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By Barbara Beckley



A large yellow circle with a black outline, containing the title 'Fiddler on the Roof' in a black, brush-stroke style font. The words are arranged with 'Fiddler' at the top, 'on the' in the middle, and 'Roof' at the bottom.



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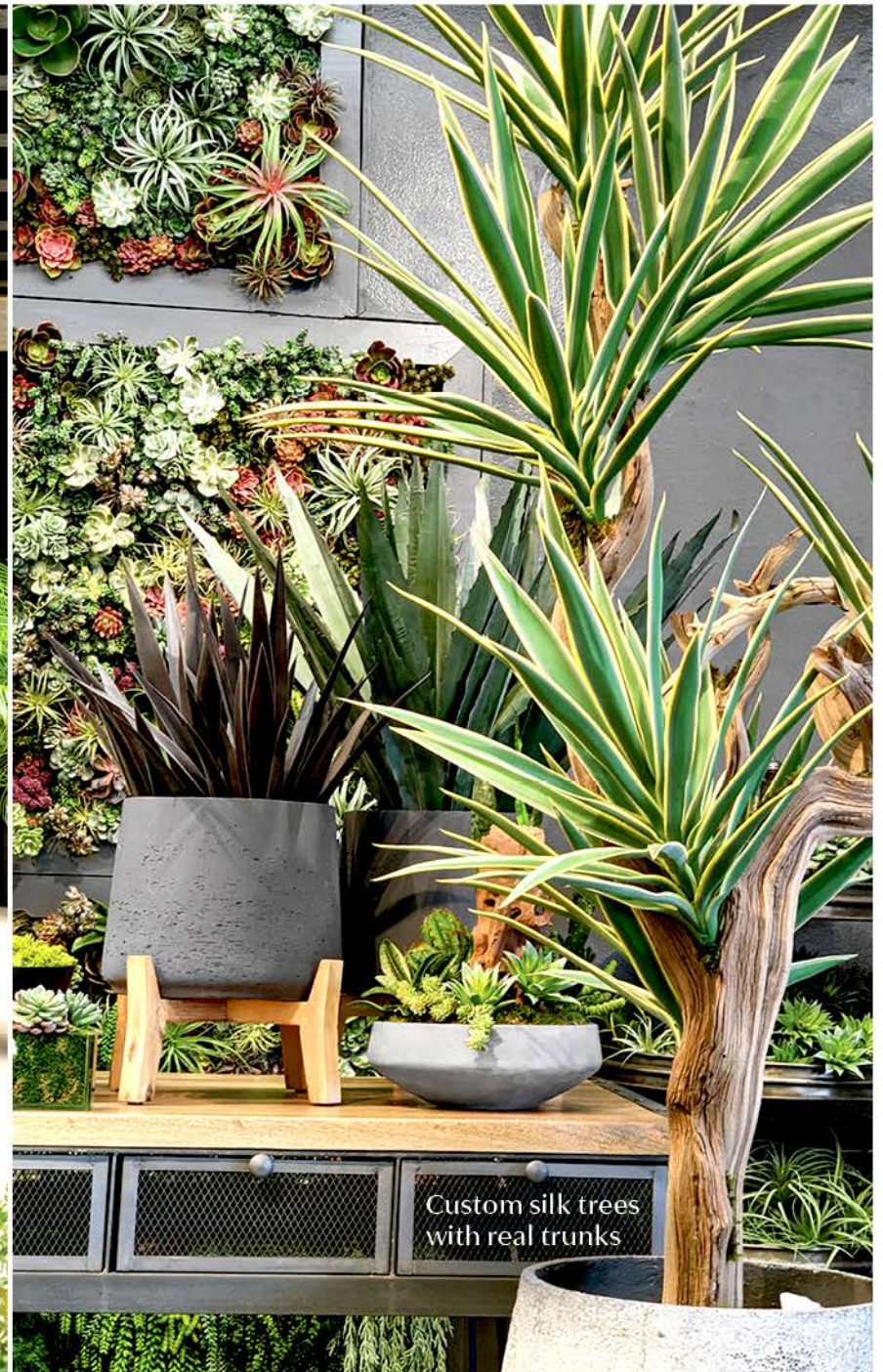
A black silhouette of a fiddler wearing a hat and playing a violin, standing on a dark, jagged roofline against a yellow background.

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MAVENS OF MULTITASKING

A Tribute To Mother's Day

By Barbara Beckley

M.O.M. or Maven's of Multi-tasking. However you sum it up, they are always there to save the day when you need her most. Whether it's a family matter, business situation or any other crises, we count on M.O.M. to clear the board and reset.

We gathered a sampling of such M.O.M.s to give us an idea...

Local West Hills mom, Emily Kaufman! She's gone from teaching preschool in the 1990s to reoccurring appearances on Good Morning America, The Kelly Clarkson Show, NBC Nightly News, The Today Show, The Steve Harvey Show, CNN, local TV news and more, revolutionizing family travel as The Travel Mom (www.thetravelmom.com).

"I was teaching preschool and mommy-and-me classes when my kids were very young and always being asked for advice about toddlers, so I started doing segments with parenting pointers on KTTV and then KTLA," she told us. "I was invited to Big Bear so I could experience skiing with the kids and share it on TV" – and The Travelmom was born." This was in 1996 and Emily realized no one was talking to moms about travel. Even though 85 percent of all family vacations were being planned by the mother, according to Disney.

Emily filled the void. "I shared tips and pointers for making travel less stressful and more enjoyable for everyone." Along the way she's built "a 360-degree media brand that touches TV, digital, branded content, social media campaigns, radio tours, live appearances, keynote speaking, and experiential like The Travel Mom Weekend Getaways. Travel is the greatest teacher there is," she believes.

Emily's two children, Charles and Gabby, are 33 and 31

now. "The Travel Mom is now also 'The Travel Grandma,'" Emily is pleased to say, as she's begun traveling with her 16-month-old grandson Miles, the son of Gabby



and Gabby's husband, Matt Tannenbaum. Travel is the greatest teacher there is," Emily believes. "My mission," enthuses Emily, "is to inspire, motivate, and encourage families, and everyone, to experience new things through travel."

In Brentwood, Vice President Kamala Harris, the first female U.S. Vice President, and first VP of Black and South Asian descent, gets our vote for outstanding stepmom. As gracious as she is smart, Harris credits her own mother, biomedical scientist and single mom Shayamala Gopalan Harris, for her amazing success. "Mother used to say, 'Kamala, don't just sit around and complain about things. Do something about it!'" she recalled. Boy has she ever! Prior to becoming the 49th vice president of the United States, Kamala was a U.S. Senator from California, and California's 32nd attorney general.

Kamala's passed her mother's message

to her two stepchildren Cole, now 30, (named after John Coltrane); and Ella, now 25, (named for Ella Fitzgerald). Cole was 20, and Ella was 15, when she married their father, law professor Douglas Emhoff, in 2014. "I was already hooked on Doug, but I believe it was Cole and Ella who reeled me in," Kamala wrote in Elle magazine. Her step kids agree. "It was love at first sight," they told Glamour. "It felt like we'd known Kamala forever."

Kamala works hard on her relationship with them. "As a child of divorce myself, I knew how difficult it could be when your parents date other people," she told Elle. I put a lot of effort into making sure they know I respect and love them." In return, Cole and Ella gave her the title "Momala" showing their love and respect for her. "I've had a lot of titles over my career. But 'Momala' will always be the one that means the most," Kamala said in her 2020 Democratic National Convention speech.



COVER STORY

Even with her frenetic schedule, Kamala finds time for them. While Ella was in high school, Harris called herself a "cheerleader" and showed up to as many swim meets and basketball games as she could. Sunday nights were reserved for family dinners – at least before she became Vice President. "We all come together around the table. Cole sets the table and picks the music. Ella makes beautiful desserts. Doug acts as my sous-chef. And I cook," Kamala told Elle. Now, the foursome has a weekly Sunday Zoom call.



Kamala also shared with People magazine that she has a close friendship with Emhoff's ex-wife Kerstin. Kerstin told Glamour magazine, her first thoughts when she learned her ex was dating Kamala were, "Wow, that's cool. Don't mess this up, Doug!" Cole and Ella told Glamour that their dad and Harris' marriage "is like the honeymoon phase forever."

Across the pond. Of course, the flawless Catherine, Princess of Wales is a princess perfect mom. A perfect role model who doesn't let royalty get in the way of being a loving, caring, hands-on mother. As we recently saw by her and Prince William waiting until their children's school break to announce her diagnosis. We – as everyone – wish Princess Kate the best and look forward to her continued impressive parenting and future grandparenting. For starters, Princess Kate insisted on doing everything on her own, rather than relying on nannies, writes Business Insider magazine. From doing school drop-off, and managing at-home screen time, to snapping adorable photos, and protecting the privacy of Prince George, 11; Princess Charlotte, 9;

and Prince Louis, 6. Holding their hands, picking them up for cuddles, crouching down to their height, active listening.

And not just with her own family. On hospital visits Her Royal Highness helps kiddoes feel better with encouraging High Fives; and crouches down on public outings for eye-to-eye conversation with her littlest fans. Princess Kate is also a patron of several charities that provide mental health support for mothers and their children.

Here's a few Princess Kate parenting take-aways from Business Insider magazine.

1. Be a hands-on mom.

Bucking royal tradition, Kate said no to a maternity nurse for Prince George and dragged her heels while hiring a nanny, insisting that—together with William—she could handle mom duties on her own. She continues to cover playdates and maximize time with the kids.

2. Protect your children's privacy. Following the birth of Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, Kate and William issued a friendly reminder to the paparazzi saying, "Hey, give us our space—or else."

3. Get snap-happy and share. Kate proved her photography skills with the release of Charlotte's first-day-of-school pictures. Her Royal Highness also took Charlotte's first official portraits. And continues to delight with family snaps.

