nature's Blueprints." Refreshments will be available. The Mosaic Gallery features work created by University Preparatory School's advanced placement art students.

Shasta Historical Society invites you to explore "Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household."

The **Behrens-Eaton House Museum** invites all to take a trip back in time as visitors will discover the restored Victorian home of the 1890s containing original family furniture. Costumed docents will greet you and show you around.

Shasta Arts Council – Old City Hall will be presenting a group exhibition of works executed in "Wood, Glass & Clay" media from artists working and residing



PHOTOS / Provided by Shasta County Arts Council

Above, visitors check out the work at Old City Hall in Redding during a previous Redding Cultural Cruise a few years ago. Below, an art piece by Larry Carnes, who will have art displayed at this year's Cruise.



in the North State.

Redding City Hall will be honoring the life and work of local artist Armando Mejorado, displaying his work at the City Hall floors I and II. Mejorado passed away in the fall of 2021. In partnership with North Valley Art League, the City Hall will also showcase the art of members of North Valley Art League. The afternoon and evening entertainment will include live music and belly dance presentations.

The **Carter House Gallery** at Caldwell Park, home of North Valley Art League, will be celebrating the creativity of member artists through this all-member exhibition.

California Street Labs, in partnership with Enterprise High School art department, presents "Botanicals: The Good, The Bad and The Beautiful" and "My Here/My Now." The space will again be transformed into a gallery venue. Advanced art students will be curating,

installing, and acting as docents of those theme-based art exhibitions featuring art works from all levels of art students - Art I through Advanced Placement Studio Art.

Save the date and grab your Cruise Map. Collect stamps on the map from each venue you visit, then make sure to put your contact information in the designated spot on the map and leave it at the last stop of your Cruise to enter for a chance to win fantastic prizes prepared by the Cruise venues.

Please note, the raffle and Cruise buses are available on Friday, Jan. 28 only.

Jan. 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Saturday, Jan. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Cruise will be offering an opportunity to meet artists and try some creative pursuits yourself.

Turtle Bay Exploration Park invites you to share your art skills and



PHOTO / Mike Norris Media

The Veterans Art Project at Old City Hall will be similar to the one held in Visalia (above).

inspirations to help make a River of Turtles. Supplies will be provided to decorate a paper turtle, which will be combined with those of other guests to create a collaborative art project. Please note, some fees, including admission, may apply for Saturday.

Shasta County Arts Council, in collaboration with The **Veterans Art Project**, will be hosting at Old City Hall the POP-UP Art Cafe for Veterans Mental Health and Wellness.

This one-day celebration showcases the works of veterans who practice art in Shasta County. All artists as well as visitors are invited to speak about their process and successes as artists unique to the Shasta County area.

Organizations supporting and providing services to veterans, particularly in areas of mental health and wellness, will be present that day in an effort to connect with veterans and their families who are not yet familiar with their programs and services and who may benefit from the engagement. The advocacy associated with this event is to share the information and awareness that mental health and wellness come from many different sources. This event is to serve veterans, family members, active duty, and caregivers who may find community through art making.

You can also see the schedule for the weekend on page 5.

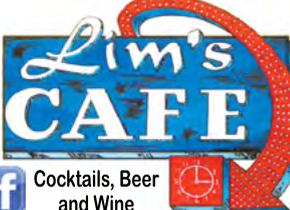
New release and photos provided by Agata Maruszewski, interim director, Shasta County Arts Council.



