

Business Briefs



The Winner and participating advertisers (Left to right) Rachel Belle, private dining coordinator, McCormick & Schmick's; Victor Solis, Food and Beverage Manager, McCormick & Schmick's; Norma Catania, Herald Publications; Daniel Nelson, Restaurant Manager, 1440 bistro & bar; Winner Elaine Allen and Stacy Phelan, Director of Food and Beverage, 1440 bistro & bar; Not shown: Brenda Newman, The Jewelry Source; Sandra Calleros, D.D.S. and Ahmad Michael, St. Anthony pharmacy.

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL SECTION WINNER

Herald Publication's Mother's Day Specials Section winner was Elaine Allen!! Elaine found the flower sticker in the Special Section and won five gift certificates. The gift certificates were purchased from advertisers that participated in the Special Section: The Jewelry Source, McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant, Sandra Calleros dental office, St. Antony Pharmacy and 1440 bistro & bar.

WYLE ENTERS INTO MERGER AGREEMENT WITH COURT SQUARE CAPITAL

Wyle Holdings, Inc., one of the nation's leading providers of specialized engineering, professional, and information technology services to military and civilian government agencies, announced that it has entered into a definitive merger agreement to be acquired by Court Square Capital Partners. The transaction is subject to obtaining the consent of Wyle's first lien lenders and certain regulatory approvals.

Littlejohn & Co. acquired Wyle in 2003 and made additional investments in 2005 and 2008 to significantly broaden the company's

service offering and customer base. Additionally, Littlejohn recruited a world class management team, headed by CEO George R. Melton, to execute the company's growth strategy. Today Wyle generates revenue of approximately \$800 million and employs more than 3,800 people.

GO METRO TO 13TH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Celebrate that historic moment this year at the 13th Annual Juneteenth event Saturday, June 13 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Long Beach. Take the Metro Blue Line to the Pacific Coast Highway exit and the park is a short walk from there.

The Juneteenth Celebration will feature an open-air festival with live musical performances, children's area, food and merchandise vendors, and much more. The West Coast premiere of the "Bicentennial Symphony" will be the highlight of this year's event.

Metro patrons who show a valid Metro pass, Metro Rail ticket or Destination Discount card at the event information table will receive a free souvenir program. For customized route information using Metro, go to the Trip Planner at www.metro.net or call 1 (800) COMMUTE.



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EarthTalk

from page 6

come a handful of private companies and nonprofit groups that want to make sure your old bed doesn't end up in a landfill.

The Lane County, Oregon chapter of the charity St. Vincent de Paul Society, for example, has spearheaded one of the nation's most successful mattress recycling initiatives via its DR3 ("Divert, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle") program. "Keeping [mattresses] out of landfills is a matter of efficiently recycling them so their core materials can be reincarnated into any number of new products," reports the group, which opened a large mattress recycling center in Oakland, California in 2001. (Why hundreds of miles away in Oakland? To "go where the mattresses are," says Chance Fitzpatrick of the group.) The facility has been processing upwards of 300 mattresses and box springs per week ever since.

During the recycling process, each mattress or box spring is pushed onto a conveyor belt, where specially designed saws cut away soft materials on the top and bottom, separating the polyurethane foam and cotton fiber from the framework. The metal pieces are magnetically removed, and the remaining fiber materials are then shredded and baled. The whole process takes one worker just three to four minutes per mattress.

On a slow day, the DR3 facility recycles some 1,500 pounds of polyurethane foam, which totals a half million or more pounds over the course of a year. "A well-oiled recycling factory can reuse 90 percent of the mattress," reports Josh Peterson of Discovery's Planet Green website. "The cotton and cloth get turned into clothes. The springs and the foam get recycled, and the wood gets turned into chips."

While the DR3 facility only takes mattresses from a small group of waste haulers and individuals around the San Francisco

Bay Area, other mattress recyclers are popping up around the U.S. and beyond. Some examples include Nine Lives Mattress Recycling in Pamplico, South Carolina; Conigliaro Industries in Framingham, Massachusetts; MattCanada in Montreal, Québec; and Dreamsafe in Moorabbin, Australia. To find a mattress recycler near you, consult the free online database at Earth911.org.

Those who aren't near a recycling facility might consider giving their old mattress away. But many health departments prohibit donating mattresses to charities like the Salvation Army or Goodwill. So what's an upgraded sleeper with a perfectly good old mattress to do? The web-based Freecycle Network allows people to post stuff to give away to anyone willing to come pick it up; likewise, chances are your local version of Craigslist also has a "free" section where you can post that it as available.

Contacts: DR3 Mattress Recycling, www.svdp.us/dr3-mattress-recycling.php5; Nine Lives Mattress Recycling, www.geocities.com/ninelives29577; Conigliaro Industries, www.conigliaro.com; MattCanada, www.mattcanada.com; Dreamsafe, www.dreamsafe.com.au; Freecycle Network, www.freecycle.org.

Dear EarthTalk: Is there any truth to the rumor about high levels of birth control chemicals being found in some cities' drinking water? If so can these be filtered out?

— Elizabeth Yerkes, via email

It is true that trace amounts of birth control and other medications—as well as household and industrial chemicals of every stripe—are present in many urban and suburban water supplies around the country, but there is considerable debate about whether their levels are high enough to warrant concern.

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