

AFTER FIVE

THE NORTH STATE MAGAZINE

MAY 2022 / 35th Year / No. 7

THE NEWS, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONTHLY



ON THE COVER

YOUNG FRANKIE

Axiom Repertory Theatre will close out its 2021-2022 regular season this month with the musical adaptation of the 1974 classic Mel Brooks' film Young Frankenstein. See page 2

ART SHOW

The Siskiyou Arts Museum in Dunsmuir invites the public to attend an exhibit of artwork by Tom O'Hara, a longtime resident of Mt. Shasta who passed away Jan. 16, 2020. See page 19



EVENTS ABOUND

Music in the park, the Shasta Damboree, a hot air balloon celebration, craft fair, mushroom and strawberry festivals and a steampunk festival (our model pictured at left) are among the many activities slated this month in the north state. The latter event got its start in Dunsmuir, but has moved to Weed where it will be held May 21-22, featuring a rat rod contest, a costume contest, gadget contest, live music, vendors and food. For the uninitiated, steampunk is a science fiction subgenre that infuses the Edwardian/Victorian eras with futuristic technology...only powered by steam machinery. See pages 12-13

'The Mel Brooks Musical: Young Frankenstein' was a top 5 bucket list item for show's director

Axiom Repertory Theatre will close out their 2021-2022 regular season this month with the musical adaptation of the 1974 classic Mel Brooks' film *Young Frankenstein*. Written by Brooks and Thomas Meehan (who also teamed up on Brooks' musical adaptation of *The Producers* that netted 12 Tonys), the Axiom production is being directed by Nancy Hill.

"*Young Frankenstein* is a show near and dear to my heart," Hill said in an email. "I saw the original movie at age 12 and laughed myself silly. Directing this show was in the top five on the bucket list."

Like the movie, *The Mel Brooks Musical: Young Frankenstein* is a parody of the horror film genre, primarily the 1931 Universal Pictures adaptation of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" and its 1935 and 1939 sequels, "Bride of Frankenstein" and "Son of Frankenstein."

The musical mostly sticks to the same plot as the film but with some variations. Among them is the song "The Happiest Town in Town" which is not in the film. And in the movie, the Monster awakens in the laboratory directly after the brain transfer; in the musical, the villagers hang Frederick before the Monster wakes and saves him, with the ensuing finale expanded.

Hill has produced a number of Axiom shows but she's also directed a few, including *Spamalot* and last summer's *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, which they are bringing back for a limited engagement in June.

Performers in the Axiom production of *The Mel Brooks Musical: Young Frankenstein* include Kim Mobley as Frau Brucker, Nick Brown as Fredrick Von Frankenstein, Erin Brown as Inga, Mat McDonald as Igor, and Jon Amacker as The Monster. Musical direction is by Katie Narf with choreography by Kristi Amacker.

Performances are scheduled May 6 to May 29 with 7:30 p.m. shows slated Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. matinees on Sundays. Tickets are available online at axreptheatre.com. The theater is located at 2613 Bechelli Lane, Redding.

"I hope people will have a great time laughing at this great comedy," Hill said. "The actors, staff and whole company are knocking it out of the park."



COVER PHOTO AND PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE / Daniel Hill

Above, left to right: Kim Mobley as Frau Brucker, Nick Brown as Fredrick Von Frankenstein, Erin Brown as Inga, and Mat McDonald as Igor. Below, Jon Amacker as The Monster.



RE-ELECT CATHY DARLING ALLEN - SHASTA COUNTY CLERK 2022
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NORTH STATE SYMPHONY 21|22 SCOTT SEATON MUSIC DIRECTOR

Masterworks 4
Unstoppable Beethoven
Beethoven 9, Farrenc, World Premiere TBA
Saturday, May 14 | Redding
Sunday, May 15 | Chico

Ben Brady bass-baritone	Molly Mahoney mezzo-soprano	Tonia D'Amelio soprano	Michael Desnoyers tenor
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Bike Challenge May 1-31

The Shasta Bike Challenge is back and runs from May 1-31.

"With gas prices being at their highest and more trails and bike lanes available, riding a bike is a compelling reason to ride for transportation and a great way to incorporate movement into your life," Anna Blasco with the Shasta Bike Challenge workgroup and Worksite Wellness Coordinator for Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health said in a news release.

Participants can sign up for the challenge by visiting www.shastabikechallenge.org, and will be entered into a free drawing for local prizes each day they ride a bike. Prizes range from \$500 gift cards to local bike shops to gift cards to restaurants and bike merchandise donated by CBX Roofs, Members 1st Credit Union, local bike shops, and other local businesses.

Each bike trip also counts toward a national bike challenge with additional larger prizes. To qualify in this free challenge, bicycling can be for transportation or recreation, on streets or trails, and you can be an experienced cyclist, or brand new to the sport!

Other events and rides taking place to encourage people to go for a spin include:

*May 20 - Asphalt Cowboys Pancake Breakfast in downtown Redding, free ticket for riding.

*May 22 - Shasta Rock Club Celebrate the Outdoors Party- bike raffle

*June 3 -Bike Month and Bigfoot Challenge Celebration at Caldwell Park

* Free Valet Bike Parking

Rides:

May 4 - Bike to School Day

May 5 - Bike About Shasta to Old Shasta

May 6- Bike About Shasta - First Fridays and ride with Chain Gang

May 14 - Bike About Shasta with Shasta Historical Society

May 16 - Ride of Silence with Shasta Wheelmen

Full details at shastabikechallenge.org



AFTER FIVE The North State Magazine

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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 (530) 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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The North State Symphony concludes its “Crescendo” season in May with “Unstoppable Beethoven” including a performance of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony featuring the Shasta College Chorus, Simpson University Choirs and special guest artists, clockwise from left: Tonia D’Amelio, soprano; Molly Mahoney, mezzo-soprano; Ben Brady, bass-baritone; and Michael Desnoyers, tenor. Right, Ludwig.



NS Symphony concludes ‘Crescendo’ season with ‘Unstoppable Beethoven’

North State Symphony concludes its “Crescendo” season in May with a return to a full orchestra and choir for their performance of “Unstoppable Beethoven.”

The concert title alludes to an original plan to celebrate Beethoven’s 250th birthday two seasons ago, in a concert cancelled due to Covid-19. This special reincarnation features the performance of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with the Shasta College Chorus, Simpson University Choirs, and special guest vocal soloists from around the country. It also will be the world premiere performance of the winning composition from North State Symphony’s “Beethoven Idol” competition. Concerts are scheduled May 14 in Redding and May 15 in Chico.

The concert begins with Louise Farrenc’s Overture No. 2 in E flat major. Farrenc was a well-known pianist, composer and professor of piano at the Paris Conservatory throughout much of the 19th century. Her works ranged from chamber music to symphonies, and Overture No. 2 is a dramatic and fiery concert overture (one not associated with an opera, but written for a full symphonic orchestra). It is one of the earliest examples of a new genre emerging at the time.

The concert continues with the unveiling and world premiere of the winning composition from North State Symphony’s “Beethoven Idol” competition. By February of 2020, there were 46 submissions from composers around the world. The three finalists were Kent Baker: “Archetypes”; Andrea Donati: “Queen Bee”; and Wesley Stormer: “Fantasy for Orchestra.” Interviews of the finalists with North State Symphony Maestro Scott Seaton can be found at the symphony’s YouTube channel.

“In celebration of the anniversary of Beethoven’s 250th birthday, the North State Symphony invited

submissions of works that explored the resilience of the human spirit, represented a coming together of humankind, and echoed Beethoven’s ideals of unity during the composition of the 9th Symphony,” said Seaton, conductor and music director of the North State Symphony. “At the time, we had no idea that these ideals would be so sorely tested; they’re more important now than we ever imagined when we envisioned the Beethoven Idol Competition. We’re grateful to each and every contestant who paid tribute to Ludwig van Beethoven through their submissions, and can’t wait to reveal the winner of the competition at our May concerts.”

