



# MODESTINATION

modesto travel magazine

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1150 Ninth Street Suite C  
Modesto, California 95354  
Phone: 209-526-5588  
Fax: 209-526-5586  
[www.visitmodesto.com](http://www.visitmodesto.com)

## Staff

### Executive Director

Jennifer Mullen  
[Jennifer@visitmodesto.com](mailto:Jennifer@visitmodesto.com)

### Association, Fraternal, Religious Sales Manager

Position open

### Film, Sports, and Tour Sales Manager

Mary Lou Howell  
[Marylou@visitmodesto.com](mailto:Marylou@visitmodesto.com)

### Executive Assistant

Lisa Davidson  
[Lisa@visitmodesto.com](mailto:Lisa@visitmodesto.com)

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## X-Fest Brings Big Names and Big Sound to Modesto

By Jennifer Mullen



Let's get this party started, a party like no other. Xclamation Festival, a celebration of 40 recording and performing artists along with some smokin' hot local musicians will fill the streets of downtown Modesto, Saturday, July 19, 2008.

Rocking 15 blocks of the revitalized downtown, the 2008

festival is expected to bring 15,000 people to this live concert event, now the largest open-air dance party in the United States.

According to the events promoter Chris Ricci of Chris Ricci Presents, "We wanted to create a festival that celebrates the Downtown scene and supports a wide variety of music and talent."

This year is another great line-up of musical artists and DJ's including American Idol favorite Blake Lewis, Pepper with divine inspiration from the Hawaiian Islands, Simple Plan, Eve 6, Girlicious, N2Dep, Candlebox, Bad Boy Bill, Y & T (Yesterday & Today) a heavy metal band, L-Toka and Debbie Deb. X Fest also features some of the best local talent including: The Ivy Lines, Third Wheel, Jay Smith, Aquanett, Nideit and Moonshine Bandits. Plus you need to check out the World's Largest Outdoor Disco that utilizes two city blocks. The 40 plus bands

will appear throughout the night on eight different stages set up in the downtown. All of the restaurants and clubs will be open. In addition the streets will be filled with vendors, a food court and a TNT Moto Cross aerial demo show.

This is a 21 and over event only. The age limit will be strictly enforced at the time of ticket purchase and at the gate. You must have proper ID to get in.

General admission tickets are \$20 dollars in advance and \$40 at the gate, so get your tickets in advance for great savings. Tickets may be purchased for no service charge at: The Modesto Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1150, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite "C", (209) 526-5588; Boyett Gas Station, 4931 McHenry Ave, (209) 523-7415; Boyett Gas Station 4537 Broadway Ave, Salida (209) 545-0263; Car Audio Outlaws, 301 McHenry Ave (209) 526-8899 or Harland's Jewelers in McHenry Village, (209) 522-7390.

Mark your calendars for the Saturday, July 19 music extravaganza. Gates open at 5:00 pm; music will start at 6:00 pm

There is plenty of bus parking. Bring a big group and plan on spending the night in one of Modesto's many fine hotels.

For more information, please visit the event website at [www.xfestmodesto.com](http://www.xfestmodesto.com). Also, contact the Modesto Convention & Visitors Bureau for hotel and dining information. (209) 526-5588, [www.visitmodesto.com](http://www.visitmodesto.com).

## A Must See and Must Do Art & Wine Festival by Jennifer Mullen

We invite you to Modesto for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art & Wine Festival on Saturday, August 16, 2008. Downtown Modesto transforms into a bustling premier summer festival, a great way to entertain the whole family with a wonderful combination of art, wine, music and children's activities. Strolling among stalls of unique art, enjoying quality wines and non-stop musical entertainment helps spark the block party ambiance.



