

Manhattan Beach Sun

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Weekend Forecast

Friday, May 5
Partly Cloudy
65°/58°



Saturday, May 6
Partly Cloudy
63°/54°



Sunday, May 7
Mostly Cloudy
62°/53°



Roundhouse Aquarium Fun Run Ticket Sale



Fun Run race starting: Tickets are now available for the 5th annual 5K Roundhouse Fun Run for the Ocean, which will take place Saturday, June 3 at 9:30 at the Manhattan Beach pier. The tickets can be purchased at the aquarium's website, <http://roundhouseaquarium.org/funrun>. They are \$35 per person and include a commemorative t-shirt, electronic timing, water and refreshments. See details below. Photo and information provided by Lynne Gross.

Aerospace Contractor Answers a Rare Request from Washington

By Rob McCarthy

The nation's new Commerce secretary has asked manufacturers which federal regulations hold them back the most, signaling the White House intends to keep its promise to make it easier for companies to do business on U.S. soil. The chance to talk directly to a member of the White House Cabinet doesn't come around often.

Gino DiCaro, a spokesman with the California Manufacturing and Technology Association, said in the past his industry's calls for relief fell on deaf ears in Washington, D.C. But that's changing with the new administration. "More than ever, growing our economy through manufacturing is at the forefront of public opinion and policy discussions at every government level," DiCaro said. "Everybody wants good wages, jobs and innovation."

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in March invited manufacturers and industry groups to tell him which federal regulations hinder their businesses and expansion plans. An executive memo signed January 24 by President Trump tasked Ross to investigate the impact of federal regulations on the manufacturing industry. The president has said he wants to keep factory jobs here in the States.

It's unusual for a president to single out one industry with an offer of help. It's rarer that the manufacturers themselves got the chance to tell the Commerce Secretary which federal rules to reduce or eliminate altogether.

There were 175 comments and suggestions left for Ross and his staff on a federal website, including one by Northrup Grumman. The aerospace and defense contractor operates in three South Bay cities and in all 50 states. Robert Foster, a Washington, D.C.-based manager for Northrup Grumman, recommended that the environmental permit

process be simplified.

He offered ways the administration could help Northrup Grumman to better suit the company's needs. Simplify the process for obtaining a federal permit to comply with clean air, clean water and wastewater rules. Require the same data, but share it among the agencies reviewing the application. Also, cut down on the nine- to 12-month wait to get a permit approved, Foster suggested.

Northrup Grumman must submit duplicate information to the California and federal agencies, Foster explained. Local and federal agencies should be working together, and a single agency could handle a Northrup

permit application to make the process more efficient. Many federal environmental rules are enforced by the states. "Consolidate the review at a single level and within a single agency," Foster recommended. Where more than one state or federal agency is involved, he suggested to clearly define the lines of responsibility so the process isn't slowed by multiple requests for information.

State and federal agencies often want the same data to assure them a company has practices and procedures in place to comply with environmental rules. Northrup Grumman told Ross the current permit process is

See Aerospace, page 2

Roundhouse's Fun Run for the Ocean

By Lynne S. Gross

The 5th Annual 5K Roundhouse Fun Run for the Ocean is coming in June! The event is known for its outstanding prizes for first through third place in each of its ten divisions. In addition, a raffle held after the race has even more worthwhile prizes. It is a good race for the entire family while also being an excellent place for serious runners to shine. The division age breakdowns are: 9 and under, 10-14, 15-29, 30-49, and 50+. There are separate prizes for men and women in each division--a total of 30 prizes overall.

The race will start at the ocean's edge under the Manhattan Beach pier and round a cone 30 blocks to the north at 45th Street. Time recording and online registration will be handled by RaceWire. The Fun Run will also feature music and announcements by DJ Dru Mitchell and touch tanks staffed by Roundhouse Volunteers. Coffee will be provided by NikauKai. Water, energy bars and other refreshments will be provided.

Sponsorships to date include Chevron; Continental Development Corporation; Kinecta Federal Credit Union; Patty Brown & Associates-Physical Therapy; AndersonPenna and Danny Zuker, Annette Lombardi and Family. You can contact the Roundhouse at 310-379-8117 if you are interested in sponsoring this year's Fun Run.

Prizes for the race and raffle at this time are from: Aquarium of the Pacific, Bacchus Wines, ET Surf Shop, Islands, Jack's Surfboards, The Kettle, Manhattan Dermatology, NikauKai, Natural History Museum, Old Venice, {pages}, Panchos, Paradise Bowls, Simms Restaurants, Village Runner, and Washed Ashore Adornments. Keep checking the Roundhouse Fun Run webpage for updates on fantastic awards and prizes.

