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East Sacramento News

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Peter Petty's "Son of Hepcats Holla'-Day" returns

East Sacramento showman discusses his essence on stage and issues of race

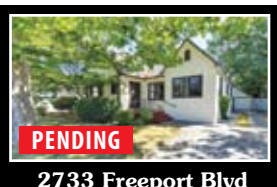
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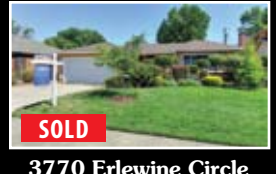
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A tradition of giving back: 26th annual Run to Feed the Hungry raised about $900k







Story and photos by Monica Stark

An early Thanksgiving morning rain ceased just in time for nearly 30,000 Run to Feed the Hungry participants.

Owned and operated by the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, the run raises funds that directly benefit families in our community. RTFH contributes to about 15 percent of the annual SFBFS budget and has grown since 1994 with 796 participants. In contrast, this year's volunteer pool consisted of more than 750 volunteers who worked the entire week to prepare for the event.

Melanie Flood, SFBFS director of development and communications, said this year's run included 28,000 participants, bringing in about $900,000 for the nonprofit, which helps the 150,000 people it feeds each month. With 215,000 people that are food insecure in the county, there's still a gap of 65,000 hungry people, she added.

A day to get together with family, the event also symbolizes gratitude and commitment, stated Mayor Darrell Steinberg into a microphone minutes before the 10-kilometer run. "Gratitude for living in this wonderful city that has a big heart and also the commitment that, as Sacramento changes, it grows and gets major league soccer, that we never forget that we can never leave anyone behind."

Prior to Thanksgiving Day, volunteers help the food bank with a turkey drive, which like the Run to Feed the Hungry, is the largest in the country. Flood said the food bank raised 17,641 turkeys. "The community came together and donated to us." She explained that more than 13,000 of those were allocated the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day with the help of more than 100 partner agencies who passed them out at various locations citywide. In Oak Park, at the food bank, volun-

see RUN page 3



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Run:

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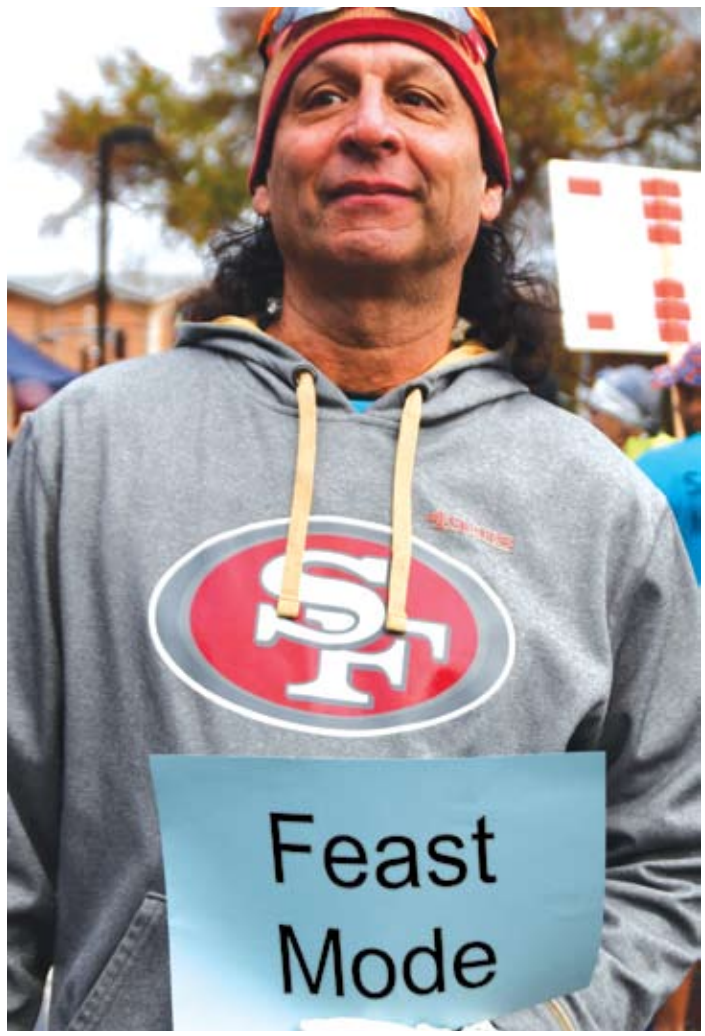
teers there passed out more than 4,000 turkeys and two bags of fixings that were donated by Raley's. "The run-up to the Run to Feed the Hungry is working 200 percent. We're all in for Sacramento. We are big-hearted. We're solution focused and we want to make it happen. We want to make sure everyone has a good Thanksgiving," Flood said.



