WAS HE A THREE-HIT WONDER?

GOD BLESS RITCHIE VALENS
opened a club in Ft. Worth in the Wheel and lived to be 85. He Willie Nelson and Asleep At the on to work with Roy Orbison, guitarist Tommy Allsup, who went a coin flip with Holly’s Crickets to the next gig in Fargo. He “won” on that tour to take the small plane there was no room for all the stars “the day the music died, “ because down in a snowy cornfield in Iowa Holly and the Big Bopper that went had he not lost that coin flip. where his career may have gone birthday? Hardly. There’s no telling roll and sung entirely in Spanish. musical influences with rock and first pop song to combine Latin charts, with “Donna, “ surprisingly, reached number 42 on the Billboard career lasted just eight months in 1958, with two 45s released: “C’mon, Let’s Go, “ and “Donna” and “La Bamba” on the A and B sides of his second and final one. The first reached number 42 on the Billboard charts, with “Donna,“ surprisingly, topping out at number 2 while his signature “La Bamba“ made it only to number 22 at the time. It was the first pop song to combine Latin musical influences with rock and roll and sung entirely in Spanish.

WERETHER’S ORIGINAL CREATES LIFE-SIZE CANDY LAND GAME AT THE PIER

KATE CAGLE
Daily Press Staff Writer

Just blocks away from Santa Monica’s temporary Wonka-inspired museum, Candytopia, another sugar-coated attraction is popping up in the city for today only. In honor of National Caramel Day, Werther’s Original and Hasbro have teamed up to build a life-size version of the classic board game Candy Land at The Pier. Admission is free. “The Santa Monica Pier is a 100-year-old
What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, April 5
Introduction to T’ai Chi
Instructor Pat Akers demonstrates the gentle flowing movement of the T’ai Chi exercise. Appropriate for all fitness levels. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

LEGOS and Games at Main
Get creative with LEGOs, try fun tabletop games, or do some coloring. Ages 4-10. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 pm. - 4 pm.

Current Events Discussion Group
Join us for a lively discussion of the latest news with your friends and neighbors. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Friday, April 6
Día Celebration with Kathleen Contreras
In celebration of Día’s commitment to diversity and motivating children and their families to be readers, Fairview Library invites you to join author Kathleen Contreras as she presents her book Sweet Memories/Dulces recuerdos. Free signed book giveaway, while supplies last. For grades Pre-K-3. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15/class or sign up for series. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH. 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Saturday, April 7
Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market (downtown)
The Organic Market boasts the largest percentage of Certified Organic growers of the City’s four markets. 2nd @ Arizona Avenue. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 8
Poetry Loves Art with Dinah Berland
Two Sundays a month, through May 20. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Series cost: $90, drop-in $20. Drop-ins can come directly to their class of choice to register onsite. Following last fall’s popular poetry workshop inspired by music, Dinah Berland invites poets at all levels to experience the pleasures of “ekphrastic” poetry—the practice of writing poems in response to visual art. Six-session commitment required. 1450 Ocean, https://apm.activecommunity.com/santamonica/Activity/Activity_Search/63272

Cultivating the Expressive Body with Jeremy Hahn
This body based practice utilizes an investigative process that draws upon meditation, visualization, and movement improvisation. In the class they nurture the expansion of their expressive capacities as they move their bodies encountering each other and sharing playfully with cooperation. This is deep work. Cost: $10; register at https://apm.activecommunity.com/santamonica/Activity/Activity_Search/65556

For help submitting an event, contact us at 310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com
Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) – promotes opportunities for athletes and coaches to participate in international table tennis tournaments and classes through the years. I am proud of the legacy handed down years ago under Professor Kidd. “We have attracted many international students to our campus to play table tennis, badminton, and basketball. The program holds weekly round robin competitions, and has also hosted USATT tournaments. SMC’s table tennis program has inducted into the California Table Tennis Hall of Fame in 2014.

Cowan was Sicilian junior champion thrice. Playing at the nationals “means a lot to me,” he said, “and proves that I am still competitive despite not playing for many years. It is an honor for me to represent Santa Monica College nationally.”

Kapoor, like Aiello, began playing table tennis as a child—in India. He played in a number of national tournaments in India, but “getting a chance to do so as an international student is an altogether different experience,” he said.

“SMC’s support has been extraordinary throughout,” said Kapoor.

