Support group helps caregivers

Caregiving is a difficult and often challenging role. Caregiver support groups provide an outlet to share information and feel connected to others who are also providing care.

Take the opportunity on the second Thursday of every month from 5:30-7pm at the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center 3050 Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe to become connected and rejuvenated.

Refreshments will be served. Free respite care is available to qualified caregivers. Pre-authorization is required for respite services. For more info, call (530) 621.6151.

Free legal advice available for seniors

Are you are older than 60? Are you a resident of El Dorado County? Do you need legal advice? If yes, you can meet with an attorney at no charge on the first Wednesday of every month at the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center.

Senior Legal attorneys can help El Dorado County seniors with issues such as stopping and prosecuting elder abuse and exploitation, health care and long-term care planning, preparation of powers of attorney, health care directives, simple wills, public benefits concerns, consumer and contract

problems, and property questions.

Call (530) 621.6154 to make an appointment with El Dorado County Senior Legal Services.

Senior Legal Services is a program of the El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency, Area Agency on Aging. For information, call (530) 621.6369.

It takes Friends to keep libraries open

By Kathryn Reed

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."

– Walter Cronkite

But it takes a slew of volunteers to keep libraries open and to provide the diverse programs. No longer do taxpayer dollars foot the entire bill.

It is through nonprofits called Friends of the Library that these institutions remain a stable resource for communities. South Lake Tahoe is no different.

"Long term, when times are good the Friends have the opportunity to enrich resources that are available to the community. When times are tough, Friends can support libraries on the basics," Kay Henderson, president of South Lake Tahoe Friends of the Library, told *Lake Tahoe News*.



Book sales help fund library programs. Photo/Denise Haerr

The local chapter has existed for more than 50 years.

“The upstairs loft of Pat Amundson’s house at 961 Cave Rock once held the library. Then it was moved to Bob Wakeman’s on Highway 89, before the Friends of the Library finally were able to build the present library. The ‘new’ school (now South Tahoe Middle School) had a wall in one room devoted to books once it was built,” according to the Lake Tahoe Historical Society.

The South Lake Tahoe organization is one of six chapters of El Dorado County Friends of the Library.

The local group’s contributions include:

• Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, “Farewell to Manzanar” author presentation.

• Free family summer performers.

• Free book distribution to children at community events.

• Improvements to community meeting room and community display case.

• Yoga instruction, nutrition instruction, farmers’ market cooking demo.

• Refreshments for Saturday morning classic movie series.

• Spanish language books for adults and children.

• Audiobooks and DVDs for children and adults.

• Free holiday concert for the community.

• Kindle and Nook instruction.

• Teen journaling workbooks.

• Summer music series on the lawn.

• Laptops for teen homework use.

• Supplies for early literacy storytime.

Book sales are the common way for Friends of the Library to raise money. On Sunday, the Friends are trying something a bit more ambitious.

“Whenever we have had the opportunity to bring a major author we get a major response. It seems to me there is a hunger for intellectual stimulation in the community,” Henderson said.

That, coupled with the knowledge of successful fundraisers in Placerville, the Tahoe group came up with the idea of a Toast to Twain. Legendary Twain impersonator McAvoy Layne will help celebrate Twain’s 178th birthday Nov. 3. The library will also be celebrating the publication of “Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 2″.

Money for the South Lake Tahoe branch also comes in the form of grants, donations from the community, as well as people who have left a portion of their estate to the library.

No longer are libraries just about stacks of books – though those still exist. Libraries have been great adaptors to technology as well as keeping up with what interests the community.

“El Dorado County Library has been a real leader in providing

digital books. You can check out books digitally," Henderson said. "You can check online to see if the library system has a book, and you can order it to be saved for you at your local library."

Programs at the library are often the result of the Friends coming up with the money to make it happen. The volunteers put a high value on the young children and teen reading programs. Library workers put on the events, while Friends buy supplies and prizes.

In the last handful of years the Friends have brought in speakers that range from authors to gardening specialists to cooking experts.

The whole goal is to provide enrichment to the community. And all of these events have been free because people support Friends of the Library.

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Notes:

• A Toast to Twain is Nov. 3 from 4-7pm. Tickets are limited and must be purchased by Oct. 30 at the library – 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd. They are $40. The library is open today and Wednesday from 10am-8pm.

