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Learning How To Paint With Acrylics

By Contributing Writer

es are usually clear, quick-drying and extremely durable coatings. Acrylic polymer varnishes are created with a synthetic compound like the emulsion found in acrylic paint.



Most brushes include a protective plastic sleeve. Or you may use an additional brush dipped in water. An affordable brush gives you a painting which will appear cheap too. You should buy a simple brush set that isn't from the bargain bin and that has a variety of brush sizes. First of all, you require paint brushes.

In theory it is possible to select any color. For best results it's important to understand how colors interact, that usually means that some experimentation can be an enjoyable and useful activity. When you squeeze out the colors, get into the practice of organizing them the exact way on the palette to earn color mixing faster and simpler.

On the front part of the color wheel (top photo), all over the edge, you discover the primary and secondary colours. Classic base colors incorporate yellow ochre or burnt sienna they are highly advisable for beginners because of their versatility.



Most bottled craft acrylics are going to have just the ideal creamy consistency right from the bottle. Because acrylics dry rapidly, it's necessary for you to work fast in the event that you desire to mix shades. Remember that with acrylics you're working fast. If you're using tube acrylics and they're very

thick you may need to thin them with a tiny bit of water or acrylic painting medium.

Wipe the extra water out of the bristles when you're prepared to paint again so that you don't dilute your paint. Acrylic paints do dry rather quickly and you'll waste paint if you don't use this up quickly. They are known for their bright, strong colors. They offer an extensive variety of hues in an easy-to-use form. They have a specific look and even though they may be able to somewhat mimic watercolors or oil paint, when acrylics are used it is usually a very distinguishable look. It can be applied to a huge variety of surfaces. Acrylic paints utilize water as a thinning medium that makes them simple to clean up and simple to create transparent.

When you're mixing paint by means of your palette knife, work from many sides. Make sure that you do not put an excessive amount of paint on the canvas or else it will take days to dry and might also crack off the canvas if it's too thick. You shouldn't have to thin the paint. Just like palettes, which container you select is dependent on your paint and hence whichever medium or solvent you want to use with this. Don't scrub the paint on the canvas or you are going to end up with staining in place of painting.

Take pleasure in the painting that you do. Painting with acrylics is a great option for a beginning painter. If you wish to make your painting interesting you must offer enough of variety so the viewer is curious and wants to come back to observe it. Begin with an accurate drawing of the subject you intend on painting. Portrait painting is deemed fine art.

The sorts of varnish utilized for acrylic paintings often aren't the exact same coatings applied to oil paintings. Water-based varnish-

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Super Moms



We love you all! There wouldn't be anything if it weren't for you. Here's just a few examples of the incredible accomplishments of Mothers now and in history. Some you know. Some surprises. And a warm welcome to 2023's first-time Celebrity Moms from Paris Hilton – gasp! – to Hilary

Yes, You Can – Hot Ticket Mom-owned Businesses

Now a global company, Solly Baby versatile baby-wearing wraps was born (pun intended) out of Carlsbad, California-based founder and mother of four, Elle Rowley's frustration with baby carriers. While pregnant with her son, she bought a \$50 serger and created a prototype. Today, Rowley has grown her company worldwide and been featured in Wirecutter, Vogue and Martha Stewart Living. She found her customer base in moms who are looking for unique and simple baby wearing wraps. "It's hard to believe it was 11 years ago that my daughter and I were pushing rolls of fabric across our living floor for our first round of wraps," Rowley told Shopify.com. "Those were some crazy days, with a toddler, a newborn, and a husband in school full time.

"Motherhood taught me that our capacity is far greater than most of us believe," Rowley continued. "I learned to do more with 15 minutes than I could previously do with two hours. Not only that, there's something about raising children that has made me acutely aware of how fleeting time is. It put the fire under me to go after what I wanted. Not only for myself, but also to show them what's possible."

Patricia Bright, a South London-based YouTube creator, style and personal development expert, and mother of two, started her first business Y-HAIR only a few months before finding out she was pregnant with her first child, daughter Grace. "There's nothing like having to provide for your own child to inspire you to do the best you've ever done before," she told Shopify.com. So, she parlayed her YouTube stardom into her business, The Break, offering services and resources to other moms and women business owners. Along with second daughter, Nova, Bright has grown two successful YouTube chan-



nels. Making her helpful brand, The Break, a learning platform for financial skills and personal development for working women and other moms. And remaining a force in the beauty space, with two million Channel Patricia Bright subscribers and brand partnerships including a COSMETIPS X Patricia Bright beauty edit.

As a mother of three, a business owner and a lifestyle influencer, New York City resident Jordan Ferney wears many hats: blogger, designer, party planner and founder of Oh Happy Day Shop with an online store selling party supplies and gifts. She says she owes her 16-year success to creating original content and continually investing back into the business. "I spend the morning with my family

and drop my kids off for school. Then I have meetings. With the editorial team about content, the ads team about partnerships, and the shop team about any issues with the store. I help brainstorm photoshoots, and sign off on advertising partnerships. My main job has been to focus on the big-picture stuff, like working on new products for the party shop." Ferney's favorite business resources are Doughbies ("we order cookies all the time") and Lugg (like Uber for moving stuff).

Moms Making a Difference

Iconic style setter. First Lady. Photojournalist.

But none of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' many titles were as important as being a Mother to her two children, Caroline Kennedy and John F. Kennedy, Jr., according to Cafemon.com. "If you bungle raising your children, I'm not sure whatever else you do matters much," she said. Remember those iconic shots of Jackie with her young son and daughter on either side holding their hands – perfect.

And Josephine Baker (1906 – 1975) oh my! The sizzling American-born singer and dancer in France during the jazzy '30s – was a Super Mom! When not on stage, she was raising five kids!!!! By the 1950s, she had adopted 12 more children from around the world. Her "rainbow tribe," she called them,

says Cafemom.com.

And that's not all. When this Super Mom visited the US from time to time she was shocked at the racism and spent her last two decades devoted to civil rights, walking with Martin Luther King Jr. in the March on Washington, and appearing as one of the event's noteworthy speakers.

Hoorah for high tech mogul Sheryl Sandberg – Mom to five kids! A son and daughter with first husband, Dave Goldberg; and three step-children from second husband Tom Bernthal. And still found time to be Facebook's COO, the first female on its board of directors, and write "Lean In," the 2013 New-age "bible" for women, writes Cafemom.com.

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We salute two-time Nobel Prize winning physicist Marie Curie (1867 – 1934). The first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person to win it twice! Born in Warsaw, Poland, she spent hours in her laboratory each day conducting research (with husband, Pierre) that led to the breakthrough development of X-rays – all the while raising two daughters, Irene Joliot-Curie and Eve Curie. She also invented the mobile X-ray machine used in WWI.

Not to forget British author J.K. Rowling's true-life Mommy-and-me fairytale. As we know, she was a single mom on welfare struggling to provide for first child, daughter Jessica Isabel, when she typed the first book of her bestselling Harry Potter series in a coffee shop. She was rejected several times before a publisher finally bit — and gave her a \$4,000 advance. The rest is history. "I was set free because my greatest fear had been realized, and I still had a daughter who I adored, and I had an old typewriter and a big idea," Rowling said, according to Cafemom.com. A big idea that erased any worries about raising her next two children, son David Gordon and daughter MacKenzie Jean.

What would the women's revolution have been like without Betty Friedan, co-founder of NOW (National Organiza-

tion for Women)? Nowheresville. It all happened when Friedan became a Mom. Much of the inspiration for her 1963 book, "The Feminine Mystique," came after the birth of her first child, son Daniel (now a physicist) in 1948, and she was fired from



her newspaper job for wanting a second maternity leave after becoming pregnant again with daughter Emily in 1952. American women were suffering an identity crisis due to the idealized image of stay-at-home "bliss" mothers were supposed to feel, she wrote, says Cafemom.com. Friedan urged

women to find personal success inside and outside the home, as she did with the 1956 birth of third child, son Jonathan.

Motherhood skyrocketed another journalist, Erma Bombeck, to writing success. Beginning with a 1960s column "At Wit," she chronicled the escapades of

her mid-20th Century parenting of three kids, daughter Betsy, and sons Andrew and Matthew in Good Housekeeping and McCall's magazines, books, and a TV gig.

"The Flying Housewife" Fanny Blankers-Koen reigns as the hero Mom in sports track circles. Back in 1948, she competed as a 30-year-old mother of two (son, Jan, and daughter, Fanneke) in the London Olympics. Audience criticism was harsh. "You're too old. You should stay home with your children," revealed Cafemom.com. Reportedly she shouted back, "I'll show you!" And did she ever! The Netherlands mom took Gold in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, the 80-meter hurdle, and the 400-meter relays. The first woman to win four Olympic Gold Medals!

in 2001, she was worth \$98 million and her company was worth \$1.2 billion.

And cheers to our own Valley Scene Magazine guru and advertising sales director, Super Mom Trisch Kushner. She just wrapped the "wedding of the century" at the LA Natural History Museum for her daughter Simone Bradford Kushner – without missing a beat here at the magazine. Congratulations!

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Welcome to the Club! 2023's New Celebrity Moms

Paris Hilton! Can you believe? On January 24, she announced the arrival of her first child, son Phoenix Barron Hilton Reum, (via surrogate) with husband Carter Reum. "You are loved beyond words," Hilton, 42, posted on Instagram with a photo of her holding her baby son's hand.

