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Spring is in the air and, while a little more rain would not go amiss, there is nothing finer than to see the fields and gardens of Sonoma County in early bloom.

This issue we visit the remarkable folks at the Military Order of the Purple Heart who, years after their extraordinary service, continue to spend their days helping to raise money and providing support services for those veterans who still need a lot of help back here at home, whether they were physically wounded or continue to suffer from the ever-lingering effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. As Charles Earthman, Commander of MOPH Chapter #78, says “Everyone who has a Purple Heart has some form or some level of PTSD.”

In our Locals of Note, Chuck takes us on a tour of some of the county’s most beautiful barns, through the photographic eye of Jim Bracco who has captured an iconic symbol of our landscape in a quite beautiful way. We also remember Bill Kortum, a giant in modern North Bay history who passed away at the end of last year. Cotati, SSU, indeed the whole country might look quite different, and not in a good way, if not for the wonderful work of Bill Kortum. And we have a short piece concerning the new concrete dividers, which are literally and figuratively dividing Main Street, that seem to be a clumsy attempt at railroad safety by the folks at SMART.

We are always willing to admit our faults, as they become apparent, and so here goes. We haven’t been as good as we might have been at promoting our online presence. It comes to those of us who have reached an age certain our digital prowess and online skills don’t always come so readily. So, I encourage you to please check out the magazine online as well as our other publications at penngroveproud.com and ask your friends to visit and “Like” our Facebook page. As always, please send us your thoughts and comments by mail or at publisher@penngroveproud.com.

Lynda Sutton-Smith
Publisher
If you have ever been in Penngrove’s JavAmoré cafe, you may have noticed the beautiful framed photographs of the historic barns of Sonoma County hanging on the walls. These are the work of local photo artist Jim Bracco.

Bracco’s passion is photographing these intriguing agricultural structures that tie our present to our agrarian past with the hope that residents will judge the historical significance and intrinsic value of these architectural treasures and fight to preserve them before they melt and disappear.

Jim is a New Jersey native who grew up in rural northern New Jersey, 20 miles from New York. He found his passion for barns early in life his family successfully fought developers that were trying to convert farmland into track housing. He saved his first barn but, hopefully, not his last.

Mr. Bracco is a tech professional who came out west to follow the modern day gold rush of Silicon Valley after a stop in LA and then relocated to Sonoma County in 2003 to work in the now depleted mine of Telecom Valley. He was the director of Research and Development for a global telecommunications company until his division was spun off. Since then he has created his own consulting firm that provides business information systems for small and medium sized businesses in the North Bay.

Jim uses his photography skills to document and record the great and small barns of Sonoma County, Marin and Napa. Today many of our barns and chicken houses are in various states of distress and decay. Jim says in his book, *The Barns of Sonoma – Vanishing Rural Architecture*, that his intention is to “raise awareness for Northern California’s vanishing rural architectural legacy and promote initiatives to preserve these structures and the special character they lend to this unique region.”

“All the rest of the land is all they have left us. What else is lingering on the land to press its bristling, fading harvest in our arms? Without the barn there would be little cause to call this piece of land more than a piece of land…”

Peter Davison from Barn Fever and other poems

“My thing is creating these images to capture the beauty and charm of our historic rural structures, that are mostly under the radar of any preservation or historical groups. Hopefully my work will raise awareness and get something going to preserve the things that give the North Bay and Sonoma its uniqueness and charm. our rural heritage is gone, what will distinguish Petaluma from Van Nuys?”

Driving through the county you can see the advanced stages of decay of these once proud buildings. What would the men and women who created these structures, without power tools, hand hewn out of mighty redwoods, feel if they looked at them now? What will become of these sturdy structures fighting against the vestiges of time and weather? What
would they think of the skeletons of crumbling chicken houses amid the background of housing sprawl? And more importantly, what can be done to preserve these barns for future generations? Jim Bracco has several ideas to fight for the preservation of these once proud buildings.

A few things Jim suggests are to “use the Bodie ghost town model of ‘arrested decay’ where structures are maintained in their current state of decay but not allow it to get any worse. We must provide incentives for owners to preserve structures. Then we should identify a few unique historic properties and rehabilitate and re-purpose them as examples of what can be done. Property owners would be provided with incentives in exchange for some sort of public access or use. The Silo barn in Freestone and the Peterson barn in Petaluma are good examples.” Another example is the Crane barn that was built in 1851 and today remains a vital part of the community as a wedding and special events venue as well as the only location to sell the famous Crane melon.

Bracco suggests we should seek a “National Heritage Area” designation, “comprising the area’s resources including early wine making.” According to the NHA website, “a national heritage area is a region that has been recognized tangible way they convey the extent to which agricultural has played (and continues to play) in the development of the area.” She is of the opinion that, “barns are a tangible link to the region’s agricultural heritage that few properties convey. Their physical location and setting provide a gentle transition from rural to urban that cannot be replicated.”

Jim, his wife Melinda, and their daughter, Kelly moved from Penngrove to Rohnert Park and their seven year old is a proud Panther at Penngrove School. Jim is seeking others to join him in his quest to preserve our barns.

