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BY BARBARA BECKLEY



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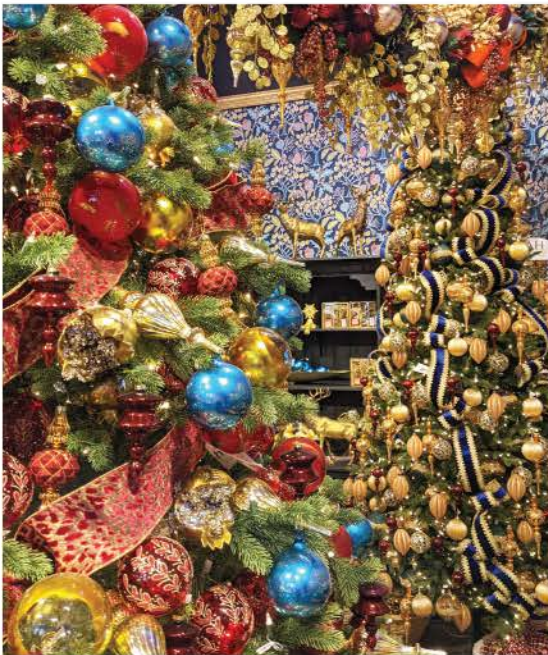
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WEIRD ART BIZARRE PAINTINGS

HISTORY'S STRANGE FASCINATIONS

By Contributing Writer

In 1746 a group of publishers approached Samuel Johnson with the idea of creating an authoritative dictionary of the English language. The Académie Française had already published their French Dictionnaire, which had taken 40 scholars 56 years to complete. Johnson said he could do it himself in three. So it took him eight, but it remains an astonishing achievement, and a fun read, when his irritability and wit ekes out in his definitions. Take the word dull: "adjective: Not exhilarating, not delightful. As, to make dictionaries is dull work."

I mention Dr Johnson because of a line he wrote in 1751: "Curiosity is the thirst of the soul," he said, explaining that it "makes us taste every thing with joy... by which it may be quenched." I grew up in a rare book shop. An old book with a great backstory is an effortless sale. Strange objects and strange stories fascinate us all.



It turns out that the same technique is useful for writing books, too. For years my favourite tidbit was something I'd read in the bookshop, in an 18th-century text on German hunting weaponry. In the mid-1600s, the German aristocracy would play a sport called 'fuchsprellen' before dinner. The word translates as 'fox-tossing'. Couples in an arena the size of a large tennis court would grip a long net slack on the ground between them. Animals were then released into the area – and



ARTS/CULTURE

when one ran across the net, it was the couple's job to yank it taut, and catapult the creature into the air. This led to me writing a book on sports that were extinct, titled of course Fox Tossing, Octopus Wrestling and Other Forgotten Sports.

But in terms of curious visual matter, what better world is there to explore than the world of art? I started collecting stories and images years ago for The Madman's Gallery, a collection of history's strangest artworks, after being unable to find a book

on curiosities of art. Searching for bizarre paintings in art history is like looking for raindrops in the sea, but take the dealer's approach – sifting for great stories – and piece by piece, magnificently odd paintings and sculptures gather in this imaginary art gallery, in celebration of the depthless capacity and sheer variety of human creativity. The mystery of the nude Mona Lisa, the man who painted the sea floor, the werewolf legion of the Roman army, the New World art of 'angel musketeers', visions of the afterlife revealed by spirits, stolen art, revenge art, the giant panoramas that towered over Georgian London...

It is an impossible gallery, designed to slake, if only temporarily, the needs of a thirsty soul. I can see it in my head like a memory palace, and picture Dr Johnson there, holding court with other curiosity seekers in the gallery bar. Perhaps he would have taken to the Irish poet Louis MacNeice (1907-1963), who seems a kindred spirit. "World is crazier and more of it than we think..." MacNeice writes joyfully in his beautiful poem Snow, "The drunkenness of things being various." **Edward Brooke-Hitching's The Madman's Gallery**

You can buy The Madman's Gallery from The Big Issue shop on bookshop.org, which helps to support The Big Issue and independent bookshops.



ROMEO ET JULIETTE - NOV. 18 & 19, JAN. 21

Shakespeare's immortal love story comes to glorious musical life as Valley Opera and Performing Arts and Mission Opera join their formidable creative forces to present Charles Gounod's "Romeo et Juliette", Nov. 18 & 19, 7:30pm, at the Canyon Performing Arts Center in Santa Clarita, and Jan. 21, 3pm, at the Sally Field Performing Arts Center in Lake Balboa. The fully-staged opera, with orchestra, stars Shira Renee Thomas and Xavier Prado (11/19/22 & 1/21/23) and Catherine Kenney & Vince McPherson (11/18/22) as the star-crossed lovers. The outstanding cast also includes veteran international artist Joshua Wentz, as well as Nathan Stark and Hugo Vera, both of whom have appeared as principals on the Metropolitan Opera stage in New York.

Dylan F. Thomas, noted for his imaginative re-envisioning of mainstays of the operatic repertoire, has chosen a more

traditional presentation for this beloved work. "Gounod's romantic music takes us to heights of love and depths of despair," says Thomas, "a truly powerful emotional experience."



"Gounod was almost the Andrew Lloyd Webber of his day," writes reviewer Timothy Kearney. Take Shakespeare's timeless "screen play" of passionate, transcendent, ultimately tragic love, add the power of Gounod's soaringly passionate and exquisitely heartbreaking score, and you have the ultimate "date movie", come to life in a moving live performance.

"Romeo et Juliette" will be sung in the original French, with English translation projected above the stage. Both the Santa Clarita and Lake Balboa venues are fully wheelchair accessible, and feature comfortable individual theater-style seats. For tickets and further information, call 818-727-7844, or go to <https://romeo2022.bpt.me> (Santa Clarita) or <https://romeo2023.bpt.me> (Lake Balboa).

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'Tis the season of giving. And when you're rich and royal – wow! No holds barred on how you show your affection! From outrageous to whimsical (you'll be surprised at what the British Royals exchange), here's a look at what the super affluent give. Plus, some supercool gifts you can give, too, without breaking the bank.

Cars & Homes & Jets – Oh My!

Think extravagance – think Kardashian, of course. Easily the Queens of Over-indulgence. But also family love. Remember that Christmas in 2013 when Kim gave daughter, North, and then-fiancé Kanye West matching cars? Kanye got a \$750,000 Lamborghini LP 700-4, while six-month-old North received the identical Lamborghini electric mini. A mere \$300. "Like father like daughter," Kim wrote on her Instagram post. Last Christmas, Momager Kris gifted each of her six kids with a custom Moke electric golf cart to the tune of \$150,000. A \$400,000 Roll Royce Phantom was also the vehicle of love for rapper Nick Canon, which he gifted to then-wife Mariah Carey for Christmas 2011.

But this is small potatoes compared to media moguls and business tycoons. As the man behind TV mega-successes "The Love Boat," "Charlie's Angels," "Dynasty" and "Beverly Hills 90210," Aaron Spelling amassed a fortune that let him spend a cool \$2 million for years to give his kids (when they were little) a White Christmas here in sunny SoCal, says www.financesonline.com. Rather than flying off to Colorado or Switzerland – anyone can do that – Spelling trucked in or brought a giant snow machine to spew mountains of man-made snow at his 56,500-square-foot Holmby Hills estate. And this was just the snow! Gifts and parties not included. His two kiddos loved it. And one, Tori Spelling, now 49, so much that she duplicated the feat for her own kids in 2009. (Just wondering... Was it Daddy's or Mother's money that snowed at Tori's house?)

No wondering in Russian billionaire circles. Doting father Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev loves to give

his 22-year-old daughter, Ekaterina Christmas gifts worth millions. One of his most recent Christmas surprises was the famous Sanford Weill Manhattan property, which he bought and gifted for \$88 million, www.financesonline.com revealed. Welcome home Ekaterina.

Also in the housewarming – and heartwarming category... All-round good guy Dwayne Johnson gifted his Mother with an early Christmas present last year. A new

nine-day Southeast Asian sojourn including private car, driver and guide is a steal at \$416,000 or \$46,888 per person.