"It wasn't easy. But boy (and girl!) was it worth it! Posting from pure heaven." Hilary Swank, 48, captioned a beautiful pic of her holding her newborn twins on each shoulder - a boy and a girl - on Easter Sunday. She and husband Philip Schneider are over the moon. Stay tuned for the twins' names and birthdate.

Meryl Streep is a grandmother for the fourth time! Daughter Grace Gummer, 36, gave birth to her first child, a daughter, early this year. Gummer and DJ/music producer hubby Mark Ronson debuted their newborn with a walk in Central Park on March 12, spotted by PageSix.com. Details are hush, hush.

"Yes, I am breastfeeding while ballroom," new mom Gina Rodriguez, 38,



posted, according to PageSix.com, after the "Jane the Virgin" alum and husband Joe LoCicero welcomed son, Charlie, earlier this year. PageSix.com spotted her taking a stroll in LA with her newborn on February 11. Rodriguez is hitting the



dance floor again with Dancing with the Stars pro Sasha Farber in prep for her new show "Not Dead Yet." The baby's sex, name and DOB are under wraps.

On January 10, Dancing with the Stars pro Jenna Johnson, 29, welcomed her

first, a son, with hubby Val Chmerkovskiy. Former Victoria's Secret Angel Jasmine Tookes, 32, became a first-time mom to daughter Mia Victoria with husband Juan David Borrero on February 23. Newbie mom Kaley Cuoco, 37, "Big Bang Theory" alum and "Ozark" actor, had daughter Matilda on March 30, with boyfriend Tom Pelphrey. Katie Stevens, 30, "Bold Type"

A mother's love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible"

- Marion C. Garretty

alum had her first February 23. A girl, named Rome, with husband Paul DiGiovanni. It's a son for newbie mom Kristina Kelly, 35, born March 15 to the "Vanderpump Rules" star and boyfriend-since-2010 Max Ville. "You're more than I could have ever dreamed of," Kelly posted on Instagram. And Bill Gates' eldest child, Jennifer Gates, 26, became a mom with the birth of her and husband (and fellow equestrian) Nayel Nassar's baby daughter on March 4.

Way to go Mommy-and-me!

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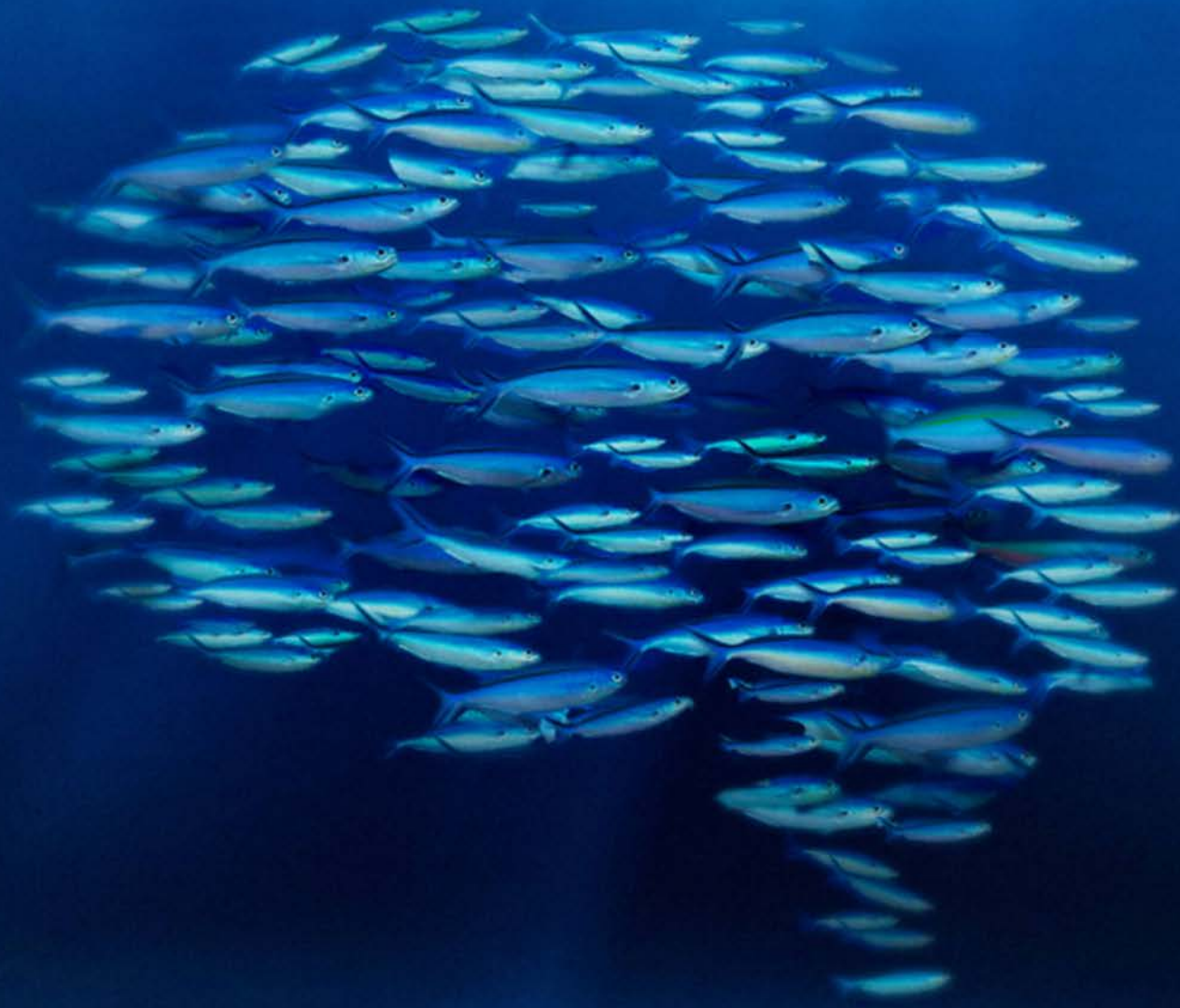
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MINUTIA

Viral TikTok Couple With 7 Million Followers Comes To LA

By Contributing Writer



With their 3.9 million followers on TikTok and recently featured on CNN.com and The Kelly Clarkson Show, Ling & Lamb will be in LA the week of May 1st. They have gained fame showcasing an inside

look into their marriage between "American Wifey + Nigerian Hubby." Their audience has been captivated and growing with a combined following of nearly 7 million between TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook.

Ling & Lamb have been featured in Popsugar, GMA, BuzzFeed, and they love to share their story and advice for keeping relationships happy, fun, and thriving.

They share their infectious energy on topics like: How to make light of any situation; Having fun with each other, even in the mundane; Trying new things together; Joking together; Keeping things spicy!

Their very first video to go viral is of Lamb introducing Ling to one of his



Nigerian dishes from back home. Their original content focuses on their experiential moments learning each other's cultures, pranks, love+relationship advice, and other lifestyle moments/vlogs.

Ling and Lamb is now in partnership with Walmart with the launch of the Walmart Creator Program.

Ling and Lamb, are originally from America (Ling - Taccara Rae) and Nigeria (Lamb - Yinka Lawanson). On October 24, 2018, they opened their YouTube channel "Ling & Lamb", and started posting in August 2020 on their channel, during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

The couple began posting on TikTok in May 2020. In September 2020, they went viral on YouTube after they posted a video of Yinka introducing Taccara to one of his favorite Nigerian dish, Okro Soup.

In 2020, they gave back to their community in Fairfield County, during the early stages of the pandemic, the couples distributes groceries within Connecticut. On 11 September 2021, the couples launched The Food Is Ready Project, with the aim

to feed 1 million kids from various continents. The project kicked-off in Uganda, as they feed meals to kids.

As of December 2021, Taccara pranked on Yinka, which became their most viewed and liked video on their TikTok, with 9.7 million views, and 1.7 million likes.

On May 2021, the duo received their first YouTube Plaques, for reaching 100k subscribers on their channel. On August 2021, the duo went viral in India, after they visited an Indian restaurant in America, to eat Lamb Vindaloo for the first time. Yinka Lawanson reaction to the meal took over social media in India, after the vlog was posted on YouTube, and TikTok by Taccara Rae.

On July 2021, the podcast Keep it Reel with Ling & Lamb, presented by Ling & Lamb was launched on Apple Podcasts. It is hosted by Yinka Lawanson, and Taccara Rae. The couple discusses problems in marriages, and relationship requested by fans.

Taccara Rae aka Ling

Taccara Lawanson, also known by her online moniker, Taccara Rae/Ling, was born in Englewood, New Jersey, the daughter of Vernice Holmes and Carl Holmes Jr. Her father is of African-American and Native American descent and her mother, is of White/European, Portuguese and Jewish descent. She has one younger brother. She grew up and attended elementary school in Norwalk, CT and later moved to Stamford, CT, where she completed middle school and graduated from Stamford High School. Growing up, Taccara was a child model and actress. By her late teens, she had successfully acted in theatrical plays in school and theater houses, also appearing in television and film roles. She studied acting and theater at the prestigious Lee Strasberg Theater and Film Institute and Weist Barron Studios in New York City.

Yinka Lamboginny Lawanson aka Lamb

Yinka Lamboginny Lawanson, also known by his online moniker, Lamb, was born in Lagos, Nigeria, the son of Azubuka Peace Lawanson and Ayodele Koffi Lawanson. His father was of Nigerian and Ghanaian descent and his mother was Nigerian. He has three siblings. He attended elementary and middle school in Lagos, where he graduated from Media Merit High School. Growing up, Yinka was involved in theatrical plays and musicals throughout Lagos. By his early 20's, he had established his organization, S.A.L.T/I Believe in Prison Reform. Yinka is also an accomplished recording artist, having worked with the likes of DJ Jimmy Jatt, Korede Bello, Stonebwoy, Elephant Man, and Olamide, to name a few. His most recent single, "Count Your Blessings" is currently featured on Apple Music and Spotify playlists around the world.

