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Plot twists, suspense mark George Lucas' plans for museum

BY JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

George Lucas is no stranger to epic struggles on the big screen, but he didn't expect one off-camera when it came to his art collection.

For nearly a decade, the filmmaker has tried to build a museum to house an extensive personal collection that includes 40,000 paintings, illustrations and film-related items. But legal entanglements and other complications have thwarted his efforts.

After several false starts, Lucas and his art team say they will decide later this month whether to put the museum in San Francisco or Los Angeles, a strategy that has stirred a California rivalry.

The prize is big, and both cities want it badly.

"This is the largest civic gift in American history," LA Mayor Eric Garcetti told The Associated Press. "I think Los Angeles is the natural home for it" — a notion that San Francisco officials enthusiastically contest.

The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, as it will be called, promises hundreds of jobs and a high-profile attraction — and it's essentially free.

SEE LUCAS PAGE 7

City leaders to discuss Airport Park plans at next meeting

BY KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

The City Council will talk about continuing efforts to turn the Santa Monica Airport into a park at next week's public meeting.

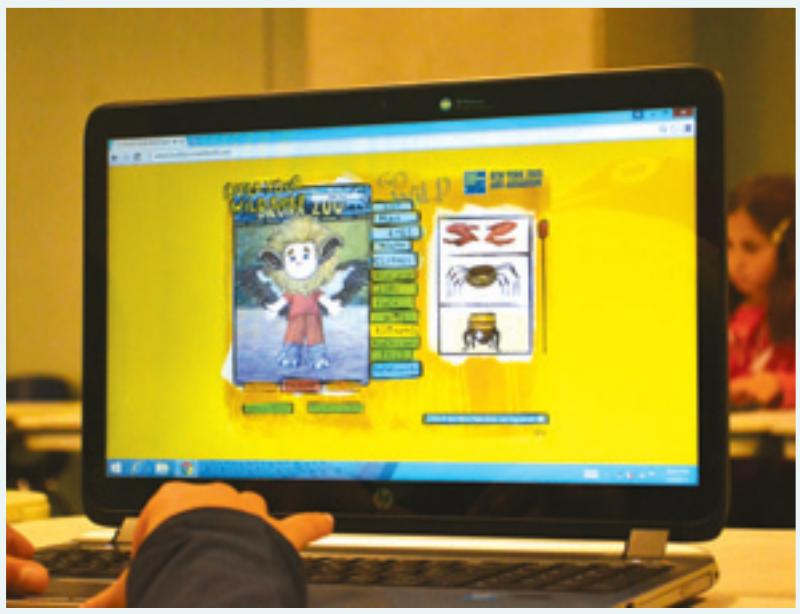
City leaders will discuss new rules that will allow the public to use six acres of the airport that used to be reserved aircraft parking. When the entire project is completed in 2019, Airport Park will have expanded to just over 20 acres. Design plans are currently underway to turn two, six-acre parcels of non-aviation land into more green space.

Last year, the City eliminated 73 aircraft tie-downs on the eastern side of the airport to allow the park expansion. The new rules and regulations will apply to recreational use on that section of the airport that is now mostly asphalt. The idea is that by Spring of this year, families will be able to use the open space for biking, roller hockey, or anything else that might require a lot of room.

"Really, we're looking to just open that up for open, unprogrammed use," said Melissa Spagnuolo, Principal Administrative Analyst for the Community and Cultural Services Department. "There isn't a lot of open space in the City that's not already full."

"We're also signaling to the City (residents) that we are taking back portions of the airport that are not used for aviation."

SEE PARK PAGE 7









THE DIGITAL SELF

Matthew Hall editor@smdp.com

As part of a week long program focused on digital skills, the Santa Monica Library hosted a workshop on Jan. 4 that provided local youth with a way to explore their online personas and learn how to interact with others online.


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, January 5

Read a Play
Discover great plays while uncovering your inner actor. This new monthly group will read through a different play each month, with each in attendance taking part in the read through. January play: "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" by Tom Stoppard. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Make Anything with Code
Learn how to use simple, easy-to-understand HTML5 and CSS to create photos, music and videos to display online. No previous coding experience required. Taught by Joe Delaplaine. Grades 6-12. Space is limited. Registration required. Call (310) 458-8621 to sign up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 – 4 p.m.

Florence Foster Jenkins
Meryl Streep stars in this comedy as a spoiled heiress who dreams of an opera career, despite being a terrible singer. (111 min.) Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 – 5 p.m.

Be Inspired Online at Main
Mix your own movie and find great images, sounds, and content to use in your projects. Learn how to tell whether something is fair to use and find the cool things you're looking for. Ages 6-10. To register, call the Youth Services department at (310) 458-8261 or stop by. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 – 3 p.m.

Friday, January 6

Introduction to Finding Grants (for Nonprofits)
Introduction to the Foundation Center's database of U.S. foundations, corporate giving programs, and public charities. Length of class is 1-1/2 hours. Seating is first come, first served. Requires familiarity with using a mouse & keyboard. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call (310) 434-2608. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 7

Cuban Salsa with Kati Hernandez
Curious about salsa? Learn steps in a fun setting. Bring a partner or find partners here; all levels welcome. Register at the link below or call (310) 458-2239. Cost: $10. 1450 Ocean, 2 – 5 p.m. https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/56307

Retro Gaming
Spend an afternoon and play video, bored and card games from everyone's childhood! Ages 5 and up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Teen Tech Workshops: Video Game & App Development Fundamentals w/ UNITY 3D
This hands-on class introduces students to the fundamentals of video game and app development. Bring a flash drive. See flyer for more details. Taught by Matt Fairweather, founder of Torrid Games. Grades 6-12. Space is limited. Registration required. Call (310) 458-8621 to sign up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1 – 5 p.m.

