

Compass2Truth

Conservatives Serving God in Truth & Liberty

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August 17, 2015

TO: Parks & Recreation Commissioners

RE: Item #2 – Oppose Purchase of Coloma Lotus Firehouse Property

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of many local residents, we implore you to **reject** the proposed acquisition of the Lotus Firehouse property adjacent to Henningson Lotus Park. The distinct impression is the decision has already been made behind closed doors.

HLP is a poor venue for large events such as the Coloma Blues Live, American River Music Festival, or even the potential “Whitewater Mecca.” The outlay to acquire the Firehouse property would financially benefit only a handful of special interest stakeholders at the expense of the residents who actually live within the Quiet Zone of the South Fork American River. Economic considerations aside, it would be wise to examine other more appropriate locations within the county that are equipped to handle the crowds and associated parking problems.

The influx of recreational users conflicting with residents along the American River Trail, especially on weekends during tourist season, has long been a bone of contention in our small and geographically challenged community. RMAC and Planning & Development have failed to take into account the negative environmental impacts to residents living within the Quiet Zone. Imagine what it’s like for neighbors on Beach Court across from HLP to have “Coloma blues rattles windows as the crowd gets rockin’.” Several neighbors have signed numerous letters and petitions objecting to the noise that regularly gets out of control, but the County has done essentially nothing to acknowledge their concerns.

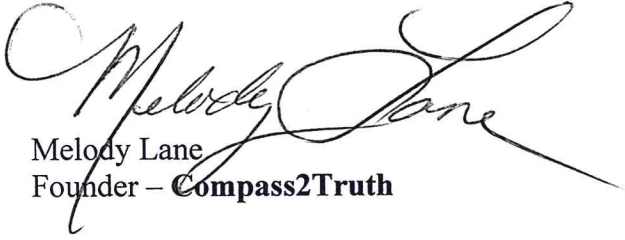
Many of the events in Coloma draw an undesirable flood of unruly urban revelers seeking to have a good time with little or no consideration for local laws, codes and ordinances. With them come a calamity of guns, brawls, trespassing, illegal parking, littering, and tragic accidents. Foresight, planning and common sense could alleviate several of these concerns.

Another consideration is from the perspective of public safety and lack of sufficient code or law enforcement personnel to handle large crowds. The reality of wild fires being ignited by careless visitors and the lack of an emergency evacuation plan for the community is a reality we deal with regularly in the hot summer months. The County has yet to explain what happened to the Lotus fire truck that the community paid for and now we find out negotiations are taking place to exchange an essential fire house for a parking lot? It doesn’t make sense.

Instead of providing additional parking to facilitate the already over saturated flood of tourists and recreationalists to Coloma, resources need to be allocated for additional law enforcement to mitigate the problems and maintain the quality of life that many of us moved up here to enjoy in the first place.

The Parks and Recreation Commission have a golden opportunity to become part of the solution instead of contributing to the problem. Please don't let expediency set a precedent for other acquisitions along the SFAR corridor.

Sincerely,



Melody Lane
Founder – **Compass2Truth**

Attachments:

1. 6/6/10 Coloma Blues Rattles Windows as the Crowd Gets Rockin'
2. 7/13/12 Bar Brawl Leads to Fight With Deputies

Mountain Democrat



Coloma Blues rattles windows as the crowd gets rockin'

 SLIDES

By Mike Roberts | Mother Lode News | June 06, 2010 10:41



SHANE DWIGHT performs first on the list for the 2010 Coloma Blues Live festival Saturday at Lotus Park in Coloma. Democrat photo by Megan Jeremica

The 2010 edition of Coloma Blues Live! raised the bar for the county's premier outdoor blues festival, with the strongest lineup yet. The 2,500 sun-baked and generally well-behaved revelers loved the music from bottom to top.

The early season festival has been "climate challenged" in years past, and the tardy spring of 2010 had organizers worried about another cool, or even wet one. But the day's only climate concern turned out to be keeping the 2,500 or so attendees hydrated.

Saturday became a scorcher before opener Shane Dwight had flexed a pec, the sky a vision of uninterrupted, bright pure blue, the perfect ceiling for a perfect day to soak up some great blues beside the American River.

The early arriving crowd must have heard that last year's opener, Laurie Morvan, stole the show. This year, versatile Bay Area beefcake blues rocker Shane Dwight took the stage first and immediately made the day even brighter. His power trio brought a loud, lean sound that was a perfect accompaniment to Dwight's gun slinging guitar chops.

The result was a delightful mix of jumpy roadhouse originals and recognizable blues standards. The tattooed, tank-topped Dwight was spontaneous and genuinely funny between songs. The already sweltering crowd on the Henningsen Lotus meadow loved him.

Morvan and her expanded band followed, charming the audience with her "Café Boogaloo" set

of raucous blues rock. The clear-eyed math teacher wrapped her lean frame around that Fender Stratocaster and pranced the stage like an estrogenized Mick Jagger, adding her own collection of rock and roll grimaces, hair-flying head shakes and unabashed open-mouthed gawps.