This year, there were about 200 teams that gathered to raise funds for the food bank with Sacramento Country Day leading in donations with a total of $6,910.75. "Country Day has a long tradition with 12 out of the 13 years as the No. 1 fundraiser," said team captain Tricia Ross. In previous years, the Procida family had been incredibly involved for a number of years, making sure Country Day had large teams and more importantly raise a lot of money for this great cause. "We're trying to keep up the legend (since Luca Procida graduated last year). It's our tradition of giving back, as a school and we're making sure the kids are engaged in the community and know what's important," Ross said.

Another team that came out to the RTFTH, Sloppy Moose, which is a non-profit social running group that meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at New Helvetia (though currently in hibernation until March) returned to the Run to Feed the Hungry for a second year this year, nearly doubling its participants from 50 last year to 98 this year, explained team member Tony Zeto.

Truly a great tradition, the event brings out the best in the community every year.



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Ending the Stigma: Writers and local artists team up for annual 'Journey of Hope' exhibit



Photos by Laura Beamis

From the left, artist Malek Paige stands in front of the art piece he created for Terry Mc Garvey's story.

This year's exhibit to be brought to the Crocker Art Museum

By Monica Stark

The fifth annual "Journey of Hope Exhibit," a collaborative project that pairs writers with local artists to share stories of hope and recovery, will travel to the Crocker Art Museum Nov. 29 and will be up until Jan. 5, 2020 with a reception on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Those juried artists receive those stories and illustrate them through their chosen art form. The traveling exhibit first made its way from the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center, where at the opening ceremony, which was held on Oct. 5, artists got a chance to meet the writers. Then, the exhibit traveled to the Sacramento Fine Arts Center in Carmichael before it makes its way to the Crocker Art Museum.

Organizers hope to give others insight, inspiration, understanding, strength, connection and to raise awareness of mental illness and dismantle the stigma that goes along with it.

"One in five people walking in the U.S. live with a mental health disorder. It's more prevalent than heart disease," Laura Bemis, event co-founder and photographer, said. "We got to get word out there."

As Journey of Hope continues to grow from year to year, these types of messages continue to spread. Due to the increase in its popularity, the event this year is for the first time traveling outside of Elk Grove to the Sacramento Fine Arts Center and to the Crocker Art Museum from Nov. 28 to Jan. 5.

Since everyone is juried in, it's always quality art and improves each year, Beamis said. Early each year, a four-member event organizing committee puts a call out for writers and artists. The story could be in a narrative format or a poem at a maximum of two pages in length. The committee does not make changes without consent.

While attending a recent mental health board meeting, someone approached Beamis and suggested she participate in the Journey of Hope. "They talked about how they loved it, how I could really express myself it. They asked if I have done it before, and I said I was the founder." A humbling moment, Beamis said that experience demonstrated the growing popularity of Journey of Hope. "We are bringing awareness and stopping the stigma. We must be doing something to be reaching people each year," she said, adding that this year there are 54 writ-

