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By Barbara Beckley

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TODAY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL LA ARTISTS

By Contributing Writer



lens has earned her numerous awards but

also a place among top photographers.

Marco Ruiz – Contemporary Sculpture

Marco Ruiz's contemporary sculptures are renowned for their innovative use of materials and thought-provoking themes. His works, exploring the relationship between



nature and urban life, can be found in both public and private collections. Ruiz blends organic and industrial elements into

harmonious pieces.

Olivia Bennett – Mixed Media

Olivia Bennett's mixed media art combines painting, collage, and found objects to create pieces that are both visually stunning and conceptually rich. Her work addresses themes of memory,

identity, and transformation, resonating deeply with viewers.

Carlos Garcia – Film and Video Art

Carlos Garcia is a filmmaker and video artist whose work challenges conventional

storytelling. His short films and video installations often address complex social issues and human emotion. Garcia's innovative approach has garnered him international recognition.

Maya Singh – Textile Art

Maya Singh's textile art brings a contemporary twist to tweaving and fabric techniques. Her intricate tapestries and fabric installations explore cultural heritage, gender, and identity.

Daniel Kim – New Media Art

Daniel Kim's new media art, which includes digital painting, animation, and interactive installations, represents the future of art in LA. His work explores the intersection of technology, culture, and human experience, creating immersive and thought-provoking pieces.

These artists, with diverse backgrounds and innovative approaches, are shaping the future of art in Los Angeles. Their work enriches the cultural fabric of the city and sets new standards for creativity and influence.

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Czech cellist **Vilém Vlček**
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FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES!

By Barbara Beckley

School is out! Summer is in! The perfect blend for family fun. Make this summer one for the record books. Here's how. **Adventure!**

Go ballooning in the Temecula Valley, floating over the vines with California Dreamin' Balloon Adventures (www.californiadreamin.com). From \$208 weekends; \$188 weekdays. And "Crafts with the Clydesdales" for all ages on select summer Sundays with the Temecula Carriage Company (www.temeculacarriageco.com). July 21 is the "Paint and Ride" escapade, a combo Clydesdale horse-pulled wagon ride through Temecula's vineyards and guided art class by a local artist. \$55 including art materials.

Make it a peak performance at Big Bear (www.bigbear.com). Hike, and mountain bike in the woods. Swim, kayak, canoe, water ski, jet ski, fish, SUP, and more on the lake. No snow. No problem. You still can go tubing on the slopes – along a 300-foot synthetic track at "The Mountain Tubing Experience" (www.bigbearsnowplay.com). Bring your pooch! The inaugural "Puptopia Festival Big Bear 2024" (www.puptopiafestival.com) is July 27, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., in Veterans Park. It's all for our furry friends! Doggie games, pampering, Pupformance Zone, with tunnels, ramps, jump-overs, obstacle course, and other four-legged challenges; and the K9 Lounge serving food and drink for dogs and dog parents. Free. Book an overnight at Big Bear's participating hotels and receive a free "Pup Pack," including two collapsible bowls, a leash, and Snow Summit dog bandana! Also, the summer Village Concert Series, with live entertainment July 27, August 24 (featuring the Hollywood U2 tribute band), and September 7 and 21. Free. **Outdoor Movies!**

Grab the kids, popcorn, blankets and watch movies under the stars. Just about everywhere. Against a sunset ocean

backdrop at "Seaside Movie Nights," 8 – 10 p.m., one Saturday a month July through September on the Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn (www.venturaharborvillage.com). Movie pics are: "Barbie," July 20; the 60th anniversary of "The Endless Summer," August 17, and "Hook," September 21. Free.

In a park. Enjoy "Movies in the Park@Wamer Park" in Woodland Hills hosted by the Valley Cultural Foundation (www.valleycultural.com) Saturdays August 3 through 31, 8 p.m. The line-up features



"Barbie," August 3; "The Blind Side," August 10; "Wish," August 17; "Elemental," August 24, and "Aquaman and The Lost Kingdom," August 31. Free. And "Moorpark Movies in the Park" at Arroyo Vista Community Park (www.moorparkca.gov/movies) in Moorpark, beginning at dusk the second Saturday of the month through

September. See "Shrek," July 13; "Trolls Band Together," August 10, and "School of Rock," September 14. Vendors are onsite. Free.

On the roof. At "Movies on the Roof" in Westfield Fashion Square (www.westfield.com) in Sherman Oaks, weekends now through November 30, 8:30 p.m., atop The Roof of the Parking Garage. July's classics are: "Independence Day," July 5; "Top Gun," July 6; "Westside Story," July 12; "Moulin Rouge," July 13; "Clueless," July 19; "Romeo + Juliet (Lee and Claire)," July 20; "Remember the Titans," July 26, and "The Sandlot," July 27. Come early for live music from local musicians, raffle giveaways, lawn games, and more. \$20 per person including complimentary popcorn, comfortable seating, state-of-the-art projection and sound, and valley views in an upscale setting. **Edu-Play!**

Embark on a journey of science learning and fun at the California Science Center (www.californiasciencecenter.org), continuously voted #1 for SoCal Family Fun by KidsOutandAbout.com. Thrill to more than 150 interactive exhibits. Like "Ecosystems" featuring live animals in living habitats including a 188,000-gallon kelp forest tank. And the Space Shuttle Endeavour – wow! In the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Pavilion for close up views and discover the science behind this amazing vehicle. Admission to the permanent exhibits is free!

Have a young family? Plan an outing to the 3.5-acre Kidspace Children's Museum (www.kidspacemuseum.org) in Pasadena, where more than 40 hands-on exhibits, water features, and creative play spaces inspire kids ages 10 and under to be joyful, active learners. Adults and kids, \$15.50. Infants, free.

Spend a day – or summer evening – at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanic Gardens (www.lazoo.org)! Always a good time, and lasting family memories. Feeding giraffes, thrilling to the majesty of lions, wolves, rhinos and the



more than 1,400 animals, birds and reptiles – many endangered – among the zoo's immersive habitats and gardens. Special for the summer – families are invited to "Zoo Friday Nights 2024," August 9, 16, 23 and 30, 6 – 9 p.m. A unique opportunity to see what the animals are up to during twilight hours, and enjoy live musical performances, dancing, games, food trucks, and interactive education stations. \$25, adults; \$20, ages 2 to 11. Zoo general hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., daily. Adults, \$22; ages 2 – 12, \$17. **Attraction Action!**

Share thrills from axe throwing to bumper boats and Esports competitions at the MB2 Entertainment Center (www.mb2entertainmentscv.com) in Santa Clarita. Seven acres of indoor/outdoor fun and challenges with more than 65 interactive and prize games. Test your skills with Go Kart Racing in power-packed handcrafted karts. Duck Pin Bowling. Full immersion VR games for up to four players. Laser Tag. A 36-hole mini golf course.



Meet family and friends at the Beer Garden Happy Hour, Monday to Friday, for discounted food and drink, plus free lawn games like Connect 4, Jenga, and Corn Hole. Open Friday and Saturday,

11 a.m. – 12 a.m. Sunday to Thursday, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. Admission is free. No age limit. Buy play cards in increments of \$50, \$100, and less.

Knott's Berry Farm (www.knotts.com)! Remember when you went as a kid? It's more family fun than ever with Knott's Berry Farm theme park, Knott's Soak City Waterpark and Knott's Hotel! Dozens of rides, shows, and attractions inspired by the history and culture of California. Take on mammoth roller coasters. Old West adventures in the authentic 1800's Ghost Town. Share California's Hispanic roots in Fiesta Village. Experience SoCal's beachy lifestyle along the Boardwalk. Share an adventure with the world's favorite beagle – Snoopy! Summer online specials include Daily Admission from \$59.99, and Summer Dining Bundle from \$79.99, including admission and all-day dining.



Water World

Inspire a love of the sea and its creatures. Go Tide-Pooling in Malibu and take a front row seat to our amazing ocean life – crabs, octopi, eels, urchins, sea stars, sea snails, mussels, barnacles, small fish and more! Top picks are the rocky, wild Leo Camillo Tide Pools ringed by two sandy beaches at 35000 West

PCH in Leo Carrillo State Park (www.ports.parks.ca.gov). Open 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. The Point Dume Tide Pools, at Cliffside Drive and Birdview Avenue in Point Dume State Beach (www.beaches.lacounty.gov).

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Keep an eye out for cliff-roosting birds, too. Open sunrise to sunset. And El Pescador Tide Pools below the bluff at Robert Meyer Memorial State Beach (www.californiabeaches.com) at 32860 PCH. Here, too, spot pelicans, sandpipers, and other sea birds. Open 8 a.m. to sunset.



