

EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

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MEET THE MARMALADIES OF THE STATE FAIR

See page 15



K.D. PROFFITT



BARBARA RUONA

- Door-to-Door2
- What's Happening10
- Home Improvement Guide12
- Classifieds13
- Life in the Village15

Local family in need of help from the community

■ See page 2



Donation based yoga at the Oak Park Healing Arts Center

■ See page 10



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E-mail stories & photos to: editor@valcomnews.com

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Memories of the State Fair

When we were kids in East Sac we waited every year for the California State Fair. The fair brought amazements—beautiful show horses prancing with pure elegance and gigantic Clydesdales clopping along with hair on their hooves, pulling the Budweiser wagon. Our father always admired the size and heft of the Clydesdales (he had some fondness for Budweiser too). We were city kids so the animals drew us. We'd race to the livestock area where waddling, vast creatures moored and snorted. Peering through the wood slats of fences we'd go from pen to pen to find the fattest pig, the biggest steer, the curliest sheep. We were awed by the cowboys and cowgirls also: casual young people who wore 4H badges and chewed gum and walked right into the pens and patted or bossed the animals.

We went to the flower exhibit. Our father said once, "They put all these flowers out here just for your mother," and we followed along, studying her as she studied the flowers. But we never lasted long in the flower exhibit. Flowers were abundant in daily life, and we were lured by the exotic. After fifteen minutes we itched to get away. We wanted novelty. Then the Counties buildings. These were fascinating places. Every single county in California put up an exhibit. Once we saw a mechanical display of liquid gold being poured, over and over, into the tin of a rapturous miner. These were the displays that made us wish we'd been born in the old days, in more exciting times. Never mind that our parents said the present was exciting enough. What did they know? They were too old to understand a need for adventure.

We went to the Arts exhibit. It was fun to choose the best from among the paintings, but we weren't permitted to do thumbs down because the artist or the artist's friends might be around, and their feelings might be hurt. One year a large, blue ribbon canvass gathered a crowd. It was covered entirely in grey paint with one blue dot on the upper right. Our father said,



Door to Door with PAT LYNCH

"What does this thing mean?" and our mother, who was in charge of cultural affairs, read the artist's statement and said, "It's about the warp of space." This precipitated in me a ferocious giggling fit. I couldn't stop laughing at the warp of space. Our mother told our father, "It's her age," and Kathleen, Moira, Sheila, Danny and Michael stared. Even the Baby, Eileen, looked up from her stroller and clapped, which set off another giggling spasm. The giggling fit finally spent itself but Eileen would periodically look up and clap and I would have to go into fake giggling, which was hard at first, but after a while the real giggles returned whenever she clapped.

Finally we hit the Midway. Here was the true heartbeat of the fair—milling crowds, screeching kids on rides, the Quarter Pitch (a considerable step up from the Penny Pitch at the Sacred Heart Fall Festival where if you tossed a penny into the exact center of a square you might win a candle—no, this was the real thing, with real prizes—huge stuffed pandas and giraffes. Here you saw teenagers holding hands, the girls sometimes proudly carrying a panda or stuffed donkey, proof the boy had won it for her. Dust and cooling heat mixed with the smell of strange foods. One booth sign said, *Dare to Eat the Bizarre* and claimed to serve fried grasshoppers. Our father said he would order nine grasshopper burgers for us and we yelled and made faces, and our mother said to him, "See what you started?" He surrendered and we ate fried chicken with French fries. It was wonderful at the fair. It was delicious and exciting. We had cotton candy for dessert and ran around everywhere, stared at weird people, stayed together. Dizziness with excitement, we went

on nearly every ride, older kids sitting with the younger ones to keep them safe.

There was only one place we couldn't go, down a long side aisle filled with breath-taking enticements—the freak shows. I desperately wanted to go to there, but our mother forbade it. She said this part of the fair was filled with "seedy" customers who wanted to gawk at people who were fat, or midgets, or had been born with deformities. But it was the word, deformities (a word we abjure today) that compelled me. This year a sweaty, tattooed guy hollered into a microphone that the Tallest Man Alive could be viewed for a mere two dollars. The tallest man alive. Too tall to fit in an automobile or plane. So tall he had to travel in special railway cars welded together so he could lie down to sleep. Who wouldn't want to see someone this tall? I tried to wheedle our father, but no use: he wouldn't go against our mother. So I vowed to visit the freak show, one day soon, when I was freed from the shackles of childhood.

Three years later I was deemed old enough to go to the fair with my friend, Gloria. We were excited. We wore makeup and had a lot of babysitting money. We headed straight for the midway and turned down the row to a large tent with a blinking sign: Human and Animal Oddities! Never Before Seen! The tent was a movie theater and we watched a riveting film about a man in India who had a boil on his neck so big that he could no longer sit up. "They try to keep this from us," Gloria whispered, and I nodded. "They" were our parents and the nuns at Loretto High School.

We went boldly from booth to booth. Then we

See Door-to-Door, page 3

Door-to-Door:

Continued from page 2

heard the man on the microphone. "No arms, no legs, no bones in her body. You can see her. Touch her. Talk to her. No arms, no legs, no bones in her body." We got in line. Who wouldn't? The microphone man said, "You gals eighteen?" and Gloria said, "Sure," and he lifted a chain and let us through. We followed a man into the tent. In the dimness we saw a large wood box. There was a hole cut in the top and from it protruded the head of a live woman. She wore purple lipstick. The man who had preceded us squinted suspiciously at her and said, "Why can't we see you? How do we know you got no bones?" She said she had to be hooked up to a medical battery to infuse her with bone marrow and everything had to be antiseptic, so it was kept in a box. "Public germs could kill me," she said.

