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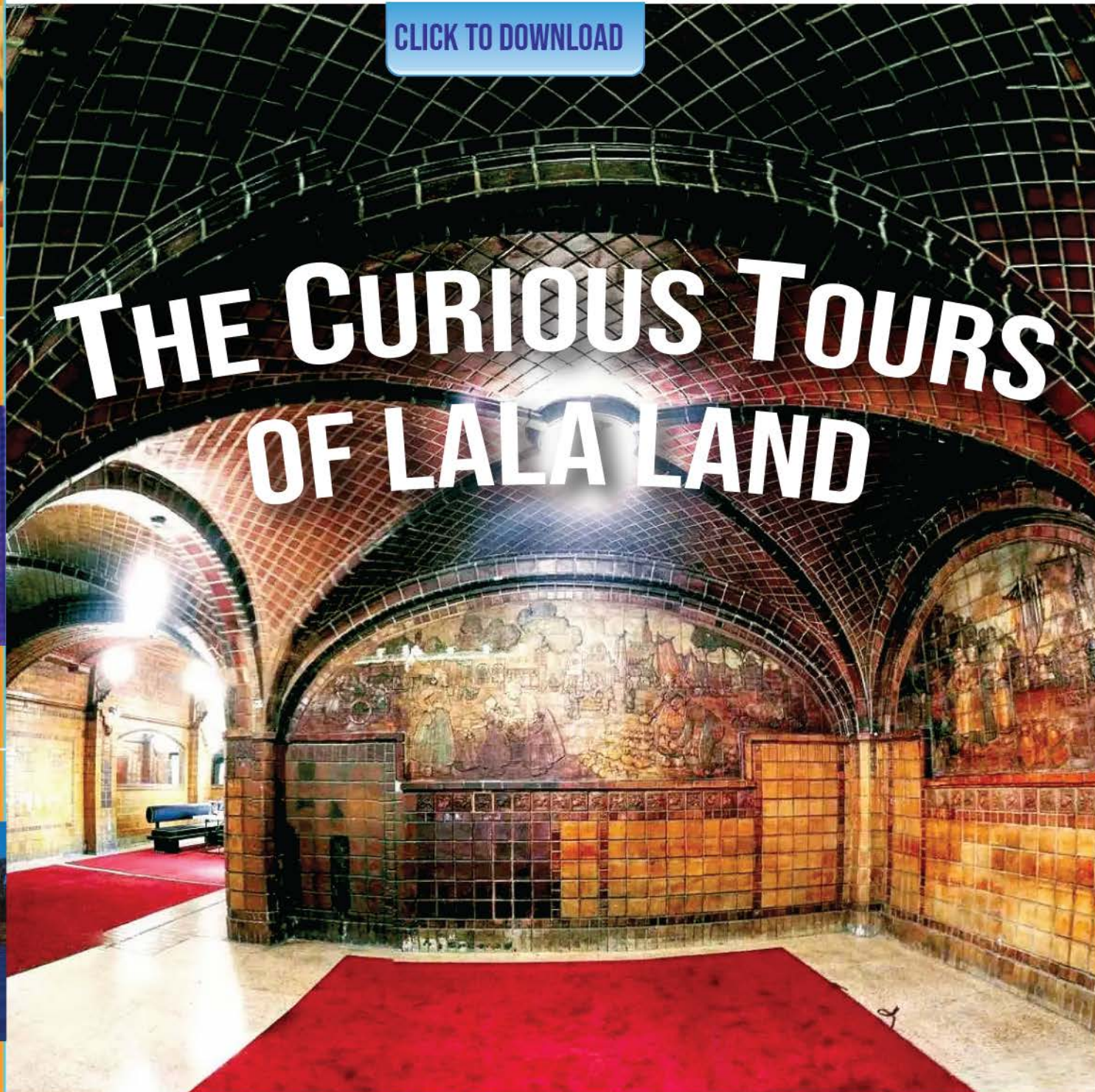
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2-YEAR-OLD PAINTER LAURENT SCHWARZ IS SELLING HIS COLORFUL ARTWORK FOR UP TO \$7,000

By Contributing Writer

In art, where masterpieces are often associated with age, experience, and training, a young prodigy is making waves. Laurent Schwarz, a mere two-year-old, has taken the art community by storm with his vibrant, abstract paintings. What started as a playful activity has now turned into a burgeoning career, with artworks fetching up to \$7,000 each.

Laurent Schwarz's journey began in the unassuming of ways. Like many toddlers, he was introduced to painting as a means of creative expression. However, it quickly became apparent that Laurent's creations were not just random splashes of color. There was a distinctive quality to his work that caught the eyes of his parents and eventually art enthusiasts and collectors.

Laurent's parents, both art aficionados, initially shared his work on social media, expecting little more than a few likes from friends and family. To



The toddler's art style is characterized by bold, vibrant colors and dynamic, abstract forms. His paintings exude freedom and spontaneity, often described as a pure,

unfiltered expression of emotion. Art experts have noted that Laurent's work, though abstract, possesses a remarkable coherence and balance, suggesting an innate sense of composition and color harmony that is rare.

One of the aspects that make Laurent's art captivating is the contrast between his age and the sophistication of his work. At two years old, Laurent is not bound by rules and conventions that constrain adult artists. His innocence and lack of training allow him to approach painting with a fresh perspective. This raw approach results in pieces that are stunning and emotionally resonant.

The commercial success of Laurent's paintings has been extraordinary. Galleries and collectors have shown immense interest in acquiring

his works, with some pieces selling for as much as \$7,000. This level of financial appreciation is unusual for artists of any age. Laurent's paintings have been showcased in several high-profile galleries, and his exhibitions draw large crowds.

The demand for Laurent's artwork has sparked a broader conversation about art and creativity. Some critics argue that the commercial success of Laurent's work is a reflection of the art market's fascination with novelty and youth. They question whether the value placed on his paintings is more about the narrative of a two-year-old artist than the artistic merit of the work itself. However, many believe that Laurent's talent is undeniable and that his age only adds to the allure.

Laurent's parents have taken a balanced approach to their son's career. They emphasize that painting is a form of play and expression for Laurent, not a commercial venture. While they are grateful for the recognition and success, they are keen to ensure that Laurent's creativity is nurtured in a way that remains joyful and pressure-free. They have set up a trust fund with the proceeds from his art sales, which will be used to support his future education.

Laurent Schwarz is a testament to creativity and the unexpected ways it can manifest. It challenges preconceived notions about age and talent, demonstrating that artistic expression knows no boundaries.

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NHTSA

EXPLORING THE BEST TOURS IN AND AROUND LOS ANGELES

By Contributing Writer



Los Angeles, a sprawling metropolis known for its glitz, glamour, and iconic landmarks, offers a diverse array of tours catering to a wide range of interests. Whether you're an art enthusiast, nature lover, TV buff, or space aficionado, LA has something to offer. Here, we explore some of the best tours in and around Los Angeles, spanning from arts and recreation to television and environmental tours.

Arts and Culture Tours

The Getty Center and Villa: The Getty Center, perched atop a hill in Brentwood, is a masterpiece of architecture and a treasure trove of art. The museum's collection includes European paintings,



sculptures, and decorative arts, along with an impressive selection of photographs. The guided tours offer in-depth insights into the art and the architectural marvel designed by Richard Meier.

Meanwhile, the Getty Villa in Malibu, modeled after a Roman country house, focuses on ancient Greek, Roman, and Etruscan art. The villa's tours explore the ancient world through its artifacts, gardens, and architecture, providing a fascinating glimpse into classical antiquity.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA): LACMA, the largest art museum in the western United States, boasts a collection of over 150,000 works of art. The museum offers various guided tours, including highlights of the collection, special exhibitions, and thematic tours. These tours are perfect for art lovers who want to delve into diverse artistic expressions from different cultures and periods.

The Broad: The Broad is a contemporary art museum in downtown LA that houses the impressive collection of philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad. The museum offers free general admission and guided tours that explore the works of artists like Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman, and Jean-Michel Basquiat. The museum's innovative architecture, with its honeycomb-like exterior, is also a highlight of the tour.

Recreation and Nature Tours

Griffith Park and Observatory: Griffith Park, one of the largest urban parks in North America, offers numerous recreational activities and tours. The Griffith Observatory, perched on the southern slope of Mount Hollywood, provides stunning views of the city and the Hollywood Sign. The observatory's tours include fascinating insights into astronomy, space exploration, and the history of the facility itself.

For those who enjoy hiking, guided tours of Griffith Park's numerous trails are available. These tours offer a chance to explore the natural beauty of the area, with options ranging from easy walks to more challenging hikes.

Santa Monica Mountains: The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a vast expanse of wilderness just outside of LA. Guided tours here offer the chance to explore the diverse ecosystems, from coastal sage scrub to oak woodlands. The tours often include visits to historic sites, such as the Paramount Ranch, which has served as a filming location for numerous movies and TV shows.

Venice Beach and Canals: Venice Beach is famous for its bohemian spirit, vibrant boardwalk, and Muscle Beach. Guided tours of Venice Beach include strolls along the boardwalk, visits to the skate park, and insights into the area's unique history and culture.

The Venice Canals, a hidden gem modeled after the canals of Venice, Italy, offer a more tranquil experience. Tours of the canals provide a relaxing walk through charming residential areas with picturesque bridges and beautiful homes.



Television and Movie Tours

Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood: The Warner Bros. Studio Tour in Burbank is a must-visit for TV and movie fans. The guided tour takes visitors behind the scenes of a working studio, where they can explore iconic sets, soundstages, and backlots. Highlights include the Central Perk set from "Friends," the Batcave from "Batman," and various props and costumes from popular films and TV shows.

The tour also includes a visit to the Warner Bros. Museum, which features exhibits on the studio's history and its most famous productions. For an additional fee, visitors can opt for the Deluxe Tour, which offers an extended experience with even more behind-the-scenes access.

Universal Studios Hollywood: Universal Studios Hollywood offers a unique combination of theme park thrills and behind-the-scenes tours. The Studio Tour, narrated by Jimmy Fallon, takes visitors through the studio's backlot, where they can see famous sets, including the Bates

Motel from "Psycho" and the plane crash set from "War of the Worlds."

The tour also includes special effects demonstrations and visits to the sets of current productions. For a more immersive experience, visitors can explore the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, the Jurassic World ride, and other attractions within the theme park.

Sony Pictures Studio Tour: The Sony Pictures Studio Tour in Culver City offers an intimate look at a historic studio that was once home to MGM. The guided tour covers the studio's backlots, soundstages, and iconic sets, such as the "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune" stages.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL): The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, located in Pasadena, is NASA's leading center for robotic exploration of the solar system. JPL offers free public tours that provide a fascinating look at its work and achievements. The tours include visits to the Space Flight Operations Facility, where missions like the Mars rovers are controlled, and the Spacecraft Assembly Facility, where spacecraft are built.

Visitors can learn about JPL's contributions to space exploration, including its role in missions to Mars, Jupiter, and beyond. The tours also highlight the laboratory's cutting-edge technology and research.



Visitors also get to see the studio's vast prop and costume departments, as well as exhibits on the studio's rich history, including its contributions to classic films like "The Wizard of Oz" and "Gone with the Wind."

Space and Science Tours

California Science Center: The California Science Center, located in Exposition Park, is a premier destination for science enthusiasts. The center's tours offer an in-depth look at its many exhibits, including the Space Shuttle Endeavour, which is housed in the Samuel Oschin Pavilion.

