

SIN & R

Sacramento News & Review

FREE

WHY SAVE THE DELTA?

14

Meet the farmers and river people who don't want to say goodbye to their way of life. BY SCOTT THOMAS ANDERSON



6 *PROSTITUTION STINGS*

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MATTER



Brown
Issues



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COVER DESIGN BY MARGARET LARKIN
COVER PHOTO BY LUIS GEL JIMENEZ

Home on the water

Jacqueline Herrera just can't bring herself to leave her home. This morning, a New York Times reporter spoke to her for the podcast *The Daily*. At that time, she was one of the holdouts—residents who chose not to evacuate in the face of Hurricane Harvey.

"I don't know," she said, "it's hard to leave your entire life behind."

It might have struck some listeners as odd that she, and millions of other Houstonians, would face the worst rainstorm in a century rather than leave their homes. Listening to her explain to the Times reporter that she loved her house, I totally got it. I met with a real estate agent on Saturday; my wife and I are selling a house that we both love. It's hard.

For Ms. Herrera, the pain of leaving is likely to be temporary. For me and my wife, it's voluntary. As you will see in Scott Thomas Anderson's cover feature this week, there are thousands of people in North Delta communities, just 30 miles south of Sacramento, who feel their homes are threatened, permanently, and very much against their will.

The California WaterFix ("twin tunnels") would create one of the most ambitious and most technologically advanced pieces of infrastructure the state has seen in many decades. It could be a huge boon to big farmers in Southern California. It could dramatically alter the Delta's ecosystem. Just building it, a project that would take at least 14 years, could virtually destroy communities that have been there for generations.

I have been a supporter of Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to help our state's agriculture industry while protecting the integrity of the San Francisco Bay. I think these Delta people have changed my mind.

—ERIC JOHNSON
ericj@newsreview.com

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ASKED AT U.C. DAVIS:

What do aliens look like?



EDWIN HILARIO
student

They have a humanoid form, but with bigger heads. There is also probably some intelligence to them as well.



MARQUIS WILLIAMS
DJ

Aliens look like Donald Trump. They are strange, they are weird and not authentic. To me, aliens are exactly like Donald Trump.



MICHAEL KALININ
law student

Aliens look like small bacteria you can't see with your eyes, that are out there somewhere, or at sometime, in space. I don't think they have ever visited earth.



JULIE CARNEIRO
tech support

The first thing that flashes to my mind is the oval-headed, green, almond-eyed creatures. But they probably look like strands of DNA that came from space: Like bits of things we find when meteors crash.



IAN GOOD
student

They are short and squat and they have long tentacles with rubber suction cups. They have a grey, almost blueish-green look to their face. They have large eyes, but with beady little orange pupils. I've seen them before.



ELIANA SISNEROS
medical student

I think aliens are probably tiny little microbes living on some planet. I think when we find aliens, they are most likely going to be really primitive forms of life.

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LETTER
OF THE
WEEK!

Police learn to be polite

Re “Copology” by Raheem F. Hosseini (News, August 24):

Mr. Hosseini, good job covering of Sac PD in the Zityrua Abraham article. A couple of things: Ms. Tournour said that “... it is not something cops learn until they hit the streets.” Wasn’t this officer a supervisor? I believe he was, so he should have had years on the street and years of bedside manners. You probably have asked this of Ms. Tournour; if not, next time you chat with her, please ask her.

PETE CLARK
Sacramento
via sactoleters@newsreview.com

Our Trumpian tradition

Re “Fight nazis with non-violence” by Eric Johnson (Editor’s Note, August 17):

I’ve seen it and heard it all before. What’s more, this kind of thing was a constant reoccurring

societal [virus] throughout the 20th century and before as this nation struggled with the earth-shattering task of implementing the high ideals and unique idea of restraining government and empowering individuals.

Most recently, our Obama was Jimmy Carter, followed by the

war mongering, terrifying, racist, movie-actor, not-ready-for-prime-time mental case Ronald Reagan aka Trump 1.0 and inevitable nuclear destruction, because he was nuts.

For that, I had a front row seat, first as a student in the streets (they would have called us #Antifa then) and later as a journalist, finally on the streets again as an activist journalist. Prior to that, we had our race riots and endless war.

That was all just from 1967 to 1984. Flip back 40 years earlier and the KKK owned the South, 80 years before that and the Irish were the Northern n---ers and white people fought to free the African slaves in the South.

Been there, done that, no big deal. I’m bored, wake me when it’s over.

MARK WILLIAMS
Sacramento
via sactoleters@newsreview.com

Local rap then as now

Re “Sacramento’s bad rap” by Raheem F. Hosseini (Feature, March 2, 2015):

Wow! I’m so impressed by this article. I’m going to have to spend the rest of the day listening to all of the rappers mentioned. I never knew. Great job SN&R!

TRACY MC LAUGHLIB
Sacramento
via sactoleters@newsreview.com

Truth and megaphones

Re “Kill that noise” by Anthony Siino (Beats, Aug 24):

Trying to block free speech is a new low even for this group. Unless you’re a developer, it’s almost impossible to be heard. Beyond disgusting, they have no shame. They are soooo entitled.

JUDITH CHUNCO
via Facebook

An eye for an eye

With Hurricane Harvey bearing down in Houston, Texas Senator Ted Cruz wants Congress to pass an aid bill to support the people of Texas. But when Hurricane Sandy destroyed the Northeast, the senators from Texas voted no on aid for them.

The way I see it, it is wrong that Texas comes hat-in-hand asking for aid after voting to deny aid to others who are suffering from a hurricane disaster. And if I was a senator from the Northeast, I would tell Texas that they should get down on their hands and knees and beg forgiveness before I’d give them a dime of aid. Yes—it is wrong to deny Americans in Texas aid during a disaster. But it is also wrong for Texas to vote against aid for Americans in New York and New Jersey, and Texas should have to at least confess their sins and ask the rest of America for absolution.

MARC PERKEL
Gilroy

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Linda Smith, founder and president of Shared Hope International, an anti-trafficking organization formed by Christian abolitionists, addresses reporters following an August 23 ruling on the Backpage.com prosecution.

PHOTO BY RAHEEM F. HOSSEINI

Dear johns

Sacramento DA touts operation targeting sex trafficking financiers, but only charges one black woman

BY RAHEEM F. HOSSEINI / raheemh@newsreview.com

WEB EXTRA

An extended version of this story is available at www.newsreview.com/sacramento

According to a summary of the arrest report, Noor Mohammad Popal, 30, of Sacramento, pulled up to a Carl's Jr. in North Highlands earlier this month and ordered himself a prostitute.

On the Wednesday evening in question, the Sheriff's Department says, Popal drove up to an undercover deputy, posing as a sex worker in a "known prostitution stroll" along Watt Avenue, and agreed to pay \$20 in exchange for oral sex. When Popal arrived at their fast-food meeting place, he was arrested on misdemeanor charges of soliciting prostitution and loitering with the

intent of committing prostitution.

Popal had allegedly wandered into the middle of a multiagency sting targeting the men that local authorities blame for financing Sacramento County's underground sex economy. In all, the district attorney's office says that 39 people were arrested during "Operation: Hot Spots" on August 16 and the early morning hours of August 17. (SN&R was able to confirm the arrest of 32 individuals.)

A narrative quickly formed about why the operation took place and what it supposedly accomplished.

"Hearing the request of organizations and victims to expand our efforts in fighting human trafficking by targeting sex buyers, our law enforcement agencies are now working collaboratively to meet this challenge," District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert said in a release announcing the results of the stings.

"Our county and city law enforcement sting operations should send a strong and unified message that purchasing sex from trafficking victims will not be tolerated in our community."

And yet, nearly two weeks later, Popal

and the other alleged johns aren't the ones facing criminal charges.

A 20-year-old black woman is.

While there's a possible reason none of the so-called trafficking financiers face criminal charges as of yet, the symbolism accurately reflects a local tradition: While the horrors of human trafficking draw big talk from elected officials and donation-seeking nonprofits, the ones who most often end up in handcuffs are women.

Bona fide human trafficking prosecutions are rare, in part, because they're so complicated. A week after the local stings, a court case targeting Backpage.com as an online front for sex traffickers moved one step forward and one step back.

On August 23, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lawrence G. Brown ruled the money laundering charges against that classified portal's three executives could go to a preliminary hearing, but without the pimping charges the Attorney General's Office wanted to make part of its prosecution. Both sides claimed victory following the judge's Solomon-like ruling.

Arrests of pimps, panders and

purchasers of illegal sex, meanwhile, are uncommon.

Through August 23 of this year, law enforcement agencies in Sacramento County made 17 arrests for crimes related to pimping, pandering or trafficking, according to a review of booking logs. During that same eight-month span, those same agencies affected 137 prostitution arrests. Of that number, 101 were of women and 71 were of women of color.

The 20-year-old woman arrested in this month's sting was stopped at Watt and Myrtle avenues, a block north of where Popal was apprehended 90 minutes later. According to the superior court's online database, the woman, who SN&R is identifying as C.W., is scheduled to be arraigned on misdemeanor counts of loitering with the intent of committing prostitution and delaying a peace officer on December 27.

This would be her first criminal offense in Sacramento County.

In an emailed statement, Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney Paul Durenberger says the johns and other individuals picked up during the sweeps could still face criminal charges.

"These arrests were for misdemeanors. With misdemeanors law enforcement has the ability to arrest and detain and then provide the arrestee with paperwork that explains when they need to show up to court for the charges," Durenberger wrote. "That is why you see no charges filed yet. Charges get filed the day a person goes to court. Every case will be reviewed and if there is sufficient evidence we will file charges."

But at least one of the coalition members that called for the sting has had second thoughts.

"To learn that only one 20-year black female is being prosecuted, that's hugely disheartening," said Brenda Dabney, of the Children's Law Center of California.

The Children's Law Center, or CLC, is one of 30 organizations belonging to the Sacramento Together coalition that formed two years ago to combat human trafficking. Dabney, firm director of the CLC's Child Welfare Law Specialists office, said the center had been discussing the need to "crack down on johns, not just victims" with county officials for months. She didn't know about the countywide operation until she saw it reported in the news, and said that "many of us were applauding" law enforcement's shifted focus.

But when SN&R informed Dabney of the current status of the people arrested and Durenberger's explanation, she was taken aback. "That is shocking," she said. "And

when I tell the others, I know they'll be disheartened, too."

The Law Center represents children in the foster care system. Dabney says her clients are most often young people of color. Girls of color tend to be over-represented in both the foster care and criminal justice systems, where they face stiffer penalties than their white or male counterparts, Dabney says.

"And this sounds like a present-day scenario of what we have seen historically," Dabney said, referring to the 20-year-old.

Dabney and other child advocates say foster children are more vulnerable to sex traffickers because they are taken from homes of neglect and abuse and placed in group home settings with little supervision and few positive role models.

"They're easy pickings," Dabney said. "Society has shown them that they don't value them as much as other girls."

That's where pimps and traffickers come in, at first showering these children with the kind of flattery, affection and attention they're not used to getting. Slowly, these men reveal their true natures.

Dabney says she's been surprised at how difficult it's been to get law enforcement to refocus its gaze on the predators, as opposed to the exploited or trafficked.

California has only recently begun treating sexually exploited individuals with a measure of compassion. Up until December 2013, the state cited a sex worker's profession as justification to deny her victims' benefits, even in cases of rape. Two bills signed late last year have attempted to make amends.

Assembly Bill 1761 provides human trafficking survivors what's called an affirmative defense in knocking down any prostitution charges that occurred as a result of them being trafficked. Meanwhile, Senate Bill 1322 makes it so minors can no longer be charged with prostitution crimes, as they're not old enough to give consent.

But Dabney says cops and prosecutors find other ways to allege sex-related crimes against exploited minors, tagging them with criminal petitions of loitering or breaking curfew under the state's Welfare & Institutions Code.

"Law enforcement gets pretty creative," Dabney said.

No minors were recovered during Operation: Hot Spots, which involved

participation by the Sheriff's Department and police departments in the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Folsom and Rancho Cordova.

The DA's office credited Schubert with coordinating the operation, and cited "a commitment from law enforcement to conduct operations throughout the year to reduce sex trafficking." The DA's release states Schubert accompanied Sheriff Scott Jones and new Sacramento police Chief Darryl Hahn on ride-alongs while the coordinated stings were underway.

The county and the Sheriff's Department separately issued press releases heralding the operation, meant to signify law enforcement's shifting focus, from the sex workers who sell intimacy to those who make them do so.

Of the 32 arrests that SN&R reviewed, 27 individuals had yet to be charged as of August 29.

An arrest summary says Popal's vehicle was impounded, an audio recording of the incident was booked into evidence and he was taken to jail, where he was issued a citation and released.

As for C.W., Durenberger says she'll have the opportunity to get her charges dismissed if she successfully completes the Sacramento Superior Court's RESET diversion program for accused sex workers. In return for pleading no contest to their charges, the defendants enroll in one of two programs offering group counseling and life skills training.

"I will say that all people charged with the crimes you listed for [C.W.] would be eligible for our RESET court and be provided wrap around services, peer support and counseling to help them find a better future without a criminal conviction on their record if the program is completed," Durenberger wrote.

Advocates for sex workers and trafficking victims say their clients see that as just another form of exploitation.

"It's institutionalized prostitution," Dabney said. "It feels that way for the young girls."

Dabney said she had "my personal a-ha moment" when a young woman of color explained that having her control taken away by a court—even a well-meaning one that thinks it can help—didn't feel so different from the force or coercion that pushed her onto the stroll. "How are you different from a pimp?" Dabney recalled the young woman saying. □

"It's
institutionalized
prostitution."

Brenda Dabney
Children's Law Center of
California



JONES, OUT!

Using the same kind of inter-office memo typically reserved for reminding employees to rinse out their Tupperware, **Sheriff Scott Jones** announced he **won't be seeking a third term** as head of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department when he's up for election next year.

The bomb-lite announcement didn't fall out of the clear blue sky. Jones came up short in his first congressional bid last year, but some think the Republican lawman would prefer taking another stab at **Rep. Ami Bera's battleground seat** over returning to an agency increasingly under the microscope since the election of Donald Trump.

Jones has watched his political alliances fray over his agency's **ongoing partnership with federal immigration authorities**. The department has also been getting beaten up by liability claims, losing a \$6.9 million judgment last spring, after a jury sided with four female deputies who said they faced retaliation after raising concerns about discrimination and improper relationships.

Coincidentally, Jones' announcement came the same day that Trump indicated he would pardon former Maricopa County, Ariz., **Sheriff Joe Arpaio**.

In his inter-department correspondence, Jones highlighted his talent for finding outside grant funding and for modernizing the department, which is about to begin construction on a \$89 million renovation project at its Elk Grove jail. The letter doesn't mention Jones' most famous campaign promise, which he kept, of making it easier for residents to obtain permits to carry **concealed firearms**. Nearly 8,500 such permits were granted in a five-year span.

"Working for the Sheriff's Department, especially for the last seven years as Sheriff, is the privilege of a lifetime," Jones wrote in his August 25 letter to employees. "I have been honored to be able to develop my vision for the Department, and part of that responsibility must be for me to step aside and allow someone else's vision to continue our upward trajectory. I have every confidence that the individual I have chosen to support within our organization has the experience, skills, and dedication necessary to do just that."

The letter didn't name **Jones' preferred successor**. (Raheem F. Hosseini)



POOR PEOPLE CRACKDOWN

Edsel Griffin and Melanie Jones sat on a shaded sidewalk curb in North Sacramento, thousands of miles from home. Five days earlier, the couple arrived on a Greyhound Express bus from Cocoa Beach, Fla.—something to do with Griffin's mother, Jones mentions—but it didn't take long for them to discover that Sacramento was **inhospitable to struggling folks like them**.

After being roused from a park the night before, turned away from public restrooms and not liking their odds of finding jobs that could pay the rising rent, the two say they've decided to boomerang back to Florida.

"We're just better off," Griffin said.

"Florida is set up for the homeless a lot better than here," Jones added.

Welcome to Sacramento, which makes the oft-satirized Florida look compassionate by comparison.

In a split decision, the county Board of Supervisors last week approved a multimillion-dollar proposal to increase the frequency of raids targeting homeless camps along **the 23-mile American River Parkway**.

The increased enforcement is estimated to cost as much as **\$5 million** and would empower Regional Parks and Sheriff's Department officials to scour the parkways, unincorporated neighborhoods and retail areas for illegal campsites seven days a week. (RFH)



Professor Jun Dai directs Brett Hopp, an incoming freshman at Rosemont High School, during a cyberattack simulation at Sacramento State University's Cyber Security Summer Academy last month.

PHOTO BY FAITH LEWIS

Do not compute

As cyberattacks grow, Sac State readies next generation of data defenders

BY FAITH LEWIS

The computer lab was filled with the staccato tap, tap, tap of fingers dancing on keyboards. The students' faces were illuminated by their computer screens as they worked silently, scanning lines of code to see if their simulated cyberattacks would be successful.

Last month, 29 high school students from around California participated in Sacramento State University's Cyber Security Summer Academy. The week-long course instructed students about common online security threats and how to prevent data breaches, which have increased in both frequency and severity in recent years.

However, one expert says that just introducing these concepts isn't enough, and that data security has failed to evolve as quickly as the tactics used to hack private information on a global scale.

"The availability of these courses suggests increasing concern and interest," said Mark Heckman, president of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association and a professor in graduate cybersecurity programs at the University of San Diego.

But, Heckman added, these courses don't necessarily point to "a fundamental shift in tools and techniques for protecting computer systems."

The Cyber Security Academy is one of a dozen summer academies that are offered to high school students each summer at Sacramento State. Along with the Coding Academy, it was added to the roster before registration opened this May.

Jun Dai, an assistant professor in Sac State's Department of Computer Sciences and the instructor for the

Academy, said that his goal for the class was to teach students the fundamentals of cybersecurity.

"Many people are unaware of how important this is," Dai said. "People don't see the dark side, but here we show the students the simulated attacks and sometimes you have to see it."

In Dai's approach, a good offense informs a good defense, so the professor had students trying to break into a program called Metasploitable, which is designed with security vulnerabilities to exploit if students know where to look.

Sacramento State isn't the only university that has recognized the importance of grooming the next generation of cyber warriors before they graduate from high school. The National Security Agency sponsors a weeklong cybersecurity camp for high

school students at the University of San Diego over the summer.

Heckman, who has worked in cybersecurity for more than three decades, says it's a real possibility that the techniques being taught in these courses may be all but obsolete by the time these cybersecurity hopefuls are old enough to enter the industry.

Data breaches are growing in sophistication at the same time that the world becomes increasingly dependent on computer-based systems, creating what Heckman describes as an arms race between cyber attackers and defenders. And yet, Heckman said he has seen data security trends come and go "with few significant advances."

In 2015, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management was subjected to what was one of the largest data breaches in government history, surrendering the personal records of more than 21 million people and leading to the resignation of the office's director.

Fast forward to May of this year, a continent-hopping ransomware attack invaded British hospitals, the Russian government and swept across Asia, Australia and South America. That same month, the WannaCry ransomware attack targeted computers running the Microsoft Windows operating system, Dai pointed out.

May was also the month that the state of California fooled some employees with the Department of Housing and Community Development with a fake phishing scam that arrived in the form of an email asking them to "validate their employment status" to receive their bonuses. The email, which was doctored to look like it originated from the Golden 1 Credit Union, rankled a state employees' union.

Fortune 500 companies like Yahoo, which experienced three breaches in 2016 alone, as well as Sony and Target, have also faced significant cybersecurity threats in recent years.

Heckman pointed to a lack of penalties for companies selling vulnerable systems that put "consumers and the entire country ... at high risk" as the root of the problem. While he recognizes the need for individuals to be cyber-literate, he says the true responsibility for data security should rest with the public.

"It puts the blame on the victim, not the developers of unsecured systems," Heckman said. □

Raheem F. Hosseini contributed to this report.

Renters' disability tax

Even with money in the bank, a discriminatory rental income policy is forcing this writer into homelessness

BY AMY YANNELLO

Mine is the new face of homelessness in

Sacramento County. I'm 55, white, college-educated and a newspaper reporter by trade (going on 30 years). And I'm currently living out of a motel room with my cat.

Thanks to four brain lesions, co-occurring seizures and chronic fibromyalgia, I'm also counted among the permanently disabled and receive monthly social security disability benefits. As I've found with countless properties that pop up on Zillow.com, ForRent.com and Apartments.com, people with disabilities need not apply.

Oh, they don't come out and say that, of course. (That would be illegal.) Instead, corporate property managers have figured a way to weed out the disabled by employing this little requirement: Applicants must show that they make three times the rent in monthly income or they will be rejected.

It doesn't matter if you have money in the bank. It doesn't matter if you offer three months' rent upfront. It doesn't even matter that you have legal documents showing proof of a sizable inheritance. No alternative form of financing is strong enough to engender a workaround of this discriminatory policy.

I should know; I've tried all three.

There are some still willing to rent to the disabled and disenfranchised. I met one through a Craigslist ad and looked at the apartment using the keys in a lockbox. The apartment was nothing to write home about, but it appeared clean and I was exhausted from all the rejections. To get in—with no "income requirement" and no criminal background check (he seemed to think this was a big plus)—he required the first month's rent plus two deposits, all told: \$3,885.

My first night there, I discovered the place was crawling with roaches.

The guy refunded my money and let me break the lease without penalty.

Sacramento State University recently estimated 3,665 people are homeless in Sacramento County. According to Brandi Bluel of Resources for Independent Living, who works to find affordable housing for persons with disabilities, another 3,000 or so people are couch-surfing with family or friends, or staying in motels week-to-week. I joined their ranks June 11 when the roommate I'd been

sharing a house with for two months turned violent.

