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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009

Volume 9 Issue 36



Santa Monica Daily Press

GASOL AGREES TO EXTENSION
SEE PAGE 11

We have you covered

THE MAKING A LIST ISSUE

Shoppers turn out for deals

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN With the holiday season winding down, shoppers were out for last minute deals this week. Yet, local retailers held out little hope for a substantial sales boost.

Many shop managers were just thankful they'd survived the year.

"Things have been slow, but people are still buying so I think we've had a decent turnout," said Jane Walker, who manages the Montana Avenue location of Three Bags Full, a sweater shop where some garments cost $1,200. "It wasn't terrible — let's put it that way. It was OK, which is huge right now."

Walker said business is down 30 to 40 percent at the store, though lately there's been an uptick in sales. The weak economy has led to a change in her customers' habits, she said.

"It's kind of the old way of shopping — you buy things that are better, you buy less … the buyer [has become] a savvier buyer," she said.

Consumers concerned about the economy and in search of deals, though, may be disappointed this year, said Jack Kyser, an economist with the Los Angeles Economic Development Corp.

He said stores are grappling with the recession by limiting their inventories and probably aren't offering steep markdowns like in previous years.

On the Third Street Promenade this week, some shoppers said they were spending less than in previous years.

"I look more carefully now at the prices than I did several years ago," said Libby Johnstone, who was in town for the holidays from England.

Amber Richane, of Santa Monica, said she's being careful to keep track of how much she spends on gifts this year.

"My husband and I created a budget, and we're going to stick to that budget," she said.

SEE SHOPPING PAGE 8



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

UNIQUE USE OF MATERIALS: **People walk by the front window display of the Big Blue Bus transit store on Broadway Tuesday morning. Students with the Art Institute of California-Los Angeles in Sunset Park used recycled materials to create the winter wonderland.**

BBB welcomes eco-friendly wonderland

BY LENIKA CRUZ
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN This holiday season, two local art students are showing commuters just how compatible recycling and art can be.

Anyone waiting at the Big Blue Bus stop on Broadway just west of the Third Street Promenade can expect a view of the heavy construction on the new mall across the street. But Brooks Leonard, one of the 21 million passengers that ride the bus line every year, is pleasantly surprised by the display in the window of the Big Blue Bus' Transit Store.

At first glance, the display is a simple win-

SEE BBB PAGE 9

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Samohi girls play well despite missing key contributors

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The good news is that the Vikings can excel despite missing its top player and a valuable transfer. The bad news is that they were forced to play without them during the Nike Tournament of Champions.

Santa Monica High School's girls basketball team (8-4 overall) finished the tourney 3-1 on Tuesday with a 47-37 win over Villa Park, good for fifth place in a division that included 16 teams. The win came despite the absence of UCLA-bound senior guard Thea Lemberger, who missed the tournament in Arizona due to what she and Head Coach Marty Verdugo both said were personal reasons.

"It's a private matter," Verdugo said, "a coach's decision."

While neither player nor coach would elaborate on what took place, it was clear that there was an issue between the two that

SEE HOOPS PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009

Santa Monica nativity scenes
Palisades Park
4 p.m. — 5 p.m.
The annual Nativity Scenes along the bluffs are a Santa Monica tradition not to be missed. Go for a stroll in Palisades Park and enjoy the 14 life-sized scenes depicting the moments leading up to the birth of Jesus, from the angel's announcement to Mary all the way up to Jesus' return to Nazareth. The scenes will remain open until Jan. 2, 2010. Admission is free to visitors of all ages. For more information, go to www.santamonicanativityscenes.org.

Ice skating by the beach
Arizona Avenue at Fifth Street
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Bring back childhood memories — and create new ones — as you slice through the ice in a festive atmosphere filled with holiday cheer and balmy ocean breezes. The ice rink will remain open through January. Admission is $10 and includes skate rental. The rink is periodically cleared for short periods to groom the ice. If raining, the rink will remain open in light rain or drizzle conditions, closing only for heavy downpours. For more information go to www.downtownsm.com.

What's new this week?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad moderated by Jack Nordhaus.

Merry Christmas!

Friday, Dec. 25, 2009

Mariachi and dinner
El Texate Restaurant
316 Pico Blvd.
Mariachi Alta California fills the air with the sounds of Mexico every Friday night. Show times are 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. There is no cover charge.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



SHARING THE SPIRIT

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Santa Monica Firefighter Sean Van Sluis (right) plays with Isaac Vargas,13, as Firefighter James Altman (left) holds Micel Vava, 2, after receiving their Christmas gifts at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center on 15th Street Tuesday morning. The firefighters distributed presents donated by Mattel to the children of the hospital.

Plane overshoots Jamaica runway

KIRK WRIGHT
For The Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica An American Airlines flight from Miami Tuesday night overshot a runway during a heavy rainstorm in Kingston, injuring dozens of people, officials said. There were no reports of fatalities.

Flight 331 took off from Miami International Airport at 8:52 p.m. and arrived at Norman Manley International Airport at 10:22 p.m. It originated at Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C.

Jamaican Information Minister Daryl Vaz said "the airplane is broken in two" and that 29 people were taken to Kingston Public Hospital. He said some others were taken elsewhere and treated at the airport. All passengers were off the plane that normally carries 140 people plus the crew, said American Airlines spokesman Charley Wilson.

Those getting off the plane were bleeding, mostly from the upper parts of their bodies. Officials did not know the extent of the injuries.

Passenger Pilar Abaurrea described a chaotic scene as the plane skidded along the runway in heavy rain.

"All of a sudden, when it hit the ground, the plane was kind of bouncing, someone said the plane was skidding and there was panic," Abaurrea of Keene, N.H. said in a telephone interview.

Kingston Policeman Oneil Hinds at police headquarters said officers at the scene reported the plane ran off the end of the runway.

As the crew opened the emergency exits and people scrambled to get off, 62-year-old Abaurrea and her husband, Gary Wehrwein, noticed a number of people with injuries, including one person who had a cut on his head from falling baggage.

Abaurrea said she had pain in her neck and back from the impact and her husband had pain in a shoulder from falling luggage, but were otherwise unhurt. "I'm a little bit shook up but OK," she said.

Abaurrea said the entire flight was very turbulent, with the crew being forced to halt the beverage service three times before finally giving it up. Just before landing the pilot warned of more turbulence but said it likely wouldn't be much worse than what they had experienced so far, she said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

WATER GARDEN

Deal struck for solar power

One of California's largest power companies, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), will buy energy from a 150 megawatt solar power plant built by a Santa Monica-based company under a long-term contract, officials with PG&E said Tuesday.

California has a target to obtain a third of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020, but one issue facing the clean power sector is how to store energy for times when the sun does not shine or the wind does not blow.

