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01.06.17
Volume 16 Issue 47

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WET COMMUTE

Matthew Hall

A light but persistent rain complicated the morning commute throughout the area yesterday. Additional rain is forecast for this weekend and later next week.

City expected to ban bunnies and spiders from performing on The Pier

BY KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

The magic rabbit that appeared in Palisades Park as part of a disappearing act over the summer may soon vanish for good. On Tuesday, the City Council will consider adding rabbits, rats and spiders to the long list of animals banned from performing at popular tourist areas in the city.

The exotic animal ban includes areas at the Beach, Ocean Front Walk, the Pier, the Third Street Promenade and Transit Mall.

Like many tourist destinations around the world, Palisades Park was known for showmen offering photos with exotic animals and birds for money up until 2015. After a flood of complaints from the public and police, the City banned the practice, citing instances where the animals caused a commotion and complaints of inhumane treatment.

In an effort to keep the ordi-

SEE **BAN** PAGE 7

Light rail riders plan to forget their pants Sunday

BY KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Mark your calendar: The 9th Annual "No Pants Metro Ride" will run through Santa Monica this Sunday afternoon.

The large party of pants-less participants will meet up at 1 p.m. at Union Station to buy TAP cards and pack-up their slacks before hopping a Red Line train to downtown and then transfer to the Expo Line. The ride will go one regardless of chilly or rainy weather, although right now participants are in for a pleasant, if not breezy, forecast with highs in the 70s.

Once they make their way through 17 stops, the pants-less riders are expected to start arriving in waves at the Downtown Santa Monica station at 2:25 p.m. and then head to Tongva Park.

"The only reason is to put a smile on someone's face,"

SEE **PANTS** PAGE 5

Indulge in sweets to help Childhood Cancer

MARINA ANDALON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Cakes, pastries, and chocolate!

A Santa Monica chef will be participating in an annual fundraiser to help fund research into childhood cancer.

Jeffrey de Leon, Group Pastry Chef at Santa Monica Farmshop will be attending The LA Chocolate Festival and Pastry Show on Jan. 8. Otherwise known, as Indulge LA, the event will host celebrity chefs from all over the country bringing in new ways and different techniques to accomplish a heavenly tasted treat.

De Leon oversees all things pastry for the Santa Monica location as well as businesses at the commissary bakery in Culver City.

He has been in the restaurant industry for 18 years and shows nothing but passion and enthusiasm for Farmshop. De Leon specializes in Viennoiserie, laminated enriched dough, croissants,

SEE **CANCER** PAGE 7


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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 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.

Student equity talk

The Committee For Racial Justice will host Dr. Sylvia Rousseau who has been interim co-superintendent of SMMUSD for the 2016 fall semester. She has put forth an action plan to take specific steps toward the school district's goal of equity for all students through excellence. Come and find out how you can help bring about the proposed "next steps" in moving the school district toward achievement for all students. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., 6 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (310) 422-5431.

Jazz Vespers

Interfaith Jazz Vespers, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 14th & Ocean Park, 5 p.m. - The Leah Zeger Trio - $10 suggested donation, free parking, everyone welcome. More at http://www.mtolivelutheranchurch.org/community-fellowship/interfaith-jazz and www.leahzeger.com .

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

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



Margarita Friday IT'S HAPPY HOUR.

Margarita Rozenbaoum
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Please Stop Saying, "New Year, New Me!"

HAPPY JANUARY! NEW YEAR, NEW YOU! Just kidding. I hate that slogan. It's brimming with all the promise in the world, and yet somehow our New Year's resolutions have an average life expectancy roughly equivalent to that of a housefly. We ramp up, set our goals in place, pay the necessary Cardio Barre membership fees, live to our fullest potential for three days, and then wake up on January 25th with only a distant memory of fireworks and ourselves screaming "New Year, New Me!" from a balcony at someone's house party in the Valley.

It's the "Year" part that gets us, I think. We've all bought into the marketing that we have this one yearly shot to transform something in our lives. And if we fail... well, we just have to ride out the failure through December until our "New Year, New Me" portal opens up again next January first.

And we really are set up to fail, because "New Year, New Me" sounds like all we have to do is make a strong one-time resolution at the beginning of the year and simply follow through on it. But duh— following through is the hard part. No matter how much gusto we say it with, "New Year, New Me" never gets us very far.

The thing is, you're actually hardwired to reject new behavior. Your brain is already comfortably layered with learned behaviors. So when you come up with a resolution—a new way of being— that is radically distinct from your old way of being, it's pretty difficult to explain to your brain that you'd like this new awesome version of you to be the default instead of the old version. As far as your brain is concerned, the old stuff works. It may not be perfect, but you've survived this long, haven't you? But this new thing you're trying to introduce... it's unfamiliar, it could very well kill you, and there's no room for it here anyway.

They say it takes anywhere from forty to two hundred and forty days to integrate a new habit into your brain. Well, there you go. That's at least forty days of wrestling with the stubborn curmudgeon that is your brain, and all you've got is a marketing gimmick in your corner. It's not surprising that you quickly start losing rounds, tapping out of the fight altogether before you brain has even broken a sweat.

I'd like to go ahead and eliminate all slogans, but if you insist on having one, we're going to have to adjust it to compensate for the reality of the neurological disadvantage we have. Our slogan is now "New Day, New Me." Relating to the "New Year" as some unique opportunity or January as the catchall resolution month sets us up to lose. We have to adjust our relationship to our calendars by remembering that the calendar year is conceptual anyway. So we sit down and resolve ourselves to create something new not on January 1, but today.

When we fail, we understand that it's just one of many rounds in a match that could last months against the heavy-weight champion who lives in our heads and puts in the daily work to hang onto the familiar.

So we sit back down to re-create ourselves again tomorrow. And then we do it again the day after. And so on, past January, through March, into June, until we look up and realize there's a New Me where the old one used to be.

Cheers

MARGARITA is an actress and published writer. In her spare time, she likes to watch Doctor Who reruns and correct people on the spelling of her name.

LISTINGS
FROM PAGE 2

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.