Visit the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (www.cma.recreation.parks.lacounty.gov) to learn more. Combining a spectacular natural setting adjacent to Cabrillo Beach Coastal Park and historic Frank Gehry architecture, it plays a leading role in marine science education, and aquaculture research boasting the largest collection of Southern California marine life in the world!!! Providing a natural and interactive approach since 1935. Engage your senses and use scientists' tools in the Exploration Center to discover our coastal habitats including a sea worm's eye view in the Mud Tunnel. Check out the Life Under a Kelp Patty exhibit. Create a fish finger puppet, food chain mobile and other take-home artwork in the Discovery Comer. Open Tuesday to Friday, noon – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Suggested donation: \$7, adults; \$3, kids and seniors.

Go summer whale watching! Sail with Island Packers (www.islandpackers.com) from Ventura Harbor Village in Ventura, and Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard to spot the Really Big Ones! Chances are good, say Island Packers, you'll see Blue Whales – the largest creature on earth! Along with humpbacks and fin whales. And dolphin, seals and sea lions. Departs Ventura Harbor Village at 10 a.m. returning

approximately 4 p.m. From \$45. Explore Santa Cruz Island, the largest Channel Island. Sail with Island Packers to Scorpion Cove and explore on your own. Hike the Scorpion Canyon Loop Trail, sun, swim, snorkel on Scorpion Beach. See the incredible undersea kelp forest and colorful fish. Round trip with morning departure and early evening return: Adults, \$66; ages 3 to 12, \$47. You can also bring your gear and camp overnight.

Day trip to Catalina Island (www.lovecatalina.com, www.visitcatalinaisland.com). See wild bison on a naturalist-led Eco Tour, play miniature golf, zipline, swim, rent kayaks, parasail, take an Undersea Sub Expedition and spot bright orange Garibaldi, California's state fish. Who knew?! Enjoy summer events like the Catalina Classic Paddleboard Race, August 25, and Jimmy Walker "Buffalo Chip" Toss at Two Harbors, August 31.

Let the kids splish splash – and you get pampered – at the Omni Las Palmas Resort, Spa and Waterpark (www.omnihotels.com) in Rancho Mirage. One of few resorts boasting its own private waterpark, Splashtopia, complete with a lazy river, two 100-foot waterslides, water play zones, and sandy beach. Meanwhile, you visit its 20,000-square-foot Spa Las Palmas, choosing from more than 50 lux treatments. And tennis and two championship golf courses. Be sure to ask about the "Kids Eat Free" summer deal.

Natural Pleasures
Cycling through the park. Perhaps beautiful 80-acre Lake Balboa Park (www.laparks.org) in Van Nuys. Open sunset to sunrise. Bring your own bikes. Or choose from Lake Balboa Bike Rentals (www.wheelrentals.com/ca/van-nuys/lake-balboa/rentals) wide selection. Classic cruisers are hourly \$13, half-day \$28, full-day, \$35. Tandem Bikes, hourly \$20, half-day \$35, full-day \$45. Kids' bikes hourly \$10, half-day \$24, full-day \$32; and covered Kids' Trailers hourly \$10, half-day \$24, full-day \$32. A Surrey for two is \$29 hourly. Surrey for four is \$39 hourly. Make it competitive with a low rider Deuce

Coupe (two passengers), \$29 hourly. Or single rider Chopper, \$15 an hour. Rentals include helmets, lock, basket/bag, and riding map.

A family tradition for generations – Underwood Family Farms in Moorpark (www.underwoodfamilyfarms.com). Admission is free to pick-your-own summer Roma Tomatoes, August to September, at 40 cents per pound. The activities never stop at the Farm Center. Many included with the \$7 weekday, and \$11 weekend/holidays admission including tractor-drawn wagon rides, pull wagons, the Combine Slide, Harvester Slide, Hay Pyramid, Misting Tunnel, swings, Fun Hill and wooden play equipment, the Animal Center, Trike Trail and must-see – Farmer Craig's Chicken Show. Plus super fun ticketed activities including Gem/Fossil Mining, Electric Train, Bee



Train, animal petting, duck feeding, the weekend Cow Train, Grain Train, and horse-drawn wagon rides. Tickets are in increments of one ticket for \$1; 11 for \$10; 23 for \$20; 48 for \$40, and 100 tickets for \$80. Open daily, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Ages 2 and under, and parking free!

Splurge Big Time

Why not! Take your kids on a real safari! To Africa! Stanley Safaris (www.stanely-safaris.com) specializes in family safaris with dedicated kids' activities.

Happy Summer!

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BACK SEAT.**



NHTSA

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MINUTIA

THE TOP BOTANICAL GARDENS IN LOS ANGELES

A NATURE LOVER'S GUIDE!

By Contributing Writer

Los Angeles, renowned for its bustling urban landscape and cultural scene, also boasts an impressive array of botanical gardens. These green oases offer a serene escape from city life, showcasing diverse plants, stunning landscapes, and unique



garden designs. Whether you're a botany enthusiast, a photographer, or simply looking for a peaceful retreat, LA's botanical gardens have something for everyone.

The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

The Huntington is a world-renowned cultural and botanical institution located in San Marino.



Spanning 120 acres, it features 16 themed gardens, including the Desert Garden, Japanese Garden, and Rose Garden. The Desert Garden is particularly noteworthy, with one of the largest outdoor collections of cacti and succulents in the world. The Japanese Garden, with its traditional tea house, moon bridge, and bonsai collection, provides a tranquil, meditative space. Meanwhile, the Rose Garden, with over 1,400 varieties of roses, is a sensory delight.

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden
Located in Arcadia, the LA County Arboretum spans 127 acres and features plants from all over the world. It's famous for its historical structures, such as the Queen Anne Cottage, which is featured in films and TV. The garden is divided into sections, including the Prehistoric Forest, Tropical Greenhouse, and Aquatic Garden. The Arboretum also hosts events, including plant sales, gardening workshops, and seasonal festivals.

koi-filled ponds and tranquil tea house. Descanso Gardens is also known for its events, such as the Enchanted Forest of Light, a night-time experience with interactive light displays.

South Coast Botanic Garden

The South Coast Botanic Garden spans 87 acres and features 2,500 different plant species. This garden is family-friendly, with themed areas such as the Children's Garden and the Garden for the Senses, designed to engage through touch, smell, and sound. The Mediterranean Garden showcases plants from regions with climates similar to Southern California, while the Fuchsia Garden offers a colorful display of these delicate flowers. The garden also hosts a variety of educational programs and workshops.

UCLA Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden

Tucked away on the UCLA campus, the Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden is a hidden gem. This 7.5-acre garden serves as a living museum and outdoor classroom, featuring a collection of plants from around the world. The garden is known for its collection of tropical and subtropical plants, as well as its fern dell and cycad garden. The Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden also offers guided tours and educational programs.

Exposition Park Rose Garden

The Exposition Park Rose Garden is a historic landmark and one of the city's most beloved green spaces. Established in 1927, this 7-acre garden features thousands of rose bushes in over 200 varieties. The garden's symmetrical layout, fountains, and pergolas provide a picturesque setting, making it a popular spot for weddings, photo shoots, and leisurely strolls. The Rose Garden is especially stunning in spring and early summer.



Descanso Gardens

Nestled in La Cañada Flintridge, Descanso Gardens offers 150 acres of beautiful landscapes and horticultural displays. Highlights include the Camellia Collection and the Rose Garden, which features more than 1,600 roses. The Oak Forest, home to several hundred mature coast live oaks, provides a shady retreat, while the Japanese Garden offers a serene environment with its

Los Angeles' botanical gardens offer a delightful blend of natural beauty, horticultural diversity, and tranquil spaces. Each garden has its own unique charm and features, making them perfect destinations for nature lovers, families, and anyone seeking a peaceful escape from the city's hustle and bustle. Whether you're exploring the vast collections or enjoying a quiet moment, these green spaces are sure to inspire and rejuvenate.

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Kinds of Kindness

By Contributing Writer

If our world should cease to exist, and some improved civilization stumbles upon our popular culture and seeks to understand all fuss about Emma Stone — well, we have the film.

It's toward the end of her latest collab with Yorgos Lanthimos, the challenging, intriguing, perplexing-if-not-downright- infuriatingly-opaque "Kinds of Kindness." Stone is glorious.



The Stone-Lanthimos pairing, in their third feature is continuing to nurture Stone's talents.

It's possible we love this scene because we're parched — thirst is a theme — for joy. There's barely an ounce of it in "Kinds of Kindness," nor is there much beauty. Nor is there any kindness to speak of — "recognizable" being the operative word. Which might be the point. Or not.

So what IS "Kinds of Kindness"? Lanthimos as created a triptych — three mini-films with the same cast. A solidifying troupe, with Willem Dafoe rejoining Stone's Bella from "Poor Things," joined by Jesse Plemons, as well as Hong Chau, Margaret Qualley, Mamoudou Athie and Joe Alwyn.

These three segments are separate stories with different characters, and an overarching theme.

"Sweet dreams are made of this," goes the iconic song, with which Lanthimos begins his movie. Then: "Some of them want to use you. Some of them want to get used by you. Some of them want to abuse you. Some of them want to be abused." All these things happen in "Kinds of Kindness."

In the first segment Robert (Plemons), works for a shady business run by Raymond (Dafoe), who controls everything Robert does.