Gloria gasped. The man said, "You got a skull, right? A headbone?"

"It's plate," the woman said. "Go on ahead and feel it."

The man stepped on his cigarette, placed both hands on her head. "It's plate," he said finally.

The woman said, as if reciting, "I don't have arms, legs or bones, but I have a good outlook, and people are so generous. Some day I'll be whole, thanks to science and helpful strangers." The man put a five-dollar bill in a wicker basket on a stand. Gloria and I each put in a dollar.

When we left Gloria said, "Let's get out of here." We went to the Counties Exhibit and there we felt better. "We're chumps," Gloria said, and I said the woman in the box was probably clipping her toenails while we donated to her medical fund. Then we swore each other to secrecy. No parent, no nun, must ever know about our trip to the seedy side.

I still go to the fair. It's fun to bet on the horse races, and see the hypnotist show. But mostly I like to watch the families and like to see kids running around. And I can always spot teenage girls, off on their own for the first time.

Local family in need of help from the community

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Once they realized they couldn't conceive on their own, Sacramento's Kathy Hedicke and Ron Busselen adopted Tyler, now 29, and Austin, 24, at birth. They are biological brothers. Tyler was born with cerebral palsy and Tyler has had his share of doctors' visits and physical therapy and those bills have continued to mount. Kathy owned and operated a Sacramento based public relations and advertising company for over 20 years until 1999 when she closed her business upon doctor's recommendations and went on disability due to a diagnoses of Lupus in her 20's that was beginning to progress. Ron is a Sacramento commercial photographer. The powerhouse couple have helped the community through their generosity with others now need your help as they fear losing their house which is tentatively set for auction on Aug. 25.

Ron's doing his best to care for them but that has meant he hasn't been able to put as much time into his photography business, suffering from a mini stroke himself in recent years that was a setback to the family needs as well as the needs of his business.

Austin has found minimum wage work to help support the family and dropped out of college after completing two years and receiving his AA degree from Sacramento City College. They had to use the rest of his college fund toward expenses.



Photo courtesy

The family has sold off most of their personal heirlooms to meet day-to-day living expenses and have been negotiating with their mortgage holder for a loan modification.

When the original mortgage loan was sold, the new mortgage holder has been less than accommodating offering them several opportunities and then reneged on their offers continually putting the family

See Family, page 4

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Family:

Continued from page 3

in a constant state of flux and uncertainty and anxiety.

Ultimately, they may lose their home, all of its equity and the handicap accessibility that Tyler needs to survive (and can't be duplicated in another living environment). Several years ago the family remodeled their home to make it more handicapped assessable for Tyler and for them as they aged. "We put in two ramps and a bathroom and shower that I could drive my wheelchair in and helps with less heavy lifting and transferring me from my wheelchair to a shower chair. It's a big help to both Ron and me," said Tyler.

The family does not qualify for any subsidies; non-profit organizations have been unable to assist them; the GoFundMe account started by a collection of colleagues and friends has not provided sufficiently for them to sustain daily living.

As a very high profile couple with business credentials and entrepreneurial skills that have put them into the "successful local business leaders" category, Kathy, Ron and family now find themselves in need of financial help and services that they cannot qualify for traditionally.

They are very private people, used to the public/business stature that came with their businesses so it is very difficult for them to be on the other side in need of help.

In an interview with Valley Community Newspapers, Kathy and

Ron spoke about the amazing support from friends who have stayed with them and what life has been like going from career-focused to focusing on each other's health and the more mundane.

"We have some amazing friends who have stayed by us, so many of them. A couple of our closest friends passed away, Kathy says and it was very devastating to the family as they had always been there for us."

"It's interesting because my wife and I have both been in similar businesses, but our client bases have been different. A number of Ron's old employees have stepped up and helped out. It amazed me," Ron said, adding that some of them he hadn't talked to in 20 years.

Kathy's clients such as folks from organizations like the March of Dimes and Shriners have been people who understand what the family has gone through. "Those clients were really helpful. That those kind of clients would come to me."

Shortly after Tyler's birth, they knew that he was going to have special needs, but they were attached immediately. As Ron puts it: "If you go through a pregnancy and have your own child, you do what you have to do."

And that pretty much sums up their philosophy – one based on their strong love for each other.

Tyler attended Crocker-Riverside Elementary, Sutter Middle School and graduating in the top 1/3 of his class from C.K. McClatchy High School in 2006.

During Tyler's school days, Kathy

says there were definitely ups and downs with some teachers more accommodating than others, but Tyler is very bright and very verbal and learned to adapt.

Also legally blind, Tyler definitely had his share of challenges but his parents spent a lot of money to get him the best physical therapy possible.

"He would stand up for himself," Kathy says. "He did well. He had an aide that became a second mom to both of the boys who helped raised them while Ron and I were working."

In his adulthood, Tyler was appointed by the Governor to a council on developmental disabilities, which he has served on for two years. "He's still doing it. I think he has a lot more to give. We need to get him back in college, which he did for a short period of time and get to a point to get a degree and help more people. He has insight. He has perspective. And very willing to share the frustrations and what is going on with that," Ron says.

"(Tyler) goes to meetings to talk about funding for other programs. He also councils other parents with disabled children," Austin said.

Driving an electric wheelchair, Tyler, has gone off the curb and has had a few mishaps, but Austin said he's never had a serious accident, like being hit by a car, and is pretty self-reliant most of the time.