Another spouse Christmas surprise. Mike Tyson spent \$2.3 million on a 24-karat solid gold bathtub for then-wife Robin Givens. This was back in 1988, when Tyson was worth some \$300 million, gold cost less, and he and Givens were still madly in love.

Brits Rule!

Across the pond, at Christmastime the British Royal Family is the epitome of "old money" tradition. No yachts or show-off cars for them – even though their wealth is measured in the billions. According to Reader's Digest, during the royals' glamorous black tie Christmas dinners at Windsor Castle they gift each other with clever novelties. A competition of sorts. Says the royal biography, "Finding Freedom," Meghan Markle pulled out all the stops for her first Royal Christmas back in 2017. The newly minted duchess surprised her brother-in-law, Prince William, with a spoon engraved with the words "cereal killer" on the shallow bowl end of the utensil. "It was a huge hit," say authors Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand. Kate, then Duchess of Cambridge, gifted her mother-in-law the Queen with homemade chutney – from a recipe from Kate's own grandmother, when she first joined the Royal Family. Kate also reportedly once presented Prince Harry with a "Grow Your Own Girlfriend" kit – obviously before he met Markle. Prince Harry, known for humor, not surprisingly pulled some corks of his own for the family. "One year, Harry reportedly gave the Queen a shower cap emblazoned with the phrase, 'Ain't life a (expletive),' which she loved," according to "Finding Freedom." Another Christmas, Harry gave his royal grandmother a Big Mouth Bass singing toy! Remember those? Yikes it went royal. Reportedly sitting in a place of honor in Balmoral, the Queen's Scottish retreat, and "giving the Queen great laughs," wrote Scobie and Durand.



house of her choosing – anywhere in the world! She's all moved in to the \$3.5 million Cape Cod-style stunner in Encino, says www.dailynews.com. "Love you Mom. And surprise!" The Rock wrote.

Come fly with me – anywhere! Stepping out of the Rolls-Royce last Christmas, Stephanie Shojaee was surprised and pleased at her husband, Miami real estate billionaire Masoud Shojaee's gift. A multi-million dollar private jet! "Even after 11 years of marriage, my man still found a way to surprise me," she posted on Instagram. If you don't have your own – surprise your loved ones (up to nine), with a private jet (Airbus ACJ 318 or 319) flight with Aman Jet Expeditions (www.remotelands.com). The



British glamor couple David and Victoria Beckham are a Christmas inspiration to us all. Good looking, wealthy and in love! David shows his love every Christmas, Reader's Digest says. But 2005 proved to be a milestone! Surprising Victoria with holiday gifts no ordinary mortal could aspire to: a \$100,000 diamond-encrusted handbag! A custom-built \$500,000 Royals-Royce Phantom. And best for last – a \$2.4 million Boucheron ruby and diamond necklace. That must have been a Christmas night to remember!!!

Beckham is simply following in the footsteps of fellow Brit, late actor Richard Burton, who showered Elizabeth Taylor, the love of his life, with monumental jewels. Not just big gems – but those of legend. In 1968, Richard delivered on his promise to give then-wife Liz a “perfect” ruby ring. Slipping onto her finger an 8.24 carat Van Cleef & Arpels diamond-and-ruby ring, which set a per-carat record for a ruby at \$512,925. And had the steamy star exclaiming “it’s the most perfect colored stone I’ve ever seen,” according to www.financ-
esonline.com. And in 1969, Burton gifted Liz the storied “La Peregrina” pearl, which legend says was found by a slave in the Gulf of Panama and – true – was worn by European royalty as pictured in paintings by Peter Paul Rubens and Diego Velazquez. Burton paid just \$37,000 for it. But after Liz’s death, it sold at auction in 2011 for \$11 million.

Prince William, a bit more reserved, nevertheless reportedly once treated his Grandmother the Queen to a pair of slippers with her face on them. And Princess Anne may have won the silliest gift award – once giving her brother then Prince Charles a leather toilet seat! And her father, Prince Philip, a pepper mill with a light on the end so he could season his food during nighttime barbecues.

Who knew?! The late great Queen Elizabeth II gave the same gifts as we do. According to Reader's Digest, the Queen would give her staff Christmas puddings to share (some 1,500 puddings) and (just like us) a signed greeting card with a gift voucher inside! The voucher amounts varied according to how long each staff member had worked in her service.

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Hey Big Spender!

Yes, you. But you don't have to spend like one – unless you want to – to thrill your favorite people –and pets! Consider these creative novelties – in the royal tradition – to bring joy this holiday season.

First! Splash your smiling face or your pet's or kids' – across your gifts. Wow family and friends before they even open

your gift – with Custom Wrapping Paper from www.zazzle.com. So so cheery. And effortless, with Zazzle's easy-to-use design tool that lets you incorporate photos, perhaps your pooch with reindeer antlers or you in an elf costume, onto the wrapping paper. From 30" X 6 feet for \$24; to 30" X 45 feet for \$104; and 19" X 29" wrapping paper sheets. Order the sheets, and frame

one as a holiday keepsake.

A tree in a box. How easy is this! The 12-foot artificial Christmas tree designed by Jim Marvin – a replica of Marvin's 2012 White House Christmas Tree – glitters with 1,400 white lights, 936 glass bubblegum ball ornaments in a dozen colors and sizes. \$29,000 at www.neimanmarcus.com. But you only need to buy it once.

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Fashion-forward canines will love the "Versace Dog Medusa" logo t-shirt, \$200; and perhaps matching "Versace" dog collar, \$375. Both at www.neimanmarcus.com. Also perhaps the "Gucci GG Waste Bag Holder," \$420 at Gwyneth Paltrow's www.goop.com. For country music dog-lovers – the exclusive "Blake Shelton + Lands' End Dog Collection" is super. Inspired by Blake's love for his rescue doggie, Betty, his canine-wear includes a Dog Flannel Sleep



Shirt (red & blue plaid), \$34.95; and red Dog Puffer Vest, \$39.95 at www.land-send.com. Bone-us goodness – a portion of every purchase supports Habitat for Humanity.

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MINUTIA

THE HISTORY OF THE ART OF TATTOOING

By Contributing Writer

It is believed that tattoos have been in existence since 12,000 BC, but there are some arguments regarding this matter. Tattooing has known to have been used for different purposes, varying from culture to culture, and also, from time to time, it has significantly changed in shapes, symbols, and sizes and place to place. However, the tattoos existing today have certain things in common with those of the ancient ones.

The earliest history of the art of tattoos is credited to the time the great Pyramids were being built in the land of Egypt,



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though it is believed that tattoos undoubtedly came into existence much earlier. As the Pharaohs went on extending their empire, the concept of tattoos traveled with them, and Crete, Greece, Persia, and Arabia gained the skill and extended the art of tattooing. Tattooing spread to China around 2000 BC.

Significant Use of Tattooing

While the Romans tattooed their criminals and slaves, the Greeks used tattoos for communication amongst spies. They marked their spies with tattoos which indicate their rank. This practice is still in vogue. The Ainu people, belonging to Western Asia, used tattoos to indicate the social status of their people. When girls came to age they were marked with special tattoo symbols and the married women as well. Japan got the knowledge of tattooing from the Ainu people, and the Japanese developed these to form symbols for their religious and ceremonial rites.

It is interesting to note that the tattoo designers in Borneo were women. This has been a cultural tradition of the Borneo people. The designs that were produced mainly belonged to the status of the person concerned and the tribe the person belonged to. While the Kayan woman would

have delicate tattoos on their arms which look like lacy gloves, the Dayak warriors would have tattoos according to their bravery. One who has "taken a head" would have tattoos on his hand.

The Significance of Tattoos

Tattoos have always played a significant role in rituals and traditions. The women in Borneo wear tattoos on their fore-arm which indicate their skills, for example, a weaver, and this made her status as a prime marriageable subject. Tattoo markings around the wrists and fingers have been believed to ward off evil spirits, and others were used to signify the clan or society that people belonged to.

In present days tattoos have been designed by groups like the Hells Angels, which have been created to signify that particular group. It is believed that, the person wearing a tattoo is able to call the spirit associated with the tattoo that he is wearing. Even today this belief exists with people wearing images of tigers, snakes, and bird of prey, calling the ferocity of the spirit that each image represents.

