TRPA to appeal shorezone decision

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board voted to appeal the Sept. 16 federal court decision nullifying the shorezone ordinance.

The bi-state regulatory agency has until Dec. 24 to file the appeal.

“We feel there is substantial case law that supports the analysis TRPA used to inform the shorezone amendments,” TRPA General Counsel Nicole Rinke said in a statement. “The amendments were the result of a 20-plus year stakeholder process and represent a reasonable approach to regulation of the shorezone.”

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Stracener appointed judgeship in El Dorado County

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Dec. 16 appointed of Warren C. Stracener to a judgeship in the El Dorado County Superior Court.

Stracener, 60, of El Dorado Hills, has been the deputy chief counsel for the Department of Personnel Administration since 2004, where he was previously an attorney from 1991 to 2004. He was board counsel for the Public Employment Relations Board from 1980 to 1991 and an associate attorney for the Law Offices of Biddle and Hamilton from 1988 to 1990. Stracener

served as staff counsel for the San Juan Unified School District from 1987 to 1988.



Warren C. Stracener

He earned a juris doctorate degree from McGeorge School of Law, a master's of art degree from CSU Sacramento and a bachelor's degree from CSU Long Beach.

Stracener fills the vacancy created by the conversion of a court commissioner position on Oct. 8.

Tahoe athletes well represented on U.S. snowboardcross team

By Elizabeth Karam, U.S. Snowboarding

TELLURIDE, Colo. – The 2011 U.S. Snowboarding Snowboardcross Team was announced Thursday during the Visa U.S. Snowboardcross Cup at Telluride. Spearheading the 15 riders named to the Team are nine Olympians including two-time Olympic champion Seth Wescott of Maine, Olympic silver medalist Lindsey Jacobellis of Vermont and six-time

snowboardcross Winter X Games gold medalist Nate Holland of Squaw Valley.

With nine returning Olympians, the U.S. Snowboarding SBX Team is stacked for the 2011 season. Joining the crew are several up-and-coming riders with lofty goals, helping push and motivate the veterans as they head into a World Championship year with the FIS World Snowboard Championships to be held in La Molina, Spain this January.

Wescott is coming into 2011 hot, having successfully defended his 2006 Olympic gold medal, while Holland looks to make it six straight in SBX at the Winter X Games in Jan. 27-30 in Aspen. Jacobellis, who clinched two World Cup wins last season, looks to continue the World Cup momentum kicking off the seasons strong in Telluride as well as adding on another "W" to her resume at the X Games.

Other returning riders include action sports legend Shaun Palmer of South Lake Tahoe, halfpipe gold medalist Ross Powers of Vermont and up-and-comers including World Junior runner-up Faye Gulini (Salt Lake City), 2010 NorAm powerhouse JJ Tomlinson (Park City) and Brooke Shaw (Litchfield, Conn.), who is making her comeback debut from a sidelining injury suffered in Telluride last year.

With the 2011 season officially under way, the team is ahead of the curve in terms of training. While Holland was winning the World Cup opener a week ago, other Team members were at a final tune-up camp in Telluride. SBX is a tough sport, forcing the athletes to push the limits on and off the snow. They'll be looking to charge all stops on the World Cup tour especially during the Visa U.S. Snowboardcross Cup this week at Telluride – the lone World Cup on U.S. snow. The Team will be back in the USA Feb. 9-12 for the Sprint U.S. Snowboarding Grand Prix at Canyons in Park City, UT.

