

also Rio Vista firefighter equipment and uniforms, open 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 16 N. Front St., Rio Vista. Donations accepted. 374-5169, <http://riovistamuseum.org>.

Vacaville Museum "Looking Back, Moving Forward" through July 4, 1 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday, 213 Buck Ave., Vacaville. \$3 adults, \$2 students/seniors. 447-4513, <http://www.vacavillemuseum.org>.

Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum Open noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 734 Marin St., Vallejo. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and children, children 12 and younger free. 643-0077, <http://www.vallejomuseum.org>.

OTHER AREAS

Asian Art Museum "Shanghai," Feb. 12 through Sept. 5, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. \$1.50 to \$17. 415-581-3500.

Bay Area Discovery Museum "Animal Secrets," through May 9, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Fort Baker, 557 McReynolds Road, Sausalito. \$8 to \$10. 415-339-3900, <http://www.baykidsmuseum.org>.

California Museum for History, Women and the Arts "Under the Dragon: California's New Cultures" opens Jan. 30, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, 1020 O St., Sacramento. \$6 to \$8.50. 916-653-7524, <http://www.californiamuseum.org>.

California State Railroad Museum Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 111 I St., Old Town Sacramento. \$3 to \$8. 916-445-6645, <http://www.californiarailroadmuseum.org>.

Chabot Space & Science Center "Beyond Blastoff: Surviving in Space," open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. \$10.95 to \$14.95. 510-336-7300, <http://www.chabotspace.org>.

Charles M. Schulz Museum "Sunday Funnies," through April 19; "May I Have This Dance?" closes May 17; open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa. \$5 to \$8. 579-4452, <http://www.schulzmuseum.org>.

Crocker Art Museum "Treasures, Curiosities & Secrets: The Crockers and the Gilded Age," through May 9, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (until 9 p.m. the first and third Thursday), 216 O St., Sacramento. \$3 to \$6; free admission 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays. 916-808-7000, <http://www.crockerartmuseum.org>.

De Young Museum "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs," through March 28; open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. \$16.50 to \$32.50. 415-750-3600, <http://www.famsf.org/deyoung>.

Exploratorium Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. \$9 to \$14. 415-EXPL0RE, <http://www.exploratorium.edu>.

Explorit Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, closed Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 2801 2nd St., Davis. \$4, free admission fourth Friday of the month. 530-756-0191, <http://www.explorit.org>.

Lawrence Hall of Science "Forces That Shape the Bay," open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Centennial Drive below Grizzly Peak Road, UC Berkeley. \$6 to \$11. 510-642-5132, <http://www.lhs.berkeley.edu>.

Legion of Honor "Very Post Mortem: Mummies and Medicine," through July 4; "Cartier and America," closes April 18; open 9:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, Lincoln Park, San Francisco. \$6 to \$10. 415-750-3600, <http://www.famsf.org>.

Napa Valley Museum "Four on Form," Jan. 22 through Feb. 18; open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Tuesday, 55 Presidents Circle, Yountville. \$2.50 to \$4.50. 944-0500, <http://www.napavalleymuseum.org>.

San Joaquin Historical Society & Museum 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, 11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi. \$2 to \$5. 209-331-2055, <http://www.sanjoaquinhistory.org>.

Sonoma County Museum "Richard Shaw: Four Decades of Ceramics," opens Jan. 30; 425 7th St., Santa Rosa. \$2 to \$5. 570-1500, <http://www.sonoma-countymuseum.org>.

jockey, Sunday to Wednesday. \$2 cover. 321 Merchant St., Vacaville. 451-4049.

Chris' Club Live music, 656 Benicia Road, Vallejo. 648-9257. <http://www.chrisclub.com>.

City Sports Bar and Grill Live music on weekends, 155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville. 455-7827.

Cloud Nine Karaoke, Friday and Saturday, 4519 Walters Road, Fairfield. No cover. 425-9365.

Ding's Cocktail Lounge Buzz Time trivia and cards daily, all day; free WiFi, 1712 Texas St., Fairfield. 425-2529.

Elmira Cabin 6081 California Pacific Road, Elmira. 447-3230.

Harry's Sportsman's Lounge Full sports bar, 833 Texas St., Fairfield. 422-2940.

Huey's Pub Karaoke and live music, Thursday to Saturday, 519 Main St., Vacaville. 451-9015.

Legends and Heroes Sports Grill 3990 Paradise Valley Drive, Fairfield. 421-2234.

The Lighthouse Dance to disc jockey, 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, no cover, 558 Parker Road, Fairfield. 437-5551.

Miss Daria's Karaoke, every night except Wednesday and Sunday, 110 Peabody Road, Vacaville. 446-4131.

Oasis Disc jockey, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. today, 25 and older only, strict dress code, 1626 N. Texas St., Fairfield. 814-1432.

Pepperbellys Bistro and Lounge Karaoke, 7 to 11 p.m. Tuesday, 849 Texas St., Fairfield. 422-SHOW, or <http://www.pepperbellys.com>.

Point Waterfront Restaurant Live bands on weekends, 120 Marina Drive, Rio Vista. 374-5400.