Extraordinary art ranging from, stunning photographs, original acrylic and watercolor paintings, exquisite lithographs, gorgeous jewelry, shimmering glass vessels, hand-blown ceramic pieces, recycled metal work, whimsical sculptures, hand-carved woodwork, paintings in oils and mixed media --

you'll find all of this and more. Stroll and browse well-stocked booths and meet over 100 of Modesto area's finest artists and craft makers --All of this beautiful art on display will also be for sale. This will be a perfect time to shop early for the holidays, or find that unique treasure you have been looking for. There will be live Art Demonstrations, fun jewelry and art classes for adults.

**Wine Tasting** Wine lovers will find this event a delight for the palate, with a wide selection of California vintners. In addition, E & J Gallo is celebrating 75 years of winemaking. They will also be pouring a variety of their wine labels. Enjoy leisurely tasting in the spacious, specially shaded Wine Garden, or purchase wine by the glass at several stations throughout the festival. Tresetti's World Café, a local downtown original will spearhead the wine tasting extravaganza. The festival also offers a variety of brews for the beer connoisseur.

An exciting new item being featured at the Festival is, "Cheerwine".

Cheerwine is a soft drink that has been produced in the Carolinas since 1917. Cheerwine is fairly unusual amongst sodas for what the company calls its "cherry taste and rich burgundy color". Come to the festival and try this great burgundy-red, bubbly, cherry concoction, from Stanislaus Distributing.



Be sure to visit one of the many downtown restaurants, offering a wide variety of great food selections.

**Kid Creativity Zone** will again offer family friendly entertainment from noon to 5 pm. The kids will have a large variety of arts and crafts projects to choose from all that are not only fun, but educational. Professional art teachers and their students will guide the young artists-to-be as they create masterpieces to take home.

What better way to spend a day than pleasing your senses by viewing the works of over 100 local talented artists, tasting some fine wines, while listening to a wide variety of music at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art & Wine Festival in Modesto. The Festival provides a showcase for the best in local arts and wine.

The Art & Wine Festival is Saturday, August 16, from 10 am-10 pm. There will be three entry gates. There is plenty of parking in the city garages on 9<sup>th</sup> & K and 11<sup>th</sup> and K streets. Tickets for the festival are \$10 for adults and kids are free. Tickets for the wine tasting are \$20. If you need additional information please contact the Central California Art Association at (209) 529-3369, [www.modestoartandwine.com](http://www.modestoartandwine.com) or the Modesto Convention & Visitors Bureau at (209) 526-5588, [www.visitmodesto.com](http://www.visitmodesto.com).



## The Historic Tradition of Male Hawaiian Hula Is Carried On at the Fourth Annual George Na`ope Kāne Hula Festival By Jennifer Mullen



If you've ever visited Hawaii, or if you just harbor wanderlust for a future tropical Hawaiian adventure, you can capture a fresh flower lei around your neck right here in Modesto—even if it's only for a weekend.

Come enjoy the spirit that embodies aloha at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual George Na`ope Kāne Hula Festival and the First Annual George Na`ope Keiki Hula Competition. The Makanaaloha Group will present Uncle George Lanakilakeikiahiali`i Na`ope (pronounced Nah-oh-pey) and **The Fourth Annual George Na`ope Kāne Hula Festival** at the Convention Center in Modesto, California, August 9 and 10, 2008.

The proud traditions and folklore of the people of Hawaii have been handed down for thousands of years through the traditional Kāne (pronounced kah-ney, meaning male) version of the Hula. As part of the heart and soul of Hawaiian culture, the Kāne Hula Festival is a beautiful cultural exhibit of early man's rich knowledge of nature and the universe around him.

Groups from all over California, Hawaii and Mexico will be coming to Modesto to compete in this event honoring George Na`ope. George Na`ope's lifelong commitment to furthering the Hawaiian culture through the sharing of his vast knowledge of Hawaiian chants, language and hula has been recognized by the Governor and State Legislature of Hawaii and the President of the United States.

Hula contests will be held in several categories: Soloist, Soloist with a Hula Implement, and Group Competitions. The men's division is open to individuals 13 years and older. International judges for the hula competition this year will be Chinky Māhoe, Etua Lopes, and Keala Ching. The judge for Hawaiian language is `Lokepa De Santos.

