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55th Annual Torrance Armed Forces Day

The Army Reserve along with other Military Service Branches displayed many items of interest to the Public.

The 6386th, Reserve Training Unit (RTU) participated in the 55th Annual Torrance Armed Forces Day Activities, (TAFDA), is Home Based at Los Alamitos, CA Joint Forces Training Base.

The 6386th Reserve Training Unit, (RTU) is led by Task Force Commander, Col Jesse Gonzalez, Sergeant Major, CSM Angel Huapaya, Unit Logistics Mgr and (TAFDA) point of contact, (POC) is Michael Kennedy.

Armed Forces Day continues to be a day of honor, celebration and thanks toward all of you, our U.S. Veteran and Military heroes!

Armed Forces Day is celebrated annually on the third Saturday in May. **CCN**



Walk The Talk 2014 Saturday, May 24, 11 AM - 3 PM

Starts at Gladys Park, corner of east 6th Street and Gladys Avenue (zip: 90021). SKID ROW VISIONARIES celebrated with PARADE and PERFORMANCE, VISUAL ART and BRASS BAND with Mike Kelley Mobile Homestead and Real live LAFD Fire Truck.

Walk the Talk 2014 is the second installment of the Los Angeles Poverty Department's biennial, peripatetic performance, an on-going chronicle of the accomplishments of Skid Row people and their visionary initiatives.

A fire truck from Skid Row's LAFD Station #9, one of this year's honorees, will lead the way. A brass band, The Mudbug Brass Band (plus pick up musicians), will blow New Orleans jazz as we travel the route and we'll carry portraits of parade honorees created by Brian Dick. Mike Kelley's Mobile Homestead

will bring up the rear of the parade in spectacular fashion.

LA Poverty Department will bring the neighborhood to life with performances along the parade route that pay tribute to neighborhood initiatives of men and women whose contributions to the community call for a big, blaring celebration. It's visual art dancing down the street! That's right, we'd be holding high unbelievable gorgeous portraits of these hardworking people that have been created by LA artist, Brian Dick. It's YOU! Join the parade. Be part of the New Orleans style 2nd Line. Bring your tambourine, your kazoo, your cowbell, your laughter, your attention. This traveling performance will celebrate the current day vibrancy of Skid Row and will bring the history of the community to life.



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THE ROVING EYE

Undocumented, Uninsured, and In Debt For Life

How much does it cost to live? \$200,000. That's what Jorge Toledano discovered when he opened his mother's hospital bill.

"My mother was having convulsions," said Toledano. "We (still) don't know exactly what happened. My sister found her choking in her sleep, and tried giving her mouth-to-mouth. I knew it was bad, because she was twitching, her voice was gone, and she couldn't even speak. When I sat her up she vomited, and from there I called my grandmother and told her that my mother was in bad shape and we didn't know what was wrong with her. Then I called the ambulance."

Toledano, 28, is a farmworker, like the rest of his family. He came to California from Mexico at the age of 14 in pursuit of the American Dream because at home there was nothing to eat. He made the trek from his home in San Martin Peras, Oaxaca, to San Diego, California, and was a migrant farmworker in Mexico long before he came to the U.S. – as a kid he picked tomatoes in Sinaloa, where there are neither bathrooms nor water for workers, and where being indigenous means putting up with strong racism from the mestizos, or mixed-race Mexicans. Toledano's first language is not Spanish but Mixteco, an indigenous language. As Toledano puts it, the goal has always been survival. Prosperity? Maybe that will come later. Stories like Toledano's are commonplace these days in the farming regions of California. Economic conditions at home have forced entire generations of Mexicans to move north, with the promise that if they worked hard enough they would get ahead. But in the Toledano's



Jorge Toledano's mother recovered from meningitis, but her family amassed \$200,000 in medical bills as a result.

- Photo: Jesus E. Valenzuela-Felix

line of work, wages are low and health risks associated with the occupation – due to the physical nature of the labor and exposure to harmful agricultural pesticides and chemicals – are high.

"She was in the hospital all day Monday and Tuesday, and it wasn't until late Wednesday that she opened her eyes," Toledano said of his mother. It turns out she was suffering from Meningitis, a viral infection that causes inflammation of the areas around the brain and spinal cord, that can lead to serious symptoms such as vomiting, convulsions and fever. Doctors, said Toledano, were unable to confirm exactly when or where she contracted the virus.

A full week in the hospital was followed by four days resting at home. Toledano and his sister followed up by accompanying their mother to an outpatient clinic.