4. Know the value of a date night. A basketball game in New York, a romantic midweek movie, a low-key dinner at their local pub—Kate and William nurture their relationship with a regular dose of kid-free nights.

5. Draw the line with your in-laws. Kate makes one thing clear: Her role as mom comes before royal protocol. Remember when Prince William drove her home after the births of George, and Charlotte. They've even spent Christmas dinner at Kate's parents' place instead of with the Queen.

6. Trust in the sage advice of your own mother. When in doubt, Kate calls her mum Carole Middleton.

7. Quash sibling rivalry. Kate's secret? One-on-one bonding time with each of her kids.



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Equally perfect in everything she did – our own First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was an amazing mom – in the face of challenges most of us can't even imagine. Married to John F. Kennedy in 1953, Jackie gave birth to four children: Arabella, Caroline, John F. Kennedy Jr., and Patrick. Tragically, Arabella was stillborn, and Patrick died two days after his birth.

A protective and loving mother, Jackie's approach was thoughtful and intentional, especially in the glaring spotlight of her husband's political career. She nurtured her kids amidst personal loss and public duties, showing that behind the façade of an ultra-stylish public figure was a deeply caring mother who prioritized her children's happiness and well-being above all.

After JFK's 1963 assassination, her primary focus was the well-being and privacy of Caroline and John Jr. She moved to New York City to escape the Washington, D.C. media scrutiny, and provide a more stable environment for them, choosing schools that emphasized privacy and normalcy. John Jr. often spoke of his mother's warmth, and the secure family environment she created for them. Jackie continued to influence her children's lives as they grew up, supporting their educational pursuits and career paths as Caroline pursued writing and diplomatic service; and John Jr. became a popular public figure and publisher before his untimely death in 1999.

Hats off to Coco Chanel! The iconic French designer who not only revolutionized women's fashion but proved that amazing moms don't have to be traditional. Just another fascinating aspect of her fairytale-but true, Parisian rags-to-riches story. Born Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel in 1883, the second of six siblings, her early years were hard. Coco's mom, Jeanne Devolle, was a laundrywoman, and her father,



Albert Chanel, was a street vendor hawking work clothes and undergarments.

While Coco never had children, her relationships with those in her extended social circle reveal that while she was focused on her fashion empire – thank heavens! – her care and affection benefited the children of longtime beau, the Duke of Westminster, showering them with gifts and sharing leisure time with them. And that of her many mentees, providing support like a stern but caring mother figure to young artists and designers. Including renowned designer Karl Lagerfeld, who credited Coco in shaping his career and his life.

Clearly, Coco's innovative designs, indomitable spirit, approach to life, and nurturing of her brand reflect a form of motherhood—creative, demanding, and profoundly impactful. Coco birthed a new era in fashion that continues to influence the way women dress today. Coco herself often expressed a maternal affection towards her brand and creations. Famously stating, "I have no children, except for my dresses."

Lastly, our Amazing Mom prize goes to Madame Curie! We think of Maria Salomea Skłodowska-Curie as a two-time Nobel Prize winner – first in 1903, with husband Pierre Curie for physics and their discovery of radioactivity; and again, on her own in 1911 for chemistry and isolating pure radium. The first woman to win a Nobel Prize and still the only woman to win two. But Madame Curie juggled her world-changing research with raising two daughters alone – as a single mom – following the 1906 death of her husband and daughters' father in a horse-drawn cable car accident in Paris. Married in 1895, the lovebird scientists gave birth to Irene in 1897, and Eve in 1904. "From all accounts Madame Curie loved her husband deeply and was overwhelmed with grief at his death," wrote Shelley Emling, author of "Marie Curie and Her Daughters: The Private Lives of Science's First Family." She never married again.

Under Madame Curie's guidance, Irene went on to win the 1935 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering artificial radioactivity (which led to nuclear fission and the atomic bomb). Like her mom, Irene shared the prize with her husband, physicist Frederic Joliot, becoming the second couple ever – after her parents – to win a joint Nobel Prize. Eve laughed that she was the only family member not to win a Nobel Prize. But made up for it with literary acclaim as the author of "Madame Curie," the best-selling biography of her mother.

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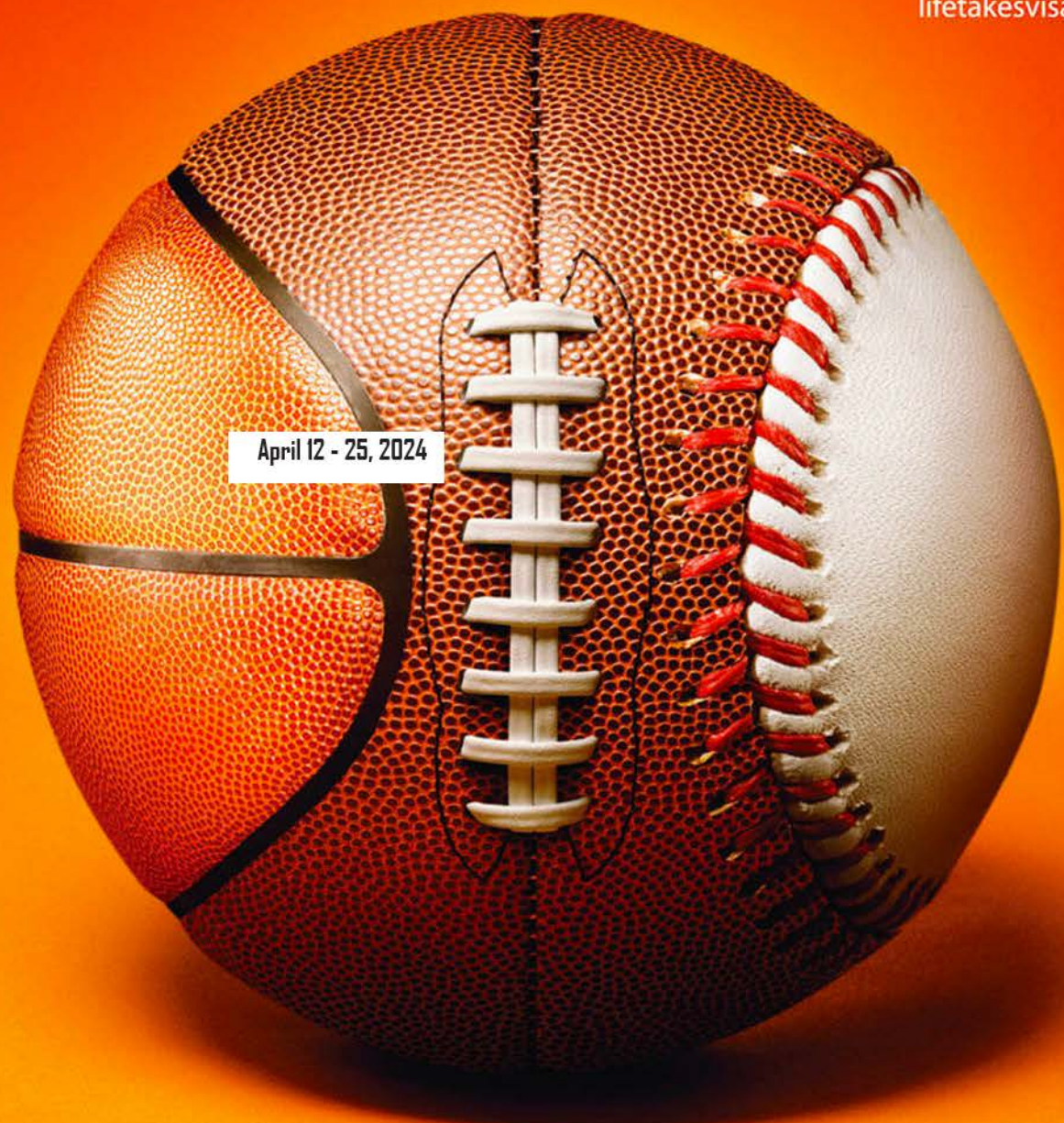


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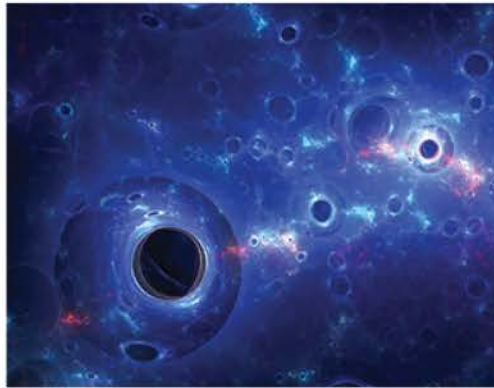
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EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN

ASTOUNDING SCIENTIFIC MYSTERIES THAT BAFFLE RESEARCHERS

By Contributing Writer

driving the universe's accelerated expansion. Yet, their true nature remains unknown.



The Matter-Antimatter Asymmetry

Theories predict the universe should have equal amounts of matter and antimatter, which would annihilate each other upon contact. However, we observe a universe dominated by matter, and the reason why remains a mystery.

Consciousness

What is consciousness, and how does it arise from the activity in the brain? This

fundamental aspect of human experience is something science still cannot fully explain.

Origin of Life

How did life begin on Earth? The transition from non-living chemicals to the first living organisms is a profound mystery, with multiple theories but no consensus.

Placebo Effect

How can the belief in treatment's effectiveness lead to



real physiological changes? The mechanisms behind the placebo effect are still not fully understood.

Magnetars

These are neutron stars with extremely powerful magnetic fields. The source of energy powering these fields, and how they affect their surroundings, is not well understood.

Yawning

Why do we yawn? While often associated with tiredness or boredom, the physiological purpose and evolutionary advantage of yawning are not definitively known.

