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East Sacramento News

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And to Broadway, longtime East Sacramento guitar store on the move

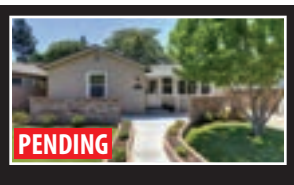
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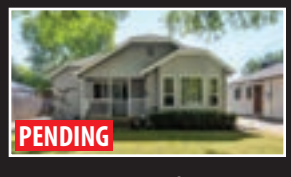
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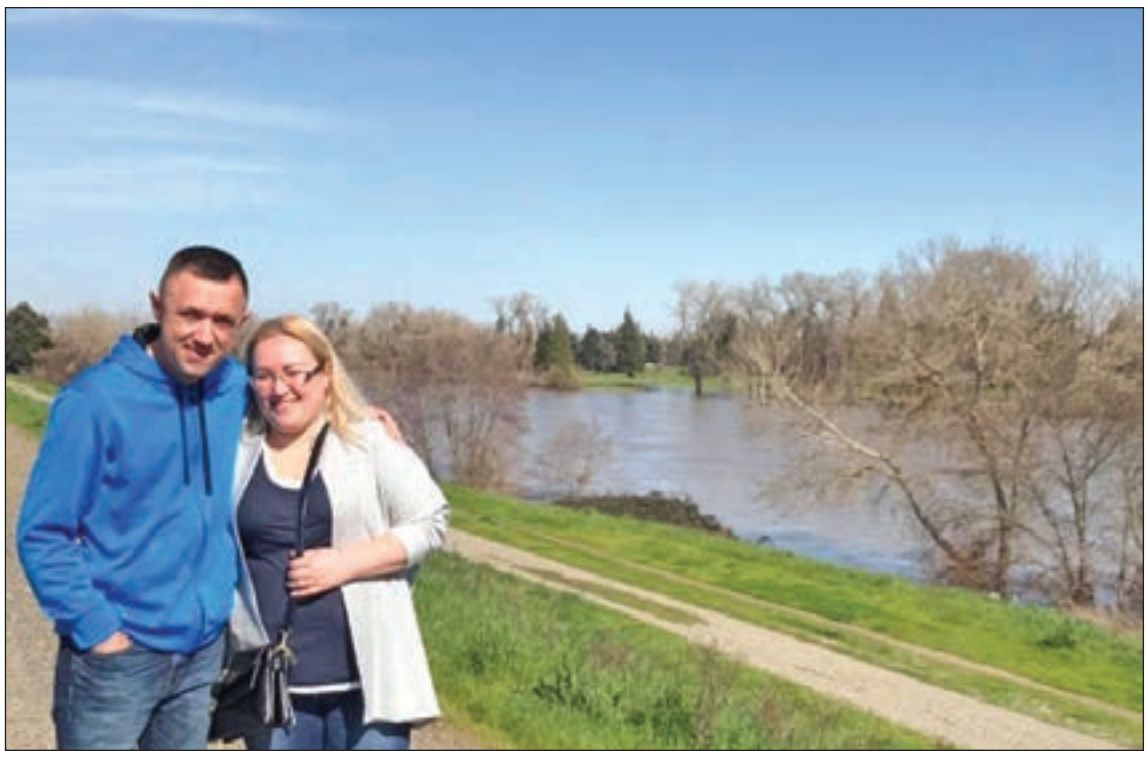
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Help Borys Prysiazhnyi heal:

East Sacramento community comes together for local limo driver

Borys Prysiazhnyi is a chauffeur for Coastal Breeze Limo Service. Borys is in his early 30s and is receiving kidney dialysis three times a week. At the age of 18, his kidneys began failing from a virus while living in Odessa, Ukraine. His mother donated her kidney a little over two years ago, but the kidney is at 7 percent function, requiring dialysis. A kidney transplant is needed. Borys' older sister Katya is in the United States for six months, thanks to UC Davis Medical Center and their organ transplant department, so Katya will be able to donate her kidney to her brother.

Medical tests are now being run on both of them to get ready for the transplant. Borys is unable to work at this time because of his medical appointments. During the time of surgery and recovery, Borys will need to continue paying for cell phone service, food and rent. Both siblings will undergo surgery and recovery, making it difficult for them to help each other. Their roommate has graciously volunteered to take care of both of them at home following discharge from the hospital. About $5,000 is needed to cover expenses until he is totally recovered after the surgery. Katya will need to recover before returning home to the Ukraine to be with her husband and 13 year old daughter. They are helping to care for Borys' wife and 3-year-old son. Borys' employer, Coastal Breeze Limo Service, has been very helpful during this time.

Meanwhile, the following local vendors will participate in the Help Borys Heal fundraiser on **Sept. 9, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Compton's Market**, 4065 McKinley Blvd.:
Barry McGee-Balloon artist
Dragonfly Art-Facepainter
Twist N Shout-Balloon artist
Fabrizio-musician
Kathy Holberton-Swarovski jewelry
Mamta Gupta-Indian purses
Dorcas Yee-Axianta Financial Partners
Don Friedrichsen-Farmers Insurance
Monica Stark-East Sacramento News (Valley Community Newspapers)

Plan A is all vendors will be indoors. If the weather is cool, which is doubtful, vendors will be outdoors. Willy's Cafe and a number of our vendors will be giving a percentage of their sales to Borys Prysiazhnyi.

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And to Broadway, longtime East Sacramento guitar store on the move

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com



Because of the likes of corporations like Amazon, John Green, the owner of the Fifth String says he's winding down the store's retail operations to focus more on teaching and to offer performance space – something that only a personal touch can offer.

As of Monday morning, Green said he was in the process of securing a location near Broadway that will provide more space for live performances and will benefit customers with adequate parking.

"I like it down there (on Broadway) because it's between city college and Sac State and it's a really great location – it's just a wonderful building."

While he's leaving a charming 1920s building at 3184 N St. in East Sacramento, the price is high for what's he's been getting. "The problem with this building is the archaicness of how old it is in terms of its heating, air, plumbing and electricity. And the rents are high. The building doesn't have adequate heating and air for the really hot days. All of that is a little bit of a problem."

With a passion of teaching, he's bringing along his seasoned staff to Broadway. "They are very happy with it. They love the feel as I do."

And with that, he says it doesn't feel weird to leave East Sac. "My passion and that of everybody here is teaching... It's just crazy how long this business has been around, but retail changed. Retail's pretty much a dying market. Everything about the store is great. It's just time to move on. Going to the teaching side, that's one thing you can't get online very well, although I have a bunch online. God, I've been teaching the world how to play guitar the last three years on YouTube."