He gets on the bus with Paratransit. He goes out with friends, plays golf, skis, water skis.

"He's not afraid of trying for anything. Latest we've heard is he wants to sky dive," Kathy said.

"I told him I wasn't going to go to watch," added Ron.

"He has more bravery and dedication than most people," summed up Austin.

As the family has cared for each other, finances haven't been so forgiving. Trying to raise \$35,000 to pay off debts, Ron said with attorney fees, the amount each month keeps creeping up.

"What's happening is we applied for (a loan) modification. If we have that whole amount, that brings us current. That saves our house. If they go through with the modification, they take what we owe, put on back end of the loan ... it's not like any of this is in our hands. With a lender like this we don't know... and in the last nine months or so with Kathy having to have hip surgery that became infected, and I haven't been able to promote a lot of work. I've been spending most of my time at home taking care of Kathy and Tyler."

The loan situation got so bad, Austin said, "people came trying to buy the house while we were still living in it ... they literally had pages for me to sign. I basically told them we are not selling and slammed the door in someone's face."

"A lot of real estate agents live in Land Park and because it's all public record everybody knows ... what's going on. It's been over a year.. year and a half, two years ... We've been struggling with it for a long time. It's been very stressful obviously."

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WHERE DID IT GO?

Super Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Dove, actor, as in "75" (4)
 7 Sky (4)
 12 "In the Foot of" (4)
 16 "He" (4)
 17 "I" (4)
 19 "B&B" (4)
 20 "Debut" (4)
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See solution, page 8

Greenhaven Estates Welcomes "The Crocker Talker" Thursday July 28th at Noon

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Radio Made To Order

By STEVE LIDDICK

There was a time when the primary entertainment medium for every family was radio. It was a cheap way to bring the world into America's living rooms.

Radio has evolved over the years, from news, live music, dramas, and comedy shows of the 1940s to the 1950s when deejays began spinning out the tempo of the young. Deejays still exist, but pundits voicing their political opinions are a large segment of the broadcast spectrum these days.

The evolution continues. Radio listenership has shrunk considerably in just the past few years. With so many alternative entertainment and information sources and delivery systems available today, commercial radio has been relegated to a much less prominent place. Much of what is dispensed by conventional radio has been largely supplemented by podcasts and iTunes that can be played on-demand on personal devices. Instant gratification for an impatient generation not willing to wait for a favorite song to come up in a radio station's rotation.

The result is a radio vacuum that leaves an entire generation of listeners nowhere to go with their varied tastes

rooted in an earlier era that offered more choices to their liking.

That's where KUBU-FM comes in. "We are an alternative," said KUBU-FM Program Director Shane Carpenter. "We do radio like they did back in the 1920s, when it was a kind of 'free form' before the development of the networks." Further, the public creates the programs heard on KUBU.

Not only is KUBU sent out over the airwaves, it can also be heard in real time on cable TV channels 17 and 18's bulletin board and via the Internet on the Access Sacramento website.

The station is broadcast by way of a low power transmitter at 96.5 on the FM dial. The signal covers a ten-mile circle that includes the Arden-Arcade area to the north; Florin Road to the south; Watt Avenue to the east, and West Sacramento to the west.

Carpenter, who has been with Access Sacramento since the public access facility started in 1986, says there needed to be a place where the public could create shows to express their opinions, promote a hobby, present their particular music genre, start a gardening program, or anything else they could think up. The station is wide open to ideas and invites citizens of Sacramento County and city to come up with programs of their own.



Photo by Steve Liddick. KUBU-FM Program Director Shane Carpenter at the controls of the radio station operated by Access Sacramento, a non-profit organization that offers the public an opportunity to create, produce and broadcast their own radio shows.

One such program producer is Alexander Vasquez. His talk show can be heard Wednesday nights from ten to midnight.

"Hate radio you love," said Vasquez, who leans to the right politically and invites anyone to challenge him. "I am an equally opportunity hater," he said with a laugh.

One program block might feature acid rock. Another—like the show put on by Andrea Payton-Hassanen—

brings listeners music from all over the world. "My show is all digital," Payton-Hassanen said. "My son digitizes my music." She brings the music to the T Street facility and the result is a treat for listeners who cannot find anything like it anywhere else.

Good luck if you are a polka, big band, jazz, or Dixieland fan. Mainstream radio will not take you to

See Radio, page 7

Radio:

Continued from page 6

those places. If what is offered in the talk radio spectrum is not what the listener is looking for, Access Sacramento invites the public the opportunity to fill the void, both as a listener and as a presenter.

If you have a music collection of personal favorites and want to create a show of your own, you are invited to put one together for that segment of the public that has gone un-served. Innovation is encouraged. If you have a unique idea for a show, bring it on.

"Some even record their shows at home and bring the recording to the studio," Carpenter said.

Programs are not aimed at the broader audience. Since it is non-commercial, huge numbers of listeners are not as important as they are to a commercial radio station that must deliver to its advertisers the largest number of consumers with money to spend.

Who is eligible to become a radio star? "Anybody who shows up," Shane Carpenter said. Anyone who wants to start a radio show of their own can start the process by checking



Photo by Steve Liddick. Andrea Payton-Hassanen produces and voices a program that features music from around the world, shown here with KUBU-FM Program Director Shane Carpenter. Any resident of Sacramento city and county can produce a radio show of their own design. Membership in Access Sacramento and a brief training period are required.

out www.AccessSacramento.org or by stopping by the studio at 4623 T Street, Suite A. Annual membership in Access Sacramento is required. A period of training on the equipment

gets the new show producer on their way and on the air.

