

Black Rock Beacon



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1:15 @ CENTER CAMP • BLACKROCKBEACON.ORG

EMBRACING AN ELEMENT OF DANGER



PHOTO | Carlos Vaquero

BY RYAN

You'll have to get up early or party past sunrise if you want to see "Embrace" burn this year.

Amid safety concerns, the huge sculpture is set to ignite 7 a.m. Friday -- making it among the rare early morning burns in Burning Man's history.

"Embrace" and Pier Group lead artist Matt Schultz, 35, said event organizers have overblown worries that the numerous, thin strips of untreated Douglas Fir covering the work would create a cloud of larger-than-quarter-sized embers. He said the Fire Art Safety Team was also tied up with other burns at other times.

Megan Miller, communications director for the Burning Man Organization, said the organization originally decided the thin wood made the piece unsafe to burn at all. But, after a "groundswell" in support of burning, the organization decided a few days ago to set the 7 a.m. time. She said winds tended to be low then and the

viewing crowd would hopefully be relatively small.

However, Schultz said "politics" and "smoke and mirrors" were also involved in the decision to burn early in the day. The artist, who created several large projects dating back to 2009 including "Pier 1" and "Pier 2," didn't give many specifics but suggested he wouldn't be attending next year.

Schultz said the event needs to find a way to move forward with "less bureaucracy and less general bullshit" while still keeping people moderately safe.

"And I do stress moderately," Schultz said. "The second this becomes Safety Man is the second it's completely uninteresting. There should always be a modicum of danger here, there should always be a chance of death

somewhere."

Regardless of the circumstances that led to the early Friday burn, Schultz said he's OK with it. First off, it will allow him to enjoy more of what could possibly be his last burn without having to worry about keeping his work and everyone in it safe.

"Sometimes those that put in the most love and passion miss out on the beauty of the event," he said.

A morning burn also fits with the theme of "Embrace" -- a sculpture of two figures, Alpha and Omega, embracing. Schultz said we'll eventually lose every relationship and every person in our lives, but we'll remember them as life goes on.

"Very simply" he said, "the sun always comes up again. ☘"

BURNERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Lucky Strike

BY INDIE

He had shivers down his backbone, and he was shakin' all over, when lightning struck Darby, a DPW Special Works crew member at about 9 AM Monday.

"I woke up, it was raining and I was kind of bummed out, so I went juggling in the rain," he told the Beacon.

He was standing next to the shade structure at his camp, between DPW Power and the bike shop, when lightning hit a pole less than two feet away. It arced toward him and his vision

went electric blue. His body stiffened and jumped. "But the weirdest thing was my vision just going blue. I was frozen in place. I looked over to my crew mates. They were so shocked, their jaws were on the floor."

Far from being scared or injured, a phlegmatic Darby said the experience was "kind of awesome." He's been shocked before. This was worse. "Like you stuck a fork in an outlet."

As news spread that a man had

I may be able to spot arrowheads on the desert but a refrigerator is a jungle in which I am easily lost.

- Edward T. Hall

been struck by a bolt from the blue, Darby found his legend preceding him -- although rumors his hair had turned grey were sadly (or fortunately) just that.

"People have been asking me, how was your day -- well, I got struck by lightning! I was hoping a Playa name would come out of it."

The Beacon suggests Lucky Strike -- and hopes it doesn't strike twice. ☘

WOMAN DIES IN MUTANT VEHICLE ACCIDENT

BY INDIE

TRAGEDY has struck Black Rock City with the death of 29-year-old Alicia Louise Cipicchio. The Jackson, Wyoming woman was fatally injured after she fell under a mutant vehicle early Thursday morning.

Unconfirmed reports suggest she was getting off the art car between midnight and 1am, when she fell and was hit by the vehicle's back tires.

She died at the scene. The Pershing County Sheriff's Office notified Ms. Cipicchio's family early on Thursday.

On the Couchsurfing website the well-traveled artist says her mission was to "live life to the fullest." Friends from that community describe her as a ray of sunshine in every situation, and an amazing artist who radiated wonderful vibes.

"This is a terrible accident," said

Burning Man co-founder Marian Goodell. "Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, friends and campmates."

Burning Man officials posted this statement on their Facebook page. "Event officials, including representatives of Black Rock City, the Bureau of Land Management and Pershing County Sheriff's Office express their condolences and sympathies to the family, friends and campmates of the victim. Support is being provided to those affected by the tragedy."

Organizers are working with investigators from the Pershing County Sheriff's Office to determine how the accident occurred. Anyone with information that may assist in the investigations is asked to contact (775) 273-2641. ☘



The Black Rock Gazette

10 Years Ago

Thursday, Sept. 2, Stars Edition

Improving on Ptolemy, Brad Templeton and Kathryn Nyronuk drew new constellations to adorn the Vault of Heaven as seen from Black Rock City. The Dusty Way replaced the Milky Way; Vega became the anchor of Lamp-lightus; Cassiopeia was repurposed as the Evil President.