• To become a member of Friends of Library, applications are at the front desk or may be downloaded. Cost is $10/year. It's not necessary to attend a meeting or volunteer at an event.

• The South Lake Tahoe branch is open Tuesday-Wednesday from 10am-8pm and Thursday-Friday-Saturday from 10am-5pm.

Opinion: McClintock on the wrong side

By Athan Manuel

Over the past several weeks, America's public lands, including our national parks and monuments, became a symbol of the pain caused by the government shutdown. And rightly so.

Visitors were turned away, once-in-a-lifetime trips were canceled and local California economies lost an estimated $8.5 million each day of the shutdown. The public outrage over the closure of our parks, monuments and other public lands made clear the importance of these special places.

U.S. House Republicans, including Congressman [Tom] McClintock found themselves on the wrong side of public opinion. Instead of acknowledging their role in the shutdown, and that they were in fact the reason why our public lands closed, Republicans are callously looking to shift the blame to federal land agency employees for simply doing their job.

In a joint hearing of the House Natural Resources and Oversight and Government Reform Committees recently, Republicans spent hours attacking Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis. The tone was reminiscent of Congressman [Randy] Neugebauer's confrontation with the park ranger at the World War II memorial. More of the same type of bullying is expected this week at another House hearing, tellingly titled "Threats, Intimidations and Bullying by Federal Land Managing Agencies".

Behind the scathing diatribes lies the truth, the closure of our parks and monuments is just the latest example of

Republicans’ lack of concern for our public lands.

– Appropriations legislation that came through the House this year slashed parks and public lands funding by $315 million – 13 percent.

– The last Congress was the first since World War II not to protect a single new acre of public land, and the current Congress is on track to be the second.

– Even during the shutdown, congressional Republicans pushed forward legislation to sell off 3.3 million acres of public land to the highest bidder.

Congressman McClintock should be ashamed of his role in this farce. It is House Republicans who are the real bullies here. And it is the American people who are suffering as our nation’s natural treasures are neglected. Please use your editorial voice to call on Congressman McClintock to stop using our public lands as political chips and to stand with the American people in support of our special places.

Athan Manuel is director of the Sierra Club’s Lands Protection Program.

Series of caregiver classes in South Lake Tahoe

El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency is putting on a series of free classes for seniors, family caregivers and other individuals called Aging and Caregiving.

This series is designed to provide instruction and support for caregivers who are or are planning to care for a family member

or friend age 60 or greater. All classes will be Mondays from 1-3pm at Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel in South Lake Tahoe.

The informational sessions are:

Nov. 4, Defeating Guilt and Depression: Family members and caregivers may suffer from feelings of guilt and depression in their best attempts to care for their loved ones, especially around the holiday season. The goal of this session is to help participants find meaningful and empowering ways to reduce the stress of caregiving.

Nov. 11, Effective Assessments and Care Plans, The Assessment: Learn how to effectively complete a care needs assessment of your loved one. At the end of this session caregivers will be given a blank assessment to complete.

Nov. 18, Effective Assessments and Care Plans, The Care Plan: Learn how to effectively complete an individualized care plan based on the information gathered from the assessment completed after the previous session.

Nov. 25, Goodenough Speaks: Learn how the benefits of meditation decreases your stress and increases your physical and mental health.

Advanced registration is requested, but not required. Call the El Dorado County Family Caregiver Support Program at (530) 621.6151 or 800.510.2020 to register. Free in-home respite care is available to qualified caregivers; call (530) 621.6151 or 800.510.2020 for scheduling and qualifications.

Tahoe National Forest to begin pile burning

This fall the Tahoe National Forest plans 1,200 acres of pile burning and 300 acres of underburning on the Yuba River Ranger District within Nevada, Sierra, and Yuba counties.

Prescribed burn operations will begin this week and will extend through the fall, depending on current and predicted weather.

The planned pile burns are located in approximately 40 administrative sites across the district. Sites likely to be most visible include those along Highway 49 adjacent to Goodyears Bar; near Forest City; along Canon Point Road west of Downieville; west of Alleghany; in the Pendola Fire area; near Cascade Shores; and along Highway 20 east of Nevada City. Underburning will occur along Highway 20 east of White Cloud and north of Camptonville.

For questions regarding these prescribed fires, call Mike Cherry at (530) 478.6253.