Steve Liddick is the author of the time travel novel, "All That Time."

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For privacy reasons, photos above are not photos of actual students.

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A labour of love, none is lost with this year's Sacramento Shakespeare Festival's interpretation of this comedic play

Story and photos by
BARRY WISDOM

For the past several years, there's been an attempt to brush the dust off of the Bard by changing the who, when and where of his plays. Local productions have replaced noblemen with gangsters, Verona with trailer parks, and gentlemen and gentlewomen with zombies.

This year, the Sacramento Shakespeare Festival has transported the cast of "Love's Labour's Lost" to America's East Coast (circa 1916), where the male leads croon continuously in their new identities as members of an Ivy League glee club.

"LLL," which opened July 1, plays in repertory with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" through July 31. SSF's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" has been similarly rewritten and is set in mythical Atlantis.

Sacramento City College instructor Luther Hanson, the director of the SSF, wasn't always a fan of such rewrites.

"I think there was a time when I was more of a purist," said Hanson. "I also like the Elizabethan period, so I like living in that time for a while."

"The more I realized that many people have seen these plays many times, and that the plays can truly be informed and brought to life by placing them in different periods, the more I got excited about finding periods that help the plays."

"Most evidence suggests that Shakespeare wrote these plays for entertainment and accessibility, and I feel confident that he would appreciate our attempts to update them and bring them to life."

Hanson said his ideas for this summer's staging of "Love's Labour's Lost" were fueled by his continuing efforts to infuse his SSF productions with more music.

"We are trying to use live music whenever we can, and we have a brilliant new vocal teacher, so I wanted to find something that could incorporate singing," said

Hanson. "I felt that the idea of college singers made a good setting for the kind of life these students have at the university, and a good context for the boys' tight bond. And as college singers, they are ready to sing anytime, which is quite entertaining."

The multitasking Hanson wrote the show's original compositions, appropriating their lyrics from songs found in several Shakespearean plays.

"I tried to imitate the musical style of 1916," he said. "Barbershop was very popular at the time, so we have tried to recreate that feel in the quartets."

Along with the additional rehearsals mandated by the inclusion of the musical numbers, there is always a need for SSF actors to "brush up" their Shakespeare, which makes each season something of an iambic pentameter summer camp.

"We do get a wide variety of actors, from veterans who have been acting for decades, to students who have never been in a play," acknowledged Hanson. "As an educational institution, we are very proud of that mix, and it seems to be a really good learning experience for all. There is always a good amount of teaching that goes on in terms of verse and language, and we build that into our rehearsal period."

"I am most proud of helping to foster a healthy and hard-working company that has enormous commitment to the work, to the community, and to making Shakespeare enjoyable and accessible."

And that commitment isn't limited to one month each summer under the stars at the William A. Carroll Amphitheatre in William Land Park.

"We work all year with workshops, fundraisers, cabarets, readings, and touring projects to keep the momentum going between summers," said Hanson. "We travel to schools, and community centers, and fairs to get more folks aware of what we do. And we have fun."



The Sacramento Shakespeare Festival production of William Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost" is directed by Luther Hanson, and features Ryan Canfield as Berowne, Christi van Eyken as Rosaline, Jonathan Plon as the King, Shenadoah Kehoe as the Princess, Sean Olivares as Don Armado, and Monica Vejar as Boyet.

It opened July 1, and plays July 23, 28, and 30. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" opened Friday, July 8, and plays July 22, 24 (6 p.m.), 29 and 31 (6 pm). There are performances Thursday, July 21.

Tickets are \$18 general, and \$15 for students, seniors, SARTA members, and persons with disabilities. Children ages 6 to 12 are free. Children under 6 are not admitted. Parking is \$2 per car. Performances are in the William A. Carroll Amphitheatre in William Land Park. For 8 p.m. performances, the box office opens at 6 p.m., and gates open at 6:30 p.m. For 6 p.m. performances, the box office opens at 4 p.m., and gates open at 4:30 p.m. Some concessions will be available, and picnics are welcome.

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' set back in time to fabled Atlantis

By BARRY WISDOM

From a Jazz Age setting that channeled "Downton Abbey," to a dystopian future world in which a trio of puppeteers operated a Bunraku-style Puck puppet, to a Jimi Hendrix-flavored, 1960s production featuring a paisley-and-leather costumed cast that shares the stage with a Volkswagen Beetle, Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" has enjoyed its fair share of transmogrifications.

In the Sacramento Shakespeare Festival's current take on the magically delicious comedy — playing through this month on the William A. Carroll Amphitheatre Stage in William Land Park — the audience is invited into the Way Back Machine for a round-trip to the fabled continent of Atlantis circa 9000 B.C.

"I was looking for something that fit the original Athens location without using Athens — Greece or Georgia," said director Lori Ann DeLappe-Grondin. "I was talking about Athens, and someone asked, 'What about Atlantis?' And that began the whole thing."

While all of the details didn't gel immediately, she knew she didn't want to piggyback on the current superhero craze. In other words, Marvel's Sub-Mariner and DC's Aquaman weren't going to be seen in any "swim-on" cameos.

"I wanted the utopian Atlantis (before it sank), the one that is believed to have been around some 11,000 years ago. So no water."

The text is true to the original, said Delappe-Grondin, with just a bit of trimming to accommodate the festival's two-hour "running" time, as well as a few dialogue revisions to accommodate the setting change from "Athens" to "Atlantis."