For the first time the hula tradition is passed on to young boys and girls with the First Annual George Na`ope Keiki Hula Competition. This is the only children's hula competition on the mainland United States, and features boys and girls ages 5-12. The Hawaiian children (Keiki) are a very important part of perpetuating the hula tradition, so that they too will make the hula a part of their lives as they grow.



The Kāne (male) & Keiki (kids) hula festival will feature hula competitions, Hawaiian music and chants, island arts, crafts, fresh flower leis from Hawaii, Hawaiian-style food and Hawaiian culture booths and displays over its two-day schedule. One of the exclusive featured vendors from Hawaii will be making hand-carved bone and ivory hooks. This artisan is one of five people with access to legal mammoth ivory, and he carves the ivory and other pieces of bone into traditional-style Hawaiian hooks, pendants and other items. There will also be handmade hula pahu (drums for traditional hula) and other handmade hula instruments from [Hawaiianfeathers.com](http://Hawaiianfeathers.com).



Come and join us in Modesto this August for a weekend of Hawaiian culture, hula, and arts and crafts—the festival will be a captivating celebration of hula, music and chant, featuring the smiles of children dancing on stage and a breath of aloha. Throw a fresh flower lei around your neck and enjoy the festivities!

For advance tickets to the Hula Competition call (209) 551-9226 or visit [www.kanehulafestival.com](http://www.kanehulafestival.com) Advance tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. At the door, tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children under 10. There is no admittance charge to visit the exhibits of Hawaiian arts, crafts, and jewelry. Check out [visitmodesto.com](http://visitmodesto.com) for hotel room information. Make your reservations today and come enjoy the flavor of Hawaii in Modesto.

### The Fiji Festival Graceada Park

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. July 26th



Come out to Graceada Park to explore the culture of the Fiji Islands on Saturday July 26th. Get caught up in the traditional music, art and dance representing the Fiji Islands. While you're there, get yourself a beautiful Henna Tattoo. Admission to this event is free. For more information please call Sal at 209-495-7031.



### Sierra Railroad presents: Murder Mystery Dinner July 18 & 25 August 1 & 22



Enjoy an evening like no other with a lively murder mystery dinner show aboard our train. Inspired by such classics as Murder on the Orient Express, a moving train is the ideal location to experience a murder mystery show. We take a light-hearted approach to our show and our goal is to provide you with a memorable evening of laughter and good food while you ride through the countryside. Silver Service \$59 Gold Service Upgrade: \$84 Plus Service Charge & Taxes. For more information, please call The Sierra Railroad Dinner Train at 1-800-866-1690.



### Color the Skies



The 4th Annual Color the Skies hot air balloon festival is traditionally held during Labor Day Weekend (Aug 30-31) at The Mistlin sports park in Ripon, Ca. off the Jack Tone Exit and Hwy 99 at River Rd in Ripon, California. Color The Skies is a great way to support our local Children's Hospital Central California. The park opens to the public and starts serving the Save Mart Supermarket Breakfast at 5am. Pilots are scheduled to inflate and launch between 6 -7:30 am. both days. Balloon rides for children will be available at the park from 6am-11am on both days! On the heels of the launch, Saturday, we are holding the 1st Color The Skies RISE.SHINE.GIVE.RUN. presented by Taco Bell! There are numerous additional fun activities for children including: clown shows, a petting zoo, bounce houses, arts and crafts, kite shows, games, and much more! Admission is free and the breakfast and balloon rides are \$5.00 each. Please visit [www.colortheskyies.com](http://www.colortheskyies.com)

for more information.