Making Prints with Patricia Mitchell
Have you taken a class with Patricia or Zeina and made a block - but haven't had time to print with it? Join this class to make an edition from your artwork. All relief printing techniques accommodated: linoleum and wood blocks, collograph, etc. Cost: $25. 1450 Ocean, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/56037

Sunday, January 8

Family Field Trip Beach Walk
Recommended for ages 5 and up, with parent or guardian in attendance. Join the Audubon Society to explore

SEE **LISTINGS** PAGE 3

For help submitting an event, contact us at **310-458-7737** or submit to editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Dr. Sylvia Rousseau – Speaking a Language That Everyone Can Understand

On Sunday evening, Jan. 8, Committee For Racial Justice is offering the opportunity to hear from Dr. Sylvia Rousseau who has been interim co-superintendent of our SMMUSD for the 2016 fall semester. She has put forth an action plan to take specific steps toward our school district's goal of equity for all students through excellence. We are looking forward to learning more from this gifted professor at USC's Rossier School of Education who has built a longstanding reputation as an expert on diversity, urban school reform and school leadership. Dr. Rousseau is known to many locals since from 1993 to 2000 she was the principal of Santa Monica High School, which under her leadership achieved one of the largest API gains in California. She reduced the school's drop out rate and increased graduation and college entrance among African American and Latino students. She was lauded by teachers, students and parents for building a strong sense of community on the campus, promoting intercultural understanding and nonviolent conflict resolution, and raising academic expectations and achievement.

Come and find out how you can help bring about the proposed "next steps" in moving our school district toward achievement for all students, with a focus on including those who have been marginalized. This is part of an ongoing monthly workshop series sponsored by the Committee For Racial Justice. Co-sponsored by Virginia Ave. Park; the African American Parent, Staff, Student Support Group; and the Church in Ocean Park.

The event takes place on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017 from 6 - 8:30 p.m. (potluck supper at 6 p.m. & program at 6:30 p.m.). It will be held at Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Bldg. For more information, call (310) 422-5431.

– SUBMITTED BUY JOANNE BERLIN

Citywide

Local Woman Named All American Hero

Santa Monica resident Jennifer Field will be honored on Inauguration Day in Washington, DC at the All American Inaugural Ball for her work in the field of brain injury education and advocacy.

"The All American Inaugural Ball is a tribute to the myriad of American Heroes who sacrifice on behalf of others. We recognize and honor various citizens for their outstanding and tireless work in their respective fields of civic service," said Sue-Anne DeBergh, member of the All American Ball committee.

This year the Awards Committee chose to honor leaders in the field of brain health and research.

"Understanding and enhancing brain function is a bold new frontier. We are proud to honor a few individuals who have dedicated their lives to educating, inspiring and motivating others to make the most of their brains, and their lives," DeBergh said.

"Jennifer Field exemplifies the character of a hero. She worked tirelessly and relentlessly for years to overcome her own challenges, and then made her life's work all about helping others to do the same. It is her inspiration and dedication that we honor," DeBergh said.

After a near-fatal car accident 24 years ago, doctors said Field would never walk or talk or live independently again. But Field went on to graduate college with honors, and established the J Field Foundation to help others affected by traumatic brain injury. In October, her memoir "From Blue Ribbon to Code Blue," was released. The book is an inspirational look at her comeback, and the role that love, hope, and hard work played in achieving a miracle recovery

Field delivers her message of hope and determination to audiences across the nation, with her one-woman show, "A Distant Memory." It chronicles Field's journey from Olympic-bound equestrian teen to brain injury patient, to her life today as a professional speaker, and author who dedicates her life to encouraging others living with a traumatic brain injury.

In addition to nine other American Hero Award recipients, A Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to astronaut Buzz Aldrin for his work in exploring an entirely different frontier.

– SUBMITTED BY ANNIE CARD

LISTINGS
FROM PAGE 2

slimy seaweed, sand crabs, beach hoppers, grebes and more. Register at https://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/public-events.aspx. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Aqualillies

Synchronized Swimming course. $83/session (3 classes incl parking); $37/class. SUN 1/8-1/22. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 10 – 11:15 a.m. www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/classes.aspx

Aqua Aerobics at Beach House

This shallow and deep Aqua Aerobics program includes the use of jogging belts and water barbells to increase strength and cardiovascular fitness. Each class is an hour in length and includes stretching, cardio, and strength training. These classes are geared toward each participant's fitness level and beginners are encouraged to attend. $10 per class. Register at www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/classes.aspx. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 – 19 a.m.

Snowy Plover Beach Walk

Explore the habitat and life cycles of the federally threatened snowy plover with the Audubon Society. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 8:30 – 10 a.m. Register at www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/public-events.aspx.

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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Start Smart

IT'S A NEW YEAR, STIMULATE YOUR MIND with smart talk, challenging art and a unique music event.

But first, while we remember all the big names that we lost in 2016, let's also honor the life of the late, great Gordon Davidson, a long-time Santa Monica Canyon resident who died suddenly on October 2, 2016. A memorial will be held on Monday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ahmanson Theatre. It's free and open to the public.

From 1967 to 2005 Gordon Davidson was Artistic Director of the Center Theatre Group/Mark Taper Forum at The Music Center. He was regarded as one of the most respected artistic directors in regional theatre across the country, overseeing the Taper and Ahmanson theatres downtown and the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City

I had the privilege of interviewing Gordon for NPR on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Taper, and at KCRW, we interacted on such projects as Evenings at the Itchey Foot Literary Cabaret, and a special event devoted to protesting the imprisonment of renowned playwright and later Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel.

No RSVP is needed but I feel certain that the Ahmanson will be packed. Gordon was a towering and much beloved figure in the world of theatre, so get there early and let's remember this good man together.

SPEAKING OF LEGENDS

The Broad Stage and Sotheby's Institute of Art inaugurate the first in a new series called Artists Talk: LA Legends on Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Reviewer and author Hunter Drohojowska-Philp (she and Edward Goldman are KCRW's "Art Talk" commentators) moderates a conversation between five of L.A.'s most iconic artists: Larry Bell, Billy Al Bengston, Robert Irwin, Ed Moses and Ed Ruscha.

This lollapalooza of an art gathering will address the living legacy of five trailblazing artists who pioneered the Venice art scene in the 50s and 60s and set the stage for L.A.'s vibrant contemporary art landscape today. They'll talk about their work, their process, their histories and their lives in this one-of-a-kind conversation that's not to be missed.

