SPORTS, B4: Vacaville dumps Del Oro, 11-4, captures SJS Division II title

Daily Republic
Diversions

Friday, May 24, 2019 SECTION B

#Woke and Broke Comedy Tour stops at Downtown Theatre

Amy Maginnis-Honey
AMAGINNIS@DAILYREPUBLIC.NET

FAIRFIELD — Ron Bello, one of three comics featured on the #Woke and Broke Tour, hit the comedy stage for the first time in August 2018.

He's just kept running.

Bello, who is an estimator at Mike's Auto Body in Fairfield, estimates he's done more than a dozen gigs since his debut.

Among them was a comedy competition at Sally Tomatoes in Rohnert Park. Bello finished first.

He teamed up in February with Hugo Gutierrez and Hank Hardister for the first #Woke and Broke Tour gig at Lucky Penny in Napa.

The trio had been working the same open mic nights and became friends when Gutierrez suggested the tour.

"I could not believe the show sold out so quickly," Bello said. "We got good responses."

Each comic has about 20 minutes of stage time before coming together at the end to "make fun of each other and the jokes each other said" and talk to the audience. The show runs about 90 minutes, with an intermission, so some libation can be enjoyed.

"We are not funny sober," Bello said.

The married father of two adult children, Bello

See Tour, Page B2

COMEDY

Preview

#Woke and Broke Comedy Tour
8 p.m. June 1
Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St., Fairfield
www.downtoWntheatre.com

This week

THINGS TO DO

Fairfield

4 p.m. Friday
Rhythm Method 4
Wooden Valley Winery, 4756 Suisun Valley Road. 864-0730.

7 p.m. Friday
United States Air Force Band of the Golden West
Solano Performing Arts Center, Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road. www.solano.educ/theater.

7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 and 6 p.m. Sunday
'101 Dalmatians'
Downtown Theatre, 1035 Texas St. www.downtowntheatre.com.

2 p.m. Saturday
5 O'Clock Somewhere
Seven Artisans Winery, 4341 Abernathy Road. 771-0911.

6:30 p.m. Saturday
Joyce Grant
Sticky Rice, 5030 Business Center Drive. www.stickyricebistro.com.

4 p.m. Sunday
Rhythm Method 4
Seven Artisans Winery, 4341 Abernathy Road. 771-0911.

3 p.m. Thursday
Fairfield Farmers Market and Thursday on the Green
Jefferson and Texas streets. www.fairfieldmainstreet.com.

6 p.m. Thursday
Paul Fela
Mankas Steakhouse, 2522 Mankas Corner Road. mankassteakhouse.com.

Suisun City

9 p.m. Friday
Chicago Steppin' DJs
The Lounge, 700 Main St., Suite 106. www.thelounge suisun.com.

9 p.m. Saturday
Momma Dee
The Lounge, 700 Main St., Suite 106. www.thelounge suisun.com.

Vacaville

6 p.m. Friday
Danc-Sing Stars
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

6:30 p.m. Friday
5 O'Clock Somewhere
Fuso, 535A Main St. www.fusoitalian.com.

8 p.m. Friday
Comedy Crack-Up
Theatre DeVille, 308 Main St. www.theatredeville.com.

8:15 p.m. Friday
Skynnyn Lynnyrd
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

9 p.m. Friday
Johnny Favorite
Stars Recreation Center, 155 Browns Valley Parkway. 455-7827.

8 a.m. Saturday
Vacaville Farmers Market
Creekwalk Plaza at Andrews Park. www.vacavillefarmers market.com.

11 a.m. Saturday
Rhythm Method 4
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

1:15 p.m. Saturday
The Jackson Stone Band
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

3:45 p.m. Saturday
Hey Jude
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

6:15 p.m. Saturday
Time Bandits
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

7:30 p.m. Saturday, 3 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday
Gaslighters' Melodrama
Saturday Club, 125 W. Kendal St. www.vacavillegaslighters.com.

8 p.m. Saturday
Magic Showdown
Theatre DeVille, 308 Main St. www.theatredeville.com.

9 p.m. Saturday
David Landon
Vacaville Rock & Brews, 220 Nut Tree Parkway. www. rockandbrews.com/vacaville.

9 p.m. Saturday
Two20Band
Stars Recreation Center, 155 Browns Valley Parkway. 455-7827.

12:15 p.m. Sunday
Groupo
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

2 p.m. Sunday
Perrones
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

4:15 p.m. Sunday
Alerta Maxima
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

5:45 p.m. Sunday
Banda La Nueva Era
Andrews Park, 614 W. Monte Vista Ave. www.fiestadays.org.

