

3 ROOTS MEXICAN COCINA • LETTERPRESS PRINTS AT THE GREAT PARK GALLERY • THE ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE

IRVINE WEEKLY

Tough As A Mother

MAY 7, 2021
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MADISON BONTEMPO IS A MOTHERHOOD ICON, JUGGLING SUCCESSFUL CAREERS AND FOUR KIDS AGED FOUR AND UNDER. SHE SHARES HER TIPS - AND WE SHARE SOME OF OUR OWN - ON HOW TO GET IT ALL DONE.

By Tara Finley

Tustin



2021-2029 Housing Element Update Workshop May 11, 2021, 5:00pm

The City Council and Planning Commission will discuss the Housing Element Update progress. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments. Key topics include:

- Survey results
- Review existing housing policies
- Potential new housing programs
- Opportunity sites for meeting housing requirements
- Project timeline

For more information, visit www.tustinca.org/housingelement



JOIN THE MEETING ON ZOOM:

Zoom Meeting ID: 940 8640 1921
Passcode: 600222



OR CALL IN AT:

669-900-6833 and enter the Meeting ID and passcode

Questions? Call 714-573-3027

Tustin



Taller comunitario virtual sobre la actualización del Elemento de Vivienda 2021-2029 11 de Mayo, 2021 a las 5:00 pm

El consejo de la ciudad y la comisión de planeación hablarán sobre el progreso de la actualización del Elemento de Vivienda. Esta reunión le dará una oportunidad al público para dar sus comentarios. Los temas principales incluyen:

- Resultados de la encuesta
- Políticas de vivienda existentes
- Potenciales programas nuevos de viviendas
- Áreas donde hay oportunidad de contribuir a la cantidad mínima de viviendas requeridas
- Cronología del proyecto

Para obtener información, visite www.tustinca.org/housingelement



Únase al taller comunitario virtual sobre ZOOM:

ID de reunión en ZOOM: 940 8640 1921
Contraseña: 600222



O únase por la línea del teléfono:

Llame a 669-900-6833 y marque el ID de reunión y la contraseña

Preguntas? Llamada 714-573-3027

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EMPLOYMENT

Advanced Engineer, Software (K&S, Santa Ana, CA): Dsgn & dvlp sw to ctrl high-prfm servo sys, incl MDOF robotics systems, acceletn & jerk ltd motn trajctry; anlyz data or situatns that req eval of ID factrs & select mthds & techqs for soltns; exp in dsgn, anlys & test of hw ctrl sw sys for mechncd cmpnts of sys used w/ in semicondctr assmblly equip; use sci anlys & math mdlis to predict & meas. outcome of dsgn; condct & vrfy calcltns used for motn & oprtn of sys; trajctry calcltns & expn, higher-order polynomial, & PID sys, ensure cmpnts perform mvmnts needed for semicon mfg aps; key participnt of eng team in dsgn mtgs & presntns to spread dsgn info, dvlp soln to issues & addrss dsgn & R&D concerns; carry out tech T/S ops for semicondctr mfg equip, incl dvlpt of testg & T/S regimens, & dsgn, prototypg & implntn of mdfy cmpnts to correct issue; wrk w/ project stkh & cust fdbk to ID areas of mach capabty & functnlty to mdfy or generat dsgns; dvlp, assist & review sw testg procdrs, progrmg

& documtn; & prvd gdncc w/: solid understndg of servo ctrls for wire bondg equip; rslv wide range of issues w/ min guidnc; tech ably in full lifecycle dvlpt of embedded sw aps for semicondctr equip; exp in dvlpg real-time, embedded, multi-task aps using OO mthds; ext knowlg of high-perf servo sys: MDOF robotics sys, accelrtn & jerk ltd motn trajctry, high-order polynomial (cubic & quantic) trajctry calcltn & expnsn, & PID sys: C/ C++ & debugg; exp wrkg w/ & ctrlg hw; debugg & tstg new sw constructs & able to predict & prevent neg effects when mdfyg existg / legacy code; prvd accurate estmts for tasks & projects; VXWorks or similar RTOs; & able to wrk w/ min supvn. Reqs: BS/BA or frgn equiv in Mech Eng or rtd fld & 3 yrs exp as SW Eng or rtd occ. Alt, Masters & 1 yr exp in abv fld & occ. Send C.V. to mgomez@kns.com.

Civil Project Engineer (Santa Ana, CA). Masters in Civil Engineering or rtd + 1 yr exp as Civil Proj Engineer, Construction Contractor, or rtd. Incl asst PMs &

Proj Supers to coordinate projects using necessary svcs. Mail resume to Nexus Construction Services, Inc., 1 Mac Arthur Place, Ste 300, Santa Ana, CA 92707. EOE.

Christian Education Coordinator - Bachelor's Degree in Religion or related Req., \$33,904/yr, F/T, Resume to Sinwoong Park, Irvine Onnuri Church, 17200 Jamboree Rd, Irvine, CA 92614

SCHEDULER: Create & update construction project CPM schedules; review delay/change TIA for impact on CPM schedules; perform earned value analysis; perform forensic schedule analysis; conduct on-site progress monitoring; coordinate change order process; and participate in project status meetings. Requires Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering, Construction Management or closely related field. Worksite: Irvine, CA and unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. Mail resume to: Attn: HR, APSI Construction Management, 8885 Research Dr., Irvine, CA 92618.

Continental Exchange Solutions, Inc. dba Ria Financial (Buena Park, CA): **Senior Accountant.** Req Bach in Acct, Fin, related, or equiv & 12 mos Acct exp. Res to 7001 Village Dr., Buena Park, CA 90621.

Continental Exchange Solutions, Inc. dba Ria Financial (Buena Park, CA): **Database Developer.** Req Bach in Comp Sci, Info Sys, related, or equiv & 6 mos Database Dev exp. Res to 7001 Village Dr., Buena Park, CA 90621.

Construction Manager: oversee construction activities; Bachelor's Degree in Construction Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Architecture or related; Eplex, Inc. 6940 Beach Blvd., #D-212, Buena Park, CA 90621

3Di, Inc. has job opening for **Net Developer** in Brea, CA. Position is based at headquarters and may be assigned to unanticipated jobsite throughout the U.S. as determined by management. Mail resume to 3 Pointe Drive, Ste 307, Brea, CA 92821, Attn: M Desai.

3 Roots Mexican Cocina



PHOTO BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

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FEATURE

TOUGH AS A MOTHER

MADISON BONTEMPO IS A MOTHERHOOD ICON, JUGGLING SUCCESSFUL CAREERS AND FOUR KIDS AGED FOUR AND UNDER. SHE SHARES HER TIPS - AND WE SHARE SOME OF OUR OWN - ON HOW TO GET IT ALL DONE.

TARA FINLEY

We did it mamas. We made it another year. An especially hard year at that. This year was a beast at best and you deserve all the luxury and pampering you want for handling it like the incredible person you are.

In this piece, I will be highlighting motherhood icon and juggernaut Madison Bontempo, our combined tips and tricks for keeping our brood happy, healthy, and (relatively) out of our hair, as well as product recommendations that fill our cup (both literally and metaphorically) and ensure we get time to recharge and reset at the end of a long day.

Looking for ideas for what to do on Mother's Day? We've got those too. Join us for Madison's inspiring story, some brilliant #momhacks, and great tips on how to live your best life with kids.

