

IRVINE WEEKLY

DECEMBER 11, 2019 • VOL. 2, NO. 4



DESTINATION DUMPLING

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- Jim and Carol Hoffman

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COVER: • Photo courtesy of JA Jiaozi

For all inquiries: publisher@irvineweekly.com

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IRVINE WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT



HULU, LLC Senior Technical Program Manager

Santa Monica, CA Responsible for enabling Development team to support Subscription Accounting team in monthly, quarterly, yr-end processes, working w/timelines based on contractual & GAAP reqs. REQ: Bach deg or foreign equiv in Comp Eng, Comp Sci or related & 2 yrs Software Prog Mgmt exp. Send CV to A. Noronha, Hulu LLC, 2500 Broadway, Floor 2, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Please ref code: NPAD-01. EOE

Social Worker,

F/T, Master's Degree in Social Work, Mail resume: AV Holding, Inc. 4836 W. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90016

Assistant Fashion Designer:

Apparel Mfg. & Wholesale; Mail resume to Kan Can USA, Inc. 3480 E. 26th St., Vernon, CA 90058.

TECHNICAL

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Senior Paralegal,

F/T, Master's Degree in Law or J.D., Mail resume: Logos Professional Law Corp. 3435 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1810, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

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HULU, LLC Software Developer

Santa Monica, CA Dvlpts tools & software used across entire Hulu tech org, incl the tools & software that enable Hulu's dvlpmt teams to deliver software w/increased speed & reliability. REQ: Master's deg or foreign equiv in Com Sci or related & 2 years of software dvlpmt exp. Alt, Bach deg or foreign equiv in Com Sci or related & 5 years progressive software dvlpmt exp. Send CV to A. Noronha, Hulu LLC, 2500 Broadway, Floor 2, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Please ref code: YANW-01. EOE

Engineering

Oath Holdings Inc. has an opening for Audience Devt. Mngr in Los Angeles, CA; Define data-driven audience growth strategy & roadmap for the News, Entertainment & Lifestyle properties. Mail resume: Oath Holdings Inc., Attn: Clarissa Ngo & Jillian Johnson, 701 First Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94089, Refer# MBMZ7362.

ACCOUNTING

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(Los Angeles, CA) - F/T - Handle complex integration of Mellanox's products into customer products spanning all layers (physical layers to application layers). Reqs: Bach deg or foreign equiv in Comp Engg or S/ware Engg + 3 yrs exp. Exp to incl working w/ C/C++, scripting langs (Bash, Python). This is a telecommuting position w/ remote benefit from anywhere in the US. Travel is reqd. Mail resumes to HR Dept., Mellanox Technologies, Inc., 350 Oakmead Parkway, Ste 100, Sunnyvale, CA 94085.

Sr. Prosthetics & Orthotic Consultant

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Integration Developer:

Master's + 2 yrs. exp. w/ BTEQ; FASTEXPORT; & FIX server configuration. CV to: kcharkow@investcloud.com. InvestCloud, Inc. West Hollywood, CA.

Business Development Specialist:

Conduct market research to identify potential market sales. Req'd: Bachelor's in Mktng., Economics, or rel. Mail Resume: BOBA TIME, INC 695 S. Vermont Ave. #1234 LA, CA 9000

Senior Software Engineer

(Los Angeles, CA) - 1661, Inc. d/b/a GOAT to assist in developing cloud-based infrastructure & services to support company's engineering team to scale applications. Apply online at <https://www.goat.com/careers>

Engineering

Oath Holdings Inc. has an opening for Audience Devt. Mngr in Los Angeles, CA; Define data-driven audience growth strategy & roadmap for the News, Entertainment & Lifestyle properties. Mail resume: Oath Holdings Inc., Attn: Clarissa Ngo & Jillian Johnson, 701 First Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94089, Refer# MBMZ7362.

Light as a Feather Inc.

(Venice CA) seeks Studio Manager. Reqs: Bach Degree Photography + 20 Months rel exp. Send CV, portfolio + 2 refs to recruitment@glenluchford.com Attn: Project Szczecin

Construction Manager

(Northridge, CA) Reqs: 1 years exp. Mail resumes to: BAR Design and Construction, Inc., 19044 Citronia St., Northridge, CA 91324

FOR ALL INQUIRIES: [PUBLISHER@IRVINeweekly.com](mailto:publisher@irvineweekly.com)



DIN TAI FUNG • CRAB & KUROBUTA PORK XIAO LONG BAO



VEGETABLE STEAMED JIAOZI
JA JIAOZI AUTHENTIC DUMPLINGS

DESTINATION DUMPLING

A ROUND-UP OF IRVINE'S PROMINENT DUMPLING LOCATIONS.

BY: SCOTT FEINBLATT

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FEATURED RESTAURANT

There are many types of food that can warm the spirit as we proceed into the cold season. Peering into the Chinese section of our options, many people gravitate toward restaurants that serve hot-pot style, which of course is delicious. However, for those who also like their edibles to be cute, self-contained, bite-size delicacies, there are always dumplings. And while dumplings are not exclusively Chinese – kreplach, pierogi, gnocchi, ravioli, etc. all qualify, architecturally speaking, as

dumplings – today *Irvine Weekly* is going to be taking a look at some of the most popular restaurants for finding some high quality Chinese dumplings in the neighborhood. Enjoy!