8 p.m. Thursday
Hunks The Show
Theatre DeVille, 308 Main St. www.theatredeville.com.

Courtesy photos

Ron Jackson has combined his love for writing and history in books. His latest centers on a clandestine boxing match in Benicia that went 27 rounds.

HISTORIC MATCH

Vaca native pens story of 1889 bout on barge docked in Benicia

Preview

Ron Jackson book signing
11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 1
Union Hotel, 401 First St., Benicia

Amy Maginnis-Honey
AMAGINNIS@DAILYREPUBLIC.NET

Long before Muhammad Ali and George Foreman stepped into the boxing ring, Solano County made history with the Battle on the Barge.

The 1889 fight went 27 rounds, getting underway shortly after 7 a.m.

One hundred and thirty years later, Vacaville native Ron Jackson tells the tale of San Francisco rivals "Gentleman" Jim Corbett and Joe Choynski who fought on a barge anchored in Benicia's Southampton Bay.

Jackson left California in 1997, settling in Oklahoma. He returns June 1 to sign copies of his book at the Union Hotel in Benicia.

He was a teen sports fan when someone mentioned the historic match.

"My curiosity was piqued at that moment," Jackson said.

After graduating high school in 1985, Jackson went to work for the Vacaville Reporter, covering sports.

"At 19, I was walking into major league clubhouses as a cub reporter," Jackson said. "I got experience on the job. I was doing what college kids could only dream of."

He attended college and earned his bachelor's degree with a history major and journalism minor.

"Fight To The Finish" is the accumulation of four years of research. He examined archival records,

See Bout, Page B3

Singer-songwriter brings tunes to life with 12-string guitar

Courtesy photo

Glenn Lowe makes his home in Benicia where he performs regularly.

Amy Maginnis-Honey
AMAGINNIS@DAILYREPUBLIC.NET

FAIRFIELD — Singer-songwriter Glenn Lowe grew up admiring his dad's 1938 Gibson 12-string guitar and his 78 rpm record collection.

"I would flip through those, reading them," he said of the records. "I can still see it in my mind."

Among them are Sun Records, Johnny Cash and The Everly Brothers recordings, to name a few.

Lowe started playing guitar when he was 10.

"I used to not have a social life in high school," he said. "I used to listen to records and play them by ear. I never learned to read music."

Leo Kottke was a favorite, and Lowe garnered a lot of musical skills listening to Kottke.

Lowe relocated to Benicia from the Silicon Valley about five years ago.

"I was in the tech business and wanted to get away," he said.

He began performing about a year ago at The Rellik Tavern, where he hosts a monthly open mic, and First Street Cafe. He fell in love with the downtown and penned a song, "Little Downtown," that

See Tunes, Page B3

Lucky Penny wraps up 10th season with 'Cabaret'

DAILY REPUBLIC STAFF
DRNEWS@DAILYREPUBLIC.NET

NAPA — Lucky Penny Productions is closing its 10th season with the musical, "Cabaret."

The show opens May 31 and ends June 16.

"Cabaret" came to Broadway in 1966. The musical is based on John Van Druten's 1951 play, "I Am a Camera," which was adapted from the 1939 short novel, "Goodbye to Berlin," by Christopher Isherwood.

Set in the Kit Kat Club in 1931 Berlin, the story involves a young American writer, Cliff Bradshaw, who develops a relationship with an English cabaret performer, Sally Bowles, while ominous political developments loom over the libertine world of late Weimar Germany.

Courtesy photo

Lucky Penny Productions will present "Cabaret" from May 31 to June 16.

The 1966 original Broadway production became a major hit, inspiring a London run and the 1972 Bob Fosse film, which made Liza Minnelli a star.

The Lucky Penny show features many of the dancers from Lucky Penny's award-winning production of "Chicago" under the guidance of resident choreographer Staci Arriaga.

Longtime Bay Area director and performer Ken Sonkin is the stage director, working with resident music director Craig Burdette.

Leading the cast are Brian Watson, winner of the Arty Award for his performance in Lucky Penny's "Hands on a Hardbody," as the master of ceremonies, with Ashley Garlick as Sally Bowles.

Also in the cast are Tim Setzer, Karen Pinomaki, Ryan Hook, F. James Raasch and Andrea Dennison-Laufer.

The ensemble includes Jenny Angell, Marjory Harper, Kirstin Pieschke, Melissa Martinez, Danielle Tortolani, Jenny Veilleux, Alex Gomez, Danny Quezada, Michael David Smith and Barry Martin.