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By Contributing Writer

The Good Nurse

Movie titles are important, but there's special significance to "The Good Nurse," based on the horrific killings of dozens and possibly hundreds of patients by a night nurse who injected fatal drugs into IV bags.

Real-life convicted killer Charles Cullen is not the "good nurse" in the title. It is, rather, fellow nurse Amy Loughren — played by Jessica Chastain — who first befriended Cullen, then suspected him, then helped bring him down.

In bravely securing evidence Loughren saved countless lives, because the hospitals where Cullen worked lacked the moral courage to act on suspicions — firing Cullen for minor offenses and leaving him to keep killing (he worked at nine hospitals.) Director Tobias Lindholm and screenwriter Krysty Wilson-Cairns, working from Charles Graeber's book, make a powerful argument for telling stories via those who confronted them. And so Loughren, a single working mom with heart trouble, becomes a superhero.

When you have a cast as talented as this, led by Chastain and Eddie Redmayne, it



becomes less important if the structure veers formulaic. There are, moments where "The Good Nurse" has a too-familiar TV police procedural feel. But the acting triumphs.

We begin with a prologue in 1999, at a Pennsylvania hospital. A patient "codes," and staff rush — unsuccessfully — to save him. Quietly watching is Cullen.

Redmayne plays Cullen as someone unremarkable. Taking to heart a description in Graeber's book of "a sad Mr. Rogers type," he even wears a gray cardigan. Lacking personality, he is a true cipher.



Now we jump to 2003, and a New Jersey hospital. Amy, the night nurse, is exhausted and overworked, but devoted to patients. When an elderly patient's husband balks at leaving his wife alone, Amy breaks the rules and brings him a blanket.

A single mom, Amy works nights so she can be with her kids in the day. She can barely pay the babysitter, let alone the doctor treating

her heart condition, which will require surgery. She can't get care in the hospital because they'd fire her. And she needs several more months to qualify for health insurance.

Enter Cullen, who arrives on the night shift with "great recommendations." Seemingly generous and hard-working, he becomes friends with Amy, playing with her kids, and vowing to help conceal her condition. Meanwhile, Amy's elderly patient dies, inexplicably. Police start asking questions.

Two detectives have suspicions. Played by Nnamdi Asomugha and Noah Emmerich they are stonewalled by the hospital. Kim Dickens is chilling as a former nurse turned administrator.

As for Amy, she initially defends Charlie, but understands how he could have gamed the system. As more people die, she discovers his tampering. But the police need proof.

Chastain's best scenes come when she is seized with fear, yet determined to stop her friend. Redmayne shows us what truly mundane evil looks like. He displays a veneer starting to crack.

So we know whodunit, and we know how. But anyone looking for an answer as to WHY won't get it here. And to the filmmakers' credit, they don't manufacture a motivation where there wasn't one. There's no need. The unembellished horror of this real-life tale is way more than enough.

My Policeman

By Contributing Writer

Even if you've never been to a Harry Styles concert, it's hardly difficult to comprehend his huge appeal.

Also huge, to his many fans: the news of Styles starring in a movie. (Or, did you happen to miss the circus surrounding "Don't Worry Darling"?)

But "huge" is not the word to describe Styles' performance in "My Policeman," a deliberately paced, melancholy period piece about love, loss, pain, prejudice and the danger of living inauthentically. The biggest challenge for Styles, as one of a six-actor ensemble is to mute the confident pop-star magnetism, in service of the story. This he does. At times, though, it seems he's pressing too hard on that mute button.

To be fair, much of this may stem from choices by director Michael Grandage and screenwriter Ron Nyswaner, who fashion Styles' character, Tom, a working-class

policeman who hides his gay relationship while in a heterosexual marriage, as a blank canvas onto whom others project desires. There's been criticism that Styles gives an underdeveloped performance, but that ignores the fact that his very character IS underdeveloped. How can we know him if he does not know himself?

Still, it's a striking contrast with a sharply drawn portrayal like that of David Dawson as Patrick, Tom's lover. Or that of Rupert Everett, who plays older Patrick in the aftermath of a serious stroke.

The film is based on the novel by Bethan Roberts, who was inspired by the life of British novelist E.M. Forster and his love triangle with a London police officer and the officer's wife. From this, Roberts fashioned a 1950s-based story about a similar trio but with a devastating, terrible twist: It was a crime for men to have sex with each other in England until 1967.



But Marion remains attracted to Tom. And Tom pops the question — out of the blue, because they have barely touched. Patrick toasts them at their wedding. He even shows up during the honeymoon to cook a fancy dinner. All goes well until Tom blows up at Patrick at the dining table.

In any case, all this is Marion's memory of their courtship. There

is another version. It's one that older Marion reads about in Patrick's diaries. We then return to the same scenes from Patrick's perspective.

While the sex scenes between Tom and Patrick generate all the heat, his marriage to Marion is not loveless. They do have a genuine union, and Tom tries to have both Marion and Patrick — only partly because his gay relationship must remain secret.

Tragedy strikes, and it is painful to watch what happens to the relationship.

It is, finally, Everett's face that haunts the final tableau, a compelling few seconds that brings some closure and gives us, perhaps, a slight ray of hope.

As for Styles and his movie-star prospects? Give him some time. The jury's still out.

REGGAE ON THE MOUNTAIN

THE 11TH EDITION OF THE #1, MOST TALKED ABOUT REGGAE FESTIVAL

By Staff Writer

The event takes Place for the First Time in Santa Barbara, California November 18, 19 & 20 Fri, Nov 18, 2022, 7:00 PM through Sun, Nov 20, 2022, 11:30 PM. Top performers include Ziggy Marley, Steel Pulse, Ky-Mani Marley, Barrington Levy Don Carlos, Yellowman and more.

Reggae on the Mountain has been the #1 and LA's most successful and popular family-friendly, community-driven music and cultural event for over 10 years. Voted LA's "BEST REGGAE FESTIVAL," in celebration of the 11th Reggae on the Mountain, there's big news. "We're so excited to have the opportunity to expand our Reggae on the Mountain Festival to Santa Barbara for 2022 as we celebrate our eleventh edition," note Brooks Ellis and Amit Gilad, co-founders of the popular Reggae Festival and co-owners of event company, Label 27.

After an unwelcome Covid respite, Reggae on the Mountain is all new for 2022 with the first-ever Santa Barbara extravaganza taking place November 18, 19 & 20 with a stellar line-up featuring Ziggy Marley and much, much more.



Amit and Brooks exclaimed, "Reggae Family... It is with great pleasure that we announce the return of our beloved Reggae On The Mountain! Join us November 18, 19 & 20th for three days of music camping and more at our beautiful new home, Live Oak Camp in Santa Barbara, CA! This year we will be presenting our most massive line-up to date as well as bringing you an incredible new festival experience in one of Southern California's premier boutique venues! Camp with us under the Oaks and Stars as we return home for the 11th annual ROTM!"

It started with humble beginnings at a nighttime creek jam when Topanga Canyon natives Brooks Ellis and Amit Gilad first met. The two became fast friends, started a band called The Chiefs and began throwing show. The duo dreamed-up an event that would come to be one of the highlights of Southern California's reggae scene — Reggae

on the Mountain. The Festival has grown over the years and now debuts at its' new home in Santa Barbara.

Now presenting the 11th edition of the successful celebration, Label 27's Reggae on the Mountain festival takes roots reggae into the Santa Barbara for 3 days of music from international stars and heavy-hitting local and regional bands. Thousands of people are expected to attend this year's festival which is new to Santa Barbara.

Over the years, ROTM has hosted big-name acts including reggae/dancehall DJ Yellowman, Julian Marley, original Black Uhuru member Don Carlos, Toots & The Maytals, Kymani Marley and the Easy Star All-Stars.

ROTM 22 will be held at the beautiful Live Oak Campground in Santa Barbara Ca. We are very excited to celebrate the return of ROTM on these premier boutique festival grounds.

Founded in 2009, Label27 produces and promotes music and art festivals in the Los Angeles area. The organization is dedicated to hosting large, all-inclusive gatherings that exhibit a culturally eclectic array of world-renowned musicians, artists, and thinkers. Label27 holds the philosophy that event creation is culture creation. Amit and Brooks conclude, "We invite one and all to join us in celebrating art, music, and love!"

