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A look back

LAND PARK NEWS SHARES ITS
BEST STORIES OF 2015

See page 3

Best photos of 2015
See page 22

Best movies of 2015
See page 23



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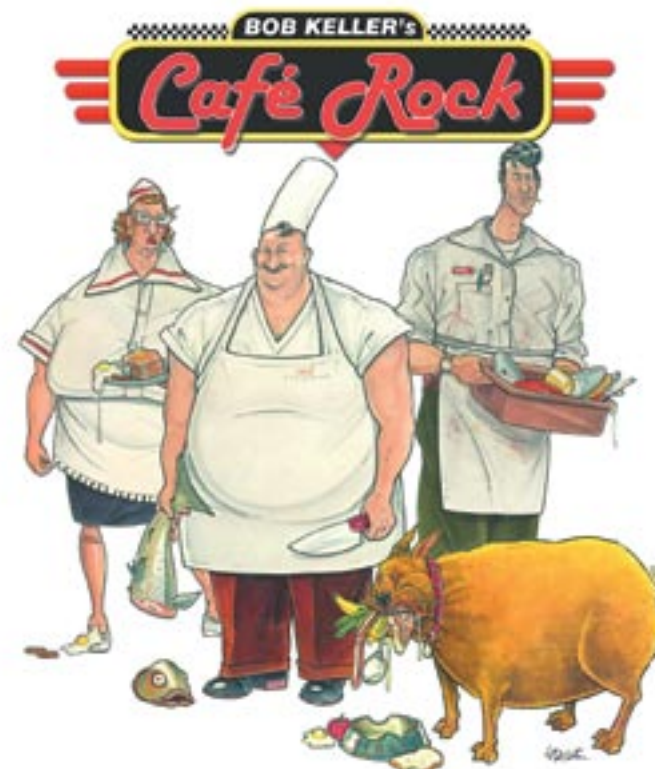
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The best of Land Park News 2015

Dear readers,

The Land Park News has enjoyed bringing you stories about your neighbors and about the history that has made up the community you call home. What follows are summaries and excerpts from some of our favorite stories from the past year. Also, see some of the best photos of the year on page 22, many of which were taken by our star photographer, Stephen Crowley, who has had six photos nominated for awards by the California Newspaper Publishers Association. Additionally, movie reviewer Matías Bombal shares with readers the top movies he has reviewed for Valley Community Newspapers since he started writing for us in 2014. Without further ado, here are the top stories and columns selected by staff this year.

Sincerely, Monica Stark



Bob Keller's Café Rock with his cadre' of cartoon characters.

Art by Eric Decetis

Top rated radio personality, a Land Park resident, reminisces on his lengthy career and his famous Café Rock with Greg Brown: "I told the guy in Wisconsin I gotta get out of here. Help me. How about anything on the West Coast. Anything."

Nineteen eighty-one was the year and that's when radio personality Bob Keller packed his bags and landed a gig on-air at the legendary free-form Sacramento radio station, KZAP.

From Key West, to Madison, to Sacramento – most of Bob's

radio success has been here in Sacramento. First in the 1980s at KZAP, then a morning stint at KQPT The Point, and now at The Eagle where he's done mid-days for more than 20 years.

Bob resides in Land Park with his wife Shelly and his faithful dog Maggie.

He's lived in the Land Park neighborhood for more than 30 years. You may see Bob swimming laps at the YMCA, jamming on his fiddle at Old Ironsides with his jam band, or playing golf in William Land Park.

"I'm all about three things," Bob said. "Doing

the best radio I can at this price range. I'm about golfing. And I'm about fiddling. Those are the three things that interest me."

Bob also loves his home and neighborhood.

"It's a great neighborhood it's a real neighborhood. People walk around it. You see the eyes of pedestrians walking by my house on the sidewalk and they say 'hello.' There's a lot of people walking their dogs, that's cool."

"Plus you live in Land Park, I mean, three blocks away

See Café Rock, page 4

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Café Rock:

Continued from page 3

is the best park in town," he said.

Bob might just be the best radio deejay in town. You can hear Bob Keller Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 96.9, The Eagle. He hosts the Café Rock at noon. Before there was a Hard Rock Café, there was Bob Keller's Café Rock.

The Café Rock is theater-of-the-mind radio with kooky characters like Chef Pro-maine, waitress Betty Vari-cose, busboy Sal Monella, as well as wacky sound effects with Bob Keller smack dab in the middle of it all, like an orchestra conductor. It's like Bob is broadcasting live from a local Sacramento greasy

See KZAP, continued on page 5

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KZAP:

Continued from page 4

spoon, but he's really just in the Eagle studio on Madison Avenue.

I met with Bob at New Helvetia on Broadway. He came wheeling up on an old vintage bicycle wearing a WIND youth services sweat-shirt and beige cords. Bob is definitely not pretentious. If he showed up in bike regalia from REL, I would have been disappointed.

We ordered a couple of pints and sat down at a table next to the big window that looks out onto Broadway. I asked the very stereotypical question: "What's the typical workday for you?"

"The workday for me, Greg, and this is one of the reasons I'm still doing it, is because I've streamlined my job to absolutely only what I need to do and what I need to do is be on the air. That's all I need to do."

He went on to say, err tout, "I'm a specialist. I get ratings. That's what I do."

This is classic Bob Keller. It's why he has lasted so long on the air.

Also, Bob has good reason to be confidant. He recently snagged a 16 share! That's Nielsen ratings gold.

It's easy to see why Bob gets the good ratings.

Coming out of Kiss's "Rock and Roll All Nite," Bob opens the mic and wisecracks, "As long as I get a nap in, I'm good to go."

Bob's witty, off-the-cuff remarks about the music are what make him and the Café Rock unique.

Bob told me his best two years in radio broadcasting were at The Point with Ken Shuper. Bob was the Morning Host and Ken Shuper was the newsman/sidekick. KQPT The Point was a little upstart station back in the early 1990s in Sacramento.

"It was completely new. Ken was a great sidekick and I could play a vast variety of music. Bands you couldn't hear anywhere else. That was fun, I could do anything and say anything and I had a great following of people. The people who followed the program were hip."

I spoke to his old radio sidekick and Land Park golf buddy Ken Shuper and he told

me "those were the days" at The Point.

Ken had been doing news in the morning for two or three years and the station had "gone through a couple morning guys" and they told him "We're bringing in Keller."

"They hit it off right away. The first day he was on the air at The Point, Bob did a live remote broadcast from Tower Café with special guest comedian, Jack Gallagher. "Another Land Park denizen," Ken said. Ken was back at the studio doing the news and he could tell right away, even on that first day, that he and Bob had chemistry. Ken said, "Even without seeing each other or having met we just hit it off." And I thought, "This is gonna work."

Ken added, "Bob came in the next week and we just rolled...it was a lot of fun."

"We would do this thing where every Friday morning 'The Fish Patrol' would go out to a local coffee shop and broadcast live. They'd set up and people would come up and sit, talk and just hang out."

If you wonder why Bob Keller gets the ratings and why people love his show, the suits don't mess with him.

"Here's the strange thing about radio to me," Bob said. "I have pretty much done the same thing all the time I've been in radio. There's not much that's different about my show and my approach. I've never been told what to say or what I can't say in terms of content."

Bob also has insight about radio. "Radio is now a sonic service that you have on in the room. My show is for people at work each day. They're working, the songs are on, and then I come on with my little screwball stuff. It's really not about me; it's really about a music service."

"The difference between me and Jack FM, which doesn't have any real people there, or Pandora, which doesn't have anybody there, is that it's got a live human being at the other end of the line. So, I love having contact with people's voices on the air. There's a connection to the city, you know?"

Just then a young woman named Mallory strolled across the brewery, came up to Bob, and said, "Hey man,

Hi. I heard you say Fishhead Friday after I recognized your voice."

"Oh my God, there's no hiding," he said. Bob was being his sarcastic self because he enjoyed the attention from the young redhead. I asked Mallory what she liked about Bob's radio show and she told me, "He makes the music personal and that's why I listen to him every day."

Bob, who grew up in San Francisco, is a big San Francisco Giants fan. They used to have "Sacramento Day" at Candlestick Park once a year against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The reps from the Giants came to the Eagle radio station and wanted to advertise Sacramento Day. They also asked Bob to throw out the first pitch at the ballgame. What a thrill!

Bob came up with the idea of having Sacramento folks singing the National Anthem. The radio station decided to have auditions. People were sending and calling in their renditions.

Bob only wanted them to sing the really hard part of the national anthem. You know. "ANNND the rockets' red glare..."

"Just send that part in. That's all I wanna hear," Bob told his listeners.

He found a state worker with an operatic voice to sing the National Anthem at the game. They were in the Giant's dugout with Will Clark, Kevin Mitchell, Robbie Thompson – all waiting to line up for the National Anthem.

"We all line up for the National Anthem on the field and this woman goes to the mound, 'And from Sacramento please welcome so and so who won a radio station contest to sing the National Anthem.'"

"She nails it. The crowd freaked. They were falling out of the upper level; they were so happy. It was a cool experience."

Bob also threw out the first pitch to Gary Carter. "I threw a strike," he said. Bob asked Gary if it was a strike and he said, "Yeah. It was a 26 mph strike."

It was Bob's change-up. Bob also told me a story about golfing with Alice Cooper in Granite Bay. Once

they finished golfing, Bob drove him back to the Clarion from the golf course. Alice had a gig that night at the Memorial Auditorium. On the drive home, they played trivia, "Alice, remember the name of the band that 'blah blah blah' ... Oh yeah. I met those guys. Remember this, remember that?"

"They got along famously. 'Alice is a great conversationalist,' Bob said.

Bob told me he has three or four moments that will absolutely be with him for the rest of his life. One was throwing out the opening pitch of the Giant's game. Another was hosting the Jerry Garcia memorial at Capitol Park on the day of his death. Also, when he broadcasted live from San Francisco for the Bill Graham Memorial in Golden Gate Park.