Monday, January 9

Bullet Journaling
Start off 2017 with a bang! Bring organization and creativity into your life with bullet journaling. We'll guide you in the process, you'll customize your journal into whatever works best for you. Materials provided, limited quantities available. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 – 5 p.m.

Main Library Book Group
Book group discusses an alternating selection of classic and contemporary fiction and nonfiction. January 2017 selection: Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Pajama Story Time
Grab your favorite stuffed animal and wear your pajamas for this evening story time for the whole family. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 6:30 – 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

$1.5 Billion in new money for metro purple line extension to century city

A federal grant and loan totaling nearly $1.5 billion to help build the second phase of the Metro Purple Line Extension to downtown Beverly Hills and Century City has been announced by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Metro received a construction grant agreement for $1.187 billion through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant program and a $307-million loan through the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIFIA program to total $1.494 billion. The project will also receive $169 million in federal funding through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program.

Coupled with Metro's $747 million local match made possible by 2008's Measure R sales tax, $2.4 billion is now secured to continue construction of one of L.A. County's most critically needed public transit projects – a subway primarily under Wilshire Boulevard that will finally connect downtown Los Angeles and Westwood with service to the Miracle Mile, Beverly Hills and Century City.

Metro is now in the process of selecting a contractor to build the subway extension's second section. The agency plans to recommend a contractor to the Metro Board later this month.

"Metro greatly appreciates the funding provided by our transportation partners in Washington D.C.," said John Fasana, Metro Board Chair and Duarte City Council Member. "By smartly matching federal dollars with Metro's local sales tax proceeds, we will be able to deliver fast, frequent and high-capacity subway service as promised to L.A. County residents on an accelerated timeline."

Metro is already building the first section of subway between the current subway terminus at Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/La Cienega with three new stations. The second section will add another 2.6 miles to the project and build two new stations at Wilshire/Rodeo in downtown Beverly Hills and Century City.

Pre-construction activities for the second section are already underway. Major construction is planned to begin in 2018. Completion of the second subway section is anticipated no later than 2026 per the FTA Full Funding Grant Agreement and Metro is aiming to possibly finish the project at an earlier date. A third and final section will extend the subway to the Westwood/VA Hospital. Construction on this last section is planned to begin as early as 2019.

"Angelenos and people across L.A. County have shown their commitment to creating a better-connected transportation system — and this investment echoes that commitment to giving people faster, more convenient connections to their jobs, to healthy recreation and fun attractions, and to the people they love," said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who serves as Metro First Vice Chair. "We are moving quickly to create the world-class transit system our people deserve, and these federal funds for the Purple Line extension will accelerate progress along the region's busiest transit corridor."

Construction of the Purple Line Extension Section 2 will support over 20,500 jobs in Southern California during its construction, according to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

"Securing funds for this $2.4-billion project was a truly collaborative effort, bringing together stakeholders at the local, state and federal levels," said Sheila Kuehl, L.A. County Supervisor and Metro Board Member. "I can't wait for the day when the Purple Line will begin to serve Wilshire Boulevard, one of the busiest and most congested corridors in Los Angeles County."

The Purple Line Extension to the Westwood/VA Hospital station will garner about 49,300 daily weekday boardings at the seven new stations. There will be about 78,000 new daily trips on the full Metro Rail System as a result of opening this line.

A total of $3.1 billion in federal New Starts funding has now been secured for recent high priority Metro transportation projects.

"I'd like to personally thank the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration for working hard to ensure this funding agreement moved forward in a deliberate and effective manner," said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington. "This and previous federal project funding represents years of hard work, and is the keystone to Metro's countywide program to transform transportation in our region."

Trains are expected to run every four minutes during peak hours on the Purple Line Extension and every 10 minutes during off-peak times. The Metro Board last month approved a contract for new subway vehicles to help support the line and the agency is also working on a project that will allow subway trains to turn around more quickly at Union Station, thereby increasing capacity on the line.

Over 300,000 people travel into the Westside every morning for work from throughout the region. More than 100,000 trips also leave the area for outside destinations. The Purple Line extension will offer improved connectivity to the entire Metro Bus and Rail network, as well as transfers to municipal bus lines and other regional transportation services.

– SUBMITTED BY DAVE SOTERO/JONI GOHEEN, METRO MEDIA RELATIONS

Downtown

Santa Monica History Museum offers free admission day

The Santa Monica History Museum will offer free admission on Thursday, Jan. 12, from noon to 8 p.m. at the Santa Monica History Museum at 1350 7th Street. All are invited to visit on this day to take advantage of free admission to the museum's six galleries.

In addition to the permanent exhibition detailing the founding and growth of the City of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica History Museum is currently offering a special exhibit on the history of the Old Soldiers' Home – now known as the Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Medical Center. The exhibit, The Old Soldiers' Home: A Veterans' Community by the Sea, details the history of the Old Soldiers' Home, the ways in which it has changed over the years, and the veterans and nearby residents who helped build this community. Photographs, documents, military uniforms, and other historical artifacts will bring the history of the Veterans Affairs facility to life. Objects for this exhibit come from the museum's collections as well as from the private collection of the Bandini family. The Old Soldiers' Home exhibit will only be on display through Wednesday, Jan. 18.

Free admission includes both the museum's permanent and temporary exhibits. With free admission, all are welcome to visit, bring family and friends, and enjoy a day of appreciating our local history and culture.

For more information visit www.santamonicahistory.org.

– SUBMITTED BY KATHRYN EVANS, DEVELOPMENT & MUSEUM MANAGER

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Caution When Meeting Your Heroes

IF YOU MISSED MY COLUMN LAST Friday it's because it ran on Tuesday. Grr.

(To see it click here: http://smdp.com/and-a-child-shall-inspire-us/159154) Actually, in my ten years at SMDP there have been remarkably few such mix-ups.

One sticks out, however, because it was called to my attention by someone whose comedic talent I admire thoroughly. And worse, he was rude about it. But I think I'm finally over it now. (I'm being facetious but what follows is 100% true.)