Enter SolarReserve. The company, which has been located in Santa Monica since it was founded two years ago, is creating a project that uses mirrors to focus sunlight to heat molten salt, which in turn heats water for a steam generator to produce electricity. The molten salt technology also can store the energy when sunlight is not available.

State regulators must approve the power deal between PG&E and SolarReserve.

The project is expected to be completed in 2013 and generate enough electricity for some 68,000 homes, the utility said. The plant will be located 30 miles northwest of the city of Blythe in eastern Riverside County.

"Throughout the process, we have worked hard to minimize the project's impact on local resources which is why the project is being developed on privately-owned land that had been previously used as an air field," said Kevin Smith, SolarReserve's CEO. "Further, the project will use a dry cooling system that minimizes water usage without significantly impacting the plant's operational performance.

"We look forward to working with state and federal regulators in the permitting process to help bring this important project to reality for Californians."

The plant is expected to create 450 construction jobs and employ 45 permanent staff with an operating budget of more than $5 million, with the majority being spent in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

SolarReserve also landed on Tuesday a 25-year power purchase agreement with NV Energy for the energy generated by a 100 MW solar project that the renewable player is developing in Nevada.

Privately held SolarReserve has a license to use the molten salt solar power technology developed by United Technologies Corp.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

All we need is … war?

Editor:

I just read how U.S. soldiers face going before a court martial and possibly spending time in jail if they either become pregnant themselves or make one of their colleagues pregnant. Wow. Look how far we've come. The new message is: "Make War Not Love."

Henry Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Plastic plague

Editor:

Never have I been reminded as to the necessity for us to curb our use of plastic shopping bags as when I am in remote areas of the beautiful thousand-mile-long Baja California peninsula. While driving along state Route 1 that extends the 1,000 mile distance from Tijuana to Cabo San Lucas, the highway is covered with not only litter of all kinds, but plastic bags wave in the wind as they attached themselves to cactus and bramble along the way and mar the otherwise beautiful landscape.

Recently I was in Santa Catarina, located approximately halfway between the border and Cabo San Lucas, where the population is scarce and the highway activity consists mostly of big rigs and the occasional motor home of snow birds. A local resident drove me off the highway and around some of the lovely desert landscape where I was relieved to see this beautiful place where there was little sign of human inhabitance and only the occasional waving plastic bag. We came upon what looked like a compressed bale of plastic bags that sat next to a saguaro cactus. My host told me that it was the remains of a cow that had "grazed" on plastic bags and had starved to death, unable to digest the plastic. The poor creature's carcass had long since returned to nature, but the reminder of his suffering is left by the bale of plastic that will take who-knows-how-long to biodegrade, and will doubtfully ever be carted off to a landfill.

For us here in Santa Monica, we know that sea creatures and birds are more likely to suffer from ingesting our plastic bags than grazing cattle. I hope this is a reminder to take individual responsibility to carry reusable bags and whenever and wherever we shop and rarely hear ourselves say, "Oh, I forgot my bag."

Carol Hastings
Santa Monica





Life Matters

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

Struggling with holiday temptations

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

Everyone is talking about how to avoid all the temptations right now. The holidays seem to bring overindulgence, whether it's eating, drinking or overspending. Since no one seems to know, I thought I would ask you.

Signed,
Clueless

DEAR CLUELESS,

There is no question that for many, the holiday spirit is an excuse to indulge. For others, it is a time to hang on tight to avoid overeating, excessive drinking or spending too much money. Clearly, there are many more opportunities to give in to those devilish temptations. It is also a time when we are subject to peer pressure and the tensions and pressure that can come from our family and relatives.

One problem is that we are easily seduced by immediate gratification. Whatever feels good in the moment somehow becomes more important than our longer term goals. We often compromise our future health or happiness for immediate gratification; somehow we just forget about the bigger picture or what might be important to us down the road. However, no one wants to end up with a credit card bill that they cannot pay, or be 15 pounds heavier come the first of the year.

Clearly, we need to think about our longer term goals and make them important if we are going to resist immediate gratification. Unfortunately, this can be easier said than done. Studies have shown that our brains will not always handle too much self-control or willpower all at once. Research in neuroscience has shown that when we exert too much control in one area of our lives, we are not likely to be able to control another. A simple way of putting this is to say that we need balance in our lives.

It is also true that if we have been subjected to a great deal of stress in our lives, we will be less likely to avoid temptations. This is because most of our "control energy" has been exhausted by managing the stress, and holding ourselves together in spite of it.

We must learn to take care of ourselves if we are to resist those temptations that can later lead to regret. Balance is critical, and so is adequate sleep and nutrition. Sleep is important because it is the time that our brain is rejuvenating itself so that we can handle situations put before us. Diet or nutrition is important because our brain needs its fuel. While the brain accounts for a mere 2 percent of our body mass, it consumes at least 75 percent of our body's energy, i.e., glucose. This amazing fact has been demonstrated in numerous research studies. It is very important that we have our three or four meals a day. Size can vary but we need our nutrition; our brains need their adequate supply of glucose in order to function well.

Being in control of ourselves is also a function of the expectations and beliefs we hold about ourselves. If we don't think we can do it, then we probably won't. We need to believe in ourselves in order to stick to our goals. Sometimes it takes some behavioral change and the actual experience of doing things differently before we can believe in ourselves. One way to get here is by thinking a situation through and making some mental plans on how to handle it.

Try to imagine the situations you will be in and think through how you might deal with them. Make a plan and do your best to stick by it, e.g., if Joe offers me a Long Island Iced Tea, I will say "I am not drinking tonight or I only want a glass of wine, thank you." If Susan brings me her delicious chocolate cream pie, I will only have a half sliver of it. Or perhaps you decide to avoid that store where you know you might spend too much money.

In summary, do the best you can to take care of yourself before putting yourself in tempting or dangerous situations. Don't start out too hungry, tired or emotionally stressed. Think seriously about your long-term goals and how you might achieve them, one situation at a time, and one day at a time. If you feel you are overly stressed or weak at this time, consider the buddy system. Yes, ask a friend to help you stick to your goals.

But let us not forget that it is the holiday season, a time to rejoice and have some fun. The key is balance.

Happy 2010!

DR. BARGE is a licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Send your questions and responses to newshrink@gmail.com or visit us at www.newshrink.com. All correspondence is kept strictly confidential. Got something on your mind? Let us help you with your life matters.



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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bombing on New Year's Eve

IT'S BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT that my husband has an aversion to kissing me on New Year's Eve.

I'm trying hard not to take it personally. But after five straight years of ringing in the New Year without so much as a peck on the cheek, I'm starting to wonder if the lovey-dovey vows Rick tearfully delivered during our wedding ceremony weren't just a ruse to get one of the mini grilled cheese sandwiches on top of the shot glasses filled with warm tomato soup that were passed around during the cocktail hour at the reception afterward.