Following intermission, North State Symphony will culminate its Crescendo season with a performance of Beethoven’s monumental 9th Symphony, a work showcasing the power, heroism, humanity, and revolutionary spirit of his groundbreaking and visionary voice and featuring the Shasta College Chorus, Simpson University Choirs, and special guest artists Tonia D’Amelio, soprano; Molly Mahoney, mezzo-soprano; Michael Desnoyers, tenor; and Ben Brady, bass-baritone. More details about these soloists are available on the symphony’s website northstatesymphony.org.

“Unstoppable Beethoven” performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 14, at the Cascade Theatre in Redding (tickets at the Cascade Theatre box office or cascadetheatre.org); and 2 p.m., Sunday, May 15, at Laxson Auditorium in Chico (tickets available at the University box office or at chicostatetickets.com).

A pre-concert talk, presented by Seaton and the guest artists, is free and begins one hour before the performances.

RE-ELECT JUDY FLORES SHASTA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



**PROVEN LEADERSHIP
KNOWN & TRUSTED EDUCATOR**

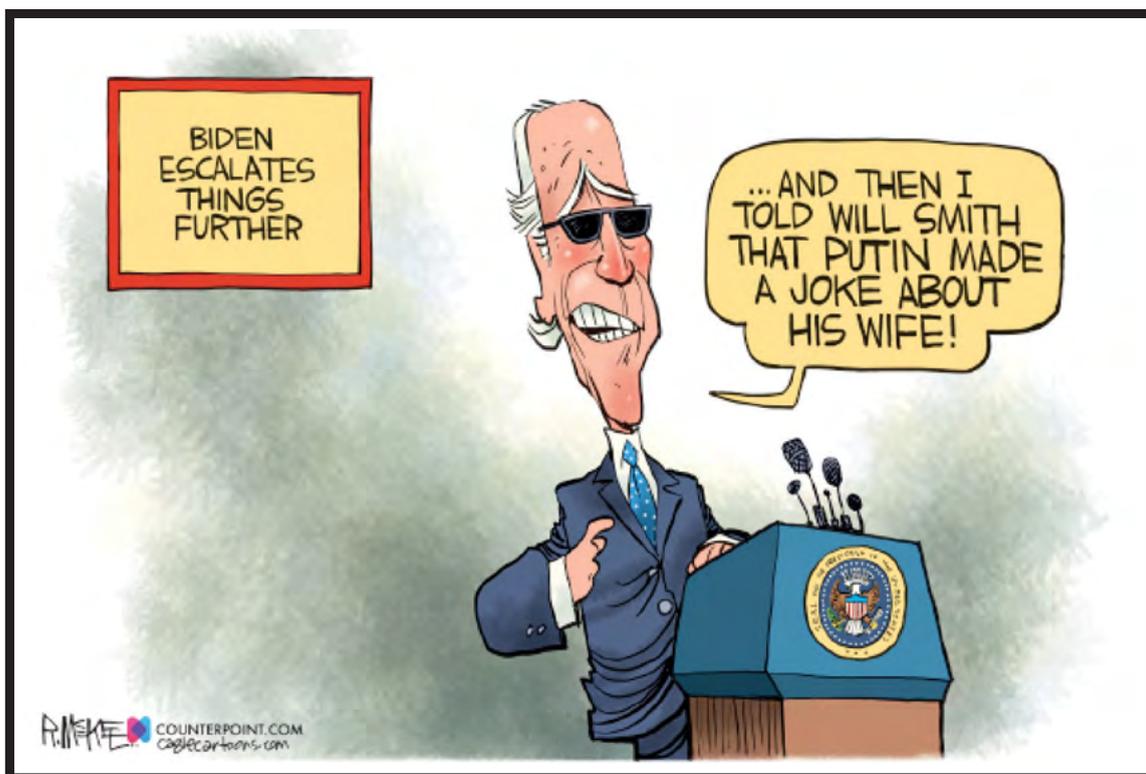
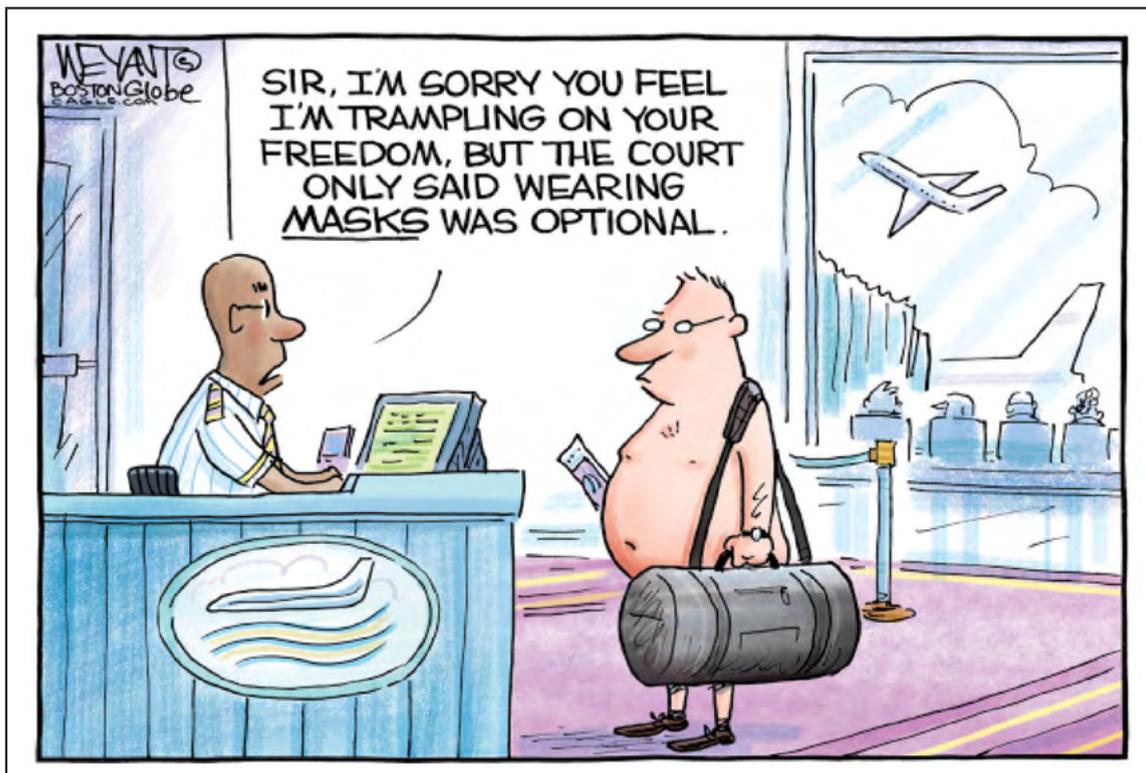
Judy is the clear choice for proven and trusted leadership. Parents know what their children need to build successful educational foundations, and Judy Flores is the advocate Shasta County needs to help meet those needs.

Educators understand the importance of the role she plays in the educational community and endorse her continued efforts to support districts and classrooms. Please explore the long list of school district superintendents, educators, parents, and community members at JudyFlores.info that endorse Judy Flores to continue as Superintendent of Schools.

Judy Flores has a passion and heart for children and an unwavering focus and diligence. Through Judy’s leadership, Shasta County students were some of the first to get back safely into the classroom during the pandemic, when most California schools were entirely on distance learning.