Another big moment for Bob was broadcasting live from the Grammy's in New

See Lady Lions, page 6

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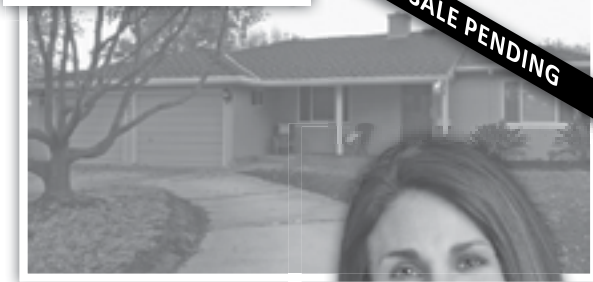
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Lady Lions:

Continued from page 5

York City all week long. Five days of broadcasting. "I interviewed so many people that week. It was amazing."

Bob thinks the time that may have capped it all was in Copenhagen at an outdoor barbecue that Budweiser had sponsored. The Rolling Stones showed up in two beat up white Volkswagon vans.

Bob said, "A guy announced the Stones are here and would like to meet you guys. No pictures. They'll be here for 10 minutes then they have to get ready for the show."

Barbecue, beer and the Rolling Stones under a tent with Bob. Bob told me Keith Richards comes up to him and asks, "So when did you guys get in town or something to that effect?"

Bob, who's interviewed plenty of famous musicians, was star struck. "My tongue got caught in my throat. I couldn't talk. And after I choked for about two minutes, Keith finally just said, 'What the F is wrong with you, mate?' And walked away. That wasn't right. He didn't have to hurt me like that."

Bob was almost physically hurt when Jimmy Buffet came to town. Bob knew Jimmy from his Key West, Florida radio days back when Jimmy was just starting out. But once Jimmy Buffet became big, he had bodyguards. Backstage at the Jimmy Buffet concert at the old Cal Expo Amphitheater Bob was walking up to Jimmy to say "hello," and as soon as he

got about 10 feet away, one of Buffet's body guards puts Bob in a choke-hold and dragged him off before Jimmy could even see him.

Bob's got a lot of good stories. Some can't be printed, though.

If you'd like to hear more of Bob's stories they can be found from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 96.9, The Eagle.

Lady Lions basketball leaves legacy as the first Sacramento City Unified School District state champions on record with the California Interscholastic Federation by Jim Coombs: C.K. McClatchy High School's Lady Lions basketball team won the state championship on Friday, March 27, 2015 at U.C. Berkeley's Haas Pavilion after a strong battle against Junipero Serra of Gardena. The Lions are the first SCUSD state champions on record with the California Interscholastic Federation.

That monumental feat was one that has garnered community support, extending through out the Land Park neighborhood and beyond. A rally was held in front of McClatchy High School on Friday morning before the game before the team boarded buses and headed for the East Bay. Local businesses, like Land Park Ski & Sports and Raley's on Freeport Boulevard, used their signs out front to cheer lead the team. The ski shop displayed the message: "PLAY BALL/LIKE A GIRL/CKM LADY LIONS/THAT IS"; and, beneath the glowing neon Raley's sign were the words: "Go Lady Lions." That com-

munity support before the win has continued after it with extensive media coverage, and a neighborhood parade was held Friday, April 10, 2015 at CKM. The team was scheduled were guests of the Sacramento Kings on Tuesday, April 7.

Without further ado, what follows is a recognition of the players and the coach, as well as coverage of the historic state championship.

Seven members from the McClatchy state champion girls' basketball team were recognized by the Sacramento Bee last week as All-City players. This must be some kind of record for the Sacramento area.

The McClatchy All-City players were led by junior Gigi Garcia, Player of the Year, senior Lauren Nubla who was chosen to the second team, and sophomore Jordan Cruz named as a third team honoree.

Senior Destiney Lee, injured most of the season, super-sub senior Alex Washington, who hit the final four points to cement the state title, and juniors Kelsey and Kristi Wong, members of the all-hustle team, were all chosen to the honorable mention team.

Nubla was chosen by all of her teammates as a "coach on the court" for her unselfish play and being the hardest worker on the team. She brought constant energy to the court and often guarded the other team's best player. "She was a great communicator and always talked to her teammates with respect."

Nubla: "I enjoyed playing the role as leader. I've never been the leading scorer on

any of my teams, but I think I brought some intangibles as senior to help the younger players." Lauren has two brothers and a sister and hopes to play basketball next year at Cal State Fullerton as a walk-on.

Sophomore Cruz was not afraid to shoot the ball from any place on the court at any time. On good nights, she was unstoppable. Jordan's game consists of "shooting, scoring, boxing out, crashing the boards, and ball handling. She is a complete player and an incredible competitor."

She almost single handedly broke Oakridge's back in the second half of the Northern California finals with her 3-point shots. She considered her best game to be against Davis in the playoffs. Jordan hopes to go on to play college basketball.

Lee had her best game of the year in the state finals scoring 12 key points after returning in March from a November foot injury. All of the team members said she is definitely the team clown and keeps everything light. Lee has a basketball scholarship to play at University of Nevada Las Vegas next year.

Washington, also a senior, was often the first person off the bench, a tenacious defender, and a person the team could count on for about six points a night. With many of the Lions being on the short side, she was counted on for rebounds and guarding taller opponents.

Now for the Wong twins, often the smallest players on the court against far taller opponents each night. They were tenacious, with their non-stop harassment of the other teams' guards. Kelsey, the oldest, always guarded the point guard and wore each one down every night by the fourth quarter with help from sophomore backup Sara Shimizu.

Kelsey considers her best skills to be ball handling, passing, and pressure defense. She considers her best game was against Pleasant Grove, but against Oakridge, she put so much pressure on the guard, she would not dribble the ball up the court in the 4th quarter and passed off to other players who folded under McClatchy's pressure.

Kelsey is proud of her 4.0 GPA and her favorite classes are AP biology and AP Calculus. Besides her twin, she

has an older brother Kramer. She also plays volleyball.

According to coach Kunisaki, Kristi is an excellent outside shooter who does all of the little things for the team. She hustles after every loose ball and makes key steals because of the pressure from her sister. "Whenever we needed a key basket or defensive stop, she always stepped up."

Kristi considers her best game was against Oakridge in the fourth quarter at Sleep train when she drove to the basket for a score and then later hit a 3-point shot. Kristi plays volleyball in the fall and is also an outstanding student. Both sisters say that McClatchy graduate John Warren is their favorite teacher. Both will be back next year to out-hustle everybody in the Metro League again.

Other members of the team included senior Haley Arakaki and sophomores Sara Shimizu and Ka'Maree Donald. Even though Arakaki was not a starter, she was an extremely hard worker, and she said, "These girls and the coaching staff have had such a positive impact on my life."

Shimizu split time with the Wong sisters and defense was her specialty. "I understand that this is a team sport, and I try to look for open players when I am on the court. I don't personally need to score to contribute."

Coach Kunisaki commented that Shimizu's speed and tenacity was a big spark off the bench. Jade Fenseca was brought up from the junior varsity team for the playoffs and was a big help on the scout team.

Donald, according to coach Kunisaki, was the best all-around athlete on the team. Her speed was her best asset and she could really drive to the basket. She has six brothers and sisters, and she should be a major contributor the next two years. She will run track in the spring.

Assistant coaches were Jeff Ota, a McClatchy Sports Hall of Fame member and men's varsity coach, and Que K. Ngo, a former head coach, who came on board to help at mid-year. "Jeff and Que help our team tremendously, especially in practices. Their attention to detail and our different coaching styles allowed us to work as a very effective team."

Champs:

Continued from page 6

Gigi Garcia was named The Sacramento Bee's 2014-15 Player of the Year after leading the McClatchy Lions to the state title last week. Gigi, a 6'3" forward, averaged 17.7 points per game, 11.3 rebounds, and 2.5 steals. She was also an excellent passer and considered by her peers a team leader "who always had their backs in a game."

Gigi's parents Aaron, a local football star in high school and college and record-setting passer in the Arena league and Shelby, a basketball star at El Camino and Sacramento State, played major roles in nurturing her drive and talents.

Her dad encouraged her to practice, run, and challenge herself. Before basketball she was an outstanding youth soccer player.

Practicing against her mother on the basketball court toughened her into becoming an immediate starter on the basketball court as a McClatchy freshman. Gigi joked that "Mom no longer challenges me to games in the park anymore."

Gigi has a younger sister Isabella and brother Anthony. On the court she sees herself as the big sister to her smaller teammates. "I protect my teammates." My strengths are rebounding and defense, but her shooting touch has improved each year.

Her best game of the year "was the state title game," where she had 19 points, 20 rebounds, 6 blocks, and dribbled the ball up the court against the press. "Winning the title was emotional and amazing. I almost cried."

Gigi returns to CKM next year and is being courted by many of the top college basketball teams to play for them after she graduates. Going to college and having a successful life are at the top of her list along with "possibly marrying Blake Griffin."

GO LIONS. "I love my team."

Jessica Kunisaki, McClatchy state champion coach, was named the Sacramento Bee Coach of the Year. Jessica, a McClatchy star guard in the early 2000s, led the Lions to a 27-7 state title record in only her fourth year as head coach.

Jessica is truly an amazing coach. With tough love she pushes the girls in practice to challenge them to become their best. "We returned 10 players which made it easy to build on because we already had a foundation."

As a game coach, she coaches with a quiet confidence and makes instant decisions, substituting freely, with a feel for game situations well beyond her 28 years.

One Sacramento basketball aficionado commented, "Watching Jessica coach is like watching an impresario conduct a concert. She is one of the very best I have seen in the Sacramento area. She learned well from her mentor, Harvey Tahara."