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RENFIELD

By Contributing Writer

“Renfield” is not Nicolas Cage’s first blush with a vampire.

In 1988’s “Vampire’s Kiss,” he played a New York literary agent who thought he was an immortal bloodsucker. His bug-eyed performance was essentially the birth of the over-the-top, kabuki-inflected mythology of Cage. Years later, it would launch a thousand memes — a kind of digital version of becoming undead.

Thirty-five years later with “Renfield,” Cage is finally playing the genuine article, complete with bloodthirsty fangs and a dapper velvet smoking jacket. Casting Cage, our grandest of ghouls, as Dracula is so predestined that it almost risks being too on the nose. The good news is that, no, he’s perfect as Dracula. The bad news is that Cage’s Dracula is only a supporting role here, making “Renfield” more of a tasty morsel than a satisfying feast.

That’s no discredit to Nicholas Hoult, who plays Bram Stoker’s devoted henchman to Dracula in Chris McKay’s “Renfield,” which opens in theaters Friday. The film, penned by Ryan Ridley, fashions

Robert Montague Renfield less as Dracula’s dotting, “yes Master” lackey than a distinctive and sensitive person — or kinda person; his supernatural powers are sustained, for some reason, by eating bugs — in his own right. “Renfield,” a fast and loose



horror-comedy splattered top to bottom with blood, is about Renfield trying to break free of Dracula’s fearsome sway — “a destructive relationship” as Renfield describes in a self-help group.

It’s a nifty enough idea (Robert Kirkman gets a story by credit) that the filmmakers have

wisely chosen not to over complicate. Even though “Renfield” features a monster with growing desires for world domination and an alarming number of exploding human heads, the stakes are low in this Dracula spinoff. The tone is antic and blood-splattery, slotting in closer to a gory, middle-of-the-road “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” episode than, say, the wittier “What We Do in the Shadows.”

Vampires have been in vogue for some time, but usually in more extrapolated interpretations with greater sympathies for vampires — elegant, sexy or childlike — as worldly outsiders. Edging closer to Dracula, himself, has been rarer, and it’s probably a sign of the lesser, shlocky ambitions of “Renfield” that he still remains off to the side. But whenever Cage’s Prince of Darkness is around, the movie has a bite.

Cage, returning to major studio territory after an often thrilling, sometimes befuddling decade in indie pastures, is, as always, fully prepared for the moment. The actor, long a devoted fan of F.W. Murnau’s “Nosferatu,” channels some of the classic interpretations of Dracula — including Bela Lugosi, over whom Cage is superimposed in an early flashback taken from 1931’s “Dracula” — while animating the character with his own comic, campy rhythm. It may be worth the price of admission to see Cage’s Dracula let out a brief “Woo!” while awakening to a new sense of himself as a god.

Yet “Renfield” oddly gravitates away from tapping this rich vein to instead consume the

New Orleans-set film with not just R.M.’s bid for personal freedom but a busy plot involving a local crime family and police corruption. Awkwafina co-stars as Rebecca Quincy, an honest traffic cop who wants to avenge her father’s death and bring justice to the Lobo family, a drug-dealing gang led by the matriarch Ella (Shohreh Aghdashloo), with her less sharp son Teddy (Ben Schwartz), among the lieutenants

It’s easy to see the purpose in some of this: Bring in some funny people to populate the backdrop for Renfield’s attempted succession from Dracula duties (which consist mostly of bringing him fresh corpses, preferably of more innocent blood). Awkwafina is a welcome presence with her own comedy chops. But by trying to amp things up, McKay, the director of “The Tomorrow War” and “The Lego Batman Movie,” loses what ought to have been the film’s focus.

Still, “Renfield” is enjoyable enough in a disposable sort of way. A lack of self-seriousness is a quality to be appreciated in any movie like this. And Hoult manages to be remarkably sweet while at the same time using human limbs to decapitate other victims. Some of the best scenes are of him sitting in on a support group meeting to talk through toxic relationships. (Brandon Scott Jones, who plays the group’s leader, is quite good.) But “Renfield” never lets Cage really sink his teeth into the movie, leaving us still hungry for more.

LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING

By Contributing Writer

The king of rock ‘n’ roll didn’t die at Graceland in 1977. He died just three years ago in Tullahoma, Tennessee, and he never really got the crown.

That’s the case made by Lisa Cortés’ documentary “Little Richard: I Am Everything,” an insightful biography of an unlikely hero.

Cortés argues that Little Richard created the template for the rock icon and she’s got the receipts, tracing his musical and stylistic influences through everyone from the Beatles to David Bowie, Elton John and Lizzo. If there was a king, he was it.

“Sorry, y’all. It wasn’t Elvis,” contributor Billy Porter notes dryly.

Little Richard was a personal mess. He alternated from flamboyant, orgy-attending, shirtless singer to reserved Christian fundamentalist who declared rock was “devil’s music.”

We go from Richard Penniman’s poor home in Macon, Georgia, as one of 12 kids, getting his minister father’s disapproval — and later, of course, approval once his son was making money — to his rise as the under-celebrated architect of rock.

But Cortés’ film is also the story of American rock itself, the way transistor radios allowed teens in the ‘50s to rebel against their parents’ staid music and how Black music was appropriated by white bands. Little Richard suffered the most — his howl absorbed, his piano-pounding adopted, his androgynous look swiped.

The film includes tributes by scholars and fellow artists like Mick Jagger, Nona Hendryx, Nile Rodgers, Tom Jones and director John Waters.

Cortés leans into the analogy of Little Richard as a meteor — a comet, a quasar, a Big Bang, his DNA everywhere. She celebrates the oddity that one of rock’s greatest pioneers in the pre-Civil Rights era was a Black, gay man.

His rise was that rare time when you could ingratiate yourself to the mainstream by exaggerating your queerness. But below that pompadour and makeup was danger. Little Richard was making music that broke down the walls.

Take his early hit “Tutti Frutti,” with its memorable call of “wop-bop-a-loo-bop-a-lop-bam-boom.”

It started off as a celebration of anal sex. (Early lyrics were “Tutti Frutti/Good bootie” and “If it’s tight/It’s alright.”) That’s right: One of rock’s greatest hits began life as what would have then been considered a transgressive record.

A string of hits with double-entendres followed, providing the foundation of rock music: “Lucille,” “Keep A Knockin’,” “Long



Tall Sally” and “Good Golly Miss Molly.” That Little Richard could not later feel comfortable in his queerness emerges as a tragedy.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the film is how Little Richard build his own persona. We learn he was part of a drag act early on, and was influenced by Billy Wright’s high

pompadour, pencil mustache and thick makeup, as well as Esquerita’s piano-playing style.

To this amalgam, he added the piano stylings of Ike Turner and the singing characteristics of such gospel artists as Marion Williams, Brother Joe May and Clara Ward. He made all this gumbo uniquely his own, but the filmmakers don’t always make it clear how his borrowing was different from when white acts later stole from him.

With all this star power, the film is also marred somewhat by the filmmakers’ use of staged modern-day performances by up-and-coming artists in empty clubs honoring Little Richard, plus the heavy use of swirling star dust as graphic motif, a touch of magical realism that seems unnecessary.

The last third of the film is Little Richard seeking the respect he had earned until his death in 2020. While he, Chuck Berry and Fats Domino are credited with bringing what was once called “race music” into the mainstream, Little Richard is still with us: It’s hard not to see him everywhere, from Prince to Harry Styles to Lil Nas X.

Let him have the final word. In the film’s last sequence, Little Richard says he hopes what he did in his career can spread: “Just carry the good word over the world.”

SOUNDGARDEN CHRIS CORNELL'S WIDOW SETTLES RECORDINGS LAWSUIT



Vicky Cornell sued Soundgarden in federal court in 2019 over royalties from recordings her husband had made that she said were intended to be a solo project but the band contended were part of their partnership with him.

"Soundgarden and Vicky Cornell, on behalf of the Estate of Chris Cornell, are happy to announce they have reached an amicable out of court resolution," the two sides said in a statement. "The reconciliation marks a new partnership between the two parties, which will allow Soundgarden fans around the world to hear the final songs that the band and Chris were working on."

No details of the agreement were released, and no court documents declaring that a deal

had been reached have been filed in court. An email seeking details from Soundgarden's lawyers was not immediately returned.

Chris Cornell made the seven disputed recordings in his Miami Beach home studio in the months before his death in May 2017 after a Soundgarden concert in Detroit, according

to the lawsuit, whose defendants included the band's guitarist Kim Thayil, drummer Matt Cameron and bassist Ben Shepherd.

In 2021, Cornell's family settled a different lawsuit against a doctor they alleged over-pre-

scribed him drugs before his death, which was ruled a suicide.

Soundgarden was founded in 1984, and broke nationally during the rise of Seattle's grunge music scene in the late '80s and early '90s. Their best-known songs include "Black Hole Sun," "Jesus Christ Pose," "Outshined" and "Spoonman." Cornell was also

part of the bands Audioslave and Temple of the Dog.

"The two parties are united and coming together to propel, honor and build upon Soundgarden's incredible legacy," Monday's statement said, "as well as Chris's indelible mark on music history as one of the greatest songwriters and vocalists of all time."