New Year's Eve has never been included on my list of favorite national holidays with Administrative Professional's (née Secretary's) Day and Fat Tuesday. Except for the year I ran a race in Central Park at midnight and chugged champagne at the rest stations in lieu of water, it's been a perennial disappointment. It's kind of like the Joe Gillis to my Norma Desmond.

One year when I lived in New York, my friends and I went to a restaurant aptly named Lemon on New Year's Eve. For $175 a person, we got stuck with a server so hostile and disinterested in our dining experience that we couldn't decide if only seeing him twice in five hours was good or bad. Whatever the meal was supposed to be more closely resembled Play-Doh in taste and appearance than actual food. And instead of the promised flowing drinks, the toilets in the bathroom were the only things overflowing. Retrieving our coats at the end of the night took an hour and a half, catching a cab home took another hour. I swore it was the last time I would expect anything on the evening of Dec. 31 other than the advent of Jan 1.

Which is why when Rick and I rang in our first New Year together, I proudly considered myself low maintenance for genuinely wanting nothing more out of the night than a smooch when the clock struck 12. We sat on the decrepit couch in his apartment that might have been condemned in a city with higher standards (or any at all) and watched movies on basic cable. When midnight beckoned, he was fast asleep, drooling on the armrest. I didn't have the heart to wake him up or dry him off.

The following year, when we were living together (in a neutral, more sanitary location), I went outside to watch the fireworks at midnight alone, although his presence was felt nonetheless. In fact, his snoring almost drowned out the sound of the explosions.

On Dec. 31, 2006, we had people over to the new home we had just bought for drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Later we walked to our friends' house for drinks and dessert. By the time everyone went out on the balcony to watch the fireworks at midnight, Rick was sound asleep on their couch.

When I was about four minutes pregnant on New Year's Eve in 2007, we went out for a casual dinner and then home to watch a DVD. Excited about what the coming months would deliver (or, more accurately, what I would deliver), I implored him to stay awake so we could ring in 2008 together. But Harry singing "The Surrey With the Fringe on Top" to Sally in "The Sharper Image" coincided with the stroke of midnight, and the combination of Rodgers and Hammerstein and the fireworks outside our bedroom window promptly lulled Rick into a deep slumber.

Last year we were all set for a cozy night at home with a pizza delivery, game of Boggle and full pot of coffee, when Rick called from work to report a breaking news story — bomb threats in banks — and because he works at a newspaper, he wouldn't be home that evening. Had there been a flicker of hope that we could recreate the intimate evening the next night, they were dashed when he went and got a concussion that afternoon.

The bar for this Dec. 31 couldn't be any lower. While we're planning a night similar to last year (minus the bombs), I assume I'll be dining and playing alone. A few weeks ago we had plans to go to a Hanukkah party when he warned me he was covering a court hearing that day that could be a "marathon." A few hours before the party, however, he said he'd definitely be able to make it because the hearing had been postponed — until New Year's Eve.

Maybe next year.

Follow **MEREDITH** at Twitter.com/MCCarroll and e-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

Working 9 to 9

Santa Monica Police Chief Tim Jackman recently extended for one month a pilot program in which patrol officers work 12.5-hour shifts, three days a week instead of the traditional 10 hours, four days a week. Officers on the 3-12 schedule must also work an additional 10 hour day, once a month.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

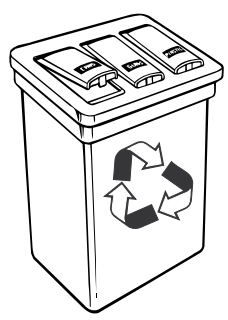
What are your thoughts on the 3-12 switch? Should the schedule be made permanent?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.





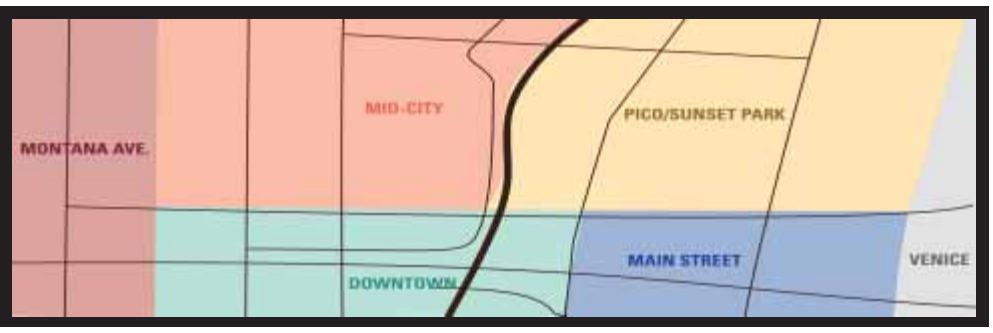




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Back On Broadway 2024 Broadway (310) 453-8919
Bergamot Cafe 2525 Michigan Ave. # A3 (310) 828-4001
Big Jos 1955 Broadway (310) 828-3191
Bistro Of Santa Monica Santa Monica Blvd (310) 453-5442

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Bistro 31, the culinary student-run restaurant of The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of California – Los Angeles, offers an incredible dining experience at a reasonable price. Students prepare sumptuous international cuisine and deliver it in an elegant setting. Lunch and dinner.
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Bread And Porridge 2315 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-4941
Buon Giorno Caffe 1431 Santa Monica Bl (310) 260-0073
Cafe L'etoile D'or 2311 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 315-4375
Chandni Vegetarian 1909 Wilshire Blvd (310) 828-7060
Coogie's Cafe 2906 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 829-7871
The Corner Cafe 28th St. #121 (310) 452-2905
The Cutting Board 1260 15th St. #105 (310) 434-9924
Dagwoods 820 Wilshire Blvd. (310) 899-3030
Daily Grill 2501 Colorado Ave. #b-190 (310) 309-2170
Drago Restaurant 2628 Wilshire Blvd (310) 828-1585
Dragon Palace 2832 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 829-1462
El Cholo 1025 Wilshire Blvd (310) 899-1106
Fromins 1832 Wilshire Blvd (310) 829-5443
House Of Billiards 1901 Wilshire Blvd (310) 828-9203
I H O P 1920 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 829-9100
Casa Escobar 2500 Wilshire Blvd (310) 828-1315

