

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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FOUNDED IN 1905



LIFE + FOOD

Just picked

Stanton restaurant harvests produce just steps away from its kitchen

LIFE 5

Tradition

Chaim Topol reprises the role that made him famous



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Weather 76/63 | 89/64
Details in Local Coast Inland

More seek debt relief

Orange County sees a 77% jump in bankruptcy filings in June from a year earlier.

The number of Orange County individuals and businesses that filed for bankruptcy protection in June leapt 77.2 percent from a year ago, the highest number since the federal bankruptcy law changed in October 2005, according to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

From May, Orange County filings were up 12.8 percent.

Nationwide, filings rose 36.5 percent in June from a year earlier. Commercial bankruptcies rose 81 percent, according to Equifax. Orange County and all of California have been hit harder by the recession than much of the nation.

Six areas of California were in the Top 12 most affected by commercial bankruptcies. Southern California areas on the list were No. 1, Los Angeles; No. 2, Riverside/San Bernardino; No. 10, Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine; and No. 12, San Diego-Carlsbad.

Gay-rights groups disagree

Both want to repeal Prop. 8 but differ on the best time to do so.

Wednesday was supposed to be the day when gay-marriage advocates announced their consensus decision on when to place a measure on the ballot to legalize same-gender nuptials. Instead, a leading group called Equality California announced its research showed a 2012 initiative would have a better chance of succeeding, while the Courage Campaign announced its plans for a 2010 measure. **NEWS 14**



PHOTOS: PAUL RODRIGUEZ, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER
Jessica Vomsteeg, Pretend City volunteer coordinator, and volunteer Laura Schultz unpack boxes of items that will be part of the little theater at the new children's museum.

BRIGHT LIGHTS, LITTLE CITY

Pretend City Children's Museum set to open in Irvine.

By ERIKA CHAVEZ
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Remember playing outdoors, riding your bike for miles and miles, and roaming the neighborhood until your mother called you inside at dusk?

Pam Shambra knows that in many Orange County neighborhoods, those memories are just that - memories.

"The world has changed," said Shambra, who helped spearhead the creation of Santa Ana's Discovery Science Center in the 1990s. "Children playing outdoors, independently - that's not perceived as safe anymore." Cue the scheduled classes and sports, as well as television, video games and computers.

Shambra hopes to give thousands of Orange County kids an outlet for imaginative, independent play when the Pretend City Children's Museum opens Aug. 30.

Shambra mounted a years-long campaign to bring a children's museum to Orange County.

Those years of work have culminated in a 28,000-square-foot facility tucked into an industrial park in Irvine, just south of the Irvine Spec-



Chantal Lamourelle, Pretend City director of education, puts finishing touches on the restaurant, which will feature various cultures' foods.



Jason Halstead of Cantera Design Group connects a phone that will allow children in the museum to make calls to each other.

SEE MUSEUM • PAGE 2

BY THE NUMBERS

- Years it took to launch museum: 6
 - Size of new museum: 28,000 square feet
 - Number of exhibits: 16
 - Admission: \$10 adults and children, \$2 age 2 and under
 - Students served with mobile preview program: 23,000
 - Children's museums in the U.S.: 248
 - Kids under age 8 in O.C.: 450,000
 - States with fewer children than O.C.: 21
 - Donations raised so far: \$11.3 million
 - Average board member donation: \$246,000
- Source: Pretend City Children's Museum



COURTESY OF RIDE 2 RECOVERY
Hand cyclists at a Ride 2 Recovery ride earlier this year.

THE MORNING READ

Riding past wounds

Veterans bond, find solace in weeklong bike rides that cross hundreds of miles.

By TOM BERG
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

He hadn't been on a bike in years. But he was young. Tough. A Marine.

So Cpl. Matt Labady said sure, he'd try a six-day, 350-mile bike ride through Texas - without training.

Day 1: "Not bad."
Day 2: "Really sore."
Day 3: "I won't lie. I was hurting."

Day 4: "I said, 'You know what, man? I'm going to put my bike up on the (rescue) van.'"

SEE CYCLING • PAGE 16

Coming tomorrow



With the release of "The Time Traveler's Wife," Barry Koltzow pays tribute to the best time travel movies, while acknowledging that they employ fuzzy science. Above, Alex Winter and Keanu Reeves in "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure." **Show**

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ONLINE EXTRAS

For a video of Ride 2 Recovery cyclists, go to ocregister.com/morningread.