If you would like to join the cause or to order his book, photos or calendar please do so at: Bracco Photo-Art, PO Box 546, Penngrove, CA 94951, 707.794.9419 or info@braccophotoart.com

You may view a portfolio of his photo images at: http://www.braccophotoart.com

For further reference, see the following resources: Barn Again, National Program to Preserve Historic Farm Buildings - http://www.barnagain.org
The Barn Journal – http://www.thebarnjournal.org
The National Barn Alliance – http://www.barnalliance.org

Architectural historian and the head of the Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library, Katherine Rinehart, concurs. “Historic barns are a vital part of the Sonoma County landscape. In a very
Redwood Montessori School's annual Cookie Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2nd from 10am to noon. The Kindergarten students host the sale as part of a school project, and the money they earn goes to help different endangered animal that each student chooses and studies about (top photo). You get to eat delicious cookies and help out the animals too. On May 31st ‘Down Home Day’ will be held at the Artful Arrangements homestead in Penngrove from 10am-5:30pm. Enjoy good food, great contests, and grand prizes. There will be music in the new Homestead Amphitheater with HotGrubb performing at 11am, and the Spyrals at 2:30pm. The day begins at 10:30am with the unveiling of The Portal of Time – an art installation that you can actually “pass through!” Come on down and enjoy some old fashioned fun for the whole family (middle photo). A new coffee shop named Bash has opened on Main Street, located between Yanni’s Sausage Grill and Penngrove Hair Company. They will be serving up fresh coffee in the early hours of the day. Stop by and say hello! (bottom photo) Also look out for a new boutique that is soon to open in The Grove carrying various gift and accessory type items. An outdoor music benefit concert for SEVA in honor of Wavy Gravy’s 79th birthday will be held right up the road at Sonoma Mountain Village at the Event Center on May 17th at 3pm. Go hear four great bands - Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, Steve Kimock & Friends, the California Honeydrops and Hot Buttered Rum - and contribute to a good cause at the same time. Tickets and info at seva.org. The Penngrove Social Firemen’s yearly Truckers Ball is coming up on May 2nd. Delicious tri-tip, chicken, salad and beans will be served. There will be a silent auction with great items to bid on, so bring your appetites and your wallets! Following that on May 16th will be the Rotary Bike Ride. Have you seen any of the Penngrove Celebration signs? The signs are approximately 4’ x 4’ and they have gone missing since last years celebration. Please contact a member of the PSF if you have any info. Congratulations to Penngrove authors Gerald and Jan Haslam whose recent biography, Leon Patterson: A California Story (Devil Mountain Books, 2014) has made the cut as a finalist for the PEN/ESPN Literary Sports Writing Award. The 35th Annual Cotati Jazz Festival will be held on Sun. June 21st, Father’s Day, from 12 noon to 4 pm in La Plaza Park with lots of great music continuing afterwards in restaurants & bars throughout downtown Cotati. Come on down to “The biggest little Jazz Festival in Sonoma County!” Lots of music, vendors, food and FREE admission to the park and after shows. For more information check out www.cotatijazz.com. See you around town!
Penngrove School participated in a program called Hour of Code at the end of the year, part of a national effort supported by President Barack Obama to introduce more students to computer science and prepare them for the jobs of the future. Almost all students got a chance to try coding during the week. Tracee Mainaris’s 5th grade class got a special reward for participating - a twenty-minute video chat with Microsoft founder and computer pioneer Bill Gates. During the chat with the Penngrove students and six other classrooms from around the country, Penngrove student Silvana Sessi, got to ask Gates a question her class had prepared about how he started Microsoft. The Kindergarten playground now has its new playground equipment installed thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers who put in many hours of hard work. An exciting ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the official opening of this fun space! World Read Aloud Day was on Wednesday, March 4th and Penngrove students were very lucky to have guest readers on campus to read to them. It was PJ day as well so the students were all cozy and comfy while being read to! A Family Fun night event was also held to coincide with it including four of their favorite things - books, cookies, milk and Penngrove teachers. Mentor Me came to the last PTA meeting to share what they do with parents and how one can get involved. They are currently seeking adults in the local community to be mentors. Contact Deborah at Mentor Me at info@mentormepetaluma.org if you are interested in helping out. Penngrove’s own special Garden Guru, Marianne Barrell (4th grade teacher) started a garden program with K-6 students supported by funds from the PG&E Bright Ideas Grant. You can also visit http://penngroveelementary.org/Parents/GetInvolved/EnvironmentEducation.aspx to see how the school garden is progressing. Field trips! In a three week period, students from various classes have gone on ten different field trips! The annual West Side Relays is right around the corner. Penngrove Panthers are practicing very hard because they have to defend the FIRST place title they took last year. Thanks go out to Mr. Z. for helping everyone get ready for the BIG day!
In order to receive a Purple Heart medal you have to be a veteran who was wounded in combat. There are other prestigious awards for bravery and valor, but the Purple Heart alone recognizes that sacrifice; a sacrifice that can often remain long after the war is over. As Chapter #78 Commander Charles Earthman told me: “Being heroes was just people doing our job who ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

And who did the right thing. The Purple Heart means you looked combat in the eye and faced it down. It also mean for ill or well that you lived to remember. The original Purple Heart was established by George Washington, then the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in 1782 and was only awarded to three Revolutionary War soldiers. Although never abolished, it was not officially awarded again until chartered by an Act of Congress in 1932. Although the Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart medal for wounds suffered in combat, but the chapter's services are available for all veterans and their families.