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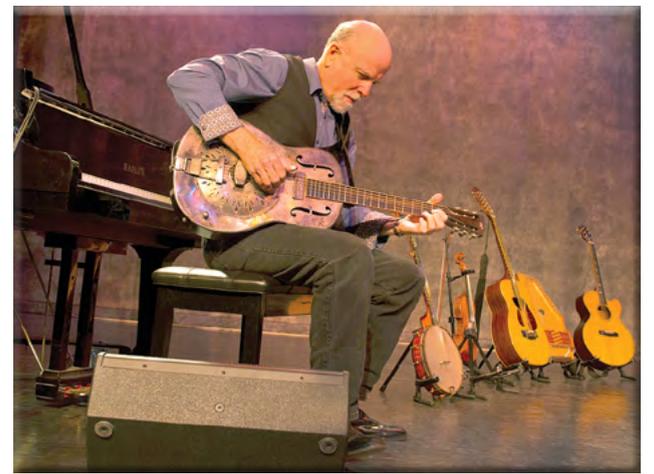
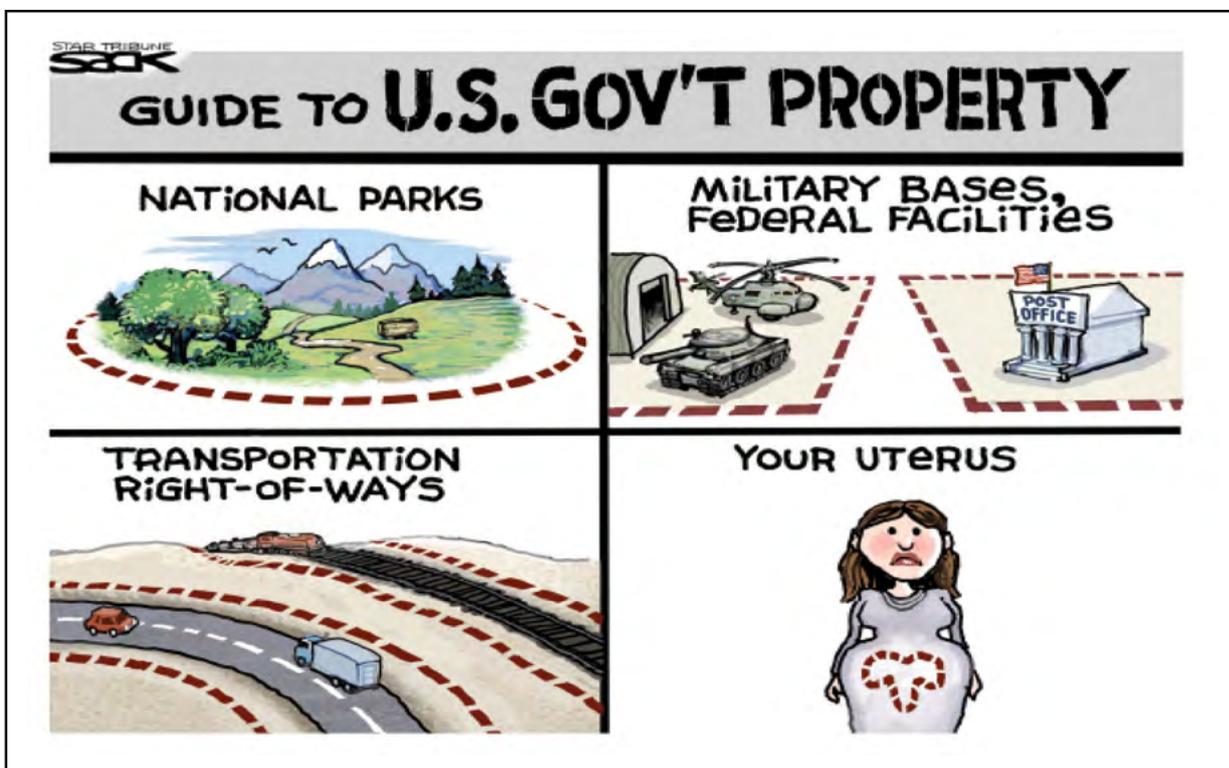
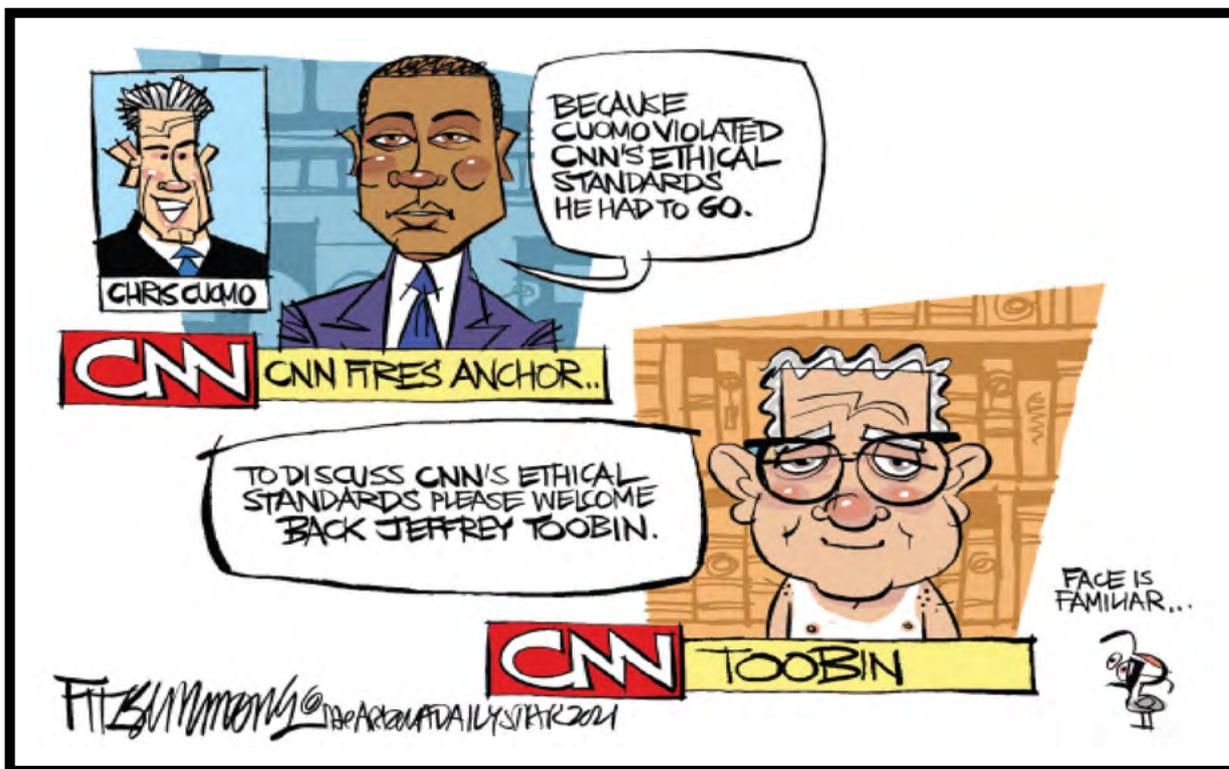
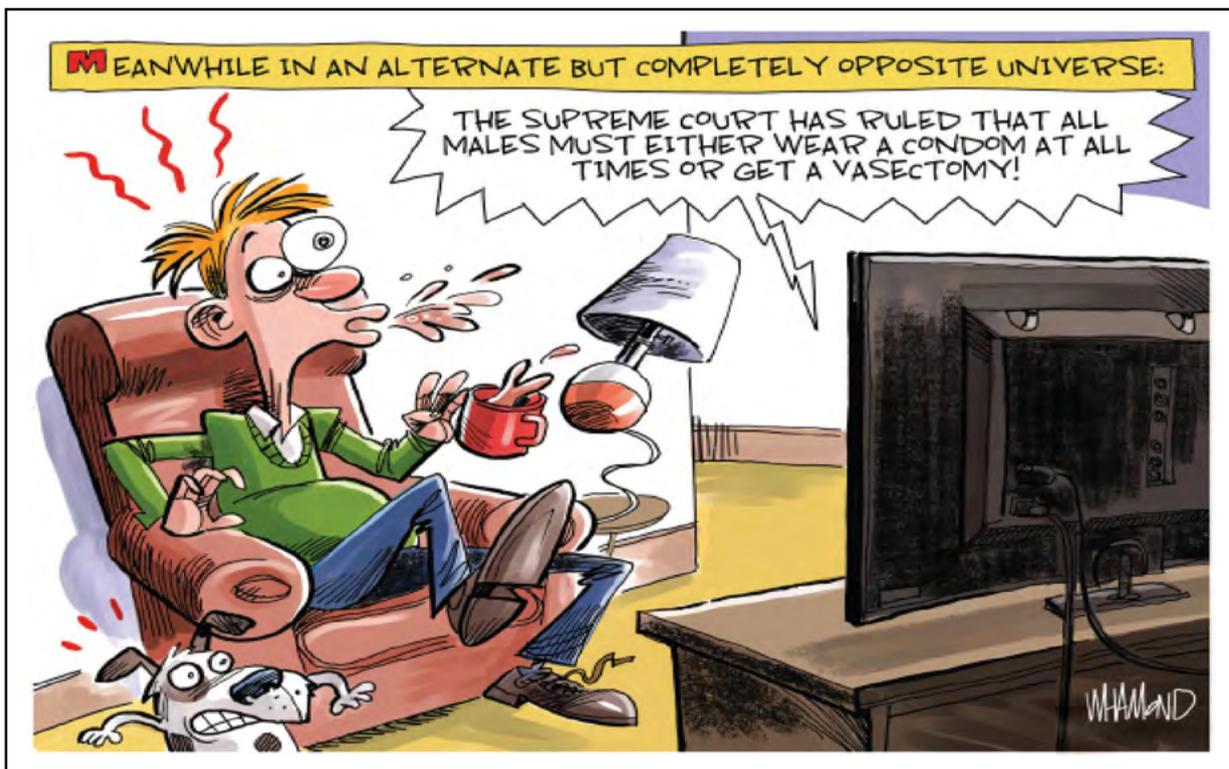
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John McCutcheon in Redding Jan. 7

"John McCutcheon is not only one of the best musicians in the USA, but also a great singer, songwriter and song leader." — Pete Seeger

Redding Roots Revival presents John McCutcheon in concert at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 7, at the Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2850 Foothill Blvd., Redding.

Described by The Washington Post as "Folk music's rustic renaissance man," McCutcheon's storytelling style has been compared to that of Will Rogers and Garrison Keillor. As an instrumentalist, he is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the hammer dulcimer.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and available at eventbrite: www.eventbrite.com/e/222303805667, or \$30 at the door. For more info., visit www.reddingrootsrevival.org.

AFTER FIVE The North State Magazine

After Five is published monthly for the communities in the north state and southern Oregon. 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 and more detailed explanation of our ad policies are available on request. The entire contents of After Five are copyright 2022 by After Five. Mailed subscriptions are \$50 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 welcomes editorial contributions, suggestions and story ideas from its readers. After Five is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. Manuscripts or materials unaccompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope will not be returned. Space is offered for short announcements and calendar events on a regular basis. Readers should submit calendar items between the 1st and the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication. No phone call submissions; email or regular mail only.

