

WE FEATURES

Promising home buying season
HOMES, Page 2

Charley is tired of junk mail
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Saturday stroll celebrates art
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This calendar sponsored by



Wednesday, May 29

WMS Eighth Grade Promotion Event,
6 p.m., Winters High School – Dr. Sellers Field

Wednesdays

Eat Well Yolo Drive – Through Food Distribution,
Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. As supplies last, Winters High student parking lot, off Railroad Avenue

Thursday, May 30

WHS Graduation Ceremony,
7 p.m., Winters High School – Dr. Sellers Field

Thursdays

Eat Well Yolo Food Distribution,
first and third Thursdays, 10 a.m. As supplies last, RISE, Inc., 417 Haven St., 530-668-0690

Sunday, June 2

Winters Farmers Market,
9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Downtown Main Street, discoverwinters.com/farmers-market

Tuesday, June 4

Winters City Council Meeting,
6:30 p.m., Council chamber (318 First St.),
Zoom Meeting info, check www.cityofwinters.org/city-council-meetings/

Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 6

Winters JUSD School Board Meeting,
6 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers (318 First St.),
Zoom Meeting info, check <https://wintersjUSD.diligent.community>

Library Services

Winters Library Public Hours (School in Session),
Mon/Wed: 8 a.m.–6 p.m., Tue/Thu: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.,
Fri: 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat: 1–5 p.m.

Teen Tuesday (ages 12-18), Second Tuesdays, 2 p.m.,
Winters Community Library

Bilingual Storytime (ages 0-5), Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.,
Winters Community Library

Virtual English Conversation Group, Tuesdays,
2-3 p.m., One time registration required: Contact
Nancy Pacheco 530-666-8019 or nancy.pacheco@yolocounty.org

Mangonada Monday (ages 6-12), fourth Monday, 3:30 p.m.

Tech Thursdays, Thursdays, 2-7:30 p.m., call 530-666-8005 to schedule an appointment. Bilingual sessions available upon request.

Saturday Matinee, First Saturday, 2 p.m., Winters Community Library

All You Need is Love Romance Book Club, Second Saturday, 4 p.m., Hooby's Brewing

Older Adult Programs

Winters Senior Foundation Chair Yoga Class for Seniors, Wednesdays, 9:30-11 a.m., St. Anthony Parish Hall (511 W. Main St.)

Winters Senior Foundation Social Gathering, Thursdays, 1-3:30 p.m., St. Anthony Parish Hall (511 W. Main St.)

Ongoing

Winters Friends of the Library meeting, first Monday, 7 p.m., Winters Community Library, Margaret Parsons Room, wfol.org

Winters Fortnightly meeting, second Tuesdays, 1 p.m., St. Anthony Parish Hall (511 W. Main St.)

Rotary Club of Winters meeting, Thursdays, Noon, The Buckhorn

Winters Museum public hours, Thursday thru Sunday, 1-5 p.m., 13 Russell St.

Winters Open Mic, third Thursday of the month (January thru March), 6 p.m. (sign-ups begin at 5:30 p.m.), Winters Opera House, 13 Main St.

Kiwanis Club of Winters meeting, fourth Wednesday, 6 p.m., Turkovich Family Wines - Boss Lounge, kiwanisclubofwinters@gmail.com

Democracy Winters meeting, third Saturdays, 10 a.m.–Noon, Meeting details in newsletter, contact info@democracywinters.org

Walking Meditation, third Sunday, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Meet behind the Winters Community Center, 201 Railroad Ave.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings:

» **St. Anthony Parish Hall, 511 Main St. (back entrance)** Tuesdays, 7-8 a.m. and Fridays, 7-8 a.m.

» **Yolo Housing office building, 62 Shams Way:** Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. and Sundays, 9 a.m.



Courtesy photo

The newest student-designed mural can be viewed along Grant Avenue on the side or a portable unit at Waggoner Elementary School. This details the status of the mural as of Wednesday, May 22.

Students capture local spirit in mural

By Amelia Biscardi
Express staff writer

With bright colors and familiar landmarks, a mural project at Waggoner Elementary School is in what should be its final week of being completed. The mural represents important parts of Winters. More than 100 students from elementary school and high school have worked together to create these colorful images.

The mural is a collaboration between Winters Joint Unified School District, Winters Participation Gallery and The Spirit of Winters Committee.

With an elephant, a rainbow representing Putah Creek, the Winters gazebo, the water tower and more, elementary students' voices are shown alongside the building.