Proceeds will go to Roundhouse Aquarium Teaching Center's operating expenses (exhibit operation, marine life support, and maintenance) and program expenses (education programs and volunteer program).•

Aerospace

from front page



Northrup has given the new Secretary of Commerce suggestions on how to lighten the burden on U.S. manufacturing.

redundant and time-consuming. If the agencies could share the data submitted by Northrup, then that alone could speed up the process and make the company’s wait times shorter.

The federal comment period closed on March 31. A spokesman with the Commerce Department confirmed that manufacturers’ recommendations would be reviewed and used by Ross to prepare a report for the president. The Commerce Department hasn’t said when that might happen.

California’s association for manufacturers is encouraged because for the first time in a decade, policymakers in Washington, D.C. are interested in the well-being of South Bay companies like Northrup Grumman and Boeing with huge workforces. Boeing also took the opportunity to advise the White House on which regulations it considers the biggest stumbling blocks to its business. “It’s promising that the administration in Washington is ... doing everything it can to understand and fix what impedes a manufacturer’s ability to grow in the U.S.,” said DiCaro with the California Manufacturing and Technology Association.

The White House is concerned about automakers relocating their assembly plants outside the U.S. An industry representative for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers praised the Commerce secretary for undertaking a fact-finding mission about U.S. regulations that pose the biggest burdens. Light-duty passenger vehicles are the “most highly regulated sector of our economy,” a spokesman for the carmakers told Ross. “Any initiative to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens encourages domestic manufacturers to increase investments and jobs in the

United States,” the auto industry trade group said. It represents the 12 largest automobile manufacturers in the United States, which account for 70 percent of all car and light truck sales in the country. Alliance members are BMW Group, FCA US LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Company, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche Cars North America, Toyota, Volkswagen Group of America, and Volvo Car USA.

Several manufacturers left comments indicating that overlapping federal and state rules are their biggest frustrations. For the carmakers, they deal mostly with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board, the association said. The group told the Commerce secretary that what manufacturers want is a common-sense approach to protecting the environment.

“Certainly, many regulations that impact auto manufacturers originally were intended to serve useful purposes and continue to have value. However, many are or have become outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective,” the association said, adding they just need to be reviewed and updated occasionally.

Given a rare opportunity to speak directly to the White House, Northrup Grumman and Boeing were the representatives for the South Bay. Boeing said in its comments what happens with environmental permits and regulations will influence whether it expands and creates high-tech, U.S.-based manufacturing centers. The aerospace and defense systems contractor is predicting global demand for 39,000 new aircraft by 2037. •

UCLA Cares about Sick Kids all Around the World

By Rob McCarthy

Going to the hospital makes plenty of adults nervous, so imagine how traumatic it can be for a child diagnosed with a serious illness. A stay can mean days of bedside care and clinic treatment. UCLA Children’s Hospital thinks there some should be some playtime mixed in, too.

UCLA Children’s Hospital says that play and treatment for illnesses should be combined to comfort their young patients “when they need it most.” That approach fits, too, with Mattel’s mission to be a recognized leader in “play, learning and development worldwide.”

To help UCLA Health system and the kids it services, Mattel is giving \$50 million to expand pediatric care and fund medical research at the local hospital. The gift will make it possible

a therapeutic environment for child patients. UCLA has embraced the philosophy by creating a specialized children’s healthcare center near the Westwood campus. In-hospital and outpatient services are available there.

The Children’s Hospital Association says that Mattel has delivered more than a half-million toys nationwide to pediatric patients at children’s hospitals. “Mattel has generously helped create positive healing environments,” said Many Wimpey Knight, the association’s chief executive.

Play grants totaling \$377,000 have gone to children’s hospitals in Long Beach, San Francisco, New Orleans, Baltimore, the Bronx, Dallas, Milwaukee and Hackensack. “By engaging in play whether outside on a playground or inside via technology, hospitalized



for Southland kids to receive specialized care regardless of a family’s income or ability to pay. It’s the largest charitable gift ever made by the worldwide maker of toys, and gives UCLA working capital to build a “kids-only” system of care.

UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital attracts top doctors and nurses, who provide care that is consistently ranked among the best in the country. A child’s experience remains the number one focus as UCLA designs an environment with its young patients and families in mind.

