

# Cure: Mickey got the idea from Barry Zito's Strikeout for Troops

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to military hospitals for every strikeout he records in a game.

Zito called the project Strikeouts for Troops.

About a year and half ago, Mickey was watching Zito pitch on television and the commentators started talking about Strikeouts for Troops. This gave Mickey an idea.

"If Barry Zito could have Strikeouts for Troops, then why can't we have Strikeouts for Autism?" Mickey asked.

His parents liked the idea.

"We had tried other fundraising events, like the walks, but Mickey would ask 'why are we walking around a track?' It just wasn't enjoyable for him," Faith said. "But with this, we don't have to do anything we wouldn't normally do. It meets our needs and is a way for us to help out."

So this year, Strikeouts for Autism was launched.

It's a simple system. People choose a player or team to sponsor and the amount of money they want to donate for each strikeout they get in a game. So if someone wants to donate 50 cents for every batter Mickey strikes out, and he gets 50 strikeouts

during the year, they would donate \$25.

All the proceeds go to the Autism Speaks organization. On the Autism Speaks Web site, its mission statement reads, "We are dedicated to funding global biomedical research into the causes, prevention, treatment and cure for autism."

Strikeouts for Autism is open to baseball and softball players at all levels, from Little League to college.

With this being the first year of Strikeouts for Autism, Faith thought that the only participants were going to be Mickey and maybe a couple of other family members. She was wrong.

## Fairfield takes the mound

Before this year, the Coyne family lived in Fairfield and Mickey and Brendan both played in the Cordelia Tri-Valley Little League. But the Coyne's moved to Elk Grove to get Brendan into the best school they could to help him with his autism.

Faith called some of her Fairfield friends, including Jody Smith and Tracey Madison, to tell them about Strikeouts for Autism and to see if they might be interested in joining.



The Associated Press

## The Strikeouts for Autism logo on Cain Madison's hat.

"We all know Mickey and Brendan and watched them grow up, so we thought it was a great idea," Smith said. "It gives us a chance to help the Coyne's and raise awareness for autism."

Smith signed up her two sons, Nick and Riley, and Madison signed up her sons, Cain and Jacob. Another friend of the Coyne's, Carter Bins, also joined the Strikeouts for Autism team.

Tricia Sturn went a step further, and signed up the entire CTVLL majors Giants team to the program.

"I explained to them what autism is and told them, 'O.K., this what we are going to do,'" Sturn said. "The kids have really embraced it, and they have even started competing with each other to see who can get the most

strikeouts."

There are also other benefits to the program than just raising money for autism.

"I think it's important for kids, even young kids, to understand that there are other kids out there that aren't as lucky as they are and to try and help them," Smith said.

Nick, who is 9, said that autism is "whe," described the program by saying, "You strike someone out and then at the end of the season the money gets totaled up and sent to a place where they try and find a cure for autism."

They also understand that this isn't something they are just going to do for one year. Riley said he will be part of the Strikeouts for Autism team in the future "because

more kids are going to get autism and they are going to need more money to find a cure."

All the players on the Strikeouts for Autism team wear a patch on their hat. The patch has a puzzle piece, which represents the missing piece of the puzzle to the cure of autism, and a backwards K, which represents a strikeout.

"People see the patches on the hat and ask, 'What's that for?'" Mike Smith said, the father of Nick and Riley. "It has been a great way to raise awareness."

In its first year, Strikeouts for Autism has signed up 10 players and two teams. The goal at the start of the season was to raise \$1,000, but heading into this weekend's games, Strikeouts for Autism has already raised \$1,460.50.

when they see someone like my brother, they would understand what autism is."

As Mickey has got older he now understands what is wrong with Brendan and the two have become closer. They play together more and Brendan enjoys practicing his hitting when Mickey pitches to him.

What has also helped is Strikeouts for Autism.

"I think when he was younger, Mickey felt helpless that he couldn't do anything for his brother," Faith said. "But now he is much more out there for Brendan and he has something to do to help him."

In his new school, Brendan has shown improvement and has started talking in full sentences.

"When you are the parent of an autistic child, you go through these stages," Faith said. "First you are in denial. This is what's happening?"

"Then you get to the stage where you try to do what ever you can to make this better for him. Then, hopefully, you get to the stage where you try and help others."

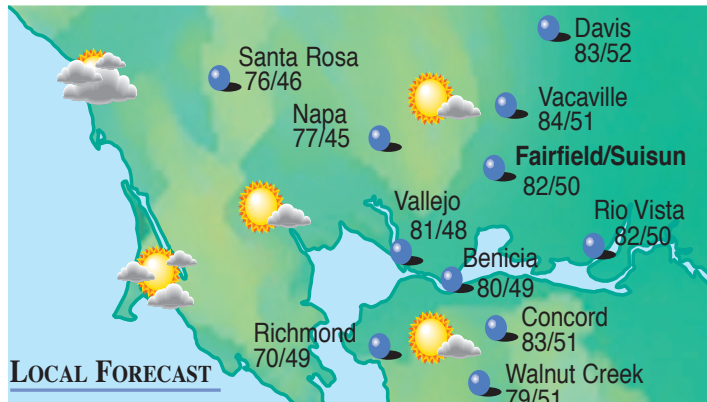
Reach Patrick Creaven at 425-4646 Ext. 266 or pcreaven@dailyrepublic.net.