I wish Hunter the best of luck reining in these legendary and, let's face it, often cantankerous figures!. For the Full Monty, there's a 6 p.m. reception; or just attend the program starting at 7:30. Find out more at http://www.thebroadstage.com

MORE ART TALKS

The Mark Taper Forum downtown is also offering an important conversation about the arts in a keynote presentation that's free and open to the public.

On Monday, January 9 at 10 a.m., arts expert and consultant Diane Ragsdale presents a provocative lecture, "Transformation or Bust: When Hustling Ticket Sales and Contributions is Just Not Cutting It Anymore," followed by a Q&A. Ragsdale writes a popular arts blog called Jumper, published on ArtsJournal.com, and she's Arts Writer in Residence for the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

This topic should be of great interest to arts organizations and audiences alike. She believes that organizations have come to treat communities like markets, citizens like consumers, and culture as an exploitable product, especially troubling because the arts show us what it is to be human. Through inspirational ideas, practical actions, and industry examples, she challenges arts organizations to resist market-driven methods and uphold their role as purveyors of a different value system.

It's free but RSVP at www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/mark-taper-forum/also-at-the-taper/transformation-or-bust-when-hustling-ticket-sales-and-contributions-is-just-not-cutting-it-anymore/.

UNDER THE RADAR AT SKIRBALL

With Andy Horwitz, Skirball Cultural Center's new Director of Programs at the helm, a specially curated season of innovative dance, theatre and multimedia performances kicks off the 2017 winter season.

Performance Lab at the Skirball brings five projects over five weeks, featuring emerging and established voices performing in Skirball's gallery space.

Have you ever seen a live movie? Chicago's acclaimed cinematic shadow puppetry ensemble Manual Cinema makes their L.A. debut with "Lula del Ray," a mesmerizing multimedia show with live musical score about a resourceful young girl's quest for adventure. Shadow puppets, live music, narration, a screen: it's a fantastic phantasm that will forever change your idea of what a movie can be.

It's coming directly from New York's Public Theater and its super cool Under the Radar Festival. Also from Under the Radar: rising talent Keith A. Wallace, a recent graduate of UC San Diego's MFA acting program, brings his powerful one-man show about being young, male, and Black in America, "The Bitter Game."

In addition to these L.A. debuts, esteemed UCLA-based choreographer-performer Lionel Popkin will premiere a new dance work, "Inflatable Trio" which examines the tensions and contradictions of domestic life—performed in and around a bright yellow inflatable living room set.

The series includes two new works in development as well. Check out the complete schedule, which begins on January 27, here: http://www.skirball.org/programs/performance-lab

PRIVATE MUSIC VENUE

Contrapuntal Performance Hall offers intimate chamber music performances in a unique venue off the beaten path in Brentwood.

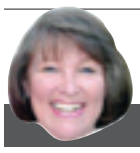
Discover it for yourself on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. when The Capitol Ensemble performs Mozart's only string trio, one of his most obscure gems and one of his longest pieces (six movements) outside of his operas.

In his biography of Mozart, Alfred Einstein describes the piece as "a true chamber music work of large proportions, intended to offer the listener something special in the way of art, invention and good spirits. It is the most perfect string trio ever written."

Advance reservations are essential: arrive early due to parking concerns. Tickets only $20 are available here: http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2738802

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW – Santa Monica. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Chandler Brothers Participate in a Funeral

EACH WEEK WHEN I CHOOSE A PLAY TO review, I generally follow a set of guidelines that I have found to be most useful.

First, I don't read other critics' reviews. But since I usually go to opening nights, there aren't other reviews around yet anyway.

My interest in a play is first attracted by the one or two brief explanatory paragraphs that the publicist sends in his or her press release. And since my main interest is words, I look to the playwright to develop a plot that includes a satisfying array of them. I especially love the work of the great 20th century writers and, since their work is usually familiar, that places an additional burden on the director and actors to do an especially fine job of presenting it.

But I am also intrigued by new plays with unique ideas, thoughtful communication and provocative twists and turns. And Los Angeles has many of those.

Why am I telling you all this? To let you know that my way of choosing a movie to review is considerably different. My first act is to consult Rotten Tomatoes and Metacritic to see what grade the major movie critics have given a specific movie. Those two websites display the percentage, from 0 to 100%, of the critics' combined judgments. If a film is rated at 80% or above, it is usually worth seeing.

Which explains why I was so interested in seeing "Manchester by the Sea". That new film garnered a collective rating of 97% and has prompted much "Best Picture of the Year" talk.

Outdoing that encomium, however, is the buzz about Casey Affleck, who has turned in the most intense, mesmerizing performance of the decade as the troubled Lee Chandler, around whom all the action revolves. If he were older he would be a suitable match for Meryl Streep.

Lee has returned to his childhood home in Manchester-by-the-Sea, one of four northeast-of-Boston vacation towns jutting into the Atlantic Ocean on the curving sweep of Cape Ann. He has come there to bury his older and much loved brother Joe (played by Kyle Chandler of "Friday Night Lights") and has temporarily left his job as a handyman/plumber in the less affluent suburbs south of Boston. We see him there as an angry, belligerent, trash-talking man who will fight anyone in the bar after he has consumed a number of beers. In his home town, however, he only flares up occasionally, remaining quiet and reclusive the rest of the time.

With his silences, his inability to make small talk or even maintain a conversation, you might almost think he was suffering from Aspberger's Syndrome. He is not somebody who is easy to warm up to. But his human suffering and pain eventually get to you and after a while you feel like you're drowning in it.

Kenneth Lonergan, who wrote and directed this film, has made it more of a French drama than a traditional American one. Lee struggles to deal with the death of his brother, the divorce from his wife, and the fact that he has been named the guardian of his brother's son, a rambunctious 16-year old whom nobody knows what to do with. Lucas Hedges, who plays Patrick, the son, is a perfect foil for Casey Affleck and will probably grow up to BE Casey Affleck. He's that good an actor.

The reason "Manchester-by-the-Sea" feels more French than American is that Lonergan's style consists of many pauses and close-ups that go on forever. The film itself is a work of art, but the mood it generates Is terminally exhausting.

On the Rotten Tomatoes scale, I give it a 54.

Released in time for Oscar consideration, "Manchester by the Sea" is running now in theaters all over Santa Monica and Los Angeles.