"As we were waiting in the clinic she began to get convulsions. My sister was there and as soon as she noticed that something was wrong, we held her hands. When she was convulsing I felt that she was going to die. I screamed, 'Help her, please, help her!' I was crying. The clinic called an ambulance and we went (back) to the hospital. She went in on a Thursday and left on

a Wednesday. After leaving the hospital we came to the house, but it was as if we'd brought home a dead person. She had no idea where she was."

In debt for life

The bills for the two weeks combined came out to more than \$200,000. The ambulance ride alone cost over \$3,000.

Asked if he'd be able to pay the bill on his own, Toledano, laughing, said, "Maybe if I stop eating for a whole year. A farmworker makes on average \$25,000 a year. If I had insurance, of course, it would help."

Toledano applied for Medical on behalf of his mother, but the application was denied because she is undocumented.

"I don't know how we'll be able to pay," he said. "We barely make enough to pay the rent."

After 14 years of working hard and saving up, Toledano is completely broke. What little money he had managed to save up has gone to help pay for the medical bills. By the time this article is published he'll be in Oxnard, working the same cycle that he's been following for years, picking strawberries there, making \$9 an hour, working ten hour

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Pitbull Sues Vodka Company For Using 'Pit Bull' In Promotions

Pitbull wants to make sure that when people drink vodka with his name on it, it's only his vodka.

The Cuban-American rapper filed a federal lawsuit against E & J Winery and New Amsterdam Spirits Company to stop them from putting his name on their product, TMZ reported. Pitbull, whose name has been trademarked since 2002, claimed they are piggybacking on his fame to sell the product.

According to the lawsuit, the California-based company is pushing a vodka recipe called "The Pit Bull" – which is a mix of vodka, lime juice, grapefruit juice and lemon-lime soda.

The cocktail is featured on both print and online promotional material and Pitbull wants it to stop.

The "Timber" rapper is suing for all the profits made off of his name and for "Pit Bull" be removed from New Amsterdam's website.

The 33-year-old is owner of Voli Spirits, a low-calorie vodka line, which was recently named in a lawsuit stemming from the death of a man at a Voli promotional event.



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Minority Apartment Owners Association (MAOA) Hosts Los Angeles Housing Authority



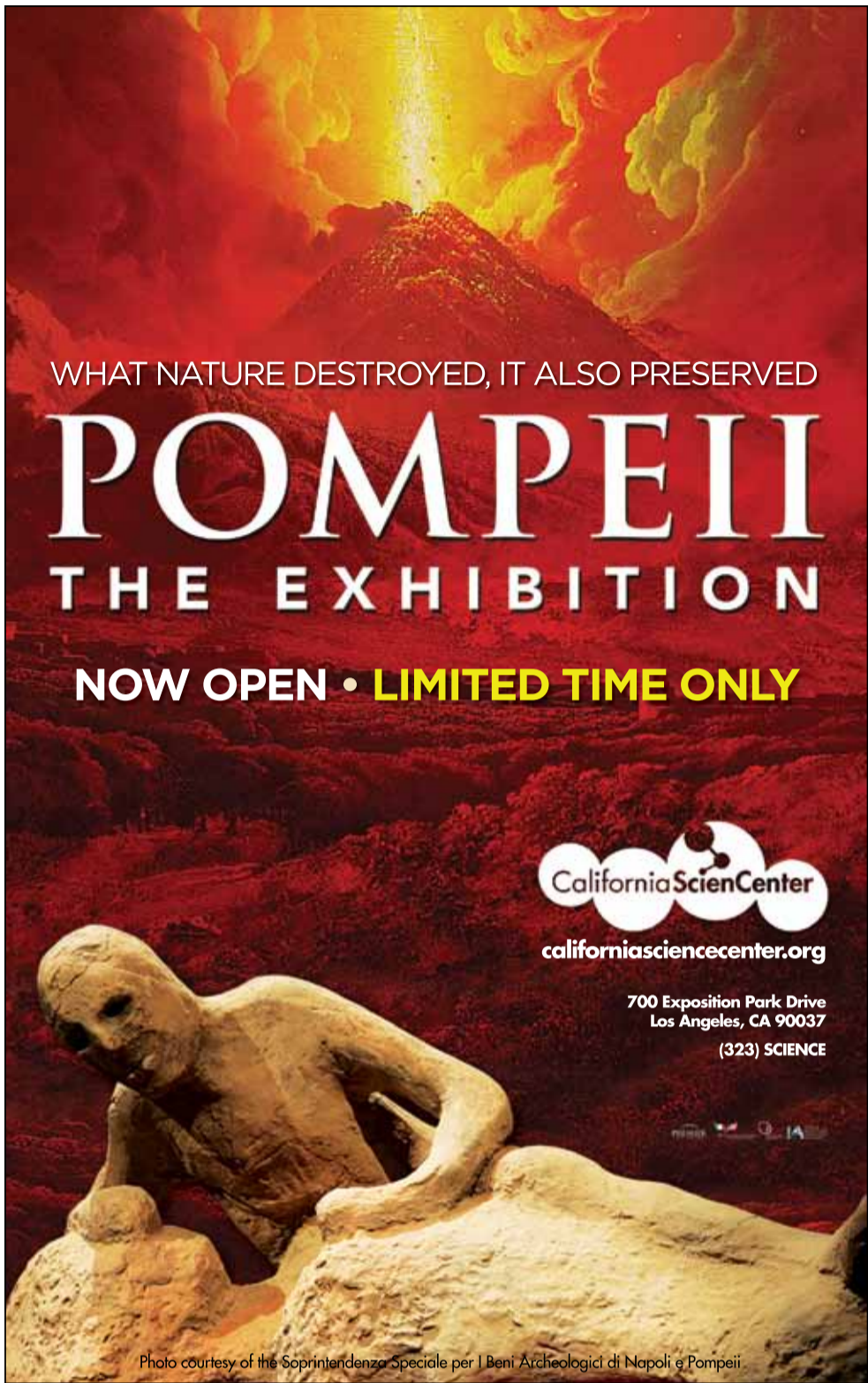
Ruth A. Hayles - Executive Director - MAOA