And we mean everything. What he eats, drinks, wears, where he lives with his wife — also hand-chosen — even what time they have sex, and whether they procreate. Raymond decides it all, and that's fine with Robert — it gets him cool gifts — until he's asked to commit manslaughter.

He underperforms and is fired. Then, he becomes obsessed with getting back into his boss' good graces.

Stone appears 40 minutes into the movie. She takes center stage in the next installment, as Liz, beloved wife of Daniel, a suburban cop (Plemons). Liz, a scientist, has vanished during a sea voyage — she's "traveled the world and the seven seas," to continue with Eurythmics lyrics.

She's rescued, and returns home to her loving husband. Loving, until Daniel starts suspecting she's not really Liz. She looks like Liz, but her shoes don't fit. Also, she likes chocolate now. So, he starts testing her.

We won't spoil the mini-endings, though you may find they're not really endings. (If the lack of clarity in this review is annoying you, well, welcome to this movie? But the "whoa, what?" feeling you may have at the end of the second part can't fester, because soon we're in a cult.

Stone and Plemons reunite here as cult members tasked with finding a woman who's able to raise the dead. For this search Emily has left a husband (Alwyn) and daughter behind. She drives a purple sports car with abandon. But she, too, messes up.

Will she find what she is looking for?

That depends on whether she knows what it is. Characters here seem to find what they THINK they seek — but it leads them, of course, down dark paths. But hey, everybody's lookin' for something, the song tells us. Not to be trite, but who are we to disagree?

In any case, seeking a neat conceptual bow to wrap this all up — as in Bella's satisfying empowerment in "Poor Things" — will lead nowhere. So maybe the best lyric we can take from the Eurythmics is the simplest one of all:

"Keep your head up. Movin' on."

Thelma

By Contributing Writer

There are a lot of bad comedies about, and supposedly for, senior citizens. It's especially depressing because the worst offenders often feature our finest actors. They can take on the air of an unintentional horror film — and not the fun kind. "Thelma," starring June Squibb, is not one of those.

In her first lead film role, she plays a 90-something who gets scammed out of \$10,000 and goes on a mission to get it back. Revenge stories aren't often described as sweet, but that's the magic of "Thelma,"



the feature debut of writer-director Josh Margolin. It is charming, genuinely funny and a breeze to watch.

Perhaps it works so well because Margolin wrote it with his own grandmother in mind. Though there is something silly and goofy about the idea of a grandmother on a "Mission: Impossible"-style journey, "Thelma" transcends its limitations and becomes something wholly unexpected. Like its main character. This isn't an old person slotted into a high concept gag. It's specific and somewhat realistic. The scooter she and the late Richard Roundtree (as her friend Ben) ride might be slower than Tom Cruise on foot, but the energy is high and infectious.

Squibb is wonderful at the center of the film, with impeccable comedic timing and full command of her character. Thelma is living alone at 93. She lost her husband a few years prior. Lots of her friends are gone. But she doesn't yet see herself in an assisted living situation, or even

wearing a life monitor in case she falls. "If I fall I'm toast," she deadpans. "That's why I don't fall."

And she's managing well. Her doting 20-something grandson Daniel (Fred Hechinger) visits often to help with the computer and hang out. When he's gone, she fills her days with tasks: Sorting pills, doing stationary bike exercises, watching YouTube, attempting to comment, attempting to backspace and revise typos and accidentally posting blurry photos to her Instagram stories.

That is until she gets a panicked call from someone claiming to be her grandson. He was in an accident, he says, and she needs to send \$10,000 in cash to bail him out. By the time the family starts answering the phone, the money is in the mail, and the police are telling them there's nothing that can be done. Her family, including Daniel's mom Gail (Parker Posey) and dad (Clark Gregg), basically wash their hands of it. But Thelma has nothing but time, and she wants to do something.

Margolin's film was made independently. It debuted earlier at the Sundance Film Festival and was picked up for a theatrical release.

Things really come to life when Roundtree (terrific, in his last role) enters the picture as her reluctant accomplice on their trip from the Westside of Los Angeles to Van Nuys, in the San Fernando Valley. She doesn't drive and needs his refurbished scooter that he's been going on about — but he's not about to let her take it on her own.

They have a great rapport — an inspired pairing. The Posey/Gregg/Hechinger trio isn't too shabby either spouting comedic banter that makes them instantly believable as a family unit. One standout sequence involves one of those dreaded Waze-directed Los Angeles left turns across a busy four lane thoroughway.

But this is ultimately Squibb's show and she delivers, like she always does. She should have been leading pictures the whole time and finally did something about it.

CELEBRATING TOM PETTY!

A SUMMER OF TRIBUTE CONCERTS IN LOS ANGELES

By Contributing Writer

As summer heat intensifies, so does the excitement for the upcoming Tom Petty tribute concerts in Los Angeles. This season, fans of the legendary rocker can look forward to a series of events that honor the life and music of the man whose songs have become an indelible part of American rock history.

Tom Petty, known for his distinctive voice and timeless hits such as "Free Fallin'," "American Girl," and "I Won't Back Down," left an unforgettable mark on the music world. His passing in 2017 was a huge loss, but his legacy continues to inspire musicians and fans. This summer, Los Angeles will be the epicenter of celebrations dedicated to keeping Petty's spirit alive.

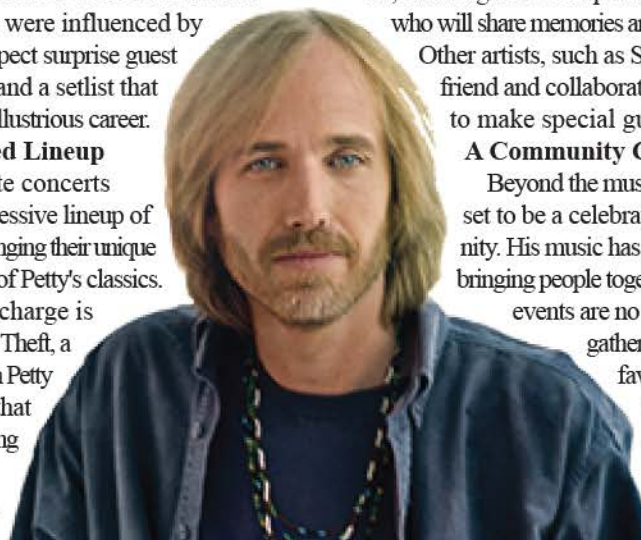
A Variety of Venues and Acts

The tribute concerts will take place across various venues in Los Angeles, each bringing its unique vibe and atmosphere. From the historic Troubadour in West Hollywood to the expansive Greek Theatre, there will be plenty of opportunities for fans to experience Petty's music in different settings.

One standout event will be held at the Hollywood Bowl, known for its breathtaking views and superb acoustics. The concert, titled "Tom Petty: A Night at the Bowl," will feature a lineup of prominent musicians who either worked with Petty or were influenced by his music. Expect surprise guest appearances and a setlist that spans Petty's illustrious career.

Star-Studded Lineup

The tribute concerts boast an impressive lineup of artists, each bringing their unique interpretation of Petty's classics. Leading the charge is the band Petty Theft, a renowned Tom Petty tribute band that has been keeping his music alive for years.



They will be joined by acts such as The Wildflowers, a group named after Petty's album, and Full Moon Fever, another band dedicated to covering Petty's hits.

In addition to the tribute bands, several well-known musicians are slated to perform. Expect appearances by members of the Heartbreakers, including Mike Campbell and Benmont Tench, who will share memories and stories about Petty.

Other artists, such as Stevie Nicks, a close friend and collaborator, are also rumored to make special guest appearances.

A Community Celebration

Beyond the music, these concerts are set to be a celebration of the community. His music has always had a way of bringing people together, and these tribute events are no exception. Fans will gather to sing along to their favorite songs, reliving memories and creating new ones.

Local businesses and vendors



Petty Theft Tom Petty Tribute Band

will be part of the festivities, offering food, drinks, and merchandise that celebrate Petty's legacy.

Giving Back

In the spirit of Petty's generosity, the tribute concerts will also serve a charitable purpose. A portion of proceeds will be donated to organizations close to Petty's heart, such as MusiCares and the Midnight Mission. These provide support to musicians in need and combat homelessness, respectively.

The Tom Petty tribute concerts are a testament to a rock legend. Whether you're a lifelong fan or a newcomer, these events promise to be a memorable tribute to one of rock's greatest icons.



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HIGH-TECH KITCHEN DEVICES

Revolutionizing Culinary Experiences

By Contributing Writer

In the age of technological innovation, the kitchen has not been left behind. Modern kitchens are becoming hubs of advanced gadgets. Among the myriad of high-tech kitchen devices, bacteria gauges, temperature gauges, and cold smokers stand out for their significant contributions.

Bacteria Gauges: Ensuring Food Safety

Food safety is a paramount in any kitchen, and bacteria gauges are a cutting-edge solution. These devices are designed to detect harmful

bacterial contamination in food, providing an immediate and reliable assessment of food safety.