MADISON BONTEMPO

Madison Bontempo is one of the nicest people you'll ever meet.

A mom of four young children – twins Taytum (4) and Oakley (4), Halston (2), Oliver (8 months) – Bontempo's world is brimming with life. Not only is she parenting a brood of littles, but she's also managing the family's social media as well.

Her account boasts an impressive 1.8 million followers. Her children have over 3.8 million followers combined. In terms of Instagram and YouTube families, the Fisher Family (her married name) – or Fish Fam, as they're known – are royalty.

Bontempo is a powerhouse in the influencer world. With big-name partnerships like Fabletics and a recently-announced personal YouTube channel

The MadLife (the family's established YouTube channel The FishFam has 4.36 million subscribers), this woman is unstoppable. We chatted with her about how she's handled having four kids in four years, how she juggles her career, and asked for tips on how to keep kids entertained and ourselves sane.

**Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity*

What is your morning routine?

I feel like I'm a great mom during the day and a questionable mom in the morning. I am not a morning person and neither is my husband. We love staying up late! However, my kids love waking up between 6 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.

If there was a hidden camera it would look like us sleepwalking while making bottles and putting in a DoorDash order for Starbucks (pink drink with cold vanilla foam all day – or crystal light caffeine packets) and all our kids jumping on us while we try to squeeze in an extra 30 minutes of sleep.

My four-year-old twins newest "thing" is dressing themselves head to toe right before they come into my room. I can't tell if this is making my life easier or harder! Sometimes their outfit choice is preschool appropriate and other times ... they've got on princess dresses, lipstick, eyeshadow and four bow clips on top of a headband. So, I usually have to re-dress them while still making them feel confident that they did a GREAT JOB!

Next is breakfast and preschool. Baby Einstein and Cocomelon save us in the mornings while I get the twins out the door. I usually get myself ready in two minutes in the morning. I throw on whatever outfit is easily accessible, for makeup it's just foundation and mascara, slip on some slides and that's



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON BONTEMPO

it. If I need to really get ready for the day it's usually during the kids' first naps. I only wash my hair every five to six days so that makes it a lot easier to get ready most days. Ninety percent of what I wear is a workout outfit from Fabletics. If I'm not wearing that, I'm usually in an outfit from an Instagram shop or Revolve. I tag all the family's outfits on our Instagram photos.

My go to trendy lounge sets for the kids are from @kambiakids, @kultkids and @aviatornation.

For everyday kids' clothes, check out @mintedmethodshop, @luibellekids, @plumny, @childisplayclothing @ivy-cityco @amorallittlegirls @khloejeanclothing and @showmeyourmumu. If you need custom dresses for birthdays, princess outfits or anything fancy, use @dolorispetunia. If you don't want to shop on Instagram: Zara Kids.

I love to put my girls in bows. We get ours from: @arbiilabel @littlebowpip and @labellebaby.

Oliver gets his baby boy outfits from @orcuslucille @cashandco, @little_bipsy, @slouchheadwear, @atnoonstore and @childhoodsclothing.

While I wear workout clothes most mornings, I don't usually get a chance to work out. If I do, I use my best friend Katie's workout app, Thrive by Katie.

What Does A Normal Day Look Like For You?

We both work from home and our job is to have fun; we have to think of the coolest, most creative, cute things we can do every day. I live for imaginative play, art and exploring! Crafts, painting, drawing, Play-Doh, make-believe, turning our house into a spa, turning our backyard into a magical fairy land, acting out Disneyland rides in our home, putting on plays and pretend dance recitals, makeup and dress up in the princess room I made for them under the stairs, playing in the house or playhouse, riding bikes ... MY KIDS ARE SOOO BUSY! All day long. I love kid stuff and



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON BONTEMPO

kid life. Before I had my own kids, all I wanted to do was be around children. I genuinely enjoy it.

We collaborate with hundreds of cute brands and boutique shops, so I usually have photoshoots planned for week with tons of outfits all lined up. I try and get a photo done every day. We also film two to three YouTube videos a week, as well as TikToks and skits. If we are not at home being busy, we usually end up at a really fun kid's museum, zoo or park. We have about three brands a week that sponsor us; filming content for them takes up a good amount of time in our day.

Our day would not be complete without a Chick-fil-A run.

What Is Your Evening Routine?

Dinner, baths, prayers and bed.

One thing I struggle with is cooking. I do not find the time to make meals, so we love just ordering food for delivery! That's one thing I really want to get better at.

For the kids' bedtime, we have a star projector that shines stars on the girls' ceiling and it connects to Bluetooth where we play Disney lullabies; they LOVE it. I also spray lavender essential oils in their room. I want to sleep in their room, the vibes are so relaxing!

At night we also read online books on Readeo with family in Utah, my kids are obsessed. It's like Facetime and virtual books combined – both can see the page flipping at the same time and we all can pick from hundreds of books.

Do You Have Help?

Wednesdays and Fridays we have a nanny from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and let me just tell you, there's not a day that goes by that I say "we need a full-time nanny!" We always say we're going to find one, but we never do because it is really hard for us to find someone we trust. I just cannot get myself to go on a nanny site and do the whole interview thing. My parents, my sister and I are all going to move to the same neighborhood this week, however! So much help is coming our way soon.

What Does A House With Four Young Kids Look Like?

I made sure to create rooms for the kids so that they can have their space in hopes that the rest of my home can try and stay clean. They have their own salon under the stairs, with their own light-up vanities, kid makeup, dress up clothes, accessories and dolls. We never decorated our front room and we loved it because the kids rode their bikes in there, we had pull-out mats so they

could tumble around if they wanted, they even used it as their dance room! We eventually wanted to decorate it of course, but it was nice having that room open for them. We turned our dining room into a comfy couch movie room too. We just like fun and comfort over here.

We also keep sippy cups and bowls at their level. We have all the kid snacks in the bottom (reachable) pantry and we have a mini fridge at their level that is stocked with chocolate milk and apple juice. Art supplies, paper and crayons are all in the bottom cupboard in the kitchen for them to access. We are all about our kids being able to get things on their own. That way I can get the things done that I need to and minimize constant pausing for the "mom I need this and mom I need that" demands because I can just say "it's in the mini fridge, go grab one and I can open it for you."

What Is The Most Challenging Part Of Motherhood For You?

Balancing it all! IT IS SO HARD. Finding the time to bond with each kid, being successful with work, taking care of myself ... when you have four kids ages four and under you HAVE to find joy in the messes and chaos and be ok with

plans and schedules getting messed up on the daily.

What Is The Most Rewarding Part Of Motherhood For You?

Motherhood teaches you to have THE BEST QUALITIES: selflessness, service and sacrifice. I feel strong and confident, like I can do anything, because I am a MOM. One of the most rewarding things for me is watching my kids reach new milestones and seeing them enjoy life! I'm sure every mom can relate to this and knows how rewarding it is.

There is nothing in the world that compares to the happiness and joy that comes with motherhood.

What Are Your Current Business Ventures?

On top of our YouTube channel and social media accounts, film production company, acting and Kyler's country music, we are currently starting our own clothing line, skin care line, and some other really cool companies that we can't wait to share! I also just launched my very own beauty channel as well.

Madison's Mom Hacks

- I have a portable potty in my car because somehow all my toddlers always have to use the potty as soon as we get on the freeway. We've had tons of accidents! So, the portable potty has changed my life. It has little bags that attach with absorbable pads in it. After they go, you tie it in a knot and throw it out when you get home. It's the best thing ever!