"I think there is a good balance to be had between staying true to the text and making it fresh for people. There are many people producing Shakespeare and it is so universal that it is kind of fun to see where else we can set it and still keep it relevant."

That's not say there are no visual nods to the change of venue.

"The overall look is very 'Atlantian' and quite stunning," she said.

While the set was designed to work for both shows (it plays in repertory with "Love's Labour's Lost"), the costumes, hair/makeup bring about the Atlantean feel, and the lighting enhances the fantasy aspect that is "A Midsummer Night's Dream" said Delappe-Grondin, who also serves as associate director of the SSF and as adjunct professor of theater arts.

Blues and greens dominate the show's color palette, most notably in the costumes of fairy queen Titania (Dale Flint) and her winged handmaidens (Samantha Hannum, Shelby Saumier, Divine Justice, Haley Jo Colner, and Allie De Long), as well as those of the lovers (Shelby Saumier, Katie Peters, Tony Brisson, Daniel Conover, Fiona Nies, and Pete Eden).

"The costumers also try to keep in mind that we are in the park in the summer in Sacramento — the lighter the costumes, the better."

"I think the concept works really well for this play and this space. I think the audience will be taken by the overall look of the show (it's gorgeous) and the magic of the story."

"The great thing about a concept like Atlantis, where there is only speculation on what the society was like — if it existed at all — is that we can take what little we know and elaborate and embellish it," she continued. "We've turned mythical Atlantis into a fantasy dream world that draws you in from the first moments."

It's not only SSF audience members who are drawn to the SSF and Sacramento City College's City Theatre. While there are no shortage of universities and community colleges vying for theater students in the Greater Sacramento area, there is much to recommend SCC, said Delappe-Grondin.

"Often our department becomes a family," she said. "Students come to us to learn their craft and often meet their life-long friends. We also use a combination of students and community members giving our students a chance to work with people of all ages and experience levels."

The Sacramento Shakespeare Festival production of William Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost" is directed by Lori Ann DeLappe-

Grondin (with Nina Dramer), and features Jonathan Plon, Stephanie Marsh Ballard, Shelby Saumier, Roberta Sanchez, Katie Peters, Tony Brisson, Daniel Conover, Fiona Nies, Pete Eden, Dale Flint, Alexander Quinonez, Samantha Hannum, Divine Justice, Haley Jo Colner, Denise Ivy, Bill Gilbert, Matthew Malone, Dennis Redpath, Mary Elizabeth Alexander, Natalie Evans, Allie De Long, Sinead Kennedy, Johnna Wood and Said Noori.

It opened July 8, and plays July 22, 24 (6 p.m.), 29 and 31 (6 pm). There is no performance on Thursday, July 21.

Tickets are \$18 general, and \$15 for students, seniors, SARTA members, and persons with disabilities. Children ages 6 to 12 are free. Children under 6 are not admitted. Parking is \$2 per car. Performances are in the William A. Carroll Amphitheatre in William Land Park. For 8 p.m. performances, the box office opens at 6 p.m., and gates open at 6:30 p.m. For 6 p.m. performances, the box office opens at 4:30 p.m., and gates open at 4:30 p.m. Some concessions will be available, and picnics are welcome.

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NOW THROUGH SUNDAY CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR CONTINUES: Get your tickets for the "best 17 days of summer" at <www.castatefair.org>. In this issue of the East Sacramento News, read about an East Sacramento woman and her Land Park pal who entered a marmalade contest at the fair. They're called the Marmalades. See the Marmaladies, page 15.

THURSDAY, JULY 21 38TH STREET BLOOD DRIVE: Neighbors like to think the 38th Street Blood Drive is a party and Alice and Pat McAuliffe hope you'll consider joining them. They'll have tents and tables on the front lawn, and two bloodmobiles parked on the street. As usual, they'll be grilling sausages and pouring their favorite beverages. The eighth annual Blood Drive occurs from 3 to 7 p.m. To schedule an appointment on line, please go to www.bloodsource.org/drives and enter location code M597. If possible, please schedule an appointment so we have no gridlock and we know how many folks to expect. If you prefer, please call at 451-5507 or email alicemcauliffe12@gmail.com with your preferred time and they'll schedule an appointment for you. If you have any friends who would like to donate, they'd be happy to schedule them as well. Anyone 17 years old or older can donate. Those who are 16 years old can donate with parental permission, using a form available on the www.bloodsource.org website. Please remember to bring a photo ID and drink plenty of fluids beforehand. If you have any questions about eligibility, please call 800-995-4420 and ask for the "Nurse of the Day". They look forward to seeing you and having a good time. Fliers for the blood drive are attached if you would like to post or forward the information to others. Also, you will be receiving a San Francisco Giants' T-shirt for your donation. "We are honored and touched that you continue to support this very worthwhile cause. We do this in memory of my wonderful mom, Rosemary Lonczak, who lived years longer as a result of numerous blood transfusions." -- Alice and Pat McAuliffe, 1141 38th St.

PUB THEOLOGY AT THE PUBLIC HOUSE THEATER: Open and honest conversations about things that matter. A table at which all perspectives are welcome. The format is simple: beer, wine, seltzer water -- whatever you enjoy -- pizza, conversation and God. Bring your questions, bring a friend, and pull up a chair. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious traditions, philosophical perspectives and life ex-

periences. You'll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way. 5440 14th Ave., 6 p.m. to 7:15-ish.