Catastrophic illness, disease and disability can strike anyone, of any age, in any socioeconomic group—as can domestic violence—leaving everyone vulnerable to the situation I find myself in today.

Sacramentans are particularly vulnerable. According to Jim Lofgren, executive director of the Rental Housing Association, which represents the interests of landlords and property managers, Sacramento has the second-highest occupancy rate in the nation, yet is "dead last" in housing construction.

"For a county our size, we're supposed to be at 10,000 affordable housing units per year and that hasn't happened in quite some time," Lofgren said.

"I'd like to know: If there were a [Hurricane]

Katrina, or an earthquake, how quickly would we build emergency housing in a crisis? Well, we're in a crisis now, and it's time everyone stopped acting like we weren't."

The "fix" for this is threefold, says John Foley, Lofgren's counterpart at Sacramento Self-Help Housing, a nonprofit dedicated to assisting those at risk of homelessness obtain housing.

First, build additional housing.

Second, monthly disability benefits

must be increased to reflect the rising cost in rent. Lastly, he encourages the county to follow through with a pilot project that would create a monetary fund for landlords renting to low-income residents. In exchange for waiving the hefty rental income requirement, landlords would be able to recoup any losses they incur should renters fail to pay their rent.

"It would give them some assurance," said Foley, who called the rental income requirement "mean-spirited" and a way to "screen out low-income applicants."

If we believe that decent, livable shelter at all income brackets is a right and not a privilege, then it's time to undo this Gordian knot that is strangling so many across the nation. □

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Amy Yannello is a former SN&R staff writer and contributor to other publications, like the San Francisco Chronicle. She has lived in Sacramento for 24 years.

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Inanimate objectives

In ramping up parkway sweeps, politicians show they care more about things than poor people

BY CYNTHIA SPENCER

I woke up last Thursday morning embarrassed to be a Sacramentan.

The day before, on August 23, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted to sink \$5 million into further criminalizing poverty under the guise of “protecting” the American River Parkway.

Supervisors Phil Serna and Patrick Kennedy both expressed concern for the parkway, and Serna mentioned our obligation to be “good stewards” of the parkway. The dissenting board members expressed concern for the budget.

Sacramento County officials are more concerned with being good stewards of things rather than being of service to people.

Just like the cranky neighbor who complains about your dogs, these folks living on the parkway are our neighbors and community members. We have repeatedly failed them. As we have all noticed, the homeless situation in Sacramento has grown exponentially, and it now affects every single community around us.

As recently as November, just as winter was coming to Sacramento, the county expended valuable manpower and resources to “clean up” homeless camps along the parkway and in the Arden Arcade area. We all see how well that money was spent, given that those areas are once again filled with homeless encampments. Anyone who’s lived in Sacramento for more than a decade can probably remember the numerous other times that the county has thrown money at forcibly evicting homeless residents, only to have the camps show back up in a matter of months.

Criminalizing poverty isn’t the answer. How many more times do we need to repeat this exercise in futility to understand that? Regardless of political affiliation or thoughts on social safety net programs, we have to admit that we cannot arrest our way out of this. We are wasting time and money.

But, more importantly, we are failing our community. Many of the recently homeless were living in cheap apartments before. Sacramento has no services that catch people before they fall into homelessness, and that line between being sheltered or not is treacherously thin and all too easy to fall over. Many of these people were literally our neighbors at one point.

**Humans
are more
important
than things.**

Our first priority as a community should be to the people we share our neighborhoods with. Humans are more important than things. County supervisors had a chance to make people a priority last week and failed, instead rambling about our “obligation” to things.

Just imagine how many people could receive proper health care and be sheltered with \$5 million.

I’m overcome with sadness for this community I am a part of. We are about to witness yet another clumsy attempt “clean up” the county, which will only result in the annual shuffle of homeless camps we seem to see every year. All the while, county politicians get to pat themselves on the back for “protecting the parkway.”

What about protecting people? Will Sacramento ever get this right? ☐

Cynthia Spencer is a Sacramento writer and activist who has spent years volunteering with the county homeless population.

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Talkin' trash

BY JEFF VONKAENEL / jeffv@newsreview.com

Last week I spent three days talking trash with around 600 members of two Sacramento-based groups—the California Resource Recovery Association and the California Product Stewardship Council—at their joint convention in San Diego.

Believe me, there was a lot of talk about trash, composting, bottle-and-can recycling. The big topic was new state legislation to eliminate all food waste and green organic matter from our landfills.

The people doing the talking were a very likable group. Part science nerds, part blue collar and all aware that while they may not get much recognition, if they stopped working, everyone would notice very quickly. We would be in a lot of you-know-what without our resource recovery folks. I definitely gained a greater respect for what they do. I doubt that I would have had that same feeling at a hedge fund confab.

I was attending the convention because our publication division was receiving special recognition from the California Product Stewardship Council for the many publications we have produced for them about county pharmaceutical takeback programs.

If you wanted to better understand how California is going its own way on environmental issues, you would learn a lot at this convention. There were experts from throughout the state discussing how to increase California's recycling from 50 percent to 75 percent of the waste stream, how to add recycling deposits to wine and liquor bottle purchases, and how to keep methane-emitting food and green waste out of landfills.

Parts of Canada and Europe already do not allow food and green waste in landfills. However, this will be a giant new undertaking for California. According to the government agency CalRecycle, we will need to build an

estimated 100 new composting facilities and green-waste digesters, costing around \$3 billion. This project will create massive amounts of composted material that could replace much of our oil-based fertilizer and even diesel fuel. This program could also create around 100,000 new jobs by 2020, almost doubling the number of jobs in the California recycling industry. In contrast, the U.S. coal industry only employs a total of 76,572 people, as of the most recent count (2014).

The numerous convention workshops had a ton of information, but they also had something else that is missing from much of the current national dialogue: hope and vision of a new human role on the planet.

The life-and-death cycle is wonderfully created and recreated endlessly

The many nonhuman species on Mother Earth do not have landfills. Everything is always being used and reused. The animals, birds, insects and bacteria do not have non-recyclable waste. Their poop and even their carcasses become fertilizer for the plants or another creature's breakfast. The life and death cycle is wonderfully created and recreated endlessly and has been going on for hundreds of millions of years.

Homo sapiens alone create gigantic holes in the ground where we dump stuff that can never be used again. We alone have products like plastic, which do not break down, and can never be used again. Drop some food waste and a plastic bottle in a forest and watch what happens. We alone are raising the global temperature, and we alone have broken the natural cycle of Mother Earth.

In San Diego, I spent some time with people who are part of the solution. They were talking trash, but they were thinking about the planet. □

Jeff vonKaenel is the president, CEO and majority owner of the News & Review.



ILLUSTRATION BY MARIA RATINOVA

SCORE KEEPER

BY JOHN FLYNN

SACRAMENTO'S WINNERS AND LOSERS—WITH ARBITRARY POINTS



RIVER CRACKDOWN

Sacramento County supervisors approved a \$5 million plan on August 23 to bolster law enforcement and conservation efforts in response to homeless encampments that have engulfed the American River Parkway. But this “clean-up” effort will not resolve the core issue: **the county's insufficient (albeit increasing) resources for those experiencing homelessness.** residents must reject NIMBYism and support ways to contribute shelter and services to meet this population's needs in each part of our region. The health of our river, city and society depend on it.

-5 million



BAD MATH

In 2016, UC San Francisco and UC Davis lacked proper justification when they displaced more than 50 university employees in information technology or housekeeping with contract workers, according to a report by the state auditor. In turn, the **contract workers got paid nearly \$4 per hour less** than their predecessors and received irregular and less generous benefits—if any at all. Even still, the universities regularly failed to attain the most favorable contracts and couldn't account for \$109 million in savings that the Office of the President claimed had been accrued through cost-reducing measures. Maybe they forgot to carry the decimal nine places.

-109 million



SENSICAL SPENDING

As Donald Trump threatens a government shutdown if he doesn't get funding for his wall, Congresswoman Doris Matsui highlighted a far smarter usage of federal taxpayer money: sending over \$2 million to the Sacramento Region Conservation Corps. With 90 percent of corps members lacking a job or a high school diploma, the funds will **bolster the organization's efforts to help these young adults** attain higher education or certification in trade-based industries like construction, hopefully for projects anywhere but the border.

+2 million



WEST NILE ARRIVES

Public health officials announced on August 24 that the first human in Sacramento County has contracted West Nile Virus, one of 41 cases across the state. The potentially deadly condition poses a **particular threat to the young, old and chronically ill.** As always, drain standing water, check your screens, wear insect repellent and limit being outside when the sun's near the horizon. Deet might not be the most alluring thing to wear, but it's certainly better than a hospital gown.

-41



HOUSTON SUBMERGED

As residents of what might be the most flood-prone city in America, Sacramentans watching Houston this week must recognize that there, **but for the grace of increasingly erratic and destructive weather patterns,** go we. At press time Houston and its environs are submerged under an unprecedented [four-plus] feet of water, pushing an estimated 450,000 Houstonians in search of relief, and the rain is still falling.

-450,000

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Why save the Delta?

The unknown towns on the water, and the untold impacts of the 'twin tunnels'

BY SCOTT THOMAS ANDERSON
scotta@newsreview.com

PHOTOS BY LUIS GAEI JIMENEZ

A cannon-shaped sea drone plunges through the darkness.

On the waves above, Nicky Suard steadies herself in a speed boat as she monitors its video feed. The drone's tiny propellers keep it surging through the depths, diving further into the heart of the Sacramento River. Its flood-lights send back murky images of bubbles and silt. There's no sign of what Suard's looking for.

Submerging, the trekker bounces on the current like a disoriented droid. The gadget's glass face slowly pivots toward a structure looming over it, a fortified wall of steel rising 40 feet above the water. This is the Freeport Regional Water Authority Intake, among the greatest mechanized eyesores found on the state's largest river. It's also a harbinger of things to come. If proponents of the California WaterFix, or "twin tunnels," get their way, then titanic gray ramparts like this will run along huge swaths of the rural Delta, altering the state's quiet river world, changing it from a historic hideaway to a half-empty industrial zone.

Suard owns Snug Harbor Marina on Ryer Island. Today she's using her Deep Trekker drone to find out if a sweeper on the intake's steel screen catches unsuspecting fish. She's trying to learn everything she can about the type of facilities that will come—fully 10-times larger—to the waterways she calls home. For Suard's neighbors in Clarksburg, Hood, Courtland, Locke and Walnut Grove, the metallic monstrosity at Freeport holds the untold story of the twin tunnels: Partisans have

long battled over how the proposed 35-mile water diversion will impact the salinity of the Delta and the survival of the Chinook salmon and smelt. But few are talking about other stark effects of the tunnels, which are buried

deep in a 40,000-page Environmental Impact Report. That daunting document predicts 14 years of nonstop construction along the peaceful North Delta countryside, including massive excavation, deep dredging, steel pile-driving, the razing of historic homes, the draining of ground wells and deployment of hundreds of heavy diesel trucks, every day, across narrow levee roads and 90-year-old bridges. Seismic effects, rows of stadium lights—it's a future Delta residents view as something akin to military occupation.

And when it's over? Colossal steel screens will run in combination for miles, replacing old docks, orchards and oak bowers—and a fading way of life.

Suard realizes there's too much turbidity around the intake for her cameras to check on fish. "I'll have to come back," she says defiantly. "I really want to investigate this."

Suard grabs the helm, hammers the throttle and jets the bow high over the waves. She's steering home, speeding away from the edge of Sacramento and back into the meandering channels of the Delta. Squinting into the wind she glimpses the shipwreck of the Willa Helen, its cockpit decaying into broken pieces onto a distant bank. Water-skiers buzz by. A 1958 Broward yacht comes plowing over the tide, its captain waving from the pilot house. And Suard speeds farther and farther into her secluded community of river-dwellers, back to levees built by veiled cultures and sloughs shadowed in strange histories. The north Delta is a place many Californians don't know. And the time to experience it may be running out.

'RIVER OF TIME'

A moldering boat called "the Wet Dream" is hoisted from the tide. Fixed on a barge, the crane's latticed boom moves the vessel through the air, the overcrowded bay almost lurching into the waves as the weight shifts. Sean

Alexander stares from under a weathered Outback hat. His salvage crew pulls nearly 40 of these ghost boats from the Delta each year.

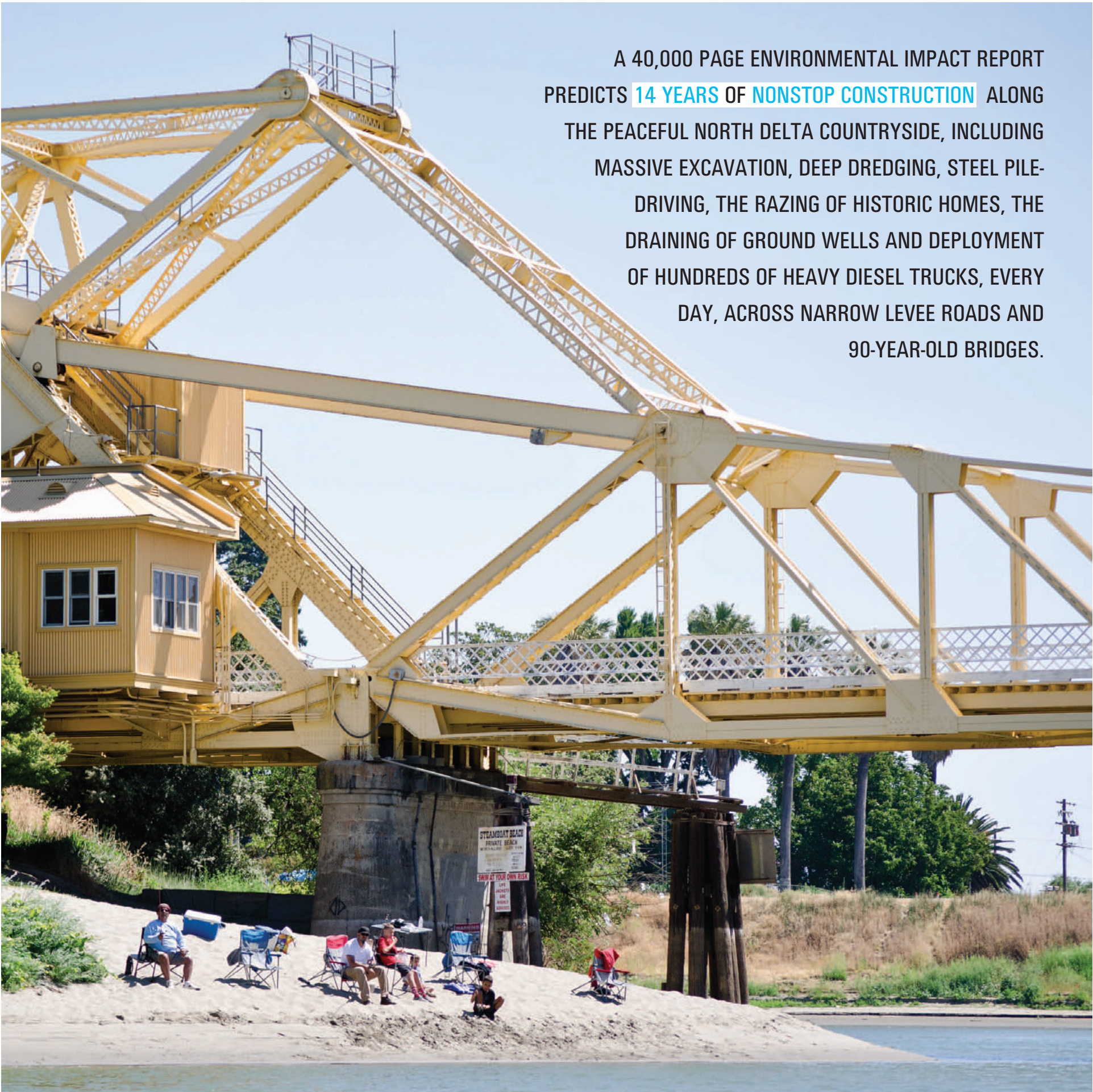
"People just cut them loose and abandon them," Alexander mutters as the relic's lowered toward a trailer on the south levee. "This one here's all rotted out. It'll never float right again."

The Wet Dream drifted down from Cache Slough and then started sinking along Steamboat Slough. Its corpse was teetering in the current ahead of an intake for Tim Neuharth's pear orchards. If the ghost boat collided with that equipment, it could have disrupted irrigation to Neuharth's crops, which cover 300 acres of Sutter Island. Neuharth's relieved the salvage team is heaving it out—it's one threat to his farm taken care of. But the real threat never seems to go away. Neuharth's convinced the twin tunnels will end a tradition that's defined his family for five generations.

When the lifelong farmer wants to discuss the tunnels, he invites people to Steamboat Landing, a beach shaded by draping oaks and a sun-colored iron bridge created by the designer of the Golden Gate. The landing has been in Neuharth's family since 1848. He knows the names of the grand paddle ships that haunt its vanished docks: the Modoc; the Cotton Palace; the Pride of the River; the Delta King. Neuharth's family sold supplies to their captains and planted long fields of pears, cherries and saffron. Their crops were loaded onto barges and muscled by tug boat to San Francisco.

It's a community-wide heritage that's made the area between Hood and Courtland the best pear-producing region in California. Visitors driving along the river can detect that lineage in the tall, empty grain elevators, or Hood's old packing house that still juts out over the eddies. And there's a future here, too.

The tranquil views of Clarksburg would change dramatically if the 'twin tunnels' project is built.



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“Why save the Delta?” **CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**

At Courtland's annual Pear Fair, local children watch their parents serving pear pies, pear ice cream, pear strudel, pear salsa and even hard pear cider. This year, Delta High School senior Lauren Christie was crowned the official Pear Fair Queen. Thousands attend the event to support organic pear-growing in the region. Neuharth himself still has 125-year-old legacy pear trees living in his orchard. In his view, if the twin tunnels are built, Delta towns themselves will be killed off just as surely as his century-old fruit trees.

"This is the largest inland fresh water estuary in the western hemisphere," Neuharth observes. "The tunnels are going to turn it into a salt water marsh. Not many things grow in a salt water marsh."

Nancy Vogel of the California Natural Resources Agency denies the twin tunnels will have that effect. She recently told SN&R the project has "legal safeguards in place" to protect water quality in the North Delta. California officials pushing the tunnels got back-up for that stance in June from the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Both agencies wrote biological opinions indicating the tunnels will not harm the Delta's sensitive ecosystem.

But Deidre Des Jardins, an independent scientist who studies the Delta, says those proclamations are based on highly suspicious computer modeling. State scientists use conceptual simulations to predict how much fresh water can be diverted from parts of the Delta before the Bay's salt incursions reach alarming levels. Des Jardins says that, when it comes to the twin tunnels, California officials make it impossible for outside researchers to check their math.

"There is a huge flow of fresh water from the Sacramento River that repels the salt water," Des Jardins claims. "The state has spent \$140 million on computer models to suggest the fish won't be impacted. It's just layers upon layers of computer simulations, none of which have any calibration information that they'll expose. That's a real red flag for people doing science."

Last week, as a deluge of new lawsuits were filed against the state over the tunnels, the California Department of Water Resources stopped commenting about its scientific methods around the project.

Farmers in the South Delta, where intakes are already being operated by California officials, say growers like Neuharth have very legitimate fears. In 2009, the South Delta Water Agency filed a legal injunction in court against the State Water Resources Control Board for violating written agreements to keep salt water levels low.

"They keep telling [North Delta farmers] that there are salinity standards for the [twin tunnels]," Des Jardins says. "But the state routinely violates its own salinity standards."

Neuharth has held those fears since 1981, when Gov. Jerry Brown and southern California utility districts first proposed taking water from the north Delta through a "peripheral canal." The exported water was, and still is, meant to go primarily to large-scale agriculture operations in some of the state's most arid valleys. The peripheral canal was soundly crushed in a public vote. But the twin tunnels project is being handled entirely by the legislature and kept away from the California electorate. For Neuharth, that's what makes the project little more than a political crime.

"That's a tragedy," Neuharth says of the process. "The powers that be don't want it defeated in a statewide vote. ... So, what will happen is that billions of agricultural dollars here will go to zero, all the people employed in the region's industries will go to zero, and then eventually the salt water will damage the ground wells; and when that happens, we're done living here, too."

OF WANDERERS AND WATER DOGS

Beer glasses echo on antique wood under the blade of Johnny Cash's voice: It's long past noon and the bar's full again at Al the Wop's. That's been the establishment's name since the 1930s, and it's still a den of boozy banter, slurred jibes and stealth, riverside partying. Neon glints on a taxidermied buffalo head. Mounted fish and dirty dollar bills hang from its corners. The rickety hall's dimensions are the only spot on Main Street, Locke, not associated with Chinese history. A sign over the last four stools reads, "Asshole Alley."

Visitors come to Locke to soak in the Canton memories in its warped balconies and leaning house frames, but many end up in Al the Wop's, moving bleary eyes across half-strung guitars and pictures of dead sharks on the walls. Photojournalist James Motlow, a resident of Locke for four decades, doesn't have time for 2 o'clock drinking today. He's too busy sending emails with updates on the twin tunnels. It was Motlow's camera that captured the twilight of the Chinese families in Locke. The town was hammered together in 1915 by grandchildren of the Cantonese immigrants who built up the levee walls. By the time Motlow arrived in the 1970s, most of Locke's post-war generation of Chinese-Americans had moved away, leaving a handful of its elders inhabiting the remnants of fish markets, herb shops, gambling halls, brothels and opium dens. Motlow's photography preserved their way of life: Mr. Wong Yow wheeling melons through his yard; Mr. Suen Hoon Sum standing on his porch; Mr. Bing Fai Chow holding a fedora in his boarding house.