Officially named the Military Order of the Purple Heart National Commander Thomas A. Poulter Chapter #78, the northern California chapter of combat-wounded veterans is a vital part of the Sonoma County veteran community as a whole. “Our chapter covers the coast from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border,” says Earthman who lives in Petaluma. MOPH Chapter #78 is currently comprised of 110 members, but an active group of fifteen to twenty people actively participate. The chapter has a core group that makes it one of the most active organizations in the Sonoma County veteran community; it’s involved in many programs to assist veterans and their families - scholarship programs for the families of wounded veterans, or psychological and financial assistance for returning vets to assist in their readjustment to civilian life.

There are as many as 45,000 vets altogether in Sonoma County alone, the number having increased over the last decade because of recent conflicts. Earthman served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969, seeing time in Vietnam. “I was wounded there,” he said. “That’s how I got the Purple Heart. Most of our members are Vietnam veterans, but we have a couple of Iraqi vets. Our Junior Vice Commander Paul Hoffman, who is very active, was a National Guard member who was wounded in Iraq.”

“We are a military organization chartered by Congress in 1932,” Earthman explained. “If you were wounded in combat fighting for the United States in any branch of service, you are awarded the Purple Heart. Many members have other decorations too, the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross or the Silver Star. Of course practically all the recipients of those are Purple Heart recipients because their actions required such high level of valor.”

One of the driving wheels behind the chapter’s charitable initiatives is Donation Co-ordinator, Walt Smith. “I’m not a Purple Heart recipient,” he told me recently. “I am a Navy Korean veteran, but I wasn’t wounded. I’ve been involved with several voluntary organizations and there was a need for this position. The former Commander of the Purple Heart was a friend of mine, he had worked with me on another donation program, and he felt that this would be a beneficial program for this chapter to help raise money for scholarships and various veterans needs. We provide emergency funds for homeless and destitute veterans and their families and help in their recovery,” Smith told me. “The chapter assists with utility payments, temporary housing, and nutritional needs.
In the winter, we purchase supplies for homeless veterans - tents, sleeping bags, tarps, coats, thermal underwear, gloves, scarfs, socks, etc. They have also purchased bus passes and lunch cards for VA clinics (so vets can get there) in an area that encompasses Ukiah, Lakeport and Eureka; and they also provide volunteers and financial assistance for other veteran service organizations’ programs and projects.

Through a local furniture donation program, Chapter #78 supplies furniture and household goods to newly-housed veterans. “We solicit donations, furniture, any old household items,” said Smith. “There’s a veteran who gets an apartment or a new home; if he needs anything, then we can supply him with what he needs.”

Commander Earthman acknowledges Smith’s expertise in the chapter’s Donations Program. “Walt has done some valuable service for us,” he said. “He’s a great fundraiser.”

“We haven’t done any bake sales yet,” Smith laughed, “but I do a lot of marketing which is primarily my background and

“I go to a lot of Chamber of Commerce functions and other organizations and pass out flyers, and I give a little talk about what it is that I’m looking for, not so much about the organization but just a brief description, more of a reminder.”

Smith also added “a lot of people don’t realize that a lot of cities around Sonoma County are designated Purple Heart cities. It goes before the town council, and they vote on it. Sonoma, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Windsor, Santa Rosa, they are all designated Purple Heart cities. You should be able to see some of the Purple Heart signs coming in to town.”

All the proceeds from donated furniture and other household items or any monetary donations go towards helping local veterans and combat-wounded veterans in the community; some donations of furniture and household goods are sold on consignment and proceeds from consignment sales go to help veterans in need.

Chapter #78 provides support for many hospitalized veterans. “We have purchased medical equipment for the VA Medical Center in San Francisco and for satellite clinics that the Medical Center cannot get into their budget,” Earthman told me. The chapter has also provided items of comfort for hospitalized veterans such as memory training software, entertainment equipment and video software and even hygiene items. The chapter has arranged fishing trips for hospitalized veterans; or provided wheel chairs needed. “Something that is forever a problem is PTSD,” said Earthman. “It is most prevalent with combat-wounded veterans, and any veterans that saw combat really. They were in combat and looked it right in the face, and luckily came out on the other side of it.”

The chapter has purchased medical equipment for the California Veterans Home at Yountville. We also provide emergency cash needs to residents of the Pathway Home (a treatment center for PTSD and TBI). “Laptops with memory training software that we have purchased for the VA Hospital in Palo Alto assist in the treatment of PTSD patients,” said Earthman. “Sometimes their

“They say the war has long been over but yet I live it everyday The smell of gun powder still filters through my nose while the sound of gun shots still leave a ring in my ears... “

from A Hero With A Purple Heart by Gail Doyle

Purple Heart Recipients: Larry Williams, John Logan, Mike Thompson and Matt Kamano
By now you’ve seen the yellow cement barriers that the SMART train has erected on Main Street in downtown Penngrove, Ely Road, East Railroad Avenue and along Adobe Road. The barriers are supposed to prevent drivers from driving around the gates a train is coming. However, the barriers themselves are actually causing serious safety problems for the citizens of Penngrove who are demanding that the barriers be removed from these sites.