AFTER FIVE

General Manager/Editor: Ron Harrington

Publisher: Craig Harrington

P.O. Box 492905, Redding, California 96049
Telephone (530) 275-1716 • FAX (530) 303-1528

ON THE WEB northstate.news

Advertising (530) 275-1716 • FAX 303-1528
email: advertising@after5online.com

Editorial (530) 275-1716 • FAX (530) 303-1528
email: editorial@after5online.com
calendar@after5online.com



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REDDING



CULTURAL CRUISE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

4:00PM - 8:00PM, FRIDAY

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Shasta County Arts Council
Old City Hall Gallery
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*"Wood, Glass & Clay"
North State artists'
group exhibition*

**California Street Labs/
Enterprise High School**
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355.2230

*EHS Art Students
present
"Botanicals: The Good, the Bad,
and the Beautiful";
"My Here / My Now"*

North Valley Art League
48 Quartz Hill Road
243.1023

NVAL Member Show

Turtle Bay Exploration Park
844 Sundial Bridge Drive
243.8850

*Ansel Adams: Masterworks
20th Anniversary Exhibition;
Nature's Blueprints;
Famous Artists Children's
Art Exhibition*

Shasta Historical Society
1449 Market Street
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*"Gadgets Galore!
Transforming the American
Household"*

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

10:00AM - 4:00PM, SATURDAY

Turtle Bay Exploration Park

*Share your art skills and inspirations to help make a River
of Turtles! Supplies will be provided to decorate a paper turtle,
which will be combined with those of other guests
to create a collaborative art project.*

Shasta County Arts Council

*POP-UP Art Cafe for Veterans Mental Health and Wellness.
A one-day celebration where Veterans who practice Art from
Shasta County will display their artwork and speak
about their process and successes as Artists unique to
the Shasta area.*

Airing of Grievances: Smollett, Swimmers and Headphones

By Rich Manieri

Back by lukewarm demand, for all of you Festivus enthusiasts, it's time for the annual airing of grievances. Let's get right to it. I have to get back to training for the feats of strength.



For Jussie Smollett and anyone else contemplating staging a hate crime, you really need to do better. Maybe he thought his story was so unbelievable, so fantastical, so implausible, that the public would have to believe it. But no one was buying Jussie's fable of being attacked in the wee hours of the morning, on his way home from an egg run in Chicago of all things, by two MAGA-hat wearing white guys shouting, "This is MAGA country!" Chicago is a lot of things. MAGA country isn't one of them. And who goes out to buy eggs at 2 a.m.? People who work third shift and vampires. That's it.

If you haven't heard, there's a swimmer at the University of Pennsylvania who's dominating the Ivy League and tearing up the competition. Most recently, Lia Thomas, a transgender female and formerly Will Thomas, a biological male, set two school freestyle records and broke a national record in the 500-yard freestyle earlier this month. For the university, this is reason to celebrate. "Lia Thomas delivered another record-breaking performance..." Penn announced, rejoicing in its progressiveness. For two years, Thomas had competed for the men's team with middling results.

Just a couple of years ago, concerns about what would happen when the trans movement hit college sports were dismissed as bigoted and transphobic. They were neither. There were, however, legitimate issues raised about how allowing trans athletes to compete would impact the future of women's sports. Now we know, or at least we're beginning to.

In an age when virtually anyone, as long as you're a billionaire or celebrity, can be launched into space, do motorists still need to hold their phones while talking and driving? Stop. You're navigating a 2000-pound projectile and you're driving like an idiot. Please, stop.

For those of you who still frequent an actual post office, a word of advice, as delicately and sensitively as I am able to deliver. Do your business and get out. I've never spent more than 90 seconds in any postal transaction. But for some reason, the person in front of me is invariably engaged in some complicated negotiation that involves the manager and other office personnel trying to figure out how to send a cooler containing a human liver to a cave in Pakistan. All I want are some stamps with birds on them.

There's nothing new about plug-in headphones. I once used plug-in headphones and a transistor radio to listen to a football game while my parents forced me to sit through a live performance of the Nutcracker. Unfortunately, reception in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia was not good. Thus, I missed the most famous play in the history of NFL football – the "Immaculate Reception" by the Steelers' Franco Harris against the Oakland Raiders. And no, I still haven't gotten over it. The point is, Philistine though I was, I didn't subject the other patrons of the arts to my game, or static as was actually the case. Today there are all sorts of headphone options. If you want to watch the Tiger King sequel or the latest episode of The Bachelorette, that's between you and God. But I don't have to hear it.

Here's one for the media. Not everything is "breaking news." Now that I've dated myself in the previous grievance, I can say that I'm old enough to remember when terms like "breaking news" and "special report" actually meant something. Today, everything is breaking. The president having a scheduled press briefing is not breaking news. On the other hand, if he unexpectedly breaks into a verse of "Being Alive," that's "breaking news." If everything is "breaking" and "special" then nothing is.

Why are flight attendants still so concerned that my seat is in the upright and locked position? If the plane goes down, having my seat reclined two inches will not be among my primary concerns. I thought they'd have more to worry about with unruly passengers and masks, and unruly passengers refusing to wear masks. Speaking of which, after feeding us snacks and drinks on a recent flight, the flight attendant came over the intercom and said, "A reminder. You need to keep your masks on even while eating and drinking. Pull your mask up in between bites and sips." As I was sitting in my seat thinking about how stupid this is, it came to me that this might be the greatest barrier to overeating ever devised. The "mask diet." And it came just in time for the holidays.

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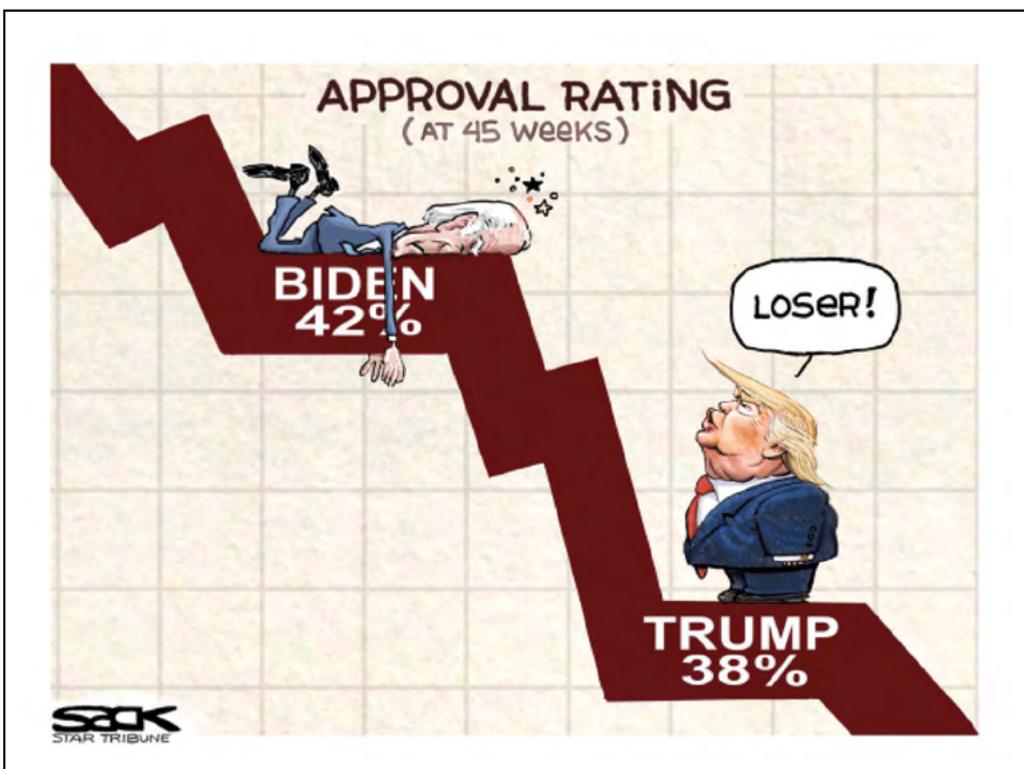




PHOTO / Russell Piette

The four-member cast of "The 39 Steps," clockwise from top left: Daniel Hill, who plays Richard Hannay; Josselyn Carter as Pamela, one of the three characters she plays; Mat McDonald as a policeman in one of the many characters he plays; and Pamela Carney, also as a policeman, as one of her many characters.