Someone asked me, if I were stranded on a desert island what book would I bring... 'How to Build a Boat.'

- Steven Wright

GREETINGS BURNERS! After today's issue, we're aiming to publish again on Saturday, if the weather cooperates. Wanna help out? Drop by Friday morning for our 10:30am meeting, where we chew the fat and dole out assignments. We're looking for writers, editors, layout folks with their own computer, photographers, illustrators, schwag-happy delivery people, and people who like makin' bacon. Find us at 1:15 on the Inner Circle of Center Camp. Lux. Veritas. Lardum.

"Since the time of St. Jerome, it was mandatory for any kind of scholar or thinker to spend time out in the desert in solitude. It's no coincidence that the desert has been a major part of the visionary or mystical experience from the beginning of time.

- Bill Viola



PHOTO | Carlos Vaquero

I'M LIKE THE MAN'S TAILOR

BY CURIOUS

"I cut him a suit of nice glass." Smoke Daddy (aka Nick Pardell), who does The Man's neon each year, has been coming to Burning Man since 1997 and has never paid for a ticket. Smoke Daddy is center-pole gaunt and gangly, has a salty scruff of hair, and sports a piratical black eye patch—not for affectation—a nail hit him in the eye years ago and his iris can't shut out light. His former chain smoking on the Playa put white-outs to shame. From this loping, crusty exterior comes a raft of stories in a voice as deep and roasty as the Car-B-Que in Gigsville, his Playa home. Smoke first came to Nevada to pan for gold with his friend Primo. "We were on the lam after my wife at the time made an attempt on my life. Primo had a number of warrants on

him in L.A." They were holed up in a Winnemucca bar one night when an old man ("I now understand he was my spirit guide," Smoke said) came up, told them about 'this festival,' and offered two tickets for trade. Smoke and Primo ponied up half a bottle of tequila. The man disappeared without taking the booze. The two men soon found themselves standing in the dust, looking at The Man for the first time, lying prone on the Playa in the days when the Man team hinged him upright with an elephant rope onto hay bales. A blue pickup truck drove up, stopped right next to them. "The door opened and out came a shower of Miller bottles. A man came spilling out after them. He made no attempt to stand, he just rolled out onto the Playa over all these bottles like bearings. "My name is Neon Dan," he told

them, "I'm supposed to put glass on The Man but I'm far too drunk to stand." And that's how Smoke Daddy got his job. "The first couple years were simple," Smoke told us. "Larry [Harvey, founder in chief of Burning Man] likes blue. After three years I'd had enough. There are colors other than blue. Or red." In 2005, what Smoke calls the 'Fun House' year, his friend Ben ("Bill Murray" now at the Artery), designed some cool wood curves to splice onto the Man. Smoke Daddy jazzed the curves with five different flamelike colors. "Oh, it was beautiful. The only thing we didn't do was tell the front office. "Larry was always cautious about mixing colors," Smoke went on. "In 1998, the Man was yellow and red. He looked like Ronald McDonald. It was

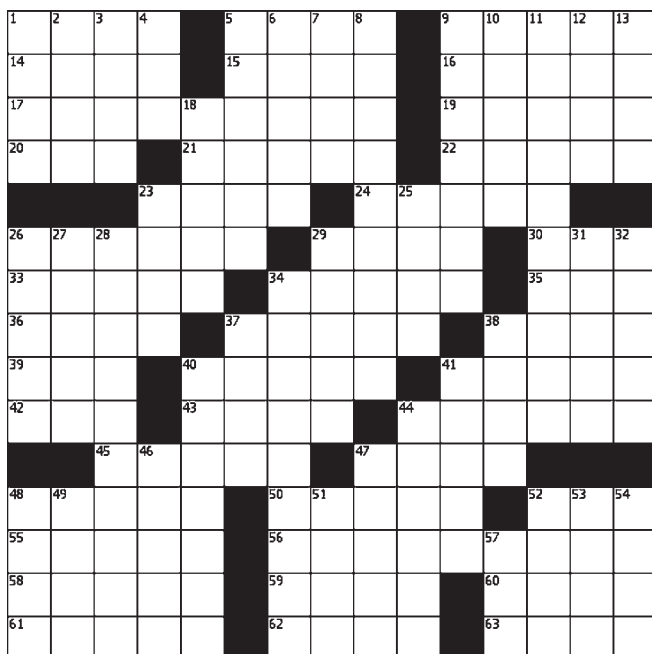
very unfortunate. "This is Larry's toy. I'll offer good advice, good design, the best installation I can." And sometimes Smoke will go ahead and do something else. "I've come close to being fired. . . . I changed the color on The Man because I didn't like what they wanted." "As a general rule," Smoke said, "the best designs I've done are the ones I didn't ask permission for. Or completely misrepresented what I was going to do. If they were gonna fire me they would have done it by now." "Walking Man," or "Astropop Man," as Smoke calls him, was his favorite, but also one of the most painful examples of his renegade style (Rites of Passage 2010). "I didn't tell them I was going to put quite so many colors in. When I was done, it looked beautiful. I didn't mean to mislead them. It was