The barriers were constructed without any consultation from residents, business owners, commuters or from the administration of Penngrove School. The barriers downtown impede traffic in both directions and if you examine the barriers you can see that they have all been hit several times. According to Fire Chief, Frank Treanor, the intersection of Main Street and Woodward presents a serious situation for emergency response vehicles turning onto Woodward Avenue from either direction. The Main Street barriers not only present a dangerous situation for emergency responders but threatens the safety of the 10,000 people who come to town to enjoy our Fourth of July parade. If one of the many horses in the parade spooks any one of the thousands of people lining the narrow street could be the victim of a tragedy. If SMART and county officials are indeed worried about safety, these barriers should be removed immediately. Kim Hanson is on the Penngrove Social Firemen’s parade committee and says, “My concern, of course, is the safety of the children and others on the side lines during the parade large vehicles and horses put them in harms way.” Because of the barriers the parade has to veer to the side of the street rather than the middle. On Ely Road the barriers lie in a low point on the road and in rain and fog they become invisible until you are directly upon them and by then it is too late. A disabled vehicle was recently spotted alongside the road with the barrier reflectors still stuck under the car. This barrier has been hit numerous times and presents a clear and present danger to our community. There are not even reflectors on this barrier making the situation even worse for drivers. The barrier on East Railroad Avenue has been hit several times and chunks of concrete have been knocked off by vehicles crashing into them. One motorcyclist hit the barriers and received injuries that may result in a lawsuit against SMART and the county.

Greg Karraker, a resident on East Railroad Avenue, gives a first hand account of the situation, “I saw the first SMART cement barriers in November. They were unpainted, poorly marked, and nearly invisible, almost as if someone had put a row of concrete blocks in the middle of a busy highway. Over the last few months, I have seen evidence of dozens of vehicle impacts with these barriers hard enough to break concrete. At least one car has rolled over. I have talked with one motorcyclist who totaled his bike and hurt himself badly. Despite all this, SMART and the CPUC still call these safe.”

Longtime Penngrove resident, attorney Bill Fishman, pointed out in the letter to CPUC, “I do not want to create the impression that SMART has been entirely unresponsive to our complaints or to the multiple accidents that have already occurred involving the nearly invisible medians. They have responded horribly by painting the medians bright yellow and by erecting garish lines of three-foot high ‘candle’ reflectors that might be suitable at the entrance of a large urban airport but which do not belong on the main street of a small semi-rural town.”

If SMART is indeed concerned about safety they should take a look at pedestrian crossings at the tracks. This is the only way for our school children to get to Penngrove School from downtown. As it is now, the children have to walk out into the edge of the street to cross the tracks presenting a clear and present danger to our children.
also poses problems to people with physical challenges and may be in violation of the Americans with Disability Act. There are no pedestrian gates proposed. Our children will be on their own to navigate this dangerous train crossing while having to navigate oncoming traffic in the street.

On Adobe Road near Old Redwood Highway the barriers restrict access and egress to Matsons Lane and again are not visible to oncoming motorists. The Penngrove community was never consulted about becoming a ‘quiet zone’ and the manner in which they were installed without comment or consultation has rankled many Penngrovians and has led them to take action. A petition to have the barriers removed has been circulating and in a very few “man/women hours” over 200 signatures were compiled and will be presented to the SMART Board and the California Public Utilities Commission.

In their attempt to provide safety, the SMART Board and managers are in actuality creating a much more dangerous situation for the citizens of Penngrove than the proposed cure. These intrusive and dangerous cement barriers should be removed, and the ‘quiet zone’ designation changed for our area, including at these above crossings; and the Penngrove community should be consulted as to future efforts to safeguard SMART crossings in our area.

Earthman describes the clinic called VetConnect, held every Tuesday at the Santa Rosa Veteran’s Building and the clinics held once a month in Petaluma and Ukiah and other northern California locations. “You walk in the door,” he says “and they have a triage. They take care of you from the ground up, they have legal services, everything.”

“We have no paid staff,” Earthman says, “but our work is truly from the heart.”

As donation co-ordinator, Smith says “I would like to encourage people to consider donating household items - furniture, kitchenware, garden tools, anything that can help a veteran.”

“We also need cars and trucks and that sort of thing,” he added. “I tell you what, I have the utmost respect for what they’ve gone through. I admire them all, they’re just a great bunch of fellows. And I’m just happy here to do what I’m doing; we don’t get paid, none of us, we’re all volunteers, but you know it’s a labor of love.”