Halloween is all about horror movies

By Howie Nave

Let’s face it, Halloween up here in Lake Tahoe is truly on par with the remaining biggies we have the rest of this year. Who would have ever thought that a holiday (that’s right, I called it that) would have as many, if not more, movies associated

with it than Christmas?

Call it my love of the scary, but I've been a fan of horror movies dating back when I was just a kid staying up late on a Saturday night watching "Creature Features" on KTVU Channel 2 growing up in the Bay Area before it became a Fox affiliate. Not only was the television my tutor at that hour, introducing me to the likes of a Lon Chaney Jr., Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi and Vincent Price, but it also gave me ideas how I could scare my sisters on days other than Halloween.

There are so many good Halloween movies (and a few great ones, too) that you may be disappointed that yours wasn't included here. Maybe it will get you to rent and remember some of those classics that made you scream and laugh too because I've included a couple of humorous horror flicks just to balance it out some.

Many of these I have on DVD and when the world gets weird I'll go down into my man cave, close the curtains, pop in a disc and crank it up to cover my screams just in case somebody might be lurking nearby.

"Halloween", R (1978)

What better way to kick off any Halloween Horror Fest than the namesake that would spawn over 20 sequels? "Halloween" is director/writer John Carpentaer's horror masterpiece and introduced us to the new 'Queen of Scream' Jamie Lee Curtis long before she was regulated via Activia. "Halloween" set the sci-fi/horror standard in which other movies would soon copy. Starring the late, great Donald Pleasence as Dr. Sam Loomis, "Halloween" had it all didn't it? A psychotic murderer, The Shape (later to be known as Michael Myers in subsequent sequels) who loved to slash his victims, a terrifying music that sticks to your soul and by far one of the most frightening experiences I have ever had in a theater. There were some equally scary sequels but nothing that captured that

first scream as the original.



“The Conjuring”, R (2013)

Probably the best horror flick this year, “The Conjuring” was directed by James Wan (probably best known for “Saw”. The movie already captured my interest being an ensemble piece. First we’re introduced to Ed and Lorraine Warren (Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga) who believe in the occult but are quick to understand that most events are easily explained hoaxes. Then there’s the Perron family, Carolyn, Roger and their five daughters. This is my favorite couple played by the always reliable Ron Livingston and Lili Taylor. They call on the Warrens once they realize that the old house they invested in is, yes, haunted by nasty spirits. The Perrons have invested too much in an old house, which they gradually learn is haunted by spirits who mean to do them harm. Shot on a modest budget, director Wan knows all too well that his audience has probably seen every cliche out there so comes up with a mind-bending conclusion that will not only scare you silly but will leave you wanting more even though there isn’t anything left except the possibility of sequel.

“The Cabin in the Woods”, R (2012)

As a fan of horror movies and one who has pretty much, “seen it all” when it comes to predicting the storyline (I can

usually tell you what's going to happen within the first 15 minutes of the feature) it's refreshing when a movie comes long like "The Cabin in the Woods" that isn't as formulaic as one would expect. Let's just say that you're not going see this one coming. Oh sure, the movie starts out with the requisite college students, each with its own stereotypical character centered around a cabin where horrific things are happening. But wait, these undead wanting to kill the living (btw why do they always crave college-aged students?) don't just show up randomly. They appear to be controlled by scientists. Say what? Yes, beneath the cabin is a basement, and beneath that basement is where Richard Jenkins and Bradley Whitford hash out their dastardly schemes. But what's in it for them? I ain't tellin' but there is a surprise ending that reminded me a little of "The Hunger Games" meets John Carpenter's "The Thing." Survival of the fittest but when those controlling the outcome are themselves upstaged that's when things get really interesting. "The Cabin in the Woods" was produced and co-written by Joss Whedon (creator of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Angel") and directed by Drew Goddard (writer of "Cloverfield").

"Carrie", R (1976)

After seeing this year's remake (which was horrid, but not in a good way) I couldn't wait to dust off the original and see why the original was that good to begin with. Brian de Palma's masterpiece had an incredible cast that included Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie and a very young John Travolta and Amy Irving. Carrie White is a shy girl who doesn't make friends easily and is bullied a lot at school because her classmates think she's a freak. Kids in high school can be so cruel, but what they don't know is that Carrie has some pretty unusual powers making her the ultimate revenge on bullies candidate. A classmate does take pity on her and convinces one Tommy Ross (her boyfriend and class hunk played by William Katt) to invite Carrie to the senior prom. Carrie cleans up nicely (on

the outside) until you get her mad and then watch out. Some fundamentalists were offended by this movie but hey, aren't most of them anyway if there's even a hint of a devilish angle?