Judy believes in the power of education and the importance of nurturing a love of learning within each child. Please research what she stands for at JudyFlores.info and cast your vote to re-elect Judy Flores as the Shasta County Superintendent of Schools on June 7th.

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Judy Flores.



Happy Birthday cake to me

By Jason Graves

Depending on when you're reading this, my 52nd birthday is/was on April 20th, which, as my dad still loves to remind me, is the same day as Adolf Hitler's. As a child, I remember thinking that 52 was an age that might be reached by an elderly Galapagos tortoise or a giant redwood tree – certainly not a human.



My age really hits me when I'm watching a sporting event and realize that I'm now older than practically all professional athletes (other than a few bowlers). I guess I can cross that off my list of things to worry about. No more pressure there.

Birthdays are weird things to celebrate. After all, the person receiving the benefits of the celebration didn't really do anything, other than put another human being through extreme discomfort for several months, culminating in a few hours of drug-induced agony—and not just for the father. And if we're all honest, we would admit that the actual delivery isn't pretty, either – lots of crying, moaning and sometimes cursing – also not just from the father.

Apparently, I was almost born in the car on the way to the hospital, so any screaming probably had to do with my dad's driving.

One of my fondest memories from my early childhood in the 1970s is of an Easter-themed birthday party my parents organized. There were plastic eggs packed with jelly beans, miniature baskets full of candy, homemade bunny ears for the kids to wear, and lots of plaid polyester. It was a simpler time then—full of childhood innocence and questionable fashion choices.

These days, my birthdays prompt bouts of contemplation (especially from my wife) about what I'm going to do with the rest of my life. I'm really too old to drive a Harley or sports car without being held up to ridicule on someone's TikTok video. I'm not interested in the pain or expense required for an array of tattoos. And a new obsession with golfing, fishing, hunting or any other physical activity just sounds exhausting. Besides, I recently threw out my back tying my shoe, so I'm thinking mixed martial arts is probably out of the question, too.

Maybe I'll really lean into my favorite hobbies of marathon snoozing or competitive eating. (I'm not actually a competitive eater, but I sometimes pretend I am, especially when cake is involved.)

And speaking of cake, the highlight of most of my birthdays has been a special multi-layered strawberry cake that my sweet mother makes for me. The cake is large enough to share with the entire family, but I always warn my three daughters that the cake is held together with dangerously sharp toothpicks—and they may or may not be used.

And then there's the singing involved with birthdays. I don't mean to be a grouch, but doesn't "The Birthday Song" get a bit tiresome? "Happy Birthday to you" is repeated three times! It's as if it's intended for a person with short-term memory loss. If I make it to 90 years old, I'm sure I'll appreciate it more, but in the meantime . . .

What was I saying, again?

Once the singing is mercifully finished, then comes the pressure of blowing out the candles in one breath without sputumizing all over the dessert.

In the age of COVID, is blowing on cake even still a "thing"? Or has it gone by the wayside along with other forbidden activities—like shaking hands, kissing babies and enjoying life in general?

Seriously, though, I really am grateful that God has given me another year to annoy my wife, children, and pets. I also want to thank everyone who thinks enough of me to fill in that automated birthday greeting when the Facebook algorithm reminds you once a year that the weirdo from high school or the relative whose lineage you question is still alive.

I'll remember it always, or at least until I eat the last piece of strawberry cake and take off my bunny ears.

Copyright 2022 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, and The Kilgore News Herald. Contact Graves at susanjase@sbcglobal.net.

NEWS of the WEIRD

A birthday party for an employee at Gravity Diagnostics in Kentucky cost the company \$450,000, but it wasn't an expensive cake and decorations that ran up the bill, WLKY-TV reported.

The employee asked the office manager days before to forgo the usual celebration because such affairs trigger his anxiety disorder, and "being the center of attention" would cause him to suffer a panic attack.

However, the manager went ahead with planning a lunchtime to-do in the break room, which caused the guest of honor to flee to his car to eat his lunch.

The next day, the birthday boy was called into a meeting and scolded for his reaction and was later fired "because of the events of the previous week," according to a lawsuit he filed against the company.

In the suit, the former employee said the company didn't accommodate his anxiety disorder and caused him to suffer a "loss of income and benefits and emotional distress and mental anxiety."

The Kenton County jury agreed and awarded him the six-figure amount.

In Australia, Queensland's Bill Edgar is known to some as the Coffin Confessor.

As such, Edgar shows up at funerals and speaks for the deceased, telling off family members, setting friends straight and delivering bad news about beneficiaries, News.com.au reported.

But Edgar's job doesn't stop there.

His services, for which he charges \$2,000 to \$10,000, have expanded to removing items from the deceased's home that they'd rather the family not see: "Could be sex toys, messages of hate, love, whatever it is they've written down, that they want removed from their web browsers."

One gentleman had ... a sex dungeon in one of his bedrooms. And that gentleman was 88 years of age, believe it or not," Edgar said.

He even delivers his services in the United States and United Kingdom, and he said Paramount has picked up the story for a movie.

According to Washingtonian magazine, a five-bedroom house for sale in Fairfax, Virginia, listed for \$800,000, will "go quickly" in a neighborhood where many homes sell for \$1 million or more.

It's not in great shape,



The night shift workers at the Mr. Chips french fry factory in East Tamaki, New Zealand, received a bit of a shock as 28 tons of russet potatoes from a farm in nearby Matamata worked their way through the factory's conveyor belts. What appeared to be just another muddy potato was discovered to be a World War II-era hand grenade. "The guys were really calm and collected and they reacted in an extremely professional manner," Roland Spitaels, the factory's operations manager, told Stuff.co.nz. Police responded to the scene and subsequently called upon the New Zealand Defence Force's explosive ordnance disposal team, who removed the grenade from the facility; X-rays revealed it was a training version of a hand grenade, containing no explosives. Spitaels hopes the police will return the grenade to the company when their investigation is complete so it can be put on display in the factory's trophy room.

granted, but the biggest drawback? The home has "a person(s) living in lower level with no lease in place."

And prospective buyers can't see the lower level.

Listing agent Zinta K. Rodgers-Rickert said the basement resident has "weaseled her way in" and does not pay rent, and the current owners can't "emotionally deal with the eviction."

Nevertheless, the house already had attracted at least one offer, with more expected.

Rodgers-Rickert helpfully

drew a picture of the basement for one potential buyer and said it's in no worse shape than the rest of the house. Except for that squatter, of course.

ITV News reported that a dead body had been left in a "side room" at the Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby, England, for four days.

Once discovered, the body was removed to the hospital's mortuary, and the deceased's family was notified.

Officials, who did not reveal

the identity of the body, have launched an investigation and offered their apologies to the patient's family.

It may have been April 1, but it was no April Fools' prank. A San Francisco police officer approached an idling car with its headlights off around 10 p.m. and saw that it was empty, SFGate reported.

That's when the car moved forward, crossed the intersection and came to a stop with its emergency flashers on.

As it turned out, the AV,

or autonomous vehicle, was operated by Cruise, and was just trying to move into a safe position before yielding to officers.

"An officer contacted Cruise personnel, and no citation was issued," the company explained in a statement. A maintenance team was dispatched to take control of the vehicle.

David Stover, 57, has been telling workers at the Bunnell, Florida, Wendy's restaurant that he's an undercover DEA agent ever since his buddy who worked there left, in an effort to continue getting a discount on food, ClickOrlando.com reported.

The store manager told investigators Stover would even flash a badge when asked for proof.

Unfortunately for the fast-food fan, the badge was a concealed-carry permit, and police were called to Wendy's because Stover was arguing with the staff. He was arrested for impersonating a law enforcement officer.

In preparing to reconstruct Paris' Notre-Dame cathedral after a devastating fire in 2019, scientists have discovered a sarcophagus that may date to the 14th century, France24 reported.

