

805

LIVING

Let the
Holidays
Shine



Pulse

TRACKING THE BEAT OF THE 805



Enjoy
Chocolate
Peppermint
Shortbread
Cookies from
Fig & Sprig
in Calabasas
throughout
this month.

GET 'EM WHILE THEY LAST

Sweet and spicy peppermint is among the most festive of flavors, and there's no more appropriate time of year to enjoy it. Don't miss out on these local treats available for a limited time.

What: Flødeboller, a Danish confection made of whipped peppermint-flavored marshmallow piled on a circular marzipan base and coated with a thin layer of dark or white chocolate decorated with crushed candy canes or red or green sugar pearls. **Where:** Andersen's Danish Bakery & Restaurant, Santa Barbara, andersenssantabarbara.com **When:** Through January 1

What: White Chocolate and Peppermint Ganache Bonbons, bites of peppermint-infused cream and white

chocolate robed in dark chocolate adorned with colorful cocoa butter transfers of holly leaves and berries. **Where:** Chococats du CaliBressan, Santa Barbara and Carpinteria, chococalibressan.com **When:** Through December 31

What: Poker's Porter Peppermint Bark Beer, a robust porter-style brew with hearty malt and peppermint flavors. **Where:** Poseidon Brewing Co. tasting room, Ventura, poseidonbrewingco.com **When:** While supplies last

What: Chocolate Peppermint Shortbread Cookies, flat rounds of buttery shortbread spiked with cocoa powder and crushed candy canes. **Where:** Fig & Sprig, Calabasas, figandsprig.com **When:** Through December 31

—Nancy Ransohoff



A TASTEFUL GIFT

Celia Chocolatier (celiachocolatier.com) in San Luis Obispo makes and ships gift-worthy packages of European-style chocolates, chocolate bars, toffees, and brittles. Sisters Rhonda and Dinah Nassar launched their decadent enterprise last January to produce the type of sweets they grew up with in Egypt and Lebanon. “We started experimenting with chocolates when we were young,” says Rhonda. Later, the sisters made 600 chocolates for Dinah’s wedding. “We were so stressed,” Rhonda says, “but all our friends and family were so impressed, they urged us to start the business.”

The chocolates feature fresh nuts and fruits rather than concentrates. “It’s all very pure and real,” Rhonda says. Coming soon: A new line of organic varieties. —Jaime Lewis

HOME-FIELD APPVANTAGE

“We know that encouraging women to turn their talents into businesses helps unleash economic potential,” says Lyn Johnson, founder of the Conejo Valley-based company **West Tenth** (wtenth.com), an app she developed to provide free digital storefronts to women who own and operate home-based businesses.

“We are confident that busy households benefit when access to these women-led businesses is made easier,” Johnson says.

“And we believe that figuring out both sides of this digital marketplace will ultimately build a modern Main Street that will provide value to households in the 805, L.A., and beyond.”

Whether the entrepreneur is a baker of designer cookies, a detail-driven event planner, a floral artist, a calligrapher, or a provider of one of myriad other creative home-based services, West Tenth can make her business known via its virtual marketplace. —Leslie Dinaberg



The West Tenth app is an online showcase for the wares of local home-based businesses, like the luxury paper flower designs of Joyful Creative Events & Production in Simi Valley.



GLAM FOR THE HOLIDAYS (OR ANY DAY)

The golden age of Hollywood glamour is alive and well at celebrity-makeup artist Ashley Ann Harris’ new **The Starlet Studio** (thestarletstudio.com) in Westlake Village. Taking inspiration from her grandmother Marilyn L. Riess—a dancer and background actor who appeared in

Showbiz ties run in the family of The Starlet Studio owner Ashley Ann Harris, granddaughter of 1940s-era dancer and background actor Marilyn L. Riess (right).



films starring Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra—Harris says, “The studio was designed to emulate a starlet’s dressing room, but with a modern twist. It is a lush, old Hollywood atmosphere, where you can escape from the everyday and feel like a star with your own personal makeup artist in your private dressing room.”

Harris, who has worked with Brooke Shields, Anna Kendrick, and Hilary Duff, among others, says, “Just like your favorite celebrity getting ready for a red carpet event, you can now enjoy personalized makeup services.” Book early to glam up for the season’s holiday celebrations.

—L.D.