



JOSETTE PLANK

'Star Wars' offers good parenting lessons

I've now seen "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" three times. I'm not even a big Star Wars fan, so I'm not quite sure how this happened.

OK, I do know how it happened. Some combination of illness, date nights and drawing straws means I've pretty much memorized the movie.

And I have to admit, I think the new Star Wars movie is awesome.

SPOILER WARNING: I'm not going to hold back on any big secrets, so if you are a Star Wars fan and don't want to know what happens, all I have to say is this: Are you kidding me? I've seen the movie three times, and I'm not even a Star Wars nerd. Get with it and go see the movie, already! Spoiler warnings, my eye.

When I talk to other people who have seen the new Star Wars, it becomes obvious that everyone views it through their own 3-D glasses.

My kids see a bunch of cool new characters, one of whom is — finally! — a girl Jedi. My film-major friend critiqued the edits in the fight scenes. My sci-fi, geek friends complained that the villain, Kylo Ren, seemed more like a cranky teenager than a bad guy worthy of Voldemort's attention. (The evil hologram dude looked like Voldemort and, I'm sorry, I can only remember the names of so many movie super villains.)

My friends who grew up in the 1970s cried and sighed over seeing Han Solo, Leia and the Millennium Falcon back on the big screen.

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REMEMBERING JOE CARR

'He had a lot of gifts to give'

BY SEAN ADAMS
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The death of Joe Carr has brought the local theater community to a standstill.

"We heard about it last night," said Lewis Silverman, a friend and colleague of Carr's.

Silverman heard the news during a rehearsal for the upcoming production of "All My Sons" at Oyster Mill Playhouse.

The news spread rapidly via Facebook, with posts of sympathy and grief pouring in on Carr's personal page.

"It stopped the rehearsal right there," Silverman said. "None of us could continue. It was a shock to us all. He had that kind of impact on people's lives."

Longtime friend Dennis Norton said that Carr "lived and breathed theater," and his passion for entertaining audiences was matched by his passion for brightening his friends' and family's lives.

"Joe had a lot of gifts to give," Norton said. "And I mean physical gifts. He was an artist with so many talents. He could have gone to Disney or Warner Bros., but he chose to stay here with his friends."

Carr frequently would give gifts to friends and castmates — and always something he would craft himself, Norton said. Gifts would range from custom-printed

instead of the primary protagonist.

Mike Caulfied (@holden) tweeted on Dec. 22: "Someone seems to be missing in Star Wars Monopoly. Unbelievable. #wheresrey" with a photo of the four pieces Hasbro chose for the newest edition: Finn, Kylo Ren, Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker.

Monopoly usually includes six or eight game pieces, but went with only four for "The Force Awakens" edition. In a surprising move, not even an R2-D2 or Death Star were included, but instead a Darth Vader, who isn't in the latest sequel.

Twitter user @JennaBusch

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STAY IN & CHILL OUT

Have fun inside when the weather turns frightful

COMPILED BY ABBY RHOAD • arhod@pennlive.com

The gifts have been unwrapped, the Champagne has been toasted, and the excitement of the holidays is over. • Now we're left with two more months (give or take) of blustery wind and freezing cold — not exactly the motivation you need to keep that New Year's resolution of getting off the couch. • Maybe you should just embrace it. Pull on some fleece pants, grab some hot cocoa, and settle in for some serious indoor winter recreation. • From the best books to read when it's snowy to board games that offer hours of laughter, we have plenty of options to keep you entertained while it's too cold to venture outdoors.

Cards Against Humanity

» As its website says, "Cards Against Humanity is a party game for horrible people. Unlike most of the party games you've played before, Cards Against Humanity is as despicable and awkward as you and your friends." Definitely not suitable for most family gatherings, this game is simple and can get quite raunchy. Each round, one player asks a question from a black card, and everyone else fills in the blank with their funniest white card. Usually, the grossest or most obscene answer wins. Cards are available for free under a Creative Commons license, which means you can download cards from cardsagainsthumanity.com and print your own deck for free. Making a set will take about an hour and cost about \$10.

» Ages 17 and older. \$25, cardsagainsthumanity.com. Expansion packs are available for \$10 each.



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» The best books to read when it's cold and snowy and the best movies set during the winter.



Exploding Kittens

» Exploding Kittens is a card game for people who are into kittens and explosions and laser beams and sometimes goats, according to its creators. Written and illustrated by the Oatmeal, this card game grew into a Kickstarter phenomenon when it became the most-backed game in Kickstarter history, according to explodingkittens.com. A mixture between the deck manipulation rules of Uno and the uncertainty of Russian roulette, players take turns trying to avoid drawing the exploding kitten card, which can kick them out of the game. The longer you play, the greater your odds of exploding ... unless you hold a diffuse card. A "Not Suitable For Work, adult-only expansion deck also is available. No kittens were harmed in the making of this game.

» Ages 7 and up. \$20, explodingkittens.com.

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'STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS'

#WheresRey? Main character missing from toys

From staff and wire reports

While the plot of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" deals with the disappearance of Luke Skywalker (it's not a spoiler, it's literally the very first thing they tell you in the movie), there's another character that is conspicuous in her absence lately.

That character is Rey, the tech-savvy scavenger from the planet Jakku, played in the film by Daisy Ridley. And she seems to be missing in several toy packages tying in to the movie's release.

The latest of several #WheresRey moments came when fans complained about the lack of Rey in the Star Wars Monopoly set released



Disney/Lucasfilm

BB-8, left, and Daisy Ridley, who plays Rey, appear in a scene from "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." Though Rey is a main character in the film, many fans are wondering why she is missing from movie products.

by Hasbro. Hasbro went with two good guys and two bad

guys, and used John Boyega's renegade stormtrooper Finn

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