It was buried 65 feet underground, among the brick pipes of an old heating system, and extracted from the cathedral.

They were able to look inside using an endoscopic camera, where they saw a skeleton, a pillow of leaves and fabric, among other items.

Lead archaeologist Christophe Besnier noted that "if it turns out that it is in fact ... from the Middle Ages, we are dealing with an extremely rare burial practice."

France's Institute of Forensic Medicine will study the body and contents of the sarcophagus and try to determine the social rank of the person.

Afterward, it will be returned "as an anthropological asset" and could possibly be reinterred at Notre-Dame.

A "convenience store" called Skraptyques in a Lumberton, New Jersey, strip mall was selling more than scratch-offs and cigarettes, according to Yahoo! News.

In-the-know customers allegedly surrendered their cellphones to an armed guard in a bulletproof vest and were scanned by handheld metal detectors before being shown

—Please See Page 9

HIGH TIMES[®]

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NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 7

into a back room.

There they could shop for marijuana, edibles and psychedelic mushrooms with colorful packages mimicking popular food items such as “Cheetos, Life Savers, Nerds and Skittles,” the Burlington County Prosecutor’s Office said.

The store’s owners, Matthew Quinn, 44, and Crystal Cain, 30, were charged with possessing marijuana and psilocybin mushrooms, along with other offenses; three employees were also charged.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Rebecca Swanner, 60, owner of a home day care in Garrisonville, Virginia, was charged with three counts of cruelty and injury to children as a result of three 1-year-olds in her care going to the emergency room.

They had allegedly eaten what the sheriff’s office described as “gold fish crackers” laced with THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis.

A Stafford County Sheriff’s detective investigated and sent some of the crackers to a lab for testing, where the presence of THC was detected.

NBC Washington reported that Swanner surrendered to the sheriff’s office and was released on bond.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Edward Draper and his son, Rowan, have set a Guinness World Record for hanging up 10 items of clothing, according to SWLondoner.

The pair achieved the amazing feat at Turk’s Head pub in Twickenham, London, England.

They hung up 10 items of clothing on wooden hangers in 56.87 seconds. Seriously?

Good on them for raising money for the British Heart Foundation, but geez, men. Might want to visit the laundry room more often.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Can we all agree that any alligator walking anywhere in Florida – on a golf course, down a street, through a parking lot, wherever – is no longer news, let alone weird news?

This moseying gator, for instance, is NOT weird: In Venice, Florida, a large alligator walked through a neighborhood on Easter morning on its way to Harrington Lake, United Press International took the time to report, for whatever reason.

The Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office took a video – slow crime day. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was notified, but did not respond BECAUSE THIS IS NOT NEWS.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The Federal Aviation Administration has revoked Trevor Jacob’s pilot’s license, The New York Times reported, after concluding that Jacob purposely abandoned a plane he was flying and filmed it crashing into the Los Padres National Forest in California while he

parachuted to the ground.

Jacob then posted the 13-minute video on YouTube, calling it “I Crashed My Plane.”

The FAA said Jacob acted in a “careless or reckless manner so as to endanger the life or property of another.”

In the video, the propeller can be seen as it stops spinning, and Jacob opens the door and jumps out with a parachute and a selfie stick.

The FAA noted, “During this flight, you opened the left side pilot door before you claimed the engine had failed.”

The agency also noted that Jacob did not contact air traffic control, try to restart the engine or look for a safe place to make an emergency landing. But he got 1.7 million views!

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

A woman in her 40s on a visit to Olympic National Forest probably won’t want to go back anytime soon after a harrowing experience at the top of Mount Walker, The Olympian reported.

The anonymous woman dropped her cellphone into a vault toilet (a waterless, nonflush toilet typically found at campgrounds and near hiking trails) and attempted to fish it out using her dog leash.

Instead, she fell headfirst into the abyss; she tried to escape on her own but ended up calling 911 with her recovered phone.

Fire crews from Brinnon, Washington, fashioned a platform she could stand on, and they pulled her out and washed her off.

First responders, who said she was lucky not to have been overcome by toxic gases, encouraged her to seek medical attention because of her exposure to human waste.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Citizens in Cornwall, England, are fuming after the St. Blaise Town Council ordered that 1,000 daffodils in the Old Roselyon Play Area be cut down because they can be poisonous if eaten and could give children diarrhea, Metro News reported.

But a spokesman for the Roselyon Play Park Committee called the move “preposterous” and “totally bonkers.”

He went on to explain that the land was once an orchard and was home to so many of the flowers that a part of it was called Daffodil Walk.

Residents took to social media to protest the directive: “When I was in primary school, every year we were given a daffodil bulb to grow ... Funny, I don’t remember trying to eat them or anyone being poisoned.”

Another said, “Daffodils are also poisonous to dogs, (but) even my mutt has the common sense not to eat them.”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Tom Jozsi, a 60-year-old maintenance worker in Kenosha, Wisconsin, was in the dentist’s chair when his visit turned anything but routine, WISN-TV reported.

Jozsi was getting a cavity filled when

he inhaled an inch-long dental drill bit. “I didn’t really even feel it going down,” he said, but the bit was deep in his right lung, a CT scan showed.

Pulmonary expert Dr. Abdul Alraiyes and his team at the Aurora Medical Center-Kenosha decided to try a catheter that’s used for the early detection of cancer, allowing them to reach the small bit and pull it out without any harm to Jozsi’s lung.

Today, the bit is displayed on a shelf in Jozsi’s home.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

One unidentified person in Dublin, Ireland, was responsible for making 90% of all noise complaints received at Dublin Airport in 2021, United Press International reported.

The person averaged 34 complaints per day, totaling 12,272 for the year.

They nearly doubled their number from 2020, 6,227, and are already on track for a new record in 2022, with a daily average of 59.

The company that runs the airport says it responds to each complaint and works with communities on issues such as aircraft noise.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The moral of this story: Always keep an eye on that gas gauge.

Police in Memphis, Tennessee, were called about an abandoned Chevy Suburban on the I-55 bridge between Tennessee and Arkansas, WREG-TV reported.

The truck, left in a southbound lane of traffic, had been struck by another car, and while police were preparing to tow it away, the Chevy’s owner, Catherine Mardesich, 54, returned to the scene, saying she had run out of gas.

But when police started to inventory the truck, she allegedly said, “I don’t want you going through my vehicle.”

And here’s why: Inside they found 229 pounds of marijuana and \$17,800 in cash. Mardesich was charged with possession. Nearest gas station? 0.9 mile.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

When a load of “weird” items were delivered to a Los Angeles-area charity, a worker there thought the donor must have been “rich or famous or whatever,” KABC-TV reported.

But one item drew the attention of the Los Angeles Police Department: a large stuffed reindeer that had a hole on its underside.

A staff member at the charity was inspecting the hole to see if it could be fixed when three bags of white powder fell out.

Officers said the substance resembled cocaine, but they took Blitzen away for further investigation.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Henry DeHart of Chattanooga, Tennessee, stopped to fill up his gas tank and noticed that his 12 gallons of premium fuel only cost him \$5.64.

He figured out that while the price of gas was averaging more than \$4 a gallon, the pump was set to \$0.449. DeHart told the owner, who was “on the verge of tears,” since he had been undercharging for several hours.

“There’s no telling how much money

he lost today,” DeHart told KRCG-TV.

DeHart said the man behind him in line was not happy that he had brought the mistake to the owner’s attention, but DeHart knew it was the right thing to do.

In fact, he paid the owner what he would have been charged had the pump been set correctly.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Seizures are frightening enough, but seizures caused by tapeworms add an element of “eww.”

