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Viva, Viva La Befana



The chant of Italian children bring forth the mythical character to a Carmichael event near you.

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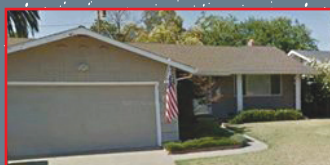
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Get Terry Moving

Community comes together for local hero

By GAVIN LOVELESS

Terry Preston could be known as a local hero. His incredible will power may have saved lives. About two years ago a young school girl was hit and killed by a car while crossing the intersection of Stockton and Fruitridge. Terry noticed that on this intersection there was no traffic light. He knew that it would happen again if nothing was done to improve the safety of that intersection. He went to the city and requested a traffic light on that intersection. After a debacle, the city refused to put one in. Terry thought he might have better luck with people backing him up against the city. He organized his community and went back to the city leaders. They brought up some very good points and they finally convinced the city to put a traffic light in.

Soon after, in April of 2015, Terry unfortunately had a stroke. This tragic occurrence put Terry through a grueling two years of recovery and rehabilitation. "Terry is still very immobile, and he is wheelchair bound," said Tamie Drammer, Chairman and CEO of Organize Sacramento. "He

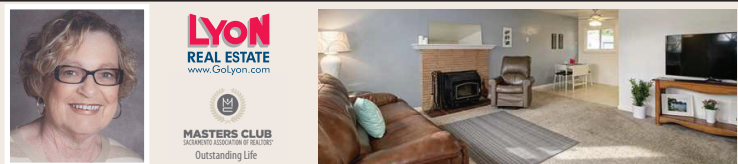


can speak through a device in his throat but he is limited to only a few words at a time."

Terry's wife, Alice is an elementary teacher at Bancroft Elementary, and she is very busy. She actively participates with the Sacramento City Teachers Association, the California Teachers Association, and the Sacramento County and California Democratic parties. With all of her school and volunteer work she is also Terry's primary caregiver in the evenings. With the help of her and Terry's amazing son Leroy, Alice bathes Terry and helps him get in and out of bed everyday. It is very strenuous work for her

so for a while Alice has been looking for an overnight in-home caregiver, but has had no luck yet.

With the help of a friend, Isaac Gonzalez, a GoFundMe had been started in attempt to raise money for a van that would be able to get Terry and his motorized chair around Sacramento. In the GoFundMe description, Isaac says "To describe Terry as an asset to our community is a massive understatement. The direct effect of his efforts have made our city more livable and safer." Please help spread the word and help raise the money Terry needs at www.gofundme.com/getterrymoving!



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Faces and Places:

Bike Party held "The Grinch Who Saved Christmas Ride & Toy Drive"

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

On the evening of Friday, Dec. 2, members of Bike Party Sacramento rode through East Sac decked out in Christmas lights. At this particular ride, folks brought new and unwrapped toys which they delivered to Shriners Hospital for Children. The ride began streetside of 2850 49th St. and continued through out the neighborhood.



Holiday Cheer in Sacramento

By CORKY OAKES

It begins just before Halloween. Some Sacramento residents usher in the holiday season with full yard displays complete with “smoking” dry ice, graveyards, skeletons playing organs, and “live” performances by Elvis and Marilyn. Thousands of people walk the streets to capture the feel as well as accumulate treats.

About a week before Thanksgiving, teams of folks begin hanging neighborhood lights, tree-to-tree or the length and width of streets. Homeowners set up their individual light displays: towering London Plane trees are dressed in “net” and magical laser lights. Walkways are trimmed with various shapes, sizes and colors, including lovely luminaria.

Kat, a local resident, describes the use of luminaria in her neighborhood. “We line our streets with hundreds of luminaria; lunch-sized brown bags with a bit of sand and a tea light inside. All the neighbors come

out to light them at dusk. It’s a New Mexico tradition one neighbor introduced many moons ago...it’s really quite a sight...a soft, warm yellow-orange glow stretching for several blocks.”

In addition to sights, there are sounds of the season. One of my favorites are hooves of horses leading lighted hay wagons and carriages. Folks in the wagons sometimes sing. Outbursts of holiday cheers are not at all unusual. Warms my heart simply thinking of it.

Holiday cheer also extends beyond the grand festival of lights, colors and sounds. Many residents observe traditions and rituals, year after year. In my wanderings, a few were shared with me.

“What I really like is getting together before holiday parties with family, exchanging gifts, usually a gag gift.” - Tony

“My oldest memory is hanging cards from wood door frames.” - S.S.

“One of my traditions this time of year is adding a couple of jingle bells to my dog Mookee’s leash (I make sure



“What I really like is getting together before holiday parties with family, exchanging gifts, usually a gag gift.”

- Tony

they are up higher away from his ears to keep from bothering his sensitive hearing). The sound of “sleigh bells” makes our evening walks more festive!” - Kat

“What I like is bringing friends together to play musical instruments and sing ... taking breaks to enjoy libations and edibles.” - Anon.

“Every holiday season throughout my marriage has been marked by my mother-in-law having some urgent reason to go to the ER. 2016 is no exception!” - Anon.

“Ryan’s tree is a small 1’ artificial that I decorated for him with blue and green lights, fake seaweed, plastic fish, and a scuba diving Santa and snorkeling Bumble (abominable snowman from the Rudolph animated show). He got certified in scuba the same year he moved out of my house to get his own apt and I knew he wouldn’t decorate on his own.... hence my gift. Apparently he likes it because it came back out on 12/1



and he says it’s officially his tradition now.” - contributed by Kat on behalf of Ryan.

