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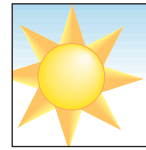
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WEATHER



Sunny, warm
Highs: 78-80
Lows: 40-43
Air quality:
Good

For details, see back of Viewpoint

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2006

ONE DOLLAR
DESIGNATED AREAS HIGHER

INSIDE



U Beyonce

She's nominated for six Grammy Awards as her new movie, the remake of "The Pink Panther," comes out on Friday.

Do-it-yourself retirement

The control gained by doing your own IRAs comes with a price.

SUNDAY BUSINESS



Betty Friedan dies at 85

Feminist pioneer and author dies of congestive heart failure.

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LA.COM Sunday Best

Day of rest? Please. L.A. clubs are calling tonight: www.LA.COM/Sundays

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LOTTO

SuperLotto Plus numbers picked last night. More results on Page 4

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TO REACH US

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Busway proving fruitful

Orange Line draws those new to transit

By Lisa Mascaro
Staff Writer

Nearly 20 percent of the passengers on the 3-month-old Orange Line are new to public transit and the vast majority have a faster commute than they previously did in a car or bus, says the MTA's first survey of busway riders.

And the \$350 million busway across the San Fernando Valley continues to draw 16,000 daily riders — well above early projections — not only from the ranks of the transit-dependent, but also those who never thought they'd regularly ride a bus in car-crazed L.A.

"I love it," said Raj Chauhan, an Internet advertising executive from Northridge who rode the busway last week in his commute to his job downtown. "I just drive three minutes to the stop ... I can do a bunch of e-mails ... I'm pretty much done with driving, if I can help it."

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority surveyed 1,300 busway riders during the second week of January, asking them to complete an English- or Spanish-language questionnaire about their ride.

The preliminary results show that 17 percent of the riders had not ridden MTA's buses or trains prior to boarding the Orange Line and 14 percent used to drive a car solo — which officials say is a measure

Please see **BUSWAY** / Page 18

Cry over spilled food? Or eat it?

By Lisa Heyamoto
The Sacramento Bee

SACRAMENTO — When Fernando Lucero drops a piece of food on the ground, he picks it up. And eats it. Five-second rule, guys — totally makes it OK.

Still, Lucero is no fool. He inspects it before he eats it, of course. And what's more, he blesses the wayward morsel with a kiss and a small prayer so that it doesn't make him sick. Call it spiritual gastrointestinal insurance, but hey, it seems to work.

"I've done it lots of times," said the 13-year-old Elk Grove, Calif., resident. "And I never got sick."

Been there? If you're like most of us, you have. Indeed, the five-second rule is part guilty habit, part old wives' tale — a popular conviction that food is still clean if snatched off the ground within five seconds. And one that will probably get some good mileage today at the

Please see **RULE** / Page 19



THEATER OF DREAMS

Community officials aim to reinvent neighborhood

By Brad A. Greenberg — Staff Writer

RESEDA

In the ruins of the Reseda Theater, residents and public officials see the embers of hope. If things are going to improve on Sherman Way, they believe it has to begin there.

This community has fastened its future on a building that's been shuttered for almost two decades.

Please see **RESEDA** / Page 17

Reseda officials believe the key to ushering in a new era for the beleaguered community rests with the transformation of the long-closed Reseda Theater on Sherman Way into a nightclub.

Matthew Simmons
Special to the Daily News

MAZEL TOV TIMES 80

Atheist's girl 'comes of age'

The atheist's daughter stood outside the temple at the Jewish Home for the Aging on Saturday morning listening to the rabbi welcome the guests for her bat mitzvah ceremony — 67 years late.

"It's like going on stage: exciting," 80-year-old Dorothy Delmonte said, smiling as she made her grand entrance through the back door to attend the ceremonial occasion that marks the time when a young person traditionally is recognized as an adult in the Jewish community.

Depending on where her father, Sam Rubin, is right now, he would be either very disappointed in his only daughter, or understand that, at 80, she is just trying to cover her bets.



DENNIS MCCARTHY

dropped to nothingness, well, I think he'd be upset with me." Either way, it was too late now. The rabbi and cantor were waiting. More than 80 guests were waiting. And her family was waiting.

She had been studying the Torah for six months — driving

"If he's with God, he'll understand," she said, sitting in her room at the home a few minutes before the ceremony. "But if he just died and



David Sprague/Staff Photographer

Dorothy Delmonte, 80, finally got to have her bat mitzvah on Saturday at the Jewish Home for the Aging in Reseda. She said she doesn't know whether her father, an atheist, would approve.

everyone at the home crazy, she said — and it was finally time to put up or shut up.

Dorothy grabbed her notes, including a few jokes she

wanted to tell, and headed off to the temple — one day after turning 80.

Please see **MCCARTHY** / Page 19

TAKE OUR ONLINE POLL

yes no

Do you observe the five-second rule? [go to dailynews.com](http://dailynews.com) to vote

For results, see Page 2

Please see **MCCARTHY** / Page 19