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KIDS DANCING FOR KIDS: SAC BALLET'S NUTCRACKER

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Public House
Theater reopens
in Tahoe Park

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Surrealist art
covers walls at
DADAS, a new
gallery in East Sac


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Vol. XXIV • No. 23

East Sacramento News is published on the first and third Thursday of the month in the area bounded by Business 80 on the west, the American River on the north and east and Highway 50 on the south.

Publisher George Macko
General Manager Kathleen Macko
Editor Monica Stark
Art Director John Ochoa
Graphic Designer Annin Greenhalgh
Advertising Executives Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews
Distribution/Subscriptions George Macko

Cover photo:
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Other photos:
Monica Stark
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Janey Way Memories:

Remembering My Grandmother



By **MARTY RELLES**
marty@valcomnews.com

When I was growing up on Janey Way in the 1950s and '60s, I spent a lot of time at my grandmother's house on 52nd Street and 14th Avenue. We were there for all the big holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and day and Easter.

In addition, we went to Grandma's house almost every Sunday evening for cake, coffee and conversation. Sometimes the conversation got heated, but she always calmed things down with her quiet authority. A tiny woman, she cast a big shadow in our family.

It wasn't until much later in life that my aunts related her incredible story to me.

Born in the late 1800s, she immigrated to America in 1912. She came on a passenger ship from Palermo, Sicily to New York City. She was only 14 years old at the time.

Her future husband had booked her first class passage to avoid her being detained at Ellis Island.

From there, she traveled by train to Chicago. To the best of my knowledge, her marriage had been arranged by her parents. So, when she arrived in Chicago, she probably met her husband, Severio Relles, for the first time.

The marriage worked out well, though. By 1915, she had given birth to three sons: George, Ross and Marty. Her new life seemed perfect; then tragedy struck. In 1919, she lost her husband in the worldwide Spanish flu epidemic.

So here she was with three young boys to raise and no husband. She kept her wits about her though, moving quickly to Sacramento, California where family had settled. She and her sons stayed with relatives there until she married her second husband, Rosario Petta, in 1920.

Soon, the young couple and their growing family bought their lifelong property on 14th

Avenue in the Colonial Heights Area of Sacramento. It featured three lots. They built houses on two of the lots and retained the other for farming.

All went well for them until 1929 when the stock market crashed and the country sank deeply into the great depression. Rosario soon lost his job with the Southern Pacific Railroad and fell to doing day labor to make a living. He was not unlike one of the guys you see standing around in the Home Depot parking lot hoping to pick up a job.

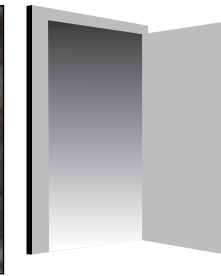
It's funny, but this setback proved an opportunity for Grandma Petta. She soon obtained a job working at the Del Monte Cannery. It provided seasonal employment from the spring through the fall. She would continue to work for Del Monte until age 65 when she earned some sort of pension through her union. That and her social security would see her through the rest of her life well into her 90s.

Grandma was truly a good worker, but so much more than that. She kept a chicken house on her farm for eggs, and a cow for milk. She made cheese from the milk the cow produced. She made her own bread almost daily. She cooked unbelievably good pizza from that same dough. My dad visited her once a week to pick up bread.

She canned apricots, pears and tomato sauce from fruits and vegetables that came from her garden.

In addition to all this, she was a great (not just good) cook. She taught my mother and my aunts how to cook. Mom then taught my brother Terry and I grandma's recipes. Terry went on to attend the Culinary Institute in New York and become an executive chef. All this came from the little women who migrated to America in 1912 to marry and start a new life.

Her story is one which I think about often, another truly inspirational Janey Way memory.



**Door
— to —
Door**
with PAT LYNCH

Bad Irish Santa

"He has charm, that Dad of yours," a nice, smiling old lady told me one day after Mass. We stood on the steps of Sacred Heart Church and my father, at six feet, four inches, towered above a group of grown-ups who laughed at one of his stories. I remember this day chiefly because he had slipped into an Irish brogue that was, since he was born and brought up in Sacramento, entirely synthetic. This was the day one of his listeners, a priest, asked him to play Santa Claus at the St. Patrick's Home Christmas party.

At home I told my mother that a lady said Daddy had charm.

"Was she young or old?" my mother said. "Really old, and she was going to have a baby pretty soon."

My mother's laugh was delicious and came from her deepest being.

St. Patrick's home was an orphanage, run by the Sisters of Mercy. My mother said it was a place for children who had no par-

ents or whose parents were too poor to care for them. My sister Kathleen and I, the two eldest, knew what orphans were but didn't like the idea. It was scary to think of being cast early into the world. Little Orphan Annie in the comics was a spirited girl who always had heartwarming adventures, but that was small comfort when you placed it alongside No Mom, No Dad, no Sisters and little Brothers, no Grandpa, no Aunt Mae, no Aunt Marie, nobody.

Our father thought it would be a good idea for Kathleen and me to accompany him when he went to the Home. He explained that he would be helping the real Santa, and we could help him help Real Santa by passing out gifts to the orphans. I don't remember if I still believed in Santa or not, but was fascinated and alarmed by the prospect of seeing real orphans. "I'm

See Door-to-Door, page 5

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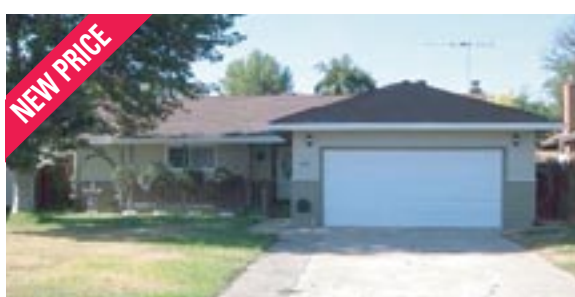
2430 Pavilions Place Ln - \$525,000



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3655 Lusk Dr. - \$284,900



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Door-to-Door:

Continued from page 3

going to be soooo nice," I told Kathleen. "I'm going to be sooo, soooo, sooooo nice," she answered.