“My cousin Richard hosts an event once every holiday where he invites friends, family, neighbors near and far to meet at his house for a tamale making “how to” class of which he sets them all up in work stations and then they watch as he guides them step by step to make a tamale. Wine, beer, hot cider and treats are available through out the day until the tamales are done and everyone gets to enjoy. It’s a lot of fun and I sadly have missed the last 5 years but I cherish

the memories I have of the last tamale night with them.” - contributed by Adrian.

As for me, I’ve roasted almonds for over 40 years, giving them to family and friends throughout the season. Also, my family writes riddles and clues for each gift. We open our gifts one at a time, one person at a time. Back in the day it could take up to 3 or 4 hours for gift exchanging, complete with modeling clothes or miming how we might use our gifts. Always hilarious.

Whatever you do, wherever you go, I send you Happy Holidays wishes.



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ACROSS

- No (Scottish)
- Heroic tales
- A way to tend
- Not or
- Where rockers play
- Dutch name for Ypres
- Ingested
- A resident of California
- Unfounded rumor
- Oats
- Type of women's coat
- Life forms
- Every
- Alternating current
- Withered
- "Gymnopedies" composer
- Plate glasses
- Musical artist ___ DeBarge
- Before

- Arrange in steps of size
- Electron cloud model
- Morning
- Leonard __, famed Swiss mathematician
- Capital city of Buenos Aires province
- Snouts
- Of I
- Swiss river
- Type of women's coat
- Made angry
- Precious stone
- Type of envelope
- One who believes in reason and knowledge
- Monitors brain activity (abbr.)
- Get ___ of
- Actress Zellweger
- Spinal muscular

- atrophy (abbr.)
 - "Inferno" author
 - Puts together in time
 - Silvery-white metal
- ### DOWN
- Civil Rights group
 - Early Slavic society
 - Mammals that lack incisors and canines
 - Blasphemy
 - Israeli city
 - Put this in your hair
 - Black tropical American cuckoo
 - Month in the Islamic calendar
 - Begets
 - Court game
 - Painkiller
 - New Zealand parrot
 - Suffix

- Egg cells
- Another name for Thor
- About pontiff
- The academic world
- Raise
- Civil rights city in Alabama
- Encompasses
- Helmet
- Nostrils
- Lovable Spielberg alien
- Divides
- Ruthenium
- Preceding all others in time
- Past participle of lie
- Fastener
- Overindulged
- Ancient lyric poem
- Ardent supporter
- Iranian village and Islamic pilgrim attire

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If you're a student interested in writing, I would be happy to guide you through the process of writing news and feature stories. Just call Monica at 429-9901 or send an email to editor@valcomnews.com



Neighbors discuss what they want for Christmas



Richard Cherry said he wants peace on Earth for a change across the globe. "I wish everybody would knock it off. (All the killing of) kids and civilians. They're the ones that pay the price for war." The Vietnam veteran said he would just like to one day turn on the news and not see "car bombings and civilians being used as shields."



Derek Froom said he would like a "free paycheck. That would be nice. One just for me. No bills."



Repeating the question for emphasis, Colleen asked, "What do I want for Christmas?" "Anything but Trump," she said.



Photo by Patricia Duncan

Effie Yeaw Kids' Christmas Bird Count set for Jan. 7-8

The annual Kids' Christmas Bird Count is a great free event and an opportunity for children and young adults to be in the outdoors, search for birds and enjoy nature. It is a special opportunity for families to join citizen scientists all over the world and practice finding, identifying and counting birds during a morning bird walk.

This year the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Sacramento Audubon Society are offering two events to accommodate a larger number of young birders and provide age appropriate experiences. The first event is Saturday, Jan. 7 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Effie Yeaw for children ages 6 to 10 with accompanying adults. The second event is the following day on Sunday, Jan. 8 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cosumnes River Preserve designed for children ages 10 to 16 with accompanying adults. Pre-registration is required for each participating child and adult. Once registered, you will receive your confirmation via email. Space is limited for both days so registration is first-come, first served. For more information, visit the American River Natural History Association website.



Kelly said she would like Trump to leave the country and to move to Moscow.



Then there's Derrick Taylor and Pat (no last name) who want a new set of Callaway golf clubs. Pat specifically added, he wants both the irons and the woods.



"I could say I'd like my whole family together for Christmas. (They are) far apart mentally and physically." —Lanora H.

Likewise, Judy Loewe said she would love to see her daughter who lives in Colorado during the holidays, as it

used to be a tradition for the family to get together. "I miss the traditions. I would like to be at the ocean for Christmas, either Half Moon Bay, or Monterey or Carmel."

"A bass boat and a big diamond for her," Richard Torres said while gesturing his wife

Dhel. "We have pretty much everything we need." Similarly, Cliff Lindsey said he's got everything he needs. "I don't want for anything."

Jerry Landroth-Brusato said she wants the Giants to win the World Series. **Compiled by Monica Stark**



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'Viva, viva La Befana'

The chant of Italian children bring forth the mythical character to a Carmichael event near you

By MONICA STARK

Chanting "Viva, viva La Befana" Sacramento area bambini (children) will summon the mythical figure on Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Italian Center in Carmichael in celebration of the Epiphany Feast – the Catholic holiday during which time the Three Wise Men shower baby Jesus with gold, frankincense and myrrh. In Italian culture, bambini go to sleep hoping La Befana will visit them during the night and leave presents for those who have been good but on Jan. 8 she will bring her basket of gold chocolate coins and special gifts for every bambino.

Everyone is invited to bring their entire family and join in the celebration, featuring the "Legend of La Befana" puppet show and Italian folk dances performed by the Society's "Bambini Dancers" (Children's Dance Troupe). One of Italy's oldest and most renowned legends, La Befana is honored with special events throughout Italy on this holiday. Many cities and towns organize festivities and parades to celebrate La Befana. In Sacramento and cities across the U.S. with Italian communities, "The Legends of La Befana" is celebrated with children's festivals.