## Three Legends to Perform in July at the Historic State Theatre

### World Music Guitar Sensation live, In concert Wednesday, July 16, 2008



His latest album, *Frontiers*, was nominated for the 2008 World Music Album of the Year and his video, *One Night at the Metropolis*, was nominated for Music DVD of the Year. But flamenco guitar virtuoso Jesse Cook isn't as much about the awards as he is about

the music. A student of musical traditions and a passionate guitarist, Cook's stints in France and Spain infused his own playing with exotic, Gypsy and Moorish rhythms that are sultry, spellbinding – and perfect. In addition to headlining concerts and festivals, Cook has opened for such legends as B.B. King, Ray Charles and Diana Krall, and toured with Irish band The Chieftains. Prepare to be mesmerized by Cook and company as they blend rumba flamenco and African percussion with classical cello and Cajun accordion. Tickets are \$35 and \$28. and the concert starts at 8 p.m.

### The Legendary Leon Russell, Live In Concert at the State Theatre, Friday July 18, 2008

Leon Russell's long and storied career includes collaborations with a virtual who's who of music icons from Jerry Lee Lewis and Willie Nelson to Joe Cocker and the Rolling Stones. But it was Russell's touching lyrics and charmingly gravelly voice – a rustic-yet-rich fusion of country, blues and gospel – that throughout the '60s and '70s made him a rock icon in his own right. Join us for what's sure to be an unforgettable evening with the legendary Leon Russell.



Doors open at 7 p.m. and the Concert starts at 8 p.m.

### RAUL MALO IN CONCERT, Wednesday, July 23, 2008



Raul Malo - former frontman and lead singer for The Mavericks, one of the top country bands of the '90s - is now a successful solo artist whose acoustic concerts reflect not only his Cuban upbringing and country roots but his more fiery influences from calypso and carnival to salsa and jazz. Following the 2006 release of his critically embraced album *You're Only Lonely*, *Salon.com* noted that the gifted singer, songwriter, guitarist and Grammy-winner's recording was "reminiscent of Frank Sinatra's classic late-night albums." *Esquire* magazine dubbed Malo "the greatest country-rock crooner since Roy Orbison." See Raul Malo

at The State in an intimate evening of vocals covering everything from romantic standards and Tex-Mex rock to kitschy '60s cocktail pop to strait-up, traditional Cuban and South American music. Doors open at 7 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and \$35.

## Summer Film Festivals at the State Theatre

By Lisa Davidson

### Animation from around the world competes right here In Modesto



The 3rd Annual California International Animation Festival brings the best of cutting edge animation to the Historic State Theatre in downtown Modesto on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

The Animation Festival will feature traditional animation, from retro line drawings and Disney style, to in-your-face, bright and beautiful 3 dimensional animations and the ever popular Japanese Anime will be shown.

According to George Baker, director of the Animation Film Festival, "This festival has brought films from around the world. We want to celebrate the art of cinema, recognize the independent film animator, and promote the art of the film. We are thrilled to be showing entries from numerous countries including, Finland, Germany, France, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Great Britain, Japan and the United States."

Films will be arranged in age appropriate blocks. The festival will begin at 10 am with films appropriate for children seven and under. The next block will be appropriate for 7-13 years older and the late afternoon will be for 13 to adult. Films will be rated G-PG-13 etc.

There will be 4 separately juried competitions in the animation Festival, 2D Animation, 3D Animation, Anime and Experimental/Other/Multi-Media. The California International Animation Festival or CalAniFest for short is a presentation put on by The Fireside Foundation.

The Fireside Foundation is an international arts, entertainment and educational organization which inspires young and emerging artists through exhibitions, as well as educational programs on an international level.

CalAniFest will start at 10 a.m. Admission is \$10.00 for adults and children under 13 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance at [www.thestate.org](http://www.thestate.org) or the State Theatre Box office 1307 J Street, Modesto. They will also be available at the door. For a complete listing and schedule of films go to [www.CalAniFest.com](http://www.CalAniFest.com) or call (209) 537-5221

### Northern California Film Festival



With hundreds of films shot annually in Northern California, it's no wonder why they call it "Hollywood North" and "The REEL Hollywood". From the sandy beaches of the Pacific coast to the rugged, snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountains in the east to the heart of one of the greatest agricultural regions in the world, movie locations can be found all over Northern California. Sadly, though Northern California receives little or no recognition from its Southern Sister (Los Angeles).