The night of the party was foggy. Our father carefully backed the station wagon with the wood sides out of the driveway, and told us to look alert. The fog was exciting and it was fun to see the gray, moving mist envelope the houses on 42nd and D. Kathleen and I wore coats with matching mittens. "Be careful in this fog, Mike," our mother said to our father, and she kissed us and said we were to remember our manners.

When we got to the Home I looked in vain to see if orphans peeked longingly out any windows. But it was too foggy to tell. A priest came to meet us and we went to his office. The priest said, "What pretty little girls, and I'll bet they're good, too." He gave us the kind of chewy peppermint candies that dissolve in your mouth. Then he poured a whiskey for our father and himself. This priest was a real Irishman with a real brogue, and he and our father hit

it off. More whiskeys were poured. Our father, often jovial, was now excessively jolly and spoke in a brogue as thick and authentic sounding as that of the priest.

Finally he left to change into his Santa suit and the priest led us into a room filled with chattering kids. It was a large, carpeted foyer and a tall, decorated Christmas tree sparkled in a corner. There they were—the orphans, standing around or sitting in folding chairs. They looked completely ordinary. They didn't look sad or hungry or have big haunted eyes. In the beginning Kathleen and I stayed close together, and I felt nervous. We were the whole children, with two whole parents, with sisters and brothers all living in the same house, and these orphans looked just like us. So maybe it could happen to anybody.

Sisters of Mercy glided about in their long black habits with trays of cookies and orange slices, Santa Claus is Coming to Town played on a phonograph somewhere. One of the sisters came through the door, clapped her hands, and everybody

quieted down. "I think I hear something," she said, and we all listened and heard a chinking of bells from the other room. "I do believe that Santa's here," she said, and opened the door. Our father burst through, a bulging canvass sack on his back. Adroit padding had expanded his middle to a believable fatness, and he shouted, "Ho Ho Ho, where are the good little children?"

The younger kids squealed, "Here, Santa, here," and the older orphans laughed and clapped. "Now where's me wee helpers?" Santa bellowed and Kathleen and I realized that the brogue had come to stay. This happened sometimes.

The presents were marked with a B or G for boy or girl, and the first batch were for the smallest kids. Kathleen and I helped the Sisters of Mercy to pass them out. When it came to presents for the older kids, I handed one to a boy about my age. "Thank you," he said, looking right at me.

I answered, "Thank you," because I couldn't think what else to say to an orphan.

It was a good party, and the priest, now fondly called "Father

Don," and "Father Donnie Boy," by Santa, brought Santa more drinks in a brown coffee mug. Santa asked a nervous, shy little girl, "What is furry and has four paws and will bark when it grows up?" and when she said, "A puppy?" he made everybody clap for her and said to the nuns, "Ye've done good work with this one, Sisters," and even the nuns clapped and laughed. The girl grinned and looked like she shone from within.

The party ran long, but eventually the Sisters led the orphans away, our father changed clothes and Father Don walked us to the car. We could hardly find it in the fog. Kathleen and I got in the back seat. Our father told me to look to the right, Kathleen to the left, and if we saw any car lights coming through the fog to scream, Daddy, stop! It took him a long time to get the heater on. He drove so slowly it felt like the car inched down the street. "Bastard fog," he muttered at one point, but then the brogue returned. I stared fiercely at the fog, ready to shout if I saw car lights. But I wasn't really all that frightened. Santa was driving.

Pat Lynch is a Sacramento writer with astute social consciousness and a reporter's sharp eye. She tunes us in: to language with its revelations and betrayals, to subtexts, to nuance, to irony. Her characters engage us emotionally; her stories peel away the layers with humor and great humanity.

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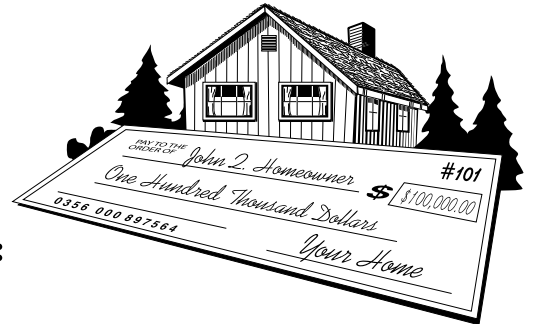
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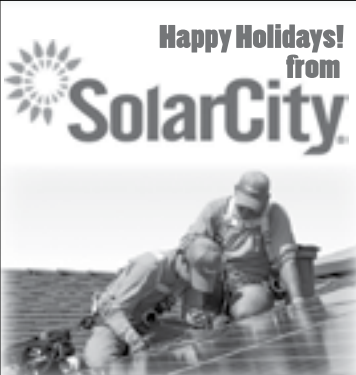
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Public House Theater re-opens, Tahoe Park neighbors celebrate

By MONICA STARK
 editor@valcomnews.com

Talk about a dream deferred. After busting around getting the Public House Theater, the pub theater in Tahoe Park, open about a year ago, owner Jackie Nadile experienced some unfortunate news that her newly renovated venue wasn't compliant to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The place was bopping when it was open. Neighbors found the local spot as a great hangout. But after inspections, Jackie was told she needed ADA parking and that the bar was not ADA compliant – that it needed to be rebuilt in order to make way for a lower ADA bar. “We had no trouble with our liquor license. It was all permits,” she said.