By Contributing Writer

The widow of Cornell and his former bandmates in Soundgarden said Monday that they have resolved her lawsuit against them, clearing the way for the release of the band's final recordings more than five years after his death.

The widow of singer Chris Cornell and his former bandmates in Soundgarden said Monday that they have resolved her lawsuit against them, clearing the way for the release of the band's final recordings more than five years after his death.



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By Contributing Writer

THE WORLD OF ANIME STICKERS

A Peek Through

In today's fast-paced world, Anime stickers or emoji's have engraved its mark by making it possible to send messages swiftly and with lot more fun. With a wide variety of these electronic stickers, it has come to a point where there is no need for texting. Using anime stickers while

ly decided to outsource the creation of emoji's to larger companies like Panasonic, but then decided that they would design it themselves. **What are Stickers?**

Large scale printing of stickers is mostly seen and the trendy ones are that of anime



posting stories on Instagram and Facebook are trending these days. Anime stickers are like social media superstars. We can't even think of texting anything without an emoji. Well, for some, emoji's are very important, very essential 'whatchamacallit' thing. We can also say that we are living through an "EMOJICANS ERA."

We use emoji for expressing emotion to our text. For example, if someone texts us "Are you okay?" we prefer to use a "Heart or Thumbs up emoji" instead of texting back. Emoji are of various types. Smilies are the most popular ones. After that, comes the heart emoji. There are even emoji's of food!! Manga toons also inspired the designers of the anime stickers. Nowadays, emoji themed games and puzzles are very popular among kids and teens.

The word emoji means "image character." It was Shigetaka Kurita who worked out the idea of emoji. He worked for the company DoCoMo. He became inspired by the weather forecast symbols, manga toons and Chinese characters. DoCoMo already had a heart tab designed for their pagers. Then the next step was to create emoji. Kurita designed about 180 emojis at first based on his observations about the expressions of the people. When they saw that they eventual-

ly decided to outsource the creation of emoji's to larger companies like Panasonic, but then decided that they would design it themselves. **What are Stickers?**

Large scale printing of stickers is mostly seen and the trendy ones are that of anime

characters. The icons are commonly used during chats or instant messaging services. People prefer to send across anime stickers as they feel it conveys a lot of emotions and the right message when they are not sitting face to face. Most of the stickers are available in bunches or sets wherein it is free to download and use. There are some premium packs where they charge a few Dollars. These are called premium ones as they pertain to specific brands, items or even limited editions.

There are also vinyl anime stickers that can be bought to decorate your day to day possessions and surroundings including walls, bumper, car, doors, motorcycle, toys, desks and lot more. Each of us have our emotions or messages to be conveyed and this can be passed on to the outside world through these Anime stickers.

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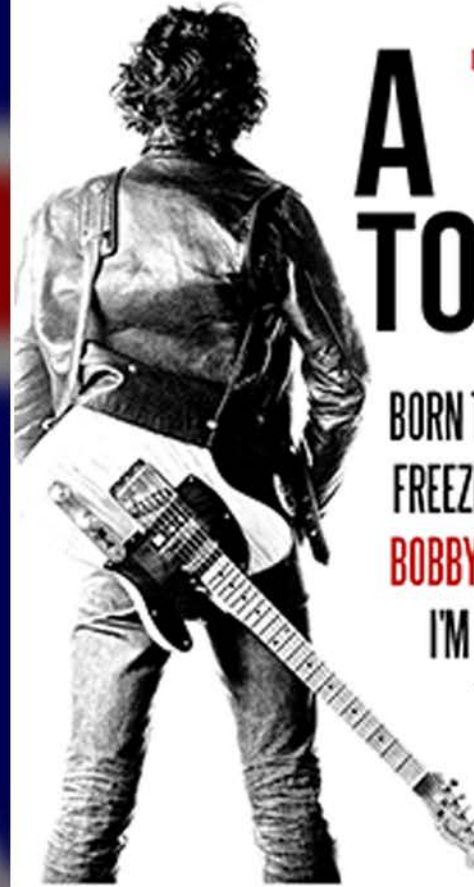
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BEER IN BBQ RECIPES

A FLAVORFUL ENHANCEMENT

By Jonah Flicer

When you think about it, beer is almost as important as the food and the company when it comes to a good barbecue.

You don't have to just drink the beer at a barbecue either. There are at least five good ways to use beer when you barbecue, probably many more.

Beer as a marinade or brine

Set up for success before you even start the grill. Marinating or brining your dinner in beer for one to twenty-four hours will imbue anything you plan to cook with a flavor that can't be beat. Here's how it works. The base of your marinade is beer, like a good Pilsner, which will act as an acid to soften the

connective tissues in the meat you're marinating. This softening helps melt the collagen found in meat, letting water in and helping to create the juiciest meal you've ever eaten. Add a little oil, some aromatics, and a pinch of salt to the beer for a meat-tenderizing miracle marinade.

Brine is a salty solution that adds intense flavor and preserves the moisture of the meat that you're cooking. You achieve similar results to marinating, but brining is a completely different way of getting there. Brining also uses a lot more salt, which is not a bad thing at all in this case. Leaner meats like poultry and fish will retain moisture while providing explosive flavor. Try substituting beer for a portion of the water in your brine the next time you grill.



Beer as a braising liquid

Braising is when you lightly fry something delicious, like sausages or ribs, then stew it in a covered container, like a dutch oven, over low heat. When using your grill, you can leave out the frying step because you take care of that part on the grill after

braising. Instead of stock, water, or even juice, pick a beer that compliments the flavors of the food you're braising and you'll be sure to enjoy the results. Braising is simple. Make the best sausages ever by throwing them into a dutch oven, with a few cups of Steam Whistle Pilsner. Simmer the sausages in the beer for at least twenty minutes before grilling them over direct heat for five or six minutes and serving.

Beer as a humidifier

Beer can be used to impart flavor while you are roasting, using the rotisserie, and even smoking. It's as simple as adding beer to your drip pan or the water basin in your smoker. Drip pans collect the delicious drippings from whatever you're cooking so that you can use them to make sauces and gravies. Imagine adding beer to the mix. Now that is a flavor trip! It enhances the meat flavor, and helps add bulk to your gravy.

A water basin in a smoker helps reduce the grill temperature and prevent wild fluctuations in heat. When the beer evaporates, it mixes with the smoke, enhancing the flavor of your smoked food. Moisture in the smoker also makes the meat more receptive to the smoke because the evaporated liquid has made the meat slightly sticky. Smoke particles land on the meat and are absorbed to create smoke flavored deliciousness.

Mop or Spray

When smoking, it's okay to keep things a little steamy, in fact it's actually beneficial. As stated above, using a water pan, or in the case of this article, a beer pan, definitely helps things along. You can also use beer in a spray bottle, or as a mop sauce to keep the outside of your delicious meal a little wet. This ensures that the smoky flavor you're after sticks to the surface and penetrates the meat.

Sauce

Beer is not only a great beverage, but also the perfect base for a great barbecue sauce. Think about it – all of those natural flavor boosters lurking in that bottle. What's not to love? Add a few spices, some sugar, simmer, and bam! You have yourself an easy and delicious barbecue sauce. The best part is that you can experiment with different beers to create different flavors.

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BBQ Beer Sauce

Barbecue sauce is ubiquitous at American cookouts, but consider it also a go-to sauce that can be used in a variety of ways beyond coating cuts of succulent beef, chicken, and pork. This beer-based barbecue sauce is a delicious and easy-to-make preparation that you can have at hand in your fridge and use on traditional choices like burgers, wings, or shredded beef or pork, but also on other preparations like pasta salads, sandwiches, and wraps. The sky is the limit when you have a flavorful sauce like this one in your kitchen arsenal. Ready in half an hour, the sauce keeps well for about two weeks in an airtight container in the fridge...

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, or butter
- 1 cup beer
- 2 cups ketchup
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 tablespoons molasses
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper



Valley Restaurants Welcome Moms & Families for Mother's Day

By Contributing Writer

It's coming: Mother's Day, and you'd better be ready. Research from The National Restaurant Association consistently ranks Mother's day as the most popular holiday of the year to dine out. Here's two of our favorite places in the Valley to make mom or loved one—and you—feel special on the day.

Few restaurants pivoted as adroitly through the pandemic as well as Studio City's Firefly, hiding in plain sight behind an unmarked door and lush ivy wall at Ventura and Colfax. While other joints just threw up a tent, Firefly converted its parking lot into as breathtaking a patio—with parquet floors, mid-century furnishings, drapery, mirrors and wicker chandeliers—as its original space. A

Valley institution since 2002 with a freshness and verve that feels like today, Firefly features a magnificent ambience, covered in vines and outdoor greenery, complete with a stunning library lounge and, now, TWO of the Valley's best patios.

Mother's Day's an \$85 three-course prix fixe at Firefly, starting with an amuse bouche of Luca Bosio Brachetto D'Acqui sparkling red wine and sunchoke croquette of brie cheese and honey. Starters include chilled cantaloupe melon soup with olive oil, nduja oregano, and sourdough toast, a spicy little gem niçoise with hard boiled quail eggs, green beans, baby artichokes, olive, spring onion, shallots and spicy Dijon mustard dressing, and an avocado toast salad with beetroot, pickled turnip,



goat curd, balsamic dressing.