Axiom's production of 'The 39 Steps': Hitchcock mixed with a bit of Python

Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python, and you have the comedic stage play, "The 39 Steps."

Many may be familiar with the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock movie, "The 39 Steps," or even the 1915 novel by John Buchan that the film was based on. But others may not know as much about the stage play even though it won the 2007 Oliver Award (the British Tony Awards) for Best Comedy, as well as several Tony Award nominations - and two wins - in 2008.

The play is a readaptation by Patrick Barlow, who rewrote the script in 2005, based on the original mid-1990s adaptation by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon.

"This play is definitely a parody of the Hitchcock film, 'The 39 Steps,'" Russell Piette, who is directing the play for Axiom Repertory Theatre in Redding, said in an email. Performances are scheduled Jan. 14-30.

"If you have ever watched the film, the play follows along with the main story line and takes several scenes from the film and makes them humorous," Piette said.

A cast of four actors plays all of the characters in this fast-paced tale of an ordinary man on an extraordinarily entertaining adventure. According to a synopsis by Axiom, "The 39 Steps" contains every single legendary scene from the award-winning movie, including the chase on the Flying Scotsman, the escape on the Forth Bridge, the first theatrical bi-plane crash ever staged and the sensational death-defying finale in the London Palladium.

"I originally wanted to direct this show a few years ago but the timing wasn't right," Piette said. "I approached (Axiom artistic director) Ken Hill with a few scripts that I was interested in directing and that's when he asked me about doing 'The 39 Steps.' He first asked if I wanted to be in it and I said I would rather direct at this point. Memorizing lines is getting tough as I get older."

Piette has been acting and directing in the Redding theatre scene for 27 years. Other shows he has directed include "All My Sons," "Bullshot Crummond," "The Glass Menagerie," "God of Carnage," and "Misery." His acting credits, totaling

more than 50, include Stanley in "A Streetcar Named Desire" McMurphy in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and George in "Of Mice and Men." Piette was also a founding member of The Redding Improv Players.

The four actors in the play include Daniel Hill, who plays the lead character, Richard Hannay, who is framed for murder.

"Daniel is a relative newcomer to the stage," Piette said. "His last two performances have been musicals ("Rocky Horror Show" and "Woody Guthrie's American Song" where he played young Woody). This is his first straight play."

Josselyn Carter plays three different characters: Annabella the German spy, Pamela the English lady who gets caught up in the plot to get the 39 Steps out of the country, and Margaret the Scottish wife.

"All three characters have different accents which Josselyn nails," Piette said.

The other two actors in the play are Mat McDonald and Pamela Carney.

"These two actors play all the other characters in the show, including policemen, a milkman, maid, Compere, Mr. Memory, sheriff, inspector, Professor, the Professor's wife, Heavies, Crofter, Mr. and Mrs. McGarrigle, a couple of guys and so on," Piette said. "Each of these characters are portrayed by quick changes to their costumes, by changing into a new outfit, or just throwing on a hat and changing accents."

Kim Mobley is Piette's assistant director.

"She has been active in role playing for 37 years and was a member of The Redding Improv Players," Piette said. "This is her first time in the assistant director's seat and she is learning quite a bit about what it takes to put a show together. She has been a huge asset for this show."

For specific show dates and times, as well as tickets, visit axreptheatre.com.

"This play is going to be a fast-paced romp with plenty of laughs for all ages, although it is British humor," Piette said. "Some will get it, some won't, but you will definitely leave with a smile on your face."

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PHOTO / Craig Harrington

The six senior athletes on the Fall River Bulldogs following their team's Div. 7-AA state football championship over the Morro Bay Pirates on Dec. 11. From left: Cody Corder, Ryan Osborne, Andrew Parker, Evan Dobson, Brendan Barnett and Evan Bidwell.

An Unbeatable Season

The Fall River Bulldogs, from a small farming and ranching community with a long history of very good teams and players, took a shot at the CIF championships and it paid off as they became the first Shasta County football team to win a state title

By Aaron Williams

Todd Sloat sat up in bed one morning around 2 a.m. and knew he was wrong.

The Fall River football coach and his staff had discussed throwing their hat in the ring for the California Interscholastic Federation football championships. The Bulldogs had done it once before and lost in the NorCal regional game and had since opted out.

Not for fear of losing, but more because the tiny mountain school with enrollment that hovers between 120-150 students focused on winning a Northern Section football title. The school then turns the page to winter sports which includes the Block F basketball tournament - a staple on the school calendar and a big part of raising funds for a host of other sports programs.

"In the last few weeks of the (regular) season, we knew we were going to have to make that decision," said Sloat by phone from Sacramento where he was helping his daughter with her three children. "I'll be honest, I didn't want to do it but the rest of the staff wasn't on that page."

They lobbied. He listened.

"They didn't press me on it, but said 'it sure would be nice,'" Sloat said. "I remember waking up and thinking 'they're right.'"

Sloat worked with new athletic director Rafael Sevilla, who reassured him that it would all work out.

Boy did it.

In true Fall River fashion, the Bulldogs won the CIF Division 7-AA title with a 43-13 home win over Morro Bay on Dec. 11 to cap a 13-0 season. It marked the first time a Shasta County



Fall River Head Coach Todd Sloat.

PHOTO / Craig Harrington

team has ever won a state football title. Only a handful of teams, in any sports, has reached that rarefied air in the county.

And a week earlier on Dec. 3, the Friday before their semifinal win over Le Grand on Dec. 4, the handful of football players who also play basketball, were able to compete in the school's Block F tournament.

In the state title game with Morro Bay, Evan Bidwell scored five times, three rushing touchdowns and two receiving scores from Ryan Osborne, who added another on the ground as the Bulldogs scored right before half to make it 24-7. They never looked back

until Sloat was ducking away from the Gatorade bath.

"Honestly, this team deserved this chance to play a little more football," Sloat said.

He pointed out guys like Osborne, the team's leader and a senior who had his junior season ripped away when the CIF moved football to spring 2020 and the school decided to focus its efforts on fielding spring sports.

But Osborne wasn't alone in deserving to play for a state title, Sloat said, just that the circumstances were right.

"I look at guys like Johnny Iniguez, Bailey Small, Taylor Sloat and (current

"We knew we were going to have to make that decision (about competing in the state playoffs). I'll be honest, I didn't want to do it but the rest of the staff wasn't on that page. They didn't press me on it, but said 'it sure would be nice.' I remember waking up and thinking 'they're right.'"

- Fall River Head Coach Todd Sloat

assistant) Wes Wadsworth who helped build this foundation," said Todd Sloat, who not only played at Fall River, but at UC Davis before returning to coach his alma mater. His son, Taylor, also played for the Aggies.