## ACCUWEATHER® 5-DAY FORECAST FOR FAIRFIELD/SUISUN

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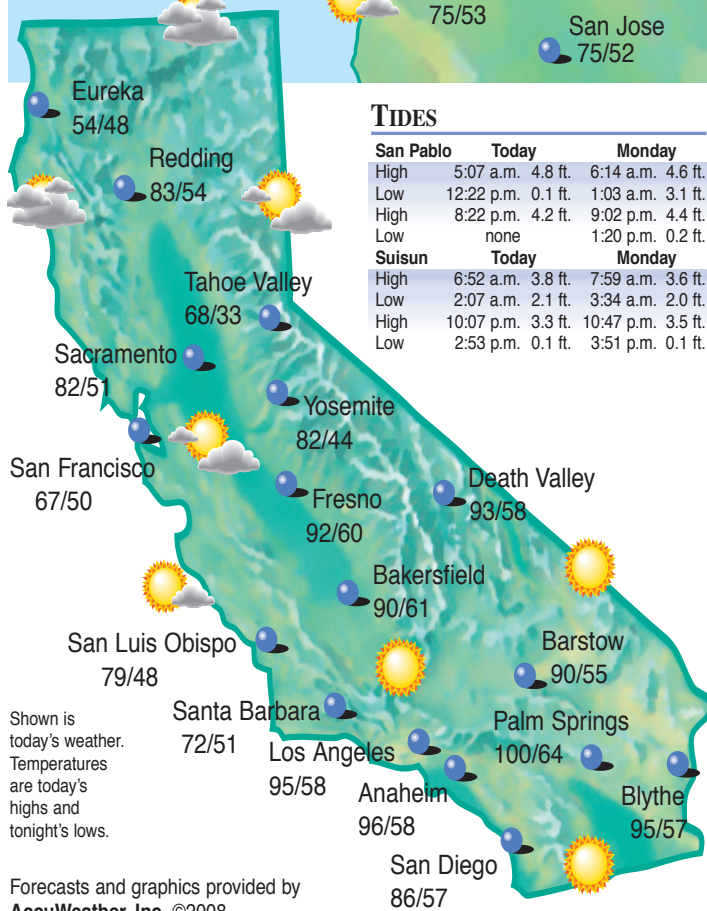
Today	Tonight	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Breezy with plenty of sunshine	Partly cloudy	Breezy with sunshine	Partly sunny, breezy and cooler	Sunshine, breezy and cool	Mostly sunny and cool
<b>82</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>73/48</b>	<b>62/46</b>	<b>65/43</b>	<b>68/46</b>

### REGIONAL & STATE WEATHER



### LOCAL FORECAST

Breezy today with plenty of sunshine. Partly cloudy tonight. Breezy tomorrow with sunshine. Tuesday: partly sunny, breezy and cooler. Wednesday: sunshine, breezy and cool. Thursday: mostly sunny and cool. Friday: mostly cloudy and breezy.



### TIDES

San Pablo	Today	Monday
High	5:07 a.m. 4.8 ft.	6:14 a.m. 4.6 ft.
Low	12:22 p.m. 0.1 ft.	1:03 a.m. 3.1 ft.
High	8:22 p.m. 4.2 ft.	9:02 p.m. 4.4 ft.
Low	none	1:20 p.m. 0.2 ft.
Suisun	Today	Monday
High	6:52 a.m. 3.8 ft.	7:59 a.m. 3.6 ft.
Low	2:07 a.m. 2.1 ft.	3:34 a.m. 2.0 ft.
High	10:07 p.m. 3.3 ft.	10:47 p.m. 3.5 ft.
Low	2:53 p.m. 0.1 ft.	3:51 p.m. 0.1 ft.

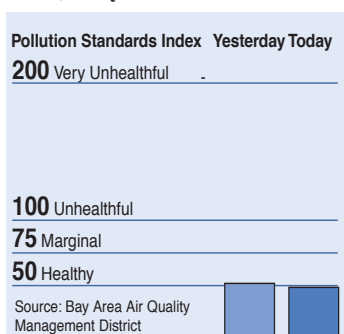
### ALMANAC

Statistics for Travis Air Force Base for yesterday through 2 p.m.  
 Temperature: High 84, Low 46, Normal High 74, Normal Low 48, A year ago 79/46, Barometric pressure at 3 p.m. 30.11 in.

### Sun & Moon

Today	Sunrise	Sunset
Monday	6:15 a.m.	7:55 p.m.
Today	Moonrise	Moonset
Monday	1:51 a.m.	11:30 a.m.

