

Marin Independent Journal

An edition of the San Jose Mercury News 570

MUSICAL WISDOM
PLUS LIFE B1

TAM GIRLS TAKE MCAL CHAMPIONSHIP
PLUS SPORTS B7

TOP STORY: **ECONOMIC FORUM**

'Boom period' near end?

Experts: Marin may hit 'business cycle peak', followed by cooler housing market

By Nels Johnson
Marin Independent Journal

Marin County's economy will continue growing next year, but may be nearing a "business cycle peak" followed by a cooling housing market and slowing job growth in key industries, according to a new forecast by

North Bay economic experts.

The Marin Economic Forum study, outlined at the annual "forecasting the future" conference hosted at Embassy Suites for the forum and the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Thursday, says that while

the county continues an economic recovery, it is "nearing the label of an economic 'boom' period." "The Marin County economy, much like California overall, is coming to a tipping point in the economic recovery since 2009 of a natural, cyclic peak," ac-

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According to the study, Forum CEO Robert Eyer, a Sonoma State University professor and the North Bay's preminent economist,

said inflationary pressure is rising, especially in light of a \$187,000 increase in the median price of a Marin home over the past year. He predicted a cooling market, with slower growth next year, and added the commercial realty

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COUNTY

DONALD KREPS: 1924-2013

B **FRIDAY**
November 1, 2013
Marin Independent Journal

THREE THINGS TO DO TODAY

Train talk

► **What:** Matt Stevens of SMART speaks about the history of the rail project and offers an update on its progress and future plans.

► **When:** 11 a.m.

► **Cost:** \$5

► **Do it:** Livermore Pavilion, Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross; 258-9595

Spirited soiree

► **What:** The West Marin Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead celebration starts with a procession of Aztec dancers and drummers, followed by crafts with local artists and the lighting of the community altar.

► **When:** 5:45 p.m.

► **Cost:** Donations

► **Do it:** Dance Palace, 503 B St., Point Reyes Station; 663-1075; www.dancepalace.org

Making it

► **What:** Maker Media CEO Dale Dougherty speaks about why we make things and how shared creative desires bring people together. Reservations recommended.

► **When:** 7 p.m.

► **Cost:** Free

► **Do it:** Mill Valley Public Library, 375 Throckmorton Ave.; 389-4292, ext. 3; www.millvalleylibrary.org

SPORTS IN MARIN

SAN DOMENICO HOLIDAY CAMP

San Domenico's Holiday Fundamentals Basketball Camp will be held at the San Anselmo campus athletic center on Dec. 26-27 and Jan. 2-3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff Skaggs at jskaggs@sandomenico.org.

Visit the Marin youth sports blog at blogs.marinij.com/youthsports

BUZZ

DANES TO HOST NOBEL PEACE PRIZE CONCERT

Claire Danes has been tapped to host the 20th anniversary Nobel Peace Prize concert in December.

The Emmy-winning "Homeland" actress will present the Dec. 11 event in Oslo, Norway. The concert will celebrate the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which was awarded the prestigious honor earlier this month.

The watchdog agency works to eliminate the world's chemical weapons and received the prize days after OPCW inspectors started arriving in war-torn Syria to oversee the dismantling of President Bashar Assad's chemical arsenal.

The Nobel Peace Prize concert typically attracts top celebrities. Past luminaries have included Paul McCartney, Rihanna, and Tony Bennett. The lineup for this year's concert has yet to be announced.

—Associated Press

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Plus

generations + family + sports

West Marin's **Tim Weed** has done a lot and his new album reflects much of the hard-won wisdom he's gained

MORE THAN A BANJO VIRTUOSO



The release of this record feels like 'I'm entering a new era,' says banjoist and singer-songwriter Tim Weed, who has released a new acoustic solo album, 'Soul House.'