"This state title run has made me look back and reflect on the past 20 years and the guys who've played for us and the coaches," Sloat said. "I think it's fair to say that the consistency of the staff is the take-home message."

Historically, Fall River football - at least for the past three or four decades - has been a model of consistent excellence.

The Bulldogs are 254-123 since 1985 under five coaches - Larry Snelling, Greg Hawkins, Steve Hubauer, Rick Neugebauer and Sloat.

"The scheme has stayed the same and loyal to the process," Sloat said. "Our kids, from Jace Neugebauer to Taylor Sloat to Iniguez to Ryan Osborne know the expectation...practicing hard, playing well and repeat. They know what to expect on a Tuesday in the spring and on a Wednesday in the fall."

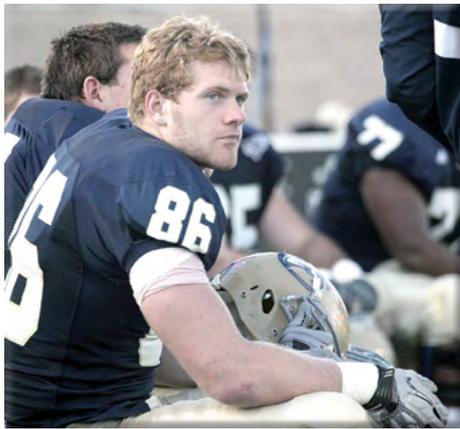


PHOTO / Craig Harrington

Sloat's son, Taylor Sloat, went on from Fall River to play at his father's alma mater, UC Davis. Taylor Sloat was the Aggie's tight end.

"It's the same year after year and no one wants to be that team to upset the system, to not win league."

Hawkins, who spent 38 of his 40 years in education at Fall River and retired as the superintendent two years ago, says it's not just the football team, but many sports that have been successful as the volleyball team won the NorCal title this season. He credits the success to everyone rowing the same direction.

"This community supports Fall River in every avenue," Hawkins said. "And it's not just athletics. If you look at livestock sales at the (Inter-Mountain) fair...good grief, it's impressive."

Hawkins said the stability of the coaching staff over the past few decades is also crucial to the Bulldogs' nearly year-in, year-out success.

"The job Todd and those guys do is phenomenal," Hawkins said.

Sloat's 78-16 (.829) winning percentage is the fifth-best in Northern Section history during two stints from 2006-09 and 2016-present, according to section historian Kevin Askeland of MaxPreps. In addition, Hubauer was 69-29 (.704) from 1997-2005 and Neugebauer 54-27 (.667) from 2010-2016.

"I remember coming in during the late '80s as an assistant for coach (Larry) Snelling and we had spring practices at 6 p.m. I came from a big school where two-a-days were the norm, but Larry explained these kids were all most likely busy working during the day after school. Most were picking garlic or bucking hay or something."

- Steve Hubauer
Former Fall River head football coach and current assistant coach

"Yes, they teach the game, they teach the kids to respect the game, but they also teach them to be better people...It's not all about winning, but the lessons along the way," Hawkins said.

Sloat and Hubauer, now a Fall River assistant coach, agreed with Hawkins that coaching stability has been important, but added the farming and ranching culture of the Intermountain area also helps raise young men differently.

"I remember coming in during the late '80s as an assistant for coach (Larry) Snelling and we had spring practices at 6 p.m.," Hubauer recalled. "I came from a big school where two-a-days were the norm, but Larry explained these kids were all most likely busy working during the day after school. Most were picking garlic or bucking hay or something."

"Our kids do work. They know about working and putting it in and that's helped build this culture."

The other ingredient to the success, Sloat and Hubauer say, is living and playing for those Bulldog greats that have come before.

"My dad was a coach and I kind of grew up around the team," said Ryan



GAME PHOTO / Ron Harrington INSET PHOTO / Craig Harrington

Mark Wilson, who played at Fall River, went on to become the starting left tackle at Cal. Wilson was an All-Pac 10 first team his senior year and capped off his college career at the wild 52-49 Insight Bowl win over Virginia Tech in 2003 (Above, Wilson blocking Virginia Tech's Nathaniel Adibi as Aaron Rodgers, just a sophomore at the time, gets ready to throw a pass). In 2004, Wilson would be drafted in the fifth round by the Washington Redskins.

"Yes, (the coaches) teach the game, they teach the kids to respect the game, but they also teach them to be better people... It's not all about winning, but the lessons along the way," "

- Greg Hawkins
Former Fall River head football coach and retired Fall River Joint Unified School District superintendent

their footsteps and continue the tradition of winning...that's a unique feeling," said Osborne. "I can't say for sure if I belong with those guys, but hearing it sure brings a lot of pride."

A three-time section title winner - along with the state crown - Osborne said the loss of his junior season was both disheartening and motivating.

"Me and my teammates had two options, really," he said. "Fold and get down or prepare for the next one. And in getting ready for this season I found love in the process of getting ready."

And when the time came, Osborne said the relatively young group of 21 players were ready.

Early season wins over Ferndale and Division IV Pierce, gave the team confidence, Hubauer said.

"It's interesting that these kids got better as things went on and they started out with three shutouts," he said. "They peaked at the exact moment we should've."

"If you look back, we won our first section title in 1998, had win streaks of 28, won titles in '03 and '04 and added a three-peat. It's like we're always in it and if we're not in it, we win it."

Hawkins said he'll remember that cold December night as much for the final score as he will for the number of fans wedged into the stands as the temperature hovered in the mid-30s with the threat of snow.

"Fall River loves its teams, but this year was over the top," he said. "People were decked out in their blue and gold and the grandstands were packed. It's always been good, but this game was so special."

Osborne, who plans to play at the next level despite being handicapped by not having film from his junior season, said no matter where life takes him, the Intermountain area will always be with him.

"Fall River's given me everything I could've asked for," he said.

Osborne, the Northern Section MVP who led the Bulldogs in passing and rushing to combine for more than 3,200 all-purpose yards and 37 touchdowns.

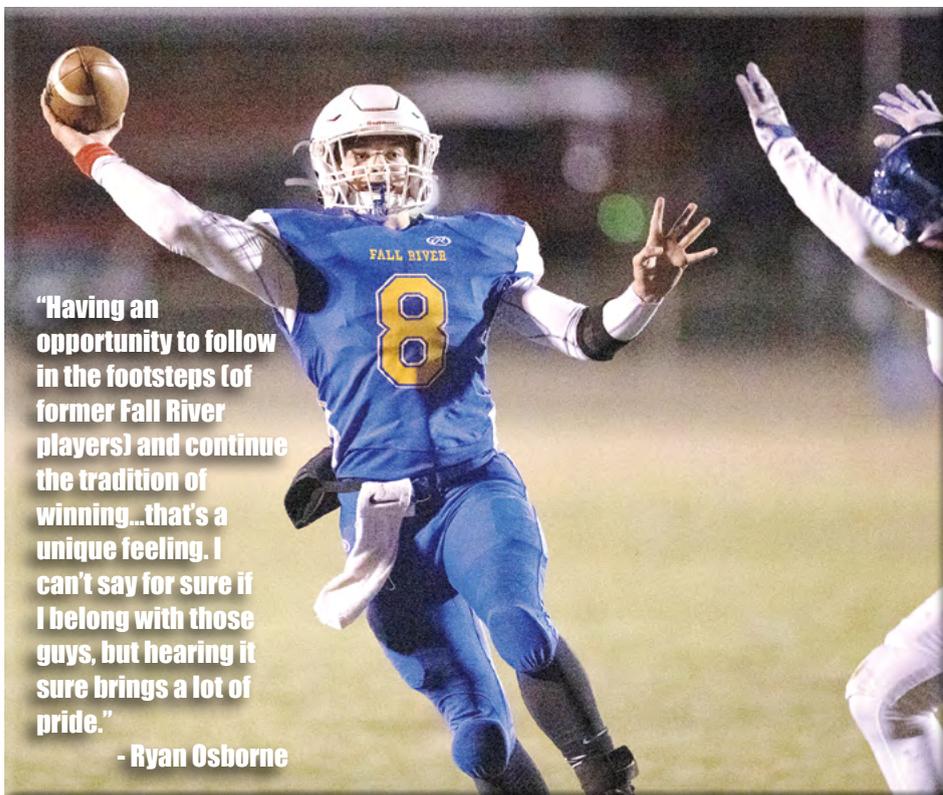
Both his father, Danny, and mother, Kristi, were outstanding athletes at Burney High School. Danny Osborne was an assistant coach for Fall River this season.