see EXHIBIT page 5

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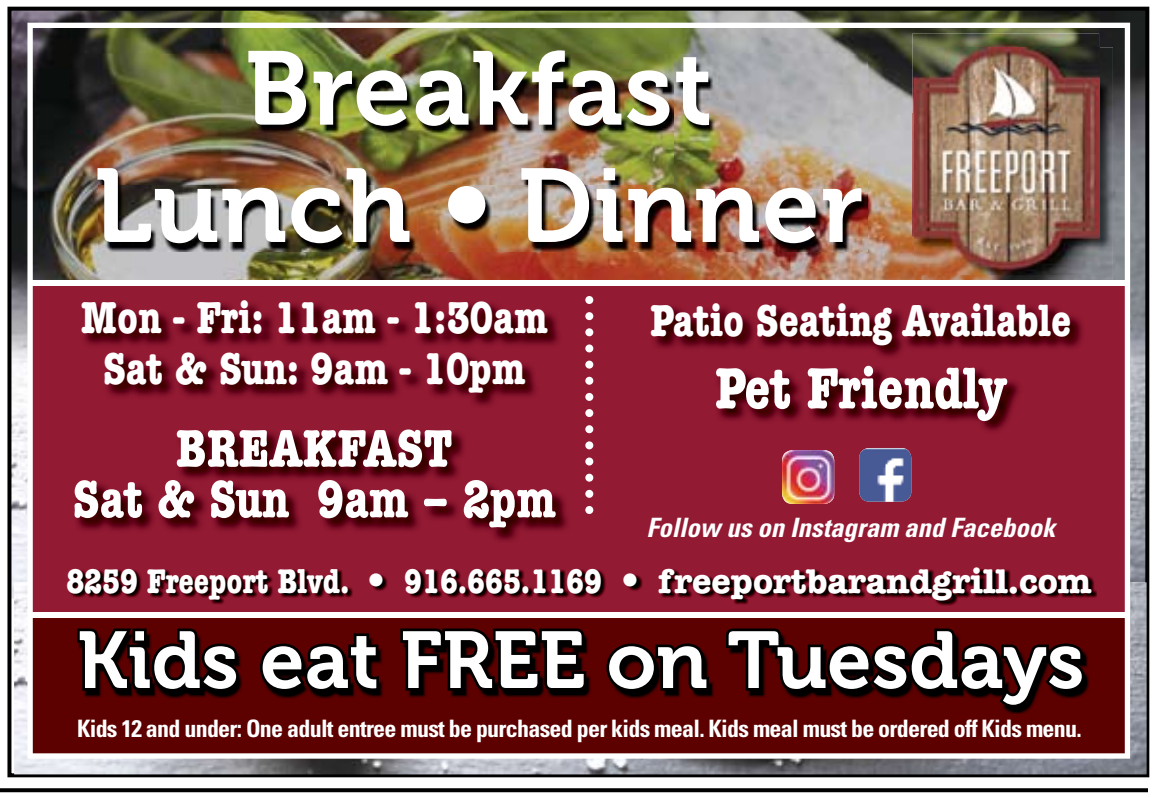


Exhibit:

continued frompage 4

ers and 54 artists in the traveling show.

"We get more and more artists want to be part of the show... In years past, we scrambled to find artists at the last minute," Beamis said. She added that this year they had to turn away artists because the amount outweighed the writers.

One of the writers, Michael Winsor, compared the challenges he has faced with mental health to the ocean. "(It) can be ice-cold, stormy, and thrashing. But it also has a bright and beautiful side. As my journey continues, the storms have become less intense, and less frequent. I am learning to ride with the waves."

Excited to meet the artist who interpreted his personal story, Winsor said, "It is amazing to know that someone else has been inspired to portray it for everyone to see. I'm very excited."

To experienced mixed-media artist Kaino Hopper, Journey of Hope is her favorite of all experiences to date. "This show's connection to lived experience requires of me to go beyond myself, into someone else's world, and then add a bit of myself into the story as I interpret it from the newly discovered depths of being one with the story," Hopper said.

Her third year with the project, Hopper said the show is about more than raising awareness – it's about cultivating a new level of understanding. "I hope my art makes the audience curious about the depths and beauty that come from facing and be-friending challenges."

The title of the story and of Hopper's artwork is: "BIPOLAR: from drowning to swimming with."