At two in the morning. I was on the phone with a writing partner. (Mama don't let your babies grow up to be writers.) Suddenly, I got a Facebook message from comedian and voice over actor, Phil Hendrie, who is a genius or crazy, or drunk, or a combination of the three.

I first noticed Phil twenty years ago on KFI radio, 640 A.M. I remember because it was just after Princess Di's tragic death. Phil had a call-in radio talk-show but not exactly a run-of-mill version. It was a very clever spoof.

Extremely dark humor, Phil's guest was a matronly British expert on child rearing. Given Lady Di's passing, she was quite worried the two boys would grow up gay. (Because their father was prone to wearing kilts.)

While I was merely dumbfounded, Phil's callers were irate. They were real but the matronly guest, I would later discover, was Phil! He was hilarious as he both egged on the callers and feigned chastising the "guest," which was him!

That very weekend the L.A. Times Calendar section ran a piece on Phil. I learned he'd been doing this type of spoof for decades, often sustaining conversations between five of his characters at once. You'd swear there had to be a group of people but it was just Phil's genius. (Or madness?)

For friends whom I thought had the right sense of humor, I recommended Phil. As he moved to different stations I would follow him. So, when I started doing these columns in 2006, I thought I'd interview Phil. I sent him an email but I never heard back. That is, until that night with the following Facebook message.

"Hi Jack,wondering if I could read your latest column," Phil wrote. Excited, I exclaimed to my writing partner, "You're not going to believe who just messaged me!" I hung up and sent Phil a link to my most recent column. And here's where the "mix-up" came into play, much to my chagrin.

A few minutes later, Phil messaged, "Very funny stuff." I was thrilled! But then he asked, "Who's Daniel Archuletta? It says HE wrote the column, not you?" Daniel was our Managing Editor who proofed columns and in so doing transferred it to his name before posting it online under the author's name. This one time, he forgot. My luck.

Phil, who made his living fooling listeners, accused me of trying to fool him. I desperately explained what I thought had happened. I even sent him a link to ALL my columns and asked him to see for himself. I added that if I was going to fake being a newspaper columnist wouldn't I pick a slightly larger paper than the Daily Press? The NY Times for example?

But Phil insisted I was con artist and threatened to "expose" me on his show. Dejected, I messaged back, "Just spell my name right."

I should have just dropped it there but I couldn't. It wasn't fair. (I sound about ten right now.) So I decided to post my columns every week on Phil's Facebook Page hoping that he'd see it had really been me.

Months later Phil messaged me again. "Do I have to contact the FBI?" Oh brother. I stopped posting. I also stopped listening to Phil.

About two years later, out of nowhere, I get another FB message from Phil complimenting me on one of my serious columns and how moving it was. I messaged back "Thank you," and didn't bother to explain I was the guy he thought was a fraud way back when.

Phil's podcasts now and many of his bits are on YouTube, which makes them even more brilliant. You get to see Phil at the microphone and with phones on his desk, and just how, remarkably, he juggles the conversation of callers, phone-in guests and regular characters (male and female) on his show, ALL of whom sound different and all of whom are Phil! It's amazing.

Phil also does stand-up and appears on TV shows. In "This is Forty," a hysterical Judd Apatow movie, starring Paul Rudd as an obscure record label owner turning 40. Phil had a small part as a rude guy who punches Rudd. I guess my Facebook "meeting" with Phil could have been worse. At least he didn't threaten to punch me.

Go to YouTube and type "Phil Hendrie," you have to see him at work. His website is: www.PhilHendrieshow.com. **JACK** is at jns-mdp@aol.com.



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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 10,000 on weekdays and 11,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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WINNER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Resources for residents

Editor:

As a 30-resident of Ocean Park in Santa Monica, I was shocked and saddened by the sudden closure of the Santa Monica YWCA last year. I have worked in the city and raised my daughter here, who grew up playing community basketball games at the YWCA. I appreciate the economic challenges and hardships that non-profit agencies face, but it is always sad when a community agency has to close as has the Santa Monica YWCA.

I support slow growth in our city, and wholeheartedly agree with fellow resident Sandee Terzis's recent "Letter to the Editor" regarding the ever-expanding "footprint" of the College. As the YWCA property is adjacent to the College, it is likely that they, especially now with their bond measure that has passed, would be the top bidder to purchase the property. As tax-paying residents, we are already paying so much more than other non-Santa Monica homeowners to support the College. Do we really need SMC to build more and more?

What we do need is more resources for actual community residents, not for the student population that comes and goes. I have watched the non-profit WISE & Healthy Aging grow into a program which serves the community in a myriad of beneficial ways. It would be a perfect match to have WISE & Healthy Aging be able to provide community services at the YWCA site. I think it's a fantastic idea to have an intergenerational day care program as a way to honor the YWCA's legacy. The accessibility of the YWCA site makes sense for families needing care for their elderly and affordable child care.

This, as Ms. Terzis noted, truly "outweighs" College expansion. I am hopeful that the YWCA board will take heart and do the right thing.

Diane Kuntz
Santa Monica

PANTS

FROM PAGE 1

explained organizer Leo Gonzalez. "To make their day just a little different – for participants and observers."

There are no rules to participate, but if anyone asks you why you're not wearing pants you are encourage to say "I forgot them" and act as if nothing is out of the ordinary. Although, Gonzalez says sometimes other riders can get flustered when no one will explain why hundreds of people forgot their pants.

"Only once was someone frustrated with me," Gonzalez said, "but that's because I wasn't giving a straight answer for why I wasn't wearing pants one of the years I wore a priest's collar."

The annual event started with just seven guys in New York City more than ten years ago, according to the comedy group Improv Everywhere. No matter how cold, every January the riders forget their pants, although they may don winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves. Thousands of people participate on the New York metro system. The event came to Los Angeles in 2009, and Gonzalez has been organizing it since 2010.

Last year, more than 300 people participated in the Los Angeles ride and so far about 400 have expressed an interest in doing it this year on Facebook.

Metro spokeswoman Joni Goheen says they are aware of the event and says participants should follow a few rules to avoid getting into trouble with security.