Studies done of pediatric patients and their parents found that anxiety is the most common complaint when a child is hospitalized. Kids also lose their appetites, can’t sleep and can’t control their emotions. They’re less cooperative with doctors and nurses when they’re upset and frightened, researchers have discovered. The answer: Use “medical” play in the hospital to alleviate that stress.



UCLA Children's Hospital makes time for treatment and play.

Healthcare professionals also must take the parents’ emotions into account. Children do better when their parents feel less anxious, according to published research. Child behavior and development specialists have expertise that pediatric caregivers need to tap.

With this gift, Mattel has contributed \$80 million to UCLA and the university-run healthcare system. The toymaker and the hospital say they want local kids to have access to doctors and nurses who understand pediatric care, and who work toward the best health outcomes possible for sick kids. They’re intent on making a hospital experience less scary, too.

Mattel President Richard Dickson said his company’s charitable gift is meant to “ensure that even more children and families will benefit from exceptional healthcare at UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital.” Sick kids in Asia and Africa will benefit from advances in pediatric medicine at the Westwood medical center as UCLA plans to launch a doctor exchange.

Nurse Florence Nightingale, who is considered the founder of modern nursing, said it was the responsibility of doctors, nurses and healthcare providers to create and keep

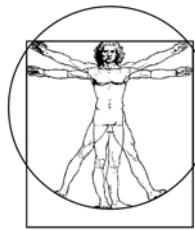
children can just be kids,” Knight said.

Mattel’s commitment to UCLA will also touch children and their families in China, Indonesia, India and South Africa through physician exchanges and research partnerships.

Tami Dennis with the Children’s Hospital noted that UCLA doctors will visit hospitals in those countries periodically to lecture and do clinical work. Visiting specialists will be provided clinical fellowships in Los Angeles, where they’ll spend one to three months observing the practices and techniques of the UCLA Children’s Hospital staff, according to the spokeswoman. “The visiting physicians will then be prepared to return to their home institutions to teach their colleagues what they have learned at UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital,” she added.

UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital is located within the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in Westwood. The facility has a 90-bed inpatient unit, plus an outpatient Children’s Health Center. The hospital serves more than 34,000 patients each year, according to the university. •

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Sports

Rams Wait until Round Two to Make Moves

By Adam Serrao

To make a long story short, the Los Angeles Rams traded away a ton of picks last season in order to jump to the top of the 2016 draft and select Jared Goff with the number one overall pick. Fast-forward one year later and you'll find many Rams fans who will tell you that Goff certainly did not look like a franchise quarterback in his first year with the team. Whether he eventually pans out or turns into a bust won't change the fact that Los Angeles gave away its first round draft pick this year to acquire the quarterback. For that reason, the Rams had to wait all the way until the 44th overall pick of this year's draft to begin their search for impact players to help their team. Will the players that the Rams selected make a big enough impact to actually help out an otherwise struggling franchise?

After waiting an entire day for 32 picks of the first round to go by last Thursday night on the opening night of this year's NFL draft, the Los Angeles Rams finally got their chance to make a pick on Friday. With the 44th choice in the second round, the Rams selected their first collegiate player of

the offseason after they traded down with the Buffalo Bills in order to acquire tight end Gerald Everett. Everett, a player out of South Alabama, was productive in college in accumulating 90 catches for 1,292 yards and 12 touchdowns. To use their first pick of the draft on a tight end, though, was a rather strange choice for Los Angeles, to say the least.

The Rams acquired tight end Tyler Higbee in the fourth round of the draft last season and as a rookie, Higbee found playing time in all 16 games of the season. Earlier in the offseason, both new head coach Sean McVay and Rams General Manager Les Snead have been vocal about their plan to use Higbee more heavily in the upcoming football year. The acquisition of Everett will certainly give Goff another weapon on offense--which is never a bad thing--but with an entire list of positions on the team that need improving, adding another tight end may leave some fans scratching their heads.

McVay was formerly the offensive coordinator in Washington and led a tight end unit that received more yards out of the position than any other team in the entire

NFL. "I have a feeling Gerald's one of Sean's favorite players in the draft," Snead remarked with a smile. McVay's hope is undoubtedly that Everett will turn into his new Jordan Reed, with Higbee most likely filling in on blocking downs. With speed, athleticism and ball skills all on display with Everett, the hope is that Goff will have another talented playmaker to assist with his transition into the NFL. "I think I bring the complete package of a tight end," Everett explained when asked what he has to offer the Rams. "Definitely a vertical threat. I'm able to create that mismatch at any point in time in the game."