She said the word "rhythm" was the most powerful word in the writer's short story, and that to her as an artist, it gave an image of acceptance – of moving with her life events, not against them. To that end, Hopper chose the medium of weaving to demonstrate the author's words of finding a rhythm to managing her life with her bipolar disorder, while incorporating the Saori style, which she said, "works intuitively and without a plan, which to me seemed to mimic the process of life described by author."

Hopper added the author also speaks of water being a very important component of her experience with bipolar disorder as well as her experience of healing. Therefore, Hopper incorporated two water elements into the art piece: hand-made wet felted fabric for a face and heat set, and hand-sewn polyester "patchwork" hair.

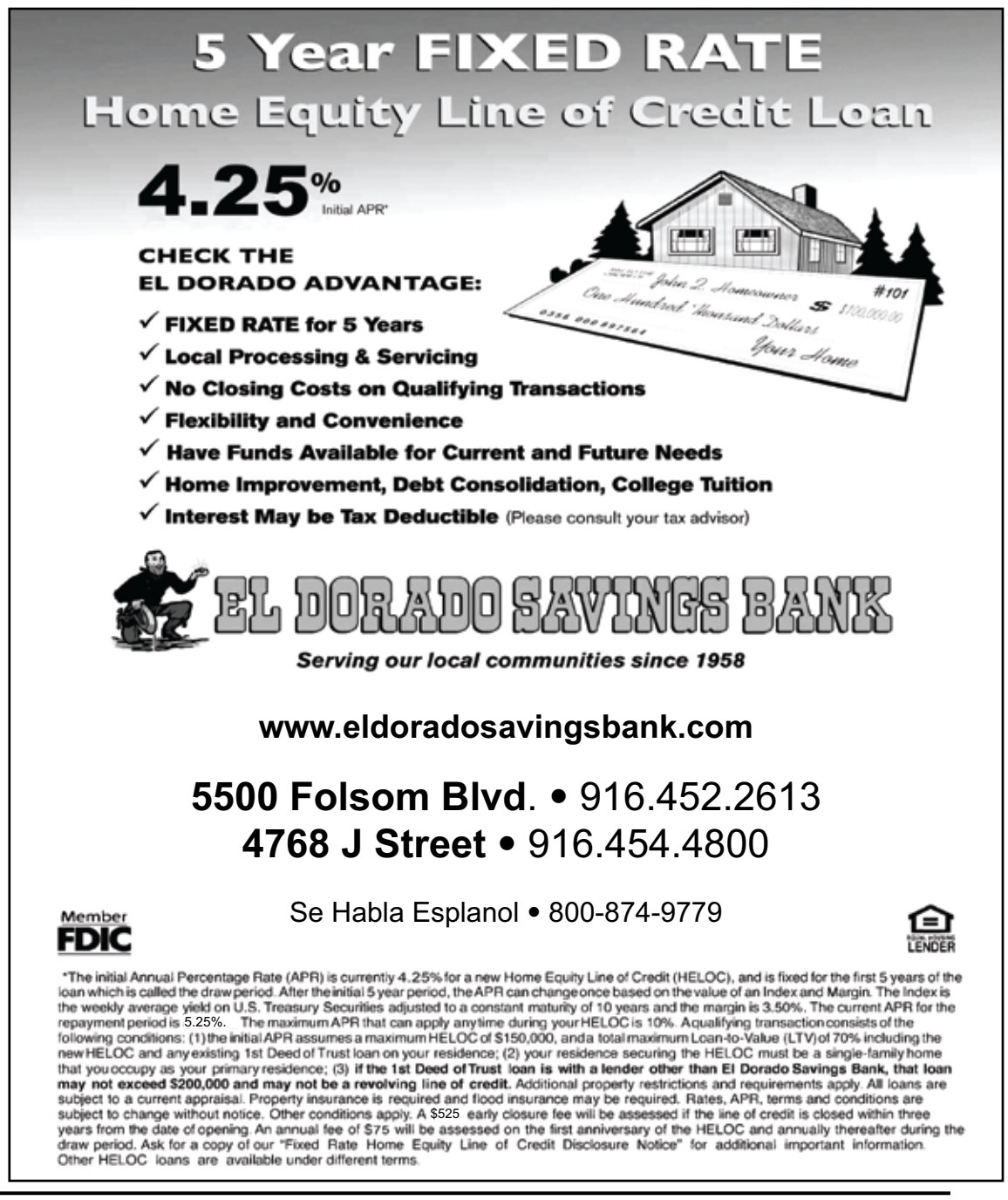
"With these mediums, water is a key element in the process, and so I was able to tie that component into the art from the very beginning of the process," she said. "The final product is ultimately a sculpture of the author, at peace and living well with her condition. I hope the writer will understand the complex level that the story touched me – on how many levels she touched a compassionate heart. Her story is bursting with hope, and shows that if you keep trying you can find a way to make life work with you."