Animal Migration

How do animals, like monarch butterflies, migrate thousands of miles with pinpoint accuracy? The full range of navigational tools and senses involved remains a puzzle.

Turritopsis dohrnii, the Immortal Jellyfish

This species of jellyfish is capable of reverting to its juvenile form after reaching adulthood, potentially giving it biologically immortality. The genetic and cellular mechanisms behind this process are still largely unexplored.

Fast Radio Bursts

These are intense bursts of radio waves from space that last just milliseconds. Their origins are unknown, with theories ranging from starquakes to alien communications.

Tetraneutrons

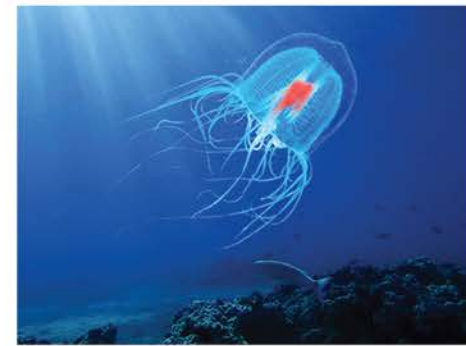
Four neutrons may form a stable cluster, a configuration that should not be possible according to current understanding of nuclear forces.

Ball Lightning

This rare and unexplained weather phenomenon appears as glowing, spherical objects that can vary in size and duration. How it forms is still debated.

Memory Storage

How and where memories are stored in the brain is a complex mystery. Despite advances in neuroscience, the precise mechanisms remain elusive.



Sonoluminescence

Tiny bubbles in a liquid emit bright light when they collapse. The process that leads to this emission of light is not well understood.

Fermi Paradox

With billions of potentially habitable planets in the galaxy, why have we not found any evidence of extraterrestrial life? This contradiction between probability and evidence puzzles scientists.

Longevity Variance

Why do similar species have such vast differences in lifespan? For example, some birds live decades while similar-sized mammals live only a few years.

Homochirality

Life on Earth uses molecules of only one chirality or mirror-image form. How and why life chose one chirality over the other remains an unresolved question.

These mysteries underscore our current limitations in understanding and demonstrate the ever-evolving nature of scientific inquiry. As technology and knowledge progress, solutions to these puzzles may come within our reach, continuing the endless pursuit of understanding our world and beyond.

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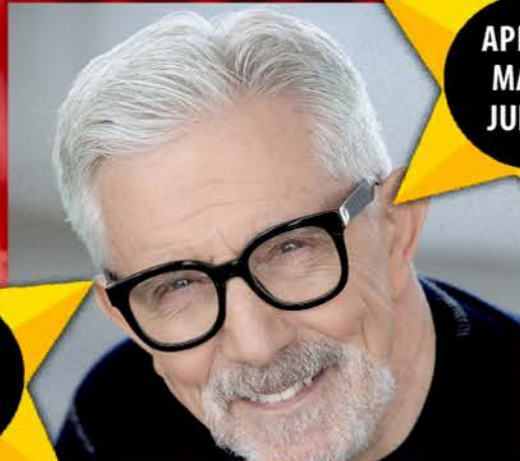
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SASQUATCH SUNSET

By Contributing Writer

Do you reckon Sasquatches snore? Of course, they do. They snore and eat noisily and pick bugs out of each other's fur. What else do Sasquatches do? One of the wildest movies of the year suggests they mourn, cuddle, bury their dead, enjoy throwing rocks in rivers, make art and wonder if they're alone.

But there's a lot of gross-out stuff. It turns out that Sasquatches sneeze, procreate loudly and like to touch their genitals and then smell their fingers. They can also poo on demand and throw that poo. One Bigfoot makes his hand into a makeshift puppet and talks to it— and another considers inserting his manhood into a small tree hole.



"Sasquatch Sunset" from brothers David and Nathan Zellner, is a bewildering experiment that's as audacious as it is infuriating. Nathan Zellner, Jesse Eisenberg, Riley Keough and Christophe Zajac-Denek play a family of four Sasquatches, lost in hair suits and prosthetics and communicating only in grunts. Why the filmmakers hired starry actors instead of unknowns is puzzling. None of the Sasquatches do more than what could be called Method Chimpanzee.

As an exercise in creating empathy, "Sasquatch Sunset" does an admirable job. In the first frames, when we see a loping Bigfoot — and then three more — it's clear that they are telling this story. There are plenty of Sasquatches-are-just-like-us moments, like when one brings flowers to seduce another or two Bigfoots comfort each other. Perhaps the most poignant moments are when they pound trees with sticks, a rhythmic question that echoes through the valley. It's a call, waiting for a response.

Both things can be true: Bigfoot can be disgusting and deep at the same time. But it's not always clear what the filmmakers are going for — satire, metaphor, sympathy, naturalism or gross-out comedy? The Sasquatches reveal human characteristics and may be stand-ins for our innocent pasts, showing the unrelenting violence of natural life or just the voiceless among us. Gorgeous vistas of pristine forests don't help us figuring out when this all takes place but clues emerge, including evidence of logging and a truly surreal bit at a human camping site, scored by the Erasure song "Love to Hate You." But if the Zellners had an environmental lesson here, they shanked it. There's music from The Octopus Project, veering from electric guitar to sci-fi electronic reminiscent of "2001: A Space Odyssey." Stick through the credits and see: Sasquatch Wrangler. You don't see that every day. You also don't see Sasquatch movies every day.

ABIGAIL

By Contributing Writer

If you thought your garden-variety heist movies could do with more blood-sucking, have we got a flick for you. "Abigail," featuring a 12-year-old tutu-wearing member of the undead, is way better than it should be. Directors Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett and producer Chad Villella have cracked the modern horror code. They do not disappoint with "Abigail," even perhaps opening a new, bloody revenue stream. (And the phone call scene is a nod to "Scream.") Why are six underworld characters needed to snatch and detain a sweet preteen? That's easy: Not all of them are going to survive to claim their share of \$7 million. That's because

"This whole thing is a trip," says one of the gang. Believe them. "Something doesn't add up," says another. Believe that guy, too. Garlic, sunlight, spears and crucifixes are employed to try to stop Abigail, who has hijacked the heist movie and turned it into a run-for-your-life thriller. She's a very smart 12-year-old who turns hardened mercenaries against each other. Barrera, who had been so central to the life of the "Scream" franchise, shows why she's so good at horror — funny, sarcastic, vulnerable, athletic, soulful and very convincing with a stake in her hand. Stevens, who famously left the aristocratic "Downton Abbey" for better roles, may



Abigail (Alisha Weir, awesome, stay away from me, no seriously) is really into, well, neckwork. "I'm sorry about what's going to happen to you," Abigail sweetly tells the kidnappers. Suddenly, the rambling estate they're holding her becomes a prison. The tables are turned. The script written by Stephen Shields and regular Radio Silence collaborator Guy Busick gleefully mines humor in the horror. Laughing a moment after a body fully explodes is normal here.

wonder what he's doing here now, bathed in blood fighting a preteen vampire, but does an admirable job, definitely in on the camp. But it's Weir in the titular role who carries it, doing pirouettes and leaps as she chases the bad-guys-now-good guys to the theme of "Swan Lake" with blood dripping down her throat, rotten teeth and feathers in her hair. "I like to play with my food," she says. Run faster!

Jon Geiger Band Playing At The Baked Potato Studio City

By Contributing Writer

Jon Geiger Band, fronted by emerging SoCal blues-rock guitarist/vocalist and songwriter, Jon Geiger, makes his headlining debut at music venue The Baked Potato, 3787 Caluenga Blvd., Monday, April 29. Shows: 8pm and 10pm. Tickets: \$20. (inside seating); \$15. (patio seating). Info: (818) 980-1615 or visit www.thebakedpotato.com.

Geiger performed at this year's Woodstock Blues & Brews Festival. "Jon Geiger put on an amazing show once again this year," said Woodstock Promoter/Organizer, John Woodard. He also recently debuted at The Rhythm Room in Arizona, one of the best blues clubs on the live music circuit.

Jon's recently-released Live From Harvelle's thirteen-track album was recorded live at famed blues club Harvelle's in



Santa Monica, Calif., and has received numerous favorable reviews.

"Live at Harvelle's" is a raw and gritty selection of tracks performed by an artist that is the real deal, with rock and roll energy fused with jazzy blues and iron tough skill. Jon Geiger pulls no punches and knocks it out with blazing



hot riffs and sweet grooves, backed by his heavy hitter band-mates, this album is a fiery hit. On 'Feeling Good,' Jon's blues roots shine through.

Jon Geiger has been called one of SoCal's hardest-working blues men, and for good reason: The blues-rock guitarist and vocalist is always gigging, whether throughout Southern Califor-

nia, or at a Blues Festival. Through hard work, solid performances and stick-to-it persistence, Geiger has emerged as a national touring act, performing on the Main Stage at the 2023 and 2024 Woodstock Blues Festival in Lake Havasu City, and set to perform at the New Blues Festival in Long Beach, California.

A veteran of the vibrant Austin, Texas music scene, Geiger grew up in New York and became a brown belt in Jiu Jitsu just to make it home from school safely on the tough streets of Harlem. The deep soul of BB King's "Live at the Regal" and the ferocious intensity of Eric Clapton's guitar work were life-changing for Jon. Playing guitar became Jon's reason for living.

After completing his studies in Boston, Jon promptly moved to Austin and began working alongside Austin's numerous great musicians while playing Antone's and the Texas' numerous blues haunts. Presently, Jon and band continue their ascent on the Los Angeles music scene, with his unique blend of captivating guitar work, soaring vocals and artful songwriting. Geiger has opened for Robben Ford, John Mayall, Charlie Sexton, Doyle Bramhall, and Joe Ely among other greats.

