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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 253



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE SUPER TALL ISSUE

CAGE UNLIMITED
SEE PAGE 6

Landmarked tree on the chopping block

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

24th STREET A family is struggling to save a landmarked tree slated for destruction Friday that has stood in place for almost 100 years, but which arborists say is falling apart at the seams.

Faith and Harry Rumack, who own the 100-foot-tall tree, received a notice from Santa Monica Code Compliance Aug. 24 saying that the tree was a danger and must be removed by Sept. 15.

If not, they could be charged between $5,000 and $25,000 a day, according to the notice.

The family was shocked, because they'd always been told that the tree was in good condition, Faith Rumack said.

"Everyone in the neighborhood loves that tree," she said. "Classes come from (Santa Monica College) and UCLA and gather around the tree."

The tree, a eucalyptus deanei, is the largest known specimen. It received landmark status in July 2003.

Bob Hansen, a certified arborist, reviewed the tree for its landmark application. Two books refer to the tree specifically, and it's called "one of the most regal trees in the City of Santa Monica," Hansen wrote.

"Santa Monica is fortunate to have this tree to care for and enjoy," Hansen wrote.

The Rumacks put it up for landmarking

SEE TREE PAGE 10



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ONE LAST SHOT: **Resident Asher Rumack, with his dog Lucy beside him, takes pictures Wednesday of a giant landmarked tree on his family's property that is slated for removal.**

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Samohi, Palisades rekindle classic Westside rivalry

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

PACIFIC PALISADES The time-tested Santa Monica/Palisades football rivalry will be one part familiar and another newly minted this year.

As the two traditional rivals head into Friday's game at Palisades, Santa Monica will be sporting a new look on offense that is substantially different than last year's run-heavy mentality.

For Palisades, they'll stick to more terrestrial endeavors as they line up in the wishbone offense complete with a full backfield and two blocking tight ends.

"You know that they're staying with it," Samohi Head Coach Travis Clark said of the wishbone. "They aren't going to change now, it wouldn't make sense."

As for his offense, Clark denies that the passing game that was so dominant during a 42-21 season-opening win last week over Redondo Union isn't necessarily indicative of how he calls plays.

But, he's quick to rattle off a corps of wide receivers led by USC-commit Sebastian LaRue as reasons why he said calling plays for this year's offense has been the most fun he's had since taking the position four seasons ago.

"We are still tinkering," Clark said. "We're not an all-out passing team. Redondo Union's defense gave us the opportunity to work on the passing game."

That said, even Palisades Head Coach Perry Jones isn't buying it.

He attended last week's Samohi game and couldn't help but wonder how he will stop LaRue and his new running mate Jason King, who together accounted for three touchdowns from the arm of quarterback Ryan Barbarin.

Although Jones did note Samohi's ability to run the ball with backs Will Taylor and Russell Revis, it's the aerial attack that has him game planning on defense.

"They can absolutely take advantage of you with [LaRue]," Jones said. "Their quarterback is good and very accurate. We'll have

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 9

Nonprofit forms to save Brentwood Art Center

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MONTANA AVE Students and supporters of the Brentwood Art Center have come together to form a nonprofit corporation to save the school, which the previous owner planned to close last Friday.

With the ink barely dry on its incorporation paperwork — which was filed Tuesday — Friends of the Brentwood Art Center has already moved to take over the assets of the school from its previous owner, Sarkis Melkonian, and is working on assuming the lease for the building at 13031 Montana Ave.

The move was in reaction to a sudden e-mail sent by Melkonian at 1 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 26 announcing to the center's staff and students that the center would be closing, and moving up a student art show by several weeks.

It came out of the blue to many, including the owners of the building, Ed and Linda Buttwinick, who founded the school in 1971 before selling it to Melkonian in 2005.

A group of students and others met at

SEE CENTER PAGE 9

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012

A night out in style
Santa Monica Place and Main Street
Times vary
Join fashionistas from across the globe as they flock to shops in celebration of the fourth annual Fashion's Night Out. Main Street, the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place will be taking part complete with discounts, cocktails and free gifts. For more information, visit fashionsnightout.com.

Coasting
Santa Monica Pier
7 p.m.
Indie darlings Best Coast will close this year's Twilight Concert Series with a free show on the deck of the pier. For more information, visit www.twilightdance.org.

Mega music
Various Santa Monica venues
Times vary
Innovative American composer John Cage will be the focus of this four-day celebration of his music. Cage 100 spreads concerts out to various venues across Santa Monica with a host of musicians performing. There will also be celebrations across the country. The Santa Monica portion wraps up on Sept. 9. For more information, visit jacarandamusic.org

For students
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
The library will open its doors for the Back-to-School Fair. The fair will feature carnival games and information on how to access the library's resources. The event is intended for grades K-5. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

Opening day for Dems
Third Street Promenade
1408 Third St., 12 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Come watch the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club cut the ribbon on its new headquarters. There will be dignitaries including Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Santa Monica) and Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, with a viewing party for President Barack Obama's speech at the Democratic National Convention to cap off the night. For more information, call (310) 395-0155.

Friday, Sept. 7, 2012

Friday night lights
Palisades High School
15777 Bowdoin St., 7 p.m.
Santa Monica High School football visits longtime rival Palisades in what has become a classic Westside matchup. Samohi won last year's meeting, 33-15.

Extended play
Ruskin Group Theatre
3000 Airport Ave., 8 p.m.
The run of "Sideways the Play" has been extended through Sept. 22 due to public demand. The play is based on the book and movie of the same name. It's the story of two friends — Miles and Jack — and their journey across the Santa Ynez wine country. On one last blowout trip before Jack gets married, Miles and Jack must face their uncertain futures, just as soon as they figure out how to survive their chaotic present. For more information, visit ruskingrouptheatre.com.

Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012

Pong is on
Third Street Promenade
1300 block, 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Test your skill with a paddle as you take on all comers during this one-day ping-pong extravaganza. There will even be give-aways. For more information, call (310) 775-0287.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



CORRECTION

In the news brief "Running for schools," which appeared in the Sept. 5 edition of the Daily Press, it should have said that those who register to race in the Santa Monica 5000 can donate a portion of that registration fee to any athletics program in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.



Photo courtesy Santa Monica Pier

BEST COAST

Coast to coast

Pop duo Best Coast reminds us why the west is the best

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER Bobb Bruno remembers coming to Santa Monica with his uncle when he was a kid. They would board a hot, uncomfortable bus at MacArthur Park and ride it to the Santa Monica Pier, where they could walk around, hang out on the beach or hit up the arcade.

"It was a really long bus ride," Bruno recalled.

When Bruno makes his next visit to the pier, he won't have to take the bus unless he's looking for a spoonful of painful nostalgia.

Bruno constitutes one half of the hit L.A. band Best Coast, a musical partnership with songstress and guitar-player Bethany Cosentino which will be performing on the pier today.

The pair will be taking the stage alongside the band NO for the last installment of the Twilight Concert Series, free musical shows that span 10 weeks and an eclectic spread of musical genres and styles to the delight of crowds on the pier and sand.

When we caught up with Bruno, he'd just dared the Swedish meatball-scented maze known as Ikea and a trip to the grocery store to restock his refrigerator after a three-week U.S. tour followed by another seven days country-hopping in Europe.

The band has been promoting its new album, "The Only Place," which dropped May 15 and includes a song by the same title that's all bubblegum melodies about the superiority of Southern California over … practically anywhere.

The song, like much of the band's music, finds its inspiration in Bruno and Cosentino's experiences growing up in Los Angeles and a brief trial separation that led Cosentino running back to the land of flip flops and relaxed attitudes.