Bacteria gauges use advanced sensors and digital analysis to identify the presence



of pathogens such as E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria. Some models are portable and easy to use, allowing cooks to test food items directly in the kitchen. The results are usually displayed on a digital screen, offering a clear indication.

The integration of bacteria gauges in kitchens reduces the risk of foodborne illnesses. For professional kitchens, this technology ensures compliance with health regulations, protecting customers and enhancing the establishment's reputation. In home kitchens, bacteria gauges provide peace of mind to families, particularly those with vulnera-

ble members such as young children, the elderly, or individuals with compromised immune systems.

Temperature Gauges: Precision Cooking

Temperature control is crucial in cooking, and high-tech temperature gauges have revolutionized the way chefs and home cooks approach this task. These devices offer precise temperature measurements, ensuring that food is cooked to perfection.

Modern temperature gauges come in various forms, including infrared thermometers, digital



meat thermometers, and smart cooking devices. Infrared thermometers allow users to measure the surface temperature of food without direct contact.

Digital meat thermometers are designed to be inserted into food, providing an accurate internal temperature reading. These devices come with preset temperature settings for different types of meat.

Smart cooking devices take temperature control a step further by integrating with mobile apps. Users can monitor and adjust cooking temperatures remotely, receive alerts when food reaches the desired temperature, and access recipes and cooking tips.

Cold Smokers: Adding Flavor and Complexity

Cold smoking is a culinary technique that imparts a distinctive smoky flavor to food. This method is used for preserving and flavoring meats, fish, and cheeses. High-tech cold smokers have brought this age-old technique into the modern kitchen.

Unlike traditional smokers, high-tech cold smokers use advanced technology to generate smoke at low temperatures. This allows the smoke to flavor the food without raising its temperature. Some models use electric or pellet systems to produce a consistent and controllable smoke flow, while others incorporate digital controls.

Cold smokers are available in various sizes and configurations, from compact counter-top models to larger, standalone units. This versatility makes them suitable for both home kitchens and professional culinary settings.

The Future of High-Tech Kitchens

The integration of high-tech devices such as bacteria gauges, temperature gauges, and cold smokers marks a significant advancement in culinary technology. As technology continues to evolve, we can expect even more innovative devices to emerge, further transforming the culinary landscape.




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Haunted Downtown LA Bar Crawl

A Journey Into The Spirits of The Past

By Contributing Writer

As the sun sets and the shadows lengthen, the bustling streets of downtown Los Angeles take on an eerie atmosphere. This is the perfect setting for the Haunted Downtown LA Bar Crawl, an adventure that combines the thrill of ghost stories with the allure of some of the city's most historic and haunted bars. Whether you're a believer in the supernatural or simply a fan of great drinks and intriguing tales, this bar crawl offers a unique and spine-tingling experience. **The Historic Core: Where the Past Comes to Life**

Our journey begins in the Historic Core, an area known for its rich history and well-preserved

architecture. The first stop is the iconic Clifton's Republic, a bar that has been serving patrons since 1931. This multi-level bar is not only famous for its elaborate décor, which includes a giant redwood

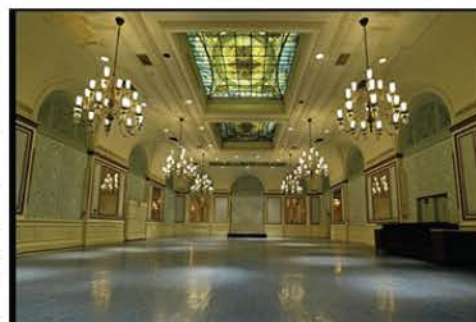


tree and a taxidermy menagerie but also for its resident ghosts. Staff and patrons alike have reported seeing apparitions, hearing disembodied voices, and experiencing sudden drops in temperature. One of the most famous stories involves the ghost of a woman in a red dress, who is said to appear near the staircase.

The Golden Gopher: A Glimpse into the Prohibition Era

Next, we head to the Golden Gopher, a bar that dates back to 1905 and has a colorful

history tied to the Prohibition era. Originally a hotel bar, the Golden Gopher was one of the few establishments to receive a special license allowing it to sell alcohol during Prohibition, albeit under the guise of a pharmacy. Today, the bar retains much of its original charm, with vintage décor and an impressive collection of spirits. But it's not just the alcohol that draws people in; many come in search of the ghost of a former bartender who is said to still serve drinks from beyond the grave. Patrons have reported seeing a shadowy figure



behind the bar, as well as hearing the clinking of glasses when no one else is around.

The Alexandria Hotel: Echoes of Hollywood's Golden Age

Our crawl continues to the Alexandria Hotel, a grand establishment that once hosted Hollywood's elite during its heyday in the early 20th century. The hotel's Palm Court, now a bar and event space, is a stunning example of Beaux-Arts architecture and has been the backdrop for numerous films and TV shows. However, it is also known for its paranormal activity. Guests have reported seeing the ghost

of Rudolph Valentino, the legendary silent film star, as well as other spectral figures dressed in period clothing. The hotel's rich history and opulent setting make it a prime location for ghost hunters and history buffs alike.

The Basement Tavern: Spirits Below

A short walk away, in the basement of the historic King Eddy Saloon, lies the Basement Tavern. This hidden gem has a more intimate and rustic feel compared to the grand settings of the previous stops. The Basement Tavern is said to be haunted by the ghost of a former patron who met a tragic end in the bar's early days. Staff and visitors have reported feeling a cold presence, hearing unexplained noises, and seeing objects move on their own. Despite (or perhaps because of) its haunted reputation, the



bar remains a popular spot for those seeking a unique and atmospheric drinking experience.

The Last Bookstore: A Final Stop with a Twist

While not a bar in the traditional sense, our final stop is the Last Bookstore, a sprawling space that houses both a bookstore and a bar. This unique combination makes it the perfect place to end our haunted bar crawl. The Last Bookstore occupies a building that was once a bank, and it is said that the spirits of former employees and patrons still linger within its walls. Visitors have reported seeing ghostly figures among the stacks of books, hearing whispered conversations when no one else is around, and feeling an inexplicable chill in certain parts of the store. **A Night to Remember**

The Haunted Downtown LA Bar Crawl is more than just a night of drinking; it's a journey through the city's haunted past, filled with stories of tragedy, mystery, and the supernatural. Whether you're a skeptic or a true believer, the combination of historic locations, ghostly tales, and great drinks makes for an unforgettable experience. So, gather your friends, muster your courage, and prepare for a night that will leave you questioning the line between the living and the dead.

In a city as vibrant and dynamic as Los Angeles, even the spirits know how to have a good time. Cheers to a hauntingly good night!



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DISCOVERING HIDDEN CULINARY GEMS

A Guide to Finding Unique Restaurants

By Contributing Writer

In the landscape of dining, discovering hidden culinary gems can transform a meal. These unique restaurants offer distinct flavors, inventive menus, and personalized experiences. Here's

such as #HiddenGems, #LocalEats, or #FoodieFinds to discover posts highlighting lesser-known restaurants. **Engage with Locals**

Locals are the best resource for finding authentic restaurants. Engage in cafes, markets, or even public transport. Ask for favorite spots to eat, focusing on where they go for special occasions or regular dining. Taxi drivers, hotel staff, and shop owners often have insider knowledge.

Utilize Food Apps and Review Sites
Food apps and sites like Yelp, TripAdvisor, and Zomato can be valuable tools. Instead of looking at the top-rated restaurants, dig deeper and check out places with fewer but passionate reviews. **Attend Local Food Festivals and Markets**

Local food festivals and farmers' markets are excellent to discover



a comprehensive guide to help you uncover these delightful dining spots. **Explore Beyond Tourist Zones**

Tourist areas are populated with well-known chains and high-traffic eateries. To find hidden gems, venture into neighborhoods less frequented by tourists. Residential areas, industrial districts, and even suburban enclaves often house restaurants that cater to locals. **Leverage Social Media and Food Blogs**

Social media like Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok are treasure troves of information about unique dining spots. Follow food bloggers, influencers, and chefs who regularly post about their dining experiences. Use hashtags

unique restaurants and food vendors. These events showcase culinary talents of local chefs and restaurateurs. **Explore Ethnic Neighborhoods**

Cities have ethnic neighborhoods that offer a wealth of unique dining experiences. These areas are home to restaurants that serve authentic cuisines. Exploring these neighborhoods can lead you to family-run establishments and specialty eateries that offer a taste of different cultures.

Pay Attention to Food Trucks and Pop-Ups

Food trucks and pop-up restaurants have become popular for chefs to experiment with new concepts and flavors. These mobile eateries park in



different locations throughout the week, offering unique dining experiences. Follow your local food truck community on social media to track their locations and menus. Pop-up restaurants provide an exciting opportunity to try something new.



CASUAL CONNOISSEUR

Look for Specialty Cuisine and Unique Menus

Restaurants that specialize in specific cuisine or offer unique menus are hidden gems. These places focus on perfecting their dishes, providing a distinctive culinary experience.