To make a furniture or household goods donation contact: Walt Smith, Donation Coordinator at 707.479.7356 or send him an email at: waltscar@sonic.net or at: vets@purpleheart78.org.
### Farm, Feed & Nursery
- **Darling Farms**, 7000 Petaluma Hill Rd, 774-5754
- **Friselle Enos Feeds**, 10035 Main Street, 992-0144
- **Larsen’s Feed & Pet Supply Center**, 7400 Gravenstein Hwy, 795-4106
- **Palace of Fruit**, 8 N. Ely Rd, 795-5311
- **Penngrove Growers Nursery**, 9740 Old Redwood Hwy, 795-4043

### Food
- **Bud’s Custom Meats**, 7750 Petaluma Hill Rd, 795-8412
- **Full Circle Baking Co.**, The Grove, Main St, Ste 120, 794-9445
- **I Scream Cafe**, 8252 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati, 242-6359
- **Mama Baretta**, www.mamabaretta.com, 292-8958
- **Oliver’s Market**, 545 East Cotati Ave, Cotati, 795-9501
- **Penngrove Market**, 230 Main St, 795-3232

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- **Sophie Makes It Simple**, www.sophimakesitsimple.com, 971-9257
- **SRL Travel**, Steve Ladeck, 510-773-6303
- **STS Transportation**, 795-761
- **State Farm Insurance**, Tony Maestri, 585-9931
- **Stony Point Rock Quarry**, 7171 Stony Point Rd, Cotati, 795-1775
- **Tweten Graphic Design**, 799-8427
- **Valkyrie Tattoo**, 10002 Main St., 794-9390

### Taking Care Of Your Little Ones
- **Davis Publishing/Artful Arrangements**, 205 Orchard Ln, 664-8656
- **Double K Designs**, 5701 Old Redwood Hwy, Ste A, 792-2673
- **Exchange Bank**, 590-A East Cotati Avenue Cotati, 792-4990

### Learning
- **Bauman College**, The Grove, 10151 Main St, 794-1284
- **Building Blocks Pre-School**, 228 Adobe Rd, 792-2280
- **Mahakaruna Buddhist Center**, 9591 Main St. www.meditateincal.org
- **Redwood Montessori School**, 11201 Main St., 665-9830

### Pets and Vets
- **La Plaza Vet**, 60 W. Cotati Ave, Cotati, 794-1299
- **Paws Grooming Salon**, 7981 Old Redwood Hwy, Ste G, 792-4451
- **Penngrove Pets**, 10035 Main St, 795-2275
- **Wagonertail Dog Spa**, 242-3210

### Shopping
- **Passanisi’s Home & Garden Store**, 10070 Main St, 793-0100
- **Penngrove Station**, 11790 Main St, Penngrove
- **Stones Throw Gift Shop**, 15 Charles St, Cotati 242-6669
- **The Grove Plaza**, 10101 Main St., 479-4544

*The “**” indicates advertisers in this issue. Addresses are in Penngrove unless otherwise noted.*
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Rockin’ Reviews

Kevin Russell - Versatile multi-instrumentalist and vocalist

“Music is the most elegant, refined expression of what it is to be human.” Those are the words of Kevin Russell, journeyman vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, whose varied styles are popularly called Americana: the intersection of bluegrass, country rock classic country, folk, Western swing and blues.

Russell, a Seattle native born in 1952, lived with his parents in the South for five years, where his musical journey began with what he calls “hard-core, real-deal country music,” what Merle Haggard described as “white man’s blues,” Russell says. An Elvis record grabbed him “like a bolt of lightning,” but after discovering bluegrass in college, “It was all over. Bluegrass musicians are the Olympic athletes of country music.”

Russell arrived in Sonoma County in 1978. Currently a member of several bands, he says different kinds of music represent different parts of himself. This versatility allows him to avoid getting stuck playing one style. He started on bongos in his first band, and is adept on mandolin, Dobro and banjo. Guitar is his favorite, but “my primary instrument is my voice. There’s not much that’s more fun than singing a song well.”

Russell also promotes shows, often by connecting touring musicians with local venues, especially the Sebastopol Community Center, with whom he has an “arrangement.” He originated the idea for the annual Sebastopol Guitar Festival there. “I’m the guy who puts it together,” he says. That includes the nitty-gritty stuff like setting up the stage, chairs, and the P.A. system, and selling tickets. “I’m trying to create a scene where people can have that feeling of excitement and discovery.”

For four years, on KRCB, Russell had a show, “Down from the Mountain,” something he’d like to do again when his performing schedule slows down.

You can listen to him at home on his latest release “Plain Dirt Fashion,” part of a large collection of his CDs, one of which was Grammy-nominated in 2008, or catch him regularly at county hotspots like the Twin Oaks Tavern, Redwood Café, and Lagunitas Brewing Company. Upcoming is a May show with his dance band, the Rhythm Rangers, at the Occidental Center for the Arts.