In watching the Lions the last two years, she just has "IT" when it comes to understanding the flow of the game. She is always in control of her emotions. She was assisted by veterans Jeff Ota and Que K Ngo.

The TV commentators for the state title game remarked numerous times about her ability to make key substitutions, and also how she rallied the team after the 3-point shot that tied the game at the buzzer.

"Having Gigi Garcia (Player of the Year) and Lauren Nubla (2nd team All-City) also didn't hurt." Sophomore Jordan Cruz was also named 3rd team All-City.

"Lauren is such a great leader for our team." She was able to communicate with her teammates in a meaningful way. "She was a 4-year starter and always knew what I wanted from her and the team."

Gigi is a leader by example. "Her competitiveness and determination allows the girls to feel at ease anytime they step on to the court." Jordan had a huge game against Oakridge to win the Northern California championship.

Jessica's parents Rodney and Julie, both McClatchy graduates, along with twin brother Joel and younger brother David, are a true Lion family.

"I loved growing up with brothers because we would always play together. Joel's friends would never take it easy on me, so it forced me to toughen up."

As a player Jessica always wanted to play at ARCO but in her junior and senior years, the Lions lost in the playoffs at UOP.

Rodney is known throughout the Asian community for helping to raise money to build the Asian Sports Foundation facility off Laguna Boulevard and helping Bob Serlich start Restore the Roar, the Lions booster club.

"I never imagined I would come back and coach at McClatchy after I left college." A 3-year player at Chapman, where she broke the single game assist record her sophomore year, Jessica returned to Sacramento where she attended Sacramento State to get her counseling credential.

She was immediately asked to coach the Genevieve Didion middle school team and CKM athletic director Christine Latino asked her two months later to help varsity coach Harvey Tahara coach the junior varsity girls at McClatchy. She coached both at the same time.

"I took over the varsity position when coach Tahara told me to, and I still did not feel I was ready."

When asked about coach Kunisaki, ALL of the girls commented that she pours her heart and soul into making us better players. "She truly cares about us as individuals and as a team. She wants our team to succeed and she has total confidence in us that we will succeed."

The CK McClatchy Lions mighty girls basketball team fought off a slow start and two terrible calls by the officials in the last minute of regulation to beat Serra of Gardena in double overtime 65-61. McClatchy is the only school in the Sacramento City Unified School District to win a state title.

Two thousand and three hundred loyal noisy McClatchy fans showed up at UC Berkeley after a big send-off rally on the Freeport campus. Restore the Roar, the local booster club, gave each of the players state playoff tee shirts.

Jessica Kunisaki's Lions, led by junior Gigi Garcia, seniors Destiney Lee and Lauren Nubla, fought back time and time again to defeat the top Southern California team.

Garcia, the six-foot-three-inch-junior, had 19 points, 20 rebounds, six blocks, many altered shots, excellent passes for easy shots, and often dribbled the ball up the court against the press.

Lee, who was injured much of the season, had her best game with 12 points while Nubla, the outstanding senior point guard, had another excellent floor game scoring 15 points.

The Wong twins, Kelsey and Kristi, again played tenacious defense against much taller opponents and hit key baskets to change the Serra defense. Jordan Cruz had an off night shooting, but again played outstanding defense and rebounded against bigger players. Senior Alex Washington made a key basket late in the second overtime and hit two free throws to clinch the game.

Kunisaki, a 2004 McClatchy graduate and all-league point guard under mentor Harvey Tahara, took over the job four years ago thanks to Tahara's urging. She is presently a career center counselor at McClatchy.

Three years ago Garcia and the Wong twins showed up as freshmen and the building began. A year later Cruz, an outstanding shooter and all-around player, arrived on campus. All four will be back next year.

Kunisaki's coaching was again outstanding as she substituted often and kept the team up after each setback. At 28, she is truly an outstanding coach. Her team is tenacious on defense, going for every loose ball and beating down bigger teams with hustle and fitness.

Boys basketball coach and assistant girls coach Jeff Ota said, "They're the sweetest kids and then they get on the court and it's Jekyll and Hyde."

Against Oakridge in the Northern California finals, the Lions found themselves down early against a much taller team who kept getting every early rebound. By the fourth quarter the Lions had worn them down, creating 30 turnovers, and outscored Oakridge 16 to 7 to win by nine.

Against Serra, down 9-1 and 14-3, the Lions clawed back late in the first quarter to cut the lead to 14-12. The Lions were behind at the end of each quarter but jumped out to a 10-point lead with 1:11 to go.

A horrible call by the officials that allowed Serra to score a unique 5-point play, and an extremely quick 5-second-count on an out of bounds play cut the lead to three points. A last second "Hail Mary" 3-point shot by Serra tied the score at the end of regulation.

Not folding with disappointment, both Kunisaki and Garcia rallied the team not to let down or give up. Garcia was very adamant in the huddle about not giving up even though momentum had shifted in the game.

In the second overtime Garcia drove to the basket for a layup and passed to Lee for an easy basket. Washington finished out the night in the last 30 seconds with her only 4 points and the Lions were state champions.

Afterward CIF Executive Director Roger Blake approached Kunisaki and applauded the Lions' efforts,



See McClatchy, page 8

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See Champs, page 7

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McClatchy:

Continued from page 7

played that her players were quick to help Serra movers off the floor as *champions with character*. The CIF also gave Cruz "Outstanding Sports-person of the Game."

The Lions (27-7) who finished the season bruised and battered with their hustle-style of play were red-faced from fatigue and emotion and many players and fans cried from the emotion.

Kudos to Athletic Director Rob Feikert who handled all of the playoff paper work, and organized a brunch at McClatchy's cafeteria before the Nor. Cals. He also got district vans to drive the team during the playoffs. Hats off to Feikert, coach Kunisaki, and the Lion girls for a great winter season on Freepoint Boulevard.

Back in the game: Joe Marty's set to reopen in December with help from your neighbors: By Monica Stark

Three years ago, Land Park residents Devon Atlee and Jack Morris sat around their friend Tom Walcott's house, watching the San Francisco Giants. Half way through the game they started talking about Joe Marty's and what a shame it was that the bar had been sitting empty since the fire in 2005 and that no one had stepped up to get it going again. They all agreed that Joe Marty's would make for an ideal neighborhood hangout. By the end of the game, they had decided that "someone" would be them.

The two friends started the negotiations on the lease, trademarked the iconic Joe Marty's name and after three years of hard, work they are set to open in December. Morris, emphasized the historical importance of bringing back memories of a bygone baseball era and what the reopening would mean to the neighborhood.

"It's a landmark in Sacramento and wouldn't it be cool to have Joe Marty's back and make it new? We chatted with our neighbors who all want a place like Joe Marty's, a place that everybody knows your name, kinda like Cheers. East Sac and midtown have that place, Land Park needs one," said Morris.

Located at 1500 Broadway, the space was an empty shell when Jack and Devon first saw the space three years ago. After several hurdles with lease negotiations, Joe Marty's is looking great. "When we first went in, it was somewhat gutted. They redid the storefront in 2007. There was no electrical, no plumbing. We had to start from scratch. The neat thing is that all the ceilings are gone. What was left was beautiful high ceilings and tresses, which makes it aesthetically cool for a bar," Devon said.

Kelly Ariza, who previously owned and managed Crawdads Cantina on the Sacramento River

before she sold it two years ago, has been hired as general manager. She too, has strong ties to Land Park with both of her children attending neighborhood schools and is excited to bring Joe Marty's back to life.

She is currently hiring bartenders, cooks and servers to join their staff. Much of the hiring has been done with people from the neighborhood. "Our contractor is Tom Jones. He is vice president of Hilbers Inc. Our decorator, Karen Messing, lives in Land Park. Investors all live in Land Park. It's a neighborhood thing. Scott and Marika Rose are helping with marketing. They also live in Land Park," continued Morris.

Scott Leyseth, who is well known as the Sporting Chef, a longtime friend, has helped with the menu. Because of the small kitchen, basic pub fare will be the food of choice with two or three nice salads. They will also make use of the barbecue smokers. The bar and the food will be served opposite eight big television screens located throughout the bar and grill so there is never a moment away from the action.

Asked if they have any memories of the old Joe Marty's, both Jack and Devon remembered the bars as, "...the place to go for the final, final." First Mel-larkey's for a show and then Joe Marty's to end the night. Devon and Jack's friendship goes back years and years when Jack and his family moved to the neighborhood 15 years ago. According to Jack, "I met (Devon) when I was moving into the neighborhood he drove up and asked, 'Do you need help moving stuff in?' And they've been friends and neighbors ever since."

Devon has loved the game of baseball since he was a kid. The third of four boys, Devon played ball with his brothers in the 1970s, first for the Land Park Pacific Little League. "Dad coached us. We all had to play ball," said Devon.

A ball player for John F. Kennedy High School (class of '81), Devon next played with his brother for the American Legion team, making it to the World Series.

Earlier this year, the Land Park News spoke with sign preservation aficionado, Gretchen Steinberg of South Land Park who explained how the Joe Marty's sign was to be preserved. Back then, she said, "Tower Theatre's neon sign is a historically protected sign as it is attached to a historic building. And everything on that building is protected, all the signs on that building. The neon, the dancing kids, and Joe Marty's, but protection is rare and we are hoping to get more protections on the local level by getting them deemed historic. It's tricky because there's no precedent in getting signs deemed historic." Fortunately the sign survived the fire that happened about 10 years ago.

