

# M a k i n g A D i f f e r e n c e

## Pawsitive Pet Care

Healthcare Plans - Proactive Preventative Care for our Pets

By Rose Navarro, RVT

With all of the discussions surrounding healthcare today, it seems two companies have announced this month that they are going to step up and offer an affordable healthcare plan for our pets. Petfinder and PetFirst Healthcare are partnering to form a unique plan for people who adopt through Petfinder's database.

Petfinder is a non profit organization designed to help people find a pet that suits their family situation. The website is full of information that offers tips in selecting the right pet for you and your family and educational materials about pet health care as well as dozens of links to websites all dedicated to supporting the adoption process.

You can access Petfinder either through their website or just go to our local Amador County Shelter website and click on the shelter doghouse at the bottom of the page and it will automatically direct you to Petfinder.

PetFirst Healthcare is a pet insurance company that offers this unique plan to shelters, boarding facilities and veterinarians. Coverage consists of many different plans, accident, senior and basic or preferred plans to suit any family's needs.

Shelter adoption plans run around five dollars for the first month and around fifteen every month after. There are no age restrictions so that older animals

can be adopted and covered, therefore increasing the adoptions of older pets. The preferred plan fees are moderate, but without any plan of coverage, having to come up with thousands of dollars because of an accident or sudden illness that befalls our pets can financially devastate us especially in this economy.

The overwhelming feelings of losing a pet because a person cannot afford treatment, is emotionally devastating as well. As a Veterinary Technician in the emergency room and in critical care, I have seen this all too often. It is heartbreaking. Aside from this aspect, there is also the practice of preventative medicine, where if we are proactive and protect our pet first with all the needed care, we can help ensure a healthy life for our animal family member.

If you are thinking of adopting a pet, Petfinder provides many tools for selecting the right one. Consider this the first thing that you do before adopting. Using the tools on Petfinder, you can select the type of pet that fits your lifestyle. Then you can select the breed that matches the environment that you will be providing, and also the time and attention requirements needed for that particular breed.

Find out about training needs and adaptability, nutrition requirements and genetic predispositions to illness. There are many things to consider when adopting, but with good education materials and resources for preventative care, pet owners can feel more secure in making that lifetime commitment to their new animal family member.

*Rose Navarro is a CA State Registered Veterinary Tech with a Veterinary medical background in Internal Medicine, Emergency, and Critical Care. She owns a local pet sitting service. [www.pawsitivepetcareservice.com](http://www.pawsitivepetcareservice.com).*

**Blue Moon New Year's Eve Bash.** The gates to the Amador County Fairgrounds open at 6 p.m., with happy hour from 6-7 p.m., followed by dinner service from 7-9 p.m. A variety of live blues will provide music all night for listening and dancing. ACRA is especially proud to announce live musical performances by Maxx Cabello Jr., Mick Martin and the Blues Rockers, Mumbo Gumbo, Mal Sharpe and the Big Money Jazz Band, Bluesion, Spun Crush, and D.J. Gavin who will be rockin' in the new year.

Evening activities will take place rain or shine and include fireworks for the count down at midnight, dinner, a live and silent auction, raffle drawings, and dancing ringing in the brand new year! Secure lodging early for this sell-out event. Shuttle service will be available free of charge, for most Amador lodging facilities to and from the event. Expanded RV accommodations are also available through the 49er Trailer Village next door to the fairgrounds.

Usher in a new year of hope and possibility with an evening of celebration, fireworks, great food, fine refreshments, and live music under the second full moon in a month, a blue moon! Come support youth recreation and park development in Amador County while having a blast at this fabulous event. Tickets: \$35 per person. Call Amador County Recreation Agency (209) 223-6373 or go online at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) or [www.highsierratickets.com](http://www.highsierratickets.com).

## Plymouth School Gardens

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...action - to really make it for kids. Each player was active at all points in time, spread around the entire stage. Everything Heidi Zolker, as the duck, was hilarious, and she even made a duck's waddle graceful.

