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MARTINEZ NEWS-GAZETTE

THURSDAY | MAY 5, 2011

ONE SECTION, 14 PAGES

MARTINEZGAZETTE.COM

VOL 153 / NO. 99

ALWAYS 25 CENTS

ARTIST PROFILE: LUCAS OHIO PATTIE

Young talent finds musical path in Martinez

BY GRETA MART
Staff Reporter

Lucas Ohio Pattie, a newcomer to Martinez whose parents named him after the early 19th century explorer

and fur trapper James Ohio Pattie, said he moved here because of Armando's.

"I learned about Martinez from playing Armando's. I liked the feel of the town, there's something just kind of magical

and cool about it ... and I love the waterfront and hiking," said Pattie on Wednesday.

On Friday, Pattie will open for legendary musician Dana Cooper at the popular Marina Vista venue, and will headline a show there on July 2 with his band the Shamblers.

"Cooper is from Nashville and has been playing for 40 years. He's a good friend and was cruising through town so I thought Armando's would be a perfect venue for him," said Pattie.

Born in Los Angeles, Pattie, 27, moved with his family to the East Bay when he was 10. High school in Pleasanton was followed by graduation from the College of Agriculture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He earned a Bachelor's of Science, specializing in pomology, the study of fruits

"I'm somewhat of a farmer. I also brew beer, it's another one of my passions up there with music, and I like the natural sciences," Pattie explained. He said he also loved his time in San Luis Obispo, the place where he met the members of the first iteration of his band. After six years on the Central Coast, he did some world traveling before



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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Sharkey building prospect renewed

BY GRETA MART
Staff Reporter

City leaders opted this week to revisit negotiations with an esteemed preservationist as a development partner for 630 Court Street.

Since the City purchased the building in 2005, several interested parties have come and gone; Goldenberg and Associates, after signing an exclusive negotiating agreement in 2007 and subsequent Purchase and Sale Agreement, pulled out of the deal in 2010 after failing to secure enough financing.

One former potential developer, David Fischer, a Martinez resident and attorney with two painstakingly refurbished historic buildings in Vallejo to his credit, is now back at the top of the list.

At yesterday's mid-day meeting, Council members Lara DeLaney and Janet Kennedy, serving as the Economic Development Subcommittee, suggested a meeting be set up next week to provide Fischer an opportunity to review his vision for the building and City staff to start working on a new agreement.

Public Works Director Dave Scola outlined recent discussions between City staff and Fischer, indicating that Fischer is well respected in the preservationist community for his retrofitting of two URM buildings in Vallejo, one of which now hosts a restaurant, a similar scenario to what City staff would like to see with 630 Court Street.

When reached by phone Wednesday afternoon, Fischer clarified a crucial difference between his former negotiations with the City and what is on the table now.

"The previous application that I made on the building was me personally. Because of the

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LET THE SUNSHINE

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DESTINATION: ARMANDO'S

BY GRETA MART
Staff Reporter

Throughout the week he quietly promotes Armando's musical line-up by speckling colorful flyers on windshields and in businesses downtown. Though the venue's reputation is increasingly speaking for itself, Roy Jeans is just doing his part to help make Martinez a regional destination for great live music.

Over the past six years, since proprietor Jeans transformed his rented Marina Vista Avenue music club from a personal "little

Armando's/Page A3

NEWS IN BRIEFS

COMPILED BY GRETA MART
Staff Reporter

Community input meetings on local parks

The City is set to host community meetings to discuss improvements to Waterfront Park, Old Train Depot and proposed park at Center Avenue.

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, May 5 (and from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on May 7 and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on May 12) the City is holding a series of community meetings to plan the design of a proposed park and a park improvement project; as is required when applying for grant funding. Park users, and particularly residents living within a half-mile radius of two proposed park sites, are invited to provide input on features they would like

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Hats off to the rails

The City of Martinez and Amtrak are hosting local celebrations in honor of the fourth annual National Train Day on Saturday. According to the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, "It was in May 1869 in Promontory Summit, Utah, when the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, ceremonially creating the nation's first transcontinental railroad and transforming America forever. Four years ago, Amtrak created National Train Day to raise awareness of the vital role rail plays in our nation's transportation system. Since then, Caltrans and Capitol Corridor, the third busiest Amtrak route in the nation, has worked with Amtrak to co-sponsor community events at selected stations in California."

On Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Capitol



PHOTO BY GRETA MART

ALL ABOARD. Martinez to host a free National Train Day Celebration on Saturday.

Corridor Joint Powers Authority is teaming up with the City of Martinez, the Martinez Chamber of Commerce, Amtrak and Caltrans to host a free National

Train Day celebration at the Martinez Amtrak/Capitol Corridor train station. The festivities will include a children's fun zone, exhibits, a model train dis-

play and the fourth annual presentation of the California Golden STAR (State Advocate of Rail) Award.

1 Column

This & That

BILL SHARKEY III
Gazette Columnist

GOOD START for a proposed new series of speaker programs for Martinez, the 'idea' of several community enthusiasts always looking for ways to enhance the 'livability' and image of this fine place. Thanks to Shell's generosity and 'always ready to help' attitude, the initial meeting was hosted at the Shell Clubhouse with a free bag lunch open to all ... just RSVP.