"People can't have any private parts showing and then can't be nude and they have to Tap," Goheen said.

The event's website also warns participants: "the type of underwear you want to wear will be left to your discretion, but we ask you to exercise a little common sense. The amount of skin you want to expose is your choice, but know that any citation for indecent exposure is a risk you take on your own."

Visit http://gueril-la.com/dossier-no-pants-metro-ride-2017 for more information.

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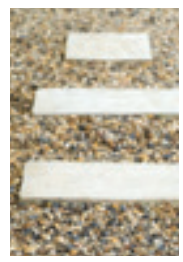












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Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

Eddie DeAngelini

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

"I Choose to See the Beauty": King & Walta's The Vision, The Finest Comic of 2016

"For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be;"

- Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "Locksley Hall"

IN A YEAR THAT CELEBRATED THE imminent Singularity underlying the first season of HBO's smash hit Westworld, Tom King, Gabriel Hernandez Walta and their cohorts at Marvel Comics took a somewhat quieter path. While the Gnostic parable of the Michael Crichton-based robot cowboy morality play unfolded, King and Walta also told a story about the interaction between artificial intelligence and human beings, and how such a relationship is bound to result, like clockwork, the way you expect any human interaction with "the other" to end.

Tonally more Primer-meets-Watchmen than a superhero Westworld, King and Walta's The Vision, a quiet, twelve-issue allegory, was the ultimate suburban horror story. The Vision, a superhero and Avenger made a household name after his cinematic debut in Avengers: Age of Ultron (2014) and his strong second showing in Captain America: Civil War (2015), was something of a curiosity among members of the team. You see, like Lt. Commander Data or Caprica Six or even Maeve Millay, The Vision, despite being an artificial lifeform, was always the most human of the Avengers. But, like Data and Maeve, Vision never really had his own life outside of the job. Sure, he was married to the Scarlet Witch for a time, and their union ran into the ground fairly quickly, plagued as it was by Magneto, a pregnancy caused by dark magicks, jealousy and, of course, bigotry. So what if he branched out on his own? What if the Vision, the inarguable heart of the Avengers, went out into the world, on his own, and, to paraphrase Nikos Kazantzakis, "live like a man"? What if that man had to work a job? What if that man wanted to live like other people, and have his own family? What if that family's own hopes, dreams and desires – even desires as simple as survival – became a twisted, horrific whirlwind that threatened to destroy not just the family itself, or even the simple suburb in which they lived – but the world itself?

King and Walta ask these questions right off the bat. And their answers, while honest, are far from comfortable. And they result, of course, in the finest comic of 2016.

As the superhero community's liaison to the White House, The Vision and his family – his wife, Virginia, and their twins, Viv and Vin, who call to mind his earlier attempts at parenting with the Scarlet Witch – live in a suburb of Washington, DC. Every day, whether it's in Washington or a planet in a far-off part of the galaxy, The Vision goes off to work, where every day is a chance for him to save the world yet again. Viv and Vin go to school, where they are met with bigotry, scorn and fear. And Virginia, one day while alone at home, is set upon by the murderous Grim Reaper, an old foe of the Avengers' with intimate ties to Vision and Wonder Man, whom she kills in self-defense, burying him in the family's yard.

And so the family, and the story, begins to unfold.

King's clever, heartbreaking writing uses a twelve issue structure similar to the Alan Moore/Dave Gibbons classic Watchmen, calling upon meta allusions to that series, as well as driving home his points and themes with quoting Shakespeare (most notably Romeo & Juliet and The Merchant of Venice) and calling to mind the original 1970s version of Omega the Unknown in a later issue. Narrated entirely as a series of past events, King isn't afraid to spoil his own story; in fact, often doing so makes the series more effective, more heartbreaking, even scarier. It's a rare and gifted author who can achieve such a feat, and King, a former CIA analyst who once served in Iraq, makes it look effortless. Every single Chekhov's Gun the reader notices over the mantle in the debut issue has been taken down and fired by the last issue's final panel.

Walta's art has a sort of unique photographic quality to it; it's not so much photorealistic, but it has the type of quality you would get if, perhaps, you could take a snapshot of your more realistic dreams. Walta's art, then, combines brilliantly with King's tense, funereal story, giving us the perfect image of a nightmare in progress that none of us are capable of stopping. If King's writing forces you to fall in love with the Visions, Walta's sly, subtle depictions of their genuine emotions makes their tragedies all the more painful.

In a year fraught with terrors and scares that seemed to emerge from an outlandish horror movie – a year where a misogynistic failed wine salesman was elected President after running a platform of ignorance and hatred, a year where heroes ranging from David Bowie and Prince to Carrie Fisher and John Glenn were taken by time or illness left and right, a year where cities like Aleppo caught fire and never seemed to stop – it seems odd to turn to what is inarguable one of comics' greatest-ever horror stories for an escape. And yet, like Ingmar Bergman's classic Persona or David Lynch's melodic Mulholland Drive, The Vision serves a unique purpose: it reflects the terrors and pains of the real world, and tries to give us a guide for what to do next, and how to help those around us who we love more than anything.

But, like those stories, and like the ongoing and unfolding tragedies in places like Aleppo and beyond, The Vision shows us that, for good or ill, that the desperate, the angry, the scared and the hurt will almost always do whatever they think is right to survive – even when that move is objectively the wrong one to make.

And sometimes, that's the most terrifying thing one can think of. Especially on an average street in a small, suburban town, where, as Rod Serling once warned, there are monsters due.

Vision Volume 1: Little Worse Than a Man and Vision Vol. 2: Little Better Than a Beast, a paperback duology containing the whole series, are now available for purchase.

To learn more about all things comic books, visit Hi De Ho Comics, 1431 Lincoln Blvd., in Santa Monica.

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BAN

FROM PAGE 1

nance narrowly focused, the Council banned snakes, reptiles, non-human primates and birds, but it seems animals outside the list have ben popping up near the Pier.

Most recently, a man showing off his collection of tarantulas has frightened some tourists. Over the summer, people worried about the welfare of the white rabbit that performed all day in the heat, according to the City's principal administrative analyst Melissa Spagnuolo.