Mains include steak and eggs with smoked bacon hash and fried duck eggs, tea-smoked salmon benedict with

Spinach and yuzu hollandaise, a pan-seared branzino filet with savory

English pea pancakes, asparagus, herbs, and a sabayon and bell pepper ginger relish. For vegans, there's a mushroom pasta with creamy white bean and black truffles. Desserts on offer include berries two ways—as a tart or in a bowl—and chocolate molten cake with homemade clotted cream ice cream.

Has mom got a rock and roll heart? Does she like BEER? Well, then, she'll love The Federal Bar, which ushered the gastropub tradition into the Valley ten years ago and has anchored NoHo ever since. The converted bank building offers an early 20th century vibe with its exposed brick and floor-to ceiling windows and a punk, rock, and ska club upstairs. Chef Chris Olsefsky has recently rejoined the Knitting Factory family after refining their pan-Latin concept Bow and Truss via Say It Ain't So @sayitaintsopb, where he riffed classic SoCal fast food with plant-based alternatives like vegan crunchadillas, burgers, and mini taquitos.

Olsefsky's turned the Federal's gastropub menu inside out, offering pickled jalapeno poppers with goat cheese, cheddar, Monterey jack, and buttermilk raita, buffalo cauliflower, and seasoned impossible tacos with vegan nacho cheese alongside decidedly meaty birria gyoza with braised beef, guajillo, consommé and cilantro and yellowfin tuna crudo with yuzu kosho, cucumber, scallion, cilantro, sesame, edamame, and rice crackers. He's doing three kinds of mac & cheese, steaks and salmon, and The Federal's venerable OMH (Oh My Habanero) burger, tomato, avocado, habanero jam, pepper jack, onion strings, chipotle aioli, and iceberg lettuce on brioche. Mom can wash that all down with rotating beer taps and cocktails running the gamut from the J Lo (El Jimador Reposado, passion fruit, lime, agave, tajin) to the Nearest and Dearest (Uncle Nearest 1884 whiskey, Sorel, Lucano Amaro). Oh, and bottomless mimosas and live music. A la carte.

If you go: The Federal Bar: 5303 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91601, (818) 980-2555, thefederalnoho.com/ 11:00AM-3:00PM Reservations Yelp Firefly, 11720 Ventura Blvd, Studio City, CA 91604, (818) 762-1833, fireflystudiocity.com 10:00 AM-4:00PM Reservations Open Table



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By Contributing Writer

The Ovarian Cancer Circle/Inspired by Robin Babbini was founded by Paulinda Babbini. Her daughter, Robin, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer when she was still in high school. Despite grueling treatments and surgeries, Robin died when she was only 20 years old! “There must not be any more Robin stories,” asserts Paulinda. The Circle, its Board and its volunteers are dedicated year-round to networking at local, regional and national gatherings, educating women of all ages about the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer. Moreover, The Circle raises money that supports medical research being conducted at the

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By Contributing Writer

Marvelous Midwest

Best Places to Visit in Nebraska

Welcome to Nebraska, the 16th largest state with a tagline of “Honestly. It’s not for everyone.” But honestly, this Midwestern state offers something for everyone.

Where in the World is Nebraska?

Nebraska is bordered by South Dakota in the north; Iowa and Missouri in the east; Kansas in the south; Colorado in the south



and west, and Wyoming in the west. This prime location creates the perfect road trip!

Nebraska is a land of rolling hills, prairies, and forests. With more miles of rivers than any other state, it is also home to many lakes and rivers. The state is a popular destination for outdoor recreation, including hiking, camping, fishing, and boating.

There are country roads, towering dunes, staggering rock formations, cultural sites, small towns, farmlands, vibrant university towns, thriving music scenes, and unique tourist attractions.

That’s not even to mention its impressive pioneer history including museums, memorials, Native American sites, and historic trails.

Things to Do

Omaha is the largest city in Nebraska, filled with things to do ranging from art galleries to museums, zoos to outdoor activities, and, yes, nightlife and great food too!

Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

The 160-acre Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, is home to more than 17,000 animals from 962 species. With its long history, you’ll run out of time before you’ve seen all. It offers the largest cat complex in North America, largest indoor swamp and nocturnal exhibit, largest indoor rainforest; and the Desert Dome, the world’s largest indoor desert which features animals and plants from southern Africa, Australia and the southwest

United States. Check out exhibits such as the Asian Highlands, the Suzanne and Walter Scott Aquarium and the Hubbart Orangutan Forest.

Omaha’s Children’s Museum

Omaha’s Children’s Museum celebrates “science is magic,” featuring daily science, technology, engineering, art, and math experiences.

The Durham Museum in Union Station

Train fans will want to visit The Durham Museum in Union Station with its walk-through trains and model train display.

Wildlife Safari Park

Take an outdoor adventure at the Wildlife Safari Park, a wildlife drive-through. Stop at the visitors center to see just how much there is to do.



Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum

Also in Ashland, is the more than 300,000 square foot Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum. It is well known for its impressive array of aircraft.

Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge

Walk across Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, a 3,000 foot bridge across the Missouri River, and stand in two states (Nebraska and Iowa) at one time. Kids will enjoy the view of the river and the Omaha skyline.

The Old Market

The Old Market is a vibrant, historic district filled with unique shops, restaurants and galleries. There are also a variety of restaurants and cafés.

Scotts Bluff National Monument

Scotts Bluff National Monument is a stunning 3,000-acre national park. Located on bluffs overlooking the North Platte River Valley.

Toadstool Geological Park

Toadstool Geological Park is a geological wonder located in the Oglala National Grasslands. Also known as the Nebraska Badlands, the area features bizarre mushroom-shaped rock formations.

The Archway

The Archway is an interactive museum and monument that commemorates the historic route of the Oregon, California and Mormon trails and stretches across Interstate 80.

Carhenge

Carhenge is a replica of Stonehenge made out of 39 vintage cars. It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the state. Visitors can explore the monument and take pictures with the unique structure.

Nebraska State Capitol

The Nebraska State Capitol is known for its grand architecture. The inside of the building is decorated with mosaics, murals, and statues.

Niobrara State Park

The Niobrara State Park is a great destination for outdoor lovers. The park offers 14 miles of hiking trails and is a great place to go camping, fishing, swimming and horseback riding.

Golden Spike Tower

The Golden Spike Tower is a must-see attraction for train lovers. This attraction

highlights the Union Pacific’s Bailey Yard, the world’s largest railroad classification yard.

Lauritzen Gardens

This stunning botanical oasis features a variety of plants and flowers that are worth seeing all year round.

Indian Cave State Park

Indian Cave State Park is known for its sandstone formations and its scenic trails. One of the park’s most famous landmarks is the Indian Cave, which bears Native American petroglyphs.

Lincoln Children’s Zoo

The Lincoln Children’s Zoo is home to more than 400 animals from around the world, including crocodiles, cheetahs, penguins and camels. Visitors can feed giraffes and watch live animal shows.

Chimney Rock National Historic Site

Chimney Rock National Historic Site contains a unique geological formation – a 325-foot rock spire – that was a popular landmark for settlers crossing the prairie in the 19th century.

The Cowboy Trail

The 195-mile Cowboy Trail connects Norfolk in the east to Valentine in the west. The route follows the old Chicago and Northwestern Railway corridor, but is primarily used for hiking, biking and horseback riding.



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WHEN KENDALL JENNER FLAUNTED GOLDEN GRILLZ

By Contributing Writer

What happens when glam and glitz meet? Some spectacular showbiz for sure and that is exactly what happened when we spotted Kendall Jenner wearing grillz.

The top "it" model flaunted her shiny embellishment as she attended the Burberry fiesta and made us all swoon. Not that we are already any less inspired by her multiple street style and after party looks but this appearance with a fashion jewelry that not many might dare to wear was definitely celebratory.

Fashion accessories update themselves by the day and to stay on its radar is something fashion folks always love to do. No matter if they are chokers transformed to layered necklaces to these shiny caps, we here always want to experiment with newer styles that maybe a blast from the past or a completely new invention. Now, when Kendall Jenner did not hold back and continuously flashed those shiny embellishments we were wondering if they have the potential of becoming the next "It" trend.

Not that we would be surprised but we are thinking of diamond lined grillz on our



canines that can be an ode to the vampire goth look. After all, stylish jewellery does not only mean statement necklaces and chunky earrings! Remember the eyeball jewellery trend that made waves and we all gaped at its existence. Fashion is ever-changing and that being its primitive nature has only left us inspired with every new thing that is doing the rounds in the market.

Of course for jewellery lovers like us this comes as a blessing because we leave no stone unturned when it comes to bling. These shinies can be the ultimate accessory as no other addition may be needed to amp up your look. This piece of embellishment is edgy and high fashion making us upvote it by all means.

Kendall also wore a layered necklace and hoop earrings to complement her look. Talk about impersonating the retrograde in full fervour. That era has marked many trends bringing fashion and jewelry on the forefront and we are only grateful for that. As we continue wearing 90s trends with much appreciation we also love the introduction of more golden and chunky jewellery in our lives. Maybe it's time we give minimal jewellery a rest. Or maybe not because after all when is it ever enough in fashion? And with regards to our obsession with jewellery, it takes a new high every time we see someone experimenting with a unique embellishment and it may continue to do so.

Speaking of golden jewellery, we have a collection of them here: <http://www.pipabella.com/>

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Wakeboarding!

The Best Kept Secret - It's Easy To Learn Too!

By Contributing Writer

Wakeboarding is a water sport that allows its practitioners to execute crazy, daring gravity-defying maneuvers and stunts. It is what some would call the relative of snowboarding, waterskiing, skateboarding and surfing. It has grown to become one of the biggest water sports being practiced by lots of water sports enthusiasts around the globe.