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TOP BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED TEXT MESSAGES FOR BUSINESS

By Contributing Writer



While communication has become simpler, it can get tough for businesses to keep up. Automated text messages are messages sent automatically to your subscribers through an auto-responder. Here are benefits of automated text messages for businesses in 2022.

Saves Your Time And Money
Text automation is not new. You don't need to spend anything on it. You can use your current system and add SMS API and SMS integration software.

Enjoy The Advantages Of Text-Message Marketing

Text message marketing benefits you. SMS works as a direct marketing channel, appointment reminder, simple customer service, loyalty programs, or feedback.

Improve Your Business Efficiency
Automated texts help businesses communicate with their clients more efficiently. Smart businesses use texting technology to increase customer satisfaction.

Communicate With Customers
Companies want to contact their customers and vice versa. However, sometimes calling and email are not helpful. If your calls are not getting answered or emails are not being replied to, you can lose customers. Substitute unavailable hotline and social networking channels with SMS services to develop smooth SMS communication.

One Message To Multiple Recipients
You don't have to make separate calls to attend to your customers. You can send one message to many recipients in one go.

Targeted Marketing Campaigns
SMS automation helps you create a targeted marketing campaign that

can be sent directly to your prospects and customers.

Better Customer Engagement
As texting is fast, you can enjoy quick responses from your customer. It keeps them engaged and informed about the latest releases and updates.

Personal Touch
Text messages are considered more personal than other digital modes of communication. They are directly received by the recipient and read instantly.

Enhanced Sales
Automated texts are a great way to enhance sales by informing customers.

Engage With Prospects
If you want to generate new leads, automated texts can help. The text response will turn prospects into buyers.

An automated text message is an amazing communication channel. Use it to reach out to more people and increase your sale in no time.

Smart security.
Professionally
installed.

Protection starts
with prevention



Know When People and Packages Arrive



Peace of Mind Starts Here

One Connected System For Total Peace of Mind



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Holiday Eggnog

The Myths Debunked

By Guest Writer, T.C. Rachel

Whether or not you're a fan of eggnog, odds are someone in your family is bringing it to your New Year's gathering. If not made properly, the recipe could include Salmonella.

This is especially dangerous if you are serving people at high risk for foodborne infections: young children and pregnant women, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems.

Each year this creamy drink causes many cases of Salmonella. The ingredient responsible? It is usually raw or undercooked eggs that cause the problems.

Eggs are a standard ingredient in most homemade eggnog recipes, giving the beverage its characteristic frothy texture.

Eggnog recipes vary greatly, and the use as coffee creamer or part of a cocktail doesn't mean that bacteria aren't finding their way into your drinks.

Here are some answers to common eggnog questions and how to keep your eggnog free of harmful pathogens.

Myth #1 — Alcohol kills bacteria in eggnog

Some people think that adding rum, whiskey or other alcohol to the recipe will make the eggnog safe. But, the alcohol in the drink does not kill bacteria.

Myth #2 — Adding eggnog to hot coffee kills bacteria

At its very hottest, coffee is served at 160 to 185 degrees F. But the adding of cold

Make It Fast!

Ingredients

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 ½ cups low-fat milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 dash ground nutmeg

Directions

Blend together eggs, sugar, milk, vanilla and nutmeg. Serve chilled



cream quickly drops the temperature of your beverage. To be sure that any Salmonella is killed in eggnog, the mixture must be cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees F.

Myth #3 — All store-bought eggnog have raw eggs

The eggs in store-bought eggnogs have been pasteurized. This is a process of cooking the eggs by heating the drink to high temperatures for a short time in order to kill any bacteria or microorganisms that may be present.

How to make safe eggnog:

The FDA advises consumers to start with a cooked egg base for eggnog.

To make a cooked egg base:

Combine eggs and half the milk as indicated in the recipe. Other ingredients, such as sugar may be added at this step.

Cook the mixture gently to an internal temperature of 160 degrees F, stirring constantly. The cooking will destroy Salmonella, if present.

After cooking, chill the mixture before adding the rest of the milk and other

ingredients such as cinnamon.

Other options for safe eggnog

You can also use egg substitute products or pasteurized eggs in your eggnog, or you can find a recipe without eggs.

With the egg substitute products, you might have to experiment a bit with the recipe to figure out the right amount to add for the best flavor.

Pasteurized eggs can also be used in place of raw eggs. Commercial pasteurization of eggs is a heat process at low temperatures that destroys Salmonella that might be present, without having a noticeable effect on flavor or nutritional content. These are available at some supermarkets for a slightly higher cost than unpasteurized eggs. Even if you're using pasteurized eggs for your eggnog, both the FDA and the USDA recommend starting with a cooked egg base for optimal safety.

So, by following these safe handling and proper cooking practices, you can enjoy delicious, creamy homemade eggnog without worrying about making anyone sick for the beginning of the New Year.

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Grandi Italiani

By Pam Froman

If you are in the mood for authentic, delicious, family-friendly Italian food, then you have found your happy place at Grandi Italiani in Canoga Park. Grandi Italiani opened as a sister restaurant to Andre's Italian Restaurant which was located in the Fairfax district of Los Angeles and opened in 1963. It was owned by Chef Domenic Andreone (hence the name Andre's) who was born in northern Italy and received his formal training at the famed Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Paris, France. Grandi Italiani features an extensive menu inspired from the original Andre's, and you have never tasted spaghetti and pizza this good!

Owner Aron Celnik began his love of all things Italian cuisine when he started working for Andre's in 1977. He was a mere 15 years of age, and the family atmosphere, delicious cuisine, and friendly patrons left a lasting impression. As the restaurant flourished, so did his part in it.

Grandi Italiani came about in 2019 because the property that housed Andre's was set to be demolished. As a resident of Woodland Hills, Aron decided to branch out – opening an Italian restaurant that was closer to home. Grandi Italiani is ready to carry the torch for future generations. The name means Great Italians, which is how Aron described Andre himself. "I have his pictures all over the restaurant," he says. "I also have pictures of other great Italians on the walls with descriptions of their accomplishments."

The restaurant's atmosphere is cafeteria-style and it's very family oriented. One of the main attractions is the authentic cuisine and the reasonable prices. The menu is varied with savory dishes like house-made lasagna, various stuffed pastas, chicken and eggplant parmigiana, salmon, shrimp, pizza, sandwiches, and more. There are also a variety of house-made desserts like tiramisu and rice pudding. But the favorite dish is definitely spaghetti with meatballs or with oven baked chicken. "Our spaghetti



has its famous meat sauce, which is made with tomatoes, lean ground beef, and the holy trinity of Italian cooking – celery, carrots, and onions," says Aron. "Then we add a nice rich burgundy wine and spices. It's been a very popular sauce for more than 60 years. We even jar it!"

Feeling hungry yet? Then head over to Grandi Italiani and let your tastebuds soar! The restaurant is located at 21730 Sherman Way in Canoga Park. Call them at (747) 230-8081 or see their full menu at www.grandirestaurant.com. It's delizioso!

Cavaretta's Italian Deli

By Pam Froman

You can't get more classic Italian than at Cavaretta's Italian Deli in Canoga Park. Lou Cavaretta opened the store in 1959 and it has become a Valley staple for Italian eats and sandwiches. Current owners Paul Nunneri and Dave Weisberg plan to keep it that way. The store has the same great food and service that it has had since its inception. Step inside and you

canoli, and their famous sandwiches and salads. Everything is homemade and fresh every day. Cavaretta's is also a full grocery store and they offer catering as well with platters and big sandwiches. The grocery shelves offer up Italian delicacies, pasta, and treats such as Stella Doro Cookies, San Marzano Canned Tomatoes, Fantenella Brand Pasta Sauces direct from Italy, Illy Brand Espresso, many new fancy cuts of Imported Pasta Cuts, and a full stock of Italian wines and beers. "We are built on kindness and we really care about our customers," says Dave. "Our menu stands the test of time."

The most popular item on that menu is the Famous Italian Combo sandwich which consists of capicola, Italian salami, mortadella, freshly sliced provolone cheese, pepperchinis, condiments, and homemade Italian dressing – ssh...it's a secret recipe!