"It can get hot and the crowds can get large and it's not the best environment for wild animals," Spagnuolo said, who works in the Community and Cultural Services Department and helped draft the expanded ordinance.

Over the past two years, City Leaders have acted to move away from animal related acts, prohibiting exotic and wild animals from tourist areas and ending pony rides at the farmer's markets.

"This ordinance would protect people in our parks from spiders, scorpions and rats, but also would protect small, vulnerable animals like bunny rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs from being exploited for 'showmanship' or being put at risk of getting loose in public spaces where their safety might be in jeopardy," said Councilman Kevin McKeown who signaled his support for expanding the ordinance.

Although there are public safety concerns over whether the animals have vaccinations or could attack a tourist, Spagnuolo says most of the complaints received by the City concern the well being of the animals themselves.

"We knew that at some point, we would most likely need to expand the list," Spagnuolo said, adding that the list could be expanded again if the City notices new animals popping up near The Pier or Promenade.

If the ordinance passes Tuesday, it will appear on the agenda again before the end of January for a second reading and then go into effect long before the next tourist season starts.

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

kate@smdp.com

CANCER

FROM PAGE 1

Danishes and much more.

Farmshop, located on 26th St. is an artisanal market, restaurant, and bakery focusing on working with local growers and producers in order to bring nothing but the best to the table. The bakery offers house made muffins and cookies while the market features fresh produce, locally sourced food, and much more.

"Whether it's through the farmers, cheese makers, butchers, or bakers we try to source the best of what these craftsmen have to offer and like to showcase their efforts in our bakery," said de Leon.

De Leon is looking forward to attending the event, and showcasing his talents. Guest attending will not only enjoy delicious treats from various chefs but their attendance will help raise funds for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

St. Baldrick's is the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants. The Foundation is best known for its signature head-shaving events, where volunteers go bald to raise money for childhood cancer research.

Since 2005, St. Baldrick's has awarded more than $200 million to support lifesaving research.

"It is very important to us (chefs) to be able to contribute to our neighbors and to be a part of our community," said de Leon. "Contributing to this cause and being part of this event is another step for us in this effort."

St. Baldrick's funds are granted to multiple childhood cancer research experts in the world.

"Of every dollar raised, 74% funds research to find a cure, 22% goes to fundraising (website, phones, printing, t-shirts, office space, staff, etc.) and 4% goes to administration," said Elizabeth Ridenour, Director of Individual Giving and Donor Stewardship. "The St. Baldrick's Foundation strives to put the most funding possible into the hands of researchers who can cure childhood cancer."

The LA Chocolate Festival and Pastry Show will take place from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Omni Los Angeles Hotel at California Plaza, 251 S. Olive St., Los Angeles. Tickets range from $45 - $95.

For more information visit http://www.indulgela.net/index.html.

marina@smdp.com



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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **57.4°**

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Shorter period W swell slowly builds in. Small/new SSW swell.

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Small WNW/NW and SSW swell mix. Possible rise in West swell for more size later in the day - Stay tuned.



CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON DEC. 28, 2016 AT ABOUT 12:15 P.M.

Officer responded to a radio call for service at the 1300 3rd Street Promenade regarding a theft that occurred at Bellagio Shoes – 120 Broadway. The suspect was followed by the store manager and pointed out to the officers. Officers detained the suspect who had a baby stroller with an infant for an investigation. Officers determined the suspect concealed merchandise in the stroller and exited the store without paying for anything. The store manager confronted the suspect outside the store. The suspect denied stealing merchandise. The manager was able to retrieve the merchandise and told the suspect she could no longer enter the store. The suspect walked away eastbound on Broadway. As the manager was back into the store, the suspect approached from behind and struck the manager multiple times with a closed fist. The suspect left the child in the stroller while she assaulted the manager. The suspect was taken into custody. Additional stolen items from other retail establishments were located. The suspect was a nanny for the child and the child was returned to the custody of the parents. Mailiane Marie-Pierre Agnimel, 23, was arrested for receiving stolen property, shoplifting and child endangerment. Bail was set at $100,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 310 calls for service on Jan. 4.

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

72 Hour Psychiatric hold 1500 block of PCH 12:01 a.m.
Fight 1500 block of 2nd 12:12 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 2200 block of Main 12:20 a.m.
Critical missing person 900 block of 3rd 12:22 a.m.
Auto burglary 1400 block of 4th 12:56 a.m.
Burglary 1400 block of 4th 1:41 a.m.
Trespassing 2200 block of Main 2:04 a.m.
Hazard materials 400 block of Wilshire 2:12 a.m.
Burglary 400 block of Broadway 2:29 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric hold 1900 block of 10th 4:12 a.m.
Grand theft auto 1300 block of 23rd 4:13 a.m.
Traffic collision Ocean/ Broadway 4:47 a.m.
Encampment 1900 block of Lincoln 6:20 a.m.
Auto burglary 2600 block of 31st 6:36 a.m.
Trespassing 1400 block of 2nd 6:37 a.m.
Hit and run 4th/ Olympic 6:59 a.m.
Auto burglary 2200 block of 29th 7:21 a.m.
Encampment 400 block of Santa Monica Pier 7:30 a.m.
Fight Ocean/ Wilshire 7:34 a.m.
Trespassing 1200 block of 4th 7:45 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 200 block of Santa Monica 7:47 a.m.
Auto burglary 2900 block of Pearl 8:05 a.m.
Auto burglary 2400 block of 30th 8:06 a.m.
Burglary 800 block of Broadway 8:09 a.m.
Trespassing 800 block of Santa Monica 8:11 a.m.
Public intoxication 6th/ Wilshire 8:25 a.m.
Auto burglary 1000 block of Ocean Park 8:34 a.m.
Auto burglary 2400 block of 30th 8:34 a.m.
Elder abuse 3000 block of Delaware 8:39 a.m.
Elder abuse 1500 block of Centinela 8:40 a.m.
Audible burglar alarm 1300 block of Franklin 9:02 a.m.
Trespassing 2200 block of Santa Monica 9:02 a.m.
Grand theft auto 400 block of San Vicente 9:32 a.m.
Fight 11th/ Grant 9:50 a.m.
Trespassing 700 block of Santa Monica 9:51 a.m.
Mark and tag abandoned vehicle 2700 block of Montana 10:26 a.m.
Traffic collision 2100 block of Stewart 10:43 a.m.
Auto burglary 2400 block of 29th 11:39 a.m.
Trespassing 800 block of Santa Monica 11:44 a.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 38 calls for service on Jan. 4.