101 Noodle Express

101 Noodle Express is one of the more mom-and-poppier places on our list. It's a low-key dining establishment, but they've got it where it counts. Many customers swear by their xiao long bao

(aka soup dumplings); for dumpling neophytes, give it a minute before you bite into these, as you may become the subject of amusement by those around you who know that the soup within the dumpling can be pretty darn hot. Other frequent diners prefer the restaurant's jiaozi (which are commonly pan-fried [aka potstickers], steamed or boiled), and their beef rolls are pretty good too! Make sure you bring cash along with your appetite; they don't accept credit cards. 5408 Walnut Ave. Ste. A, Irvine; (949) 654-8542.



DIN TAI FUNG • TRUFFLE & KUROBUTA PORK XIAO LONG BAO



A & J DUMPLINGS

A & J Restaurant

A & J is an extension of a Chinese food chain from Taiwan. They, too, have an assortment of dumpling types, including xiao long bao, jiaozi (served steamed or pan-fried), as well as spicy wontons, which are very popular. Additionally, many folks are drawn in by their tasty scallion pancakes and beef noodle soup. If you're not enamored with close quarters dining or long waits – this place gets pretty packed and frequently requires long waiting periods, due to its popularity – feel free to phone in your order for take-out! 14805 Jeffrey Road, Ste. D, Irvine; (949) 786-3585, aj-restaurant.com.

Tang 190

OK, this next one is a bit of an anomaly on our list because it is a Korean restaurant. That said, boy are their dumplings good! Whether you are inclined to indulge in their steamed dumplings (which include beef, pork, chives, vermicelli noodles, eggs and sesame oil) or their mandu (deep fried dumplings),



JA JIAOZI AUTHENTIC DUMPLINGS

you're likely going to be closing your eyes and making a soft, satisfied moan. As for the cryptic name of the restaurant, their website reveals that "Tang means hot boiling soup, and 190° Celsius is the ideal temperature to achieve the best taste and balance." Needless to say, their soups are their main draw and are very popular. 14121 Jeffrey Road, Irvine; (949) 651-1901, tang190.com.

Din Tai Fung

No dumpling list can be complete without Din Tai Fung. While Irvinians wanting to indulge in this internationally renowned chain (which is based out of Taiwan) do need to travel to the neighboring city of Costa Mesa, where Din Tai Fung awaits them inside South Coast Plaza, dumpling tourists will find the extensive varieties of xiao long bao, spicy wontons, shao mai (those dumplings that look like mini mesas), and bao zi (the more breadlike-style dumplings that are frequently filled with bbq pork) enough to fill them up several times over. But if you have any room left, their rice cake dishes are extremely satisfying as well. South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bristol St., Costa Mesa; (714) 549-3388, dintaijungusa.com.

Capital Seafood Restaurant

The long-wait trend continues at Capital Seafood. What can we say, the people's stomachs have spoken, and they know what they like! At the end of the line, this establishment offers dim sum style dining. Their dumpling varieties include shao mai, bao zi, xiao long bao, steamed jiaozi and har gao (another variety of steamed dumpling which has a more translucent wrapper made of wheat and tapioca starch and are frequently filled with shrimp); additionally, there are plenty of other dishes that are worthy of investigation. Their Peking duck platter is as popular as it is artful to look upon, and, needless to say, they have some pretty impressive seafood

dishes, especially their House Special Lobster with noodles. 770 Spectrum Center Drive, Irvine; (949) 788-9218, spectrum.capital-seafood.com.

JA Jiaozi Authentic Dumplings

Last, but certainly not least, is one of Irvine's newer dumpling destinations. JA Jiaozi's reputation has been picking up steam (no pun intended) since it opened, about a year and a half ago. Stylewise, it and Din Tai Fung run neck and neck for the award for "fanciest" – beef onion steamed Jiaozi and their Shrimp Jiaozi are particularly delectable. That said, their steamed jiaozi combo, and its cornucopia of dumplings with different colored skins, is something to look upon. On that note, for spicy food fans, they have red-skinned flaming hot jiaozi. Their braised beef brisket with quail eggs is also definitely worth a try! Irvine Marketplace, 13776 Jamboree Road, Irvine; (714) 786-8999, jajiaozi.com.

BRAISED BEEF BRISKET WITH QUAIL EGGS
JA JIAOZI AUTHENTIC DUMPLINGS

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"SNARE HEAD" - PHOTO BY VICTOR HERNANDEZ

A SENSE OF MYSTERY AND WONDER

IRVINE FINE ARTS CENTER'S "SILVER: AN ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW" FEATURES A VAST VARIETY OF STYLES AND SUBJECTS.

BY: LIZ GOLDNER

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS

Brett Hillyard's photo "Moose," featuring a soldier wearing military garb, strumming on a guitar, a big smile on his face, demonstrates that joy can be found among difficult circumstances. Contrasting this image is Jesse Childers' "Untitled" photo, depicting an elegantly adorned young woman, sitting on a long stairway, her head buried in her lap. Nick Sosin's "Untitled" image shows an unclad store mannequin set amidst an empty field, perhaps indicating that it was discarded. Meanwhile, Ray Barbee's wide-angle "Untitled" presents a startling anthropomorphic-style vision of two large cranes hoisted into the sky.

These are just four of the 151 black and white photographs in the Irvine Fine

Arts Center's exhibition, "**Silver**." These images present a vision of life today in Southern California, and the surrounding environs. Wendy Ortiz's "Los Guerrenses" photo, for example, depicts a dark-haired mother (probably of Latino origin) carrying her child, alongside a Mexican style business, which could be in Santa Ana or south of the border.