CYNTHIA CITRON has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com.

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Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

Kevin M. Brettauer Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Returned to the Force: The Life, Death and Legacy of Carrie Fisher

"Sometimes you can only find Heaven by slowly backing away from Hell."

- Carrie Fisher

2016 HAS CLAIMED A LOT OF BELOVED icons who were so much more than the end result of their resumes. By now, you can recite a litany of names off the top of your head. Edward Albee. Prince. Alan Young. Muhammad Ali. Anton Yelchin. Kenny Baker. Elie Wiesel. George Michael. Alan Thicke. Sharon Jones. Darwyn Cooke. David Bowie. Steve Dillon. Leonard Cohen. Gene Wilder. Jerry Doyle. Zsa Zsa Gabor. Michael Cimino. Alan Rickman. Jon Polito. Fyvush Finkel. Robert Vaughn. Merle Haggard. Harper Lee. Garry Shandling. Jo Cox. John Glenn. Lemmy Klimister. Abe Vigoda. Doris Roberts. Richard Adams. Gary Marshall. Florence Henderson. Shimon Peres. Ron Glass. Noel Neill. I could go on.

Some of these names belonged to people who helped define modern celebrity; if you recognize names Gabor's, you know what I'm talking about. Others like Bowie, Prince, Michael, Albee, Cohen and Ali were giants in their fields, but also stood for something, meant something, showed the world a reflection of its marginalized people and said "this could be you, too", influencing countless fans to live the dreams they saw on stage, screen or in the ring. Others, like Glenn, left massive shoes to fill in multiple pursuits, in his case politics and space travel. Authors like Wiesel, Lee and Adams helped shaped the minds of entire generations, thereby shaping the culture they helped to create. Others had just barely begun their work, with powerful voices like Yelchin's and Cox's cut down in their prime, either by accident, as with the former or, sadly, purposefully, as with the latter.

And then Carrie Fisher died just after Christmas.

Many know her as Princess, and later General, Leia Organa, the heroine of the Star Wars franchise, but she was so much more than that. In films like Hannah and Her Sisters, The Blues Brothers, and When Harry Met Sally…, she worked alongside luminaries like Peter Ustinov, Lauren Bacall, Michael Caine, Nora Ephron, John Gielgud, Woody Allen, Tom Hanks, Warren Beatty, Hal Ashby, Julie Christie, Meg Ryan, Dabney Coleman, Billy Crystal, Dan Aykroyd, Steven Spielberg, Lance Henriksen, Tim Blake Nelson, and Kevin Smith, often outshining their accomplishments in the same projects, regardless of the length of her appearance on screen.

She was also a gifted writer, both of fiction and non-fiction, contributing great writing to not just prose, but also to stage and screen. Novels like Postcards from the Edge cemented her voice as an essential one of the modern era, and non-fiction memoirs like Wishful Drinking and Shockaholic are as hilarious as they are poignant. Her written work included film and stage adaptations of her own work, including Postcards from the Edge, and original works including the television film These Old Broads (starring her mother, Debbie Reynolds, who passed away mere hours ago as of this writing, a day after her daughter) and the 2008 stage play A Spy in the House of Me.

And like fellow sci-fi icon Patrick McGoohan, she was one of the best script doctors Hollywood has ever seen. If you have a favorite film of the last twenty-five or so years, chances are Fisher was involved in some capacity. Scripts she was confirmed to have reworked in part or in full include the Whoopi Goldberg vehicle Sister Act, the Adam Sandler/Drew Barrymore romcom The Wedding Singer, and even Last Action Hero, the Arnold Schwarzengger redux of The Purple Rose of Cairo.

But beyond the writing, beyond the acting, beyond even the daily witticisms (many of which are preserved on her Twitter page), Fisher was an icon for the ages.

She took her role as a feminist icon seriously, publicly speaking out against sexism in media and in politics. Before Leia, calling someone a "princess" was often marginalizing; Fisher took the gauntlet thrown at her feet and ran with it, providing young women with a hero they could look up to both on and off the screen.

Fisher was also a recovering addict, whose dependency issues forever changed how Hollywood, and indeed, the world, talked about addiction. She talked about it with great import firmness and honesty – and always, always, with dark humor that would make Kurt Vonnegut blush. Because of her openness and frank sincerity, people like Robert Downey Jr., Ed Harris, Bob Dylan and Craig Robinson have been able to be open about their experiences with substance abuse.

Fisher also struggled with bipolar disorder – she was diagnosed in 1985, two years after the release of Return of the Jedi -- and with her trademark openness and pride, became a lightning rod for the mental health community. If Carrie Fisher could face bipolar disorder and live with it on a daily basis, learning to handle the "new normal" as it came and, as always, went, and do all of it openly, why couldn't the rest of us? Fisher didn't take any lip from anyone on or offscreen; why should we?

And now her death is poised to shine a light on women's heart disease. Even in death, she's still changing how we look at the world.

And that is what she'll be remembered for. Even if the legacy of Star Wars and Leia Organa were to fade away tomorrow (and they won't), Fisher opened – no, knocked down – doors, discarded taboos, threw out "propriety", and she did it with aplomb, vigor and side-splitting humor. She was her own person, a singular woman who always stood for what's right, and left behind a legacy of 60 years full of work, compassion and human decency that most people wouldn't reach if they lived to be one hundred.

A Princess of Alderaan, a queen of social justice, an empress of health advocacy.

Rest in Peace, Carrie Fisher.

"'The General'? To me, she is royalty."

- Lor San Tekka (Max von Sydow), Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens (2015)

SEE NEWS HAPPENING OR HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT?

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LUCAS

FROM PAGE 1

The "Star Wars" creator is financing the project himself. He plans to spend more than $1 billion to build the museum, endow it and provide a trove of initial artworks valued at over $400 million. Together with Chinese architect Ma Yansong, Lucas has proposed a sleek, futuristic design looks like a cross between the Guggenheim and a galactic starfighter.

The museum's bold design and concept make clear that the 72-year-old filmmaker sees it as part of his legacy, and he is increasingly impatient to break ground.