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NASA PARTNERS WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO CREATIVE AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES ON THE MOON

By Contributing Writer

NASA has taken a significant leap forward in its lunar exploration by selecting three companies — Intuitive Machines, Lunar Outpost, and Venturi Astrolab — to design autonomous vehicles for the Moon. This initiative is part of NASA's strategy to establish a sustainable human presence on the Moon.

Intuitive Machines

Intuitive Machines is no stranger to space innovation. The company has been involved in NASA missions and is known for cutting-edge space technology. Intuitive Machines will leverage its expertise in lunar landers. The company aims



to develop a vehicle that can navigate the harsh and varied lunar terrain, ensuring safety and efficiency. Their design focuses on robust navigation systems that can operate independently of Earth-based control.

Lunar Outpost

Lunar Outpost has made headlines with its environmental monitoring technologies, designed

to operate in lunar conditions. For this NASA project, Lunar Outpost plans to adapt existing technologies to create a vehicle that can withstand the Moon's extreme temperatures and radiation. The rover will be equipped with scientific instruments capable of conducting geological surveys and searching for resources such as water ice, vital for long-term lunar colonization.

Venturi Astrolab

Venturi Astrolab brings a fresh perspective to the lunar exploration scene. The company's design is centered around a modular vehicle platform that emphasizes versatility and scalability. This vehicle will be capable of performing a variety of tasks, from transporting cargo to supporting

scientific missions. One of the standout features is its adaptability — the vehicle can be configured to meet specific needs of different missions, whether it involves carrying astronauts or robotic equipment.

Collaboration and Innovation

These three companies underscore NASA's commitment to collaborating to advance space exploration. By harnessing the creativity and technical expertise, NASA aims to enhance its capabilities for future lunar missions. These autonomous vehicles will play a pivotal role in the Artemis program, which aims not only to return humans to the Moon but also to establish a sustainable presence there.

The development of autonomous lunar vehicles is crucial. They can scout the lunar surface, identifying safe landing sites and paths. They also carry out missions, collecting data and performing experiments that provide insights into the Moon's geology and environment. Moreover, these vehicles will aid in logistical support.

Looking Ahead

The partnership between NASA and these companies is set to revolutionize lunar exploration. The possibilities for what can be achieved expand. From permanent bases and mining to conducting in-depth scientific research, the groundwork is being laid for a new era in lunar and potentially interplanetary exploration.



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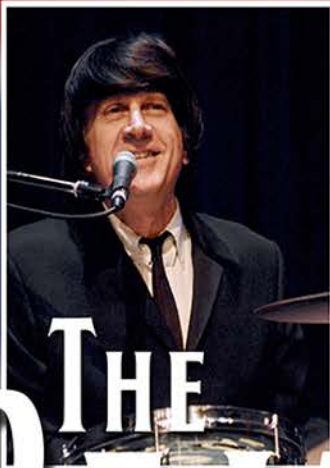
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TOP 10 WHISKEY HUBS FOR THE DISCERNING ENTHUSIAST

By Contributing Writer

Whisky enthusiasts around the globe know that the experience of sipping a fine dram isn't just about the drink itself, but also where you drink it. From historic establishments steeped in tradition to innovative modern venues pushing the boundaries of mixology, the world is home to a diverse array of whisky bars. Here's a look at some of the best whisky bars across the globe, where connoisseurs and casual drinkers alike can revel in a superb selection of this beloved spirit.

1. Multnomah Whiskey Library – Portland, USA

This Portland gem offers an encyclopedic selection of whiskies in a setting that

resembles a cozy, old-world library. With leather chairs, a fireplace, and ladders to reach the higher shelves, it's a place where you can lose hours exploring their extensive collection.

2. The Baxter Inn – Sydney, Australia

Nestled in the basement of a nondescript alleyway, The Baxter Inn feels like stepping back in time. The jazz music, vintage decor, and an awe-inspiring wall of whisky, featuring over 800 varieties, make it a must-visit for any whisky lover.

3. The Pot Still – Glasgow, Scotland

The Pot Still in Glasgow is famous for its selection of Scotch whisky, boasting over 700 varieties. This family-owned bar, with

its friendly atmosphere and knowledgeable staff, is a warm, welcoming spot to explore the subtleties of Scotch.

4. Bar High Five – Tokyo, Japan

Hidetsugu Ueno, the mastermind behind Bar High Five, provides a bespoke whisky experience in the heart of Ginza. This

whisky education in Australia.

8. Black Rock – London, UK

Black Rock isn't just a bar; it's an experience. The centerpiece is a large oak tree trunk, used as an aging system for two of their house whiskies. Their innovative approach to serving and enjoying whisky



intimate bar is renowned for its precision and craft, with every cocktail and whisky pour reflecting decades of expertise.

5. The Whisky Bar – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

With over 400 labels of whiskies from around the world, The Whisky Bar in Kuala Lumpur is a sophisticated venue for both seasoned aficionados and newcomers. Their whisky flights are a great way to sample a range of styles and regions.

6. Brandy Library – New York City, USA

New York City's Brandy Library is an institution in its own right, offering a vast array of whiskies and fine spirits in an upscale, inviting environment. The knowledgeable staff and regular tasting sessions make it a vibrant hub for whisky education and enjoyment.

7. Whisky and Alemt – Melbourne, Australia

Known for its rotating menu of over 1,000 whiskies, Whisky and Alemt offers everything from rare Japanese malts to classic American bourbons. Regular workshops and masterclasses make it a beacon for

has made it a standout in London's vibrant bar scene.

9. Dingle Whiskey Bar – Dublin, Ireland

Located in the heart of Dublin, Dingle Whiskey Bar showcases the best of Irish whiskies in a charming, traditional setting. It's a perfect spot to enjoy a quiet pint or a premium Irish whiskey after a day exploring the city.

10. Kavalan Whiskey Bar – Taipei, Taiwan

Reflecting Taiwan's pride in its award-winning Kavalan distillery, this bar offers an exclusive array of domestic and imported whiskies. The sleek, modern design and expertly curated selection provide a contemporary twist on the classic whisky bar.

Exploring these top whisky bars offers not just a journey through the tastes and textures of whiskies from around the world, but also a cultural voyage that underscores the universal appeal of this timeless spirit. Whether you are a seasoned whisky drinker or just starting to explore this fascinating world, each bar on this list promises to be a unique and memorable experience.



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Indulge In Luxury! Exploring Top Michelin Restaurants In Los Angeles County



intimate tasting menus showcase the beauty of seasonal ingredients, with dishes like abalone sashimi and wagyu beef katsu leaving a lasting impression.

Sushi Ginza Onodera, West Hollywood

Sushi Ginza Onodera transports diners to the heart of Tokyo. Led by Master Chef Yohei Matsuki, this establishment offers an exquisite omakase experience, where each piece of nigiri is a testament to the artistry and craftsmanship of Japanese sushi making.

Bavel, Los Angeles

Drawing inspiration from the flavors of the Middle East, Bavel captivates diners with its soulful dishes and chic ambiance. Chef Ori Menashe's interpretations of dishes like wood-fired lamb neck shawarma and the hummus with freshly baked laffa bread have earned this restaurant a coveted spot among Los Angeles County's top destinations.

Vespertine, Culver City

As a beacon of avant-garde dining, Vespertine pushes boundaries of culinary exploration with its immer-



techniques and impeccable sourcing ensure that every piece of nigiri, from the buttery toro to the sweet amaebi, is a revelation of flavor and texture.

Cut, Beverly Hills

Helmed by Chef Wolfgang Puck, Cut offers a modern take on classic steakhouse. From the USDA Prime steaks to the indulgent sides and sauces, every aspect reflects Chef Puck's commitment to culinary excellence.

Trois Mec, Los Angeles

Trois Mec surprises and delights diners with its French-inspired cuisine. Helmed by Chef Ludo Lefebvre, this gem offers a playful yet sophisticated dining experience.

As we traverse the culinary landscape of Los Angeles County, these top 10 Michelin restaurants stand as shining examples of gastronomic innovation, creativity, and excellence. Whether seeking traditional Japanese sushi, modern French cuisine, or inventive Middle Eastern flavors, discerning diners are sure to find an unforgettable dining experience that tantalizes the taste buds and nourishes the soul in this vibrant culinary mecca.

By Contributing Writer

Los Angeles is a melting pot of cultures, flavors, and innovation, making it paradise for food



enthusiasts. In the realm of fine dining, Michelin-starred restaurants stand out, offering unforgettable dining experiences that tantalize the senses and ignite the palate. Let's take a delectable journey through the top 10 Michelin restaurants in Los Angeles County.

Providence, Los Angeles

Providence reigns supreme as a bastion of seafood excellence. Under the guidance of Chef Michael Cimarusti, this gem showcases the freshest catches, artfully transformed into culinary masterpieces like the uni-topped caviar parfait and the sublime Santa Barbara spot prawn.

Mélisse, Santa Monica

Mélisse enchants diners with its French cuisine and impeccable service. Chef Josiah Citrin's approach shines in dishes like decadent black truffle risotto and ethereal sea urchin custard.

n/naka, Los Angeles

Combining the precision of kaiseki with the flair of Californian cuisine, n/naka offers a culinary journey like no other. Chef Niki Nakayama's



sive dining experiences. Chef Jordan Kahn's multi-sensory menus blur the line between food and art, inviting guests to embark on a culinary odyssey where flavors, textures, and emotions intertwine.

Maude, Beverly Hills

Named after Chef Curtis Stone's grandmother, Maude celebrates seasonal produce with its ever-evolving tasting menus. Each month, Chef Stone and his team curate a culinary journey around a single ingredient, showcasing its versatility and depth.

Q Sushi, Los Angeles

With its minimalist design and dedication to perfection, Q Sushi sets the standard for sushi excellence. Chef Hiroyuki Naruke's precise

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What Is A Glam Mom?

