



Wednesday, December 5, 2007

By Barbara Correa

Run, don't walk, to Web to check out baby sitters

MYSFACE FOR BABY SITTERS: At www.sittercity.com, you can check out prospective baby sitters - their photos, profiles, availability and hourly fees (which vary wildly, from \$7 to \$25). The site has partnered with LexisNexis to do instant background checks for \$9.99.

TRAVELER BEWARE: During a decade of trans-Atlantic holiday travel, I'd never before had an airline call and tell me that they'd bumped me from one flight and stuck me on another. But last week, a month after we bought and paid for our tickets, United Airlines left a computer-voice message on my home answering machine telling me that my family will be traveling on an earlier flight on Dec. 24. Earlier is not good news when traveling with toddlers. Anyway, it's a reminder to confirm, confirm, confirm before you go.

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN: Santa Claus really is coming to town - aboard Metrolink. The annual Holiday Toy Express includes a nighttime light show and Santa polar bears and snowmen dancing on the rail platform. The train will stop in Burbank and Glendale on Friday; make the Simi Valley-to-Van Nuys trip Saturday; and travel from Montalvo to Moorpark on Sunday. The train will also stop along the Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley route Dec. 15. The event will be rescheduled if it rains. For times and other information, call 800-371-5465 or see www.metrolinktrains.com.

JEN LEV GOES LIVE: Jen Levinson is a major source of kid and parenting-related info for San Fernando Valley moms. Many of you receive her daily e-mail list of events and insider tips. Well, she has now officially started a Web site, where you can subscribe to her infamous list and read her soon-to-launch blog. Check her out at <http://jenlevinson.com/>

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Wynonna Harris was a driver for Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus line in 2005 when she gave her boss a doctor's note advising that she was pregnant. She was fired two days later. Harris filed a wrongful-termination suit and won a \$178,000 jury award; the judge boosted that amount to almost \$600,000. "A lot of people think that if they are pregnant and their employer terminates them, it's OK," said Michael Nourmand, Harris' attorney. "I want (pregnant) women to know that they have rights."

WHAT'S IN A NAME? New studies published in the journal Psychological Science say baseball players whose first names begin with the strikeout-signifying letter K strike out

more than others. Students whose names begin with C or D achieve lower grade-point averages than those whose names begin with A or B.