As a young rebel, Cosentino — who writes the lyrics for all of Best Coast's songs — fled L.A.'s imported palm trees for the glamour and sophistication promised by

SEE **CONCERT** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Endorsements trickle in for council and Assembly races

Slow-growth group Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City announced Wednesday that it would endorse planning commissioners Ted Winterer and Richard McKinnon for seats on the City Council.

The two won approval from SMCLC because of their track record of opposing commercial over-development while on the Planning Commission, said Diana Gordon, co-chair of SMCLC.

"This is a watershed election for Santa Monica with two [council incumbents not running for re-election] and way too much development going on all over our city," Gordon said.

SMCLC chose not to endorse for the other two contested seats in the election, although Gordon would not elaborate on why.

There are 15 people running for four open City Council seats in the November election.

Assemblywoman Betsy Butler (D-53) also made an endorsement announcement Wednesday.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl threw his support behind Butler, who is running against Mayor Richard Bloom for the newly-formed 50th Assembly District.

"Betsy Butler is an effective champion for jobs and working families, a long-time environmental leader and a tireless advocate for the quality of life that has made our Westside communities so special," Rosendahl said.

– ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

U.S. court denies L.A.'s bid to take Skid Row property

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The city of Los Angeles cannot seize property left temporarily unattended on sidewalks by Skid Row's homeless residents, a federal appeals court panel ruled Wednesday in denying an appeal by the city.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S.

SEE **PROPERTY** PAGE 11



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Who's responsible?

Editor:

Your otherwise comprehensive article about Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights' rise to power and total control of our city government and city missed something very important ("Santa Monica: Where tenants rule," Sept. 3).

SMRR is completely responsible for all of the commercial and residential over-development in Santa Monica, along with all of the increased traffic and other traffic flow problems.

Walter Greenberg
Santa Monica

An easy fix

Editor:

The City Council claims it needs to impose another fee on Santa Monica businesses in order to improve traffic ("Businesses howl over new transportation fee," Aug. 29). Our anti-business City Council can easily fix the traffic congestion it created by restoring all the traffic lanes it has removed over the years, and do away with bus-only lanes and bike lanes.

Robert C. Luther
Santa Monica





Your column here



Laura Matthews — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Saving the world by going to Washington

It's not every day that a normal citizen gets to frequent the corridors of power on Capitol Hill, so when the opportunity arose to do so for a cause I'm passionate about, I leapt at it.

Climate change has been the focus of my political energy ever since I started researching it in depth for a science fiction novel I'm writing. The trouble was, everything I tried to put in this supposedly futuristic book — mass migration, regional conflict, food shortages, unbearable heat — was happening already and much faster than even the climate scientists had predicted. It became clear that I'd need to take my climate concern out of the realm of fiction and deal with it in reality, as soon as possible.

I looked for ways to become active and did my fair share of marching against coal refineries and tar sands. These efforts are essential for sparking grassroots efforts for change. I wanted to make a bigger dent in the issue, however, time is clearly running out. So when I heard about Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) through my connections on Twitter, I signed right up.

CCL takes the issue right to the principal decision makers — the United States Congress. At a conference in July, 174 CCL members from 60 chapters around the U.S. and Canada converged on Washington to make the case for fee-and-dividend legislation that would price carbon according to the damage it's doing to our environment, our health and our climate. The fee would be attached to carbon at its source, be it coal, oil, gas — all fossil fuels — which would reflect the external costs these commodities have on the larger society. The funds collected would be returned to the American people in the form of a rebate or "dividend" check each year.

This program has the approval of top economists, both Republican and Democrat, as a way to let the marketplace decide which kind of energy is the most cost-effective. If carbon producers have to bear the costs of the damage that carbon does, renewables such as solar and wind would become increasingly attractive and investment money would flow in that direction.

My meetings on the Hill taught me a great deal. Fellow CCL volunteers and I had over 300 meetings in all, and we left information about our legislation with every senator and representative in Congress. Both the Republicans and Democrats I met with showed deep concern for doing the right thing. True, there were widely different perspectives on what the right thing is, but we found that if we listened and addressed the stated concerns without finger pointing, we could have a thoughtful conversation and, at times, a surprising meeting of minds. (Voters need to be sure, though, to keep strong proponents of climate responsibility in office, such as Congressman Henry Waxman, a long-time champion on this issue.)

I talked with one representative's aide from Illinois, my home state, whose district holds both coal mines and corn farmers. The coal mines represent long-standing jobs and a vital (to their area) industry, while the corn is at issue due to this summer's devastating drought — caused in part by climate change, which is accelerated by burning the coal. This conversation opened my eyes to the complexities inherent in any change we might recommend. As we embrace renewables, we have to be certain we don't leave behind those whose livelihoods have depended on fossil fuels. Encouraging new green jobs to focus on these areas is one solution that must be pursued.

Health issues are another concern renewables can mitigate. The recent Chevron refinery fire up north in Richmond, Calif. (across the bay from San Francisco) sent thousands of people to the hospital with respiratory complaints. Direct health problems from mining and refineries are only a fraction of further effects due to environmental degradation, increased heat, and tainted food or water supplies. None of these problems are associated with solar or wind renewable energy.

A third compelling rationale for developing renewable energy technology is that other countries are doing it aggressively. One spring day this May, solar power generated 40 percent of the electricity needs of, not Tahiti or Bali, but Germany. China, which most of us think of as a coal-refinery culprit, is developing its renewables just as fast, if not faster. The cheapest solar cells at the moment are coming out of China. If the United States continues to stall on this issue, we're not just missing an opportunity for our own advancement, but are also allowing international competitors to draw ahead of us.

But to me, the most compelling reason to make the shift to renewables is the promise of unlimited, abundant energy literally pouring out of the sky. If you're like me, you grew up having to turn off lights whenever you left a room. But what if energy were cheap and abundant? What if you never had to worry about wasting energy since it came straight from a panel on your roof basking in the sun? Think of the innovation and wealth we could create if energy costs were no longer a concern. Think of how far we could travel, how swiftly we could communicate, how much we could learn. Paul Gilding writes in his seminal book, "The Great Disruption," "We think we live in scarcity and as a result often act from a place of fear. The truth is very different. We live on an abundant planet and our future progress is now only constrained by our thinking."

True, there is the need to ramp up. We have to commit, as a society, to this new vision, and make it happen with strength of will and determination. There will be costs associated with the new technology, and indeed, we'll have to keep burning fossil fuels to make enough solar panels and windmills to replace the coal and oil. But the sooner we do it the better.

That's the vision that got me to Washington. Not thinking we need to make do with less, but the real possibility of having much, much more. At the end of the day, climate change may turn out to be the invitation we've needed to reframe our society as one of abundance rather than scarcity. And who doesn't want that?

LAURA MATTHEWS is a Santa Monica resident and volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby. Learn more at www.citizensclimatelobby.org or e-mail her at CCL-Laura@Laura-Matthews.com.

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Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Should I stay or should I go?

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

I feel desperate for some help. My relationship is in constant chaos. I find myself coming into it and then wanting to back off or simply quit it. My partner is a very moody person and it feels like I am constantly being tested. I love her and when things are good, I feel very close to her, but she always seems to want to pick fights with me. I don't think she is very happy, but she doesn't think she needs help and if I suggest that perhaps she would benefit from counseling or medication, she becomes enraged.

I do think that she is depressed because she is very negative, frequently cries for no apparent reason and she suffers from insomnia. I am just not sure what to do about it. Unfortunately, I am close to ending the relationship. We have been together for several years, but the past few months I feel on the verge of walking away more often than not.