Hopper's other artworks are also in fiber in multiple methods from serti silk painting, weaving, fiber sculpting, felting and mixed media. Three of her art projects are on permanent display at UC Davis campus connected to the Entomology Art Science fusion process. "Most of my art explores the idea of moving from tension to acceptance. I've shown and spoken on my arts and fashions internationally," she added.

Stop Stigma Sacramento, a program funded by the Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services through the voter approved Proposition 63, Mental Health Services Act, provides financial and logistical support for Journey of Hope.

The Crocker Art Museum is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Museum is closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Every third Sunday of the month is "Pay What You Wish Sunday" sponsored by Western Health Advantage.





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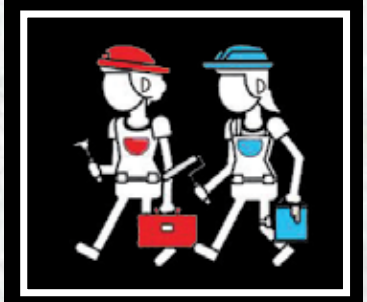
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Peter Petty's "Son of Hepcats Holla'-Day" returns

East Sacramento showman discusses his essence on stage and issues of race



By Monica Stark

The latest Christmas production of bandleader Peter Petty, and his 11-piece Titans of Terpsichore Jazz orchestra returns to the Elks Tower for the fifth annual swinging Yuletide revue, "Return of Son of Hepcats Holla'-Day!"

The revue provides an opportunity to transport one to the cosmopolitan sophistication of a bygone era, evoking those halcyon floor-shows of the height of the Swing era. With two full bars, comfortable table seating, a dance floor, and architecturally elegant setting, Petty's award-winning showmanship, 3 2/3 octave vocal range, swinging orchestra, and favorite regional guest stars are sure to make this event a one-of-a kind stocking stuffer for Sacramento.

Guest stars include: Cold Blood soul singer Dana Moret, Gold Souls frontwoman Juniper Waller, operatic baritone Omari Tao, legendary saw player from the One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Robert Armstrong, garage punk recording artists Th' Losin Streaks, discount jazz duo The Freebadge Serenaders, burlesque artists Shauni Fatale DeVeaux and Monet Ha'Sidi.

In an interview with this publication, Petty, an East Sacramento resident and John F. Kennedy class of 1985 graduate, said the program is not merely entertainment, it's a call to unity, for people to really get together and make a big noise for what is right about our social structures that we are living in together. "I joke around that I don't like to get political but to a degree you have to a little bit to just stand up for what I perceive as being the right thing," he said.

Consciously emulating the groove and raw emotional appeal that makes African American Jazz resound in people's bosoms, Petty exudes love and respect with the music he performs. Co-opted and and appropriated by white businessmen sometime in memoriam, Jazz, Petty said, has been commercially exploited, and therefore in a subtle protest his tongue is firmly planted in his cheek with his performances like the Return of Son of Hepcats Holla'Day. "It's a celebration of a bygone music that is not being produced as much anymore. But I still love it and I think there's more room to grow."

Even with a love of Christmas, thanks to a positive upbringing, nostalgic pieces like Bing Crosby singing "A White Christmas" can become a little less interesting when the feel of commercialism takes over, as opposed to the raw, communal gatherings of the season. So Petty, with his "assemblage of mercenaries" (his bandmates), pays homage to the Black musicians whose songs may not have become "big huge fat hits, but they're so good, visceral, stringing."

