



Photos by Mike Taylor

Joe Craven performs Jan. 27 in Angels Camp.



Joe Craven easily gets schoolchildren up and dancing during lively presentations that are as entertaining as they are educational.

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first-year fellows and Roatta and Whitson are second-year fellows.

The Brubeck Institute was established by the University of the Pacific in 2000 to honor distinguished alumni Dave and Iola Brubeck. Its mission is to build on Brubeck's legacy and his life-

long dedication to music, creativity, education and the advancement of social issues.

He was a pioneer in the American art form known as jazz and we're sure to hear some incredible grooves when these men head up the hill to visit us.

On Jan. 27, the Joe Craven Trio performs. Craven is one heck of a

nice guy who is as eager to encourage kindergarteners to shake their little booties during incredibly fun school programs as he is to get adults to consider how their favorite forms of music might have originated. He can be whacky or studious, but he sure seems to prefer the former. And with abilities suited to more instruments than there are kilowatts streaming through those lines overhead, this show is sure to be a high-voltage treat.

The Chinyakare Ensemble comes to Calaveras on Feb. 24 to treat us to the music and dances of Zimbabwe. Like the Brubeck Institute, this group was formed in 2000. Native Zimbabwean artist, dancer and choreographer Julia Tsitsi Chigamba puts things together. "Tawanda muChinyakare" means "We are in the deep traditions of our ancestors" in ChiShona, the native language of Zimbabwe. Trust that most everything onstage will harken to Africa and the dancers will inspire with their exotic and exciting movements as musicians stir the soul.

The Felici Piano Trio troups to town on March 3, bringing high-powered performers with it. Belgian pianist Steven Vanhauwaert, German violinist Rebecca Hang and American cellist Brian Schuldt tote along an impressive array of awards and contest wins with them and their performances are known to be everything from reflective to bombastic.

To conclude the series, the Viviana Guzmán Group brings entrancing flute compositions to Angels Camp on March 17. With an intriguing mix of flute, piano, bass and drums, I imagine notes playfully dancing about the stage.

"Viviana Guzmán gave a stellar performance not only aweing the

crowd with her sublime musical talent, but also with the sensitivity and mastery in which she expressed the beauty of so many diverse cultures from around the world," raved Beverly Hills Outlook.

Season tickets are \$100 for arts council members and if you join before Jan. 13, you can get all five shows for the price of four. Non-member season tickets are \$115. Children's tickets are \$10 per show, but – thanks to the Calaveras Community Foundation – the first 150 children's tickets reserved for any of the shows are free. Single-show tickets are \$25 apiece. Call 754-1774 or visit calaverasarts.org to make your reservations.

Hats off to Genochio and the arts council for putting together another terrific series. We wouldn't have these concerts if it weren't for this organization and whether you don't know the performers or every one has an album that spins in your mind, it'll be great to come together in the New Year to hear some impressive sounds. Expand your horizons and get your tickets today; no power outage can overcome the brightness of our spirits raised in song.

Reach Mike Taylor at mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.



Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler

The winter holidays are almost over, but the wintry holiday landscape still beckons. It's been a light winter so far, but there's plenty of snow up past Pinecrest and, thanks to the winter rains, the valley boasts a beautiful, bright green cover. It's the perfect time of year for photographers, and you don't have to be a professional to enjoy it. Don Hukari, a member of the Central Sierra Arts Council Board of Directors, said photography has become more popular as

These shots shine without the cheese

photo clubs and activities in cities like Modesto appear.

"Partly because our region is so photogenic, everybody is doing photography now more and the arts council provides a venue for the best so people can compare."

Hukari heads up the arts council's InFocus photography contest, which accepts entries in the categories of Monochrome, Color and Alternative Process (which includes black and white and color manipulations). The council accepts entries via mail or in person with a \$15 fee per entry for non-members (\$10 for members) from 12 to 4 p.m. Jan. 11 and 12 at 193 S. Washington St., Sonora. Contestants can find further entry guidelines and the form at cen-

tralsierraarts.org/infocus-2.

"I wasn't involved initially," Hukari said. "We have several photographers here. Instructors were involved in starting it up and it's just continued on."