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

Water Heater Rupture 2100 block of 20th 1:39 a.m.
Haz Mat- Level 1 400 block of Wilshire 2:14 a.m.
EMS 2nd/ Santa Monica 3:17 a.m.
EMS 2200 block of 25th 3:57 a.m.
EMS 1400 block of 2nd 4:03 a.m.
EMS 18th/Michigan 4:15 a.m.
EMS 1700 block of Cloverfield 4:45 a.m.
EMS 2100 block of Ocean 5:03 a.m.
EMS 1400 block of 17th 6:18 a.m.
EMS 400 block of Expo Line 6:46 a.m.
EMS 100 block of Georgina 7:53 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of Berkeley 8:10 a.m.
EMS 1700 block of Cloverfield 8:31 a.m.
Haz Mat – Level 1 900 block of 3rd 11:04 a.m.
EMS 1300 block of 2nd 11:30 a.m.
EMS 2400 block of Chelsea Pl 11:37 a.m.
Structure Fire 400 block of 7th 11:55 a.m.
EMS 100 block of California 12:21 p.m.
EMS 800 block of 4th 12:22 p.m.
EMS 2800 block of Exposition 1:22 p.m.
Flooded condition 1200 block of Princeton 2:08 p.m.
EMS 1900 block of Colorado 2:16 p.m.
EMS 1000 block of 14th 2:45 p.m.
EMS 1700 block of Cloverfield 2:49 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of Georgina 2:53 p.m.
EMS 100 block of Bay 3:56 p.m.
EMS 1300 block of 18th 4:11 p.m.
EMS 1100 block of 3rd 4:23 p.m.
EMS 1100 block of Pico 4:57 p.m.
Automatic alarm 2200 block of Colorado 5:11 p.m.
Elevator rescue 1400 block of 2nd 5:32 p.m.
Elevator rescue 1600 block of Cloverfield 5:46 p.m.
EMS 2400 block of Wilshire 6:19 p.m.
EMS 300 block of Olympic 6:28 p.m.
EMS 1100 block of 3rd 8:25 p.m.
EMS 1100 block of 14th 8:50 p.m.
EMS 1500 block of 18th 10:30 p.m.
EMS 1800 block of 20th 11:27 p.m.

DAILY LOTTERY

Powerball
Draw Date: 1/4
16 17 29 41 42
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 94M

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

Super Lotto
Draw Date: 1/4
11 15 20 38 47
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 67M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/4
9 14 29 37 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/4
MIDDAY: 8 6 1
Draw Date: 1/4
EVENING: 0 8 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/4
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:49.46

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!

draconian

1. rigorous; unusually severe or cruel: Draconian forms of punishment. 2. (initial capital letter) of, relating to, or characteristic of the Athenian statesman Draco, or his severe code of laws.

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Med School

■ Q: In a recent survey, what portion of Americans said they believed people can be supernaturally healed, according to the Barna Group?

■ A: Two-thirds. One-quarter also claimed to have experienced such healing personally.

Curtain Calls

■ Zishe (Siegmund) Breitbart was a famous circus performer touted as the strongest man in the world. In 1925, during an exhibition, Breitbart hammered a metal spike through a one-inch-thick oak board using only his bare hands. Unfortunately, the rusty spike accidentally pierced his knee as well, eventually resulting in fatal blood poisoning. Breitbart was 32 years old.

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

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

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.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

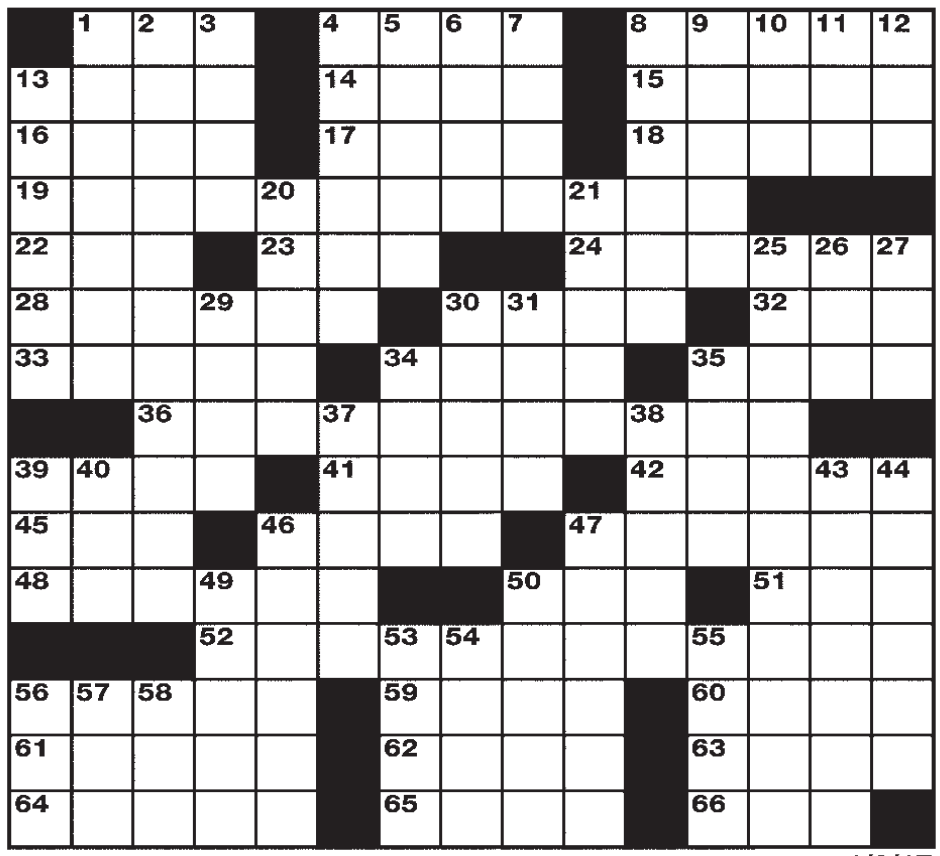
			9				7	
9	2					4		
1			5	7		2		6
	4			9		8		5
	3						4	
6		5		8			2	
2		8		6	5			4
		6					8	1
	5				7			