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Kaido Japense Cuisine 2834 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 828-7582
Kay 'N Dave's 262 26th St. (818) 782-6196
L A Farm Ltd 3000 Olympic Blvd (310) 449-4007
Lee's Chinese Food 1610 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 828-5304
The Lincoln 2460 Wilshire Bl (310) 828-2217
Lucys Lunchbox 710 Wilshire Bl #100 (818) 762-6267
Maya Japanese Food 2840 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 453-2612
Manhattan Bagel 2216 Wilshire Blvd (310) 828-3228
Nawab Of India 1621 Wilshire Bl (310) 829-1106
Networks Cafe 2700 Colorado Ave. #190 (310) 315-0502
Noma Restaurant 2031 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-4848
Norms Santa Monica 1601 Lincoln Blvd (310) 395-6310
O' Briens 2226 Wilshire Blvd (310) 829-5303
Our Cafe 2104 Wilshire Bl (310) 828-5313
Overunder 1333 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 899-0076
Pacific Dining Car 2700 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-4000
Pot & Pan Thai Food 2315 Santa Monica Blvd (818) 439-7083
Santa Monica Pizza 1318 Wilshire Blvd (310) 393-4554
The Shack Restaurant 2518 Wilshire Blvd (310) 449-1171
The Slice 915 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-2367
Sizzler 2025 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-3250
Snug Harbor 2323 Wilshire Blvd (310) 828-2991
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Sushi King 1330 Wilshire Blvd (310) 395-0120
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Wilshire Restaurant 2454 Wilshire Blvd (310) 586-1707

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Bangkok West 606 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 395-9658
Benihana 1447 4th St. (310) 260-1423
Bookmark Cafe 601 Santa Monica Bl (310) 587-2665
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Broadway Deli 1457 Third Street Promenade (310) 451-0616
Brunos Italian Rest Deli 1652 Ocean Ave. (310) 395-5589
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co 301 SM Pier (310) 393-0458
Buca Di Beppo 1442 2nd St. (310) 587-0771
The Cafe 445 Pacific Coast Hwy (310) 393-8282
Cafe Crepe 1460 Third Street Promenade (310) 576-0499
Cafe Paradiso 2408 Wilshire Blvd (818) 427-1796
Cafe Presto 2425 Colorado Ave. #107 B (310) 829-7757
Cafe Sol 2425 Colorado Ave. (310) 829-0031
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California Crisp 13 Santa Monica Place (310) 394-3800
California Pizza Kitchen 214 Wilshire Blvd (310) 393-9335
Callahans Restaurant 1213 Wilshire Blvd (310) 394-6210
Capo 1810 Ocean Ave. (310) 394-5550
Carousel Cafe 1601 Ocean Front Walk (310) 451-4277
Chez Jay 1657 Ocean Ave. (310) 395-1241
Comfort Cafe 420 Broadway (310) 395-6252
Cora's Coffee Shoppe L P 1802 Ocean Ave. (310) 434-2468
Crepes Company Inc 213 Arizona Ave. (310) 801-0670
Dennys Restaurant 1645 1560 Lincoln Blvd (714) 251-5409
Fast Taco 2901 Ocean Park Blvd #115 (310) 664-8722

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Fritto Misto 601 Colorado Ave. (310) 458-2828

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Gate Of India 115 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 656-1665
Gaucho Grill 1251 Third Street Promenade (323) 468-0220
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Houston's 202 Wilshire Blvd (602) 553-2111
I Cugini Restaurant 1501 Ocean Ave. (310) 451-4595
Il Fornaio 1551 Ocean Ave. (415) 945-0500
Infuzion Cafe 1149 3rd St. #100 (310) 393-9985
Interactive Cafe 215 Broadway (310) 395-5009
Ipanema Cafe 150 Santa Monica Place (310) 838-8586
Ivy At The Shore 1535 Ocean Ave. (310) 278-2908
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Light House Buffet 201 Arizona Ave. (310) 451-2076
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Manchu Wok 11 Santa Monica Pl (310) 458-3558
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Michaels 1147 3rd St. (310) 395-7911
Musha Restaurant 424 Wilshire Blvd (310) 576-6330
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Perrys Pizz 930 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza 2600 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Perrys Pizza 1200 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 458-3975
Perrys Pizza 2400 Ocean Front Walk	(310) 372-3138
Promenade Cafe 321 Santa Monica Bl	(213) 700-2373
R A W 609 Broadway	(310) 451-4148
Real Food Daily 514 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 393-0804
Renees Court Yard 522 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-9341
Riva Restaurant 312 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 451-7482
Rustic Canyon 1119 Wilshire Blvd	(310) 560-7787

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SONNY MCLEAN'S 2615 Wilshire Blvd.	(310) 449-1811
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Sunset Bar & Grill 1240 Third Street	(310) 393-3959
Sushi Mon 401 Santa Monica Blvd	(310) 576-7011
Sushi Roku Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av	(310) 655-3372
Sushi Shogun 1315 Third Street	(213) 500-4989
Sushi Teri Express 1551 Ocean Ave. #130 B	(310) 394-2189
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Yangtze 1333 Third Street Promenade	(310)260-1994
Yankee Doodles 1410 Third Street	(310)394-4632
Ye Olde Kings Head 116 Santa Monica Blvd	(310)451-1402
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Abbots Pizza Company 1811 Pico Blvd	(310) 314-2777
Acapulco Restaurant 3360 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 450-8665
Air Conditioned 2819 Pico Blvd	(310) 829-3700
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Lazy Daisy Inc 2300 Pico Blvd	(310) 450-9011
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Joes Main Street Diner 2917 Main St.	(310) 392-5804
La Vecchia Cucina 2654 Main St	(310) 399-7979
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Main Street Bagels 2905 Main St.	(310) 392-6373
Malia 2424 Main St.	(310) 396-4122
Manchego 2510 Main Street	(310) 450-3900
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Sparky's Fine Frozen Yogurt 3110 Main St. #12	(310) 399-4513
Urth Caffe 2327 Main St.	(310) 749-8879
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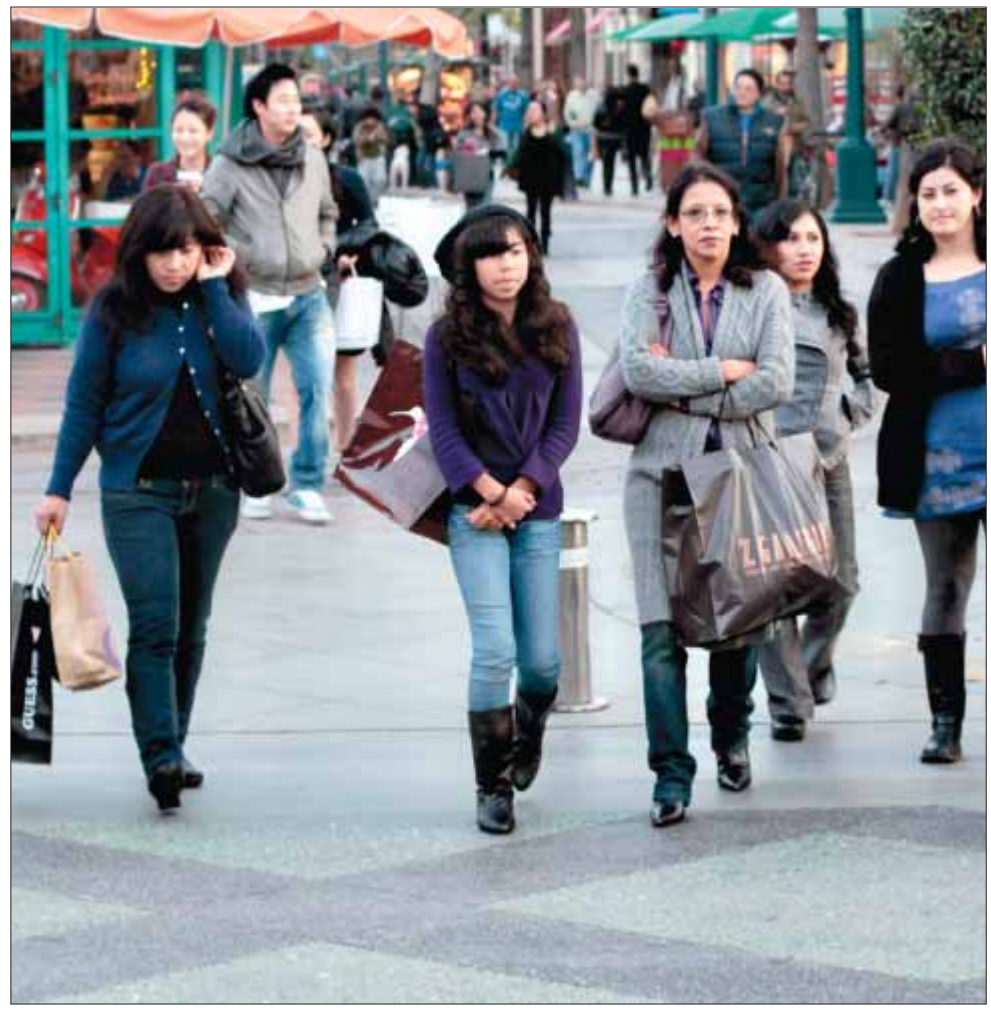
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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ON THE HUNT: **Shoppers walk across Santa Monica Boulevard on Wednesday.**