Signed,
Desperate

DEAR DESPERATE,

I am sorry to hear that things are so bad for you and it sounds like for her too. Clearly there are feelings of helplessness and none of us like feeling this way.

Depression is a serious problem and if it's significant enough causes very real suffering for the afflicted person and for those that are close to them. The symptoms you describe are some of the symptoms of depression. Problem falling asleep, lack of appetite and sex drive, low energy levels, moody and negative thoughts including thoughts of suicide are the indicators for serious depression. Some depressed people become slow and lethargic, while others can become quite agitated and irritable. I obviously cannot diagnose your girlfriend, but if she is depressed she may be pulling you down with her and if she won't get help then you are not only feeling helpless, you are helpless.

Sometimes the best first step is to accept our helplessness and, in doing so, begin looking for better ways to take care of ourselves. This may seem like giving up, but actually if we are truly powerless over a situation such as this, it is actually an act of courage and strength. It means that you are facing reality and from doing this you become more responsible to yourself and actually get some of your strength back. You will become much more objective in terms of what to do and, more importantly, you will not be pulled down with her.

If you want to still think of her, and not feel as if you are being selfish, then seriously consider what good you will be not only to yourself, but also to her and your relationship if you go down with her. I will tell you if you don't already know, you will be useless to her and the relationship and obviously no good to yourself if you do not do this.

Accepting your powerlessness, in situations where you are truly helpless and cannot fix the problem by yourself, is not only a big step, it is the best first step you can take. From doing this, you will begin to get your strength and objectivity back, as I already mentioned. I realize that this seems ironic, but it really does put you in a far better place for knowing what to do.

It seems strange that doing what feels so selfish or like giving up is really taking on responsibility for the situation the way it really is. I can promise you that albeit hard to do, this letting go will lead you to your answer.

Also, there is no telling what you may have been doing to perpetuate the problem. Often referred to as co-dependency, when we cooperate with another in unhealthy ways in order to preserve or maintain the relationship, it is actually the worst thing for it and for us.

Backing off allows her to begin to see what is going on with her and what she may need to do. If you are trying to reason with her or if you end up fighting with her, there is no chance of either one of you seeing things clearly because you are really just distracting yourselves. And it is a distraction that keeps you in the chaos and drama of your unhealthy relationship. It is no good for either of you.

Simple, but not easy, work at letting go of this drama and start focusing on taking care of yourself. Step back and the answers will come to you. Do yourself and her the favor of allowing some space, quiet and light to come into your otherwise chaotic relationship.

DR. JOANNE BARGE is a licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Visit her at www.drbarge.com or please send your anonymous questions to newshrink@gmail.com. Got something on your mind? Let us help you with your life matters – because it does!

The Q Line

Paying to play

The City Council asked planners to take a look at a new fee intended to make getting around Santa Monica easier, but some say it's particularly hard on small businesses.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think it's fair for City Hall to ask for more to fund transportation projects even if it makes doing business in the city that much more expensive?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.
You can also call **310-573-8354**.

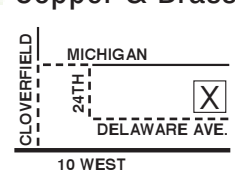

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Proceeds from this scramble format tournament benefit the Santa Monica Firefighter Relief Fund, which supports charities at the local and national levels, as well as families in need.

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Culture Watch
Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Celebrating Cage's contributions

PICTURE THIS. IT'S 1931 AND YOU'RE A Santa Monica housewife. A slender young man, going house to house, knocks on your door and invites you to attend his lectures on modern music and painting. He tells you that he charges $2.50 for a series of 10, and he gives these lectures in a large room above the garages in the auto court (motel-style dwelling) where he does gardening in exchange for his rent. Later he will deliver lectures in a more upscale environment, the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club.

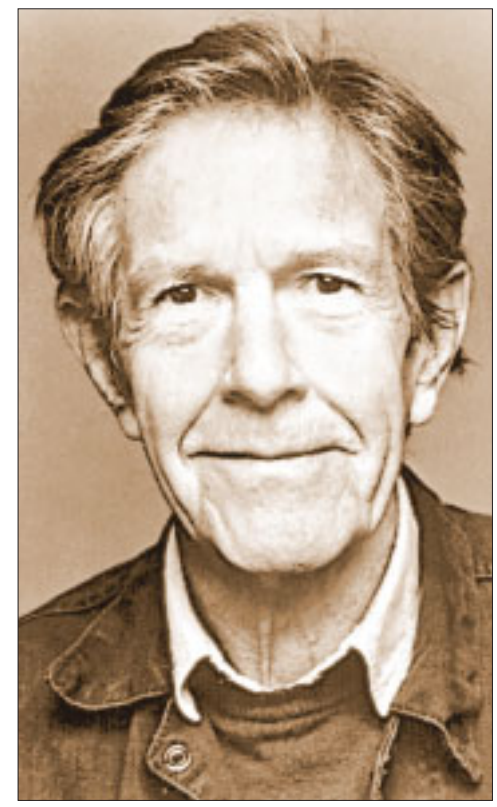
According to a recording made as an experimental album of short stories and random sounds called "Indeterminacy" he says, "I will learn each week something about the subject that I will then lecture on."

The young man is 19 years old, he's a recent graduate of Los Angeles High School, where he was class valedictorian, but he's on a search for what to do with his life.

After dropping out of a two-year stint at Pomona College, and traveling throughout Europe studying architecture, writing poetry and beginning to compose music, he returns to the U.S. and moves to Santa Monica, perhaps attracted to it because as a child he lived for awhile in Ocean Park.

The young man's name is John Cage and he will turn out to be one of the most iconoclastic musical creators and thinkers of the 20th century.

You're one lucky housewife. And Santa Monica can claim some bragging rights to its part in his legacy.



JOHN CAGE

Although he came to be associated with New York's avant-garde art scene and his long-time relationship with life partner, choreographer/dancer Merce Cunningham, John Cage's public career was launched in November, 1932 at the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club, in a concert with singer Harry Hay performing four of Cage's early compositions.

Cage would have turned 100 years old this week (he died in 1992), and his centennial anniversary has been celebrated with many events all across the globe.

Here in Santa Monica, the Cultural Affairs Division has joined forces with top-flight concert producers Jacaranda ("music at the edge") to create a four-day, four-concert series, CAGE 100 Festival, including two free concerts at Miles Playhouse and Annenberg Community Beach House.

CAGE 100 begins tonight at 8 p.m. with "Cage & Friends," at Jacaranda's home base, the beautiful contemporary chapel at Santa Monica's First Presbyterian Church. It's a stunning setting for the piano and percussion works that are on the bill.

The friends are composers Lou Harrison, Henry Cowell (an early mentor to Cage), Conlon Nancarrow (who wrote for player piano) and James Tenney, and their music will be featured alongside Cage's own "String Quartet in Four Parts," and excerpts from "Some of the Harmony of Maine," for organ with six assistants on organ stops. Admission is $25.

Jacaranda, true to its mission, is going to the edge with this festival. When in Europe, Cage met the "velvet gentleman," composer Erik Satie, who was a lifelong source of inspiration to him.

Friday night, beginning at 7 p.m. at Miles Playhouse (at Christine Emerson Reed Park), a 24-hour piano marathon will unfold, featuring 32 pianists performing Satie's "Vexations" — a single page of music repeated 840 times.

"This amazingly hypnotic experience will be created by 32 artists from some of the premiere performing arts organizations and finest academic institutions across Southern California," says Jacaranda Music Director James Alan Hilt, who will also perform as final pianist on the "Vexations" lineup.

"Vexations" will be performed in 45-minute intervals and the audience is free to come and go during the marathon. Free admission to this historic event. Bring cushions!