By Contributing Writer

In recent years, the term "glam mom" has gained popularity, defining a generation of mothers who balance the rigors of parenting with a flair for fashion, beauty, and a well-maintained lifestyle.

These women often manage to juggle professional careers, active social lives, and the daily demands of family life, all while looking effortlessly chic. Yet, even the most glamorous of moms need a break from their busy schedules. Here's a look at how glam moms can effectively take a day off, recharging their batteries and reconnecting with themselves in stylish tranquility.

The Importance of Taking Time Off

For glam moms, the pressure to maintain an immaculate appearance and fulfill multiple roles can be overwhelming. Constantly being on the go means rarely having a moment to relax or indulge in self-care. Taking a day off is essential not only for mental and physical health but also for maintaining enthusiasm and energy for daily responsibilities. A well-timed break can help restore balance and prevent burnout, enabling these moms to continue inspiring their families and followers with their poise and vitality.

Planning the Perfect Day Off

The key to a successful day off is planning. Glam moms are by



Self-Care and Indulgence

A day off for a glam mom might start with sleeping in, followed by a leisurely morning. The absence of



nature excellent organizers, and a little forethought can ensure they maximize their relaxation time. It's important to choose a day when professional and family commitments are at a minimum. Some may find it helpful to inform family and friends in advance, ensuring that everyone respects their need for space and quiet.

alarms and schedules provides a luxurious beginning. Breakfast in bed, either prepared in advance or ordered from a favorite cafe, can add a touch of indulgence to the morning.

Self-care is a priority on these days off. A spa day, either at a

professional spa or at home with a collection of favorite beauty treatments, can be a perfect way to relax and rejuvenate. Treatments might include massages, facials, manicures, and pedicures, focusing on pampering and care that often gets postponed during busy days.

Quiet and Leisure Activities

The day off is also a great opportunity to engage in activities that there usually isn't time for. Reading a book, practicing yoga, or simply sitting in a quiet garden can be profoundly restorative. The goal is to engage in activities that refresh the soul and bring joy, free from the usual daily pressures.

Digital Detox

Part of taking a day off effectively involves disconnecting from the digital world. Glam moms often maintain an active social media presence, and a digital detox can provide a much-needed respite from the constant notifications and pressures of online personas.

Turning off smartphones and avoiding social media for the day can help deepen the relaxation experience.

Reflection and Planning

Finally, a day off can be an opportune time for reflection and planning. Without the interruption of daily tasks, it's easier to think about personal goals, aspirations, and new projects. This can be a time to reassess priorities and plan future adventures, both personal and professional. For glam moms, taking a day off is not just a luxury—it's a necessity. It's a time to unwind, indulge, and take care of themselves, so they can continue being the powerful, inspiring figures they are. By regularly scheduling these breaks, glam moms ensure that they stay energized, focused, and true to their glamorous selves, all while setting a fantastic example of self-love and care for their families.

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DREAMSCAPES IS A MUSICAL VOYAGE TO THE STARS

By Contributing Writer

Valley singers to present “Dreamscapes, a Musical Voyage to the Stars” Escape reality for an hour with a soothing sound bath of vocal harmonies in a reverberant acoustic space.

On May 18th, Artistic Director Charlie Kim and the San Fernando Valley Master Chorale will lead a musical journey to the outermost reaches of the imagination. “The concept of Dreamscapes was inspired by the space where the concert will be performed,” noted Kim.

Now known as Vida Church, the round dome-shaped building in North Hills, nicknamed “The Onion,” was constructed in 1964 and designated a Los Angeles Histor-

ic-Cultural Monument in 2009. The interior sound has an echo that lasts 3 - 5 seconds, making it perfectly suited for live acoustic music performance, particularly singing.

“The music chosen for the concert takes full advantage of the very live acoustics, creating an ethereal sound for the audience to ponder and enjoy. The poetry of the music takes a journey from day to night, from sleep to



dreams, and from our innermost thoughts to the outermost reaches of space and back again.”

The concert, at 9550 Haskell Avenue in North Hills, will begin at 3:00 pm. Plan to arrive an hour early for a pre-show talkback with Charlie Kim and Associate Artistic Director John Bergquist to explore some of the greatest poetry ever written and to prepare for the musical settings that take the poetry to even greater heights. Come, listen, and be healed.

Artistic Director Charlie Kim is a musician of many disciplines. He was comfortable singing in front of audiences before learning to read, and has played piano since age 8. With deep roots in Western classical piano performance, choral music, and musical theater, Charlie studied opera in university. He now serves as music director, conductor, educator,



Kim assumed artistic control of the now 47-year-old San Fernando Valley Master Chorale in 2016 after returning from five years of graduate studies in Dallas-Fort Worth. During his tenure, SFVMC has made great strides in unifying the San Fernando Valley performing arts by collaborating on live musical events with other valley arts organizations including the Los Angeles Symphonic Winds, Valley Opera & Performing Arts, the San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

The San Fernando Valley Master Chorale is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to foster community engagement and pride in the San Fernando Valley through high-quality performances of choral masterworks, traditional, gospel, new music, and songs from around the world.

Music speaks another deeper language, and the group strives to cultivate open minds, ears, and hearts to enjoy and explore a diverse array of music in the Valley and the wider music communities of Los Angeles and Southern California.

Dreamscapes, a Musical Voyage to the Stars May 18, 2024 at 3:00 pm (Talkback with Artistic Director at 2:00 pm), 9550 Haskell Ave, North Hills. Tickets: <https://www.sfvmc.com>

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Embrace Sustainable Adventure

Why You Should Plan Your Next Trip With an Eco-Tourism Company

By Contributing Writer

In an era where global awareness of environmental issues is paramount, the way we travel has undergone a significant transformation. Enter eco-tourism companies – the trailblazers in sustainable travel. More than just a trend, eco-tourism represents a conscientious shift towards preserving natural habitats,

conventional tour operators, they collaborate closely with local communities, empowering them through employment opportunities, fair wages, and cultural exchange programs. By choosing to travel with such companies, tourists actively contribute to the socio-economic growth of the destinations they visit,



enrich the traveler but also foster a sense of appreciation and stewardship towards the environment.

Choosing an eco-tourism company also means supporting innovation and sustainability in the travel industry. These companies often invest in eco-friendly technologies, renewable energy sources, and conservation initiatives, setting new standards for responsible travel. By patronizing them, travelers contribute to the growth of a sustainable tourism sector, encouraging other businesses to follow suit.

Moreover, traveling with an eco-tourism company offers peace of mind, knowing that your trip is in the hands of professionals who prioritize safety, sustainability, and ethical practices. From expert guides to eco-certified accom-

modations, these companies ensure that every aspect of your journey is thoughtfully curated to provide a memorable and guilt-free experience. Planning your next trip with an eco-tourism company is not just a choice but a conscious decision to travel responsibly. By prioritizing conservation, community engagement, and responsible tourism practices, these companies offer travelers the opportunity to explore the world in a way that respects and preserves its natural and cultural heritage. So, why not embark on your next adventure with an eco-conscious mindset and leave a positive impact wherever you go?

fostering a sense of mutual respect and understanding between travelers and locals.

Another compelling reason to opt for eco-tourism companies is their commitment to responsible tourism practices. From promoting sustainable accommodation options to advocating for responsible wildlife viewing, these companies adhere to strict guidelines aimed at minimizing negative impacts on the environment and wildlife. By traveling with them, tourists can rest assured that their adventures are not at the expense of nature but rather in harmony with it.

Furthermore, eco-tourism companies offer unique and immersive experiences that go beyond typical tourist attractions. Whether it's participating in conservation projects, learning traditional crafts from indigenous communities, or embarking on eco-friendly wildlife safaris, travelers get the opportunity to connect with nature and culture on a deeper level. These experiences not only

supporting local communities, and minimizing our carbon footprint. Here's why planning your next adventure with an eco-tourism company is not just a choice but a responsibility.

First and foremost, eco-tourism companies prioritize conservation. They meticulously plan itineraries to ensure minimal disturbance to delicate ecosystems, safeguarding biodiversity hotspots and endangered species habitats. Whether it's exploring rainforests, diving in coral reefs, or trekking through national parks, these companies operate with a deep respect for the environment, ensuring that travelers leave nothing but footprints.

Moreover, eco-tourism companies prioritize community engagement and socio-economic development. Unlike

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TRENDSETTERS! CELEBRITY MOMS AND DESIGNER BRANDS FOR CHILDREN

By Contributing Writer

In celebrity culture, every aspect of a star's life is scrutinized, from red carpet appearances to off-duty style. Yet, one area that captures public attention is fashion choices of celebrity offspring. There has been a noticeable surge in the prominence of designer brands adorning children

celebrity moms wield immense influence in shaping fashion trends for the younger generation.

Moreover, social media has amplified the visibility of celebrity children's fashion, with dedicated Instagram accounts and paparazzi shots providing inspiration for fashion-forward parents. As a result, designer brands have become synonymous with status and prestige in children's fashion, with parents eager to emulate the style choices.

However, the embrace of designer brands for children has sparked debate among critics, who argue it perpetuates elitism and materialism from a young age. Some question the necessity of dressing children in expensive designer attire. Additionally, there are concerns about the pressure it places on children to adhere to unrealistic standards.

Despite these criticisms, the allure of designer brands for celebrity children shows no signs of waning. For many celebrity moms, dressing children in luxury labels is not just about fashion; it's a form of self-expression. Moreover, it provides an opportunity for these mothers to bond with their children over a shared love of fashion.

Furthermore, designer brands by celebrity children has proven to be lucrative for fashion houses, with many launching children's lines to cater to this market. Brands like Gucci, Dior, and Versace have capitalized on the demand for miniature couture, offering a range of children's clothing and accessories that mirror their adult collections.