"(La Festa Della Befana) is a chance for children in our community to get together and celebrate together. It brings in young families to the event; it's a feel-good event," said event chair Bill Cerruti.

Partially, in an effort to redeem the hag-like woman from the stereotypes that tarnish her reputation, the woman behind the moniker, Phyllis Cupparo, describes La Befana as a "kindly old woman, not a witch." While the mythical character sports a haggard appearance and flies around town on a broom, Phyllis maintains "this woman was sweeping and too busy to go with (the Three Wise Men). She

felt bad... She's not a witch; she's just a woman that flies on a broom and goes to every house because she's searching for baby Jesus."

Caught off guard by Phyllis' physical beauty, some have approached her stating: "But, La Befana is supposed to be old and ugly." To their reply, Phyllis undermines herself and says, "I am old."

For the past 18 years, local bambini have witnessed Phyllis' magic, as phrases like: "Que bella bambino (What a beautiful child)" grace the annual event. Children often ask: "Can we take picture with La Befana?" Her reply: "Ma certo (of course)."

A full-blooded Italian, Phyllis takes pride in the Epiphany Feast celebration. Up to three years ago, as La Befana, Phyllis had to hide from the children until their summoning of her presence with the chant- "Viva, viva La Befana." Then suddenly women organizers decided to set up a photo booth so that La Befana could co-exist with the children prior to the chanting. "Take pictures with La Befana," they encouraged. "And the children did and will surely do again. "I can go there in my costume dressed. I don't have to hide until the very end (of the puppet show)."

Once a performer, always a performer; Phyllis recalls a poignant time in her acting career: In 1978, Phyl-

lis played Miss Forsythe in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" under the guidance of none other than Tom Hanks who was hired as stage manager. She recalled having a costume mishap minutes before the first performance. The strap on her 1940s platform slingback high heels broke. Hanks' suggestion: Staple it.

"That should hold, but take it to a shoemaker this week and bring the bill. It should hold, but if it doesn't, play it. I thought to myself, it better. Thankfully, Tom's stapling job held and I played that beautiful scene."

"It was the closest I've ever got to Broadway," Phyllis says today. And on her bucket list now: Seeing Tom Hanks one more time.

A fourth-generation native New Jerseyan, Phyllis grew up in the same Italian neighborhood as her parents and grandparents. "It was a very warm family environment," she said. But what really got Phyllis interested in her heritage were three trips to Italy with her aging mother, once in 1995, '96 and '97. "My mother loves to travel, but she had never been to Italy. In 1995, she said 'I'm going to Italy even if have to go alone.' I said 'I'll go, too.'"

After the first trip to Italy, Phyllis took Italian classes, starting with language, then dance. "Italy is beautiful. The people are beautiful.



My favorite thing was trying to speak Italian when I started taking the language classes." For a number of years, she's hosted a radio show on Sacramento public access, KUBU (96.5 FM) called "Sacramento Italian Style". Currently, the show airs Sunday at noon and features Italian music and happenings at the Sacramento Italian Cultural Society.

Visitors to La Festa Della Befana are invited to take a memorial photo with La Befana in the Befana photo booth and get our Befana book signed by La Befana herself. If you don't have a copy of The Legend of La Befana book already, you can visit the book fair to get a copy and browse the many other Italian themed children's books for sale. Keep-sake La Befana t-shirts will also be available for purchase. Volunteers are needed to help with craft tables, book fair, and various tasks. Contact Janet Kwartler at 217-1952 to volunteer. Donations of traditional Italian cookies are always appreciated. Call Patty Peter at 399-9592 if you can donate cookies or holiday treats.

If you go:

What: Festa Della Befana, featuring a puppet show and children's arts and crafts and of course a visit from La Befana

When: Sunday, Jan. 8 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Sacramento Italian Center, 6821 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael



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The new Cinemark Century Arden 14 and XD.

By MATÍAS BOMBAL

Xenon searchlights illuminated the sky on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 29, their beams based at 1590 Ethan Way, Sacramento's newest movie multiplex, the Century Arden 14 and XD, now open and operated by Cinemark USA. Cinemark, whose mission statement reads: "We are dedicated to making the movie experience memorable, one Guest at a time", operates 522 theatres and 5,865 screens in the United States and Latin America.

Cinemark's Century Theatres division once operated the mid-century modern concrete dome theatres that had become too outmoded to match today's diminishing traffic of moviegoers and they were demolished by end of January 2016, despite public outcry from fans of that architectural style, eager to keep the gigantic spaces of mass communal movie experience. The new Century Arden 14 and XD was erected in just under a year's time on the same parcel of land, in what had been the south parking lot of the old domes complex. The new theatre's north parking lot occupies the space of the former Century 22 dome and multiplex.

At the special opening night party of Nov. 29, prior to the following Friday's opening to the public, members of the press, VIP's and special guests toured the facilities and enjoyed movies already in general release on all 14 screens. Local celebrities like KAHN Radio's Mary Jane Popp mixed with the contractors, builders, company executives, Star Wars storm troopers and yes, even Darth Vader.

Ray Syufy, whose father had built the domes, addressed the crowd with enthusiasm for the new movie complex calling it "the future of movie going". When I asked him what he would think his father, Ray Syufy, Sr., who died in late March of 1995, might have thought of the new theatres, he said his father "would have been thrilled with how the industry had improved and changed." Cinemark executives filled the lobby as the theatre's new manager, Frank Johnson said, "It is a great pleasure to bring this great theatre to Sacramento."