The first program featured Dick Williams, President of Shell Wind Energy, a corporate entity involved in, guess what, using the winds to generate electric power. Great presentation and an eye-opener when we heard the HUGE costs in 1) finding the winds that are useable, 2) acquiring the properties through lease agreements, 3) acquiring the necessary permits, 4) ordering the construction of the gigantic 'wind mills' and all their electronic gadgetry, 5) transporting them to the site and installing them, 6) maintaining the intricate machines in all kinds of locations and weather conditions. They are talking hundreds of millions of dollars to be able to make use of this cheap natural resource to establish a field ... to keep US all charged up!

Second in this new series will be on Monday, June 6, at 7 p.m., again at the Shell Clubhouse, when Marc Sandalow, a onetime *Gazette* news guy, and now a political analyst and author, tells us about his career from Martinez to the Washington, D.C.

SHARKEY

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economic changes we have all experienced, I can't do that again, I have too many irons in the fire," said Fischer. "Whereas in the good old days I would just get a loan, I can't take that on anymore. However, my employer is very interested in the project."

His employer, the Southport Land and Commercial Company, is ready to commit \$1.5 million to the 630 Court Street project, according to Scola. While not providing a number, Fischer confirmed that Southport is ready to underwrite a retrofit of the building and prepared to "do what the City wants."

"This is my attitude: that [City leaders] should treat me like everyone else and whatever restrictions they want should be on the deed," Fischer explained. "They company's attitude is we will have to review if the restrictions are economically feasible."

Council member DeLaney expressed an openness to flexibility in upcoming negotiations, given the lengthy stalemates experienced in the 630 Court Street saga thus far.

"It's the best proposal we've heard so far," said DeLaney mid-point through the meeting. When Kennedy asked what kind of reconstruction timeframe the Fischer team expected, Scola estimated 12 months.

No longer are City leaders expecting a white tablecloth fine dining tenant to move in. When Scola mentioned one potential past developer had suggested bringing a Ruth's Chris Steakhouse to that location, the room erupted in derision.

Staff are now leaning towards a family-friendly Italian restaurant or sit-down pizza parlor; a promising endeavor particularly if the planned indoor sports complexes at the waterfront come to fruition.

BRIEFS

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PHOTO BY GRETA MART

Built in 1927, 630 Court Street, or the Sharkey Building as many call it, has been owned by the City for the past half-decade. The City bought the building with the hopes of finding a development team that would foot the costly bill for seismic retrofitting and remodeling to accommodate a restaurant and upstairs professional offices.

vers. 22 saturation patrols are scheduled to take place Thursday throughout the county. There will also be a warrant sweep where officers look for those with

family support, and violence prevention.

County's Retirement Board needs members

PATH

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returning to Pleasanton in 2008. Last December he found a cottage to rent in Martinez.

The coffee and tea buyer for Whole Foods in San Ramon, Pattie has nurtured his musical career on top of maintaining a full-time day job. Playing for audiences for the past decade, he and two other bandmates recorded two albums in San Luis Obispo.

"We were awfully proud of the second one, and are still learning about the processes involved. Our second album was released in 2008 and literally our album release party was our last show because Mike the bass player left for Vermont."

Playing acoustic guitar and a bit of harmonica, Pattie describes his music as a bit of folk, rock and blues.

"Some people might call it Americana, because there is a twinge of country, but it's very lyrically-driven and mostly upbeat," said Pattie, adding that he also sings and writes the songs for the new version of the Shambles, now a quartet featuring veteran players Don Bassey, Don Fox and Steve Trovao.

Pattie said he and his bandmates are gearing up to record a third album under the Shambler moniker.

Asked how he came up with that name, he said his brother suggested it after Pattie's idea of calling the band "The Fray," was shot down.

"That was before I knew there was a [popular] band called the Fray. We thought the Shambles had a cool sound and rolled off the tongue," he said.

Since hitting the Bay Area music scene a few years ago, "Steps Toward Home," a song from the Shambler's 2008 album, was selected by radio station KFOG for inclusion in its Local Scene 6 CD, featuring Northern California bands. Outside the Bay at Texas's Kerrville Folk Festival, Pattie was selected as a finalist in the songwriter competition – one of 800 submissions from across the country – and performed at the Festival's Threadgill Theatre.

"The KFOG compilation was a huge honor and we got some radio play, which has definitely helped me in getting other shows," said Pattie. As for Kerrville, a renowned festival going since 1972 and the source of many up and coming musicians, Pattie said, "that's kind of a big deal. The songwriting competition at the festival was instigated by Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary."

Gaining notoriety in the Bay Area, Pattie has played, either solo or with the Shambles, venues such as Yoshi's, Slim's, the Red Devil Lounge, as well as smaller festivals around the West.

Now that he's happily ensconced in Martinez, within walking distance from Armando's, Pattie said he plans to "keep trucking along," on his chosen musical path.

Board receive \$100 per meeting up to a monthly maximum of \$500, plus reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses. The new appointments will fill