All photographic artists in this show used the Irvine Fine Arts Center's photography lab to develop their work. The results are finely wrought images, both dramatically posed and candid, with many conveying a sense of mystery and wonder, and with most featuring sharp contrasts of light and dark.

The curator of this exhibition, Virginia Arce, the Fine Arts Center exhibitions program coordinator, explains, "With a

show featuring 20 artists interested in vastly different subjects, who employ different styles, and whose careers vary in stages of development, it felt important to create a foundation that would link their work together. The idea of focusing on the analog black and white silver halide print made sense."

Irvine Weekly: How and why did the Irvine Fine Arts Center decide to mount a photography show? Is this a yearly event?

Virginia Arce: The exhibition was the result of a proposal submitted by a cohort who uses the IFAC darkroom. All of the participants use the lab on a regular basis. There's a kind of synergy in their shared love of the process of shooting on film, processing their own film and creat-

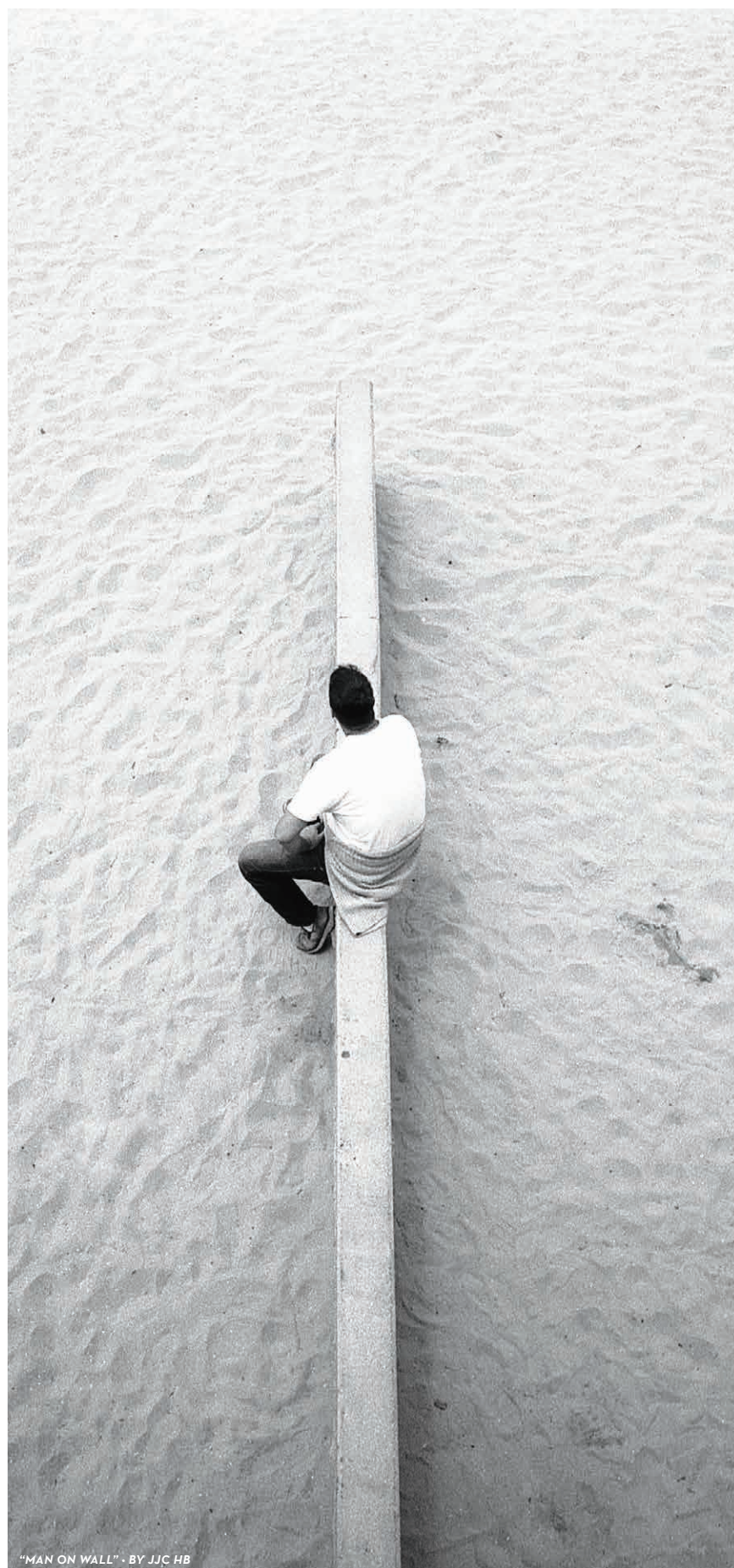
ing their own prints that was the impetus for this group endeavor. They submitted a formal proposal to IFAC (that other members of the public can do), which showcased the range of creativity and diversity, harnessed in the darkroom.

How did you find and choose your photographers?

Nick Sosin, a patron of the lab and exhibiting photographer in the show, put out an open call for interested photographers to join the proposal.

How and why did you include only black-and-white photography?

There's a kind of romantic element to this type of photography that I also think binds together this seemingly disparate selection of images. Seeing the world in



"MAN ON WALL" • BY JJC HB



"MOOSE" • BY BRETT HILLYARD

black and white somehow makes it seem new, exotic and almost otherworldly.