"I was the ball boy, the waterboy and saw how everyone operated so I knew what to expect when it was my turn," Ryan Osborne said. "But as I've grown up, I understand that it means a lot more."

He said it's hard to fathom being compared with guys like Sloat, Small, Gavin Dobson, Iniguez (who holds the section record for most points scored in a season) and Mark Wilson.

Wilson moved on from Fall River and became the starting left tackle at Cal. In his senior year in 2003, Wilson protected quarterback Aaron Rodgers when the future Green Bay Packer became the starting QB in the Bears fifth game. Wilson was later drafted in the fifth round by the Washington Redskins. He followed that with short stints with the Minnesota Vikings and Oakland Raiders.

"Having an opportunity to follow in



"Having an opportunity to follow in the footsteps (of former Fall River players) and continue the tradition of winning...that's a unique feeling. I can't say for sure if I belong with those guys, but hearing it sure brings a lot of pride."

- Ryan Osborne

PHOTO / Craig Harrington

How to find financial assistance for aging-in-place improvements

Dear Savvy Senior,

Do you know of any financial assistance programs that can help seniors with home improvement projects? I would like to help my grandparents make a few modifications to their house so they can continue living there safely, but money is tight.

- Searching Grandson



Dear Searching,

Yes. There are a number of financial aid programs available that can help seniors with home modifications and improvement projects for aging-in-place, but what's available to your grandparents will depend on their financial situation and where they live. Here are some different options to explore.

Medicare Advantage benefits:

While original Medicare does not typically pay for home improvements, if your grandparents are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan, it may offer some aid for modifications based on need. Contact their Medicare Advantage provider to see if this is available.

Medicaid waivers:

If your grandparents are low-income and eligible for Medicaid, most states have Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waivers that provide financial assistance to help seniors avoid nursing homes and remain living at home. Each

state has different waivers, eligibility requirements and benefits. Contact your Medicaid office (see Medicaid.gov) for information.

Non-Medicaid government assistance: Many state governments and several agencies within the federal government have programs that help low to moderate income seniors, who aren't eligible for Medicaid with home modifications. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development offers HUD Home Improvement Loans by private lenders. Contact a HUD approved counseling agency (call 800-569-4287) to learn more.

And the U.S. Department of Agriculture has a Rural Development program that provides grants and loans to rural homeowners. Your local USDA service center (see offices.sc.egov.usda.gov) can give you more for information.

Many states also have financial

assistance programs known as nursing home diversion programs. These programs, which may include grants or loans or a combination, helps pay for modifications that enable the elderly and disabled to remain living at home. Modifications covered typically include accessibility improvements like wheelchair ramps, handrails and grab bars.

To find out if there are programs in your grandparent's area, contact the city or county housing authority, the local Area Aging Agency (800-677-1116) or the state housing finance agency – see NCSHA.org/housing-help.

Veteran benefits: If your either of your grandparents is a veteran with a disability, the VA provides grants like the SAH, SHA and HISA grants that will pay for home modifications. See Benefits.va.gov/benefits/factsheets/homeloans/sahfactsheet.pdf for details and eligibility requirements.

Some other VA programs to inquire about are the "Veteran-Directed Care" program and "Aid and Attendance or Housebound Benefits." Both programs provide monthly financial benefits to eligible veterans that can help pay for home modifications. To learn more, visit VA.gov/geriatrics or call 800-827-1000.

Nonprofit organizations:

Depending on where your grandparent's live, they may also be able to get assistance in the form of financial aid or volunteer

labor to help with modifications. One of the most noteworthy is the organization Rebuilding Together (RebuildingTogether.org, 800-473-4229), which offers three programs: Safe at Home, Heroes at Home, and National Rebuilding Day.

Another option is community building projects, which provide seniors with volunteer labor to help them make home improvements. To search for projects in your grandparent's area, do web search containing the phrase "community building project" followed by their "city and state."

Reverse mortgage: Available to seniors 62 and older who own their own home and are currently living there, a reverse mortgage will let your grandparents convert part of the equity in their home into cash – which can be used for home improvements – that doesn't have to be paid back as long as they live there. But reverse mortgages are expensive loans, so this should be a last resort.

For more information on these and other financial assistance programs, go to PayingForSeniorCare.com and click on "Senior Care" followed by "Home Modifications."

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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FOR WALKING CHALLENGES, TRAIL MAPS, AND RESOURCES VISIT HEALTHYSHASTAWALKS.ORG

HEALTHYSHASTAWALKS.ORG

NEWS of the WEIRD

Animal control officers were called to a home in San Mateo, California, to rescue a stranded tarantula on the roof, United Press International reported.

But according to the Peninsula Humane Society, when the officer climbed up to capture it, she instead found an old Halloween decoration.

"It looked like it had been up there for a while," said Buffy Tarbox, communications manager for the Humane Society.

"Everyone thought it was real." The fake spider turned up for a few days on various desks at the Humane Society offices, then hit the circular file.

Elementary students at Wilton Manors school in Florida were treated to a field trip, walking over to Rosie's Bar and Grill accompanied by Broward County School Board member Sarah Leonardi, who posted about the outing on her official Facebook page.

Fox News reported that the post ignited outrage among members of the community, who, beyond their incredulity that a bar and grill was a "field trip" destination, were upset that Rosie's is an LGBT bar, with items on the menu such as Rhoda Cowboy and Big Girl Burgers.

Leonardi and the school district did not comment on the school trip.

Well, it's happened: the first-ever doping scandal to rock the world of professional Venetian gondoliers.

Renato Busetto has been stripped of his second-place award in September's Historical Regatta and has been banned from competing for more than a year, the Daily Mail reported.

He tested positive for marijuana after the event on Sept. 4, and on Oct. 27, Venice's Technical Disciplinary Commission laid out his punishment.

Residents of Ipswich, England, have spent more than four years being troubled by a haunting rendition of the nursery rhyme, "It's raining, it's pouring ..." sung by a young child during the night.

"It was waking me up in the night. It was absolutely terrifying," one woman said, according to the Mirror.

"Last week it played for hours. It was just horrible."

Finally, in September, the borough council's rapid response team tracked down the source of the chilling singing: It was a motion alarm in an industrial park.