Lucky for us, the Fireside Foundation is hosting the NorCal Film Festival in Modesto on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Come to the State Theatre in downtown Modesto and catch a glimpse of local talent starring in local movies, shot in Northern California. Categories include fiction films, documentaries, and music videos. See the best entries submitted in this annual competition judged by respected film industry professionals. Selected films will have their chance for BIG SCREEN exposure and possible inclusion on a compilation DVD. Prizes will be awarded to films and filmmakers.

NorCal Film Fest will start at 10 a.m. Admission is \$10.00 for adults and children under 13 are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance at [www.thestate.org](http://www.thestate.org) or the State Theatre Box office 1307 J Street, Modesto. They will also be available at the door. For a complete listing and schedule of films go to [www.NorcalFilmFest.com](http://www.NorcalFilmFest.com) or call (209) 537-5221.

# THE SPECTACULAR "FAMILY FUN FEST" COMES TO JOHN THURMAN BASEBALL FIELD

By Jennifer Mullen



**Come See The Most Extensive Traveling Baseball Festival In History**

Principal Financial Group Family Fun Fest is an unprecedented, and completely free, celebration of baseball which will be visiting minor league baseball ballparks all across the country during its 5th anniversary season. It is the most extensive traveling baseball festival in history and features more than 20 baseball themed attractions including a minor league baseball museum, the Xbox 360 Best Buy Home Run Derby video game trailer, and a fan festival midway with batting and pitching cages, bungee runs, a huge side-by-side giant slide, baseball bounce houses, and lots more interactive fun for baseball fans of all ages. This year Days Inn is bringing a baseball card attraction where fans can step up to the plate and have their picture taken on their very own baseball card. There's even an exhibit where fans can put themselves on a free souvenir cover of Sports Illustrated Kids Magazine.

Plus, donate new or used baseball equipment to "Pitch In For Baseball" and receive a coupon for Xbox 360 software at Best Buy and a special ticket offer from the team.

Family Fun Fest, the world's largest traveling baseball festival will be stopping at over 60 cities. Modesto has been selected as one of the only three towns the Fun Fest will visit in California. Created and produced by Entertainment & Sports International (ESI), the 4000 square foot Principal Financial Group Family Fun Fest will be set-up just outside the main gates of the ballpark and will begin at 4:00 PM. John Thurman Field is located at 601 Neece Dr, Modesto, CA 95351 with easy access off of the 99 Freeway, from the Tuolumne Blvd exit.



Mike Gorrasi, Vice President of the Modesto Nuts noted "We are thrilled to have this fun baseball festival part of a Modesto Nuts game. We know baseball fans of all ages will enjoy this unique experience. We encourage everyone to come out and stroll through the minor league Baseball Museum, see memorabilia from classic baseball films and great baseball players, many who have played in Modesto. In addition test your skills on the hottest baseball video games or take the pitching challenge, there is really a lot of baseball fun."



**Family Fun Fest will open at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, July 29th.** The event is **Free**. The Modesto Nuts baseball game is scheduled to begin at 7:05 pm and tickets for the game are available at the Nuts ticket office, by calling (209) 572-4487 or via the internet at [www.Modestonuts.com](http://www.Modestonuts.com). The Modesto Nuts will take on the Stockton Ports.

This would be a great opportunity to bring a bus load of baseball fans to Modesto. Come early, have lunch or take a tour of one of many attractions in Modesto. Play at the Family Fun Fest and then stick around to enjoy a great game of baseball.

To learn more about the Principal Financial Group Family Fun Fest, go to [www.principal.com/funfest](http://www.principal.com/funfest).