Some photographers in this exhibition are relatively new to the process, while others have been developing their practice for decades. If you speak to any of them, you'll see their faces light up when they talk about developing images and knowing that their own hands produced them.

Did you ask the photographers to address any particular theme?

All of the photographers were free to pursue the existing themes that they were already invested in. My curatorial work came in selecting the strongest images from their portfolios, identifying major themes in their work and making sense of their unique visual language.

Brett Hillyard's work, for example, has a kind of *joie de vivre* that comes through in all of his work, whether he's photographing a soldier or a surfer. Michael Weitzman's photography is wholly dedicated to creating unique images that aren't easily reproducible. Gabriel Magallanes' work uses modernist aesthetics to document skateboarding culture.

My selection was an attempt to identify and highlight the strongest elements of their work for a broader audience.

What else you would like to explain about this exhibition?

In the course of developing this show, getting to know each photographer, talking to each about their work, seeing bodies of work grow and refine, it has been rewarding to see professional and emerging photographers consider what it means to capture an image on the finite material that is film. In a culture that is so saturated with images, and that gives us the ability to easily take photos of anything, it is important to pause and consider why people take certain photographs.

The ability to take a photograph, develop it and print it is a process that many people can easily fall in love with. The photographic process further helps the artists become aware of the significance of using cameras for their work.

"Silver" is on view through January 11, 2020, at Irvine Fine Arts Center; Mon.-Thu., 10 am.-9 pm, Fri., 10 am.-5 pm, Sat., 9 am.-5 pm; cityofirvine.org/irvine-fine-arts-center/current-exhibitions

The 13 other artists featured in this exhibition are Remy Alegado, Carlo Andaya, Art Brandt, Eric Bryan, Christina Cao, Jennifer Chen, Christopher Fetter, Victor Hernandez, Eduardo Jeronimo, David Kline, Christine Lee Smith, Guillermo Lefranc and Hugo Zhang.



SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER WITH DAVIO'S IRVINE

PROCEEDS FROM GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP WILL BENEFIT ILLUMINATION FOUNDATION'S FIGHT AGAINST HOMELESSNESS.

BY: TARA FINLEY

PHOTOS BY: COURTESY OF DAVIO'S

Looking for a fun holiday activity to get into the spirit of the season? Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse is hosting families at their Gingerbread House Workshop on Sunday, December 15, from noon to 2 p.m.

The event will welcome children of all ages to join Davio's pastry chef Lena Huynh as she demonstrates how to create the perfect personalized gingerbread house. Each child will receive a gingerbread house of their very own to decorate while families enjoy lunch. The purpose of the event is not only to

spread holiday cheer, but to give back to the community as well. Every family is asked to bring one unwrapped toy which will be donated to a charity close to Davio's heart, the Illumination Foundation (IF).

"We were first introduced to Illumination Foundation while participating in last year's OC Chef's Table at Disneyland. Davio's loves to get involved with multiple philanthropic events throughout the year, and this charity was one that instantly touched our hearts," explained Davio's CEO, Steve DiFillippo. Originating as a class project by UCI

graduate students, the Illumination Foundation is a nonprofit, non-denominational, grassroots organization whose mission is to break and prevent the cycle of homelessness in Orange County.

The foundation provides services to our county's most vulnerable adults and children – a vital need with more than 50,000 homeless in Southern California alone. Since 2008, IF has provided housing and health care to more than 10,000 at-risk individuals and families. "Every person deserves compassion, dignity and the safety of a place to call home," says Paul Cho, co-founder and

CFO of Illumination Foundation.

Recently, Orange County released its Point in Time Count, a federally mandated biennial report that addresses the homeless crisis affecting OC citizens. Recent data shows that close to 7,000 are officially homeless in Orange County, with an estimated 3,961 sleeping on the streets.

Operating a shelter in Anaheim, IF does all it can to assist those without homes – providing immediate relief

when necessary, as well as housing, case management, medical care, mental health services and workforce services. Their low-entry threshold allows them to help thousands of people, filling a critical gap in the continuum of care for the homeless.