According to doctors in Massachusetts who recently described the case in the New England Journal of Medicine, the otherwise-healthy 38-year-old man had had dead tapeworm cysts lodged in his brain for decades – a relatively rare form of infestation called neurocysticercosis.

When these cysts become stuck in the brain, they can cause pressure, inflammation and neurological symptoms that are sometimes confused for brain tumors. But symptoms may not manifest for years.

This man’s cysts caused no problems until three years ago, when he fell out of bed, “shaking and speaking gibberish,” then had a two-minute seizure on the way to the hospital.

Luckily, he was discharged after five days of treatment and remains in good health today.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Missouri man Kyle Scheele, with the help of friends, made a cardboard cutout of himself “jamming out with a pizza guitar” and advertising something called the “Kyle Scheele Meal.”

He then placed the cutout in a local gas station and waited to see how long his prank would last.

But after the fake ad went viral on TikTok, convenience store chain Kum & Go made the Scheele Meal real.

It included a Red Bull and a pizza sandwich, “which is just two pieces of pizza smashed face-to-face,” Scheele said.

The promotion ran for about a week, with Kum & Go donating \$2 of every \$5 meal to the charity No Kid Hungry.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Residents of Barwell, a small English town, have been dealing with an unexplained noise for about a year.

It’s been described as “a humming noise,” a “low-frequency droning sound” and a “horrible din” that never stops.

Resident Ange Redshaw said, “At night, even lying on the pillow, you can feel the vibration, it’s that loud. During the day, I can hear it over traffic noise.”

And now it seems to be spreading: Brian Heath, a resident of nearby Stapleton, says he has heard the “slow, rolling, rumbling sound” for a few weeks.

“It’s quite a heavy noise ... You can feel the pressure on your body,” he said. No cause has yet been identified.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

In Aswan, Egypt, recent inclement weather – including “vicious rain, dust storms and snow” – has forced hordes of scorpions from their usual hiding places and into homes and streets.

BBC News reported that three people have died so far from scorpion stings, and 450 have been injured.

–Please See Page 14

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TRINITY HERITAGE DAYS
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Outdoor community events abound in north state

Spring weather, longer days and a desire to try and get back to some kind of normalcy has people ready to enjoy what our area has to offer. And what it has to offer is a number of community events this spring that have returned following the pandemic. From longtime events like the 71st Shasta Damboree to more recent events like the Heritage Balloon Festival in McArthur to new events this year such as the Steampunk Festival in Weed and Music in the Park in Weaverville, there's a lot of choices.

Following are some of the north state events happening in May and early June.

SHASTA DAMBOREE May 6-7 City of Shasta Lake

The Shasta Damboree presents **For Pete's Sake Car Show & Poker Run** 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 6.

An annual part of the Damboree that was created in honor of Pete Peashe as a fundraiser for CVHS Scholarships in Industrial Arts. Join the Poker Run and visit the venues from the Vista Point to the Boomtown Museum – and hope you draw the winning hand. Then gather at Clair Engle Park for the show-n-shine, raffle and good old rock and roll music. Register online at www.shastadamboree.org

Then the Shasta Damboree presents the **Boomtown Festival** on Saturday, May 7. Started in 1951 as the Shasta Damboree Delegation to raise funds for new schools and fire equipment, this year marks the 71st celebration.

It all begins from 7 to 10 a.m. with the annual pancake breakfast at the Shasta Lake Fire Hall, 4126 Ashby Court (the corner of Shasta Dam Boulevard and Ashby Road). Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under.

Then grab your chair and find your spot on Shasta Dam Boulevard (Highway 151) anywhere between Central Valley Feed and Shasta Lake Chiropractic to watch the annual parade which begins at 10 a.m. This year's theme is "Our Future in the Making."

The main announcing stand is at the Pizza Factory across from Farmer's Market. The Parade Marshall is Kim Smith who is retiring following a 29-year career with the U.S. Postal Service and was chosen for her community service with the local food bank and with the tutoring program for citizenship tests.

Other Community Award recipients who are scheduled to be in the parade are Hometown Hero Jesse Rogers, known as "an all-around good guy who is always going the extra mile for kids," and Citizen of the Year, Cheryl Yednak, a community member who can often be seen in the Shasta Lake Memorial Garden next to the Native Garden sprucing it up or leading and educating volunteers on the fine aspects of gardening.

After the parade, you can walk over to Clair Engle Park and enjoy the craft faire, kids' activities and health fair, along with food and drinks, all while listening to live music all day at the bandstand from noon to 8 p.m.



PHOTO / Shutterstock

The Steampunk Festival is scheduled May 21-22 in Weed. For the uninitiated, steampunk is a science fiction subgenre that infuses the Edwardian/Victorian eras with futuristic technology...only powered by steam machinery.

Live music scheduled is as follows: California Grown at 11 a.m.; Ashley Black and Friends at 1 p.m.; Rainy Night at 4 p.m.; 3 Mile Road at 5:30 p.m.; and Full Throttle at 7 p.m.

Want to take part in the event? The parade entry is free. Entry forms for the parade, craft faire and health faire are available online at shastadamboree.org. The deadline to enter is May 1.

MUSIC IN THE PARK May 7 Part of First Saturday Art Walk Weaverville

Trinity County Arts Council and Weaverville Chamber of Commerce present the Music in the Park summer benefit concert series, which kicks off on May 7.

This free live music series will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Lee Fong Park Amphitheater, 91 Lorenz Road, following the monthly Art Walk in downtown Weaverville, which is held on the First Saturdays from May through July. There will be local food vendors, refreshments, and beer on tap by Trinity County Brewing Co. beginning at 7:30 p.m. with live music by Not Quite ESP and Mojito.

All donations and proceeds will benefit local not-for-profit organizations, highlighting a different community organization each month. Donations can be made at the event, or all month long by going online to trinitycountyarts.org/donate.

May 7 - Proceeds benefit Weaverville Farmers Market. There will be a chili

dinner by Cafe on Main, refreshments by The Water Bar, and beer from Trinity County Brewing Co.

June 4 - Community not-for-profit organizations may apply to be the month of June charity organization. Contact trinitycountyarts@gmail.com for more information. Music by Tiger Knife, with food vendors, refreshments by The Water Bar, and beer from Trinity County Brewing Co.

July 2 - Proceeds benefit Music in the Park, with music by One Sol, street tacos, refreshments by The Water Bar, and beer from Trinity County Brewing Co.

For more information email trinitycountyarts@gmail.com or visit trinitycountyarts.org

HERITAGE BALLOON FESTIVAL May 6-8 Inter-Mountain Fairgrounds, McArthur

The event covers two days, including the balloon ascension on Saturday at 6:30 a.m.

Also tentatively scheduled on Saturday is a golf ball drop for \$5 a ticket with a chance to win \$1,000; a cornhole tournament; giant kite flyers in the afternoon; and a cribbage tournament.

There also will be food booths and vendors. Be a sponsor and ride in a balloon. Free admission every day.

For more information, visit intermountainfair.com, find their Facebook page, or call 530-336-5695 or 702-375-5708.

BEADMAN CRAFT FAIR May 7 2619 Park Marina Drive, Redding

The 18th annual event with over 55 crafters and vendors happens from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be handmade crafts by local crafty people along with food vendors, including a taco food truck, hot dog cart and kettle corn.

For more information, search The Beadman's Facebook and Instagram pages or call 530-243-8808.

SHASTA MUD RUN May 7 Hawes Farms, 6465 Deschutes Road, Anderson

Run through fields and forests, trudge through mud pits galore, experience challenging obstacles, and more.

For more information, go online to shastamudrun.com

REDDING FIRE FESTIVAL May 14-15 Shasta District Fairgrounds Anderson

The 10th Redding Fire Festival features fire dancing, pyrotechnics and cirque performance.