"Before I got there, they really didn't like to have their pictures taken by outsiders," Motlow recalls. "It wasn't until Jone Ho Leong just stopped one day and let me photograph her face that everything changed."

As the sun set on the rural Chinese town, a small group of writers and Beat poets moved in to Locke from San Francisco. With them came artisans like cabinet-maker Russell Ooms, who says he never wants to leave. Ooms views Locke as a closeknit amalgam of Latino farm families and odd, bohemian survivors. A collection of town folk often spends hours at dusk chatting in Locke's back garden.

Yet many will have to leave if Locke's orchards and businesses close.

According to a dense state-sponsored traffic analysis of the twin tunnels project, its creation puts a minimum of 230 additional individual truck trips per day on the Delta's narrow roads and tight, aging bridges. That is, every day for 14 years. Depending on peak construction time, that number could rise to well over 800 additional truck trips per day. Some reclamation experts estimate the volume even higher. This convoy of big rigs would move up and down a windy 35-mile stretch of road between Freepoint and Rio Vista with almost no places to pull over. The owners of the North Delta's marinas, restaurants, stores, art galleries, wine tasting rooms are sure tourists won't brave traffic bottlenecks for over a decade to patronize their businesses.

"People think of Main Street Locke as a ghost town, and they don't know what a thriving community we have," Ooms stresses. "And people around California have no idea what this tunnel project really is, and what it will do to us."

Motlow agrees. Even with the current infusion of tourists, he says, Locke's small business-owners are struggling to make it. Gridlock could be a death knell.

"We're isolated here and we'll become more isolated," Motlow says. "Property values will collapse."

A few miles from Locke, the bar at Giusti's is crowded with farmers drinking wine with their backs to a dormant juke box. The slough-side hub has stood on one of Walnut Grove's rear levees since 1912. Outside, a houseboat painted as an Oakland Raiders tribute floats along the dock. Inside, the tavern remains a menagerie of checkered shirts and thin reading glasses—a line of men hunched under the low ceiling plastered in upside-down trucker caps. A decal on the mirror ponders, "What in heck is a Portuguese Water Dog?" Here, that word is pronounced "Portuguese" after one drink and "Portagee"

"PEOPLE THINK OF MAIN STREET LOCKE AS A GHOST TOWN, AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT A THRIVING COMMUNITY WE HAVE. AND PEOPLE AROUND CALIFORNIA HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS TUNNEL PROJECT REALLY IS, AND WHAT IT WILL DO TO US."

- RUSSELL OOMS

after three. Either term is a reference to another cultural force in the North Delta, a set of third and fourth generation families who have tilled the land for a century. Every year a striking pageantry passed down with these bloodlines is on display at the Delta's Portuguese Festival. Teens in Iberian riding costumes and regal European gowns march down South River Road, from St. Joseph's Cathedral to the Portuguese Hall on Lisbon Island. The spectacle has passersby blinking to make sure they're not in Porto or the Azores.

It was water that brought the Portuguese to towns like Walnut Grove. Many arrived with nothing and built their farms up through sheer white-knuckle determination. That was true of Steve Mello's grandparents, all four of whom struggled to survive after arriving from Iberia. And yet, today, Mello's family grows corn, barley, grain and alfalfa on more than 2,000 acres. Like some of his neighbors, Mello is recognized as a leader in wildlife friendly farming techniques. He's also a community figure who's been trying to spread the word about the devastating magnitude of the twin tunnels' construction. Mello says that an endless cavalcade of diesel trucks on the pinched roads will paralyze all farmers' ability to ship the local harvest.

"We already have farming equipment moving up and down these roads in very dangerous conditions," Mello notes. "It's going to be extremely hard to move our crops out."

According to the California Central Flood Association, the tunnels project's nonstop wear and tear on roadways also raises an over-arching safety concern.

"The EIR didn't analyze what's under the pavement those trucks will be driving on," says Melinda Terry, a spokeswoman for CCFA. "What's under them is a levee."

They don't have any mitigation in the plan to repair those levees every year as they're degraded."

For the people of Locke and Walnut Grove, roaring truck engines and vibrating old bridges aren't the only sonic impact. They are just as fearful about the noises that might end. Most evenings in the North Delta are alive with a choir of ducks, swan and geese calling from sloughs and ditches. The Delta is in the heart of the Pacific Flyway; ducks and geese don't nest in salt water.

Mello, recently honored as conservation farmer of the year by the Lodi Sand Hill Crane Association, sees the bird impacts of the tunnels as more proof of an underlining hypocrisy in the state of California's environmental values.

"Is it reasonable to sacrifice the waterfowl and migratory birds, which we've sworn to protect in an international treaty with Canada and Mexico, and is it reasonable to let so much farm acreage go fallow even as we kill our own fisheries, just to grow more almonds in Southern California for billion-dollar farm operators?" Mello challenges. "This is about irrigating a desert that never should have been put into farm production in the first place."

LOOKING HOMEWARD

A door creaks open, pulling rays through webs and shadows, illuminating shodo brush strokes on a forgotten scroll. Mark Wilson and Mark Pruner wander into the shell of Holland Union Gakuen, an abandoned Japanese Language School erected in 1927. The building stands on the outskirts of Clarksburg, half-wrapped in oak branches, concealed by wild grape and beehives beneath a vine-tangled levee. Wilson was born and raised nearby, and though he's not Japanese, he had taken classes in this room as a kid with friends who were Nisei—second-generation Japanese-Americans.

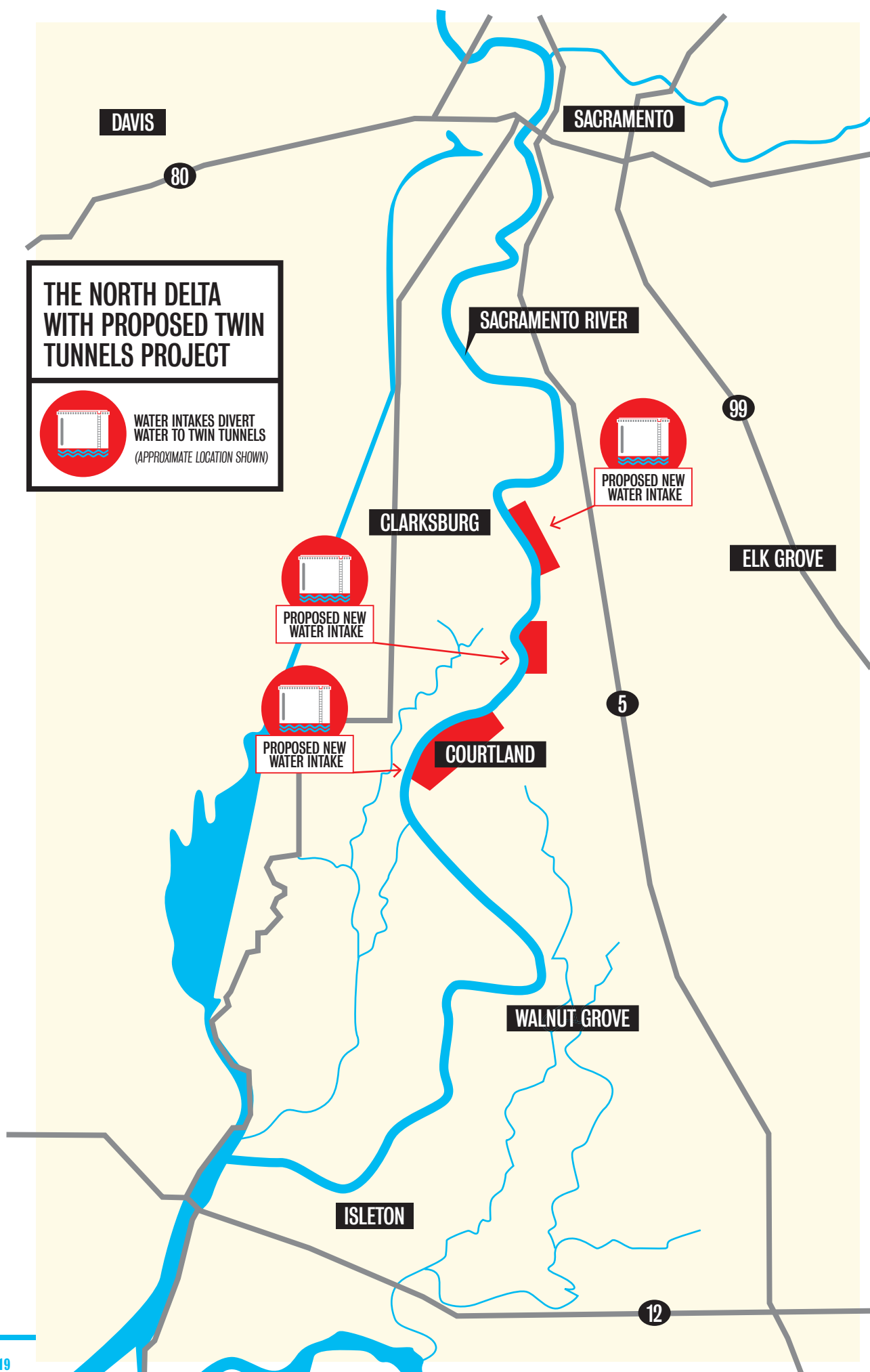
That was after the children returned home from being forced into an internment camp.

Of all the North Delta's towns, Clarksburg is the best known and most visited. That's thanks to pioneering grape farmers like Wilson and Warren Bogle, who proved vineyards fed by river wind could yield some of the best Chenin Blanc in the world. The Clarksburg wine appellation now draws tens of thousands of visitors each year. They come to drink vino inside rustic barns and century-old factory husks. They stay to be mesmerized by cottonwood and black walnut branches swaying silently over the waterways.

Wilson is proud of the riverside oasis Clarksburg's become, but he knows the real story of the town—the story of Clarksburg during World War II—is more intriguing and heart-rending than anything strangers would guess: Clarksburg was the site of two German prisoner of war camps, as well as a place where longtime Japanese-American families were made prisoners by their own country. Clarksburg encapsulates a past that should never be forgotten, though as far as Wilson and Pruner are concerned, it's a legacy that could be destroyed in the near future. The town is slated to be on the edge of the most disruptive construction in the entire California Waterfix project.

"There aren't many places like this," Wilson says. "I think the powers behind [the tunnels] never realized how hard we'd be willing to fight for it."

Wilson's grandparents moved to Clarksburg in 1922, sugar beet growers who lived in a foundationless shack that could be hauled by horses to different fields. Over the decades, the Wilson homestead grew and the family prospered. Japanese farmers were also making a life in the area. Back then, Clarksburg had the only public schools





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in the Delta that were integrated. The comradery between the kids led the Japanese elders to open the Holland Union Gakuen, ensuring their children wouldn't lose sight of their language and heritage. Eventually nearly half of the students at Clarksburg's high school were Japanese-Americans.

The attack on Pearl Harbor changed everything. On June 8, 1942, Clarksburg held its high school graduation. Half the students were in the bleachers. The other half—the Japanese-American half—were at that moment loading onto trucks bound for Freeport, where a train would take them to Tule Lake, one of 10 internment camps that Americans of Japanese descent were forced into after the outbreak of the war. Wilson was young, but knows that some of Clarksburg's families did their best to watch over the property of their imprisoned friends.

"There were some farmers who did whatever they could for their neighbors," Wilson says. "There were others who just showed up to buy all their belongings for next to nothing. We weren't all angels; but there were people who tried to help."

Not long after the Japanese-Americans were emptied from Clarksburg, its outer fields were filled with German war prisoners who'd been captured by Allied forces during the fighting in North Africa. One of Clarksburg's camps was put under the supervision of U.S. Air Force Major Lester Heringer, who kept the POWs on his family farm nestled along a shady tunnel of grand oak trees. Heringer's sons, Duke and Stephen, went on to become two of Clarksburg's defining wine producers.

Today, the only sound in Clarksburg's marina at dusk is the rustling of magnolias and beating of the stars and stripes over idle sail masts. It's quiet enough to meditate—quiet enough to contemplate an entangled history of cultural encounters.

But the calm views, the serene stillness, may not last.

The first of the tunnels' enormous intakes—with its surge towers, concrete plant, fuel station and long steel and concrete screens—is slated to be built almost directly across the river from Clarksburg. The state's EIR clearly indicates that, during the 14 years of construction, the site will ring with as much as 42,000 individual pile-strikes a day. That's true of the intakes being built next to Hood and north of Courtland. Additionally, the EIR predicts the large-scale destruction of native trees and historic buildings, the breaking apart and reforming of levee roadways and the digging of "de-welling" sites within the ground water aquifer. The EIR also outlines widespread sound, dust and seismic activity near the town for years on end. For Clarksburg residents, this won't look much different than the war zone the German prisoners once arrived from. Leaders at the California Central Flood Association agree with Wilson and Pruner that the project will result in the abandonment of dozens of homes and properties.

"We've got to educate people on the Delta and all the magical history that will be lost," says Barbara Daly, a Clarksburg librarian who's been inviting outsiders to see the river and sloughs up close. "It's a history people just don't know about."

Wilson and a coalition of Delta farmers recently filed a lawsuit against the state over the tunnels. The leaders of Sacramento and Yolo counties just joined other local governments in a separate legal action. Numerous environmental groups are also suing. And yet legal experts warn that none of these filings will necessarily stop the project—or save the rare rhythms of life that exist from Clarksburg to Walnut Grove.

"If it happens, this place will never be the same," Wilson says. "To me, it's like the history of the West replaying itself. It's manifest destiny; and today we look back and say that same process created a lot of wealth, but it caused untold damage."

"Why save the Delta?" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17



"THERE AREN'T MANY PLACES LIKE THIS. I THINK THE POWERS BEHIND [THE TUNNELS] NEVER REALIZED HOW HARD WE'D BE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR IT."

- MARK WILSON



(above) Travelers visit Main Street, Locke.

(below) The docks along Walnut Grove.

BY RACHEL LEIBROCK

rachell@newsreview.com

STILL SADLY RELEVANT

THE GUERRILLA GIRLS HAVE EXPOSED
THE ART WORLD'S INEQUITIES SINCE THE '80S



More than 30 years after its inception, Guerrilla

Girls shouldn't still be socially relevant. The art collective, founded in 1985, should be little more than a museum relic, an interesting snapshot of past feminist endeavors and bygone fights against sexism in the art world.

Unfortunately, though, the group's mission and work remains as culturally germane as ever, says Neysa Page-Lieberman, the director of the Department of Exhibitions and Performance Spaces at Columbia College Chicago and the curator for the traveling exhibit *Not Ready to Make Nice: Guerrilla Girls in the Art World and Beyond*. The exhibit, which opens September 7 at Verge Center for the Arts, represents a significant overview of the Guerrilla Girls' work throughout its 32-year history.

"Their message is as powerful now as was in the '80s, only now more people are woke to it," Page-Lieberman says. Initial reaction to the group wasn't wholly positive, she adds.

Check out *Not Ready to Make Nice: Guerrilla Girls in the Art World and Beyond*, September 7–October 22 at Verge Center for the Arts, 625 S Street; (916) 448-2985; www.vergeart.com. Learn more about the Guerrilla Girls at www.guerrillagirls.com.



The Guerrilla Girls go apeshit on the sexist art world.

PHOTO COLLAGE BY MARIA RATINOVA

"They were treated like criminals. They got death threats."

Certainly, the radical feminist art collective made a strong first impression. The group launched in New York City in 1985 in response to *An International Survey of Recent Painting and Sculpture*, a Museum of Modern Art exhibit of 165 artists that included only 13 women and few people of color (none of whom were, incidentally, also women). Angered by what they saw as a blatant gender disparity, seven artists banded together to protest outside the museum. The demonstration had no effect on the exhibit—but something bigger was born. With a play on its name, the collective's members started wearing gorilla masks whenever in public; they also took on the names of famous female artists such as Frida Kahlo and Käthe Kollwitz—all in an effort to remain anonymous and keep the conversation focused on issues. They also made flyers and posters of "report cards" on the state of the art at major museums and galleries.

That was just the beginning. In the years since, Guerrilla Girls have produced myriad photos and billboards. They've published books, curated projects and toured. They've also been shown in the Library of Congress, the Getty and, yes, even the Museum of Modern Art. A 1992 documentary, *Guerrillas in our Midst*, chronicled their exploits.

All this, and yet many believe the Guerrilla Girls haven't quite received their artistic due.

"I had been following the Girls since I was a kid and realized a lot of people thought they were no longer around," says Page-Lieberman. "I wanted to say, 'They're still here—they've been game since the get-go.'"

Page-Lieberman contacted the collective about curating a career exhibit. Initially, she says, the Guerrilla Girls "weren't crazy" about the idea of including early work but rather wanted to focus on recent endeavors.

The curator managed to convince them to include the older work, too. It was important, she told them, to introduce their mission to a new generation of artists, radicals and feminists.

"[Their early work] had been shown primarily at academic institutions and now there were 17- and 18-year-olds who weren't even born when they started," Page-Lieberman says. "I told them, 'I want them to see where you came from.'"

The exhibit, which debuted in Chicago in 2012, spans the collective's breadth of work and includes behind-the-scenes photos and documentary material. Each regional showing usually includes lectures. Locally, a yet-to-be-named Guerrilla Girl will appear at Sacramento State on October 5 for an hourlong discussion.

The scope of the work will give people a chance to see how the group's methods have morphed over the decades, Page-Lieberman says.

"They've always been on the cutting edge of technology; in the '80s they were cutting and pasting and taking things to Xerox," she says. "Now their style has changed dramatically as different technology has become available."

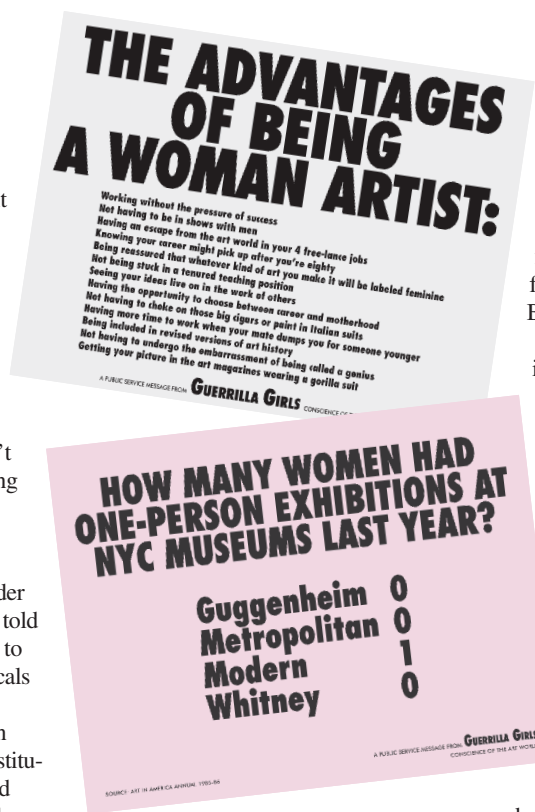
One cornerstone of the exhibit remains defiantly old school, though: a massive interactive-wall installation invites viewers to use sticky notes to finish the sentence "I'm not a feminist, but if I was, this is what I'd complain about..."

The result, Page-Lieberman says, turns into a real-time conversation on, among other topics, art and gender.

"It's very exciting and engaging," she says.

As conversation-starters, the Guerrilla Girls have faced their own criticisms over the years, internally and from the public,

PHOTO COURTESY OF GUERRILLA GIRLS



including complaints that the group isn't diverse enough—either in its makeup or in the works it champions. There has even been internal strife, including a lawsuit following the defection of members who formed a separate group, Guerrilla Girls Broadband.

Page-Lieberman acknowledges their issues and criticisms.

"The motivation has always been to give voice to marginalized voices and expose the rampant sexism and racism and other forms of prejudice in artwork," she says. "But [the group] is in no shape or form immune to the prejudices in society."

Founding Guerrilla Girl member "Frida Kahlo" initially responded to an emailed request for comment but as the deadline loomed, went radio silent and disappeared back underground, as radical, anonymous artists are wont to do.

Page-Lieberman says critical points about the Guerrilla Girls are rooted in validity, but, she adds, the group consistently pushes itself to evolve and improve.

"They've been around for more than 30 years and there have been fractures," she says. "They've been talking about race from the very beginning and now that transgender issues have come to the forefront, that's been a part of their dialogue and message as well," she says. "I have no idea about racial makeup or any other makeup—but I do know what their work says."

For Liv Moe, that work ensures that the collective remains a vital part of the art world, globally and at home.

"To say there's still a major need for Guerrilla Girls is an understatement," the Verge director says. "There's still a real need to talk about inequity in the arts, and all these years later the Guerrilla Girls are doing the work, and yet you're still seeing museums that [have] majority white-men art, displayed and purchased."

She points to Sacramento's art scene as a prime illustration.

"All of the most-applauded artists that come out of this region are men—we're starting to see that turn a little bit with some women getting more attention, like [sculptor and painter] Gale Hart. But look how long she's paid her dues to us now to be finally turning this corner where she gets recognition."

Now, Moe says, it's vital to bring exhibits such as *Not Ready to Make Nice* to local art enthusiasts.

"I'm excited to have something of this magnitude come to Sacramento," she says. "Having this conversation regionally is important." □

SCENE&HEARD

Nacho—yes, your average festival

When I heard there was a food festival in town boasting more than 40 types of nachos, my curiosity—and love of melted cheese—was piqued. I'm pretty sure everyone can agree that nachos are like sex and pizza; even when mediocre, they're still pretty good.

So, on Saturday I headed out to Cesar Chavez Plaza for Sac's newest annual event: Sactown Nachos Festival. The organizer, Brent Sands, dedicated some of the proceeds to Project Optimism, a nonprofit that pairs recent graduates with at-risk youth. Good cause, good potential.