A Certified Public Accountant, Green makes his money "fighting the IRS and tax preparation." Many musicians in town receive accounting services from him and he plans on moving his CPA practice, along with the music school to the Broadway location. "Catch you all on the flip side," he wrote in an announcement on his personal Facebook page.

Asked about some of his favorite memories of owning the Fifth String, Green's stories are endless, however a couple of them really have really stuck with him. "It's crazy actually how many people have played at the Fifth String or who are associated with the Fifth String. It's just crazy."

Recalling one such memory, Green recalled when Chris Hillman from the

See Guitar shop, page 11

MASTERS CLUB

Rich Cazneaux - Coldwell Banker

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BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED
39 Lupine Way
Large 5 bed, 3 full baths, 2800 SF, 2-story home nestled on a quiet street in East Sac. The beautifully remodeled kitchen has black granite counters, white custom cabinets, built-in wine fridge and stainless steel appliances. The family room boasts 20 foot ceilings and sliding glass doors that lead to the remodeled resort-like backyard with pool and raised garden beds. **-$1,200,000**



EAST SAC TUDOR!
811 41st Street
Wonderful 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1174 sq/ft, East Sac Tudor. Features include hardwood floors, formal living room with built-ins and fireplace, formal dining room with built-in buffet, a large kitchen with cozy breakfast nook and built-in seating.
- $519,950



MIDTOWN HIGH WATER BUNGALOW
623 20th Street
Cozy 2 bed/1 bath, 926 sq/ft, Midtown high water bungalow. Walking up the steps to the large front porch, you get a warm and welcoming feeling. Vintage features are intact and can be seen throughout this beautiful home. The charming backyard has a deck that looks onto the lush shrubbery and flowers. Home has a full sized basement. **- $429,950**



EXPANSIVE BACKYARD!
1557 52nd Street
This attractive 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom,1419 sq/ft East Sac home sits on a large lot. The updated kitchen has quartz countertops against subway tile. Beautiful wood floors in the open dining/living room combo with slate fireplace. The master suite has plenty of closet space and doors that lead to a deck in the expansive backyard.
- $529,950



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CalBRE# 01447558
Rich Cazneaux

East Sac comedian releases "Big Book of Jokes"

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com



Photo by Stephen Crowley

East Sacramento comedian Robert Berry

When he was just a wee lad, Robert Berry was the shy kind of class clown. Writing jokes on his homework for his teachers to read, while passing around joke books among his classmates, Berry shied from the spotlight of school-day showmanship. "I wasn't a noisy and boisterous class clown that wanted all the immediate attention. I was pretty shy in a lot of ways," he says today.

And yet, where are you likely to find him today? The stage.

From the Punchline to Laughs Unlimited, to dive bars like On the Y, as well as Bay Area venues and spots in towns like Gustine, Turlock, Mill Valley and Arcata, Berry has made a career out of performing those comedic one-liners, those groaners, those laugh-out-loud, out of left field cheese-ball jokes.

And now, this East Sacramento comedian has added another trick to his bag – a collection of sorts, a tribute to the dirty and tasteless joke books he grew up with. Aptly titled, "Robert Berry's Big Book of Jokes," the collection, is chock-full of nearly 1,000 jokes. If the Motion Picture Association of America were to give it a rating, they'd likely give it PG-13 or R rating.

Going old-school with this release, Berry and his wife put the books out in the mail themselves upon a customer's payment. With some good pre-order attention, the mom-and-pop operation sold about 80 copies before they came out. A biased friend endorsement goes as follows: It was the last time he ever saw his dad reading a book.

The book also provides an outlet for Berry to share his humor with friends who live afar.

Recalling a bit more of his school days and the beginning of performing in front of others, Berry said he signed up to try out for the school talent show as a violin player, but about an hour beforehand, he made the quick decision to tell jokes instead. He jotted some things down, to which he likens to material that Fozzie Bear from the Muppet Show may have uttered.

After one joke into the fifth grade performance, Berry panicked, cried and went home. It was many years before he tried that again. But his love of joke books never wavered. He'd memorize those jokes, shaping the kind of comedy he performs. Hitting up the local circuit for the last five years Berry has traveled, sharing one-liner after one-liner. He's also host to the weekly open mic at On the Y on Fulton Avenue.

A "great classic dive bar", On the Y is home to a "fun and different type of crowd," he says. "They're not the most polite, quiet crowd. It can get boisterous compared to a comedy club. On top of that, it's a different caliber of folks that come and perform there. A ventriloquist would show up, all kinds of stuff that's pretty silly. I went there for karaoke because one of my first loves is singing and I saw they had an open mic comedy night. I checked it out and gave it a try."

After the longtime host stopped running the open mic, Berry said he thought that was the perfect time to take it over. With 20 comedians a week, the open mic night starts at 8 p.m., with sign-ups at 7:30 p.m., on a first-come, first-serve basis. Karaoke starts at 10 p.m.

Asked if he ever tells a bad joke on purpose, Berry said, "Oh yeah! There's some jokes that are darling jokes to me and they're so stupid and the crowd will let me know that they agree with me. I love it when you tell a bad joke and the crowd just goes, 'awwwwwww, man', and shakes their heads. But, they're so appreciative in a way that there's no hatred there. They're just like, 'I can't believe that was the punchline' but it gets them. And I rather have that than silence."

Concerned about the audience reception, he says he's performed shows where tears were shed with groans mixed in. It's as if time slows, he says. "Sweat's drippin' out of your forehead and it's like the water faucets on and it's a slow torture."

Of his long drawn out jokes, Berry becomes the ghost of Jim Kerr, lead singer of Simple Minds. Satirical in tone, he sings, "Hey, hey, hey. Whoooo, whoooo, whoooo" as he introduces "Don't You Forget About Me", a song featured in the 1985 John Hughes Brat Pack movie, The Breakfast Club.

"It's so dumb, and it has such a big build up to get to that and you expect a tomato to come flying at your head. People will tell me how dumb that joke is and then sing it to me. It sticks with them. I've got a lot of jokes that are stupid and hard to forget."

In 2010, Berry moved to Seattle for about 10 months for a job, while his family stayed in Sacramento, but the job didn't work out and he came back home. In the interim, he frequented karaoke bars and got hooked singing along to The Violent Femmes, Prince, Queen. "I just enjoyed it. I was conscientious at the time to make my voice better, louder and clearer." That's why he enjoys hosting the show at On the Y. Berry says they have a great karaoke book there with thousands of songs, featuring some of the weirdest, most obscure stuff.

Being a comedian is a weird existence, he says. "There might be five people in the audience staring at you and you just bomb miserably and you go home depressed. You can go from the extreme of having a giant crowd of people cheering and laughing through what you say to just complete silence and this gruesome gray fog that just hangs over you after you're done."