KIDS' MOVIE NIGHT AT PUBLIC HOUSE THEATER: Local pub theater hosts kids' movie night, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., TBD. 5440 14th Ave., 662-7262.

THURSDAY, JULY 21 KID STUDIO: STRING ART AT COLONIAL HEIGHTS LIBRARY: Stretch your creativity and discover the fun of process art at Kid Studio. This week, will be creating string art, a kid-friendly way to learn the basics of weaving. All supplies provided! Artists younger than 8 years old require adult supervision. Fun starts at 3 p.m., 4799 Stockton Blvd.

FRIDAY, JULY 22 JUGGLING, SPORTS AND CHOCOLATE WITH IZZY TOOINSKY AT MCKINLEY LIBRARY: Join McKinley Library for juggling, humor, and fun with Izzy Tooinisky, the Wild Man as he leads children on a journey to discover the orange. Fun starts at 3:30 p.m., 601 Alhambra Blvd., Sacramento.

SATURDAY, JULY 23 SPORTSJAM: Enjoy the fun, games, prizes and excitement at the inaugural Sr. Little League Western Regional All Star Tournament as SportsJam takes the field. From soccer shootouts to football combines, speed and agility challenges and hole-in-one putting contest, athletes of all ages will be treated to a special afternoon of fun and games at American River College smack dab in the middle of the week-long Little League All Star tournament. Ever wonder how fast you throw the baseball or how many free throws you can make in a row? How about testing your ability at Lacrosse or trying out rugby for the very first time! Experts will be on hand to teach, demonstrate and put you on the field to try your hand and test your skills. It's a free-for-all of sports and fun! Bring your friends and compete for bragging rights, Saturday, July 23rd from 1-5 p.m. at the entrance to the ballfields!

SACRAMOTATO FESTIVAL -- From 4 to 8 p.m., a large-scale family-friendly festival will take place outside on the grounds of Sutter's Fort SHP. The free Sacramotato Festival will include lots to see and do, such as juggling, sports and chocolate! This program is part of the Sacramento Public Library's Summer Reading Chall A fun

BEST BETS



Photo by Monica Stark

Shown here is Amy Byerhoff, yoga instructor at the donation-based yoga class at the Oak Park Healing Arts Center, 33rd St. Her class meets every Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m.

DONATION-BASED YOGA AT THE OAK PARK HEALING ARTS CENTER: Join Amy Byerhoff for a session in vinyasa yoga from 6 to 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Oak Park Healing Arts Center, Address: 3101 33rd St, Sacramento, CA 95817. Amy said that she is happy to bring community based yoga to her neighborhood. As Oak Park undergoes transformation, people like Amy who have lived there for many years, continuously make the neighborhood a better place with their generosity. Amy, a certified yoga instructor with many years experience, volunteers her time to bring this class to the neighborhood.

FREE SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT FEATURING STAR WARS AT COLONIAL PARK: It's a battle between the light side and dark side in Colonial Heights on Saturday, July 30! Come join neighbors for The Force Awakens at sundown! Colonial Park, 18th Ave., 95820.

and lively salsa making competition presented by Centro Cocina Mexicana; an engaging and hands-on "Tomato Patch" area for kids featuring activities coordinated by the Sacramento Food Literacy Center and presented by Café Bernardo; tasty foods for sampling and/or sale by Sutter District and other local restaurants and bars; cooking demonstrations by the area's talented top chefs; a variety of popular Midtown Farmers Market vendors; a live music and entertainment stage presented by Harlow's with music from Skyler's Pool (featuring the husband/wife team of Paragary Restaurant Group's Executive Chef Kurt Spataro and KFBK's Kitty O'Neal), and Cu-

ban Salsa Band, Conjunto Liberacion; plus a cocktail area for adults with tomato-inspired specialty drinks by Barwest, Paragary's in Midtown and Red Rabbit. Interested community members are encouraged to sign up for the salsa making competition that will be judged in a blind taste test by Sutter District restaurant representatives and one "chef genius" from Sacramento Food Literacy. The winner of the salsa making competition will win a fun gift basket and the coveted "Best Salsa in the Sutter District" title. To watch a "Viva La Tomato" video clip highlighting the event (produced by Unseen Heroes), please visit <https://vimeo.com/126225794>. Sponsored in part

by the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-Op and Sacramento Municipal and Utility District (SMUD), more information about the 2016 Sacramotato Week & Festival is available at www.exploremidtown.org.

See Events, page 11

Events:

Continued from page 10

is perfect for learning more about Sacramento's Time Bank. Meet the members, ask questions, and find out about future events. Meet at the East Portal Park at M Street and Rodeo Way in East Sacramento. The group will be at the east side of park under the trees. Please bring a dish to share and a chair or blanket to sit on. There will be an information presentation on the Time Bank, as well as a new member orientation. In Time Banking, you earn a Time Credit for each hour you spend sharing a skill or talent with someone who requests it. The Time Credit is deposited into a Time Bank, and you'd now have the Time Credit to spend with someone who has a skill you need. It's a simple idea with a powerful ripple effect in building community connections. So bring a friend, meet our Time Bank members, and find out who's trading their exciting talents!! To learn more, please visit <https://communityskillsexchange.timebanks...> For further information, please email info@cse-timebank.org

JULY 23-24 SAC BROMELIAD & CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE: From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3331 Park Way.

