

# POINT REYES LIGHT

Volume LXII No. 20/ Point Reyes Station, California

July 16, 2009



**SPORTS > Little League** all-stars went head to head in San Rafael on Monday. /9



**BOLINAS > The Mushrooms** record album on Horseshoe Hill before Far West Fest. /11



**COAST GUIDE > Surf shop** has an array of summery stuff for coastal travelers. /20



**CALENDAR > Free Box** fashion show will take place in Bolinas on Saturday. /16



Mariee Sioux, a native of Nevada City who visits Bolinas regularly, is known for stirring emotion with her dreamlike lyrics and lilting vocals. She is on her way to France, where she fills cafés. Photo courtesy of Mariee Sioux.

## Obama elects Jarvis to head park service

by Roy Fleischer

Jon Jarvis, head of the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, was nominated by President Obama last week to direct the park service under the new administration. Jarvis, a biologist, has worked at the San Francisco office for the past seven years, overseeing 54 parks and managing a \$350 million budget and 3,000 employees.

His nomination has received exhaustive praise. "President Obama has made an outstanding choice for director of the National Park Service," said Interior Secretary, Ken

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## Supes endorse longer lease

by Wes Venteicher

The Marin County Board of Supervisors voted to send a letter to Senator Diane Feinstein offering strong support for legislation that will allow Drakes Bay Oyster Company to operate until 2022. The legislation, attached as a rider to a pending appropriations bill, provides a ten-year extension to the oyster farm's

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**Jarvis has shown politics will drive his science**

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**Visit to Smithsonian teaches fisherman**

### NATURE /7

**Egrets chicks learn to fly as Audubon closes season**

## Sioux's haunting vocals

by Leighton Cosseboom

As two stray dogs began to growl outside Smiley's last Thursday, the tension on Wharf Road was palpable. It was nearing 10 p.m. Soon, Mariee Sioux's haunting acoustics filled the bar, spilling onto the street.

Sioux, born in Nevada City, was playing a farewell gig on her way to France for a summer tour. Several of her Bolinas and San Francisco friends came to enjoy her passionate, yet personal, performance.

"Life, death and travelling" are the common themes in Sioux's songs, she says. With a voice and guitar style similar to that of Leslie Feist, Sioux, 24, derives her inspi-

ration from everything around her.

"Bundles" is her longest and most complex song. "Buried in teeth" is a lyrically gripping testimony of the varied layers of human experience. "It's about how in every person's life they are being eaten away by their past," she says. While her words are the driving force of her performance, Sioux's vocal ability and subtle guitar riffs complete her act.

Most of her lyrics have solemn tone, but Sioux's music also has a playful side. At one point in the middle of Thursday's show, she paused, looked up and said, "This one's for my homies." After a long sip of her Fernet

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### CONDOLENCES

Arthur Okamura, a renowned artist, musician and teacher who lived in Bolinas for 50 years, passed away last Friday at age 77. An obituary will appear next week.

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inBRIEF

NAS report to be reviewed

The Marine Mammal Commission will conduct an independent review of a recent National Academy of Sciences study of the impact of Drakes Bay Oyster Company on harbor seals. "The report contains numerous shortfalls, misinterpretations, and inaccuracies regarding critical topics," wrote Neil Desai of the National Parks Conservation Association and Gordon Bennett of the Sierra Club in a letter to the commission. The academy's report found several inaccuracies in National Park Service studies of harbor seals in the estero, resulting in an apology from regional director Jon Jarvis. "There was some overreaching," Jarvis said. Bennett and Desai asked that the Marine Mammal Commission review the academy's review in order to "clarify for the public and policy makers the extent of concern that exists from oyster operations on harbor seals."