Suite 21 Karaoke, 9 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, 1721 N. Texas St., Fairfield. 425-8352.

Uncle Bong's Pizzeria Karaoke and dancing, 9:30 p.m. to close, Friday and Saturday. Free comedy 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. 203 Main St., Suisun City. 438-7542.

Places to go

Anheuser-Busch Brewery Walking and wheelchair-accessible guided tours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 5 and older, beer samples for those 21 and older, 3101 Busch Drive, Fairfield. Free. 429-7595, <http://www.budweisertours.com/toursFAIR.htm>.

GV Cellars Wine tasting, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekends, weekdays by appointment only, 1635 Mason Road, Fairfield. \$10 tasting fee waived with purchase. 864-2089.

Jelly Belly Free tours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, One Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield. 428-2838, <http://www.jellybelly.com>.

Ledgewood Creek Winery Tasting room open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 4589 Abernathy Road, Fairfield. 426-4424, <http://www.legdewoodcreek.com>.

Sepay Groves Taste different olive oils, vinegars, jams and jellies, open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, 370 Chadbourne Road, Fairfield. 434-8222, <http://www.sepayoliveoil.com>.

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom New season begins March 6, 1001 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo. 643-6722. <http://www.sixflags.com/discoverykingdom>.

Suisun Valley Wine Cooperative Tasting room open noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, no reservations necessary, 4495 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. 864-3135.

Wooden Valley Winery Tasting room open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 4756 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. 864-0730, <http://www.woodenvalley.com>.

Western Railway Museum Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 5848 Highway 12, Suisun City. \$12 adults, \$11 seniors over 65, \$9 children (2 to 14). 374-2978, <http://www.wrm.org>.

OTHER AREAS

Fairytale Town Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. \$4.50 weekends and holidays, \$4 weekdays, children 2 and under are free. 916-264-5233, <http://www.fairytaletown.org>.

Sacramento Zoo Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, 3930 W. Land Park Drive (in William Land Park), Sacramento. \$6.50 to \$9.50. 916-264-5888, <http://www.saczoo.com>.

San Francisco Zoo Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sloat Boulevard and 47th Avenue, San Francisco. \$9 to \$15, 2 and younger free. 415-753-7080, <http://www.sfzoo.org>.



Concertgoers will hear Blood, Sweat & Tears' hits such as "Spinning Wheel" at the Lincoln Theatre in Yountville Saturday. Courtesy photo

Band: Blood, Sweat & Tears play in Yountville

From Page B1

which was jazz rock. In the 1970s I was in American Flyer, a folk rock group. I enjoyed all the bands. I guess I'm pretty eclectic. I was recently asked what I keep on my iPod. I have everything from Bach to some new rock bands. I love country music. As long as the music is good, I'll listen.

Q: Tell me about being part of The Blues Project, it was so experimental and unique.

A: I think it was so unique because we all had mental problems. As funny as that sounds it was probably true. We were all crazy in one way or another and

MUSIC
Preview
Blood, Sweat & Tears
8 p.m. Saturday
Lincoln Theatre,
100 California Drive,
Yountville
\$29 to \$49
944-1300
<http://www.lincolntheater.com>
<http://www.bloodsweatandtears.com>

we brought all that craziness to the band. We were a great live band but goofy. Danny (Kalb) and Al (Koopler) would try to out-riff each

other to see who could play the fastest, higher and loudest. The audience would say "that's far out." I'd stand there and look at the drummer and bass player and think that was the worst thing I'd ever heard.

Q: You produced Lou Reed. What did you learn about yourself working with him?

A: I learned to work in the studio. That's the reason I left Blood, Sweat and Tears. I wanted to learn more in the studio. Working with Lou was an eye opener. He's brilliant. It was fun to work with him.

Q: You are also a professional photographer. Does your camera and gear go with

you on the road?

A: I take my little camera with me. I have a studio in my house. My wife is a ceramic artist and I started off taking pictures of her work for catalogs. The other craft people asked me to photograph their stuff. I have a folder on my computer for every city we are in. I take at least one or two pictures. I take a lot of movies. The last time I've been in so many cities was the 1960s. Things have changed.

Reach Amy Maginnis-Honey at 427-6957 or amaginnis@dailyrepublic.net.

VPAT: Cray nominated for a sixth Grammy

From Page B1

record companies.

"They're almost nonexistent," he said. "When a record came out, people used to sell hundreds of thousands right away. That doesn't happen anymore."

The reason, he said, is the accessibility for everyone to make their own records, just like he has done on his new label.

This will be Cray's first show in Vacaville. He said he likes the intimacy of a performing arts center versus a stadium or a bar.

"Things have changed quite a bit," he said of what's transpired since he formed his band 35 years ago. One of Cray's mentors

was blues legend John Lee Hooker, who made his home in Vallejo until he died in 2001.

"It was an honor to work with him," Cray said. "It was so great to be in his company. We had a lot of fun with John."

This will be Cray's first show in Vacaville. He said he likes the intimacy of a performing arts center versus a stadium or a bar. "People come to listen,"

he said.