SATURDAY, JULY 24 COLLAGE SESSIONS 2 AT DADAS ART GALLERY BOUTIQUE: From 1 to 5 p.m. at Dadas, 3655 J St., check out the MEGA-micro Collage Sessions Workshop with Robert-Jean Ray. Workshop

Fee: \$50, plus \$10 materials fee. No supplies/materials required from participants. Participants will work on three new collage projects, complete no less than five fully realized art pieces, receive one Robert-Jean Ray micro collage, drawing or painting of their choice, be included in the Collage Sessions segment of the microARTCollection exhibition. Food and refreshments will be provided. Contact Robert-Jean Ray at robert-tray.collage@yahoo.com, or DaDas Art Gallery Boutique at 916.538.1082, to reserve your spot.

TUESDAY, JULY 26 DONATION-BASED YOGA AT THE OAK PARK HEALING ARTS CENTER: Join Amy Byerhoff for a session in vinyasa yoga from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oak Park Healing Arts Center, Address: 3101 33rd St, Sacramento, CA 95817.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 STORIES AND SEEDS AT COLONIAL HEIGHTS LIBRARY: The last Wednesday of every month, we'll meet in the Read & Feed garden rain or shine to share a book about gardening, seeds, nature or growing food. Plus, we'll explore the garden to see what we're growing, do an activity and enjoy a veggie or fruit snack depending on what's in season. Fun starts at 3:30 p.m., 4799 Stockton Blvd.

THURSDAY, JULY 28 FENIX DRUM & DANCE COMPANY AT THE COLONIAL HEIGHTS LIBRARY: Join the Colonial Heights Library for all ages Summer Reading performances! This week, Fenix Drum & Dance Company will perform "Go for the Gold", an Olympics-themed drum and dance

SACRAMOTATO FESTIVAL -- On Saturday, July 23, from 4 to 8 p.m., a large-scale family-friendly festival will take place outside on the grounds of Sutter's Fort SHP. The free Sacramotato Festival will include lots to see and do, such as juggling, sports and chocolate! This program is part of the Sacramento Public Library's Summer Reading Chall A fun and lively salsa making competition presented by Centro Cocina Mexicana; an engaging and hands-on "Tomato Patch" area for kids featuring activities coordinated by the Sacramento Food Literacy Center and presented by Café Bernardo; tasty foods for sampling and/or sale by Sutter District and other local restaurants and bars; cooking demonstrations by the area's talented top chefs; a variety of popular Midtown Farmers Market vendors; a live music and entertainment stage presented by Harlow's with music from Skyler's Pool (featuring the husband/wife team of Paragary Restaurant Group's Executive Chef Kurt Spataro and KFBK's Kitty O'Neal), and Cuban Salsa Band, Conjunto Liberacion; plus a cocktail area for adults with tomato-inspired specialty drinks by Barwest, Paragary's in Midtown and Red Rabbit. Interested community members are encouraged to sign up for the salsa making competition that will be judged in a blind taste test by Sutter District restaurant representatives and one "chef genius" from Sacramento Food Literacy. The winner of the salsa making competition will win a fun gift basket and the coveted "Best Salsa in the Sutter District" title. To watch a "Viva La Tomato" video clip highlighting the event (produced by Unseen Heroes), please visit <https://vimeo.com/126225794>. Sponsored in part by the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-Op and Sacramento Municipal and Utility District (SMUD), more information about the 2016 Sacramotato Week & Festival is available at www.exploremidtown.org.

Photo by Vladimir Morozov
www.flickr.com/photos/27429206@N02/2694720316

performance perfect for getting ready to Read for the Win! Library programming is brought to you with the support of the Friends of the Colonial Heights Library. Fun starts at 3 p.m., 4799 Stockton Blvd.

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Quilting for charity at the State Fair with the River City Quilters' Guild

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

In a widespread community effort, the River City Quilt Guild and passersby at the state fair are currently working on quilts for local children's hospitals, including UC Davis, Kaiser, Sutter, Mercy, some receiving homes and for veterans at Mather Hospital.

From a large pile of 2 1/2-inch by 2 1/2-inch scraps of fabric, folks who stop by the guild's booth can pick out nine squares, put them on a piece of cardboard in the pattern that they like and volunteers from the guild sew them together, eventually putting together a large

quilt that eventually get donated to local hospitals. At last year's fair, the guild made 3,000 quilts for children in need. During a conversation at the fair on Sunday, July 10, Chris Shores-Hague, president of the River City Quilters' Guild, a young girl and her family walked by. Sharing their story, Chris said, "She was a preemie at UC Davis Medical Center and received one of these quilts when they were in the hospital. The mom now knows where it came from and was really thankful for the special gift. 'My God, that's where my quilt came from,' she said."

Children and their families who participated in



Children help create sections of a quilt that will be delivered to children's and veteran hospitals in the area. Photos by Monica Stark

choosing the squares enjoyed that they were helping make a difference for others, while making something artistic. Additionally, those who put together a square get to sign their names on a large white fabric. Colorfully, filling with names, the fabric will be the backdrop to one of the quilts.

Throughout the year, Chris tells members of the guild that she needs scraps and she starts collecting them for the fair. "It took 27,000 2 1/2-inch blocks last year to make those 3,000 (quilts) and there's nine in every one. I was really amazed what it took."

Even for those who shy from artistic projects, Chris assured no matter what the blocks of cardboard look like, when the quilts are all put together, they are beautiful. Looking at one block in particular, she said, "This is not a well-designed block, but it doesn't matter, when it comes in the quilt - when you put the sashing around it, and finish it, what a pretty quilt that is ... The idea, to me, that the community is making quilts for the community, I like that."