Judges Joan Bobkoff, Kim Komenich and Larry Angier – all photographers with extensive credentials and experience – will choose about 100 entries to put on display and sale from Jan. 18 to Feb. 16; a portion of sales (35 percent) goes to the arts council as a fundraiser. The council awards ribbons for honorable mention and Judge's Choice and prizes range from \$50 to \$200 to winners in each of the categories. There is

also the Charles Moore Excellence in Photography award.

"Photographer Charles Moore was involved when he lived here and pushed it," Hukari said. "Moore published a photographic book of the Mother Lode with his photography of Grass Valley all the way to

Mariposa. He certainly recognized the beauty of this area, but we get photos shot in Europe, too. Subject matter is not really important to the entries in the judging; it's based on the quality of the image and the

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InFocus Photography Exhibition

WHEN: Jan. 18 through Feb. 16; reception at 5 p.m. Jan. 26

WHERE: 193 S. Washington St., Sonora

COST: Free **MORE INFO:** centralsierraarts.org

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presentation of that.”

Hukari said the council expects upwards of 160 to 200 entries this year, the competition and exhibition’s 25th. The contest receives entries from all over California. This will be the exhibition’s last year at the Washington Street space since the council is moving to the Dome campus at 251 Barretta St.

“It’s one of those programs that has a life of its own,” Hukari said. “It’s a show that’s been one of the best that the art’s council has done and for that reason has continued on.”

Send your Tuolumne County events to Harmony Wheeler at hwheeler@sierralodestar.com and mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.



Courtesy photos

Judges carefully examine the entries in last year’s InFocus Photography Exhibition in Sonora.



Shutterbugs and their aficionados revel at the 2012 InFocus show and sale in Sonora.



Light on the path

Dean Fleming

Although the movement of the Earth’s crust still has a significant effect on California’s topography, more than 100,000 years ago, a geologic process known as plate tectonics dramatically changed the shape of California’s eastern Sierra.

According to the geologic theory of plate tectonics, enormous “plates” of the Earth’s crust are constantly moving, changing and shifting – oftentimes passing under each other where they are heated and melted by molten hot magma. Some of the Earth’s grandest features have been produced by subduction. The highest mountains on Earth – the Himalayas – and the lowest points in the United States in Death Valley can all be attributed to plate tectonics. Additionally, California’s sightseers and outdoor recreationalists have tectonic processes to thank for some amazing natural geysers, thermal vents and wildly relaxing natural hot springs.

The eastern Sierra is famous for its dramatic mountain ranges, wide open desert landscapes and, of course, its phenomenal natural hot springs. While the history of all of these features rests on topics of greatly interesting natural processes, the geologic history of the eastern Sierra’s hot springs is perhaps the most intriguing to residents and visitors alike. While many Californians are aware that hot molten magma is beneath the Earth’s crust, it is truly remarkable to witness steam and scalding hot water bubbling along the ground, heated by the very core of our planet.

While the eastern Sierra teems with natural hot springs, the most concentrated group of naturally heated pools rests near the town of Mammoth Lakes. An enormous caldera of a volcano, the Long Valley near the Mammoth Basin is perhaps the most volcanically active location in the state.

Hot tubs courtesy of Mother Nature

Approximately 760,000 years ago, the Long Valley caldera eruption was an event of cataclysmic proportions; to this day it is considered to be one of the largest volcanic eruptions the planet has ever produced.

“The volcanic eruption in the area blew out 150 cubic miles of magma (molten rock) from a depth of about 4 miles beneath the Earth’s surface. Rapidly moving flows of glowing hot ash (pyroclastic flows) covered much of east-central California and airborne ash fell as far east as Nebraska.

The Earth’s surface sank more than 1 mile into the space once occupied by the erupted magma, forming a large volcanic depression that geologists call a caldera,” according to the United States Geological Survey.

Today, the site of this magnificent natural event still gurgles with geologic activity. Living on or near such an active site can be quite disturbing to many Mammoth residents; however, the volcanism in this area does provide some breathtaking recre-

ational opportunities. As the Earth’s crust remains lower in this portion of the Sierra and hot magma continues to rise near the surface, water that runs underground from rainfall and snowmelt becomes heated by the molten lava and/or steam from under the surface of the Earth. When this heated water returns to the surface, it trickles down into manmade or natural wading pools that provide relaxing hot

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