Among the VIP's, Gloria Naify was in attendance. Her family started the United Artists theatre chain and operated Sacramento's Alhambra Theatre in its golden age. For years, the Syufy Century Theatres were the United Artists Theatres (now part of Regal Cinemas) biggest competitors in the region. Sid Garcia-Heberger, for years the wonder-woman that operated the CSLM, Inc. Crest Theatre before the present owner/operator took over, was also in attendance with Tony Shepard of Sac-Press. Channel 10's Mark S. Allen acted as emcee in his usual enthusiastic manner, introducing the Cinemark executives that spoke to the opening night guests. Even KFBK's Kitty O'Neal dropped in as soon as she was off the air to take a look a little later in the evening.

Vice President of Global Design for Cinemark since 2013, William Angles, a University of Kansas graduate based in Dallas, is the young architect that visualized a new kind of theatre for "the future of movie going". The exterior is contemporary and

modern, with a tower at the lobby entry corner rising 100 feet into the air with the word "Century" spelled down the vertical surface. No exterior box-office, one goes into the lobby first to buy tickets. Much of the concession area is self-serve. There is also wine and beer available, high-backed love seat style seating for patrons waiting in the lobby and an exterior patio with tables and umbrellas. A corner with tables and chairs give a restaurant feel to that part of the lobby.

With movie attendance trends dropping after opening weekends nationally, Angles designed smaller auditoriums, with total seating for the multiplex at 1,531; the largest auditorium, the XD, with its great floor to ceiling screen and 11.1 channel sound employing a total of 77 speakers, only seats 271. That is the largest auditorium in the complex. The rest; auditoriums two and three: 172, four: 88, five and six: 59, seven to 10: 63, 11: 104 and auditoriums 12-14 have 118 seats.

However, in the spirit of the old showman's barker-like cry, "Every seat a Loge!", this new theatre's passport to the future lies in its comfort factor, the Cinemark "Luxury Loungers". Gigantic, electric powered recliners with cup holders and rising footrests which offer plush, comfortable seating. The seats are manufactured by the Irwin Seating Company of Grand Rapids. The three Irwin brothers took over a furniture manufacturer in the 1930s and have provided every type of seating imaginable for public buildings since, from

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Photo by Matias Bombal

(left) Cinemark's Bryan Jeffries with the Barco 4K digital projector in the XD auditorium.

(right) Mary Jane Popp of KAH Radio and Matias Bombal try the new "Luxury Lounger" seats made by the Irwin Seating Company

Theatre:

Continued from page 8

theatres to campuses and stadiums. The model of chair they supplied Cinemark for the new theatre is called "Spectrum Eclipse."

Just how you are seated at the movies is not the only part of the wave of this theatre of the future. Where you sit is now something you have to think about, even plan for. In the past most movie theatres had general seating. At the Century Arden 14 and XD all seats are reserved. When you buy your ticket you have to select in advance where you will sit from a seating chart at the box office register. With a few sequential visits, you be able to better determine your favorite spot, make a note of the row, clearly marked with letters of the alphabet in the carpet and seat number of your preference, then ask for the specific seat in future. Your ticket will have the row and seat number on it. Should you forget which is your seat on your way in, the top of each auditorium entry aisle wall has an illuminated "Seat Check" light to confirm your row and number before finding your seat.

The first night patrons were quick to offer thoughts; "Eleven out of ten" said Allan Keown of Arden Park. Laura Armstrong of Rancho Cordova: "Beautiful and impressive, absent my dog, it feels like home". Anna Tzikas, 28, "Impressed, but sad about the domes". Yet another patron, "Fantastic". However, some first nighters offered that the steps are too steep in the stadium seating areas of the auditoriums. Others complained about the previews being "too loud". Some, hopeful they will not fall asleep in the "Luxury Loungers".

On the technical side, each auditorium has the latest Barco digital projectors, one of the best manufactures of digital cinema DCP (Digital Cinema Package) machines in the industry, world-wide. Cinemark Marketing Director Bryan Jeffries showed me these machines in a visit before the opening night and introduced me to the man overseeing the technical installation for all fourteen screens, Presentation Manager Andy Voigt. Voigt has great pride in his work, ensuring that the theatre patrons will have the very best in picture in sound in each auditorium.

The Barco projectors are made locally, in Rancho Cordova. The model in each auditorium is the Barco DP4K-23B, a bright 4K cinema projector using a 6,000 watt Ushio xenon lamp. Featuring Texas In-

strument's 1.38" DLP Cinema® chip, the DP4K-23B offers stunning 4K images with superb brightness and vibrant colors to ensure a razor-sharp movie experience on the Century Arden's relatively big screens (for the size of the auditoriums). By merging the projector and media server functionalities into one projector module, the DP4K-23B Barco Alchemy projector is a full-fledged, DCI-compliant projector and media-server with on-board storage. Movies today come on hard drives, not movie film and soon will be digitally sent to the theatres via satellite.

As far as the interior design of the public spaces, the lobby has a contemporary, elegant design which feels open with large windows, not unlike an airport. Some elements of the finish are quite handsome.

A chat with the Cinemark contractor/builder Daniel Willey, with the company building theatres for more than 12 years, revealed that the lobby's bar front was decorated in a handsome tile treatment by Abbey Tile of Elk Grove. I was quite taken by the elegant and highly polished wood grains of the doors. The same wood grain was on cabinets holding the concealed refuse and recycling containers and sinks in which surplus liquids may be disposed; the fine work of Anton Cabinetry, based in Pantego, Texas. The lavatory fixtures are by American Standard. The hallways and auditoriums feature a primarily green carpet mixed with tan striped patterns, often on a bias or tiled effect. The theatre also has a meeting/party room, which may be rented for parties or meetings.