The SMC Table Tennis Program — an inductee into the California Table Tennis Hall of Fame — has a storied history in the world of table tennis. In 1971, the late Glenn Cowan (1952-2004) — a table tennis champion since childhood, and an SMC student from 1969 to 1972 — was the youngest member of the first U.S. table tennis team to go to China and compete in what became known as “Ping-pong diplomacy,” a process that helped open the doors for diplomatic relations between the two nations. Cowan was posthumously inducted into the California Table Tennis Hall of Fame in 2014.

Retired SMC professor Jo Kidd founded SMC’s Community Recreation (Co-Rec) Program and introduced table tennis—often referred to as “ping-pong”—at SMC as a physical education course with transferable units. (She was also honored by the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA). SMC will be the only community college at the national tournament.

Please send resume to smpropasst@gmail.com

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Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; and Cal State Northridge (UCLA won first place). The championships are organized by the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA). SMC’s table tennis program has inducted into the California Table Tennis Hall of Fame in 2014.

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LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

Hollywood’s diversity push snubs actors with disabilities

ELUSIVE ROLES

When disabled people are portrayed in films and on television, roles lean heavily toward comedic or basically invisible. A role involving an apparent disability may go to an actor with the condition — little person Mark Povinelli played a character with dwarfism on Amazon’s “Mad Dogs” — or not. In “Strong,” the film about a Boston Marathon bombing survivor left a double amputee, a computer-acted Jake Gyllenhaal played the part.

That leaves performers with disabilities largely out in the cold.

“Disabled people (audition) for roles and characters that are disabled, but they don’t read for able-bodied characters,” even if their disability wouldn’t affect the portrayal or story, said actor Kurt Yaeger (Greg the Pug on “Sons of Anarchy”). Yaeger, who lost a leg in a motorcycle crash, notes that when a prospector allows him to “hide” it for non-disabled parts and increases his job options.

Scott Silveri, creator and executive producer of ABC’s “Speechless,” joins in brushing away the tired notion that a story’s dramatic flow or audience would be thrown off by seeing a physically challenged person.

“When you go into a bank and a teller has a limp, do you get confused and walk out into the parking lot and walk around?” he asked.

“What’s the big deal? Go outside — there are crutches and canes and wheelchairs, and people using them.

The onus, impossibly, is on the so-called “disabled community,” which consists of people with many different conditions and groups with varying goals and needs.

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HOLLYWOOD
FROM PAGE 4

accommodation such as a ramp is needed the expense is typically less than $500. Industry heavyweights are joining the effort. Russell Boast, president of the Casing Society of America, has made it a cause for casting directors. In January, the group’s members held open calls for performers with disabilities in 50 places nationwide that drew almost 1,000 people. The society also works with the actors’ guild, SAG-AFTRA, on events. If the industry’s excuse for not using these actors is because they don’t exist, “I’m going to prove that’s a myth and I’m going to show you these actors do exist, they’re hungry to work and there are some amazingly talented performers that just haven’t had a chance,” Boast said.

Producers prefer to bank on proven actors, but “stars aren’t born stars. They have to be made,” said Tery Lopez, director of inclusion and equity for the Writers Guild of America, West, which held its annual workshop in which actors with disabilities are showcased in works written for them.

Network and studios were challenged by the Ruderman Foundation and disability advocate Tari Hartman Squire to step up their efforts. Last season, CBS and Fox Studios led in hiring actors with disabilities for their freedom to cast the actor they want for their film, one must attract a “name” actor for a label it political correctness run amok.

The movement has gotten pushback. While it’s been nearly 30 years since Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act — which can mean not holding auditions in locations “about casting those with disabilities and providing physical access for all, he said — which can mean not holding auditions in buildings without elevators, as still happens. While it’s been nearly 30 years since Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act, Hollywood is still trying to absorb the concept and all else that fairness demands.

“I don’t know if it’s going to be in a year, five years, 10 years or maybe not in our lifetime,” Jay Ruderman said, “but eventually we’re going to look at actors playing a disability the same way you would look at an actor putting on blackface.”

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TOURISM
FROM PAGE 1
especially those that may visit you? Answering questions like these will give us invaluable insight into our destination. Submit your feed-
back by filling our survey and you’ll be entered for a chance to win a $250 American Express Gift Card. The survey is available at www.santamonica.com/localsurvey.