The phenomenon of celebrity moms dressing their children in designer brands speaks to the intersection of fashion, celebrity culture, there's no denying the impact it has had on children's fashion and the broader luxury industry. As long as there are celebrity moms with a penchant for style, designer brands will continue to be a staple in the wardrobes of the youngest trendsetters.



of celebrities. From high-end fashion to niche luxury labels, celebrity moms are opting for designer attire for their little ones, turning them into miniature style icons.

Gone are the days when children's fashion was about comfort and practicality. In today's culture, children's wardrobes have become extensions of their parents' sartorial sensibilities, featuring designer pieces. The offspring of Hollywood A-listers and fashion icons are spotted donning miniature versions of iconic luxury brands, whether it's pint-sized Gucci dress or tiny Yeezy sneakers.

One of the forces behind designer brands in children's fashion is the influence of celebrity moms. These style-savvy mothers, with vast social media and paparazzi-documented outings, serve as trendsetters for parents. Whether it's Victoria Beckham dressing her daughter Harper in chic Burberry trench coats or Kim Kardashian outfitting her children in head-to-toe Balmain,

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Put It On The Mat! Wrestling Clubs In Los Angeles

By Contributing Writer

Wrestling combines physical prowess, strategic thinking, and intense dedication. In Los Angeles, wrestling clubs have become key centers for nurturing talent and fostering a sense of community among athletes of all ages. These clubs not only offer training in various styles of wrestling but also provide platforms for personal growth.

Community and Training Opportunities

Los Angeles hosts wrestling clubs that cater to different age groups and skill levels, from beginners to advanced. These clubs serve as community hubs where individuals come together. They offer coaching and structured



training sessions designed to improve skills, fitness, and mental toughness.

One prominent club in the area is the Los Angeles Wrestling Club (LAWC), which focuses on Olympic styles of wrestling, including Greco-Roman and freestyle. LAWC provides a rigorous

training environment that encourages wrestlers to push their limits and strive for excellence. The club is known for its experienced coaches, many of whom have competed at national and international levels, bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their trainees.



talent. These clubs introduce children and teenagers to the sport, emphasizing fundamentals, discipline, and sportsmanship. Programs are designed to build confidence and resilience, teaching young athletes how to set goals and work towards them diligently.

Youth Development

Youth wrestling clubs in Los Angeles play a crucial role in developing young

The Titan Mercury Wrestling Club, another significant entity in the LA wrestling scene, has a robust

youth program. It not only focuses on skill development but also on creating a supportive environment where young wrestlers can thrive both on and off the mat. Their emphasis on character building and academic achievement alongside athletic success is a testament to the club's commitment to holistic development.

Competitive Edge

For those looking to compete, Los Angeles wrestling clubs offer numerous opportunities to participate in local, state, and national competitions. These events allow wrestlers to test their skills against peers, gain valuable experience, and get exposure to higher levels of competition. Clubs often host tournaments and travel to competitions, providing essential competitive exposure for athletes.

The success of these clubs in national competitions has also helped elevate the profile of the sport within the local community. Many wrestlers from Los Angeles clubs have gone on to achieve success in collegiate wrestling and even on the international stage, further proving the efficacy of these training programs.

Community Outreach and Inclusivity

Wrestling clubs in Los Angeles are also known for their efforts in promoting inclusivity and diversity within the sport. They actively work to break down barriers to participation, whether they be financial, cultural, or based on gender. Many clubs offer scholarships or sliding scale fees to ensure that wrestling is accessible to everyone who wants to participate.

In addition, clubs like Beat the Streets Los Angeles offer programs specifically designed to reach underserved youth. These initiatives not only teach wrestling but also provide mentorship and educational support, helping to enrich the lives of participants beyond the mat.

Los Angeles is a vibrant hub for wrestling, with clubs that are deeply invested in the growth of their athletes and the sport. These organizations provide more than just training; they offer a supportive community and numerous opportunities for personal and competitive growth. Whether one is a novice learning the ropes or a seasoned athlete aiming for Olympic gold, the wrestling clubs of Los Angeles are equipped to help individuals achieve their goals, making them an integral part of the city's sporting landscape.

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Super Social & Friendly Animals

By Contributing Writer

When it comes to the friendliest animals in the world, certain species stand out for their sociable and gentle nature. These animals are known for their ability to form bonds with their own kind and often with humans as well. Here is a look at some of the most amiable creatures that grace our planet.

Dogs

Dogs are renowned for their loyalty and friendliness. As pack animals, they are naturally inclined to bond with their pack members, which in domestic settings include humans. Different breeds have varying levels of sociability, but as a whole, dogs are eager to please and form strong attachments with their owners, making them one of the friendliest animals around.

Cats

Cats, often seen as solitary creatures, can also be incredibly friendly and affectionate. While they may require some time to warm up to new people, once a cat trusts you, it can display a great deal of affection. Cats often seek out human companionship, enjoying cuddles and play, and some breeds like the Siamese or Maine Coon are particularly known for their sociable nature.

Dolphins

Dolphins are highly intelligent and are known for their playful nature and curiosity about humans. They live in social groups and can often be seen engaging with humans in wild and captivity settings. Their friendly demeanor is not just limited to their own species; dolphins have been known to help humans and other animals in distress, showcasing their empathetic nature.

Horses

Horses have been companions to humans for thousands of years.



These majestic creatures are not only powerful but also capable of developing deep bonds with their human handlers. Many horse owners report that their animals are capable of understanding human emotions and responding to them, which makes horses particularly special in the animal kingdom.

Rabbits

Rabbits are social animals that thrive on companionship. Whether

with other rabbits or humans, they enjoy interaction and can become very affectionate.

Rabbits are known for their playful antics and can often be seen jumping and running around joyfully, which is always a charming sight.

Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs are another small mammal that exhibits high levels

of friendliness. They are naturally social creatures that live in close-knit communities in the wild. In domestic settings, they enjoy the company of



their owners and often communicate with delightful squeaks, indicating their pleasure or excitement.

Capuchin Monkeys

Known for their cleverness and sociable nature, capuchin monkeys are highly interactive animals.

They thrive in social environments and are known for their ability to use tools and solve complex problems. Their friendly interactions with humans have made them popular in various roles, from helping individuals with disabilities to starring in movies and TV shows.

Each of these animals showcases unique ways of expressing their friendliness, whether through affectionate gestures, playful behavior, or empathetic actions. Their ability to connect with humans and other species alike makes them fascinating and beloved companions. These creatures remind us of the beauty of the animal kingdom and the joy that comes from living in harmony with our fellow beings. Their friendly nature not only enriches their own lives but also enhances ours, teaching us valuable lessons about companionship, love, and empathy.



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EMBARKING ON LUXURY

The World's Most Expensive Cruise

By Contributing Writer

The concept of luxury travel reaches new heights with the world's most expensive cruise, a journey that combines opulence, exotic destinations, and unparalleled service. This ultra-luxurious voyage is

a living room, a private spa retreat, and 270-degree panoramic views.

The luxury extends beyond mere accommodations. Onboard dining options are a culinary delight, with several specialty

The itinerary of the Regent Seven Seas Explorer is as extravagant as its amenities. It circumnavigates the globe, visiting over 30 countries and more than 60 ports of call. These destinations range from the iconic cities of Europe to the secluded beaches of



the South Pacific, the bustling markets of Asia, and the rugged natural beauty of Alaska. Each leg of the journey offers something unique, whether it's a day spent exploring ancient ruins or an afternoon of wildlife watching in pristine national parks.

Adding to the allure of this cruise are the onboard amenities and services, which

include a full-service spa, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and a variety of entertainment options. Lectures by renowned experts and performances by top-tier musicians and entertainers ensure that guests are engaged and enriched throughout their journey.

However, what truly sets the world's most expensive cruise apart is its impeccable service. With a crew that excels in hospitality and discretion, passengers are assured that their every need is anticipated and met with grace. This personalized attention is central to the luxury cruise experience, ensuring that each guest feels thoroughly pampered and well cared for.

The world's most expensive cruise aboard the Regent Seven Seas Explorer offers more than just a trip across the ocean; it promises a journey through a world of extravagant comfort and exclusive experiences that cater to the desires of the most discerning travelers. For those who can afford it, it represents the pinnacle of luxury cruise travel, a splendid blend of adventure, relaxation, and indulgence.



restaurants that cater to a variety of palates. These include the flagship restaurant Compass Rose, the French-in-

spired Chartreuse, and the Asian-themed Pacific Rim. Each restaurant aims to deliver a gastronomic experience akin to fine dining in the world's most cosmopolitan cities, enhanced by an extensive collection of fine wines and spirits.

Moreover, the cruise offers an all-inclusive fare that covers not only all meals and beverages but also unlimited shore excursions at each port of call. These excursions are not your typical tourist outings; they are immersive experiences designed to connect passengers with the culture, history, and natural beauty of the destinations in a deeply personal and luxurious manner. From private tours of museums out of hours to helicopter rides over breathtaking landscapes, the activities are as exclusive as they are diverse.

aboard the Regent Seven Seas Explorer, often touted as the most lavish cruise ship ever built. Here,

every detail is meticulously crafted to ensure an extraordinary experience that redefines sea travel for its affluent passengers.

The Regent Seven Seas Explorer stands out with its claim of having the highest space-to-guest and crew-to-guest ratios in the cruise industry. This not only ensures a level of service that is both personal and exceedingly efficient but also provides ample space for guests to enjoy their journey without ever feeling crowded. The ship's accommodations are all suites, each beautifully decorated with designer furnishings and featuring private balconies. The crown jewel among these is the Regent Suite, spanning nearly 3,000 square feet with a price tag that often exceeds \$10,000 per night. This suite includes two bedrooms,

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2024 Surface Trends Redefine Homes With Bold Elegance And Innovation

By Contributing Writer

Interior design trends are seeing a shift, particularly in the area of surface treatments, where innovation meets functionality with elegance. Homeowners and designers are embracing new materials, textures, and colors that not only redefine spaces but also enhance the way we interact with our living environments. Here's a look.