More stores could close

FROM **SHOPPING** PAGE 1

"[This year], it's more [about] doing stuff for people, and spending time with people than a dollar amount."

While shops report significant sales drops, perhaps the hardest hit Third Street racket has been the charity businesses.

"The Christmas spirit has died, sir," said Montel Johnson on Wednesday, after another failed attempt to convince a passerby to donate to the Los Angeles Mission, a nonprofit that provides services for the homeless on Skid Row.

A moment later, though, he reconsidered his assessment.

"A lot of people want to give, they just really can't afford to," he said.

In 12 years on the job, he said the 2009 holiday season has been the worst for donations. A four- to five-hour session on the promenade used to net $300. Now he's lucky if he gets $60, he said.

Shoppers nationwide were expected to cut back this year, with the National Retail Federation projecting holiday retail sales would decline 1 percent compared with 2008. Holiday spending last year was already down 3.4 percent from the year before. In the past 10 years, though, retailers have averaged annual holiday sales growth of 3.39 percent, according to the group.

Kyser said, in Los Angeles County, total spending will probably be in line with last year. While most people are spending less, the population increased in the past year, he said.

While there are a few bright spots for local retailers — a new convention center hotel in Downtown Los Angeles could mean more visitors to beach towns like Santa Monica, for one — Kyser said he's expecting the new year to bring another wave of store closures, with mom-and-pop shops hit the hardest.

Karen Damskey, who owns high-end knitting shop L'Atelier on Montana Avenue, said after 20 years in the neighborhood she may not be able to extend her lease next year. Holiday shoppers haven't made much of an impact on business, she said.

"Normally our business is considered recession proof," she said. "This time that didn't happen."

Though most of her customers are affluent professionals, said she's seen business fall off 55 percent in the past two years.

On Main Street, Jane Kifer, who manages bead and jewelry shop Ritual Adornments, tried to put a positive spin on the holiday shopping season.

"It's been surprisingly decent, considering the economy," she said.

Afterall, Kifer said, her shop has been one of the lucky ones. High rents and falling sales have led to 10 retail vacancies on the block, she said.

DERRICK OLIVER contributed to this report.

nickt@smdp.com





Displays made of recyclables

FROM BBB PAGE 1

ter wonderland with a forest of birch trees, snowflakes, flying reindeer and a delicate blanket of snow. In reality, everything, from the trees to the wreaths, is made up of recycled or natural materials. Used bus maps, tokens, pine cones, water bottles, discarded tree branches and old bicycle tires have been skillfully transformed from trash into art.

"You can't tell at all," said Leonard, who rides the bus every day. "It's pretty cool!"

The brains behind these imaginative and eco-friendly holiday decorations belong to two interior design students from the Art Institute of California-Los Angeles, located on Ocean Park Boulevard. Margallet Yosef and Dimitra Dorbacopoulos — who are currently completing their fourth and final year at the institute — were selected for the project because of their exemplary work performance, both in and out of the classroom.

The students hoped that by doing the display, they could "set an example to society that the beauty in artwork lies not only in creativity, but in the process as well," said Dorbacopoulos. The two worked for days, molding and painting old system maps to look like trees, shredding plastic bags into snow, and gluing antlers onto toy buses to create a fleet of reindeer suspended in the air on invisible thread.

The Big Blue Bus' slogan "Ride blue, go green" aptly sums up the system's commitment to the importance of using natural resources to help the environment. In keeping with this message, Dorbacopoulos and Yosef made it a point to use primarily recycled or natural materials in the hopes of encouraging both action and awareness.

"We hope that everyone who sees this display will be inspired to be more resourceful and maybe even to utilize materials found all around us to improve the spaces where we live and work," she said.

Yosef said that in addition to the environmental message, the students hoped to encourage people to make their own decorations for their home this holiday season.

"We think it can be fun and also inspiring for children to gather items they find around the house and turn them into something beautiful," she said. "A little creativity really can go a long way."

So far, the display is a big hit with Big Blue Bus passengers and pedestrians alike.

"We get people coming in all the time — they're just amazed when they find out everything is recycled," said William Mondragon, one of the customer relations specialists who works in the transit store. "It definitely puts us in a better mood; it makes us feel like it's Christmas already."

news@smdp.com

Samohi places fifth at tournament

FROM HOOPS PAGE 1

forced Verdugo to make the tough decision to leave the All-California Interscholastic Federation performer in Santa Monica.

"She's a great kid," Verdugo said. "When she comes back, she will take us to a great level."

Helping to fill the void left by Lemberger's absence was transfer Moriah Faulk, who was cleared by the CIF late during the first game of the tournament against Arizona's Pinnacle. She was immediately put in the lineup and helped lead the Vikings to victory. She played during the remainder of the tournament impressing Verdugo along the way.

"I knew she was really good," Verdugo said, "I didn't realize she was great."