2011 U.S. Snowboarding Snowboardcross Roster

A Team

Nick Baumgartner, Iron River, MI

Nate Holland, Squaw Valley, CA

Lindsey Jacobellis, Stratton Mountain, VT

Graham Watanabe, Sun Valley, ID

Seth Wescott, Sugarloaf, ME

B Team

Jonathon Cheever, Saugus, MA

Callan Chythlook-Sifsof, Girwood, AK

Alex Deibold, Manchester Center, VT

Faye Gulini, Salt Lake City

Jayson Hale, Sierraville, CA

Pat Holland, Squaw Valley, CA

Shaun Palmer, South Lake Tahoe

Ross Powers, Stratton Mountain, VT

Brooke Shaw, Litchfield, CT

J.J. Tomlinson, Park City, UT

Santa Claus to make

appearance in South Tahoe

Santa Claus is coming to town.

He will be at the Optimist Club Christmas Tree Lot on the corner of Lakeview Avenue and Lake Tahoe Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe on Dec. 18-19 from 1-5pm.

Bring a camera for pictures of the visit.

For more information, call (530) 541-3798.

California economy improves except for hiring

By Dale Kasler, Sacramento Bee

Still not convinced the economy is improving? Talk to Elk Grove factory owner Michael Megna, who's ramping up production to keep pace with higher sales.

Just don't ask him for a job.

Business is better this year at Megna's company, Backscratchers Salon Systems Inc., which makes nail-care and other beauty products. But Megna isn't ready to rehire any of the workers he laid off during the recession.

"I'm just adding back hours right now," Megna said. "I'm not planning on bringing back any people."

And that, in a nutshell, is the state of California's economy, three years after the recession began and 18 months after it officially ended.

The economy is advancing slowly. Business conditions are getting better. But some regions, including Sacramento, are still shedding jobs.

California's unemployment rate remains a recession-like 12.4 percent and has actually gotten worse since the recovery officially began in June 2009. Most experts say 2011 will be only marginally better than 2010.

But make no mistake: A recovery is under way, even if it doesn't always feel that way.

Read the whole story

Audubon exhibit at Nevada Museum of Art

By Mel Shields, Sacramento Bee

The images are as famous as they are fine and feathery: the flamingo with its neck stretching nearly to the ground, the bald ("white-headed") eagle in a pose that instantly calls the nation to mind, the white and brown pelicans, and the birds with their prey – both the great white heron and the osprey about to devour fish.

The fame, of course, belongs to the artist, John James Audubon, the focus of a major exhibition up through Feb. 13 at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. The exhibition consists of 50 of Audubon's dramatic, life-size watercolor depictions of "The Birds of America" from the first-edition printing of the New York Historical Society Edition.

The works now being premiered at the museum have joined its

permanent collection, thanks to a bequest by Reno resident Dana Rose Richardson.

Read the whole story

Ski report: Calm before the storm



Drop everything – it's time to ski. The sun is out in Lake Tahoe. That last sentence may not be written again for a few days.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Budget gifts: Restoring old photos to new



Publisher's note: ***Lake Tahoe News is looking for ideas for gifts that cost less than $20 to share with readers. Read this for details.***

If you're interested in having any old photos restored, let

Diana Hamilton of South Lake Tahoe know. Think how turning that old photo into a new one would make someone special on your list feel this holiday season.

She can scan old, damaged, or faded photos and return them immediately. If you'd prefer, scan them yourself at a high resolution and email them to her.

The cost is $18.

She'll return them on a CD. For $2 extra she will include a professional 4×6 print.

Hamilton may be reached at (530) 544.0938, ext. 3 or email diadorslt@yahoo.com.

STHS football lights fundraising campaign under way

By Kathryn Reed

Even though the major benefactor Lake Tahoe Unified School District thought it had lined up to help finance the turf and lighting project at the high school fell through, momentum has not waned.

"What we are going to do for the school and the community is huge," South Tahoe High School Principal Ivone Larson told the school board Dec. 14 as she stood in front of a rendering of the new gridiron.



STHS Principal Ivone Larson talks about the Viking Lights Campaign. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Two football games were played this fall under temporary lights. At one game Larson counted six wheelchairs at the stadium that does not meet regulations with the American Disabilities Act.