Cage was as much an experimenter in sound and noise as he was a composer and performer. As a dance accompanist at UCLA, he had only a piano to rely on, but he wanted to further explore percussion, which had begun to capture his interest. So he created a "prepared piano," in which he inserted objects between the strings of the piano to change not only its tuning, but its entire sound.

On Saturday night at 8 p.m., returning to the scene of his career launch at the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club, the first performance of Cage's composition "The Ten Thousand Things" features prepared piano utilizing screws, washers, bits of plastic and pieces of rubber. These five solo works (1954-56) are known by the length of time each takes to be performed simultaneously by speaker John Schneider, double bassist Tom Peters, and Vicki Ray and Aron Kallay on prepared pianos.

Also performed on prepared piano is Cage's "Perilous Night," after which the audience has a chance to watch as Kallay prepares the piano for "The Ten Thousand Things."

Opening the evening will be Eric Smigel, whose expertise is maverick American composers, amongst whom Cage stands tall. He'll share Cage's connections to Santa Monica and explain his significance in the history of contemporary music making. Tickets are $25.

And to conclude the series, another free concert takes place at Annenberg Community Beach House, beginning at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. "Classic Cage" features Manhattan-based pianist Adam Tendler,

SEE WATCH PAGE 7

Can 'FarmVille 2' save a struggling Zynga?

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Not long ago, online games company Zynga looked on pace to unseat much bigger, well-established rivals as it rode the popularity of "FarmVille," the clicking game of virtual cows and real money.

But the iPad came along, and more people bought smartphones. People weren't playing Zynga's games on Facebook and computers as much as they used to. Zynga's revenue growth slowed down, and its stock price fell sharply, even as it released dozens of new games.

Now, the out-of-luck game maker is turning to a "FarmVille" sequel for a revival.

A lot is riding on "FarmVille 2," which Zynga Inc. released on Wednesday.

It's a total makeover for the simplistic, addictive, but oft-derided online diversion. It now has lush 3-D graphics instead of the old two-dimensional figures.

The game itself has added another dimension, too. Players can now interact with cute cartoon animals instead of simply "harvesting" them with endless clicks to obtain coins, as in the original "FarmVille." There's more collaboration than competition among farmers, something Zynga said its players have asked for. Instead of getting players to complete chores, it tries to lull them into an old-timey comfort zone.

"You are trying to bring an old family farm back into glory," said Wright Bagwell, director of design at "FarmVille 2."

Rather than make it frantic and stressful like many of today's shooter video games, the creators are hoping to evoke relaxation and nostalgia. The soundtrack consists almost solely of nature sounds.

"FarmVille" became a household name when it launched in 2009 and helped propel Zynga to the forefront of Facebook game makers. But investors are now questioning the company's long-term viability. Its stock is down some 70 percent since its December initial public offering.

"People often refer to Zynga as the 'FarmVille company.' This will be a key test to them," Baird analyst Colin Sebastian said. "They need another breakout hit."

But a lot has changed since 2009. The first iPad didn't launch until 2010, and smartphones were not as ubiquitous as they are today. In 2011, the first year the Pew Internet & American Life Project started tracking such data, 35 percent of Americans owned a smartphone. That has gone up to 46 percent.

Zynga faces some of the same challenges in the mobile world as Facebook, where most people play Zynga's games.

Computers reigned when both companies were created, but people are now migrating to smartphones and tablet computers in droves. While Zynga has some popular mobile games, it makes most of its money through Facebook Inc.'s website. Zynga has yet to prove it can reap the same revenue from iPhone and Android games.

How quickly things can change is underscored by the free-fall in Zynga's stock price since the spring, when it was trading above $14, higher than its IPO price of $10. On Wednesday, the stock closed at $2.92, just 26 cents above its all-time low of $2.66. Investors who own Zynga stock have sold it off in droves, spooked by declining user numbers and a worry that Facebook games were just a fad, with people moving on to playing on their iPhones and Android phones instead.

Soon after its launch, "FarmVille" became synonymous with online time-wasting. It spawned a generation of players — from teens to grandmothers — who zone out in front of their computers as they plant and harvest virtual crops and decorate fantasy farms with everything from gnomes to pink, sparkly fairy wing trees. The number of people who play "FarmVille" each month peaked in January with 34 million people, according to estimates from research firm AppData. As of this week, that number has dropped to about 18 million.

One person who's stuck around is Denise Lambert, executive director for a charity in Toronto. She has been playing for the better part of three years. She recently tried out "FarmVille 2" after getting early access to the game from Zynga.

"I loved it," she said. "I just think it's overdue. It is going to offer a gaming aspect that no other social game has right now. It's much smoother, everything is more vibrant."

WATCH
FROM PAGE 6

who will end the festival with an hour-long performance from memory of the complete 20-piece "Sonatas & Interludes" (1948) for prepared piano. Tendler has performed this piece, which is also cited as a masterpiece, in 12 states.

For more information and to purchase tickets to Jacaranda music's CAGE 100 Festival, go to jacarandamusic.org. You'll also find information on Jacaranda's 2012-13 season, featuring another centenary celebration of composer Benjamin Britten, including his chamber opera, "Curlew River." For a full season schedule and tickets, visit jacarandamusic.org.

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She reviews theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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Created and produced by MZA Events. AIDS Walk Founder/Producer: Craig R. Miller. © MZA Events, 2012



Paul Alvarez Jr. *news@smdp.com*

ON HIS WAY: **Matt Rusk-Kosa leaps over a defender after intercepting the ball, eventually running it back for a touchdown last week against Redondo Union at Santa Monica College.**

SAMOHI

FROM PAGE 1

our hands full."

Palisades' running strategy is exactly what makes what appears to be a mismatch more complicated than that.

Clark believes that if Palisades can control the clock and put a few points on the board it would force his hand on offense to call an unbalanced number of passing plays. While he realizes this is his team's strength, he would rather do it on his terms.

"I have to stress discipline on defense," Clark said. "It's not a secret, you have to stop the dive. That's the first thing you have to do. "You don't want those [offensive lineman] getting through to your linebackers. That's what they want."

To avoid Palisades blockers reaching the second level of the defense Clark would rather force the Dolphins to pitch the ball, a maneuver more fraught with peril than just simple hand-offs up the middle.

"I'm telling my [defensive line] to keep those lineman off our linebackers," he said. "If we can do that and play smash-mouth football on the quarterback, you force the ball carrier to make a play."

The task of attacking Palisades' ground-and-pound style, led by running backs Justin Sinclair and Chris Wilkins, won't be easy, Clark believes, but he's confident in his front seven's ability to stuff the run.

The added element to Friday's game is the long-standing rivalry between the two schools.

The rivalry stretches back decades, having once been dubbed the Rotary Bowl. The game has lost that title, but none of the importance to both communities.

"You can never measure the heart of a rival," Clark said. "The intensity level goes up. Anything can happen."

The game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday at Pali.

daniela@smdp.com

CENTER

FROM PAGE 1

the home of Don and Patti Burris on Sunday to form a plan, agreed to the nonprofit model and got to work.

It was imperative to move quickly in order to retain the faculty and make the transition as painless as possible for students and the community, said Lloyd Bookman, the attorney that filed the incorporation papers and whose wife has taken lessons at the center for 15 years.

Bookman was one of a team of 11 students and supporters who sent a letter to the Brentwood Art Center community assuring them that the school would stay open and soliciting donations to help with the cause.

So far, despite the fact that the nonprofit has not yet received its tax-exempt status, generous donors have stepped forward to help the school. The status is retroactive, so those donations will be deductible when the Internal Revenue Service confirms it.