As I approached the festivities, I couldn't help but wonder two things: Do nachos really need to be improved upon, and have these kinds of festivals reached their peak and become predictable? Sands himself told me his inspiration "was a random idea while eating nachos one day." The website touted the usual modus operandi of food festivals: beer, live music, a game area. A few additions had some potential to be unique, such as street performances and—promoted vaguely—"fashion."

Unfortunately, both my questions were answered pretty quickly. The park seemed awfully empty for an event touting 40-plus nachos. I had hoped for a variety of local restaurants showing off their vision of the ultimate nacho, perhaps deconstructing the dish or spinning it upside down and creating something entirely new.

Instead, a few tents were scattered around the fountain, unphotogenic in the 103-degree sun. Even more disappointing, sitting in the back was the mainstay of all food festivals these days: food trucks. My heart sank. No sign of street performers, although a small van of boutique clothing hid in the corner. Things were definitely going the "predictable" route.

It looked like a lot of vendors were a no-show, meaning a smaller variety of nachos than promised. Club 56 was there, as well as Gameday Grill, 19th Hole Cantina and Chando's Tacos' food truck. The Roaming Spoon offered vegan nachos in two options: The OG and the Badass.

I skipped the vegan nachos for Gameday Grill, whose menu had tri-tip nachos with bacon. With homemade chips and a rich, creamy cheddar sauce, Gameday Grill seemed to win best nachos of the day. Sure, Chando's delivered on the yum, but that's not surprising. Otherwise, no one's nachos stood out. They were all good enough—nothing creative.

As the day dwindled, I grabbed some dessert nachos from OMG! Yogurt made with waffle cones, vanilla yogurt, whipped cream, Reese's Pieces, strawberries and chocolate syrup. I walked past the game area, feeling kinda bored.

That changed later as local R&B artist The Philharmonik performed on stage; I felt like I was at a block party rather than a festival. What Sactown Nachos may have lacked in creativity, it made up for with a warm sense of community. Thousands of people had wandered through the festival like neighbors: eating food, drinking drinks, playing games, getting the most out of the last weeks of summer. Maybe there's no need to reinvent nachos, after all.

Have these kinds of festivals reached their peak and become predictable?

—AMY BEE



DISH

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARAH HANSEL

Beat the heat with icy soup

Hankook Tofu House

9521 Folsom Boulevard, (916) 364-1590

Meal for one: \$20-\$40

Good for: groups, shareable meals as well as solo soup time

Notable dishes: seafood tofu soup, naengmyeon

Have you ever had soup with ice in it? Not a cold soup like gazpacho. I'm talking broth full of actual pieces of ice. As we stare into the face of our 47th over-90-degree day and suffer through daily tweets from Cheeto Satan denying that global warming is a thing, we can all cool off with an icy Korean soup called naengmyeon. Summers in Korea are hot and humid, but apparently this soup, which is quite popular in North Korea, is commonly eaten in the winter.

Hankook Tofu House serves an excellent version of naengmyeon, which is offered on their short "seasonal menu" with a large side of sliced beef short ribs (\$22.99) or on its own (\$11.99). With broth, it's served with a pretty wedge of watermelon and half of a hard-boiled egg, with a pair of scissors for cutting the buckwheat noodles and a tube of wasabi. The broth didn't need any of the additional vinegar I was offered: It was tart and refreshing enough on its own. The side of sweet and fatty, thin-sliced ribs was devoured all-too-soon. This surprising dish is a must-try for any culinary adventurer.

Also a must-try at Hankook? The tofu soups. This signature dish seems to have improved since SN&R's first review in 2015. Not surprising for a "tofu house," these soups comprise the largest section on the menu. The seafood tofu soup (\$10.99) was swimming with cuteness: wittle baby clams, jaunty pink, shell-on shrimp, teeny purple squid tentacles. It came out roiling

It's the spot to hit for soups that are either served boiling and bubbling or on ice.

like hot lava in its stone bowl, and "spicy" was almost too spicy, especially when intensified by the hot temperature. The custardy tofu melted to the bottom and soaked up all the flavors to yield delicious last bites. A tangy flavor permeated a bowl of kimchi and mushroom tofu soup (\$10.99), to which the mushroom contributed an earthy undertone. But the seafood soup is the one that lingered in my mind.

As with most Korean restaurants, the memorable seafood soup and every other dish are preceded by a parade of complimentary tidbits known as banchan. This bonanza is my favorite thing about Korean food, and I watched a couple—who said they were new to Korean—marvel as it was presented. It is a truly generous custom. Seasonal touches, such as lightly pickled-and-salted cucumber and sweet, chili-laced hunks of zucchini were reflected here as well as on the seasonal menu. I like my kimchi spicier, and the cold bean sprout and noodle banchan were booooooring, but the sweet, cold fish cake, umami-bomb dried seaweed dish and sliced cheongpo-muk (mung bean jelly) were better. The server shared that the pleasing texture of the cheongpo-muk (she termed it "Korean jello") could be attributed to eight hours of stirring and thus "can't be made every day."

The pan-fried pork dumplings (\$10.99) could have used a bit of this labor of love; they were dried-out and sad. The bimbimbap (\$9.99) fell in the middle of the pack from what one finds at other Sacramento Korean spots. The addition of enoki mushrooms and copious greens elevated this healthful dish, and the price is right for a meal with three food groups.

The banchan at Hankook is not as creative as that at Pine Tree House, and it lacks the funky, late-night ambiance of Sa Rang Bang, but it's the spot to hit for soups that are either served boiling and bubbling or on ice; they can keep you refreshed in the summer and warm in the winter. □

BY BECKY GRUNEWALD

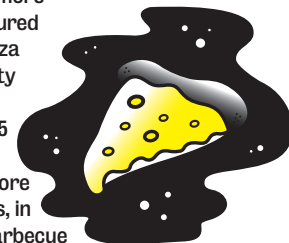
EAT ME

Corny but a goodie

ZBQ PIZZA, ZPIZZA

zPizza will let you make your own pizza, which is a great way to tell everyone in the room that you think you know better than professionals. Your sickening condensation aside, it's even more of a mistake than you figured because it turns out zPizza knows how to make pretty good pies without your help. Even the ZBQ (\$10.95 for a 10-inch pie), which has corn on it and therefore has no right to be good, is, in fact, very good. Sweet barbecue sauce that isn't saccharine, tender chicken, red bell peppers and onions, and a tasteful amount of cilantro all hang in a dangerous yet well-played balance. 6601 Folsom Boulevard, www.zpizza.com.

—ANTHONY SIINO



DRINK ME

The dark side

BLACK MIRROR, OBO' ITALIAN TABLE & BAR

If you've seen the disturbing cult show *Black Mirror*, then you might be wary of downing a drink by the same name. Never fear, OBO' Italian Table & Bar's Black Mirror cocktail (\$12) is a lovely concoction. With a bourbon base, it's made with Foro Amaro and Meletti Anisette liqueurs. It appears dark and syrupy, but take a sip and discover its surprisingly light and refreshing profile. Not too sweet with just a hint of bitter, it won't give you nightmares like a certain Netflix show. 3145 Folsom Boulevard, <http://oboitalian.com>.

—RACHEL LEIBROCK



HOMEGROWN

Rooting for August

POTATOES

Many people think of potatoes as a wintertime food. Actually, they're harvested in the summer, with August marking the end of new potatoes for sale. Use tender-fleshed little tubers in those end-of-summer potato salads or freshly fried potato chips for a gourmet cook-out. Toss them with oil and roast them in a grill pan for smoky overtones. Or halve boiled potatoes and scoop them into cup shapes; fill with a zesty mixture of sesame seeds, minced peppers and fresh herbs. Soon enough, you'll want them mashed and swimming in butter for hearty winter meals.

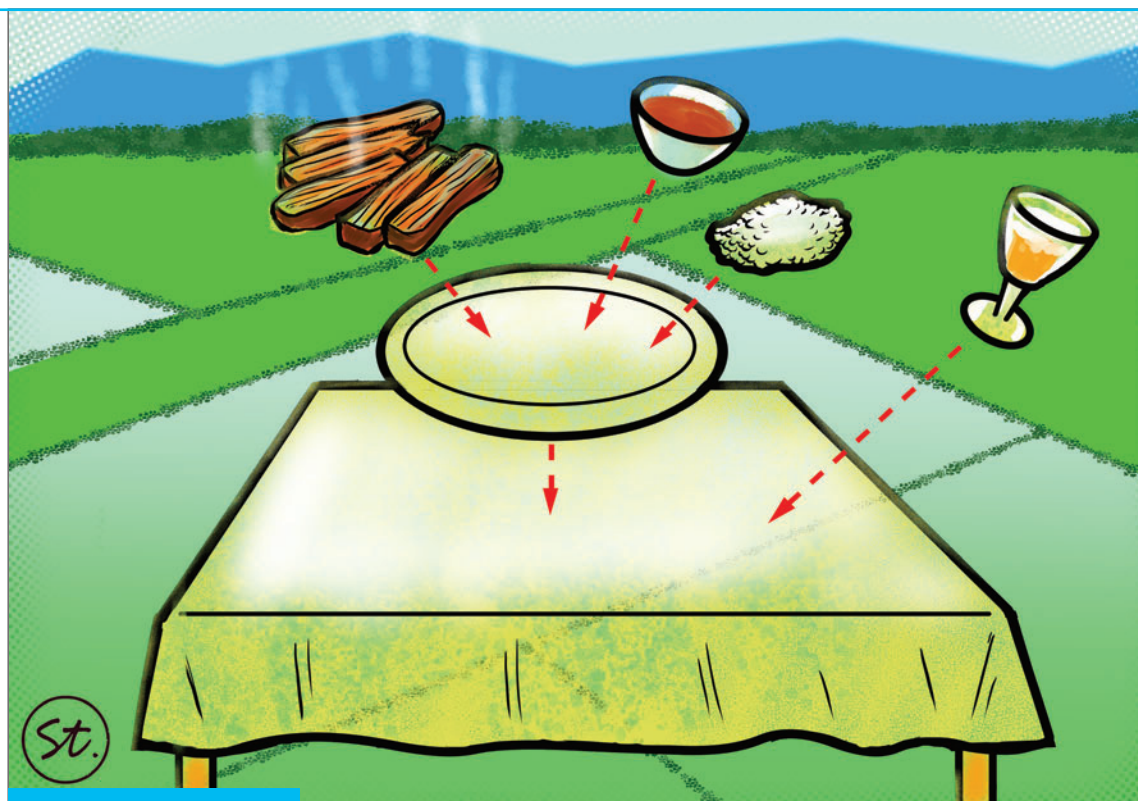
—ANN MARTIN ROLKE



Inside the lines

Chalk It Up! Festival participants will give their annual makeover to the sidewalk around Fremont Park from September 2 to 4. Since 1991, this no-cover festival has offered cement squares to both young energetic scribblers and adult masters of calcium carbonate. There will also be 75 arts-and-crafts booths and a ton of food options, including long-smoked meats from Post Oak Barbecue, hot dogs and “twisted tacos” from Drewski’s Hot Rod Kitchen, and Sriracha fries and grilled rock cod tacos from the Cali Love Food Truck. For the thirsty, a beer and wine garden will offer mimosas, sangrias and beers from Track 7 and Lagunitas Brewing Co. And the sweet-toothed can choose from Conscious Creamery’s gelato or a slate of bundt cakes from Spirit Cakes. Perhaps Sacramento’s best family-centric event, Chalk It Up! routinely attracts more than 60,000 people. It’s as critical to a Sacramento summer as the Delta breeze. Learn more at <https://chalkitup.org>.

—JOHN FLYNN



OFF MENU

ILLUSTRATION BY MARK STIVERS

Thai to table

BY JOHN FLYNN

Global flavors, local food: Since the Earth cooled, organisms have sourced their food locally. The recent farm-to-fork trend among American restaurants merely corrects the historical deviation of importing what we eat. At the newly opened Thai Farm House BBQ and Bistrot (1049 Broadway), owner Ice Promkesa prepares food the way chefs in her home country of Thailand have often done—not because of a branded movement.

“If we get it locally, it’s fresh,” said Brad Promkesa, Ice’s husband to whom she delegated interviewing duty. “If you buy basil that’s bruised versus a couple bunches at [the farmer’s market], you’re going to notice.”

Bringing 15 years of experience from restaurants in Thailand and the U.S., Ice routinely attends the under-the-freeway farmers market, valuing hand-selection of her produce and buying from local growers as often as possible.

She employs a few friends, she said, to help her with grinding herbs, chopping vegetables and preparing fresh sauces for her menu that contains the Thai classics Americans expect, plus novel dishes like pork belly prepared two ways (starting at \$8.95) and Crying Tiger beef (\$9.95)—grilled marinated cuts topped with spicy lime sauce.

During its soft-opening on August 22, the cozy restaurant lacked a sign and decorations for its white walls that rumbled whenever athletes at a neighboring gym threw medicine balls. In the future, it’ll feature canvases by Thai street artists, offer local beers and unveil weekly specials. Brad made it clear that the in-progress look of his wife’s restaurant doesn’t match the know-how in the kitchen.

“They’re not new at all,” he said of Ice and her team. “They know what they’re doing.”

Baking brothers: With poke restaurants swarming Sacramento, the new Poke Fix (3880 Truxel Road) in Natomas stands out for its customizable poke bake (\$7.95). Brothers and business partners C.P. and Alan Pham top sushi rice with shrimp, imitation crab, masago, green onions, unagi sauce and spicy mayo before putting the deconstructed sushi roll in the oven for two minutes.

Alan said some customers have taken to scooping bites of the warm dish with tempura seaweed chips. Although most add salmon as their extra protein, he highlighted another choice.

“I saw a guest throw some [octopus] on there,” he said. “And it looked pretty damn good.” □

THE V WORD

BY SHOKA

BY SHOKA

Better than crackers

Crackers are wackers. That’s not a racial slur, but what folks may likely conclude after comparing Somersaults to regular boring crackers. Somersaults are one-inch crunchy discs of mostly sunflower seeds. These little nuggets come in savory flavors (classic sea salt, tangy salt and pepper) and slightly sweet

(cinnamon, Dutch cocoa). Made by a Sausalito company, the snacks are distributed to grocery stores all over the Sacramento area, including Target, Whole Foods, Nugget, Safeway, Cost Plus World Market, Sprouts and Raley’s, or you can get them online. The sunflower seeds give them a rich, nutty taste, but are not tree nuts, so the crackers won’t kill anyone with tree-nut allergies. Unless you choke on them. That’s on you. Chew your food better, dude. And since Somers-

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40000005059

Great expectations

BY JEFF HUDSON



"If you aren't happy, make your own biscuit."

Capital Stage's 2017-2018 season promises to entertain—and provoke

Capital Stage is located at 2215 J Street. Single tickets for the 2017-2018 season are \$45-22; season subscriptions are \$120-\$124. For more information call (916) 995-5464 or visit www.capstage.org.

The new season at Capital Stage begins this week, with *An Octoroon*—a play about race, slavery and America from the 1800s onward. It opened last week and runs through October 1. For those unfamiliar with the word, an octoroon is an archaic 19th century American term for "a person who is one-eighth black by descent"—i.e. one great-grandparent was black. Similarly, a person who is one-quarter black—one grandparent—was called a quadroon. Written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (he adapted it from Dion Boucicault's 1859 play by the same name), it was a 2014 Obie Award Winner for Best New Play.

Michael Stevenson, producing artistic director of Capital Stage said that the play still has relevancy despite its historical setting.

"When I read this script, I laughed out loud, because it made me think about America now," he says. "It is a reinvention of 19th century melodrama—with new stuff. A modern playwright leads you into the story, but a historical playwright is there also. It is a comment on race, a comment on modern-day America, and it carries strains of the past into the future."

Directed by Judith Moreland, *An Octoroon* aims to provoke, Stevenson adds.

"It is a challenging piece, with funny and incendiary scenes, including black actors in white-face," he says.

The rest of Capital Stage's new season promises to be just as stimulating. The complete run-down is as follows:

Luna Gale: Stevenson will direct this play (October 18-November 19), which tells the story of

a social worker supervising the case of baby Luna Gale. The child's parents have experimented with meth and now there is a custody battle; it won the 2015 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award.

"This is a wonderful social drama about how far you are willing to go [to] do what's right," Stevenson says.

Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberly: This holiday play isn't part of the company's subscription series, but regulars will find it worth adding on (December 6-December 30). Directed by Capital Stage co-founder Peter Mohrmann, Stevenson calls it a charming and a "brilliant sequel to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*."

The Nether: A sci-fi drama by Jennifer Haley, Stevenson calls this "a dark fable about the possible future of the internet and virtual reality. (January 23-February 25). It was a nominee for the 2015 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Play as well as the 2012 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Winner.

The Arsonists: Set in Florida, this play reimagines the ancient Greek tragedy *Electra*, incorporating poetry and music (March 14-April 15).

Marjorie Prime: Written by Jordan Harrison, this sci-fi play was a 2015 Pulitzer Prize nominee for Best Play (May 2-June 3). Directed by Capital Stage co-founder Stephanie Gulate, Stevenson describes it as a story "about aging parents and how you deal with grief in the age of artificial intelligence."

The Thanksgiving Play: Stevenson calls this 2015 play from Larissa Fasthose a "wickedly funny satire" about people who put on a pageant every year with no Native American actors. (June 20-July 22). In other words, "political correctness, ego and ignorance collide." □

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITAL STAGE

NOW PLAYING



Bloomsday

Time bends Steven Dietz's tale of love found, lost and remembered as a young American meets an Irish "Joyce Tour" leader who changes his life. Elisabeth Nunziato directs an outstanding cast of four. **Th, F 8pm, Sa 5pm and 9pm, Su 2pm, Tu 6:30pm, W 2pm and 6:30pm. Through 9/10. \$27-\$39.** B Street Theatre Mainstage, 2711 B Street; (916) 443-5300; www.streettheatre.org. J.C.



SHREW! A Jazz Age Musical Romp

This original musical transfers Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* to 1930s Paris with all the attendant fashion, financial dealings—and, of course, romantic intrigue. **F-Su 8pm. Through 9/17. \$6-\$18.** Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre, 7991 California Avenue; (916) 966-3683; www.fairoakstheatrefestival.com. J.C.



Water by the Spoonful

In this installment in a trilogy by Quiara Alegria Hudes, we're introduced to Elliot Ortiz, a young Marine who returns stateside shadowed by war ghosts. The play then flashes to an online Alcoholics Anonymous group. The plot-twist reason for the seemingly separate groups can be frustrating to grasp, but once it all gels, there's a satisfying payoff. **Th, Fr, Sa 8pm. Through 9/9. \$12-\$22.** Big Idea Theatre, 1616 Del Paso Boulevard; (916) 960-3036; www.bigidea-theatre.org. P.R.



FOUL



FAIR



GOOD



WELL-DONE



SUBLIME—DON'T MISS



PICK

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAIN STREET THEATRE WORKS

Is this a witch hunt or an itch hunt?

Frightfully timely

The Crucible, Arthur Miller's classic drama from 1953 about the Salem Witch Trials in colonial Massachusetts, is eternally relevant because the threat of opportunistic, autocratic political leaders fanning mass hysteria for their own dubious gain is ever-present. The sturdy, compact production by Main Street Theatre Works is staged outdoors and at night, illuminating the host of challenging moral decisions involving difficult (and life-threatening) choices relating to the danger that can accrue when you insist on speaking the truth during unstable, paranoid times. The production runs through September 9. **8 p.m. Friday, September 1 and Saturday, September 2; \$12-\$20.** Kennedy Mine Amphitheatre, 1127 N. Main Street in Jackson; (209) 295-4499; www.mstw.org.

—JEFF HUDSON

Rappin' Rockette



Patti Cake\$

Toto, we're not in Springsteen's Jersey anymore.



BY DANIEL BARNES

From the kingdom of Springsteen comes the story of an aspiring rapper, a movie more indebted to Sundance audience-baiting tactics than to the blue-collar epics of Bruce.

This debut film from writer-director Jeremy Jasper stars Australian actress Danielle Macdonald as the Jersey-bred Patti, aka Killer P, an ample twenty-something woman who works two go-nowhere jobs and still lives with her alcoholic trainwreck of a mother (Bridget Everett), yet dreams about meeting her hero and attaining hip-hop superstardom.

The film essentially sutures the story arc and milieu of *8 Mile* onto the character details and chintzy dream sequences of *Precious*. For a generous portion of its excessive 108-minute running time, *Patti Cake\$* is colorful and irresistible entertainment, driven by Macdonald's magnetic lead performance, a likeable ensemble cast and a credible sense of place (Jasper was born in the small town of Hillsdale, New Jersey). But about halfway through, the film abandons any pretense of authenticity to become an aggressive crowd-pleaser (so did *8 Mile* and *Precious*, of course).

Full disclosure: the screening audience ate up every single pandering second-half story beat, compromised message and logistical improbability, and presumably so will the ticket-buying crowds that *Patti Cake\$* was designed to please. Macdonald's Patti certainly makes for the sort of self-doubting, Rocky-esque underdog that tends to rally audience sympathy, and a strong rooting interest carries us through when the film's integrity starts to crumble.

About halfway through, the film abandons any pretense of authenticity

Just like any of the *Rocky* movies, *Patti Cake\$* wastes little time placing its protagonist at a low point. As the film opens, Patti still lives in the same New Jersey town where she grew up, still surrounded by the same kids who cruelly dubbed her "Dumbo," still watching her booze-grubbing mother slur through karaoke night at the local bar. Spitting hardcore rhymes becomes Patti's only escape, but her platonic best friend Jheri (YouTube rapper Siddharth Dhananjay) is the only person who knows about her skills.