“We got the wrong permits. We had to go back to the city and start all over again. When I submitted the blueprints, the city laughed at me and said, ‘What is this? We can't use this.’ When I saw the blueprints, they were completely wrong. I tried to revise this and do it all myself, but you can't do any renovations without an architect or licensed contractor. When you are ignorant, you are behind the 8-ball but you learn very quickly... I have the best friends and family in the world pulling me through. Now we're good.”

Saturday, Oct. 20 was the soft opening, but Jackie said so far the pub theater has lost \$20,000 from being closed, and that's not including money put into building to put it up it up to code, which is another \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Closed since the beginning of April, it was about six months with no income for the PHT; when it was open, the theater boasted good turnouts, especially for sports programming, and premiere showings of short films and acoustic performances.

She's also received great help from her neighbors and has made many friends since she began transforming the old Tahoe Market into a cozy pub theater with delicious food made by chef Norma.

Jackie said, “I didn't know anybody before it first opened... they were just our regulars and we just met in the parking lot at the end of the night and called them inventory reduction meetings.”

“It's been busy all the time,” said one of the regulars. “We just have to get the word

out. One of the great things is the food and now we can do the marketing and start to look at things in the neighborhood. Norma does handmade tacos, quesadillas. Food is pretty much homemade and they are pretty creative... I compare (this place) to Cheers. You can go into this place and everyone knows your name. Neighbors that didn't know each other would then come in and they've been getting to know each other. (PHT) opened up this community.”

Asked if she's experienced any memorable experiences while working behind the bar, Norma recalled a time when a man named Tony Wells entered and announced his presence to those in the pub, “I'm Tony Wells. I'm Tony Wells,” he said like he was some celebrity. He's been here since day one.”

One day when the pub ran out of chicken, Norma said one of the regulars, a young boy Marco came in with his mom requesting Norma's chicken tacos. “When I said I just ran out, (the mom) said, ‘Oh man. Marco, what else do you want?’ He said, ‘Norma's chicken tacos.’ So I ran to the store to get the chicken.”

Talk about customer service!

Norma said while she has never worked in a restaurant setting, her mother and sister are good cooks and she enjoys cooking for fun.

Mike Grieneisen and Kim Steinmann have frequented the pub theater a few times a week since opening day. Living just down the street, they enjoy the quick walk to their neighborhood hangout. Mike, who's been nicknamed Jerry Garcia because of his doppelganger-like appearance, said he loves how close the pub theater is to his house. “I like the proximity. We can just walk here. There are so few options like it in this part of Sacramento. We've seen a few of the movies, but we were coming more for the quesadillas. Just again, let somebody else cook dinner,” Mike said.

“It's just a friendly place. I always get the wine and Norma's famous quesadillas are pretty damn amazing,” Kim added. “I never played Bingo before (referring to a PHT bingo night). But it's fun. It's rowdy crowd. It's the only time I won anything in my life. I won a PBR backpack bag. The swag is pretty good. You didn't know you wanted it until you got it.”



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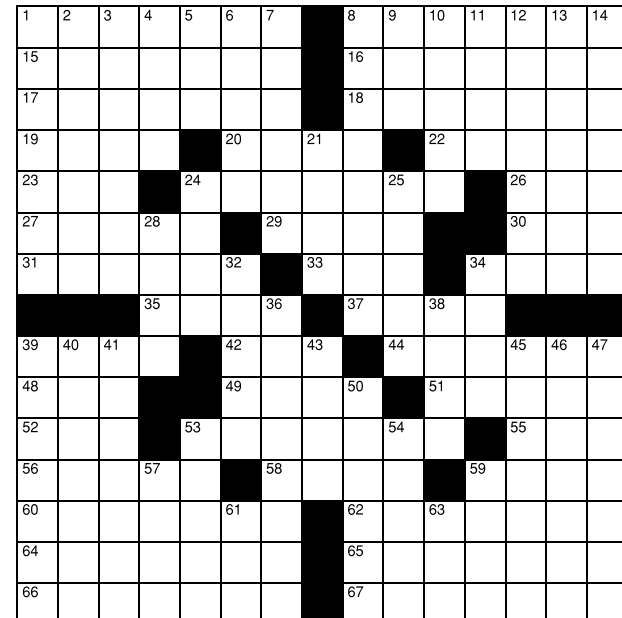
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The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Hors d'oeuvre staple
- 8 Schedule makeup
- 15 Skirt's edge
- 16 Delta, for one
- 17 Annual book for farmers
- 18 Image receivers
- 19 Countenance
- 20 Contend with
- 22 Theater litter
- 23 Feedbag morsel
- 24 Chinese dish
- 26 "Aladdin" prince
- 27 All thumbs
- 29 Handed-down history
- 30 ___ Aviv
- 31 Sesame, for one
- 33 Ballpoint, e.g.
- 34 Arid
- 35 Advance, slangily
- 37 Comfort
- 39 Numero uno
- 42 Kind of race
- 44 Surgeon's tool
- 48 In-flight info, for short
- 49 Hit hard
- 51 Flat
- 52 Tennis call
- 53 Work boot features
- 55 Kipling's "Gunga ___"
- 56 Less damp
- 58 Singer Hendryx
- 59 Tat-tat intro
- 60 Three-syllable poetic foot



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DOWN

- 1 Soft leather
- 2 Self-___
- 3 Current-measuring instrument
- 4 The Kennedys, e.g.
- 5 Relations
- 6 Pass
- 7 Firearm kick
- 8 Happy-go-lucky
- 9 Fanciful story
- 10 Dilettantish
- 11 Open, as an envelope
- 12 Wavy
- 13 Addict's accomplice
- 14 Stalkless, in plants
- 21 Support, with "up"
- 24 Big first for a baby
- 25 Kind of artery
- 28 Termite, e.g.
- 32 Bit of statuary
- 34 On its way
- 36 Like cinema's Mr. Ripley
- 38 Be rude to
- 39 Ugly old woman
- 40 Without end
- 41 Gorge
- 43 ___ Bell
- 45 Body of science
- 46 Snob
- 47 Many urban dwellers
- 50 Tomorrow, in Tijuana
- 53 Ex-senator Lott
- 54 Window sections
- 57 "Beowulf," e.g.
- 59 Neural network
- 61 "Told ya!"
- 63 Neon, e.g.