Verdugo was particularly pleased by her defensive play. She came away with a black eye, a bloody lip and the admiration of her new coach.

Another transfer who promises to improve the Vikings was denied in her quest to become eligible. Bianka Balthazar, who attended the same Arizona high school as Faulk, has been ruled ineligible for now and must wait for the CIF to reopen after the holidays to file an appeal.

"I'm hoping to get her back by league," Verdugo said. "She can play the following year, but we don't want to lose her for the whole year.

"She's the kind of player that helps us play against the really good teams."

Even without Lemberger and Balthazar, Verdugo was impressed by the play of senior shooting guard Lilly Feder, who has committed to play for UC San Diego with her sister and former Samohi star, Daisy.

"Feder helped solidify everything as we tried to regroup a little bit," Verdugo said. "She not only played big on the boards, but her senior leadership helped take us a long way through this week."

One of the more interesting developments in Arizona was the emergence of freshman Brianna Harris. She was previously seventh or eighth on the depth chart, but was inserted into the starting lineup at off guard and immediately rewarded Verdugo for trusting the young player. He said that she is already drawing the attention of college recruiters and expects her to continue to contribute to the team.

"She had people asking 'who's that girl,'" Verdugo said.

The Vikings will be off for the next two weeks for the holiday break. Verdugo plans to give his players some much-needed time off. The team has engaged in an aggressive early-season schedule that Verdugo hopes will condition the team for big matchups during the Ocean League season and postseason.

"This is a great opportunity to recharge the battery and think about what has worked," he said. "The girls deserve the time off."

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Health care bill on brink of approval by Senate

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON Democrats pushed sweeping health care legislation to the brink of Senate passage Wednesday, crushing a year-end Republican filibuster against President Barack Obama's call to remake the nation's health care system.

The 60-39 vote marked the third time in as many days Democrats have posted a supermajority needed to advance the legislation. Final passage, set for about dawn on Thursday, was a certainty, and will clear the way for talks with the House on a final compromise. Those negotiations likely will stretch into February.

The Senate has met for 24 consecutive days to debate the legislation, the second-longest such stretch in history, and Democrats held a celebratory press conference.

"We stand on the doorstep of history," said Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, who painstakingly pieced together the bill — and the now-controversial deals with wavering lawmakers that made its passage possible.

The measure would extend coverage to an estimated 31 million who lack it, while banning the insurance industry from denying benefits or charging higher premiums on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions. The Congressional Budget Office predicts the bill will reduce deficits by $130 billion over the next 10 years, an estimate that assumes lawmakers carry through on hundreds of billions of dollars in planned cuts to insurance companies and doctors, hospitals and others who treat Medicare patients.

Obama has also said he wants legislation that slows the rate of growth in medical spending nationwide, but the CBO said it has not determined whether that is the case with the bill.

Unlike the House, the Senate measure omits a government-run insurance option, which liberals favored to apply pressure on private insurers but Democratic moderates opposed as an unwarranted federal intrusion into the health care system.

In an interview with PBS, Obama signaled he will sign a bill even if it lacks the provision.

"Would I like one of those options to be the public option? Yes. Do I think that it makes sense, as some have argued, that, without the public option, we dump all these other extraordinary reforms and we say to the 30 million people who don't have coverage, 'You know, sorry. We didn't get exactly what we wanted?' I don't think that makes sense."

Outnumbered Senate Republicans stubbornly played out a losing hand. They launched several last-minute attacks that Democrats swatted aside, then rejected calls to move the final vote up a day in deference to a snowstorm that threatened to prevent lawmakers from reaching home on Christmas Eve.

"Tomorrow the Senate will vote on a bill that makes a bad situation worse," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa. "This bill slid rapidly down the slippery slope to more and more government control of health care."

Even before the bill passed, it was spinning off legal controversies at a remarkable rate.

Republican attorneys general in seven states discussed a court challenge to part of the bill that singles out Nebraska for special treatment, a concession made by the White House and Reid to lock in the state's Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson as the 60th vote for the legislation.

Under the provision, the federal government will permanently pick up the state's entire cost for an expansion of Medicaid, while paying the full tab for the other 49 states for only three years.

Nelson, who has strongly defended the provision, told reporters, "The governor said take care of it. I did." Asked whether the governor, Republican Dave Heineman, had said he didn't want the money, Nelson replied, "He hasn't said it to me."

"The senator seems to be confused," said Jen Rae Hein, spokeswoman for Heineman. The governor "was very clear that he did not want a special deal for Nebraska and all special deals should be removed," she said.

That underscored the potential political dilemma facing Republicans in Washington who oppose additional funding that governors of their own party may want.

Senate Republicans also laid out two other avenues for a court challenge.

Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., argued the measure was unconstitutional, saying Congress lacks authority to require Americans to purchase insurance. Democrats defeated his attempt to derail the bill, 60-39, but other critics of the bill were already speaking of a court challenge based on the same point.

Emmanuel!

CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009

4:00 p.m. Children's Mass – Gymnasium
4:00 p.m. Mass – Church
6:00 p.m. Mass – Church
9:00 p.m. Mass – Church

Midnight Mass

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass – Gymnasium
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass – Church

Additional Parking is available on Christmas Eve from 4:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Crown Parking Lot, 1211 7th St., south of Wilshire.

Christmas, Friday, Dec. 25, 2009

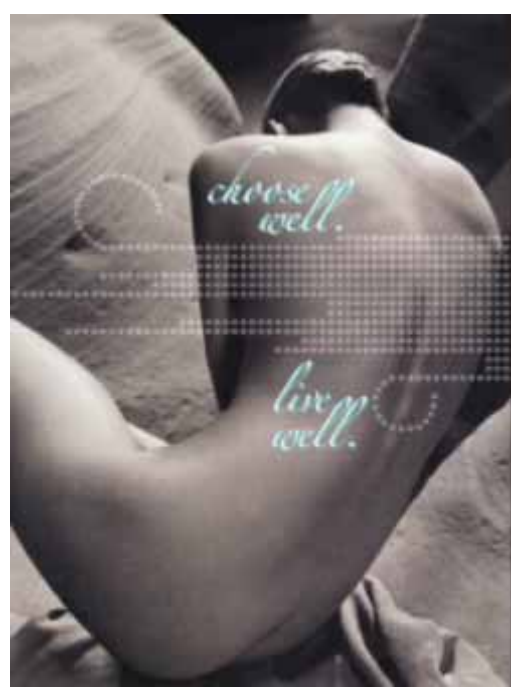
7:30, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m., and 1:15 p.m.
Church

Please note - there will not be a 5:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas.



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NBA

Gasol, Lakers agree to extension

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO Pau Gasol has agreed to a three-year contract extension with the Los Angeles Lakers, and he's hoping Kobe Bryant follows his lead.

Gasol's deal extends through the 2013-14 season, and could be worth more than $60 million depending on future salary caps.