"Alien", R (1979)

To this day when you witness that alien bursting out of John Hurt's stomach you know that director Ridley Scott's terrifying flick has you captivated. "Alien" and it's sequel, "Aliens" (1986) are still two of the better sci-fi/horror flicks out there even though their version of high tech by today's standards looks antiquated. The aliens are still some of the creepiest and scariest I have ever seen in a movie which by the way were based on the work of H.R. Giger (for which he received an Academy Award under Best Visual Effects category).

"The Exorcist", R (1973)

It would forever typecast its little known actress, Linda Blair. After this flick it was tough for Blair to get any real serious roles forever typecast as that possessed girl who spit up pea soup. Of course it was supposed to be barf, but soon everyone found out it was pea soup and then people would always imitate her making a mess. One of the scariest and psychologically tinged movies ever, "The Exorcist" caused a sensation when it first premiered including religious protestors that of course only made me want to see it more. And yes, there were countless sequels and prequels but none of them holds up to the mother of all satanic movies.

"Hellraiser", R (1987)

Clive Barker knows a thing or two when it comes to messing with people's minds and this to me is one of his best in that department and one of the most original too. Originally titled, "Sadomasochists from Beyond the Grave," Barker (who wrote, directed and produced) must have been on some sort of

medication (or stopped taking it!) when he came up with this classic horror gem. The character of Pinhead, the lead Cenobite is truly one of the more original icons in horror. You'll never play with a Rubik's Cube again if you haven't seen this classic that's for sure. Go ahead I dare ya.

"Saw", R (2004)

Also directed by James Wan (based on his story) "Saw" not only became a cult classic overnight but would eventually spawn four sequels. Shot primarily in one place, we're introduced to Adam Stanheight (Leigh Whannell) who awakens in a water-filled bathtub in an industrial bathroom. Right across from his is Lawrence Gordon (Cary Elves). Both men are chained at the ankle to pipes, and a corpse is lying face down in a pool of blood between them holding a microcassette recorder and one revolver. They find tapes in their pockets, and Adam is able to retrieve the recorder. Adam's tape instructs him to escape, while Lawrence's tape instructs him to kill Adam before six o'clock, or his wife and daughter will be killed and he will be left to die. It's mind-provoking and clues are slowly found that could assist in their escape including two hacksaws which are best used fir cutting off their feet in order to escape. There's much more but suffice it to say not for the faint of heart.

"The Grudge", R (2004)

Based on Takashi Shimizu's Japanese movie, "Ju-On: The Grudge") the American version is just as good. Why? Because someone out there in Hollywood was smart enough to let Takashi Shimizu do a remake from his own movie. How about that? The original creator gets to do his own work and – wow – the results are impressive. Starring Sarah Michelle Gellar as an American nurse living and working in Tokyo, she discovers (and is exposed) to a mysterious curse that causes a person to experience an uncontrollable rage before taking their life. The part that still creeps me out is that of images of zombied

looking kids in this waterlogged black and white image with freaky noises that stay with you long after the movie has ended. You'll never want to enter an uninhabited house again unless accompanied by an army of eye witnesses.

"Shaun of the Dead", R (2004)



Got a have a funny horror flick and nothing says, funny better than a Simon Pegg movie especially when it involves zombies. The British horror comedy "Shaun of the Dead" makes scary sexy. By treating the genre as a joke Pegg gets plenty of mileage with his dry wit making this satire one of the best comedy/horror one of the funniest I've ever seen outside of "An American Werewolf in London." When zombies start descending on London the media declare it "Z-Day" in the U.K. Pegg, who wrote the screenplay with director, Edgar Wright, plays the title character, a hapless 29-year-old clerk who, with his best friend Ed (Nick Frost) plot a plan to make a safe exit along with Shaun's on-again, off-again sweetheart, Liz (Kate Ashfield). The movie also stars Bill Nighy and trust me one of the funniest movies I've ever seen with regard to brain-eating zombies.