That all changes after a rap concert headlined by a few of Patti's most persistent bullies, a group of emcees mainly notable for their lack of flow and lyrical over-reliance on pathetic misogyny. An unimpressed Patti engages in an impromptu after-hours rap battle with the lead rapper, proving her superiority so soundly that the cowardly shmuck can only respond with violence. Filled with new-found confidence, Patti sets about assembling a crew, a group that includes Jheri, a mysterious rocker and her own ailing grandma, played by the wonderful character actress Cathy Moriarty.

I'm always happy to see Moriarty, but it's also dispiriting to see the smoky-voiced 56-year-old already shuttled into the rappin' granny role. The disappointments don't stop there—starting with the scene where Patti accosts her rap hero, *Patti Cake\$* eagerly leaps down a rabbit hole of self-indulgence, never to return. It's clear that Jasper didn't care how he got to his stand-up-and-cheer finish, just that he got there.



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All Saints

An Episcopal pastor (John Corbett), sent to close down a failing church in Tennessee, finds himself faced with an influx of dozens of Christian refugees from Myanmar (Burma); he decides to keep the church open as a haven, turning the property into a farm that will provide a livelihood for the refugees and an income to pay off the church's debts. Steve Armour's script seems to presume that we've read the nonfiction book by Michael Spurlock and Jeanette Windle on which it is based, and that we can fill in all the holes. Steve Gomer's direction and Eduardo Enrique Mayén's cinematography are just serviceable, and some supporting performances are stilted. Acting at the top saves the day—by Corbett, old pro Barry Corbin as the town curmudgeon, and (especially) Nelson Lee as the leader of the refugees. J.L.



Brigsby Bear

A hand-drawn animated epic based on a Japanese manga, Sunao Katabuchi's *In This Corner of the World* concerns Suzu, a daydreaming teenager from Hiroshima married off to a young naval clerk in the early days of World War II. Suzu is forced to relocate to a nearby naval town to live with her husband's ungrateful family, slowly settling into her role but still carrying a torch for the gruff boy back home. As the tide of war turns and her new hometown becomes a daily target for air raids, Suzu finds her strength, even employing ancient methods to stretch their food supply; meanwhile, we wait for the inevitable nuclear horror to hit. Fascinating and frustrating in equal measures, *In This Corner of the World* offers a compelling look at life in Japan during and directly after wartime, with a rich female character at the center, but it's also maddeningly choppy. D.B.



The Hitman's Bodyguard

A bodyguard who's fallen on hard times since losing an important client to assassination (Ryan Reynolds) gets a chance to redeem himself by escorting a notorious killer (Samuel L. Jackson) to testify in the Hague against an international criminal (Gary Oldman). Tom O'Connor's script doesn't know when to quit (half an hour earlier would have been smart); Jake Roberts' editing is sloppy; and director Patrick Hughes seems just along for the ride. But Reynolds and Jackson deliver the goods; their chemistry is strong, and their scenes crackle, even when O'Connor gives them nothing to say but empty profanity. And you have to hand it to Jackson, he looks terrific for 68; he's like an African American Cary Grant without the savoir faire. Elodie Yung adds sex appeal as Reynolds' ex-lover and fellow bodyguard. J.L.



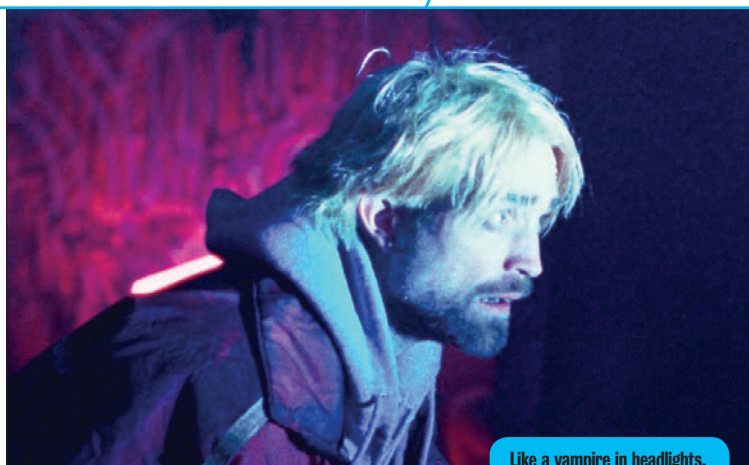
Ingrid Goes West

A lonely, mentally unstable young woman (Aubrey Plaza), fresh out of the asylum after cyber-stalking an Instagram acquaintance, takes all her money out of the bank, moves to California, and starts doing it all over again with another victim (Elizabeth Olsen). The acting is good, but this wannabe black-comedy riff on the dangers of social media (written by David Branson Smith and director Matt Spicer) misfires by breaking the first rule of comedy; the protagonist is utterly unsympathetic. Plaza is helpless to make her anything but a liar, a user, and an awful person. We know that all this isn't going to end well, and we just want to have it over with so we can get away from this psycho. The upbeat ending rings false because (1) it feels tacked-on, and (2) the movie hasn't shown us someone who deserves it. J.L.



Leap!

In 19th century France, an orphan waif (voiced by Elle Fanning) escapes from her country orphanage with her best friend, an aspiring inventor (Nat Wolff in the U.S., Dane DeHaan elsewhere), to become a dancer with the Paris Ballet. *Splati!* would have been a better title; this dreary, lifeless little Canadian animated feature falls flat on its face time and again. Writers Eric Summer (who also directed with Eric Warin), Laurent Zeitoun and Carol Noble



Like a vampire in headlights.



Good Time

To his credit, Robert Pattinson has made some bold decisions in the last few years, choosing to work with outsider directors instead of cashing in on his *Twilight* fame. Unfortunately, even when working with the likes of David Cronenberg, James Gray and Werner Herzog, Pattinson continued to exude a low-energy indifference that felt all too reminiscent of his days as a sleepy-eyed teen idol. That all ends with Pattinson's ferociously brilliant turn as Connie, the morally screwy criminal at the center of Josh and Benny Safdie's outrageous New York City nightmare *Good Time*. After a bank robbery gone wrong lands his developmentally disabled brother Nick (co-director Benny Safdie) in jail, bottle-blond con man Connie schemes to acquire his bail money by any means necessary. *Good Time* matches the do-anything relentlessness of its lead character, making for one of the most visceral and exciting movie experiences of the year. D.B.

haul out all the moldy clichés of the Follow Your Dream Movie (Pre-Teen Division), cobwebs and all, and combine them with a total lack of story sense and an appalling grasp of history. The result is a sort of *Flashdance* for the Teletubbies set, not as obnoxiously atrocious as *The Nut Job 2* (let's hope that record stands for a while), but really no better. J.L.



Menashe

Documentarian Joshua Z. Weinstein co-writes and directs this intimate but drab family drama set in Brooklyn's insulated Orthodox Jewish community. In a story largely based on his own life, newcomer Menashe Lustig stars as the title character, a recently widowed shop clerk who struggles to meet the personal and religious expectations of his family. A consummate loser, Menashe is confronted with his inadequacy at every turn—his boss routinely humiliates him in front of customers and co-workers, his piously contemptuous brother refuses to lend him any more money and he's not even allowed to host his own wife's memorial. Compounding these routine humiliations, Menashe's son has been removed from his home until he remarries, a situation that slowly pushes him toward a breaking point. The Yiddish-language *Menashe* wants to highlight the universality of thorny family dynamics, but it's better at highlighting the universality of drearily well-intentioned Sundance drama clichés. D.B.



The Only Living Boy in New York

A college grad (Callum Turner) slouches around lower Manhattan, scorning his privileged Park Avenue upbringing and wondering what to do with his life; when he learns that his father (Pierce Brosnan) has a mistress, he shadows the woman (Kate Beckinsale)—but she confronts him and virtually invites him to seduce her, which he does. Observing it all is the young man's rumpless, boozy neighbor (Jeff Bridges). Echoes of 1967's *The Graduate* and the works of Bob Dylan, Woody Allen, and Sundance TV abound, but Allan Loeb's script still has a few surprises for us, and Loeb synthesizes all those elements into a personality of its own. Marc Webb's direction is crisp and knowing, drawing

fine performances all around – including from Kiersey Clemons as Turner's best friend and Cynthia Nixon as his doting mother. J.L.



Step

This intimate and emotionally affecting documentary from director Amanda Lipitz follows several senior girls on the step dance team at Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women. A relatively new school with a student body largely composed of African-American girls from low-income families, the BLSYW began with a single sixth grade class, and the film covers the senior year of those founding students. The strength of these girls is inspiring (although many family backstories are left tastefully vague), but the highs and lows they experience on the way to the film's inevitable "big game" finish are haunted by the ghost of Freddie Gray, the African-American man who was killed in 2015 while in Baltimore Police custody. His specter lends an extra level of gravitas to the routines (the most powerful of several electrifying step dance scenes is a tribute to Black Lives Matter) and an additional significance to the report cards. D.B.



Wind River

Sicario and Hell or High Water screenwriter Taylor Sheridan makes his directorial debut with *Wind River*, a dour murder-mystery set on the desolate Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. Jeremy Renner gives a perfunctory lead performance as Cory Lambert, a grieving father employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a predator hunter on the reservation. While tracking a family of mountain lions in the snow, Cory stumbles across the frozen body of a dead Native American girl, a discovery that rekindles repressed memories of his own deceased daughter. Cory assists the woefully unprepared FBI agent (Elizabeth Olsen) who gets sent to investigate, but he may be harboring his own vigilante agenda. *Wind River* builds slowly, and a little of Sheridan's klutzy predator-prey symbolism goes a long way, but he also shows a genuine knack for steadily building tension, finally allowing it to explode in an excellent final act. D.B.

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M
MUSIC

Legacy act

Mr. Hooper gets serious about his rap career

BY AARON CARNES

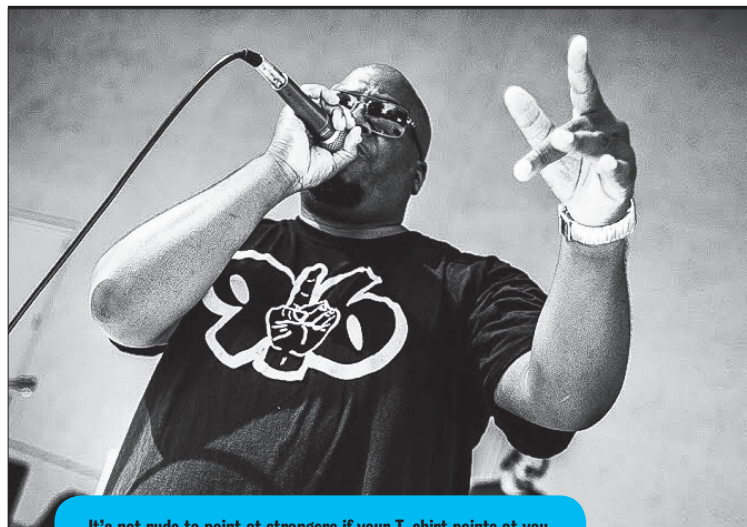


PHOTO COURTESY OF MR. HOOPER

It's not rude to point at strangers if your T-shirt points at you.

"I've always given my 9-to-5s the best of me, but in the end that was always in support of someone else's dreams," Hooper says. "It's time to jump both feet into my dreams. This is the first time in my life that 100 percent of my focus is on my music career."

When he first went full-time as an artist, he was working on a longer concept album, but an opportunity came up to do some touring on the West Coast. To arrive with a new release in hand, he switched gears. He

wrote and recorded *Auto Reverse* just in time for his tour.

Keeping with the record's theme, Hooper went old school with the production of the tracks: It's sample-based. Even some of Hooper's flow gets back to that '80s and '90s style of delivery.

"I think my flow changes from track to track because I can rap any way I want. That's the art of it," Hooper says. "When I put the pen to the pad, I put it to the pad with purpose."

Now that Hooper's efforts have been reinvigorated, he can also spend some time getting his new name out there. Many folks

in the scene know him as Crazy Ballhead, a name thrust on him by his girlfriend after he shaved off his dreads. Now he's got to let those folks know that he's still making music.

Since Hooper is his actual name, there's new significance there. Being Mr. Hooper is about thinking about his family again, and his potential legacy.

"As Crazy Ballhead I was like, man I got to make the dopest tracks. I still want that," Hooper says.

"Now, I did something as bold as calling myself my family's name. How am I going to represent that? How am I going to be Mr. Hooper? And carry that into the future where it's something that my family can be proud of?" □

**"When
I put the pen
to the pad, I put
it to the pad with
purpose."**

Virgil J. Hooper
rapper

Cassettes tapes Cassettes tapes were a vital part of rapper Virgil J. Hooper's career 25 years ago. He was out on the street hocking tapes to anyone willing to give him the time of day. To make the sale, he'd carry along a Walkman and copies of his album queued up to different parts, ready to give a customized sample to would-be buyers.

"If they said they liked R&B—they don't really like rap, well I never sang, but I'd choose the tape that had the closest thing to R&B and put it in the cassette player and say, 'Well, check this out, you might be interested,'" says Hooper, who now raps under the name Mr. Hooper. Until 2014, he was known as Crazy Ballhead.

He laughs, thinking about the shameless hustle of his younger self. "It's time to get back to that," he adds.

To get there, his new album *Auto Reverse* is his first in 22 years to get pressed on cassette. Even on the CD version of the album, the cover is an image of a cassette tape. It's a tribute to that relentless drive of his younger years.

"When I first started, I had crazy hustle. I still have it, but not like I did back then," Hooper says. "I was inspired by getting back to that passion, that push, which in all honesty never left, it's just that I divided so much of myself."

His time isn't divided any longer. As of March this year, Hooper no longer works a 9-5 job. Now he's a full-time artist. That includes touring, recording other artists and producing music videos, but most importantly, writing and releasing his own music.

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CALENDAR

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 31

BY KATE GONZALES

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► Online listings will be considered for print. Print listings are edited for space and accuracy. Deadline for print listings is 5 p.m. Wednesday. Deadline for NightLife listings is midnight Sunday. Send photos and reference materials to Calendar Editor Kate Gonzales at snrcalendar@newsreview.com.



Pollination through clouds

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY DEVLIN

01
FRI

In the company of shadows

1810 GALLERY, 6 P.M., NO COVER

Enter the dreamworld of artist Molly Devlin this Friday, during the opening reception of her solo exhibit, *Valley of Shadows*. The painter's artwork is often rooted in the human form—whether that figure is masked, fragmented or otherworldly. Describing her works as “dreamscapes of human emotions and fantastical anomalies,” Devlin has been

part of the Sacramento art scene since she moved here eight years ago this Labor Day weekend. Local art lovers may have seen her work before at Beatnick Studios, Art Street or Wide Open Walls. Check out this opening reception for her first solo show at 1810 Gallery. **1810 12th St., www.facebook.com/1810gallery.**

—KATE GONZALES

MUSIC

THURSDAY 8/31

ACCORDING TO BAZOOKA: Original Americana pop blending rock ‘n’ roll, country, zydeco and ska. **7pm, no cover.** Fox & Goose, 1001 R St.

CITY OF TREES BRASS BAND: Six-member Sacramento brass band. **9pm, \$6.** The Torch Club, 904 15th St.

CORRUPTED MORALS: Celebration of show videographer Shayne Stacy's 50th birthday includes sets by Peace Killers and The Polyorchids. **8pm, \$10.** Blue Lamp, 1400 Alhambra Blvd.

DINORAH SOLO CONCERT: SAMMIES award winner plays beautiful guitar renditions of traditional Latin, American and contemporary music. **6pm, no cover.**

Mesa Mercado Restaurant, 6241 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite B in Carmichael.

JESSICA MALONE: Mendocino artist Goforth and his banjo joins Jessica Malone for a night of original music. **7pm, \$6.** The Acoustic Den Cafe, 10271 Fairway Drive, Suite 120 in Roseville.

POP PUNK BROOTAL AT THE CAFE: Lineup includes Leftover Zac, The Bahama Investigation Team, Petracore, Exiled From Grace. **7pm, \$7-10.** Cafe Colonial, 3520 Stockton Blvd.

FRIDAY, 9/1

COM TRUISE: With Nosaj Thing and special guest Cleopold. **9pm, \$18-\$20.** Harlow's Restaurant & Nightclub, 2708 J St.

FOREIGNER: 40th anniversary tour with Cheap Trick. **7pm, \$30-\$125.95.** Toyota Amphitheatre, 2677 Forty Mile Road in Wheatland.

FRIDAY NIGHT BLUES PARTY: Acoustic American roots band Blues Dues performs. **6pm, no cover.** YOLO Brewing Company, 1520 Terminal St. in West Sacramento.

THE GOLD SOULS: Hot blues, with a side of soul. **9pm, no cover.** Shady Lady Saloon, 1409 R St.

LYRICS 4 THE SOUL: Shades of Soul Band returns with featured artists Saevon, Tirzahx, Basi Vibes (Sebastian Basi) and Miss MouthPeace. **8pm, \$15.** Shine, 1400 E St.

MYLAR'S HIPPIE HOUR FRIDAY: Singer/songwriter William Myler and guest musicians perform music spanning many genres. **5:30pm, no cover.** Louie's Cocktail Lounge, 3030 Mather Field Road in Rancho Cordova.

FATE UNDER FIRE: Sacramento pop/indie band hosts benefit show for the American

Foundation for Suicide Prevention. **8pm, \$11.49.** Old Soul Co., 1716 L St.

SATURDAY, 9/2

COUNTRY NIGHT AT THE BARN: Country-style spin on the popular Saturday Nights at the Barn. **5pm, no cover.** The Barn, 985 Riverfront Street in West Sacramento.

TIFFANY: The Depot celebrates its 20th anniversary with a concert by '80s pop star Tiffany. **9pm, \$15.** Badlands, 2003 K St.

DINERS: With Walter Etc., The Croissants and The Globbs. **8pm, \$8-\$10.** Cafe Colonial, 3520 Stockton Blvd.

EMPTY WAGON: With The Stoneberries. **8pm, \$7.** Shine, 1400 E St.

FUNK FEST '17: Hosted by Sinbad. Performances by Shalamar, Zapp, Lakeside, Con Funk Shun and One Way. **5:30pm, \$46-\$69.** Thunder Valley Casino Resort, 1200 Athens Ave. in Lincoln.

THE IRON MAIDENS: The only all-female tribute to Iron Maiden performs with X-Method, Toxin, Everydayfreak. **7pm, \$20-\$25.** The Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd.

JOSH'S HEART, INC. FUNDRAISER: Performances by Rachelle Steele, Marty Taters, Kyle Martin of Joel the Band, Tim Williamson, Allan Wright and Fully Covered. Fundraiser for Josh's Heart, a nonprofit serving those experiencing homelessness and addiction. **8pm, \$10.** Blue Lamp, 1400 Alhambra Blvd.

ONE LOVE ONE HEART REGGAE FESTIVAL: Family-friendly festival featuring performers from around the world, including Steel Pulse, Sizzla, Jah Bouks, Anthony B, Fiji, Prezident Brown, Sister Carol and more. **10am, \$50-\$60.** Yolo County Fair Grounds, 1125 East St. in Woodland.

PARSONSFIELD: With Wolf Creek Boys. **6:30pm, \$15.** Harlow's Restaurant & Nightclub, 2708 J St.

ROADHOUSE 5: Country/folk rock. **7pm.** Father Paddy's Irish Public House, 435 Main St., Woodland.

YUM YUM MEOW: With Neil Cassidy, Spitting Roses, Quartz Thrust. **9pm, \$5.** Fox & Goose, 1001 R St.

TREE TONE RECORDS PRESENTS: ONTHEBLOCK 2017: Performances by The Lique, DLRN, Cameron Calloway, Inland, Sooshel, The Philharmonik, Wylma and more. Food vendors and art exhibits on the block. **5pm, no cover.** Bottle & Barlow, 1120 R St.

SUNDAY, 9/3

MONOCHROME BALL: Industrial/goth-themed dance party. Sets by DJ keyz, DJ Decay and DJ Blixx. **9pm, \$5.** Momo Lounge, 2708 J St.

ONE LOVE ONE HEART REGGAE FESTIVAL: See description on 9/2. **10am, \$50-\$60.** Yolo County Fair Grounds, 1125 East St. in Woodland.

SPARKS ACROSS DARKNESS' BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: Sparks is getting older.

Celebrate with performances by Unified School District, SpaceWalker, TIP Vicious, Hennessy, Ctrl-Z & more. **8pm, \$5.** Blue Lamp, 1400 Alhambra Blvd.

MONDAY, 9/4

GEORGE KAHUMOKU JR: Four-time Grammy Award winning Hawaiian guitarist. **6:30pm, \$25-\$30.** Harlow's Restaurant & Nightclub, 2708 J St.

HEATH WILLIAMSON: Singer/songwriter Heath Williamson performs original and covers with 2017 SAMMIES nominee, William Mylar. **5:30pm, no cover.** Old Ironsides, 1901 10th St.

NEBRASKA MONDAYS: Creative music and jazz hosted by Ross Hammond. **7:30pm, \$10 sliding scale.** Luna's Cafe & Juice Bar, 1414 16th St.

REBECCA KILGORE TRIO: With Randy Porter on piano and Rom Wakeling on bass. **7pm, \$25.** E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts, 2420 N St.

TUESDAY, 9/5

GANGSTAGRASS: Hip-hop bluegrass band with The Railsplitters. **9pm, \$12-\$14.** Harlow's Restaurant & Nightclub, 2708 J St.

JASON RICHARDSON: With The Reign of Kindo and Stolas. **7pm, \$13-\$15.** Goldfield Trading Post, 1630 J St.

