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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 8, No. 6 Published Every Other Wednesday www.venturabreeze.com December 24 - January 6, 2015



Sandra and Paul thrilled the crowd with their Argentine Tango. Photo by Dina Pielat.

Ventura resident Sandra Laby performs at Poinsettia Ball

Music filled the air and dancers twirled as the New West Symphony League presented its annual Poinsettia Ball on Friday, December 5 at the Four Seasons Westlake Hotel. The theme of this year's gala event, which was attended by 350 guests, was Dancing with the Stars at the Poinsettia Ball.

The evening's program, featuring local radio personality Pablo Ortiz as Master of Ceremonies, began with a special dance performance of the Argentine Tango presented by Ventura's own resident, philanthropist and dancer par excellence, Sandra Laby. Together with her dance partner, Paul Sulzman of Ventura Dance, they beautifully set the stage for the other performances to come.

The Symphony League asked six community leaders to participate in the dance portion of the evening which immediately followed a lavish dinner and live and silent auction.

Cinematography and videography was provided free of charge by Ventura multi-media specialist, Dina Pielat.

She is available for creative services
Continued on page 15



Chuck Cecil at his home broadcasting studio in Ventura.

The decline of jazz in America-Part one

Photo and story by Richard Lieberman

"If there is any sure sign of the decline of American civilization, it is its musical taste. While radio stations and night clubs overflow with hillbillies and rock-and-roll singers, jazz musicians - who are making America's first signifi-

cant contribution to serious music - are too often without jobs. In virtually every city, a general decline has been evident," the Harvard Crimson May 19, 1965

Venerable DJ and jazz guru 92 year
Continued on page 16



Lindsey has been a constant presence at all of our Ventura River clean ups.

Volunteer of the Year, Lindsey Svete

by Lee Sherman

This past November the Ventura Hillside Conservancy hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at the

Redwood Glen picnic area in Arroyo Verde Park. Over 50 volunteers and supporters came to enjoy burgers, chips, and a cake as well as beer, wine and soft drinks. Quite a few folks rode their bikes, which was very pleasing for our Volunteer of the Year, Lindsey Svete.

"I am almost neurotic about reducing my carbon footprint. I ride my bike everywhere, take a bus to work, am super proud of my backyard compost efforts, and love thrift stores and everything they give to society!" remarked Lindsey, who works in Water Conservation at California American Water in Thousand Oaks.

She is a Southern California native who received her undergraduate degree in Hydrologic Sciences at UCSB. She spent several years abroad, earning a Master's Degree in Environment and Natural Resources at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, where she met her husband. They lived in Europe for four years, working as conservation volunteers in England and on organic farms in Italy through the WWOOF program (World Wide Opportunities on
Continued on page 16



Can federal funding help eliminate our homeless population?

Counting the homeless brings us federal funding

Please take a minute, before you head off to your holiday frolic with friends and family, to sign up for the annual homeless persons count - scheduled for January 27.

There are only 38 days until the count, and this year Annett Ewing and I are in charge of the counts in Ventura and Oxnard!!!! Sign-ups are slow this year so please take three hours out your day on January 27 and help us ensure that we continue to receive the vital federal funding we need to help our vulnerable neighbors.

Go to www.volunteerventuracounty.org and sign up for Ventura or Oxnard (or any other city in Ventura County). Signing up takes less than 5 minutes. Questions may be referred to Annett at 654-7724 or aeewing@cityofventura.net.

Please help Annett and me sleep better over the holidays knowing we have all of our slots filled!

Peter Brown
Community Services Manager
Community Development
City of Ventura
658.4707
pbrown@cityofventura.net

While ringing in the new year on Times Square (December 31), you can always catch up with the Breeze at venturabreeze.com

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- Report suspicious activity.

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Business



"Oh boy, we're at Jam Camp! Break out the harmonicas!"

Jon Gindick's Blues Harmonica Jam Camp comes to Ventura

Anyone who has ever tried to play blues harmonica is going to love this.

World-renowned harmonica player, teacher and author Jon Gindick, and his team of blues musicians and coaches, will be holding a 5-day Blues Harmonica Jam Camp at the Pierpont Inn in Ventura. The dates are Tuesday through Saturday, January 20-24, and the camp is nearly sold out. Raw beginners and frustrated intermediates are encouraged to attend, as well as more seasoned players. The cost for this crash course in the blues is \$995.

In the 1980s and '90s, Jon's books and cassettes on harmonica playing sold more than a million copies. Since 2002, Jon has put on more than 50 Jam Camps, and attendees readily say the 5-day immersion experience has changed their lives. Some campers have been to as many as a dozen camps. Many have joined bands, and made harp-playing their entrance into a new, more fun, way of life. Although younger people do attend, campers are mostly adult, and about 20% are women. It has become a "scene."

Jon's talented team of teachers include blues harmonica artists Rj Mischo, former Ventura resident, now of Arkansas; Cheryl Arena of Boston; Brian Purdy of Florida; Hash Brown of Dallas; Ralph Carter of Ventura; and of course, Jon himself. Throughout the camp, these pros will work closely with campers to help develop the secrets of blues harp: playing single notes, getting great tone, bending, phrasing, tongue-blocking, amplification, and also to better understand the styles of the blues greats like Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter, Jimmy reed, Paul Butterfield, Charlie Musselwhite. Attendees are urged to start singing, writing songs, and performing. By having so many expert teachers for only 25 campers, attendees get individual attention and encouragement each step of the way.

By Thursday night, there's improvement, so campers and coaches team up with the Gypsy Blues Band to put on a show at Amigos Surf Cantina, and on Saturday afternoon, the Austin Room at the Pierpont hosts the Jam Camp Revue, in which each camper performs a song with the Jam Camp Band. These are open to the public.

A new resident of Ventura, Jon will be performing with his band at Amigo's Surf Cantina Sunday afternoon, January 18, 6 to 9pm, and he can also be heard sitting in at various venues around town. In 2010, Jon's album of songs he wrote, "When We Die We All Come Back as Music," won HAAMM coveted Best Blues Album of the Year.

Jon reminds us that a life of music-making is healthy, especially as we get older. Research shows it fights aging, builds intelligence and enhances anyone's life, especially in a supportive community of learners and coaches. Says Jon, "Our goal is to make learning to play music really fun and to help people get out there and jam."

For more information, visit Jon's website, www.Gindick.com.

GOT BABY?

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Guest Columnist

Ventura Council looks to improve oversight

by Diane Underhill

After previewing overly massive and dense projects already in the planning process the big question for Ventura's City Council (Monday 12/15) became whether to regain stewardship of Ventura and return public transparency by reinstating the Residential Growth Management Program (RGMP).

The RGMP was the only city program that paced residential growth so that new development would not overwhelm our available infrastructure like: water, road, and police/fire capacity.

The RGMP was intact when the current 2005 General Plan underwent its Draft Environmental Impact Report review. However, almost simultaneously with the adoption of the 2005 General Plan, the then sitting Council voted to replace the RGMP with the Housing Approval Program (HAP). With that single council action, Ventura gave up control and oversight moving from a transparent managed-growth policy to an opaque program offering the Council no control and the public little oversight.

Now with the recession waning, developers are flocking to Ventura with

proposals for overly large developments with substandard parking plans. It is now apparent that the "compatible infill" vision in our General Plan under the RGMP has quickly morphed into plans of "overfill" under the HAP.

Doing away with the RGMP essentially blocked the development process from view, both for the public and the City Council. This Council is now moving to correct the problem.

Monday night, several City Council members, including Mayor Heitmann, made comments of concern over the lack of compatibility of several projects that seek even more density than the generous zoning permitted. When Mayor Heitmann asked how the council could prevent approvals for such massive out-of-character buildings the Community Development Director replied the Council could reinstate the RGMP.

The RGMP would also help tie development to the available water supply.

Monday night water watchdog Dan Cormode, using the city's own figures, showed Ventura has already exceeded its water resources, and should hold off on new water connections until a long-term solution is in place. Mr. Cormode explained the city is currently "renting" water from Lake Casitas for Ventura's East side to blend with their undrinkable groundwater, and there is no plan for replacing "borrowed" water as is required. Like a U-Haul, the rental fees

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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce
Member, Ojai Chamber of Commerce

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We encourage you to send your opinions
to opinions@venturabreeze.com. Please
limit them to about 300 words.