Other sandwiches on the menu include the Caprese Sandwich with fresh mozzarella, fresh basil, tomato, and (of course) the famous Italian dressing. There is also Roast Beef, Prosciutto Ham, Sopresatta, Dry Coppa, Toscano Salame, and Imported Prosciutto. Salads offered are Antipasto, Greek, Tuna, Caprese Green Salad, Potato



Salad, Macaroni Salad, and Pasta Salad. Or if you are looking for a sweet treat – order a cannoli!

Another great choice is the Homemade Lasagna, with super fresh lean meat, Italian sausage and ground beef, lots of mozzarella, ricotta, great noodles, and homemade marinara sauce, cooked fresh every day!

Or if you want to try another kind of hot dish, check out the Meatball Sandwich, Sausage and Peppers, Pastrami, Corned Beef, or Pepper Steak.

All the food is made with quality products, especially the tomatoes, garlic, and onions. These ingredients help make up the staple of Italian cooking – the marinara sauce. "We use the marina-

ra sauce for our meatball sandwiches, sausage and pepper sandwiches, and of course lasagna," says Dave. "People also buy it by the quart."

Cavaretta's is a market that you can call home. The food is consistently fresh, and high quality, and the ambiance in general promotes a feeling of well-being. The deli plans on expanding its hours to serve a dinner crowd soon.

Stop by Cavaretta's at 22045 Sherman Way in Canoga Park and try the yummy food out for yourself. Follow Cavaretta's on Facebook or Instagram at [@cavarettaitaliandeli](https://www.facebook.com/cavarettaitaliandeli)

For more information call (818) 340-6626 or log onto www.cavarettasdeli.com



may feel like you are in a mini Dodger Stadium with banners and bobbleheads decorating the space as well the Italian atmosphere that comes from the delicious aromas of sauces and meatballs permeating the air.

The food at Cavaretta's is comfort fare consisting of delicious items like meatballs, lasagna,

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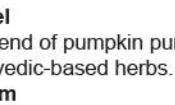
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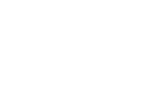
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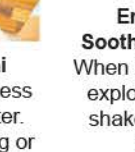
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TAKE A TRIP TO LOMPOC A GEM IN THE CENTRAL COAST

Story & Photos by Patricia Bradford Rambo II

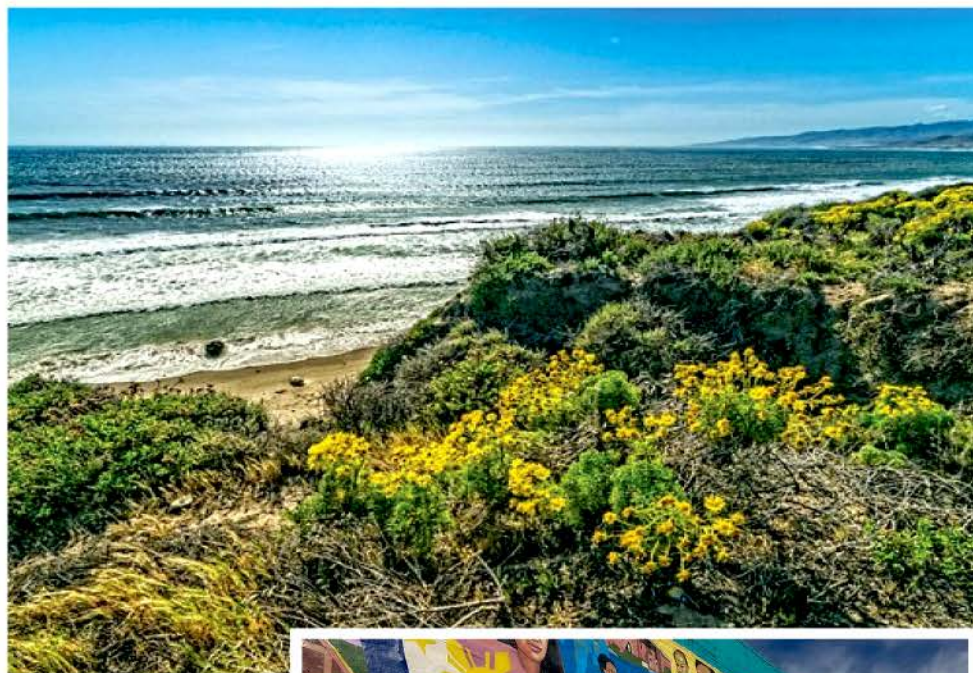
The Central Coast of California has often been referred to the “Gateway” or the “Bridge” to Nor-Cal and So-Cal, but hold on a second, if you slow down and take a look around, you’ll want to stop and stay for a while. Rolling hills of opulent natural beauty, with vineyards, roadside farmers markets and quant small towns that offer up some interesting attributes on their own and have a little something for everyone.

Lompoc has long been known for Vandenberg Space Force Base, previously Vandenberg Air Force Base, and has become a cool place to catch a launch or two for an

exhilarating experience. The small town has everything any-town America has, except possesses the feel of a friendly neighborhood with small shops and restaurants as well as arts and entertainment.

Stay:

The Embassy Suites, located in the central park of town is a great lodging option, not only because of its familiarity, it also has its own unique layout, style and amenities. The rooms are all suites with separate bedrooms which is great if you’re traveling with a partner. The décor is simple but updated with comfortable beds and



linens and includes a fridge, flat screens in the bedroom and living room as well as Wi-Fi, cable, microwave and coffee-maker. The Living room also has a couch the converts to a bed. This location has a terrific “Managers Hour” with complimentary snacks, cocktails, beer and wine.

They do have a grill, snack bar and deli for a full lunch or dinner and of course the famous free full breakfast for guests in the morning. The staff is warm, inviting and professional.

There are a number of places to lodge throughout the town from boutique motels and B and B’s

Venture Out

Head out and enjoy a morning drive to Jalama Beach, with stunning views along the way. You can hang out in the sand, go boogie boarding, or go swimming. For lunch, grab a bite at the nearby Jalama Beach Grille the burger is outstanding! In the afternoon, the city begins to stir as the local bars and wineries start buzzing with locals and visitors alike. Check out the Lompoc Wine Ghetto chalked full of wine tasting rooms, breweries and pubs. Ampelos Cellars, Flying Goat Cellars and Temperance Cellars are local favs’ and highly recommended.

After lunch, you might explore a bit starting with the Tour of the Murals, a



menagerie a large paintings on building walls, very popular with tourists or for a nature walk, head over to Bodger Trail with 130 degree views of Lompoc. Otherwise relax, talk in a stroll of the town and enjoy the small shops and cafés.

Dinner

There are some unique choices for dinner and for the most part think casual. Alfie’s Fish and Chips, which speaks for itself and satisfies any craving for the crunchy battered fish and crispy fires right on the main drag at 610 N H St. Or for traditional Mexican fare, check out Floriano’s. The enchiladas are to die for, but traditional tacos are also amazing. You may even catch a Mariachi band on the right night. They are also right there at 1140 N H St.

Getting There

Lompoc is a city in Santa Barbara County, California about 2 hours North of The San Fernando Valley on the US101 to Freeway to West on CA126. For more info <https://www.cityoflompoc.com>

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90TH ANNIVERSARY HOLLYWOOD CHRISTMAS PARADE

Supporting Marine Toys For Tots

By Contributing Writer

Don't miss the historic 90th Anniversary of The Hollywood Christmas Parade supporting Marine Toys for Tots, to be presented live on the streets of Hollywood on November 27 starting at 6p.m., starting at Orange Street and Hollywood Boulevard.

Led by Grand Marshal Danny Trejo, actor, author and restaurateur, the live parade will be presented by Associated Television International in association with the city of Los Angeles, hosted by Erik Estrada, Laura McKenzie, Dean Cain and Montel Williams, with special co-host Elizabeth Stanton.

This parade will feature 65 Hollywood celebrities and VIPs, 12 bands, 9 four-story character balloons, 3 colorful floats, 10 novelties, 36 movie cars and live performances. The parade culminates with the Jolly Old Elf himself, Santa Claus and his reindeer!

