

Lincoln Theater Tells of Strong Fall Season

The Lincoln Theater officially announced its fall season today. In his two months on the job, new Managing Director Michael Madden has put together what is already being touted as the "strongest and most diverse season ever."

"We've all been working really hard to make sure we have a season that we can all be proud of and one that lives up to our promise to bring world-class entertainment to this world-class venue. I can't thank our staff, our Board and our volunteers enough for really stepping up," said Madden. "Our goal was to be relevant and a little retro, with a little something for everyone. And, I think we have done just that."

The new season offerings are international and multicultural, running the full gamut of the performing arts from country to pop to R&B to classical, from Chinese acrobats to formation ballroom champions to salsa, from traditional Hawaiian to South Pacific fusion to mariachis,

from musical theater to stand-up comics.

Some of the highlights include music legends Wynonna, Clint Black, Jose Feliciano and The Spinners; an authentic Hawaiian Lu'au complete with food, music and hula lessons; the famed National Acrobats from the People's Republic of China, and, as an early Christmas present to Yountville, on December 3 and 13, the launch of the *Quincy Jones Presents* series, showcasing some of the legendary impresario's newest and most-talented discoveries.

In addition to the entertainment programming, Madden explained the upcoming season also will focus on developing youth and educational programs, expanding collaborative relationships with local, regional and national businesses and supporting other non-profits.

"People often forget that the Lincoln Theater is a non-profit operation, dedicated to entertaining as well as enriching the (Continued on Page 6)



Revered Routine Returns

Raising the flag on the new school year at Yountville Elementary School fell yesterday morning into the capable hands of fifth graders Javier Garcia and Chelsea Allen. Dr. Patrick Sweeney, superintendent of the Napa Valley Unified School District, was on hand for the Pledge of Allegiance and morning announcements on the first day of classes as he was last year. He welcomed students, parents and teachers in both English and Spanish. (Photo by Sharon Stensaas.)

YES Students Return to New Principal

Mrs. Bower, first and second grade teacher, came to school yesterday wearing a pirate's hat and a hook on her hand. She welcomed students as "Mateys," and to their delight, fussed over their hairdos with her hook.

Mrs. Floyd, the kindergarten teacher, carried a sign which read, "Kindergarten Is Just for Kids." That lesson clearly applied to both wary kindergarteners and their nervous parents.

As these first-day students left their parents and walked bravely on their own across the playground and to the door of their classroom the only tears evident were in the eyes of several emotion-struck mothers.

Final good-bye waves were exchanged from the safe distance across the playground, and Yountville Elementary

School (YES) was in session for another year.

Enrollment is 170 students, up by about 10 from the start of school last year.

Leading the teachers and staff this year is new principal Tara Bianchi. There were no other teaching or staff changes. Bianchi's experience includes five years as assistant principal at American Canyon Middle School, 12 years there as a teacher and two years as an assistant, part-time principal at Canyon Oaks Elementary School.

She replaces Sarah Williams, who served YES last year in the dual role of principal of YES and Salvador Elementary School.

Bianchi will not have the same double duty.

Instead, her job is 50 percent as principal at YES and 50 percent as a teaching coach responsible for the implementation of a new K-5 Language Arts textbook focused on project-based learning. This program is being phased in on a voluntary basis in certain schools within the Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD).

A resident of Angwin, Bianchi is familiar with the Up Valley. She serves on the board of the Howell Mountain Education Foundation and knows the challenges associated with operating and sustaining smaller community schools.

Bianchi grew up in Sonoma. She studied at Sonoma State University, earning her Bachelor's degree and teaching credential there. She received her Master's degree in Project-Based Learning from U.C. Davis. She has educational writing experience as a member of a team which authored a middle school Math textbook.

She and her husband have two children, now ages 25 and 27.

She is a nature lover who enjoys being outdoors and walking and hiking in the natural areas around her home.

Bianchi said she was enthusiastic about the prospect of being the principal at YES.

"I like the small town. I like the community involvement. I am really interested in the commitment to implement

project-based learning."

Most of the YES teachers attended a week-long summer institute on project-based learning during this summer's recess, she reported.

The seasonal resumption of the School's operation had a business-as-usual air to it yesterday, despite an announcement by the Board of the NVUSD in 2009 that it would likely be necessary to close YES this fall due to budget constraints.

Since that time a hard-charging group of parents, the YES PTA, teachers and com-

munity leaders brokered a commitment from the NVUSD Board to keep YES open for at least the next four years. In return, the community agreed to raise \$40,000 a year to offset the costs taxes could not cover. The first such \$40,000 payment was made to the NVUSD early this summer by the non-profit Yountville School Foundation.

Generous donations from many individuals, organizations and businesses within the community enabled that first-year funding commitment to be achieved.

Aug. 2 Pot Raid Here Part of Major Push to Thwart Organized Crime

The August 2 a.m. raid by law enforcement on an illegal marijuana growing operation in the hills immediately west of Yountville was part of a four-month-long undercover Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation known as "Operation Wipeout."

The final stage of that coordinated investigation was the August 10 raid of a home in Citrus Heights, which the DOJ agents deemed the "nerve center" of a major drug operation.

Growing stretched far and wide, from Yountville to the El Dorado Hills area and Shasta Lake.

Suspected ringleader and money man Oscar Gomez was among those nabbed in the raid.

Evidence seized by the investigators indicates the work of a well-organized grow, dry and distribute operation. In all, about 3,500 marijuana plants, each with a street value of approximately \$2,000, were confiscated. In addition to Gomez, nine others were arrested.

DOJ agents also reportedly uncovered \$15,000 in cash and a large amount of methamphetamines.

DOJ Agent Roy Giorgi said the goal of Operation Wipeout was to disrupt the operation from "the top level financier bosses to the clone suppliers to the rancheros or foremen who are supplying the grows."



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	Low	High
Wednesday 8/10	60	83
Thursday	60	83
Friday	59	81
Saturday	58	84
Sunday	56	86
Monday	55	85
Tuesday 8/16	55	86
Precipitation =	nil	
Season Total =	0	
Last Year =	0 (this date)	



TARA BIANCHI