"It's not just an enormous philanthropic gift to a city and to the world, but it is a unique museum in the way it is envisioned," said Don Bacigalupi, an art historian and respected museum director Lucas hired as its founding president. "Certainly, we'll be looking forward to the day we can move the art into a museum."

The museum will not, as many assume, be a repository for "Star Wars" memorabilia.

It will, however, show how Lucas spent some of his filmmaking fortune and that his interest in art extends beyond movies.

An avid collector for more than 40 years, Lucas is giving the museum some 10,000 paintings and illustrations that include dozens of Norman Rockwells and works from French impressionist Edgar Degas to American contemporary artist Keith Haring. There are illustrations for classic children's books by Beatrix Potter of "Peter Rabbit" fame and Jean de Brunhoff, who created "Babar."

The museum gets its pick from some 30,000 film-related pieces including storyboards and costumes from "The Wizard of Oz," "Casablanca," and, naturally, "Star Wars."

There's art from comic books, graphic novels and other popular works that Lucas hopes will attract people who don't typically visit museums.

In 2010, Lucas first pitched his project to San Francisco and considered a site in the Presidio, but the trust that oversaw the park ultimately rebuffed him. He then took his project to Chicago, his wife's hometown, but preservationists sued to keep it off the lakefront.

Lengthy delays prompted Lucas to abandon that bid in June and change strategy.

In October, Lucas unveiled similar but competing designs for Los Angeles and San Francisco sites, turning the project into a public competition. It seems to have worked.

Government leaders in both cities have unanimously approved it. And officials are quick to stress that this time there is no apparent opposition, and construction could begin quickly ahead of a projected 2020 finish date.

Later this month, Lucas is convening the museum's board to decide between two distinct locations.

In San Francisco, his project would virtually have an island unto itself.

The city offered Lucas a 4-acre waterfront plot on Treasure Island, a man-made creation in the middle of the bay with cinematic views of the city skyline.

The island was built for the 1939 World's Fair, then used as a World War II naval base. These days it's populated mainly by seagulls, boarded-up barracks, some art studios and old warehouses, but officials hope the museum triggers its transformation. A massive $6 billion redevelopment project includes apartments, hotels and a ferry terminal.

"It's a risk they would be taking, but it's a bet on the future," said Adam Van De Water, project manager for the museum at San Francisco City Hall. "We think his heart is here in the Bay Area."

Lucas has spent most of his life in the San Francisco area, and Lucasfilm was based in the city before he sold it in 2012 to Disney Co.

"Put yourself in his shoes. You could be on Treasure Island, where you're visible throughout downtown San Francisco," said Van De Water, pausing to take a swipe at Los Angeles. "Or you could be a museum in a park with other museums."

Los Angeles has offered Lucas a 7-acre spot in Exposition Park, a sprawling cultural compound that holds three other museums and the Coliseum, home to the LA Rams. It has its own light rail station on the Expo Line and is near the main campus of the University of Southern California, where Lucas went to film school.

"A museum should not be cloistered away from the people," LA Mayor Garcetti said. "We don't live life on islands."

Exposition Park also is near eight public high schools and could help expose young people to Lucas' collection, Garcetti says.

If Lucas has a favorite, Bacigalupi won't say.

But Bacigalupi calls Treasure Island "sort of magical." Not only does it offer stunning views, but the island would give the museum an iconic location on the water's edge, which he compares to the Sydney Opera House. And, he says, Lucas is deeply devoted to the Bay Area.

Los Angeles is exciting for different reasons, he said. Its proximity to schools and being part of a community of museums "is certainly attractive," he said. And, like San Francisco, Los Angeles is part of Lucas' history.

"These are two spectacular places. Two great cities," Bacigalupi says. "It's a tough decision. But for all the right reasons."

PARK

FROM PAGE 1

Final park plans include six more acres on a western parcel that once held a small office, some metal storage hangars and parking for Barker Hanger.

Current plans for the 20 acres include a garden and green space among fenced, synthetic-turf sports fields. The Council approved plans in September of 2016 to move Donald Douglas Loop to the south and west. There will be 60 new community garden plots in the middle of the park. There will be a total of three regulation-sized FIFA fields that can be used for lacrosse or up to three soccer matches on each field at a time. The existing playground and dog park will stay in place with an additional six pickle ball courts.

The council will consider usage rules at the park to prohibit drones, kites and model airplanes. The park will be open daily from sunrise to sunset. Dogs will be required to be on a leash.

After Tuesday's meeting, the rules will require a second reading. The City is also working on repairs to the former parking lot to make sure it's safe as well as accessible to the disabled.

The Council has passed a resolution to close the airport by July 1st, 2018, vowing to fight numerous legal disputes from airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration who want to keep the airport up and running. For example, Atlantic Aviation is alleging that denying long-term leases to tenants is in violation of federal mandates to run the airport. The FAA says the City is required to keep the airport open through at least 2023 because of federal grant money.

City Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 10 at City Hall, 1685 Main St.

kate@smdp.com

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **57.3°**

THURSDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Easing W windswell mix.