Contribution by Robert Feuer
www.SonomaCountyGazette.com (Abridged)
Local Live Listings

- Saturday, May 2 - The THUGZ - RED
- Sunday, May 3 - Santa Rosa Symphony Monumental Mahler - GMC
- Friday, May 8-10 - City Ballet presents Don Quixote - SPAC
- Friday, May 8 - HotGrubb - TOT
- Friday, May 8 - Stand Up Comedy - RED
- Saturday, May 9 - Oliver's KRSH Real Music Party - RED
- Saturday, May 9 - The Teleblasters - TOT
- Friday, May 15 - A Raging Acoustic Evening with the String Rays - RED
- Sunday, May 17 - Sergio and Odair Assad - GMC
- Friday, May 22 - June 7 - Singin' in the Rain - SPAC
- Friday, May 22 - Blue Rock Country Club Band - TOT
- Saturday, May 23 - Coyote Club - RED
- Saturday, May 23 & Sunday, May 24 - Eric Lindell & Co. - TOT
- Friday, May 8-10 - City Ballet presents Don Quixote - SPAC
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- Saturday, May 23 - Coyote Club - RED
- Saturday, May 23 & Sunday, May 24 - Eric Lindell & Co. - TOT

Continuing Events

So Co Blues Society - Wednesdays, 7:30 - SALLY T
The Laughing Tomato Comedy Show
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 8-9:30pm - SALLY T
Blues and BBQ - Sundays, 5pm - TOT
Karaoke Party - Thursdays, 8pm - TOT
Open Mic - Every Thursday - 6-7:30pm, sign up, 7pm, start - RED Friday Nights
Live - Local Rock, Blues, and Jazz artists.
Friday Nights, 8pm, SALLY T
Beer Garden Events – Fri & Sat. 4pm – 8pm, RED
Stand Up Comedy - 2nd Fridays of the month, 8:30pm, RED

Tantalizing Tastes

The Redwood Cafe has been around for many years and has garnered a loyal following for its food and its music. It is a community center in a way, hosting a wide variety of music and art events; the staff are friendly and the service is great. Order at the counter and the food appears at your table soon after; and breakfast is served all day. Can't beat that you're craving pancakes and bacon at three in the afternoon.

If you would rather have French toast, then do yourself a favor and try the cinnamon version, delicious! Beverages range from organic coffee or tea to smoothies and juice, plus they serve a wide variety of beer and wine inside and in their new beer & wine garden which has a daily Happy Hour with drink and food specials - wings, sliders, calamari and truffle fries! The full menu includes healthy, homemade sandwiches, soups and salads, as well as fish and chips, pasta, chicken and veggies. And if you're not full yet, try the desserts made by the Undercover Baking Agency. The Redwood is a huge supporter of local artists and musicians, with different genres from folk, country, reggae, rock and blues, performing many nights of the week, along with poetry readings, art showings and belly dancing. Come and join this eclectic community - it’s sure to be a fun outing! 8240 Old Redwood Highway, Cotati. www.redwoodcafe.com.

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CUSTOM MEATS

 PENNGROVE PROUD
Java moré Café
This is what a local coffee shop should be! Kim and her friendly staff offer a wide variety of quality coffees, teas and pastries, along with a full breakfast menu on weekends, including Eggs Benedict. Lunch sandwiches, soups and salads are also available in a warm and inviting space. Catering services offered.

Yanni’s Sausage Grill
Tucked away behind the orange door is sausage paradise. Eight traditional, but original flavors are made, some on-site and they are fabulous. They feature a flavor of the month sausage. Check out their Facebook page to see which one it is now. All served on a grilled roll with your choice of toppings. Plus beef burgers, garlic & Greek fries & frozen 4-packs of sausages to go.

Lagunitas Brewery
Just over the Penngrove line on the edge of north Petaluma, this renowned local brewery has grown into a North Bay legend, thanks to its fine ales, and its live music by local & top-line artists. Offering sandwiches, snacks and special-release brews you won’t find on any shelves.

Penngrove Pub
A local neighborhood pub, with a big screen TV, free pool Sunday & Monday, Darts, and Happy Hour on Monday evenings. Full bar, plus tap and bottled beer. Live music on the weekends. Food delivery available through Yanni’s Sausage Grill next door.

Full Circle Baking Co.
The family-run Full Circle Bakery has been baking bread since 2004. Recently taken over by Josh, the long-time manager, and his wife Elizabeth, they continue to carry on a family tradition, bringing years of expertise to all of their delicious, handmade artisan breads and rolls.

Twin Oaks Tavern
An old time local gathering spot, with great lunch service, delicious sandwiches and burgers along with homemade pasta, potato, green salads and daily specials. Dinner served 6-8pm with BBQ on the weekend. Check out their newly remodeled patio! Cold beer on tap and bottled, as well as a full bar. Pool and sports TV. Lots of live music happening.

Marvin’s of Cotati
A warm and welcoming, longtime family-run business serving up fresh, homemade dishes for breakfast and lunch, seven-days-a-week, and always with a smile. Don’t miss their tasty Chile Relleno omelets and eggs Benedict, delicious and served all day! A favorite gathering spot for families and local groups.

Redwood Cafe
The Redwood Cafe has been a Cotati favorite for 20 years, offering an excellent breakfast, including the popular Cinnamon French Toast, brunch and dinner in a kid friendly atmosphere. They host many live music and art events, and the new beer and wine garden has opened with a Happy Hour menu served Mon-Fri, 3-6pm.