### Air Quality Index



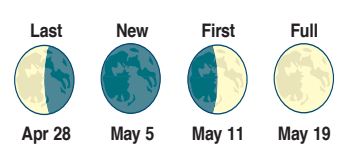
### CALIFORNIA CITIES

City	Today	Monday
Big Sur	61 51 s	57 49 pc
Bishop	83 44 s	85 45 s
Catalina	85 64 s	77 52 s
Eureka	54 48 c	58 46 pc
Fort Bragg	56 47 c	55 46 pc
Long Beach	95 57 s	79 56 s
Los Angeles	95 58 s	84 58 s
Marysville	83 50 pc	80 47 s
Modesto	87 54 s	80 51 s
Monterey	65 49 s	60 48 pc
Needles	92 62 s	100 68 s
Ontario	98 57 s	85 55 s

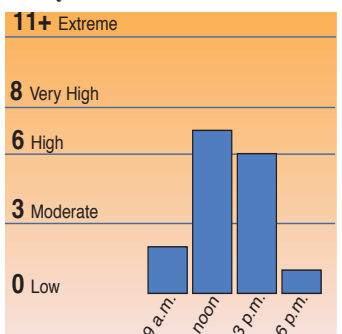
### WORLD CITIES

City	Today	Monday
Acapulco	88 76 s	88 74 s
Amsterdam	67 49 c	54 46 c
Athens	64 51 c	66 53 c
Bangkok	91 80 t	90 80 t
Beijing	66 50 pc	76 61 s
Belgrade	71 46 pc	70 47 s
Bermuda	71 64 s	73 62 s
Budapest	73 45 s	71 44 s
Buenos Aires	73 54 pc	68 46 pc
Cairo	85 60 s	84 56 s
Frankfurt	71 48 s	68 40 sh
Hong Kong	78 74 c	77 72 t
Istanbul	56 47 sh	62 51 r
Jerusalem	70 47 s	68 46 s
Lima	76 70 pc	77 66 pc
Lisbon	78 54 s	66 50 pc
London	60 48 c	57 46 pc

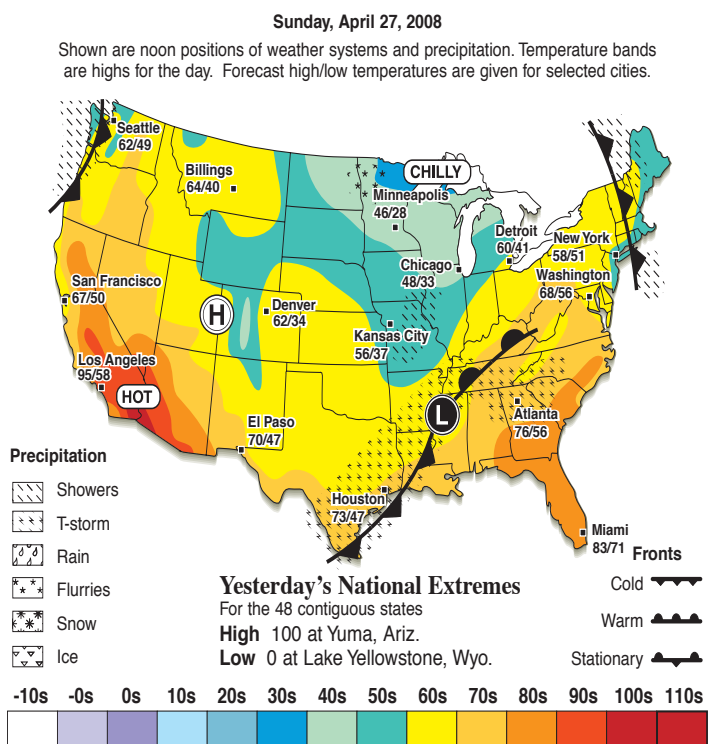
### Moon Phases



### Today's AccuWeather UV Index™



### NATIONAL FORECAST



### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Monday
Albany	67 47 pc	56 40 r
Albuquerque	67 45 s	77 48 s
Anchorage	50 38 c	54 37 s
Atlanta	76 56 t	64 42 t
Austin	67 40 r	80 46 s
Baltimore	66 52 c	62 38 t
Birmingham	72 51 t	63 41 pc
Bismarck	48 26 pc	57 34 s
Burlington	68 48 pc	56 41 r
Boise	72 49 pc	76 49 s
Boston	54 44 pc	50 47 c
Buffalo	66 44 pc	50 31 r
Charleston, SC	80 65 t	78 49 t
Cheyenne	61 33 s	64 38 pc
Chicago	48 33 sh	49 35 c
Cincinnati	68 43 t	55 36 c
Cleveland	62 43 pc	46 34 c
Dallas	64 45 r	77 55 s
Denver	62 34 s	71 41 pc
Des Moines	56 34 c	51 34 pc
Detroit	60 41 pc	49 34 c
Eugene	67 48 c	59 44 r
Fairbanks	54 34 c	50 33 c
Fargo	46 24 c	49 33 pc
Flagstaff	70 25 s	77 31 s
Grand Rapids	54 34 c	49 31 c
Helena	67 39 s	69 41 pc
Honolulu	84 73 s	85 73 s
Houston	73 47 t	78 51 s
Indianapolis	64 38 c	53 34 c
Kansas City	56 37 c	58 39 s
Las Vegas	86 63 s	93 69 s

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