This project is part of a larger effort for the City of Santa Monica to develop a long term economic development strategy. A healthy economy not only pays the bills for City serv-
ces, it undergirds the fabric of resident employment, the demand for city services, the sources of support for civic and cultural institutions, and the upkeep of public and private infrastructure that supports our stan-
dard of living and quality of life. Our civic leaders have long been forward thinking, and much of the success of today’s thriving local economy can be traced back to plans laid out by these leaders.

Share your feedback today at www.santa-
monica.com/localsurvey. We thank you in advance for your support and the role you play in making Santa Monica a world-class place to live, work and play!

To learn more about SMTT and how you can be a tourist in your own back yard, visit www.santa-
monica.com

CULTURE
FROM PAGE 1
inside a trailer) was prohibited, as were direct sales.

Dozens of booths touted spin-the-wheel and racket giveaways, such as packaged sam-
ple of CBD and THC edibles. Showcased were tinctures, extracts, tinctures and oil concentrated, DIY equipment such as a tinc-
ture/butter making machine, bons and beauty products designed by and for women, framed vintage posters (Reefer Madness!), leafy seeing vet’s lives destroyed by opioids while others were saved by cannabis. And he’s actually trying to do something.

He’s helping to craft legislation to encourage recycling; of course, we’re in the earliest stages so it isn’t easy. He told me, “The Bureau of Cannabis Control is open about wanting to get things right. If they don’t, the black market will undermine the business, and communities dependent on cannabis for their economic base could col-
lapse, like Humboldt.”

“Right now, products aren’t allowed to come directly back into the system. The problem with recycling is that one-off pro-
gress for small items don’t work. You have to get up to scale. Most of the products that wind up in the trash are vape cartridges and batteries. If we could bring them back to the stores in large enough numbers and in a controlled environment, then we could work with companies that remove the batteries and separate the plastic to go back into the recycling system.”

WOMEN MOVING INTO THE MARKET

The canna biz field is wide open and there’s already a professional organization called “Women Grow,” based in Denver, for female CEOs starting cannabis businesses. One female entrepreneur, Krystal Kitahara and her sister, have 12 full-time female employees working with them as they move into a brand-new, licensed Costa Mesa manufacturing facility.

Yumiya Karma makes snacky edibles, tinctures, and a line of body products. It began with a tincture they created to help their mother get off sleeping pills – and they succeeded. Now they sell a beauty line, “High Gorgeous,” featuring moisturiz-
ers, lip balms, sunscreen and other personal care products geared to women, along with their infusing chip snacks.

I will keep an eye out for them as they continue to expand. It’s a whole new world out there. We’re just at the beginning.

Opinion

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la late '70s and named it Tommy’s Heads Up Saloon, in honor of that lifesaving coin toss. (Bassist Waylon Jennings had a seat on the plane but gave it up to the Big Bopper, who had the flu, to save him from sitting on a cold bus for hours.)

Valens was three months shy of his 18th birthday. No Chicano or Latino performer had ever crossed over successfully to the rock and roll charts until he did. Despite such an incredibly short career, his circumstances and the weight of his three hits made him an inspiration for young Latino musicians everywhere, from Carlos Santana to Selena, not to mention the Kingsmen (who sounded very East LA), Jimi Hendrix and the Ramones, who covered “Come On, Let’s Go.” Of all the “La Bamba” covers, we probably have to give the top prize to Los Lobos. The whole vibrant East LA ’60s scene owes much to young Ritchie, gifting us with so many including Cannibal & the Headhunters (he forgot the lyrics while recording and thus the “na, na na na na…” that Wilson Pickett adopted for his hit version), the Blazers, Little Willie G & Thee Midniters, the Premiers. Don’t forget Michigan’s ? & the Mysterians, surnames Martinez, Rodriguez, Balderrama, Martinez, Lugo.

The Valenzuela family spoke only English at home, and Ritchie had to learn the Spanish lyrics to “La Bamba” phonetically.

What a cat. I may have to drive up to his freeway and wave to Pacoima in his honor.

NOT SO MANY live shows to recommend for this coming week, but I won’t bend my standards. You can save up your energy for the coming summer season’s avalanche of good music.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! — CARLO GUTHRIE (the second generation legend in his own right, will you get “Alice’s Restaurant,” all 18 minutes? — and if not, “City of New Orleans” would do just fine), 8 PM, Saban Theatre, Beverly Hills, $48-$78.