Amber and I talk about the different kinds of conflict in each version of Peter. Here, the lightheartedness made me forget that. I believe since there was no live music playing, the oral introduction of each character and 'their' instrument was dismissed, though that's just my conclusion; I forgot to ask. After Peter, the Sacramento Zoo-mobile brought a macaw, hedgehog, and desert tortoise.

The Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier showed some moves on stage for kids to see up close. Dancers were dressed up at the coloring table and all around.

Like other plays by the Sacramento Ballet, generally everyone involved mingles with the crowd afterward - check that out at *The Nutcracker* in December. Amber took home a slipper autographed by Haskins and a magic wand. What will she dream about tonight?

To help buy new playground equipment: write a check to "PEP Club" and send to PEP Club c/o Plymouth Elementary School, P.O.Box 847, Plymouth, CA 95669 or call (209) 257-7800.

Separately, donations for the garden are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Write checks to "Amador Community Foundation"; note in the lower left, "Plymouth Elementary School Gardens Fund", and send to ACF at P.O. Box 1154, Jackson, CA 95642. [michaelspinetta@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelspinetta@yahoo.com).

## Spring Awakening

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...set in the restrictive late 19th century Germany, celebrates the undeniable adolescent discovery of sex and the confusion that accompanies this "awakening" with an intensity and a passion you will never forget. This story of teenage self discovery and the inner and outer tumult of budding sexuality, as seen through the eyes of three teenagers, will force you to go to those most uncomfortable memories inside yourself and restore the mystery and the thrill to that cataclysmic transformation that swirls in all of our souls.

*Spring Awakening* contains mature themes, sexual situations and strong language and is recommended for theatergoers 17 and over. *Sit On Stage:* "Spring Awakening" offers a unique opportunity for theatre fans, an opportunity to purchase

## Sacramento Arts Festival

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...creates wonderfully embellished wall hangings. Most of her work contains elements derived from nature which she accomplishes by machine as well as by hand. She uses colorful dyed fabrics and weavings that enhance the beauty of her textiles. See more at her site: [www.lisapaigetextilearts.com](http://www.lisapaigetextilearts.com)

The list goes on; with over 200 artistic individuals displaying their wares, it is impossible to mention every one of them. Lastly, I need to mention the Schools Gallery which featured the works of students ranging from elementary thru high school. These works were entries in the Sacramento-Area Schools Art Competition and displayed the winning entries.

Next year's 13th annual Sacramento Arts Festival will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center October 1, 2 and 3, 2010. More information on the festival and the exhibitors can be found at their website [www.sacartsfest.com](http://www.sacartsfest.com) or by contacting American Art Festivals, Inc. P.O. Box 3037, Atascadero, CA 93423; phone: 805-461-6700.

## Volume II of "Something From Nothing, The Early History Of West Calaveras County"

The second collection of the popular monthly columns penned by historian Sal Manna for the *Valley Springs News*, tells all of those fascinating stories and more, and is available for purchase. The 48-page, full color magazine (only authoritative color publication ever produced about the area's history) adds numerous photographs to the original columns and follows Volume I which was published earlier this year.

Available at the *Valley Springs News*, 10-G Nove Way, and from the author for \$12.50, includes postage and handling, sent to the Society for The Preservation of West Calaveras History, PO Box 714, Burson, CA 95225. Info, call 772-0336.

seats actually on stage. Tickets are only \$25 and going fast. Call the box office at (916) 557-1999 for more information. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$65 and are on sale now at the Wells Fargo Pavilion box office, 1419 H Street, the Community Center Theater box office, 1301 L Street, all tickets.com outlets, online at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) or by calling (916) 557-1999 or (800) 225-2277. For more information [www.BroadwaySacramento.com](http://www.BroadwaySacramento.com)

Broadway Sacramento presents "Xanadu" (December 30, 2009-January 10, 2010) next at the Community Center.

## Parkinson Association Northern California

Until there's a cure...hope and healing everyday.

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Parkinson Association of Northern California is dedicated to helping people and families who are affected by Parkinson's disease and related conditions.

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