The guided tour provides insights into the shuttle's history, its missions, and the future of space exploration. The center also offers tours of its Ecosystems exhibit, which explores the diverse environments of Earth, from the kelp forests of the Pacific Ocean to the arid deserts of Africa.



Environmental and Eco-Friendly Tours

TreePeople: TreePeople, an environmental non-profit organization based in LA, offers guided tours of its Coldwater Canyon

Park. The tours focus on sustainable practices, urban forestry, and water conservation. Visitors can learn about the organization's efforts to make Los Angeles a greener, more sustainable city through tree planting, education, and advocacy.

The tour also includes a walk through the park's demonstration gardens, which showcase drought-tolerant plants, rainwater harvesting systems, and other eco-friendly landscaping techniques.

Los Angeles River Tours: The Los Angeles River, once neglected and channelized, is undergoing a transformation into a vibrant urban waterway.

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finest wines. The tours also include visits to scenic vineyards and barrel rooms, offering a comprehensive and enjoyable wine-tasting experience.

Historical and Architectural Tours

Downtown LA Walking Tours: Downtown Los Angeles is a treasure trove of historical and architectural gems.



Downtown LA Walking Tours offers guided tours that explore the area's rich history and diverse architecture. The tours cover landmarks such as the Bradbury Building, the Los Angeles Central Library, and the historic theaters of Broadway.

Visitors can learn about the city's evolution from a small pueblo to a major metropolis, as well as the architectural styles that define its skyline. The tours also highlight the revitalization efforts that have transformed downtown into a vibrant cultural hub.

The Gamble House: The Gamble House, located in Pasadena, is a masterpiece of American Arts and Crafts architecture. Designed by architects Charles and Henry Greene, the house is a National Historic Landmark. Guided tours of the Gamble House offer a detailed look at its exquisite craftsmanship, custom furniture, and innovative design.



The tours also provide insights into the lives of the Gamble family, who commissioned the house, and the architectural philosophy of the Greene brothers. The house's beautiful gardens and setting in the Arroyo Seco add to the experience.

Queen Mary: The RMS Queen Mary, permanently docked in Long Beach, is a historic ocean liner turned hotel and museum. The ship offers a variety of guided tours that explore its storied past, from its days as a luxury liner to its service as a troop transport during World War II.

Visitors can tour the ship's elegant Art Deco interiors, the engine room, and the bridge, while learning about its history and famous passengers. The Queen Mary also offers ghost tours for those interested in the ship's reputed paranormal activity.

Los Angeles is a city of endless possibilities, with tours that cater to every interest. From the arts and culture to recreation and nature, television and movies to space and science, and environmental sustainability to historical and architectural wonders, LA has it all. These tours provide a deeper understanding of the city's diverse offerings!

LA River Tours offers guided kayaking tours that explore the revitalized sections of the river, providing a unique perspective on the city's efforts to restore its natural habitats.

The tours highlight the river's history, the challenges it faces, and the ongoing projects aimed at improving water quality and creating green spaces. Participants can paddle through scenic stretches of the river, observing local wildlife and learning about the importance of urban waterway restoration.

Sustainable Wine Tours: For those who enjoy wine and are interested in sustainability, Sustainable Wine Tours offers guided tours of eco-friendly vineyards in the Santa Barbara



Wine Country. The tours focus on wineries that practice organic, biodynamic, and sustainable farming methods.

Visitors can learn about the sustainable practices used in grape growing and wine production, while sampling some of the region's

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MINUTIA

The Bunny Museum

A Hopping Haven Of Quirkiness In Altadena

By Contributing Writer



The Bunny Museum is not just a collection; it's a celebration of the beloved animal in all its forms.

A Labor of Love

The Bunny Museum was founded by Candace Frazee and Steve Lubanski, a couple whose affection for each other is mirrored by their shared obsession with bunnies. Their love story began with a single stuffed bunny given as a gift, which soon multiplied into thousands. Over the years, their home transformed into a repository of bunny memorabilia, and in 1998, they decided



to open their doors to the public. The museum, housed in their private residence, provides an extraordinarily personal touch to the visitor experience, making guests feel as if they've been invited into a wonderland of bunnies.

An Astonishing Collection

The museum's collection is nothing short of astounding. With over 35,000 items, The

Bunny Museum holds the Guinness World Record for the largest collection of bunny artifacts. Visitors can find everything from stuffed animals and figurines to artwork, ceramics, and even furniture shaped like bunnies. The variety and sheer number of items ensure that there's something for everyone, from casual admirers to die-hard bunny enthusiasts.

Walking through the museum, guests are greeted by a diverse array of bunny-themed objects. One can find vintage toys, rare collectibles, and even a seven-foot-tall stuffed bunny. The collection spans across different cultures and time periods, offering a comprehensive look at how bunnies have been represented and cherished around the world.

A Unique Experience

What sets The Bunny Museum apart from other museums is its intimate setting. Unlike traditional museums housed in large, impersonal buildings, The Bunny Museum is situated in a private home. This setting creates a cozy, welcoming atmosphere that encourages visitors to take their time exploring the vast collection. Each room in the house is filled to the brim with bunny items, creating a sense of wonder and discovery at every turn.

The museum's layout is designed to delight and surprise. Visitors might find a room dedicated entirely to bunny-themed artwork, while another room showcases bunny figurines from various parts of the globe. The owners' personal touch is evident throughout, with many items accompanied by handwritten notes and anecdotes that provide context and insight into the collection.

Engaging the Community

The Bunny Museum is more than just a repository of bunny artifacts; it's a vibrant part of the Altadena community. The museum hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including Easter egg hunts, themed parties, and educational tours. These events attract visitors of all ages and backgrounds, fostering a sense of community and shared joy.

Candace and Steve are often present during these events, sharing stories about their collection and answering questions from curious visitors. Their passion and enthusiasm are infectious, making every visit to the museum a memorable experience. The couple's dedication to their collection and their community is evident in every aspect of the museum.

Educational and Entertaining

The Bunny Museum also serves an educational purpose. Through its extensive collection, the museum offers insights into the cultural significance of bunnies across different societies. Visitors can learn about the various ways bunnies have been depicted in folklore, literature, and art. The museum also provides information about the biology and behavior of real-life bunnies, making it a fun and informative destination for families and school groups.

Interactive displays and hands-on activities further enhance the educational experience. Children can participate in scavenger hunts, craft sessions, and storytelling hours, all centered around the theme of bunnies. These activities make learning fun and engaging, ensuring that young visitors leave with a newfound appreciation for these adorable creatures.

A Must-Visit Destination

For anyone looking for an offbeat and delightful museum experience, The Bunny Museum in Altadena is a must-visit destination. Its extensive collection, intimate setting, and engaging events make it a standout attraction in the region. Whether you're a lifelong bunny lover or simply looking for a unique outing, The Bunny Museum promises a hopping good time for all.

In a world where museums often feel sterile and detached, The Bunny Museum stands out as a place of warmth, whimsy, and unbridled passion. It's a testament to the joy that can be found in the simplest of things and a reminder of the boundless creativity that can spring from a single, heartfelt obsession. So hop on over to Altadena and immerse yourself in the enchanting world of bunnies – you won't be disappointed.

The Bunny Museum is located at 2605 Lake Ave. in Altadena.

Call them at (626) 798-8848 or log onto www.thebunnymuseum.com



Pre Barbie Movie Entertainment & Costume Contest Kicks Off Seaside Movie Nights

By Contributing Writer

Come in your most pink & iconic Barbie or Ken inspired costumes for a chance to win special Barbie "pink" prizes and Ventura Harbor Village dining gift cards before the FREE Barbie movie. Contestants should arrive by 7:45 PM latest to ensure participation. The announcer will call everyone, wishing to participate in the costume contest, to assemble in front of the

Village restaurants, shop for last-minute essentials, and groove to pre-movie music.

Food & Drinks:

Enjoy delicious dinner & dessert options just steps away from the lawn at Village restaurants. Sweet & savory packaged popcorn (including special PINK flavor) will be available from We Bee Poppin's food/coffee truck on the lawn too!

Good to Know:

Alcohol is a no-go in the movie area. Forget a blanket or cozy clothes? Harbor Village retailers have you covered for last minute essentials.

Save the Date for Future Summer Seaside Movie Nights This Summer:

August 17th: The Endless Summer (60th Anniversary)

September 21st: Hook (A pirate-y favorite)

Save the date for other Summer Seaside Movie Nights, August 17 and September 21, 2024 starting after sunset at Ventura Harbor Village. All activities and events at Ventura



big screen prior to the film.

Join in the fun with the sensational FREE movie hit "Barbie" for a seaside beach ball bash with live DJ spinning the tunes

ahead of the film, plus a Barbie & Ken and Barbie movie costume contest for prizes! Come relax, unwind, and "Just Beach" by the seashore. (PG-13) Film starts at sundown (8:15 PM), but arrive early!

Head to the lawn area as soon as 6:15pm to score parking, claim your perfect lawn spot, and explore the seaside promenade. Savor takeout & sweet treats from Harbor



Harbor Village are pending weather conditions.

Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024

Location: Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn

Pre Barbie Movie

Event Highlights:

Pre-Show Fun: DJ Pepper spinning tunes from 6:15 PM to sunset. Two Costume Contests: Ken "Just Beach" & Barbie.

Please visit www.VenturaHarborVillage.com or follow the Village @Ventura-Harbor for pre-show activities and event updates. Ventura Harbor Village is located at 1583 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura.

IT'S TIKI TIME!

San Diego TIKI OASIS 2024!

By Barbara Beckley

We're talkin' totally terrific tiki! Don your Hawaiian shirts, leis and Betty Page garb and hightail it to San Diego for Tiki Oasis (www.tikioasis.com), the world's original and largest Tiki event, July 31 – August 4, 2024, at the Town and Country Resort. This year's



theme is "Way Out West" – and you can bet it will be way, way out. With five swinging nights and four sunny days of tiki everything – live music, pool lounging, fashion show flash mobs, swanky suites, sunset dining, disc jockeys, art exhibit, edu-fun seminars, bustling Tiki Marketplace, from tiki carvers to dashboard dolls, tiki mugs, apparel, velvet paintings, and more; tropical cocktails – did someone say Mai Tai – curated by top mixologists; top tiki personalities like Shag, Bosco, Charles Phoenix, Bad Madge, and so much more!

The Art Exhibit and Tiki Marketplace are FREE and open to the public! Tickets are available now (www.tikioasis.com/ticket) for the seminars, Wednesday night kick-off Luau at the beachfront Catamaran Resort Hotel, and Sunday Night tickets are available à la carte!

"Way Out West" celebrates the California tiki vibe of the 1930s to '60s when a new kind of Gold Rush occurred: visitors in search of liquid gold – Zombies and Mai Tais! From Don the Beachcomber to Trader Vic's, a tiki tidal wave hit popular culture.

Here's a peek:

Wednesday, July 31st, the kickoff Tiki Oasis Luau at the Catamaran Resort Hotel on the shores of Mission Bay!