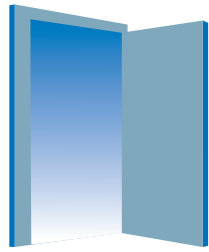
After the opening night crowd went into the various auditoriums to watch movies, Liam Parsons, 20, an assistant manager, counted the stacks of collected invitations with an usher. He told me he was "Excited to be part of this wonderful evening for everyone". Overall, many patrons noted how the entire staff was exceedingly polite. Some staff had been retained from the exiting staff at the domes, like Grant Maple and others, giving a sense kind of familiarity to the movie going experience of the future in this new setting.

Patrons leaving were given refill priced reusable hard plastic popcorn and drink containers valid till the end of the year and coupons for the concessions good for one discount each month of the new year. Exiting patron Tony Thomas, 58, called the new theatres, "A fantastic marvel for the 21st Century, I'm happy the domes are gone" and continued, "Though, I may need to drink a Rock Star to stay up," referring

to the "Luxury Loungers". In parting, Mr. Thomas offered a thought that had never crossed my mind; that the new development of this land parcel including the theatres, The Container Store and Nordstrom Rack were a "40-50% improvement of the land use of the property, which in turn provides a higher concentration of employment over the same land parcel than was ever possible before". More people with jobs. In this economy, that is a pretty wonderful thing to come of this new theatre development.

Since the opening I have attended two press screenings for movie for the purpose of review. The seats are indeed comfortable and the sound and picture are sharp, clear and excellent. It is like being in a private Hollywood studio screening room with other people you don't know. The screen size in relation to each auditorium is in fact quite large, but not in the gigantic size of the old domes, for that is a style and size that you will never see again, the industry has changed and can't support it. Remember that although the screens themselves may be big, the important factor is the shape and size of the movie image on them. As long as movie directors continue their love affair with wide-screen movies in the old style CinemaScope shape, the large new screens in the Century Arden 14 and XD will have a letter-boxed image in the center horizontally, only using 60% of the screen size with image. Movies made in the 16X9 shape of modern TV's, however, will fill the screens from top to bottom (1.85 theatre aspect ratio). In each case, you are getting the entire picture, even though each looks different.

As I left the theatre, I passed the long corridor with artwork that ironically features images of the past of movie theatres and photography. One image shows the balcony in a movie palace of the 1920s with an elegant cast iron seat end standard. With all the comfort of this new luxury of movie going, that image made me long for the giant size of the movie palaces of the 1920s. Yet another image shows a projection booth with Century projectors with film reels. The iconic idea that we are still watching film, is re-enforced. No such thing... we go to digitals now, not films. But they still are pictures that move, so we may still call them "pictures" or "movies" when we sink into the comfort of these sumptuous Century Arden 14 and XD "Luxury Loungers" and let the cinema takes us away to a land of adventure, romance, drama, comedy or fantasy in Sacramento's newest movie multi-plex.



Door — to — Door

with PAT LYNCH

The word, uptight, had not yet come into vogue but it must be retroactively applied to Mrs. Freligh (not her real name) who seemed to experience her highest sense of human utility when reprimanding others, especially kids. She was a noted personage in our parish. In winter she wore a fox shoulder wrap for attending the long, fancy 11 a.m. High Mass where the Monsignor officiated. Once, compelled to go to this Mass, I fidgeted in the pew behind her and stared at the fox head with its glassy open eyes. Imagine being a fox draped around Mrs. Freligh's neck. What a fate. Finally Mrs. Freligh turned around and delivered a glare that froze me. Another time when my friend Mark and I were cutting across her lawn, she grabbed us by our arms. "You trample the grass like animals," she said. Marching us to the sidewalk, she released Mark but continued to squeeze my arm and said that people didn't appreciate noisy girls who ran around telling knock-knock jokes. Then she said in a whisper much like a hiss, "That boy's not Catholic. You should have Catholic friends." But my mother said I could continue to play with Mark, although I had to remain polite to Mrs. Freligh, and not make faces behind her back.

Mark was two years younger and couldn't yet read or write. I was in the second grade and had already composed a three-page Christmas list, so I helped him write his. One afternoon we sat on my front porch and I printed out his wishes with a red pencil, red for Christmas. It was cold and when we talked condensed air puffed from our mouths in white bursts. I put the pencil in my mouth, held it like a cigarette, and pretended to blow out smoke. Mark took a crayon from the pencil box and did the same thing. So there we were, sitting quietly, writing, smoking.

Mrs. Freligh came up our walkway. She asked what we were doing, Christmas lists, we said. She glowered down and said Christmas was for Baby Jesus, not Santa Claus and presents. Those things were for pagans. She gave Mark a long look, at once curious and condemning. "Do you know who Jesus is?" she said. She didn't wait for an answer. "Jesus Christ is the Son of God," she said, then rang the doorbell. When my mother opened the door Mrs. Freligh said, "They're playing some sort of cigarette game out here," then went in to talk.

She told our mother that the Monsignor was coming to her house for dinner, 6. p.m. sharp on December

12th, and she would like the street to be pleasant and quiet for that event. The Monsignor was a big catch for the Frelighs. He was short, had thick white hair and an air of invincible authority. He was the top priest in the parish and every Sunday Mrs. Freligh was foremost among the people who clustered around him on the church steps after Mass. Now he was going to be on our very block. "She could hardly contain herself," my mother later told my father. You'd think the Pope was coming." She said she told Mrs. Freligh not to worry because children wouldn't be running noisily around at 6 p.m., when it was dark outside.