Wakeboarding was inspired by surfers who in the 1980s, began to append themselves to the rear of boats with ropes. It became a craze that grew in hype and stature, and soon drew its own practitioners.

And it was its practitioners that began to design unique boards for wakeboarding. They built their boards with more emphasis on balance and power and speed. As these all helped to create huge waves as it is pulled along by a power boat.

Wakeboarding became one of the world's best recognized extreme sports in the 1990s. It has now grown from its humble status as alternative sports to one that has a cult followership. It now has its own unique gear, professional organizations and bodies, TV coverage and of course, its own competitions.



Tony Finn was the person who created the first wakeboard, known as the Surfer. It was then marketed in the year 1985. It looked exactly like a surfboard, with its pointed nose all that round tail feature, and surfboard-esque fin. It became

quite popular in the watersports family and industry. This hype promoted the owner of H.O. Sports, a water ski maker, Herb O'Brien to create his own wakeboard known as Hyperlite.

sport that risk taking folks love, as a result of its daring nature.

The boards used in making the wakeboards, are now about 5ft longer and 2ft wider at the center. It also has a tail and a blunt nose, a fin or more fins that allows for easy maneuvering. Virtually all wakeboards are built with either fiberglass or graphite. They have features such as bindings that are appended to their boards, in order to keep the wakeboarders feet firmly planted on the board. The twin tip wakeboards are also now in vogue, as they help for easy movement in various directions.

Wakeboards actually have varying performance levels in as much as they might have the same semblance. So it is very important to know how much pop a board can offer, as well as the edge it keeps, and also its ability in landing. Not forgetting its maneuvering capabilities too. As you get to a ski/skateboard shop to get your wakeboard, ask the shop attendants to allow you test ride the wakeboard. That way it will be better for you to find the best kind of wakeboard for you. You can generally get your own wakeboard at prices ranging from \$250 to \$850.

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Humane Methods To Keep Squirrels Out Of Gardens

By Contributing Writer



There are plenty of humane ways, including natural ways, to get rid of squirrels. Here are some techniques that are effective and non-toxic for remedying a squirrel problem without physically harming them:

Add hot peppers. Squirrels hate the smell and taste of the capsaicin in hot peppers. Use this natural squirrel repellent to your advantage by sprinkling some cayenne pepper, hot sauce, or chili pepper flakes on top of the soil. Alternatively, grow hot chili peppers—the squirrels won't touch the plant.

Cover the gardens. Squirrel-proof gardens by installing row covers, bird netting, or chicken wire, or line the bottom soil with hardware cloth. All of these options will protect the plants from squirrels while still allowing for sunlight and easy watering.

Create squirrel-proof bird feeders. You can squirrel-proof bird feeders by switching out the feed. Squirrels love sunflower seeds but hate safflower seeds, meaning that switch will prove beneficial. Install a squirrel baffle (a special cone) to keep squirrels from the bird feeder, as a baffle creates a barrier the squirrel can't get past.

Get a decoy. Plastic or resin owls or rubber snakes in the garden scare away squirrels and prevent them from getting close to the gardens. Move them every day and add some type of noisemakers to the decoys if possible.

Install motion-sensor sprinklers. Squirrels are notoriously skittish. Try installing a few motion-sensor sprinklers by your garden to startle a

squirrel if it gets too close. Once this happens a few times, the squirrel will likely avoid the area altogether.

Plant squirrel-repelling flowers. Plant allium flowers like daffodils,

snowdrops, and hyacinths, as well as marigolds to naturally keep away squirrels, which dislike allium plants.

Tulips, crocuses, and geraniums attract squirrels, so avoid planting those.



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Remove trash. Create disinterest in your property by keeping a tight lid on trash cans and not leaving food out or other waste exposed. The smell of the food and trash attracts squirrels and encourages them to hunt for other nearby food sources.

Stock up on peppermint oil. Peppermint oil isn't harmful to plants or squirrels but keeps the squirrels away from your plants. Sprinkle some of the essential oil on the plant leaves and in the soil. Or mix peppermint oil with petroleum jelly and rub the stalks of plants with the mixture to keep squirrels away.

Try a commercial repellent. Home improvement and gardening stores sell repellent spray made with the urine of squirrel's predators — hawks, weasels, raccoons, snakes, owls, foxes, and more. Spray the garden area regularly with the repellent to keep the squirrels at bay.

Use apple cider vinegar. You can make a DIY repellent concoction with apple cider vinegar. Pour

some in a spray bottle with peppermint oil or cayenne pepper and spray it near your plants or wherever you want squirrels to detect the unpleasant scent. The more scent deterrents in the mix the better.

While some use mothballs to deter pests, it is not a solution for keeping squirrels out of your garden. The product is harmful to plants, animals, and the environment when used outside.

Harmful squirrel deterrents. Not all squirrel deterrents are humane or non-toxic to squirrels.

Peanut butter might seem like a good idea, but it is harmful to squirrels in large quantities. Squirrel traps are also dangerous, and there are many downsides to using them, especially live traps. Squirrels are easily excited, and if they become trapped with no way out, they can cause even more property damage. While there are trap-and-release traps on the market, they often still present a high risk of harm.

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What Are The Rules for Staying in Luxury Villas



By Contributing Writer

Luxury villas can be leased to stay in if you can afford the price charged by the owner. However, staying in luxury villas require observance of certain crucial rules that you may not be aware of.

There are owners of luxury villas who will allow you to bring along the family pet during your stay. Others may not, because the family pet (particularly sizeable ones such as large-breed dogs and cats) may require

high maintenance. Also, the family pet could damage the furniture and other parts of the luxury villas by chewing or urinating and defecating on them, so the owners of luxury villas may be wary of letting your family pet into their luxury villas. If your family pet is contained in a comfortable container, such as a sturdy portable cage, then maybe you can get the owner to relent in your case.

You and your party might be required to have inoculations against certain communicable diseases like malaria before you can get to stay in luxury villas in your host country. This is usually mandated by law and administered by the government of your host country. Actually, this benefits both you and the owners of luxury villas because you

and your party will be able to avoid getting very sick from communicable diseases, and the owners of any luxury villas you are eyeing can be assured you will not spread any communicable diseases to future tenants (or to the owners as well.)

Find out if servants and/or laundry and housekeeping services are included in the rent of the luxury villas you are planning to choose from. If there are many people in your party, the luxury villas may become expensive and time-consuming to maintain. So these services become necessities in such a case. If they are not included in the rent, you can ask your agent to help you find appropriate and trustworthy providers of such services in the host country.

One thing that you should look for in luxury villas is provision for security of your valuables. Ask the owner or your agent if any of the luxury villas have even a small safe where you can safely stash valuables like jewelry, designer watches, and cash.

If not, maybe you should ask about local banks who have safety deposit boxes that you can rent temporarily.

Speaking of security, luxury villas should come with security guards to watch over the grounds of the luxury villas during your stay. Ask your agent if their pay will come from you, or if the service is already integrated into your rent. Despite the presence of armed security, you should still practice caution during your stay. One danger in foreign countries is terrorist activity - for example, Spain has many luxury villas but is also home to the Basque terrorists who are seeking independence from Spain. Know the dangers inherent in the country you will be visiting.

Can you rent a vehicle as well so that your stay at luxury villas will be more convenient?

Luxury villas represent the high end of a luxury vacation. This list will serve as a guide to make your stay easier and more comfortable.

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Expert Tips to Help You Buy A Luxury Home

By Contributing Writer

If you are looking to purchase a luxury home, you can choose from a lot of options. In this article, we are going to share with you a few tips from experts that will help you go for the best luxury home. Read on to find out more.



Find out about the Search Process

A lot of luxury homes are not listed in order to protect the privacy of the seller. Often, these properties can be found by talking to the personal connections of the realtor. So, what you need to do is check out several online sources as searching on big search engines is not enough.

Don't make your Decision based on Photos only

If you make your buying decision based on the photos of the front of a property, you are making a mistake. It is important to note is that some homes are not photogenic and should be seen in person for a better idea of their suitability.

If you are going to buy one, you may want to find out about the vicinity of the property on Google Earth.

Hire a Local Expert

It is better that you work with the local real estate agent as they have a lot of information about luxury homes in your

area. They can help you get an appointment to see the property of your choice.

Contact your Bank

Experts suggest that you contact your bank as well as they have your portfolio. Apart from this, you may want to understand the difference between the pre-qualification letter and the pre-approval letter.

Document Everything

These days, the high-end real estate market is going through a lot of scrutinies. Therefore, it is a must to have financial documents. So, you may not want to shelter your money as it can create difficulties for you later on.

Hire Reliable Advisers

Your real estate agent should not be your decision-maker. Their job is to give you useful suggestions to help you make a better decision. Therefore, you may want to make your decision and hire only a reliable advisor.

Consider the Title Insurance

You may want to go for title insurance as this can help you be on the safe side. Apart from this, you may want to check out the exception page of your title insurance prior to closing time.



Look into the Future

You may want to find out more about the properties being planned around your property. If your neighbor builds a building taller than yours, it may have an impact on your property as well. Besides, you may want to consider the timeline as well. This is important if you want to avoid construction delays.

Cooperatives and Condominiums

In case you are going to buy condominiums or cooperatives, make sure that you hire the services of an attorney that can help you know the financial viability of the building.

Long story short, if you are going to invest in a luxury home, we suggest that you consider the 9 tips explained in this article.