As the field is reconfigured to accommodate soccer and football, and the sod is replaced with artificial turf, measures will be taken to ensure it is ADA compliant.

A snag Facilities Director Steve Morales relayed to the board Tuesday night after learning of it earlier in the day is the Department of State Architects says an ADA path from the campus to the field must be part of the plans. It does not have to built in the initial phase, but will have to be down the road.

The district will use $1.1 million in developer fees for the project and will need to raise about $300,000 from donors.

Kiwanis Club of Lake Tahoe has pledged $36,000. This would buy one light standard.

Bricks that will be prominently incorporated into the design are being sold that will have the donor’s name chiseled in it.

The district is also hoping businesses will donate services, much like what happened with the construction of the track and field at South Tahoe Middle School.

The idea is the field will be ready to use in fall 2011. Construction could mean graduation will have to be moved for one year.

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20 movies worth renting during the holidays

By Howie Nave

Sometimes a season can be defined not just by the weather and the color of the leaves, but by the movies shown during that time. I have to admit Halloween is one of my favorite times what with the changing of the landscape and the scary movies, but Christmas-time offers up the best when it comes to family, hope and potential presents.

And then there are the movies. So many to choose from – secular and religious. That's the beauty of Christmas (or if you prefer – holiday) because there's just about every movie for ones particular taste. Who doesn't love the classic black and white movies from the last century? They make me want to transport back in time just to see what the world must have been like back then.



On the comedy front there are tons of movies dealing with family, relationships and sarcastic jabs at all things Christmas. There are also movies that use Christmas as a backdrop even if the holiday isn't the central theme to the story. The first two "Die Hard" movies come to mind, as do the first two "Lethal Weapon" flicks.

I have to say some movies should never be remade purely because the originals were in black and white. Sort of a film purist that way I guess. Remakes of "Miracle on 34th Street" or "It's a Wonderful Life" should remain that way. You can see remakes of those two movies in color, but trust me, when compared to the original versions they pale in comparison. That would be like trying to remake "The Wizard of Oz" or "Gone With the Wind." Why bother?

I've also included some of my favorite animated Christmas specials because they really moved me when I was a kid. Maybe that's why people feel like kids when the holidays come around because it was always such a magical time growing up. The beauty is you get to relive your childhood and if you have kids, experience some of these classics with them. Who knows, maybe when your kids grow up they'll have the same exact favorites that you had when you were a child.

The beauty of being online is that this time around I can expand my favorites to include more than just 10.

1. "LOVE ACTUALLY," R (2003)

You know a movie is destined to become a classic when the moment you pop it in you are instantly transported to that place in time where you almost become part of the movie and

it’s an ensemble cast as well. An ensemble cast that works marvelous, too. I love this type of movie especially when the stories intersect with one another and the characters as well. “Love Actually” counts down Christmas from five weeks out showing us the lives of eight couples each going through a different crisis and how they come out on the other end. I think it has one of the best messages about family, friends and co-workers with a message about forgiveness and hope. England is the backdrop for the movie that includes a stellar cast consisting of Bill Nighy, Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Alan Richman, Keira Knightly, Liam Neeson and Colin Firth. Writer/director Richard Curtis (“Four Weddings and a Funeral,” “Bridget Jones Diary” and “Notting Hill”) has an excellent track record when it comes to ensemble pieces and this one is no exception. From its opening narration by Hugh Grant at Heathrow Airport to its conclusion “Love Actually” will stay with you long after the holidays and you’ll find yourself watching it again and again as it only gets better with each passing Christmas.

2. “IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE,” G (1946)

The quintessential Christmas movie that was almost forgotten after it was first released in 1946. The movie received a second chance when television came along, making it easily one of the best holiday movies ever. And just like its main character George Baily (played by Jimmy Stewart) he too gets a second shot at life being able to see what the world would have been like had he never been born. In a way Bedford Falls could be any small community here in Lake Tahoe because everyone knows who you are and you realize friends and neighbors really do matter when you think the world doesn’t care about you. With the guardian angel Clarence (Henry Travers) trying to earn his wings to show George that he has affected others around him “It’s a Wonderful Life” will reignite the hope and optimism that was once lost back into your life and make you feel that yes, your life does in fact

matter. A nice, feel-good movie with a terrific cast that also includes Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore and a host of other supporting characters like Thomas Mitchell.