Celebrities in the parade include: Amanda Kloots ("The Talk"), Tom Arnold ("Rosanne"), Jaime Jarrin (Los Angeles Dodgers Announcer), Eric Roberts ("Runaway Train"), Jennifer Marshall ("Stranger Things"), Keith David ("A Miracle Before Christmas"), Folake Olowofoyeku ("Bob Hearts Abishola"), Hunter Clowdus ("All American"), Jerry Mathers ("Leave It To Beaver"), Dee Wallace ("E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial"), Kate Linder ("The Young and the Restless"), Deidre Hall ("Day of Our Lives"), Jason Dohring ("Seal Team") and more!

Live Performers will include: Wyn Starks ("America's Got Talent"), Keaton Simons (Singer/Songwriter), Tichina Arnold



("The Neighborhood"), Savannah Rae (Country Singer/Songwriter), Scotty Berg (Pop Singer/Songwriter),

Magicians from "Masters of Illusion," Gevorkian Dance Academy, The Divas and Drummers of



Grand Marshal Danny Trejo

Compton, and Chinese Lion and Dragon Dancers and Kung Fu Performers.

Grandstand Seats are on sale for \$120 for Adults and \$50 for Children under the age of 16. VIP Grandstand Seating Assignments

are issued at the time orders are placed. Young children may sit in your lap, but you'll have to purchase a ticket. To purchase tickets please visit: www.ticketmaster.com/hollywood-christmas-parade-tickets/artist/1796731

Curbside Seating will be available along the parade route, starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue.

Since 1928 the Hollywood Christmas Parade has been a cherished holiday tradition enjoyed by millions watching the airings on The CW Network and Armed Forces Network around the world.

For parade inquiries, call the Hollywood Christmas Parade Hotline at 1-833-PARADE1 (1-833-727-2331). Visit the parade's official website at www.the-hollywoodchristmasparade.org

Obituary

Betty Doris Ray

In loving memory of Mother Betty Doris Ray. Long time resident of Los Angeles CA, was born in Beaumont Texas June 24 1934.

She passed away on August 22 2022 to be with the Lord.

Betty was a devout Christian a business owner, a foster parent, and executive producer of motion pictures.



"Dear mother until we meet again may you Enter into Love and rest in peace eternally"

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Give Snow Shoeing A Try

By Contributing Writer

During this time of year I often find myself looking for outdoor recreational opportunities. Along with the holidays and all the extra eating that goes along with them comes time off and the need to go out and get some exercise.

One activity that is a relatively new discovery for me is snowshoeing, and it seems I enjoy it more and get more out of it



each time I strap the things on my feet and head out into the woods or across a field after a fresh snowfall. I have had the experience be one of quiet and solitude with barely a sound aside from the snow falling from the trees.

I have also had the privilege of watching a marsh hawk dive repeatedly into a clump of cattails trying to come up with a mouse or a bobcat sitting at the edge of a field with his back to me, intent on spotting his next meal and seemingly unaware that I was watching from the woods. I have found owl pellets under the trees and spent 10 Minutes scanning above me, certain I would see my first Great Horned Owl resting in the branches above, and I have seen numerous tracks in the snow, many easily identified - some not so easily. You just never know what might happen or what you'll see until you get out there.

If you'd like to try snowshoeing it really doesn't require much in the way of specialized equipment besides the shoes themselves. The pair that I use are actually borrowed and were purchased by my father-in-law from E.M.S. There are many similar pairs available online or at any of the



outdoor outfitters for between \$100-\$200 new and I'm sure it wouldn't be hard to find a used pair if you were so inclined. Most if not all have toe clips and adjustable straps. You just wear your Pac boots. Gore-tex pants or Gators are advisable as you tend to kick quite a bit of snow up on to the back of your legs as you

walk. A pair of ski poles are also useful for balance and help negotiating obstacles like fallen trees, small streams and old stonewalls.

As with any outdoor activity at this time of year you'll want to dress in layers so you can make adjustments as you warm up and cool down. Carry a pack to stow those articles of clothing you peel off, some H2O and maybe a pair of Binocs and you should be good to go.

So if you're looking for a new way to enjoy the outdoors and you haven't tried snowshoeing get your hands on a pair and check it out. If you're anything like me you will find it an enjoyable, rewarding way to spend a wintry day.



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By Andrew

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How to Keep Your Dog Healthy and Flea Free

By Contributing Writer

Fleas are one of the worst side effects of owning a dog. The dog invariably has to go outside. In the grass, the sand, the weeds, and in fact just about any outdoor surface, lies a little vampire just waiting for its next victim.

A flea can jump anywhere within a 6 foot radius. Their legs can propel their bodies amazing distances when comparing body size to measurable distance. And if they catch a scent of you, they can hunt you down quickly.

The Common Flea

To see a live flea usually strikes panic in dog owners. This is because these little creatures are rarely seen unless you are specifically looking for them. They are about the size of the diameter of a pin. They are varying colors of brown. And you can squeeze one with all the strength you have and not harm it the flea at all.

The flea is the number one infestation your dog is likely to come into contact with. They live by drinking blood. They can attach themselves to skin and hair follicles. Their legs are probably the strongest in the whole of animal kingdom, especially when size versus capability is taken into consideration.

Fleas start off as eggs, hatch, and move through the stages of their lives quickly. The flea can lay hundreds of eggs each day. In a matter of days these eggs hatch, turn into adults, and then lay hundreds of eggs a day themselves. You can see how hundreds producing hundreds that produce hundreds of fleas



start nipping on its stomach, or near the crotch area and base area of its legs.

Your dog might even roll over on its back and wriggle all over on your carpet.

Skin Irritation - Fleas have saliva that skin does not tolerate. It is the saliva that inflames skin.

If the fleas concentrate in an area, or your dog is allergic to the saliva, the area is going to lose hair and become inflamed. This area could lose all the hair. The skin could look really dry like a sun burn,



within a short amount of days could become troublesome.

Indications That Your Dog Has Fleas

If you have a dog with fleas, you will notice these things immediately.

Scratching - Your dog will be sitting or laying down, and whip its head to an area at the base of its tail and start nipping with its teeth. It can also

flaking off from your dog. It can even become infected from the combination of the attacks, your dog's skin reaction, and your dog's physical reaction of the fleas (biting, nipping, and scratching).

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Holy Crap Batman! - No, but seriously flea feces is an indication of infestation. Inspect the dog's skin at the surface. Move the hairs around in areas he seems to be scratching. If you are seeing little black specs on the skin, chances are you are seeing flea feces.

Another way is to try to use a fine comb near the base of the hair. After combing, try wiping the comb on a napkin. As long as it is white. Because if flea feces is present it will show up.

Get Rid Of These Fleas

Treating the dog is the first priority. Unfortunately it does not stop there. Once a flea rides your dog into the house, they have a tendency to lay eggs everywhere. And more than likely it has been a few days and you have several generations of fleas throughout your house.

You will have to get something for the dog that kills everything from eggs to adults. Then you will probably have to buy a separate attack for the house. There are foggers, powders, and other types that you can

use. Again, the important thing is that it kills all stages from eggs to adults.

It usually goes something like this: 1) treat the dog (bath using flea shampoo, combing, and then treatment) 2) house attack. 3) wash all bedding, clothing, drapes, towels, etc. 4) vacuum floor to suck up dead and eggs. 5) treat carpet again in the morning 6) vacuum at night. 7) repeat 5 and 6 until you are confident new eggs, hatchlings, newbies, and soon to be adults survived.

Now you have to complete the tasks by spraying or fogging your yard. This is where the dog picked up the fleas more than likely. Hopefully, the two fold attack on both the inside and the outside of your house will eliminate the flea issue.

Is There An Easier Way?

Remember the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"? It holds true for fleas too.

Purchase a topical flea solution from your vet. The most common are Advantage and Revolution. Some vets also offer flea dip baths that kills fleas, ticks, and other pests.

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Luxury Items To Give Your Kitchen That Wow Factor

Quality Cooking Utensils

If you've got a passion for cooking, you should let it show by investing in some quality hardware.