- Honestly, a new toy or activity they haven't seen before entertains them for hours. When I need to get a lot done, having a cupboard full of some new toys or objects is golden.

- Including the kids in the things I'm doing helps keep them happy and not fighting. For instance, if I go into my bathroom to get ready without the kids, two things happen: they start to fight, or a crazy mess happens. But if I let them put on lipgloss and pretend to curl their hair while I do mine, they are so much happier and they are learning.

- Quiet time once a day is a huge thing for us. I try to put the two little ones down for naps at the same time, and I put the four-year-olds in quiet time, so they can stay in their room and read or play.

- I learned a way to communicate with kids in a way that helps them want to obey. Instead of saying "it's time for bed" you say "do you want to put jammies on first or brush your teeth first" – it's a way for them to feel like they are in control.

FEATURE

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Give them options! It really works for us.
What Helps Madison Get Through The Day:

Hair: REF shampoo and conditioner. It's a ten spray and curl cream, the Croc straightener is the only straightener that works! Paul Mitchell Neuro Unclipped Titanium Curling Wand 1" Rod and @hairbychrissey for hair color.

Skincare: Facial Lounge products literally changed my life. Their Pore Clarifying Cleanser, Feather Light Miracle Moisturizer, Brightening Exfoliating Pads and all their masks – it's all incredible. I've struggled with acne my whole life and it has been one of the only brands that has cleared up my skin. It's miracle stuff.

Face: I love IT Cosmetics. I use tarte loose setting powder, Iconic London blush, Patrick Ta creme bronzer / contour, Iconic London illuminator for highlighting, Tarte eyeshadow palette and mascara.

Health/wellness: I love juices and juice smoothies. I have drinks delivered to my house weekly from Methodology. I love driving over to Nekter. We've been doing the greens and reds drink powders – we add a scoop to coconut milk and drink it every morning from Organifi.

Madison's Perfect Mother's Day:

I would love to escape the day before or after and go with my girlfriends to a spa all day and relax.

On Mother's Day I love to be with family, and to hang out with my mom. She taught me everything about being a mom, and because of her I can be a great mom. She's the best grandma in the world and spends all her time trying to be with her kids and grandkids and that's what she lives for. I was able to have four kids so close together because my mom is there to help me – I am so grateful to her. I would also love to spend my Mother's Day remembering all the best moments with my kids and making a Memorial Day with them that reminds me of why being a mother is so special.

TARA FINLEY

As a working mom and a SAHM of two toddlers, my house could be described as organized chaos. To the outside (and to my colleagues listening to my children's feral yells on our newsroom Zooms) it may seem out of control, but for my husband and I, we've got it dialed in.

I've amassed a cherished list of all my favorite products that keep us sane (as we can be) and tips to keep kiddos happy and the household running smoothly.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARA FINLEY

What is your morning routine?

I get up at 5 a.m. to practice morning meditation and self-care following Zenwise's guidance. Their gentle instruction helps me take a moment before diving into the grind of the day. I didn't realize how *badly* I needed to be taking care of myself in this way until I started doing it. Their ritual includes setting intentions, taking digestive enzymes and vegan Omega-3 (super gentle on the tummy), and meditating.

After, I get some work done until the rest of the family is up. My husband then joins me in taking Goldmine's Adaptogen Powder, a stress support blend sustainably sourced and made by a company founded by women.

After breakfast, we usually have a toddler dance party to get our wiggles out. Right now, we are all about the brilliance of Ylvis.

What Does A Normal Day Look Like For You?

A normal day is nonstop. I am constantly trying to find new activities to entertain the kids and make my life easier. I rely on Bala's triple enzyme activation hydration packets to keep us all hydrated as we bounce from playground to beach, balcony water table to indoor fort.

If I find myself stressing out, TerraVita's Relax CBD Capsules help me out. They're a mixture of Broad-Spectrum CBD,

GABA, Reishi Mushroom and Ashwagandha Root. I love them.

What Is Your Evening Routine?

We usually do a meal kit like Sunbasket a few times a week for the kids, to ensure an easy yet healthy meal for them at the ready. After dinner, dad takes over so they get some one-on-one time and I get a brief break.

I take this time to practice some self-care, which is usually in the form of one of my favorite indulgences: Cutwater (the best margaritas in a can, period. Their new peach and strawberry flavors have made my summer the best one yet and it's not even summer – they're also now in frozen form, so it's a hot mom summer for sure), Caliva's Deli Nickels (these gummies are seriously tasty and the passion fruit flavor makes everything just ... wonderful. A must for folding laundry, you'll have the time of your life, I swear), DELOCE (a new contemporary canned Espresso Martini cocktail that is relaxing without being tiring, I really enjoy cooking while sipping on one of these), Corralejo Tequila and Crystal Head Vodka are great spirits as well if you want to be in great spirits.*

Don't want to imbibe? I will forever sing the praises of Optimist Botanicals. Optimist Botanicals are artfully distilled botanical spirits that are completely free of alcohol and taste divine. They are SO refreshing poured over ice; my

Rattlesnake Avoidance Training for Dogs Irvine - May 15th

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARA FINLEY



go-to drink for watching the kids splash around.

Like a lot of moms, I sleep eludes me. I've found a few things that help me good a great night's rest are: Kin Slips' Shut Eye strips (a relaxing combination of 5mg CBN and 5mg CBD), Potli Dream Honey (hemp-infused raw honey that promotes deep sleep), Mello's CBD Sea Salted caramels (if I find myself up and restless these help take the edge off).*

A moment alone with a great blend of soothing tea always does the trick for me as well. Dr. Ackerman's Blend from family-owned and operated coffee and tea shop Vices and Spices is specially formulated to help cope with anxiety, nausea and sleeplessness. Detoxifying and relaxing, the handmade blend consists of Peppermint, Chamomile, Skullcap and Yarrow, all with their own medicinal properties to help nourish your body and soul. You can buy the tea by the ounce or pound online at vicesandspices.net

**I am clearly not a doctor, talk to yours before imbibing alcohol or partaking in cannabis products.*

Tara's Mom Hacks

- Bring the outdoors inside. Like a lot of city-dwellers, our condo doesn't have a backyard. When all the playgrounds closed, I decided to bring the outdoors in. We bought an extended Pikler triangle to encourage balance learning, ordered a Fisher Price roller coaster and then drilled a large disc swing to a joint in our living room ceiling. So much fun!

- Let them get messy. Get yourself

messy too. Have some fun!

- Get the Nugget. Part-furniture, part-toy, it can be anything. It's great for imaginative play! We have two and it's the perfect size to make our stairs a giant slide. Even my husband and I can have a go, which is super rad after a Cutwater.

- Take an easy hike! The fresh air does wonders, and the exploring is great for early childhood development.

- Hello allergies. If you have a sore throat, Tah's 100% Manuka Honey Lozenges would be my recommendation for you and for kids old enough to suck on a lozenge without choking. My 3.5-year-old loves them, and I love how good they are for us.

What Helps Tara Get Through The Day:

Hair: Aura and eSalon have been absolute game changers for me. Even before the pandemic, going to get my hair done just wasn't really an option. eSalon creates salon-quality hair color made especially for you and delivers it to your door. Aura hair care has a variety of products, but I swear by their shampoo, conditioner and hair masque. After two kids back-to-back, the texture of my tresses is just ... all over the place and Aura has assisted me by blending a formula just for me that brings out the natural qualities of my hair.