Stating these quilts are near and dear to her heart, Chris said she's very passionate about these quilts, though this is only her second year making them and she's been involved with the guild for a long time. "It's so fun to interact with so many people from all over the state and



The River City Quilters' Guild booth at the California State Fair. Photo by Monica Stark

they're really interested and they're not just interested in this but they want to know where they can learn to sew, where they can learn to quilt. And, the kids love it."

Within the guild is a large community service group that delivers the quilts upon request by the various hospitals. "Every couple of months, they work with those contacts at the hospitals to give the quilts to. But the vets - twice a year we go out to Mather and with their permission being asked to go in a room, they choose the quilt they want and we thank them for their service. It's amazing. You do it once and you always do it."

The River City Quilters' Guild will be celebrating their 40th anniversary next

year. Their monthly general meetings include either special activities or guest speakers, known for their expertise in the quilting and textile arts. Often the speaker conducts a workshop on a specialized quilting technique or method, and there are monthly general meetings, neighborhood circles and groups, community service projects, block of the month, library, mentoring, quilt retreats, secret pal program, sew and show workshops, annual quilt show. Meeting information: Third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Society, 2425 Sierra Blvd. Email president@rivercity-quilters.org. For more information visit www.rivercity-quilters.org.

Meet the Marmaladies

East Sac and Land Park neighbors developed unique recipe for the California State Fair

By PAT LYNCH

They don't lounge at spas and plan leisurely retirement cruises. They are K. D. Proffit from Land Park and Barbara Ruona from East Sacramento, and they play for keeps. They created and developed a unique marmalade recipe. Making extraordinary marmalade requires the science of a chemist and the art of a superior chef. Last year Proffit and Ruona earned a second place award in the Cal Expo canning and baking competition. This year, determination heightened, they entered again. Using tasty naval oranges from Proffit's tree and Seville oranges donated by a friend, the women set to work. Both are acknowledged excellent cooks, but that is not nearly enough to win the coveted State Fair awards. You won't find too many more focused protagonists than Proffit and Ruona, and they worked resolutely on three entries—three identically sized small jars of marmalade, two biters, one sweet.

Now they needed a name. The rules demanded it. "How about, the Marmaladies?" suggested friend, Eileen Lynch, and the two women were now the Marmaladies.

July 14th—the judging begins. Proffit had to leave to Colorado, so a nervous Ruona went with other friends through the milling State Fair crowds to Building B, where the fate of the marmalades would be decreed. Some people had come early, sat on pillows, and had brought stools upon which they propped their feet. Contestants and general fairgoers filled the seats. Some, who sold wares at the Farmers Market, longed for those blue ribbons that would testify to the high quality of their goods. Finally the judges began to sample the products. People watched intently. Ruona's nervousness now palpable, she listened as the judges (all cookbook authors, chefs



(above left) K.D. Proffit with the 2015 shared rosette. (above right) Barbara Ruona stands triumphant in front of the winners' display case. Photos by Ellen Cochrane



or other acknowledged experts) began smelling, tasting with spoons, holding jars to the light, intently discussing the texture and flavor. Some entries were quickly disqualified for multiple reasons: the jars didn't match, the lids were wrong, the spread was too thick, or a jar was found with exterior dirt. The judges generally tried to find something encouraging to say as they disqualified people, but there were no exceptions: if you were out, you were out.

Ruona's nervousness increased. But there were so many entries the judging didn't reach the Marmaladies offerings in time. She would have to come back later that night. What a long day it was. Her friends took her to the movies to distract her, but it didn't work. The Marmalady couldn't stop thinking about marmalade.

At 9:30 pm they returned to the fair. The contest area was empty now, the jars behind a window display. Ruona and her friends advanced on the display, began reading. Then a shout—"Here it is—a blue ribbon." One blue ribbon. No, two blue ribbons. No, three. A blue ribbon sweep for the Marmaladies!

Last year when they shared a second place ribbon, Ruona kept it for six months at her house, Proffit for six months at hers. Now there would be no need to share. The next day Ruona made a phone call to Colorado and heard jubilation. "K. D. was so thrilled," she said. "We worked so hard to get it right. It all paid off."

"Now you can relax," somebody said. "You're a big winner."

"Oh no," replied Marmalady Barbara Ruona. "Now we have to aim for Best of Class."



LIFE
IN THE VILLAGE
By JAN DALSKA
East Sacramento News

My family was moving! We were going to live in a brand new house that no one had ever lived in before. When our parents tucked us into our beds the night before we moved, they told us that when we went to sleep tomorrow night we would be in our brand new house. We were all excited, but we were also nervous.

None of us had seen the new house yet. Mom and dad had told us about it. There were four bedrooms, so we would have more room to sleep. But we would still have to share a room with one of our siblings. And, there was a great big backyard where we could play. Dad promised to buy us a new swing set. Maybe we could get a dog.

They called the new neighborhood Colonial Village. None of us could figure out what a village would look like. My oldest brother, Rodney, who was almost 8 years old, told us that we would just have to wait and see what the new house and the new neighborhood would look like.

We had a big truck that we had used to come to California in a few months ago. Dad said that he would use the truck to move us into the new house and then he would sell it because we would be living in the new house for a very long time. None of us knew how long a "very long time" was, but that sounded nice to us.

We seemed to move a lot. Rodney and my youngest little brother, Wayne, were born in Wisconsin when we lived there. Timothy, Linda and Rita were all born in Sacramento. We lived in Clarksburg when I was born. But, all of that moving was behind us now. We were going to have a new home.

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