Say goodbye to the boring, bland knives that you bought way back when and hello to a set of beautiful, high quality cutting utensils. Taking the time to upgrade your cooking utensils will make cooking a much more enjoyable experience, and make you the subject of your friends' envy.

You can find a range of beautiful stands to display your cooking tools too, and having them on display will show any guests that you are a master in the kitchen.

Coffee Maker

Remember the days of manually making a cup of coffee in the morning? Those days are gone.

By Contributing Writer



A kitchen is one of the most used rooms in any home, so it's perfectly acceptable to want it to have that "wow" factor as you enter it.

Style and taste is subjective, but these luxury items are sure to grab the attention of anyone seeing your kitchen for the first time (and also happen to be very practical too).

Motion Sensor Taps

If you're looking to combine wow factor with practicality, installing motion sensor taps is the perfect thing to do.

Being able to wave your hands in front of a sensor instead of getting dirty or soapy hands all over the handle is the work of magic, and will automatically make your kitchen feel much more expensive.

Treat yourself to these luxury taps and bring the future of technology into your kitchen.

Nothing says luxury like a brand new, top of the line coffee maker. You can enjoy coffee like it's meant to be enjoyed, with a premium taste and a wide range of added flavours to choose from.

A quality coffee maker will gain the gaze of friends and family, and might even convince them to pop over to yours for a cup instead of the local Starbucks.

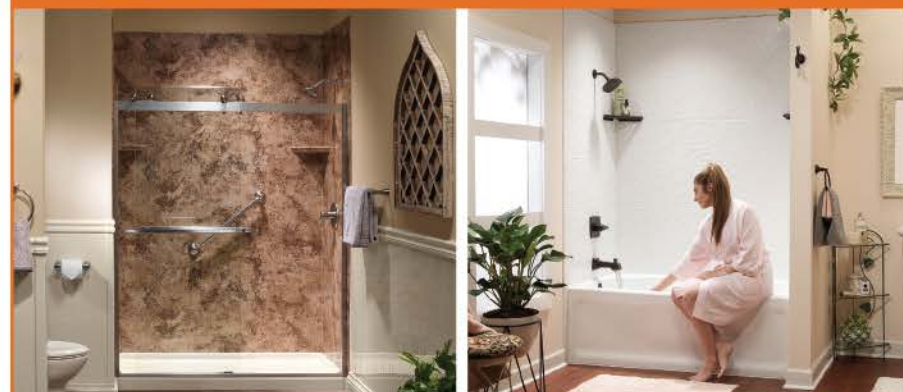
Lighting

LED lights might not necessarily sound like luxury items, but they can bring an incredible sense of style and colour to any kitchen space.

Bringing alternative lighting into the kitchen is a great idea for anyone wanting to add focus to different areas of the kitchen. LED lights can be fitted underneath cabinets and drawers, and even inside cabinets to shed some lights into the storage spaces.

Being able to turn on lights in specific sections of the kitchen is fantastic when cooking or preparing, and can add a sense of luxury to the space.

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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Top Stories

Fritz Turner, 23, returned to his hometown of Newport, Washington, to find the city's Christmas tree "embarrassing." The scant trimming comprised a series of vertical rope lights dangling from the top of the tree down the sides, The News Tribune reported. "This is not gonna do," he said. So he set up a GoFundMe page on Dec. 2, hoping to raise \$5,000 for better lights and more decorations. "We can do better. Even Charlie Brown's Christmas tree looked better than this sad spruce," he wrote. The page raised more than \$2,700 for the lights, and the local utility company hung them on the tree. And middle- and high school students donated handmade ornaments for it. For the first time in many years, the chamber of commerce organized a tree-lighting ceremony on Dec. 11. Turner said he's been "inspired" by the support. "Together, we're really powerful."

Chutzpah

On Dec. 6, Laura Oglesby, 48, pleaded guilty to one count of intentionally providing false information to the Social Security Administration, The New York Times reported. Her story is much more complicated than that one charge. In 2016, Oglesby used her estranged daughter's identity to create another life for herself as Lauren Hays, a 22-year-old college student in Mountain View, Missouri. She obtained a Social Security card and driver's license, then racked up more than \$25,000 in debt with student loans and other expenses. She also worked at Southwest Baptist University and rented a room from Wendy and Avery Parker. "Everybody believed it," said Mountain View Police Chief Jamie Perkins. "She even had boyfriends that believed that she was that age: 22 years old." Oglesby may face up to five years in prison and will have to pay restitution to her daughter and SBU.

Thankfully, a sign on Interstate 95 in Delaware directing drivers to a Wilmington exit was only temporary, but that didn't stop commuters from noticing it. The Associated Press reported that the sign was missing an "A" in the avenue's name ("Delware"); transportation officials said it was made in a hurry in case the permanent sign didn't arrive in time for the opening of the exit, which had been under construction. There's always time for correct spelling, kids.

Those large inflatable Christmas decorations may fill the hearts of children with holiday cheer, but one young ursid saw a sparring partner and went on the attack in Monrovia, California, on Dec. 8. Donna Hargett captured video of a bear cub wrestling with her neighbor's inflatable reindeer as the mama bear looked on, United Press International reported. "I looked up and there it was, jumping on the reindeer," Hargett said. "We see these two around all the time. They're trouble," she said. In fact, Hargett said they once broke into her home and left paw prints on the bed. No word on Rudolph's condition.

Lauras Matiusovas, 30, was suddenly (and mistakenly) released from the Pentonville Prison in North London on Nov. 26 after serving only 48 hours of a four-year sentence. After he called the probation officer, who told him that everything was in order, Matiusovas did what any grateful con would do: He embarked on a 10-day boozing binge with his friends. "It's mad," one buddy said, according to the Daily Star. "He could have jumped on a flight and left the U.K. Instead, he chilled with us and had a great time." But it all came to an end on Dec. 6, when he was hauled back to his cell. The Ministry of Justice commented: "Releases in error are incredibly rare, but we take them extremely seriously."

Sure, the Greatest Generation may be coasting down the road at 32 mph in their Le Sabres, much to other drivers' frustration, but Buicks weren't always old-man cars. In fact, car collector Anthony Saia sold a 1987 Buick GNX on eBay on Dec. 11 for \$249,999, Fox News reported. The GNX, part of a limited edition of 547 built for only one year, was produced by Buick along with McLaren Engines and ASC Inc. It was the second-fastest 0-to-60 mph car of its day (behind the Porsche 911 Turbo), and others have sold for similar amounts. Saia's car had 426 miles on it. [

Working at home? Stubbed your toe while making the commute from the bedroom to your desk? In Germany, you can now sue for worker's comp insurance for injuries suffered while working at home. Germany's Federal Social Court ruled that an unnamed man who slipped on a spiral staircase and broke his back was entitled to coverage, saying it viewed the "first morning journey from bed to the home office as an insured work route," NBC Washington reported.

Print this Page! Ctrl + P

Across

- 1. Orange juice component sometimes
- 5. Make a sheep noise
- 8. Smooth, in a way
- 12. Islamic prince
- 13. Frequently, in poetry
- 14. Fill to excess
- 15. Cousin of a bassoon
- 16. Baseball's Mel
- 17. Function
- 18. Milk variety
- 20. Off course
- 22. Overwhelming emotion
- 23. Cygnet's father
- 24. Fit for farming
- 27. Intensely
- 31. Hunger
- 32. Chinese path
- 33. Graceland, e.g.
- 37. Breath sweetener
- 40. Portion of land
- 41. Band Aid alternative
- 42. Civil War battle
- 45. Thing referred to
- 49. African antelope
- 50. Swe. neighbor
- 52. Hipbone uppers
- 53. Like fine wine
- 54. Holiday for one
- 55. Former country
- 56. Volume
- 57. Firms, for short
- 58. Apportion, with "out"

Down

- 1. Laborer
- 2. Part of a shield
- 3. Literary giant
- 4. Manufactured home e.g.
- 5. Soft slipper
- 6. Toward the stern
- 7. Criticize
- 8. Old time writer
- 9. Lily family member
- 10. Coach, Chuck
- 11. Not natural
- 19. Punch
- 21. Enemy
- 24. Senate vote
- 25. Matter for a judge
- 26. Busybug
- 28. Greatest possible

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- 29. Indochinese language
- 30. One to thank
- 34. Make an indirect reference
- 35. Also
- 36. Like some cuisine
- 37. Mound of stones piled up as a memorial
- 38. Law
- 39. Silver-white element
- 42. Three-player card game
- 43. "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" writer
- 44. Same as mentioned
- 46. Threat word
- 47. Keel over
- 48. Taxi rider
- 51. Kim follower?

