

ARGUS-COURIER
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PETALUMA COMMUNITY

ABOVE THE BRIM

Museum exhibit honors our women veterans

July 4 is my favorite holiday, especially because Petaluma does it so well. Although packed full of great activities, the town exudes a majestic tranquility, reminiscent of the bygone days when neighbors celebrated together and the streets were lined with locals. Speaking of celebrating our country's birthday...



HOUSTON PORTER

... Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man in order to serve in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. After being treated for a major head wound, she escaped from the hospital and dealt with the musket balls in her thigh herself (using a penknife) for fear that her true identity would be discovered. The Petaluma Museum honors women's contribution to our armed forces this Sunday, July 19, as part of their bigger "Pass in Review - A Tribute to America's Veterans," currently on display at the Petaluma Museum. Come hear these incredible citizen soldiers speak about their military experiences.

Food & Drink section

Starting July 27, you will find my new column anchoring the Argus-Courier's returning Food & Drink section, along with a restaurant review and a wine column. (I

still have a restaurant gift certificate prize for the best suggestion.)

Above the Brim will remain in the Community Section, where I look forward to continuing my local musings, as well as introducing some of my tales of travel, both domestic and foreign, sprinkled in with some local day trip ideas.

Speaking of travel, August will find me crisscrossing the country by car. (I didn't choose the month, obviously, because who drives around the country during the heat and humidity of August?) We will follow Route 66 east to Chicago, before moving on to New England. Minor League Baseball games, dirt track races, childhood homes of famous people (and adult hideouts of infamous people) and several museums and Hall of Fames pack the itinerary.

Additionally, we are on par to complete the world's largest number of visits to attractions that start with "World's Largest."

The return trip takes us south through horse, whiskey, BBQ, country, jazz and blues country, before turning north from The Big Easy to follow the Mighty Miss (and Missouri) up toward Mount Rushmore, before turning west for Yellowstone Park, Grand Teton, Craters of the Moon, and any other natural wonder we might stumble across.

Fifty-one states (including overlaps), leaves only Alaska left on my list. I welcome any and all travel suggestions, especially if they involve good food.

Small bites

Louis Moreau Gottschalk was America's first famous concert pianist and composer and was the rock star of his day (the mid-1800s), eventually leaving the U.S. for good after a scandal involving a member of the fairer sex. The Petaluma Museum commemorates the exact 150-year anniversary of Gottschalk's last major U.S. concert, which was held in Petaluma on July 27, 1865, with a concert of their own on July 27, 2015. (Visit petalumamuseum.com for tickets, and keep an eye out for my full-length preview article.)

Wind to Wine is Petaluma GAP's inaugural festival celebrating our local Petaluma wines and will be held August 7-9. Events include two winemaker dinners, seminars, a grand tasting, and vineyard tours. (Visit petalumagap.com for tickets, and keep an eye out for my full-length preview article.)

Social Club revisited? The Patio Restaurant Group, out of San Diego, is slated to open in Social Club's former location, but hopefully they will listen to, and integrate into our town better than the former tenant. As we have seen time and again, deep pockets, restaurant experience and innovative ideas do not count nearly as much as genuine connection to and interest in our truly unique community.

(I look forward to your feedback, as well as hearing about any Petaluma food news that you choose to share with me at "Above the Brim" on Facebook or abovethebrim@houstonporter.com.)