And that's what's great about performing comedy, he says. Any night could be either one of those things. After all, even the best comics in the world can bomb. "You grow from it and that's how you get better," he says.

Enjoying the performance of the "little quick jokes", Berry says it's great when you can get an audience behind that format, as most comics perform longer-form comedy. Comparing the two, he says, "If you got an hour to perform and you're doing little jokes that could be 120 jokes that you gotta tell (versus) six or seven longer bits of the traditional comedy form. It's different. So there are a lot more chances for people to laugh or not laugh when you're done. So, it's definitely a skill-building thing. Bill Cosby – the long form is his bread and butter; Rodney Dangerfield does the quick ones. I love them both, I just happen to be better at the quick ones. Just like some people can run a marathon better than a 100-yard dash. There's a silliness to the one-liners that you got to get into and you have to power through them. If you tell 20 jokes and some of them don't get the biggest laughs, you got to believe there's the best jokes that you're telling."

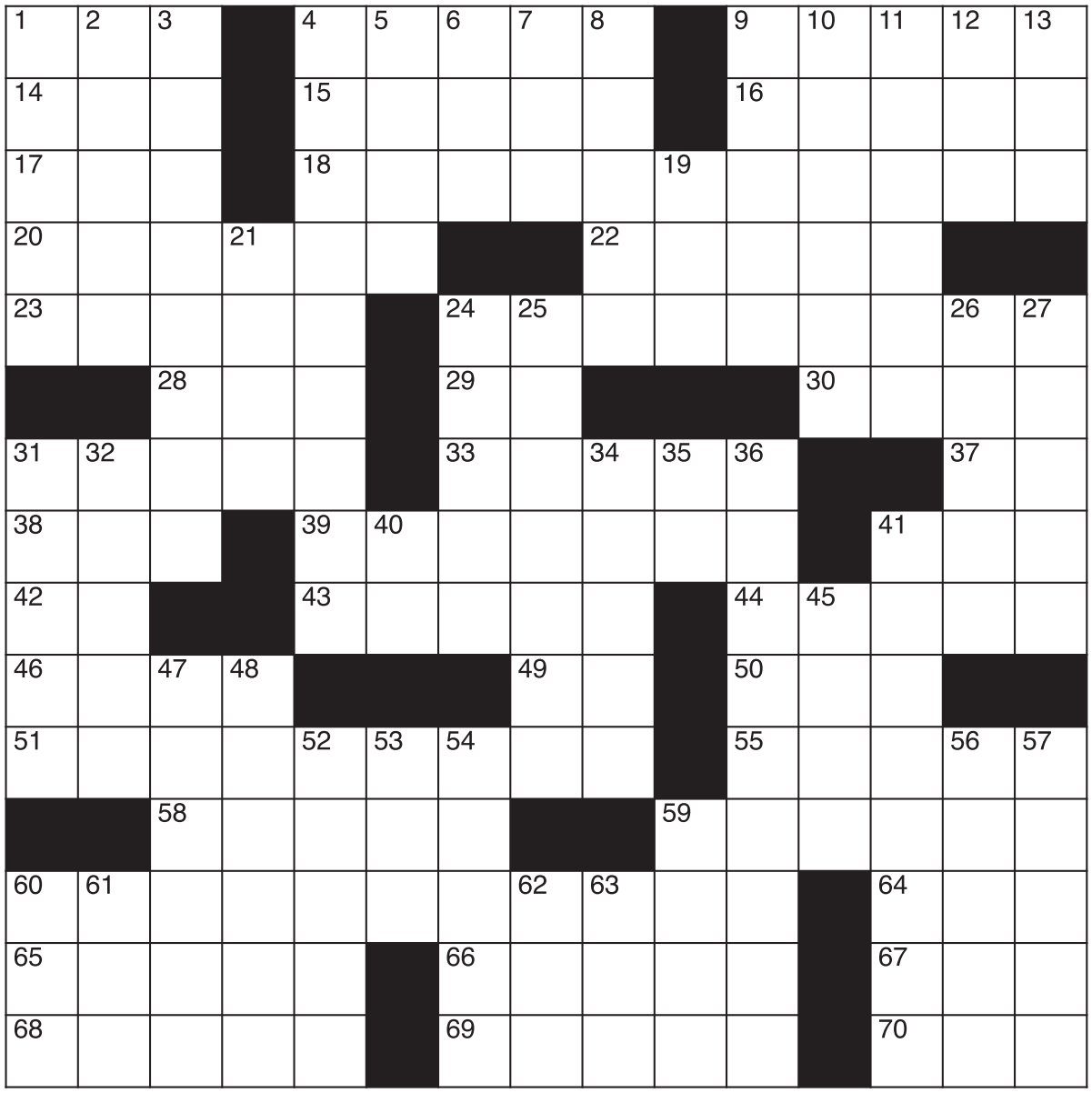


Asked about his goals and future projects, Berry says: "I'm an older comedian and there's a lot of young ones that are starting out. I turn 48 this year. So, my 20-year plan at this point is just being alive."

Find Robert Berry online at retrocrush.com. There you can buy a copy of his book and find more details and pricing information for the following shows:

You can catch Robert Berry live in comedic form on Aug. 18 at the Blue Lamp (1400 Alhambra Blvd.), Aug. 30 at the Pizza Factory in Turlock (1050 W Monte Vista Ave), Sept. 1 at the Variety Club 582 Market St.) in San Francisco, Sept. 6 at Kozy Kar (1548 Polk St.) in San Francisco or at the Crawfish Fest at the Yolo County Fairgrounds (1250 Gum Ave., Woodland) on Sept. 9-10.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Defunct phone company
4. Rural area in Guinea
9. Hairstyles
14. Makes a good meal
15. Nats' CFer Adam
16. El __, painter
17. Midway between south and southeast
18. Baseball's "The Big Hurt"
20. A serialized set of programs
22. A woody climbing plant
23. Japanese metropolis
24. Whirlpool
28. Toddler
29. Integrated circuit
30. WWII British fighter Blackburn __
31. Ancient Briton tribe
33. Injurious weeds (Bib.)
37. Nonredundant
38. Turf
39. Canned fish
41. Team's best pitcher
42. Touchdown
43. Woody perennial plants
44. Rattling breaths
46. Smaller quantity
49. Of I
50. When you'll get there
51. Adventures
55. Type of chip
58. Having wings
59. Mutilated
60. Considered
64. Wrath
65 A citizen of Iran
66. American state
67. Explosive
68. One who challenges
69. ___ senilis
70. Affirmative