THE REVEREND SHAWN AMOS (great show, showmanship from the Rev, a masterful and urgently-performed history of R&B et al at Herb Alpert’s elegant jazz club), Fri, 6:30 PM, Vibrato Grill & Jazz, Beverly Glen, $20.

SLEEPLESS: The Music Center After Hours (the annual multi-media bash is going disco this year, sounds like a hoot), Fri & Sat, 11:30 PM-3 AM, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, downtown LA, $30.

THE GEORGE KAHN TRIO (former Santa Monica-ist jazz pianist and composer — his wife Diana teaches voice for many years at SMC, his Samohi-grad son Evan has become a successful cellist — has a new CD out, ’Straight Ahead’ and playing the cool, intimate, “undiscovered” Alvas in Pedro, Sat, 8 PM, Alvas Showroom, San Pedro, $15.

ROOTS ROADHOUSE 2018 featuring WANDA JACKSON, 23 more including Jesse Dayton, Whiskey Shivers, the Cactus Blossoms, JD Wilkes with the Legendary Shack Shakers unplugged, the Frogtown Serenaders, High Life Cajun Band (as the “2018” might have clued you, they do this every year and as usual the Echo folks know what they’re doing, from punk to pop to rockabilly to reggae, and this is an exceptional lineup but even if you only heard Wanda you’d be good to go, she is the Queen of Rockabilly who transitioned to a successful straight-ahead country career, check out her smokin’ 1961 performance of “Hard Headed Woman” with her band featuring a double-necked guitar, a female fiddler, poundin’ piano man and even a trumpet, and I can tell you that even into her 80s she has the same punk spunk), Sunday, 3 PM, Echo + Echoplex, $13-$25.

BARBARA MORRISON (exceptional vocalist, a local treasure, you’ll sit there eating pizza and think, I could be at some swank jazz club or auditorium and be paying lots and not be as happy because, well, no pizza), Tues, 7 PM, PIPS Pizza Pasta Salads, no cover.

Dub Club with DON CARLOS (roots reggae master, original Black Uhuru with Garth and Duckie, later reunited), Wed, 9 PM, the Echoplex, $20.

BAND NAMES OF THE WEEK:

Daddy Differently, Can’t Swim, Melted, Decent Criminal, Sumot, Destroy All Gondolas, Illuminati Hotties.

LYRIC OF THE WEEK: “I suppose that Old Man Trump knows just how much racial hate he stirred up in that bloodspot of human hearts when he drew that color line here at his eighteen hundred family project. Beach Haven ain’t my home! No, I just can’t pay this rent! My money’s down the drain and my soul is badly bent! Beach Haven is Trump’s Tower, where no black folks come to roam. No, no, Old Man Trump! Old Beach Haven ain’t my home!” — Woody Guthrie (written in 1930 when he lived in Fred Trump’s notorious Brooklyn project, discovered among Woodie’s papers 50 years later; last year Donald Trump told the Washington Post, his favorite newspaper, “My legacy has its roots in my father’s legacy.”)

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 32 years and wouldn’t live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica located at 1717 4th Street Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, 90401 until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be publicly opened, read and posted for:

BID #4331 PROVIDE LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR PIER DECKBOARD REPLACEMENT AND NAIL PATROL.

Submission Deadline is April 30, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

BID #4336 PROVIDE ALL LABOR AND MATERIALS TO SERVICE AND REPAIR PUMP MOTOR EQUIPMENT SUCH AS STARTERS, DRIVES, AND CONTROLS.

Submission Deadline is April 30, 2018 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com?SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

Zoning Ordinance. Proposed Changes, Corrections, and Clarifications to the Zoning Ordinance Related to Policy Issues That Have Arisen Since the Adoption of the Zoning Ordinance through its Implementation. Consideration of a Resolution recommending to the City Council the adoption of an Ordinance recommending amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that are related to policy issues that have arisen since the adoption of the Zoning Ordinance in July 2015 through its implementation.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission before or at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact the Tony Kim at (310) 458-8341 or by e-mail tony.kim@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's website at www.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TTY Number: (310) 458-8956 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting, Santa Monica “Big Blue” Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, and #9 service the City Hall and the Civic Center. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall and on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar aplicaciones propiciando desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la Oficina de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.
WORD UP!