THREE FEMALE SINGER-SONGWRITERS: Carrie Welling, Kate Mills and Kasey Williams. **7pm, \$10.** The Acoustic Den Cafe, 10271 Fairway Dr., Suite 120, Roseville.

WEDNESDAY, 9/6

AN EVENING WITH GEORGE WINSTON AT HARRIS CENTER: Longtime solo pianist. **7:30pm, \$35-\$55.** Harris Center, 10 College Pkwy. in Folsom.

KUNG FU VAMPIRE: Hip-hop group performs with Locksmith. **9pm, \$20.** Blue Lamp, 1400 Alhambra Blvd.

ROSS HAMMOND: Acclaimed jazz guitarist plays solo show, with a jam session following. **7:30pm, no cover.** Kupros, 1217 21st St.

SISTER HAZEL: Alternative rock. **7pm, \$22.** Ace Of Spades, 1417 R St.

FESTIVALS

FRIDAY, 9/1

FIRST FRIDAY: It's the last First Friday of the summer! Shopping, games, music, classic car show and more in this family-friendly event. **6pm, no cover.** Fountains at Roseville, 1013 Galleria Blvd. in Roseville.

OAK PARK FIRST FRIDAYS: Celebrating all Oak Park has to offer—shopping, dining, art installations and more—spanning the Broadway corridor from 37th Street to Alhambra. **5pm, no cover.** 3433 Broadway.

CALENDAR LISTINGS CONTINUED ON PAGE 31 ►



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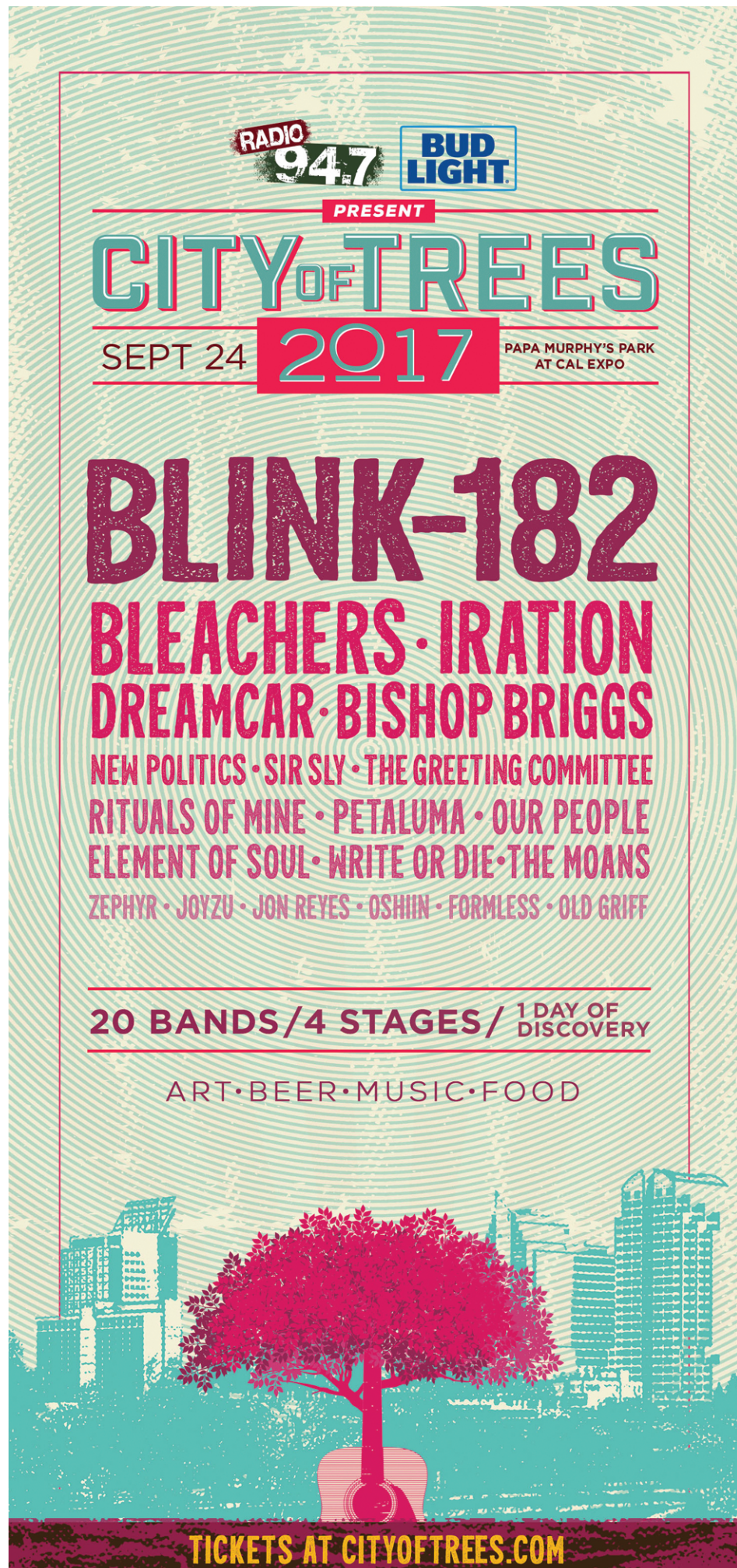
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◀ CALENDAR LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

SACANIME SUMMER 2017: See event highlight at right. **8am. \$30-\$50.** Sacramento Convention Center Complex, 1400 J St.

SATURDAY, 9/2

CHALK IT UP! Artists make their mark on the sidewalk surrounding Fremont Park, all creating unique pieces with one medium: chalk! Follow their progress Labor Day weekend. **10am, no cover.** Fremont Park, 1515 Q St.

SAC NAACP RYTHMN & BLUES FESTIVAL: Enjoy smooth R&B sounds performed by Next Phase Band (an Isley Brothers Tribute band), The Dramatics and more. **12pm, \$5-\$10.** Miller Regional park, 2701 Marina View Drive.

SACANIME SUMMER 2017: See event highlight at right. **8am. \$30-\$50.** Sacramento Convention Center Complex, 1400 J St.

SACRAMENTO AFRICAN MARKETPLACE:

Family-friendly shopping experience, with handmade items for sale including skincare, African fashion and jewelry and food vendors. **12pm, no cover.** Sojourner Truth African American Museum, 2251 Florin Road.

SUNDAY, 9/3

CHALK IT UP! See event description on 9/2. **10am, no cover.** Fremont Park, 1515 Q St.

REWIND FEST: LOST 80'S LIVE: Tony Hadley, longtime lead of new wave band Spandau Ballet, and more. **6pm, \$40-\$80.** Thunder Valley Casino Resort, 1200 Athens Ave. in Lincoln.

SACANIME SUMMER 2017: See event highlight at right. **8am. \$30-\$50.** Sacramento Convention Center Complex, 1400 J St.

TEJANO CONJUNTO FESTIVAL: In its 11th year, this festival includes performance by Dr. Loco, Totally Tejano, Ruben Garza Y La Nueva Era, Bolillo Y Su Conjunto and more. **12pm, \$25.** Cesar Chavez Park, 910 I St.

MONDAY, 9/4

CHALK IT UP! See event description on 9/2. **10am, no cover.** Fremont Park, 1515 Q St.

FOOD & DRINK**FRIDAY, 9/1**

FOOD TRUCK MANIA: Enjoy an afternoon of food trucks, music and fun for the family. **5pm, no cover.** Rosemont Community Park, 9304 Americana Way.

SATURDAY, 9/2

YOLO BREWFEST: Pourings from 35+ breweries, cideries, meaderies and wineries, with local gourmet restaurants, a cigar lounge, live music and entertainment in historic downtown Woodland. **2pm, \$35-\$45.** Heritage Plaza, 701 Main St. in Woodland.

MIDTOWN FARMERS MARKET: Weekly farmers market with more than 50 food and art vendors, monthly chef demos and a free bike valet. **8am, no cover.** 20th St., between J & K streets.

**FRIDAY, 9/1,
SATURDAY, 9/2
& SUNDAY, 9/3****SacAnime
Summer 2017
SACRAMENTO CONVENTION
CENTER AND SHERATON
GRAND HOTEL,
8 A.M., \$30-\$50**

SacAnime's slogan is, "Pop culture with an anime twist," a hint at the convention's broad appeal. Hardcore anime fans are sure to be satisfied with an abundance of genre-specific speakers, events and fandom meetups. There's also lots for those outside of the anime community, including K- and J-pop battles, design competitions and panels with *Game of Thrones* actors. **1400 J Street, 1121 15th Street, www.sacanime.com.**

—KAINOA LOMAN

FESTIVALS**MONDAY, 9/4**

ZOCALO'S CHEF DINNER: A three-course dinner showcasing seasonal ingredients and specialty drinks to highlight each dish. **6pm, \$35.33.** Zocalo, 1801 Capitol Ave.

WEDNESDAY, 9/6**CALIFORNIA CRAFT BEER DINNER AT THE**

SUMMIT: Rub elbows with well-known California craft brewery owners and enjoy a five-course dinner paired with five special-release beers. **6pm, \$95.** Mulvaney's B&L, 1215 19th St.

FIRST WEDNESDAY AT THE SUISUN CITY TRAIN

DEPOT PLAZA: Sample Suisun Valley wine and appetizers from Ironwood American Bistro. Live music performed by local artists. **5:30pm, \$15.** Suisun City Train Depot Plaza, 177 Main St. in Suisun.

FILM**THURSDAY, 8/31**

BAYWATCH: Screening of the 2017 action comedy starring Zac Efron and Dwayne Johnson. **7:30pm, no cover.** The University Union at Sacramento State University, 6000 J St.

FRIDAY, 9/1

OLD SACRAMENTO M7 CON: Film festival celebrating iconic Old West actors from popular TV shows and films. Q&A panel with actors, autograph and photo opportunities and more. **10am, \$15-\$25.** Old Sacramento, 1124 2nd St.

TURN IT AROUND THE STORY OF EAST BAY

PUNK: Documentary that spans over 30 years of the Bay Area's punk music history, with a central focus on Berkeley's 924 Gilman Street music collective. Performance by local punk band Destroy Boys before the show, Q&A after the show with director/producer Corbett Redford and locals in the punk scene. **7:30pm, \$8-\$10.** Crest Sacramento, 1013 K St.

SATURDAY, 9/2

OLD SACRAMENTO M7 CON: See description on 9/1. **10am, \$15-\$25.** Old Sacramento, 1124 2nd St.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT G. ANDERSON

SUNDAY, 9/3

GHOST: Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore and Whoopi Goldberg star in this memorable 90s drama. **7pm, \$8-\$10.** Crest Theatre, 1013 K St.

OLD SACRAMENTO M7 CON: See description on 9/1. **10am, \$15-\$25.** Old Sacramento, 1124 2nd St.

TUESDAY, 9/5

POLITICAL ANIMALS: Documentary depicting the struggle and successes of the gay rights movement through the eyes of the first four members of the LGBT Legislative Caucus. Q&A panel with some of the film's subjects. **7:30pm, no cover.** Crest Theatre, 1013 K St.

COMEDY

BLACKTOP COMEDY: *Game Night: Improv for Everyone.* Say "yes" and develop characters in games fashioned after the television show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* **7pm, 8/31. \$10.** *Your F@#\$%! Up Relationship.* Improv show based on audience members' worst relationship stories. **8pm. Through 9/2. \$5-\$10.** 3101 Sunset Blvd., Suite 6A in Rocklin.

CSZ SACRAMENTO: *ComedySportz Improv Comedy.* Two teams compete for laughs by creating scenes based on audience suggestions. Similar to the show *Whose Line Is It, Anyway?* **8pm Saturday, 9/2. \$10-\$12; Dual Duel Improv Comedy Tournament.** Twelve two-person improv teams compete for a \$200 prize. **10pm Saturday, 9/2. Free with 8pm show ticket.** 2230 Arden Way, Suite B.

COMEDY SPOT: *Cage Match.* Two improv teams each have 20 minutes to perform a long-form improv show using any structure. Audience votes for the winner. **8pm. Thursday, 8/31. \$5; Improv Jam.** It's like an open-mic night, but for improvisers. All skill levels welcome. **9pm Thursday, 8/31. No cover. LGBTQ Comedy Night.** In celebration of the Sacramento Rainbow Festival's 30-year anniversary, this show features local comedians from the LGBTQ community. **9pm Saturday, 9/1. \$20.** *Cambridge Footlights International Tour 2017 Dream Sequence.* World tour returning to the Comedy Spot for the fifth

year. **8pm. Tuesday, 9/5. \$15.** 1050 20th St. Suite 130.

LAUGHS UNLIMITED COMEDY CLUB: Taylor Tomlinson. Featuring Andrew Rivers. **8pm, 10:30pm, Friday, 9/1, Saturday, 9/2. 7pm Sunday, 9/3. \$10-\$20.** 1207 Front St.

PUNCH LINE: Thomas Dale. **8pm Thursday, 8/31, 8pm, 10pm, Friday, 9/1, 8pm, 10pm Saturday, 9/2, 7pm Sunday 9/3. \$15.** 2100 Arden Way, Suite 225.

ON STAGE

B STREET THEATRE: *Bloomsday.* In Steven Dietz's new love story, time travel and James Joyce help illuminate the lives of Robbie and Cat, who meet in Ireland. **Through 9/10. \$27-\$39; The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey.** One actor portrays every character in a small Jersey Shore town as he unravels the story of a tenaciously optimistic and flamboyant 14-year-old boy who goes missing. **Through 9/9. \$19-\$39; 2711 B St.**

BIG IDEA THEATRE: *Water By The Spoonful.* Quiara Alegria Hudes' Pulitzer Prize-winning play is centered on two sets of seemingly unrelated characters. This story of family and connection is the second part of the playwright's trilogy. **Through 9/9. \$12.** 1616 Del Paso Blvd.

CHAUTAUQUA PLAYHOUSE: *The Old Musketees.* Chautauqua Playhouse will present the World Premiere of this new comedy by Rodger Hoopman. **Through 9/3. \$19-\$21.** 5325 Engle Road, # 110 in Carmichael.

COSUMNES OAKS HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER: *Grease.* Performed by talented 8- through 19-year-olds. **Through 9/2. \$8-\$10.** 8350 Lotz Parkway in Elk Grove.

KENNEDY MINE AMPITHEATRE: *The Crucible.* Arthur Miller's fictionalized drama about the hysteria around the Salem witch trials. This winner of the 1953 Tony Award for Best Play is presented and performed by Main Street Theatre Works. **Through 9/9. \$12-\$20.** 1127 N. Main St. in Jackson.

SUTTER STREET THEATRE: *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.* This hootenanny of

a musical is based on the true story of a legendary Texas brothel. **Through 9/3. \$15-\$23.** *Anne of Green Gables.* This family play captures the charm and excitement of L. M. Montgomery's enduring classic. **Through 9/3. \$13-\$17.** 717 Sutter St., Folsom.

THE WILKERSON THEATRE INSIDE THE CALIFORNIA STAGE COMPLEX: *Gidion's Knot.* A grieving mother and an emotionally overwhelmed primary school teacher have a fraught conversation about the tragic suicide of the mother's son, the teacher's student, Gidion. As his story is slowly uncovered, the women try to reconstruct a satisfying explanation for Gidion's act and come to terms with excruciating feelings of culpability. **Through 9/2. \$15-\$20.** 1721 25th St.

THEATRE IN THE HEIGHTS: *A Thousand Clowns.* Centered on unemployed bachelor uncle Murray Burns as he tries to rear his precocious nephew in New York City. **Through 9/17. \$15.** 8215 Auburn Blvd. Suite G in Citrus Heights.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATRE: *SHREW!* *A Jazz Age Musical Romp.* An original adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, set in 1930s Paris against a backdrop of competing fashion houses and swing jazz. **Through 9/17. \$12-\$18.** 7991 California Ave. in Fair Oaks.

ART

1810 GALLERY: *Valley of Shadows: Works by Molly Devlin.* See event highlight on page 29. **6pm. Through 9/29.** 1810 12th St.

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM: *Art & Advocacy.* A new exhibit of original works by developmentally disabled artists residing across California. Marks the 40th anniversary of the Lanterman Act (AB 846), the 1977 law giving developmentally disabled Californians the right to services and supports they need to live independently. **Through 9/17. \$9.** 1020 O Street.

CALENDAR LISTINGS CONTINUED ON PAGE 32 ▶

**SUNDAY, 9/3
Sacramento Rainbow
Festival
20TH AND K STREETS,
NOON, \$10**

The best thing about the Sacramento Rainbow Festival is its inclusiveness. Whether you're a member of the LGBTQ community or an ally, this 30-year-old event invites everyone to celebrate pride, enjoy entertainment from

LGBTQ local celebrities and national stars and

party with a purpose in the heart of the city's LGBTQ district. Over the years, the Rainbow Festival has raised more than \$500,000 for LGBTQ causes, with ticket sales this year benefiting The Jose Sarria Scholarship Program. **20th and K streets, www.sacrainbowfest.com.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKAS FOXX, TEMPUSLUX.COM

—KATE GONZALES

BAR 101

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SEPT 01 JESSICA MALONE

SEPT 02 STEPHEN YERKEY

SEPT 08 JASON WEEKS

SEPT 09 CHRISTIAN DEWILD

SEPT 15 TODD MORGAN

SEPT 16 DYLAN CRAWFORD

SEPT 22 ANIMALS IN THE ATTIC

SEPT 23 HAYEZ

SEPT 29 STEPHEN YERKEY

SEPT 30 FOX & BONES

33 BEERS ON DRAFT

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WEDNESDAY SACRAMENTO'S ULTIMATE
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\$2/\$3/\$4 DRINK SPECIALS 9-11

THURSDAY

COUNTRY DANCING IN BACK, KARAOKE UP
FRONT (NO COVER CHARGE)

FRIDAY

18 & OVER COUNTRY DANCE NIGHT \$2 JACK &
.50 CENT BEER SPECIAL 8-9PM

SATURDAY

21 & OVER COUNTRY DANCE NIGHT, KARAOKE
UP FRONT

SUNDAY FUNDAY

COLLEGE DANCE PARTY NO COVER OVER 21

FREE DANCE LESSONS NIGHTLY 9PM
WEEKNIGHTS, 8PM FRI/SAT

KARAOKE NIGHTLY UP FRONT

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◀ CALENDAR LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

CROCKER ART MUSEUM: *Full Spectrum:* Paintings by Raimonds Staprans. Born and raised in Riga, Latvia, Raimonds Staprans likes to say that his personality is Latvian but his paintings are purely Californian. For six decades he has called Northern California home, and many of his paintings showcase the landscape and architecture of the Golden State. **Through 10/8. \$5-\$10; Turn The Page: The First Ten Years of Hi-Fructose.** A collection of 51 contemporary art pieces featured in the first decade of the low-brow art magazine. **Through 9/17. \$5-\$10. 216 O St.**

FE GALLERY: *Tiny Monsters.* Enjoy this show themed around all things that go bump in the night, with more than 90 pieces of 2-dimensional and 3-D monsters. A prize drawing will be held for the piece "The Evolution of the Pink Zebra did not go well!" by JoMur, with raffle tickets available through 9/22. Proceeds benefit Fe Gallery's Senior High School 2018 Art Scholarship Fund. **Through 9/29. No cover. 1100 65th St.**

GALLERY 625 - ERWIN MEIER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: *Luminosity Glass Artwork of Susan Longini.* Longini has been involved in the glass world for over three decades. She specializes in Pate de verre ("paste of glass"), an ancient glass-forming technique, first documented in artifacts from Phoenicia and Egypt around 1500 B.C. **5:30pm. Through 10/3. 625 Court St. in Woodland.**

LATINO CENTER OF ART AND CULTURE: *Angels of No Mercy Art Reception for Alda Nuvia.* An exploration of the warrior within women. Through art deco style patterning rendered in metallic graphite and ink, armor and masks are created and morph with the flesh of the figure, both shielding and canonizing the Angel. The work is about the many layers women wear in order to survive daily life, layers that shift and change, constantly moving to expose and protect, wearing the heavy, stone-like city scapes that crown their heads with ease **Through 9/2. No cover. 2700 Front St.**

SMUD ART GALLERY: *MATRIX Revisited.* MATRIX, a women's artist group of the 1970s, '80s and '90s celebrates their July reunion with this exhibit. **Through 9/11. No cover. 6301 S St.**

SOL COLLECTIVE: *Our Times, Our Resistances, Our Autonomies.* A printmaking exhibit by artists based in the United States and Mexico. **Through 9/2. No cover. 2574 21st St.**

SPARROW GALLERY: *Dissent Group Art Show.* Created as a platform for the artists to express their concerns to recent current events. Promised not to be the typical "Anti-Trump" show. The artists cover events and topics that cross political and social lines. **Through 9/1. No cover. 1021 R St.**

MUSEUMS

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM: *10th Annual California Hall of Fame Artifact Exhibit.* A collection of artifacts, which include Harrison Ford's Indiana Jones costume from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, George Takei's Hikaru Sulu costume from *Star Trek IV: The Voyage*

SATURDAY, 9/2

Yolo Brewfest

HERITAGE PLAZA,
2 P.M., \$40

If you love a cold one under the hot sun, welcome to paradise. Over 35 breweries will have their best on tap at downtown Woodland's suds

FOOD & DRINK extravaganza, including local spots like Davis' Sudwerk Brewing Co. and larger names like Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. Come for the beer but stay for fresh food and live entertainment. Even better, the festival benefits the Yolo County Food Bank. **701 Main St. in Woodland, www.yolobrewfest.com.**

—KAINOA LOMAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK E. LOPER

Home, Isabel Allende's Presidential Medal of Freedom for Literature awarded by President Barack Obama in 2014 and more. **10am. Through 9/10. \$9; Light & Noir Exiles & Emigrés in Hollywood, 1933-1950.** Highlights the history of émigrés in the American film industry who fled Europe as refugees of Nazi persecution and their legacy in American cinema through the film noir genre. The exhibit features rare artifacts and memorabilia from 16 iconic films. **Through 10/15. \$9; Patient No More People with Disabilities Securing Civil Rights.** Chronicles the lives and legacies of the courageous Californians whose activism launched the American disability rights movement. **Through 11/15. \$9. 1020 O St.**

CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES: *California Memoirs The William M. McCarthy Photograph Collection.* William and Grace McCarthy, native Californians born in the late-19th century, pursued their passion for both photography and travel for many years. The end result is a collection of nearly 3,000 photographs mounted in 11 albums that provide rare pictorial documentation of the couple's early-20th century travels through California and beyond. **9:30am. Through 8/31. No cover. 1020 O St., Fourth Floor.**

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM: *A World on Wheels.* Five vintage automobiles are on display to highlight how innovative train technology and design paved the way for the emergence of the automobile. The five automobiles on loan from the California Automobile Museum will include the following: a 1914 Stanley Steam Car, a 1932 Ford Model B Station Wagon, a 1937 Cadillac Series 60 Sedan, a 1940 Lincoln Zephyr and a 1953 Chevrolet Bel Air. **10am. Through 9/4. Small Wonders: The Magic of Toy Trains. California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum & Foundation have recognized August as Toy Train Month. To celebrate, the museum will debut the rare, pastel-colored "Lady Lionel" Train Set. Originally manufactured in 1957 and considered a flop at the time, this product was intended to appeal to young girls at a time when toys didn't cross traditional gender lines. **Through 8/31. \$6-\$12; Off The Clock.** This playful new exhibit focuses on the variety of sports clubs, teams and athletic competitions that attracted Southern**

Pacific employees in the early- to mid-1900s. **Through 6/1/18. \$6-\$12. 111 I St.**

SACRAMENTO HISTORY MUSEUM: *Old Sacramento Underground Tours.* Hidden beneath the city for more than 150 years, Old Sacramento's underground has long been the capital's best-kept secret. Explore excavated foundations and enclosed pathways while guides recount tales of devastation, perseverance and determination that led to California's only successful street-raising project. **Through 9/24. \$10-\$15. 101 I St.**

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

THURSDAY, 8/31

AMAZING SCAVENGER HUNT ADVENTURE: Turn Sacramento into a giant game board. Combine *The Amazing Race* with a three-hour city tour. Guided from any smart phone, teams make their way among well-known and overlooked gems of the city, solving clues and completing challenges while learning local history. **10am, \$44 per team. Residence Inn, 1121 15th St.**

WILDERDOG END OF SUMMER POOL PARTY: Dog party in an in-ground pool for hounds. Alcoholic beverages available. **6:30pm, \$10 per dog, no cover for humans.** The Animal Den Pet Resort, 4060 Power Inn Road.