All performances are at the Penny Community Arts Center, 1758 Industrial Way, in Napa.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.luckypennynapa.com or by calling 266-6305.

Tunes

From Page B1

features clips of Benicia.

His girlfriend ran the camera as he walked up and down First Street at night. It's done in black and white.

"In the 1950s it was black and white (video)," he said.

"Little Downtown" is his latest album. It's described as a "romantic take on small-town America." The tunes combine traditional ballads with light jazz elements, with the goal of a vibe reminiscent of Joe Jackson and Bruce Hornsby combined with more contemporary influences such as Damien Rice and Ed Sheeran.

"I'm a pretty introspective guy," he said. "I hear melodies pop into my head. Some like to write lyrics first then add music. I start playing the melody and star humming a little. That hum may turn into words."

His signature song is "Highway 1," which was inspired by being in the middle of Texas with no water and a wish he was heading down the California coastline.

"Pain is always a good motivator," he said of songwriting inspiration. "Or a desire to be in a certain place. I like to be positive."

A good song, Lowe said, is one he can play in front of someone with one guitar and one vocal.

"People like a song in its most simple form," he said.

Lowe is expanding into Napa and East Bay venues and hopes to play gigs in the Fairfield and Vacaville area.

Prior to that, Lowe may change the band name. The official name is the Glenn Lowe Trio.

He's often called the "Highway 1" guy and is contemplating a switch to match the song title.

His shows vary from 50 to 75 percent original tunes, depending on the crowd. There is also some discussion about whose song is "Highway 1."

People have argued in front of him whether "Highway 1" is a cover or an original tune. In one instance, five out of six said it was a cover. The sixth person knew it was a Lowe original.

"The one guy who knew it was the saxophone player's brother," Lowe said.

Lowe's influences also include Motown music, 1970s rock, 1980s pop, Train, The Wallflowers, David Gray, Leon Bridges, Pharrell Williams and John Mayer.

MUSIC

Preview

Glenn Lowe

7 p.m. Monday, Rebel Vintners, 1201 First St., Napa

7 p.m. Wednesday, The Rellik Tavern, 726 First St., Benicia

www.glennlowe.com

Bout

From Page B1

autobiographies, old newspapers, maps and variety of eyewitness accounts.

"Nothing is made up," Jackson said. "You have to stay within the bounds of evidence. You can't stray to nonfiction.

"I am very meticulous with how far I go to look through the blurry lens of history. It's never going to be perfect but you get as close to the truth as you can."

Jackson learned all he could about the two boxers, including that they grew up a mile apart in San Francisco and represented rival boxing clubs.

"There was a real strong undercurrent of ethnic pride," he said. "An Irish man versus a Jew. I don't think the fighters felt that way because Choynski's best friend was Irish."

Later this year, Jackson will release "Bebes and the Bear." The story centers on the 1968 Cotton Bowl where Gene Stallings delivered an upset over the team of his lifetime mentor, Paul "Bear" Bryant.

He's already at work on his next book, "The Ride," about Warren "Freckles" Brown, an American rodeo performer who completed for almost 40 years.

Jackson's love of history surfaced during family trips to Disneyland and the magic of "Bonanza" and "Gunsmoke." He was about 10 when he saw John Wayne in "The Alamo."

"The spirit of the movie really grabbed me," he said.

Enough that he's written three books on the Alamo, including the award-winning "Joe, the Slave Who Became an Alamo Legend."

Eleven years of research was employed to bring the story together.

"It was like chasing a ghost," Jackson said of finding out about the life of a slave.

Jackson said he'll often relate a story and someone will say, "Now, that would make a great book."

"When you take on a book you marry that project," he said. "You had better be interested.

"Something has to intrigue me. It has to be a compelling story, where you laugh, cry or feel something. Those are the ingredients I look for."

His parents, Ron Jackson Sr. and Darlene Jackson, still call Vacaville home.

In brief

Earn a bang on the gong at benefit show

VALLEJO — Do you have a special talent you can share on stage? Or do you prefer watching people demonstrate their unique skills?

Either way, the Empress Theatre offers the Going, Going Gong Show, a benefit for the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation Youth Summer Arts Camp.

The Going, Going Gong Show is a takeoff on the old TV show, living proof that there is a little talent in all of us – some good, some not so good.

The goal is to make the audience laugh.

The show begins at 8 p.m. June 1 at 330 Virginia St.

For tickets, call 552-2400 or visit www.empresstheatre.org.