3. “MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET,” G (1947)

Not to be confused with the 1994 color version starring Richard Attenborough and Elizabeth Perkins, the original black and white version still shines as one of the most heart-warming holiday classics of all time. With a cast that includes Maureen O’Hara, Edmund Gwenn and a very young Natalie Wood, it’s up to young lawyer Fred Gailey (John Payne) to convince Susan (Wood) that there indeed is a Santa Claus (Gwenn) and also prove the spirit of Christmas can even change non-believers such as Susan’s mom, Doris (O’Hara) in believing in Kris Kringle. It’s got something for everyone from working parents to skeptical kids and supporting characters like Thelma Ritter and Gene Lockhart who really fill out the cast nicely.

4. “BAD SANTA,” R (2003)

I can’t wait until Christmas rolls around just to watch this. Oh sure I can screen it during the other months of the year, but it doesn’t have the same impact when it’s not Christmas-time. This R- rated comedy is hilarious and I don’t think I have ever laughed louder than any Christmas comedy ever made. Maybe because it flies in the face of anything one would expect over the holidays or that it is so rude and in-your-face. “Bad Santa” believe it or not has a soulful ending and makes even the most cynical, non-believer (Billy Bob Thornton) into a warm character, although it just about costs him his life. Let me warn you in advance if you haven’t seem “Bad Santa,” this movie is not for children or the faint of heart. It is without a doubt the most non-traditional, anti-Christmas movie (but with a heart) I have ever seen, but also the funniest. It was also the last movie for veteran comedic actor John Ritter and sadder too because comedian/actor Bernie Mac

passed away just a couple years ago. Thornton plays Willie, an alcoholic, bad-mouthing department store Santa Clause who, along with his foul-mouthed partner in crime dressed as elf Marcus (Tony Cox) robs department stores every Christmas season with great success. Director Terry Zwigoff ("Crumb," "Ghost World") really hits the mark with this sarcastic flick and will leave you howling with laughter throughout if you just give it a chance. The movie also stars first-timer to the screen Brett Kelly as the snot-nosed, 8-year-old boy who everyone picks on and really believes that Willie is Santa. Cloris Leachman plays the "spry" grandma. She has few lines, but is so funny visually when she does appear on-screen that you just find yourself bursting out loud with laughter. Laura Graham is also hysterical as the bartender Sue who has a thing for guys dressed in Santa suits.

5. "NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION," PG-13 (1989)

Chevy Chase, star of the "National Lampoon Vacation" movies, will probably be best remembered for this holiday spoof because it continues to be one of the most popular rentals year after year. As head of the Griswold family Clark (Chase) personifies everything that inevitably goes wrong as the Christmas holiday counts down to the big day. Beverly D'Angelo is the patient wife to Clark who loves him regardless of his stressed-out antics when the unexpected in-laws show up. By the way, Randy Quaid will forever be typecast as Cousin Eddie, right? "Christmas Vacation" has all of the holiday family traditions from finding that elusive perfect Christmas tree, how to spend the Christmas bonus from work and the always hilarious, time-consuming task of creating the perfect Christmas decorated house with enough Christmas lights to light up the entire neighborhood. Speaking of the Christmas bonus check the movie also stars Brian Doyle-Murray as Clark's Scrooge-like boss. Directed by Jeremiah S. Chechik "Christmas Vacation" is still a family favorite and seems to only gain in popularity with each passing year as it becomes introduced to

a whole new generation.