Biophilic Designs

One of the standout trends of 2024 is the incorporation of biophilic design elements into the home. This approach not only emphasizes the human connection to nature but also promotes sustainability and wellness. Materials such as reclaimed wood, natural stone, and terracotta are being used extensively to bring a sense of the outdoors inside. These materials are applied in creative ways, from stone countertops that mimic the raw beauty of riverbeds to wooden wall panels carved in intricate patterns that reflect natural landscapes.

Advanced Composites and Eco-friendly Materials

As environmental concerns become more central, the use of sustainable and eco-friendly materials has surged. Advanced composites that mimic natural materials without the environmental impact are gaining popularity. These include engineered stone surfaces made from recycled glass and bio-resin, which offer durability and a lower carbon footprint. Additionally, materials like bamboo are coming to the forefront, celebrated not only for their sustainability but also for their versatility and aesthetic appeal.

Luxurious Metallics

Metallic finishes continue to dominate home surfaces, bringing a touch of glamour and sophistication. In 2024, we see a shift from the

previously popular rose golds and brushed silvers to warmer tones like bronze and gunmetal. These are being used in innovative ways, such as metallic flecks embedded in kitchen countertops and reflective tiles that create a shimmering effect in bathrooms. This trend extends to fixtures and fittings, where metallic surfaces are used to add a luxurious finish to even the most mundane items.

Textural Contrasts
This year is all about sensory experiences, and textural contrast plays a big role in this. Smooth surfaces juxtaposed against rough textures are common in living areas, where the interplay of textures can create a dynamic and engaging space. For instance, glossy lacquered tables are paired with matte, rough-hewn clay sculptures, or smooth glass backsplashes are set against coarse



brick walls in kitchens. This trend is about striking a balance and adding depth and interest to rooms.

Bold Geometric Patterns
Geometric patterns are having a moment in 2024. From backsplashes to flooring, bold geometric designs are being used to make strong visual statements. These patterns are not just limited to tiles but are also seen in larger formats, such as entire wall panels or carved wooden screens that act as room dividers. The colors used in these patterns are also bold, with deep blues, vibrant greens, and rich earth tones leading the way.

The surface trends of 2024 are marked by a blend of innovation, sustainability, and aesthetic boldness. These trends reflect a broader movement towards more personalized and environmentally conscious home design. By incorporating these elements, homeowners can create spaces that are not only visually striking but also functional and sustainable. As we continue to redefine our living spaces, these surface trends offer exciting opportunities to inject new life into our homes, making them more aligned with our evolving lifestyles and values.

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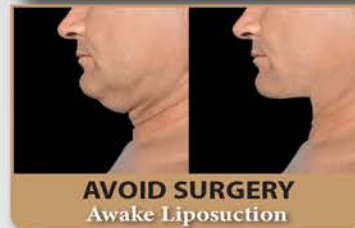
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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Larry Doil Sanders, 55, of Allen, Oklahoma, was convicted on April 17 of first-degree murder in the killing of his friend, Jimmy Glenn Knighten, 52, in July 2022. The Ada News reported that Sanders and Knighten were fishing together when Sanders believed he saw three sasquatch-looking figures near the river. After strangling Knighten, who he thought had been acting suspiciously, Sanders told relatives that he believed Knighten was trying to summon the sasquatches so they could feast on Sanders, and he killed Knighten in self-defense. Witnesses said Sanders is a regular user of methamphetamine, which ramps up his Bigfoot rhetoric. His defense was that having used meth three or four days before the murder, he was in a drug-induced psychosis. He'll be sentenced in June.

Animals Going Rogue

Butte, Montana, residents -- no strangers to big animals -- got a surprise on the morning of April 16 when they spotted an elephant strolling down Harrison Avenue, NBC Montana reported. "Pretty exciting," said Josh Hannifin, co-manager of the Civic Center Town Pump. "Man, they move fast when they just walk." The Jordan World Circus was in town, and surveillance cameras caught Viola escaping from her pen after being startled by a car backfiring during her bath time. Handlers were able to catch Viola with no trouble after about 20 minutes.

-- Suburban residents in Cape Town, South Africa, had a close encounter with a hippopotamus in the wee hours of April 14, Independent Online reported. The hippo broke through a fence at the Rondevlei Nature Reserve after getting into a scuffle with a dominant male there. Resident Ashraff Schwartz said that when police cornered the animal, it ran into his yard. "My 74-year-old mom watched ... as the hippo came straight for our door. It then turned around and ran up the road, but before then, it broke my wall as it jumped over it." While no one was hurt in the incident, hippos "are responsible for more human fatalities in Africa than any other large animal," the Cape of Good Hope SPCA Wildlife Department noted.

NASA revealed on April 17 that the object that crashed through the roof of a home in Naples, Florida, was indeed space trash -- specifically, garbage jettisoned from the International Space Station in March 2021. United Press International reported that on March 8, a 1.6-pound, 4-inch-long cylindrical object came through Alejandro Otero's roof. NASA said the object was what remained of a 5,800-pound pallet of depleted nickel hydride batteries. "The hardware was expected to fully burn up during entry into the Earth's atmosphere," NASA said. "However, a piece of hardware survived reentry." [

Unexplicable

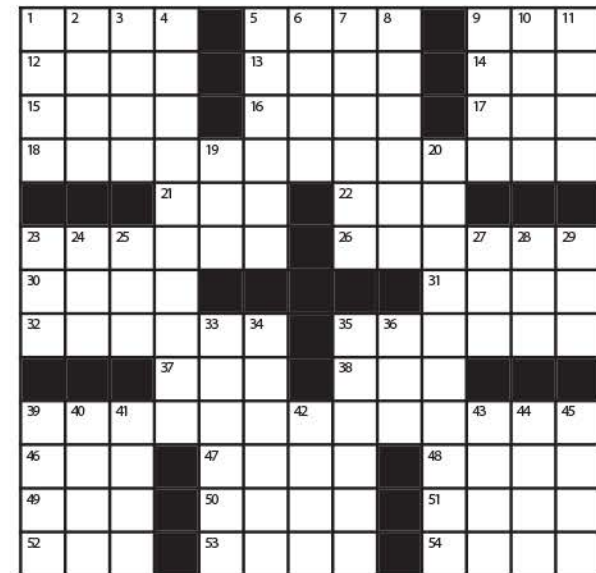
On April 9, investigators caught their targets in a puzzling money-making scheme in Rochelle Park, New Jersey. NBC New York reported that Detective Nick Mercoun and his partner arrested 77-year-old Alfredo Rodriguez and 54-year-old Hector Cortes, whom they dubbed the Shopping Cart Bandits. The two had stolen at least 140 carts from the ShopRite grocery, which Mercoun believe they were selling for about \$200 wholesale. "It was about \$28,000 worth of shopping carts," he said. The Food Marketing Institute estimates that 2 million shopping carts are stolen each year. Who knew? Rodriguez and Cortes are rolling along at the Bergen County Jail. [NBC New York, 4/13/2024]

Haute Couture

It wasn't an April Fools' joke: Independent Online reported on April 1 that fashion house Balenciaga has introduced clear plastic bracelet that resembles a roll of packing tape, to the tune of about \$3,000. The "Gaffer Bangle" includes an inside label that reads "Balenciaga Adhesive -- Made in France." The company reportedly unveiled the bracelet at Paris Fashion Week, and reviews are sticky: One Reddit commenter noted, "When will people learn Balenciaga's schtick is to generally make a fool of its consumers?" Another said, "Rich people want to feel poor so bad." [Independent Online,

Crossword by Myles Mellor

Start this Page! Click # P



Across

1. Recedes
5. Manitoba native
9. "Doctor ____" (BBC series)
12. "Groovy!"
13. Camera part
14. "Say what?"
15. Sandwich bar
16. Computer menu option
17. Distinctive doctrine
18. Photos of color
21. Beer dispenser
22. Colorful flower, for short
23. Football shirt
26. Jellies
30. Indian nursemaid
31. Case for sewing gear
32. Time in power
35. Storage spot
37. Kind of paper
38. Spleen
39. Get to the point
46. Middle East title
47. Train track
48. Pass away notice (abbr.)
49. ____ start with your performance.
50. ____ nesia
51. Long bone
52. "Occupy" location for a while
53. Simmer
54. Some whiskeys

Down

1. Quashes
2. Alerting message
3. Bundle
4. Gear change feature
5. Men of the cloth
6. Paint the walls, again
7. "Sadness" singers
8. Mating time
9. Jockey tool
10. Silence
11. Current measures
19. Golf driving area
20. Unit of charge equal to 3600 coulombs
23. Pickle container
24. Needle hole

25. Cleaning need
27. Would contraction
28. Actor's come-on
29. Male aristocrat
33. Relatives of Tahitians
34. Not destroyed
35. Bide one's time
36. Math term
39. Biblical son
40. "Coyote ____" movie
41. Perfumed powder
42. Take cover
43. With competence
44. Trig figure
45. Sorority letters

Dad Jokes...

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Protecting Children From Cybersecurity Threats

By Contributing Writer

In today's digital age, children are increasingly exposed to the internet at a young age, making them vulnerable to a variety of cybersecurity threats. These threats range from exposure to inappropriate content and cyberbullying to identity theft and exploitation. Parents and guardians need to be proactive to ensure their children's safety online. Here are essential strategies and tips for protecting children from these growing risks.