Skincare: Miage. I'm all about Miage. I was seeing it all over Instagram and in the Grammy and unofficial Oscar

nominee gift bags so I tried it for myself and I am so, so into it. Miage uses a proprietary La Milpa cactus solution and a regenerative nutrient blend that is capable of awakening and activating the dormant epidermal stem cells that helps bring back vibrancy and luminosity to my natural skin. Check them out at miageskin.com

Pain: I have a bad back. So does my husband. It's perfect because my youngest is huge and we have three floors. My number one pain reliever is CBD and other cannabinoid blends. I rely on a CBD ayurvedic ointment muscle rub made by The Root of It All – it is truly amazing. I also recommend the vape cartridge Coastal Breeze by Cardiff along with the Vessel Vista vape pen battery – a discreet device that is ultra-safe. Caliva also makes a few lotions that I keep my cabinets well-stocked with, including their clove and frankincense muscle and joint lotion. It has a 2:1 THC to CBD ratio and will really do some work for you after a long day of hunching over a computer.

The Perfect Mother's Day Gift

I was recently gifted a necklace by the Tough As A Mother Tribe and it has become so special to me. The pieces come in several designs – Mama, Names, Initials. I chose a delicate necklace with my children's initials and have been wearing it every day since I received it. Made by a mama for mamas, each necklace comes with a gemstone on the clasp to signify your

unique journey.

I also LOVE LOVE LOVE Corkcicle. We rely on their kid's sippy cups and insulated stemless wine glasses during the summer. What makes them stand out are the colorful patterns on adult cups and the flat mouthpiece on the kid's cups. It keeps my 1.5-year-old from dreaded straw chewing!

MOTHER'S DAY EATS AND ACTIVITIES AT HOME AND AROUND IRVINE

COOKING CLASSES FROM THE INSTITUTE OF CULINARY EDUCATION

If you or a loved one have a passion for cooking and cuisine, consider virtual, recreational cooking classes from the Institute of Culinary Education. Their May has a host of cooking and baking classes that you can attend with mom for a special Mother's Day activity, or give her a class or gift card she can enjoy later. The classes are two hours long and are capped at around 20 participants. Prior to the class, students will receive the ingredient and equipment list and recipes to cook along with.

Family Mother's Day Brunch (5/9): Celebrate Mother's Day with a menu of pancakes with several toppings, baked egg strata and rainbow fruit skewers with honey-yogurt sauce. The full schedule of virtual classes can be seen here: <https://recreational.ice.edu/Home/VirtualClasses>. Gift cards are available if you want to let mom choose her own class.

MOTHER'S DAY PREMIER BRUNCH CRUISE – NEWPORT BEACH

On Sunday, May 9, City Cruises will offer specialty cruises in Newport Beach, Marina del Rey, and San Diego to celebrate Mother's Day. Choose between a brunch or dinner cruise complete with flowers onboard entertainment and more! This special promotion is only available Sunday, May 9 and tickets are on sale now. Tickets available at cityexperiences.com.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH AT TOAST

Currently open for limited indoor dining and patio seating, Toast is bound to be a popular place this Mother's Day! Favorites include the Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Short Stack, Thai Chile Chilaquiles and the Hot Chicken and Biscuits. Check them out at www.toastkitchenbakery.com Saturday and Sunday hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Residents across Orange County are no stranger to wildfire activity. Just last October, the Silverado Fire caused the evacuation of 90,000 residents in Irvine and Lake Forest.

This year, on April 13, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a landmark \$536 wildfire preparedness package, that aims to restore the ecological health of forests, watersheds and fuel breaks. The bill is part of the governor's \$1 billion investment in the state's wildfire preparedness.

In Orange County, the Orange County Fire Authority is currently under contract with Cal Fire to protect federal land from wildfires. Now, as the state prepares to distribute federal dollars, Thanh Nguyen, Orange County Fire Authority Public Information Officer, expects OCFA to be given access to a portion of the governor's \$536 million.

Nguyen, who has been with OCFA for more than two decades, said he did not have an exact amount. However, considering the contract OCFA is under with Cal Fire, in terms of federal jurisdiction, Nguyen anticipates funding to be directed to OCFA later this year.

"I haven't seen what the breakdown is – who is getting what – we're still trying to wrap our hands around this to figure out exactly how much we're getting," Nguyen explained in an interview with *Irvine Weekly*. "I will tell you this, and it's no secret, the OCFA is a contract county for Cal Fire. There's land throughout Orange County that's actually a state responsibility area, so instead of having Cal Fire staff fire stations to protect those lands, the OCFA has jurisdiction based on a contract with Cal Fire and the state."

Funding for wildfire preparedness has not come a moment too soon, as conditions have been getting worse for nearly two decades.

"I would think that we're going to get a portion of that money since we're protecting state responsibility areas (in Orange County)," Nguyen told us.

In fact, a decade-long study on California's wildfire season, performed by the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Irvine indicates that climate change driven factors are creating large, destructive wildfires earlier and more often each year.

The study, which was published in the *Journal of Scientific* on Tuesday, April 22, revealed that the annual burn season for wildfires in California has increased more in the last 20 years, than ever



STUDY SHOWS STATE'S WILDFIRE SEASON EXPANDING, PEAKING EARLIER

A DECADE-LONG UC IRVINE STUDY ON CALIFORNIA'S WILDFIRE SEASON SHOWS THE STATE IS EXPERIENCING NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN WILDFIRE ACTIVITY.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

before.

Tirtha Banerjee, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at UC Irvine, and co-author of the study, explained this study was accomplished by comparing data from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection between 1920-1999 to current wildfire data between 2000-2019.

"Cal Fire data show that each new year of the 21st century has been a record-breaker in terms of wildfire damage in California," Banerjee said. "We also have seen that about 80 percent of the total number of the state's wildfires over the past few decades have been small, measuring less than 500 acres. But when fires get large, their deadliness greatly increases."

By focusing on the annual frequency of wildfires in previously burned areas, along with a variety of naturally occurring and man-made causes, the UCI study showed that seasonal wildfire growth is being accelerated by high temperatures, lack of humidity and drought, along with other man-made factors.

In an interview with *Irvine Weekly*, Banerjee added that locally in Orange County, the Santa Ana winds, combined with years of drought in Southern California have created conditions, "perfect for burning."

"I go in my backyard when the Santa Ana winds come and I see first-hand how dry the trees can become," Banerjee said. "In general, the drought makes

[the trees] shut down their stomata, and makes the conditions perfect for burning."

However, while it is clear that California is experiencing never-before-seen wildfire activity, Banerjee explained that this data should help us see patterns, especially within the area known as the Wildland-urban interface, which is defined as the transitional zone between wilderness and man-made land developments.

"It's not necessarily scary a situation ... what is happening currently. And what is happening in the last 100 years helps us prepare better as wildfire season is approaching us," Banerjee explained. "Now, [the peak] is in late summer, so we can gather our resources a little earlier, and we can also focus on the area – I think the conclusion of the study should be read in that way – how can we manage better?"

Banerjee added that data from the study also points to adopting a behavioral change in the way wildfire management is approached.

"We shouldn't be reactive to the fire issue – we should be more proactive," he said. "We have to manage our forests in a way so we can reduce the intensity of the massive fires, but we also have to understand how to live with the fires, because we have a lot of ecosystems in California that need fire to survive."