To assist even further with Goff's transition, the Rams selected wide receiver Cooper Kupp with their 69th pick in the third round. Kupp may be a relatively unknown name, but the receiver out of Eastern Washington set 15 FCS records in college. "I bring versatility," Kupp said. "I'm a guy who's going to know the offense in and out and who's going to be ready to go day one." His 6-2, 204-pound frame will give Goff a rather big, reliable target that has soft hands and can catch most any ball thrown in his direction. The Rams have obviously struggled in the wide receiver department ever since Isaac Bruce and Torry Holt left the "Greatest Show on Turf." While Kupp may never turn into a receiver that resembles either Bruce or Holt, he will certainly provide another pass-catching weapon for Goff--which the quarterback obviously needs.

If Los Angeles isn't going to score points, they need to be able to keep other teams from getting into their own end zone. John Johnson was selected with the 89th overall pick in the

third round with that goal in mind. Johnson, a safety out of Boston College, knows how to cover, has good instincts and has shown the ability to be able to intercept the ball. Johnson is athletic enough to make an impact on the field, but needs to gain physicality should he wish to have a long and successful career in Los Angeles. The Rams already have two safeties on the roster who get all of the playing time in Maurice Alexander and Lamarcus Joiner, but both players will be unrestricted free agents in the offseason. While Johnson doesn't figure to start at any point this year, the rookie will have to make a name for himself--most likely on special teams--if he wishes to stick with the club in future years.

With their first three picks in this year's NFL draft, the Los Angeles Rams certainly did their part to address some of the roster's most glaring needs. With that in mind, it quickly becomes obvious that the roster of the Rams has plenty of glaring needs that will be almost impossible to resolve by the beginning of this regular season. If Los Angeles was hoping to become elite overnight, this draft certainly did not do the trick. It did, however, add a couple of pieces in the later rounds that may turn out to be positive additions for Goff and the offense at some point down the line. Only time will tell what will happen with Goff, the offense and the rest of Los Angeles' roster. With Seattle, Arizona and even an emerging San Francisco team in the same division, though, the playoffs remain nothing more than an afterthought and a wish for the future of a franchise still trying to find its bearings in L.A.

Asixlion@earthlink.net •

Finance

Control Mobile Data Costs By Connecting To Wi-Fi At Home

(BPT) - American's use of computers has shifted dramatically in the last five years. In the past, desktop computers were the main tools for accessing the Internet and communicating with others. Today, mobile devices like smartphones and tablets are taking over.

The use of mobile devices has skyrocketed, with nearly 7 out of 10 U.S. adults (68 percent) having a smartphone, up from 35 percent in 2011, according to the Pew Research Center. Tablet computer ownership is growing too, with 45 percent of adults owning this type of mobile device.

Mobile devices are popular because they provide instant access to virtually anything a person wants to do. From watching videos to online shopping and interacting on social media, mobile makes any task easy - and it's all within an arm's reach.

Along with this move to mobile devices comes a sharp increase in mobile data usage. Many Americans are quickly learning how

mobile data consumption.

This is a useful technique, but what if you live in one of the 18 million households across the United States that does not have access to "traditional" wired Internet or are stuck with a slow connection?

The best solution for these households is satellite Internet. Hughes, the inventor of satellite Internet, has recently announced their new HughesNet Gen5 service. HughesNet Gen5 is the first and only U.S. satellite Internet service to offer Federal Communications Commission (FCC) defined broadband speeds - 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload - from coast to coast. HughesNet Gen5 high-speed satellite Internet even comes with built-in Wi-Fi making it easy to connect wireless devices at home.

For these 18 million households, HughesNet Gen5 is a major breakthrough, providing speeds much faster than the slow DSL that many of these consumers are currently using.

In addition to fast speeds and built-in



expensive data on mobile devices can be.

One easy way to control mobile data costs is to connect mobile devices to your Wi-Fi network at home. Simply go into your devices' settings, select Wi-Fi and make your home connection your default option. Most mobile devices will then automatically connect to your Wi-Fi when at home and reduce your

Wi-Fi, HughesNet Gen5 also comes with generous, affordable service plans. It is no longer necessary to rely on mobile data at home. Get the most out of your devices with a reliable, high-speed connection. HughesNet Gen5 lets you do more of what you love online, wherever you live. Learn more about HughesNet Gen5 at www.hughesnet.com. •

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The deadline for Classified Ad submission and payment is Noon on Tuesday to appear in Thursday's paper. Advertisements must be submitted in writing by mail, fax or email. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card (Visa or M/C over the phone).