Asian kelp uncomfortably close

An invasive species of Asian kelp has been discovered in San Francisco and Monterey bays. Experts believe it could appear in the waters of West Marin—namely, Tomales Bay and Drakes Estero. "We haven't found any yet, but we're always concerned about these highly invasive species," said Ben Becker, director of



The Marin County Fire Department responded to a vegetation fire near the Marconi Conference Center outside of Marshall on Monday afternoon. The department suspects a motorcycle accident sparked the blaze. Cal Fire, the US Coast Guard and the Tomales Volunteer Fire Department assisted, and the fire was fully extinguished at around 6 p.m. No structures were threatened by the fire and no injuries were reported. Photo courtesy of Cal Fire.

the Pacific Coast Learning Center at the Point Reyes National Seashore. *Undaria Pinnatifida* is notorious for harming ecosystems by overwhelming the habitats and blocking sunlight, and could cause problems for the oyster farm in Drakes Estero. "It's more of a nuisance than an actual threat, biologically, to the bivalves," said Steve Lonhart of the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary in a KWMR interview. To learn more about the kelp, listen

to Wednesday's report at KWMR.org/news.

Water customers fear shortage

A telephone survey released by the Marin Municipal Water District last week indicates their customers believe water supply is a bigger problem than traffic or

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# >> Letters

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philosophical, remember they're based on her real science, physical evidence and experiments (I've seen some to prove newness, challenge and love, with mice). In no order, they are: diet, exercise, challenge, newness, and love.

I am planning my own eightieth birthday party next month, and will challenge my guests to come up with a different five (not on the spot, though): the "five most important things I've learned in life." (Try

it Missy, and we'll reciprocate!)

**Morton McDonald**  
Berkeley

## Fred Rodoni, Sr.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the outpouring of support during our Dad's final months and as we cope with his loss. Your assistance, food, prayers, and kind words mean a lot to us and have helped to remind us of what Dad meant to all of you. May his memory be a blessing for all.

The Rodoni Family

# >> Sioux

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Branca, Sioux sang a song about her friends disturbing a small band of turkeys behind her community college. While not everyone understood what it meant, everyone chuckled. "That one was just for fun," she said, with a coy smile.

Sioux, who performed in a black dress and wore her long black hair loosely, began writing poetry when she was ten, but she had her toe in the door of the music world even then. "My dad was really into bluegrass music and I would go with him to festivals," she says. Occasionally, Sioux's father, Gary Sobonya, will accompany her with a mandolin during a performance.

Though she always considered herself more of a poet than a musician, Sioux dreamed of transforming her poems into music. For the past couple of months, she performed as part of a duo with her longtime friend, Ashley Taylor. Taylor committed suicide a few weeks ago, and Sioux has played solo since. "One of my songs reminds me of her because we used to always get complimented on the way we sang it together," she said.

For the next few months, Sioux will be touring in France, but says she will continue to play music for all of her fans after the tour, especially for those in Bolinas.

"Over the past three years, when I started to realize that other people wanted to hear my music, I almost couldn't believe it," she says, "but I've had that experience too, with other people's music, so I can understand."

*Oh, pick me up I'm this bundle of sticks  
Tied with the stems of clover and brambles  
Oh, pick me up I'm this bundle  
Wrapped in shrouds of muscle  
And patched with cedars and shadows  
Patched for a million miles  
Waiting like a praying mantis  
To be found by a curious child  
Those tiny ones with open-eyed wonder  
Like the jaws of a yawning coyote  
Or a cactus blooming early  
And loving dawn like a mother  
Loving dawn like a mother*

*And wishing that rain was the answer  
And loving dawn like a mother  
Loving dawn like a mother  
And wishing that rain was the answer  
And in curious jars we're a spinning'n 'n 'n*

*Spinning, spinning, spinning into sickness  
Spinning, spinning, spinning into sickness  
And singing for stillness*

*So can you, can you, can you tell me?  
So can you, can you, can you tell me?*

—From "Bundles" by Mariee Sioux



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WEATHER						
Date	High	Low	Rainfall	Wood.	Inv.	
July 9	73	47	0.00		0.00	
July 10	74	48	0.00		0.00	
July 11	76	51	0.00		0.00	
July 12	77	50	0.00	Not Available	0.00	
July 13	93	45	0.00		0.00	
July 14	96	50	0.00		0.00	
July 15	87	49	0.00		0.00	
Temperature measurements from Woodacre Inverness rainfall since July 1: 21.26 inches Inverness average since 1925: 37.83 inches						