CLUES DOWN
1. Move rapidly in music
2. Brief are one type
3. Repeated
4. Quitter
5. Paddles
6. Broadway actress Hagen
7. Politician Paul
8. Joint
9. Ottoman military men
10. Covers for illegal operations
11. Comment
12. Office of Consumer Affairs
13. Distress signal
19. '__ death do us part
21. S. Korean boy band
24. Bishop's hat
25. Learning environment
26. Measurement
27. Equines
31. Hard plant fiber
32. Protocols
34. Stands up
35. Linear unit
36. Songs
40. One of the six noble gases
41. Cheerful readiness
45. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
47. Having only magnitude
48. Containing salt
52. Chadic language
53. Fed
54. Beef or chicken intestine
56. Hill in Australia and London
57. "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
59. A list of available dishes
60. Have already done
61. Geological time
62. Swiss river
63. Twitch

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Life on Two Rivers:

Owling in the City

By ELLEN COCHRANE

Tucked into dense tree canopy or holed up in a palm tree, the urban owl is almost impossible to find in the day. Your best bet to see them is the magic, crepuscular hour—that faded, slate blue time at dusk and dawn. While more commonly encountered along the Sacramento and American Rivers, we do have three fellow travelers that share our city—the Barn, the Western Screech and Great Horned owls.

Owling is a full sensory quest. You can start on your block by noting white wash (droppings collected under a favorite roost) and listening for distinctive calls. One can go on line to hear the different calls and use the "Explore Data" feature of eBird (www.ebird.org) to locate owl sightings in the area. On eBird people post information on location, photos and even sound recordings and you can explore the site and see all the reports without joining. Look around the base of trees where you suspect there's a roost. If you're really lucky you'll find some owl pellets—coughed up remains of undigested bones and fur. Owls don't chew. They usually swallow prey whole and then regurgitate the remains.

As lords of the night, owls capture the imagination of many cultures. Wisdom, death, afterlife, medicine, luck, doom—powerful attributes were placed onto owls. According to the fossil record, they are one of the oldest groups of living birds and have lived with us and in our imagination since our beginnings.

Owl eyes are specially adapted for hunting low light. They are often very large, taking up as much as 30 percent of the skull volume (compared to about 1% for humans). The eyes are long tubes attached to the skull and they don't move in the sockets. This gives the owl its deep gaze that, along with up to 140 degrees of head rotation, has led to many myths of supernatural power and intelligence. However, in the scope of bird intelligence owls are not high on the list, but their senses make up for less brainpower.

Their main superpower, however, is their hearing. With asymmetric placement of the ears, a facial disc of feathers to funnel sound to those ears, and extreme acuity, some owls can locate and dispatch prey in total darkness. Specially adapted flight feathers allow nearly silent flight, which prevents alerting their prey as well as helping them hear the faintest noises from that prey.

Barn Owls

Miwoks believed that after death, the wicked were doomed to become Barn Owls.

Many of us have heard the long, eerie, raspy screech in the inky night. It's most common during the summer mating season and is meant to attract females or beg for food. In most neighborhoods this is the owl you're most likely to see.

This powerful night hunter does not hoot at all, and the blood curdling call must freeze the heart of nearby rats. It's a prodigious killer, able to hunt in the dark night with precision using hearing that can detect the minute sounds of rodents chewing and scratching.

These owls are adorned with a heart-shaped face with no ear tufts and light-colored feathers. They get their name from their love of barns and abandoned buildings for roosting. The happiest Barn Owl lives in an undeveloped habitat of open area that's not in the mountains and that's not too cold. But they are versatile. East Lawn and the Old City Cemetery, Land, McKinley, East Portal and Capitol parks often host some birds. They look for old tree cavities and structures that provide perches and dine primarily on small rodents. When these silent night hunters take flight there is often only a whisper of wings and a pale sail of body floating in the air.



Photo by Phil Robertson

Barn owl

Western Screech-Owl

Cherokee shamans believed Screech Owls can bring on sickness as punishment.

There is no hoot, and alas, no screech. This small, misnamed owl has a rich trilling whinny with the cadence of a bouncing ball – starting slowly and speeding up toward the end. You'll find it mostly in our river neighborhoods. It loves the heavy brush and is strictly nocturnal, hunting by looking more than listening. The best way to spot it is to learn the call. The sound is the key to seeing one.

These woodland owls are little, about the length of a red-winged black bird, with small ear tufts and yellow eyes. Like most owls, the female is slightly larger than the male. There are three different species with our Western Screech-Owl found west of the Rockies, the Eastern Screech east of the Rockies, and the Whiskered Screech, a mainly Central American species whose range barely reaches into southeastern Arizona.

They are cavity nesters and love old trees, abandoned woodpecker holes and empty crow or magpie nests. Their mottled gray plumage is perfect camouflage allowing them to easily blend into the grayish bark of oaks while they sleep through the day.

Great Horned Owl

Miwoks believed Great Horned Owl capture the souls of the dead and carried them to the underworld.

I heard the clicking first. It was dusk in East Lawn Cemetery on a hot August night. Quickly and silently, three large brown-gray owls floated above my head and disappeared into the urban canopy. I'd been owled. Great Horned. The clicking behavior was probably territorial. The parliament of owls was most likely a parent and offspring.

This is our neighborhood owl that hoots. Hoo, hoo, ha-hoo. The large ear tufts and blazing eyes mark this as a quintessential storybook bird. But don't mistake this animal as a benevolent, message carrying child's companion. This is an apex predator with very strong, fierce talons that can carry away rabbits and skunks. Rescued injured birds will often reek of skunk, the owl's favored meal. This bird has no natural predators and will eat anything from fish to small fox.

They are not as common in the urban area, but can be spotted in the larger parks and closer to the river. They hunt by scanning from perches or glide over areas searching for food. Sacramento's old growth urban canopy of mixed deciduous and conifer is perfect for nesting for the owl, but open areas provide the best hunting ground. They are found throughout North America in both low and high lands.

Sacramento Rats and Owls

This summer there was an uptick of rats on our block. Not only were they chubby; they were brazen—waddling across the telephone wires before sundown. These cretins destroyed my tomatoes. I'm surprised they don't travel with little napkins around their necks and cutlery curled in their tails.

The idea of rodent poison was ruled out. Most poisons kill rats slowly and they can crawl into hard to reach spots to die. (Like under your floorboards, or that great trumpet vine by your outdoor dining area.) More importantly for our natural neighborhood world, all who prey on them ingest the poisons that kill the rats. Owls, hawks, raccoons, dogs, cats, are killed by rodenticide. Typically, a rat won't succumb for a day or more to the poison and becomes easier prey.

Owls are my solution. A single barn owl can eat more than 1,500 rodents a year, and a nesting brood can scarf up to 20 a day. Owls, I'm inviting you in. The California State Fair had a demonstration owl box, and I researched them on line. It's not too hard to assemble and they are relatively inexpensive.