Mrs. Freligh almost daily chastised the kids of 42nd Street, but this year was especially bad because she was so worked up over the Monsignor's visit. Once, when we played a shrieking game of Red Rover, Red Rover, she strode into the street and told us through clenched teeth to be quiet before we woke the dead. I wondered if we could wake her fox with its dead, startled eyes. "Play quietly," she said. "Can't any of you ever just play quietly?"

As the dinner party neared Mrs. Freligh got more and more excited—no, enthralled,—and told my mother that Mr. Freligh was buying a special whiskey for the occasion. The Frelighs didn't drink but were determined to serve their guest the best. They hired gardeners to trim their hedges. A lady named Pearl came to mop and vacuum. None of us, not even our parents, had ever been inside the Freligh's house, but we knew it had to be tidy and splendid. I wondered what the Frelighs

and the Monsignor would talk about during their grand dinner: probably how much racket people made, how Christmas was becoming a pagan festival of greed.

The next Sunday when the Frelighs were at Mass Mark snuck onto their porch and peered through a space in their curtains. Their living room furniture was covered with crinkly, shiny, see-through wrapping. "Come see," he said, and I did. It was just as he said. Everything wrapped. Maybe they had bought all new furniture. But no, we would have seen the big truck from Brueners. We snuck around the back. Mark boosted me up to the kitchen window. The sink fixtures were unwrapped but spotless, no dirty dishes. It was like nobody lived there.

Mark and I snuck another look two days before the dinner. The furniture was unwrapped, the hardwood floors gleaming. A large manger scene took up the entire top of the now unwrapped coffee table.

The great day came. My mother told us to play at a distance from the Frelighs and to behave ourselves. Around four o'clock Mr. Freligh emerged and drove away. He scowled as he passed us. He was a plump, critical man, ever on alert for delinquency. Last Halloween he had turned off the porch-light and sat by the door, waiting to catch someone doing something wrong. He'd told Mrs. Apperson that trick-or-treating was invented by Irish hooligans.

He returned in twenty minutes with a bag and Mrs. Freligh opened

See Door-to-Door, page 11

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Door-to-Door:

Continued from page 10

the door for him and took the bag. She wore a new blue dress, diamond earrings and a look of luminous consequence. It would be dark soon so Mark and I went to my house and sat on the porch. Mark wanted to stay to witness the six o'clock arrival of the Monsignor. He wondered if the Monsignor would be driven up in a special car. Would there be guards? Would they salute? Bow? It was too bad to have to tell him no, the Monsignor would drive and would wear the same black suit and Roman collar they all wore. But I promised to take him to Mass some time—there he'd get plenty of bowing and razzle-dazzle--long satin capes, ringing bells, the smell of incense, and loud incantations in a strange dead language.

Mr. Freligh came out on the porch, looked up and down the street, looked at his watch, went back inside. He didn't see us whispering in the dark. I ran in to the kitchen clock. 6:15. I could tell time now and was always eager to announce it. I told my mother the Monsignor was fifteen minutes late and ran out. Mark said while I was inside Mrs. Freligh had looked out her door. By now the Freligh house was all lit up, candles burning in both front windows. If you listened closely you could hear *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem* softly emanating from their living room. We continued to watch, huddled together because it was colder now as well as dark.

Fifteen more minutes, maybe twenty. The front door opened and Mrs. Freligh walked down to the sidewalk in her high heels. It looked like she was holding her hands together in front of her. She gazed down the street. In the distance headlights appeared

and grew larger. Mrs. Freligh raised her right arm in a wave as the car neared. The lights got bigger, like yellow eyes, then passed her and turned left on 42nd and D. For a moment in the glare we saw her grimace, then drop her arm. We strained to see her face in the dark but when she stepped up under her porch-light she turned her head away. My mother came out and told Mark and me to come inside and eat. She watched Mrs. Freligh close her door. She said, "That poor thing."

It was strange to hear someone who was powerful--an adult, an enemy--called a poor thing, stranger still to feel sorry for Mrs. Freligh. But we did. Mark said tomorrow we should be nice and "real, real quiet." But I knew, without knowing how I knew, that the nicest thing we could do would be to act like we always acted and pretend we knew nothing.

It turned out that the Monsignor had forgotten the dinner and, worse, assigned a younger priest to call the Frelighs to apologize. My parents and their friends had an excited time talking about this. Our mother said the Frelighs were hurt and humiliated. Our father said they ought to take a few nips of the booze they bought for the Monsignor.

We continued to play noisily on the sidewalks, but for the rest of the Christmas break the Frelighs did not come out the door except to go to the 9 a.m. short Mass on Sunday. And when that happened she didn't look at any of us. Neither did he. It was odd to play freely, with no Mrs. Freligh on patrol. The Sunday before Christmas when they were again at church Mark and I snuck up on their porch. The crib scene was still up but the see-through wrapping was back on the living room furniture. It looked again like nobody lived there.



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POLICE LOG

The information provided allows for a timely snapshot of significant events in our community. The crimes reported here are preliminary investigations, taken in the field by patrol officers, and may or may not be assigned to a detective for further investigation. The information provided may be found after further investigation to be incorrect or false. Certain details of these incidents have been removed due to potential follow up investigation into the incident and/or for privacy rights.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8

(POD Arrest: Stolen Vehicle): Northgate Boulevard / San Juan Road at 11:22 a.m.

Officers were patrolling in the area when they stopped a vehicle for an infraction violation. Upon contacting the driver, the officers were notified of a Police Observation Device (POD) alert on the vehicle they had stopped. The driver was ultimately arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

(Burglary): 2000 block of West El Camino Avenue at 1:06 a.m.

An unknown suspect forced entry into a residence. The home was occupied by a canine and it is unknown if anything was removed from the property. A report was generated.

(Burglary): 4400 block of Norwood Avenue at 2:36 a.m.