Mythoclast

1. a destroyer or debunker of myths.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018

Puzzles & Stuff

WELL NEWS BY SCOTT LAFEE

Best Medicine

■ Man: “I burned my finger yesterday.”
■ Other man: “What’d you do?”
■ Man: “I followed that old advice about rubbing some margarine on it.”
■ Other man: “Did it help?”
■ Man: “No, I can’t believe it’s not better.”

Never Say Diet

■ The Major League Eating record for sausage sandwiches is 13.25 in 12 minutes, held by Chip “Burger” Simpson, a professional speed eater who also holds records in consuming chicken wings and tamales, but strangely nothing involving a meat patty.

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NEWSPRINT

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DAILY LOTTERY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARIES (March 21-April 19)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As it turns out, common knowledge, common sense, common courtesy and even common law aren’t common to everyone. This is a mighty fine day to assume nothing and expect less.</td>
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<tr>
<th>TAURUS (April 20-May 20)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You have many fine qualities. However, today it’s not so much about having a quality as it is about having the quality that will best serve the moment. You have that, too. Do you know which quality it is?</td>
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<tr>
<th>GEMINI (May 21-June 21)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The reason people follow you is pretty simple really. Where you go, that’s where the fun is. Now what will you do with this pied piper charm you possess?</td>
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<tr>
<th>CANCER (June 22-July 22)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The fewer words the better. Silence is your friend. Also, if this is about something visual that you’re creating, the white space will be the equivalent of silence. White space is your friend.</td>
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<tr>
<th>LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The man drove down the boulevard smoking a cigar in a convertible with a vanity license plate that said “DUES PAID.” Good for him, and good for you in some way today, too.</td>
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<tr>
<th>VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In many ways, the family dynamics will echo the dynamics of each individual soul. For those who love and honor the people in their lives, love and honor comes back.</td>
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<tr>
<th>LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some want the solution and the problem in tandem. Others want you to give them the problem so they can come up with the solution. Still others think you’re being lazy if you don’t start with the solution. Which option applies?</td>
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<tr>
<th>SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decide on who will decide. Hint: It’s you. There have been and will be times to compromise and concede. This just doesn’t happen to be one of them.</td>
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<tr>
<th>SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The project is now. If not now, when? Never, most likely. And your life would be completely different in that “never” scenario. So don’t miss out. You can do this.</td>
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<tr>
<th>CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There’s one in the group who will relate to you, see you for who you really are and ultimately help you the most. You’ll help that person, too. Home in on your best bet.</td>
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<th>AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)</th>
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<tr>
<td>When the demands of the day seem to exceed the personal and social resources you are able to mobilize, it’s a call to action. Even it out. Reduce the demand or increase in the resources.</td>
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<tr>
<th>PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today’s unusual emotional ride will include strange correlations and unexpected reactions. A trick: Separate what’s happening from the emotion attached to it. The two should come apart pretty easily, with just a mental click.</td>
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**Mercury, Saturn and Insects**

The leading group of animals on the planet, at least in terms of numbers, is insects. Lucky for us, they’re small. The reason they’re small has to do with exoskeletons, metamorphosis and gravity. Humans, on the other hand, aren’t measured in inches but in character. The reason we’re small is fear, which is something other than a small. The reason they’re small has to do with exoskeletons, metamorphosis and gravity. Humans, on the other hand, aren’t measured in inches but in character. The reason we’re small is fear, which is something else.

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LOS ANGELES—Jason Clarke plunged into frigid waters, repeatedly, to play a late Sen. Ted Kennedy in “Chappaquiddick.”

The Australian actor said his research about the accident that thwarted Kennedy’s presidential chances included jumping into Poucha Pond, the same waters the Massachusetts Democrat’s car crashed into in July 1969, killing Mary Jo Kopechne.

Clarke said the indie film, which is in limited release on Fri., would humanize the accident, which Kennedy failed to report for nine hours.

He said the film sticks “to the facts as much as we could and to play it out without scandalizing, without going to the tabloid of it.”

“This man committed this act and he worked his way out of it with help and with his own moral journey to the other side, where he then became one of the longest-serving senators in history. I don’t think — partisanism aside — you can’t take away from what he did.”

Kennedy went to Martha’s Vineyard to race in the Edgartown Regatta and on the evening of July 18, 1969, attended a party at a rented house on Chappaquiddick Island. Guests included Kennedy friends and several women, including Kopechne, who had worked on the presidential campaign of his brother Robert F. Kennedy, assassinated a year earlier.