To create the design, students read a book, "My Papi Has a Motorcycle," and from there wrote or drew what they loved about Winters. Jill Aguiar,



Courtesy photo

Winters High School students are teaming up with elementary-aged students to provide support, guidance and to cheer them on in their creative endeavor on the project.

Expanding Learning Opportunity Program coordinator and Liz Coman, Career and College coordinator, tallied up the responses to find the trends.

Winters High School students were hired by the school district to create sketches and presented them to stake holders at Winters JUSD and the Spirit of Winters Committee on March 7.

The WHS are also working alongside the younger students to help complete the mural. These students took a field trip to Waggoner to get inspiration from the grounds.

Once the design was approved, it was time to get the elementary students involved, but not without a couple of small hurdles.

Muralist Jamie Montiel said the younger students hadn't had art classes just yet, as well most of them only had an attention span of 5 to 20 minutes, usually depending on their age.

"One of the things we're actually going over is some of the lines because we told them just try to paint

See MURAL, Page 5

Hotel Winters receives Travelers' Choice Award

By Angela Underwood
Express correspondent

When you Google "Best Hotel in Yolo County, California," Hotel Winters is the top listing.

Hotel Winters is officially recognized as a 2024 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award recipient. General Manager Guysell Geter details the moment he found out through his email inbox.

"I was just thrilled," Geter said, adding the notable award goes beyond just being a top spot. "It's not only good just for Hotel Winters, but it's good for Winters to be put on a map as a top 10 percent hotel in the world is awesome."

VisitYolo.com Executive Director Terry Selk said the Tripadvisor award "reinforces and elevates awareness of the caliber and quality of the destination stay by having Hotel Winters recognized for (its) product experience."

That product experience includes the ZenTerra and Eight Six Zero Salons on site and Kristine Provenza's fine art of Northern California rolling hills in each oversized room, which offers bathrobes and slippers. Not to mention the clawfoot tubs, living rooms and executive desks in re-



Courtesy photo

Despite a rough start due to the pandemic, Hotel Winters has earned a spot in the top 10 percent of hotels worldwide on TripAdvisor.com.

spective rooms. Hotel Winters is so lush that couples come from far and wide to wed on the grounds.

"Winters has excelled due to (its) innovativeness, creativity, and hospitality — which continually creates an excellent customer experience," Selk said.

Consistently high reviews gained the local resort high ratings from the user-generated content, according to the website, reporting "Tripadvisor gives a Travelers' Choice award to accommoda-

tions, attractions, and restaurants that consistently earn great reviews from travelers and are ranked within the top 10 percent of properties on TripAdvisor."

Selk said that when you associate a hotel product at a distinguishing level, it helps elevate the recognition of the whole town as a destination experience.

"Visitors seek the whole destination experience, which includes where to stay and the experiences and things to do that

the visitor can partake in," Selk said. "This is a huge win for Hotel Winters, the city of Winters, and the county of Yolo."

Long before the national accolade and the COVID-19 pandemic, Geter worked with Selk when opening Hotel Winters in 2019, holding job fairs and events introducing the community to the new contemporary resort.

"People were so excited about working, and in March of 2020,

See AWARD, Page 6

Community event puts art in the spotlight

Special to the Express

Art aficionados and enthusiasts are in for a treat. A new community event featuring local and regional artists has come to town.

The Winters Downtown Business Association is collaborating with local businesses to create the Winters Wine and Art Stroll. The artistic community event features art, art demos, and artist meet and greets on the second Saturday of each month, May through October, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Lynda Hinds, Yolo 365 Tours and Tastings owner/operator and one of the event coordinators said the

“Winters’ business community has always been passionate about supporting the arts both visual and performance.” And the art isn’t limited to mixed-medias on canvas.

With the Winters Theatre Company’s move to the Historic Winters Opera House, an opportunity to bring the arts center state downtown is within reach with a lineup of theatrical and musical performances.

Winters Open Mic utilizes the Opera House stage seasonally and performs on Main Street throughout the summer



Courtesy photo

White Art Stroll flags mark which businesses are participating in the monthly art stroll community event.

months, giving locals and visitors a chance to perform.

Additionally, the music series in the Park plays during the summer and the Win-

ters History Murals around town are additional examples of art flourishing in the community.

“Art inspires people and inspired peo-

ple are what make our community so special,” Hinds said.

The First Street Studio Art Gallery will continue hosting art classes and workshops, and other local businesses have also begun to offer musical and art-related workshops.

“The goal of the monthly Art Stroll is to allow visitors to connect to the art and interact directly with the artist and their work,” Hinds said. “Many of the locations will feature different artists monthly. Art will be for sale in participating locations.”