Newsday Crossword

FOOD COURT by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Explosive sound
4 Place for some plants
8 Faux pas
13 What "It's great!!" is
14 Rival of Bjorn
15 When Earth Day is
16 Domain
17 Cheerful spirit
18 Full of flavor
19 Nixon appointee
22 Paper polishers: Abbr.
23 Two-finger sign
24 Falls off
28 Catches on
30 Literary captain
32 Significant time
33 Test pilot's wear
34 A bit
35 Dwell (on)
36 FDR appointee
39 Bout figures
41 Isn't up to par
42 Does without
45 Admiral assent
46 Observation game
47 Apartment instrument
48 Mideast holy city
50 Clock numeral
51 Commerce Dept. stat
52 Lincoln appointee
56 Will, old-style
59 Become rough
60 Ridicule
61 Much-honored architect
62 Queen __ furniture
63 One of the guys
64 Earliest Icelanders
65 Web-__ (otter-like)
66 Caustic cleaner

DOWN
1 Ceremonies in motion
2 Gorged
3 Become tedious
4 Small official seal
5 "How about that!"
6 Stead
7 Impolite expression
8 Town square structure
9 Grammy category
10 Places for RNs
11 Tailor's concern
12 Underhanded
13 Steak tartare topper
20 Lloyd Webber score
21 Arcade regular
25 Going with regret
26 Miss the mark
27 Vermont harvest
29 Guinness and Gielgud
30 Banned for aircraft
31 75-pound birds
34 Do without
35 Half of uni-
37 Sounding stuffy
38 Subject matter
39 Push forcefully
40 Visual discernment
43 Stretchable
44 AL East city
46 Deadlocked
47 Had through a straw
49 Keys in some chains
50 Totally pointless
53 Exam with a Physical Sciences section
54 Words of worry
55 Web language
56 Dreadful deed
57 Physicians' org.
58 Truth in Lending no.



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FILM REVIEW

HIDDEN FIGURES

Rated PG
127 Minutes
Released January 6th

Hidden Figures is the "Jimmy Stewart" movie of the year. This true story is about strength, perseverance and heroism against all odds. Many of us are hungry for tales of unassuming, doggedly persistent heroes succeeding in spite of almost insurmountable odds, especially when we feel surrounded at every turn by negative forces. The film is beautifully edited - the rhythm of the narrative never drags. It features magnificent performances which allow you to become completely invested in each of the characters.

Margot Lee Shetterly wrote 'Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race.' She has a unique perspective on this particular history. She understands the culture at NASA-Langley Research Center - her father worked as a research scientist there. A black woman herself, she knows first-hand the obstacles encountered around every turn, by the women of this story. Shetterly has worked in investment banking in New York and has lived in Mexico, where she and her husband founded an English language magazine. In 2013 she founded The Human Computer Project, an organization whose mission is to archive the work of all of the women who worked as "computers" and mathematicians in the early days of NACA and NASA. The book and the movie materialized out of this work.

Director Theodore Melfi, who gave us last year's poignant St. Vincent, was perfectly suited to guide this project. He is able to bring out the innate warmth and highlight the strength of each character. Cinematographer Mandy Walker has done a wonderful job giving a feeling of movement to every scene even when the setting is static. Editor Peter Teschner, who worked with Melfi on St. Vincent, has truly captured each character's humanity, at the same time giving rhythm to the anticipation of a feat that mankind had never before accomplished. One of the greatest unlikely trios of composers ever assembled - the inspirational Pharrell Wiliams (also a producer on the project), industry veteran Benjamin Walfisch and legend Hans Zimmer, created the extraordinary sound track.

Taraji P. Henson is unequivocally believable as "Katherine Goble Johnson" (still alive today at age 98). Johnson accomplished the seemingly impossible as a young black woman in West Virginia. In 1933, she began attending West Virginia State College and graduated summa cum laude at 18 with degrees in math and French. The movie shows why her intellect became ground zero in the fledgling US space program. Octavia Spencer as "Dorothy Vaughn" exudes quiet insurmountable strength. Janelle Monae, the musician/actress who shines in the film Moonlight, aces the role of "Mary Jackson". Kevin Costner, Kirsten Dunst, Jim Parsons and Mahershala Ali are excellent. Glen Powell, though younger than John Glenn actually was at the time, "gets" Glenn's essence.

It's easy to see why Michelle Obama chose to host a screening of this film at the White House. Hidden Figures shows us that there can be heroic action where you least expect it. It's the heroism in their DNA that sets the strong apart from the rest, no matter what background they come from. Whether you are John Glenn or Katherine Goble Johnson, your chance to be a hero is "equal opportunity."

I saw this movie two days after the death of John Glenn. There were tears in my eyes.