TIDES								
Date	HIGH				LOW			
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.	Time	Ft.
July 16	8:26	2.8	7:29	5.4	2:21	0.8	1:18	2.4
July 17	10:02	3.1	8:22	5.7	3:23	0.2	2:24	2.8
July 18	11:11	3.4	9:18	6.0	4:20	-0.4	3:32	3.0
July 19	12:03	3.8	10:15	6.3	5:13	-1.0	4:36	3.0
July 20	12:47	4.1	11:10	6.5	6:03	-1.4	5:35	2.8
July 21	1:28	4.4	----	----	6:50	-1.6	6:31	2.6
July 22	12:05	6.6	2:07	4.7	7:35	-1.6	7:26	2.3

These tide heights and times are accurate for the town of Marshall.

# The Mushrooms

LIVE MUSIC by Leighton Cosseboom

The Mushrooms met after eating closed cap cubensis at a party in Bolinas about two years ago. "I had never taken drugs," said guitarist Tony Lewis, as he described his first jam session with the band and his experience with magic mushrooms. "It was all original and it was fun. That's when I decided that I wanted to do singing and songwriting instead of bass."

Lewis grew up in Stinson Beach and at age 25 moved to Los Angeles, where he attended The Musicians Institute. Back in Bolinas, he joined up with Willard MacDonald to sing backup vocals in his six-member rock project, Ape Shit. "That band was interesting," MacDonald said. "We only had about three or four gigs. Our music was rock and roll, and most of our set was covers."

Since the formation of The Mushrooms, the trio has played at local parties and Smiley's Schooner Saloon. The band describes its music as garage pop/rock, mirroring the sound of artists such as Pavement and Neil Young. "We want the songs to sound like we sound live," Lewis said. "We want the imperfections and all."

Over the past two weeks, The Mushrooms have been recording their first album in a big white barn on Horseshoe Hill Road, and have completed nine tracks. The band prides itself on its ability to rapidly produce music. "What is great about this band is that other bands struggle to come up with material, but Tony writes a song a week," said the drummer, R.B. "We've been together a little over a year and we've got about 30 songs."

With songs like "L.A." and "Letter," The Mushrooms appeal to their audience with catchy lyrics and simple instrumentals. They are also firm believers in a "no cover" policy, meaning they will only play original music. "If it sucks, we don't care. We will not play covers," Lewis said. "If anyone shouts 'Free Bird!' from the audience, we shoot them," R.B. added.

The Mushrooms continued their recording



process last Saturday in the Bolinas barn. "I walked a mile for a camel, 'cause my grandma, she smoked Pall Malls," sang Lewis as they laid down their second track of the day, simply titled, "Pall Mall."

Even in the midst of their recording process, The Mushrooms are still able to find time to play shows, and are looking forward to performing at The Far West Fest on Saturday, July 25.

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## The Honey Dewdrops

**LIVE MUSIC** by Leighton Cosseboom

The Honey Dewdrops, a duo hailing from Scottsville, Virginia, will perform at the Far West Fest on July 25. Describing their music as a cross between American traditional and folk sounds, the duo is largely inspired by the works of 1950s and 60s beat photographer Robert Frank, whose photos are famous for portraying the American mentality after World War II.

"A lot of our songs are evoked from his photos," said Laura Wortman. Like Frank's photographs, The Honey Dewdrops' song "When was the War" makes strong statements about how war changes people.

Wortman met Kagey Parrish one night in college when some mutual friends asked them to play in a band. Although that band never took off, it laid the foundation for The Honey Dewdrops. "I said 'nice guitar' and that sparked his interest," Wortman recalled over the telephone from Arkansas. "So we spent our time playing tunes and immediately hit it off." After six years of romance and music, the two got married.

Their debut album, "If the Sun Will Shine," has a clean sound with subtle acoustic breakdowns that accent the driving vocals. With songs such as "Nowhere to Stand" and "Without Tears," The Honey Dewdrops mix Americana and folk elements tastefully. Wortman and Parrish said that they are currently listening to and emulating "The Cooke Duet and the new Elvis Costello."