To that end Petty, a baritone with tenorial aspirations, interprets one of his heroes, Cab Calloway in style and showmanship even when every now and then he'll try for a C he'll miss the note. Calloway's "Minnie the Moocher", a song Petty performs in every show,

see PETTY'S page 10





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Petty's:

continued from page 7

goes over well, even when he misses a certain note out of his range. Too low to hit in his falsetto range, but too high in his natural range, he still goes for it. And it works. "There's a comedy to it breaking," he said." The story of the song is a heart-breaking story. She's a hoochie-coocher dancer. It's not necessarily a good-time song. It's in a minor key. It's Cab Calloway's answer to 'St. James Infirmary Blues' because musically it's very similar. These songs are about death. It's about hard life, about black people being discriminated against and the unfair world with which you're trying to get ahead or obtain some dignity."

With the talk of cultural appropriation and Petty's whiteness, he said he always feels an internal struggle. That said, he's never received any backlash for performing African American Jazz, and for that he's grateful, reiterating his respectful interpretation of the songs. "Also," he said, "I'm trying to bring the original impetus for these songs to my performance of them."

Having sung with the Harley White Jr.'s Orchestra for four years, after singing with the Sacramento Opera for eight years, Petty gained an awareness of the racist milieus of Jazz and popular music. Like the Fats Waller song, "Black and Blue", which deals with racial stereotypes and segregation, lyrics like those here, Petty struggles internally when he sings them.



All my life through
I've been so black and blue/I'm white inside, it don't help my case/'Cause I can't hide, what is on my face, oh!/I'm so forlorn, life's just a thorn/My heart is torn, why was I born?/What did I do to be so black and blue?

Thankful for more social awareness today, and to some degree our understanding of white privilege, Petty said, "Yes, I'm struggling with that greatly, but it's a great song and I do a good job with it." When performing with Harley White's orchestra years ago in front of an all African American crowd at a fish fry in Oak Park on Stockton Boulevard, Petty recalled White's reassurance in his capability to sing "Black and Blue".

"Before this moment, this very moment right here (during the interview), I never appreciated that there was this same dread of the audience response and then there was that beat of quiet and then there was that applause. It was the impact of that song where you're wowed and then you can applause. And that's what happened to me. So I thought, okay I can sing this stuff. It's not an insult. It's a celebration. So in that regard I feel like I can carry that torch."

Petty brings Calloway's level and intensity to a song, and he promises to have it "in spades" at the Christmas show. "It's just a party," he said. "I'm trying to get that nostalgic feeling that I associate with Christmas but also with what I never had, but you see at movies. You kind of feel that's what it might have been like when people are getting there."

Spirits will be high, and of course the other spirits will actually be flowing. "We have two bars this year, so we want everyone to get together to have this unifying experience. Everybody is in the same place at the same time having a similar experience," he said.

Born in Washington DC just a year before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was murdered, Petty's family lived right by the White House in a "very, very black neighborhood. It was the neighborhood around 14th that they literally burned to the ground," he said. The family had to flee Washington, literally in flames as refugees, as a white family. "Because of the horror of that time, and the terrible racism of that time, it was made abundantly clear we weren't welcome in our neighborhood," he said. "It was literally communicated to us, that for our own safety we literally should get out of there, so we did."

At 1 year old, his parents packed everyone in the family station wagon, along with his uncle. People were heaving bricks at the car, he said, and a starter pistol was placed beneath his baby blanket. "I was under a floor board of the wagon in case we had to brandish and get through a blockade or something. It did not happen, but it was a really visceral moment of life and death," he said. The family settled in Denver before making it out to South Sacramento when he was months shy of 10 years old. Demographically similar to where they lived in DC, race issues were part of his upbringing in South Sacramento. "Thanks to my mother, we had great empathy for the African American experience. My mom is fiercely fair. A lioness. To me, she was courage personified."