The Saudis take their beauty contests seriously, it appears: Judges at a competition northeast of Riyadh are cracking down on artificially enhanced contestants. The contest is part of the King Abdulaziz Camel Festival. Yes, the contestants are camels, the Associated Press reported, and 43 of them have already been disqualified. Camel breeders enter their most beautiful animals with the hope of winning \$66 million in prize money, but Botox injections, face lifts and other cosmetic changes will not be tolerated this year. How, you ask, are those procedures implemented? Breeders might stretch the lips and noses of their camels, inject their heads or lips with Botox, inflate body parts with rubber bands and use fillers to relax their faces. "The club is keen to halt all acts of tampering and deception in the beautification of camels," the Saudi Press Agency said.

"The sound is only supposed to act as a deterrent for opportunistic thieves that come onto our property," a spokesperson for the park said.

"The motion sensors were being triggered by spiders crawling across the lenses of our cameras, and it looks like we've had it turned up too loudly."

The volume has been lowered, and Ipswich residents can sleep at night.

An unnamed Thai woman, 34, who lives in a high-rise condominium building in Bangkok was apparently very unhappy that she wasn't informed that two painters, using ropes, would be working on the outside of the building.

So she cut their support rope, the Associated Press reported.

One of the painters, a man named Song, said he and his co-worker had lowered themselves from the 32nd floor to repair cracks.

When he reached the 30th floor, he felt something on the rope and looked down to see someone on the 21st floor lean out of the window and cut his rope.

A third colleague supported them from the top floor as they tried to summon help from people in other apartments.

A couple on the 26th floor finally let them in. The suspect confessed to cutting the rope and said she had no intention of killing the workers, but she

faces attempted murder and property destruction charges.

Clark County (Nevada) law enforcement agencies came together to promote pedestrian safety.

The "crosswalk fairy," a police officer in costume, even escorted people across busy Boulder Highway, KVVU-TV reported.

But as officers demonstrated proper crosswalk techniques, pedestrian Tammy Wotton tried to cross the street where the event was being held – and was almost struck by a semi-truck.

Nevada law stipulates that motorists must yield to pedestrians.

Officers pulled over the truck

driver, along with several other offending motorists.

Police in Gillette, Wyoming, were called to a home about a fight between a man and woman.

When they arrived, the man had already left in his pickup truck, the Gillette News Record reported.

He was pulled over and emerged from the truck with his two sons, 15 and 4.

Sheriff's Lt. Paul Pownall said that the 39-year-old admitted he'd been drinking but said his 4-year-old had been sitting on his lap and doing the actual driving.

The suspect, who was already on unsupervised probation, was charged with his second DUI.

Singer-songwriter Brocarde, 38, has revealed that she is in love with a Victorian ghost, Edwardo, who died at age 35 when he fell down a well, the Daily Star reported.

Edwardo first came to her on a night when she was having difficulty sleeping, making the whole room cold and then introducing himself to her and whispering "I love you" in her ear.

He proves himself by blowing out candles and leaving steam hearts on the shower walls, she said.

But Brocarde is also afraid of Edwardo: "My biggest fear is that he'll expect too much from me and kill me so I'm a spirit too," she said.

After Brocarde revealed her ghostly paramour on ITV's "This Morning," she said Edwardo "ghosted" her: "Edwardo seems furious with me since I've gone public with our romance," she said.

She hoped to lure him back on Halloween with scattered rose petals and candles. "I may even cook him some typical Victorian dishes to win him back," she said at the time.

For the last two years, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials have been witness to a bizarre wildlife sighting: a bull elk roaming the wilderness with a tire around its neck.

CNN reported that CPW officials had been monitoring the elk since it was first spotted in July 2019, and though the tire did not impede the animal from drinking or feeding, they grew concerned that the tire might get tangled in branches, fencing or the antlers of another elk.

CPW officers received a community tip on the elk's

–Please See Page 14

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NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 12

whereabouts on Oct. 9 and were finally able to tranquilize it and remove the tire – which had 10 pounds of debris inside it – after removing the elk’s antlers.

“We would have preferred to cut the tire and leave the antlers for his rutting activity, but the situation was dynamic and we had to just get the tire off in any way possible,” CPW officer Scott Murdoch said.

The elk is expected to make a full recovery.

Go take a closer look at your garden gnomes: A Sudbury, England, couple was unknowingly using artifacts from ancient Egypt to decorate their garden.

The pair of small sphinx statues went up for auction as the couple cleared out their home before a move.

The couple had bought them at another auction 15 years prior, thinking they were 18th-century replicas, and expected to get a few hundred dollars for them.

But when prospective buyers suggested the items could be actual Egyptian relics, bidding took off.

An international art gallery ended up paying \$265,510 for the sphinx statues.

Auctioneer James Mander said the

gallery owners determined the items are indeed authentic, although more study is needed to determine their exact age and provenance.

“I wonder where they’ve been for the last 5,000 years,” Mander said.

Careful which old plate you’re using to microwave your hot dogs, kids. A dish found in the drawer of a Scottish country house fetched a staggering \$1.7 million in an online auction held on Oct. 6, The Scotsman reported.

A ceramics specialist working for auctioneers Lyon & Turnbull discovered the dish, which features a painting of Samson and Delilah by Nicola di Gabriele Sbraghe – aka Nicola da Urbino, a 16th-century master of maiolica pottery.

“As the auctioneer, it was a real joy to bring the hammer down at over 1 million pounds on this incredibly rare dish,” said Lyon & Turnbull Managing Director Gavin Strang.

Bus driver shortages have caused problems across the United States as students have returned to in-person learning.

But when Ohio dad Sean Rogers Jr. saw his kids and their friends lacking transportation to school, he decided

to take matters into his own hands. He borrowed a limousine from his father’s limo company and is using the stretch ride to take kids to school in style.

“I’m going to continue to do what I can do to help these families get their kids to school,” Rogers Jr. told Fox News.

“If it gets to the point where, you know, the limo is not enough, then I would definitely pull a charter bus out and we’ll go from there.”

When hopeless romantic Matthew Huber, 43, was questioned by police after witnesses reported him breaking into a Nissan truck outside a Walmart in Vero Beach, Florida, he wanted them to know it was a labor of love.

According to the police report, Huber claimed that he attempted to get into the vehicle “to see his imaginary girlfriend Emma,” whom he only sees when he is “tripping on meth.”

The Smoking Gun reported that Huber was arrested for burglary and carrying a concealed weapon during the commission of a criminal offense.

Emma could not be reached for comment.

Some pet owners are willing to go to extremes for their fur babies; some take “extremes” to extremes.

Tony Wittman, 45, of Australia, was convicted on charges stemming from an incident in which the former soldier

donned full combat gear (complete with fake assault rifle) and stormed the Lost Dogs’ Home in Melbourne.

Wittman tied up a female employee and questioned her about the whereabouts of his cat, then left without retrieving the animal and was arrested the next day.

Fox News reported that Wittman told the police he has suffered from PTSD since his time in the military and “felt like he needed to get the cat back and acted without thinking about the consequences.”

WRAL-TV reported that several drivers along Highway 147 in Durham, North Carolina, had experienced a shower of brown, greasy, bad-smelling liquid hitting their vehicles and subsequently damaging the paint.

“It had sort of a bleach smell,” said Heather Toler. “It was raining down on top of the cars. It seems to be acidic based on how it’s eating away the paint on the car.”

The mystery was solved two days later.

Representatives of the chemical wholesale company Brenntag informed WRAL-TV that several of its employees had been depressurizing and disconnecting an empty sulfuric acid railcar at the company’s facility next to the highway, causing acid vapor to be released into the air.