"Our goals are to do it properly from a solid financial and operational foundation," Bookman said.

Reforming the school as a nonprofit rather than a traditional business will give it advantages in that it can go out for grants and accept donations on top of tuition fees.

In the past, the school needed a baseline of students to break even. Enrollment dropped off as a result of the economic downturn and "other issues," Bookman said, which forced Melkonian to close.

Melkonian has blamed the drop off of enrollment on uncertainty caused by the landlords when they went to get a zoning variance for the property which, if approved, would allow it to become an office building.

David Greensfelder, who spoke for the Buttwinicks last week, described the zoning variance as a backup for the retired couple in case the school chose not to renew its lease.

Although nothing has yet become formal, the group is confident that it can retain the lease and even hopes to involve the Buttwinicks in the new program, said Don Burris. Burris' wife is a teacher at the school.

Now, Friends of the Brentwood Art Center will work to get money together fast enough to open the school as close to Sept. 17, when it would have been open under normal circumstances, as possible.

"It will be open for the new session," Bookman said. "I don't know if we'll be ready on the 17th — that's a very ambitious time frame — but we will open as quickly as possible."

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A Roundabout Way Of Thinking

Drivers in Santa Monica might have noticed some recent changes to many intersections around town that have people wondering if they are headed down the Champs Elysees towards the Arch de Triumph or perhaps lost on an English country road. The roundabout intersection has made a roundabout trip across the world to Santa Monica with the hopes of easing traffic congestion and making the roads safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. Drivers here in Santa Monica must be aware of the traffic rules and regulations that govern roundabout driving so that motorists are not stranded like foreigners in a foreign land. Here are some basic rules and explanations about roundabouts that will hopefully help you on your way around town.

The basic definition of a roundabout is a circular junction in which road traffic must travel in one direction around a central island. Roundabouts increase safety in the community by requiring drivers to both decrease their speeds and in turn increase their awareness upon entering the intersection. Roundabouts also increase a neighborhood's aesthetic appeal by creating charming and unique architectural designs. Neatly landscaped circles or placement of a statue, monument, or flagpole give roundabouts a homely and suburban feel despite their very urban purpose. Pedestrians are often prohibited or discouraged from entering the center circle of a roundabout, but pedestrians and drivers can nonetheless enjoy the visual charisma that the intersection adds to a community. Roundabouts facilitate motorists, bicyclists, runners, and dog-walkers in an efficient and competent manner.

Roundabouts have some negative drawbacks as well. Larger vehicles and trucks may find it difficult to navigate through narrow roundabouts that are not built to handle such vehicles. The recent implementation of roundabouts in Santa Monica has also caused some backup and unwanted traffic delays at roundabouts where drivers are not familiar with the traffic laws and traffic flow. On the same note, there is a greater risk of traffic collisions and accidents from drivers who are simply not paying attention to their surroundings. Roundabouts require far greater concentration and awareness than do conventional squared intersections.

Upon entering a roundabout, drivers should first notice a sign or traffic indicator alerting the driver to slow down and prepare to yield. A painted dashed line will also alert drivers that they are entering a roundabout intersection. Unless otherwise indicated, drivers do not have to come to a complete stop; however, the situation may require a complete stop depending on traffic conditions at the time. Remember, pedestrians always have the right of way! So, if you see a bicyclist, jogger, or walker you must stop in order to allow that person safe passage. If there are no other cars in the roundabout and no pedestrians, the driver can then safely enter the roundabout. Most Santa Monica roundabouts are one-way, meaning a driver can only make a right turn to enter the roundabout and a right turn to exit the roundabout.

A driver that is already in the roundabout has the right of way over a driver that is entering the roundabout. Thus, if you are the car that is approaching the roundabout and slowing down getting ready to turn into the roundabout, do not expect another car that is already in the roundabout to stop or slow to let you in! This area tends to be one of the most confusing aspects of roundabouts, but if you remember that the car already in the roundabout has the right of way…you should be alright. Regardless of who has the right of way, drivers should nonetheless always remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings to prevent any kind of accident. Keep a slow to moderate speed while circling depending on the traffic at the time. Also, it is very important that drivers remember to use their turn signals. Turn signals alert circling drivers inside the roundabout and allow other drivers to adjust speeds based on turns. Moreover, a turn signal also notifies drivers waiting to enter the roundabout that the path is clear for them to safely make the maneuver.

Avoid unnecessary traffic citations, accidents, and congestion by following these simple roundabout rules. Remember to be aware, vigilant, and attentive to your surroundings at all time. Adjust to a roundabout way of thinking and enjoy the ride around town!

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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4:00-5:00pm (By appointment only) Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injuries cases with Attorney and Legal Grind founder Jeffrey J. Hughes

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

WAY UP THERE: **A large tree on 24th Street has been deemed unsafe by city officials.**

TREE

FROM PAGE 1

to protect the tree in case future neighbors wanted to do construction on the property next door that threatened the tree or its root system, which stretches far from the Rumacks' property, said Walt Warriner, the Santa Monica Community Forester.

Warriner participated in that hearing, and signed off on the tree's bill of health.

He wouldn't do the same today.

"If someone came to me now and asked to landmark the tree, it wouldn't qualify for landmark status," Warriner said.

The trouble with the tree began in July when three branches fell off within two weeks, and neighbors who share a property line with the Rumacks called the office for help.

At first, it looked like a fairly typical case. Tree limbs become more fragile in summer months when it's hot outside and there's less moisture present in the tree, Warriner said.

The second fallen limb, however, showed signs of what Warriner called "decay fungi."

"At that point, I was just going to suggest they prune it and cut the whole remaining limb off to get rid of the decay," Warriner said.

When the third limb fell, however, evidence of the fungi was marked.

Warriner called in Lisa Smith, a registered consulting arborist, to come give a second opinion on the tree.

Smith was hoisted into the tree to get a good look at the top and reported that the extent of the damage caused by decay was extensive, Warriner said.

Given that the third ex-limb weighed approximately 2,000 pounds, leaving the tree intact was more of a danger than Warriner could condone.

"I don't like saying that a tree needs to be removed. It's one of my least favorite things to do," Warriner said. "My very least favorite thing to do is to have a limb fall on a car, or fall off on a house or go to the hospital because someone was hurt when a tree fell because I knew better."

Warriner believes the problem can be explained by a bad pruning practice called a "stub cut," or when a branch is cut off at a point where the tree cannot handle the wound appropriately.

Fungi get in, feed on the wood and the tree doesn't have the ability to wall it off.

Over time, the tree grows back out and produces new tissue and new wood that covers up the inner problem. It turns the tree into a Twinkie, Warriner said.

"It looks good on the outside, but it's mushy in the inside," he said.

Faith Rumack remains concerned that a procedure six or seven years ago in which some roots of the tree were cut is to blame for its weakened condition.

She and her husband have been working to get a third arborist to come out and evaluate the tree before Friday, when she has a company lined up to begin the multi-day process of removing the tree.

"We're doing all we can, exploring all of the possibilities to make sure we're doing the right thing," Faith Rumack said. "We're working at this day and night."

It appears that the Landmarks Commission can't intervene on behalf of the tree and, in fact, wasn't informed of its imminent demise.

Public safety concerns override landmarking considerations, said Scott Albright, a planner with City Hall and liaison to the Landmarks Commission.

ashley@smdp.com

CONCERT
FROM PAGE 3

New York. Instead, she was met with cold weather and colder people.

And just try finding good Mexican food.

"It's pretty dire out there," Bruno said.