There's two days of activities and entertainment for all ages. Soak up the sunshine as you stroll through the arts and crafts fair with a sweet snow cone and tasty kettle corn. Try your hand at hooping, cornhole and carnival games. Meet a mermaid and board a Viking Ship. Play with a puppet and get your face painted. Express your creativity with a cosplay costume.

Get your groove on to live music by local musicians. Relax at a picnic table beneath the shady trees while sipping on a glass of wine. Chomp on a ginormous turkey leg and drink a cold cup of beer. Then get cozy on the lawn with your friends and family while you snack on cotton candy and watch the stunning fire and cirque show.

Chair rentals are available by donation and blankets are available for purchase. Donation proceeds will be directed to wildfire victims.

General admission on Saturday is \$15; children 9 and under get in free. General admission on Sunday is \$5.

For more information, to purchase tickets, apply for a booth space or to be a volunteer, visit FireFestivals.com

STEAMPUNK FESTIVAL May 21-22 Weed

After getting its start in Dunsuir, the Steampunk Festival has moved to Weed where it will be held May 21-22, featuring a rat rod contest, a costume contest and a gadget contest.

For the uninitiated, steampunk is a science fiction subgenre that infuses the Edwardian/Victorian eras with futuristic technology...only powered by steam machinery.

"It's become a whole genre of

fashion in addition to movies, books and television,” said Becka Larson, one of the organizers of the event.

The Steampunk Festival was last held in 2019 in Dunsmuir, but moved to Weed along with Chamber of Commerce Director Richard Dinges.

“This was his brainchild and we’re excited about bringing the concept and new events to Weed,” Larson said. “I was actually surprised how many people dressed up in 2019 (the last time the event was held). I didn’t know anyone up here was really into it.”

Larson said invitations to steampunk societies in Sacramento, San Francisco and Chico were extended in the hope they will get people up to “see how cool our place in Northern California is.”

In addition to the rat rod, costume and gadget contests, there will be live music, vendors and food.

“Weed has a ton of new events and we’ve been working hard to make this a town where things are happening,” she said.

And for the uninitiated, you don’t have to dress up, but Larson said it’s certainly fun to take in all the sites.

“It’s for everyone. No costumes are required, but some go all out and it’s intricate and cool,” she said, adding “it’s certainly fun to gawk at everyone.”

**TRINITY HERITAGE DAYS
May 21
Weaverville**

Celebrate Trinity Heritage Days, “an experience honoring the land, peoples and stories of our place,” on Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Main Street in historic downtown Weaverville.

Opening ceremonies will be hosted by the Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu Nation at the Highland Art Center meadow, followed by free Native American arts and crafts workshops for all ages offered throughout the day. There also will be traditional foods for sale, live music and dancing, historical exhibits at the Jake Jackson Museum, free tours of the newly refurbished Joss House State Park

Taoist Temple, and golden “nuggets” awaiting discovery by lucky finders who can redeem them for gifts at participating local businesses. Dress in historic and traditional attire is encouraged.

Artist workshops for all ages will include pow wow dancing, hand drumming, ceremonial drumming, singing, mural painting, flint knapping, archery, storytelling, making dream catchers, painting petroglyphs on rock, fishing with nets and net tying, skinning hides, native plant guided walks, making plant tinctures, and a historical discussion of Ishi, “The Last Wild Indian,” with author Beverly Ogle.

Trinity Heritage Days is presented by the Trinity County Arts Council, the Weaverville Chamber of Commerce, the Nor-Rel-Muk Wintu Nation, Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park, and Trinity County Historical Society, as a community-wide celebration of the heritage, traditions, art, music, and ways of life that have been handed down over generations by the many cultures that have called Trinity County home.

For more information visit trinitycountyarts.org.

**McCLOUD MUSHROOM FESTIVAL
May 28-29
McCloud**

Held every Memorial Day weekend, the McCloud Mushroom, Music & Wine Festival celebrates the proliferation of wild mushroom hunting that occurs every spring in and around McCloud.

With nearly 70 artisan, craft, and food vendors, the McCloud Chamber of Commerce said the event draws around 8,000 people annually for this free two-day event.

During the festival, you can enjoy mushroom workshops and mushroom foraging with the “king of mushrooms” Todd Spanier.

There also will be live music. On Saturday Lions of the North kick it off from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. They’ll be followed by Hill Country Truckers from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., then 3 Mile Road from 5 to 8



PHOTO / William Darius Myers for The Intermountain News

The Heritage Balloon Festival is scheduled May 6-8 at the Intermountain Fairgrounds in McArthur in eastern Shasta County.

p.m. On Sunday, from 11 a.m. to noon, it will be McCloud High School, followed by Redwood Empire from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and Secret Society Handshake from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit mccloudchamber.com

**HAPPY VALLEY
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
May 28-29
Happy Valley**

The 80th annual festival takes place at West Valley High School, located at the corner of Happy Valley and Gas Point roads.

Sweet fresh strawberries, ice cream and shortcake are \$8.

There also will be arts and crafts booths, strawberry shortcake, lots of food, including homemade tamales and a 4-H Swine Club pancake breakfast. In addition they’ll have continuous entertainment, Haven Human pet adoptions, and antique tractor displays..

For more information, visit happyvalleystrawberryfestival.com

**OLD LEWISTON
PEDDLERS’ FAIRE
June 4
Lewiston**

Mark your calendar for the return of the popular Lewiston Peddlers’ Faire, scheduled to be held Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Organizers said the 30th annual Old Lewiston Peddlers’ Faire promises to be a fun day for the whole family. Just a 30-minute drive from Redding, you’ll step back in time to a quaint gold rush town listed on the National Register of

Historic Places and located next to the Trinity River. The streets will be lined with vendors selling antiques, collectibles, and arts & crafts along with many food vendors, a wine tasting bar and live music throughout the day with Allison and Victor, Leia Anneliese, Annie Coty, Pine Dogs Duo and Stormy Weather Rhythm Band. Then visit Margaritaville at the Historic Lewiston Hotel Bar and Grill with live music following the Faire.

For all the car buffs, the Lewiston Moose Lodge Car Show will be happening across the river from the Peddler’s Faire.

And if you are interested in being a vendor, applications and information can be found at LewistonSparkies.com or call 530-380-2121.

There is no entrance fee, but a donation is greatly appreciated. The Old Lewiston Peddler’s Faire is a fundraiser put on by the Lewiston Sparkies to benefit the Lewiston Fire Department.



PHOTO / Lewiston Peddlers’ Faire
The crowd at the Old Lewiston Peddlers’ Faire



PHOTO / Redding Fire Festival

The Redding Fire Festival is slated May 14-15 at the Shasta District Fairgrounds in Anderson.

NEWS of the WEIRD

-From Page 9

The injured are being treated with antivenom. Health officials have even had to recruit doctors who were on vacation to help with the influx of patients.

A lost ring will soon find its way home – after 70 years. Kelly Stewart of Richfield, Utah, found the ring in 2019 while using his metal detector in the yard of an abandoned home.

It's a 10-karat gold ring from the 1943 class of the Colorado School of Mines, inscribed with the initials "R.W.D."

Kelly found a 1948 yearbook from the school on eBay, which revealed the ring's likely owner: Richard William Deneke.

Deneke is nearing his 100th birthday at a nursing home in Georgia, and Stewart plans to mail the ring back to him. "I think it's amazing," Deneke told Stewart in a phone call.

A special bear is back home where he belongs. Stuffed bear Teddy was the first gift Ben and Addie Pascal of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, sent to their daughter Naomi before adopting her in 2016.

Naomi, now 6, brought Teddy on

family trips to Ethiopia, Rwanda, Croatia, Greece – and, last October, to Glacier National Park in Montana.

