

DAILY
PLANNER

TODAY

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2019. There are 328 days left in the year.



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT

On Feb. 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

ON THIS DATE

In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1952, Britain's King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1968, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Grenoble, France, by French President Charles de Gaulle.

In 1987, Wall Street Journal reporter Gerald Seib was released after being detained six days by Iran, accused of being a spy for Israel; Iran said the detention was a result of misunderstandings.

In 1991, comedian and television performer Danny Thomas died in Los Angeles at age 79.

In 1993, tennis Hall of Famer and human rights advocate Arthur Ashe died in New York at age 49.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who had a 1986 hit with "Rock Me Amadeus," died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40. Carl Wilson, a founding member of The Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles at age 51.

In 2000, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton launched her successful candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

LOTTERY

Megabucks: \$7.8 million
1-14-22-31-39-43

Mega Millions: \$157 million
3-34-36-59-66-7 x2

Powerball: \$204 million
10-17-18-43-65-PB 13-x5

Win for Life: Feb. 4
5-17-23-30

Pick 4: Feb. 5
• 1 p.m.: 0-8-0-3
• 4 p.m.: 8-7-9-2
• 7 p.m.: 9-1-7-6
• 10 p.m.: 3-0-4-2
Pick 4: Feb. 4
• 1 p.m.: 7-8-7-1
• 4 p.m.: 0-3-3-0
• 7 p.m.: 8-2-5-9
• 10 p.m.: 3-6-2-0

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Cherish your wilderness."
— Maxine Kumin (1925-2014).

The Old Man and the Play: Friend keeps word to Hemingway

By Kristen De Groot
The Associated Press

WESTPORT, Conn. — When the 1958 film adaptation of "The Old Man and the Sea" hit theaters, Ernest Hemingway happened to be in New York City to watch the World Series and invited his close friend A.E. Hotchner to go see the movie with him.

"About 12 or 13 minutes after we sat down, he turns to me and says, 'Ready to go?'" Hotchner said in a recent interview at his Connecticut home. The 101-year-old author and playwright recalls them walking out and taking off down the sidewalk, Hemingway ranting the whole time the star Spencer Tracy was totally miscast — he looked like a fat, rich actor trying to play a fisherman.

"He said, 'You know, you write a book that you really like and then they do something like that to it, and it's like pissing in your father's beer,'" Hotchner said. (Hemingway reserved this particular turn of phrase for a handful of hated adaptations of his work, he said.)

Later that night, sitting at Toots Shor's restaurant — a hangout frequented by Joe DiMaggio, Jackie Gleason and Marilyn Monroe — Hemingway urged Hotchner to do his own adaptation someday. Hotchner said he promised he would try.

More than 60 years later,

Hotchner has kept his word. His stage adaptation of "The Old Man and the Sea," a brief novel published in 1952 and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, premieres at the newly renovated Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse on Feb. 1.

"It wasn't until I became an old man myself that I really got to a version that could transport itself beyond the book," he said.

Hotchner should be the perfect candidate to take the novel to the stage: He fished with Hemingway in Cuba, went to bullfights with him in Spain, hunted with him in Idaho and wrote the 1966 best-selling biography "Papa Hemingway."

He also helped edit Hemingway's bullfighting classic "The Dangerous Summer." He often served as his agent and adapted several stories for television, including "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," "The Killers" and "The Battler," which led to his first meeting with Paul Newman. (The two became best friends and neighbors and started the "Newman's Own" food company together. But that's another story).

"Somehow that pledge to him haunted me, because he died not too long after that. For years I would think about 'The Old Man and the Sea.' But I never could think in my head how you could

take this very personal book, because the old man is really Hemingway himself, which is really a literary work," he said. "How do you bring that to life on the stage?"

He tried maybe 10 times over the years to adapt it, starting drafts only to scrap them, until his latest effort.

To help reel the project in, he enlisted his son Tim Hotchner to collaborate on it and help transform his draft into what will run in Pittsburgh through Feb. 17.

"I've lived with Hemingway's ghost for my whole life and there was something very profound about this story, even though it's very simple," said Tim Hotchner, 47, a documentary filmmaker and writer. "And to have a 101-year-old father who's still going out for his marlin, and hopefully coming back with better results, there are a lot of themes that really resonate."

Tim Hotchner also saw the project as a way to re-examine the work with a

modern lens: to look at what it means to be a man in the world and to look at the environment.

To make "The Old Man and the Sea" accessible on stage, the Hotchners crafted a kaleidoscope of the tale, and mined the text for a new approach. The boy has a bigger role, and Hemingway himself is a character, as is a cellist who evokes the moods of the play throughout.

It stars Tony Award-winning actor Anthony Crivello as Santiago, the aging fisherman, David Cabot as Hemingway and Gabriel Florentino as the boy, Manolin. Cellist Simon Cummings will perform original music for the show. The play is being directed by Ronald Allan-Lindblom.

Getting the draft to the stage happened unusually fast, as a result of a collaboration with New York City-based RWS Entertainment Group.

The Hotchners' agent passed along the script to Joe Christopher, who heads

up RWS's theatrical division, who took it with him on vacation in June.

"I don't know if it was because I literally read it while I was lying on the beach, but I could viscerally see the show working," he said.

He told RWS CEO Ryan Stana it would be the chance of a lifetime to work with someone who had been side-by-side with Hemingway.

The Pittsburgh Playhouse was looking for a new work to launch its first season in its renovated theater and Stana, an alumna of Point Park University, floated the idea to the school.

"In less than 24 hours, they were in," he said.

The production is unique in that students at Point Park University are working on the show alongside professionals in all aspects from set design to ticket sales. It's something Stana sees as a circular moment — youth helping bring to life the work
See **Hemingway** / Page 6A

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