Sheldon Brown:

(Comment on opinion 11-25 regarding
turning Olivas into a performing art's center)

Olivas links is number 30 out of the
top 50 muni golf courses in the entire
country, rated by golf week. To replace

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher

■ Wow, another year is coming to an end, hard to believe. I want to wish a **Happy Holiday** to all of our wonderful readers, and to our much appreciated advertisers. Without them you wouldn't be reading this, so please support the Breeze advertisers whenever possible. I'd also like to thank my incredibly dedicated and wonderful staff, and my wife Diane for putting up with me and Professor Scamp for his writing and companionship (he is sitting right next to me now).

■ I want to thank **Discovery Ventura** for hosting the "Face of Ventura Award" – this was our second un-sung hero painting. It was a great lunch and enjoyed by all. See page 8 in this issue for the Award presentation and be sure to send me your nominations for future recipients. It was amazing to see the bond between the Chapman's and Johnson's based upon Michael probably saving their lives, something very special indeed.

■ I must comment about **SONY's** hacking debacle. Really stupid of them to make the film in my opinion. If an English film maker produced a movie about assassinating Obama there would certainly have been an uproar. Not sure we would have Cyber hacked the English movie company, but there would be an objection. Who knows, North Korea could go after the Ventura Breeze so I won't say anything bad about their idiot leader.

■ I recently made some comments regarding **Duke's Restaurant** on Seaward by saying that "maybe they don't know what they are doing." Let me clarify. As a retired licensed architect and general contractor, I meant that the remodeling is taking an extremely long time. I didn't mean to imply in any way that the new owners won't be able to run a great restaurant.

I look forward to their re-opening. Duke's is a Ventura icon that we all enjoy and I wish them nothing but success.

■ Earlier this month, I was a judge for the Ventura Boat Parade of Lights. This was my third year in a row. Seems like there were many fewer boats participating this year. Maybe because of the weather.

Would like to thank the other judges for joining me: Marni Howe, Mike Laan, Kayle Nilon and Lauren Belshe.

■ This year, the city started a new process for **developers** (you know the people

who keep the city going) to present future proposed building projects to the City Council. Developers can hear councilmember's comments about the projects very early in the process so that they don't continue with proposed plans to just get shot down later by the Council late in the process, or sometimes again on appeal.

I have commented before about the unfairness of the old process which required developers to spend huge amounts of time and money on preliminary drawings to then have the projects later rejected by the Council. So, this is an excellent solution to try to vastly improve the development review process.

Community Development Director Jeff Lambert, and Planning Manager Dave Ward made an excellent presentation to the



Council presenting preliminary drawings for future projects to get initial comments from the Council.

■ The **Charter Review Committee** that is studying revisions to our City Charter will soon be making recommendations to the City Council.

A few items they will report on include: A directly elected mayor (I am very much in favor of this if the City can afford it). Term limits for mayor and councilmembers (I am also in favor of this, and it won't cost anything. I just feel that new blood keeps the council fresh and focused).

Removing the Board of Education from the City's Charter (Don't have a strong opinion

about this, but that Board should probably be independent from the charter).

Perhaps we should consider council districts as well, but maybe we are too small for those to be effective.

I also think that councilmembers should be paid more, so that we don't only get (usually) retired people running for the office. Most members are committed and work 20-30 (or more) hours per week for around \$600 a month (you would think that they would just publish a local newspaper if that's the kind of money they're looking for).

■ The City Council has adopted an interim ordinance that establishes a city-wide moratorium on the establishment or expansion of **massage establishments**. Final recommendations will be made to the Council during this moratorium.

"ORDINANCE NO. 2014: AN INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA ADOPTING FOR A PERIOD OF FORTY-FIVE DAYS A CITYWIDE MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OR EXPANSION OF MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS."

It's unbelievable how many new "massage" parlors are currently operating here. How do we regulate these businesses - do police officers volunteer for the assignment of checking them out? Maybe we should create a "citizen's task force." I wonder how many volunteers would sign up to assist and actually continue to report on their findings.

■ Watching modern day Cuba videos is pretty amazing with all of the 1950's and 60's cars driving around. Looks like an old Cary Grant movie. The changes there will be interesting to see. Hopefully stays this way because it is very charming and doesn't become too westernized.

■ Whoever writes PA VENTURA in the Star included the following.

TO OUR NEIGHBORS
Happy Hanukkah

Now what the heck does that mean? Our neighbors in Mexico or Canada? Neighbors in LA County, his next door neighbors? Baffles me!

■ A homeless man living in downtown LA stated, "I'm the luckiest homeless person in the world, I get to live under Disney Hall." Perhaps the luckiest homeless people live in Ventura because many of them have ocean views. I hope he doesn't find this out and move here.

Mailbox

an outdoor exercise Facility near the ocean with a building that will be used at night most of the time, doesn't seem like the way to go. Do you play golf?

Go by Olivas and see people of all ages, using this facility Once it's lost it can't be replaced. The one question I would have is this golf course losing money, I know RiverRidge in Oxnard is struggling. Would a music center make money? Is making money, or losing money the issue here? I Think Spend a few minutes checking these three golf courses out and see the people getting exercise outside.

Sheldon(not the governor)

Sheldon

I don't play golf but did take lessons there a few years ago. A beautiful place for sure. It does lose money but that is not too important.

I like your name.

Sheldon

Governor Brown,

Thank you again for publishing Ventura's preeminent community newspaper. Your Ventura Harbor

Boat Parade of Lights and Fireworks article (Vol. 8, No. 5) was informative and inviting. Due to the cold and potential inclement weather - we opted to watch the parade Friday night online (<http://52b39e4528a6f.click2stream.com/>).

We had an enjoyable visit Saturday afternoon. The beautiful weather, live entertainment, activities and great foot traffic made for a nice Holiday feel (wish they had fired up the manzanita...).

All of this is nice to hear - but the main reason I thank you is that if we had relied on another publication in Ventura - (Old PA in the Star) we would have completely missed Friday night as he printed Saturday and Sunday as event dates.

I am convinced that Ventura is a

nicer place with a little Breeze.

Egypt pharaoh

Maybe Old PA is getting senile.



Sheldon:

Just now on way home from Maverick's. Carl Morehouse

Carl:

Okay you have convinced me that plastic bags are a litter problem. I'm lucky I live on

Continued on page 15

It is our duty as men and women to proceed as though the limits
of our ability do not exist.

– Teilhard De Chardin



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William Alfred Lucking III 1944-2014

Bill Lucking, 70, passed away peacefully at his Ventura home on December 10, after a battle with cancer. He was born January 27, 1944 in Indio, California, the son of William Alfred Lucking Jr and Helen Burnett Lucking. He lived in California all of his life, growing up in Ojai. He was educated at Monica Ros School and Ojai Valley School, and graduated from the Webb School in Claremont. He attended UC Berkeley, San Jose State College, Ventura College, and Menlo College, where he earned his undergraduate degree.

Bill married twice, to Dawn Wyatt and to Bonnie Rees Arwood. He was a lifelong swimmer, surfer and athlete; for many years, he could be seen swimming around the pier or running on the beach.

In 1970 he earned an MBA at Pepperdine, and later trained at a food-service school and worked at fast-food restaurants

in Santa Barbara County. In January 1976 he opened the Hitching Post Restaurant (now Sea Fresh Sea Food) and soon he, his wife Dawn and children Will and Blythe moved to Ojai.

He was employed as an Inspector II by the County of Ventura Weights and Measures for 29 years, returning to work part-time after his retirement.

In 1985 Bill married the woman who was to be the love of his life, Bonnie Rees Arwood, and in 1989 they greeted their daughter Alison. He and Bonnie enjoyed restoring their historic Ventura home and a second home, of which they were very proud. Shortly after they moved into their home, Bonnie passed away, but Bill completed the home projects, both historical and restoration triumphs, and a tribute to Bonnie. Bill was hugely proud of the plaque placed on the front lawn.