See Solution, page 14

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Actor Jack Murray from London's Globe Theatre visited David Lubin Elementary.

Photo courtesy of SCUSD

Actor from London's Globe Theatre visits David Lubin Elementary

Actor Jack Murray from London's Globe Theatre — established by playwright William Shakespeare — visited David Lubin Elementary School in October to share the magic of the theatrical arts with fourth grade classes.

Introducing the characters and themes of "Macbeth," Murray encouraged students to use movement and voice to bring Shakespeare's words to life. For example, he asked

students to consider the description of the witches, who are "not like inhabitants of this earth." The students were then asked to compose and fashion their bodies to match the description.

Lubin is one of several schools in SCUSD which maintain relationships with the Globe Theatre through UC Davis.

Source: SCUSD

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Matias Bombal's Hollywood

TRUMBO

The MPAA has rated this R

Bleeker Street presents the much anticipated story, "Trumbo", in which film screenwriter Dalton Trumbo, along with other writers that were either communist or communist leaning were blacklisted, or prevented from working due to the investigations of the House Un-American Activities Committee. This investigative committee of the United States House of Representatives was formed in 1938 as the Dies committee, initially to ferret out U.S. citizens with Nazi affiliations. It became a permanent committee in 1945, and by 1946 turned its magnifying glass on communism.

In 1947, the committee held nine days of hearings to study alleged communist propaganda in the movie industry. Ten members of the motion picture profession were convicted of contempt of congress by not answering questions of the committee or not naming the names of known or suspected communists in the industry, the press labeled them "The Hollywood Ten" and screenwriter Dalton Trumbo was an outspoken one. This movie tells the story of these events in his life and the subsequent aftermath for himself and his family.

The Colorado-born writer started his work in magazines like "McCall's", "Vanity Fair" and "The Saturday Evening Post". He became the managing editor of the "Hollywood Spectator" in 1934 and saw firsthand screenwriting experience in the story department at Warner Bros. Early forays into screenplays included "Road Gang" and

"Love Begins at 20" in 1936. By 1937, he was writing for the screen full time. He became one of the highest paid writers in that period, earning just less than \$4,000 a week. Adjusted for inflation, that would be \$54,000 in today's money for a week's work.

Bryan Cranston stars in the movie's eponymous role. For speaking his mind and not offering names of other writers during the nine days of hearings held by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), Trumbo was subsequently blacklisted by the movie industry which prevented him from making a living. The movie studios were afraid of any adverse publicity that might affect box-office revenues. They could not risk having any known communists working in any branch of the industry. Major studios were pressured by the giant arm of conservative press, which could kill a movie's publicity by either not writing about it, or worse, publicly attacking suspected industry communists in the press. Dalton Trumbo became a visible target of this media assault on Hollywood, making him a persona non grata.

This movie's screenwriter John McNamara, in adapting Bruce Cook's book "Dalton Trumbo" has used the device of having the media be represented in this attack by former actress Hedda Hopper. She had been in films since 1916, before the screen had sound and voice. When Hopper's movie career began to wane by the mid 1930s, she jumped at the chance of a new career when the Los Angeles Times offered her a col-

See Reviews, page 17

Debbie Towne
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Arts & Activities

Tony Natsoulas exhibits works at Sac State

Renowned local artist Tony Natsoulas brings his whimsical ceramic sculptures to Sac State's Robert Else Gallery, 6000 J St., now until Friday, Dec. 18, for the free exhibit "Then and Now." Natsoulas special-

izes in large scale, humorous figurative ceramic sculpture. Regular gallery hours are noon-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This is a free exhibit. Contact: (916) 278-6166.



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Artist profile:

Nan Roe

Nan Roe makes her home away from home at Artistic Edge Gallery and Framing at 1880 Fulton Ave. in the Arden Arcade area. You will find Nan there most days working on new projects. She loves people to stop in and ask questions and enjoy her art. She also does commission pieces as well. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is also open for Second Saturday festivities from 4 to 7 p.m. every month, providing another opportunity to meet artists and discuss ideas. The gallery is home to a number of versatile, experienced studio artists, some of them with national and even international prominence. Nan has always been a creative person from her early years, earning many awards in art competitions, and finishing her art degree after raising a family. She creates sculpture from a surprising array of materials, including computer parts, hardware and found objects, as well as being a skilled oil painter. Nan has been part of "The Art Ark," a traveling show sponsored by the Crocker Museum, which was viewed by over 60,000 children throughout California. She also participates in an Art Auction at the Crocker entitled, "Big Names, Small Art".

Shimo Center for the Arts to hold first solo show

Shimo Center for the Arts is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition: "The Underlying Aspiration to Cast More Shade" by artist Kevin Ptak.

Ptak's objects are a reflection of his mindfulness and maturation as an artist. As the Art Technician at California State University, Sacramento, he is in constant contact with materials that are repurposed and saturated with meaning. Ptak has the ability to draw out relationships to materials that don't require us to make giant logical leaps. Instead, we need only to slow down and look for what is there. Both his process and finished pieces speak to the cycle of life, death and rebirth. Branches brittle with potential are stunted after being cast into aluminum. An axe head fashioned of wood is now the product of its own demise. A clock made with no mechanism to mark the passage of time still tells the truth twice a day. Ptak's relationship with materials such as wood and aluminum bring question to the function of form. Each piece is an exploration in the profundity of everyday objects.

The real treat is that his work is beautiful. There is time and care placed into the creation of the work. It is clear that his pieces are lived with and are made from a place of care and consideration. It is exciting to witness work that speaks of its maker.