Bruno and Cosentino recorded their first album, "Crazy for You," in 2010. Although ultimately successful, they turned it out quickly, and its low-fidelity sound left something to be desired for Bruno, who single-handedly creates and lays down the musical backdrop to Cosentino's venturing vocals.

This time around, the pair was joined by star producer Jon Brion and they recorded in the famous Capitol Records studio.

For the most part, the basic process remained the same from the first to the second album. Although Bruno and Cosentino live maybe five minutes from one another, they create their music working on their own respective pieces from home and keeping in touch via the Internet.

Cosentino drafts the basic song form with guitar and vocals and sends it to Bruno, who fleshes it out with drum, bass and other layered instrumentation.

They then meet in the studio with their producer to iron out the kinks and get Brion's input.

"It's nice to work at your own pace and get time to flesh things out before presenting them," Bruno said.

When the pair stepped back from the studio, they'd created "The Only Place." It's more serious than their debut, and throws the spotlight on Cosentino's voice in a way that the previous album did not.

Fans that come to the show can expect a heavy dose of both records, Bruno said.

The pair is already talking about their next album, which will emerge as Cosentino continues writing. In the meantime, Bruno plans to focus on the poppy Best Coast project as well as some electronic solo work.

Although Best Coast has been keeping busy up through their Santa Monica concert date, Bruno is looking forward to taking the stage on his home turf.

"I'm really excited any time we get to play a show around L.A., especially a free one," Bruno said. "You're playing your home, the places you used to go when you're a kid, and now you're playing a concert there."

PROPERTY
FROM PAGE 3

Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court decision that found the city's confiscation of homeless people's bundles violated their Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable seizure.

One of the three judges dissented, agreeing with the city that unattended personal property can be seized in the public interest of health and safety.

Chief Deputy City Attorney William Carter said the office would evaluate whether to continue the appeal by requesting a review by the full appellate court, but noted the city is complying with an injunction issued by U.S. District Court Judge Philip Gutierrez in June 2011.

Under that ruling, the city must store items taken from sidewalks for up to 90 days and leave a notice directing property owners to the storage site so they can retrieve them. The city is permitted to discard hazardous items and trash.

"The city will clean its streets and maintain its public safety," Carter said. "The city is obligated to do that by the health department."

Property seizures have long been an issue in Skid Row, which houses the nation's densest concentration of homeless people, and other areas frequented by transients.

City officials maintain that the possessions, which can resemble abandoned junk, pose a health and safety hazard, and violate a city ordinance against leaving property in the public right of way. But eight homeless people sued the city last year, saying the property seizures were unreasonable.

They said they left their bundles for as little as 10 minutes so they could attend to personal errands, such as taking a shower or eating a meal at a nearby mission. And when they returned, their belongings were gone.

The plaintiffs said they lost valuable documents and medications, as well as personal items such as family photos.

After last year's court ruling, some homeless people started using sidewalks as storage for piles of bulky items, such as furniture. The court said sidewalks cannot be used to permanently store items or to abandon items.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE • SANTA MONICA, CA • 310-656-2875

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 69.1°

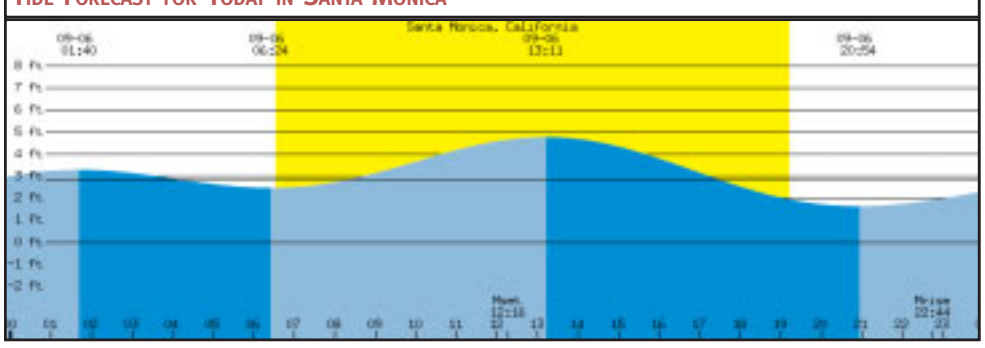
Swell Forecast

Should run waist high at south facing breaks. West facing breaks should run knee to waist.

Long Range Synopsis

Looking to run waist high at south facing breaks. West facing breaks should run knee to waist.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **August 29, 2012**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 10

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SBBA

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card™ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

Gadget makers jockey for edge in holiday lineups

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Think of it as the opening act at a concert: Nokia, Motorola and Amazon are unveiling new mobile devices this week before attention turns to a new iPhone and possibly a smaller iPad from Apple.

Makers of consumer electronics are refreshing their products for the holiday shopping season. Apple's rivals are hoping that a head start on the buzz will translate into stronger sales. Nokia and Microsoft, in particular, are trying to generate interest in a new Windows operating system out next month.

Apple dominates the market for tablet computers. Seven out of every 10 tablets shipped in the second quarter were iPads, according to research firm IHS iSuppli. Rivals have been trying to compete with smaller, cheaper models — such as the Kindle Fire, which Amazon is expected to update today. Now, there's speculation that Apple will be coming out with a smaller iPad as well.

Sales of Apple's iPhones are still strong, though the company lost the lead in smartphones to Samsung this year. Samsung Electronics Co. benefited from having its Galaxy S III out in the U.S. in June, while Apple was still selling an iPhone model released last October. A new iPhone is expected as early as this month, allowing Apple to recapture the attention and the revenue.

Here's a look at what to expect:

• NEW IPHONE: Apple Inc. has been coming out with a new iPhone each year, and that's likely to continue. The new model is expected to work with fourth-generation, or 4G, cellular networks that phone companies have been building. That capability is something the S III and many other iPhone rivals already have. A bigger iPhone screen is also possible. Apple said Tuesday that it will host an event in San Francisco next Wednesday. The topic wasn't disclosed, but the email invitation contains a shadow in the shape of a "5" — a sign that the iPhone 5 is coming. Sales usually begin a week or two after such an announcement. One thing is known: Apple plans to update its phone software this fall and will ditch Google's mapping service for its own.

• SMALLER IPAD: Apple has done well selling its full-sized tablet computer, which has a screen that measures nearly 10 inches diagonally. Many companies have tried to come out with iPad alternatives, but the ones that have had moderate success have tended to be those with smaller, 7-inch screens and lower price tags. There's a belief that Apple will come out with mini iPad this fall — possibly with a 7.85-inch screen — to compete with those competitors. It's not as much a certainty as a new iPhone, though. Apple hasn't said anything about its plans.

• REKINDLING THE FIRE: Amazon.com Inc.'s 7-inch Kindle Fire is one of the smaller tablets with decent sales. Last week, Amazon said it has sold out of the Kindle Fire, a sign that it had retooled its production lines for a successor. Amazon has a major event planned in Santa Monica today. Amazon hasn't said anything about what it will say, but it's expected to announce a new Kindle Fire and possibly other Kindle e-readers, too. Barnes and Noble Inc., which makes the 7-inch Nook Tablet, may have an update this fall as well.

• MOTOROLA'S RETURN: Though it's a pioneer in the cellphone industry, Motorola hasn't had a hit since the Razr phone came out in 2004. Under new owner Google Inc., Motorola Mobility is trying to change that. It has scheduled an event in New York on Wednesday. No further details were available. It could be a new phone or a new tablet running Google's Android operating system. Either way, it will be the first Motorola product announcement since Google bought the company for $12.4 billion in May. Google, meanwhile, continues to sell a 7-inch Android tablet, the Nexus 7, made in partnership with AsusTek Computer Inc.