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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Least Competent Criminal

Channing Vanderbilt, 31, was arrested in Chandler, Arizona, on April 3 after a shooting that killed a 58-year-old man, AZFamily reported. When officers responded to the scene, the man's wife said Vanderbilt had approached them as they were retrieving their mail and opened fire. Oddly, Vanderbilt was also still at the scene, pretending to be a bystander. He denied being involved in the shooting and said he was picking up shell casings as "souvenirs." He was charged with first-degree murder and other offenses.

Here's a new thing to worry about: super pigs. Starting in the 1980s, Canadian farmers bred domestic pigs with wild boars, resulting in "super pigs" that are a headache for wildlife and crops, Yahoo! News reported. Now, the hybrids, which sometimes grow to 600 pounds, are moving south into the United States. "They are the worst invasive large mammal on the planet. Period," said Ryan Brook, a wildlife researcher at the University of Saskatchewan. The pigs feed on agricultural crops but also damage the soil by digging in it. They eat reptiles, birds and even white-tailed deer, and they contaminate water. While some have suggested hunting as a way to control their numbers, Brook said, "You simply can't BBQ your way out of a wild pig problem." Officials in Montana have introduced the "Squeal on Pigs!" campaign encouraging residents to report feral swine, and North and South Dakota have reported possible populations. Soo wee!

Awesome!

-- In Australia, artist Dani Reynolds has overtaken a record previously held by actress Drew Barrymore for the world's widest wig, NDTV reported on April 4. Reynolds worked with another artist, Meg Wilson, to create the 8-foot-6-inch hairpiece using synthetic hair, a bike helmet, PVC pipes, pool noodles, cable ties and aluminum rods -- plus two giant pink bows. Reynolds said the biggest challenge was making sure the wig was balanced: "Not having a background in structural engineering or props-making made this quite a difficult task," she said. The enormous wig took the women about two months and \$2,700 to complete.

-- In Caledonia, Michigan, Andrew Clark comes from a long line of Y chromosomes, WZZM-TV reported. For the past 138 years, there have been no girls born to his family -- until St. Patrick's Day, when Clark and his wife, Carolyn, welcomed Audrey Marie. All the way back to 1885 and Clark's great-great-grandfather, only sons have been born to the family. "It was just joy, you know, just that she was here and healthy," Carolyn said. "It made it even more special that it was a girl."

It's a Mystery

Over the last several months, Don Powell and his wife, Nancy, have been puzzling over uninvited inhabitants of their fancy mailbox in Orchard Lake, Michigan. USA Today reported that in August 2022, two small dolls, a miniature couch and a small table appeared in the mailbox, which is custom-built to resemble the Powells' home, with windows and a solar-powered interior light that comes on at night. The dolls were accompanied by a note: "We've decided to live here. Mary and Shelley." Powell thought a neighbor might be spoofing him, but after exhaustive investigatory work, he's no closer to knowing the source of the figures. Over time, the home gained a four-poster bed, a dog, a rug and art for the wall. "The whole thing got rather whimsical," Powell said. At Halloween, Mary and Shelley were replaced by two skeleton dolls dressed in black, and at Christmas, tiny, wrapped gifts appeared. Now, Powell is thinking of writing a children's book about the mailbox mystery. "I think it creates a novel story," he said.

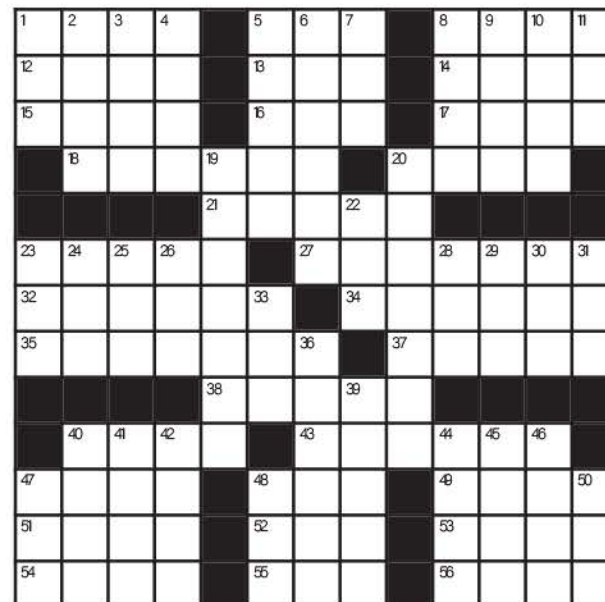
Angel Footman, 23, a teacher at Griffin Middle School in Tallahassee, Florida, was arrested on April 7 and charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, the New York Post reported. The charges came after school administrators learned Footman was allegedly hosting violent brawls between students in her classroom. Naturally, she set down rules: no recordings, and no pulling hair. No screaming (draws attention). Fights must be limited to 30 seconds each. However, several sixth-grade girls alerted administrators, and video turned up showing Footman at her desk while students fought each other. She's scheduled for arraignment in May.

Crossword by Myles Mellor

Print this Page! Ctrl + P

Across

- 1 Birthstone after sapphire
- 5 Mil. rank
- 8 Killer whale
- 12 Sandwich shop
- 13 Imitate
- 14 Cancel
- 15 To have a opinion
- 16 Part of RPM
- 17 Consumes
- 18 Top QB, Manning
- 20 Military corps
- 21 Edit
- 23 Primp
- 27 Send out again
- 32 Except
- 34 Sleep inducer
- 35 Three -masted sailing ship
- 37 Court call
- 38 Military groups
- 40 Field ____
- 43 Razz
- 47 Hopper
- 48 Pronoun
- 49 Republic of China coin
- 51 Seed cover
- 52 And all that jazz
- 53 Taj Mahal site
- 54 Nothing but
- 55 Golf course builder Pete ____
- 56 Say no to



- 19 Get nervous
- 20 Relating to fat
- 22 Opposite of paleo -
- 23 Dog
- 24 Cell constituent
- 25 Home extension
- 26 Wiggler
- 28 "To ___ with Love" LuLu song
- 29 Dispirited
- 30 Service vehicle, for short
- 31 Always poetic
- 33 Royal wish
- 36 One before ten, times ten
- 39 9:00 am prayer time
- 40 Severed
- 41 Track
- 42 Futilely
- 44 Group of two
- 45 Olympic sport
- 46 Bring in
- 47 Philosophy of human conduct
- 48 Contraction
- 50 Roll - call call

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KIDS FORUM



HIRING AN AU PAIR IS NOT A SIMPLE TASK



and that no one method is consistently better than the others. The most common and basic method is to call everyone you know and get the word out that you need a Nanny or Au Pair. Most often, parents go online, posting notices on electronic bulletin boards and responding to postings that catch their attention. They call friends, co-workers, neighbours; they attend mothers' groups, talk to other moms at local parenting agencies; they go to the park and talk to Nannies; and many simply stop and ask strangers pushing baby carriages - anyone who seems likely to offer a lead about a "Nanny seeking employment."

Armed with lists and names scratched on pieces of paper or neatly in a file on their

PDA's they make calls and hope for the best.

Other parents use what I call the "building block" method of finding a Nanny / Au Pair. They make decisions about key issues before starting, such as experience required, proposed schedule, responsibilities, compensation and their legal responsibilities as an employer. They advertise and pre screen for experience and work history. They check references and go through an interview and trial period before signing a formal contract to hire their selected Nanny. Along the way they ensure she has health/safety training and a clear criminal and driving record. Inevitably, there are frustrating ups and downs and worries but these building blocks

provide stability in a market without stability and the information gathered over time can create a foundation ensuring a worried parent that their nanny / Au Pair is who she says she is and has a "no-harm" history of caring for children.

Then there's the professional search to find a Nanny. This is the method used by Nanny - Au pair placement agencies that screen candidates and send portfolios to parents to evaluate, interview and make decisions about. This method is most often used by parents who don't have time to go through the full process and who want reassurance that a candidate has cleared a basic screening regimen. This approach, however, is not as perfect as a parent would expect. Not all placement agencies scrutinise candidates thoroughly and mismatches between parents and Nannies/Au pairs often occur. Parents can receive information on numerous candidates to meet their expectations.



By Contributing Writer

How do parents find and choose a Nanny / Au Pair? Over the years I've learned that there are three common methods of finding an Au Pair



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Why Is Lego Still So Popular?

By Contributing Writer

Lego has been a feature of many children's toy boxes for many years and more than just a few parents have discovered just how painful stepping on a stray brick can be! But, why has such a simple toy endured for so long?

produced in 1958 and the basic design of the interlocking bricks hasn't changed since.

Despite that fact that the toy is now more than 50 years old, Lego has managed to keep the brand up to date and relevant by keeping up with the times. Many of the sets that are on sale today are branded around movies, like Star Wars or Batman. So, while the modest little plastic bricks will undoubtedly still end up loose in the toy box just as they always have done, they start life as a part of an exciting and up to date action figure set.

Unlike regular action figure sets, though, the bricks can be used to create anything. So, while a Harry Potter figure may be discarded once Wizards are no longer cool, a Harry Potter Lego set can still be morphed into Power Rangers, Transformers, or whatever else may be popular at the time.

In fact, most instructions for the sets are probably lost forever following the very first build. After that a child's imagination starts to run free and they begin to create their own robots, spacecraft, and jet planes. And, of course, the parents are just waiting for an excuse to get down on the carpet to



will a fortress or a tank. These blocks are durable too, so they can be handed down from one child to the next, or even one generation to the next.

Best of all, you can spend hours creating a masterpiece and then smash it all up and start all over again. There is no fiddling around with glue or paint and every single part can be reused in another model.