East Sacramento Preservation Neighborhood Group also understands that humans and owls form a healthy partnership. The group is fundraising for owl boxes to mount in McKinley Park. This is wise stewardship and supported by the neighborhood. Poisons are not preferable to control rat populations. Hopefully, Sacramento City Council will adopt a resolution banning the owl-killing rat poisons for sale in the city and promoting the use of owl boxes.

For more information about owl boxes and the problems of rat poison visit: http://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/

To help East Sacramento Preservation with the owl box project call (916) 457-2725 or email contact@eastsacpreservation.org.

To learn more about our owls, I recommend Field Guide to the Owls of California and the West by Hans Peeters.

Ellen Cochrane is a certified California Naturalist who lives close to the American Rivver.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

M	C	I	■	D	O	U	R	A	■	A	F	R	O	S
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Faces and Places:

32nd annual Festa Italiana!

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

Italian culture is alive and well in Sacramento at Festa Italiana! This festival, which was held on Aug. 5 and 6 at The Croatian Center Grounds at 3730 Auburn Blvd., gathered Italian-Americans and admirers of Italian culture each year to enjoy traditional Italian pastimes and entertainment. Many popular events included bocce ball games, Italian motor sports expos and folk dance performances. Attendees also could enjoy wine tastings, unique culinary exhibits, live music and educational activities.







KVIE studios presents "Stories" — a Jared Konopitski solo show

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Colorful, playful, youthful, curious -- these adjectives of delight and wonder cannot begin to describe the work of local artist Jared Konopitski whose solo show currently inside the KIVIE Gallery, 2030 West El Camino Ave., invites the viewer to experience fables, stories and colors through a dozen of his paintings. Each piece displays a fragment of a story or a narrative that never existed -- a window, he says, into a larger story. And what that story is, will be up to you, dear reader.

Some made from scratch; others built upon paintings found in thrift stores and antique shops; and some found in the artist's dreams, each of Konopitski's pieces has a title, a story in itself, he says -- a two to three sentence mini-story telling fables that never existed.

"Collaborations with discarded stories, breathing new life into unwanted frames," he explains, all as a tribute to the paintings he's donated to the KVIE, (Sacramento's local PBS station) art auction for the last few years.

As the artist spray paints his canvas and splattering it with the drops, Konopitski then lets the colors drip and inspire his design. From there, he draws right onto the canvas. Making the process sound easy, he says, once he has his composition ready, he paints it in with acrylic and brings it all together with black lines and extra details with his ink and brush. For the found paintings, he scours antique shops, garage sales and thrift stores for scenes or art that "seem to need a visit from my critters."

He paints what his mind sees, sometimes to his surprise. "I will also find myself inspired by random places like the rainbow swirls in a parking lot oil spill, or the strange creatures living under rocks, and the way a shadow might land against the wall in my kitchen," he says.





Having taught art the Crocker Museum, Konopitski also has had work published in Heavy Metal Magazine, The New Yorker and Color Ink Book. He made his own comic book through 4th Way Comics and contributed to Arcana's Steampunk Originals. Additionally, he's had work displayed in the offices of Mad Magazine, and shown in Ireland, Peru, China, all over the United States and beyond. Always working on something new, he searches for as many opportunities as possible.

Having started his craft of drawing and creating since he was a "wee little child", Konopitski said inspiration began with Mark Kistler of Imagination Station (which he watched on KVIE as a child) Dr. Seuss, Mad Magazine, Looney Tunes, Spike and Mike's Animation festivals, not to mention a whole backyard filled with bugs, plants and critters.

"I picked up the crayons and never put them down. I never really considered myself

See Arts, page 9





Arts:

Continued from page 8

as an artist, I just loved to create and draw," he says.

"The 'artist' title was not really taken seriously until my mid 20s. It all started with a coffee shop show and eventually grew into international shows, museums, magazines, comics, TV and more! There was never really one show or one place that lead to these experiences. I believe it was my passion for creativity, my goal to be kind to all I encounter, and the obsession of challenging myself with new projects led to the opportunities and successes."

Last Christmas, Konopitski became a father for the first time, and since then new pieces of work show a younger side -- another surprise to the artist. "I thought since I am basically a kid at heart (I love candy, watch cartoons, draw and curious about everything) that my art would stay the same, and although my art style is still the same, my subject matter has changed to adding quite a few new little baby critters and nursery rhyme elements. It surprised me, but I love this new element. Plus, my new little human helps me grow and learn with a fresh perspective and a love I have never known before. I guess it was inevitable this would change my art in some degree."



Without a specific goal, other than to create ways to have his art support itself and lead to opportunities that advance his craft as an artist and his personal growth as an individual, Konopitski is excited to see the journey and says he's honored to be along for the ride.

On Thursday, Aug. 17, there will be an artist reception at KVIE from 6 to 8 p.m. inside the KVIE Gallery, 2030 W. El Camino Ave. The show continues through the end of September. He also has a piece at FE Gallery (1100 65th Street) in the Tiny Monsters show, joining Bruce Gossett, Suzy Goodwin, Susan Silvester, Claire Voigtlander and more. "It's a whole show of mini creatures guaranteed to be awesome," he says. Details at fegallery.com/.



FE Gallery presents TiNY MONSTERS juried show

It's a great big world...We live in yet some of the greatest threats come in the smallest and most deceiving packages. So FE Gallery hosts their tiny monster themed art show in tribute to the wolf in grandmother's clothes, to the bump in the night, to the monsters under our beds and to all of your most dangerous creations who lurk in a tiny frame.

Tiny Monsters, Fe Gallery's national juried show, features more than 90 pieces of 2- and 3-dimensional monsters and monster stuff now through Sept. 28. FE Gallery is located at 1100 65th Street. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (unless Second Saturday), Sunday closed.

-Source: FE Gallery.





Door to Door

with PAT LYNCH

We put a sign in our front yard. It says, "*In Our America, LOVE WINS, All People are Equal, Back Lives Matter, Immigrants and Refugees are Welcome, Disabilities are Respected, Women are In Charge of Their Bodies, People and Planet are Valued Over Profit.*" I know, it's a chatty sign, garrulous even, but that's how free speech works. You don't have to like the sign, but you have to leave it alone. It's our sign and we freely planted it in the lawn. Did we do it to provoke people? No. We did it to take a small but determined stand against the verbal bullying we're starting to see everywhere: on the news, on the street. Yes, here in sunny, serenely blue California.

Do you remember Milosevek who died in prison for war crimes? He used local media to revive ancient hatreds among Bosnians and Serbs. He ordered inflammatory commercials made. The ads reopened long dormant ethnic wounds. Influenced by the ad bombardment, friendly neighbors(people who barbequed together) became political opponents, then outright enemies. They ended up fighting and killing one another. That's how tyrants manipulate people. Remembering this, and aware of the resurgence of immigrant bashing and racial abuse in our country, we put out our sign.