Bill leaves a son, William Alfred "Will" Lucking IV of Long Beach, daughter Blythe Alapa of Santa Rosa, daughter Alison Lucking of Ventura, and stepson Eric Arwood of Washington; three grandchildren, Ena, Jasmine and Keoni Alapa; sisters Helen "Lana" Fredell of Ojai, Ruth Col of Las Vegas and Carly (Ernie) Ford of Ojai; many cousins, nieces and nephews, and former wife Dawn Everson.

At Bill's request there will be no funeral. Please join Bill's family and friends in a celebration of his life at 11am on Saturday, January 17, at the Ford Ranch on Maricopa Highway in Ojai. Please call 646-5004 for directions. The family wishes to thank Drs. James Helmer and Joshua Rosenberg and Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association for their care and support.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Ojai Valley School, 723 El Paseo Rd, Ojai, CA 93023; or to the Ojai Valley Museum, 130 W Ojai Ave, Ojai, CA 93023.

Arrangements are by Ted Mayr.

Community Events

Learn to make things at Foster Library, and more!

1/6 Makeshop: Super Bouncy Ball 5-7 p.m. Join us at the E.P. Foster Library for this special Library LAB activity! Participants will make use of a simple chemical reaction to create a bouncing ball. Come learn about some of the ways science can be fun at this free event!

1/8 Complimentary Hearing Screening 12-2 p.m. Curious about the state of your hearing? Stop by the E.P. Foster Library Topping Room for a free screening provided by Connect Hearing!

1/10 Bookbinding 10 a.m. Just us in the Topping Room for a special talk by Roderick Lang, who will discuss bookbinding and related topics. Mr. Lang's presentation will include general information surrounding the practice as well as examples of books he is currently working on.

1/17 Movie Sing-Along 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This special movie screening will take place in the Topping Room. The film is the story of a fearless princess who sets off on an epic journey to find her estranged sister, whose icy powers have inadvertently trapped the kingdom in eternal winter. Join us for this free sing-along event!

1/20 Makeshop: Vibrating Robots 5-7 p.m. Come to E.P. Foster Library for another special Library LAB activity! This week, participants will be able to use small motors, battery clips, and assorted odds and ends to create fun little vibrating robots. If you're looking for a project that requires a mix of engineering and creativity, join us for this free event!

1/24 Read Me a Story & More 6-8 p.m. This early literacy workshop is for parents and caregivers of children ages 0-5 years old. Participants will learn early literacy skills and practices, how to make a story come alive, and how to extend stories into activities that the whole family will enjoy! Registration is required, and space is limited; please contact Star Soto, Children's Librarian at (805) 648-2716 for more information.

Recurring Events

1/7, 1/14, 1/21 & 1/28 Library LAB 5:30-7:30 p.m. Come by the library on Wednesday evenings to learn more about our 3D printer and laser cutter—or to use them yourself! Ask the library staff about what you need to bring to print or engrave an item of your own, or just drop in to see what we're up to in our library makerspace.

1/8, 1/15, 1/22 & 1/29 Open Mic Night 7:30-9 p.m. On these Thursday nights, come join this group of writers as they meet in the Topping Room to present their work.

1/12, 1/26 Ukulele Jam Session 7-10 p.m. Come play the ukulele with other local musicians in the Topping room! This event is free and open to the public. All skill levels are welcome to join in the fun!

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Would you like to meet new friends? Whatever the reason, *Ventura's Conversation Group* is the right place for you. This eclectic group meets **Wednesdays** from 4p.m. to 6p.m. at Yolanda's Mexican Restaurant at

2753 Main St. No topic is off limits as long as you don't lecture.

The **Ventura Retired Men's Group** meets at the Ventura Elks Lodge, 2126 Knoll Dr., from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month**. For more information on future events, visit <http://www.VenturaRetiredMen.org/fp.html> or call Gene Wink at 647-2513

December 25: A bounteous Chinese lunch, followed by a humorous movie entitled Lunch, is scheduled for Christmas Day at Noon, at Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Road. The movie chronicles the careers of comedians Mel Brooks, Sid Caesar, Carl Reiner, and many others, who met every 2 weeks for 40 years at various Jewish delicatessens, in Los Angeles. They told stories and remembered old times. Highlights of their masterpieces are included in the film. Cost: Lunch and movie \$25/ Movie only \$12. Doors open at noon, lunch starts at 12:30 p.m., and movie begins at 1:30 p.m. Order tickets online at Brownpapertickets.com/event/897563, or phone Brownpaper Tickets Customer Service at 1-800-838-3006. For additional information go to <http://www.lunchthedocumentary.com>.

January 7: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN) is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, bridge, dining, wine outings, reading, mah jong, cooking etc. For more information, please attend their monthly meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 11a.m. Meeting are held at the Ventura Museum Pavilion located at 100 E. Main Street. No charge for meeting and no reservations are required. Coffee or tea is available at a nominal charge of \$1.

This month, activity leaders will speak about their various activities. It is a wonderful opportunity for members and guests to meet the 2015 Board and find out what BCNN is all about. For additional information, please visit Website at: bcnnwomensclub.org or call: 647-8105 or 985-8085

January 8: The Ventura County Professional Women's Network - VCPWN, a long standing organization that supports the interests of professional women is holding its first **monthly networking dinner** meeting of 2015. The event will take place at the Wedgewood Wedding and Banquet Center at 5880 Olivias Park Drive. Networking begins at 5:30p.m. and dinner begins at 6p.m. Speakers will be two members of the current Ventura County Grand Jury who will give an interesting presentation on the grand jury's role as "public watchdog". For more information or to register, go to vcpwn.org. Questions? Contact: VCPWN Communications@gmail.com or 275-4134; face book page: <https://www.facebook.com/VCPWN>

January 9: An awkward confrontation between a nebbish and his strange new neighbor. A belated birthday gift bestowed to a childless couple. A father and a son caught between happiness and convention. A woman's dreamlike secret life. A divorced couple search their past and grapple with the future. It all sounds like ordinary drama, but this year the Elite Theatre Company is proud to insist that it's anything but. Beneath the surface of each of these vignettes that make up their **6th Annual One-Act Play Festival**. The Elite Theatre Company's 6th Annual One-Act Play Festival opens January 9th and runs Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 and Sundays at 2:00. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. The theatre is located at 2731 S. Victoria Ave in Oxnard. You can purchase tickets from the box office at 483-5118 or order them online at elitetheatre.org.



Community Events

January 9: The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura will host a Pete Seeger Songfest with singer-songwriter Jim Scott on Friday at 7p.m. Pete Seeger will be honored by singing many of his well-loved songs such as; *If I Had a Hammer*, *Turn, Turn, Turn, Where Have All the Flowers Gone* and many others. Led by composer/guitarist Jim Scott, who knew Pete well and collaborated on many projects with the folk legend. Come and remember the great contributions to our American heritage Pete made in his 94 years of life. An icon has been lost, but not his legacy of poetry and song to guide and inspire us. Passes are available for a suggested donation of \$15 and may be reserved at 844-6546, or at the UU church in Berg Hall Sunday from 11a.m. to 12p.m.

January 10: Cancer Hope Foundation will host the 4th Annual 5K/10K runs on Saturday at the Ventura Promenade Beachfront Course. Registration begins at 7a.m.; 10K begins at 8a.m.; 5K starts at 8:30 a.m.; and the Kids Fun Race and obstacle course is at 9a.m. Those who register by January 5th will receive a goody bag, race T-shirt, and a finisher medal. All participants will also receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win fun giveaways. The event will raise money for Camp Keepsake, a retreat for families affected by cancer and their friends. Following are the registration costs and deadlines: 5K: \$40 until Jan. 8th and \$45 day of event; 10K: \$50 until Jan. 8th and \$55 day of event; Kids Fun Run: \$20. To sign up, go online to CancerHopeFoundation.org or call 384-5445.

January 14: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a critique meeting on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. A professional photographer will critique members' prints and digital images. Each month a special topic is chosen which features some interesting aspect of photography. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. See the club's web site for more information about the club and examples of member's work or call 908-5663. WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com

Ojai events

Ojai City Manager Robert Clark has announced that Rudolf Livingston, CPA, CCMT, has been appointed as the new Finance Director for the City of Ojai. Livingston is currently the Assistant Finance Director of the City of Ventura and previously held the position of Accounting Manager for the City of Santa Barbara. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in Accounting.