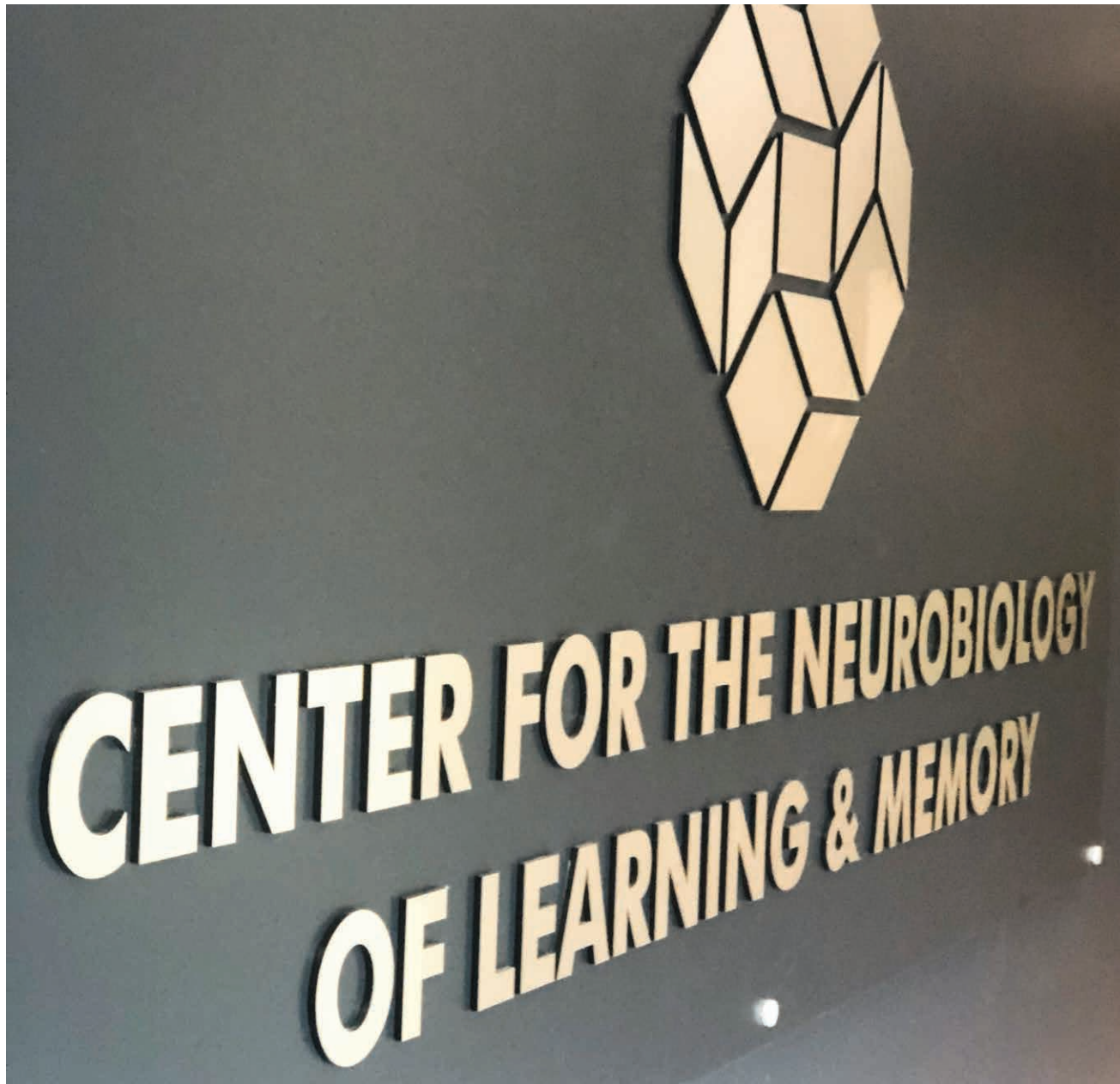
Winter can be an especially

tumultuous time for those lacking reliable shelter. The cold and wet weather exacerbates health problems and the lack of stability makes the season especially difficult. These difficulties are why Davio's Irvine has partnered with the Illumination Foundation, in hopes of spreading joy to those who need it most.

More than 30,000 youth are homeless in Southern California. The gifts collected at the workshop will be distributed to children experiencing this crisis.

"When choosing a charity to partner with for the Gingerbread House Workshop, Illumination Foundation was an obvious choice. We are excited to welcome guests to Davio's on December 15 for an afternoon of holiday fun, food and family!" invited DiFillippo.

Those who would like to participate in the event can purchase tickets through Davio's Irvine website, davis.com/irv. Tickets are \$55 per child. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Davio's is located at 18420 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, and was recently featured in our Best Of Irvine issue.



THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

UC IRVINE'S CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CANNABIS IS A SIGN OF CHANGING OPINIONS IN THE COMMUNITY.

BY: BLAKE ALEC MIRANDA

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF UCI

UC Irvine is a giant circle. It's one of the first facts that freshmen are told when they're given their introductory campus tour. Now as an alumnus and member of the school's staff, I walk half of that giant circle almost every day in the

course of conducting my job on campus. Sometimes, clubs advertising at tables are scattered around the circle, drawing in interested students and staff with games and small presentations.

But on this particular day, I am

drawn to a big blue table that I have never seen before throughout the five years I've walked this road. The tablecloth reads: UCI Center for the Study of Cannabis.

Irvine's views on cannabis have not always been as receptive as they

are currently. Even now, Irvine's city ordinances make it one of the most stringent on cultivating, selling and distributing marijuana. This is why I was surprised to come across a stand in broad daylight on campus even mentioning cannabis, let alone advocating for its study. Like many millennials, I grew up in that weird span of time where you heard roughly half of all people condemning cannabis a la War on Drugs-era enforcement, and the other half touting its supposed medicinal properties as justifying the conversation surrounding its legality.

UC Irvine has always been a trailblazer in unique research initiatives, though. Home of the world's first-ever center dedicated to the study of neurobiology and memory – the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory (CNLM) – the school has adopted a philosophy of championing unorthodox research protocols with vision.

Thus, it should come as no surprise that the Center for the Study of Cannabis (CSC), which describes itself on its website as a "multidisciplinary research center," is staffed with many of the same personnel that compose their CNLM fellows; neurobiologists, clinical law professors, medical doctors and psychologists all with a vested interest in the use of cannabis in producing positive change in society. Led by neuroscientist and UCI professor Dr. Daniele Piomelli and clinical professor of law Dr. Robert Solomon, the center has begun a massive undertaking of changing perceptions of cannabis both in the community and in research.