6. “A CHRISTMAS STORY,” G (1983)

One of my all time favorite Christmas movies based on the recollections of humorist Jean Shepherd, “A Christmas Story” epitomizes your basic urban family from the 1940s with Peter Billingsley in the leading role as Ralphie. He pretty much has only one quest in this movie. That is to convince his parents, teachers and Santa that all he wants for Christmas is a Red Ryder air rifle BB gun. Melinda Dillon plays Ralphie’s mom and after watching this timeless classic a bunch of times actually plays every mom I have encountered – she is that good. It’s a great family movie to watch; told in a narrative format (voiced by Jean shepherd himself). I remember the first time I saw this movie I wanted to see if your tongue really would get stuck on a frozen flagpole. Don’t try it kids, it does. “A Christmas Story” is a must-see. And who can forget that immortal line from the movie when Ralphie says he must have that BB gun? “You’ll shoot your eye out with that thing kid!”

7. “A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS,” G (1965)

This holiday classic almost never made it to the small screen, but lucky for us it did and remains an animated classic to this day. “A Charlie Brown Christmas” became an instant classic when it first aired back in 1965 and introduced us all not just to Charles Schultz’s famous cartoon strip, but also turned me on to jazz via the great Vince Guaraldi who gave us the soundtrack and the “sound” that would forever be immortalized via his music through Lucy and Linus. I always wanted to be Schroeder after hearing him bang out those cool piano pieces. When Charlie Brown complains about the overwhelming materialism that he sees amongst everyone during the Christmas season, Lucy suggests he become director of the school Christmas pageant. Charlie Brown accepts, but it proves to be a frustrating struggle. When an attempt to restore the proper spirit with a forlorn little fir Christmas tree fails,

he needs Linus' help to learn what the real meaning of Christmas is. Any sad looking Christmas tree to this day is referred to as a "Charlie Brown Christmas tree."

8. "HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS," G (1965)



Based on the Dr. Seuss classic, this tale is still a delight to watch. Forget the fancy CGI graphics of today. "Grinch" still has that charm as if the book were speaking (and singing) to me. It still evokes fond memories from the first time I saw it on TV. Directed by the legendary Chuck Jones from Warner Bros. fame and narrated by Boris Karloff, this 26-minute animated TV classic about a Christmas-hating Grinch who wants to make everyone as miserable on Christmas as he is still is one of the most original Christmas stories ever. The poor, small-hearted Scrooge learns the true meaning of Christmas through the loving Whos in Whoville. And who can forget that poor dog of his that has to haul that enormous sleigh too wearing those antlers?

9. "HOME ALONE" PG (1990)

Before the less than adequate sequels and Macaulay Culkin's growing pains, "Home Alone" was one of the late director John Hughe's best holiday efforts. Nobody at the time thought that this would become such a hit, but apparently Hughes knew otherwise. Culkin plays the resourceful 8-year-old Kevin who wishes his family would just go away and leave him alone right before Christmas. Accidentally, they do, and he's left to defend for himself against two dopey criminal types (Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern). Billed as "A Family Comedy Without The Family" this family film is both funny and entertaining with a stand out performance by Catherine O'Hara as Kevin's mother.

Hughes may be gone, but his movies will always remain and this one is one of his best to be played again and again every Christmas and also to remind you that if you're from a large family you can still have a voice.

10. "EVELYN," PG (2002)

Starring (and produced by) actor Pierce Brosnan, this little holiday movie was like finding a pearl in a sea of muddy water. I only first heard about this movie while living in the Bay Area and the studio had a private screening hoping to get the word out. I became a believer immediately and put the word out whenever I can, especially at this time of year. "Evelyn" centers on a young Irish girl, Evelyn (Sophie Vavasseur) and is set in 1953 Dublin. Based on a true story, the film stars Pierce Brosnan as Desmond Doyle, a poor painter and interior decorator whose wife walks out on him during the holidays leaving him to fend for their three children Maurice, Dermot, and Evelyn. Back then the government mandated children must be placed in the custody of the state and not the father even when their mother abandons them. That law would soon change when lawyers Stephen Rea and Aidan Quinn (with Alan Bates in tow) takes on the establishment. Director Bruce Beresford utilizes the emotional side of the former 007 star and shows us his fatherly side with great results. Also impressive is that of American actress Julianna Margulies as Doyle's love interest who pulls off a good Irish accent too. It's a fantastic holiday flick and one to definitely watch with the entire family.