The City's current Finance Director, Susie Mears, is retiring at the end of December. Mr. Livingston and his wife have been residents of the City of Ojai for 10 years. Clark said, "I am extremely happy to find someone with Rudy's talent and experience right here in Ojai. His dedication to this community was a big factor in his decision to join our team."

Livingston said: "I am really excited to have the opportunity to use my talents and experience to benefit my city. It really is a rare opportunity to be the Finance Director where I live and I look forward to being able to make a difference in Ojai. I look forward to working with Rob and his management team."

Classes start January 5 at Ojai Pottery and Clay School. From beginners who want to try a hand building or an artist looking to express themselves in clay, OPCS offers two hand building classes this session: Monday afternoons from 2:30 to 5:30 with teacher Carole Paddock and Saturday

mornings from 9 to 12 with teacher Debra Rose.

Classes for all levels are Monday mornings from 9 to 12 and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 with teacher Wyn Matthews and Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 with teacher Mark Churchill.

For more experienced potters, Mark Churchill offers two classes: Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4 and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9.

Each ten-week class comes with a bag of clay, 20+ hours of open studio time, and many opportunities to explore the art of ceramics while having fun and meeting interesting people. For more information email classes@ojaipottery.com or call 798-3990. Any time the studio is open, visitors are welcome at 212 Fox Street in Ojai.

Fresh Roasted Concerts will present Moscow Nights and the Golden Gate Dancers on Saturday, January 10 at 7:30 at Matilija Auditorium, 703 El Paseo Rd. Tickets in advance at \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and students, at the door tickets will be \$5 more. Tickets are available at Ojai Coffee Roasting, by phone at 646-8907 or online at www.ptgo.org.

Moscow Nights and the Golden Gate Dancers offers audiences an entertaining and authentic glimpse into Old Russia through music, song, and dance. Expect to be thrilled by the Golden Gates dancers' syn-copated choreography, gymnastic leaping and explosive foot stomping. The singing includes well-known tunes such as Kalinka, as well as Cossack war dances and Siberian love chants. The music is played on balalaikas of different sizes as well as a variety of ethnic instruments. The musical selections are centered on masterpieces of Russian folklore from humorous songs, to elaborate lyrical suites, to pulsating dance numbers.

The program is broad and varied, with something to appeal to everyone, including audience participation through clapping and learning Russian songs and words. Beautiful costumes, great music, acrobatic dances and lots of humor make this a performance not to be missed.



Performances To Grow On will present renowned mask artist, Doug Berky in his newest creation, *Fables, Foibles and Other Imaskinations* on Saturday, January 17 at 4 pm at the Ojai Art Center Gallery. Tickets in advance are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. At the door they are \$5 more. Tickets are available at Ojai Coffee Roasting, online at ptgo.org and by phone at 805-6468907.

Mask and physical theater artist Doug Berky's large mask theatre production *Foibles, Fables And Other Imaskinations* presents stories for children and family audiences including *The Tiger's Whisker*, a Korean folktale about healing; *Simple Gifts*, a French story; and *The Crocodile and the Monkey*, a Jataka Tale from India. The performance is appropriate for all ages. For nearly 3 decades, Doug Berky has brought classic solo physical-theatre performances to stages all over the world, transcending age, race and culture. Using the illusion of the mime, the antics of the clown, the transformation of his own handmade, original and exquisite masks, the suspense of a good story and the excitement of improvisation, Doug inspires laughter and reflection.

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Vagabond Coffee Shop owner Jolene having a great time with the always sophisticated 1590KVTA Morning Show gang on December 18 broadcasting live from the restaurant. They were there accepting donations for their annual fund raiser for the foster children of Ventura County while the customers enjoyed a very special \$5.00 breakfast.



Welcoming Menchie's Frozen Yogurt to Ventura was Ventura Deputy Mayor Eric Nasarenko and members of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce at their recent grand opening. Menchie's believes in putting community before commerce, and therefore their stores partner with local schools and organizations in fundraising activities. Menchie's actively donates thousands of dollars to local school programs and charitable organizations each year. Victoria Plaza, 5944 Telegraph, 477-9725.



FACE OF VENTURA AWARDS

Ventura's **Unsung Heroes** sponsored by Jordan and Sandra Laby and painted by Johanna Spinks



Michael Chapman

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Michael Chapman, local resident and high school educator, helped provide care and support for two strangers who were involved in a serious multi-vehicle accident on 126 Freeway on July 19, 2014.

A small truck and a big rig collided and the small truck rolled over several times and ended up upside down in a tree. Inside the truck were four people who were all seriously injured.

Mr. Chapman, and wife Nadia were driving by and stopped to help. Mr. Chapman selflessly and courageously went to the truck and climbed into it.

"There was a huge dust cloud and although we couldn't see anything, we knew it was bad," said Michael Chapman. Nadia, his wife, immediately dialed 911 before the dust settled.

Michael described what he next encountered as a scene from the "Walking Dead." Chapman, a former lifeguard, quickly assessed the situation and jumped into action.

He ran to the vehicle and called out, "Is anyone in there?" He heard a faint male voice calling out for help and repeatedly saying "My wife is trapped."

Chapman managed to climb into the wreckage. Upon entering, he noticed a female passenger victim face-down and covered in broken glass. A man was sitting in shock unable to move. Chapman provided care to the injured couple until emergency medical response teams arrived on the scene.

During that time, the smell of gas was overwhelming but Chapman remained calm. He was talking to the victims to keep them conscience, reassuring them that they (and their dogs) were going to be okay.

He gave the male victim his shirt to wrap his wounds and he steadied the female victim's head in his lap,

careful not to move her, because she complained of back pain. Chapman stayed on the scene until both victims were safely extricated from the vehicle by firefighters.

After about 4 hours, the amazing Chapman's actually visited the VCMC Emergency Room with a card and flowers to check-up on the couple and make sure they were going to be okay.

Michael's family was originally from Oxnard (his Dad was a nurse at the state hospital in Camarillo, now Cal State Channel Islands) When it closed the family relocated to Napa.

Michael moved to Ventura 12 years ago. He was finally offered a job as a high school educator teaching social science and an aquatics coach at Hueneme High School. He also spent several years as a junior lifeguard instructor with Ventura County in the summer.

Michael met the love of his life, Nadia, in Ventura the summer of 2003. They have been together for 11 years and live in Mid-town Ventura.

Michael is an avid reader and also enjoys weightlifting and was a swimmer in college at UC Santa Cruz and he is still an active swimmer.

Wife Nadia stated "Michael is one of the most selfless persons I know. As a teacher, he is always going the extra mile for his students. He has also mentored several kids outside of school who were experiencing difficulty in their family life."

Mr. Chapman is a true "un-sung hero", his intentions where to help others in need without concern for his own safety and well-being.

As a result of the accident, and Michael's heroic act Sarah and Jeff Johnson are now close friends with the Chapman's. They credit Michael for saving their lives.



Inside the truck were four people (and their dogs) who were all seriously injured.



Ken Cozzens, hero number 1

The Breeze is very excited that wonderful portrait artist Johanna Spinks will be adorning our paper once more with her wonderful portraits in a new series called "FACE OF VENTURA AWARDS".

This series will feature Ventura's unsung heroes. Or put more wonderfully "Back where I come from there are men who do nothing all day but good deeds. They are called phila... er, phila... er, yes, er, Good Deed Doers." – The Wizard of Oz.

For instance, someone that lives in Ventura that goes to CMH every day to read to kids with cancer or to prenatal just to hold a one pound new born clinging to life, or pulls people from a burning truck. There are the type of heroes that we will be featuring.

Like the Face Of Ventura each sitter will have a personal profile published with their portrait in the Ventura Breeze.

The unsung-heroes will be recommended by you, our readers and chosen by a committee of Ventura Breeze writers. We need your nominations to be featured in this series.

Do you know a Ventura Good Deed Doer that you have read about in the Ventura Breeze, or heard about that you would like to nominate for the Face Of Ventura Awards? If you do please send your nomination, and why you think that they deserve the Award to publisher@venturabreeze.com.

The portraits will be presented to the sitter at a special lunch after each sitting and there be an end of the year (2015) party where all of the sitters, and friends will gather to celebrate their good deed.



Michael Chapman accepting his portrait from Jordan, Sandra and Johanna.