Kevin Ptak was born in Central New York but set out to California in his formative years. Ptak completed his MA in Art at California State University, Sacramento where he currently works as the Instructional Support Technician for the Art Department. His work has been exhibited in many local venues including B. Sakata Garo, Blue Line Arts, and the Robert Else Gallery. This will be his first solo show at The Shimo Center.

If you go:

What: Kevin Ptak solo show
When: Dec. 4 to 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. There will be a Second Saturday reception on Dec. 12 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Shimo Center for the Arts, 2117 28th St., 95818



Surrealist art covers walls at DADAS, a new art gallery in East Sacramento

By CORKY OAKES

The spirit of Salvador Dali is alive now in East Sacramento. DADAS Art Gallery Boutique opened Nov. 14. Just as the dada artistic movement paved the way for surrealism, great hopes ride on DADAS paving the way as a new venue to embrace the arts.

The creator of this space is the very ebullient Yvette Ewell. Ewell worked 30 years in IT for UC Medical Center and decided that she had "done everything in IT that could be done." During her career she dreamed of owning her own business. For over 20 years she has also been a dedicated enthusiast of Second Saturday venues across the greater Sacramento area. This high energy visionary was on a personal quest to create the next chapter of her life.

Although Ewell didn't have a precise image of the business in the beginning, her multi-year exposure to the Sacramento art scene

and working at a gallery boutique in Folsom, forged the final concept. Ewell realized she had found the business model. Ewell recalls, "The minute I saw it [art gallery/boutique model] I knew this was the business I wanted." Having two brothers who are artists sealed the deal. It took a year but she found the "right spot"...the vacated space at 3655 J Street, formerly occupied by Shabby Chic.

Ewell's brothers, Dwight and Todd Head, coordinate artists, exhibits and classes. Artists in their own right. Dwight's focus is surrealism; his media are pencil, pen, ink and watercolor. He has been on the Sacramento art scene for 25 years. Todd is a graduate of the California College of the Arts. He has participated in Bay Area cafe shows for 20 years. His focus is visual arts using oils and multi-media.

Use of light and unusual props throughout this wonderfully open and bright space provides the perfect environment for exhibiting works of

art and merchandise. Mannequins are painted bright yellow, blue and sienna, their hands cleverly used to display wares. Unusual scarves are suspended from empty gilt frames. While the majority of boutique wares are displayed in the interior of the space, artwork is hung on the external walls, arranged by artist. Ewell says she can "see artists gathering around their exhibits, deeply engaged in conversation."

The art gallery boutique currently serves three purposes: a place for local artists to exhibit their art, a place to sell eclectic wares (clothing, accessories, greeting cards, yoga shoes to mention a few), and a place where artists meet. In the future Ewell and her brothers hope to add classes. Currently the gallery exhibits nine local artists featuring a wide variety of media: ceramics, multi-media, oils, surrealist poster art, wood-carving (canes and walking sticks), photography and jewelry. There is a special exhibit dedicated to artists from the Devel-

opmental Disabilities Service Organization. Ewell travels regularly throughout northern California seeking clothing and other items from small vendors and individual artisans for the boutique.

Ewell says she will place special emphasis on Second Saturdays and hopes to host classes for ceramics, photography, painting and upholstery. "I want all the walls covered with the works of local artists, and I want them to build a community here at the gallery."

DADAS is open Tuesdays through Saturdays 10-6. "Second Saturdays we may stay open a bit later," smiles Ewell. The store will open for a few hours on Sunday, Dec. 6 for California International Marathon spectators, as well as other Sundays during the holiday season. There is street parking and also parking behind the store.

For more information contact DADAS at 307-9686 or on Facebook, DADAS Art Gallery Boutique.

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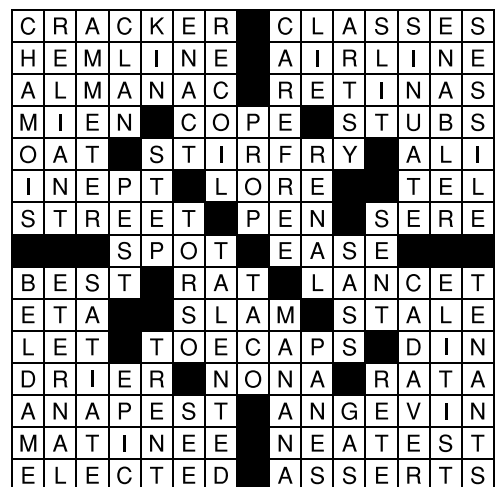
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Whether the students are taking classes at Deane Dance Center or are in the Apprentice Company or the pre-professional, Crockett-Deane Ballet Company, the students receive excellent training from many fine teachers. The school has received many awards over the years, including this past May from the Regional Dance America/Pacific Showcase and Competition.

Every year the school and ballet company perform in a wonderful holiday production. The dancers are often joined by profession-



al dancers from other companies. Their upcoming holiday show will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at The Center at Twenty-Three-Hundred, 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento.

Act one is a charming ballet, choreographed by Don Schwenesen, called "Christmas Angels," set to traditional Christmas carols. The second half of the program is a very family-friendly one act narrated version of the traditional "Nutcracker Suite," with all of the familiar characters and the wonderful music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky. Audiences love the traditional holiday story. Young children love the dancing bears, mice and colorful soldiers, while the adults enjoy the beauty of the Snow Queen and the Sugar Plum Fairy. Prices are very reasonable and can be purchased at the door or call 453-226; deanedancercenter.com

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CALENDAR

Send your event announcement for consideration to: editor@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

Little Hats, Big Hearts looking for newborn and preemie knit hats

Now until Jan. 15, 2016: Calling knitters, crocheters and loom knitters of all ages. The American Heart Association Sacramento Chapter is calling for handmade little red hats in preemie and newborn sizes. Hats need to be completed and delivered to the Sacramento Chapter Office located at 2007 O St., 95811 no later than Friday, Jan. 15, 2016. "Little Hats, Big Hearts" is a nationwide campaign of the AHA, bringing awareness to the babies who are born with heart ailments and heart defects. All hats received will be distributed locally in February 2016 as part of Go Red Month. This event is also being hosted on Facebook as "Little Hats, Big Hearts" for Elk Grove and Sacramento. Enjoy being part of this special project. Participants in Elk Grove will have designated drop-off locations to be announced in the Elk Grove Citizen and Facebook. For more information, contact Teresita Valadez at teresitagabriela@yahoo.com.