Errors: Please check your advertisements immediately. Any corrections and/or changes in an ad must be requested prior to the following Tuesday deadline in order to receive a credit. A credit will be issued for only the first time the error appears. Multiple runs will only be credited for the first time the error appears. No credit will be issued for an amount greater than the cost of the advertisement.

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Looking Up

Habitable Region within Saturn’s Moon Enceladus?

Based on Press Release from Southwest Research Institute, Provided by Bob Eklund

Scientists from Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) have discovered hydrogen gas in the plume of material erupting from Saturn’s moon Enceladus. Analysis of data from NASA’s Cassini spacecraft indicates that the hydrogen is likely produced through chemical reactions between the moon’s rocky core and warm water from its subsurface ocean. The SwRI-led team’s discovery suggests that Enceladus’ ocean floor could include features analogous to hydrothermal vents on Earth, which are known to support life on the seafloor.

“Hydrogen is a source of chemical energy for microbes that live in the Earth’s oceans near hydrothermal vents,” said SwRI’s Dr. Hunter Waite, principal investigator of Cassini’s Ion Neutral Mass Spectrometer (INMS). “Our results indicate the same chemical energy source is present in the ocean of Enceladus. We have not found evidence of the presence of microbial life in the ocean of Enceladus,

content/356/6334/155), published in the April 14, 2017 issue of the journal *Science*.

On the Earth’s ocean floor, hydrothermal vents emit hot, mineral-laden fluid, allowing unique ecosystems teeming with unusual creatures to thrive. Microbes that convert mineral-laden fluid into metabolic energy make these ecosystems possible.

“The amount of molecular hydrogen we detected is high enough to support microbes similar to those that live near hydrothermal vents on Earth,” said SwRI’s Dr. Christopher Glein, a co-author on the paper and a pioneer of extraterrestrial chemical oceanography. “If similar organisms are present in Enceladus, they could ‘burn’ the hydrogen to obtain energy for chemosynthesis, which could conceivably serve as a foundation for a larger ecosystem.”

During Cassini’s close flyby of Enceladus on October 28, 2015, INMS detected molecular hydrogen as the spacecraft flew through the plume of gas and ice grains spewing from cracks on the surface. Previous flybys provided evidence for a global subsurface ocean residing



Enceladus is only 314 miles (505 km) across, small enough to fit within the length of the United Kingdom. Photo Courtesy of NASA JPL.

but the discovery of hydrogen gas and the evidence for ongoing hydrothermal activity offer a tantalizing suggestion that habitable conditions could exist beneath the moon’s icy crust.”

Waite is the lead author of “Cassini Finds Molecular Hydrogen in the Enceladus Plume: Evidence for Hydrothermal Processes” (<http://science.sciencemag.org/>

above a rocky core. Molecular hydrogen in the plumes could serve as a marker for hydrothermal processes, which could provide the chemical energy necessary to support life. To search for hydrogen specifically native to Enceladus, the spacecraft flew particularly close to the surface and operated INMS in a specific mode to minimize and quantify any spurious sources.

“We developed new operations methods for INMS for Cassini’s final flight through Enceladus’ plume,” said SwRI’s Rebecca Perryman, the INMS operations technical lead. “We conducted extensive simulations, data analyses, and laboratory tests to identify background sources of hydrogen, allowing us to quantify just how much molecular hydrogen was truly originating from Enceladus itself.”

Scientists also considered other sources of hydrogen from the moon itself, such as a preexisting reservoir in the ice shell or global ocean. Analysis determined that it was unlikely that the observed hydrogen was acquired during the formation of Enceladus or from other processes on the moon’s surface or in the interior.

“Everything indicates that the hydrogen originates in the moon’s rocky core,” Waite said. “We considered various ways hydrogen could leach from the rock and found that the most plausible source is ongoing hydrothermal reactions of rock containing reduced minerals and organic materials.” •

Seniors

Tips to Reduce Your Health Care Expenses



(BPT) - Health care costs are in the news all the time. You hear about them at work and when you’re with friends and family. The comments are always the same. Health care is getting more and more expensive and it seems to be outpacing the money you make.

Fortunately you’re not helpless when it comes to controlling your health care costs. While some treatments simply have to be done in order to support your health, there are other things you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones while looking out for your pocketbook at the same time.

Employ these five tips today and you’ll enjoy the care you need without breaking your budget.