11. "WHITE CHRISTMAS," G (1954)

One of the most time honored classic Christmas musicals, "White Christmas" features such stars as Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Vera-Ellen and Rosemary Clooney. Bing croons such Irving Berlin classics as "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," Vera-Ellen taps up a storm, Kaye entertains with his usual goofy antics, and this movie is overall a lot of fun. "White

Christmas” offers up a lot of comedy, a little bit of romance, and just enough holiday sentiment to go around.

12. “A CHRISTMAS CAROL,” G (1951)

Also known as the “Scrooge” movie, Alastair Sim plays the quintessential Ebenezer Scrooge. It almost appears that all other incarnations were based on Sim’s definition of the character after seeing his performance here. So good in fact that he was almost typecast. Other Scrooges were based on his adaptation, that much is certain. Based on the Dickens’ classic, this adaptation about a miser who doesn’t believe in Christmas until three ghosts come to take him on three voyages still sends chills through me. Vivid with what life was like in 19th-century London, the terrific performances of the cast, including Kathleen Harrison as Mrs. Dilber, make the story come to life. This version of “A Christmas Carol” is the one to see.

13. “THE REF,” R (1994)

In yet another anti-Christmas movie (but again with a heart) Denis Leary plays a cat burglar, abandoned by his partner in the middle of a robbery who forced to take the couple from hell (from Connecticut no less) played by Kevin Spacey and Judy Davis hostage. The couple has been in therapy and he soon realizes that being held hostage is nothing compared to their constant bickering. And if that weren’t bad enough, their in-laws are coming over for dinner so Denis takes on the role as their marriage counselor playing ref until everyone leaves the house, but who will hold out the longest? Directed by Ted Demme.

14. “JOYEUX NOEL,” PG-13 (2005)

Written and directed by Christian Carion (“The Girl From Paris”), this French movie was nominated for an Oscar under Best Foreign Film and recreates an incredible incident that took place on western front during the first World War. It was

Christmas Eve 1914 the first year of the war. German, British, French and Belgian troops who had been slaughtering each other for months initiated a spontaneous and unsanctioned truce, if you will. They put down their guns, sang songs with each other, played soccer, shared rations and posed for photos. They had joint religious services and helped each other bury their dead. Mixing fictional characters with historical fact, "Joyeux Noel" becomes an extraordinary film and shows what can happen instantaneously during the madness of war.

15. "MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS" G (1944)

This is a delightful musical film that tells the story of a turn-of-the-century family in suburban St. Louis in 1903, who live in a stylish Edwardian home at 5135 Kensington Ave. The city, and the well-to-do Smith family (with four beautiful daughters), is on the verge of hosting (and celebrating) the arrival of the spectacular 1904 World's Fair. The movie first paired director Vincente Minnelli with Judy Garland and was the most popular and financially successful film produced by the legendary Arthur Freed and directed by its star's future husband, newcomer Minnelli (who married 23-year-old Judy Garland a year later on June 15, 1945 – it was Garland's second marriage). This classic was Minnelli's third film (after the all-black musical "Cabin in the Sky" (1943) and the musi-comedy, "I Dood It" (1943) with Red Skelton) and it was Minnelli's first full-length film in color. After their marriage, Garland and Minnelli also worked together on "The Clock" (1945) and "The Pirate" (1948).