"We did some East Coast shows and started heading west," Wortman said, describing their six-week, cross-country tour. "We just quit our day jobs as teachers this June and are pursuing this full-time." The Honey Dewdrops began their tour in Virginia are currently on their way to California to play a show in Berkeley before West Marin's Far West Fest.

Although the duo is not signed to a record label, they are sponsored by Buffalo Creek Guitar Company, and are building a following. Wortman says: "We're stoked to come out and play for people who have never heard us before!"

*The Honey Dewdrops will play at the Far West Fest at Love Field in Point Reyes Station on July 25. Visit [www.KWMMR.org](http://www.KWMMR.org) for tickets and information.*

## >> Inbrief

continued from page 2

jobs. In Marin County, both desalination and conservation received strong support as solutions to Marin's water woes. "It's heartening to see that our rate payers are as concerned about issues related to long term supply as we are," said David Behar, vice president of the water district board of directors. Behar emphasized solutions wouldn't be without environmental and fiscal impact. According to the survey, if Marin goes forward with desalination, the estimated cost to the average customer will be an additional three to six dollars per month for 30 years. The survey and results can be found at [www.marin-water.org](http://www.marin-water.org).

### Inverness photographers awarded

Two Inverness residents won a gold medal for the best regional non-fiction book about the West Coast at the Independent Publisher Book Awards. California Trip, by Rich-

ard Blair and Kathleen Goodwin, provides a photographic look of the last 40 years of California's history. "We are thrilled to receive this recognition for our book. We put our hearts into this project," Blair said. The couple wrote and designed the 300-page book in their studio on Inverness ridge, but printed it in Singapore. The book contains more than 600 photos of California landscapes. "While the photographs span almost 40 years, it took us five years to write, design and produce," Blair reported.

### Lawson's trailer group raises funds

A trailer group from Lawson's Landing raised over \$6,000 during a chili cook-off on Saturday in Tomales Park. "It was a pretty big success, there were quite a lot of people there," said Landing co-owner Willy Vogler. The group that hosted the event, the Alliance of Permanent Trailers, are campaigning to ensure that they can stay at the Dillon Beach RV campground year-round, despite changing restrictions. Vogler, at least, is hopeful. "It's definitely a possibility, but it's still up in the air," he said.

### Summer archery at Bo-Stin

The Bolinas-Stinson Union School District added archery to its physical education program when the National Wild Turkey Federation donated \$2,700 worth of archery equipment earlier in the summer. "We are much more than just a conservation group," said Pat McNeil, regional director of the federation, which has donated \$718,000 to the Archery in the Schools Program over the past five years. "A big part of our outreach and education program involves youth and outdoor activities," she said. The aim of the project is for archery to be an attractive sport for kids who do not participate in conventional or team sports.

### Marin Transit has new site

Marin Transit has officially launched its new website. The new site includes interactive maps, comprehensive schedule and fare information, language translation, and trip planning options. Also, Marin Transit has launched its new one-day, seven-day and 31-day passes. The passes are good on all Marin and Golden Gate Transit routes within Marin County. Seven-day and 31-day passes must be purchased online, over the phone or at local vendors. Weekly passes

are available at Café Salute, at the San Rafael Transit Center. For more information, visit [www.marintransit.org](http://www.marintransit.org).

### Apply for district elections

The candidate nomination period for the November district election opened on July 13. There are 24 school, district and municipal positions up for election in West Marin. Beginning that day, candidates for school and district positions can pick up nomination forms at the Marin County Registrar of Voters office at the Marin County Civic Center. Candidates for municipal offices must pick up nomination forms from the City Clerk's office. The deadline for candidates to file their nomination papers is Friday, August 7. There are three community services vacancies in Muir Beach, three community services vacancies in Tomales, two fire protection vacancies in Stinson Beach, three public utility vacancies in Bolinas, two public utility vacancies in Inverness, three school vacancies in Lagunitas, two school vacancies in Nicasio, two school vacancies in the Shoreline Unified Area No. 1, one school vacancy in the Shoreline Unified Area No.2, and three town vacancies in Fairfax. For more information, call the Registrar at 499.6442.

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