Petty credits his parents with genetically instilling within him a larger-than-life stage presence. With four natural born brothers and sisters and three of his cousins in the same household, as long as he can remember they were living in a house full of eight "super talented, super crazy" kids. "In high school I got to the point I didn't like bringing friends home because they saw where I got it, so I wasn't as unique as I wanted to be," he laughed. Coming from a "crazy group of performers", Petty said, he had to unlock that aspect of him. "It was one of my natural gifts, and I am a bit of an exhibitionist, so I love putting them on display contextually."

Seen out and about wearing a neck tie, bow tie, or bolo tie, and speaking with a Southern accent, people often ask about Petty's origins. To whit he replies, South Sac. "They can't believe that this is local. This accent that I have developed is not through any intention but it's a persona," he said.

Similarly, on stage with all the costume changes ("every outfit doesn't work for every song," he said), there's an element of show that's in his bones. His maternal grandparents were vaudevillians. "It's just in our DNA. Similarly, I think I might be incapable of doing anything straight. I am a victim of my own caprice. I get an idea and then I have to do it. You got to make it happen. People enjoy it. It's one of the things that make me unique."

As Petty says regarding the "Return of Son of Hepcats Holla'-Day!" performance, "At the very least, it's a great excuse to call in sick Monday morning." The Titans of Terpsichore Jazz orchestra syncopating big band live "Christmas Special with a dance floor" is a uniquely entertaining grown-ups only (21+) event. Downtown Sacramento's beautiful and historic Elks Tower Ballroom is again the site of this musical melee manifesting on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are $30 in advance general admission ($35 day of show). Tickets are available through Eventbrite.com.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peter-pettys-the-return-of-son-of-hepcats-holladay-5th-annual-revue-tickets-78480985741. Tickets will also be sold at the door while they last. First come, first serve seating.

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What's happening East Sacramento?

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

LEGO MANIA! – Like building with LEGO bricks? Join us for our monthly free-play afternoon! LEGO and DUPLO LEGO bricks will be provided for this free, family program. Friday, December 6 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

DEC. 6, 7, and 10

SACRAMENTO GAY MEN'S CHORUS ANNOUNCES 35TH SEASON AND HOLIDAY CONCERT KSGMC 201.9FM: The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus invites the public to be a member of a live studio audience as they sing a "live broadcast" at KSGMC 201.9FM: Holiday Hits with A Splash of Sass! In this family-friendly show, the chorus will be singing traditional seasonal favorites, showstoppers from prior years, and a few new surprises to make the season even brighter.
Evening show dates are December 6, 7, and 10, 2019. Doors open at 7:30pm and the curtain goes up at 8:00pm. A matinee show is offered on December 8, 2019 with doors opening at 2:30pm and curtain up at 3:00pm. A VIP Reception featuring a drag show, refreshments, and premium seating at the concert begins at 6:30pm before the evening performances and at 1:30pm before the matinee show.
General admission tickets are $25 each. Students with a valid Student ID can purchase tickets for just $15. VIP tickets, which include the VIP Reception and premium concert seats are $40. Tickets are on sale now at SacGayMensChorus.org. The venue for all shows is the First United Methodist Church at 2100 J St. About the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus (SGMC) The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus is celebrating 35 years. In 1984, the SGMC began as a singing group aiming to foster a sense of community and provide support for gay men in the Sacramento area. Since then, the chorus has grown into an integral part of the Sacramento music community, as well as a voice for the wide scope of LGBTQ+ folk in the greater Sacramento area. Our mission: Fostering pride and enhancing lives, one song at a time. Our vision: To build a community where no one will be afraid to sing one's own song. SacGayMensChorus.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