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## Princess Tea Party Kids Train August 9th @ 11am



Mothers and daughters, this is the trip for you! Sip apple cider while enjoying Princess cupcakes, storytelling, music, hand painting, and much more! Dress up as your favorite princess and escape for an afternoon of childhood bliss on the train! Tickets are just \$25 adults & \$15 Kids (ages 3-11). For more information, please call The Sierra Railroad Dinner Train at 1-800-866-1690.

The Modesto Convention and Visitors Bureau would like to hear what you have to say about our publication. Send us suggestions for future articles, things you feel would make our publication better or just say hi. Please go to [www.visitmodesto.com/media/survey.aspx](http://www.visitmodesto.com/media/survey.aspx)

# LIVE

by Lisa Davidson

**Bacchus Food & Spirits, 576-8994**

Tuesdays- Kate Trompetter  
 Wednesdays- Darin Morris  
 Thursdays - DJ Honey B  
 Fridays- Johnny & Kelly  
 Saturdays - DJ Kevin Garcia

**Banana Joe's, 549-2548**

Thursdays - Live music

**Barkin' Dog, 572-2341**

Every Wednesday - Creole Jazz Kings  
 07/03 - Mike and Plan B  
 07/05 - Matt Pivec and Friends  
 07/10 - Nate Henderson Combo  
 07/11 - New Horizons Jazz Band  
 07/12 - Mary Elizabeth Boutte and Jazzoni  
 07/17 - Gottschalk Summer Jazz Bands w/  
 guest artist Bill Watrous  
 07/24 - Mike and PLAN B  
 07/26 - Carbon Canvas  
 07/31- Sol Sourji...poetry

**Claytons, 522-7811**

Mondays- Blue Monday  
 Saturdays- Jazz, Blues and R&B

**Deva Café, 572-3382**

Thursdays- Live Jazz

**El Palomar, 236-1544**

Thursdays- Nick Shandel  
 Fridays- Mariachi Band  
 Saturdays- Salsa

**Etouffee, 549-2245**

Tuesday - Fat Tuesday, live music  
 07/25 - AC Myles Band

**Farmers Market, 16th Street between H & I**

Every Thursday & Saturday from May 3rd  
 until November 17th. 7 am - 12:00 pm.

**Fat Cat Music House & Lounge, 524-1400**

07/11 - Tomorrows Bad Seeds/Not 4 nothin  
 07/19 - X-Fest, downtown  
 07/21 - Melvins  
 08/04 - Powerman 5000  
 08/05- One Shot Suicide

**Galletto Ristorante, 523-4500**

Thursday- Salsa Music and Dancing  
 Friday & Saturday- Live Music  
 7/12 - Shad Harris and the Groovenators

**Gallo Center for the Arts, 338-2100**

**Rogers Theater**

08/08-16 - The Wizard of Oz  
 08/22 - Bernadette Peters  
 8/23 - A Mesopotamian Night:Melodies  
 from the Middle East  
 08/29 - Chicago

**Jacob's Fine Dining, 529-2829**

Fridays/Saturdays- Jan Shafer

**Moband, Graceada Park 8:00-9:30**

7/3 - Celebrate America  
 7/10 - Nite out on Broadway Featuring  
 Carol Channing in conjunction with MPD's  
 Nite Out America  
 7/17 - Solid Gold  
 7/24 - Best of Summer

**The Queen Bean**

Thursdays - Reggae with DJ Honey B  
 07/04 - Brian Azevedo  
 07/05 - Anthem Klymatics  
 07/11 - Reggie Ginn  
 07/12 - Drew Blum  
 07/18 - Blue Heron  
 07/19 - Niki Leigh ATBA  
 07/22 - Think I am  
 07/24 - Music over Meth Stanislaus  
 07/25 - Solo Bass Jake w/Brian Azevedo  
 07/26 - Mars Hill Revisited  
 08/02- Rental 58  
 08/04 - Da Bears  
 08/07 - Maria Proctor  
 08/09 - Off the Cuff  
 08/15 - Nikki Leigh  
 08/16 - Juno's Circus  
 08/20 - Rick Kaupp "Don't Believe the  
 Truth"  
 08/22 - Boscoe's Brood with Antioquia