An unknown suspect forced entry into the closed business. Officers arrived on scene and canvassed the area for evidence. It is unknown if anything was removed from the premises. A report was generated.

(Firearm Arrest): 900 block of Arcade Boulevard at 5:40 p.m.

Officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle and contacted the driver. A search was conducted which ultimately resulted in the discovery of cocaine and a loaded firearm which had previously been reported stolen. The man was arrested on charges related to unlawful weapon possession as well as possession of a controlled substance.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

(Despondent Subject): 1600 block of West El Camino Avenue at 5:16 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of a male subject assaulting his mother. When officers arrived, they found that the assault was unfounded but that the male adult had cut his wrist. SFD responded and determined the injury was not life threatening. The subject was taken to an area hospital for an evaluation.

MONDAY, DEC. 19

(Embezzlement Arrest): 1600 block of Arden Way at 1:36 p.m.

Officers responded to a business regarding a store employee that had been embezzling from the business. Upon arrival, officers contacted the suspect and determined that he had embezzled over \$950 in assets from the business. The man was transported to jail and booked on embezzlement charges.

(Death Investigation): 1600 block of Arcade Boulevard at 2:50 p.m.

Officers responded to a residence to assist fire personnel after they located a deceased man inside a home. Officers conducted a death investigation and did not locate any signs of foul play. The coroner responded and took over the investigation.

(Embezzlement Arrest): 1700 block of Arden Way at 4:53 p.m.

Officers responded to a business regarding an employee that had been detained on suspicion of embezzlement. Upon arrival, officers contacted the complainant and determined that the suspected offender had taken over \$950 in assets from the business. Officers contacted the suspect who was still on scene and took the woman into custody on embezzlement charges.

Sheriff community meetings

Next month the sheriff's department will be holding community meetings throughout the Arden-Carmichael area and all residents are invited to attend. Below is the schedule:

Arden Arcade, Tuesday, Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. at Country Club Lanes, 2600 Watt Ave. in the Skyroom on the second floor.

North Highlands/Foothill Farms, Thursday, Jan. 5 at 6 p.m. at the North Highlands Community Center, 6040 Watt Ave.

Old Foothill Farms, Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Pioneer Elementary School, 5816 Pioneer Way

Carmichael, Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. at Del Campo High School Library, 4925 Dewey Drive

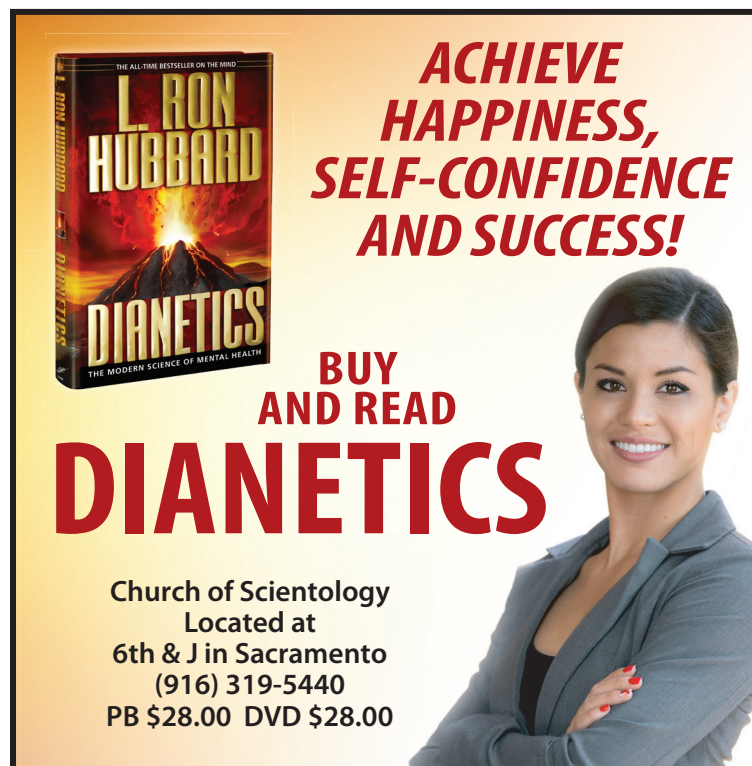
Fair Oaks, Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. at La Vista High School, 4501 Bannister Road (north of Winding Way)

Filling potholes

Last month Sacramento County's Department of Transportation started its "Winter 2016 - Pothole Sweeps Week" that began in Arden Arcade and is now spreading out elsewhere in the unincorporated area, according to County Supervisor Susan Peters' latest newsletter. "this is an intensified effort to identify and repair potholes, and is part of continuous effort to improve preventative maintenance activities for unincorporated area roadways. The current sweeps week effort will help prepare roadways for winter weather and an anticipated wet rainy season."

SACDOT's pothole sweeps are performed twice each year; in late spring to repair potholes caused by inclement weather; and in early winter to ready road surfaces for the storm season. Residents are encouraged to contact SACDOT concerning potholes on neighborhood streets. Pothole locations can be called into 311 or residents can visit the 311 website.

There are more than 5,200 lane miles of paved roadways in the county's unincorporated area and it's inevitable that somewhere in this large infrastructure of streets there will be potholes. SACDOT's policy is to: "Repair all potholes as soon as possible." The Pothole Sweeps Week program enhances ongoing pavement maintenance activities, which include SACDOT crews who are sent into the field Monday through Friday each week to specifically repair potholes, 41,000 are repaired annually.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARDEN-CARMICHAEL?

FRIDAY, DEC. 30

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE: Ring in the New Year with a balloon prize drop, refreshments, live music, 1:15-3:45 p.m., \$8 per person; Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, 972-0336.