LI photo/Robert Tong

TIM WEED AND I met at Warren Hellman's memorial at Congregation Emanu-El in Presidio Heights back in December. As you prob-

ably know, Hellman was the beloved banjo-playing billionaire who gave us the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival. In his honor, Weed joined a lineup of fellow banjo pickers on a rendition of "Soldier's Joy" as people filed out of the temple after the service.

The banjo buffs in that group may not have known all the other guys they were playing with that day, but it's a safe bet they'd all heard of Tim Weed. I certainly had. Whenever I'd talk to anyone about the best bluegrass/American string players in Marin, his name would inevitably come up. And for good reason.

In May, he was on the cover of "Banjo Newsletter," the foremost banjo magazine in the country. In the article, interviewer Mike Kropp writes that when he was driving through the Southwest, listening to Weed's classical banjo CD, "Milagros," he was so knocked out by it that he almost drove off the road. He called Weed "the world's greatest player I'd never heard of."

On NPR's "All Things Considered," Bob Boilen expressed

See **LIBERATORE**, page 5

IF YOU GO

What: Tim Weed CD release concerts for "Soul House"

When: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8

Where: Dance Palace, 503 B St., Point Reyes Station

Admission: \$20 to \$50

Information: www.dancepalace.org; www.timweed.com

... ..

When: 8 p.m. Nov. 9

Where: The Fenix, 919 Fourth St., San Rafael

Admission: \$20

Information: 813-5690; www.fenixlive.com

marinij.com WATCH A VIDEO OF TIM WEED PERFORMING ONLINE AT MARINIJ.COM

PLUS SPORTS

Activating Smith straight out of rehab a bad idea for 49ers

ALDON SMITH showed up at the 49ers' practice facility earlier this week. Apparently, it wasn't a social call.

The team announced Thursday that it was activating the troubled linebacker, removing him from the "Non Football Injury" list. This presumably means that Smith will resume drills with the team when it returns from a bye-week break. He might play Nov. 10 against Carolina.

This seems like a very bad idea. I have a better suggestion for Smith's ideal return to action: Sometime in 2014.

And I don't mean in January for the playoffs.

It isn't an easy call for the 49ers when it comes to Smith, who has

been undergoing rehab treatment for presumed substance abuse at an undisclosed location. The team may have been obliged by the NFL to place Smith on the 53-man roster, because he is now out of rehab. But that does not mean the 49ers must place Smith on the 45-man active roster for Sundays.