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Steep NW swell mix. Small/new SSW swell.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 315 calls for service on Jan. 3.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Audible burglar alarm 2200 block of Wilshire 3:02 a.m.
SCAR investigation 1100 block of 12th 4:55 a.m.
Trespassing 2400 block of 4th 5:03 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block of 2nd 5:10 a.m.
Assault with deadly weapon 1600 block of Santa Monica 6:03 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block of 2nd 6:24 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 1200 block of 6th 6:41 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 1400 block of 2nd 7:12 a.m.
Encampment 2000 block of Ocean 7:26 a.m.
Trespassing 1800 block of Lincoln 7:43 a.m.
Encampment 600 block of Arizona 7:46 a.m.
Stolen vehicle 1500 block of 5th 7:46 a.m.
Trespassing 1000 block of 12th 7:59 a.m.
Traffic collision 2000 block of 20th 8:10 a.m.
Traffic collision 9th/ Colorado 8:52 a.m.
Indecent exposure 2200 block of Santa Monica 9:46 a.m.
Auto burglary 2200 block of 5th 10:00 a.m.
Auto burglary 2300 block of Cloverfield 10:10 a.m.
Encampment 1800 block of Cloverfield 10:20 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 1100 block of 17th 10:28 a.m.
Burglary report 2200 block of 4th 10:35 a.m.
Trespassing 1500 block of 6th 11:21 a.m.
Drinking in public 2200 block of 6th 11:47 a.m.
Trespassing 600 block of Broadway 12:14 p.m.
Person down 16th/ Santa Monica 12:15 p.m.
Encampment 1800 block of 24th 12:40 p.m.
Encampment 700 block of Santa Monica 1:04 p.m.
Drunk driving investigation Main/ Ocean Park 1:05 p.m.
Auto burglary 700 block of Navy 1:09 p.m.
Auto burglary 3000 block of Paula Dr 1:49 p.m.
Traffic collision 11th/ Santa Monica 2:13 p.m.
Hit and run 7th/ Santa Monica 2:28 p.m.
Indecent exposure 1300 block of 4th 2:42 p.m.
Traffic collision 1400 block of Santa Monica 2:46 p.m.
Mark and tag abandoned vehicle 1500 block of Yale 3:12 p.m.
Trespassing 1800 block of 24th 3:25 p.m.
Loitering 1500 block of Lincoln 3:28 p.m.
Encampment 1500 block of Lincoln 3:35 p.m.
Fire 1600 block of Appian Way 3:46 p.m.
Traffic collision 20th/ Broadway 4:09 p.m.
Encampment 1400 block of Olympic 4:26 p.m.
Lewd activity 300 block of Olympic 4:26 p.m.
Hit and run 1600 block of Appian Way 4:43 p.m.
Mark and tag abandoned vehicle 2700 block of 11th 5:49 p.m.
Hit and run 7th/ Montana 6:42 p.m.
Encampment 1500 block of 9th 7:21 p.m.
Audible burglar alarm 300 block of 21st Pl 7:51 p.m.
Traffic collision 6th/ Pico 8:48 p.m.
Encampment 1300 block of PCH 9:22 p.m.
Audible burglar alarm 1500 block of 18th 11:37 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 45 calls for service on Jan.3.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

EMS 1000 block of 11th 1:15 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of 15th 2:46 a.m.
Flooded Condition 100 block of Colorado 3:22 a.m.
Automatic alarm 300 block of Olympic 3:51 a.m.
EMS 500 block of 16th 3:54 a.m.
EMS 1600 block of Santa Monica 6:04 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of 15th 7:52 a.m.
EMS 1800 block of Ocean 8:39 a.m.
EMS 900 block of 3rd 8:58 a.m.
EMS 1900 block of Santa Monica 9:10 a.m.
Public assist 1000 block of 3rd 10:02 a.m.
EMS 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 10:22 a.m.
EMS 1400 block of 17th 10:44 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1500 block of 14th 11:16 a.m.
Automatic alarm 1200 block of 15th 11:55 a.m.
EMS 900 block of 3rd 12:10 p.m.
EMS 16th/ Santa Monica 12:16 p.m.
EMS 800 block of 2nd 12:33 p.m.
EMS 400 block of 20th 2:35 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 17th/ Olympic 2:37 p.m.
EMS 300 block of Olympic 2:38 p.m.
EMS 1800 block of 18th 2:54 p.m.
EMS 900 block of 3rd 3:26 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of Wilshire 3:44 p.m.
Trash/ Dumpster Fire 1600 block of Appian Way 3:48 p.m.
EMS 2600 block of Wilshire 4:13 p.m.
EMS 20th/ Broadway 4:18 p.m.
EMS Euclid/ Wilshire 4:32 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of 11th 4:41 p.m.
EMS 300 block of Santa Monica Pier 4:42 p.m.
EMS 1400 block of Ocean 4:49 p.m.
Automatic alarm 800 block of Broadway 5:05 p.m.
EMS 1500 block of 5th 5:24 p.m.
Structure Fire 1700 block of Olympic 5:52 p.m.
Automatic alarm 1700 block of Olympic 5:57 p.m.
EMS 600 block of Ocean 7:10 p.m.
Assist LAFD 700 block of Kingman 7:21 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire Cloverfield/ Olympic 7:30 p.m.
EMS 6th/Pico 8:48 p.m.
Odor of Natural Gas 1900 block of 20th 8:58 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2200 block of Colorado 9:07 p.m.
EMS 3100 block of Wilshire 9:09 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of Georgina 9:41 p.m.
Public assist 1300 block of 6th 10:51 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 6th 11:33 p.m.





DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 12/31
1 3 28 57 67
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 80M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 1/3
14 16 23 49 53
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 117M

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 12/31
1 3 10 46 47
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 66M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/3
5 9 12 18 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/3
MIDDAY: 7 8 0
Draw Date: 1/3
EVENING: 3 8 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/3
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:47.13

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at **http://www.calottery.com**

WORD UP!

emolument

1. profit, salary, or fees from office or employment; compensation for services: Tips are an emolument in addition to wages.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Never Say Diet

■ The Major League Eating record for fruitcake is 4 pounds, 14.25 ounces in 10 minutes, held by Sonya Thomas, who set the record in 2003. She's probably still trying to digest it.

Observation

■ "Reality is the leading causes of stress among those in touch with it."

--COMEDIAN LILY TOMLIN

Medical History

■ This week in 1952, a dense smog descended on London, England. It would last four days and cause 4,000 deaths, mostly among the elderly, very young and those with medical problems. The cause was attributed to coal-burning plants, prompting the nation's Clear Air Act of 1956.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

W	I	L	D		A	S	K	E	D		L	I	M	A
A	M	I	E		R	E	E	L	S		O	D	E	S
G	A	S	P		M	A	Y	F	L	O	W	E	R	S
E	X	P	O		I	R	S			D	R	A	I	N
			S	P	E	C		O	B	O	I	S	T	
A	P	R	I	L	S	H	O	W	E	R	S			
R	O	U	T	E			P	I	E		K	A	L	E
E	L	I		A	C	T	R	E	S	S		C	I	A
A	O	N	E		A	A	A			U	S	H	E	R
			M	A	R	C	H	M	A	D	N	E	S	S
	A	M	I	D	S	T		A	L	S	O			
A	M	A	N	A			I	D	I		O	V	E	N
J	U	N	E	B	R	I	D	E	S		P	E	R	U
A	S	I	N		U	N	L	I	T		E	R	I	N
R	E	C	T		B	E	E	T	S		D	Y	E	S