In “Good Girls Bad Girls,” Morvan crooned “I try to be a good girl and do every thing my momma taught, but I think all the good girls are just bad girls that ain’t been caught.”

Morvan’s mother, Rita King, was on hand, and assured a steady stream of well wishers that her daughter was never a bad girl, simply a “free spirit.”

Betsy Montgomery, a 39-year-old mother of two from Folsom, asked Morvan’s parents to sign one of their daughter’s CDs. “She’s just so inspiring - I see her up there and I feel like I could do something like that.”

“You can!” exclaimed Morvan’s father, Bud King. “It’s never too late. She was a secretary, an electrical engineer, and a teacher before she decided to do this.”

Veteran blues rocker Coco Montoya followed Morvan’s explosive set with his own, more subtle pyrotechnics. Montoya has become the familiar, gracious uncle of the West Coast blues scene, averaging over 200 tour dates each year. Montoya took the stage in Lotus and quickly demonstrated why John Mayall chose him to follow Eric Clapton in the Bluesbreakers.

Charlie Musselwhite’s bad posture, the result of a life spent bending over a harmonica microphone, and his humble grin, say it all about the veteran Chicago Blue blower who was born in Mississippi and grew up in Memphis.

In a thoroughly entertaining set of harmonica fueled jump blues that featured Musselwhite’s Mississippi-bred vocals, he took us back to his Chicago roots, playing “Strange Land” from the groundbreaking 1967 album that ignited the 1960s blues revival, and made him a counterculture hero.

The refrain “nobody knows me - I’m just a stranger in a strange land” might have been true when he was wandering the South Side of Chicago in the mid-1960s, but Musselwhite has since become a familiar voice to blues fans around the world as one of the last active performers to play with legendary Chicago bluesmen Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Howlin’ Wolf and Big Joe Williams.

An appreciative audience heard Musselwhite croon “I’m just a bad boy in your town tonight,” but wasn’t too concerned about any mischief the grandfatherly figure might create.

Headliner Robert Cray became a true blues superstar in the late 1980s with his steamy blend of soul and blues. He crossed over into the mainstream, selling millions of albums and pumping new life into an art form that saw its audience dwindling.

Cray’s recent efforts have retained his precise, song-serving guitar stylings, his tight, firm-faced band delivering his hybrid soul-blues with surgical precision.

His new material continues Cray’s exploration of amour-gone-sideways, each song a subtle, purpose-built creation engineered to tug at the heartstrings.

The uber-shy Cray was clearly uncomfortable on stage, staring directly into the bright late afternoon sun. But the Lotus audience who came to see him hung on every note. He rewarded

them with his late 1980s hits, including “Right Next Door,” with its sultry, self-absorbed refrain, “Because of me,” and the type of catchy turn-of-phrase that made him a superstar, “I’m such a strong persuade r- She was just another notch on my guitar.”

The 2010 Coloma Blues lineup was filled with stellar musicianship from bottom to top. It included enough Stratocaster calisthenics to keep the rockers from nodding off, without relying on set after set of larger-than-life guitar gymnastics.

Richard Burleigh, who books many of the same artists each August at the Sonora Blues Festival, was on hand, and talked about the difficulty of assembling a modern blues lineup that sells tickets and stays true to music.

Transplanting an art form that was born in smoky nightclubs onto an outdoor stage at noon can be challenging, he agreed. “We have to punch it up with the blues rock acts,” he said. “But there’s always room for the masters, like Charlie Musselwhite and these versatile young guys like Shane Dwight, who are such great performers that they just leave you feeling good.”

Despite repeated warnings from the stage, about 10 attendees suffered heat exhaustion. One was hospitalized. By midafternoon, a breeze was coming up off the river, cooling the meadow, and a spray of thin clouds softened the early season sun.

Event coordinator Mary Carrera credited the over 200 volunteers for making the day a success. She called Coloma Blues Live 2010 “the best show yet; the best music, the best weather and the best crowd.”

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Bar brawl leads to fight with deputies

By Cole Mayer

From page A4 | July 13, 2012 | 10 Comments

El Dorado County Sheriff's deputies responded to a fight in the early morning hours of July 4 in Coloma.

Deputies received a call at 12:47 a.m. that a fight had broken out at the Coloma Club and were advised that bar stools were being thrown and one suspect had been seen with a handgun, a press release stated.

Upon arrival, deputies learned the suspects had fled southbound on Highway 49 in a black truck. Several deputies left to begin a search while others spoke with employees. The employees advised that "three male subjects had been drinking in the bar and were being loud and causing problems," the press release stated. When asked to leave, the three began fighting with employees. Several regular patrons attempted to assist the employees. The three suspects proceeded to allegedly assault two employees and a patron.

One suspect fled during the altercation, but returned holding a handgun behind his back, the press release stated. The three then fled in the black truck. One unidentified patron noted that the suspects had been camping at the Ponderosa Resort and had heard the suspect with the handgun called "Johnny."