KATHRYN WHITNEY BOOLE has spent most of her life in the entertainment industry, which is the backdrop for remarkable adventures with extraordinary people. She is a Talent Manager with Studio Talent Group in Santa Monica. kboole@gmail.com. For previously published reviews see https://kwboole.wordpress.com

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 6)

The goal is more vivid than it's ever been for you, and furthermore you have the sense that this year the universe is on your side. While working in collaboration with powerful forces, the less you do the better. In April, enjoy what you've built together. Love sweeps you into new circumstances in March. Leo and Aries 5 adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 42, 26, 7 and 9.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Once you strip away the chaff of familiarity and look at your daily life the way an outsider might, there's a real potential to do interesting work and maybe even to elevate the ordinary to the level of art.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You know the right thing to say. You could tell people what they wanted to hear, no sweat. But it's too easy, and it creates such a mild, forgettable impression. That's why you'll dare to add a dash more honesty.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
When you know you're being accepted you can let go, have fun and be happy. It's the same with everyone, and it's why your tolerant, accepting attitude is actually helping the world to be a happier place.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
In this boat of humanity on the rough seas of life, everyone must row with the oar he has. Drop your oar? Paddle with your hand. All efforts are needed now, yours especially.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
One thing you don't need to worry about is what to say. Say little and do much and you'll be a wonderful surprise to someone, you'll earn the trust of many, you'll make an excellent impression on all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
The gamblers know that even when you trust the other players, you cut the cards. You're safe here. The precautions of protection may be merely ritualistic at this point, and that makes them more important, not less.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
It's always prudent to know about procedures, standards and guidelines before going into a situation, but if you don't know them, seek a young teacher to show you the rules, or an old one to show you the exceptions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You're a person of principle, which is way better than being an impulsive slave to immediate gratification. However, before you go to battle for an idea, make sure you're absolutely clear on what the idea really is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Jealousy is information your subconscious mind gives to clue you into what you really want. Envy is rocket fuel. Don't waste it by pointing it in any direction away from you. Put it back in your own tank and aim yourself well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
As for stirring up controversy -- anyone can accidentally flub and say something silly or unintentionally offensive. It takes a pro to do this deliberately.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Unfortunately, a lot of people are more concerned with who gets the credit than they are with getting things done. So, let them have the credit. It's worth it if they get out of the way of your progress.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
The rag that gets the floor clean becomes quite dirty, and so it goes. Perhaps you can't really make the mess go away, but you can organize it in a manner that makes it much more pleasing to experience.

Sun and Pluto Meetup

During this alignment of the sun and Pluto, if you take a risk that doesn't wind up being embarrassing, kudos. Of course, there's good in humiliation, too. Once experienced, the fear of embarrassment loses power, and you're no longer concerned about what people think. A whole array of options opens up to the right and the left of appropriateness.

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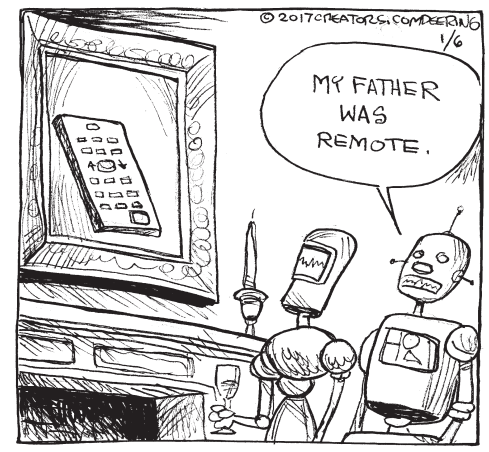
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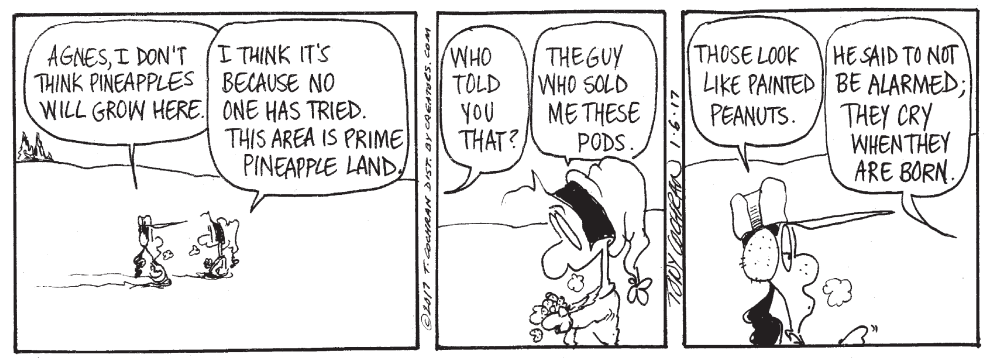
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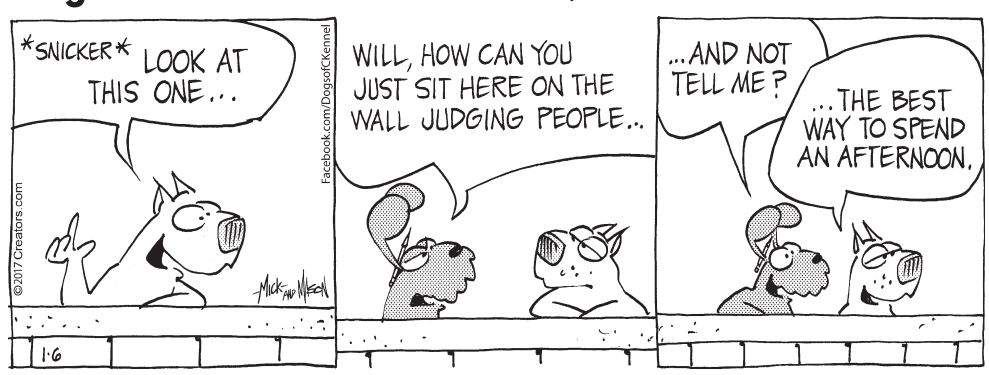
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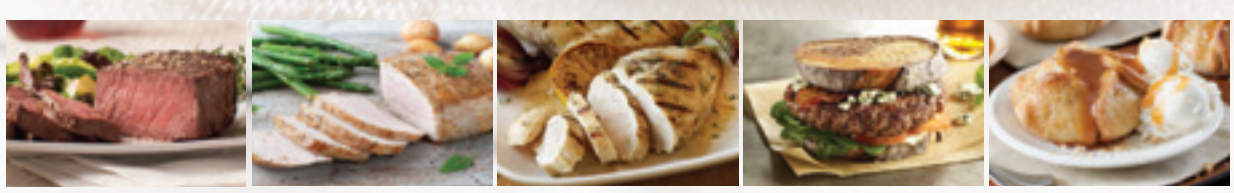
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