simply that the design progressed. Everybody loved it, the gay/lesbian community loved it. The only people who didn't like it were Larry and Crimson [Rose]. They thought it was too bright, too vibrant. I got a severe talking to over 'Walking Man.'" Smoke made amends the next year by designing a Man devoid of color: two shades of white, with alpha and omega symbols honoring the life of esteemed Black Rock City planner Rod Garrett. The design team starts talking about the next Man design during the burn. "Right now," Smoke said. "Next time I run into Larry." Smoke Daddy credits his "magnificent" base crew for doing all the work: Captain Shady, Kevisimo, Dana Watanabe, Connie Lynne, and Syd Kling. 🐾

CYPHER PUZZLE By: Durgy

Substitute one letter for another letter to form a theme related phrase.

WJQ DPGVPQHH GY HBTQCBQ TH HWPQLC, OTMQ NC NCBTQCW FQHQPW WPNTQ, LTWJ WJQ ZOQNBQJF
HMQQWGC GY FTHBNPFQF WJQGPTQH LJTBQ GCBQ HQQAQF WG DGHHQHH QWQPCNO OTYQ.
- NPWJIP MGQHWOQP



Across

- 1. Beverage nut
- 5. Party spoiler
- 9. Ten-cent pieces
- 14. Smell
- 15. Teen complaint
- 16. Vote into office
- 17. 1945 Phyllis Thaxter/Edmund Gwenn film
- 19. Baryshnikov's nickname
- 20. Opposite of WNW
- 21. Like bad winters
- 22. Irish patriot De Valera
- 23. Communications prefix
- 24. Promptly
- 26. Attack vigorously
- 29. Soon, to the bard
- 30. Yank's war foe
- 33. Steam or mist
- 34. Ebb and neap
- 35. Lyricist Gershwin
- 36. Seamen's assents
- 37. ___ mignon
- 38. Industry kingpin
- 39. Alcatraz, e.g.: Abbr.
- 40. Played in Atlantic City
- 41. V-formation fliers
- 42. Online chuckle
- 43. Frosted, as a cake
- 44. Like Jell-O
- 45. Poet Stephen Vincent ___
- 47. Legs, in slang
- 48. ___ for the ride
- 50. Sans escort
- 52. Scrape up, with "out"
- 55. Bea Arthur title role
- 56. 2000 Brendan Fraser film
- 58. Word before city or circle
- 59. Detroit footballer
- 60. Toward the sheltered side
- 61. Pop
- 62. Spaniard's "this"
- 63. Actor Sean

Down

- 1. Honshu city
- 2. Praiseful poems
- 3. Actor Rob
- 4. Shipping magnate Onassis
- 5. Bogart's "Key Largo" costar
- 6. Reddish yellow
- 7. Small bills
- 8. Not a good way to be caught
- 9. Lowers in dignity
- 10. Sacro attachment
- 11. 1986 Jodie Foster film
- 12. Bounce back
- 13. Musial of baseball
- 18. "...over ___ flock by night": Luke
- 23. New Mexico art colony
- 25. Frost or Burns
- 26. Benefit
- 27. Authority
- 28. 1945 Hitchcock classic
- 29. Had a fever, e.g.
- 31. Rub out
- 32. Displayed openly
- 34. Train schedule
- 37. Watch part
- 38. Cartoon frames
- 40. Like some Chinese dishes
- 41. Morticia's mate
- 44. Teresa's "tomorrow"
- 46. Concluded
- 47. Beckett's "Waiting for ___"
- 48. In the thick of
- 49. Turner of film
- 51. Hawaiian wreaths
- 52. French pronoun
- 53. Mentally acute
- 54. Perfect place
- 57. Skip over, as commercials



ALMANAC

Friday • August 29

First light: 5:23 A.M.
Sunrise: 5:54 A.M.
Sunset: 8:14 P.M.
Twilight ends: 8:44 P.M.
Moonset: 10:58 P.M.

Saturday • August 30

First light: 5:24 A.M.
Sunrise: 5:55 A.M.
Sunset: 8:13 P.M.
Twilight ends: 8:43 P.M.
Moonset: 11:31 P.M.

Sunday • August 31

First light: 5:25 A.M.
Sunrise: 5:56 A.M.
Sunset: 8:12 P.M.
Twilight ends: 8:42 P.M.
Moonrise: 1:25 P.M.

Sun, Moon times courtesy of www.SunriseSunset.com
Planets courtesy of Dominic Ford's www.in-the-sky.org

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