

If you plan to attend, bring your utensils and your own plates and such; the event attempts to keep waste materials to a minimum. Space is limited, but the Mokelumne Hill Town Hall is a terrific venue for this kind of dinner.

At 7 p.m. Friday and then at 2 p.m. Saturday, those actors step up again to raise money for the Valley Springs branch of the Calaveras County Library. "Big Boy in a Little Mess or Sister Mary Get Your Gun" sounds like the perfect Prohibition melodrama, and with characters like Sister Mary O'Maudlin, Eliot Mess and Big Boy Bambino in the mix, you can be sure that there is plenty of fun to be poked at politicians and county government; it's a Valley Springs melodrama tradition, after all.

This year's script was penned by Marty Tedder, whose whole family has been part of melodramas past. As the story takes off, we find ourselves in Valley Springs during Prohibition (don't worry, the no-host bar will be open!) and some ruthless gangster types from Chicago have set their sights on the hamlet and begun to muscle their way into town. They also have gotten their grubby mitts on dear sweet Charity Bell. Surely the good sister – aided by G-man Mess – won't let the Bambino gang run roughshod over the townspeople, but can they save Charity? You'll have to see the show to learn how good triumphs over evil. I'm told Supervisor Gary Tofanelli is set to perform, but his name wasn't on the cast list I received. No word on whether he's performing shirtless like he did at Dancing With the Sierra Stars; maybe that's a silent auction item!

"Big Boy in a Little Mess or Sister Mary Get Your Gun"

WHEN: 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Veterans Memorial Hall, Daphne and Pine streets, Valley Springs

TICKETS: \$10 at the Health Habit (772-3000) or call Willene at 772-1000 or Jackie at 772-0591

The cast includes Lauren Nicole, Marty Tedder, Chris Tedder, Bill Crane, Linda Mellin, Don Urbanus, Eric Bobrycki, Anna Bobrycki, Uri Bobrycki, Josie Tedder, Jacqui Marois, Mathew Marois and Kathy Dahlberg. If you don't get a chance to see the show, get a donation to the library and make sure to thank these folks for lending their talents to the cause.

This weekend's performances feature just the show, and tickets are \$10 apiece. As a special, the Friends are offering a buy two, get one free deal. Then, on March 2, 3, 9 and 10, you can get a chicken dinner with the show for \$20. The doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:45 p.m.

I was in the melodrama the first couple of years that it was presented and it's a lot of fun to act out with friends and neighbors. It's even more fun when the audience joins in on the

excitement, adding the requisite boos and hisses and cheers along the way. Rev up your vocal chords and support the library.

And while we're thinking about the county library, mark March 24 down on the calendar and get your tickets for the Friends of the Library Trivia Bee at the San Andreas Town Hall. This is the group's 50th anniversary, so the theme is "All Things Golden." Teams of three compete for bragging rights and get to enjoy the dinner and camaraderie. Teams are

\$195, a "golden opportunity" for newcomers this year. Tickets for non-competitors are \$25 each, available at all of our Calaveras County branch libraries. Call 754-6510 to reserve a space for your team of brainiacs!

Between learning about growing good things right here in my backyard and supporting the library system, I'm sure to be in a better mood tomorrow.

Reach Mike Taylor at mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.



Bill Crane, left, Chris Tedder, Linda Mellin, Lauren Nicole and Kathy Dahlberg perform for the Valley Springs Friends of the Library through March 10.

Columbia chorus invites you to sing along

I sat through a six-hour opera last week and I enjoyed every minute the glorious music Wagner's "Götterdämmerung" offered during the live Metropolitan Opera satellite broadcast. But during my many MET HD excursions, I've noticed that I am usually the only young person in the movie theater. I take pride in the fact – as much as I take pride in saying "I've been there" when the broadcasts show the Metropolitan Opera auditorium – but it also makes me sad to see so few of the new generation interested in the arts, especially in opera.