- **Focus on your health first.** When it comes to controlling your health care expenses, you actually have more control than you think - a lot more. The decisions you make every day - what to eat, whether or not to smoke, how much to exercise - all play a dramatic role in your overall health. So take charge, dine on fruits and vegetables, take a run and kick that nicotine habit for good. Each of these little decisions will benefit your health and your budget.

- **Be decisive with your deductible.** Your insurance deductible is a fixed cost and one you’ll pay every single year before receiving network coverage support. But once it’s paid, you’ll enjoy the full coverage of your plan. Thus, if you have another treatment or procedure coming up, don’t put it off any longer than you have to. Undergoing additional procedures in the same year means you get more coverage while paying only one deductible. Many health plans also cover preventive services in full, without going against a deductible.

- **Be smart about where you go for**

care. While health care facilities across the country are all capable of delivering compassionate, quality care, they are not all priced the same. According to a Blue Cross Blue Shield, The Health of America Report, 29.8 percent of emergency room visits were for conditions that could have been treated in retail clinics. The same research also found consumers saved money on out-of-pocket costs by visiting retail clinics for routine services when compared to doctor’s offices, and the visits were much more inexpensive than receiving the same treatment in the emergency room, according to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

- **Ask questions.** Your provider may know best, but it’s all about your health. Don’t be afraid to ask questions, not only about the procedure itself, but about the price of the procedure and if there is anything you can do to reduce the expense. Sometimes there may be something you can do on your own that supports your health and lessens your costs at the same time.

- **Embrace an HSA.** Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) provide a cost-effective way for people who don’t use a lot of health care services, to access care and pay for services up until they reach their deductible. Plus the money you save in your HSA can be used to pay for co-insurance payments or co-pays at your doctor’s office, and it’s also an eligible tax write off, opening the door to further savings. There are ways you can manage your health care spending. Follow the tips above and be an active participant in your role as a health care consumer and you’ll be surprised at how much you save. To learn more about the The Health of America Report, visit www.bcbs.com/healthofamerica. •



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Entertainment



Film Review

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 a Fresh Take on Familiar Storyline



(L-R): Karen Gillan, Zoe Saldana, Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper & Dave Bautista. Courtesy of Marvel Studios.

By H. Nelson Tracey for www.cinemacy.com

We are nearing the 10th anniversary as well as the rumored end of Robert Downey, Jr.’s breakout role in *Iron Man*, and the aftermath has proven that there are essentially two types of people: those who are going to see every Marvel feature no matter what, and those who lost interest sometime during the past 14 movies (with eight more scheduled over the next three years). Indeed, with so many sequels, characters and connecting storylines, it now seems so long ago when *The Avengers* (2012) was one of my favorite films of the year. Yet at this point, like a multi-season TV show, I’m far enough into the Marvel Universe that I plan to stick it out until the finale scheduled for 2019.

Despite all of these different subsets of

films, *Guardians of the Galaxy* is arguably able to distance itself as the one that has cultivated its own identity. Playing more like a superhero version of *Star Wars*, *Guardians* spins separately from the Avengers characters by making their own rules while still under the Marvel umbrella.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 catches us up to speed with all the characters we met in the original. If you liked *Vol. 1*, you will certainly like this one. It’s a comforting return to form with all the signatures: zany aliens, jabbing banter and a great soundtrack. But I’m happy to say that unlike other Marvel sequels, which retread their characters entirely, writer/director James Gunn has found interesting ways to develop each character a bit further. There’s a great rivalry between the heroic Gamora (Zoe Saldana) and her mostly villainous

sister Nebula (Karen Gillan) that is more at the center of this film than the previous one. Drax (Dave Bautista), a standout from the first film, continues his same brand of humor but with a little more self-awareness. And Baby Groot (Vin Diesel) is impossible not to love. It’s impressive that within this ensemble, each actor brings a freshness to the role while developing their respective character.

Another praiseworthy note is that this universe has a great sense of color. Every alien comes in a variety of bright yellow, blue and other eye-catching hues, making for a stunning visual much richer than a comparable action/adventure movie. The CGI is present, but there are plenty of characters in full make-up and practicals rather than being entirely artificial--and this combination works seamlessly here.