Non-stop entertainment: Thursday Night Headliner Ixtahule. Friday Night Headliner Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys. Saturday Night Headliner Al Jardine (a founding

member of the Beach Boys) and his Endless Summer Band. Sunday Night '60s Showcase with Shake, Shout, Shimmy! Mike Stax Emcee - DJ Tony Tyger. Also, The Ogres, The Apemen, San Diego legends The Crawdaddys - Record vendors, and more. Plus live all weekend: Deke & the Whippersnappers, Dirty Fuse, The Double Whammy, El Vez & the Trailer Park Casanovas, Fisherman, The Manakooras, The Outtasites, Par Avion, Project: Pimento, The Satin Dolls, The Scimitars, Surfer Joe, Taimane Gardner, The Untamed Youth, and Venturesmania.

Super Seminars including Thursday: Sexitecture - Feminism and Mid-Century Architecture; How to Dress Your Tiki Daddy; Screening of "Bosko and the Rebirth of Tiki;" (Nearly) Everything You Know About



Rum in a Mai Tai is Wrong. Friday: Posing for Photos...Underwater! Desert Polynesia - A Book Preview of Palm Springs Tiki; Way Out West in Waikiki - The Hawaiian Steel Guitar and other Tiki Twang; California Au-Go Go with The Devil-Ettes! Spice Tales: A Tiki Cocktail Tutorial. Saturday: A History of California Music; Influential Women in Tiki; San Francisco's Tonga Room: From Pool to Hurricane Tiki Hut; From Victor to "The Trader"-A 90-Year Cocktail Odyssey. Sunday: Knotts Berry Farmland! Picasso Was a Polynesian - How Tikis Inspired Modern Art; Makalapua Macrame; Latinos in Tiki - Cultural Influence and Innovation.

Don't forget the Sponsors – they often throw free "room" parties tooting their wares. Drumshanbo Gunpowder Irish Gin, Planetary Rum, Liquid Alchemist, Trader Vic's (celebrating their 90th Anniversary), Flor de Cana Rum, Re'al Infused Exotics, Don the Beachcomber, and Dos Maderas Rum.

Since 2001, founders/producers Otto and Baby Doe von Stroheim have put on the best tiki gathering ever. A not-to-miss celebration that's fun, all-inclusive, and promotes education and historic preservation of American Pop Culture.

Be there or be square!



FLY ME TO THE MOON

By Contributing Writer



By Contributing Writer

“Fly Me to the Moon” is better than it looks.

This is not a slam against the marketing campaign for the space race rom-com about a straight-laced NASA man and the Madison Avenue marketing savant brought in to sell the mission to the moon. It’s more about moviegoing.

A film like this, with legitimate movie stars in Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, a slick, glossy look, an original concept, and a sparkling title, is not a commonly

If you make it past the opening, a cringey history lesson that has the depth and nuance of a half-page, single-space elementary school report on the space race, you’re in for a pleasant, if meandering, ride compliments of Johansson, who produced, Tatum and a talented roster of supporting actors (Woody Harrelson, Ray Romano, Jim Rash). Tatum might be a little miscast as the NASA launch director Cole Davis. Though he is a good match for Johansson and the bevy of knit sweaters he sports throughout, his portrayal makes Cole too instantly likeable for there to be any sort of dramatic stakes. Whether this was a miscalculation on the script, the direction or the casting is hard to say. But there is no will-they-won’t-they, only when-will-they, which is not compelling storytelling.

This is a movie that is in no rush to get anywhere fast. In fact, the main selling point of the trailer, that Kelly has been hired to stage a fake moon landing in case anything goes wrong with Apollo 11, isn’t even introduced until deep into the film. It’s not the point of the story at all, just an aspect of it, which is a little disorienting during a first-time viewing. Rash, as a diva director-for-hire for this top-secret film project, makes these scenes very funny (although the recurring Kubrick jokes fall flat). Most attempts to reference the era beyond the great costuming and production design are also quite superficial—it’s a kind of rose-colored-glasses version of the late 1960s in which racism and homophobia are practically nonexistent. Misogyny and former President Richard Nixon are punchlines and tolerable nuisances.

Another blunder was spending too much time with the Apollo 11 astronauts, down to the obligatory launch—a sequence that we’ve seen so many times and so much more effectively that there is little to be gained in clumsily shoehorning it in this kind of film. It’s just an expensive distraction, grasping at grandeur that it didn’t really need.

“Fly Me to the Moon” is best when it’s not taking itself too seriously. And the most worthwhile concept it sold is the idea of Johansson and Tatum (which, by the way, is a great reminder to rewatch “Hail, Caesar!”) as a modern Day and Hudson. They have the charm. They just need material that does it justice.

Judge Reinhold is in a truck barreling down the highway chased by angry cops when he turns to Eddie Murphy at the wheel and says something we’re all feeling, “God, I missed you, Axel.”

We all really did, but we get the sarcastic and sweet Axel Foley once again in Netflix’s “Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F,” exactly 30 years since “1994’s Beverly Hills Cop III.” Is the new movie any good? Who cares?

The fourth outing brings back not just Murphy and Reinhold to the Axel Foley Cinematic Universe, but also long-time co-stars Paul Reiser, John Ashton and Bronson Pinchot. Kevin Bacon, Taylour Paige and Joseph Gordon-Levitt make their debuts.



The plot is pretty simple: Murphy’s Foley is living his best cop life in Detroit—destroying things spectacularly—when he’s asked to urgently return to Beverly Hills to help his estranged daughter, played with real grit by Taylour Paige. He then gets caught up in a murder case that has dirty cops and lets him make fun of snooty Beverly Hills.

Newcomers may be puzzled by the slow pace and ‘80s feel of Mark Molloy’s directed sequel. It’s not as funny as previous ones or ambitious in the way sequels for beloved franchises have gotten. But it has Murphy blowing stuff up and joking about it—all we need, really.

“Goddamn, Foley. Here we go again,” says Ashton, playing the exasperated chief of police, and that sentiment runs through the fourth entry. All you need to make your Gen X friends happy is a montage of Murphy behind the wheel while “The Heat Is On” by Glenn Frey plays. (“Neutron Dance” by The Pointer Sisters also returns).

Speaking of music, the filmmakers seem to want to break some sort of record for Most Theme Song Plays in a Single Movie, as the instrumental tune “Axel F” by Harold Faltermeyer is cued up, by one rough count, approximately 5,000 times.

There are also a lot of vehicles commandeered in “Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F,” perhaps a nod to the advanced age of the core group. There’s a snowplow, a helicopter, a golf cart and trucks, none of which are returned in mint condition.

The screenwriters—Will Beall, Tom Gormican and Kevin Etten—leave plenty of places for Murphy to improvise but also craft some surprisingly strong dialogue between Foley and his 32-year-old daughter, both nursing hurt feelings.

“You didn’t fight. I’m your daughter. The only thing you’ve ever fought for is your job,” she tells him. “Look, we both messed this thing up. All right? Let’s just call it even.” Come for the explosions, stay for the heart-to-hearts.

Murphy uses Mary J. Blige’s “Family Affair” and proves it. In one scene, Foley is arrested while trying to drive away in a comically small cop car. One of the traffic cops is played

by Murphy’s daughter, Bria, one of his 10 kids. Another cop who later tases him is a son-in-law.

A lot has changed in the three decades since Foley was breaking rules and skulls and there’s the feeling of a requiem as these aged men go into battle again. “They don’t want swashbucklers out there anymore. They want social workers,” Reiser’s detective says.

There are jokes about Wesley Snipes, small yappy dogs and Spirit airlines, a scary shootout on Wilshire Boulevard, way too much synth played and an inside joke about the last sequel, a stinker: Gordon-Levitt goes through all of Foley’s brushes with the California police and says “‘94, not your finest hour.”

“Axel F” is not exactly Murphy’s finest hour, either. But Murphy just saying “Jesus!” is funny. Let’s hope we don’t have to wait another 30 years for our next Axel Foley fix. God, we’ve missed him.



occurring phenomenon. We’ve been conditioned to see something like this and assume: It’s the product of a high-spending streamer, or it’s fake, like one of those movies-within-a-movie that’s mostly there for laughs.

Both assumptions are on point, but the former is essentially true: This is an Apple production that like “Napoleon” and “Killers of the Flower Moon” is going to theaters first, through a traditional studio (Sony’s Columbia Pictures). It’s not just a gesture to theaters either—it’s streaming date has yet to be announced.

The director is veteran Greg Berlanti, whose films include “Love, Simon” and “Life as We Know It.” He seems to have taken a stylistic and tonal page from Peyton Reed’s “Down with Love,” that 1960s via 2003 Rock Hudson/Doris Day pastiche starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. The script, by Rose Gilroy and story, by Bill Kirstein and Keenan Flynn, is lighthearted and breezy with a pleasing screwball energy, giving Johansson the opportunity to use the full wattage of her movie star power as the shrewd, self-made Kelly Jones. She’s a female Don Draper minus the melancholy and dalliances, but with some secret baggage and the ability to charm.

The Best Concerts Of 2024

By Contributing Writer

As we cross the halfway mark of 2024, the live music scene has seen unforgettable performances. From pop phenoms to country legends and groundbreaking artists, this year's concerts have offered something for every music lover.

Olivia Rodrigo: The Sour Tour

Olivia Rodrigo's "Sour Tour" has been a sensational journey, resonating with fans and critics. Following the success of her debut album, Rodrigo has proven her prowess as a live performer. Her concert at Madison Square Garden in New York City was a defining

moment, with the sold-out crowd hanging on every word. Rodrigo's ability to convey raw emotion has cemented her as a generational talent.

The production of Rodrigo's shows is a visual and auditory feast. The stage design, featuring grungy aesthetics and vibrant visuals, perfectly complements her music's angst and energy. Her band enhances her heartfelt performances. Olivia's interaction with the audience, sharing personal anecdotes and creating a sense of intimacy. Her growth as a live performer is undeniable.



Bad Bunny: World's Hottest Tour

Bad Bunny's "World's Hottest Tour" has lived up to its name. The Puerto Rican superstar's ability to blend reggaeton, Latin trap, and various other genres has made his concerts a must-see.

Bad Bunny's concerts are known for high energy and vibrant production. With elaborate stage setups, including pyrotechnics and visual effects, each show is a spectacle. His setlist, featuring "Dakiti," "Yonaguni," and "Callaita," keeps the audience dancing from start to finish.

George Strait: The Cowboy Rides Again

Country music icon George Strait has proven age is just a number. Celebrating over four decades in music, Strait's performances are a masterclass in country music excellence.

His concert in Arlington, Texas, was a memorable night, filled with timeless hits and heartfelt moments.

Strait's ability to captivate an audience with his vocals and classic tunes like "Amarillo by Morning," "Troubadour," and "The Chair" is unparalleled. His band, composed of the best musicians in the genre, provides a rich, authentic sound that complements his timeless voice. The simplicity of his stage setup, focusing on musical quality and storytelling, allows the audience to fully immerse themselves in the experience.

SZA: The SOS Tour

SZA's "The SOS Tour" has been a revelation, showcasing her growth as a performer. Fans praise her soulful voice and emotional depth. SZA's ability to blend R&B, neo-soul, and alternative styles has set her apart, and her live performances amplify these qualities. The production of SZA's shows is minimalistic and powerful, focusing on her vocal delivery and emotional expression.

2024 has already been a remarkable year for music, with performances from Olivia Rodrigo, Bad Bunny, George Strait, and SZA. These artists have brought their unique style and energy to the stage. The bar has been set high, and music lovers eagerly await what the second half of 2024 will bring.