Educate Early and Often

Education is the first line of defense against cybersecurity threats. It's crucial to start conversations about internet safety with children as early as possible. Teach them about the dangers of sharing personal information online, the risks of interacting with strangers, and how to recognize safe websites and apps. Use age-appropriate language and examples to make these concepts clear and understandable.

Use Parental Controls

Most devices and internet services offer parental control options that can help manage what content children can access.

These tools can block inappropriate websites, limit screen time, and monitor online activities without being overly intrusive. It's important to set these controls on all devices your child uses, including smartphones, tablets, computers, and gaming consoles.

Create a Safe Environment

Designate specific areas in your home for internet use to help monitor your child's online activities naturally. Encourage open discussions about what they encounter online and foster an environment where they feel comfortable sharing their experiences and concerns.

Set Rules and Boundaries

Establish clear, understandable rules about internet usage that cover what sites can be visited, what apps can be downloaded, and what information is appropriate to share online. Discuss the consequences of not following these rules to ensure they are taken seriously.

Encourage Critical Thinking

Teach your children to question the reliability of the information they find online and to be skeptical of requests for personal information. Critical thinking is a skill that will help them navigate not just the internet, but many other aspects of life.

Update Privacy Settings

Regularly check and adjust privacy settings on social media and other online platforms to ensure that your children's profiles are set to the highest privacy

levels. Explain to your children why these settings are important and how they protect their information.

Monitor and Communicate

While respecting privacy, it's important for parents to monitor their children's online activities to some extent. Check in frequently on the content they are viewing and the conversations they are having. Make sure they understand that you are there to help them navigate their online experiences safely.

Be a Role Model

Children often imitate adult behavior. By practicing safe online habits yourself, you

can set a powerful example. Show your children how you safeguard your own information and how you responsibly use technology.

Stay Informed

Cyber threats are constantly evolving, so staying informed about the latest security risks and protective measures is crucial. Follow reputable sources that offer updates on internet safety and cybersecurity to keep your knowledge current.

Use Security Software

Ensure that all devices used by your children have comprehensive security

software installed. These programs can protect against malware, help block phishing attacks, and alert you to potential security risks.

By integrating these strategies into daily routines, parents can significantly reduce the risks associated with children's online activities. Remember, the goal is not just to protect them, but also to empower them to use technology responsibly and safely. Through education, supervision, and the right tools, we can provide a safer digital environment for our children.

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ROBOTICS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN A PATHWAY TO EARLY STEM EDUCATION



By Contributing Writer

In today's technological landscape, robotics education for young children stands as a pivotal tool in fostering interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Robotics introduces children to a multidisciplinary learning that is both engaging and educational, offering a blend of creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

Why Introduce Robotics to Young Children?

Introducing robotics to children can impact their cognitive and social development. Engaging with robots, children learn to manipulate objects and understand basic mechanics. This

approach to learning not only enhances fine motor skills but also improves ability to concentrate and follow directions.

Robotics education is instrumental in teaching children computational thinking skills. They learn to recognize patterns, break down problems, and approach tasks systematically. This is crucial, as these skills are applicable in many areas.

Educational Robotics Kits

Robotic kits are available, specifically designed for young learners. These kits include user-friendly materials and simple programming interfaces. For instance, kits like LEGO Boost or Fisher-Price's

Code-a-Pillar offer basic coding concepts through interactive play. These toys require children to assemble parts and program the robots to perform tasks, promoting an understanding of cause and effect.

Curriculum Integration

Schools are increasingly incorporating robotics into their curricula. Robotics can seamlessly integrate with other subjects. For example, constructing

a robot that paints can integrate art and engineering, teaching children how different fields can connect.

Educational experts recommend that robotics education focus not just on the technical but also on collaborative learning. Working in teams teaches children cooperation and communication skills, preparing them for future workplace environments.

Benefits Beyond the Classroom

The benefits of introducing robotics to young children extend beyond academic achievement. It builds resilience and confidence as children learn to experiment, tackle problems, and learn from failures. Moreover, robotics can be particularly beneficial in inclusive education settings, providing engaging ways to teach diverse learners, including those with special educational needs.

Future Outlook

As technology continues to shape industries, the demand for skilled STEM professionals grows. Early exposure to robotics can spark a lifelong interest and proficiency in these fields. Parents and educators play a crucial role in nurturing this interest. By choosing age-appropriate and engaging robotics kits, supporting educational initiatives, and providing children with opportunities to explore and learn, they can pave the way for the next generation of innovators and engineers.

Robotics for young children is not just about learning to program or build robots; it's about developing a robust set of skills that are essential in the 21st century. From enhancing cognitive abilities to building social skills and sparking creativity, robotics offers a world of benefits and is a worthwhile addition to any young child's educational journey.

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KICKIN' IT KOREAN

Fashion Perfect For Work Play And Rest

By Contributing Writer

Korean fashion has steadily become a global trendsetter. Korean fashion offers versatility, making it suitable for various aspects of daily life — from work to casual outings, and even relaxation at home.

Work: Professional yet Stylish

The Korean work attire, particularly in corporate settings, leans towards minimalist chic,



combining functionality with fashion. The typical office wear includes neat, well-fitted blazers paired with wide-legged trousers or pencil skirts, often in muted colors like black, navy, or beige. However, unlike more conservative office wear traditions, Korean fashion introduces subtle trends into workplace attire. A fine example is the incorporation of pastel colors or soft prints that keep the look fresh yet professional. Accessories are kept simple but elegant, such as delicate necklaces or a classic watch.

For those in more creative industries, Korean fashion offers a bit more leeway, allowing for bolder patterns and looser fits. Think asymmetric tunics, oversized sweaters, and culottes that combine comfort with a sense of casual professionalism. The focus is on creating a polished appearance that encourages personal expression without sacrificing neatness.

Play: Bold and Expressive

When it comes to leisure, Korean fashion really allows personalities to shine through. It's common to see a mix of textures and layers that make simple outfits pop. Streetwear is particularly influential, featuring graphic tees, innovative denim cuts, and statement sneakers. Another popular trend is the sporty look that mixes athleisure with everyday wear, such as pairing sweatpants with puffer jackets and dad hats, embodying a youthful and energetic vibe.

Additionally, accessories play a significant role in Korean casual wear. Items like

bucket hats, oversized sunglasses, and colorful bags add playful elements to any outfit, demonstrating that in Korean fashion, casual doesn't mean dull.

Rest: Comfort Meets Style

Korean fashion doesn't leave style behind when it comes to rest and relaxation at home. Loungewear in Korea is designed to be both comfortable and chic, making it suitable not just for the home, but also for quick errands. Popular items include softly tailored pajama sets in luxurious fabrics like silk and cotton blends that feel gentle on the skin. Layering plays a key role, with loose cardigans or soft shawls over simple tees and leggings, perfect for a cozy day in.

Colors and patterns in Korean loungewear tend to be calming and minimalistic, with occasion-



al bursts of floral or abstract prints to keep the mood light. The footwear consists mostly of soft slippers or sandals, prioritizing comfort without forgoing style.

Korean fashion stands out for its ability to blend comfort with style seamlessly, adapting easily to various aspects of life. Whether you're dressing for a professional setting, gearing up for a day out, or winding down at home, Korean clothes offer the flexibility and flair to handle all three with ease. This versatility is what makes Korean fashion so appealing and increasingly popular on the global stage. With its eye on trend-setting yet practical designs, it's clear that Korean fashion will continue to influence wardrobes around the world, perfect for work, play, and rest.

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POP ART MASTER ROMERO BRITTO'S LIFE AND ART

By Contributing Writer

Romero Britto is synonymous with vibrant, iconic, and joyful expressions of visual art. Known for bright colors and bold patterns, Britto's work is often categorized within the Pop Art movement, blending elements of graffiti, cubism, and pop culture. His style has not only captured the hearts of art enthusiasts but has also become a staple in various commercial and public art spaces.

Early Life and Inspiration

Born in 1963 in Recife, Brazil, Romero Britto grew up in a modest family. Despite financial challenges, Britto found solace and passion in creating art, often using scraps of materials he found to express his budding vision. His colorful works were not just a



means of escape but also a form of self-expression and communication with the world.

Britto's talent and drive led him to travel to Europe, where he was exposed to Picasso and Matisse, which influenced his artistic direction. However, it was his move to Miami in 1989 that marked the beginning of his impact on art. Miami's culture and the energy of the city resonated with Britto, inspiring him to create art that reflected optimism and happiness.



Artistic Style and Themes

Romero Britto's art is recognizable for its vivid colors and bold, graphic composition. He often utilizes a visual language of hope and happiness, which is a deliberate choice. His works feature love, conservation, and integration, communicating a vision where the world is as vibrant and harmonious.

Britto's approach to Pop Art is unique in that he merges it with commercialism, unapologetically embracing commercial aspects of his creations. His artwork is not confined to galleries; it is accessible to the public through murals, sculptures, and clothing and home decor. This accessibility is key to his philosophy of democratizing art and spreading joy.

Global Recognition and Impact

Romero Britto's work has not only made him a global icon in the art community but has also led to collaborations with numerous high-profile brands and celebrities, including Disney, Audi, and Coca-Cola, amongst others. His art prints, often filled with life and energy, are sought after by collectors and enthusiasts who wish to own a piece of his optimistic worldview.

Beyond commercial success, Britto is committed to philanthropy. Through his art, he has supported numerous charitable initiatives, demonstrating a profound dedication to making the world a better place through the power of art. His commitment extends to children's education and healthcare, where he has contributed both time and resources extensively.

Legacy

Romero Britto continues to live and work in Miami, Florida, where he shapes the global art landscape with his exuberant and hopeful pieces. His legacy is one of bridging the gap between fine art and everyday life, making art accessible to all and encouraging the world to view life through a more colorful and positive lens. His work remains a testament to the power of art as a catalyst for joy and change.

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