On Saturday, December 20 a small luncheon was held at Discovery Ventura to present Michael Chapman with his hero portrait painted by Johanna Spinks. Attending the ceremony, which was graciously hosted by Discovery Ventura, were Michael's parents Sheila and Virgil (from Napa Valley), Nadia and Michael Chapman, Johanna Spinks, Sandra Laby, Sheldon Brown, Jordon Laby and Sarah and Jeff Johnson (from Santa Clarita who were here surfing).

We asked Michael how was it having his portrait painted by Johanna? He stated "Very humbling, she is very skilled, a very interesting person to be



with." Were you nervous? "My wife says yes."

Regarding his bravery he said, "I was the person there. Something had to be done, my calling for the day."



Senior Living

Pull Out Section



For the event the submarine veterans and their families brought many different kinds of delicious baked goods.

Tribute to veterans

by Victoria Usher

The holidays are a time for us to step away from our busy day-to-day lives, to just be thankful for all that we have and to spend time with the people that we love most. They are also a time for giving and showing gratitude in a way that we all sometimes forget to do throughout the rest of the year. It is very true that one small act of kindness can make someone happy for a lot longer than you would expect. Whether it's one person or a whole group of people, loved ones or strangers, this is the time of year to show people how to be happy and how to enjoy the holidays through generosity and kindness. It is a beautiful thing to see people be completely selfless towards others, especially around the holidays. Giving to someone and receiving nothing but their happiness in return, that is truly what the holidays are all about.

The Veterans Home of California - Ventura which is located on

10900 Telephone Road, is a wonderful long-term Residential Care Facility that has been open since December of 2010. This is only the second year that the submarine veterans and their families have worked together to create and bring this very fun and thoughtful Tribute to Veterans event to The Veterans Home of California - Ventura. The event is a simple but lovely way to show how grateful we all are for everything that these veterans have done for us; it is the perfect holiday event.

For the event the submarine veterans and their families bring many different kinds of delicious baked goods for everyone to enjoy as well as nice, comfortable clothing: shirts, sweaters, sweat-pants, etc. to give to the veterans if they want to have them. It is an enjoyable event where all of the veterans, including the visiting submarine veterans can

Continued on page 11

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Bonnie Wiley is ready to open registrations for spring trips!

**January 8, 2015
9 am - 12 pm**

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Doors Open at 8:30 am**

**Collin Raye at Pepperdine Theater
January 16 • \$80**

Join us for Country Music's Collin Raye at the Pepperdine Theater! Dinner stop on your own in Malibu prior to the show. Trip includes front orchestra seating and escorted transportation.

2015 Upcoming Trips include:

The Ahmanson Theater
• Dame Edna's Final Tour - March 5
• Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella - April 26

Candlelight Dinner Theater
• The Producers - March 14
• Evita - May 31

Catalina Island
March 18 - March 20

New England Fall Foliage Tour
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Custom tour featuring the Vermont Von Trapp Family Lodge celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the release of the movie *The Sound of Music*.

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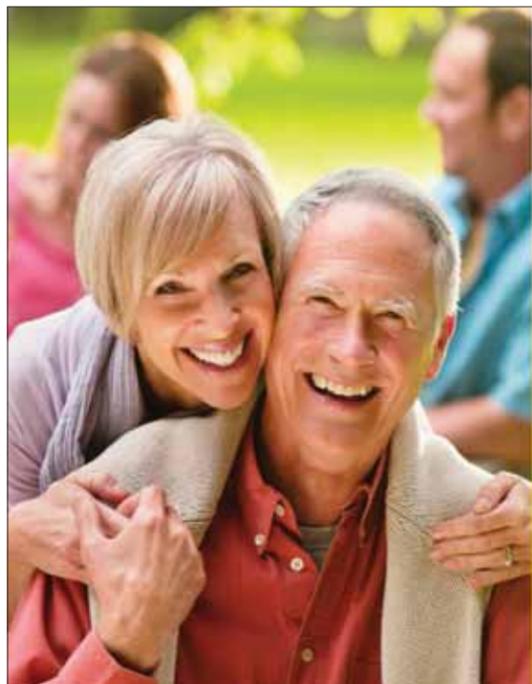
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HEALTHCARE

Senior Living

county's contracting procedures—Issues that directly or indirectly affect every county resident. Jurors take an in-depth look at the policies, processes and practices of the department or agency in question. They are empowered to inspect financial and other records; order audits; tour facilities such as jails, airports and harbors; and conduct confidential interviews with any public official or employee.

After an investigation, the jury prepares a written report and publishes its methodology, facts, findings and recommendations. Most public agencies are required by law to respond to these reports. Numerous positive changes have followed grand jury investigations and reports.

To qualify for service you must be a citizen 18 years of age or older, reside in Ventura County for at least a year immediately before serving, have average intelligence and good character and know sufficient English. No legal or government experience or previous knowledge is needed, but basic computer skills are desirable.

The Grand Jury is truly a “by the people, for the people” institution. We encourage residents from all cultural groups and all parts of the county to apply.

For details about the grand jury's mission and to view previous years' reports, visit <http://ventura.org/grand-jury>. Beginning in January, applications may be downloaded from that site or requested by telephone at 654-2256. They will be accepted until April 15. An open house for interested members of the public will be held early next year; watch for announcements.

In addition, you may request speakers to give a presentation for your organization or community group by calling the grand jury's community relations committee at 477-1600.

Gifts for seniors who have everything

by Matilda Charles

Seniors have acquired so much “stuff” over the years that we have nearly everything we need ... and more. If you've held off buying a gift for a senior in your life because you don't know what to get someone who already has everything, here are a few gift ideas that would be most welcome.

Coupons for cab rides, or gift certificates for restaurant meals, laundry services, auto detailing, spa day or hair salon services.

Gift basket created especially for your seniors, such as gourmet food, cheese, jams or chocolate. Or consider a subscription to a quarterly or monthly gift club. Options range from fruit baskets or flowers to bacon, coffee and cigars.

Pay for a year of cable TV, the daily newspaper, magazine subscription.

Two tickets to a play or other event where you'll accompany your senior, or a pair of movie passes so your senior can take a friend.

Pay for a senior's lifelong learning class, either at the senior center or nearby university, and arrange for transportation.

Put together a box of useful things, like stamps, note cards, address labels, batteries, razor blades and calendar with large print. Include a list of important phone numbers printed out in a large font that can be taped to the inside of a cupboard door. (Keep the

file and make changes whenever your senior needs to update it.)

Make single serving meals for the freezer.

Don't leave out your own participation and that of your children. A small coupon book full of services you can do year round, such as cleaning, painting a room, weeding the garden, raking leaves and checking expiration dates on food in the cupboard all will be appreciated.

What do seniors really want most? The gift of your time.

(c) 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

Reinventing yourself in your senior years

by Carol Leish

In early December, actress Lee Gale Gruen gave an inspirational talk at the Ventura SCAN Health Center. Lee focused on Baby Boomers (people born between 1946-1964) and seniors (people mid 60's and up), to inspire them to realize that there is life after retirement. Lee, 72, reinvented herself as an actress and author after being a probation officer for 37 years in Los Angeles.

Lee stated that people retire for many reasons including being tired of working, ageism, health reasons, getting laid off, or wanting to do something else with their lives. She said the various reasons for being frightened about retirement, include: Are you still relevant?, what to do with your time, fear of the unknown, being bored, depression/anxiety; or, and not having enough money to get by.

She emphasized, “Seniors are important to society as caretakers, role models, and tribal elders.” She mentioned that seniors give back socially by becoming volunteers, at various places; are involved economically by investing and spending money, and active politically active.

“It's important to find joy, satisfaction, and excitement,” according to Lee Gale. “The secret is to find a passion and follow it. Try something new to do. Find something that matches your abilities.” She said that you can determine your own journey.

Lee's emphasis on finding a passion connected with me, because, at 52 I've been writing more articles over the past few years and really enjoy doing it. According to Lee Gale, there are a variety of things that seniors can do to stay busy such as exercising, singing, dancing, painting, writing a memoir, taking classes specifically designed for seniors, traveling, being involved in service clubs, book clubs or playing card games.