Deputies were able to locate the truck at the resort, parked next to a fifth wheel trailer. Deputies ordered the occupants to exit based on the report of a handgun, but there was no response. After a few minutes of orders, the press release stated, a suspect identified as Johnny Wadsworth, 40, of Coloma, exited the trailer. He challenged the deputies to shoot him and refused to comply with orders given by the deputies. He advanced on the deputies and "indicated that he was going to fight," the press release stated.

When he would not stop after multiple warnings, he was shot with a non-lethal bean bag round. After a pause, Wadsworth began to advance again. He was subsequently shot with two more bean bag rounds before he tried to hide behind a tree near the trailer. He was confronted by a deputy and K-9 unit, stopped resisting and was arrested.

As he was being arrested, his wife and son, Roxann, 41, of Amador City, and Joshua, 23, of Jackson, exited the trailer. They immediately threatened the deputies and refused to comply with orders. Joshua Wadsworth began advancing on the deputies, challenging them to shoot him. As he got closer, deputies shot him with a Taser and took him into custody.

Roxann Wadsworth started to go back to the trailer. Fearing that she was attempting to arm herself, deputies shot her with a bean bag round. She sat down and stopped resisting.

Deputies were unable to get a response from a suspected third male in the trailer. The suspects informed the deputies that the third male was "passed out drunk" in the trailer, the press release quotes. Upon searching the trailer, deputies found Jazz Ogilvie, 23, of Sacramento, hiding in the trailer, "extremely intoxicated." Several firearms were also found.

Witnesses from the bar were able to identify all three male suspects from the bar fight. The two suspects shot with the bean bag rounds and the suspect shot with a Taser were all taken to Marshall hospital for treatment, and were then booked into county jail on assault charges. According to the press release, they also face the possibility of "numerous other charges based on the altercation with deputies" during the arrest.

Cole Mayer

Cole Mayer started writing for the Mountain Democrat in early 2012. A 2011 graduate of CSU Sacramento's journalism program, he has written news, features and opinions in the past, and currently works the crime, court and fire beat.

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LEAVE A COMMENT

Discussion | 10 comments

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Not Surprised July 13, 2012 - 8:10 am

The good old Coloma Club, well known for over serving, then kicking people out and calling the police on them. I hate this place and truly hope that one day it burns down. For years over serving alcohol to customers has been the practice of the owners of this establishment. All they care about is the money. They create their own issues by allowing people who have drank way too much to keep doing so. Someday someone is going to leave there, get behind the wheel of a vehicle and get in a alcohol related accident and kill innocent people. Who should share in the responsibility of that? The owners of the Coloma Club.

Hot Spot for Trouble July 13, 2012 - 10:19 am

Coloma Club isn't the only Hot Spot in town. On 6/30 and 7/2 the Coloma Resort was the scene for excessively loud amplified music, whistling rockets & fireworks that rattled the entire valley. Whether it was gunshots or fireworks that startled residents awake at 2:30 AM, the threat of fire or violence is nonetheless an unending concern. Our rural community has turned into an unmonitored Disneyland wild-ride for rowdy troublemakers at the expense of local residents.

Listening Hills July 13, 2012 - 10:24 am

"One suspect fled during the altercation, but returned holding a handgun behind his back, the press release stated." WHAT press release and who issued it? It's been the talk of the town but no one ever saw a press release.

Cole Mayer July 13, 2012 - 10:33 am

Listening - The press release was from Sgt. Jim Byers at the Sheriff's Office. It doesn't appear to be on the Sheriff's Website yet.

Darrin July 13, 2012 - 11:51 am

Who fights with law enforcement? These folks are dolts! They should all be locked up for good. Trying to get shot??? So I guess there is a free trailer at the park?

Bill July 15, 2012 - 7:34 am

Nicely handled!

Vic Subia July 15, 2012 - 10:45 am

Well done EDCSO.

Day Late Dollar Short July 15, 2012 - 1:03 pm

EDSCO hasn't yet posted the press release as Sgt. Jim Byers replied on Friday. Residents are more concerned that there was no mention of the near race-riots involving black & Hispanic gangs. The Coloma Club incident took place on 7/4 but there have been several other disturbances including last night at 2 AM on the River. No EDCSO response. What's the deal--is bad PR going to give the campgrounds & businesses a well-deserved black eye?

Jimmy G July 15, 2012 - 4:45 pm

So it took 6 squad cars to arrest 3 drunks? Gangs & near race riot? Sounds like there is more to this story than meets the eye.

Eyes Wide Shut July 21, 2012 - 10:41 am

In light of multiple tragedy in Colorado, one must be a zombie not to wonder why it took over 2 WEEKS for EDCSO to post the press release on this significant incident. More importantly, why wasn't anything mentioned about the Mexican gangs & racial aspects involved? Guns, rockets, fireworks & excessively loud Rap music at the Coloma Resort kept residents awake the same weekend. Is it going to take a similar local tragedy before law enforcement & the media give this the attention it deserves?