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SCIENTISTS JUST MADE A SMILING ROBOT WITH SKIN

A Leap Towards Human-Like Machines

By Contributing Writer

Scientists have created a robot capable of smiling, complete with skin that mimics flesh. This innovation represents a leap forward in robotics, blending advanced materials

science, artificial intelligence, and bioengineering. The implications of this technology are vast. **Technology Behind the Smiling Robot**

The creation of a robot with skin and the ability to smile is a complex feat that combines cutting-edge technologies. At the core is the synthetic skin, which is designed to resemble human epidermis.



This artificial skin is composed of flexible, durable materials embedded with sensors that can detect pressure, temperature, and environmental factors.

The skin is layered with actuators that replicate human facial muscles. These actuators are connected to a network of sensors and processors that allow the robot to interpret and respond to external stimuli.

One of the key challenges was ensuring the robot's expressions are not only anatomically accurate but also emotionally resonant. To achieve this, scientists conducted research into human facial expressions, studying how muscles move and interact to convey different emotions. The resulting AI algorithms are capable of generating subtle, nuanced expressions.

Applications and Potential Benefits

The creation of a robot with human-like skin and expressions opens up possibilities. In healthcare, these robots could revolutionize patient care and therapy. For instance, robots that can smile and show empathy might be used in elder care, providing companionship and emotional support to elderly patients. These robots could also assist in therapeutic settings, helping individuals with autism or other social disorders learn to recognize and respond to facial expressions.

In the entertainment industry, human-like robots could enhance realism of animatronics in theme parks or serve as lifelike characters in films and television. The ability to create robots that can convey emotions could also lead to more immersive virtual reality experiences.

Additionally, robots with human-like skin and expressions could find applications in customer service and hospitality. Imagine being greeted by a robot receptionist that can not only assist with your queries but also smile and engage in natural, empathetic conversations?

Ethical Considerations and Challenges

While a smiling robot with skin is undoubtedly impressive, it also raises ethical considerations. One is the potential for robots to be used in deceptive ways. As robots become more human-like, distinguishing them from actual humans could become difficult.

Privacy is another issue. Robots equipped with advanced sensors and AI capabilities will collect and process data. Ensuring that this data is securely stored and ethically used will be paramount.

The psychological impact of human-like robots requires consideration. While these robots could provide companionship and support, there is a risk that people might become overly attached to them.

The Future of Human-Like Robots

As technology advances, we can expect these robots to become more sophisticated. It is crucial to approach this technology with a balanced perspective, recognizing its potential and the ethical challenges it presents.

The robot is a testament to advancements in robotics and AI. As we explore, we move closer to a future where robots seamlessly integrate into our daily lives in ways we are only beginning to imagine.

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SPIRITS/TASTES

THE 12 BEST CHARTREUSE COCKTAILS

By Contributing Writer

Charteuse, a vibrant and complex liqueur made by Carthusian monks in France, is available in both Green and Yellow varieties. Known for its rich herbal profile, Chartreuse adds a unique depth to cocktails. Here are twelve of the best Chartreuse cocktails, each showcasing the liqueur's versatility and flavor.

Last Word

The Last Word is a classic Prohibition-era cocktail that has seen a resurgence in popularity. Equal parts gin, Green Chartreuse, maraschino liqueur, and lime juice, it's a perfect balance of sweet, sour, and herbal. Shake all ingredients

with ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a cherry for a touch of elegance.

Bijou

Translating to "jewel" in French, the Bijou is a gem of a cocktail. Combining gin,



Green Chartreuse, and sweet vermouth, this drink is stirred with ice and strained into a coupe glass. A lemon twist is added for

garnish. The Bijou's harmonious blend of flavors makes it a standout.

Chartreuse Swizzle

Refreshing and visually stunning, the Chartreuse Swizzle is perfect for warm weather. Mix Green Chartreuse, pineapple juice, lime juice, and falernum in a tall glass

mint, lemon, and simple syrup. Muddle mint leaves and lemon in a shaker, add Chartreuse and simple syrup, shake with ice, and strain into a glass filled with crushed ice. Garnish with a mint sprig.

Lion's Tail

This classic cocktail combines bourbon, lime juice, simple syrup, allspice dram, and a splash of Green Chartreuse. Shake with ice and strain into a chilled glass. The allspice



filled with crushed ice. Swizzle with a bar spoon until frosty, then garnish with a mint sprig and a dash of bitters.

Champs-Élysées

Named after the famous Parisian avenue, the Champs-Élysées is a sophisticated cocktail made with cognac, Green Chartreuse, lemon juice, simple syrup, and a dash of Angostura bitters. Shake with ice and strain into a coupe glass. Garnish with a lemon twist.

Final Ward

A riff on the Last Word, the Final Ward replaces gin with rye whiskey and lime juice with lemon juice. The rye's spiciness complements the herbal notes of Green Chartreuse. Shake with ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a lemon twist.

Tuxedo No. 2

The Tuxedo No. 2 is a martini variation that uses gin, dry vermouth, maraschino liqueur, absinthe, and a few dashes of Orange Bitters. A small amount of Yellow Chartreuse adds complexity. Stir with ice, strain into a coupe glass, and garnish with a lemon twist and a cherry.

Alaska

The Alaska cocktail is a simple yet elegant drink. It's made with gin, Yellow Chartreuse, and a dash of Orange Bitters. Stir with ice and strain into a coupe glass. Garnish with a lemon twist. The Yellow Chartreuse adds a subtle sweetness and herbal note.

Chartreuse Smash

A modern cocktail, the Chartreuse Smash is a delightful blend of Green Chartreuse,

and Chartreuse create a spicy, herbal profile that's perfect for cooler months.

Jasmine

The Jasmine cocktail features gin, Campari, Cointreau, and a splash of Yellow Chartreuse. Shake with ice and strain into a chilled glass. The Yellow Chartreuse softens the bitterness of the Campari, creating a balanced and refreshing drink.

Dante's Delight

A modern cocktail created by New York's Dante bar, Dante's Delight mixes Green Chartreuse with mezcal, pineapple juice, lime juice, and a dash of agave syrup. Shake with ice and strain into a rocks glass filled with ice. Garnish with a pineapple leaf.

Green Ghost

A simple yet potent drink, the Green Ghost is made with gin, Green Chartreuse, and lime juice. Shake with ice and strain into a chilled glass. The Green Chartreuse's bold herbal flavors shine through, balanced by the tart lime.

Chartreuse is a unique and versatile liqueur that can elevate a wide range of cocktails. From the classic Last Word to the inventive Dante's Delight, these twelve cocktails highlight the herbal complexity and depth that Chartreuse brings to the table. Whether you prefer the vibrant Green Chartreuse or the subtler Yellow variety, there's a cocktail on this list that will suit your taste.



INDEPENDENT RADIO



al fresco Dining In Los Angeles

By Contributing Writer

Los Angeles, known for sunny weather and vibrant food, is a paradise for those who enjoy dining al fresco. From beachside cafes to rooftop eateries,



the city's outdoor dining options offer breathtaking views, delightful cuisine, and a quintessentially Californian vibe.

The Malibu Farm Pier Café

Located on the iconic Malibu Pier, the Malibu Farm Pier Café offers stunning ocean views and a farm-to-table menu. Guests can enjoy fresh, organic dishes like quinoa oatmeal, cauliflower crust pizza, and grass-fed beef burger while taking in the serene sight of the Pacific Ocean.

The Rooftop by JG

Perched atop the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills, The Rooftop by JG provides a luxurious dining experience with panoramic views. Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's menu features dishes like crispy sushi, avocado carpaccio, and roasted Maine lobster. The elegant setting, complete with comfortable seating and stylish décor, creates a perfect ambiance.

The Ivy

The Ivy in West Hollywood is famous for its charming garden patio adorned with vibrant flowers and fairy lights. The menu boasts American and Italian cuisine, with favorites such as Maine lobster ravioli, jumbo lump crab cakes, and the signature Ivy Gimlet cocktail.

Cliffs Edge

Nestled in Silver Lake, Cliff's Edge offers a magical outdoor dining space surrounded by greenery. The patio, shaded by a massive tree and twinkling lights, creates a cozy and intimate setting. The menu focuses on Mediterranean-inspired cuisine. It's an ideal spot for a romantic dinner or a leisurely brunch.

Republique

Housed in a historic building on La Brea Avenue, Republique combines old-world charm with modern excellence. The courtyard, with rustic tables and ambient lighting, is perfect for an al fresco meal. The menu, crafted by Chef Walter Manzke, offers French-inspired dishes such as escargot en croûte, duck confit, and the famous kimchi fried rice.

Gracias Madre

Located in West Hollywood, Gracias Madre offers a beautiful



outdoor patio adorned with string lights and vibrant decor. This plant-based Mexican restaurant is known for its innovative dishes like jackfruit carnitas tacos, cauliflower al pastor, and coconut bacon BLT. The refreshing cocktails, such as the Purista Margarita and the Mexcal Mule, complement the flavorful cuisine perfectly.

The Little Door

The Little Door in West Hollywood is an enchanting spot that transports diners to a Mediterranean garden. The courtyard, with its vine-covered walls, candlelit tables, and fountain, provides a romantic setting for an al fresco meal. The menu features Mediterranean and French cuisine, with highlights like the Moroccan lamb tagine, bouillabaisse, and the decadent chocolate pot de crème.

Perch

Perch offers rooftop dining with stunning views of the city skyline. The French-inspired menu includes dishes like steak frites, duck confit, and truffle fries. The rooftop garden creates a relaxed yet



chic atmosphere. Perch is an excellent spot for a sunset dinner or a weekend brunch.

E.P. & L.P.

Situated in West Hollywood, E.P. & L.P. is a trendy rooftop bar and restaurant that offers Asian

and Pacific-inspired cuisine. The L.P. Rooftop, with its sweeping views of the Hollywood Hills and the city skyline, is perfect for sipping cocktails and enjoying small plates like crispy skin chicken, lamb ribs, and tuna tartare.

The Rose Venice

A staple in Venice Beach, The Rose Venice features a spacious outdoor patio that captures the laid-back, beachy vibe of the area. The menu offers a variety of California-inspired dishes, including wood-fired pizzas, fresh seafood, and

seasonal salads. The Rose Venice is ideal for a casual brunch, lunch, or dinner, with ocean breezes and lively atmosphere.

Los Angeles' al fresco dining scene is as diverse and dynamic as the city itself. Whether you're looking for a romantic dinner spot, a trendy rooftop bar, or a cozy garden café, LA has something to offer every outdoor dining enthusiast. Enjoying a meal under the open sky, with beautiful views and delicious food, is truly one of the best ways to experience the city's vibrant culinary culture.



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FACELIFTS IN DUBAI

A GROWING TREND IN AESTHETIC SURGERY

By Contributing Writer

Dubai has emerged as a leading destination for cosmetic surgery, attracting individuals from around the globe. Among the procedures available, facelifts have become particularly popular due to the city's advanced medical infrastructure, skilled surgeons, and luxurious facilities.

Why Dubai?

Dubai's reputation as a hub for luxury and innovation extends to its healthcare. The city boasts state-of-the-art medical facilities equipped with the latest technology, ensuring that patients receive world-class care. Additionally, Dubai is home to highly qualified plastic surgeons, many of whom have trained and practiced internationally.