Clinical research with cannabis is strictly controlled, and there are many obstacles to getting approved as a site. To receive approval from the government for a clinical study with cannabis requires principal investigators to submit detailed documentation to the Food and Drug Administration, the Drug Enforcement Association and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. They each have a designated purpose: the FDA approves the investigator's Investigational New Drug application, the DEA enforces licensure for the study site and its leaders, and the NIDA provides the marijuana for investigators to use.

That is why it's a great sign that the CSC has already made significant headway in spearheading new and exciting ideas about cannabis in research. Just this past year, the CSC was



awarded a sizable \$9-million grant from the NIDA to study the long-term impact of adolescent cannabis use on the developing brain. Collaborating with experts in various fields of science, the team's project looks to be an ambitious undertaking, one of the first of its kind in a community like Irvine.

Their mission has already started making waves on campus. Neurobiology research staff and cognitive science alumnus Myra Larson is delighted to see clinical research focusing on unconventional ideas. "I think it's great to have an organized center conduct that kind of research," she says. "Hopefully it will translate into less panacea-type marketing for the public as we understand more about cannabis and its pharmacological applications."

The panacea-type marketing she is referring to should be familiar to many readers who have ever Googled the potential health effects of cannabis on the body: from "budtenders" that emphatically advocate for cannabis in pain management and stress relief to vendors with more outlandish claims, like using cannabis for the treatment of pharmacologically-resistant diseases or learning

disabilities.

With centers like the CSC that are taking a more hyper-focused look at the clinical applications of marijuana, the hope is that medically sound claims will be elucidated, bogus uses debunked and the applications of marijuana become less of a shot in the dark. It is through educating the public that institutions like the CSC can succeed in changing beliefs about cannabis' role in society and medicine.

As part of this education, Dr. Solomon teaches law students about cannabis law in a course titled, "The Law of Cannabis," and his message appears to have been well-received. I asked UC Irvine law student Ashleigh Dennis, who has taken his course, how teaching cannabis law in Irvine is even possi-

ble given cannabis' overall lukewarm reception in the community.

"I think professors here are more comfortable talking about cannabis compared to other schools," she types. "[Dr. Solomon's] class was novel in that we were pushed to think outside the box and how to solve legal challenges facing the cannabis industry instead of just identifying problems."

Irvine is no stranger to the legal problems that characterize cannabis sales and distribution in the community. The city is one of the few in Orange County that has regulations limiting civilian access to storefront marijuana, as well as placing restrictions on its delivery within city limits. The disparity between its partially legal status in certain states versus its ban at the federal level are

only some of the challenges students of Dr. Solomon's may have to face in their careers as lawyers.

Regardless of the continued challenges presented the city, state and federal oversight, CSC's place at UC Irvine is well-founded and a sign of changing times. As early as five years ago, the thought of cannabis receiving serious focus in Irvine's already-booming research network seemed unlikely.

Now, we're seeing physicians and scientists joining together to tackle the research questions that have plagued marijuana since it became legal by way of Proposition 64. Through asking the tough questions and proposing novel ideas, Dr. Piomelli and Dr. Solomon's team are a group that Irvine residents should watch closely.

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GOOD

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\$50

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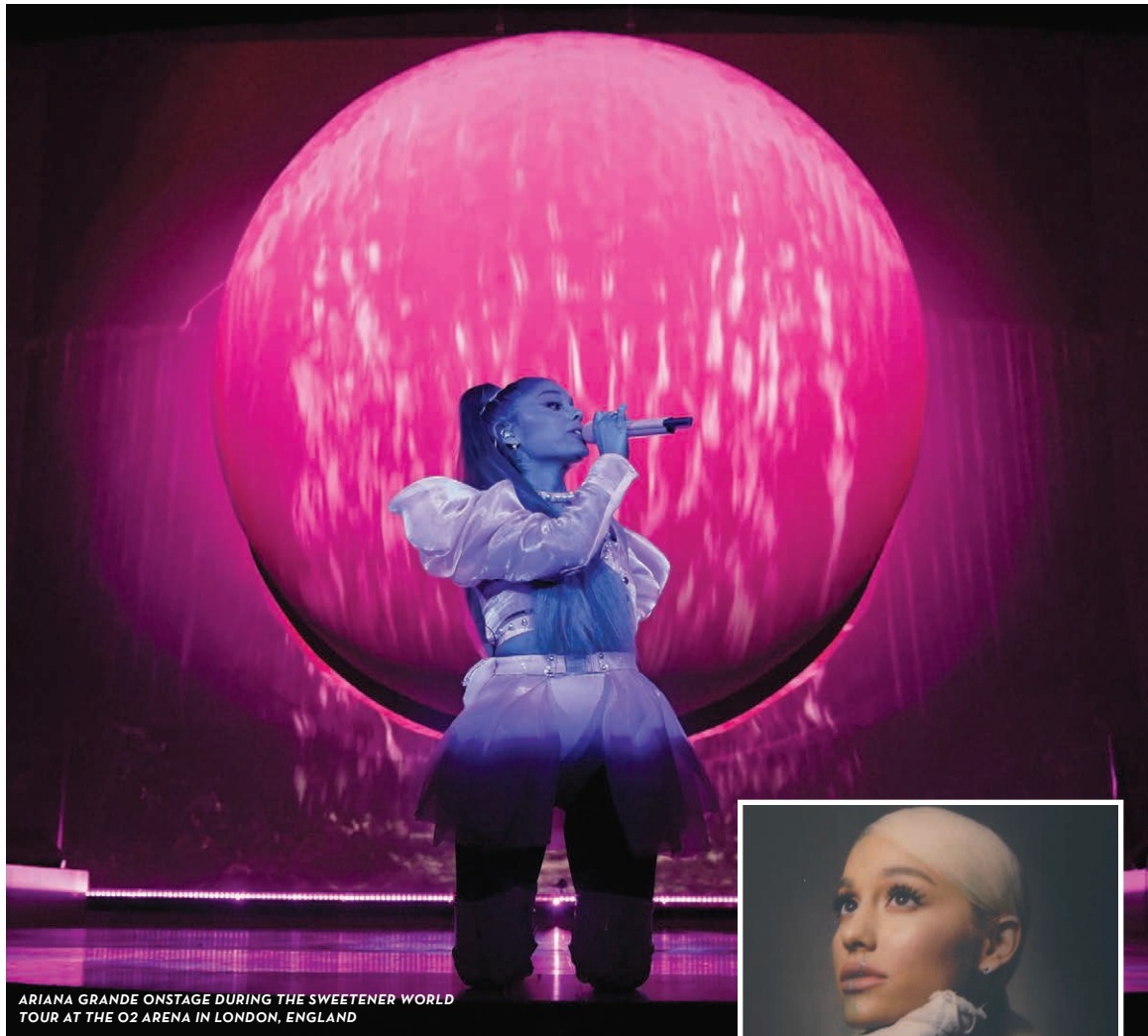
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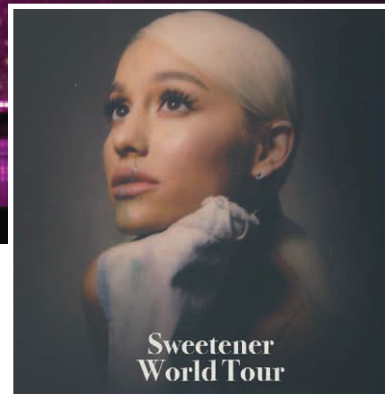