Caprara’s Pizzeria
Enjoy a tasty lunch or dinner with a choice of indoor or outdoor seating. As well as their excellent signature pizza (also available in Take n’ Bake), Caprara’s serves up a delightful assortment of homemade pasta dishes, sandwiches and salads, plus soft drinks, beer and wine. Delivery available for lunch and dinnertimes.

SuperBurger
If you want a big, juicy burger or chicken sandwich with fries or onion rings, and an old-fashioned milkshake, then this is the place for you. Good selection of cold beer, wine and soft drinks. Casual dining in or take-out.

Mack’s Bar & Grill
A neighborhood bar and grill on Main Street with a friendly atmosphere. Serving up cold beer, on-tap and bottled, mixed drinks and a full food menu, available in the Grill or at the bar, for lunch and dinner. Live music Friday nights.

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Did you know that 4-H is about more than raising animals and showing them at the County Fair? In our club we learn how to give presentations, like eight-year old Joey presenting a demonstration on campfire safety. Joey is part of the Outdoor Adventure group that learns skills like hiking safety and beginning archery. 4-H provides our youth the opportunity to learn the importance of public speaking, how to organize and present a speech, demonstration or educational display. Our club also has a Share the Fun Skit project. This year we performed Alice in Cloverland with characters like the Mad Holstein, White Rabbit and the Queen of Clovers. Our group placed Gold at our county Presentation Day and at the end of March we will be presenting our Skit at UC Davis to represent Penngrove and Sonoma County at the North Sectional Field Day. Our members helped write the script, build props and costumes and learned how to perform in front of an audience. They learned the importance of commitment and working together as a group. By teaching our youth how to give presentations they discover an important component of leadership development; it increases their self-esteem, self confidence, and ability to accept feedback and expands their skills for planning, preparation and performance. All of which will help them in school, future careers and social relationships. 4-H is just not about showing and raising animals; at its heart, it is about developing and growing our youth.
In the neighborhood

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Photo courtesy of Cotati Historical Society
Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2013, the city of Cotati is known as “The Hub of Sonoma County.” Local businesses like Carl’s Auto Body Shop and Arch’s Glass themselves turned 50 last year and Miller Driving School reaches the landmark this year. If any readers know of other long-term Cotati businesses, please let us know. Cotati is home to a lively mix of old and new, from rustic barns and historic churches, to a world-renowned Accordion Festival and the new Green Music Center on the campus of Sonoma State University, offering world-class performers in music and the arts. Downtown is an eclectic and friendly assortment of restaurants, shops and services, surrounding one of only two hexagonally designed town plazas in the United States.
On December 19, 2014, Bill Kortum DVM, peacefully passed away in his sleep surrounded by family and friends. Bill was a prominent figure in the California environmental movement and local politics since the '60's. His dedication and influence will be remembered by generations that follow. Penngrove Proud ran a two-part feature article on the history of the Kortum family that was adapted by Katie Watts and reprinted in the Petaluma Argus and the Santa Rosa Press Democrat and from which the piece below is excerpted. A memorial was held at Sally Tomatoes on January 24, 2015 that saw more than 500 people come to pay their respects to Bill. Bill is survived by his wife Lucy and their three children, Frank, Julie and Sam and five grandchildren.

If you live in Sonoma County there is one family that has impacted our lives for the better: Bill Kortum, his wife Lucy and the Kortum clan have been vital to the quality of life that makes Sonoma County a pearl in the world's oyster. If not for the Kortums, we might not be able to walk the state's coastline. We could have a nuclear power plant built on top of the San Andreas Fault at one of the most beautiful coastal spots in the world. We could be drinking radioactive Iodine 131 in our milk. Sonoma State University would be located somewhere. Cotati would have been absorbed into Rohnert Park; Penngrove could be a shopping mall or subdivision.

Bill served with the Army Veterinary Corps for two years, interned in Petaluma, then opened a practice in Cotati in 1957. The Cotati Veterinary Hospital catered to all animals: from cows, horses, snakes and dogs to lions. He became president of the Cotati Chamber of Commerce. Cotati was unincorporated at the time and one of his first civic projects turned an empty field into La Plaza Park. He was also on the school board and a founder of the city of Cotati.

PG&E decided the Bodega Headlands would be a perfect location for a nuclear plant in 1960, they hadn't counted on the Kortums. Bill was concerned about the effects of leaking, wind-borne radiation on pastures: that cows would eat the grass and the by-product of the radiation, Iodine 131, would enter their milk. He led the fight and PG&E, the PUC and the state of California backed down. In 1963 a plan for Sea Ranch meant more than ten miles of pristine coastline would have become inaccessible to the public. At that time, of California's 1,300 mile coastline, only 100 miles were open to the public. Bill was asked to organize a commission for the coast. He gathered a coalition of groups to form the California Coastal Commission that morphed into the California Coastal Alliance. And Governor Pat Brown floated the idea that Highway 1 from Santa Barbara to Oregon become a scenic highway. Bill was appointed to the Sonoma County Committee to help find the funds to create the 3,000-acre Salt Point State Park.