The city's strategic location also makes it easily accessible for Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, contributing to its popularity as a medical tourism destination. Moreover, Dubai's emphasis on privacy and discretion appeals to high-profile individuals.

Types of Facelifts

Facelifts in Dubai can range from minimally invasive procedures to more comprehensive surgeries, depending on the patient's needs and desired outcomes. Here are some common types of facelifts:

Mini Facelift: This less invasive option targets the lower face and neck, ideal for individuals with early signs of aging. It involves smaller incisions and a shorter recovery time.

Traditional Facelift: Also known as a full facelift, this procedure addresses significant signs of aging, including sagging skin, deep wrinkles, and jowls. It involves incisions around the hairline and

ears, allowing the surgeon to lift and tighten the underlying muscles and tissues.

Mid-Facelift: Focused on the central portion of the face, this procedure lifts the cheeks and smooths nasolabial folds, providing a more youthful appearance.

Thread Lift:

A non-surgical option, thread lifts use temporary sutures to

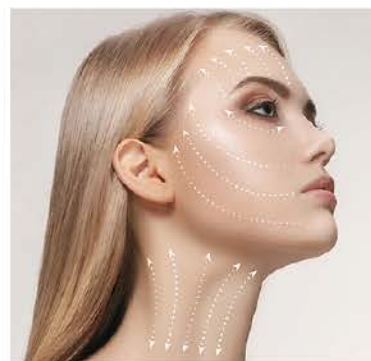
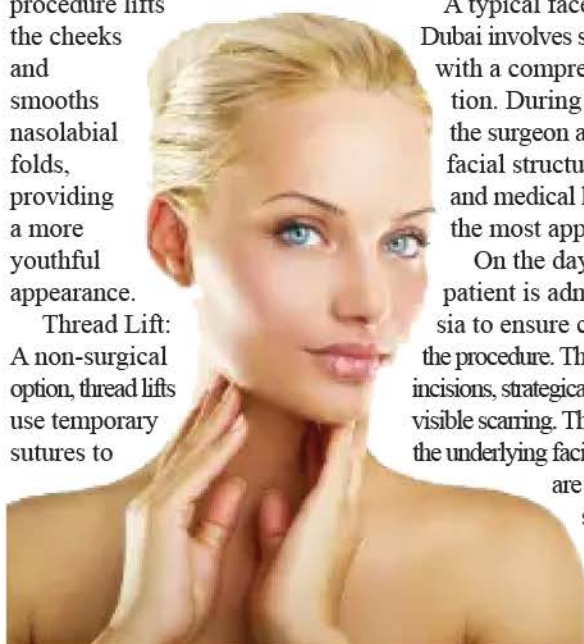
lift the skin, offering subtle improvements with minimal downtime. This procedure is suitable for those seeking a quick fix with less dramatic results.

The Procedure

A typical facelift procedure in Dubai involves several steps, starting with a comprehensive consultation. During this consultation, the surgeon assesses the patient's facial structure, skin condition, and medical history to determine the most appropriate approach.

On the day of the surgery, the patient is administered anesthesia to ensure comfort throughout the procedure. The surgeon then makes incisions, strategically placed to minimize visible scarring. Through these incisions, the underlying facial muscles and tissues are tightened, and excess skin is removed.

The remaining skin is then repositioned for a smoother,



in facial contour and a reduction in wrinkles and sagging skin, leading to a more refreshed and youthful appearance.

Considerations and Risks

While facelifts in Dubai are performed by highly skilled surgeons, it is essential for patients to thoroughly research their options and choose a reputable clinic. Potential risks and complications, although rare, can include infection, scarring, nerve damage, and unsatisfactory results. Therefore, having realistic expectations and understanding the limitations of the surgery is crucial.

Facelifts in Dubai represent a blend of advanced medical expertise, luxurious care, and a commitment to patient satisfaction. The city's rise as a premier destination for cosmetic surgery is driven by its world-class facilities, skilled surgeons, and an environment that caters to the needs of international patients. For those considering a facelift, Dubai offers a compelling option where beauty and innovation converge to deliver outstanding aesthetic outcomes.

more youthful appearance. The entire procedure can take several hours, depending on the extent of the surgery.

Recovery and Results

Post-surgery, patients can expect some swelling, bruising, and discomfort, which gradually subsides over a few weeks. Most individuals can return to their normal activities within two to three weeks, although strenuous activities should be avoided for at least six weeks.

The results of a facelift can be long-lasting, often enduring for up to a decade or more. Patients typically experience a significant improvement

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By Contributing Writer

The Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at Pepperdine University announces its 2024-2025 season. Be dazzled by Yamoussa Bangoura's artistic display of African culture in Cirque Kalabanté; the awe-inspiring feats of The Peking Acrobats; the stunning spectacles of award-winning dance troupe PILOBOLUS; and the skillful masterworks of the legendary dance company ABT Studio. Experience a cover-to-cover performance of Fleetwood Mac's album Rumours presented by Classic Albums Live and jam to the songs of Men At Work's Colin Hay. Hear behind-the-scenes stories with Bob Eubanks' Backstage with the Beatles, featuring "Ticket to Ride." Festive performances such as Home for the Holidays featuring Peabo Bryson, Oleta Adams, Ruben Studdard, and Haley Reinhart;



Voctave: It Feels Like Christmas; and a special holiday performance by ukulelist Jake Shimabukuro will be sure to get you into the holiday spirit. Enjoy the musical talents of harmonious a cappella group Naturally 7; beloved international folk act The Wailin' Jennys; and Canadian Celtic rock group Derina Harvey Band.



Immerse yourself in music with John Jorgenson Quintet with Frank Vignola and innovative guitarist Luca Stricagnoli playing multiple modified guitars. High-energy violinists Sons of Mystro bring traditional violin techniques to new genres. Be transported to New Orleans with the jazz legends Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Led by Emmy-nominated crooner Benny Benack III and social media sensation Stella Katherine Cole, Some Enchanted Evening leads audiences on a jazz-inspired journey through Broadway's greatest hits, while showcasing tap-dancing star Jabu Graybeal. Broadway star Jessica Vosk who played Elphaba will charm you through an intimate cabaret evening. Letters Aloud: From the Front delights audiences with thought-provoking stories told through personal correspondence. Feel the beat of the drum as TAIKO-PROJECT unites ancient Japanese tradition with 21st-century innovation. The Pa'akai We Bring introduces audiences to the ancient

stories of the Native Hawaiians with hula, live music, and audience participation. Ending the season with a bang, The Flying Karamazov Brothers: 50 Years of Juggling and Cheap Theatrics features laugh-out-loud comedy, wild theatrics, and astonishing juggling feats. The recital series includes performances by bass-baritone Fernando Grimaldo, pianist Clayton Stephenson, violinist Njioma Grevious, violinist Johan Dalene, and the Balourdet Quartet. Seaver College Fine Arts Division and Theatre Department students will present productions of Lost Girl, 9 to 5 The Musical, Iphigenia Among the Taurians, Passage, The Magic Flute, and the annual Dance in Flight. The Pepperdine Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Pickford Ensemble, and Jazz and Wind Ensembles will present a selection of classical performances, and guitar virtuoso Christopher Parkening will conduct two master classes. The Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art will feature four exhibits including Cameron Harvey: The Shape of Being; Loop, Hum, Wave; James Clar: Powers of Ten; and Isabel Yellin: Mothership. Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts is located at 24255 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu. Call (310) 506-4522 or log onto arts.pepperdine.edu/events

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By Barbara Beckley

Looking for health and wellness with your next vacay? Head to the Azure Sky Hotel in Palm Springs!

General manager Angie Bettinelli has created an oasis of wellbeing and pampering. Designed to relax, recharge, improve mind, body and spirit – and enjoy – on both a DIY getaway or “Desert Wellness Retreat,” featuring organized activities such as gourmet vegan dinners and cooking lessons.

The 14-room stunner reopened under Bettinelli’s command in June 2022 following a two-year, head-to-toe redo.



Stepping inside the “Living Room,” I was blown away by the design. Mirrors set between the beams of the classic mid-century ceiling provide an unexpected element with reflections of chic furnishings and sunshine pouring through floor-to-ceiling windows.

Like the exclusive Wellness Station, featuring carefully curated health products including three-piece Hydrating (24K) Gold Mask Sheets for face, under eyes and lips (\$15); Calm Relaxing Pillow Spray (\$19) of lavender, chamomile, clary sage, radish root and geranium from Soulistic Root (www.soulisticroot.com); and incredible take-home

“Wellness Swag Bag” (\$110) with hydrating face mask and eye mask sheets; Calm essential oil roller, Intentions notebook to write down your thoughts, shower steamers in lavender, citrus, and peppermint; herbal and caffeinated Rishi Tea and Botanicals (www.rishi-tea.com), and – who would have thought! An entire Eucalyptus branch to put on the showerhead for super-sized aromatherapy!!

The Living Room opens to The Courtyard lawn and firepit, and path leading to the hot tub and pool, with – surprise, surprise – two shallow ends.

Another surprise. Custom craft concoctions. Arriving guests choose a welcome drink from “our slushie iced drinks,” Bettinelli told me. “One is always zero proof.” I opted for an “adult” Coconut Latte Welcome Slushie.

Drinks are available throughout the day. From the “Wellness Bar” using small batch elixirs and tonics of wildcrafted, plant-based, bio-regionally sourced beverage concentrates from The MerTails (www.thenahm.com).

And from the Lobby Bar pouring cocktail classics including the “Shaken Not Stirred” Vesper Martini, and “Azure 75,” with sparkling brut, gin, lavender syrup, and lemon. Also, wines and champagnes from California, France, and Spain; craft beers, spritzes, aperitifs, and Hard Kombucha + CBD. And raw cashews, dried fruits and other Grab & Go snacks.

Room to Relax

Opening the door to my “Olive” room, No. 102, its natural woods evoked a sense of calm, enhanced by 440-square-feet of creature comforts including a floating king bed, kitchenette, floor-to-ceiling-tiled bath, and private patio with hammock. No TV though. “We’re designed to unplug and enjoy being your best self,” Bettinelli explained. The hotel is walking distance to favorite bars, restaurants and attractions including Bar Cecil, and Moorten Botanical Gardens. Loaner bikes make for more fun.

Daily “Rituals”

Another surprise. “Rituals are key to starting and ending your day on the right foot,” Bettinelli believes. The “Azure Sky Morning Ritual,” the “Azure Sky Evening Ritual,” each six steps; and the seven-step “Simple DIY Daily Rituals” to continue at home.

Before turning in, I followed Evening Ritual No. 1: “Cozy up in a bathrobe, grab a glass of fruit-infused spa water and walk over to the Pool Terrace to enjoy a luxurious soak in the hot tub.” The next day, I followed Morning Ritual No. 5. “Eat a nutritious breakfast.” Followed by yoga on the lawn with Henny Stamper of Yoga Yantra.

In just one night I felt relaxed, recharged, and renewed. Think what a weekend would do!

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INTRIGUING CELEBRITY TATTOOS: A JOURNEY THROUGH PERSONAL EXPRESSION

By Contributing Writer

Celebrities often use tattoos as a canvas to tell their stories, express beliefs, or commemorate significant events. From intricate designs to minimalist symbols, the tattoos of the rich and famous offer a glimpse into their private worlds.



Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie is known for her extensive tattoos, each with a personal meaning. One of her most notable pieces is the Khmer script tattoo on her left shoulder blade, which she got in Cambodia. This tattoo is a Buddhist prayer for protection, reflecting Jolie's connection to the country and her adopted son, Maddox. Additionally, her coordinates tattoo, located on her left arm, marks the birthplaces of her children.

David Beckham

David Beckham's body is a canvas adorned with numerous tattoos, each representing a significant aspect of his life. Among his most famous is the portrait of his wife, Victoria Beckham, on his left

arm. This tattoo, along with the names of his children and various other designs, illustrates his deep love and commitment to his family. Beckham's tattoos also include religious symbols and inspirational quotes.

Rihanna

Rihanna's tattoos are cultural symbols and milestones. One is the Egyptian goddess Isis on her chest, a tribute to her late grandmother. This tattoo symbolizes strength and femininity. Additionally, Rihanna has a series of stars on the back of her neck, representing people who have influenced her life.

Johnny Depp

Johnny Depp's tattoos are an eclectic mix, each with its own story. One of the most famous is "Wino Forever" on his right arm, originally reading "Winona Forever" in honor of his former fiancée. After their breakup, Depp had the tattoo altered, showcasing his sense of humor and resilience. Depp's tattoos also include a Native American chief and a sparrow on his right arm, inspired by his character, Captain Jack Sparrow.

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson

Dwayne Johnson's tattoos are a testament to his roots and achievements. His most prominent is a large Polynesian tribal piece that covers his left arm and shoulder. This design, created during a traditional tattooing ceremony, represents his Samoan heritage. Each element holds a meaning.

Miley Cyrus

Miley Cyrus has a collection of tattoos. One of her most meaningful is a portrait of her grandmother on her forearm. Cyrus also has small, quirky tattoos, including a watermelon slice and a smiley face. Her tattoos represent her beliefs, like the equal sign

on her finger, signifying support for marriage equality.

Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber's tattoos chart his journey. Among his many tattoos is a cross on his chest. Bieber also has a portrait of Jesus Christ on his left leg. His "Believe" tattoo on his left arm reflects his commitment to his music career.

Lady Gaga

Lady Gaga's tattoos are bold and unique. One is the word "Dad" on her left shoulder, a tribute to her father. She also has a musical note tattooed on her wrist. Gaga's tattoos reflect her artistic journey, including a large unicorn on her thigh.

Celebrity tattoos offer insight into the lives and minds of the stars. Each tattoo tells a story, revealing beliefs, milestones, and emotional connections. These tattoos are more than just ink on skin—they are a testament to individuality and journeys of some of the world's most famous people.



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Free Paris Olympic Activities

No Reservations Or Tickets Required

By Contributing Writer

Paris 2024 Olympic Games promise to be grandeur and excitement, and while many events will require tickets and reservations, there are numerous activities that attendees and visitors can enjoy for free. **Olympic Park Walks**

The Olympic Park, located in the heart of Paris, will be a hub of activity. Visitors can explore the park, which

will be beautifully landscaped and filled with artistic installations, pop-up events, and performances. The park will serve as a meeting point for fans,



offering a festive atmosphere where people can soak in the Olympic spirit. **Live Screenings at Fan Zones**

Fan zones will be set up around the city, providing large screens that broadcast events. These zones will be in iconic locations like the Champs de Mars near the Eiffel Tower and Trocadéro Gardens. The fan zones will

feature a lively atmosphere with music, food stalls, and various activities.

Cultural Performances and Exhibitions

Paris will host cultural performances and exhibitions during the

Olympics. These events will showcase the rich heritage and contemporary art of France. Locations such as the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay will participate in these cultural festivities, offering free access to exhibitions and outdoor performances, celebrating sports and arts.

Sporting Demonstrations and Workshops

Various public spaces will host sporting demonstrations and workshops. These events provide visitors an opportunity to try their hand at different Olympic sports, guided by athletes and coaches. From fencing lessons to judo, these sessions aim to engage and inspire.

Historical Tours of Olympic Venues

Paris is home to historic venues that will be used during the Olympics. Free guided tours will be available at sites, such as the Stade de France and Roland-Garros. These tours will provide fascinating insights into the history of these iconic venues.

Street Performances and Festivals

The streets of Paris come alive with performances and mini-festivals throughout the Olympic period. Encounter street musicians, dancers, and artists who will add to the celebratory atmosphere. Neighborhoods like Montmartre and Le Marais will be particularly vibrant, with local cafes and shops joining in.

Green Spaces and Recreational Areas

Paris boasts numerous parks and green spaces that will host free recreational activities. The Jardin des Tuileries and Parc des Buttes-Chaumont will feature fitness classes, yoga sessions, and other wellness activities. These spaces will provide a serene retreat from the bustling Olympic events.

Public Art Installations

The city will be adorned with art installations inspired by the Olympic Games. Renowned and emerging artists will contribute to these displays, which will be scattered across various neighborhoods. These installations will offer thought-provoking and visually stunning experiences, reflecting the themes of unity, peace, and athletic excellence.

Parades and Ceremonial Events

In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, there will be various parades and ceremonial events that the public can enjoy. These events will celebrate different cultures and sports, featuring athletes, performers, and community groups. The Parade of Nations and torch relay in different parts of the city will be particularly spectacular. **Tips for Enjoying Free Olympic Activities**

To make the most of these free activities, here are tips:

Plan Ahead: While these activities don't require tickets, they can get crowded. Arriving early ensures a better experience.

Stay Informed: Keep an eye on official Olympic and city websites for schedules and updates.

Use Public Transport: Paris' public transport is efficient and will be the best way to navigate the city.

Be Prepared: Pack essentials like water, snacks, and comfortable clothing to ensure you stay comfortable.

Engage and Participate: Many activities are interactive, so don't hesitate to join in and experience the Olympic spirit fully.

The Paris 2024 Olympics will be a grand celebration not just of sports, but of culture, art, and community. These free activities ensure that everyone can be part of this historic event, enjoying the best of what Paris has to offer.

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EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND SERVICE ANIMALS

By Contributing Writer

The roles of service animals and emotional support animals (ESAs) have become increasingly prominent, offering support to individuals with various disabilities and mental health challenges. While both types of animals provide assistance, there are differences between them in terms of their roles, training, and legal protections they receive. Understanding these distinctions is essential for recognizing the contributions these animals make and ensuring they are treated appropriately.

What Are Service Animals?

Service animals are trained to perform tasks for individuals with disabilities. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is defined as a dog that has been trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. This can include physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disabilities.

Types of Service Animals

Guide Dogs: Assist individuals who are visually impaired by navigating obstacles and providing independence.

Hearing Dogs: Alert individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to important sounds like alarms, doorbells, or approaching vehicles.

Mobility Assistance Dogs: Aid individuals with physical disabilities by opening doors, retrieving objects, and providing stability for walking.

Medical Alert Dogs: Detect medical conditions such as seizures, low blood sugar, or severe allergies and alert their handlers.

Psychiatric Service Dogs: Support individuals by performing tasks like interrupting self-harm, grounding during anxiety attacks, and reminding their handlers to take medication.

Legal Protections for Service Animals

Service animals are granted extensive legal protections under the ADA. They are

allowed to accompany their handlers in public places, including restaurants, hospitals, and stores. These animals must be under control at times, typically through a harness, leash, or other tether unless these interfere with the service animal's work or the handler's disability prevents use of these



devices. In such cases, the handler must maintain control through voice, signal, or other means.

Businesses are required to make accommodations for service animals and can only ask two questions: whether the animal is required because of a disability and what tasks the animal has been trained to perform.

What Are Emotional Support Animals?

Emotional support animals provide comfort and support to individuals with mental health conditions. ESAs do not need specialized training to perform specific tasks; their primary role is to provide emotional stability.

The Role of Emotional Support Animals

ESAs can be any type of animal, not just dogs. They offer therapeutic benefits by alleviating symptoms of condi-

tions such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The mere presence of an ESA can provide significant comfort.

Legal Protections for Emotional Support Animals

While ESAs do not have the same legal protections as service animals, they are recognized under the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA).

Fair Housing Act: The FHA requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations for individuals with ESAs. This ensures that people with mental health conditions can have the necessary emotional support. However, landlords can request documentation from a licensed mental health professional.

Air Carrier Access Act: The ACAA previously allowed ESAs to accompany their owners in the cabin of an aircraft without additional fees. However, as of January 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation revised its regulations, allowing airlines to classify ESAs as pets

rather than service animals. This change means airlines are no longer required to accommodate ESAs free of charge.

Key Differences Between Service Animals and ESAs

Training: Service animals undergo rigorous training related to their handler's disability. ESAs do not require training.

Legal Protections: Service animals have legal rights to access public spaces, whereas ESAs have more limited protections.

Types of Animals: Service animals are typically dogs, while ESAs can be any type of animal.

Service animals and emotional support animals both play crucial roles in supporting individuals with disabilities and mental health conditions. While they serve different purposes and have distinct legal protections, both types of animals offer their handlers invaluable assistance and companionship. Understanding these differences is vital for ensuring that service animals and ESAs are appropriately accommodated and appreciated.

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Pampering At Sea Aboard Silversea's 'Silver Ray' Cruise Ship

By Contributing Writer

A Floating Palace of Luxury

The 'Silver Ray' is a masterpiece of modern engineering and design, boasting sleek lines, expansive decks, and an interior that exudes sophistication. With a capacity for just under 600 guests, the ship offers an intimate and exclusive atmosphere, allow-



Silversea Cruises, a name synonymous with luxury and elegance on the high seas, has once again set the bar higher with the launch of their newest vessel, the 'Silver Ray'. This state-of-the-art cruise ship promises an unparalleled level of opulence and comfort, ensuring that passengers will experience a journey like no other, filled with over-the-top pampering from the moment they step aboard.

ing for personalized service and attention to detail. Each suite on the 'Silver Ray' is a sanctuary of comfort, featuring plush furnishings, high-end amenities, and breathtaking ocean views. The spaciousness of the suites, coupled with private verandas, ensures that guests can enjoy the serenity of the sea in complete privacy.

Gourmet Dining Experiences

Dining on the 'Silver Ray' is a culinary journey in itself. The ship features a variety of world-class dining venues, each offering a unique and exquisite menu crafted by top chefs. From the elegant main dining room to specialty restaurants serving gourmet cuisine from around the globe, every meal is an



complete with personal trainers and fitness classes. Additionally, guests can enjoy a variety of wellness programs and workshops, focusing on everything from nutrition and mindfulness to yoga and Pilates.

Enriching Experiences

The 'Silver Ray' is not just about luxury and pampering; it also offers a wealth of enriching experiences designed to educate and inspire. The ship's enrichment program includes lectures and presentations by experts in various fields, from history and culture to marine biology and astronomy. Guests can also participate in hands-on workshops and classes, such as cooking demonstrations and art classes. For those interested in exploring the destinations they visit, the 'Silver Ray' offers a range of shore excursions, each led by knowledgeable guides who provide insights into the local culture and history.

Entertainment and Leisure

Entertainment on the 'Silver Ray' is designed to delight and captivate. The ship features a variety of venues offering live performances, from

event to be savored. The emphasis on fresh, locally-sourced ingredients ensures that each dish is of the highest quality. Guests can also enjoy an extensive wine list curated by expert sommeliers, perfectly complementing the gourmet fare.