Trust Your Instincts and Be Adventurous

The best way to discover a hidden gem is to trust your instincts. Walk around new neighborhoods, peep into restaurants that catch your eye, and don't

be afraid to step into a place that looks intriguing. Unique decor, a welcoming atmosphere, and the aroma of freshly cooked food are often good signs.

Discovering hidden gems requires curiosity, resourcefulness, and a willingness to go off the beaten path. By exploring, engaging with locals, and utilizing resources, you can uncover unique restaurants with memorable experiences. So, next time you're looking for a place to eat, take the road less traveled.

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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

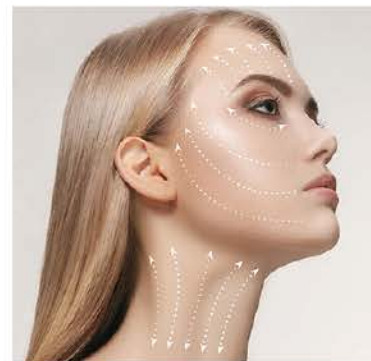
lift the skin, offering subtle improvements with minimal downtime. This procedure is suitable for those seeking a quick fix with less dramatic results.

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,



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

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.

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AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO LITTLE TOKYO IN LOS ANGELES

By Contributing Writer

Nestled in downtown Los Angeles, Little Tokyo stands as a vibrant testament to Japanese-American culture. This historic district, one of only three Japantowns in the United States, offers a rich tapestry of traditional and contemporary experiences.

Historical Significance

Little Tokyo's roots stretch back to the early 1900s when Japanese immigrants settled in the area. Over the years, it has evolved, weathering historical challenges such as internment during World War II, and emerging as a resilient and rich neighborhood. Today, it's a designated National Historic Landmark District.



Must-Visit Attractions

Start your journey with a visit to JANM, which offers insights into Japanese-American history and culture. The museum features a range of exhibits, from historical artifacts to contemporary art installations.

Go For Broke Monument: This monument honors Japanese-American soldiers who served during World War II. It's a place of reflection and a reminder of the community's resilience and contributions.

James Irvine Japanese Garden: Often referred to as a "hidden gem," this tranquil garden within the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center offers a peaceful escape with its serene koi ponds, cascading waterfalls, and greenery.

Fugetsu-Do: Established in 1903, this family-owned confectionery is the oldest Japanese-American business in the U.S. It's famous for its mochi, a must-try Japanese sweet treat.

Culinary Delights

Little Tokyo is a food lover's paradise, boasting eateries that cater to diverse tastes.

Sushi Gen: Renowned for its high-quality sushi, Sushi Gen is a staple for both locals and tourists. Arrive early, as it's always bustling with patrons.

Daikokuya: This ramen shop is legendary for its rich, flavorful tonkotsu ramen.

Marugame Monzo: Known for udon noodles made fresh on-site, this restaurant offers a unique dining experience. Watch the chefs prepare the noodles through the open kitchen.

Oomasa: Oomasa is perfect for a variety of dishes, from sushi, sashimi to tempura and teriyaki.

Cafe Dulce: For a sweet treat or a coffee, head to Cafe Dulce. Their green tea donuts and pastries are a fusion of Japanese and American flavors.

Shopping and Entertainment

Anime Jungle: Anime enthusiasts will find paradise, which is packed with anime, from DVDs and manga to figurines and apparel.

Kinokuniya Bookstore: This Japanese bookstore offers a vast selection of books, magazines, and stationery.

Nijiya Market: This Japanese supermarket is perfect for picking up authentic ingredients, snacks, and unique beverages.

Aratani Theatre: This theatre hosts performances, including traditional Japanese arts, contemporary plays, and music concerts.



Festivals

Little Tokyo hosts numerous festivals:

Nisei Week: This festival celebrates Japanese-American culture with parades, traditional performances, food stalls, and more.

Tanabata Festival: This festival features handmade streamers and decorations.

Cherry Blossom Festival: This festival showcases the beauty of cherry blossoms.

Exploring Little Tokyo is taking a journey through time and culture, offering a blend of history, culinary delights, and vibrant community life.

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Important Ways To Get Celebrity Endorsements

By Contributing Writer

Celebrity endorsements can catapult a brand's visibility and credibility, translating into increased sales and customer loyalty. However, achieving this milestone involves strategic planning and execution. Here are three crucial steps to help you get celebrity endorsements.

Step 1: Research and Identify the Right Celebrity

The first and most critical step is identifying the right celebrity who aligns with your brand's values, image, and target audience. Here's how to do it:



Understand Your Brand and Audience: Define your brand's identity, mission, and values. Identify your target audience's demographics, preferences, and behaviors. Align these factors with potential celebrity endorsers who can resonate with your audience.

Celebrity Fit: Look for celebrities whose public persona and lifestyle align with your brand. Consider social media presence and engagement rates to gauge their influence. Analyze past endorsements to see if they have represented similar brands successfully.

Research and Shortlist: Use tools like social media analytics, celebrity endorsement databases, and public relations insights to compile a list of potential celebrities. Shortlist those who have a positive public image and a substantial following within your target market.

Step 2: Craft a Compelling Proposal

Once you have identified suitable celebrities, the next step is to craft a compelling proposal that piques their interest. Here's what to include:

Personalize the Approach: Personalize your proposal to show genuine interest in the celebrity. Mention specific reasons why you believe they are a great fit for your brand.

Highlight Mutual Benefits: Emphasize how the partnership can be mutually beneficial. Highlight your brand's strengths, market position, and how the celebrity can gain from the association (e.g., increased visibility, alignment with their personal brand).

Clear and Concise Pitch: Be clear about what you are asking for and what you are offering in return. Include details such as the type of endorsement (social media posts, advertisements, event appearances), duration, and compensation.

Professional Presentation: Present your proposal professionally with well-designed documents, videos, or presentations. Ensure that all materials are polished and error-free to create a strong first impression.

Step 3: Build Relationships and Follow Up

Securing a celebrity endorsement is often a process that requires building strong relationships and diligent follow-ups. Here's how to navigate this step:

Leverage Connections: Use your network to get introductions to the celebrity or their representatives. Attend industry events, engage on social media, and collaborate with influencers to increase your chances of a warm introduction.

Professional Representation: Consider hiring a professional agent or public relations firm with experience in celebrity endorsements.



Their expertise and existing relationships can significantly improve your chances of success.

Persistent but Polite Follow-Up: Follow up on your proposal if you do not get an immediate response. Be polite and persistent without being pushy. Show respect for the celebrity's time and commitments.

Build Long-Term Relationships: Focus on building a long-term relationship rather than a one-time endorsement. Keep the celebrity engaged with your brand through continuous communication and exclusive offers.

Getting a celebrity endorsement can be a game-changer. By carefully researching and selecting the right celebrity, crafting a compelling proposal, and building strong relationships, you can increase your chances of securing a valuable partnership. The process requires time, effort, and persistence, but the rewards can be substantial.

CELEBRITY NEWS

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The Rise Of Axe Throwing Is It Good Exercise?

By Contributing Writer

Axe throwing has emerged into the spotlight of modern recreation. Once a pastime of lumberjacks and frontiersmen, this ancient activity is now a popular sport enjoyed by people of all ages. With axe-throwing venues popping up across the country, many are curious about the benefits of this unique activity.

The Physical Benefits of Axe Throwing

Axe throwing is more than just hurling a sharp object at a target; it requires strength, coordination, and focus. Here are some of the key physical benefits:

Upper Body Workout

Axe throwing primarily works the muscles in your shoulders,

Strength Building

Repeatedly throwing an axe can build muscle strength and endurance, particularly in the upper body. The repetitive motion helps

maintain balance and control. The twisting motion used to generate power in the throw helps to work the obliques and other core muscles.

Improved Posture

Strengthening core muscles can lead to better posture and reduced risk of injury.



Heart Rate Increase

While not as intense as running or cycling, axe throwing can still elevate your heart rate. The physical exertion required can provide a moderate cardiovascular workout.

Precision and Control

Hitting the target consistently requires precise hand-eye coordi-

nation. Regular practice can enhance your reflexes and overall coordination, which can be beneficial in other sports.

In addition to physical benefits, axe throwing also offers mental health advantages.

Cathartic Release

The act of throwing can be a great way to release pent-up stress and frustration. The focus required to aim and throw can provide a mental break.

Endorphin Release

Physical activity triggers the release of endorphins, the body's natural mood lifters. This can lead to euphoria and relaxation post-session.

Concentration

Successful axe throwing demands concentration and mental clarity. The need to focus on the target and adjust your technique can help improve your ability to concentrate in other areas.

Mindfulness

Engaging in this activity can be a form of mindfulness, as it requires you to be fully present in the moment. This can enhance mental well-being and reduce anxiety.

Community and Camaraderie

Axe-throwing venues foster a sense of community and camaraderie. Participating in leagues or group sessions can help build social connections.

Is Axe Throwing Safe?