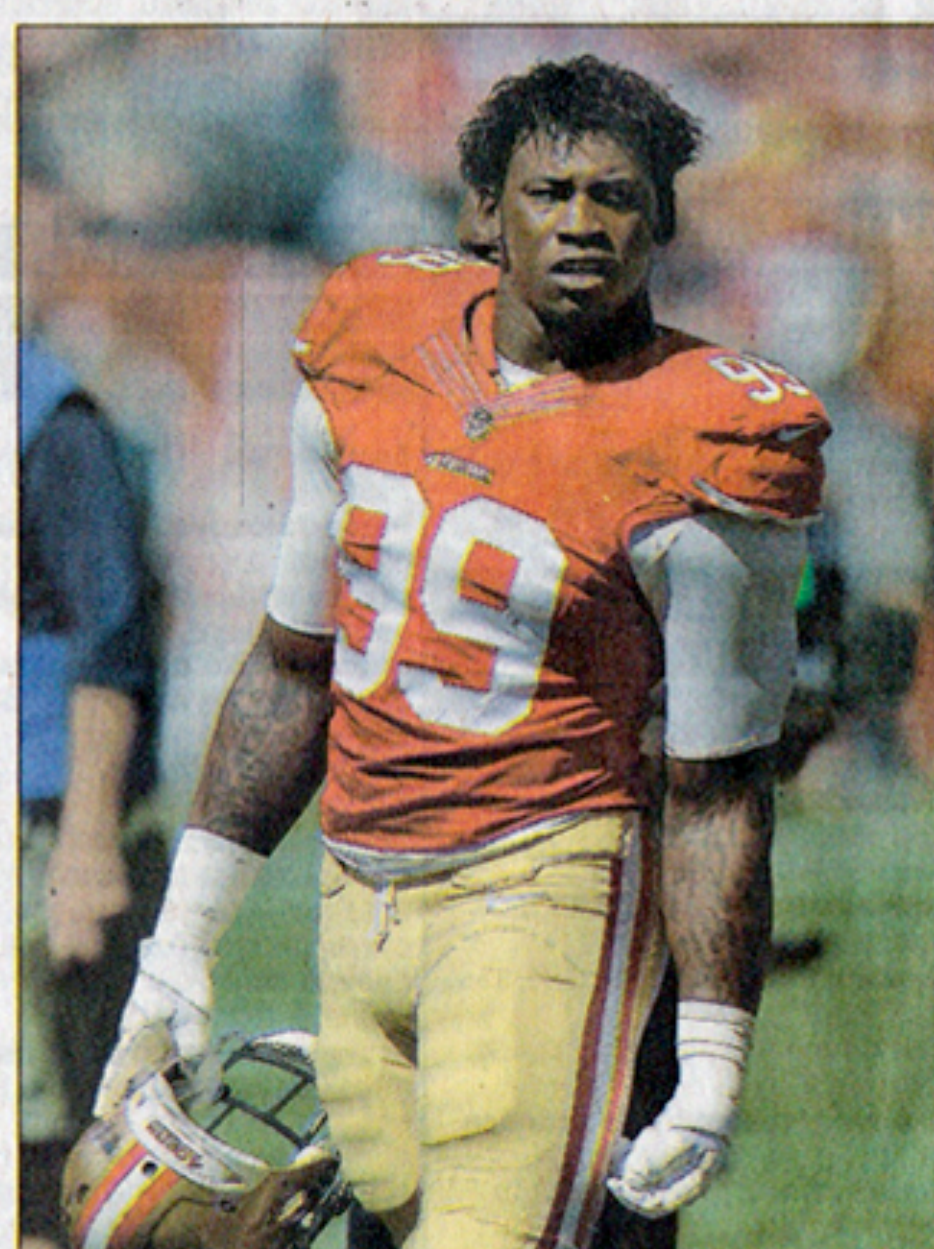
The decision about where and when to have Smith suit up is the toughest one that Harbaugh and general manager Trent Baalke will make this season. It is far tougher than an offensive play call in the red zone against Seattle, or a decision about the three-deep chart at wide receiver.

Simply put, Harbaugh and Baalke are deciding Smith's future in terms of giving him the best opportunity

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MARK PURDY



AP archive/Marcio Jose Sanchez

49ers linebacker Aldon Smith is rejoining the team after spending a few weeks in rehab. Smith could play against Carolina on Nov. 10.

LIBERATORE: Tim Weed sees new era in 'Soul House'

From page 1

a similar sentiment, playing "Morro Glenn," an original composition from "Milagros," which David Grisman released on his label Acoustic Oasis.

What sometimes get lost in all of this is the fact that Weed is a lot more than a banjo virtuoso. A former L.A. session musician, both as an electric guitarist and as a singer, he's a multi-instrumentalist who also possesses a trained tenor voice with jaw-dropping range.

His new Americana album, the all-acoustic "Soul House," is an extraordinary collection of original songs that marks an important moment of transition in Weed's musical, emotional and spiritual life.

It comes out after the breakup of his 17-year relationship with the mother of his two children and six years after escaping the desiccating heat and career-killing lack of opportunity in Tucson, Ariz., where he lived before moving to West Marin.

"The release of this record feels like I'm entering a new era," he told me the other day. "And that's very exciting."

Growing up a surfer kid in Laguna Beach, he was a teenage banjo prodigy who got turned on to bluegrass when he heard Jerry Garcia play with Old and in the Way, the short-lived string band that came together in Stinson Beach in the 1970s.