According to an article in in this publication by historian Lance Armstrong, the bar's namesake, Joe

Marty's, comes from the Sacramento native and a product of Christian Brothers High School who enjoyed success as a Solons player for seven seasons, including the 1950 season when he held the role of player-manager, and as a businessman who operated his bar, Joe Marty's. Marty passed away on Oct. 4, 1984. According to Armstrong's article, Marty was born Joseph Anton Marty on Sept. 1, 1913. He received a three-sport scholarship in baseball, football and basketball from St. Mary's College of California, where he studied and played sports in 1932 and 1933. Armstrong also reported that in 1934, the San Francisco Seals, A Double-A minor league baseball team of the Pacific Coast League, acquired the rights to the then-20-year-old Marty. Marty's third season with the Seal's, a Double-A minor league baseball team of the Pacific Coast League, acquired the rights to the then 20-year-old Marty.

"Marty's third season with the Seals was so successful that he attracted the attention of major league teams through such statistics as a league best .359 batting average, 215 hits, and 17 home runs. His five seasons in the majors included World Series appearances, one of which occurred in an Oct. 8, 1938 game, in which he became the first Sacramento native to hit a home run in a World Series game," the article continued.

Without any formal advertising, Joe Marty's has attracted more than 1,000 likes on its Facebook and have been providing fans with updates and even polls, such as the ever popular beer poll. The most recent post asked followers to help identify the beer selection - "What beers would you like to see on tap at the NEW Joe Marty's??" -- you can imagine the range of answers.

Some of the answers including the following responses:

Bob Erndt said, "Sierra Nevada Pale Ale and Sudwerk Helles Dry Hop Lager. Yes, a good local, every changing sample of local breweries would be great."

Andy Pfeffer said at least one nice stout or porter. "New Helvetia, Oak Park Brewery and New Glory all have great options!"

The new Joe Marty's will be a great place to meet your friends, enjoy a ball game and put a smile on your face.

Neighbors and community come together over the old vacant Vic's IGA market by Monica Stark: Camelot Realty: Moved. Brickhouse Oven Pizza: Gone. Erawan Thai Restaurant: Moved. The dry cleaners: Gone? Highlander: Gone. While the list continues, the biggest blow to the South Hills Shopping Center since earlier this year: Vic's IGA. Things seem to be getting worse. Trash, mattresses and even couch-

See Vic's, page 9

Vic's:

Continued from page 8

es have been found behind the center. And as vacancies at the shopping center mount, neighbors want to know what will become of the old grocery store? Because without a strong shopping center anchor, they fear problems will continue to get worse.

That outlook will not waver the neighborhood's dedication for preservation and revitalization, however.

"What makes Land Park and South Land Park special, as compared to places like Natomas, Elk Grove or Roseville, is the architecture," says neighbor Whitney Roberts Fong. "It seems like the residents recognize that when it comes to homes, but the commercial buildings don't seem to be as cherished. I also hope potential tenants recognize that our neighborhood has the potential to spend a ton there. It's such an underutilized space; we are all eager to see something great."

That vision of hope and passion for the shopping center floods South Land Park's NextDoor every few weeks, says South Land Park Neigh-

borhood Association board member and secretary of the board Brian Ebbert. "It's interesting how passionate people are about their neighborhood market or lack of. The best case scenario is if the shopping center owners (there's three of them) put money into the property for quality tenants."

Will that happen? Let's hope so.

In his opening remarks at a packed neighborhood meeting held at Giovanni's Pizza on Wednesday, Nov. 18, regarding South Hills, Sacramento City Councilmember Jay Schenirer said, "It's important to come together as a city. I am in this with you, but there are limits of the power of the city. As a representative of the city, I have no control of the abilities of the owners of the shopping center."

Schenirer told the 150 people in the crowd he can help with code enforcement and provide support to business owners, but that only goes so far as there is no more re-development money to help support tenants. "Small business owners who are interested in getting a response from the center's owners, there's not a whole lot I can do," he said.

Litter, peeling paint, graffiti – those are items where code enforcement can cite the owner, but even citing an owner can take five to seven years to get it to the point where the city can legally take actions. It's not some quick fix, city staff explained.

While Sacramento Police Captain Dave Peletta said crime has gone down 50 percent, after the meeting,

Ebbert said, "our board was briefed that it was up 35 percent. Well, (Peletta) was talking about within the shopping center. But, that's because it's a ghost town and there's no one to rob." Ebbert added owners of the south portion hired a security company that helped reduced crime. They also added lighting in the parking lot.

To many people's displeasure, Schenirer told attendees the

old Neptune's Table (also the Highlander, Red Rose restaurants) will soon get the wrecking ball. "It's not worth fixing. It's been there for a long time. Nothing at this point (is slated to replace it). The owners would wait for a tenant built to suit," he said after the meeting.

With a reported 13 vacancies throughout the shopping

See South Hills, page 10

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South Hills:

Continued from page 9

center, Schenirer explained that many parts of the building are damaged. "It's a fairly old site and particularly for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Acts upgrades) for new tenants --that would have to work out for ownership and the tenant. It may be prohibitive at some level."

The south property, Ebbert said, including the post office was put up for sale for a couple million dollars and there were no takers. "Maybe because that property as a center needs to be bought up by one entity so that it can be a uniform upgrade, so to speak."

While there are no plans for anything specific at this point for the old grocery store, the city wants neighbors to know that they will continue to reach out to the property owners regarding finding a replacement anchor tenant. The city has contacted the prop-

erty owners and they've also reached out to Trader Joe's (as have many readers).

But, as Dean Peckam, from the city's economic development department, told the crowd, "Trader Joe's has gone to high density infill markets in places like Chicago, Boston, New York City. They use the ground floor in mixed-use communities. Sacramento isn't on their radar. That's the reality."

However, TJ's hasn't said "yes" or "no" and the chain has a track record of reusing sites (unlike other bigger grocery stores). An added bonus: There's not a TJ's around the neighborhood and there's solid demographics to support the business.

With Raley's on Freepoint Boulevard soon to be expanding into the old Capital Nursery spot, Safeway on Alhambra Boulevard and 19th Street, the Grocery Outlet on Riverside Boulevard and the Smart and Final on Freepoint (near Florin Road), finding a



Shown here is what the old Vic's IGA looks like now. There's a sign that reads: "New business underway. Watch for improvements." Some neighbors have complained about the green fencing that wraps around the storefront. They say it has created a dangerous area for pedestrians.

grocer to go into the old Vic's may be a tough sell to grocers, Peckam explained.

"(The grocery business) is a very difficult business," Sche-

nirer said in a phone interview after the meeting. "I don't think the site is appropriate for a store like Nugget or Safeway, the larger chains. The space is a little too small, but maybe we can get a neighborhood grocery store. We'll do outreach."

After the meeting, neighbor Gretchen Steinberg, president of Sacramento Modern, a nonprofit that advocates for preserving modern architecture and art, wrote Schenirer's office thanking them for the public meeting. In her letter she wrote that SacMod has been monitoring the center, participating in various public meetings and engaging in private discussions with other interested parties. She reminded staff of a list of potential markets that neighbors highlighted during discussions on what could fill the grocery store site.

"South Hills Shopping Center is a rare intact example of 'Googie' architecture

— a mid-20th century modern architecture style — and serves as a visual anchor to the South Land Park Hills neighborhood, which is also a rare and under-appreciated city of Sacramento asset.

"As the city of Sacramento focuses most of its attention on granting entitlements for new shopping centers, it is vitally important to remember our established ones. Legacy businesses generate civic pride and are part of our community."

Charles Phoenix brings his retro slideshow featuring Arden area landmarks to Sacramento by Greg Brown: Charles Phoenix has been called the Ambassador of Americana, The King Of Kitsch, The Ringmaster of Retro. Who is Charles Phoenix? He's all that and more.

Phoenix is best known for his comedic retro slide shows

See *Sacramentoland*, page 11

Sacramentoland:

Continued from page 10

which showcase his collection of vintage film slides capturing mid-century Americana and culture. He does it all with enthusiasm, humor and style.

Charles had been thrift shopping since he was 14. Growing up in Ontario, California, he loved vintage stuff. "I kinda got started with a vintage eye because I grew up on a used car lot."

That's when he started buying vintage clothes, "It was much more interesting to dress in things you got at a thrift store than at the department store."

In 1992, Charles was thrift store shopping in Pasadena when he found a box of old slides on the shelf marked "Trip Across the U.S. 1957." It was filled with Kodachrome color slides of a family's vacation at numerous roadside landmarks. He held a few up and

each one was "like looking through a window in time," he said.

He's been collecting slides ever since.

Charles brought his colorful comedy slideshow to the California Auto Museum for a special night of neon, retro, and all things mid-century modern. The event was hosted and sponsored by SacMod (Sacramento Modern). Welcome to Sacramentoland!

Charles told me over the phone from Los Angeles, "I'm going to be celebrating our capital city like it's a Big Theme Park!"

Phoenix added, "Everywhere I go I'm looking for the vintage, the retro, the old-school, the throwback, the classic, the kitschy, call it what you will. I'm looking for the places in every town that are unique to that town."

And Charles has a long list of classic Sacramento spots visited and highlighted in his Sacramentoland slideshow on

Friday, Oct. 16, 2015. He arrived four days before the show to explore some of Sacramento's landmark gems.

A real "one of a kind unique in the whole wide world gem is Pancake Circus," Phoenix said.

Charles told me, "I love time-warps because in this corporate world that we live in time-warps are unique, and they're special, and I love them. I look for them." Pancake Circus is a prime example of a time-warp with the classic Googie architecture, neon sign, and circus clown themed interior.

Phoenix put some of our local landmarks up on a pedestal and had a "kooky good time fun along the way."

Then, he asked me, "Have you ever been to Sam's HofBrau?"

I said, "Of course, Charles. C'mon now." (I'm a freak for Sam's.) The neon sign. The dancing Germans on the wall, the meat carvers with the big white chef hats. That's Sacramento!

Charles excitedly said, "That place rocks my world! It's so honest to goodness and it's fresh. They roast the meat right there; it's not some frozen freezer bag treat or whatever."