SPCA Announces Launch of Fleas Navidad Adoption Special

Adopt don't shop this holiday season! During the SPCA's "FLEAS NAVIDAD" special (running now through Dec. 23), adopt any adult animal (age 1 year or older) for 50 percent-off the regular adoption price, and receive a dose of Advantage flea treatment for dogs of cats, a species-appropriate toy, a special gift from The Container Store, and a lifetime of love and devotion. Give an animal a home for the holidays, and give yourself the gift of love! The Sacramento SPCA is located at 6201 Florin Perkins Road in Sacramento. Regular adoption center hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 6pm.

Santas needed to fill holiday stockings for formerly homeless women and children

Local residents can bring smiles to formerly homeless women and children this holiday season by contributing to Women's Empowerment's annual Holiday Stocking Drive. The group is seeking 250 stockings and specific fillers for local infants and toddlers, children, teens and adult women. For the list of items needed, visit www.womens-empowerment.org. Those interested also can donate \$30 to have a volunteer elf fill a stocking or donate Target gift cards. Items are needed by Dec. 8 and can be dropped off at 1590 North A Street, Sacramento. For more information, contact Kate Towson at kate@womens-empowerment.org or 669-2307.

The Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society (STJS) monthly music event

Every second Sunday of the month, STJS has music at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., from noon to 5 p.m. Each month STJS has a different band, there is three different rooms to listen to music. Nominal fee for members is \$8; non-member price is \$10.

Nar-Anon meeting for families and friends

The group meets to learn about drug abuse, share problems, encourage the addict to seek help, replace despair with hope, improve the family attitude, help regain your self-confidence. For more information, call the First United Methodist Church at 446-5025, ext. 101. Meetings are Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 2100 J St.

Rotary Club South meeting

The Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets at noon for lunch every Thursday at Iron Grill, located at 2422 13th

St. (Broadway and 13th Street). Rotary is one of the largest service organizations in the world dedicated to community service both locally, and internationally. Please call JR Springer at 425-9195 for additional information.

Beginning tai chi gong

These exercises use the principle of chi flowing properly throughout the body to maintain the equilibrium of yin and yang. Regular practice of these forms will develop better balance and flexibility, gain strength, promote deep relaxation, and improve health. This beginning class will also learn the 24 Yang Style Tai Chi and Yi Jing, a traditional Health Qi Gong. Pre-registration and prepayment required or \$7 drop-in fee at the door. Class will be held on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 pm at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accssv.org.

Widow persons monthly buffet and social

Widowed Persons Association of California, Newcomers' Buffet and Social is open to any and all widows and widowers, the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The buffet will be held in the private dining room at the Plaza Hof Brau, corner of El Camino and Watt Avenue, cost varies as the choice is from a no-host buffet menu. There is no charge to attend the social other than the meal chosen. For more information, call 916 972-9722. Widowed Persons Association of California, Sunday Support, is open to any and all widows or widowers, every Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. in the meeting room of the WPAC office, 2628 El Camino Avenue, Ste. D-18. Enter from the back parking lot. For more information, call 916 972-9722. Saturday, Nov. 7, Widowed Persons Association of California Workshop, "Coping with the Holidays," 2 to 4 p.m., the doors open at 1:30 p.m. A second session will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. The workshops will take place at 2628 El Camino Ave., Ste. D-18. Enter from the back parking lot. For more information or to register, call 972-9722.

DECEMBER

Sacramento Senator Lions club will host the 3rd Annual Dandelion Arts and Crafts

Dec. 5: Sacramento Senator Lions club will host the 3rd Annual Dandelion Arts and Crafts show at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. All profits are used to support community projects. Event information at SenatorLionsEvents@gmail.com.

Sacramento Concert Band's free Holiday Concert:

Dec. 7: Enjoy music from Mozart to Gershwin with a little Sousa in between at Sacramento Concert Band's free Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave. in Carmichael. The Sacramento Concert Band, a community band under the direction of Grant Parker, is embarking on its 48th season. After intermission and a raffle for homemade teddy bears and wall hangings, jump into the holiday spirit when you hear season favorites such as "Fantasy on a Bell Carol", "The Christmas Song" (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire), and "Sleigh Ride". The concert is free of charge, but donations to feed the hungry will be accepted. For more information, please contact Grant Parker, Band Director, (916) 691-7632

Sam Brannan Middle School - Parent-Student Visitation Days

Dec. 8, 10, Jan. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14: All visits begin at 8:30 a.m. To schedule a visit please call 264-4350 x1001. All 6th grade students and their parents are invited to come explore the Sam Brannan campus, visit classrooms and meet our outstanding teachers and students. Plan to experience a day in the life of a Sam Brannan student. Come and see why Sam Brannan should be your choice for middle school! Sam Brannan Middle School is located at 5301 Elmer Way, 95822; Sambrannan@scusd.edu

See more Calendar, page 19

Reviews:

Continued from page 9

umn, "Hedda Hooper's Hollywood" in 1938.