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

	4				2		3	
3			1	6			7	
	1	9			3	5		2
		5		3		2		9
	3			2			5	
2		1		7		4		
4		3	6			7	9	
	8			4	9			1
	9		3				2	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

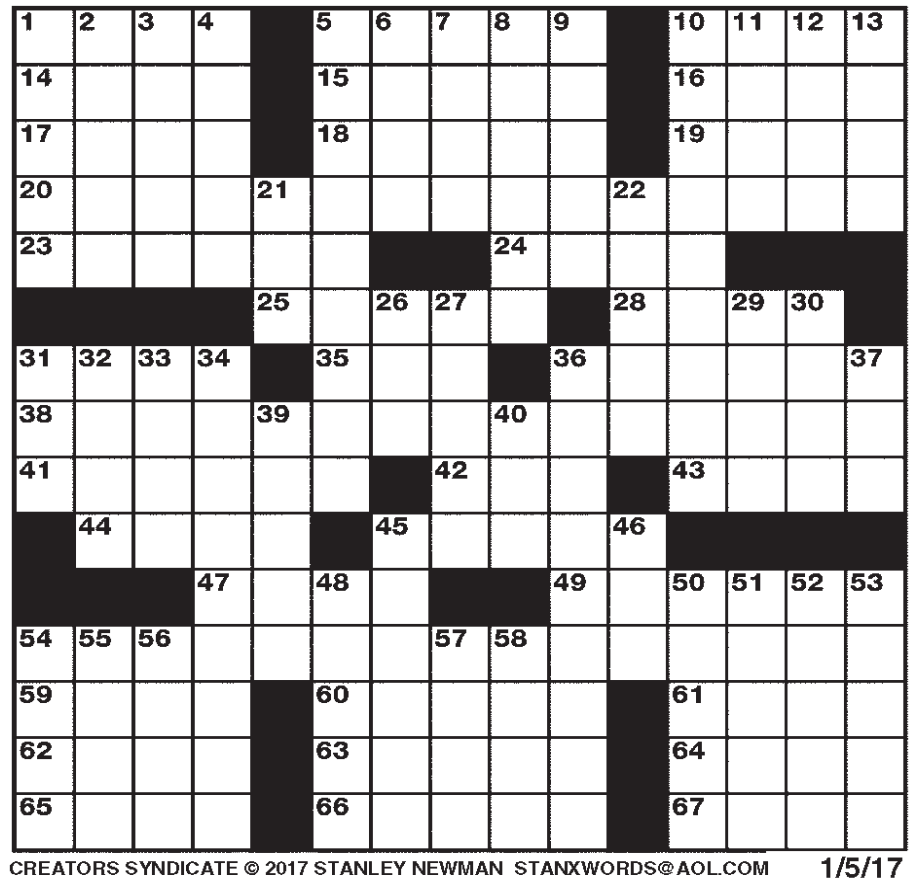
6	8	7	3	2	4	9	5	1
2	9	1	6	7	5	8	3	4
3	5	4	9	1	8	7	6	2
4	6	2	5	8	7	1	9	3
7	3	9	1	4	6	2	8	5
5	1	8	2	9	3	4	7	6
9	2	3	7	6	1	5	4	8
8	7	6	4	5	2	3	1	9
1	4	5	8	3	9	6	2	7

Newsday Crossword

TIME FOR A CHANGE by Carolyn Stewart
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Pay (up)
5 Decides not to strike out
10 "Well done!"
14 MGM movie sound effect
15 English Channel isle
16 Decide to reverse
17 2016 GOP convention locale
18 Fury
19 Symbolic image
20 Behave
23 Go to
24 Summer Olympics event
25 Faint of heart
28 Rooftop ornament
31 Bloke
35 Ludwig __ Beethoven
36 Get out of town
38 College catalog listings
41 Term of endearment
42 Elongated fish
43 Gunk
44 Red Muppet
45 Slither
47 About 2.5 centimeters
49 Browns, as bagels
54 Overdo it
59 Library patron
60 Inflict
61 Rental car of a sort
62 DNA element
63 Wipe clean
64 Fully uniform
65 Collector's items
66 Snow White's beardless pal
67 Chill out

DOWN
1 Scent
2 Superbly pitched
3 Opposite of "purify"
4 Chip away at
5 Graceful pool entries
6 Pitchfork projection
7 Bakery supply
8 With a topic
9 Backpack part
10 Product tester
11 A single time
12 Scent
13 Puts on
21 Neighbor of Minn.
22 Not a single time
26 Chinese chairman
27 Deduce
29 iPod model
30 As a result
31 Medicinal amts.
32 NHL's "Mr. Hockey"
33 *The Clan of the Cave Bear* author
34 Opening nights
36 Tool for striking out
37 Medicinal amt.
39 Inflexible
40 Price of admission
45 Mexican pastry
46 Vote seeker
48 Intimidated
50 In back of
51 White Italian wine
52 Wedding ushers' attire
53 Tour in the service
54 Harbor fleet
55 "It's obvious now"
56 Office expense
57 Lop crop
58 Convenience for RSVPing



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/5/17

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 5)