ARIANA GRANDE ONSTAGE DURING THE SWEETENER WORLD TOUR AT THE O2 ARENA IN LONDON, ENGLAND



ARIANA GRANDE PERFORMS ONSTAGE DURING THE SWEETENER WORLD TOUR - OPENING NIGHT AT TIMES UNION CENTER IN ALBANY, NEW YORK.

ARIANA GRANDE'S 8 BIGGEST HITS



COURTESY REPUBLIC RECORDS

THE POP SUPERSTAR PLAYS THE HONDA CENTER IN ANAHEIM ON DECEMBER 13.

BY: SHIRLEY JU

PHOTOS: COURTESY KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY

Ariana Grande quite possibly might be the biggest pop star of our generation. Hailing from Boca Raton, Florida but now residing in Los Angeles, the singer-songwriter has had a momentous year, especially with the release of *thank u, next*. The project's title track itself is an ode to all her ex-boyfriends, including Pete Davidson, Mac Miller and Big Sean.

Beyond her sonically appealing, feel-good records, fan gravitate to her honesty, vulnerability and au-

thenticity she exudes in all that she does. Her lyrics stem from real-life experiences and allow audiences into her life, proving she goes through obstacles just like the rest of us. At the end of the day, music is her saving grace and she wouldn't have it any other way.

Boasting 166 million followers on Instagram alone, Ari might have one of the biggest fanbases the music industry has ever seen. Everything she does gets picked up – from what she eats for lunch to her

interactions with her dog. Most recently, the former Disney star made headlines with some new ink, the word Toulouse in cursive etched across the back of her hand. Toulouse is the capital of the French region Occitanie, also known as The Pink City.

To prepare for Ariana's highly anticipated show at The Honda Center in Anaheim, *Irvine Weekly* has compiled eight of her biggest hit records. If you've been to an Ari show, you already know it's going to be a night for the books.

"thank u, next"

The second Ariana Grande dropped "thank u, next," the entire music industry froze. Not only did this pop star just release yet another incredible record, but the realness and vulnerability she bared made the record 10 times greater. This song is an ode to all her ex-boyfriends, including the late Mac Miller, who we all miss dearly. Plus, the *Mean Girls*-themed music video (which boasts over 448 million views on YouTube) is everything.

"Don't Call Me Angel" featuring Miley Cyrus & Lana Del Rey

This is the female-empowerment song the world has been waiting for. If you saw the recent *Charlie's Angels* in theaters, this brings the theme of badass women who slay to life. The song's official music video has over 118 million views on YouTube and counting, with all three artists dressing up in white angel outfits inside a boxing ring. Ariana's voice crooning the words "don't call me angel," is both catchy and fierce, reminding you females rule the world.

"7 Rings"

As with every Ariana song, "7 Rings" broke the



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internet. With the music video already at over 625 million views on YouTube in less than a year, this record serves as the second single off *thank u, next*. The title refers to her collection of matching friendship rings Ariana and her six friends purchased in New York. If you've got a bestie and you guys share anything matching, you already know the sentimental feelings these items bring.

"Side To Side" featuring Nicki Minaj

This is one of the best music videos Ariana has ever put out, clocking it at a whopping 1.6 billion views on YouTube alone. The scene opens with a beautiful Grande leading a sexy cycling class, with all the riders in sync with the dance moves. This is Soulcycle: Ariana Grande edition. Nicki Minaj spits, "I'm the queen of rap, Ariana run pop." That's a bar!