16. "THE HOLIDAY," PG-13 (2006)



It can be a fine line between an emotional holiday movie and your classic chick flick. Sometimes men even get to use that as an excuse to get choked up and say it's because of the holidays. Writer/director Nancy Meyers assembled a good-looking cast that includes

Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet as two women (Amanda and Iris, respectively) who find themselves at the end of failed relationships. The fact that it takes place just before Christmas amplifies the loneliness factor to the point where they both swap living locations after meeting online. Amanda lives in Los Angeles and Iris lives in Surrey, England, with things heating up after Iris' brother, Graham (Jude Law) drops by Iris' house and meets Amanda. At the other side of the pond Iris meets Miles (Jack Black) a film composer. Kudos to Black for being a very sensitive and calm guy this time around and he steals the picture.

17. "THE BISHOP"S WIFE," G (1947)

When a movie moves you to tears because of the incredible casting and excellent storyline you can't help but ask yourself, "Why don't they make movies like this nowadays?" Exactly. In what I believe to be one of his best roles ever, Cary Grant plays Dudley, the unexpected hero who is more than just angelic. His assignment is to make us as a species be more well, human. He is the answer to the prayers coming from Episcopal Bishop, Henry Brougham (played by a young David Niven) whose plans for an elaborate new cathedral has run into a stumbling block of sorts as is his own personal life. Loretta Young gives a moving performance as she is also touched by an angel. Directed by Emil Newman "The Bishop's Wife" will warm the hearts of even the toughest cynics out there especially with Christmas fast approaching.

18. "THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS," PG (1993)

Classic Tim Burton all the way even though he didn't direct this one (Henry Selick did). Burton co-wrote and produced this time out. I liked this one the first time I saw it in part because it combined two of my favorite holidays and seasons: Halloween and Christmas. Jack Skellington (voiced by Chris Sarandon and sung by Danny Elfman) is the pumpkin king of Halloween Town. One day he stumbles across Christmas Town and

so loves their holiday that he tries to incorporate his world using resident ghouls, bats and goblins with the hope of getting Halloween Town to get on board with Christmas with disastrous results. The stop-action animation is incredible not to mention the voices of Catherine O'Hara, Paul Reubens and Greg Proops.

19. "RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER," G (1964)

Another animated television special this was one of the very first shot using the stop-motion animation technique and gave singer Burl Ives his best year ever when it came to producing the now Christmas classics, "A Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Silver and Gold," two songs he sang as the character Sam the Snowman in this holiday special. He narrates this holiday classic telling us the story about Rudolph who was in effect ousted from playing any reindeers games because of his bright red honker. Rudolph teams up with Hermey, an elf (voiced by Paul Soles) who wants to be a dentist, and Yukon Cornelius (voiced by Larry D. Mann) a prospector. The animated special became an overnight success launching the Burl Ives' Christmas songs into regular rotation history after this aired.

20. "HOLIDAY INN," G (1942)

Talk about your incredible chemistry. With music by Irving Berlin sung by (and starring) Bing Crosby and dancing by Fred Astaire, all I can say is "Whoa!" The movie is actually based on an idea by Irving Berlin about a retired song-and-dance man, Jim Hardy (Bing Crosby), who retires from showbiz to become a gentleman farmer in New England only to get back into the business combining both worlds for special holidays. The film's highlight is Fred Astaire's bang-up performance of July 4th "Let's Say It with Firecrackers." "Holiday Inn" however will probably best be known for introducing the world to the first public performance of the song "White Christmas." Crosby first sang that song on his NBC radio show "The Kraft Music Hall" on Christmas Day 1941. Moviegoers then saw Bing sing the

holiday classic seven months later when the movie came out. The song went on to become one of the biggest selling songs in the history of music. This was the first of three films to feature Crosby singing “White Christmas.”

Howie Nave is host/emcee/manager of The Improv at Harveys. You can hear him Monday-Friday 6 to 10am on KRLT FM-93.9.