In terms of regionality, Banerjee added that wildfire activity is not isolated to the West Coast. Wildfire is a global phenomenon, but due to the human integration in the Wildland Urban Interface on the West Coast, wildfire has become a threat to daily life.

"The issue on the West Coast is that you see many more people in the path," he said. "The East Coast also has ecosystems that have evolved with fires – there's just many more people living here."

For Nguyen, wildfire protection is a constant operation for the OCFA, and the public should play an active role in helping protect communities from fire danger.

"One of the biggest things we've been preaching all along, and continue to do so, is to make your homes defensible. I've been doing this long enough where I will tell you, it's definitely a team effort to protect your property and your life," he said. "Because if you make it easy for that fire to roll over your home, there's not a whole lot anyone's going to be able to do when the Santa Ana Winds are blowing."

THE ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE

IRVINE TEEN'S NONPROFIT COLLECTS BAGELS TO COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE

Northwood High School Junior Nithin Parthasarathy is a charismatic 16-year-old who enjoys playing flute in the Northwood High School Marching Band. However, aside from a passion for music, Parthasarathy has also found time to become the founder and CEO of the Zero Waste Initiative nonprofit.

Now, the teen's Irvine-based food rescue has helped collect and donate upwards of \$100,000 of would-be discarded baked goods.

In an interview with *Irvine Weekly*, Parthasarathy explained the "light bulb" moment for the Zero Waste Initiative occurred in January 2020, after ordering a "skinny bagel" from Bruegger's Bagels in Irvine.

"I noticed the employee that was taking my order cut off the part of the bagel that they weren't going to use and they just simply threw it away," Parthasarathy explained. "And that just got me thinking about what they did to the bagels that they just couldn't sell. They responded that they just threw those away as well."

Currently, Zero Waste Initiative rescues would-be discarded bagels, donuts and Starbucks variety items.

While the idea of an adolescent entrepreneur running a local nonprofit which collects hundreds of dollars worth of discarded-food from corporations like Starbucks each week might raise some eyebrows, Parthasarathy says Zero Waste Initiative was created to raise awareness around food insecurity.

"Since there's so many people in the world that need food, I thought it'd be both good for the environment and good for those people if those bagels and other food went to those people."

Now, for a little more than a year, Parthasarathy and

about eight volunteers – which include other members of the Northwood High School Marching band – have literally collected and donated tons of bagels to local food banks.

With the help of local bagel shops including Bruegger's Bagels, Einstein's Bagels and Starbucks Coffee, the efforts of Zero Waste Initiative have equated to big bucks, in terms of donations.

"We collect every day of the week. We go to visit all these stores at closing time and put all these bagels in bags, put them in our cars and drive to the next store," Parthasarathy said. "At the end of all that, we take them to organizations such as the Salvation Army, so that they can give those bagels to the people they serve."

Parthasarathy estimates Zero Waste Initiative collects around 2,500 to 4,000 bagels on a weekly basis. In terms of cost, Parthasarathy estimates each bagel to be between \$1 to \$2.

"Usually on average 3,000 [bagels each week]," Parthasarathy explained. "That's a lot of money, first of all – and also a lot of food. Assuming that each bagel costs \$1.50 for production, or selling it – for 2,000 bagels that would be \$3,000. Over time, that really just adds up in terms of the amount of money that's being wasted when these bagels are wasted."

Parthasarathy also added that another part of the Zero Waste Initiative focus is keeping food away from landfills. Specifically, Parthasarathy said processed food is detrimental to the environment, due to the resources used that are eventually wasted when the food ends up in the trash.

"The production of the food and the food being thrown away in general, just wastes a bunch of resources and that has a huge detriment on the environment," Parthasarathy explained.

Still, regardless of the Irvine teen's unwavering commitment to community, the COVID-19 pandemic created an unstable environment for food handling everywhere. But, Parthasarathy was determined for the Zero Waste Initiative to press onward, and not let the challenges presented by the pandemic ruin the opportunity to provide for those in need.

"For one, there were temporary store closures, so I had to work some things out," Parthasarathy explained. "What happened was that I made sure to address all the concerns. I took food safety handling courses to make sure the initiative kept running, because there were so many people affected by COVID that needed food."

Parthasarathy's efforts have not gone unnoticed.

The Northwood High School Student was one of 10 students across the nation to receive the \$500 Earth Day Scholarship from the National Society of High



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE

School Scholars Foundation. The Earth Day Scholarship is presented by the TKTKTK, for the recognition of environmental stewardship efforts.

"That scholarship was for volunteering efforts, because the Zero Waste Initiative helps the environment by rescuing those unsold bagels," Parthasarathy said.

For now, Parthasarathy is looking to expand the Zero Waste Initiative, but said it will require more volunteers. He's confident the impression the initiative has had on the community is positive, but is eager to find more ways to encourage more people to join.

"When my classmates hear about the initiative, I think it kind of inspires them to do something like participate in the Zero Waste Initiative itself – especially when they learn about how much food wastage there is," the Irvine teen explained. "The more volunteers I have, the more stores and the more bagels we can save."

In terms of future plans, Parthasarathy says he still has some time before deciding where he will continue his education, but says there are plans to continue to a four-year university after he graduates Northwood next June.

What is certain, however, is that wherever Parthasarathy goes, the Zero Waste Initiative will follow.

"I am hoping to pursue a higher education, but also take the opportunity to spread the Zero Waste Initiative where I go, because no matter where you go there will always be food waste and food insecurity, unfortunately."

If you would like to volunteer for the Zero Waste Initiative, Parthasarathy recommends visiting the website and sending an email. Volunteer requests can also be submitted via Google form via the Zero Waste Initiative website: <https://Owasteinitiative.org>

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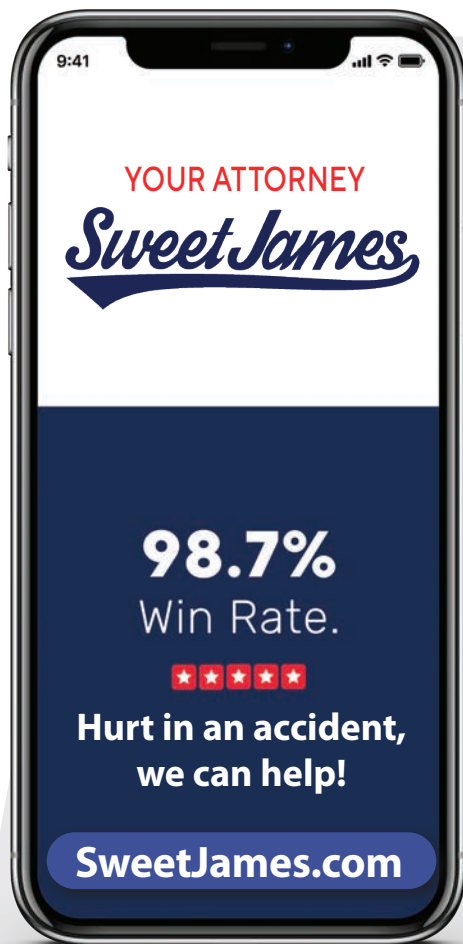
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OFFSPRING ROLLS OVER THE BAD TIMES

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

SoCal punk rock band the Offspring waited nine years after the release of 2012's *Days Go By* album before putting out the new full-lengther – *Let the Bad Times Roll*. The past 12 months of that can of course be partially blamed on the pandemic which has stunted the work of just about every musician. But still, there were eight years before that. Guitarist Noodles (born Kevin Wasserman) says it was simply the case that the album wasn't done until it was done.