Given the choice between being somebody and doing something, you'll choose the latter. Accolades are nice, but they feel hollow in comparison to the high you get from mastering the task, killing the mission, being in flow. You'll deepen your commitment to your life's work and loves for your most successful year yet. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 20, 5, 14 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Some experience commitment as the loss of options, and certainly that's part of it. But sacrificing an endless array of options for something narrow and concentrated, oddly, will only make your life and options larger.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Walking, running, flying -- it's essentially the same principle. To move forward requires strength, balance and constant adjustment. Be honest, feel where the weakness is, and adjust to correct yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
What's important is sometimes quite dull. You already know every cobble of the road you're on today, but there is a magnificent reason for traversing it over and over. In a way, this is heroism.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Don't hesitate, vacillate, agonize or dwell. Make quick work of it and get on with something decadent, like treating yourself to something sweet or delightful or intoxicating. Bonus points for doing it without guilt!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
You're fanciful and imaginative. You can paint a vivid picture for others with your words and the way you say them. Use this to your advantage. The right subject matter is key.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Alas, childhood's limitless possibility must come to an end at some point. And yet today, a youthful opportunity you thought was closed to you forever will open up once more.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
You're not trying to juggle three or four different balls in the air at once. That's for amateurs! You've 10 to 20 that need to stay afloat. If a few drop, don't even give it a second thought. Just keep moving.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You'll be a kind of champion today, although a quiet one. The fact that you don't want to be noticed and lauded for your efforts makes them all the more valiant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
There are times you want to be your most attractive self, but not always. Invisibility has its benefits. You need time to yourself. Play it low-key and you'll slip happily under the radar for a spell of much-needed solitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
The insecure and impressionable people around you need someone to mentor and protect them. You're the natural fit. With what you know and who you are, you will teach and inspire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Your joy won't be found in the world of glamour and thrills today. The less conventionally exciting a labor appears to be, the greater its potential as an arena for doing meaningful, fulfilling work in the world.

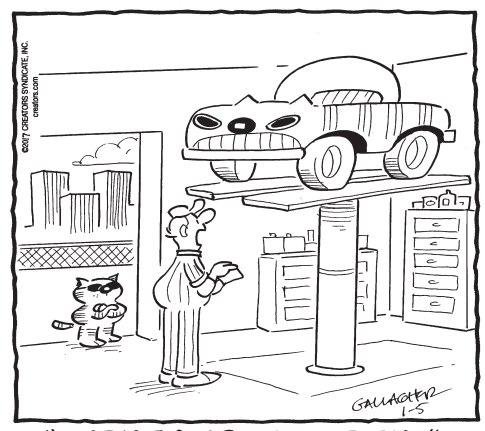
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You're ready to speak, but are they ready to listen? Prime them for it first: Grab their attention; then give them a moment to settle into the reality that you're about to say something important. Finally, deliver from the heart. Score!

Venus Musings

This Venus journey in the sign of empathy starts out by reminding us that life isn't fair. Some struggle to put food on the table; others struggle with deciding how to spend their millions. You can bet that when you breathe, relax and try for an attitude that's 10 percent more empowering, you'll contribute significantly to reducing the struggles of the world.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
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Heathcliff
By PETER GALLAGHER

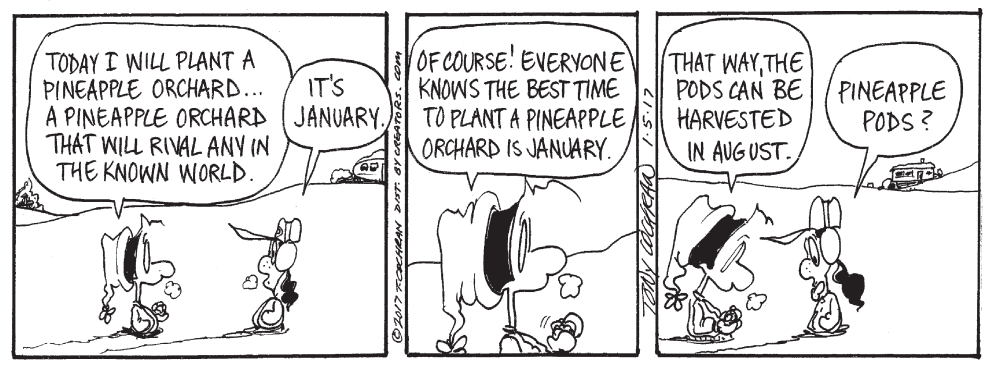


"JUST AS I SUSPECTED – FLEAS."

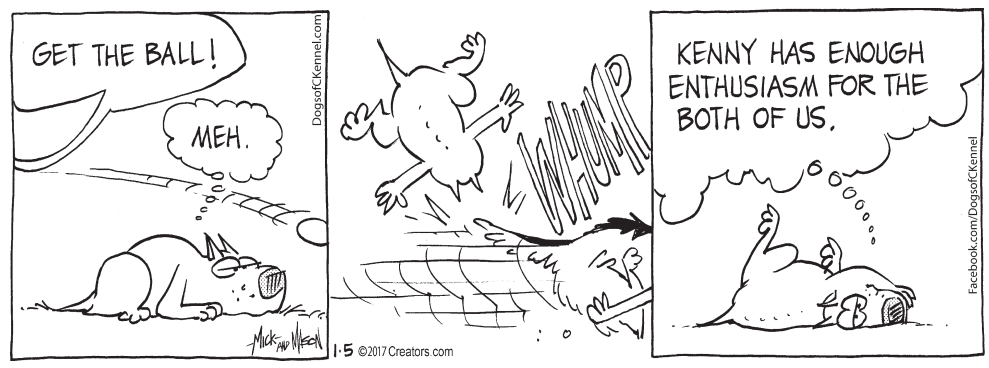
Strange Brew
By JOHN DEERING



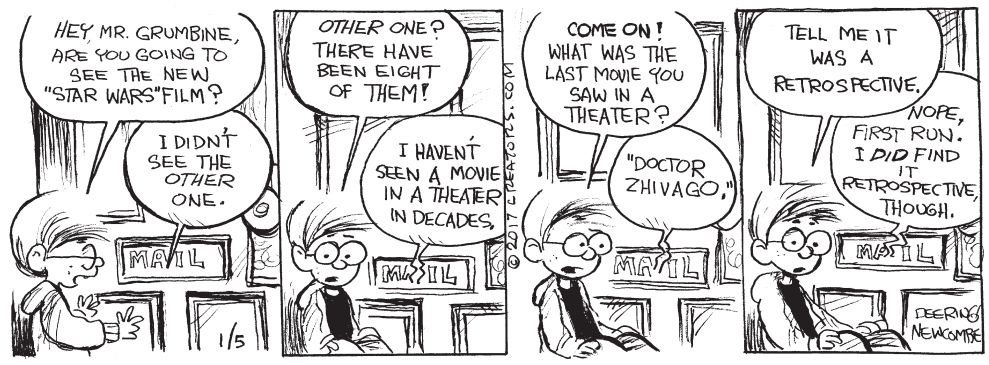
Agnes
By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel
By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill
By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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