While I was annoyed that the trailer announced Kurt Russell as being Star-Lord, aka Peter Quill’s (Chris Pratt) father, Emperor J’son (a fact that seemed like a spoiler), it actually proved more enticing in taking the audience on the journey of the new relationship as a father and son. Like the rest of the ensemble cast, Star-Lord and J’son are given challenges that enhance and further develop their characters. As formulaic and familiar as it all may seem, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* is fresh enough for those invested in the Marvel universe. After seeing this installment, I am eagerly anticipating the next time these characters mesh with *The Avengers* on the big screen.

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 is rated PG-13. 121 minutes. Opening this Friday in theaters everywhere. •

Check It Out

The Watchmaker of Filigree Street by Natasha Pulley

Reviewed by Kristina Kora-Beckman, Librarian I, El Segundo Public Library

If you are in the mood for a magical, whimsical book that incorporates elements of Erin Morgenstern’s *The Night Circus* as well as Sherlock Holmes and Phillip Pullman’s works, give Natasha Pulley’s wonderful novel *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street* a try. Set in Victorian London, the book has a little for everyone--mystery, time travel, romance, and even fantastical clockwork devices with minds of their own.

The story opens with Thaniel Steepleton, a

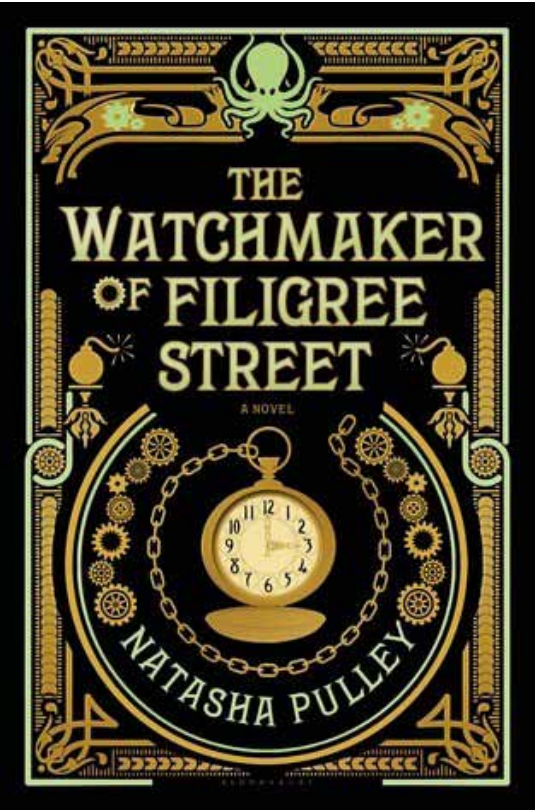
young British clerk, who mysteriously receives a watch that warns him of an impending explosion. Tracing down the watchmaker leads him to Mori, a Japanese watchmaker with a mysterious past who can see the future. Mori predicts Thaniel will meet Grace--an Oxford-trained physicist, who also receives a Mori-made timepiece.

This debut novel by Pulley is wildly inventive and includes many interesting twists and turns that left me wondering where the reader would end up. I also found the characters charming and complex in

their flaws. Throughout the story, the characters’ lives intersect in beautiful but also heartbreaking ways when mistrust, loyalty issues and social mores of the day rise up to complicate matters.

To check out *The Watchmaker*, or browse our extensive fiction collection, please visit the library to apply for your free library card. For further assistance including helping to discover your next great read, please contact the reference staff. •

ES BOOK *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*.





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Smoky Maple Potato Bites

Ingredients

- 2 pounds russet potatoes, washed and cut into 2-inch cubes
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sea salt, plus extra as needed
- 3/4 cup diced leeks, white part only (one medium leek)
- 1/2 cup low-fat plain strained yogurt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons mild smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano
- 3 tablespoons real maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 3 large eggs, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground pepper, plus extra as needed
- 1 1/2 cups panko (regular or gluten-free)
- Olive oil cooking spray

Directions

1. Add potatoes to a large pot of water and bring them to a boil. Cook uncovered at medium-high heat for 15 minutes, or until the potatoes are fork tender. Drain the potatoes and place them in a large bowl.
2. While the potatoes are cooking, heat a large skillet over medium heat. Add the olive oil, leeks and 1/8 teaspoon of the salt. Cook for 4 to 5 minutes, stirring regularly, to soften. Place the cooked leeks in the bowl with the potatoes.
3. Add the yogurt, paprika, oregano, maple syrup, mustard, 1 egg, the pepper, and remaining salt to the bowl with the potatoes and leeks. Mash the potatoes, stirring periodically, until smooth.
4. Place the potato mixture in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
5. Preheat the oven to 425 F.
6. Crack the remaining 2 eggs in a small bowl and whisk.
7. Add the panko to another small bowl. Season with salt and pepper.
8. Make 2-tablespoon portions of the potato mixture and roll them into balls.
9. Working one at a time, dip the balls into the eggs, then dredge in the panko, pressing it to coat.
10. Place the balls on a baking sheet coating with olive oil cooking spray. Spray the tops of the balls with cooking spray as well.
11. Bake for 15 minutes and then, if needed, broil them for 2 to 3 minutes to brown. Serve immediately.