The Spanish power forward has been to two NBA finals since joining the Lakers on Feb. 1, 2008, propelling the franchise back into the league's elite. A dependable No. 2 scoring option alongside Bryant, Gasol averaged 18.9 points and 9.6 rebounds last season while Los Angeles won its 15th NBA title.

Gasol says he believes Bryant intends to finalize his own extension soon, keeping together the Lakers' championship core for several more years.

The 14 users currently in the teen chat room.

goodl2hug: 14, female, Daytona, FL
joey16: 16, male, Hackensack, NJ
robbiew: 38, male, Daytona, FL
b-ball_tommy: 15, male, Pocatello, ID
tu_tu: 16, female, Burlington, VT
duffme: 44, male, Minneapolis, MN
QTpie: 30, male, Chicago, IL
ty1989: 15, female, Naperville, IL
harrys_grl: 12, female, Appleton, MN
slugger20: 17, male, Jackson, MS
qtrback21: 26, male, Brooklyn, NY
suzie14: 14, female, Portland, OR
hiphopper: 13, female, Plano, TX
paperboy: 41, male, Beaverton, OR

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council
You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. So get involved. To protect your kid's online life or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. KNOW: help delete online predators
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Welcome Aboard

Metro Briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Thousands Celebrate Metro Rail to East LA

An estimated crowd of 75,000 was on hand to celebrate Sunday, November 15 as rail returned to East LA with the opening of the Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. The six-mile extension serves the Little Tokyo/Arts District, Boyle Heights, East LA and links to the existing Gold Line to Pasadena. Find out more at *metro.net*.

Breaking Metro News Online At "The Source"

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Check Measure R Progress Online

Metro Rail to East LA is one of the first examples of your Measure R tax dollars at work. Go online anytime and track the progress of all the other Measure R funded projects. Just go to *metro.net* and search for "Progress Tracker."

Enjoy Holiday Entertainment At L.A. Live

Grab some skates, family and friends and ice skate in Nokia Plaza at L.A. Live December 3-31. Show your valid Metro pass, Metro Rail ticket or Destination Discounts card at the box office and save $1 off skating admission. Check the Destination Discounts pages at *metro.net*.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 59°

Swell Forecast

Looks smaller, perhaps just waist high most everywhere. Winds are expected to become offshore in the morning, 10+ mph near the coast in the AM, calming around noon, and becoming lightly onshore in the afternoon.

Long Range Synopsis

Westerly swell is expected to peak with chest to head high sets around west facing breaks.

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 **December 15, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 23

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisos creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Rominer Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	A+	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	C	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	C	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	B
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	B	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	D
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	D
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	D
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	B	A
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	B	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	D
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	B
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	B	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	B

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'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.

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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MOVIE TIMES

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AMC Loews Broadway 4
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Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG) 1hr 28min
10:10 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 12:40, 2:05, 3:05, 4:35, 5:35, 7:00, 8:00

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hrs 11 min
1:40, 7:30

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min
10:15 a.m., 12:25, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15

The Messenger (R) 1hr 45min
11:00 a.m., 4:45

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hr 40 min
10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45, 10:45

Brothers (R) 1hr 50min
10:45 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:30

Princess and the Frog (G): Closed Captions 1hr 35min
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
11:15 a.m., 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:30

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Precious (R) 1hr 59min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Home (2009) (PG-13) 1hr 53min
1:30, 7:10

Police, Adjective (Politist, adj.) (NR) 1hr 55min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Punctured Hope (NR) 1hr 46min
4:30, 9:40

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Nine (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:30 a.m., 12:20, 2:00, 3:00, 4:40, 5:40, 7:30

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40

Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) 1hr 43min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:30, 6:30

Invictus (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
1:20, 3:30, 4:20, 7:20

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

Go with the flow, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Excitement surrounds you, but note how difficult this holiday can be for many people in your life. You can indulge people only so much; you cannot cure what is ailing them at the core. Nevertheless, your attitude adds to everyone's day. Tonight: Go with the flow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Even if everything were perfect, you still might feel a bit out of sorts with the present situation. Stop worrying so much about how you feel, and go with the flow. You might see your mood change suddenly. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Wherever you are, the party is. You could feel exhausted and drained. You might wonder what is best to do. Some of your friends could be having a bah-humbug attack. Tonight: The moment is now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ At times you might question your need to be the hostess with the most to offer. Remember, you can only lead a horse to water; you cannot make him drink. This is also true of friends and loved ones. Tonight: Accept people as they are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Reach out for those at a distance and wish them a very merry Christmas. Some of you might hop on a plane to go visit loved ones. You might want to delight a child with a special visit or thought. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A key relative or loved one plays an important role. Don't forget someone you care a lot about this holiday season, especially as he or she might be alone. Your openness makes a difference. Tonight: Togetherness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Defer to others and make a point of letting them in close. Your ability to understand and empathize comes in. Still, don't forget your own personal errands, and stop to do what you discover or think is important. Tonight: Let others have their way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might have a lot of last-minute errands to complete. Whatever you need to do, make it OK. Your sense of humor helps you relax when dealing with a problem. Fatigue marks the end of the day. Tonight: Be agreeable, but only do as much as you must.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your childlike side emerges with Christmas right around the corner. You might want to revise your budget later on and not worry so much. Think positively, knowing there are alternatives. Tonight: Share your Christmas spirit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Stay anchored while others slip and slide from one emotional plain to the next. You cannot be responsible for everyone else's mood. Still, remain sensitive to a sad friend. Consider inviting this person over for Christmas dinner. Tonight: At home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Reach out for others who are close. Make a call or two to someone at a distance who you care about. Trust your instincts with a relative or neighbor. Someone comes toward you who you care a lot about. Tonight: Open up with a loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Remain in touch with your budget. A last-minute thought or gift can be a back rub or some other fun activity. Sometimes that type of gift is more appreciated than you realize. "Things" are not necessary. Tonight: Indulge others. After all, it is Christmas.