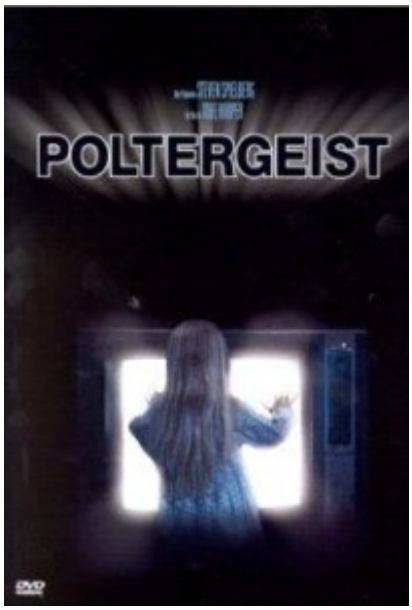
"The Thing", R (1982)

Hands down one of the best remakes ever/ How good? Well, there was a prequel that came out earlier this year that takes you

up to the 1982 remake that’s how good. I first saw this as a double feature in the theater (yes kids, they used to let you see two movies sometimes for the price of one) not knowing what to expect but was literally blown out of my seat when I did see it. It was that good. Starring a bearded Kurt Russell as the head of an American Antarctic expedition “The Thing” still boasts some of the best special effects ever and has an all-star stellar cast that includes Wilford Brimley, T. K. Carter, David Clennon, Keith David, Richard A. Dysart and Charles Hallahan. Directed by the master himself, John Carpenter, you’ll be grabbing anything when you see what happens when an alien being replicates itself into anything starting with huskies and moving on up from there. Every movie mentioned so far has had a sequel or two and yet this one is the one that I wanted to see a sequel but alas-Carpenter felt otherwise.

“Paranormal Activity”, R (2007)

The original was good and I could see having a sequel was inevitable but three sequels? Someone went to the horror well a little too often and that’s why global warming is not a myth. The original was good because of its low-budget quality that made it appear so real with its single-camera, rapid-movement-shot in the first-person style. With each subsequent sequel the budget got bigger as the quality depreciated. “Paranormal Activity” works in much the same way another very low-budget flick, “The Blair Witch Project.” The tension is just as shaky as those hand-held cameras are. You know the story is good when you don’t require any big names to carry your picture. Of course that makes it easier for the filmmakers to control their young actors lest they want to be killed off and not be in another sequel.



“Poltergeist”, PG-13 (1982)

Would you believe that back then executive producer (and writer) Steven Spielberg had to lobby to give this movie a PG rating? The film was originally given an R rating so he (along with the filmmakers) protested successfully and got a PG rating (the PG-13 rating did not exist at the time). This was the movie that gave us the immortal line, “They’re baaaaaack” that was uttered by Heather O’Rourke, the cute little blonde who played Carol Anne, daughter of Craig T. Nelson and JoBeth Williams in the movie. The movie is a stark reminder of what happens when developers, in their zeal to construct urban sprawl forget to move bodies from a cemetery they are building on. The movie took on a life of its own with real life actors dying in each production. The eldest daughter in the movie (played by Dominique Dunne) was killed in real life by her boyfriend upon completion of the first film. Actor Julian Beck died of stomach cancer after shooting the second film and actress Heather O’ Rourke died of a mystery case of intestinal stenosis shortly before completion of the third film. Also, many cast members’ careers have suffered after appearing in the films. The ghosts at first appear friendly moving moving objects around the house to the amusement of everyone but then they turn nasty and start to terrorize the family before they “kidnap” Carol Anne. Still a great scare factor to this day, “Poltergeist” has a great story and great effects that rival

only that of “The Thing.”

“28 Days Later”, R (2003)

Who would have guessed that the same guy who directed last year’s Summer Olympic Games in London would also be the same chap who brought us “28 Days Later” revolving around a deadly virus? Is it airborne? Can I get it from shaking somebody’s hand? Will it kill me slowly and is there a host to help find me a cure? Only Boyle has the answer an he plays on this common fear combining the terror of its after effects turning one into a zombie. The movie also takes a look at what might happen if we experiment on things that go unchecked. It’s that unknown element that can be the scariest psychologically playing off our minds. We’re introduced to Londoner Jim (Cillian Murphy) who wakes up in a hospital room all alone and no one else is in the entire hospital either. He puts his clothes on, walks out into the empty streets and does see other survivors, but how long will they last? Are they exposed as well? It’s not pleasant and I can now see why people become germaphobes after seeing this movie.