So, why is Lego still so popular? Because a set can start out as one thing and

then become anything your imagination can come up with. While the sets may have become more complex and the figurines have become more detailed, the basic premise of Lego is that you put it together any way you like, over and over again. Who could ever get bored with that?

If you want to know more about what you can do with little plastic bricks these days, relive your youth and check out these amazing Lego city sets and Lego Star Wars Sets.



Today, Lego sets come in many different types, as well as just the big box of standard bricks. Now you can get Star Wars sets and City sets, to mention but a few, and that's probably the first reason that this toy has managed to stay on top of its game.

Lego was first manufactured in 1949 and the now famous interlocking bricks were originally called "Automatic Binding Bricks". The first bricks were not very versatile, and they didn't lock together very well. The modern style of brick was first

lend a helping hand with the construction projects too.

Today Lego is a multibillion dollar enterprise that encompasses theme parks, retail stores, and movies like the recently released The Lego Batman Movie. All of which helps to keep the building blocks modern and relevant.

The other thing that helps keep Lego relevant is that is neither a boy's toy nor a girl's toy. Those little plastic blocks will work just as well as a doll house as they

CSUN.

TADW

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WORKSHOP



WHERE YOUNG TEENS TAKE CENTER STAGE

SUMMER 2023 DATES
JUNE 12 – JULY 29, 2023

Teenage Drama Workshop (TADW) is a SFU program offering teens ages 11-18 the opportunity to develop skills in theatre arts. Our goal is to teach not only theatre arts but the importance of ensemble and team work through our intensive classes and productions.

ENROLL AT
CSUN.EDU/TADW

FASHION

TIPS TO HELP YOU BUY A FLAWLESS WEDDING DRESS

By Contributing Writer

don't want to end up buying the wrong type.

Start Looking Nine Months Ahead

Start your search at least nine months before the big day. Designers take at least 4 to 10 months before the wedding dress is ready. They have to make alterations in order to make the dress fit you perfectly.

If you don't have that much time, you may look for designers that can provide rush services. However, they will charge you additional fees.



Do Your Research

If you are overwhelmed, we have the solution. Do your research and make a shortlist of the most important factors. After your research, you will have five to six outfits to choose from.

Check Out Social Media

You can use social media to look for your favorite gowns. Check out Instagram and Pinterest. You can also check your favorite bridal salon, designers and blogs.

Relevant Keywords To Search Online

Make a list of keywords that will help you look. For example, you can use keywords "silk" and "tailored" to start your search. Look for something that represents your style.

Make Your Appointments

Schedule your appointments at the end of the week. This will give you time to try on your favorite outfit and make an informed decision. It is not good to schedule all of your appointment on the same day.

Long story short, if you are going to purchase a wedding dress, we suggest that you follow these basic essential tips.

If you are looking for tips to help you purchase the best wedding dress, welcome. You can avoid common mistakes and purchase within your budget. You will be able to get your hand on an outfit that will fit and look great.



Set A Budget

Decide on your budget. You don't want to go beyond this limit. This will help you narrow down your choices. After all, you

ALWAYS AMAZING. NEVER ROUTINE.



PARMALEE

APRIL 28 | FRIDAY | 8PM

AARON LEWIS

MAY 19 | FRIDAY | 8PM



THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER

MAY 26 | FRIDAY | 8PM

BUMPING MICS

JUNE 23 | FRIDAY | 8PM



Management reserves the right to change or cancel promotions and events at any time without notice. Must be 21 or older. Gambling problem? Call 1.800.GAMBLER.

CHUMASH
CASINO RESORT

Welcome to Freedom



FOOD STOPS 2023

Valley Pickup, Delivery, Dine In Restaurants



Mendocino Farms
14141 Ventura Blvd,
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
Curbside Pickup/Phone ahead
Phone: (818) 205-9744

Cavaretta's Italian Deli
Longtime, family-run deli
offering Italian sandwiches,
salads & hot foods, desserts.
Dine-in· Takeout· Delivery
Address: 22045 Sherman Way,
Canoga Park, CA 91304
Phone: (818) 340-6626

Johnny Pacific
20133 Saticoy St Winnetka
(818) 885-6927
Empanadas
Quality-house street food
blending Latin and Pacific
island flavor

The Local Peasant
Free Delivery On Grubhub
Woodland Hills
22901 Ventura Blvd
Sherman Oaks
Order: Pickup, thelocalpeas-
ant.com, seamless.com,
grubhub.com, post-
mates.com, doordash.com
Phone: (818) 876-0105

Universal Bar and Grill
American/Mexican/Burgers
Live Entertainment.
Indoor/Patton Dining
4093 Lankershim Blvd, North
Hollywood, CA 91602
(818) 856-8066
Order: postmates.com,
doordash.com
Masks worn by staff

Lusy's Mediterranean
6357 Woodman Ave
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818 997 4330
LUSY@LUSYSCUISINE.COM
16200 Ventura Blvd
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 849-5653
Lusyscuisine@sbcglobal.com
Order: Pickup, FREE Delivery

Old New York Deli & Bakery
Fresh Bagels, Breakfast, Lunch
Specialty Items
6209 Topanga Canyon
Woodland Hls (818) 887-DELI
Order: Pickup, Delivery

Monty's Steak House -
5371 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Phone: (818) 716-9736
Order: Pickup, Delivery
Outdoor Dining

Brewz Sports Cafe & Grill
7921 Canoga Ave
Canoga Park (818) 887-3721
Patio Dining - Take out
11:30am-6pm & Delivery

Basil's Deli and cafe
Hot/Cold Sandwiches
(747) 888-3114
8380 Topanga Canyon Blvd,
Canoga Park, CA 91304
Delivery - Pickup - Dine in
Phone: (818) 789-0679

HQ Gastropub
20969 Ventura Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
Order: Pickup - Dine in
Ph: (818) 887.BEER (2337)

Street Cafe By Aroma
18047 Ventura Blvd, Encino,
CA 91316 (818) 757-0477
Order: Pick Up, grubhub.com
Free Delivery on 1st Grubhub

Panini Kabob Grill
21600 Victory Blvd,
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Order: Phone: (818) 992-3330

Lemongrass Thai-Halal
curries, noodles & rice
22205 Sherman Way,
Canoga Park, CA 91303
(818) 703-6608
Indoor/Take-Out

Dog Haus Biergarten
8931 Reseda Blvd
Northridge, CA 91324
Phone: (747) 202-3349

6501 Topanga Canyon Blvd,
Canoga Park, CA 91303
Phone: (818) 340-4287
4929 Lankershim Blvd, North
Hollywood, CA 91601
Phone: (818) 505-1033
Free Delivery on 1st Order
grubhub.com Order: Curbside,
seamless.com, postates.com,
doordash.com

Fire Wings
9171 De Soto Ave A
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Variety of Hot Wings, Salads-
Sandwiches, Sides
Dine in, Take-Out, Delivery
Party Catering
Phone: (818) 626-9525

Yogurt Delite
22401 Ventura Blvd # F,
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
Eat In or Take Away
Phone: (818) 225-1515

The Munch Box
Landmark some of the best
burgers and fries, walk up or
phone ahead
21532 Devonshire St,
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Open til' 5pm
Phone: (818) 998-9240

Cricca's Italian Deli
4876 Topanga Canyon Blvd,
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
(818) 340-0515
Counter-service Sandwich
shop offering subs & panini

Les Sisters' Southern Kitchen
Cajun eats from po' boys to
BBQ Dine-in· Curbside pickup·
N Catering also available.
21818 Devonshire St,
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 998-0755

Fratelli's NY Pizza
7301 Canoga Ave
Canoga Park, CA
Authentic New York Pizza,
Salads and Pasta

Less talk, more eat.

Order online for free from local restaurants.

grubHub

iPhone® Android®
GrubHub.com

Dine-in · Takeout · No-contact
delivery -Across fr. Starbucks
(818) 346-2992

New York Chicken&Gyro
7553 Topanga Canyon Blvd,
Canoga Park, CA 91303
Phone: (818) 805-9027
Dine In or Take Out
Gyros, Burgers, Salads

Hood baby soul food
21418 Nordhoff St,
Chatsworth - (818) 626-8549
Dine in or Take out
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Catering Available

Paris Baguette
17136 Ventura Blvd.
(818) 817-0048
8 am to 8 pm Daily
Order: Pickup
postmates.com, door-
dash.com, trycaviar.com
Call ahead for hot beverages


Pineapple Hill Saloon & Grill
lively restaurant & bar
Sports Events, Happy Hour
4454 Van Nuys Blvd N,
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
Phone: (818) 789-0679
Inside Sherman Oaks Square

All American BBQ
Smoked Meats, Dine in
Take Out, New Location
6719 Platt Ave, West Hills, CA
Phone: (818) 363-6500

Mr Pizza & Kabob
Pizzas, Stromboli & Wings,
along with Kebabs.
21406 Nordhoff St,
Chatsworth, CA 91311
mrpizzaandkabob.com
Phone: (818) 772-6501

Tawakal Halal Tandoori
Authentic Middle Eastern Fare
22746 Roscoe Blvd, West Hills,
CA 91304 (818) 882-0605

RENAISSANCE PLEASURE FAIRE®



SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

APRIL 15 THRU
MAY 21, 2023

Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area
Off the 210 Freeway at Irwindale, CA

RENFAIR.COM/SOCAL

WHERE FANTASY RULES!

30+ acres of jousting and jesting! Weekly ticket giveaways on our Facebook page!



The Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area is a United States Army Corps of Engineers Facility and a unit of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation System.