Safety is a concern for those new to axe throwing. When conducted in a controlled environment with proper supervision and safety protocols, axe throwing is safe. Most venues provide thorough safety briefings and ensure participants follow strict guidelines.

Axe throwing is a multifaceted activity that offers a surprising array of physical and mental benefits. It provides a unique upper body workout, engages the core, improves hand-eye coordination, and offers cardiovascular benefits. Mentally, it serves as a stress-relieving, focus-enhancing, and socially engaging activity.

While it may not replace traditional exercise like running or weightlifting, axe throwing can be a valuable addition to a fitness routine. It combines fun, fitness, and social interaction in a way that few other activities can. So, the next time you're looking for a way to stay active, consider picking up an axe. Not only will you have a blast, but you'll also be doing your body and mind a favor.

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The Mysterious Life Of Crows

By Contributing Writer

Crows have long fascinated humans with their behaviors, intelligence, and cultural significance. Found across the globe, these birds are members of the Corvidae family, which also includes ravens, magpies, and jays. The life of crows is steeped in mystery, shrouded in folklore and myth, but scientific research is gradually uncovering the secrets of these remarkable creatures.

Intelligence and Problem-Solving

One of the most intriguing aspects of crows is intelligence. Crows are known for problem-solving abilities and complex social structures. They use tools, a trait once thought to be unique to humans and a few other primates. New Caledonian crows have been observed crafting hooks from twigs to extract insects from tree bark.

Researchers have conducted numerous experiments to test cognitive abilities of crows. In one study, crows were able to solve a multi-step puzzle involving several tools to retrieve a food reward. This level of problem-solving indicates advanced cognitive processes, comparable to those of great apes.

Communication and Social Structure

Crows have a sophisticated system of communication that includes vocalizations and physical gestures. They are known to mimic human speech and other sounds from their environment. This mimicry, combined with varied calls, suggests a rich and complex language.

Crows form tight-knit family groups and often cooperate in tasks. They exhibit behaviors that suggest a high level of social intelligence, such as recognizing individual humans who pose a threat and teaching this information to other crows.

Cultural Significance

Throughout history, crows have held a prominent place in human culture and

mythology. In many cultures, crows are seen as omens or messengers from the spiritual world. In Norse mythology, the god Odin had two ravens, Huginn and Muninn, who flew around the world and brought him information. Similarly, in Native American traditions, crows are often seen as symbols of transformation and change.

The negative connotations associated with crows, such as being harbingers of death or bad luck, likely stem from their scavenging habits and black plumage, which is often associated with darkness and the unknown. However, in other traditions, they are revered for their intelligence and adaptability.

Adaptability and Survival

Crows are adaptable and thrive in diverse environments, from rural areas to urban centers. Their



omnivorous diet allows them to exploit a wide range of food sources, including insects, small animals, seeds, fruits, and human garbage.

Urban crows have become particularly adept at living alongside humans. They have been observed using traffic to crack nuts, dropping them on roads and waiting for cars to run over them. This behavior demonstrates not only their adaptability but also their ability to learn from and exploit their environment.

The Mystery of Death Rituals

One of the most mysterious behaviors observed in crows is their

apparent practice of death rituals. When a crow dies, other crows often gather around the body in large numbers. This behavior, sometimes called a "crow funeral," is not fully understood, but



it suggests a complex understanding of death and possibly even mourning.

Some scientists speculate that these gatherings are a way for crows to learn about potential dangers in their environment. By examining the deceased crow and the circumstances of its death, they may be able to avoid similar fates. Others believe that these rituals could have a social or emotional component, indicating

a depth of feeling and social bonds that are still not fully understood.

Conservation and Human Impact

Despite their adaptability, crows face challenges from human activities, including habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change. Conservation efforts aimed at preserving biodiversity and healthy ecosystems indirectly benefit crows and other wildlife. Public education about the ecological role of crows and their fascinating behaviors can also foster greater appreciation and coexistence with these birds.

The mysterious life of crows continues to captivate and puzzle scientists and bird enthusiasts alike. Their intelligence, social complexity, adaptability, and cultural significance make them a subject of ongoing study and admiration. As we continue to uncover the secrets of their lives, crows remind us of the profound and often mysterious connections we share with the natural world.

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The Most Expensive Glamping In Los Angeles

Ultimate Luxury in the Great Outdoors

By Contributing Writer

Los Angeles is synonymous with luxury, and its glamping scene is no exception. For those who seek the pinnacle of outdoor elegance, LA offers the most expensive and lavish glamping experiences. Imagine enjoying the beauty of nature without sacrificing the comforts of a five-star hotel. From personal butlers and valet service to pre-assembled tents and gourmet dining, these high-end glamping spots provide an unparalleled escape.

El Capitan Canyon

El Capitan Canyon, located just north of Santa Barbara, offers one of the most luxurious glamping experiences. This high-end campground features safari tents, yurts, and cedar cabins, all equipped with plush bedding, private bathrooms, and cozy



fireplaces. The safari tents offer a blend of rustic charm and modern convenience, with en-suite bathrooms and private decks.

El Capitan Canyon provides a variety of activities such as guided nature hikes, yoga sessions, and evening concerts. For an extra touch, guests can book spa treatments or gourmet picnic baskets.

ing gourmet meals. Valet service and pre-assembled tent setups ensure a hassle-free experience.

Ventura Ranch KOA

For those seeking a luxurious yet family-friendly glamping experience, Ventura Ranch KOA offers upscale accommodations in the form of safari tents, teepees, and deluxe cabins. Each



unit is designed with comfort in mind, featuring cozy beds, kitchenettes, and private bathrooms.

Ventura Ranch KOA offers a plethora of activities such as zip-lining, rock climbing, and guided nature walks. The site's butler service can assist with meal preparation, guided tours, and personalized activities. Valet parking and pre-assembled tents make arrival and departure effortless. The combination of luxury amenities and outdoor adventures makes Ventura Ranch KOA a top choice.

Under Canvas Mount San Jacinto

Under Canvas Mount San Jacinto offers a safari-inspired glamping experience with breathtaking views. Located just outside of Palm Springs, this glamping site features luxury tents equipped with private bathrooms, wood-burning stoves, and plush bedding.

Guests can enjoy outdoor activities, including guided hikes, stargazing, and wildlife watching. The on-site restaurant serves farm-to-table cuisine, and the concierge service can arrange for private tours and transportation. Valet parking and tent setup services ensure a stress-free and luxurious stay. The attention to detail and high level of service make Under Canvas Mount San Jacinto one of the most expensive and exclusive glamping spots.

For those who seek the ultimate in outdoor luxury, glamping spots offer an experience like no other. From personal butlers and valet parking to gourmet dining and pre-assembled tents, these high-end glamping destinations provide the perfect blend of nature and opulence. Whether you're looking for a romantic getaway, a family adventure, or a solo retreat, these luxurious glamping sites promise an unforgettable escape. So pack your bags and prepare to indulge in the finest glamping experience.

The personal concierge service ensures every detail of your stay is taken care of, from meal preparation to arranging outdoor adventures. The site also offers valet parking and pre-assembled tent setups.

Autocamp Santa Barbara

Autocamp Santa Barbara redefines luxury camping with its custom-designed Airstream trailers and luxury tents. Each Airstream is outfitted with a queen-size bed, spa-inspired bathroom, kitchenette, and outdoor space. The luxury tents, meanwhile, come with stylish furnishings, electricity, and access to modern bathrooms.

Autocamp provides a host of services, including butler service, valet parking, and daily housekeeping. Guests can enjoy a communal clubhouse with a fire pit, complimentary bikes, and local experiences such as wine tasting. The meticulous attention to detail and upscale amenities make Autocamp Santa Barbara one of the most sought-after glamping destinations.

The Resort at Paws Up

While The Resort at Paws Up is technically in Montana, its reputation for luxury glamping makes it a noteworthy mention. This expansive resort offers a variety of high-end accommodations, including luxury tents that feature hardwood floors, air conditioning, and en-suite bathrooms with heated floors.

Guests can indulge in a range of activities, from horseback riding and fly fishing to hot air ballooning and spa treatments. The resort's glamping tents come with a personal butler, who will cater to your every need, from unpacking your luggage to arrang-



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Transforming Your Garage Into A Cozy Mother-in-Law Suite

By Contributing Writer

Multigenerational living has become popular in recent years. With rising housing costs and a desire for closer family, many homeowners are exploring creative ways to accommodate extended families. One of the most practical and cost-effective solutions is converting a garage into a mother-in-law suite. This transformation can provide a comfortable, private space for loved ones while adding value.

Planning and Permits

Before embarking on the renovation, planning is essential. Start by checking local



zoning laws and building codes to ensure that converting your garage into a living space is permitted. You'll need a building permit, especially if you plan to make significant structural changes or add plumbing and electrical.

Consulting with an architect or a contractor can be beneficial.

These professionals can help you create a detailed plan that maximizes available space and ensures compliance with regulations. They can also provide insights into potential challenges and solutions.