“Psycho”, PG (1960)

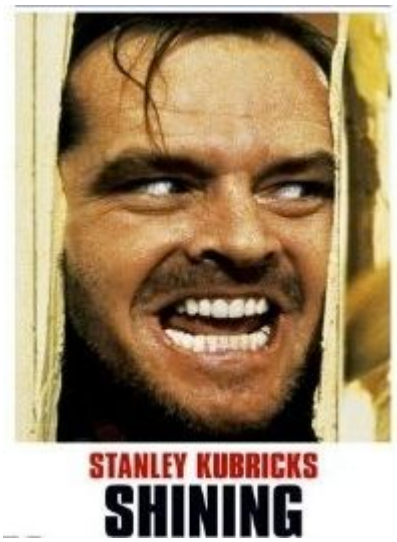
“Psycho” is that one movie that would forever make showers a scary experience (if you’re a woman) and brand those of the male species a “momma’s boy” forever, but taking to the next creepiest level. Leave it to Alfred Hitchcock to deliver one of the truly frightening masterpieces of all time. Phoenix office worker Marion Crane (Janet Leigh) is fed up with the way life has treated her. She has to meet her lover Sam (John Gavin) at lunch breaks and they cannot get married because Sam has to give most of his money away in alimony payments. One Friday afternoon Marion is entrusted to bank $40,000 by her employer. Seeing the opportunity to take the money and run, Marion leaves town and heads toward Sam’s California store. Tired after the long drive and caught in a storm, she gets off the main highway and pulls into The Bates Motel. The motel is

managed by a quiet young man called Norman (Anthony Perkins) who seems to be dominated by his mother. An interesting piece of trivia: After the film's release Hitchcock received an angry letter from the father of a girl who refused to have a bath after seeing "Les Diaboliques" (also on this list), and now refused to shower after seeing "Psycho." Hitchcock sent a note back to the father simply saying "Send her to the dry cleaners."

"A Nightmare on Elm Street", R (1984)

Outside of John Carpenter, Clive Barker and George Romero, I kind of know I'm going to pretty much enjoy my scare factor when I see horror master Wes Craven's name attached to it. And with "A Nightmare on Elm Street" I wasn't disappointed. One could argue that many a subsequent horror flick borrowed their chops (no pun intended) from Craven's original "Elm Street". High school kids being killed off in a small town and nobody knows why. Enter Nancy Thompson (Heather Langenkamp) playing detective who traces the cause to Freddy Krueger (Robert Englund), a disfigured bum in a slouch hat who sporting knives for fingernails long before Wolverine made it sexy. Still holds up as classic slasher that I think horror fans continue to hold in high esteem in part because it comes across as low-budget and with an intelligent (and original) script featuring some pretty impressive newcomers such as Johnny Depp, Ronee Blakley and Amanda Wyss with Craven himself directing.

“The Shining”, R (1980)



The pairing of director Stanley Kubrick with Jack Nicholson’s cold and frightening character (also named Jack) defined this movie and the career of both. “The Shining” introduces the viewer to Jack Torrance (Nicholson), a man who plans to spend the winter in solitude with his wife, Wendy (Shelley Duvall) and son, Danny (Danny Lloyd) as Jack becomes the caretaker of the Overlook Hotel just as workers are shutting it down for the winter. Chef Dick Hallorann (the classic Scatman Crothers) is one of the crew but the movie centers almost entirely around Jack and his slow, deterioration into madness writing the novel that is page after page of the same line. For me it’s a psychological mind –- at its best and a movie that would label Shelley Duvall as the Queen of Scream and one that every young actress would have to emulate in order to be considered as the leading lady for any horror flick.

“Night Of The Living Dead”, R (1968)

If this movie were made today, it would be considered tame compared to the current crop of gore flicks out there. “Night of the Living Dead” is a true classic (and always will be) that definitely deserves its place in the Smithsonian Institute of Horror. The movie is still quite effective shot in glorious black and white. I had the rare privilege of seeing this film in a theater at a midnight screening. The audience found themselves screaming and jumping as I did in

certain parts of the film. It’s raining weird rays from outer space that causes the dead to awaken from their graves to feed on human flesh for sustenance. After seeing this movie originally on television, I never slept near my sister again when camping with the family.