08/23 - lovelife  
 08/28 - Music over Meth Part 4  
 08/29 - Nincina..and Alyssa Poppins  
**P. Wexford's Pub, 576-7939**  
 Wednesdays- Steve Kenworthy  
 Thursdays - The John and Joe Show  
 Fridays- Rick Barnes  
 Saturday's - Live Music  
**Prospect Theater**  
 (www.prospecttheaterproject.org)  
 07/19 - 08/10 A Play About a Handkerchief  
**Skewers, 525-3611**  
 Thursdays- Karaoke  
 Fridays- Carl Robinson  
**Speakeasy Lounge, 238-3907**  
 Monday - John Valenti & Friends  
 Tuesday - Uncle Stunky's Traveling Circus  
 Wednesday - Open jam w/Johnny and Kelly  
 Thursday - 80's night w/ DJ Chopstix  
 Friday - Neil Buettner & Matt Harrington  
 Saturday - Rotating Cover Band  
 Sunday - Karaoke with Laura  
**T's, 522-7200**  
 Thursdays- T Ray and Friends jam  
 Fridays/Saturdays- Power Play  
**The State Theatre, 527-4697**  
 (www.thestate.org)  
 07/12 - World of Laughs Comedy Show  
 07/16 - Jesse Cook  
 07/18 - Leon Russell  
 7/19 - CalAni Festival  
 07/23 - Raul Malo  
 8/16 - NorCal Film Festival  
**Vito's Ristorante, 576-1156**  
 Saturdays- Live Jazz  
**West Side Theater, 862-4490**  
 07/11 - 07/27 Is There a Doctor in the House  
 08/02 - Claudia Russell and the Folk Orchestra  
 08/09 - Fishtank Ensemble

**Wild West Lunch Trains July 19 & 26  
 August 2, 16, 23, 30**



Hide your belongings 'cause  
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 the railroad! When your  
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 out the year. And now, the  
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 western characters, outlaws and a gunfight. These  
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 (ages 3-11) \$25 Plus Service Charge & Taxes. For  
 more information, please call The Sierra Railroad  
 Dinner Train at 1-800-866-1690.



## Go Nuts at the Stanislaus County Fair by Jennifer Mullen



Turlock fairgrounds come alive this summer with the 97<sup>th</sup> annual Stanislaus County Fair. This year promises to have more exciting exhibits, amazing attractions, a variety of live entertainment and the family fun midway.

The fair opens each year on the last Friday in July. More than 200,000 visitors will pass through the gates for award winning fun at the largest family-centered event in Stanislaus County.

The theme for this year's fair is "Nuts are DINOmite" and they will offer almond sampling daily. The fair will kick-off Friday July 25, with a 10-day run ending Sunday August 3.

Among the 11 awards garnered at the Western Fairs Association (WFA) convention, Stanislaus County Fair received the first place award for Overall Children Program. This year's kid zone will include; Lowe's Kids Make and Take Project, Brad's World Reptiles and Snakes Alive! Meet 'Big Al' and all his slithering, scaly friends; 4-H Farmyard Experience...the farmyard where kids can explore little things that grow in big places.

In addition to the many award winning children's activities, the 2008 fair will feature *Jurassic Journey*, a 8,000 square foot exhibit of nearly 40 life-size dinosaur replicas and fossils. Stomp with a stegosaurus, tread turf with a Triceratops or roar at the T-Rex. The exhibit is making its California debut at the Stanislaus County Fair.

Be sure and visit the magnificent Midway, with over 40 exciting carnival rides and more than 30 food concessions dishing up everything from mouth watering BBQ to finger-licking cotton candy.

Stroll through the tree-shaded grounds where you will find nightly celebrity concerts which are included in fair admission, entertainment on six stages, 30,000 individual competitive exhibits of local talent and over 1,750 animals—dairy & beef cattle, sheep, swine, goats, rabbits, chicken and horses. Speaking of horses, be sure and see the world famous Budweiser Clydesdales, stables, arena show and parade.