Budgeting

Converting a garage into a mother-in-law suite can be a significant investment, so it's crucial to establish a budget. Costs can vary depending on the project's scope, location, and materials. On average, homeowners spend between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

Break down your budget into categories such as permits, labor, materials, and furnishings. This will help keep track of expenses and make informed

decisions throughout the renovation.

Remember to set aside a contingency fund for unexpected costs.

Design and Layout

The design and layout of your mother-in-law suite should prioritize comfort and functionality. Consider the needs of the occupant, such as mobility or privacy.

Layout: A typical mother-in-law suite includes a bedroom, bathroom, living area, and a kitchenette. Depending on the garage size, you might need to get creative with the layout.

Lighting: Garages often have limited natural light, so ample lighting is essential. Use overhead lights, task lighting, and natural light sources like windows or skylights to create a welcoming environment.

Insulation and Heating: Garages are usually not insulated, so adding insulation is critical. Install proper heating and cooling systems to ensure the suite remains comfortable.

Flooring: Choose durable and easy-to-clean flooring materials. Vinyl, laminate, or tile are excellent options.

Plumbing and Electrical

Adding plumbing and electrical can be one of the more complex aspects of converting into a living space. You'll need to connect the suite to your home's existing plumbing and electrical systems, which may require professional assistance.

Plumbing: Install water and sewer lines. This can involve work, including digging trenches and installing pipes, so hiring a plumber is advisable.

Electrical: Ensure the suite has sufficient electrical outlets and lighting fixtures. Adding a dedicated electrical circuit for the new space can prevent overloading your home's existing system.



Interior Finishes

Once the structural and utility work is complete, it's time to focus on interior. These elements will bring the space to life and make it feel like home.

Walls and Ceilings: Drywall is a common choice for walls and ceilings. Consider adding soundproofing insulation to enhance privacy. Paint the walls in light, neutral colors to make the space feel larger.

Kitchenette: A kitchenette with a sink, mini-fridge, microwave, and counter can provide essential amenities without taking up too much room. Custom cabinetry can maximize storage.



Bathroom: A full bathroom with a shower or bathtub, toilet, and sink is essential. Choose fixtures and finishes that are functional and stylish.

Furniture and Decor: Furnish the suite with comfortable and practical furniture. A bed, sofa, and dining table are must-haves. Add personal touches with decor, such as curtains, rugs, and artwork.

Safety and Accessibility

Ensuring the safety and accessibility of the mother-in-law suite is paramount. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and ensure there

are multiple exits in case of emergency. If the occupant has mobility issues, consider incorporating features like grab bars in the bathroom, wider doorways, and a ramp leading to the entrance.

Converting your garage into a mother-in-law suite can be a rewarding project that enhances your home's functionality and accommodates your family's needs. With careful planning, a realistic budget, and



attention to detail, you can create a comfortable and welcoming space for your loved ones. This investment not only provides a solution for multigenerational living but can also increase your property's value and appeal.

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By Andrews McMeel Syndication

Perhaps the stresses of HOA board membership just weigh heavily on some people. An unnamed 74-year-old woman in New Palestine, Indiana, is facing charges of criminal trespass, criminal mischief and public nudity after she was caught not once, but twice, defecating in broad daylight against the side of a neighbor's home, Fox59-TV reported. According to court documents, the homeowner was mowing his lawn on May 29 when he discovered a pile of human feces next to his air conditioning unit. His surveillance cameras had first caught the culprit on May 2, but after the second incident, he contacted police. The woman can clearly be seen in the video lowering her trousers and squatting to empty her bowels. She initially denied the act but admitted it once confronted with the evidence; she said she had nothing against the homeowner and simply had to go. She has stepped down from her position on the HOA board.

The Tech Revolution

At Crescent Regional Hospital near Dallas, Texas, patients are for the first time in the U.S. consulting with doctors via hologram, ABC News reported on June 26. The technology, designed by Dutch company Holoconnects, features a life-sized 3D image of the doctor in real time. Raji Kumar, the hospital's CEO, said the technology will reduce doctors' travel time between hospitals and clinics. "They can just hop into the studio to have the consult," she said. She hopes to expand the program to rural hospitals in the area.

The Continuing Crisis

Edward Kang, 20, is facing a long stretch without gaming after he allegedly assaulted a fellow online gamer on June 22, ABC News reported. Kang, who lives in New Jersey, flew from Newark to Jacksonville, Florida, on June 21, where he checked in to a hotel and purchased a hammer and flashlight at a hardware store. Late on June 22, he arrived at the victim's home in Fernandina Beach, entering the home through an unlocked door, "apparently to confront the victim," said Nassau County Sheriff Bill Leeper.

When the victim got up from gaming to use the restroom, Kang allegedly attacked him with the hammer. The victim's stepfather heard the altercation and helped to wrestle Kang to the ground; officers said the victim sustained severe head wounds and they found "a significant amount of blood." Kang told deputies that the victim is a "bad person online." He was charged with attempted second-degree murder and armed burglary.

How Hot Is It?

It's so hot ... Abe Lincoln's legs are falling off. A 6-foot-tall wax replica of the sculpture of our 16th president inside the Lincoln Memorial is succumbing to the extreme temperatures in Washington, D.C., the Washington Post reported on June 24. The statue was placed on the campus of Garrison Elementary School in February with the idea of drawing attention to the Civil War and its aftermath. But as the heat dome settled over the capital, he started melting. "The idea was that the ambient temperature, unless it got to 140 degrees, wouldn't melt the sculpture," said artist Sandy Williams IV of Richmond, Virginia. But "even his poor legs are starting to come unglued," said Melissa Krull, 41, who lives nearby. Lincoln's head lolled so far backward that the nonprofit that commissioned the work removed it, with plans to restore it to its perch when temps moderated.

Least Competent Criminal

Kelsey Lynn Schnetzler, 34, of Salisbury, Missouri, was charged with stealing thousands of dollars' worth of lottery tickets from her employer, Casey's General Store, KTVO-TV reported. Schnetzler's home-court MO may have been what got her nicked: Every evening during her shift, she told police, she would put a cup over the camera in the store and unlock the safe where the tickets were stored. Her burglaries took place between October 2023 and March 2024; the 36 lottery books she stole were valued at \$24,000. She cashed winning tickets in at Casey's and other locations. She was charged with felony stealing.

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- Across
1. Always

5. "Yuck!"

8. Change

12. Weight of a vehicle

13. Express aloud

14. Cultivate

15. Rock that stands out

16. Psychic's claim

17. "___ Betty" show

18. Divinity

21. Bedim

24. Petering out

28. Lung noise

29. Young builder's dream

32. 5th is special for Latinos

33. Sphere

34. Downhill sport

35. Golfer's target

36. Long ___

37. Yeman seaport

38. Art style

39. US philosopher, John

41. Inexpensive magazines

42. German city

46. Japanese liquor

49. Intel org.

50. "What are the ___?"

54. Middle-___

55. Sundown in Scotland

56. Disentangle

57. Glazier's item

58. Dull

59. Edges a hankie

- Down
1. Abbr. after a comma

2. Reseller for short

3. Historic time

4. Jamaican jazz

5. Hand-me-down

6. Long cut

7. Publicity build-up

8. Cram for a test

9. Hair piece

10. ___ in one

11. Thickness

19. Either's partner

20. Hoopla

21. Widespread

22. Grand

23. Jostle

25. Drive to action

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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			42		43	44	45					
46	47	48			49				50	51	52	53
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

27. Greek sandwiches

29. 60's drug

30. Live on the edge of existence

31. Martini ingredient

37. Yes, to a captain

38. Bench locale

40. Skip

41. Circular measurement

43. Cold, at Starbucks
44. Dock

45. Kooky

46. Plant product

47. Marauding Khan

48. Boy toy?

51. Evidence

52. "Silent Spring" subject

53. Nine-sound signal

Dad Jokes....

Did you hear about the nurse who didn't want to become a doctor? She didn't have the patients.

Previous Puzzle

1	B	I	3	B		4	L	5	A	6	M	7	B		8	S	9	P	10	A	11	R
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38	B	O	A	39	T		40	R	E	B	U	41	I	L	D	S						
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61	E	D	G	E			62	R	E	I	N			63	L	S	D					



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Top Foreign Languages Kids Should Learn Living In Los Angeles

By Contributing Writer

Los Angeles, one of the most diverse cities in the world, offers unique opportunities for language learning. The city provides a fertile ground for children to learn new languages. Here are the top foreign languages that kids should learn while growing up in Los Angeles.

Spanish

Spanish is an obvious and practical choice. With a large Hispanic population, Spanish is widely spoken. Learning Spanish helps in day-to-day communication and also opens doors to understanding Hispanic culture, including literature, music, and traditions. Being bilingual can boost job prospects. Spanish is also relatively easy to learn.

Chinese (Mandarin)

Mandarin Chinese is becoming an essential language. As China continues to grow as a global powerhouse, proficiency in Mandarin offers advantages. Los Angeles has a vibrant Chinese community and cultural events, providing ample opportunities for practice and immersion.