FRIDAY, 9/1

SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS VS. EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS: 7:05pm, \$10-\$63. Raley Field, 400 Ball Park Dr. in West Sacramento.

SATURDAY, 9/2

SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS VS. EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS: 7:05pm, \$10-\$63. Raley Field, 400 Ball Park Dr. in West Sacramento.

SUNDAY, 9/3

SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS VS. EL PASO CHIHUAHUAS: 5:05pm, \$10-\$63. Raley Field, 400 Ball Park Dr. in West Sacramento.

MONDAY, 9/4

SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS VS. EL PASO

CHIHUAHUAS: 1:05pm, \$10-\$63. Raley Field, 400 Ball Park Dr. in West Sacramento.

LGBTQ

FRIDAY, 9/1

LGBTQ COMEDY NIGHT: A night of fundraising and comedy featuring local comedians from the LGBTQ community. Comics include: Jason Anderson, Elisia Gonzales, Diana Hong, Sampson McCormick, Melissa McGillicuddy, Sydney Stigerts and Bill Wallis. 9pm, \$20. Comedy Spot, 1050 20th St., Suite 130.

SATURDAY, 9/2

THE DEPOT'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION: With a concert by the '80s pop star Tiffany. 9pm, \$15. Badlands, 2003 K St.

SUNDAY, 9/3

2017 RAINBOW FESTIVAL STREET FAIR: See event highlight on page 31. Noon, \$10. 2017 20th & K streets.

TAKE ACTION

THURSDAY, 8/31

A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION WITH FEM DEMS & BARKADA: Join the Crocker Art Museum as they host a community discussion with the

Fem Dems of Sacramento and Barkada on feminism, communication and privilege. Three short presentations on how these topics are related and intertwine with one another. The mission of the Fem Dems is to promote the feminist principles of political, economic and social equality among the sexes. Barkada is a place for Filipino Americans to connect back to their heritage, discuss the status of their diaspora community, and celebrate Filipino and Filipino American culture. 6:30pm, \$10. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St.

LABOR DEMOCRATS QUARTERLY MEETING: The Labor Democrats of Sacramento County is a political organization comprised of union members, progressives, grassroots organizers, activists, working families and allies registered to vote as Democrats in the State of California. 5:30pm, Old Ironsides, 1901 10th St.

"LAW & ORDER" IN THE TRUMP ERA: AN OWL COMMUNITY FORUM: How has the Trump presidency impacted racial and criminal justice? What tensions exist between law enforcement and our communities, and how do we combat these challenges? Join the Organize Win Legislate Democratic Club of Sacramento as they convene a community forum of local law enforcement officials and community leaders to tackle these issues. A panel will feature Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn, Councilman Steve Hansen, Director of Public Safety and Accountability Francine Tournier and more. 6:30pm, no cover. Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St.

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SATURDAY, 9/2 THROUGH MONDAY, 9/4

Gold Rush Days OLD SACRAMENTO, 11 A.M., NO COVER

Sacramento is getting ready to step back in time to an era when whiskey was cheap and life was even cheaper. That's right, the Capitol City's historic quarter is gearing up for Gold Rush

FESTIVALS Days again. The event features costumed actors, gold panning, wagon rides, old timey music and vendors wielding frothy mugs of sarsaparilla. 930 Front Street, www.sacramentogold-rushdays.com

—SCOTT THOMAS ANDERSON



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NIGHTLIFE



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Diners
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Cafe Colonial
Punk



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Sparks Across Darkness
with SpaceWalker
8pm Sunday, \$5.
Blue Lamp
Hip-Hop

	THURSDAY 08/31	FRIDAY 09/01	SATURDAY 09/02	SUNDAY 09/03	MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 9/04-9/06
THE ACOUSTIC DEN CAFE 10271 FAIRWAY DRIVE, ROSEVILLE, (916) 412-8739	Jessica Malone, Goforth, 7pm, \$6	Mark Lemaire, Michael Manning, 7:30pm, \$15-\$20	Shelby, Texas, 7pm, \$10	Uke Jam, 11am, no cover	Kasey Williams, Carrie Welling, Kate Mills, 7pm, Tu, \$10; Open-Mic, 6:30pm, W, no cover
BADLANDS 2003 K ST., (916) 448-8790	#Turntup Thursdays College Night, 8pm, call for cover	Rainbow Festival Kickoff Party, 8pm, \$15	Tiffany, 9pm, \$15-\$40	!Wendy Ho's Rainbow Ho Show, 8pm, call for cover	Half-off Mondays, 8pm, M, call for cover; Trapacana, 10pm, W, call for cover
BAR 101 101 MAIN ST., ROSEVILLE, (916) 774-0505		Jessica Malone, 9:30pm, no cover	Stephen Yerkey, 9:30pm, no cover		Trivia & Pint Night, M, 5pm, no cover; Open-Mic, 7:30pm, W, no cover
BLUE LAMP 1400 ALHAMBRA BLVD., (916) 455-3400	Corrupted Morals, Peace Killers, The Polyorchids, 8pm, call for cover	Sad Numbers, Trinidad Silva, The Surrounded, 8pm, call for cover	Josh's Heart Inc. Benefit Show w/ Rachel Steele, Tim Williamson and more, 8pm, \$10	Sparks Across Darkness Birthday Show w/ SpaceWalker, Crti-Z and more, 8pm, \$5	Kung Fu Vampire, 9pm, W, \$20
THE BOARDWALK 9426 GREENBACK LN., ORANGEVALE, (916) 358-9116		SpaceWalker, CBR, Sam Peter & the Village and more, 8pm, \$10	Strawberry Girls, A Foreign Affair, Find Yourself and more, 8pm, \$10-\$12	Caked Up, Lucid Absynth, Dr. Pockets and more, 8pm, \$20-\$25	
THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS 314 W. MAIN ST., GRASS VALLEY, (530) 274-8384	EmiSunshine, 8pm, \$10-\$23				
COUNTRY CLUB SALOON 4007 TAYLOR ROAD, LOOMIS, (916) 652-4007	Cornhole, 6pm, call for cover	Moonshine Bandits, 8pm, call for cover	Cluster Phunk, 8pm, call for cover	The Mock Ups, 8pm, call for cover	Movie Night in the Beer Garden, W, call for time and cover
DISTILLERY 2107 L ST., (916) 443-8815	Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	Karaoke, 9pm, M, Tu, W, no cover
FACES 2000 K ST., (916) 448-7798		Absolut Fridays, all night, call for cover	Decades, 7pm, call for cover	Sacramento Rainbow Festival, noon, \$10 (on 10th and K streets)	Every Damn Monday, 7pm, M, no cover; Noche Latina, 9pm, Tu, call for cover
FATHER PADDY'S IRISH PUBLIC HOUSE 435 MAIN ST., WOODLAND, (530) 668-1044	Robert Scott, 6pm, no cover	One Eyed Reilly, 7pm, no cover	Roadhouse 5, 7pm, no cover		
FOX & GOOSE 1001 R ST., (916) 443-8825	According to Bazooka, 7pm, no cover	Sunmonks, Cold Eskimo, Starover Blue, 9pm, \$5	Quartz Thrust, Spitting Roses, Neil Cassidy, Yum Yum Meow, 9pm, \$5		Open Mic, 7:30pm, M, no cover; Pub Quiz, 7pm, Tu, no cover
GOLDEN 1 CENTER 500 DAVID J STERN WALK, (888) 915-4647		Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, 7:30pm, \$43.81-\$139.05			
GOLDFIELD TRADING POST 1630 J ST., (916) 476-5076					Jason Richardson, 7pm, Tu, \$13-\$15
HALFTIME BAR & GRILL 5681 LONETREE BLVD., ROCKLIN, (916) 626-3600	Karaoke Happy Hour, 8:30pm, call for cover		Elevation, 9pm, \$5		"Let's Get Quizzical" Trivia Game Show Experience, 7pm, Tu, no cover
HARLOW'S 2708 J ST., (916) 441-4693	Ryder Green, 5:30pm, \$10-\$12	Com Truise, Nosaj Thing, 8pm, \$18-\$20	Parsonfeld, 5:30pm, \$13-\$15; Back In the Day: '80s and '90s Dance Party, 10pm, no cover		George Kahumoku Jr., M, 5:30pm, \$25-\$30; Gangstagrass, 8pm, Tu, \$12-\$14
HIGHWATER 1910 Q ST., (916) 706-2465		Total Recall, 10pm, \$5	Sugar, 10pm, \$5		Trivia Factory, 7pm, M, no cover
KUPROS CRAFTHOUSE 1217 21ST ST., (916) 440-0401	Stephen Yerkey, 8pm, no cover	Loma Q Trio, 9:30pm, no cover	All the Pretty Songs, 9:30pm, no cover	Kupros Quiz, 7:30pm, no cover	Open Mic Night, 7:30pm, Tu, no cover; Ross Hammond, 7pm, Wed, no cover
MOMO SACRAMENTO 2708 J ST., (916) 441-4693				MonoChrome Ball, 9pm, \$5	

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9/109 Andrew Belle
9/20 Curren\$y
9/21 Willie Watson
9/22 Tennyson
9/22 Valley Queen
9/23 Peter Petty
9/24 Agent Orange
9/27 Keith Harkin
9/28 Rakim
9/209 Tainted Love
9/30 Avery*Sunshine
9/30 Midnight Players

	THURSDAY 08/31	FRIDAY 09/01	SATURDAY 09/02	SUNDAY 09/03	MONDAY-WEDNESDAY 9/04-9/06
OLD IRONSIDES 1901 10TH ST., (916) 442-3504	Michael Dean Damron, Dead Voltz, 50 Watt Heavy, Loose Engines, 8:30pm, \$5	Back Alley Buzzards, Spork, Blame The Bishop, 9pm, \$6	Lipstick Dance Party, 9pm, \$5		Karaoke "I," 9pm, Tu, no cover; Open-Mic Night, 7:30pm, W, no cover
ON THE Y 670 FULTON AVE., (916) 487-3731	Open-Mic Stand-up Comedy, 8pm, no cover		Cash Prophets, 8pm, call for cover	Sunday '80s Industry Night w/ DJ Nachtdoom, 10pm, no cover	The Mentors, Twitch Angry, 9pm, M, \$10
PALMS PLAYHOUSE 13 MAIN ST., WINTERS, (530) 795-1825		EmiSunshine, 8pm, \$18			
PLACERVILLE PUBLIC HOUSE 414 MAIN ST., PLACERVILLE, (530) 303-3792	Tap It Brewing Co. Takeover, all day, no cover	Cash Prophets, 8pm, \$5	Jessica Malone, 7pm, no cover; The Ghost Town Rebellion, 9pm, no cover	Ranell Carpenter, 1:30pm, no cover	Matt Rainey, 8:30pm, W, no cover
POWERHOUSE PUB 614 SUTTER ST., FOLSOM, (916) 355-8586	Ray Reynolds, 9:30pm, call for cover	The Rising (Bruce Springsteen tribute), 10pm, \$12	Super Huey, 10pm, \$12	Sons of Champlin, 3pm, \$20	Live Band Karaoke, 8:30pm, Tu, no cover; 98 Rock Local Licks, 9:30pm, W, call for cover
THE PRESS CLUB 2030 P ST., (916) 444-7914	Bastards of Young, Gentlemen Prefer Blood, Odd Robot, Danger Inc., 8pm, call for cover				Bobby Peru (PDX), Captain Cutiepie, Lather Machine, 8:30pm, W, call for cover
SOCIAL NIGHTCLUB 1000 K ST., (916) 947-0434	Simon Patterson, 10pm, \$10-\$12	Chase Me, 10pm, no cover until 11pm, call for cover			
SOL COLLECTIVE 2574 21ST ST., (916) 585-3136					The Experiment Indigenous Jam Session, 5pm, Tu, by donation
STONEY'S ROCKIN RODEO 1320 DEL PASO BLVD., (916) 927-6023	Country Dancing & Karaoke, 9pm, no cover	Country Dancing & Karaoke, 9pm, \$5-\$10	Chris Stapleton After Party, 8pm, \$5, no cover w/ticket stub	Sunday Funday, Country Dancing, 9pm, \$2-\$10 after 10pm	West Coast Swing, 7pm, Tu, \$5 per lesson; Country Dancing, 9pm, W, \$3-\$8
SWABBIES ON THE RIVER 5871 GARDEN HIGHWAY, (916) 920-8088		Bump City Reunion (Tower of Power tribute band), 6:30pm, \$8	Heartless, 4pm, Hot for Teacher, 7pm, \$10 for both shows plus early 2pm show	The Spazmatics, 6pm, \$10	Four Barrel, 2pm, M, \$5
THE TORCH CLUB 904 15TH ST., (916) 443-2797	City of Trees Brass Band, 9pm, \$6	The Redlight District, Black Saddle Hookers, 9pm, \$7	Midtown Social, 9pm, \$7	The Golden State/Lone Star Revue, 4pm, no cover; You Front The Band, 8pm	Jessica Malone, 5:30pm, Tu, call for cover; Hannah Jane Kile, 9pm, W, \$5
WILDWOOD KITCHEN & BAR 566 PAVILIONS LANE, (916) 922-2858	Ryan & Kaz, 7pm, no cover	Brian Rogers, 7pm, no cover	Mark Harrod, 7pm, no cover	Valerie V Jazz Trio, 12pm, no cover	
YOLO BREWING COMPANY 1520 TERMINAL ST., (916) 379-7585		Rod Stinson, 7pm, no cover	Julie and the Jukes, 6pm, no cover	YOLO and Yoga, 11am, no cover; Doc Tari, 3pm, no cover	
All ages, all the time					
ACE OF SPADES 1417 R ST., (916) 930-0220	August Alsina, Rotimi, Tone Stith, 7pm, \$35				Ugly God, Wintertime, 7pm, Tu, \$26.50-\$100; Sister Hazel, 7pm, W, \$22
SHINE 1400 E ST., (916) 551-1400	Shine Open Jazz Jam, 8pm, no cover	Lyrics 4 the Soul, Tirzah X, Miss Mouthpeace and more, 8pm, \$15	Empty Wagon, The Stoneberries, 8pm, \$7		Questionable Trivia, 8pm, Tu, no cover
CAFE COLONIAL 3520 STOCKTON BLVD., (916) 718-7055	Exiled From Grace, Petracore and more, 8pm, call for cover		Diners, Walter Etc., The Croissants and more, 8pm, call for cover	US Bombs, Infirmities, Slutville and more, 8pm, \$10-\$14	
THE COLONY 3512 STOCKTON BLVD., (916) 718-7055	Lizard Kingdom, Plots, Roman Pilot and more, 8pm, \$5	Pounded Clown, Bananas, Detroit Red, 8pm, call for cover	Empress, Corroded Master, Bad Slime and more, 8pm, call for cover	The Slants, Eso Anima, Public School and more, 8pm, \$8	



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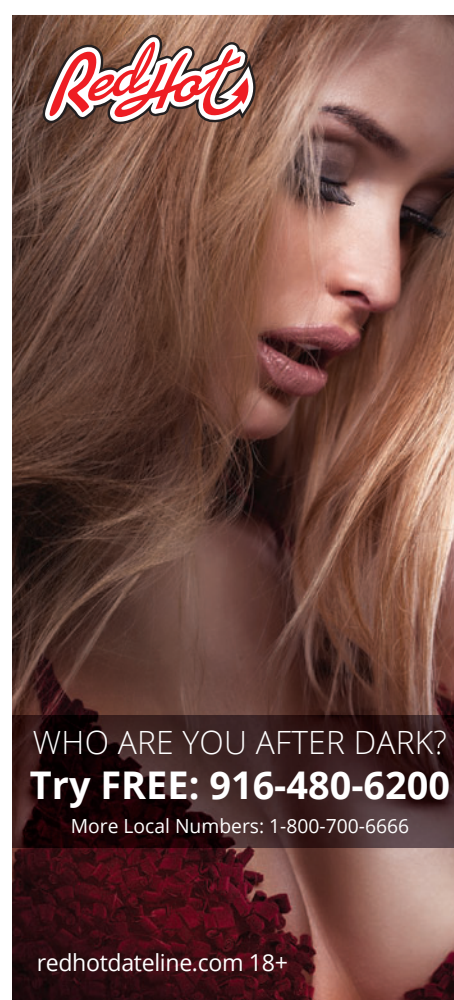
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Become a sleep evangelist

My wife has trouble sleeping. Some of it is her fault. She drinks loads of coffee and green tea and stresses out over every little thing. If I go to the couch to sleep, she takes it personally, like I'm abandoning her. She picks a fight and won't let me sleep. I'm so tired at work that by the time I come home I can't listen to her. She notices and gets angry. She's convinced I don't care, don't love her, want to leave. It's wearing me out. I've asked her to stop drinking caffeinated drinks. I don't know what else to do. Advice?

Yes, I'm sending you and your wife on a journey to reclaim your health. Eliminating caffeinated drinks is a hot take. The core issue is your wife's unregulated anxiety. Some of it may feel beyond her control, and that's okay. But it would be helpful if she learned to manage her most potentially debilitating thoughts. Here's my map: When a stressful thought crosses the horizon of my mind, I have options. If I'm feeling strong, I can choose to companion that lie and see where it goes. If I'm struggling, I might watch the thought breed until I'm overwhelmed, even paralyzed.

Alternately, I can question the veracity of my negative thought and kill it in its tracks—at least for the moment. Most of us recycle our thoughts, so negative ones may repeat. But each time I confront one lie, I exercise my capacity to slay. Eventually, the mind avoids automatically believing in and acting on thoughts that can harm me.

Don't get me wrong—I do think your wife needs to gradually eliminate caffeinated drinks. She should practice sensible sleep hygiene, too: disengaging from electronics (cell phone, iPad, laptop, television, etc.) at least three hours before bedtime. No television in the bedroom. No liquids (including alcohol) two to four hours before bedtime. Sleep on a bed with clean sheets and pillowcases, in a room with fresh air or a circulating fan. Use a

night mask and an earplug in at least one ear. A warm shower or bath before bedtime will soothe the mind, body and spirit. (Pro tip: Add four drops of pure lavender essential oil in the tub or rub it on your temples—avoid eyes and mucous membranes. Ahhhh, serenity!)

Sleeping next to our partners should feel sensuous and comforting. But sleep deprivation leaves us jittery, irritable and quick to snap at others. So until you and your wife can transform the bedroom into neutral ground, sleep in separate rooms. When she complains that you've

abandoned her, say this:

"I am here with you. I love you, but I don't love the cranky man I become when I don't sleep well. It makes me unable to be the partner I want to be."

Say it again and again.

If your wife has a tantrum, don't engage. Walk away but don't leave the house. When she calms down, suggest seeing a therapist. Your wife needs help to excavate her most primal fears of being alone so she can trust herself to fall asleep and rest.

A warm shower or bath before bedtime will soothe the mind, body and spirit.