Kennedy and Kopechne, 28, left the party together and a short time later their car plunged into Poucha Pond. Kennedy escaped from the submerged vehicle and said he made several futile attempts to rescue Kopechne, who was trapped inside.

Kennedy, who died in 2009, later described his failure to report the incident to police for nine hours as “indescribable.”

Clarke visited the bridge and pond as part of his research for the film, even jumping in.

“It’s pretty much unchanged apart from the bridge itself has got guard rails and wider. There’s no other buildings. The Dike House is still there, the same place. It’s dark. There’s no lights on the road,” he said. “The water is dark and the current is strong.

“I think I held my breath for five seconds to see where I came up. And I came up a big distance away,” Clarke said.

Kennedy’s underwater escape was recreated in the waters of the Pacific Ocean off San Clemente Island, but Clarke said he shot not only because of the ocean’s cold water, but also because he had to get out of the car while upside down.

The film, an Entertainment Studios release, spends more time on the aftermath of the accident. Clarke said viewers should “see where I came up. And I came up a big distance away.”

“You can be with Ted a bit. You cannot just externalize it and say bad, horrible, disgusting man. You might want to at the end, but you can be there for it: on the phone Afterwards, the walk back, the swim, the lies, the made-up story — or perhaps it’s actually really what did happen. But you can actually stay there with Ted. Not enough to be a Kennedy, but enough to almost touch him,” he said.

Jim Gaffigan, who plays attorney Paul Markham, one of the co-hosts of the party that Kennedy and Kopechne left together, agreed:

“We all have earlier versions of ourselves that we’re not crazy about. At least I do,” he said.

“So there is something very interesting about the journey that Ted goes through, and being exposed to his relationship with his father,” he said. “Look, it’s not a documentary, but there is an attempt to be objective and ask objective questions.”

Tracy Morgan, Tiffany Haddish bring chemistry to 'Last O.G.'

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

TBS’ “The Last O.G.,” starring Tracy Morgan as a man just out of prison and learning his way around a changed world, also holds a lesson in comedy chemistry.

Morgan’s Tray has it with “Girls Trip” star Tiffany Haddish, who plays the ex-flame who built a successful life and marriage instead of waiting out his 15-year sentence for dealing drugs.

There are sparks as well when Tray tries to mentor his cousin, Bobby, played with free-wheeling glee by Allen Maldonado, or trades coarse one-liners with Cedric the Entertainer as Mullins, a halfway house manager.

Morgan, who had a difficult recovery from injurious fall in a 2014 highway crash, generously shares “The Last O.G.” (as “original gangsta”) as a showcase for all, not one. The TBS comedy debuts 10:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday.

“Maybe I’m just a better man now since the accident,” the former “Saturday Night Live” player said during a Television Critics Association Q&A. “I know it isn’t about me. It’s bigger than me. I thank God for that.”

Created by Jordan Peele, the Oscar-winning “Get Out” filmmaker, and John Carciere (“Eastbound & Down”), “The Last O.G.” gives Morgan room to play the goofy boomb}

boat he perfected in “30 Rock” and the yearning of a man desperate for another chance. (There are expletives, bleeped as expected on basic cable, but also plenty of raunchy references to be heard, especially in the back-and-forth between Tray and Mullins.)

The returning Tray finds his Brooklyn neighborhood is gentrified, his cronies are gone or turned into legit businessmen and his adored Shay (Haddish) is living the affluent dream with nice-guy husband Iosh (Ryan Gaul) and teenage twins — which, doing the math, Tray figures were fathered by him.

Tray doesn’t want to claim the title of dad or upend Shay’s family, Morgan said. But he does want to be part of a parental trio and have a role in the lives of Amira (Taylor Mosby) and Shazad (Dante Hoagland).

“I came home and then I was a problem in her (Shay’s) life, then I had to look at her (husband) and I had to look at my kids,” he said. “And I see they were in good hands. So that’s what we also want to get across in the show, that it’s OK.”

And while the cast is predominantly African-American (aside from Shay’s white husband), the show is meant for all, Morgan said.

“This isn’t a black show. This is a show about humanity. This is the show about second chances. This is a show about redemption,” he said. "Who are we to say others don't matter?"
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