By the time the family realized Teddy was lost, snowfall had closed the higher elevations of the park for the season.

Ranger Tom Mazzarisi found Teddy on a trail and couldn't bring himself to throw out the toy, instead keeping it as a mascot on his dashboard all winter.

Nearly a year later, the Pascals' family friend Terri Hayden visited Glacier and spotted a stuffed bear in a ranger's truck. After confirming it was Teddy, Mazzarisi returned the bear – along with a junior park ranger badge and ranger hat.

Cable network BET broke a Guinness World Record in Harlem by recruiting 536 people to dance in the world's longest soul train line.

The line included original dancers from the "Soul Train" TV show, as well as a marching band and hundreds of local residents. A Guinness official was there to make sure participants followed the rules, including dancing "in pairs for at least 40 feet to qualify as a soul train."

The group took the record from Goodyear Ballpark in Arizona, which gathered a 426-person soul train line in 2014.

said, "The weirdest part ... was when I felt a rough texture on the 'thigh' part of my tongue – and when I looked in the mirror, it had started growing leg hair!" Newsom had to learn to speak again and still finds eating a challenge, but she's back to being a gymnastics coach, even with her fuzzy tongue.

In Baltimore, David Bennett Sr., 57, became the first person to receive a heart transplant using a donor heart from a pig, The Washington Post reported.

The eight-hour surgery took place on Jan. 7; Bennett was so sick that he could not qualify for a transplant from another human.

Dr. Bartley Griffith, who performed the surgery, said, "It's working and it looks normal. We are thrilled, but we don't know what tomorrow will bring us. This has never been done before."

Scientists have worked to genetically alter pigs so that human bodies would not reject their organs, in an effort to supplement the supply of donor hearts from other people.

Bennett, who was convicted of battery in a 1988 stabbing that left a man paralyzed, spent six years in prison. Before the surgery, he admitted, "I know it's a shot in the dark, but it's my last choice." His son said Bennett wished to "contribute to the science and potentially save patient lives in the future."

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Interesting Facts about Memorial Day

Each year on the last Monday of May, Americans celebrate Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a federal holiday that honors and mourns American military personnel who died while performing their duties in service to the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day has a rich history and one that's worth revisiting as the nation prepares to honor the sacrifices made by its military personnel over the centuries.

Freed slaves played a role in the establishment of Memorial Day. The American Civil War is the deadliest military conflict in American history, as the Union and the Confederacy each suffered more than 800,000 casualties by the time the war ended in 1865.

According to History.com, as the war drew to a close, hundreds of Union soldiers who were being held as prisoners of war died and were buried in a mass grave in a Confederate prison camp in South Carolina. After the Confederate surrender, more than 1,000 now-freed slaves honored those recently deceased Union soldiers during a ceremony in which they sang hymns and distributed flowers. The ceremony was dedicated to the fallen soldiers and served as a precursor to what is now celebrated as Memorial Day.

Confederate soldiers were honored, too. Confederate losses during the Civil War outnumbered Union losses, and those losses were not forgotten by southerners who survived the war.

History.com notes that, in 1866, the Georgia-based Ladies Memorial Association, one of many similar organizations to arise in the aftermath of the war, pushed for a day to honor fallen Confederate soldiers. In fact, these efforts are believed to have influenced General John A. Logan. In 1868, General Logan, a Civil War veteran who was then serving as commander-in-chief of a group of Union veterans, ordered the decoration of Union graves with flowers on May 30. The day would ultimately be known as Memorial Day.

It took a long time for Memorial Day to become a federal holiday. Despite tracing its origins to the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, Memorial Day did not become an official federal holiday until 1971, more than a century after the war ended.

Debate exists about which town has the longest history of celebrating Memorial Day. A handful of towns claim to be the first celebrants, but History.com notes that Waterloo, New York, was officially recognized by U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson as the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1966. Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and Rochester, Wisconsin, are some other towns that claim to have celebrated Memorial Day since the mid-1860s.

Best senior travel discounts in 2022

Dear Savvy Senior,
What are some of the best travel discounts available to seniors? My husband and I are about to retire and are interested in traveling more but live on a tight budget.

- Frugal Travelers

Dear Frugal,
There are literally hundreds of different travel-related discounts available to older travelers that can add up to save you hundreds of dollars on your next trip. To qualify, you'll need to meet the age requirement, which varies by business. Some discounts may be available as soon as you turn 50, but most don't kick in until you turn 55, 60, 62 or 65.

Here's a rundown of top travel discounts, along with some extra tips to help you save.

Ways to Save

The first thing to know is that most businesses don't advertise them, but many give senior discounts just for the asking, so don't be shy.

You also need to be aware that when it comes to senior travel bargains, the "senior discount," if available, may not always be the best deal. Hotels, resorts, airlines and cruise lines, for example, offer advanced bookings along with special deals and promotions from time to time that may be a lower rate than what the senior discount is.



By Jim Miller

Before you book, always ask about the lowest possible rate and the best deal available.

Another way you can save is to be flexible when you travel. Last minute travel deals can offer huge savings, as does traveling during off-season or off-peak times, and avoiding holidays.

Club memberships can also garner you a wide variety of travel bargains. AARP, for example has dozens of travel discounts available on hotels, rental cars, cruises, vacation packages and more – see AARP.org/benefits-discounts. The American Automobile Association (AAA.com) is another membership club that provides some great travel discounts to members at any age.

Types of Discounts

Here are some of the best senior travel discounts available in 2022.

Airline: British Airways offers AARP members \$65 off economy travel and

\$200 off business club travel. American, Delta and United also offer senior fares to passengers 65 and older in certain markets but are extremely limited. And JetBlue offers 5 percent discounts for retired military and veterans that are enrolled in Veterans Advantage.

Train: Amtrak provides a 10 percent discount to travelers 65-plus, and a 10 percent discount to passengers over age 60 on cross-border services operated jointly by Amtrak and VIA Rail Canada.

Rental Car: Avis and Budget provide AARP members up to 30 percent off at participating locations. Hertz offers up to 20 off to 50-plus travelers. And Thrifty and Sixt provides 5 percent off to those 50 and older.

Hotels: Certain hotel chains offer discounted rates for seniors usually ranging between 10 and 15 percent off but may vary by location. Some popular hotels that offer these discounts include Best Western, Choice Hotels,

Hyatt, IHG Hotels, Marriott, Omni Hotels & Resorts, Red Roof and Wyndham Hotels.

Restaurants: Many restaurant chains offer senior discounts ranging from free drinks, to senior menus, to discounts off your total order, but they may only be available on certain days of the week or at certain locations. Some popular options include Applebee's, Denny's, IHOP, Chili's, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery and McDonalds.

Cruises: Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruise lines offer discount rates to cruisers 55 and over on select cruises. And Grand European Travel offers AARP members up to \$100 savings per person on river cruises. Call before booking to inquire.

Entertainment and Attractions: Most museums, zoos, aquariums, movie theaters, public golf courses and even ski slopes provide reduced admission to seniors over 60 or 65. And for those 62 or older, one of the best deals available is the America the Beautiful Senior Pass (\$20 for an annual senior pass, or \$80 for a lifetime pass) which provides admittance to more than 2,000 national parks and recreation sites.