While he was still in high school, his family took a vacation in their motor home, staying in the Olema campground, not far from where he lives now. And when young Tim discovered a rare banjo alum in the Inverness store, he knew he was destined to live there some day.

"I remember falling in love with this place," he recalled, sitting at the kitchen table of the high-ceilinged home on the Inverness Ridge that he shares with his yoga teacher partner, Debbie Daly, who sings with his band, and his 22-year-old son, Tucker. "I always thought in the back of my mind I wanted to live here."

In the relatively short time since that dream became a reality, he's made a name for himself as a consummate musician and charismatic personality, playing with Grisman and local legends Ram-



LI photo/Robert Tong

Tim Weed strums his banjo at his West Marin home. Weed will be performing Nov. 8 in Point Reyes Station and Nov. 9 in San Rafael.

lin' Jack Elliott and Peter Rowan.

"Mr. Weed, whose blue eyes, tanned skin, shock of white hair and warm smile make him unmistakable around town, quickly carved a niche as one of the area's best-loved performers, often playing at benefits and community events," Tess Elliott wrote in her review of "Soul House" in the Point Reyes Light.

Before settling down in his ridgetop abode, the previously peripatetic musician moved three times in the seven years it took him to finish "Soul House." Describing it as "a monumental task," he used 24 musicians, nine engineers and eight recording studios before it was done.

The album reflects much of the hard-won wisdom he's gained over the past decade or so. The title track, for example, was inspired by a talk that Welshman Ianto Evans gave at a conference on sustainable building that he attended in Taos, N.M.

"In the West, the primary concept of a house is a place to keep our stuff," he said. "But in the traditional world, people treat their house as a vessel for the spirit, a place to hold and nurture the soul."

While working as a producer for Epic-Sony Music in Japan, he studied Zen Buddhism, a spiritual practice that influenced the songs "Under the Banyan Tree" and "Movin' a Mountain." And when he was invited to perform for the Dalai Lama at a concert

in Tucson, he used the occasion to debut another song on the CD, "Love and Peace and Happiness," with its provocative opening lines: "I am the terrorist, I am the enemy till I can stop the war inside of me."

"The Secret Service was everywhere and here I am singing 'I am the terrorist,'" he recalled with a grin. "After a Tibetan monk asked me to repeat the lyrics, he said, 'I never have heard this in a song before. This needs to be said.' I was so relieved."

The great Pete Seeger, a Weed fan, likes the folksy song "Long Tom." But, for me, the centerpiece of the album is the achingly beautiful "Near but Far," a lament for something lost that also hints at the promise of moving on to a place where it's possible to find one's true self in community with others.

That idea seems to manifest itself on the African song, "Aye Moji-numba," a track that incorporates a live recording of a West Marin audience singing along during a concert in Point Reyes Station.

"It means welcome to my village, you're all part of my village, we're all one village," Weed explained.

"When villagers are faced with a big task, like a harvest, the surrounding villagers will come and everyone will work together. I've taught that song to hundreds of people, and they love it."

Contact Paul Liberatore via email at liberatore@marinij.com

Friend may be with old

DEAR AM

recently I had a lot of pruned lines on my 1 arm. I am pretty that these cuts v results of self-ha

As soon as she me looking at th she covered her i haven't said any thing to her yet.

She seems like a happy person with loving parents and supportive friends. I don't think that there is anyone bullying her (and we have a really school, so I would She is generally l is popular.

This is really me, and I don't h to handle it.

I don't know i tell her, and if so Please help me t her. — **Worried I**

Dear Worried: son can seem ha healthy on the o still be insecure, or in pain. You si never really kno people are going

The reason so people cut them because they are to find ways to c feelings that are wise unexpressed. You should no school counselor this. If it's not ti self-harm ("cutt can progress and even more seri are a very good f to notice this an to help; seeking a friend is the fi toward her heali

Dear Amy: Tw close friends jus up, and I'm look advice on how to with the afterm breakup wasn't