Plus, the ambiance of it. Charles loves the big murals and the paintings, and of course, the outside neon sparkly signage. "I mean. Where. Do. We. Begin?" Charles asked.

The last time Charles was there at 3 in the afternoon. "The place was jammed," he said.

And it always is. Because Sam's HofBrau is a Sacramento institution, it should be treasured. And it was treasured and enameled at the Sacramentoland slideshow.

Another local legendary landmark Charles touted and treasured was Iceland Skating Rink in North Sacramento.

Iceland is "homespun and family run." That's what Charles Phoenix

See *Crest*, page 14

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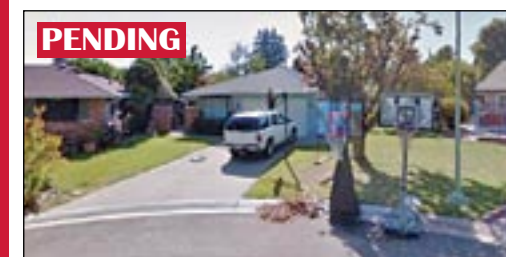
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Crest:

Continued from page 11

loves about it, as well as the iconic neon sign along Del Paso Boulevard.

Against all odds Iceland has come back after a devastating fire. Phoenix said, "That is community spirit. It's the same family since the beginning, so I wish I had the opportunity to actually have crowns from the Party Store, place them on their heads and tell them, 'You're Americana royalty.'"

No word on if Iceland owner Terrie Kerth and her family will take Charles up on the crown wearing, but they definitely should be commended for keeping Iceland alive.

Charles Phoenix ran loose all over Sacramento going from local treasure to local treasure including Fairytale Town in Land Park. Phoenix excitedly said, "That place is SO unique, SO one of a kind, SO special, SO charming, SO whimsical, SO playful, SO colorful."

He also visited Sacramento Sweets in Old Sacramento. They have been making handmade peanut brittle since 1964. Charles told me, "It's rare to find a peanut brittle kitchen. I've been all over the United States and I've never been to a peanut brittle kitchen." And of course, it's homespun and family run.

Other Sacramento landmarks Charles will be touring are the iconic Tower Theatre, Crest Theatre, as well as the Tower Records jitterbug neon sign above

the Tower Café. "A national treasure," Charles added.

Gunther's Ice Cream shop, with its Juggling Joe neon sign, as well as Vic's, too.

There was an ice cream social party after the show at Vic's in Land Park where folks met Charles, while enjoying an ice cream cone or cup, courtesy of Sacramento to Modern.

Crest Theatre's history includes classic film showings, live music performances by Lance Armstrong:

The Crest Theatre is considered by many people in the community to be one of the most treasured landmarks of the capital city. And among those who have the most knowledge about this historic movie house at 1013 K St. is Land Park resident Sid Garcia-Heberger.

For more than half of her life, and until recently, Sid was directly involved with the operations of the iconic theater.

Sid mentioned that she began working at the Crest 28 years ago, or more specifically in late October 1986, when, as she said, she "was mostly cleaning and scrubbing and painting" in preparation for the theater's soft reopening on Saturday, Nov. 15, 1986 and its grand reopening three days later.

"In recalling those openings, Sid said, "We did a soft opening of (the 1954 film), 'There's No Business Like Show Business,' (for the soft reopening, and for the grand reopening), we screened (a then-new Technicolor print of the 1952

film), 'Singin' in the Rain,' and Donald O'Connor (1925-2003) attended in person."

O'Connor, who co-starred in both of the aforementioned films, also cut the ribbon to officially reopen the theater. He had arrived to the theater in a stretch limousine and was applauded by attendees of the event.

O'Connor's guest appearance at the reopening of the Crest, which had begun a period of vacancy in August 1985, did not mark the only time that famous motion picture stars attended films at the Crest.

For instance, Kathryn Grayson (1922-2010), Mario Lanza (1921-1959), George Murphy (1902-1992), Ann Miller (1923-2004) and other screen favorites of that time attended the theater's Oct. 6, 1949 grand opening showing of "That Midnight Kiss."

Also in attendance on that gala evening were Gov. Earl Warren and Mayor Belle Coolidge.

Sid, who was also working the candy counter and box office at the Arden Fair 6 Cinemas during the early part of her time with the Crest, recalled that she came to the Crest with some valuable experience.



Photo by Matias Bombal

Sid Garcia-Heberger sits inside her office at the Crest Theatre last September.

a year, I started taking manager shifts, as well. And I was actually, in many cases, manager on duty, but also running the concession stand."

Sid's involvement in the Crest drastically increased in 1988, when she purchased stock in CSLM, Inc., the corporation that then-ran the Crest.

In speaking about that corporation, Sid said, "(CSLM, Inc.) stands for the two main people who were involved in reopening the theater - Charles Soderquist, who has since passed away, and Linda McDonagh, who no longer lives in the area. They were the two stockholders in the corporation when the theater was reopened."

"Linda left about six months after the reopening of the theater, and at that time, (several other) people purchased her stock. So, she left in 1987. Charlie bought some of her stock and then three others purchased the remainder of her stock. They are Andy Field, Gary Schroeder and Bill Heberger. Bill subsequently became my husband in 1994. We got married on June 25, 1994."

When the Crest changed management two months ago, Sid, Andy Field and Gary Schroeder were the corporation's remaining stockholders. After being asked to share some of her early memories about the Crest, Sid quickly mentioned several films that were shown at the theater in 1989.

"In 1989, it was a banner year for movies and the Crest," Sid said. "'Gone with the Wind,' '(The) Wizard of Oz' and 'Wuthering Heights' all had their 50th anniversaries in 1989, and the Crest had runs of all of those films. Those studios put out brand new prints of those feature films and they

were very successful screenings for the Crest. So, that was a big year for us."

Beyond showing films, the Crest has also been known for its use as a live music venue.

Sid explained that although the first live music show at the Crest was an 8 p.m. performance by The Shirelles on Jan. 31, 1987, a plan to host live music shows at the theater dated back to 1986.

"We reopened the theater with films, (and) with the intention that we would also (present) live shows," Sid said. "So, we got the theater reopened and kind of got all the bugs sorted out with film screenings and then began presenting live shows in January of 1987. Live shows are a little bit of longer leads in terms of bookings and in terms of promotions."

"Linda McDonagh was the owner-operator of the Palms Playhouse in Davis, which is a small venue. So, her idea was that with the Crest, she would then be able to present some of the bigger musical acts."

Sid added that Soderquist, who owned an environmental testing lab in Sacramento, knew McDonagh through shows that he attended at the Palms.

Among the more notable musical artists who performed at the Crest were Cab Calloway, Taj Mahal, Etta James, Merle Haggard, the Ramones, Guns N' Roses, Nirvana, No Doubt, Olivia Newton John, Sun Ra, John Mayall, Megadeth, Primus and Social Distortion.

The last live music show presented at the Crest was a performance by ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro.

In recalling her experience of presenting that concert, Sid said, "Our last live show was

Magician:

Continued from page 14

Oct. 25, 2015. We have worked with many artists over the years, but Jake is just one of the nicest people in show business, and I can't think of (a) better person to end a 28-year run with than someone like Jake. He and his tour manager both were quite saddened by the news that we were leaving the Crest and they were just so generous and so fabulous. It really was a tremendous night and a great way to end a 28-year run."

South Land Park magician traveled the world by Lance Armstrong: Sacramento native Robert Forrester "Bob" Brown, Sr. is well versed in geography, having visited six continents of the world.

But he assures readers of this paper that his regular visits to many countries were not simply for leisure. Instead, Bob, 93, was a traveling, professional magician working in high-class venues in those countries.

In telling the story about how he became a magician, Bob, who resides in the vicinity of South Land Park, said, "My mother (Grace Elizabeth Brown, who was married to James A. Brown) gave me a Gilbert magic set for Christmas when I was 9 years old. I instantly became interested in magic and it sparked an inspiration in me."

Because his mother recognized Bob's love for magic, she gave him ad-

ditional magic sets for the following two Christmases.

After continuing to learn more magic tricks and gaining further confidence, Bob began performing some of those tricks for his neighborhood friends when he was about 15 years old.

"I would have audiences of at least a dozen neighborhood kids," Bob said. "The shows would be held at my house on 23rd Street."

Bob's other activities during his childhood included swimming at the YMCA at 505 J St., watching movies at the Alhambra and Tower theaters and participating in Boy Scout activities with Troop 1. He would eventually earn his Eagle Scout award, as well as one Eagle Palm.

Bob attended Fremont Elementary School, Sutter Junior High School and Sacramento High School. He graduated from the latter school in January 1939.

Although Bob became involved in many activities in life, he never abandoned one of his greatest loves of life - performing magic tricks.

In fact, during much of Bob's life, he cherished learning new tricks and dedicated himself to perfecting his performances as a magician.

In addition to learning magic tricks on his own, Bob also learned tricks from the notable magicians, Dai Vernon (1894-1992), Channing Pollock (1926-2006) and Dr. Harlan Tarbell (1890-1960).



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Sacramento native Bob Brown traveled throughout the globe performing magic shows.

Bob reminisced about those men, saying, "Vernon was considered probably the greatest trainer in slight of hand. Channing, who was from Sacramento, was famous as a performer. And Tarbell, he wrote a course called the 'Tarbell Course in Magic.'"

When Bob was about 30 years old, he became a professional magician. Bob mentioned a few places where he performed locally, including at the aforementioned Alhambra and Tower theaters.

He also performed magic tricks at the Clunie Clubhouse on Aug. 19,

1940 during a celebration of his then-wife's 18th birthday.

Bob was married to Norma at the Fremont Presbyterian Church at 3600 J St. on Dec. 13, 1942, and has four sons, Robert, Jr. ("Rob"), Steven, David and Garrett.