"We did put out a song, 'Coming for You,' which is on this record, about five years ago," Noodles says. "We thought eventually we'd build a record around that. We had a lot of ideas. We thought about maybe doing an EP, and maybe just releasing singles. But we knew eventually that was going to be on something that we would call a record. We'd been working the whole time, we never stopped working on it, and really about two or three years ago we started having a real creative period. Started coming up with songs that felt really good. Most of this record was written in that period."

When the pandemic hit, the album was close to being done. Plans were well underway, but the band didn't want to drop something that they couldn't get behind with a tour, so they waited.

"We did do some more tweaking, some fine tuning, some things here and there," Noodles says. "And ultimately we realized that all that helped – I think it made the record much better. But we were done. We had to put it out and not keep waiting. We were doing Christmas songs and covers from the *Tiger King* documentary. I think the record's good, and we need to put it out. We took our time on the album artwork and liner notes and all that. Spent some time making sure the whole thing was as good as it could be."

Let the Bad Times Roll is a great body of work – bouncy and infectious

enough to please long-time Offspring fans, colored with some timely frustration and cynicism. Even the darker elements are flavored with hope though.

"The single, for example, 'Let the Bad Times Roll,' has these really dark verses but then an upbeat dancey chorus,"

record that we've put together with him. We've been working with him on and off that whole time though, and it's a great relationship. At the same time, he still pushes us. The most recent thing is, when we're getting close, we're on to something, we know Bob is onboard with us but we're not

bit. But not much. I think maybe we're a little bit better at expressing our ideas both musically and lyrically a little bit more succinctly. A little bit more accurately. But we still love the same kind of music, and we still go about attacking music the same way. Writing songs the same way."

Towards the end of the album, there's an acoustic and orchestral version of the 1997 song "Gone Away" originally from the *Innervision* record. Noodles says that this version has been in the live set for a while.

"When you strip that song, it almost kinda purifies it and makes the message a little bit more direct," he says. "And the fans loved it, the stripped-down piano version of that song. The idea of doing a studio-recorded version of it is their idea. The fans asked us to do it."

We recently spoke to Offspring frontman Dexter Holland to discuss his Gringo Bandito hot sauce. Noodles admires his singer's ambition but admits he prefers an easier life.

"As ambitious as Dexter is, I'm not ambitious," he says. "I admire him – his piloting planes, his Ph.D. in molecular biology, his

hot sauce empire. But I'd rather go for a bike ride along the beach, go fishing or something."

What he is working on is some video ideas with his band. Maybe some livestreams too.

"If we do something like that, we want to make sure it's done really well and doesn't just look like another YouTube video," Noodles says. "And then we're already planning on getting out and hitting the road at the end of the year. That is dependent on the spread of the virus stopping, and we're confident that we're gonna get there. It's just a matter of time. We're hoping it'll happen by the fall. So we're making plans. We want to be able to get out there and hit the road as soon as we can."

Offspring Rolls Over the Bad Times: The Let the Bad Times Roll album is out now.



PHOTO BY DAVEED BENITO

Noodles says. "That's kinda how we feel about the world. What are you gonna do? Might as well let the bad times roll. There's a lot of that. Even 'This is Not Utopia' – 'how long will it take before love conquers hate?' We know it's gonna get there – love will eventually conquer hate – but how long is it gonna take? So the album reflects the world that we live in. It's been put in sharp relief with the pandemic on top of everything else over the past year."

Veteran rock producer, who has also worked extensively with Metallica, Motley Crue, Aerosmith and Bon Jovi among many others, is behind the desks on *Let the Bad Times Roll* for the third time with the Offspring.

"We started working with Bob about 12 years ago and just never stopped," says Noodles. "This is just the third completed

there, he says, "This is going to be great.' Which is his way of saying 'You're not there yet.' We're heading in a good direction, but we're not there yet. It's going to be great. Gotta keep working. I love that about Bob."

Ultimately, even taking into consideration the perhaps darker vibes on this album, it very much feels like an Offspring record. All of the elements that made their previous efforts so enjoyable are present and correct though there's a natural maturation of the sound.

"I never felt like words like growth or evolution – those words don't fit us," says Noodles. "Certainly we change, and I think there's some there. If I have to go back and listen to Smash and then listen to where we're at today, I think we have evolved a little bit and grown up a little

There's a battle brewing, and it's being fought by streaming services, cable TV and Primetime television. If you're too weak to resist, we're here to help, sharing what to hate, what to love and what to love to hate.

This week's reviews: sci-fi adventure *The Nevers*, dystopian drama *Shadow and Bone* and Disney+ Marvel hero hit *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*.

The Nevers (HBO Max)

Before one can begin to tackle the ass-kicking Victorian women who populate HBO Max's *The Nevers*, it is important to address the issues involving its creator Joss Whedon.

Due to accusations by several actors who've worked with him, the writer/director who brought us both *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *The Avengers* is problematic, and put it lightly, and his alleged actions will be an issue for many when it comes to projects bearing his name. Whedon left the show post-production but he did create it. Like a lot of entertainment out there, *The Nevers* is best enjoyed if one separates the artist from the art, so that is how it shall be reviewed here.

A Victorian sci-fi drama brimming with supernatural creatures, steampunk aesthetic and badass femme fatales who can backflip in a corset, *The Nevers* is an interesting take on a well-worn subject. In lieu of *Slayers* or *Dolls* (remember Whedon's short-lived Fox drama *Dollhouse*?), we are introduced to "the Touched" – people with extraordinary gifts ranging from extreme height to visions of the future. Society regards such individuals with either disdain or morbid curiosity, but their problems are only just beginning as they are also being hunted by a mysterious order.

The story's central figure is Amalia True (Jenny Fraser), a prim and proper young widow on a mission to save "the Afflicted" – people with supernatural abilities. And much like Professor X, this belle in a bustle has a few afflictions of her own.

In this age of superheroes, *The Nevers* is nothing we haven't seen before. *X-Men*, *Buffy*, *Dollhouse*, *Harry Potter*... all deal with aspects of everyday people with supernatural powers. However, its witty script helps elevate the material beyond the sci-fi tropes. The deadpan delivery and well-written words serve up laughs and a narrative that clicks.

A sci-fi fantasy with lofty expecta-

STEAMPUNKS AND SUPERHEROES

REVIEWS OF JOSS WHEDON'S THE NEVERS, NETFLIX'S SHADOW AND BONE, AND MORE.

BY ERIN MAXWELL



tions can fail to deliver the goods for a number of reasons and shabby world-building, over-complicated plot, or bad writing have taken down many a lavish production. Thanks to a whip-smart script, well-developed characters and a talented cast bringing its material to life, *The Nevers* almost never feels played out, even if its creator might be.

Shadow and Bone (Netflix)

Netflix's *Shadow and Bone* is yet another dystopian series in which the fate of all mankind is in the hands of a teen girl. And far as sci-fi fantasy and semi-apocalyptic young adult stories go, it hits all the right beats. There's magical orphans and an ancient prophecy regarding said orphans; CGI cryptids; evil elders and an assortment of British accents. Yes, Netflix's latest adaptation has all of the end-of-the-world touches we have come to know and love. But is it good? Yep. But you gotta give it a sec.