Volunteering to help others is also a very important things for seniors to do, according to Lee Gale. Lee also said that volunteering is a great way to stay involved. Consider giving time to the community as a teacher or a coach, helping out at a hospital or library, volunteering at a school or at an animal shelter are examples of various places for seniors to consider getting involved.

Lee said that it's easy to find various activities to become involved with. You can go to seniors centers, Google items on the Internet, go visit the library, or go to the website, meetup.com.



Ladies can be on grand juries also (and CEO's of major corporations).

Looking for an exciting “encore” opportunity?

Are you retired but still eager to contribute? Would you like to serve your community in a challenging and high-impact fashion? Be part of a committed, caring team? Work where there are no biases based on age, cultural background or economic status?

If that sounds good, consider this: the Ventura County (Civil) Grand Jury will soon be accepting applications for new jurors to serve from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016. Jurors come from all walks of life and volunteer to serve up to 35 hours a week for a year. (With advance notice, single days off and vacations may be taken at any time.) Jurors receive a stipend of \$25 per day worked outside the home, plus mileage at

the IRS rate—currently 56 cents a mile.

The civil grand jury does not pursue criminal cases nor give evidence in court—that is the role of the criminal grand jury. The civil grand jury is a panel of 19 citizens whose responsibility is to determine whether local government is serving the best interests of residents, applying the law fairly and using resources wisely. In its role as “public watchdog,” the civil grand jury investigates complaints from residents about county agencies, city councils, school districts, jails, hospitals, water districts and so on.

Complaints may range from alleged violations of city and county codes to disaster preparedness in schools and the

Senior Living

Continue to realize that reinventing yourself according to what you're passionate about doing is essential in order to maintain happiness and satisfaction in life.

You can read Lee's book "Adventures with Dad...A Father & Daughter's Journey through a Senior Acting Class" to learn more about Lee and to find your own inspiration.

A Tender Touch Senior Placement Devices that can keep your loved ones safer

by Connie De La Rosa

Besides walkers, canes and wheelchairs, did you ever wonder about other devices that could make your aging loved ones daily activity a little easier and safer? There are many devices that are available to maintain some independence that can be ordered by your local pharmacies or medical suppliers. During home visits, various independent elders would demonstrate just how their lives have been made easier with many devices available.

Daily dressing can be a frustrating task for an elder when attempting to pull up zippers, put socks on (especially compression stockings), or buttoning shirts/blouses. There is a device to assist in zippers and buttons which is called a "one hand button aid" which is a small device that is formed to assist in pulling up zippers and buttoning. In socks or stockings, the "stocking aid" comes in a few different shapes; however, once the sock or stocking is placed on the device, the foot can easily just slip in the sock/stocking and by pulling the plastic device toward the knee, it will pull the sock or stocking on quickly and easily.

Transferring from the bed or into the shower can also be a big task putting your loved one at risk of falling. A "transfer bench" into the shower is ideal for those who are unable to safely get into the shower which extends from the bathroom floor inside the shower/bathtub making it easier for your loved one to slide over into the shower without stepping into the shower.

"Bed Rope Ladders" are applied safely to the bed and placed as a rope on top of the bed which allows your loved one to pull themselves up to a sitting position and with a "bed rail" (if able to independently stand) they can use the bed rail to assist in standing along with the walker next to the bed.

Seek other appropriate devices through your local pharmacies or medical suppliers in assisting your loved ones maintain their independence for a safer New Year!!

Public invited to comment about amendments

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 14, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. to hear public comments and provide information about amendments proposed for the FY 2014-2015 Area Plan Update, which was submitted to/approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and California Department of Aging several months ago. The public is invited to review those changes and provide testimony at the public hearing or may submit written testimony.

The document containing the proposed changes are available on the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging website www.ventura.org/vcaaa. Select the link, then click on News Center (on left side of page) then Publications.

The hearing site will be VCAAA, 646 County Square Drive, Suite 100, in Ventura.

Persons planning to give testimony are strongly encouraged to arrive early (before 9:00 a.m.) to find a close parking space. In the parking lot, persons with handicap placards or handicap license plates may park in spaces designated for handicap parking; and if those spaces are full, they may park in spaces



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reserved for the Grand Jury, however, all others will be ticketed if parked in any reserved space.

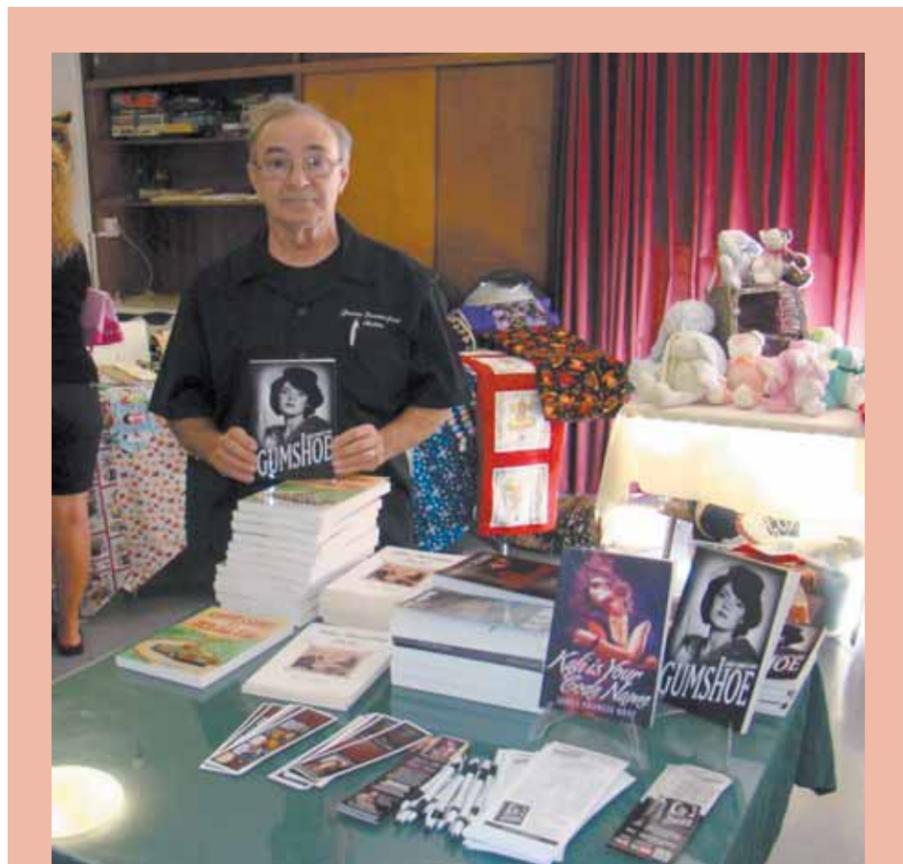
The public is invited to give oral testimony relative to the contents of the amended plan. Testimony will be recorded. The public may also submit written comments during the hearing or by mailing/delivering/faxing comments to the attention of Christine Voth at the VCAAA address listed above (hearing site), or via fax to 477-7312 or via e-mail to christine.voth@ventura.org.

Tribute to veterans

Continued from page 9
talk, be social with one another while also indulging in some delicious food. It is an occasion that definitely enhances the holiday spirit and shows

the veterans just how much they are appreciated.

Shery Wellman and Carolyne Williams are the two women that first came up with this thoughtful idea with both of their husbands to start this Tribute to Veterans event. Once they had the idea well thought-out they started to get more submarine veterans, friends, etc. interested and involved in their idea as well. When they first brought the event to life last year it was a huge hit with everyone! Now with this being only their second year hosting this event at the Veterans Home of California – Ventura and being hugely successful once again they hope to continue to keep this event going each year around the holidays and to keep getting more people involved as well. All it took was an idea for them to be able to create a selfless event that made the holidays a little brighter.



On November 25 the December Store & More hosted a boutique at the Coastal View Healthcare Center located at 4904 Telegraph. Many talented Ventura artisans were there including author James Francis Gray.

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This 'n' That



Can you believe it? Jim Duran played in the alumni football game at Buena High School. We are sure that the opposition was laughing too hard to even play. This is him with his son James Duran (on the left) who graduated in 2010 and cousin Kenny Dietz who graduated in 2004.