And, if he happens to win his sixth Grammy on Jan. 31, he knows where it will go -- in an upstairs office at home.

"You don't want people to come, I don't anyway, and that's the first thing they see," he said.

Reach Amy Maginnis-Honey at 427-6957 or amaginnis@dailyrepublic.net.

Celtic: The Black Irish Band appeals to all ages

From Page B1

performances, they must like you.

Karnahan sees this album as "more upbeat" and "rousing."

"It features all five of us singing," he said. "When we were recording, everyone pretty much chose what they wanted to bring to the table. It's eclectic, but it's us."

The band is a Bay Area favorite. Karnahan attributes the group's popularity to the fact that the band plays a variety of music, including maritime tunes.

"A lot of our music is rooted in the ocean and the sea," he said.

It's a genre that appeals to all ages. In Monterey, he said, a woman, he estimated to be about 35, came up with

MUSIC
Preview
The Black Irish Band
8 p.m. Jan. 23
Benicia Camel Barn Stone Hall, 2024 Camel Road
\$20
745-5435
<http://www.beniciahistoricalmuseum.org>
<http://www.blackirish.com>

her son, about 8, and said The Black Irish Band was his favorite.

"It connects people young and old," Karnahan said.

It's not unusual, he said, to sign autographs for senior citizens.

Their tunes teach history. The "Ballad of John Muir" is a favorite.

And, thanks to YouTube, "Carl, Dennis, John and George" has become popular.

"YouTube is a great vehicle," Karnahan said. "The beauty of it is we can reach people all over the world."

Karnahan penned the tune when contemplating how he hadn't seen the Beach Boys or Beatles live, with all core members on the stage. The title refers to Carl and Dennis Wilson, deceased members of the Beach Boys, and John Lennon and George Harrison, members of the Beatles who have died.

"I grew up one block from the Beach Boys," Karnahan said. "When I was a baby, one block over Brian Wilson was writing those great songs on his piano."

The band has more than 80 videos on YouTube.

But it was a movie that brought them together.

Karnahan and Richard Restivo were toying with the idea of forming a band. Both showed up for a casting call for "Back to the Future: Part III."

Thanks to their musical skills, the two earned spots in the Hill Valley Band.

There they met future band mate Steve McArthur, who had one speaking line.

While the band has plenty of Celtic music in its repertoire, Karnahan said they think "way outside that box."

Fewer than half their show features Celtic tunes. The remainder showcases everything from 1920s jazz to yodeling.

Reach Amy Maginnis-Honey at 427-6957 or amaginnis@dailyrepublic.net.

DeCicco: Time to turn down the audio levels

From Page B1

turn everything up, you diminish the variety of volumes available. If quiet isn't an option, there only is loud.

Whether you're an audiophile or a casual listener of the radio, it's preferable to listen to music that isn't just good, but that sounds good, too.

Loudness and dynamics are not mutually exclusive and should not be confused. When you mess with the former, you can ruin the latter.

Here are some easy signs you're listening to music that has been "brickwalled," so named because of a visual impression showing the audio levels maxed out.

When you're playing a CD at home or in your car or wherever you listen to music, is there the temptation to turn it down?

If so, it's because your brain is processing it as noise rather than music. The product you purchased was delivered to you too loud.

Turning it down doesn't help either. If the album you purchased is brickwalled, when you turn the volume down, you're turning everything down. Nothing stands out.

If there's no dynamism in the music, you hear noise no matter how good the song is.

This is why, with some albums, you want to take a rest from hearing it. You understand it as music, but your body understands it as a jackhammer that won't turn off.

I experienced this the first time I listened to The Mars Volta's 2008 album, "The Bedlam in Goliath." There are some neat songs on the record. However, it took me three sittings to lis-

ten to the record for the first time.

That's because my ears and my brain were exhausted. There are few quiet moments on the record anyway, but when the audio is brickwalled, that doesn't help either.

This issue didn't start appearing in headlines, though, until Metallica released "Death Magnetic" in 2008.

What raised eyebrows most of all was the fact that those who downloaded the record via the online store with the video game "Guitar Hero III" found it sounded better than the CD version. The sound of "Death Magnetic" is so poor, the individual who mastered it, Sterling Sound's Ted Jensen, said he was "not proud to be associated with this one." Ouch.

This loudness war makes me worry what music will

sound like in the 2010s. I fear that things could get worse for audio quality, though I don't see how.

There does reach a point of diminishing returns, where pushing the collective levels any higher will overwhelm the listener with poor, distorted sound. Think of a bass speaker that's been blown out but keeps on fuzzing and bubbling each time a note's hit. No one wants to hear that.

I hope things get better because I don't just want to listen and hear beautiful songs -- I want them to sound as good as they should, too.

See this video on YouTube to hear it for yourself: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Gmex_4hreQ.

Read more of Nick DeCicco's blogs at <http://dailyrepublic.typepad.com/thoseabouttrock>.

Nightlife

A & J's Pub and Grill Karaoke, 9 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, 605 Main St., Suisun City. No cover. 429-8266.

Cheers Nightclub Thursday, original bands; Friday and Saturday, live cover bands; karaoke and disc