When I posted on Facebook about my "bravery" and excitement for watching the six-hour performance, a college friend replied "#fail-Saturday." Obviously, he couldn't imagine "wasting" a perfectly good Saturday on fat ladies singing high notes. But me, oh, I see far more than the fat lady singing high notes and I enjoy the real thing as much as I enjoy the Bugs Bunny cartoons that mock her. Once you get me talking about opera, you'll have a hard time shutting me up (as, perhaps, this column is beginning to demonstrate).

Now, aside from a common classical music genre, Wagner has little to do with Schubert and Brahms. Still, as Wagner and the Metropolitan

Choral Masterpieces of the Romantic Era

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 13880 Joshua Way, Sonora

TICKETS: \$10 for adults and \$5 for 12 and under at area businesses or call 586-5965; \$12 at the door

Opera offered me the chance to experience the wonder and joy of classical music, the Columbia College Community Chorus offers you another chance to immerse yourself in music. Not rap, pop, or R&B, but the beautiful and engag-

ing music of Schubert's Mass in G and Brahms' Lieberslieder waltzes. The choir will sing these "Choral Masterpieces of the Romantic Era" with accompaniment by a string orchestra and piano duet on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Conducted by John Carter at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Sonora, the concerts will also feature dancing and sing-alongs. And it's a lot closer than the Merced and Manteca movie theaters that show the Met broadcasts.

"The audience can look forward to a wonderful mix of beautiful music, just so lively, joyful dance music, romantic music," choir member Mary Visehart said.

According to Carter, the Romantic Era (about 1800 to 1900) was a unique and expressive one.

"Some of the most beautiful choral music of all time was written then," said Carter, who has directed the chorus since 1984. "This particular theme gives us a chance to highlight that music and have a great time singing it."

The first half of the concert will feature Schubert's Mass in G with String Orchestra. Carter said the music was intended for listening and personal, reflective worship. The Brahms Liebeslieder waltzes

("Love Song" waltzes) come from the entirely different social world of the "House Concert," where performances by musicians – professional or amateur – were conducted in homes for smaller audiences than you might see in a church.

"While these waltzes were writ-

Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



ten for accomplished players, they were intended for home use by not

Continued on next page

Attorneys at Law

Probate - Trusts - Conservatorship
Estate Litigation

Alan R. Horvath



Sole Proprietor



596 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

209 754-LAW1

www.alanhorvathlaw.com

Susan J. Hibbs



Sole Proprietor

Disc golf hits the Mother Lode

On Saturday, Jan. 28, more than 30 disc golf players arrived in Twain Harte for the second annual Sierra Pines Bag-Tag, an event designed to inspire friendly competition and a sense of camaraderie among the Tuolumne County disc golf community. At the end of the event, numbered tags were pinned to participants' disc golf bags in order of each player's ranking. From that point forward – at any course, no matter what the circumstance –

players who meet each other and are seen wearing Sierra Pines course tags, play to win the lowest numbered tag. Holding onto the No. 1 tag is a privilege reserved for the best disc golfers in the region.

The Sierra Pines Disc Golf Course was created at the abandoned Sierra Pines Golf Course nearly three years ago. The makeshift course lacks professional baskets, yet it is surprisingly well maintained and organized. In fact, with no other disc golf courses in Tuolumne County, this course is quickly becoming the Sonora area's premier disc golf location. Area disc golfers help maintain the area by installing trash cans and recycling bins for the course's regular players and they have established their own course rules to keep the area clean.

Considering the nearest professional quality disc golf course is nearly 40 miles away, the amount of disc golf

players in the Sonora area easily outnumbers the designated courses available to them. The steady influx of disc golf enthusiasts to the county has surprised some, but this region isn't the only area experiencing a swell in the number of players following this new and exciting sport. According to a recent course design manual released by Innova Disc Golf Equipment, disc golf is among the fastest growing sports in the world, with between 200 and 300 new disc golf courses popping up around the globe each year. Part of this immense growth stems from the sport's accessibility, but simple and inexpensive course installation is also a major factor in disc golf's rapid expansion.