Focus on Ventura Writers

What Lies Within wins coveted Royal Dragonfly Book Award

The judges of the Royal Dragonfly Book Awards contest, which recognizes excellence in literature, have spoken. *What Lies Within* by Venturan Libby J. Atwater won First Place in the Biography/Memoir category and tied for First Place in the Other Nonfiction category.

"Winning any place in the Royal Dragonfly Contest is a huge honor because in order to maintain the integrity of the

Dragonfly Book Awards, a minimum score is required before a First or Second place or Honorable Mention will be awarded to the entrant—even if it is the sole entry in a category," explains Linda Radke, president of Five Star Publications, the sponsor of the Dragonfly Book Awards. "Competition is steep, too, because there is no publication date limit as long as the book is still in print."

Atwater began telling people's stories in 1989. As a journalist, teacher, and personal historian, she has written for individuals and families in Los Angeles, Ventura, Oxnard, Ojai, and Santa Barbara. Her pro bono work has been with hospice organizations in Ventura, Santa Paula, and Santa Barbara, teaching volunteers to elicit patients' stories. In addition to writing books and recording people's stories on CD, she chaired the Oral History Program for the Museum of Ventura County.

Tales from her life have been published in several anthologies. She is currently marketing her memoir and writing several sequels: *Out Into the World*, *What Took You So Long?*, *Beloved Horse*, and *Bugged in Brentwood: Tales from Suburbia*. Atwater is also completing *The Spirit of Villarosa*, which she coauthored with Marc Ashton and his late father Horace Dade Ashton, due to be published in early 2015.

For a complete list of winners including all first and second place and honorable mention recipients, visit www.FiveStarBookAwards.com and click on "Winners."

What Lies Within is a tale of adoption, love, loss, hope, and resilience set in the 1950s and '60s. It retails for \$18.00 and can be purchased at Bank of Books in Ventura; The Museum of Ventura County; Chaucer's Books in Santa Barbara; and at www.chooseyourwords.net. E-

versions of the book are available through Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/What-Lies-Within-Libby-Atwater-ebook/dp/B00FVXF5JC> and through Apple at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/genre/books/id38?mt=11>.

Deadline extended

Apply for the Special Event Permit Grants for special events that take place between January and June 2015 by January 5. Download an application and instructions at www.cityofventura.net/permits. The City of Ventura grant program is open to non-profit event organizers staging festivals and events in Ventura that activate public space and increase visitor spending. Grants cover all or a portion of City of Ventura Special Event Permit fees that the city might levy with a maximum grant of \$2,000.

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On Saturday, December 13, Santa Stops by the Y was held at the Ventura Family YMCA. This free event (with a donation of one unwrapped toy) included breakfast, a photo with Santa, youth tester classes, crafts, and games! The toy donations benefited low income families through the ACTION Foundation in Ventura.

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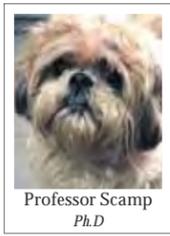
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Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



Happy holidays to my wonderful readers, Scampclub members and the wonderful people that run pet adoption centers. I hope that you adopt a pet for

Christmas.

Humane Society of Ventura County's Board of Directors has surprised the Humane Society officers and staff with an early holiday gift that will help the animals throughout



Posing in front of the Humane Society of Ventura County's new investigations van are, Bill Brothers, who converted the van; Humane officer Alina Hoffmann; Jeff Hoffman, Director of Investigations for HSVC and Tracy Vail, preliminary investigator for HSVC.

the county. They announced the addition of a new, specially-equipped investigations vehicle, a Chevrolet Cargo van, purchased from Paradise Chevrolet in Ventura.

The van was converted for investigations of animals that have been neglected and abused. Ojai resident Bill Brothers, owner of Humane Services International, specializes in converting all types of vehicles for use by animal welfare agencies to benefit their animal protection work. HSI has been up-fitting vehicles for animal care and control agencies for over 25 years.

The new vehicle will be used by Humane Society officers in their work to investigate possible cases of cruelty as well as the rescue of animals during disasters.

During the month of December, Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) is reducing pet adoption fees at its Camarillo and Simi Valley Animal Adoption Centers to encourage local residents to adopt stray animals at the holidays.

Through Dec. 31, dog and cat adoption fees have been lowered to \$25 during the VCAS "Home for the Holidays" pet adoption event. The regular pet adoption fee is \$125.

For more information, call 1-888-223-PETS (7387) or 388-4341 and to view photos of VCAS adoptable animals online, go to www.vcas.us.

I've never had a dog-sitter except family members that know me and my habits. So I

asked Kathleen Huffman how to effectively prepare your pet and your home when using an unknown (to your pet) caregiver

Your vacation is scheduled and you prefer to have your pet stay at home while you are away. In choosing the perfect sitter you should of course interview them, check references and make sure the sitter is licensed, bonded and insured, and loves pets (doesn't everyone?).

But there are some additional steps you should also take to help ensure your pet will receive the best care possible:

Make reservations as early as possible to guarantee a spot for your pet's care.

Make sure your pet has had an opportunity to meet the sitter before your vacation.

Don't make your sitter search for pet care items. Place everything your sitter will need in one specific place.

Your pet will be in your locked, sealed home. Make sure the thermostat is set at a comfortable temperature for your pet. Leave instructions on how to adjust the temperature range for your thermostat in case of a power-outage.

Pets can be more inquisitive and bored when they are left alone and get into mischief. Put toilet lids down, close cupboards and closets, store medications, perfumes, loose small objects and



This is my cousin Dolce Vita, funny she doesn't look Jewish maybe she is a Shih Tjewe.

household cleansers away and out of your pet's reach.

Are there areas where your pet is not allowed? Make sure you close off the rooms and let the sitter know that those areas are

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Autumn a beautiful 8-year-old Cattle Dog/Pit Bull mix. Don't I look adorable in my elf hat? I'm smiling because I know there is someone out there looking to adopt a dog just like me. I was rescued a few years ago with other C.A.R.L. dogs in a raid in El Rio. Some have found their forever homes, but I'm still waiting for mine. If you're looking for a less active dog who enjoys going on leisurely walks, I maybe the dog you've been looking for. I do need a home with no small children or other dogs. C.A.R.L. Adoption Center, 644-PETS (7387).



Hi: Remy is my name and drooling is my game! So they tell me I'm pretty cute. I like to play tug with toys and talk while I'm tugging. I have excellent leash manners and enjoy being with people. I am selective when it comes to picking canine friends, but you would be too if you were as cute as me. I don't like being in this kennel and would much rather enjoy some quality time with you. You are welcome to meet me, but I've warned you... I'm cute. You can visit me at the Simi Animal Shelter at 670 West Los Angeles Ave. in Simi Valley. Just ask for me, A603676.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

Hello: I'm Happy, a lady poodle/bichon frise mix, and I wish you a merry Christmas. I like to sit on laps, play catch, drop balls down the stairs, fetch, take walks, ride in our boat not the car (I guess I'm a water dog) and bark.



Join Scamp Club

Animals of all sorts can join the ScampClub. Email me your picture and a little about yourself, including your address, to Scampclub@ventura-breeze.com. You will be in the Breeze and become world famous.

to be kept off limits.

If you live in an apartment or gated community, advise and authorize security that your pet sitter will be visiting and, if appropriate, let you neighbors know too.

Your pet sitter should have the information about where to take your pet in case of a health emergency. You should also notify your veterinarian in writing that a sitter will be watching your pet and authorize the veterinarian to provide medical care during your absence if necessary.

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2012-2013



2013



2012



2011



2010



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Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Police reports are provided to us by the Ventura Police Department and are not the opinions of the Ventura Breeze. All suspects mentioned are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Vehicle Pursuit

On Friday, December 12th, at 11:45 p.m., a VPD officer observed a truck commit a traffic violation. When the officer attempted to make an enforcement stop on the truck near Seaward and Ocean, the driver, David Fox, failed to stop. Fox eventually drove onto Main Street and continued eastbound while committing several traffic violations, including not stopping for red lights. Fox drove from Main Street to eastbound Telephone Road where he entered the southbound 101 freeway.

Fox continued southbound on the 101 Fwy at approximately 75MPH still failing to yield to officer's lights and sirens. Fox exited the freeway at Lewis Road and continued to commit traffic violations in Camarillo. Fox drove northbound into a residential area and slowed down, continuing not to yield. Fox drove to the 1100 Block of Eston Street where he pulled to the curb and stopped. Fox was then taken into custody without further incident.