Bob said that he was not married long before he joined the U.S. Army Air Forces.

"I went into the military in 1943," Bob said. "I went back to Florida to basic training, and in about May of 1943, I went to Yale (University) and

See Bob Brown, page 16



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Bob Brown:

Continued from page 15

studied aircraft engineering, repair and so forth. At that point, I was an Air Force cadet. Then I graduated from there as a second lieutenant. I was in (the Army Air Forces) from 1943 to 1946.

"The funny thing was we all graduated in 1943 and I'll never forget there were about 10 of us standing in line and the guy said, 'Now, all those that want to go overseas right away, take one step forward.' Nobody moved. Nobody wanted to be cannon fodder. He said, 'Well, OK, we're all going to go over there.' So, all 10 of us had to go.

In 1946, I went back to work at Mather Field for two or three months and realized afterward that wasn't what I wanted as a career."

Bob said that he instead chose a career as an insurance salesman, spending most of his years with the Mutu-

al Life Insurance Company of New York, and retiring in about 1985.

During his interview for this article, Bob mainly spoke about his work as a magician outside of his native country.

In recalling his decision to become an international, traveling magician, Bob said, "I wanted to be able to book myself as a magician as part of my lifestyle. I still wanted to be a financial planner, which I was with Mutual of New York.

In addition to being a financial planner, I would like to be able to take time off and travel around the world performing. And with my background training in sales, I was able to do that."

Bob, whose first magic show outside the U.S. was in Madrid, Spain, later commented, "If you can sell insurance, you can sell anything."

During his days of performing magic shows in

foreign countries, Bob continuously contacted newspapers in each city he traveled to around the world in order to build his portfolio with newspaper clippings. He would then use many of those clippings to better promote himself in attempts to obtain additional shows.

As part of his professional acts, Bob would always have a female partner.

Bob's longest term partner was magician Brenda Payne, and he was also accompanied at times by Linda Jonason and Kathy Theire.

While traveling with Linda during one trip to Europe, Bob performed a magic show for Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace (Kelly) of Monaco.

Bob said that he continued to travel the world as a magician until 2000, when he performed his last professional show at a Hilton Hotel in Germany.

Bob's skill and success as a magician inspired his now 68-year-old son, Rob, and his now 38-year-old grandson, Russell, to also spend time performing as magicians.

Like Bob, both Rob and Russell have performed magic shows in and outside of America.

In reminiscing about his years traveling the world as a magician, Bob said, "It was a great time staying in the fin-

est hotels in the world, meeting unusual people, entertaining the public of the world. It was a great experience."

Gunther's Ice Cream celebrated 75th anniversary May 16, 2015 by Lance Armstrong: Gunther's Ice Cream, one of the city's iconic, old-time businesses, hosted a celebration of its 75th anniversary with a variety of attractions on Saturday, May 16, 2015, which included food, giveaways, speeches, other amusements.

The event, which was held from noon to 4 p.m. at Gunther's at 2801 Franklin Blvd., included meals of a grilled hot dog, drink, chips and dessert for \$5. And a complimentary raffle ticket was given to each person who purchased a meal.

Raffle ticketholders had opportunities to win one of four bicycles (two adult and two kids' bikes) donated by Mike's Bikes at 1411 I St., as well as various \$25 gift cards throughout the day.

Scheduled to speak at the event were Mayor Kevin Johnson, and former Gunther's employees, Supervisor Phil Serna and Darin Gale, Yuba City's city director of development services.

Other special features of the day included an appearance by Dinger, the Sacramento River Cats' mascot, music with a disc jockey, face painters, balloon art, temporary tattoos, bubbles, a magician and a photo booth that included an image of "Jugglin' Joe," the ice cream scoop juggling character who is featured on the large, locally famous neon sign above Gunther's front door.

As a tribute to the past, the business's employees were dressed in Gunther's attire that was reminiscent of the business's early years. The male employees wore black pants, white shirts and black bow ties, while the female employees wore wearing dresses with black aprons.

In addition to having celebrated its 75th anniversary last year, Gunther's also has the notoriety of being the city's oldest continuously operating ice cream parlor.

According to information provided by the business's owners, Gunther's was opened in April 1940, and its original proprietors were German immigrant William H.

"Pop" Gunther and his Kentucky-born wife, Iva Gunther.

Gunther's originally operated in a 12-foot by 40-foot business space at 3003 Franklin Blvd., at 5th Avenue, and in December 1949, the business was relocated to its current site.

In a meeting with this publication, Marlena Klopp, co-owner of Gunther's and her husband, Rick, discussed a variety of details about Gunther's history and operations.

Marlena, who graduated from Bishop Manogue High School in 1977 and was married to Rick three years later, commented about the earliest years of Gunther's, saying, "They had some great glory days there (at the original Gunther's location). Back in 1940 when the Gunthers opened (their ice cream parlor), it was a booming business for them. It was before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. But there was a time when they were down there (at that location) that the butter fat and the sugar ration was going on. There were days when they couldn't even open that store (for) more than 10 days out of the month, because they couldn't get the product. They still had the customers. People would just come in there and bombard them, kind of like they're doing here (today). And so, when the rationing was lifted, they just started to boom again. And that's when they decided to open a bigger store. This (present store location) was an empty lot and Mr. Gunther set his sights on this site."

The business was later run under different proprietorships at various times.

After being asked how he became involved with Gunther's, Rick said, "I got started in the ice cream business at Shasta Ice Cream. (At that time), they had a little shop over here (on 21st Street, near) Freeport Boulevard by the railroad tracks. I started working there in 1963 when I was 16. I was living in Hollywood Park at 5640 Helen Way. I graduated from McClatchy (High School) in 1965. (William H. Gunther's son, Dick) Gunther died (at the age of 42 on March 15, 1967), and the guy who owned Shasta Ice Cream was an older gentleman (the aforementioned Wert Irwin).

See Gunther's, page 17

Gunther's:

Continued from page 16

He was probably in his late 80s, so he wanted to close the place down. He told me to (seek employment at Gunther's), because (Dick) Gunther died and they needed a manager. So, I came here (to Gunther's) and started working here in 1969.

Rick eventually became a minority owner of Gunther's, and then during the summer of 1974, he purchased the business outright.

And after purchasing the business, he acquired his first delivery truck. That truck, which has since been restored, was present at the anniversary event.

Marlena described Gunther's as a much different place than it was when her husband acquired it.

"When (the Gunthers) moved down here (to its present location), they did very well until the freeway went in and divided the town," Marlena said. "So, when Rick bought it, it was not a thriving business at all. But it has been built up since then."

Although Gunther's is presently a single location business, during part of its history, it had three other locations - 5001 Freeport Blvd., 1186 35th Ave. and 2870 Fulton Ave.

Gunther's story would not be complete without references to some of its many edible offerings.

Included on the parlor's menu are ice cream cones, sundaes, milkshakes, smoothies, fruit freezes (regular or with ice cream), Hawaiian shaved ice, ice cream cakes and pies and a wide variety of dipped chocolate items.

In addition to its sugary treats, Gunther's also serves a variety of sandwiches, and hot dogs and chili dogs.

Certainly, beyond its popular food, Gunther's has a longtime positive reputation with many people in and outside of Sacramento, Marlene explained.

"The biggest thing is the loyalty of the people of Sacramento, and the people who have been in Sacramento and have come back," Marlena said. "There are unbelievable stories. They'll be going some place up north and going down south to go to Disneyland, and they will have

Valley Community Newspapers, Inc.

to make this their stop. And we hear those stories all the time. Even if they're not in Sacramento, they will always make their way back around (to Gunther's)."

And in speaking about the future of Gunther's Ice Cream, Marlena said, "We're hoping we can take it past 100 (years), and I believe that there are people here that can take it there."

When We Were Colored: Retired Bee associate editor Ginger Rutland releases play based on her mother's memoir: By Monica Stark editor@valcomnews.com

It's Sacramento 1952 and you're the first black family on your block. Ginger Rutland invites you to come laugh and cry with the Rutlands in, "When We Were Colored," a play she adapted from her mother Eva's legendary memoir.

The play, like the book from which it springs, tells the story of a middle class black woman born and raised in the segregated south before World War II who moves West to raise her children in integrated California after the war.

In this homage to her mother, Ginger Rutland, former television reporter, NPR commentator and editorial writer for The Sacramento Bee, puts her family's story on stage. Performances of "When We Were Colored" were at Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L St., the weeks of Aug. 21 and 28, 2015.

Ginger, a Curtis Park resident, sat down with this publication to discuss the creation of the play, her love and admiration for her mother, what it was like growing up going to the integrated neighborhood Sierra School and to shed light on stereotypes of the black experience.

"The stereotypical stories were that blacks were slaves, sharecroppers, that they were lynched, that they came from welfare mothers. But, not that is not authentic, there's also a huge swath (of the population) that has been ignored," she said upon introducing the play.

From the segregated deep South in Georgia, Ginger's parents and grandparents were upper-middle class, despite her grandfather Isaac West Moreland's societal position as a slave.

Eva's memoir, which was first published in 1964 and

used in sociology classes throughout Sacramento, has been endorsed by Willie Brown, Jr., former mayor of San Francisco; Cornel West, activist, professor and author of "Race Matters." After several printings of the book, it eventually went out of print and it wasn't until 2007 when Ginger's father, Bill Rutland, passed away that everybody at the funeral wanted a copy. So, Ginger decided to re-release it but changed the title (with stern consternation from family members) and added family photos, which were absent from the earlier printings.

While Eva's book was first called "The Trouble with Being a Mama," Ginger thought to make the title more evocative of the era and decided to call it, "When We Were Colored: A Mother's Story" as the term "colored" was a polite description of black America.

Found on the back cover of the re-released version of the book, Brown writes: "Eva Rutland's chronicle of child rearing during the transition from segregation to civil rights is warm, poignant, and funny. It is also a powerful object lesson in how and why women - as mommas and grandmothers - have long anchored the soul of Black America."