This year's fair will start out with two nights of exciting, jaw-dropping action with the Tuff Trucks and Truck and Tractor Pulls, sure to thrill all monster truck lovers. Also for two nights this year, have a bang-up time at the Destruction Derby. New to the line up this year are the Humpz and Horns Bull Riding and those famous Budweiser Clydesdale Horses! You can purchase tickets for all the events at any tickets.com outlet, the Fair Box office or any of the Valley First Credit Union locations. You can also go online to tickets.com.

This year will be an impressive list of first rate talent on the Budweiser FREE stage that you won't want to miss. The fair will kick off with Clay Walker July 25, Bowling for Soup July 26, Sawyer Brown July 27, Building 429 and Matthew West July 28, Little big Town July 29, The Doobie Brothers July 30, Raven Symone July 31, The Beach Boys August 1, The Temptations August 2 and Mariachi Varga August 3. From country music, to Christian, Classic rock, Hip-hop, Oldies and Mariachi there is something for everyone. Again, these great musical acts are FREE with admission to the Fair and start every night at 8:30 p.m.

General Admission is \$8.00 until July 24, \$10.00 after July 24, Children ages 6-12 \$3.00 and under 5 is free. Tickets are available at the Fair Box Office 900 N. Broadway Ave Turlock, CA, any tickets.com outlet location and any Valley First Credit Union location.

You won't want to miss a minute of the action, so grab your family, meet up with your friends and have a DINO-Mite time at the Stanislaus County Fair.

## Gallo Center for the Arts August Shows



The YES COMPANY, a youth theatre program introducing students to the performing arts through intensive summer theatrical training and year-round exposure to performance and the arts, presents *The Wizard of Oz!* Come join Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman, the Cowardly Lion and Toto as they travel the universe of Dorothy's imagination.

With a cast of over 100 youth representing over 35 Stanislaus County schools, this timeless tale will come to life in the Mary Stewart Rogers theatre at the new Gallo Center for the Arts in classic tinseltown style.

Be blown away by a stage-sweeping tornado, Monkeys who literally fly, and a full town of adorable Munchkins! Performances will begin August 8<sup>th</sup> and go through August 16<sup>th</sup>. Admission is \$8-\$30. For more information please call the YES Company at 209-238-6850 or visit [www.yescompany.org](http://www.yescompany.org)



### Bernadette Peters

Tony Award-winner Bernadette Peters presents a glamorous songbook evening to kick off the Gallo Center for the Arts' 08/09 season, celebrating the Broadway shows for which she has received accolades, as well as songs from her Grammy award-winning and nominated albums. The evening will be led by Ms. Peters' Music Director, Marvin Laird and will include the popular music of Rodgers & Hammerstein and Stephen Sondheim, among others, performed as only Bernadette Peters can.

Peters' career as a musical theater, television and film performer has garnered her numerous honors including two Tony Awards, seven Tony nominations, three Grammy awards for her work on cast recordings, three Grammy nominations for her solo recordings, three Emmy nominations and a Golden Globe. Performing since the age of 3, Peters' enduring career continues to thrive with her one-woman concert tour throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as starring on Broadway, television appearances and on recordings. This one night only event will be August 22<sup>nd</sup> at

8 p.m. Admission is \$125 - \$500. Included in the ticket price is admission to a gala champagne reception following the performance.

### Melodies From the East



On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, The Assyrian Aid Society of America Central Valley Chapter presents "A Mesopotamian Night: Melodies From the East". Featuring classical music performances by Assyrian musicians and excerpts from the first Assyrian Opera "Gilgamesh", followed by a concert by Assyrian singers Ashur Bet Sargis and Walter Aziz. The show begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$75

Tickets to all of the events at the Gallo Center for the Arts may be purchased at the Gallo Center Box office 1000 I Street, by calling 209-338-2100 or online at [www.galloarts.org](http://www.galloarts.org)