Agbor Agbor, Inspections and APIC Manager - Los Angeles Housing Authority
 Angela Adams, Assistant Director Section 8 Department - Los Angeles Housing Authority
 Michael Williams, Property Manager - International Realty & Investments

The Minority Apartment Owners Association (MAOA) hosted its bi-monthly meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2014. The guest speaker was Mr. Agbor Agbor, manager of the Inspections Department. The audience consisted of members of rental property owners, as well as first-time attendees.

Mr. Agbor Agbor explained the Section 8 inspection process and how the Department sends out the first annual inspection notice about 30 days prior to the annual inspection. He suggested that owners have a pre-inspection of their tenant's unit prior to the inspection to minimize the deficiencies when the inspector comes out to the property. Once the inspection is completed and if any deficiencies are sited, the owner has approximately 15-20 days to correct the deficiencies prior to the second inspection. If the deficiencies are not corrected, the unit is abated and the Section 8 check stops until the deficiencies are corrected. Mr. Agbor Agbor suggested that owners contact the Inspection Department via email, which is more efficient and effective than phone calls if they have specific

concerns or questions. Many of the questions from the audience centered around what deficiencies the tenant is responsible for and what deficiencies the owner is responsible for completing. Many of the other questions focused on the placement of the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors that are required by State law and Section 8. Also in attendance from the Housing Authority was Ms. Angela Adams, Assistant Director of the Section 8 program. She stated that the voucher program has been closed since 2012 and the only new vouchers are for veterans seeking housing. She stated that the veterans housing program also includes outreach services by various agencies who can assist veterans not only with housing but social and mental health services. Ruth A. Hayles, Executive Director, also spoke to the attendees about increasing concerns by owners regarding medical marijuana and the legitimacy of it in residential rental properties. Although many city agencies have allowed dispensaries to be opened, marijuana is still a violation



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of Federal law. If the tenant by smoking on the premises is interfering with the place, quiet and enjoyment of the other tenants, then the owner may be obligated to serve notice on the tenant.

The MAOA was founded by International Realty & Investments, a firm specializing in property management and investment property sales. The MAOA will celebrate its 27th year in September. The next

meeting will be Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 7:00p.m. at the MAOA office, 11215 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles, CA. For more information or a membership application, please call (323)754.2818.

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Come and join us for an afternoon of fundraising for a great cause: "I'm My Sister's Keeper Youth Council Inc.," will host its 2nd annual "A Ray of Hope @ Home 2014" here in Los Angeles, CA, on Saturday, June 7, 2014, at House of Music & Entertainment (H.O.M.E) located at 430 N. Camden Beverly Hills, CA. 90021, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Donations for the event are \$35.00.

For more information contact Melissa Sandfield at communitywithme1@gmail.com.

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- Register for Alert LA County at Alert.lacounty.gov
- Prepare Emergency Contact Cards

✓ Get Connected

- Post a Preparedness Message on your Social Media and/or Website
- Have your Congregation complete the Emergency Skills Survey

✓ Get Prepared

- Make Individual or Family Disaster Kits
- Complete and practice an Organizational Disaster Plan

✓ Get Active

- Take Disaster Preparedness Classes
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