DAD JOKES

Q: Why is Santa afraid of getting stuck in a chimney?
a. He has Claus-trophobia.



1	E	2	R	3	A	4	S		5	H	6	A	7	Y		8	R	9	O	10	A	11	D
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57	P	E	N	D					58	T	E	E			59	R	A	C	E				

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collectible cars. Auto Sport Group president Gary Blonder talks about the vehicles, calling them iconic.

a 2014 Aston Martin Vanquish
two-door coupe is an iconic sports
car and a precursor to agent 007's ride.



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CODING FOR KIDS

How Young Can Kids Start Learning? By Contributing Writer

“Is my child old enough to learn coding?” We’re here to help with a guide to coding skills kids can learn at different ages.

Coding for Kids: The Basics

Do you have a tech-savvy child that has expressed an interest in computers, technology, and coding? Coding for kids has gained popularity. Children that are five years old and up can start learning the basics of coding.

Allowing your child access to this education can set them up for a bright and successful future in this industry that is only increasing in demand. Coding focuses on computer development and programming. Coding utilizes creative processes to tell computers how to lead and execute actions.

This is done through code, or instructions, that a computer uses to function. When stripped to the basics, coding is the language of computers. Coding is used to



develop products you use every day.

Using inputs and outputs, learning coding can open endless opportunities when it comes to creating electronics. If your child is five years old, they are old enough to learn the basics. Often, coding is taught using games. **Benefits That Come With Teaching Kids to Code**



If your child has interest in coding, it can be beneficial to offer them access. There is high demand for STEM-educated professionals, and it’s only expected to grow. Not

only can it set your child up for success, but it can also help them better understand the connected world.

Those with a coding background will have a better understanding of these items rather than taking them for granted. This can change the way a child experiences everyday technology.

This skill gives your child a competitive advantage. It could make them more desirable for universities, internships, and jobs down the road.

Additionally, if your child already has an interest in technology, this can be a fun endeavor. While this is a logic-based field, it also provides a creative outlet.

Where to Begin

To avoid frustrating or overwhelming your child, you will want to use a program that takes coding slow. Build upon the foundations before moving forward. You want your child to enjoy coding to make the most of it. Take time to accomplish small goals during the process.

Consider Signing Your Child Up for a Coding Course Today

If your child has an interest in coding and technology, signing them up for a coding course is a great way to determine whether

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BUYING A BOARD?

SOME QUICK TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

By Contributing Writer



Pay Attention To The Trucks

This is a very important trait for the beginners. Pay close attention to the trucks. If these are not of good quality your skateboard would go for a toss the first time you really try something serious. Beware of the cheap imitation of skateboards. Always

skateboard. The speed of your skateboard is measured by a specific value called the ABEC value. This lowest measurement here is the AA value which indicates that the skateboard can hardly pull itself along. The minimum best would be ABEC 3 and it goes on with 5, 7 and 9. For a beginner the

best would be to start with ABEC 3 (or maximum 5). This would ensure that the skateboard is free enough for you to practice some early tricks, while it would slow enough not to literally slip off from under your feet.

New Vs Used Skateboards

Though a new skateboard would be the best choice for everyone, sometimes it would be good if you buy one from a pro. The used and broken-in-skateboard would not only be

buy from reputed retail outlets after closely verifying the details.

The Importance Of Bearings And Wheels

The bearing are very important in the way you would be able to master your

available at a bargain price, but also be excellent for you to practice on.

Ready to buy for your kids? Check out onewheel.com for the best new models and styles!

Skateboarding—often portrayed in the media as an extreme sport—can be a form of art, a hobby, or a method of transportation.

The world keeps coming up with new ways of entertainment and enjoyment. The skateboard is one of the more recent additions to the fascination of the youth of the 21st Century. Most adolescents fall in love with a skateboard after watching the pros in action. The skateboarding is indeed very attractive to all young people because it is daring, it is creative and it definitely is full of action.

If your kids are in love with this new sport, you would definitely look forward to buy a skateboard for them. Most likely they may have a few friends along with you who would be able to guide you in how to buy a skateboard for your kids. In case you do not, there following few lines would be helpful since you would find here a mini guide of sorts:

Be Ready For The Cost Of A Skateboard

A quality skateboard does not come cheap; and remember, cheap skateboard have no quality. Hence, if you want to give your kids a good head start in this sport, be ready to loosen your purse strings and pay what it takes to get a good quality skateboard. You should expect it to cost something around US \$100 for a decent board.

Choosing Your Deck

The best choice here would be one without any logos or graphics, as these are usually coming from designer labels and accordingly the cost would be multiplied accordingly. As it is the designs would fade away pretty soon owing to the fact that a decent amount of skateboarding would scratch it off soon enough. You should buy 7 ply or 9 ply deck for best results (this means that there are 7 or 9 layers of ply respectively) and pay close attention to its shape. A good skateboard should be decently curved in the kicktails.



JAPANESE KICKS

A "Cool Japan" Fashion Statement

By Contributing Writer

Inspired by Japanese culture, unique sneakers are making a statement and creating waves in the fashion industry.

Some fashion companies have re-imagined the use of kimono and obi in Japan by repurposing them for service to create custom sneakers and footwear for men and women. Each shoe upper is made from kimono or obi – the belt-like sash used to tie a kimono.

In a world of mass-produced customer goods, this uniqueness stands out from other footwear options and supports the initiative of Cool Japan.

Repurposed kimonos create beautiful and unique sneakers that men or women can wear on any occasion, even formal events. The materials used are eco-friendly, beautiful, and perfect for breathing new life into something valued and treasured.

Mottainai's philosophy, often associated with Japan's traditional culture, says that one should not waste anything. According to the principle of mottainai, even items such as kimono can have different life as something else, such as Japanese sneakers.

Typically, traditional kimonos are often worn on special occasions and passed down from one generation to the next. This practice alone follows Mottainai's philosophy by placing value on these family keepsakes.

Recycling kimonos and obi – the sash tied around a kimono – can transform them into sneakers with the same elegant design and patterns.

Kimonos get tied with a himo tare. Once tied, it's an obi belt. These belts are symbolic of family tradition as every family uses its exceptional designs and patterns.

Since every pair gets created with a unique pattern and design, there are never two exactly alike pairs. It's a dream come true for shoe collectors and lovers alike.

Customers can create the perfect pair for their wardrobe needs with multiple customization options, including laces, velcro, black soles, white soles, and wooden patterns. These comfortable and fashionable shoes feature intricate kimono patterns that incorporate inspiration from nature including, flowers, trees, and birds. Colors frequently implemented in kimonos include red, blue, green, and yellow.

Discover Comfortable Japanese Sneakers Designed With Research

During the Edo Period (1603–1868), this sustainability practice came about when kimonos became a source of secondhand clothing materials due to rising living costs and high taxation. Fast forward to the present day, and we see the practice of repurposing kimonos as an innovative and groundbreaking approach to cut textile waste.



Some people find it difficult to imagine that an expensive piece of clothing, like a kimono, can become something else. Still, there is a robust mottainai culture in Japan that views each item with value and purpose.

As more people from around the globe seek out new fashion statement pieces and ethical companies and products to support, these shoes are an exciting option for fashionistas who value style and comfort.

With nearly endless possibilities of combinations, there is no better way to refresh your footwear collection. Moreover, because of its roots in Japanese tradition, the tenants of sustainability are sewn right into every customized pair.

This rare approach has drawn positive interest among Westerners curious about Japanese culture. Increasing awareness of this new fashion trend places it in a unique position to support Cool Japan in delivering delightfully crafted products inspired by Japanese culture to the rest of the world.

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Several smartphones are shown at the top of the page, each wrapped with a large, shiny bow. One has a red bow, another a silver bow, and a third a gold bow. The screens show various app icons like Google, Play Store, and Microsoft.

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