Many people on 43rd Street said they liked it. So there it stood, out in the open and under the sun—a reaffirmation of humane and civic values. But early one morning a woman walking her dogs paused, angrily pulled out the sign out and threw it on the grass. Another neighbor watched her do it. "I let her know I was watching," our neighbor said.

We came home and replanted the sign in the same space. Days later it went down again. We put it back up. The woman (we assume it was the same woman) tore it out again. We replanted it. This went on for some time.

Then she, or somebody, broke it. Whoever it was stepped hard on the bottom rung, snapped it, left it bent and crooked on the grass. We stuck it back in the ground, and there it stood, brave and tilted: Refugees welcome, Black lives matter, Planet over profit. Really, what was not to like?

The next day (or night) the sign stalker/breaker ripped it from the ground and threw it in the gutter. Another neighbor happened by, retrieved the sign and placed it carefully behind our wheelbarrow. Some neighbors now took a kind of custodial regard for it. They weren't sign people themselves, but they protected ours.

I peered out the window one morning, fantasizing what I'd do if I caught the woman in the act. Maybe I'd yank her hair, good and hard, and bring the sign down on her head. She'd scrunch up in shame and I'd whack her. 'You never heard of the First Amendment?' *Whack*. 'A lawn sign is freedom of speech, you dumb thug.' *Whack*. 'You stupid (*whack*) authoritarian (*whack*) tyrannical (*whack*) two-bit, mob-minded, sleazy, spineless twit (*whack! whack! whack!*). It was an immensely satisfying reverie.

I told my friend, Joan, about the fantasy.

"What about LOVE WINS?" Joan said.

"Oh."

Joan's fantasy was that she'd stop the woman and say, "The Constitution protects free speech. This is in the Bill of Rights." She'd explain that what the woman did repudiated America's highest ideals.

It turned out that a few people had been thinking about this. Ray said he'd holler at her, "Hey! This is private property! Hands off!"

Ellen's fantasy was that she'd film and photograph the culprit in the act, then tell her: "We have evidence. Keep away or I'll report you, post your picture on Next Door, and file a legal complaint against you.

Eileen said simply, "I'd call the police."

So, Joan would try to educate the woman, Ray would invoke the sacrament of Private Property, Ellen would threaten to bust her legally, Eileen would call the cops, and I…well, I would have to delve a little deeper to find a few drops of that LOVE WINS juice.

Then another neighbor said she knew who the sign stalker was and where she lived. Enter fantasy number two: I'd sneak over to the stalker's house at 3 a.m. and plant a sign in *her* front lawn. Wouldn't that be delicious? Imagine when she got up to make her venom tea or whatever, glanced out and saw it. Better yet, I'd plant it where she wouldn't notice it from her window. Then when she went out to walk her dogs she'd see it and realize she'd been promoting black lives, refugees and birth control all morning.

But of course nobody would accompany me on this mission and I was too chicken to go alone.

Then another neighbor said she'd put up a sign too. Fantasy three: the sign crusher turns on our block and sees thirty identical signs sparkling under the sun. That ought to throw her into a conniption so epic you'd pay to see it.

One Saturday afternoon I came home to see the sign standing neat and straight, no more screwy tilt. "It's the gardeners," a neighbor said. "I watch them. They take it out to mow, and they put it back so carefully."

It's been two weeks now since the woman has been seen on our block. The sign still stands. Unmolested by multiple strangers walking to medical offices on the corner, Amazon delivery drivers, neighbors' visitors, salespeople, other dog walkers and random strollers; it's become part of the fabric of the street.

This morning I read in the Bee about the Durstons from Gold River. They displayed the same sign, and got a letter from Homeowners Association Board of Directors. The Board doesn't want the area to be "littered with signs" which could cause a "negative impact to the value of our homes." Here's the typical clash of values with which we always have to contend: monetary value vs. moral value. The Durstons made the moral choice and got flack for it. (What if they'd put up a sign saying, *God Bless the Almighty Dollar?*)

Here in East Sac we don't have a Homeowners Association, just the occasional crazed dog-walker. But we know what's happening in the world beyond our block, and it matters to us. Some neighbors don't approve the import of our sign, but they respect our right to display it. In turn, we appreciate their tolerance. If they put up a contrary sign, we won't like it, but we'll let it stand. Democracy is hard, and messy, but it's all we've got. We believe: use it or lose it.

Free trees!

The River Park Tree Canopy Project is sponsoring its fourth neighborhood tree planting.

Volunteers will be planting trees on Saturday, November 4, 2017

Trees are free to the homeowner. The maintenance of the tree is the homeowner's responsibility. Planting assistance will be provided to those who request it.

Trees improve air quality, reduce energy costs, and increase property values.

To request a tree, complete the online form at this link:

http://riverparksacramento.net/rp-tree-project/river-park-tree-canopy-project-request-form/

Deadline to sign up is September 8, 2017

If you do not have access to email, send your name, address and phone number to: RPNA Tree Program, P.O. Box 19866, Sacramento, CA 95819.

A Community Forester will visit your home to determine the best place to plant the tree. Depending on the site, homeowners may be eligible for multiple trees. See the 30 trees that are available from this program at this link: http://www.sactree.com/trees.

If you can't participate in the River Park Tree Planting Day on November 4, you can contact the Sacramento Tree Foundation and/or SMUD at any time to sign up for a free tree, at 924-8733 or shadetrees@sactree.com.

RIVER PARK TREE CANOPY PROJECT

Help Restore & Expand the Tree Canopy

RIVER PARK TREE CANOPY PROJECT: A Neighborwoods Program co-sponsored by the Sacramento Tree Foundation, SMUD, River Park Neighborhood Association, River Park Garden Club, Caleb Greenwood School, & District 3 City Council Member Jeff Harris

Guitar shop:

Continued from page 3

Byrds, Jerry Scheff who played bass for Elvis Presley, Bernie Leadon from the Eagles, and Al Perkins, session musician for Linda Ronstadt, walked into his store. "They were doing a Christian show at Warehouse Ministries and they just happened to drop in because they knew about my store. After that, I became a supplier of picks for them. They stayed all afternoon." A favorite story of that day, he said, was when Bernie spoke about what it was like to have a No. 1 hit on the radio, but that he was too broke to buy a burrito. "It was their first hit. Walking down the streets of LA, listening to themselves on the radio but they were so broke they could barely get by."