Personalized Butler Service

One of the hallmarks of the Silversea experience is the personalized butler service, and the 'Silver Ray' is no exception. Each suite is assigned a dedicated butler who is on hand to cater to every need, from unpacking luggage to arranging shore excursions. The butlers are trained to anticipate the needs of the guests, providing a level of service that is both attentive and discreet. Whether it's a morning coffee delivered to the suite or a relaxing bath drawn after a day of exploring, the butlers ensure that every moment on board is as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

Spa and Wellness

For those seeking relaxation and rejuvenation, the 'Silver Ray' offers an extensive spa and wellness center. The spa features a range of treatments designed to soothe the mind and body, from massages and facials to more holistic therapies such as acupuncture and reflexology. The wellness center also includes a state-of-the-art fitness facility,

musical shows and theatrical productions to comedy acts and dance performances. There are also several bars and lounges where guests can enjoy a drink and socialize with fellow travelers. For those who prefer a quieter evening, the ship's library and game room provide a peaceful retreat.

Commitment to Sustainability

In addition to offering unparalleled luxury, the 'Silver Ray' is also committed to sustainability. The ship is equipped with advanced technology designed to minimize its environmental impact, from energy-efficient systems to waste management practices. Silversea Cruises is dedicated to preserving the beauty of the destinations they visit, and the 'Silver Ray' is a testament to this commitment.

The launch of the 'Silver Ray' marks a new era in luxury cruising, offering passengers an experience that is both indulgent and enriching. With its stunning design, exceptional service, and a wide range of amenities and activities, the 'Silver Ray' promises a journey that will exceed the expectations of even the most discerning traveler. From the personalized butler service to the gourmet dining and the extensive spa facilities, every aspect of the 'Silver Ray' has been designed to provide over-the-top pampering and create memories that will last a lifetime.

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Curb Appeal Mistakes To Avoid

Enhancing Your Home's First Impression

By Contributing Writer

Curb appeal plays a crucial role in creating a positive first impression of your home.

Whether you're selling your house or simply want to improve its exterior, avoiding common curb appeal mistakes can make a significant difference. Here are some key pitfalls to steer clear of:

handle or knocker can provide a modern touch. Ensure the doorbell is functional and clean as well.

Overlooking Lighting

Proper lighting enhances the beauty and safety of your home. Inadequate or outdated lighting fixtures can make your house look uninviting. Invest in modern, energy-efficient outdoor lighting to illuminate pathways, the front door, and architectural features. Solar lights are a cost-effective and environmentally friendly option.

Failing to Clean Gutters

Clogged or overflowing gutters not only look unsightly but can also cause damage to your home. Regularly cleaning and maintaining your gutters prevents water damage and keeps your home looking well-kept. Ensure downspouts direct water away from the foundation to avoid erosion and water damage.

Ignoring Driveway and Walkway Maintenance

Cracked, stained, or uneven driveways and walkways can diminish your home's curb appeal. Regularly inspect these areas for damage



and exterior of your windows to allow natural light to brighten your home and improve its overall appearance. Clean windows also provide a clear view of the interior, adding to the inviting feel of your home.

Forgetting About the Garage Door

The garage door is a significant part of your home's facade. A dented or faded garage door can detract from the overall curb appeal. Consider painting the garage door to match or complement the front door. If the door is

old or damaged, investing in a new one can drastically improve the look of your home.

Skipping Routine Maintenance

Regular maintenance is key to maintaining curb appeal. Chipped paint, loose shingles, and other signs of wear and tear should be addressed promptly. Establish a maintenance schedule to inspect and address any issues before they become major problems.

Overlooking Seasonal Decorations

While seasonal decorations can add charm, too much or outdated decor can be a turn-off. Keep decorations tasteful and timely. For example, remove holiday decorations promptly after the season ends. Avoid cluttering the yard with too many ornaments or signs, as it can create a chaotic look.

Enhancing your home's curb appeal doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. By avoiding these common mistakes, you can create a welcoming and attractive exterior that leaves a lasting positive impression. Regular maintenance, thoughtful landscaping, and attention to detail can significantly improve the look and value of your home. Remember, the goal is to make your home inviting and well-kept, reflecting the care and pride you take in your property.



Neglecting the Front Yard

Your front yard is the first thing people notice. An overgrown lawn, untrimmed hedges, and dead plants can instantly detract from your home's appearance. Regularly mowing the lawn, trimming bushes, and removing weeds and dead plants are essential maintenance tasks. Adding fresh mulch and seasonal flowers can also enhance the overall look.

Ignoring the Front Door

The front door is a focal point of your home's exterior. A faded or outdated door can give a negative impression. Consider repainting or replacing your front door to make it more inviting. A bold color can add personality, while a new

and repair cracks promptly. Pressure washing can remove stains and give these surfaces a fresh look. Consider sealing the driveway to prevent future damage and enhance its appearance.

Overcomplicating Landscaping

While a well-landscaped yard can enhance curb appeal, overly complex designs can be overwhelming and difficult to maintain. Opt for a balanced approach with a mix of shrubs, flowers, and trees that complement your home's style. Keep in mind the maintenance required for each plant and choose low-maintenance options if you're not an avid gardener.

Neglecting to Clean Windows

Dirty windows can make your home appear neglected. Regularly clean both the interior

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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Dustin Ebey, 35, a middle school math teacher from north Texas, has thrown his hat in the ring in a big way: He changed his legal name to Literally Anybody Else and is running a write-in campaign for president of the United States in Texas (where he didn't get enough signatures to get on the ballot) and Tennessee (where he did get enough). ABC13-TV reported that Else has revealed his running mate, Neal David Sutz, a New Yorker who is currently living in Switzerland. Else said Americans deserve better than the divisive, partisan electoral system we currently have. "This name gives everybody something to point to, to channel, that being to one movement, to one message that could hopefully have a meaningful impact," Else said. [

The force is definitely with these folks in Mexico City -- students of the Jedi Knight Academy, who meet in a park four nights a week to practice their lightsaber dueling skills, the Associated Press reported on June 21. "When students arrive, some of them drop the saber," said instructor Ulises Vazquez, who's known as the Jedi master. He said they go on to become "excellent athletes and excellent lightsaber fighters and fencers." The sessions, which last three hours, are based on Jedi and Sith teachings. Vazquez and his best friend, Gabriel Mendoza, opened the academy in 2019, at which point lightsaber dueling had already been recognized by the French Fencing Federation as an official competitive sport.

When police in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, were called to a Walgreens store around 3 a.m. on July 15, they could see a man inside helping himself to a pack of Newport cigarettes, WESH-TV reported. They talked Christopher Morgan through unlocking the front door and asked him if there was anyone else in the building; in apparent confusion, he replied that he didn't know. "I came in here to use the bathroom," he explained -- but that was more than five hours before, around 9:40 p.m., when security footage showed him entering the restroom. He didn't come out until 2:42 a.m. When police asked him what time he thought it was, he said, "Probably 11 o'clock." While locked in the

store alone, Morgan feasted on junk food: Tostitos spinach dip, chips, Reese's and Ghirardelli chocolate and Dr Pepper. Morgan resisted arrest and spit on an officer; he was charged with burglary and larceny-petit theft.

During a visit to the Channel Islands on July 16, King Charles III took some time to bestow a special honor, the Associated Press reported. A rare golden goat breed found on the island of Guernsey will now have the title of Royal Golden Guernsey Goat, which will apply to the breed anywhere in the world. "Hopefully this will raise awareness for the breed," said Rebecca Martin, the owner of a specimen the king met. The king reportedly favored the goat with a compliment about its pale blond coat.

Bright Idea

A 33-year-old man named Jing, from the Hubei province in China, has put technology to work for him, the South China Morning Post reported on July 13. When he suspected that his wife, Wu, was having an affair with a co-worker, Jing used a drone to follow her. Jing said his wife became "cold" to him last year; she also changed her position at work and "visited her parents" more often. The surveillance revealed that Wu went to a remote area, where she walked hand-in-hand with a man and disappeared for about 20 minutes into a dilapidated mud house. "Her other man is her boss," Jing said. He plans to use the footage in a divorce case.

Awesome!

At a zoo in Liaoning province in China, a pair of penguins tied the knot in early July with all the traditional trimmings -- and they already had the suits! The South China Morning Post reported that the event was held in the birds' pavilion, with the standard red "double happiness" character, eight banquet tables filled with fish and shrimp, and dozens of penguin guests. The breeder gushed that he had watched the couple "getting to know each other, falling in love and then walking down the aisle together." [

Across

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- 5 Mil. rank
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- 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

Down

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- 3 Away from wind
- 4 Type of soil
- 5 Ricochet
- 6 First act
- 7 Bulgarian coin
- 8 Done with
- 9 Gallivant around
- 10 Metropolis
- 11 Infomercials for example

Crossword by Myles Mellor

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- 19 Get nervous

20 Relating to fat

22 Opposite of paleo -

23 Dog

24 Cell consituent

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

Dad Jokes....

How do you make holy water?
You boil the hell out of it..

Last Week's Answers

1	B	O	3	P		4	G	5	A	6	B	7	8	Y		9	O	10	W	11	E
12	B	R	A			13	I	G	L	O	O					14	N	A	N		
15	C	R	T			16	R	E	T	U	R		17	N	E	R	S				
					18	R	A	D				20	T	E	A						
21	E	G	O	I	S	23	M				24	S	P	E		25		26		27	D
28	A	U	L	D			29	A	N	C			32	A	B	L	E				
33	S	E	C				34	W	I	Z				35	O	V	A				
36	T	S	A	R		37					38	S	P	A		39	S	N	I	T	
40	S	T	R	I	P		41	P				42	R	A	K	I	S	H			
						44	M		45	T			46	B	I	Z					
47	T	E	48	L	E	P	H	O	50	S	I	T	O			52	I	53	N	54	K
55	H	E	Y			56	E	R	R	O	R				57	N	E	E			
58	E	K	E			59	R	O	B	O	T				60	G	O	Y			



SUMMER AND FALL AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING



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and experiments. In World of Motion, campers will explore the exciting principles of physics and motion as they experiment with racecars & build flying machines. In California STEAMin' campers will engineer their own solutions to real-world problems. t: (714) 263-3837 w: <http://www.discovery-cube.org>

SVCAC's Young Artists Playground (YAP) Youth Arts Education Program features interactive arts workshops and camps for youth ages 5-14 years old. YAP is dedicated to enriching the lives of local youth through quality arts education and performance based programs. YAP builds visual and performing arts skills through programs that foster confidence, compassion and resilience in students of all abilities. We offer opportunities for youth to develop and share their creative voices. For more information contact: Stephanie Lesh at 818-601-0582

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Teenage Drama Workshop (TADW) TADW 2024 Registration IS NOW OPEN

Dates: June 13-July 26, 2024
Ages: 12-18 TADW is a conservatory-style program at CSUN. Our goal is to teach teens ages 11-18 about the theatre arts. Join us for our 65th summer, which will culminate with SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL

Kol Tikvah Youth Groups and Teen Programs

Temple Kol Tikvah provides numerous extraordinary youth programs for our students in Kindergarten through 12th grades. Creating friendships, strengthening Jewish identity, developing leadership, and communication skills, while also having fun. Now enrolling for Sunday Hebrew School Call 818.348.0670 x209

After School Conservatory is a music based program located on Ventura Blvd. near the border of