With Hopper's intimate inside look at the industry that she had seen grow up, she had tremendous access to the highest levels of the movie business. She used that key to generate gossip both positive and negative about the movie colony. A spirited Republican, she jumped at the chance to support the HUAC and go after suspected communists in all of her media outlets of the era, including her syndicated newspaper column, radio via NBC's national network of stations and movie newsreel shorts from Paramount. In this movie, Hopper is played by Helen Mirren who captures the vitriol of Hopper's negativity. In one scene she explains her faded movie career; "When one career in the movie business ends, you find a way to come back and love it more." Dear reader, your reviewer may certainly relate to that remark!

With a family to support, Trumbo turned to ghost writing. It was his only way to work. Trumbo meets in a cafe with screenwriter Ian McLellan Hunter, played by Alan Tudyk, so that Hunter will front a screenplay for him. The movie would become the beloved classic, "Roman Holiday", and would go on to win an Oscar. The statuette, however, was awarded to Hunter in that particular ceremony.

It would be easy to become swayed by the politics of this movie, one way or the other, but separate from that context, you'll find this to be a well-made movie on a dramatic basis, with splendid performances from a grand cast. John

Goodman plays one of the King Brothers who would give Trumbo so much uncredited work that he'd have to farm it out to his fellow blacklisted writers. Beautiful Elle Fanning plays Trumbo's older daughter, Nikki. Diane Lane plays Cleo Trumbo, the writer's wife. Ms. Lane remains one of the great actresses of our time, I so enjoy her on the screen.

Another of my favorite contemporary actors, Michael Stuhlbarg, also appears here, but I was somewhat conflicted by how his role, that of screen legend Edward G. Robinson, was written for this movie. Great actor that he is, Stuhlbarg seems an odd choice for the iconic screen star with such a definite personality and voice. Likely it was the actor's choice not to imitate Robinson, but get to the core of how the part was written, and he did that very well.

This is an enjoyable look at a very creative and lucrative period of the history of the movies, where artists of the greatest skills combined talents for the mini-empires that were the old Hollywood studios. Byran Cranston's portrayal of the man who would write the scripts for such films as "The Brave One," "Exodus," "Spartacus" and "Kitty Foyle" is a tour de force of witty delivery and pride of individualism. This should be on your list of films not to miss. Trumbo: a credit to the cinema.

LEGEND

The MPAA has rated this R

Universal Pictures brings us Studio Canal's "Legend", writer/director Brian Hegeland's new picture about the notorious Kray brothers of London's east end of the 1960s. It's fitting that the movie studio that

once used to boast that a good cast is worth repeating, in fact repeats the star of the movie, Tom Hardy, in a very clever way; he plays both brothers, the tough and powerful Reggie and the exceedingly violent, mentally unstable Ronnie. This bit of movie magic is seamless in execution.

Hardy, who is a fantastic force of nature in acting, is able to give us two different men in his portrayals with subtle nuance in each. This view of the crime underbelly of London's east end and the attempt at the brothers Kray to gain new territory is stylishly told, beautifully produced with rich detail, and mesmerizing to watch. Oh yes, quite violent, and all spoken in an east end accent.

One of my favorite young actors working today, Taron Egerton, who you may remember from "Kingsman: The Secret Service", plays Edward "Mad Teddy" Smith in the movie, Ronnie Kray's henchman and lover. He's always engaging. The cast also includes wonderful David Thewlis as Leslie Payne, the brother's business manager, Emily Browning as Reggie's sweetheart, Frances Shea and in a happy return to the screen, Chazz Palminteri, who only recently has been making about one picture a year. Palminteri adds memorable moments in each movie, and here as Angelo Bruno, he's part of the U.S. mob, making overseas overtures.

The Kray's had fires on many stoves; Intimidation, protection, robbery, extortion. To the public, they were in the limelight as night club owners. Just as had happened in Harlem of the 1930s, the upper classes enjoyed a thrilling night out in the company of gang-

sters, and going slumming in the east and south end of London that provided that adventure. These gangs mapped out territories throughout London. When those lines were crossed, trouble happened.

I am not a fan of violent movies but must admit there is something that intrigues me when movies are made about gangsters. We've had movies about Italian mobsters almost as long as there have been movies. Pictures about British gangsters are certainly less common in the USA, but enough have been made that one could debate which of them are in the best 25. Titles that come to mind include "McVicar" with Roger Daltrey, "Brighton Rock", Alan Clarke's "Scum" of 1979, Michael Caine in both "Get Carter" and "The Italian Job", and would you believe it, Peter Medak's 1990 movie "The Krays" covering the very same subject as this new picture.

You'll find an excellent array of period pop recordings in the soundtrack to set the era in your mind. You don't often hear many vintage pop hits in periods films these days as the licensing of the original recordings may climb as high a half the cost of the production itself. For the original orchestral score for the picture, Carter Burwell has created a seamless mood in music that does not draw attention to itself, which of course, makes it perfect. This is clearly a violent movie, and if that may bother you, you may consider that carefully before going to see it. The performances of Tom Hardy are fascinating to watch. Of each, I think I like the loose canon Ronnie Kray performance more than that of his dapper Reggie performance. You will have to see this yourself to decide which you like best. Twice as excellent as any Tom Hardy movie.

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Faces and Places: Nutcracker at the Clunie Center

On Saturday, Nov. 21, the Sacramento Ballet put on a special preview of the Nutcracker for the community at the Clunie Center. The ballet will take stage this year from Dec. 12-22. Best-known and most beloved of all Sacramento traditions, Ron Cunningham's 28th production of his delightful *The Nutcracker* is a true holiday spectacular. The enormous growing Christmas tree, Clara's fearless battle with the Mouse King, the soaring Magic Balloon, the sparkling Snowflake Forest, the delicious Kingdom of the Sweets, and the radiant elegance of the Sugar Plum Fairy have been creating family memories for almost three decades. And yes, the Sacramento Ballet partners once again with the Front Street Animal Shelter to find homes for the adorable canines starring in the Prologue. The ballet is held downtown at the Community Center Theater, 1301 L St. For ticket information, call 808-5181.