A Rio Americano High School graduate, class of 1972, Green said he began guitar playing after a ski accident. "I broke my knee on the ski slope and my uncle who had polio used to teach mildly mentally challenged kids how to play Jazz. So, he gave me a guitar because he didn't walk well and told me to quit whining, that I'd walk again. He gave me a guitar and I took it up at 17 with a broken leg, or a broken knee to that effect."

As local guitarist and Fifth String former employee Ross Hammond wrote in Midtown Monthly back in 2011: "The Fifth String isn't really the type of place where you walk in, buy a set of guitar strings, and walk out. The laid-back atmosphere and the staff's warm encouragement to try all of the instruments on the wall is enough to keep a person there for the afternoon. Green keeps the coffee pot brewing all day for customers, and will often find himself teaching free lessons on a variety of instruments on Saturdays. It's more of a clubhouse or a musical barber shop than a guitar store."

Bringing along his talented staff to Broadway, Green praises each one highly.

Staff include: Steve Randall (who has taught guitar to adults and older children for more than a decade), rock and metal guitarist and store's manager of at least a decade Steven Ward; violinist and fiddle player Fiona Pulskamp, singer/songwriter Sherman Baker; local musician Julie Meyers who since 2004 has taught guitar, piano, ukulele, voice and bass; Scott Mota (musician who plays multiple styles on guitar and bass and teaches anything from rock to pop, jazz to blues, classical to metal) and Dave Shapiro (whose lengthy biography includes working with Jerry Garcia and Merle Saunders on music for the '80s revival of the classic TV series "The Twilight Zone." According to the bio on the Fifth String website: "Shapiro has worked with many well-known artists throughout a long career in the music business. Live performances, recording sessions, dance companies, musical theatre, television, and symphonies have all benefited from his skill as a player of fretted string instruments and his scores ranging from folk and country to R & B, swing, be-bop and big band jazz charts. He is one of the few musicians who is as knowledgeable about folk and roots music as he is about writing full scores and advanced music theory.")

The exact Broadway location and more details are forthcoming.

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SOFTWARE DEVELOPER: Radio station seeks Software Developer to develop software applications to support the digital delivery of on-air content, including mobile/web applications. Mail resume: Attn: COO/CFO, Capital Public Radio, Inc., 7055 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95826.



SELL YOUR CAR IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Send us your calendar updates
E-mail us, editor@valcomnews.com

RESERVE YOUR SPACE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

What's happening East Sacramento?

THURSDAY, AUG. 17

CODING FOR KIDS – Want to learn how to code, while playing fun games? Then come to this free, beginner-friendly, drop-in program Thursday, August 17 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Spots are first-come, first-served. Recommended for ages 10 – 18 at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

FRIDAY, AUG. 18

LEGO MANIA! – Like building with LEGO bricks? Join us for our monthly LEGO free-play afternoon! LEGO bricks and DUPLO LEGO bricks will be provided for this family program. Friday, August 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

SATURDAY, AUG. 19

2nd ANNUAL END OF SUMMER SWIM & ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT GLENN HALL PARK: Come to Glenn Hall Park Pool to meet and socialize with your neighbors, while enjoying complimentary swimming and free ice cream from Burrs Ice Cream from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be lifeguards present to watch over the swimmers and lots and lots of fun to be had by all! Bring your noodles and floaties so you can bob around. This is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, make new ones and have a blast before school starts and summer ends. This fun event is brought to you by Rich & Tina Wilks, Nicole Pate and Shelley & Rex Hescock of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate & The RPNA. PLEASE RSVP to attend this event. Nicole Pate - (916) 802-4697 or Shelley Hescock- (916)214-0591; email response to RiverParkEvent@Gmail.Com

SUTTER'S FORT TO PRESENT "HANDS ON HISTORY: FRONTIER MEDICINE – SACRAMENTO'S FIRST HOSPITAL": Continuing a popular series of fun and interactive "Hands on History" activities offered each month, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) and Friends of Sutter's Fort will present a very special "Hands on History: Frontier Medicine – Sacramento's First Hospital" event on Saturday, Aug. 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fort visitors will be delighted to see the recently completed restoration of the historic exterior walls, gates and blacksmith shop plus have the opportunity to step back in time to the 1840s to learn more about intriguing frontier medicine. As background, even before the famous Gold Rush of 1849 that brought tens of thousands of gold seekers to the Sacramento Valley, John Sutter used a medical book and a series of doctors to administer medical care. He also provided hospital facilities at the Fort for the citizens of his New Helvetia settlement and the thousands of Native Americans working on his land and living throughout the Valley. Then, shortly after the founding of Sacramento City – the original name of Sacramento – the city's first hospital, Sacramento Hospital, was established in an adobe structure near the Fort at the current location of Sutter General, which has since been renamed the Ose Adams Medical Pavilion. As part of the special "Hands on History" event, Fort guests will be treated to demonstrations provided by several physicians and a midwife showing many aspects of 19th century medicine, including dentistry and homeopathic cures. And, as a special guest, Dr. Bob LaPerriere, Curator, SSVMS Museum of Medical History, will deliver interesting presentations about Gold Rush-era medicine at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. that will include intriguing artifacts on display such as an amputation kit circa 1870, bleeding and cupping implements, tooth extractors, ether mask, wooden splints, early medications and more. Plus, Fort docents will lead demonstrations where visitors can get involved and participate as "volunteer victims" to learn more about Gold Rush medicine practices. And, of course, demonstrations of black powder weaponry in action will take place, including the crowd-favorite firing of Sutter's cannon at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
All "Hands on History" activities are included in the cost of admission. Sutter's Fort SHP admission costs are as follows: $7 per adult (18 and older), $5 per youth (ages 6 to 17) and free for children 5 and under. For more information, call 445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

FRIDAY, AUG. 25

MINECRAFT GAMING – Love Minecraft? Come join us for an afternoon of Minecraft gaming! Players of any level of experience are welcome to join. Spots are first-come, first-served. This free, school-age program takes place Friday, August 25 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS A-Z: Certified college consultants from AP College Consulting will give an in-depth presentation on the college admission process from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive. High school students and parents are invited. This is a free event. For more information, contact sarah@apcollegeconsulting.com

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 30

NEW CLASS: LIVING AND COPING WITH FIBROMYALGIA: Held at Sacramento Natural Food Coop, this class is all about strategies that you can use to help you live an active and positive lifestyle with fibromyalgia, held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information email Terry Mcsweeney <fibromyalgiapathways@gmail.com>. Tickets are $15-non-members, $10-members. Purchase ticket at http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3008494.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2 AND SUNDAY, SEPT. 3