Created Exclusively for Potatoes USA by Katie Cavuto, MS, RD
Yield: 16 servings (2 bites per serving)



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A close-up photograph of a brown tabby cat lying down, looking towards the camera with its mouth slightly open. The cat has distinctive dark stripes on its fur and is resting on a light-colored, textured surface.

Gatito

Gatito is a very sweet tabby boy. He loves to cuddle and receive hugs, kisses and lots of love. Gatito loves humans of all ages, to play with and to receive pets and cuddles. With his very affectionate personality, he would be happy sit on your lap all day given the chance. Gatito has a very playful nature and gets along well with dogs and cats with all ages.

Thor is a handsome boy who is about as chill as they come. He likes to be where the action is, but usually just wants to observe. Although Thor can sometimes be shy, he starts to warm up quickly. He lives with other cats and a dog and gets along fine with everyone, yet doesn't need to be around them all the time. He is also comfortable hanging out on his own. Since he makes friends quickly, Thor would likely do well in a home with another animal, or he could be an only pet with someone who's often home. If you're looking for a sweet and



Mia



Thor

Boomer is a wonderfully sweet and loving young man. His soft orange and buff coat matches his gentle and loving demeanor. He is very kind towards people and other kitties. Boomer is gentle, yet playful, and does well with older cats. He is a real mama's boy and could be yours too! Or he would be happy being a daddy's boy in his forever home with you!

Gale is a very handsome boy. With his coloring, he looks like a Russian Blue. He has a beautiful silver sheen on his dark gray coat and gorgeous green/amber eyes. Gale is a bit shy at first, but once he feels safe he is very sweet, cuddly and loves to play! Gale would do best being adopted with his sister Chinook. They are very bonded to each other and would adjust more quickly to their new forever home if they could remain together.

Chinook is an adorable, sweet, playful and gorgeous little panther! She is shy at first, but once she gets to know you she becomes a playful lap kitty! Chinook is a petite cat and has the most beautiful amber-colored eyes! Chinook would love you to adopt her with her brother Gale. After seeing them cuddle and play together, you'll understand



Splash



Gale

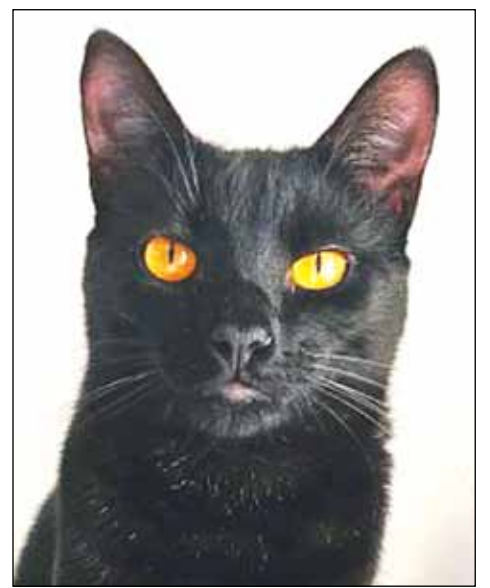
These kitties are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, dewormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see these or our other kittens and cats, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Boulevard, just south of Manchester Avenue, and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Avenue, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location. •

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Boomer



Chinook

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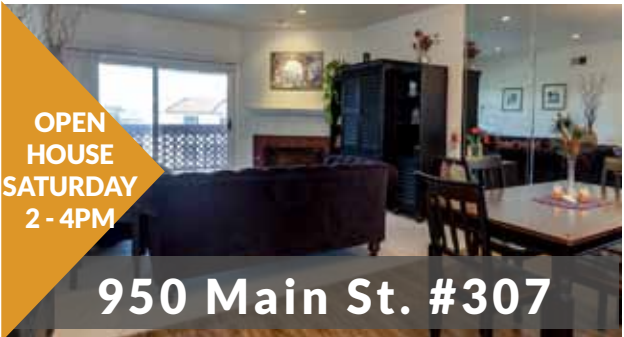


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