After a quick glance at online prices for professional disc golf course equipment, one quickly realizes that even the highest priced disc golf installation would cost less than \$20,000. A very nice setup could cost as little as \$7,000. As many pro-

fessional disc golf courses charge a small fee for parking, it's conceivable that the course installation could pay for itself in less than one season and might even produce a fair amount of revenue for a community.

"We added an 18-hole disc golf course in 1997," said Lyle Richardson, a park manager in Holly Springs, Miss. "We now have seniors, men, women and families who play ... and we have increased our revenue by \$15,000 per year."

With inexpensive course equipment, we might expect that course maintenance would be the largest long-term expense for a professional course. On the contrary, disc golf has such a low impact and requires so little mandatory

maintenance that the community usually steps up to the task.

"There really isn't that much maintenance involved in a disc golf course," said local disc golf enthusiast Lance Kimball. "It's a very green sport. Courses are designed around the natural lay of the land and the disc golf community has always been known to install, maintain and design their local courses."

Disc golf provides a fun and healthy way to exercise with friends

Continued on next page



Photos by Dean Fleming

Disc golfers gather in Twain Harte for the Sierra Pines Bag-Tag.



Patrick Brightman takes a shot at the Twain Harte disc golf course.

Continued from previous page

necessarily professional performers," Carter said. "Brahms knew that these pieces would be used in many homes in the more informal setting of the house concert. He also specified, in the first set (we are doing both sets), that the voice parts were 'ad lib,' which I am taking to mean there is a lot of freedom to how the voices are used."

The chorus will sing much of the music, but quartets, quadruple quartets and female and male parts will also be featured. In keeping with the spirit of the house concert, Carter said they will give the audience the chance to sing along with some popular music from the time period that is still well known. Those who choose to sing along will join just over 50 choir members.

"While they won't be 'gathering around the piano' in the actual sense, they will still be contributing to the performance and the evening's music making," Carter said. "Not only does the sing-along fit into our concert, it is a regular part of all of our concerts. With the decrease in active music making in our society and more passive music listening, our sing-alongs help encourage others to become actual music makers in our society."

If you're not much of a singer, you

can still enjoy the dancing. Ballroom dance instructor Ilene Tassano has prepared a small group of dancers who will improvise dances to five of Brahms' waltzes.

"I am teaching steps that the waltzers can incorporate as they feel the music," Tassano said. "We hope to add a sparkle of elegance to the performance."

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 12 and under at Sonora Music and the Mountain Bookshop in Sonora, the Manzanita Bookstore

at Columbia College or Murphys Music Co. in Murphys. If available, they are \$12 at the door.

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



Farms & Products

visit
www.calaverasgrown.org

WANTED

We buy Silver!

Flatware, Coins, Jewelry, Anything Silver!

Richard & Sherry Collectables

209-257-1005
Open 10-4 Closed Tues.
33 Main St., Jackson

ANGELS 6 THEATRES

Downtown Angels Camp • 736-6768

The Foothills Only All Digital Projection

NOW PLAYING

TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY (R) DLP
GHOST RIDER:
SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE 3D (PG13) DLP BIG-D
JOURNEY 2:
THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND 3D (PG) DLP
STAR WARS:
THE PHANTOM MENACE 3D (PG) DLP
THE ARTIST (PG13) DLP

HIGH BACK LOVESEATS WITH
FLIP-UP ARMRESTS
BIG WALL-TO-WALL SCREENS

JOIN US

for our
SYMPHONY IN CINEMA
Berliner Philharmoniker & Yutaka Sado
Benefit Concert for Japan
March 4, 4pm & March 5, 7pm

www.cinemawest.com

Please call theatre recording for wheelchair accessibility information. ♿