• CALLING ON WINDOWS: Microsoft Corp. will release a new version of the Windows operating system on Oct. 26, one that's designed to work on both traditional computers and tablet devices. A new version of the Windows Phone system is coming out, too. Once-dominant phone maker Nokia Corp. has been struggling in the shadow of Apple, and it's counting on the new Windows system for a revival. Nokia and Microsoft have jointly scheduled an announcement in New York on Wednesday. It's likely on new Windows phones under Nokia's Lumia brand.

• SURFACE: Microsoft plans its own tablet computer, too. It's new territory for Microsoft, which typically leaves it to others to make devices using its software. Now, it will be competing against its partners. The Surface tablet will come in two versions, both with 10.6-inch screens, slightly larger than the iPad's. One model will run on phone-style chips, just like the iPad, and will be sold for a similar price. A heavier, more expensive version will run on Intel chips and be capable of running standard Windows applications. The Surface will go on sale on Oct. 26.

• NEW BLACKBERRYS: A year ago, Research In Motion Ltd. disclosed that it was working on a next-generation phone system for the BlackBerry, which now looks ancient next to the iPhone and Android devices. It was supposed to be out in time for this year's holiday season. That won't happen. In June, RIM pushed the release of BlackBerry 10 devices into early next year, saying it wasn't ready. That means RIM will not only compete with the new iPhone and Android devices out this fall, but it will also have to contend with the new Windows devices.



MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(310) 260-1528

The Outlaw Josey Wales (PG) 2hrs 15min
7:30pm

Special senior ticket price: $5!

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Apparition (PG-13) 1hr 22min
2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm

Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 33min
1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
1:30pm, 5:00pm, 8:30pm

2016: Obama's America (PG) 1hr 29min
1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 451-9440

Oogieloves in the Big Balloon Adventure (G) 1hr 28min
11:15am

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:20pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Expendables 2 (R) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Campaign (R) 1hr 37min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
6:30pm, 9:30pm

Odd Life of Timothy Green (PG) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Lawless (R) 1hr 55min
11:20am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 3:45pm, 4:55pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Hit & Run (R) 1hr 40min
11:55am, 2:45pm, 5:20pm, 8:05pm, 10:30pm

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 478-3836

Intouchables (R) 1hr 52min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Chicken With Plums (Poulet aux prunes) (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

2 Days in New York (R) 1hr 31min
1:50pm, 9:30pm

Beasts of the Southern Wild (PG-13) 1hr 31min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Queen of Versailles (PG) 1hr 40min
7:00pm

Ruby Sparks (R) 1hr 44min
4:20pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Premium Rush (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Bourne Legacy (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
11:30am, 2:50pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Possession (R) 1hr 31min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

ParaNorman (PG) 1hr 33min
11:45am, 5:00pm, 10:15pm

Hope Springs (PG-13) 2hrs 01min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

For A Good Time, Call... (R) 1hr 26min
11:55am, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

ParaNorman 3D (PG) 1hr 33min
2:25pm, 7:45pm

For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Out and about tonight, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might be enthusiastic, but curb any impulsiveness until you know that a key person agrees with you. He or she responds to compassion, not aggressive behavior. Tonight: Indulge a friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Much that occurs gives you a new appreciation for someone very close to you. In fact, in some manner, you might feel inspired by this person. Share more of this part of your experience. Good feelings mark your interactions. Tonight: Out and about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Maintain a low profile, but at the same time, be aware of what is happening around you. You could be oversensitive to a comment. Choose to let go of feelings that might make you feel insecure. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You seem less burdened by a quandary than in the recent past. Focus on a goal, which might involve meeting with someone or having a discussion you have been putting off. If the first response you get is negative, let it go and do not react. This, too, will pass. Tonight: Already in weekend mode.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You cannot underestimate the innate charisma you exude. You discover that a partner, friend or potential sweetie feels as if he or she cannot do enough for you. All you need to do is say "Thank you!" Tonight: You might be calling off of work tomorrow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Continue to assume the very powerful role of observer. You might be surprised by what comes up out of the blue. Someone you often enjoy could become extremely controlling. You do not need to play along. Tonight: Allow your imagination to make plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You discover the power of speaking your mind and understanding what is happening. With this knowledge, you can evolve to another level of caring or interacting. Tonight: Togetherness works.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Others do not mean to be so challenging or aggravating. Could you be making more out of a difficult situation than need be? Allow yourself to relax, and you could be delighted by what comes up for you. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Pace yourself, and you will not be upset. What you discover is that there are many ways to skin a cat, and everyone around you has a different version. Tonight: Out with friends and/or a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your creativity remains high, and your ability to move past an issue soars. Someone you interact with on a daily basis lets you know the depth of respect he or she has for you. In a personal connection, of course, the feelings being expressed could be much deeper. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You are a sign that normally has no problem with taking risks; however, you suddenly could feel uncomfortable. Know that the way you presently feel is the way the majority of people feel all the time. Tonight: Nap.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Stay grounded. You understand where someone is coming from, which makes it easy to pitch in and help. Pressure builds in a meeting or with a friend. You simply do not see eye to eye with others at this point in time. Tonight: Hang out.

Happy birthday

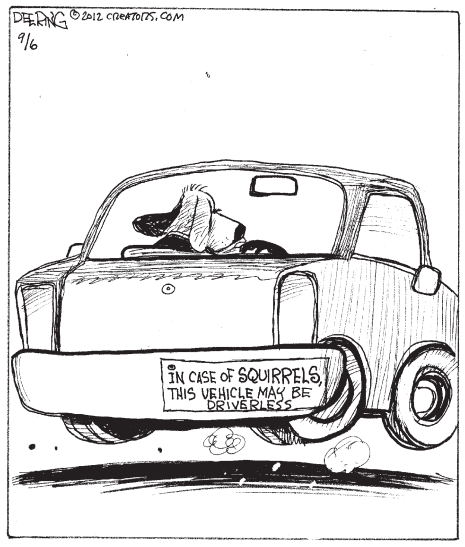
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you naturally give an excellent impression that radiates positive energy. You are more verbal and caring than in past years. The biggest issue for you is that you'll have a tendency to wear rose-colored shades when relating to others. It is a good quality to expect the best, but there is some likelihood of disillusionment. If you are single, you might attract someone emotionally unavailable who could disappoint you. Try to be more realistic about potential suitors. If you are attached, the two of you gain by planning a special trip together. LEO absolutely adores you.

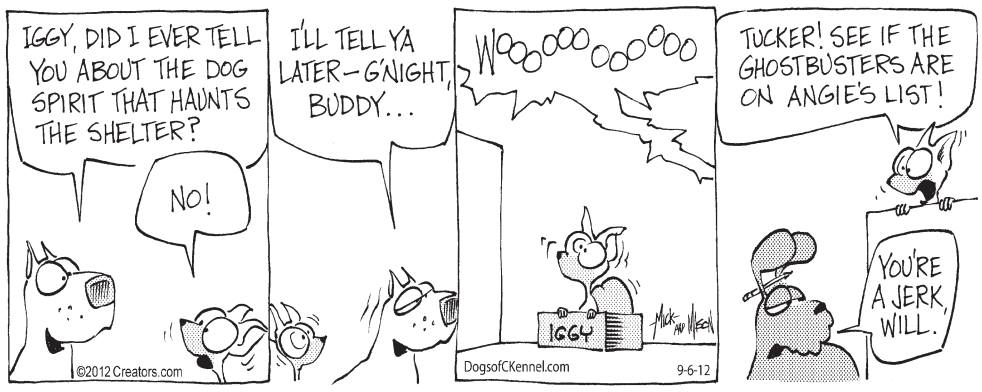
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



