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(rock). Dec 9, women who rock. Every Mon, acoustic open mic. Dec 11, Zacharia (country). 29 Broadway, Fairfax. 415.459.9910.

Rafters Grille

Dec 8, Dgiin (French gypsy funk). 812 Fourth St, San Rafael. 415.453.4200.

Rancho Nicasio

Dec 6, Booker T Jones (see Concerts). Dec 7-8, Unauthorized Rolling Stones. Dec 9 at 4, Mike Lipskin and Dinah Lee (jazz); at 8, Paul Thorn (soul). Town Square, Nicasio. 415.662.2219.

Sabor of Spain

Dec 11, Mark Taylor (Spanish guitar). 1303 Fourth St, San Rafael. 415.457.8466.

Saylor's Landing

Dec 7, Connie Ducey and Randy Strom (jazz). Dec 9, Joe New. 305 Harbor Dr, Sausalito. 415.332.6161.

Seafood Peddler

Thurs at 5:30, Alex Markels Trio (jazz). Fri at 6, Judy Hall (jazz). Mon at 5:30, Tom and Jerry. Tues at 5:30, Jazz Roots Trio. 100 Yacht Club Dr, San Rafael. 415.460.6669.

Smiley's

Dec 5, karaoke. Dec 6, Sean Hayes. Dec 7, Abajo. Dec 8, The Mad Maggies (surf Celtic). Dec 9, open mic. Dec 10, hip-hop DJ. 41 Wharf Rd, Bolinas. 415.868.1311.

Station House Cafe

Thurs, pub night (live music). 11180 State Route 1, Pt Reyes Station. 415.663.1515.

Tam Cellars

Dec 6, Roni Yaodao (jazz). 1803 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur. 415.461.9463.

NAPA COUNTY

Ana's Cantina

Thurs, karaoke. Fri-Sat, live music. 1205 Main St, St Helena. 707.963.4921.

Brannan's Grill

Fri-Sun, Herb Gibson (jazz). 1347 Lincoln Ave, Calistoga. 707.942.2233.

Caffe Cicero

Thurs at 9, open mic (signup starts at 3:30). Dec 7, Robert Jones. 1245 First St, Napa. 707.257.1802.

Calistoga Inn

Wed, open mic. Dec 7-8, TBA. 1250 Lincoln Ave, Calistoga. 707.942.4101.

Downtown Joe's

Dec 5, Jimi Mitchell Trio (jazz). Dec 6, Ralph Woodson showcase (rock). Dec 7, Davies Duke. Dec 8, Jinx Jones and King Tones. Dec 9, comedy night. Mon at 10, DJ dancing. Dec 11, Johnny Smith (blues). 902 Main St, Napa. 707.258.2337.

Hydro Grill

Sun at 7, swing and Dixieland jazz. 1403 Lincoln Ave, Calistoga. 707.942.9777.

Pacifico Restaurante Mexicano

Thurs, acoustic guitar. Fri at 5:30, live mariachi. Sat, salsa with dance lessons. 1237 Lincoln Ave, Calistoga. 707.942.4400.

Rainbow Room

Thurs at 9, karaoke with "Doc" Martin Durand. Fri-Sat at 10, DJ dancing. Sun, Salsa Sundays. 806 Fourth St, Napa. 707.252.4471.

Silverado Resort

Fri-Sat, 9 to 1, Paul Martin Band. 1600 Atlas Peak Rd, Napa. 707.257.0200.

Smoking Cat Cafe

Thurs, poetry night. Mon, open mic. 1502 Main St, Napa. 707.255.5174.

Uva Trattoria

Wed at 6:30, Philip Smith and Gentlemen of Jazz. Thurs at 6:30, live music. Fri at 5:15, Don McCarroll (jazz); at 8:30, Philip Smith and Gentlemen of Jazz. Dec 8, Smokin' Jaze. Sun at 6, Mimi Fox. 1040 Clinton St, Napa. 707.255.6646.

CRITIC'S CHOICE



BUBBLE & SQUEAK

Strange Cabbage bring a little weird rock to Penngrove

Strange Cabbage are in their own little world—the Sonoma County eclectic rock band's fans are known as "Cabbageheads," and each member of the band has a name involving the vegetable: the bassist is Cabbage Loco, singer-guitarist is Professor Cabbage (a respected local philosophy teacher), Fuzzy Cabbage is on drums, Uncle Cabbage on guitar and Country Cabbage on vocals. They describe their music as the "Cabbage sound," and, of course, their north Santa Rosa rehearsal studio is the "Cabbage Patch." They appear Dec. 8 at the Black Cat.

In the grand tradition of the joke band that simultaneously mocks and pays homage to the absurdities of rock music, the Cabbage don't take things too seriously, while also penning evocative songs that don't hide behind the safety of fashionable PC culture. Song titles like "Love Stain," "Rasta Bartender," "Old Hairy" and "Please Don't Be Offended" are indicative of a band doing things their own way; their website carries a Parental Advisory and a button to push agreeing you are 18 or over to hear song clips.

"We're a pretty ragtag bunch," Professor Cabbage says, "an unlikely crew composed of teachers, safety consultants, claims adjusters and a former speed-metal thrash drummer, led by a Huck Finn rocker from Iowa." There's a cryptic element to the band, but also accessibility; they do some fairly faithful cover songs by the likes of Gutterball, Free, Butthole Surfers, Judas Priest and the Stones. One minute the Cabbage sound like musical hobbyists, and the next they're busting out an original like "Porn Shop," a lament on how Internet porn is driving the good ol' Ma and Pa corner porn shop out of business.

Along the lines of Ween and Tenacious D (who the band agree are influences), there is a pleasant unpredictability to Strange Cabbage—one song's goofy and sardonic, the next is serious. "We're not out to blow anyone away, but most people seem intrigued by our satirical edge," Professor Cabbage explains. The Cabbage sound is upbeat, funny, groovy, stylistically diverse and down-to-earth. Everyday objects are puzzling, enigmatic, bizarre—if looked at in the right light. Which is all Strange Cabbage are asking you to do.

Strange Cabbage and the Music Lovers share the bill at the Black Cat on Saturday, Dec. 8. 10056 Main St., Penngrove. 8pm. Free. 707.793.9480.

Matt Pamatmat