For Eva's particular situation, she lived her early years in a segregated South, a place where a certain comfort was felt. Around her, she saw middle and upper class blacks working in such professions as doctors, teachers, and funeral directors.

"It was like the Huxtables. Because of segregation, we had to have black business people who became leaders of these black communities. Some of these were wealthy, but (many) were solidly middle class. There's a lot of them but you never read about them or see them. So mother wrote a story in which a world she grew up. She was protected, loved, happy," Ginger said.

Having lived to age 95, Eva died on March 15, 2012 and her granddaughter, Eva Shields, wrote an obituary for the Curtis Park Viewpoint, which describes her as the "quintessential Southern belle."

Born in Atlanta on Jan. 15, 1917, a granddaughter to former slaves, despite discrimination, Eva Shields writes, "(Eva Rutland) had a hap-

py childhood." In 1943, she married Bill Rutland, a civilian employee at the Tuskegee Army Air Base, and in 1952 they moved to Curtis Park. Eva already had published articles in the leading women's magazines of the day, Redbook, Ladies' Home Journal and Women's Day, "not bad for a black woman in the 1940s and early 50s."

"She grew up in the segregated South and loved it," continued the younger Eva. "She worried about her children who would have to interact with whites in the integrating West of the 1950s and 1960s. Eva started writing stories about her children to tell white mothers, 'My children are just as precious and just as fragile as yours. Please be kind to them.' She compiled these stories into a book entitled The Trouble With Being a Mama, published in 1964.

"When she was in her early 50s, grandma went blind but she didn't let that slow her down. She bought a talking computer and became one of Harlequin's most prolific writers, eventually writing over 20 books for the well-known romance publisher."

Ginger said Eva's magazine pieces told about the transition from segregation to integration and as such told stories about her children, the PTA, "how Johnny can't learn his Algebra" and other social problems brought to a relatable down-home level, with questions like: "Will they be accepted at Miss Diddy Wattie's class? What happens when they are called a nigger?"

Even though Ginger herself is an accomplished writer, growing up under the same roof as a Victorian romance novelist and magazine writer, to her Eva didn't strike her as out of the ordinary.

"When you are a kid, it's just your mom, but she was the president, the vice president of the PTA. She was the combatant mom and she was the girl scout leader, the little league mom. She was a classic '50s mom. She wrote plays and the PTA would perform them. She wrote morality plays. She wrote a lot. Short stories for magazines.

"But, truly her writing career took off when she going blind when I was in college. She loved Victorian romances

that featured lords and ladies. Her favorite author was Jane Austen. She wrote books patterned on that. She had white characters, but had black characters (throughout). She would populate the novels with us to remind people that we're there and people just like they are," Ginger said with emphasis.

As Eva feared her children would be a minority in Sacramento, the move out West was brought on by her husband Bill's military involvement.

Hired to work at McClellan Air Force Base, it was that chapter in the Rutlands' lives in which Bill was trying to buy a house. While he saw "better than average track homes for \$250 down near McClellan, Ginger noted, "There were restrictions on blacks, Asians, Jews" and being black, they weren't allowed housing near the base.

So, Bill was driven around town, looking at neighborhoods like Del Paso

See Rutland, page 19

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Rutland:

Continued from page 17

Heights and Oak Park, but neither of those neighborhoods, to say the least, felt like home. So, he drove himself around other areas and found Curtis Park. And he noticed, Ginger said, "If they are going to sell to Orientals, they will sell to us."

But owning a house in the Curtis Park neighborhood came with a caveat for minorities. "They could only own above 2nd Avenue. Below 2nd, you couldn't," Ginger said.

This was before freeways cut through the area. There was no Highway 50 cutting through downtown. There was no 99. And Ginger loved her home and her neighborhood. "It was a two-story house. It was quite nice, tree lined. It was an idyllic childhood. The Yees lived across the street, and Alfred. He was Japanese. So, there was a Chinese family across the street, Japanese, black and white people all around. It was a very integrated neighborhood."

A student at Sierra School, Ginger recalls the demographic makeup with "some of everything," but there was mostly white people.

While Eva's notoriety grew as a writer, Bill's job at McClellan was "to sell weapons of mass destruction to allies around the world. We're talking the Middle East, Europe, everywhere," Ginger said.

A family on the move, the Rutlands eventually moved to South Land Park with the help from a sympathetic white colleague of Bill's, Ginger said. "The two of them always tried to buy a house and mom found a lot we could afford" at 35th Avenue and Holstein Way, "but they wouldn't sell to her, so she went to a colleague of Dad's and he bought the lot for her. They built (the home) from the ground up."

Ginger started at The Sacramento Bee in 1988 and retired in 2013. Before that she was a television reporter for Channel 4 in San Francisco covering Sacramento news. Then she was at Channel 3 for seven years, followed by a job providing radio commentary for Capital Public Radio.

At The Bee, she was on the editorial board, often writing the opinion of the paper, and she also wrote columns. Her father's favorite column his daughter wrote was in favor of President Bill Clinton during the Monica Lewinsky scandal, she said. "I wrote

columns on gay marriage. You name it. I did stuff on the parking lot at the train station that was a mess, the cost of buses for kids going to school. I wrote a lot about pensions, which I thought were too fat. So public unions hated me, the teachers union.

"We liked charter schools and things like that. You write opinions and if they are any good, they are controversial. You take a stand and there were people on the other side. I tried to be fair, omniscient. In my own head I always said, 'blah blah blah blah blah or not.' I always try to keep aware that we always make mistakes."

Asked what piece she was most proud of during her time at The Bee, Ginger said it was one that probably no one remembers, but was representative of the reason she went into journalism - to expose injustice. About a poor black man who had been charged with hit and run and assault, Ginger said there was something different about this man who wrote her a letter from jail. "He wrote all of these letters, some to the NAACP and one of his letters landed on my desk. As a journalist, you get letters from prisoners and you don't pay attention, but this letter rang so true to me. I called

his public defender. The woman who claimed to have been hit had a record of insurance fraud." Meanwhile, the district attorney kept offering him deals, trying to convince him to plead guilty and to get over it. But, the young man wanted to be in law enforcement and knew if he pleaded guilty he wouldn't reach his goal. "The D.A. wouldn't drop it and the people who were in the jury were like, 'huh?' The evidence was that he was a victim of a scam. In the end, he was not only acquitted but was declared factually innocent" by black judge Alice Lytle, a friend of Ginger's.

Ginger wrote a couple of pieces on the young man, first when he was acquitted, then secondly when the judge brought back the case. And while she didn't keep in touch with him, she wondered what eventually happened to him.

While no one may remember those stories Ginger wrote about him, her legacy as a voice of The Sacramento Bee will never be forgotten and will stand the test of time, just as that of the writing of her mother Eva's book, was brought to life with the performances of it last August at Pioneer Congregational Church.

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CALENDAR

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Little Hats, Big Hearts looking for newborn and preemie knit hats
Now until Jan. 15: 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. "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.

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.accs.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 WPAOC 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.

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Help The Rose Garden—Join The Prune-A-Thon
Jan. 9: From 9 a.m. to noon in the McKinley Rose Garden. (At H and 33rd Streets), will be the Friends of East Sacramento annual prune-a-thon of the rose garden. No experience is required as expert rosarians will be there to teach volunteers how to prune. Help will also be needed in removing the rose bush trimmings, raking where needed in the garden, and pruning the bushes around the garden. At 8:45 a.m., courtesy of East Sacramento Hardware, Stanley Spencer of Stanley's Perfect Edge, a professional knife sharpener will be at the garden to sharpen clippers volunteers bring. This will be done on a first-come first-served basis. Coffee will be provided in the morning and as a special treat, after the prune-a-thon, we will have a hot soup lunch for the volunteers from the restaurant Evan's Kitchen. This year's lunch will be sponsored by East Sac Give Back. If you have garden clippers or rakes that you could bring with you that would be a big help. Also, please bring your garden gloves, dress warmly and be sure to wear closed toed shoes. RSVPs are requested, though drop-in help will also be appreciated. The check-in will be at the benches in the garden, which is at the corner of H and 33rd streets. Come and help for as long as you can. Because the majority of the roses are newer cultivars with patent protection, we are sorry that rose cuttings will not be available this year. Rose petal collection is allowed after the prune-a-thon to participating volunteers.

Music at noon
Jan. 13: Free music programs, offered at Westminster Presbyterian Church at noon on Wednesdays. This week enjoy music by Curvd Aire Brass Quintet with Organ and Percussion!

Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society general meeting
Jan. 14: Susan Goss Johnston will discuss "The Records Behind the WW I Draft Registration Cards" from 7 to 9 p.m. Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael 6:15 to 7 p.m. Pre-meeting Open Table Discussion. Visitors always welcome! For more information, go to info@rootcellar.org

American Poetry Writers Read at Luna's Cafe
Jan. 14: Starting at 8 p.m. at Luna's Cafe, 1414 16th St., there will be a reading by American Poetry Writers, including: Sue Daly, Francis Knoll, Crystal Lorraine Shelton, Jason Henderson, and several others. American Poetry Writers study the work of the great poets of our past and use this work as inspiration for their own poems. Geoffrey Neill, editor and publisher of Little M Press, editorial staff member of Tule Review, and a regular second Thursday night host at Luna's Cafe, will be the emcee for this special reading. There's no fee or ticket required for entry, but Luna's Cafe requests that audience members purchase one drink minimum to attend. Luna's Cafe is owned and run by Art Luna and staffed by his wonderful team. After the feature, there is an open mic and other poets will join in to read their own poetry. The restaurant is located between N and O streets, at 1414 16th St. <http://lunascfe.com/>

Wild West Crab Feed
Jan. 16: Bring out your boots, chaps, and cowboy hats and join in to support Sacramento County foster youth. This lively crab feed features all-you-can-eat crab; lots of exciting auction and raffle prizes; music and dancing by DJ Hustle Elliott Leach; a fabulous dessert auction, and much more. Cur-

Calendar:
Continued from page 20
based vegetarian festival. SacTown VegFest will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Sacramento City Unified School District's Serna Center, 5737 47th Ave. (one block west of Stockton Blvd.) in Sacramento. This event is FREE and open to the public. There will be freshly prepared food and plant-based merchandise for sale as well as free samples. There will be information on the many benefits of plant-based eating—from delicious health-promoting recipes to how diet can reduce both water-usage and your carbon footprint. SacTown VegFest will be a family-friendly event with fun activities for children. Speakers include: Keynote: Kristie Middleton, Food Policy Director, Humane Society of the U.S.; Hope Bohane, Author and Executive Director, Compassionate Living; Timaree Hagenburger, "The Nutrition Professor," Cosumnes River College; Nora Kramer, Founder, Youth Empowered Action (YEA!) Camp; Rajiv Misquitta, M.D., and Cathi Misquitta, Pharm.D., "Healthy Heart, Healthy Planet"; Lani Muelrath, author, "The Plant Based Journey" SVS is a nonprofit educational and social organization founded in 1986. Online at <www.facebook.com/SacTownVegFest/> and <www.SacTownVegFest.org>.

Music at noon
Jan. 20: Free music programs, offered at Westminster Presbyterian Church at noon on Wednesdays. This week enjoy music by harpsichordist Faythe Vollrath.

Time Banking! Community Skill Exchange
Jan. 23: Join a community system where people share their skills and talents with time banking, where 1 hour = 1 time credit. Make new friends and learn about Time Banking at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive. There will be a potluck dinner from 6 to 7:30 p.m. There will be a question and answer period. Visit communityskillexchange.timebanks.org or email info@csetimebank.com for more information.

Music at noon
Jan. 27: Free music programs, offered at Westminster Presbyterian Church at noon on Wednesdays. This week enjoy music by Voices 3 Plus 2 (three light-opera singers, a pianist & narrator).

SacTown VegFest
Jan. 30: The Sacramento Vegetarian Society (SVS) is excited to launch SacTown VegFest, Sacramento's first 100% plant-

Chinese New Year Celebration (Year of the Monkey)
Jan. 30: From noon to 5 p.m. at Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium, 6879 14th Ave. Sacramento 95820, the Chinese New Year Celebration Association will present an afternoon with dragon dance and martial arts, cultural entertainment, community exhibits, arts and crafts, food vendors, children's games. Tickets are available at door: \$6 adults, \$1 children under 12. For more information, visit www.cnyc.net or call Vicki Beaton at 601-7511.

Rotary Club of South Sacramento 34th annual crab feed and silent auction

The Rotary Club of South Sacramento 34th Annual Crab Feed and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, Jan. 23 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St. The proceeds from this fun evening support the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento and their Sprouts Trauma Informed Preschool. Tickets are \$55 and include generous portions of fresh crab, salad and antipasto, a silent auction and raffle. Sprouts Trauma Informed Preschool is designed to encourage improvement in all areas of child development including social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and school readiness. The services are also designed to help reduce family stress and reduce the need for specialized services once the child reaches school age. The structured program and interventions include providing the family with child development and behavior management education and support. The Rotary Club of South Sacramento is a service organization made up of local business people and community leaders. We work alongside the residents and business community of South Sacramento to provide support to those in need. Our projects include providing dictionaries to 3rd grade students at various elementary schools, reading to and donating books to Kindergarten classes, donating time and money to various nonprofit organizations, and completing various service projects in South Sacramento.

If you would like more information about this event, please contact JR Springer at 916-425-9195 or email at jrspringer037@gmail.com

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2016 annual Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), 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.

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Photo by Liorah Singerman

Megan Muchowski, shown at the left, and Lelis Fulton, shown at the right, were actors in last year's Young Actors Stage production of Peter Pan at the 24th Street Theatre in Curtis Park.

Photo by Stephen Crowley
Tributes poured in for the 2015 State Champion Lady Lions basketball team of C.K. McClatchy High School. On Friday, April 10, 2015, the girls rode on a firetruck through Land Park in a community parade. The Lady Lions are the first girls team in SCUSD history to win a state championship.



Photo by Tom Boyle

Gunther's Ice Cream celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2015 with a big outdoor event and servers dressed in original outfits from years past.

BEST PHOTOS OF 2015



Photo by Stephen Crowley

Shown here are children actors in Runaway Stage Production of Shrek Kids at the 24th Street Theatre in Curtis Park. This year's kids production is Aladdin and will be performed at various evening times next week.



Photo courtesy of Charles Phoenix

Charles Phoenix highlighted Sacramento landmarks with his slideshow, called Sacramentoland, which debuted at the California Automobile Museum and which was presented by Sacramento Modern.



Photo by Stephen Crowley

Shown here are two love dogs photographed at Sacramento SPCA Doggie Dash held in William Land Park last June.

Ultra Panavision 70 returns to the Tower Theatre for the first time in 30 years for "The Hateful Eight"

By MATÍAS BOMBAL

Quentin Tarantino's new picture "The Hateful Eight" is cause for celebration by folks who love the big screen experience with the look and feel of motion picture film manufactured by Eastman Kodak. In this digital age, actual film seems a long forgotten dead format, even though digital cinema has not been around for all that long. Most theaters showing "The Hateful Eight" are running what is known as a digital DCP version of the movie. DCP is a proprietary file format that is difficult to create and reproduce without the correct and expensive equipment which may be found in first-run theaters. The letters DCP stand for Digital Cinema Package. All first-run theaters including IMAX, now use this technology.

Tarantino insisted that he shoot "The Hateful Eight" not only on film, but with wide-screen 65mm negative augmented by the Ultra Panavision format, which when printed on release prints for theaters, ends up being 70mm, twice the size of what had been the film standard for 100 years, 35mm. Tarantino convinced The Weinstein Company, his distributor, to fund the installation of just over 50 theaters with reconditioned 70mm projection equipment to augment the less than a handful of places on Earth that still had 70mm equipment in place in order to distribute a special roadshow version of his movie.

Tarantino has a positive passion for the photographic art of film and wants the audiences of

today to experience what a roadshow of that era was like. As in the classic era, he has added an overture to the beginning of "The Hateful Eight" and second overture, just before the second half, after intermission. With this special roadshow, The Tower Theatre is showing an actual 70mm motion picture film print for the first time in 18 years. It has been 30 years since a 70mm film has been shown at the Tower in Ultra Panavision 70.

On Dec. 18, the feature film print of "The Hateful Eight" arrived at the theater in a gigantic heavy duty shipping case that required four employees to lift to the booth through the auditorium. The movie was all assembled in one piece on a gigantic split reel almost 4 feet across. This was set onto the platter, the top half of the split reel removed, and the film print was ready for its first projection and the first 70mm feature projection in the theater in 18 years. This did not occur until 2:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, to an empty house.

Well, almost empty. No one was allowed in, aside from select theater staff and manager Jeremy DuBurg's team working on adjusting the screen masking to correctly mask the top and bottom of the image, as this is a very wide film. Screen masking is that black felt-like border you see around most movie theater screens. The additional black fabric added for "The Hateful Eight" originally hung at the top of the Sacramento Crest Theatre's screen before it was replaced by CSLM, Inc. in the late 1990s for masking of

a different type. It had been carefully stored by CSLM and later, a collector, who has loaned it to the Tower for the run of engagement of "The Hateful Eight". A fitting tribute of solidarity in the interest of improving the level of excellent showmanship.

At 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, a sold-out crowd savored a roadshow Ultra Panavision 70 film print for the first time in 30 years at the Tower Theatre. It had been 18 years since the last 70mm print had been run there. The limited run of "The Hateful Eight" includes a special souvenir program included in the price of admission.

In the first five days, "The Hateful Eight" sold out most screenings at the Tower, making a house record for the theater, and placed it 13th in the nation with top grosses out of one hundred screens showing the roadshow version of the movie on actual 70mm film. Long lines of up to 400 people at the theater wrapped around the theater parking lot into residential streets in Land Park, with many waiting in the cold for three hours to get in. It is an experience like nothing else you will ever see! The movie is three hours and eight minutes long, including an intermission of 12 minutes. It is showing daily at the Tower Theatre, 2508 Land Park Drive at 16th and Broadway in Sacramento.

Matias Bombal's top 10 movies of 2015

As often happens near the end of the year we start to examine what transpired in this now elapsed year that remain present in the mind. Might some of these moments have offered something of merit that would make them memorable still? In a society so geared to "what's next?" I offer some movie titles that made an impression that may stand the test of time, at least for me.

The first movie I reviewed in 2015 was a sci-fi musical called "The Ghostly Love of Johnny X", the last, "The Hateful Eight". A remarkable connection between the two: in this now all digital age, both films were actually released on motion picture film prints for theatrical distribution. A photographic process, not an electronic one. In between those two cinematic bookends of 2015 here's what I liked the most. There were other excellent films with fine acting, to

be sure, but these are the ones that I remember with fondness; beginning with special categories first, before giving away the top ten over all.

Honorable mentions for films that did not make the top 10, but were considered: "The 100 Year Old Man that Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared" and "Black Sea".

Best foreign language movie: "Labyrinth of Lies"; best documentary: "Meru"; best use of 3-D: "The Walk". In numeric order from the very best on down, here are the top ten.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The Best Picture of 2015:

1. Youth
2. Ex Machina
3. Danny Collins
4. Pawn Sacrifice
5. Love and Mercy
6. Mr. Holmes
7. The Water Diviner
8. Inherent Vice
9. Kingsman: The Secret Service
10. The Intern

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