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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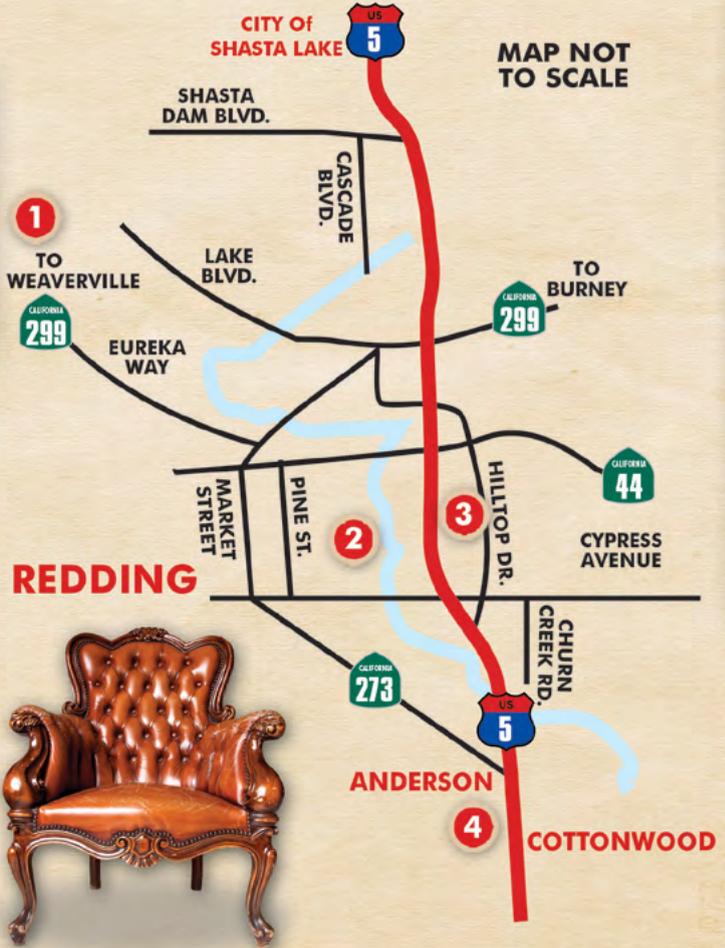
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These things I saw: A few random observations

By Rich Manieri

• I never had the Easter Bunny pegged for a PR flack, but he can now add it to his CV.



Shortly after the White House Easter Egg Roll, the basket-toting Easter Bunny intervened and led President Biden away from a reporter who asked the president about Afghanistan. The funny thing was Biden actually followed the Easter Bunny's instructions as if it were all perfectly normal. Additional questions on international affairs were referred to the Tooth Fairy.

• CNN spent \$300 million to launch its new CNN+ platform which proved to be about as popular as John Wilkes Booth. The network had hoped to attract about 2 million subscribers the first year but signed up a paltry 150,000 before announcing it was pulling the plug. I have an idea for CNN that could solve all of its problems – how about just covering the news?

• If you're going to transport illegal drugs, you need to pay attention to the details, such as making sure you have fuel in your vehicle. A Tennessee woman, who was hauling about 230 pounds of marijuana, ran out of gas on a bridge, which tends to attract the attention of police. When the cops showed up, she advised them not to go inside the vehicle, which also tends to attract the attention of the police. Police did search the vehicle and found enough cannabis to get half of Memphis stoned silly. The woman was promptly arrested.

• Actor Johnny Depp is involved in a very public defamation suit against his ex-wife. It's all very sordid and sad but I don't care either.

• It was inevitable but Major League Baseball players will soon serve as walking billboards. The San Diego Padres are the first team to strike a deal with an advertiser. Motorola will be buying space on uniform sleeves and helmets to advertise its line of cell phones. The bigger story is that Motorola still makes phones.

• If you own stock in Netflix, I hope you sold most of it. If you don't, now might be a good time to buy. Shares are down 25% and the streaming giant is hemorrhaging subscribers – 200,000 last quarter. What happened? For starters, consumers are no longer housebound and other streaming services are gaining traction. Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk believes he knows what's going on. "The woke mind virus is making Netflix unwatchable," Musk tweeted. Instead of listening to Musk, Netflix announced it was going to crackdown on password sharing, further endearing itself to already-disgruntled subscribers.

• A California woman flipped out on flight attendants, opened the plane's emergency exit door and slid down the inflatable slide moments before takeoff from Buffalo. She then ran around the tarmac for a bit until police caught her. There's something about air travel that turns otherwise reasonable people into raving maniacs. It has to be more than surly flight attendants and delays. Maybe travelers will be less grumpy now that a federal judge has struck down the Biden administration's mask mandate. Maybe not, which dovetails nicely with our final item.

• If you were going to become rude and unruly on a commercial airplane, who is the last person on earth you would want to antagonize? Go ahead. I'll give you a minute. How about Mike Tyson?

Indeed, on a recent JetBlue flight, a passenger sitting behind Tyson made the ill-advised decision to talk trash to the former heavyweight champ. Published reports indicate that, initially, Tyson repeatedly and politely asked the man to stop. He didn't. What happened next? Take another minute. Yes, Tyson, having had enough, unleashed a restrained combination to this Bozo's skull. I say restrained because if Tyson really wanted to hurt the guy, he would have disembarked toes up. As it was, he had a few cuts and bruises.

I would like to propose the launching of a new airline specifically for passengers who can't behave themselves, like the guy behind Tyson and the woman in Buffalo. We can call it "Unruly Air" or something like that. I'm not married to it. But we need capital and leadership. Mr. Musk, are you listening?

Copyright 2022 Rich Manieri, distributed by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate. Rich Manieri is a Philadelphia-born journalist and author. He is currently a professor of journalism at Asbury University in Kentucky. You can reach him at manieri2@gmail.com.





Artwork by Tom O'Hara, who passed away in January of 2020: Left, jazz tenor saxophonist Dexter Gordon. Above, swing and jazz guitarist Charlie Christian.

'Tom O'Hara: A Retrospective' art opening May 14 in Dunsmuir

On Saturday, May 14, the Siskiyou Arts Museum in Dunsmuir invites you to attend an exhibit of artwork by Tom O'Hara, a long-time resident of Mt. Shasta who passed away Jan. 16, 2020.

O'Hara was said to be a master in watercolors, oils, gouache, printmaking and sculpture. His subjects covered a variety of topics, including landscapes, musicians, figurative nudes, horses and even children's stories.

Once described as "The artist who changed the face of Mount Shasta" with his murals and building designs, O'Hara and his wife, Julie Bennett, also created the Stage Door Coffeehouse & Cabaret, and collaborated on the publication of a children's book, "Rex Reads" written by Bennett and illustrated by O'Hara.

Some of the "Rex Reads" books will be available for sale and Bennett wants to give books away to any children who attend the opening reception.

O'Hara was born in Schenectady, New York, and raised in the Adirondack mountains of upstate New York. He attended California College of Arts and Crafts on a full scholarship, and pursued independent studies both here and abroad, notably at the Royal Academy and the museums of London.

Though never having actually "launched" his career, O'Hara put out a large volume of work in an array of mediums and genres, and sold hundreds of works to collectors all over the world. He is represented in the Harold McCracken Collection, the Walt Whitman Museum, the Kennedy Center, the Favell Museum, the Clark Museum and others.

O'Hara once said: "To state my career in a nutshell: I financed my fine art studies for three decades with commercial art and music. I would not begin the process of 'emerging' until I really knew what direction my interests would take (and, of course, what would give me the greatest joy). Turns out I'm



Tom O'Hara

mainly interested in people. Who woulda thought?"

"Tom O'Hara: A Retrospective," a Second Saturday art opening and reception, from 4 to 7 p.m. on May 14.

Visit siskiyouartsmuseum.org and also check out their Facebook page. You can also sign up to receive their monthly e-Newsletters when you visit either site.

The Siskiyou Arts Museum is a member and volunteer supported non-profit art gallery and gift shop, located in the heart of the downtown Dunsmuir Historic District at 5824 Dunsmuir Ave. Business hours (February through December) are Thursday through Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.; on the Second Saturday of each month, they're open until 7 p.m. To call and leave a message phone 530-235-4711.

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