Based on Leigh Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone* trilogy and *The Six of Crows*, the series follows the adventures of Alina Starkov (Jessie Mei Li), a soldier turned

soothsayer who discovers she is the Sun Summoner – a mythical being destined to save her world. But before she can flex her newfound talents, she must defend herself and her friends from those who wish to control her.

Heavily influenced by Russian history and gunslinger mythology, the Netflix series has a lot to unpack, and the first episode unloads a whole bunch of information on the viewer. It can be a little overwhelming. The audiences must learn the rules by which this universe operates, as well as its history and its unique languages. But once Alina finds her starshine, the story picks up, allowing the audience to get to know the characters and the exotic new world they occupy.

Shadow and Bone succeeds where so many fantasy adaptations fail if you stay with it and understand that it requires a bit of patience. It takes inventive writing and great acting to really bring a world to life, and this one evolves nicely if you make yourself at home for a while. Welcome to the Grishaverse. You are gonna like it here.

The Falcon and the Winter Soldier (Disney+)

Hot on the heels of *WandaVision*, Disney+'s *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* continued Marvel's march into Phase Four, once again using its Avengers B-team to both focus on larger issues while setting up future films. If you still haven't seen the Disney+ drama – which aired its season finale on April 23 – it's time to fly in.

Picking up where *Avengers: Endgame* left off, Sam Wilson/Falcon (Anthony Mackie) is dealing with a dilly of a dilemma as he ponders the options left to him after the former Captain America/Steve Rogers gives him his shield. But just like *WandaVision* wasn't a show about a lie, a witch and a wardrobe change, *Winter Soldier* isn't a show about a shield, but rather what people believe it represents.

While the world attempts to recover from both the loss of two of its greatest heroes and the sudden return of half the population of Earth, both Sam and Bucky Barnes/Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan) struggle to find their way in a Captain-less world. But the show digs much deeper than that. It is not just about rudderless heroes looking for a cause, but about the disenfranchised – be it a lost population, a reluctant superhero, a misguided rebel with a taste for violence, or man-made champions made into monsters.

Winter Soldier has a job to do: it needs to expand previously unexplored characters while introducing new information that sets up the next phase of the Marvel universe. But within this chore, *Winter Soldier* makes itself relevant by asking difficult questions. Will the world accept a Black savior? What will happen to the previous saviors that were created to protect us? Who will protect us from them? While *WandaVision* was really about processing grief, *Winter Soldier* takes on bigger issues, such as systemic racism and a broken political power structure.

Within these serious themes, there is a message of hope and a surefire plan for box office domination. Short-sighted individuals might be rallying in protest on social media about where the show is leading, but their bellyaching should mean nothing in the larger scheme of things. Captain America is a hero of the people – all the people – and we're excited to see how Marvel makes sure viewers get that if there's another season.



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PHOTO BY BERNIE DICKSON

As galleries and museums open up, art lovers can finally look at real paintings, sculptures, assemblage pieces, prints and many other fine artworks. For those of us who are weary of seeing art online, this new era may feel

like an artistic renaissance. And as we transition from gazing at our computers to looking at real artwork and crafts, one recently installed exhibition stands out for its inimitable theme and for the long history of the tools used for the work – which goes back to the

HANDMADE LETTERPRESS PRINTS ON DISPLAY AT THE GREAT PARK GALLERY.

BY LIZ GOLDNER



Print by Officina Tipografica Novepunti

PHOTO BY BERNIE DICKSON

actual Renaissance.

This "Ink on Paper: A Letterpress Showcase" exhibition is composed of 20 installations describing the careers, passions and diverse work of printing artisans today. These creative individuals come from all over the United States, and from Milan, Italy and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Yet reading about them and seeing their work reveal their profound sense of community and mutual support, transcending cultural and geographical differences.

While their work is primarily modern and contemporary in appearance, their printing method harkens back to the original letterpress press, designed and built by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century, and used to print the Gutenberg Bible in 1455. Although numerous improvements have been made to the letterpress process over

the centuries, its basic function today – of relief or raised inked printing onto paper – is similar to that of the original press.

To run a letterpress printer, moveable type and pictures, made of wood or metal, are placed securely by hand into the bed of the press. A piece of paper is placed onto the type and/or pictures, and ink is applied to rollers, which are then rolled at high pressure over the paper. The paper picks up the images of the type and pictures. The same piece of paper can be imprinted in the press several times, with each successive rolling using a different color ink. Overlaid printed images with different colors of ink often result in third colors; for example a blue printing followed by a yellow one will produce green print. The completed image is far more textural in nature than any copy

Print by David Wolske

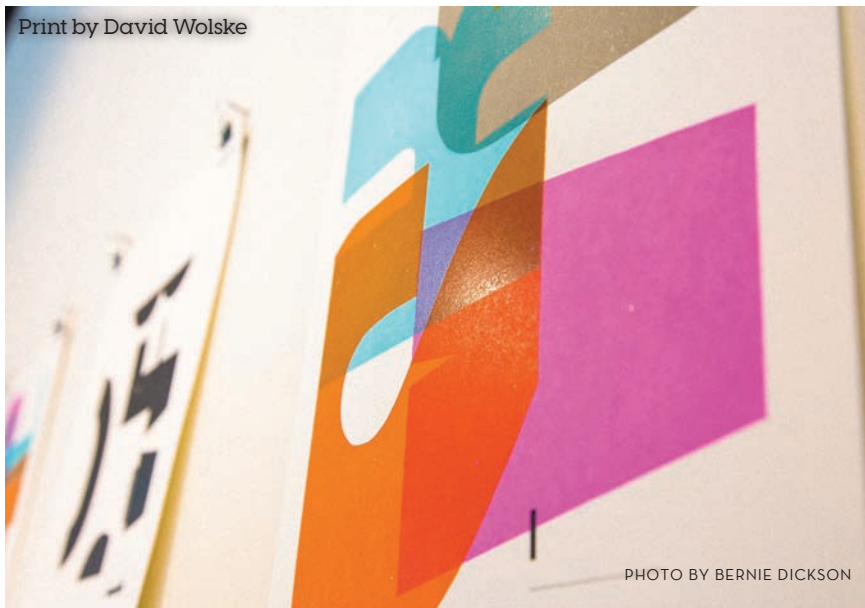


PHOTO BY BERNIE DICKSON

made on a printer. Think of wedding invitations!

The letterpress method became less popular in the 1970s due to the advent of computers and inkjet printers; yet the process has made a comeback in the past 20 years. And today, numerous artisans from around the world are making prints for handmade books, music posters, wedding invitations, art pieces and advertisements.

Indeed, letterpress printing today offers captivating work to a world inundated with digital images. And therein is the renaissance aspect of this five-century-old process. Perhaps in time, gallery visitors will become more enamored with handmade pieces, than with the ubiquitous digital images available today.

Letterpress printing is performed by artisans from a variety of backgrounds, locales, ethnicities and ages, as this "Ink on Paper" exhibition demonstrates. The 20 installations in the show – featuring large expressive photos of the printers, detailed descriptions of their methods and passions and examples of their completed work – reflect this diversity. One common feature of these individuals is their workmanlike aspects, with most artisans attired in overalls or aprons, while standing over old-fashioned printers.