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We are conveniently located near Woodlake elementary, Woodland Hills elementary, Calabash charter academy, Hale charter academy, El Camino high school and many more. After School Conservatory has a spacious facility (over 3000 SF) and is equipped with top-notch quality musical instruments including Schimmel and Kawai grand pianos, Roland TD 17 series electronic drum set and the Yamaha LC4 music lab system with 8 Yamaha P-45 digital pianos for a group piano teaching environment. (818) 436-2675

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STAR Galaxy offers a balance of academic support, enrichment classes, fitness and recreation programs as well as special events on campus, community events and activities. It's a recipe for a balanced childhood and a preparation for future success! STAR Galaxy offers a daily dose of scheduled classes, August through June, from the end of the school day until 6 PM. Students rotate through group tutoring, homework lab, sports/fitness/recreation. registration@starinc.org

LeXT Robo Academy

LeXT Robo Academy uses LEGO education concepts and curriculum to provide a hands-on learning experience and fun environment for our students while developing their skills in science, technology engineering, robotics, coding and mathematics. Our robotics program covers all age groups from 3 to 18+ students. Agoura Hills: (818)-699-2388

The Leonis Adobe Museum is hosting its annual summer program, Lil Ranchers, Tuesdays from 7/11 - 8/8 between 9:30 am - 11:30 am. Enjoy a different theme and activities each week! Leonis Adobe Museum 23537 Calabasas Road

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Golden Performing Arts Center After School Programs

- a non-profit organization that offers children, teens, and young adults, ages 6-22, the opportunity to experience exhilarating feelings of success, belonging, pride and accomplishment by working together as a theatre family and presenting a Broadway-style musical production. Established in Canoga Park in 1985 for the purpose of building self-esteem in young people through the performing arts, Golden PAC has offered Musical Theater workshops for children and teens for over 35 years. Each workshop is designed to build confidence, skills, and lasting friendships in an environment of mutual respect, acceptance, and encouragement. All enrollees are guaranteed a part regardless of prior training or experience. Workshops are presented in the spring, summer, and fall. Each workshop culminates with a professional-quality production of a licensed Broadway musical in which young people play all the roles. <https://www.goldenpac.org/> Now in a brand new location!



So Trendy! Hip Fashion For Teens

By Contributing Writer

Fashion for teens are ever-evolving, reflecting a dynamic and diverse nature. The fashion landscape is a mix of nostalgic influences, tech advancements, and individuality and sustainability.



Streetwear and athleisure dominate. This trend blends casual, sporty elements with everyday wear, resulting in outfits that are both stylish and comfortable. Hoodies, sweatpants, and graphic tees are staple items. Sneakers are highly coveted.

Vintage and Retro Aesthetics

Vintage fashion has a strong appeal. Thrifting is not only sustainable but also a way to discover unique pieces. The 70s, 80s, and 90s are particularly influential, with items like flared jeans, tie-dye shirts, oversized blazers, and retro sneakers.

Personalization and DIY Fashion

Customization is significant as teens seek to stand out. DIY fashion, such as hand-painted jeans, embroidered jackets, and customized sneakers, allows teens to create one-of-a-kind pieces. Many are turning to online tutorials and social media for inspiration.

Bold Colors and Prints

Bright colors and bold prints are making a statement. Neon hues, vibrant patterns, and color-blocking techniques are popular choices. These eye-catching elements add a playful and energetic vibe to outfits.

New fashion trends for teens reflect a blend of nostalgia, innovation, and emphasis on individuality and sustainability. Teens are exploring diverse styles that resonate with their unique identities and values.



Techwear is gaining traction, combining functionality with aesthetics. This trend features garments made from high-performance fabrics that are water-resistant, breathable, and durable. Cargo pants, utility vests, and multi-pocket jackets are staples. The color palette is muted, with shades of black, grey, and olive. Techwear also embraces a minimalist approach.

Sustainable Fashion

Sustainability is a concern for today's teens, driving a shift towards eco-friendly fashion. Brands that prioritize ethical production, use organic or recycled materials, and promote second-hand shopping are favored. Upcycling old clothes and thrifting have also become popular.

Gender-Fluid Fashion

The movement towards gender inclusivity in fashion is stronger than ever. Teens are breaking away from gender norms and embracing clothing that allows for self-expression. Oversized silhouettes, unisex designs, and neutral color are key aspects. Brands are launching gender-neutral collections. Teens are mixing and matching pieces from both men's and women's sections.

Y2K Revival

The early 2000s continues to influence teen fashion. This trend, characterized by bold colors, fun patterns, and playful silhouettes, resonates with Gen Z's love for nostalgia. Pieces include low-rise jeans, baby tees, mini skirts, and chunky platform sneakers. Accessories like butterfly clips, colorful sunglasses, and beaded jewelry add a whimsical touch.



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Helicopter Moms Are Arranging Play Dates For College Kids

By Contributing Writer

The term "helicopter mom" conjures images of over-involved parents hovering over their children, meticulously planning and controlling every aspect of their lives. Traditionally, this phenomenon has been associated with younger children and teenagers. However, a new trend is emerging: helicopter moms arranging play dates for their college-aged kids. While this might seem absurd to some, it is a reflection of changing parental roles, societal pressures, and the evolving landscape of higher education.

The Emergence of Helicopter Parenting

Helicopter parenting has its roots in the late 20th century when increased societal pressures for academic and professional success began influencing parenting styles. Parents, particularly mothers, started taking a more hands-on approach to their children's education, extracurricular activities, and social lives. This involvement was initially praised for its positive impact on children's development and success. However, as the children of helicopter parents grew older, it became evident that this style of parenting could have detrimental effects, such as stunted independence and poor coping skills.

The College Context

Historically, college has been a time for young adults to gain independence, explore their identities, and navigate social relationships on their own. The idea of arranging play dates for college students might sound ridiculous, but it underscores a significant shift in the parent-child dynamic. With the rise of technology and social media, parents have greater access to their children's lives than ever before. Helicopter moms can now easily keep track of their kids' schedules, friends, and even social activities, leading to a new form of parental involvement that extends into higher education.

Reasons Behind the Trend

Several factors contribute to this trend of helicopter moms arranging play dates for their college-aged children:

Safety Concerns: In an era where safety is a significant concern, parents often worry about their children navigating a complex and sometimes dangerous world. College campuses, though generally safe, are not

The Impact on Students

While the intentions behind this trend may be rooted in care and concern, the impact on students can be mixed:

Positive Outcomes: For some students, particularly those who struggle with making friends or have social anxiety,

parental involvement can provide a safety net. Arranged social interactions can help them build connections and feel less isolated.

Negative Consequences: On the flip side, excessive parental involvement can hinder the development of crucial life skills such as independence, decision-making, and problem-solving. College is a time for young adults to learn how to manage their own lives, and too much parental interference can stifle this growth.

The phenomenon of helicopter moms arranging play dates for their college-aged children is a testament to the evolving nature of parenting. While driven by genuine concern and love, this trend raises important questions about the balance between parental involvement and the autonomy of young adults. As society continues to grapple with these dynamics, it is crucial to consider the long-term implications for both parents and students. Ultimately, fostering independence, resilience, and self-reliance in young adults should remain the cornerstone of effective parenting, even in an ever-changing world.



immune to incidents of violence, substance abuse, and mental health crises. Helicopter moms believe that by orchestrating social interactions, they can create a safer environment for their children.

Social Anxiety: Today's generation of college students faces unprecedented levels of social anxiety and loneliness. Social media, while connecting people globally, can also exacerbate feelings of isolation. Helicopter moms might arrange social gatherings to ensure their children are making friends and not succumbing to loneliness.

Academic Pressure: The competitive nature of higher education and the job market can lead to immense pressure on college students. Helicopter moms, having invested heavily in their children's success, may feel the need to control social interactions to ensure that their children are networking with the "right" people who can support their academic and career goals.

Cultural Shifts: In some cultures, family involvement in all aspects of a young adult's life is the norm. Helicopter moms from such backgrounds might see nothing unusual about arranging social events for their college-going children.



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suits your body type and provides comfort.

For Pear-Shapes: Look for swimsuits with ruffles or embellishments on the top to balance out wider hips. High-cut bikini bottoms elongate legs.

For Apple-Shapes: Tankinis or one-pieces with ruching can provide coverage and create a flattering silhouette.

For Athletic Builds: Opt for bold prints, ruffles, or cutouts to create curves.

For Hourglass: Highlight curves with bikinis that offer support. Halter tops and high-waisted bottoms accentuate your waistline.

Cover-Ups Are Essential

A stylish cover-up is a beach essential:

Sarongs: Sarongs can be tied in various ways to create skirts, dresses, or shawls.

Kaftans: Kaftans provide coverage while still allowing you to stay cool. Look for fun prints.

Beach Dresses: Dresses can be thrown over your swimsuit. Maxi dresses offer elegance.

Rompers and Jumpsuits: These are great for a casual and playful look.

Footwear Matters

Choose the right footwear to make a big difference:

Flip-Flops: Flip-flops are perfect for walking on the sand. Opt for waterproof materials.

Sandals: Consider sandals with straps that provide support. Espadrilles or gladiator sandals can add a fashionable touch.

Water Shoes: If you're planning on exploring rocky areas water shoes provide protection.



Sun Protection

Staying protected from the sun is crucial:

Hats: Wide-brimmed hats or caps can shield your face and neck. Choose a hat that is breathable.

Sunglasses: Protect your eyes with UV-blocking sunglasses.

Rash Guards: These are great for additional sun protection and come in various styles.

Accessories

Accessorizing can elevate your beach look:

Beach Bags: Choose a spacious, waterproof beach bag to carry your essentials.

Jewelry: Keep it simple with waterproof, minimalist jewelry.

Hair Accessories: Use headbands, bandanas, or scrunchies.

Fabrics to Choose

Selecting the right fabrics is crucial:

Cotton: Lightweight and breathable, cotton is perfect for cover-ups and dresses.

Linen: Linen is ideal for hot weather. It has a natural, relaxed look.

Nylon and Spandex: These materials are used in swimwear due to their stretch and quick-drying.

Practical Tips

Additional tips:

Layering: Bring layers, such as a light cardigan or a shawl.

Hydration: Carry a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated. Some beach bags come with insulated compartments.

Minimalist Makeup: Opt for waterproof and SPF-infused products.

By following these suggestions, you get a stylish, comfortable, and enjoyable day. Whether you're on the sand, playing sports, or exploring the shore, these tips will help you look and feel your best.



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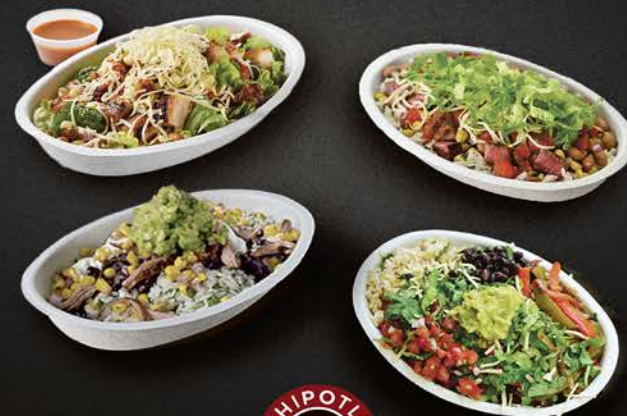
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