The Kortum family has been involved in the fight for the county's open space initiatives, creation of Sonoma County Conservation Action and establishment of urban growth boundaries that are now the model across the country to limit sprawl. Twenty years ago, he planted the seeds of support for the SMART rail system, seeds that are now bearing fruit.
**PENNGROVE**

~ **MARCH~**

**Improve your luck at Artful Arrangements - 22nd.**
10am-Noon: Find out the traits "lucky" people share.
205 Orchard Lane, Penngrove, Call Diane at 664-8656
$10/person, refreshments included. www.artfularrangements.org

~ **APRIL~**

**Plant Veggie Seeds in 6-Packs at Artful Arrangements - 19th.**
10am-Noon: Get a jump-start on Spring, have plants ready to go.
205 Orchard Lane, Penngrove, Call Diane at 664-8656
$10 each, refreshments/materials included. www.artfularrangements.org

~ **MAY~**

**Select a Succulent to Plant at Artful Arrangements - 24th.**
10am-Noon: Pick a fun house plant that's easy to care for.
205 Orchard Lane, Penngrove, Call Diane at 664-8656
$10 each, refreshments/materials included. www.artfularrangements.org

**Down Home Day at Artful Arrangements Homestead - 31st**
10am-5:30pm: Good food, great contests, and grand prizes.
In the NEW Homestead Amphitheater: HotGrubb at 11am,
The Spyralites at 2:30pm. The unveiling of The Portal of Time –
an art installation at you can pass through 10:30am
FREE - 205 Orchard Lane, Penngrove, Call Diane at 664-8656

~ **CONTINUING EVENTS~**

**Music & Arts at Redwood Cafe**
8240 Old Redwood Hwy. Cotati, Call 707-795-7868
or check www.redwoodcafe.com for this month's listings
Check out our 'Live Listings' section on page 14 for more info

**Live Music at Twin Oaks Tavern**
5745 Old Redwood Hwy. Cotati, Call 707-795-5118
or check www.twinoakstavern.com for this month's listings
Check out our 'Live Listings' section starting on page 14 for more info

Send Event Listings to Penngrove Proud, POB 553, Penngrove, CA 94951 or editor@penngroveproud.com
Mother Knows Best

Her hands
Her hands held me gently from the day
I took my first breath.
Her hands helped to guide me as
I took my first step.
Her hands held me close the tears
would start to fall.
Her hands were quick to show me that she
would take care of it all.

Her hands were there to brush my hair,
or straighten a wayward bow.
Her hands were often there to comfort the
hurts that didn’t always show.
Her hands helped hold the stars in place,
and encouraged me to reach.
Her hands would clap and cheer and praise I
captured them at length.

Her hands are now twisting with age
and years of work,
Her hand now needs my gentle touch
to rub away the hurt.
Her hands are more beautiful than
anything can be.
Her hands are the reason I am me.

---

Classic Mac & Cheese

Her hands held me gently from the day
I took my first breath.
Her hands helped to guide me as
I took my first step.
Her hands held me close the tears
would start to fall.
Her hands were quick to show me that she
would take care of it all.

Her hands were there to brush my hair,
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Her hands are now twisting with age
and years of work,
Her hand now needs my gentle touch
to rub away the hurt.
Her hands are more beautiful than
anything can be.
Her hands are the reason I am me.

Ingredients:
- 8oz elbow macaroni
- 2 tbls. butter
- 2 tbls. all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 12oz. sharp Cheddar cheese,
  shredded and divided

Preparation:
1. Prepare pasta according to package
directions. Keep warm.
2. Melt butter in a large saucepan; whisk in
   flour until smooth. Cook, whisking constantly,
   for 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in milk for 5
   minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat.
   Stir in salt, black and red pepper, 1-1/2 cups
   shredded cheese, and cooked pasta.
3. Spoon pasta mixture into a lightly greased
   2-qt. baking dish; top with remaining 1 cup
   cheese.
4. Bake at 400° for 20 minutes or until bub-
   bly. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.
Yield: 4-6 servings

---

~ Household Tips ~

♦ Newspaper to keep weeds away - Put it in your plants,
work the nutrients into your soil. Wet newspapers, put
layers around the plants overlapping as you go.
Cover with mulch and forget about weeds.

♦ Broken glass pick up - Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip
to pick up the small shards of glass you can’t see easily.

♦ No More Mosquitoes - Place a dryer sheet in your
   pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.

♦ Squirrel Away! - To keep squirrels from eating your
   plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The
   cayenne pepper doesn’t hurt the plant and the squirrels
   won’t come near it.

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To help support our schools, I donate $500 of every sale to a local K-12 school of your choice at the close of escrow.

Most of the donations we receive at Penngrove are allocated for a specific program, event, or purpose. However, this year, thanks to Rob, we have received TWO donations in the amount of $500 each! This has allowed us to provide several special opportunities for students and families that we wouldn’t normally be able to provide. We are truly grateful for Rob’s partnership with Penngrove Elementary School!

-Amy Fadeji, Principal of Penngrove Elementary School