

On the Road



WHAT'S NEW In the West

■ If you visit the **Monterey Bay Aquarium** this summer, check out *Basta Basura!* (Enough Trash!). The musical skit tells the story of a girl who considers tossing a plastic water bottle into the ocean until superhero Basta Basura stops her. Daily performances on the Great Tide Pool deck. montereybayaquarium.org.

■ Are you prone to motion sickness? Try Psi ("sigh") Bands, waterproof bracelets that use acupuncture to **relieve nausea**. \$14. psibands.com.

■ Mono County's new **Motor Touring in the Eastern Sierra** brochure takes you beyond California's Highway 395 and onto back roads that lead you to old mining towns, sparkling lakes, and jagged mountains. Available at ranger stations and for download at monocounty.org.

■ **McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park**, an hour outside Redding, Calif., is now home to 24 camp cabins with bunk beds and heaters. From \$65. (800) 444-7275, reserveamerica.com.

TREASURE

Wicker shock

Miller Fong's wrought-iron and wicker Lotus Chair might look more at home in a surf shack than beside the sleek, industrial art that defines midcentury modernism. Yet the chair, sketched in 1964 by the 23-year-old artist, stands out among 150 post-World War II works—from pictures of glass-and-steel homes to covers of Chet Baker albums—in *Birth of the Cool: California Art, Design, and Culture at Midcentury*, open through August 17 at the Oakland Museum of California. (510) 238-2200, museumca.org.



OPENING

Tour the world in Butte, Montana

➤➤ It wasn't so long ago that miners from Ireland, Serbia, and Finland ambled the streets of Butte, Mont. But now this city of 34,000, once renowned for straddling "the richest hill on earth," has struck another lode: The 70th National Folk Festival opens on Friday, July 11. At least 70,000 people are expected for the three-day event.

If you're thinking hootenanny, think again. Seven venues will be set up around town, including a block-long dance floor and an outdoor amphitheater with room for 10,000 revelers at the Original Mine yard. Among the 15 musical styles on the bill are Congolese-Cuban sounds from Ricardo Lemvo and Makina Loca, Jamaican reggae from Clinton Fearon, Midwest polka from Alex Meixner, and Chicago blues from Shemekia Copeland. Hundreds of other musicians, dancers, storytellers, and folk artists will participate, and the entire event is free.

Local talent won't be overlooked. The First Peoples' and Montana Arts marketplaces will highlight works by the state's American Indian and other regional artisans. Along with prime fair food such as funnel cakes, the thousands of festivalgoers can try Native American fry bread, Serbian *povitica* (a baked nut roll), and of course pasties, Butte's famous Cornish meat pies.

"When we get to 73,000 we're not going to say we don't have room," says Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer. "That's not the way it works in Butte." nationalfolkfestival.com. —RAY SIKORSKI



Ricardo Lemvo, from central Africa, performs with his band.