MEDITATION OF THE WEEK

"Hope is not a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch feeling lucky. It is an axe you can break down doors with in an emergency," wrote Rebecca Solnit. Can you see now that your yoga, tai chi and meditation are needed so you can create space for change in the world?



Write, email or leave a message for Joey at the News & Review. Give your name, telephone number

(for verification purposes only) and question—all correspondence will be kept strictly confidential.

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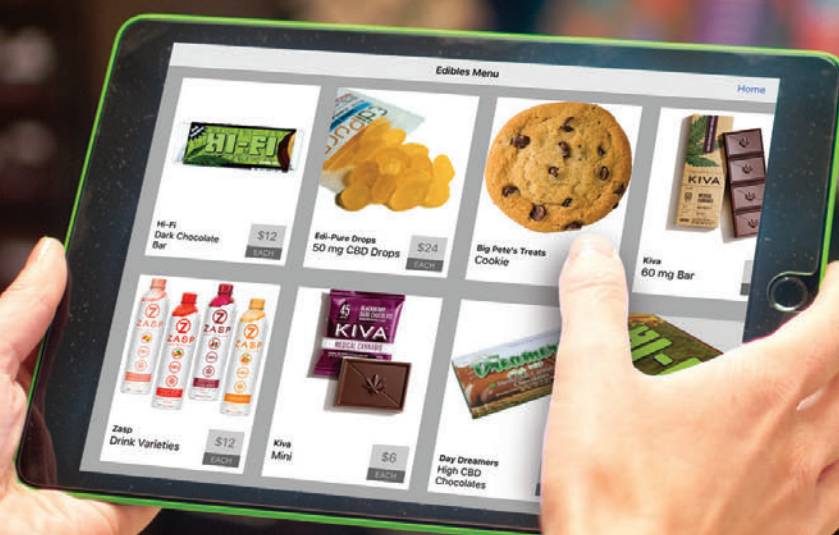
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Weed is a winner

I'm confused. Are the feds gonna try and shut down legalization or what?

—Charles Ulysses Farley

Good question. If U.S. Attorney General Jefferson Beauregard “I thought the Ku Klux Klan was ok until I learned they smoked pot” Sessions had his way, every pot grower, club owner, vape maker and cannabis user would be in federal pound-me-in-the-ass prison doing serious time. Jeff Sessions hates weed. He recently sent letters to the governors of four legal-cannabis states complaining about their cannabis regulatory systems. Of course, Sessions’ complaints relied on shoddy data and more than a few misconceptions. Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson was so moved by Sessions’ letter that his office released a statement voicing his displeasure:

“I was disappointed by Attorney General Sessions’ letter, which relies on incomplete, inaccurate and out-of-date information on the status of Washington’s marijuana regulations. I’m also disappointed that he has yet to accept my repeated invitations to meet in person to discuss this critical issue face-to-face. If he does accept, I look forward to providing him with a more complete picture of the robust regulatory program that exists in our state.

“Any action from the Department of Justice short of allowing our well-regulated, voter-approved system to continue is unacceptable. I will continue to defend the will of Washington voters.”

Woo-hoo, Bob Ferguson! The bottom line is this: Weed stays winning. Marijuana wins elections. Democracy in action. The people have spoken and it is up to the government to follow the will of the people. Duh.

It is most likely way too late for the DOJ to do much about it anyway. Weed makes too much money for too many people, and we all know money makes the world go ‘round. The DOJ doesn’t have the resources to go after the thousands of people involved in the legal cannabis industry. I mean, are they gonna arrest the governors of all the states where cannabis is legal? Ha!

For Jeff Sessions to continue to go after the legal cannabis industry would be a huge mistake.

Colorado has had legal cannabis for more than five years. There has been no increase in crime, no increase in traffic deaths, no real problems at all. Weed creates jobs, tax revenue and good times. Jeff Sessions needs to leave the cannabis industry alone and use the time and resources of the Department of Justice to go after real criminals and threats to American society.

Perhaps he could spend his time arresting white supremacist terrorists instead of going after law abiding cannabis users.

I heard you were just in Seattle. How's the weed?

—Cap I. Tollhill

The weed in Washington state has gotten way better, although I feel like all the commercial weed I smoked was harvested too early and cured too fast, resulting in pleasant but short-lived effects. Still the third best weed in the country. □

Ngaiio Bealum is a Sacramento comedian, activist and marijuana expert. Email him questions at ask420@newsreview.com.



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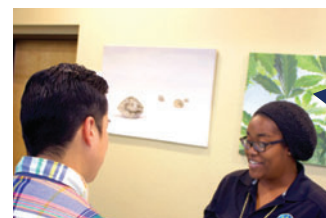
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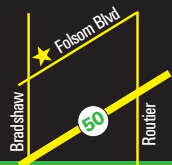
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Pop-ups, push-and-turns, heat sealing and warning labels are the likely future of recreational cannabis.



PHOTO BY KEN MAGRI

BY KEN MAGRI

NO KIDS ALLOWED

State cannabis bureau working on specific requirements for child-resistant packaging

We have come a long way since the 1970s, when Californians secretly stashed their marijuana away in sandwich bags. Now we have pop-ups and heat-sealed packaging all designed with one thing in mind: To keep cannabis out of the hands of children. It's among state regulators' biggest concerns when recreational sales start in January. Whether child-resistance will be required for individual packages or by throwing everything into a secure bag, one thing is certain: Child-resistant packages will be the norm.

According to the Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation's (BMCR) proposed text, cannabis packaging must be "significantly difficult for children under five years of age to open, and not difficult for adults to use properly." How that plays out is the big question right now. When asked, BMCR spokespersons only say that it will be finalized "by the fall."

"Everybody is waiting for regulation," said Sacramento's Casey Knott, owner of 420 Stock (420stock.com), a non-edibles packaging supplier for cannabis dispensaries. There are profits in this niche industry for entrepreneurs who are willing to wait until lawmakers finalize everything. Suppliers like Knott would rather do that than guess on the state's final regulations.

Current child-resistant packages carried by 420 Stock include push-and-turn prescription bottles, squeeze-to-open "pop-ups," warning labels and the Mylar envelopes

commonly seen in dispensaries. "These envelopes are certified child-resistant when you heat-seal them," said Knott. The sealing process renders them difficult to open, even for adults, without using scissors or busting a tooth.

"Everybody is waiting for regulation."

Casey Knott,
Owner of 420 Stock packaging company

As with other states, the BMCR text also proposes child-resistant "exit bags." White, opaque, and designed to look uninteresting to kids, these bags quickly solve the problem by holding several non-child-resistant packages inside.

California will also require tamper-resistant shrink-wrapping on some packages, and a new warning icon, which Knott described as an upside-down triangle with the letters "THC" and an exclamation point inside. "We're trying to keep up," says a smiling Knott.

Safety experts will point out that packaging is child resistant — not completely child proof. So parents should keep their cannabis up and out of a child's reach, consider purchasing a locked box or safe, and put away marijuana after each use.



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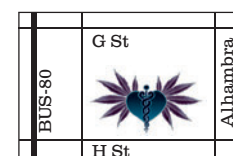
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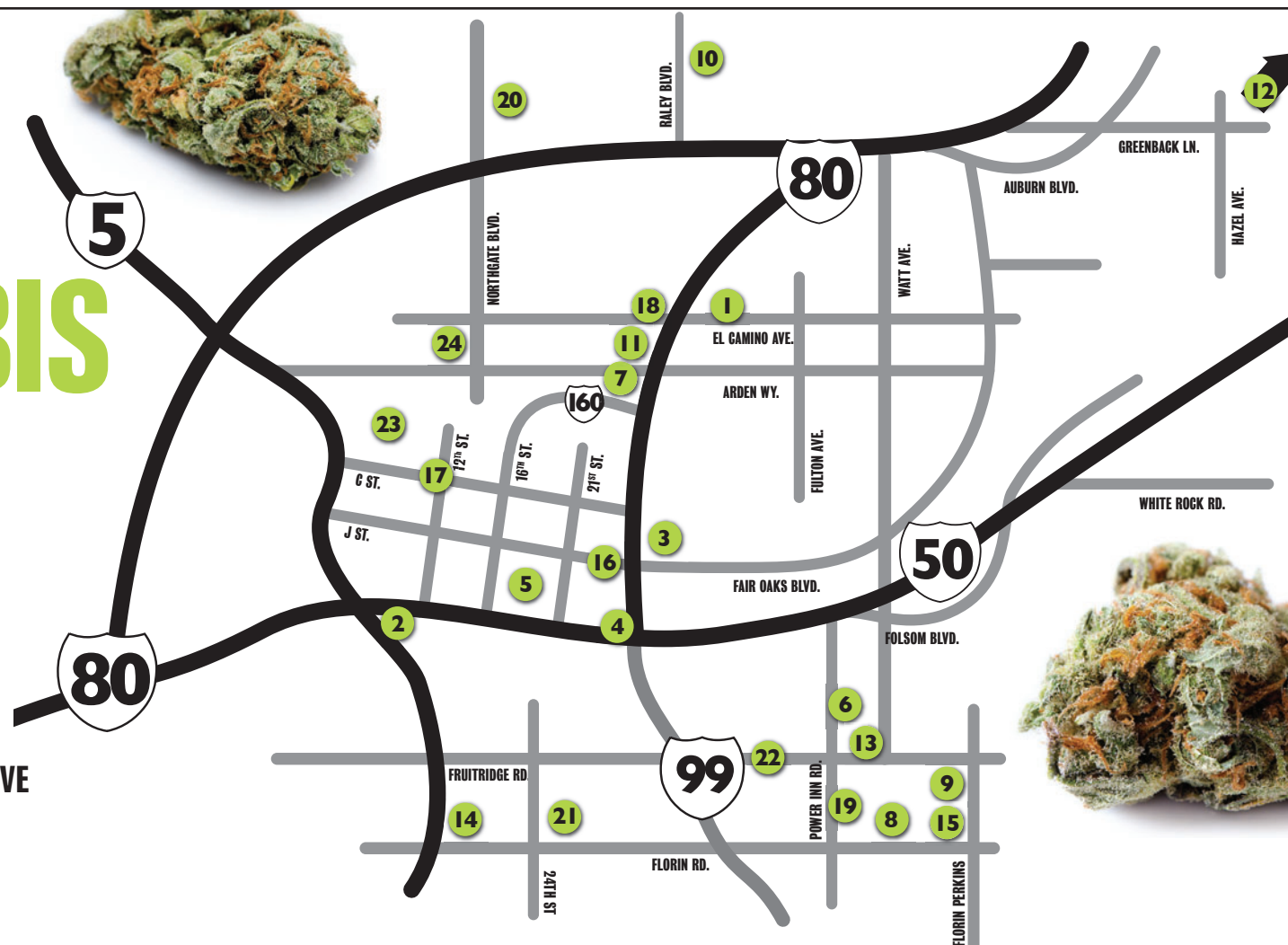
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FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 31, 2017

ARIES (March 21-April 19): “We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems,” said businessman Lee Iacocca. You are currently wrestling with an example of this phenomenon, Aries. The camouflage is well-rendered. To expose the opportunity hidden beneath the apparent dilemma, you may have to be more strategic and less straightforward than you usually are—cagier and not as blunt. Can you manage that? I think so. Once you crack the riddle, taking advantage of the opportunity should be interesting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Close your eyes and imagine this: You and a beloved ally get lost in an enchanted forest, discover a mysterious treasure, and find your way back to civilization just before dark. Now visualize this: You give a dear companion a photo of your face taken on every one of your birthdays, and the two of you spend hours talking about your evolution. Picture this: You and an exciting accomplice luxuriate in a sun-lit sanctuary surrounded by gourmet snacks as you listen to ecstatic music and bestow compliments on each other. These are examples of the kinds of experiments I invite you to try in the coming weeks. Dream up some more! Here’s a keynote to inspire you: *sacred fun*.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): On its album *Jefferson’s Tree of Liberty*, Jefferson Starship plays a song I co-wrote, “In a Crisis.” On its album *Deeper Space/Virgin Sky*, the band covers another tune I co-wrote, “Dark Ages.” Have I received a share of the record sales? Not a penny. Am I upset? Not at all. I’m glad the songs are being heard and enjoyed. I’m gratified that a world-famous, multiplatinum band chose to record them. I’m pleased my musical creations are appreciated. Now here’s my question for you, Gemini: Has some good thing of yours been “borrowed”? Have you wielded a benevolent influence that hasn’t been fully acknowledged? I suggest you consider adopting an approach like mine. It’s prime time to adjust your thinking about how your gifts and talents have been used, applied or translated.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Author Roger von Oech tells us that creativity often involves “the ability to take something out of one context and put it into another so that it takes on new meanings.” According to my analysis of the astrological omens, this strategy could and should be your specialty in the coming weeks. “The first person to look at an oyster and think food had this ability,” says von Oech. “So did the first person to look at sheep intestines and think guitar strings. And so did the first person to look at a perfume vaporizer and think gasoline carburetor.” Be on the lookout, Cancerian, for inventive substitutions and ingenious replacements.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): When famous socialite Nan Kempner was young, her mother took her shopping at Yves Saint Laurent’s salon. Nan got fixated on a certain white satin suit, but her mean old mother refused to buy it for her. “You’ve already spent too much of your monthly allowance,” mom said. But the resourceful girl came up with a successful gambit. She broke into sobs, and continued to cry nonstop until the store’s clerks lowered the price to an amount she could afford. You know me, Leo: I don’t usually recommend resorting to such extreme measures to get what you want. But now is one time when I am giving you a go-ahead to do just that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee invented the miraculous communication system that we know as the World Wide Web. When asked if he had any regrets about his pioneering work, he named just one. There was no need for him to have inserted the double slash—“//”—after the “http:” in web addresses. He’s sorry that Internet users have had to type those irrelevant extra characters so many billions of times. Let this serve as a teaching story for you, Virgo. As you create innovations in the coming weeks, be mindful of how you shape the basic features. The details you include in the beginning may endure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The sadness you feel might be the most fertile sadness you have felt in a long time. At least potentially, it has tremendous motivating power. You could

respond to it by mobilizing changes that would dramatically diminish the sadness you feel in the coming years, and also make it less likely that sadness-provoking events will come your way. So I invite you to express gratitude for your current sadness. That’s the crucial first step if you want to harness it to work wonders.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “Don’t hoot with the owls at night if you want to crow with the rooster in the morning,” advised Miss Georgia during the Miss Teen USA Pageant. Although that’s usually good counsel, it may not apply to you in the coming weeks. Why? Because your capacity for revelry will be at an all-time high, as will your ability to be energized rather than drained by your revelry. It seems you have a special temporary superpower that enables you both to have maximum fun and get a lot of work done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): During this phase of your astrological cycle, it makes sense to express more leadership. If you’re already a pretty good guide or role model, you will have the power to boost your benevolent influence to an even higher level. For inspiration, listen to educator Peter Drucker: “Leadership is not magnetic personality. That can just as well be a glib tongue. It is not ‘making friends and influencing people.’ That is flattery. Leadership is lifting a person’s vision to higher sights, raising a person’s performance to a higher standard, building a personality beyond its normal limitations.”

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): “One should always be a little improbable,” said Oscar Wilde. That’s advice I wouldn’t normally give a Capricorn. You thrive on being grounded and straightforward. But I’m making an exception now. The astrological omens compel me. So what does it mean, exactly? How might you be “improbable”? Here are suggestions to get you started. 1. Be on the lookout for inspiring ways to surprise yourself. 2. Elude any warped expectations that people have of you. 3. Be willing to change your mind. Open yourself up to evidence that contradicts your theories and beliefs. 4. Use telepathy to contact Oscar Wilde in your dreams, and ask him to help you stir up some benevolent mischief or compassionate trouble.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A modern Israeli woman named Shoshana Hadad got into trouble because of an event that occurred long before she was born. In 580 B.C., one of her male ancestors married a divorced woman, which at that time was regarded as a sin. Religious authorities decreed that as punishment, none of his descendants could ever wed a member of the Cohen tribe. But Hadad did just that, which prompted rabbis to declare her union with Masoud Cohen illegal. I bring this tale to your attention as a way to illustrate the possibility that you, too, may soon have to deal with the consequences of past events. But now that I have forewarned you, I expect you will act wisely, not rashly. You will pass a tricky test and resolve the old matter for good.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Want to live to be 100? Then be as boring as possible. That’s the conclusion of longevity researchers, as reported by the *Weekly World News*. To ensure a maximum life span, you should do nothing that excites you. You should cultivate a neutral, blah personality, and never travel far from home. JUST KIDDING! I lied. The *Weekly World News* is in fact a famous purveyor of fake news. The truth, according to my analysis of the astrological omens, is that you should be less boring in the next seven weeks than you have ever been in your life. To do so will be superb for your health, your wealth, and your future.

You can call Rob Breznsy for your Expanded Weekly Horoscope: (900) 950-7700. \$1.99 per minute. Must be 18+. Touchtone phone required. Customer service (612) 373-9785. And don’t forget to check out Rob’s website at www.realastrology.com.

The hard pear

When Vince Sterne first began brewing and selling his cider to Rubicon Brewing Co., almost exactly 21 years ago, he had no idea he would be laying the foundation for the second-oldest cidery in all of California: **Two Rivers Cider Company**. His longevity in the cider business becomes understandable once you meet him. Sterne is a man of simple taste, with a strong affinity for booze, bikes and Volkswagen buses (all of which have a home at the Two Rivers Cider tasting room). The cidery stands on the same tucked-away corner of Hollywood Park that it did upon its opening in 1996; the tasting room opened up in 2016.

How did Two Rivers Cidery get its start?

We started off making cider here. I was a bartender at the Rubicon so it was pretty easy to get the account.

How important was Rubicon Brewing in your early days of making cider?

I kept my job at the Rubicon for eight years after I started making my own cider. I bartended and made cider because I didn’t make any money. Any profits went back [into Two Rivers], so I kept my night job. That kept me very close to the industry.

I know Rubicon is in the middle of closing down...

Yeah it’s sad. Personally, it tears me up. It was my living room for the first two decades of my journey into microbrew.

Well you’ve found a way to recreate that ‘living room’ feel here at Two Rivers. Is that what you attribute your success and longevity to?

You know, this is probably the first time I’ve been profitable in 20 years. (*Laughs*.) Well, not really, but it’s always been an uphill battle.

From what I heard, even the beginning was rough.

Yeah, that first [cider] line at Rubicon got pulled almost immediately. But I’ve learned a lot since then.

Have you made any other big mistakes since then?

(*Laughs*.) Yes. There was a fresh strawberry cider that went south on me. I was too young in my cider career to know what caused the mistake. But, we do a strawberry now. I learn from a lot of my mistakes. Thank goodness I’m only making 200 gallons at a time.



LUIS GAEJ JIMENEZ

What’s your favorite cider that you’ve made?

It was one, made for a local company, called Hard Cock Cider. It was made for Cock Grease, which is a hair-product company. It consisted of a whole smoked turkey carcass.

Speaking of turkey, let’s talk about your infamous “Appetite Enhancement Thanksgiving Day Bike Ride...”

At first it was just a lawless party, and now it’s a lawless fundraiser (*Laughs*.) ... It started off with just a handful of friends, some coffee and some home brews in my backyard. Now it’s over a thousand people on bikes just cruising around town.

I know a couple that met on the ride and they are happily married now. Lives and hearts have been broken [on the bike ride]. I had a girlfriend who promised me, and kept her promise, that she would never do that bicycle ride with me again. I didn’t need her on the back of my tandem anymore (*Laughs*.) I think over the years now we’ve raised over \$100,000 for charities.

Is it different charities every year?

Yeah. A lot of times, it’s subject to current social circumstances. So last year, there was a lot of social upheaval over what was happening at Standing Rock. So we sent some money to the veterans that were supporting the protesters. One of the milestones for the “Appetite Enhancement Ride” was when we took proceeds and created the Sacramento Bike Kitchen. It is a nonprofit bicycle organization providing

inexpensive bikes for the community, classes to work on bikes and, for a minimal fee, a use of their tools to work on your own bicycles.

So who is the benefactor this year?

Well [the decision] kind of happens at that time. I think this year, I’d really like to do something here locally, in this neighborhood ... Opening the tasting room has [offered] a great opportunity to get involved with the community and support music and the arts. Oh, and bicycles. You do get a buck off.

Is that why you have opened up artist studios here in the cidery?

Oh yeah. I don’t think the building is suitable for production. I think it’s more suited to serving the music community and the arts community. [In] over half the building, the tenants are artists or craftspeople. For me, it’s a selfish way of making me feel good, [by] giving back to my community. That’s why I’m holding a four-day festival.

Is that festival to celebrate your 21st anniversary?

Well yeah, but it’s also a reason to get my friends to show up. If they can’t show up for one day, they can show up for the others (*Laughs*.) We’re going to have live music, food trucks and everything. It’s going to be fun. □

Two Rivers Cider celebrates 21 years of brewing and one year in its tasting room with a four-day party. Good food, live music and cider. Go to tworiverscider.com and click “Events.”

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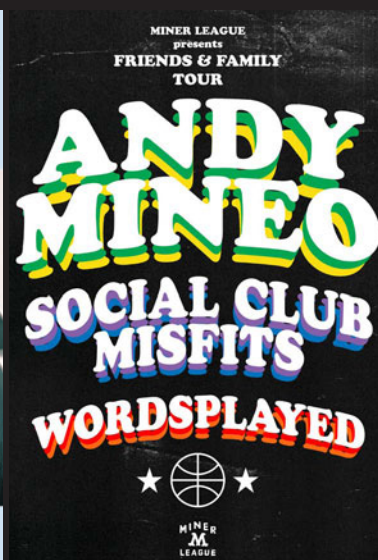
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