CAMELLIA KOI CLUB'S 2017 KOI SHOW "A TASTE OF EXCELLENCE": An educational and fun event featuring pond builders, fountains, landscape and other vendors, artists and beautiful Koi to purchase or just to admire. Qualified judges are on hand to explain how Koi are judged. The purpose of the Camellia Koi Club is to promote, create and enlarge the hobby of keeping, breeding, appreciating and exhibiting Koi. This show is one way we can accomplish that. Saturday, Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Old Sugar Mill, 35265 Willow Ave., Clarksburg. Free Admission – Free parking; www.camelliakoi.org

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

READ TO A DOG – Read to a Dog is a fun and proven method for children to boost their reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog. Children may bring their own books or borrow from the library's collection. Tuesday, September 5 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

BUBBLEMANIA – Come see bubbles like you've never seen them before! Watch and be amazed as BubbleMania makes bubble snakes, bubble volcanoes, cube-shaped bubbles, bouncing bubbles, gravity-defying bubble foam, and even bubbles big enough to fit an entire person inside! This free, family program takes place Friday, September 8 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

HELP BORYS HEAL FUNDRAISER AT COMPTON'S MARKET: Borys Prysiazhnyi is a chauffeur for Coastal Breeze Limo Service. Borys is in his early 30s and is receiving kidney dialysis three times a week. At the age of 18, his kidneys began failing from a virus while living in Odessa, Ukraine. His mother donated her kidney a little over two years ago, but the kidney is at 7 percent function, requiring dialysis. A kidney transplant is needed. Borys' older sister Katya is in the United States for six months, thanks to UC Davis Medical Center and their organ transplant department, so Katya will be able to donate her kidney to her brother. Medical tests are now being run on both of them to get ready for the transplant. Borys is unable to work at this time because of his medical appointments. During the time of surgery and recovery, Borys will need to continue paying for cell phone service, food and rent. Both siblings will undergo surgery and recovery, making it difficult for them to help each other. Their roommate has graciously volunteered to take care of both of them at home following discharge from the hospital. About $5,000 is needed to cover expenses until he is totally recovered after the surgery. Katya will need to recover before returning home to the Ukraine to be with her husband and 13 year old daughter. They are helping to care for Borys' wife and 3-year-old son. Borys' employer, Coastal Breeze Limo Service, has been very helpful during this time.
Local vendors will participate in the Help Borys Heal fundraiser on Sept. 9, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Compton's Market, 4065 McKinley Blvd.:
Barry McGee-Balloon artist
Dragonfly Art-Facepainter
Twist N Shout-Balloon artist
Fabrizio-musician
Kathy Holberton-Swarovski jewelry
Mamta Gupta-Indian purses
Dorcas Yee-Axianta Financial Partners
Don Friedrichsen-Farmers Insurance
Monica Stark-East Sacramento News (Valley Community Newspapers)
Willy's Cafe and a number of our vendors will be giving a percentage of their sales to Borys Prysiazhnyi.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

RIVER CITY PORCHFEST 2017: River City PorchFest 2017 invites you to join them from noon to 6 p.m. in the streets of Sacramento for a day of free music and fun. Hosted by the neighbors of Colonial Heights, Tahoe Park, and Oak Park, River City PorchFest 2017 is honored to be jamming in three of the area's most respected neighborhoods. Proceeds for this event will benefit local music programs in the Colonial Heights, Tahoe Park, and Oak Park area. The goal is to put musical interest and

Continued on page 15





What's happening East Sacramento?

Continued from page 14

instruments in the hands of children who might not otherwise have the opportunity. Organizers "feel that music, along with the other performing arts are key to a healthy and growing local community. If you would like to get involved with River City Porch-Fest 2017 as a volunteer or have an idea to make (the) event better, please email rivercityporchfest@gmail.com."

ONGOING

FE GALLERY PRESENTS TINY MONSTERS JURIED SHOW: It's a great big world...We live in yet some of the greatest threats come in the smallest and most deceiving packages. So FE Gallery hosts their tiny monster themed art show in tribute to the wolf in grandmother's clothes, to the bump in the night, to the monsters under our beds and to all of your most dangerous creations who lurk in a tiny frame. Tiny Monsters, Fe Gallery's national juried show, features more than 90 pieces of 2- and 3-dimensional monsters and monster stuff **now through Sept. 28.** FE Gallery is located at 1100 65th Street. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (unless Second Saturday), Sunday closed. *-Source: FE Gallery.*

MCKINLEY PARK FOOD TRUCK MANIA: SactoMoFo and Sacramento City Councilman Jeff Harris present Food Truck Mania from 5 to 8 p.m. at McKinley Park, 601 Alhambra Blvd. every second Friday of the month. The beer garden benefits Friends of Front Street Shelter.

TAHOE PARK FOOD TRUCK MANIA: SactoMoFo, Councilman Eric Guerra, Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna and the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association present Tahoe Park Food Truck Mania from 5 to 8 p.m. every fourth Friday of the month. The beer garden benefits Friends of Front Street Shelter.

JANE AUSTEN READING GROUP AT ELLA K. MCCLATCHY LIBRARY: This monthly group reads the works of Jane Austen and meets the third Saturday of each month in the Ella K. McClatchy library from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. All Austen fans are welcome. 2112 22nd St.

TRAINS, PLANES AND AUTOS TAKE AT FE GALLERY IN JUNE AND JULY: Fe Gallery's "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" opens June 10 with an Artist Reception from 6 to 9 p.m. The show will feature art works by Jim Marxen, vibrant acrylics; Camilo Valencia, dust bowl vibe; Kevin Wilhite, vintage inspired; and the artistic team of Garrett Winiecke and Sean Bailey sculptures of reclaimed metals. There will be a blacksmith demonstration at about 7 p.m. The show runs through Aug. 3. Fe Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fe Gallery is located at 1100 65th St.



Best Bet

SATURDAY, AUG. 19

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION IS SEEKING LOCAL HOST FAMILIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE STUDENTS: ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with your community high school, is looking for local families to host boys and girls between the ages of 15 to 18 from a variety of countries: Norway, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Japan, to name a few. ASSE students are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture while they practice their English. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families. Host families welcome these students into their family, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are selected based on academics and personality, and host families can choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests. To become an ASSE Host Family or to find out how to become involved with ASSE in your community, please call the ASSE Western Regional Office at 1-800-733-2773 or go to www.host.asse.com to begin your host family application. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today!

KNITTING CIRCLE AT MCKINLEY LIBRARY – Any adult interested in knitting — even an absolute beginner — is invited to join. Participants can learn to knit, or get help on current projects and advice from expert knitters. Don't forget to bring your knitting needles and yarn. Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

TEEN SPACE AT MCKINLEY LIBRARY – Looking for something fun to do after school? Need a place where you're free to hang out with your friends and have a snack? Come to the McKinley Library Teen Space, Wednesdays from 3p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.





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