Of the 20 artists' statements on display, Jennifer Farrell's is the most descriptive of the recent evolution of letterpress printing. She wrote, "My desire is to focus on the traditional [antique metal and wood type] tools associated with the craft developed alongside the explosion of letterpress in the early 2000's.... Through my work,

these, he imprinted images from old playing records, calling to mind a simpler time when letterpress printing was highly venerated.

Up the California coast, James Lewis Tucker led a freewheeling life until he discovered printmaking, and then received a degree and worked at apprenticeships in the field. He founded "The Aesthetic Union," a letterpress shop and design studio in San Francisco in 2013 to produce traditional style commercial work. He also creates his own limited-edition prints there – pastel-colored reductive fictional landscapes, evoking the coastline. These minimal art pieces are shown in major galleries.

Brad Vetter, based in Louisville, Kentucky, creates prints using antique type presses and a laser engraver. "The

process becomes a celebration of both its own [letterpress] history and the new context that we as makers create for it," he explained. Vetter's concert posters in this exhibition are retro in design, recalling work from the 1960s and 70s. "I have always really appreciated the utilitarian purpose of the poster throughout history, whether to incite a revolution, fight injustice or simply get people to a show," he wrote.

The most ethereal prints in this exhibition are by Leslie Ross-Robertson, manager of the Laboratory Press at Otis College and founder of two Los Angeles printing venues. Each of her six colorful, complex prints of Pluto, Venus, Mars, Mercury, Earth and the Moon was created first with meticulous planning and then with multiple printings. The resulting prints, accurately depicting the planets, are striking to behold.

These are just a few of the 20 installations in "Ink on Paper," which conveys the various artisans' dedication to the craft of printing and detailed printing techniques, while contributing to a venerable niche industry. The exhibition, originally scheduled to open in June 2020, was prepared and mounted by a curatorial/exhibition team including Community Services Supervisor Kevin Staniec, Community Services Specialist Adam Sabolick, installer Matt May, exhibition didactics designer Gina Pirtle, and arts educator Rachelle W. Chuang.

"Ink on Paper" is on view through June 12. Great Park Gallery, Palm Court Art Complex, Orange County Great Park, Irvine; Thu. & Fri., noon-4 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; free. cityofirvine.org/orange-county-great-park/arts-exhibitions.

Print by Dirk Hagner



PHOTO BY BERNIE DICKSON

I strive to highlight some of the techniques considered dead or outdated, to connect them to modern design concepts. I hope to engage the audience with ephemera that both delights and inspires viewers to consider how contemporary approaches to traditional letterpress materials can sustain the art of the medium." Farrell operates Starshaped Press in Chicago.

Dirk Hagner, the one local printer in the show, lives in San Juan Capistrano. Having grown up in war-scarred Essen, Germany, he was introduced to the printing press at age 15, and soon after began a life-long exploration of printing methods, including creating woodcuts of historical figures. Hagner's dramatic contributions to the show are large handmade art books. For one of

Print by James Lewis Tucker



PHOTO BY BERNIE DICKSON

FOOD

IRVINEWEEKLY.COM | MAY 7, 2021

BRINGING THE REGIONAL FLAVORS OF MEXICO TO IRVINE

3 ROOTS MEXICAN COCINA WAS BORN OUT OF THE PANDEMIC AND BUILDS ON THE HERITAGE OF ITS OWNERS.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



PHOTOS BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



Forget about chips and salsa. At the Irvine-based 3 Roots Mexican Cocina, a complimentary basket of Chicharrones de harina – crunchy, deep-fried wheat chips, splashed with lime and spices – is where it all begins.

"Our restaurant is focused on the original, traditional Mexican food. We don't serve chips and salsa, not because we don't want it – it's because we really want to give a real Mexican experience to the Irvine community," Jorge Hernandez, co-owner of 3 Roots Mexican Cocina said during an interview with *Irvine Weekly*. "We serve the original salsas. You know Cholula, Tabasco, Tapatio, right? Those salsa were made for the United States, for California. The salsa that we use is something that could be considered the "Mom and Dad" of Cholula and Tapatio – we use

Valentina which is an original Mexican brand."

3 Roots Mexican Cocina opened its doors in February, hoping to impress patrons with never-before-seen concepts that push the boundaries of traditional Mexican cuisine. It was established by a group of three friends who were all displaced from their restaurant industry jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of the namesake, Hernandez said the team came up with the name 3 Roots in the midst of the pandemic, as a way to represent the individual heritages of the three owners. It was through these discussions that the trio would ultimately decide on the blueprint for the 3 Roots menu.

"We are three roots, coming from three different places in Mexico," he said.

With non-traditional dishes like Surf

and Turf Enchiladas, and the multi-layered Seared Ahi Tostada, along with monthly chef specials, like Lobster Enchiladas with Habanero Cream sauce, 3 Roots has a deep menu with plenty of variety.

In addition to seafood and the carnitas, Chori-queso, a popular melted cheese dish made with a blend of Oaxacan cheese, jack cheese, chorizo and vegetables, should not be left unattended.

Being from Michoacán, a place credited for being the birthplace of carnitas, it is easy to see why carnitas has a special place in the heart of 3 Root's Head Chef Juan Lopez. At 3 Roots, Lopez marinates the carnitas and Al Pastor for eight hours.

"Chef [Juan] has a unique recipe of marinating, seasoning and cooking the carnitas – he takes about eight hours to make the carnitas," Hernandez explained. "The same with the pastor. It is so competitive – not with restaurants in California – with restaurants in Mexico."

Hernandez explained that the 3 Roots menu is designed around the regional flavors found in Mexico, specifically, Michoacán, which is home to 3 Roots chef, Mexico City, where Hernandez's family is from, and Veracruz, which is where 3 Roots Co-Founder Enrique Zamora's family is from.

"The chef is from Michoacán – people from Michoacán normally have more experience and more knowledge of how to make carnitas, so we're very confident with the carnitas from our restaurant – and he's been working in the Mexican restaurant industry for 16 years," Hernandez added. "Enrique is from Veracruz, so he can tell all the plates from Veracruz – and he can describe it, so chef knows how to plate it

or play around with the Veracruz-style recipes. Same with me and Mexico City – we just do the tacos – we are experts on tacos from Mexico City."

Yet, while the COVID-19 pandemic created hardships for many people in the restaurant industry, Hernandez explained that 3 Roots found a way to treat the pandemic as a window of opportunity.

"We ended up in Irvine, just because of the pandemic. We used to work at a Mexican restaurant in Irvine, and during the pandemic [they] decided to close the restaurant," Hernandez explained. "It's a bad time for everybody, but at the same time, it is a good time for us, because everybody will just be waiting for work. The Health Department will not be having many cases to do – so that's why it was easy for us to open."

In fact, Hernandez added if the pandemic did not happen, 3 Roots would not exist in Irvine, if at all. However, now Hernandez says he feels a strong sense of responsibility to continue manifesting the identity for the 3 Roots concept.

"I've been a manager for a couple of years, and I have seen from time to time – not mistakes – but personal ways to do things. Sometimes, the owner is set in the ways of their grandfather, and they don't want to change recipes, and they are very old recipes, just with a California-style twist," he explained. "We are not married to any family recipe. We're just trying to do the concept – from Puebla [Mexico], the Mole, the Enchilada suizas from Mexico City, the al pastor taco, and carnitas from Michoacán."

3 Roots Mexican Cocina is located at 15361 Culver Dr. Irvine, and is open seven days a week.



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