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Community Photo-mural Seeks to Strengthen Ties; Participants Invited

Today and Saturday people of all ages who live or work in Yountville have an opportunity to add their image to the essence of the community.

San Francisco photographer Christopher Irion is bringing his PhotoBooth Project to Yountville Community Hall today from noon to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Irion invites townspeople to "bring your sweetheart, your kids, your dogs" and sit for a portrait.

"When we ask people to come to the Photobooth they often say, 'Oh, you don't really want me.' But we do. It's not about the individual. It's about the community. We really want you to be part of the community. We want you to represent your part in the community by participating," he explained.

All the portraits will be included in a mural to be installed later this summer in front of the new Bardessono Inn on Yount Street, where it will be on view until November.

Over 200 portraits are needed.

Everyone who participates will be sent a complimentary 5x7-inch, black-and-white print.

Yountville's PhotoBooth project and Picture Wall installation are being underwritten by the Bardessono Inn and Spa, currently under construction and due to open in

February.

The PhotoBooth is a lightweight, portable studio that can be shipped anywhere in the world. During the past three years, Irion has traveled over 8,000 miles and made over 2,000 portraits in communities across America.

The booth is set up at cafes, in parking lots, at county fairs and on sidewalks.

Irion then creates installations of the resulting portraits taken of a particular community or group.

A requirement of the project is that the installation occur in a place that is frequented by the community in its daily activities, with pedestrian access rather than in a place apart, such as a gallery or community space. Irion considers the projects to be about community and only secondarily about art.

"I am interested in strengthening the ties of a community, by showing the group back to itself in a direct and democratic fashion with the idea that viewers can directly gaze on the faces of fellow citizens and have a moment to reflect on their relationship to one another. The installation functions as a place to meet one's neighbors as a town green might once have allowed, so as to share with others the gaze of the community," he explained.

Portraits for the photo-mural will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.



Oakville Winegrowers Discover Valuable French Connections

After three days in Bordeaux winemakers in Oakville came home with a host of fresh insights about growing Cabernet Sauvignon grapes and crafting those grapes into fine wine.

The Bordeaux Exchange took 34 members of the Oakville Winegrowers Association to a base at the Hotel Burgdigala for what turned out to be an intense and stimulating three days of presentations, question-and-answer sessions, visits to mostly lesser-known vineyards and wineries and talking with their French counterparts about the technical aspects of grape growing and wine making.

The full agenda kept the participants engaged from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. or midnight each day.

David Pearson, CEO of Opus One, was the primary instigator. It took about 18 months to bring his idea to fruition this June 24 through 26.

"I think that sometimes we think that we know everything about winemaking," he said.

The focus was technical and collegial. Marketing was not part of the conversation, and there was no invited press coverage, he stated.

The purpose was to build technical bridges, not to compare and contrast French and American practices and approaches to winemaking.

The initial approach was that we were "inviting our-

selves to a party," Pearson said. But the concept was reciprocal from the start, he noted, adding the Oakville Winegrowers are already "noodling" how to best show their recent hosts a similar experience here next year.

Pearson's counterpart in Bordeaux was Roland Feredj, general manager of the Conseil Interprofessionnel du Vin du Bordeaux (CIVB).

Two U.C. Davis professors, Roger Bolton and Jim Wolpert, were a part of the Oakville contingent, and the French speakers at the morning seminars include several professors and a retired winemaker for Petrus.

Topics which proved popular included terroir, irrigation, crop cover, fermentation and style.

"It's surprising how much there is to talk about," said Pearson.

The Oakvillians were fascinated by a computer-generated model that enables the French to produce a taste preference profile for wine drinkers in a short amount of time. While conducting a tasting of a variety of wines, the French ask a series of questions of the tasters and electronically record their responses to those questions. Within 30 to 40 minutes each taster receives his or her own wine preference horoscope, outlining what kind and styles of wine that wine drinker is most likely to enjoy, order and buy. The value of this process is that it can lower the intimidation factor that too often accompanies the wine ordering experience.

Simultaneous translation broke down the language barriers for those not fluent in French.

2 Council Seats, 2 Local Initiatives on Nov. Ballot

Starting Monday persons interested in seeking election to one of the two seats on the Yountville Town Council up for election on November 4 can take out petitions.

The seats currently held by Steve Rosa and Lewis Chilton are up for election.

Rosa said yesterday he will not seek re-election. He said his priority is to devote his time and energy to family members and the pressing medical issues they currently are confronting.

Rosa, a retired public works employee for the Town of

Yountville with over 20 years of local experience, will finish his first term in November.

Chilton, who was appointed last year to serve out the Council term of Cindy Saucerman after her election as mayor, said he will run for election to that seat in November.

The nomination period which begins Monday will run through August 8.

Nomination papers are available at Yountville Town Hall and can be obtained by contacting Town Clerk Michelle Price, 944-8851.

Two local ballot initiatives -- Measure M and Measure O -- also will appear on the November ballot.

Measure M asks, "Shall the Town of Yountville hold an election each time the Town may pay for a town project or improvement by issuing "revenue bonds" and the outstanding aggregate amount of such bonds will exceed \$2 million? An election would not be held if the Town is complying with state or federal mandate or responding to emergency."

Measure O asks, "Shall the

Town of Yountville hold an election for every lease financing, including Certificates of Participation, Lease Purchase, or any financial agreement creating liability for annual installments, where all such Town financing exceeds a cumulative amount of \$5 million? An election would not be held if Town is complying with state or federal mandate, or responding to emergency. The measure will invalidate any affected financing approved since January 1, 2008, as subject to a further election."



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	Low	High
Wednesday 7/2	53	87
Thursday	55	86
Friday	57	85
Saturday	56	91
Sunday	60	91
Monday	71	99
Tuesday 7/8	62	103
Precipitation =	nil	
Season Total =	0	
Last Year =	0	

Bogus Letter Circulating at Veterans Home

News released last week that David Salopek, former chair of the Allied Council at the Veterans Home, had signed a letter of apology to end a civil lawsuit for slander brought against him by Home Member James Shupe prompt-

ed the posting and circulation this week of a bogus "open letter" from Salopek to Shupe, Marcella McCormack and others.

The wordy bogus letter goes on for six paragraphs and ends with a forgery of Salopek's signature.

The actual statement signed by Salopek is quite concise and states only that he "acted without proper discretion" when he falsely reported to the Home's Administration and others that Shupe was a convicted felon.