“In the Gallery we find visitors are drawn

to the scenes of Yolo County that reflect the picturesque and unique atmosphere of our area,” artist Marti Walker added.

The art stroll will feature 8 to 10 businesses – many of those locations will offer an art stroll wine special or drink special.

The Participating art locations will display a white Art Stroll flag out in front of their business. Postcards listing the participating art locations are available in the Winters Visitors Center 13 Main St.; Berryessa Gap Tasting Room, 15 Main St. or The Winters Collective, 41 Main St.

JAYS

Continued from Page 5

Almost anything is considered food and favorites change with the seasons. When the demands of a young family are at their peak during spring and summer, favorite meals include protein-rich insects, small animals such as lizards, other nestling birds and juvenile mice and voles along with fruits and nuts. In fact, adult scrub jays have been observed following other birds and then raiding their nests. Acorns are always a favorite and jays will hold them with their feet and hammer at them with their bills using the hooked tip to extract the nut from the shell. They will also drop them from up high hoping the impact will crack them and they’ve been observed wedging them in places to peck at them. They will also pillage cultivated crops like corn, almonds, walnuts, and fruit when available. If you have bird feeders you have probably noticed California Scrub-Jays can be bullies and outcompete larger birds like crows over their love of sunflow-

er seeds and peanuts. The jays that visit me always beat the crows to the peanuts and when there’s a lot to pick from, they weigh each peanut and make off with the heavier ones - gluttons. Crows, on the other hand, can fit two peanuts in their beaks each trip so I’m not sure who the real winner is.

California Scrub-Jays are masters at hoarding and stashing food. They are known as “planters of acorns” because they collect and stash them by the thousands and then don’t always return to collect them. If they were hidden in a suitable place those acorns may sprout and produce additional oak trees. California Scrub-Jays are also sly and often shoplift from other jays or Acorn Woodpeckers’ stockpiles. These shifty birds have even been seen checking over their shoulders before raiding another bird’s inventory. California Scrub-Jays, with their big brains, also have the cognitive ability to plan ahead (metacognition). They carefully choose where to hide their food hoard and then later, with their

highly accurate and complex memories, recall where they put it. They also check to make sure they aren’t being watched by other crafty jays before retrieving their emporium, so they don’t get swindled themselves. They’ve even been observed hiding rocks instead of food in order to discourage others from pirating from them and they will relocate their storehouse if it is discovered.

The California Scrub-Jays in my neighborhood have grown to know me and fully expect to be recognized and acknowledged. When my garage door goes up, they frantically squawk at me from across the street in case I might forget that they’re waiting. As soon as I put the peanuts down, they call to others with trills and clicks and swoop in with speed and accuracy. They’re some of my favorite neighbors.

—Kristie Ehrhardt is Tuleyome’s Land Conservation and Stewardship Program Director. Tuleyome is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization based in Woodland, California. For more information visit www.tuleyome.org.

AWARD

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I had to close the hotel for three months and lay everyone off and furlough people,” Geter said, adding rather than let the pandemic push down a local dream, the region rose to the occasion.

“Yolo County really helped me to stay strong, and I’m not a quitter, and I just really am passionate about the vision and making Yolo County and Winter a destination,” Geter said.

Returning from a pandemic that thrives on germs made many hotels appear hazardous to the general public, especially regarding “human interactions,” according to Geter, resuming physical relationships among staff and guests did not come overnight.

“People are now adjusting to pre-COVID expectations since there were so many changes,” Geter said. “We have to adjust back to the smiling and having human contact, which is what people expect in hospitality.”

The general manager said pre-pandemic pleasures are more evident. Geter said he “can see the staff and people just enjoying



Courtesy photo

TripAdvisor reviewers rave about Hotel Winters’ lush rooms – including clawfoot tubs – to on-site servers like ZenTerra Spa and the Eight Six Zero salon.

themselves like we used to” before honoring the Hotel Winters team for their part in the award.

“We have an excellent services team, an excellent housekeeping team, and, of course, a leading management team,” Geter said. “But to have a team that really delivers the experience is highly important for our sales team, which sells the property to the operations team.”

According to Geter, the team’s local vibe definitely transfers to the award, as many team members live in Winters and

Yolo County. Selk also credits the hospitality team for their excellence, congratulating “everyone on the Hotel Winters team that makes it such a welcoming and unique experience for locals and visitors alike.”

“There’s always room for growth – we always have areas of opportunity,” Geter said. “It’s really maintaining a high expectation and keeping a high standard while being consistent, and if we maintain a high standard in guest expectations, we’ll continue to win the awards.”





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