Korean

Korean is another valuable

language, home to Koreatown. Korean pop culture, including K-pop, K-dramas, and Korean cuisine, has a significant influence globally, making the language increasingly popular.

Japanese

Japanese is a fascinating language that can be advantageous for kids interested in technology, animation, and culture. Los Angeles hosts numerous Japanese cultural events, festivals, and has a significant Japanese community, in areas like Little Tokyo. Proficiency in Japanese can lead to opportunities in gaming, animation, technology, and international trade.

French

French is considered the language of diplomacy, culture, and international relations.

French-speaking communities and cultural institutions offer rich resources for learning. French is spoken in many countries making it a valuable



language for global communication. Learning French can benefit children by providing access to a wealth of literature, art, philosophy, and history.

Armenian

Los Angeles has one of the largest Armenian communities, particularly in areas like Glendale. Learning Armenian can help children connect with this vibrant cultural community and gain insights into its rich history and traditions. Armenian language skills can be valuable in community-focused careers and can foster deeper cultural understanding.

Los Angeles' multicultural landscape makes it an ideal place for children to learn foreign languages. Each language offers benefits, from enhancing cognitive skills to providing cultural insights and opening up career opportunities. Encouraging children to learn a foreign language prepares them for a globalized world but also enriches their lives with diverse cultural experiences.



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How To Choose The Right Driving School

By Contributing Writer

Choosing the right driving school is a pivotal step in becoming a proficient and confident driver. If names like Mercedes-Benz and the exhilarating experience of canyon driving catch your attention, you're likely looking for a driving school that offers more than just basic instruction. Here's a detailed guide on how to select the ideal driving school, especially if you're interested in high-quality



ity training and advanced driving techniques. **Identify Your Goals and Needs**

Before diving into the search, clarify your objectives. Are you a beginner needing comprehensive lessons, or are you seeking advanced training for canyon driving? Do you want to learn on an automatic or manual transmission? Knowing your specific needs will help narrow down the options. **Research the School's Reputation**

A school's reputation speaks volumes about the quality of its instruction. Look for reviews and testimonials from former students. Online platforms, social media, and the school's website can provide insights. Driving schools associated with prestigious brands like Mercedes-Benz often have high standards, reflecting in their reviews and ratings. **Check Accreditation and Licensing**

Ensure the driving school is accredited and licensed by relevant authorities. For example, in the United States, check if the school is approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles

(DMV). Accreditation guarantees that the school meets specific educational and safety standards. **Evaluate the Curriculum and Training Programs**

A comprehensive curriculum should cover both theoretical and practical aspects of driving. This includes understanding traffic laws, defensive driving techniques, and extensive hands-on practice. Schools linked with brands like Mercedes-Benz often provide advanced driving courses, including canyon driving techniques, which are crucial for mastering winding roads and challenging terrains. **Inspect the Vehicles and Facilities**

The quality and condition of training vehicles are vital. Ensure the cars are modern, well-maintained, and equipped with advanced safety features. Mercedes-Benz driving schools typically use the latest models, offering students a chance to learn with cutting-edge technology. Additionally, assess the classroom facilities for theoretical lessons and any simulators for a more immersive learning experience. **Verify Instructor Qualifications**

The expertise and experience of instructors significantly impact the learning experience. Ensure the instructors are certified, experienced, and possess a patient teaching approach. Schools associated with Mercedes-Benz often have highly trained instructors who can deliver top-tier education and specialized training, such as canyon driving. **Consider Class Sizes and Schedules**

Smaller class sizes usually mean more personalized attention and better learning outcomes. Check the student-to-instructor ratio and opt for a school with manageable class sizes. Additionally, consider the flexibility of the schedules. Whether you need weekend classes, evening lessons, or intensive courses, the school should accommodate your availability. **Compare Costs and Value**

While cost is an important factor, it shouldn't be the only criterion. Compare the fees of different schools and what they include. Some schools may offer package deals with a certain number of lessons, vehicle usage for the driving test, and additional resources. Driving schools associated with luxury brands like Mercedes-Benz might have higher fees but often provide exceptional training and facilities, offering great value for your investment. **Assess Safety and COVID-19 Protocols**

In the current context, ensuring the school follows strict hygiene and COVID-19 protocols is

crucial. Look for measures like sanitizing vehicles between lessons, maintaining social distancing in classrooms, and providing hand sanitizers. **Seek Recommendations**

Personal recommendations can be incredibly valuable. Ask friends, family, or colleagues for their experiences and suggestions. If someone you know had a positive experience at a Mercedes-Benz driving school, it's a strong indicator of quality. **Specialized Training: Canyon Driving**

If canyon driving is a specific interest, seek out schools that offer this specialized training. Canyon driving requires advanced skills due to the sharp turns, elevation changes, and often unpredictable conditions. Schools with Mercedes-Benz affiliations might offer courses that focus on these skills, using high-perfor-

mance vehicles designed to handle such terrains.

Choosing the right driving school requires careful consideration of various factors, including accreditation, reputation, curriculum, instructor qualifications, and vehicle quality. If Mercedes-Benz and canyon driving resonate with you, look for schools that offer advanced training programs and high standards of education. By taking the time to research and evaluate your options, you can find a driving school that meets your needs and helps you become a confident, skilled driver ready to tackle any road, including the challenging and thrilling canyons.

Mercedes Benz Driving Academy offers top notch instruction. Log onto:

<https://emercedesbenz.com/tag/mercedes-benz-driving-academy/>



KIDS FORUM

THE RESURGENCE OF 90S FASHION A NOSTALGIC REVIVAL

By Contributing Writer

The 1990s were a defining decade. Today, we are witnessing a resurgence, with iconic trends making a comeback. This revival is not just a fad but a testament to the enduring appeal of 90s aesthetics.

Grunge and Minimalism

Grunge, spearheaded by bands like Nirvana, epitomized the rebellious spirit of the 90s. Oversized flannel shirts, ripped jeans, and combat boots were staples. Minimalism offered a contrast with its clean lines. Today, both these styles are back.

Key Trends Making a Comeback

Athleisure and Streetwear: Tracksuits, windbreakers, and chunky sneakers were ubiquitous, blurring lines between sportswear and everyday



fashion. Brands like Adidas and Nike were at the forefront. In recent years, the rise of athleisure and streetwear has revived these 90s staples.

Neon Colors and Bold Prints: The 90s were known for vibrant color and daring prints. Neon greens, pinks, and yellows, along with bold animal and geometric prints, added a fun flair to the era's fashion. Today, these eye-catching elements are back.

Influences Behind the Revival

Nostalgia: Nostalgia plays a significant role in resurgence of 90s fashion. Millennials find comfort and joy in revisiting the styles of their youth.

Celebrity Endorsement: Celebrities and influencers have a profound impact. Contemporary icons, including Bella Hadid, Rihanna, and the Kardashians, frequently sport 90s-inspired outfits, from slip dresses to platform shoes.

Sustainability: The fashion industry's focus on sustainability has also contributed to the revival of 90s styles. Vintage shopping and thrifting are popular, with consumers seeking unique, high-quality pieces from past decades.

Incorporate 90s Fashion into Modern Wardrobes

Mix and Match: One of the best ways to incorporate 90s fashion is by mixing and matching vintage pieces with modern items. Pairing a vintage band tee with contemporary jeans or a 90s slip dress with a modern blazer creates a balanced look.

Accessorize: Accessories are a great way to add a touch of 90s flair. Think chokers, bucket hats, and tiny sunglasses.

Embrace the Trends: Don't be afraid to fully embrace trends. Whether it's a full-on grunge with ripped jeans and flannel or a neon tracksuit, wearing these styles with confidence is key.

The resurgence of 90s fashion is a phenomenon driven by nostalgia, celebrity influence, and



sustainability. This revival celebrates the bold, eclectic, and carefree spirit of the 90s, proving these styles are timeless. By understanding trends and influences, and knowing how to incorporate them into modern wardrobes, anyone can join in this nostalgic fashion journey. So, dig out those old flannels, dust off your Doc Martens, and embrace the 90s revival in all its glory.





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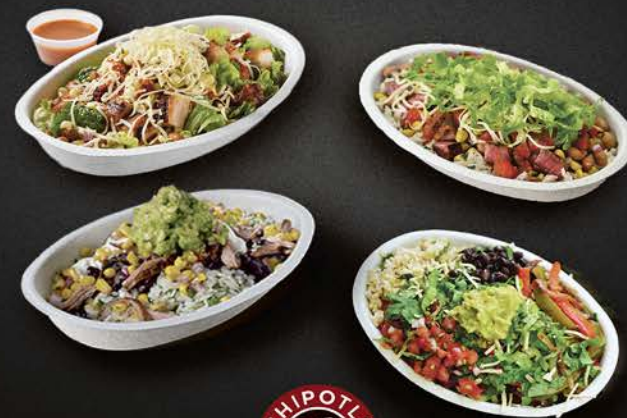
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