TUESDAY, JAN. 3

ANIMAL HOUSE: THE EXHIBIT: Sacramento Fine Arts Center presents Animal House, the Exhibit because it's a zoo out there! 12th annual exhibit goes until Jan. 29. Online entry is closed. Sacramento Fine Arts Center, Inc., 5330B Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. Hours open: Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18

FREE TRAVEL SHOW AT MISSION OAKS COMMUNITY CENTER: EASY Group Travel Designed for Adventurers who are newly retired or "still working but ready to travel; cost: free; Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, 972-0336.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19

CARMICHAEL RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT GENERAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING: The monthly advisory board meeting is held the third Thursday of every month at the Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave. at 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25

BRAIN GAIN AT MISSION OAKS COMMUNITY CENTER: "Remembering car keys, eye glasses, and names." 10 a.m. to noon; cost: \$5; location: Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, 972-0336

FRIDAY, JAN. 27

BABY BOOMER DANCE PARTY: Dancing to Classic Tunes that span the Ages from 7 to 9 p.m.; cost: \$6 per person or \$5 online (morpd.com); Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, 972-0336

COMMUNITY JAM NIGHT AT THE MISSION OAKS COMMUNITY CENTER: All-ages musical jam to socialize and showcase your talents! Every last Friday of the month. 7-8pm (sign-ups at 6:45 p.m.); cost: \$2; location: Swanston Community Center, 2350 Northrop Ave.; 333-6464

SATURDAY, JAN. 28 AND SUNDAY, JAN. 29

GALAXY EXPRESS PLAY: An exciting theatrical series for the whole family; fun starts at 3 p.m. both days; cost is \$10; location: Swanston Community Center, 2350 Northrop Ave.; 333-6464.

RECURRING

CHAUTAUQUA PLAYHOUSE presents "Funny Little Thing Called Love"

Chautauqua Playhouse will present the comedy "Funny Little Thing Called Love" by Jones, Hope and Wooten beginning on December 2nd at the Playhouse. The show will run on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Jan. 15 with an additional matinee at 2 p.m. on Jan. 14. The show will not play Christmas or New Year's Weekend. The performances will be held at the Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Road in the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Admis-

sion is \$20 general, \$18 seniors/students and SARTA members. Premium seating is an additional dollar. The cast includes several local actors and Chautauqua favorites. Information and tickets are available through the Chautauqua Playhouse website: www.cplayhouse.org or call the box office at (916) 489-7529, during business hours.

LIBRARY NEWS

ARDEN-DIMICK LIBRARY

COLORING CLUB PLUS – Think you're too old to color? Adult coloring is all the rage! It's a fun and great way to combat stress. Come and experience this relaxing yet creative pastime. We'll supply age-appropriate coloring sheets and colored pencils. If you'd rather draw, please bring your own supplies. Every Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

#ADULTING: MUG MEALS – Teens learn valuable skills during our #Adulting programs. This month we'll learn how to cook with only a mug and a microwave. Perfect for dorm living or if you're not comfortable using a stove alone. We'll make one breakfast, one dinner and one dessert item. Supplies provided. Open to teens in 6th-12th grades. Friday, Jan. 6 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

TEENS ONLY NIGHT – Come for free pizza, video games, movies, activities, crafts and more at this after-hours program. Open to teens in 6th -12th grades. Friday, Jan. 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

YOGA CLASS – Come to the library for a free yoga lesson and experience its grounding, calming effects, while increasing your strength, flexibility and balance. All skill levels, beginner to advanced, are welcome. Please wear loose clothing and bring a yoga mat. Instructor Joan Howell has been teaching yoga for 20 years. Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

THE HOOTS – We're having a children's music concert at the library! Come and watch Sacramento's local children's band: The Hoots. Join us for this family program on Wednesday, Jan. 11 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

TEEN LGBTQ+ ALLIES GROUP – Teen member of the LGBTQ+ community? Join us for snacks, talking, movies, crafts and more. Teen allies welcome. Open to ages 12-19. Friday, Jan. 13 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

EREADER AND TECH HELP – Don't get frustrated; get help! Book a 45 minute one-on-one technology or eReader help session with library staff. Bring your own device or use one of ours. Whether you're having a problem with email, the Internet, difficult software, online library services, or some other tech problem, we can walk you through it. By appointment only. Register at the Arden-Dimick Library service desk. Saturdays, Jan. 14, 21, and 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. for eReader Help and 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. for Tech Help at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

BEST BET



NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE: On Friday, Dec. 20, ring in the New Year with a balloon prize drop, refreshments, live music, 1:15-3:45 p.m., \$8 per person; Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, 972-0336.

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ANIME CLUB FOR TEENS – Join us for Anime, manga, gaming and crafts for 6th-12th grades. Friday, Jan. 20 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

OLIVE OIL TASTING – Explore the world of Olive Oil. With so many to choose from, where do you start? Learn what makes a fresh, great tasting oil vs. a poor quality, and even rancid, oil. Argentine born Maria Farr was an Olive Oil Sensory Panelist for UC Davis and now has continued with a private firm. She will have several oils to taste and compare. Come and enjoy learning more about this popular kitchen staple. Saturday, Jan. 21 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento. Limited Seating. Registration required.

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP – Want to have a say in what the Arden-Dimick Library does for teens? Want to earn volunteer credit for school? Then hang out with us, eat some snacks, and help us plan programs and events! TAB looks AMAZING on college/scholarship applications! Open to teens in 6th-12th grades. Friday, Jan. 27 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

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FAIR OAKS LIBRARY

HOMEWORK ZONE – Our Volunteer homework coach will be available to help students in grades K-8 with homework assignments on Tuesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Library, 11601 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks.



New Year's Dance

Friday
December 30, 2016
1:15pm to 3:45pm

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