SIP, SAVOR, AND SWAY GALA: This is a fundraiser that will be held at Sacramento Masonic Temple, 1123 J St. at 6 p.m. to benefit Joshua's House. Imagine being homeless and subject to varying outdoor temperatures, rain, and even the theft of your personal belongings. Then imagine at the same time, facing the challenge of dealing with a terminal illness. Whether it be cancer or even heart failure, you are on the streets and your greatest fear is dying alone. The good news is that there will be a change soon in Sacramento! Joshua's House will open as a hospice to house 20 terminally ill homeless residents. Each individual will be loved, respected, and provided with high quality hospice care in a home-like setting with meals, clothing, companionship and art & music therapy. Joshua's House will be the first homeless hospice on the West Coast and the seventh in the country, and we cannot wait for its opening in early spring 2020! The public is invited to celebrate this incredible project, to fundraise, and to honor those who have paved the way to this point. "Sip, Savor, and Sway" on Saturday, December 7th from 6:00-10:00pm, is Sacramento's only Prohibition-Era themed fundraiser, and in keeping with the era the event will be held at the historic Sacramento Masonic Temple. It promises to be a roaring good time featuring delicious food, along with era-specific cocktails, wine, beer, and artisan spirits. Period dress encouraged.
Highlights of the night will undoubtedly be:
• Antique cars from the California Automobile Museum on site.
• Dance Contest and Best Attire Contest
• Silent Auction
• Entertainment provided by the Symphonia Phonotone Orchestra, RSVP Choir, and dance music of the 20s, 30s, and early 40s.
• Master of Ceremonies, Rob Stewart, of KVIE's "Rob on the Road."
• Recognition and honor of local supporters of the Joshua's House project to include Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Mayor Darrell Steinberg, and District 3 City Council member Jeff Harris. Also partners such as Rotary Club of Sacramento, Rotary Club of Midtown, and the Rotary Club of Elk Grove.
Sponsorship information available at: https://joshuashousehospice.org/gala-event/ Tickets on sale for $150 per person at https://health-communication-research-institute- inc.networkforgood.com/events/13852-sip-savor-sway

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

SACRAMENTO SYMPHONIC WINDS, A 66-PIECE SYMPHONIC BAND, TO PRESENT "FROM WORDS, MUSIC": Enrich your holiday season by attending Sacramento Symphonic Winds' winter concert December 8, 2019, 2:30 p.m. entitled "From Words, Music" at the new El Camino High School Center for the Arts, on Eastern Ave. (the western edge of campus) south of El Camino Ave.. The Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a 66-piece adult, symphonic band conducted by Timothy M. Smith. This concert features Sacred Harp by Jay Bocook, Themes from "Green Bushes" by Percy Grainger, Dashing Through the Snow and Laughing All the Way both by James Pierpont, Blithe Bells by J.S. Bach, New World Variations by David Shaffer, Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson, and more! Visit <http://www.sacwinds.org> OR find the band on Facebook. Tickets are available at the door: General Admission $15; Student (high school/college)/Senior (65+) $10; Children (8th grade and under) Free Contact ph. 916-489-2576
www.sacwinds.org <http://www.sacwinds.org>



SATURDAY, DEC. 14

SUTTER'S FORT TO PRESENT "HANDS ON HISTORY:A SIMPLE IMMIGRANT CHRISTMAS": California State Parks, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) and Friends of Sutter's Fort are proud to present an interactive, fun and festive "Hands on History: A Simple Immigrant Christmas" event on Saturday, December 14, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fort visitors will be delighted to have the opportunity to step back in time to enjoy festive holiday traditions from California's early history when people from around the world passed through the Fort gates, each with their own customs and traditions for the holiday season. Friends and families are encouraged to visit the Fort to experience a variety of holiday traditions and activities similar to what early immigrants enjoyed. Complete with docents in period attire, entertaining vignettes will be set up that showcase a few of the diverse holiday scenes that will include food, music, decorations and other holiday traditions. As a special treat for kids of all ages, Father Christmas will be on-hand to hear holiday wishes. Fort visitors can also participate in a number of hands-on activities such as dipping and creating their own holiday candles, crafting their own holiday ornaments plus making holiday cards, stringing popcorn, decorating cookies and tasting apple cider. And, of course, popular demonstrations of black powder weaponry in action will take place including the crowd-favorite firing of the Fort's cannon. Additionally, Friends of Sutter's Fort Trade Store will be open, providing complimentary samples of gold nugget chocolates and offering a special holiday sale. Admission costs for this special "Hands on History: A Simple Immigrant Christmas" event at the Fort 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, please call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

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