"The Way" featuring Mac Miller

Rest in peace, Mac Miller – gone way too soon. While fans ate up every second of Ariana and Mac's relationship, it's both of their loves and talents for music that made this record what it was. The visual, which clocks in over 382 million views, showcases the two lovebirds hanging, playing and enjoying each other's company. At the end of the way, it's that bond you share with your significant other that cannot be replaced.

"Boyfriend" featuring Social House

"I'm a motherfucking trainwreck ... I don't want to

miss too much. But I don't wanna miss your touch." Ariana's ability to persuade (and unpersuade you) she's your wifey comes completely naturally. At the end of the day, the secret's all yours. Although some members of Social House may feel some type of way, 111 million views in just a few months.

"no tears left to cry"

Ariana's music is happy, it's sad, it's happy, it's sad ... but ultimately it's happy. "No tears left to cry" seemingly comes off as a depressing song, but it's actually about coming into your own without needing a partner to hold you up. The record also serves as her ability to blend genres, from dance-pop to disco to dance-R&B over a U.K. garage beat. The song entered the *Billboard* Hot 100 at #3, as she became the only artist to debut in the Top 10 with the lead single from all of her projects.

"Monopoly" featuring Victoria Monét

Ariana and Victoria Monét's friendship is everything we look for in our own. "Monopoly" arrives as a fun-filled, good vibes only anthem amongst two best friends who work together, hang out together, have sleepovers together and slay together. They croon on the chorus: "Bad vibes, get off of me, Outta here with that fuckery / Treat my goals like property, collect them like Monopoly." Play this song on repeat as you head into 2020!

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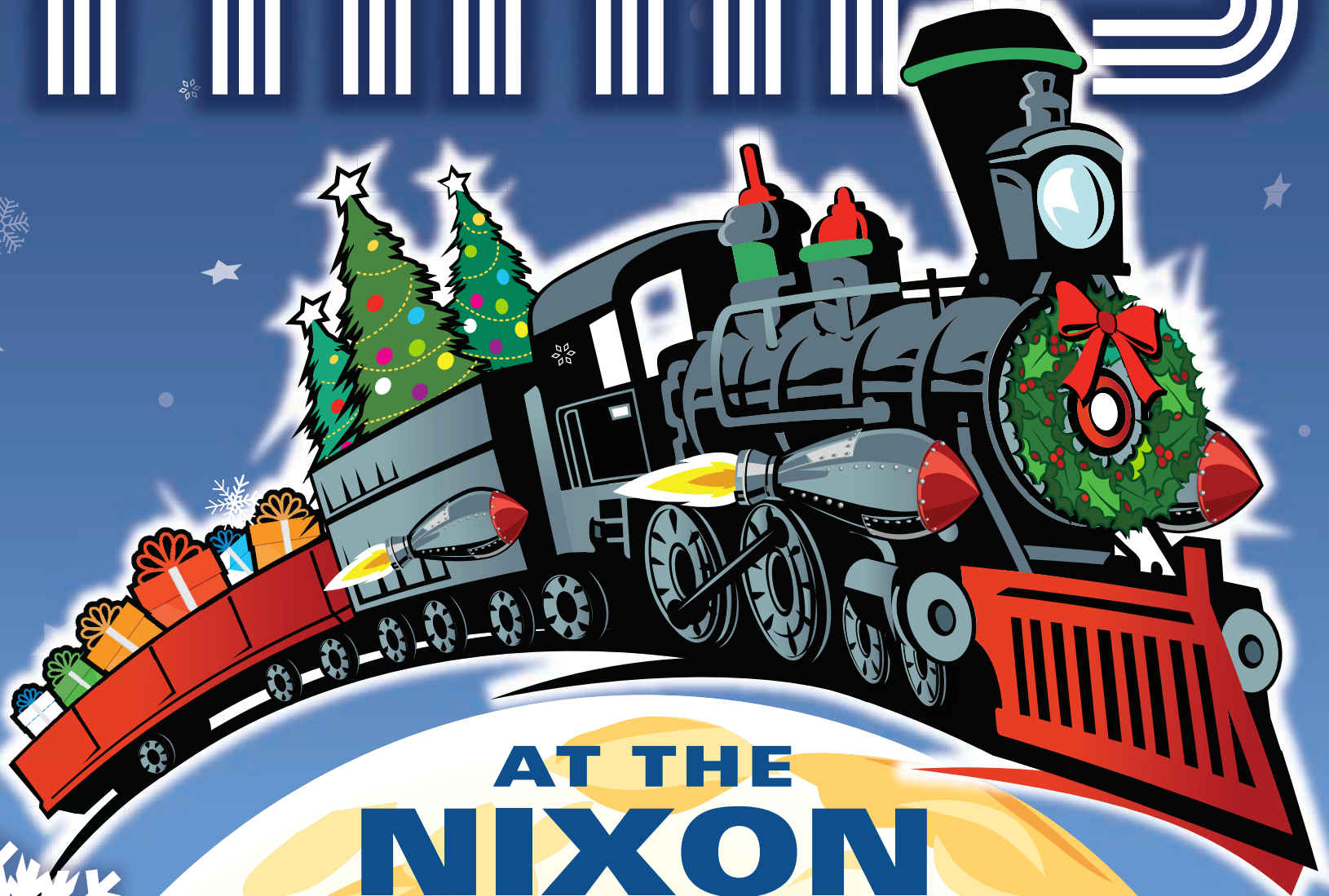


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