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Fund the police: Newsom responds to California crime concerns

Gov. Newsom puts on a tough face about California crime, defends past reforms and proposes \$350 million-plus to stop organized retail thefts.

By Ben Christopher
CalMatters.org

When it comes to law and order, Gov. Gavin Newsom wants California voters to know that he feels your pain — no matter what the statistics say.

Newsom announced on Dec. 17 he will be asking the Legislature to spend more than \$350 million to ramp up crime-fighting efforts, with the bulk of that cash set aside to help local law enforcement agencies crack down on “organized retail theft.”

The governor is responding to a raft of flash-mob-style shoplifting incidents that struck retailers in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas — and that inspired a cascade of headlines about out-of-control crime.

December’s announcement is the latest indication that California’s Democratic leaders want to talk tough on crime, even as they defend a decade’s worth of reforms aimed at making the criminal justice system less punitive and discriminatory.

“We’re not walking back on our commitment in this state to advance comprehensive reforms,” the governor said at a press conference at a California Highway Patrol post in Dublin. “But we also have to recognize this moment we’re in. We have to recognize people’s fears and anxieties.”

Indeed, Newsom stressed that his announcement was motivated more by growing public concern about crime than the crime itself.

“I could regale you with facts,” the governor said, noting that despite an apparent increase this year, crime remains at a relative historical low across the state. Earlier in mid-December the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California reported that both violent and property crime are up after a dip last year in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Oakland. The rates are now roughly “similar to pre-pandemic levels.”

“Stats mean nothing in terms of your feelings,” the governor said.

Newsom went to special lengths to defend Proposition 47 in particular. The 2014 voter-backed initiative reduced penalties for certain low-level offenses, including theft and shoplifting of less than \$950, from felonies to misdemeanors. For nearly a decade, conservatives have predicted that the loosened rules would result in a crime wave. Last year, tough-on-crime activists, along with California’s retailers, put a measure on the ballot to ratchet some of those penalties back up. The measure failed by 24 percentage points.

But the latest series of high-profile shoplifting raids has revived that debate. December’s announcement was applauded by the California Retailers Association.

“We need to send a message to these



theft rings that California will not tolerate organized crime,” association president Rachel Michelin said in a press release.

Senate Republican leader Scott Wilk of Santa Clarita said in a statement: “It shouldn’t have taken increasing homicide rates, widespread news reports of smash-and-grabs, and pleas from Californians for Democrats to come to this realization.”

Palmdale Republican Tom Lackey, vice chairperson of the Assembly Public Safety Committee, called the announcement “too little, too late.” He also lambasted the Democrats as “the party of defunding the police.”

Heading into an election year, Newsom’s budget proposal, most of which would provide additional funding to police and prosecutors, appears intended to leave voters with the opposite impression. Similarly, earlier in mid-December, elected Democratic leaders in both San Francisco and Los Angeles proposed spending more on police overtime.

If the Democratic Legislature approves the governor’s proposal:

- \$255 million in grants would go to local law enforcement agencies over the next three years to combat organized retail crime.

- \$30 million would go to local district attorneys over three years, and \$18 million would create a new statewide anti-theft team at the attorney general’s office.

- \$25 million would fund local gun buy-back programs.

- \$20 million would assist the National Guard to intercept fentanyl and other drugs at the Mexico border.

- Some money would be reserved to cover uninsured losses of small businesses that have been ransacked by thieves. The written plan doesn’t specify an amount, but Newsom pegged it at \$20 million.

The package will be included in the budget proposal that Newsom will unveil early in January.

Assembly Budget Chairperson Phil Ting, a San Francisco Democrat,

welcomed the package, saying in a press release that he looked forward to “teaming up with the Administration and our law enforcement partners on crafting an effective strategy to stop these sophisticated shoplifting rings.”

Standing beside Newsom at the press conference was Attorney General Rob Bonta. Newsom appointed Bonta as the state’s top law enforcement officer in March, plucking him from the Assembly

where he was one of the body’s most liberal members on criminal justice issues.

Opposition to crime is a bipartisan instinct, Bonta said today.

“I’ve not met anyone who wants to be a victim of crime — Republican, Democrat, it doesn’t matter,” he said.

Newsom also restated his commitment to crafting a bill that would allow California citizens to sue manufacturers and distributors of prohibited semi-automatic rifles and build-it-yourself “ghost gun” kits.

That proposal is designed to be a blue-state rejoinder to a Texas law that gives citizens the right to sue anyone who “aids and abets” someone in getting an abortion. The U.S. Supreme Court recently allowed that law to stand, effectively permitting a legislative end-run around what was believed to be a constitutionally protected right under its 1973 Roe v Wade decision.

“It is a Pandora’s box,” Newsom said of the Supreme Court’s decision not to immediately strike down the Texas law. But, he added, “to the extent this decision is used to put womens’ lives at risk, we’re going to use this decision to save people’s lives by addressing the issue of gun violence here in the state of California.”

CalMatters.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization explaining California policies and politics. Read more at calmatters.org.

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Shasta County Health & Human Services Agency

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4:30-6:30pm
Tues-Sun

BAR & GRILL

Dine-In & Patio Dining • Room Service • Takeout

Hazelnut Crusted Salmon & Pear Salad * Charcuterie Board * Fish & Chips
French Dip * Black N Blue Salad * Sweet & Spicy Noodle Bowl
Mushroom Garlic Burger * Chicken Pesto Panini * Pear Cheese & Bacon Pizza
See Our Complete Menu on our website: ThreeShastas.com

LIVE MUSIC

Fri. and Sat. 8:30pm-Midnight
\$5 Cover

January 7 & 8.....2SHYY
January 15.....HOOK
January 22.....THE BILLIES

Dec. 31st - New Year's Eve Black & White Ball
Tickets & Overnight Pkgs: threeshasstas.com
Ballroom - 2 Bands

ACOUSTIC THURS.
7:30-10pm

Jan. 6 - ASHLEY BLACK
Jan. 13 - MARK McABEE
Jan. 20 - JONATHAN FOSTER
Jan. 27 - MARK McABEE

Wed. Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 - 7:30-10pm
Live Music with STEVE HERMANN
No Cover Wed. & Thurs.
1830 Hilltop Drive
Redding * (530) 224-6630
ThreeShastas.com

BLUES JAM
Sundays
Jan. 2 & Jan. 16
5pm-9pm

[GRUBHUB](https://www.grubhub.com) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

Breakfast Served All Day

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

Order ahead on our website or with our App - <https://oldmilleatery.appv.biz>



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1972-2022

50 YEARS Anniversary



Beadman owner Sandra Arbo and Grace Knudtson

RINGS

Hurry! Dec. 26th to 31st
INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

Close 4:30pm
Dec. 31st **30% Off Storewide**

CLOSED Jan. 1-8* For Inventory
*If we finish inventory before Jan. 8 we'll open. Check our social media.

Unique One of a Kind
Sterling Pendants

- Unique Silver & Stone Jewelry
- Squash Blossom & Native Made Jewelry • More Jewelry

PROGRESSIVE COUPON
The More You Spend, The More You Save!

Spend \$20 - Get 10% Off
Spend \$50 - Get 20% Off
Spend \$100 or More
Get 30% Off

Your entire purchase
Limit one coupon per customer, per day. No layaways. Not valid with any other offer. Some items excluded. Good Jan. 1-31, 2022

The Beadman
A5

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