“Jaws”, PG (1975)

The was the movie that literally put a young Steven Spielberg on the cinematic map and if you think the PG rating is too tame, you’re correct, but back then they hadn’t come up with the PG-13 rating which is what this should be if seen today. This is one of the best psychological horror-adventure flicks I’ve seen in a while. The idea of a lone, killer shark bent on eating people in a vacation resort community just begs buffet specials. That coupled with the signature shark music of John Williams makes this an all time fav of mine and even to this day I ask myself, “Is it safe to go into the water?”

“Diabolique”, R (1955)

This movie (original French title “Les Diaboliques”) centers around a nasty headmaster having an affair on his wife who, as it turns out treats his mistress just as badly as he treats his wife. In a twisted three-way the two women conspire to do in he headmaster Robert Bloch, author of “Psycho,” called this his favorite horror movie.

Honorable mentions:

There are so many other flicks that make Halloween worth celebrating including “Basket Case” (1982), “The Omen” (1976), “House of Wax” (not the Paris Hilton version but the original 1953 rendition with Vincent Price), “The Haunting” (1963), “The Blair Witch Project” (1999), “Dracula” (1931), “The Birds” (1963), “Scanners,” “The Fly” (1958), “Seven” (1995). For campy horror fun you must see “An American Werewolf in London” (1981), “Scream” (1996), “Zombieland” (2009).

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.

Nev. selling bonds to pay back federal debt

By Priya Anand, Bloomberg

Nevada, whose 9.5 percent unemployment rate is the nation's highest, plans to sell $572 million in bonds this week to repay the federal government for jobless benefits. It's the state's biggest sale since 2008.

The borrowing would pay down the $520 million Nevada owes the U.S. for bolstering its unemployment fund after the longest recession since the 1930s pushed the jobless rate to a record 14 percent in 2010. That debt peaked at $846 million in 2012.

Sixteen states and the Virgin Islands collectively owe the federal government $21.3 billion for boosting jobless funds as the national unemployment rate reached a 26-year high of 9.9 percent, Labor Department figures show. Nevada is the eighth-most indebted, with California leading at $9.5 billion.

Read the whole story

Questioning Halloween costumes for teen girls

By Caitlin Cozine, Contra Costa Times

As a teenage girl, the idea of choosing a Halloween costume fills me with dread.

Browse any Halloween costume website, and you'll see that for girls who have outgrown children's sizes, selections are limited to costumes with names such as Bad Kitty, Teenage Runaway Schoolgirl, Maid of Lace and Sweet Suga Mama Sexy Adult Pimp/Ho. In case you think you've accidentally clicked on a porn site, be assured you haven't. These are actual names of costumes.

Halloween used to be my favorite holiday. I loved the opportunity to dress up and act silly with my friends. I still love the holiday, but now I agonize over the lack of costume choices. When I visited a Halloween store recently, the female section had frilly princess costumes for children, and the aisle directly across had women's costumes that ranged from a sexy police officer with a miniskirt and fishnet leggings to a naughty vampire slayer equipped with a skintight shirt and extra-short shorts.

In the male section, options abounded: superheroes, ninjas, pirates, cowboys, even professionals such as doctors or firefighters. The only occupational costumes in the female section were prefaced by the word "sexy," as in sexy doctor or sexy nurse.

The message is clear: Boys have lots of choices to be whatever they want, while girls generally fall into two categories – princess or trollop. These categories don't mirror the reality of girls in our world. Do people seriously think that teenage girls transition immediately from children's costumes to

fishnet stockings and sequin-tasseled bras?

Read the whole story

ESPN captures life of Olympian Bill Johnson

American Bill Johnson's stunning Olympic downhill gold in 1984 is iconic in ski racing, having left an indelible mark in the annals of U.S. Ski Team history. ESPN's news magazine program E:60 will look inside his story of triumph and tragedy in an episode airing Oct. 29 at 7pm.

Johnson was a maverick who captured the attention of the country in one audacious moment of glory. At the 1984 Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo, Johnson shocked everyone when, seemingly out of nowhere, he took gold in the men's downhill, the first time the United States had won the event.

But the glory did not last. The brash American talent insisted on living his life the way he skied – on the edge. Eventually, his performance declined and fame deserted him only to be replaced by personal tragedies.

Johnson spent more than a decade in a futile effort to get back to the top. E:60's Jeremy Schaap recounts the up and down life of this Olympic hero.