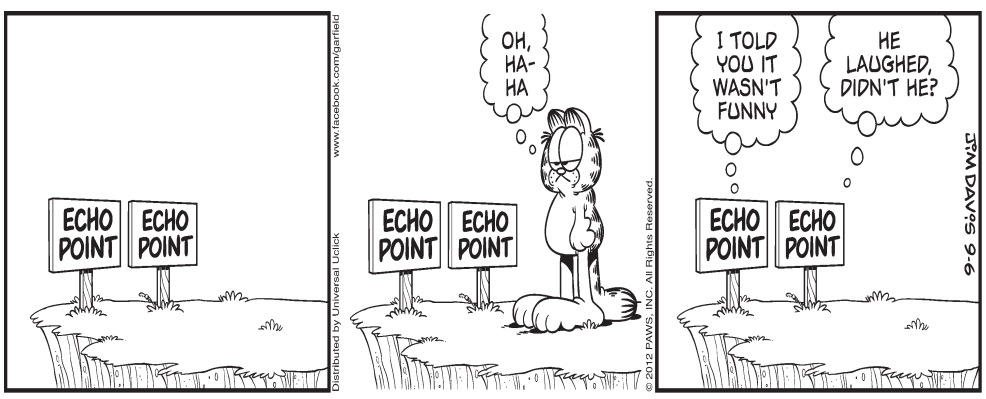
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

	5		7			1		
2		6		8				
	4		9			2		7
5		4						
	3			9			7	
						4		8
4		8			3		5	
				7		6		2
		7			1		9	

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

2	1	8	4	9	3	6	7	5
4	6	5	8	7	2	1	9	3
7	3	9	6	5	1	4	8	2
5	9	3	1	4	7	2	6	8
6	7	4	2	8	5	9	3	1
8	2	1	9	3	6	7	5	4
9	4	7	5	1	8	3	2	6
1	8	2	3	6	9	5	4	7
3	5	6	7	2	4	8	1	9

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com*. Hint: It's not the mural at Lincoln and Ocean Park boulevards.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Thin board
5 Jeer
10 Casual shirt
11 Twain of music
12 Computer menu choice
13 Natural gift
14 Calling sound
16 Strength of will
20 Donatello sculpture
23 Washington baseballer, for short
24 Presentation aid
25 "The same"
27 Bond rating
28 Magnate
29 Central or Mountain
32 Forest floor sight
36 Noble domain
39 Ship-to-ship call
40 Draws out
41 Berth place
42 Rome raiders
43 Only

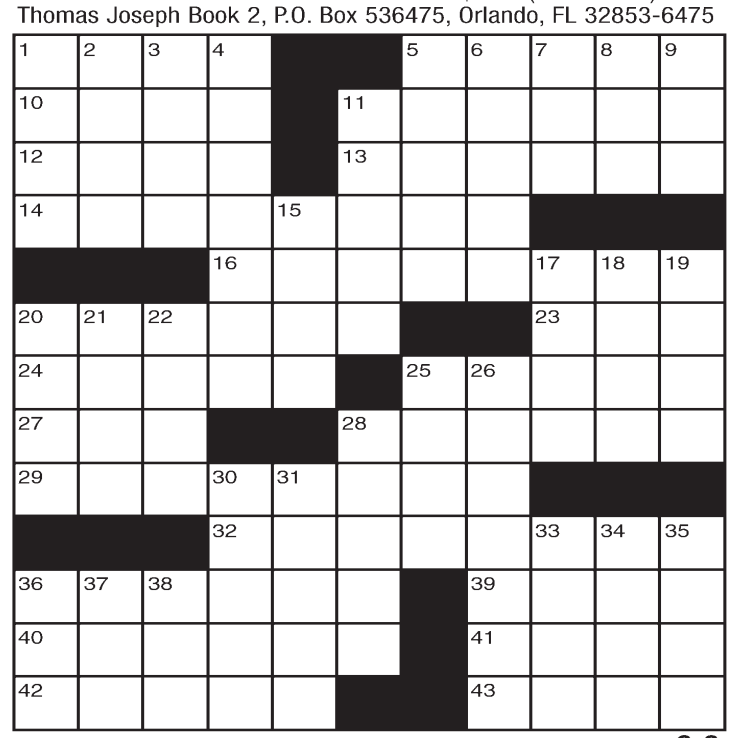
DOWN

1 Tater
2 TV's Anderson
3 Emmy winner Alan
4 Line of icons
5 Leg part
6 Writer Carr
7 Unbroken
8 Shark symbol
9 Diet no-no
11 Portfolio shares
15 Pucker-inducing
17 Aware of
18 Peace-keeping org.
19 School on the Thames
20 Jazz style
21 Asian cuisine
22 Sir's counterpart
25 Unit of force
26 Pole features
28 Theater awards
30 Period of history
31 Fan publications
33 Canton setting
34 Seasonal song
35 "Jane ___"
36 Implore
37 Hoopla
38 Deep groove

P	U	M	A	■	■	■	M	O	P	S
A	B	A	C	K	■	P	U	T	U	P
S	O	R	E	R	■	A	S	T	R	O
T	A	T	■	A	T	L	E	A	S	T
A	T	H	O	M	E	S	■	W	E	S
■	S	A	V	E	R	■	G	A	S	■
■	■	■	A	R	M	E	E	■	■	■
■	N	I	L	■	I	D	L	E	S	■
H	E	N	■	A	T	I	S	S	U	E
A	T	T	I	M	E	S	■	P	I	X
S	T	O	R	E	■	O	R	A	T	E
T	E	N	O	N	■	N	I	N	E	R
E	D	E	N	■	■	■	P	A	S	T

Yesterday's answer

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9-6

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16 32 39 41 53
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: $105M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 9/1
14 17 31 42 47
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: $18M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/5
4 7 29 33 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 9/5
MIDDAY: 1 1 2
EVENING: 3 8 8

SAINT BRIDGET
Draw Date: 9/5
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:46.70

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A July battle in the House of Representatives pitted austerity-driven members striving to cut $72 million in spending on NASCAR against North Carolina House members determined to keep the money in. (Most NASCAR teams are headquartered in the state, as is the Charlotte Motor Speedway and the NASCAR Hall of Fame.) More than a third of the money would go to the National Guard for sponsoring driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. The North Carolina legislators believe military recruitment will suffer unless the race- car connection is maintained.

■ Karma: (1) In July a 30-year-old man suspected of skipping out on a bar bill at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manchester, N.H., did not make it far. As he tried to hop an iron fence, he impaled his leg and eventually required eight firefighters to rescue him using hydraulic cutting tools. (2) Greyston Garcia, 26, who was cleared of murder charges in January under Florida's "stand your ground" defense (even though he had chased the victim more than a block to stab him to death after the man took his radio), was inadvertently killed in June by random gang gunfire in Miami.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1986 – In Istanbul, two terrorists from Abu Nidal's organization kill 22 and wound six inside the Neve Shalom synagogue during Shabbat services.

1991 – The Soviet Union recognizes the independence of the Baltic states: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

1991 – The name Saint Petersburg is restored to Russia's second largest city, which had been renamed Leningrad in 1924.

1992 – Hunters discover the emaciated body of Christopher Johnson McCandless at his camp 20 miles (32 km) west of the town of Healy, Alaska.

WORD UP!

cacology
**\ ka-KOL-uh-jee ** , noun;
1. Defectively produced speech; socially unacceptable diction.

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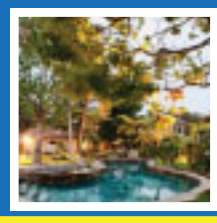




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