Individual dates and times:

Saturday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 13 at 1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 13 at 5 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 20 at 1 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 1 p.m.

CALENDAR

Balance, mobility and coordination

Dec. 9: Learn a new way of thinking (the Alexander Technique) used to improve your balance, mobility, and coordination. This class is for English-speaking seniors who are able to sit, stand, and walk unassisted. Some floor work included. There will be hands-on guidance from the instructor. Dress comfortably. Pre-registration and pre-payment of \$54 required. No drop-in. Class will begin Wednesday, Oct. 7 through Dec. 9 from 6:30-8 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City. For more details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accs.org.

Capitol Pops holiday concert

Dec. 10: The Capitol Pops Concert Band wraps its 18th season with a free, open to the public holiday concert at 7 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 5811 Walnut Ave., in Orangevale. Under the baton of Director Kurt Pearsall, CPCB's one-hour performance will include traditional holiday favorites, seasonal musical hits and carols. Voice and instrumental soloists also will be featured in this family-friendly holiday event. Christ the King Lutheran Church is the band's rehearsal site. Attendees are invited to donate a new or gently used coat as part of the national One Warm Coat effort to provide coats to needy individuals throughout North America. The San Francisco-based organization has been organizing coat drives since 1992, donating more than 4 million coats since then and currently supporting more than 3,000 coat drives each year. Financial contributions to the program also will be accepted. For more information on the Capitol Pops, visit www.capitolpops.org or its Facebook page, or call (916) 725-5214.

Jingle bell run/walk

Dec. 12: More than 750 people will bring holiday spirit to Sacramento on Saturday December 12th, when they "jingle all the way" to Crocker Park for the Arthritis Foundation's annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk event. This festive annual fundraiser aims to fight and cure arthritis, the nation's leading cause of disability. The annual holiday-themed event will start at 7:30 a.m. and will host walkers and runners alike donning their most festive apparel – everything from bells on shoelaces to full holiday costumes. This 5K is sure to spread smiles, holiday

cheer and a winning spirit. Taking place in more than 100 cities across the country during the holiday season, the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis raises funds to support the Arthritis Foundation's life-changing tools, resources, science and advocacy initiatives. To learn more and register for the Sacramento event, visit www.jbr.org/sacramento or contact the Arthritis Foundation at 916-368-5599. To learn more about the fight to conquer arthritis and the Jingle Bell Run/Walk, visit www.arthritis.org/JBR.

12th annual Nuts and Berries event to benefit Wildlife Care Association

Dec. 13: The Wildlife Care Association's most important fundraising event, and a

real good party, are coming up on Sunday, Dec. 13 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The event, the 12th annual Nuts and Berries at Lion's Gate Hotel, offers a special silent auction on holiday gift certificates starting at \$10 up to international travel and camera safari trips all to benefit wildlife care. There will be a silent auction, gift shop, hors d'oeuvres, educational presentations, raffle and a no-host bar. Get your photo taken with an ambassador animal. \$15 at the door; kids get in free. Everyone welcome. McClellan Park, 3410 Westover St. Advance tickets are available at www.brownpaperickets.com/event/2395941.

Sacramento Symphonic Winds, a 60-piece symphonic band presents "Winds of Change"

Dec. 20: Bring the entire family to this extraordinary concert season entitled "Winds of Change" at the Crowne Plaza Northeast.

The Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a 60-piece adult symphonic band conducted by Dr. Les Lehr who is retiring after this season, and guest conductor Timothy M. Smith. Selections during the season will include *Chorale and Shaker Dance* by John Zdechlik, *Pas Redouble* by Camille Saint-Saens, *A Christmas Festival* by Leroy Anderson, *La Fiesta Mexicana* by Alfred Reed, *American in Paris* by George Gershwin, *Irish Tune* by Percy Grainger, and more! Show starts at 2:30 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Northeast, 5321 Date Ave. Tickets are sold at the door. Children 10 and under free; Student/ Senior (65+) \$10; General \$15. Contact number is 489-2576; www.sacwinds.org;

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Crowne+Plaza+95841>

Ring joyous bells!

Dec. 20: The holiday season provides an opportunity to help others at 4 p.m. with an afternoon of traditional holiday music

as celebrated by Bel Tempo, a community handbell choir sponsored by Northminster Presbyterian Church. This year's concert benefits the Sacramento Children's Home, a nonprofit agency dedicated to caring for our community's most vulnerable children and families. The concert is a holiday tradition for music lovers of all ages. "Ring Joyous Bells!" will feature traditional and Latin carols. In addition to handbell music, Bel Tempo will be joined by a soloist on English horn and a variety of percussion instruments. Audience members will have a chance to try their skills with hand chimes and join in carol sing-a-longs. Northminster is located at 3235 Pope Avenue. The afternoon of music is free. A freewill offering will be taken at the end of the concert with all donations going to benefit the Sacramento Children's Home. For more information, call (916) 487-5192 or visit northminster-online.org.

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2016 annual Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL), Sacramento Chapter, Crab and Spaghetti Feed; January 30, 2016, 6 p.m., Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, 95818. Doors open at 5 p.m. \$50, general ticket; \$10, ages 6 to 10; free, 5 and under. Please join us for all-you-can-eat food and fun with raffle prizes, games, and a performance by UC Davis's Bakuhatu Taiko Dan group. Contact Janice Luszcak (916) 903-6645 or janice.luszcak@gmail.com for tickets or information.

To the members of the 1966 class of C.K. McClatchy High School 50 year REUNION is in October 2016. We are looking for you. PLEASE contact us McClatchyreunion66@yahoo.com Facebook: [McClatchy High school class of 1966](https://www.facebook.com/McClatchyHighSchoolClassOf1966)

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