Happy birthday

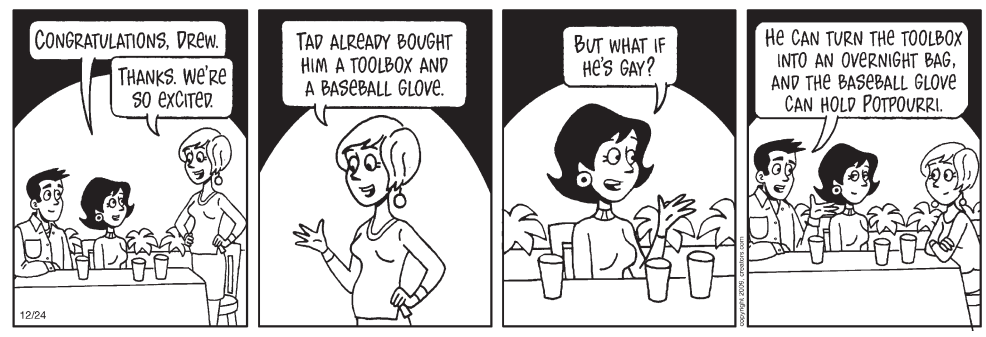
This year, you discover how important your personal and domestic life is. On some level you will renew or change this area of life in order to have it work better for you. You will accept a lot of responsibility in some form. Professionally, you could feel that many people are dumping their work on you. If you are single, you could meet someone when you're not looking, though the relationship could take some major adjustments. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from becoming more involved with your home and family. ARIES serves as an anchor.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



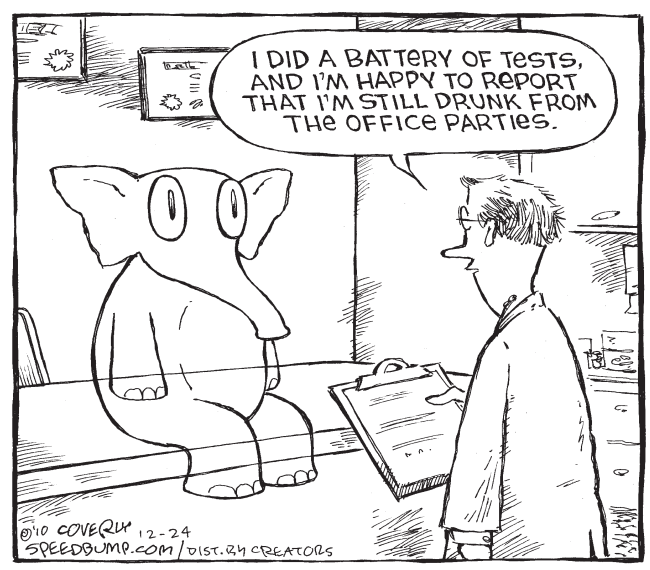
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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- Support resources

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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 ★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Course numbers
5 Churchill's successor
11 Daredevil Knievel
12 Common rolls
13 Singer Seeger
14 Confidential
15 Jar feature
17 "— had it!"
18 Usual values
22 Winter weather
24 Tankard
25 Tyler of "Armageddon"
26 NFL player
27 "Give it —!"
30 Pointer
32 Some elbows
33 Architect I.M.
34 Burn soother
38 Father of 25-Across
41 Tied up
42 Francis of TV
43 Enjoy a novel
44 Belt spots
45 Spot

DOWN

1 Livens (up)
2 Opposite of "sans"
3 Gets back
4 Blouse part
5 "Be that — may ..."
6 Mortises' partners
7 Ad of a sort
8 Kauai souvenir
9 Finish
10 Jargon suffix
16 Dripping
19 Respites from punishment
20 "Catalan Landscape" painter
21 Winter weather
22 Sign of freshness
23 Old Italian coin
28 Barrel parts
29 Natural gift
30 Mimic
31 Historic rider
35 Wallet fill
36 Gather
37 Tennis star Roddick
38 Shop tool
39 Refrain syllable
40 Yale backer

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				■	12					
13				■	14					
15				16				■	■	■
■	■	17			■	18		19	20	21
22	23				■	24				
25			■	■	■	■	■	26		
27			28	29	■	30	31			
32					■	33			■	■
■	■	■	34		35				36	37
38	39	40				■	41			
42						■	43			
44						■	45			

12-24

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 33 35 39 45 Meganumber: 13 Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 19 30 37 40 44 Meganumber: 6 Jackpot: $47M

FANTASY 5: 6 16 26 29 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 9 2 EVENING: 3 8 8

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 06 Whirl Win 3rd: 09 Winning Spirit RACE TIME: 1.42.78

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

■ Dr. Hulda Clark, 80, passed away in September of multiple myeloma, an advanced cancer of the plasma cells. Before she was stricken, she had authored three books touting her eccentric remedies as cures, first, for "all diseases," and then, especially, cancer. In her books "The Cure for All Cancers" and "The Cure for All Advanced Cancers," she urged those diagnosed to immediately stop chemotherapy and embrace her quixotic regimens, to subdue the "parasites" that cause cancer.

■ Albert Freed's lawsuit for defective underwear against Hanes was dismissed in October by a Pensacola, Fla., judge, even though Freed had complained that the briefs had caused severe pain and ruined his vacation. Freed said the garment's flap had inexplicably failed to close, allowing his penis to protrude and rub against swim trunks that contained sand from the beach, irritating the sensitive skin. However, Freed delayed diagnosing the problem -- by declining to inspect his organ. He explained that he cannot easily peer over his "belly" (and wouldn't even consider, he said, examining his naked self in a mirror or asking his wife to inspect). Consequently, he had endured increased irritation before recognizing the source of the chafing.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1294 Pope Boniface VIII is elected Pope, replacing St. Celestine V, who had resigned.

1777 Kiritimati, also called Christmas Island, is discovered by James Cook.

1814 The Treaty of Ghent is signed ending the War of 1812.

1851 Library of Congress burns.

1865 Several U.S. Civil War Confederate veterans form the Ku Klux Klan.

1906 Radio: Reginald Fessenden transmits the first radio broadcast; consisting of a poetry reading, a violin solo, and a speech.

1914 World War I: The "Christmas truce" begins.

WORD UP!

clinquant \KLING-kunt\ , adjective, noun; 1. Glittering with gold or silver; tinseled.

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MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 213, Single stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, tiling, flooring, granite counter tops, with utilities, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. $895/mo (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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Sgl, st, fr, lwr **$875**
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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091691294 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CHRIS BARRETT DESIGN, 3026 NEBRASKA AVE, SUITE A, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : CHRIS BARRETT INC., 3026 NEBRASKA AVE, SUITE A, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)9/1/2009. /s/: CHRIS BARRETT INC., CHRIS BARRETT, PRESIDENT/OWNER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 9/1/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/10/2009, 12/17/2009, 12/24/2009, 12/31/2009

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091745409 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ROOFING CREW, 3239 GRANADA ST, LOS ANGELES, CA, 90065. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : JOSE LUIS LOPEZ, 3239 GRANADA ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90065 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/18/2009. /s/: JOSE LUIS LOPEZ
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/18/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/17/2009, 12/24/2009, 12/31/2009, 1/7/2010

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091745389 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GREEN GENERATIONS, 2853 AVENAL ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90039. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : CESAR ALAMILLO, 2853 AVENAL ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90039 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/18/2009. /s/: CESAR ALAMILLO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/18/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/17/2009, 12/24/2009, 12/31/2009, 1/7/2010





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North of Montana	$2,795,000	$1,397,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$2,400,000	$677,000
South of Wilshire	$865,000	$624,000
Sunset Park	$1,249,000	$650,000
Ocean Park	$1,365,000	$599,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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