Officer's administered field sobriety tests, which indicated that Fox was under the influence of a controlled substance. He was later booked at the VC Jail.

Robbery

On Tuesday, December 16th, at 3:00 a.m., officers responded to the Arco AM/PM located at 5669 Valentine Road in regard to a robbery that had just occurred. Upon arriving, investigating officers learned the suspect entered the store and selected merchandise before approaching the cashier. Once at the register, the suspect simulated a weapon in his waistband while demanding money from the cashier. The cashier feared for their safety and provided the suspect an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect was last seen running south through the business parking lot. Officers canvassed the surrounding area but were unable to locate the suspect.

Commercial Burglary Arrest

On Thursday, December 18th, at 2:05 a.m., the VPD received an alarm activation from the Chevron gas station located at 4411 Market Street. Officers arrived and found the glass in the front door of the food mart had been smashed out, and it appeared as if somebody had gone inside. Officers cleared the interior of the business but did not locate anyone. An employee arrived and confirmed that property had been taken from inside the business. After reviewing the surveillance video, other officers were given a description of the suspect.

Later, a patrol officer found a subject, Ronald Trent, only a short distance from the business. Trent matched the physical description that was provided and was wearing the same clothing as seen in the video. Upon further investigation, Trent was still in possession of some of the stolen property. Trent was arrested and booked at the VC Jail.

Residential Burglary Arrests

On Thursday, December 18th, at 11:37 a.m., the VPD received a call from a victim of a residential burglary in the 300 block of Westminster Street. The victim had arrived home to find that unknown suspects had entered the residence through an unlocked window and took property.

A short time later, at 12:03 a.m., the VPD received a call from a resident in the 7300 block of Pierce Street, reporting that a suspicious subject, Rodney Bennett, had just knocked on the front door of her residence. When the caller answered the door, Bennett

asked for a person by name and left when told the person did not live there. The caller watched as Bennett got into an awaiting vehicle, which was occupied by a female driver and a male passenger. The caller provided a description of the vehicle to the police dispatcher.

Officers responding to the call saw a vehicle matching the description given by the caller and conducted a vehicle stop at Loma Vista Rd. and Jefferson Ave.

While officers were responding to the suspicious subject call on Pierce Street, the VPD received a call at 12:18 a.m., from a citizen reporting the front door of a neighbor's residence being found forced open in the 5400 block of LaFayette Street.

During the investigation, officers located property taken from both of the above residential burglaries in the vehicle.

Bennett, as well as the female driver, Sara Ayala, and the other passenger, Austin Ervin, were arrested. All three were booked into the VC Jail.

Robbery

On December 20, at 5:17pm the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from the victim, Willy Chui, 34 years, Ventura Resident reporting he had just been robbed of 2 iPads outside of his business in the 60 Block of W. Main St.

During the investigation officers learned the victim had posted on Craig's List that he had 2 iPads for sale. The victim received a call from the suspect(WM, 35 years) who was interested in purchasing the iPads, and agreed to meet with him outside his place of business. The suspect took the iPads from the victim and went to an awaiting vehicle. A second male was driving the vehicle. As the suspect was getting into the vehicle, the victim reached inside in an attempt to get the iPads from the suspect. The vehicle drove off, dragging the victim for several feet before he let go. The vehicle, described as a dark colored sedan, left the parking lot of the shopping center.

The victim sustained minor scrapes to his arms and legs during the crime, but refused medical treatment.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

Just a few of the things the Harbor Patrol tends to.

12-11 1:32 p.m. FCC dispatched units to a medical assist at VWM. Patrol responded. Upon arrival, the patient did not want medical assistance. PD was contacted to determine competency. She left the area AMA.

3:38 p.m. FCC dispatched units to a medical assist at the Ventura Harbor Community. Patrol responded. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

12-12 7:55 a.m. A Keys resident reported a Cigarette boat taking on water at its slip in the Keys. Patrol responded. Upon arrival, the vessel was in imminent danger of sinking. Patrol dewatered the vessel. The boat's owner said they had arranged to have the boat hauled out of the water.

8:55 a.m. Patrol observed a small skiff low in the water in the Keys. They dewatered the vessel.

9:26 a.m. Patrol received a report of a medical assist at Harbor Village. Patrol responded and administered oxygen. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

12-13 9:39 a.m. FCC dispatched units to a medical assist at Ventura Harbor Community. Patrol responded and administered oxygen. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

12-14 1:02 p.m. Patrol monitored a PD

dispatch of a water rescue at Pittsfield Lane. Patrol responded. The victim was out of the water prior to Patrol's arrival.

6:30 p.m. PD relayed that they had received a report of a suicidal subject at the end of the Ventura Pier. Patrol responded. PD reports they see no one matching the person's description. Patrol searched both sides of the pier and found no one.

Sandra Laby performs at Boinsettia Ball

Continued from page 1
by calling 804-7167.
Each of the community participants was paired with a professional dancer from Arthur Murray Dance Centers of Thousand Oaks and Santa Monica. A minimum of 20 hours of practice was required of the contestants, who began weekly practices six weeks prior to the event.

Sandra Laby, who was already an accomplished ballroom dancer, commented on her efforts on behalf of the Symphony. "I learned this dance for the show and it took a number of months. The Argentine Tango is very precise, with very detailed moves. Paul Sulzman, my dance instructor, is a seasoned Arthur Murray-trained professional who teaches all variety of dance in Ventura. He can be reached at Venturadance.com or 323-273-7285.

Sandra agreed to perform at Poinsettia Ball because she wanted to inspire the children who are part of the New West Symphony Harmony Project of Ventura County, and show them that you can learn something new at any time in your life. "It is good to go out of your comfort zone and of course, never give up!" she said. "This was harder than I expected, but I did it!"

Sandra and her husband, Jordan Laby, are co-founders and major supporters of New West Symphony Harmony Project, which currently provides tuition-free music instruction to 120 underserved youth in Ventura.

The Poinsettia Ball is the New West Symphony League's largest fundraiser of the year, raising money for the New West Symphony and its music education programs. The Symphony, currently celebrating its 20th Anniversary Season, is the resident professional orchestra of the Oxnard Performing Arts Center, the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, and Barnum Hall in Santa Monica. Led by music director Marcelo Lehninger, it performs six Masterpiece Series concerts each season.

The next Masterpiece Series concert, Pines of Rome, will take place January 23, 24 and 25, 2015 and will feature the orchestra's principal viola, Lauren Chipman, as guest artist. For further information visit www.newwestsymphony.org or call 497-5880.

Mailbox

Continued from page 5
a street that seldom has this problem except when the homeless don't clean up after themselves.



Breeze:

Here is picture that I just took of Mark Tovar at Cemetery Memorial Park. We placed a Christmas Wreath to honor all who are buried in this special place and to honor all our war veteran's, never to be forgotten. A beautiful day at CMP. - with Mark Tovar Sharon Troll.

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Answer

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8	4	9	1	2	5	6	3	7
6	2	7	8	3	9	4	5	1
4	5	1	7	9	2	3	6	8
7	8	2	3	1	6	5	9	4
3	9	6	5	8	4	1	7	2
5	1	8	2	7	3	9	4	6
9	7	3	6	4	8	2	1	5
2	6	4	9	5	1	7	8	3

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	C	O	T	D	U	K	A	S			
C	L	O	C	H	E	F	R	I	C	A	S
A	U	S	T	I	N	M	A	R	T	I	N
R	I	M	S	T	E	E	L	I	L	O	
I	C	O	N	H	R	S	A	V	O	W	
B	E	S	O	T	A	N	G	L	E	R	S
	B	U	T	E	E	L					
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H	A	R	V	E	Y	C	A	R	E	L	L
A	W	E	I	G	H	L	I	E	G	E	S
K	A	Z	O		E	S	T	E	R		



Show Time

With this issue we introduce our new movie reviewer Eduardo Victoria. We welcome him to our staff of wonderful writers. Enjoy!

Interstellar



Review by Eduardo Victoria
eduardovictory@yahoo.com

In the world of mega-CGI blockbusters, it's very uncommon to see a film that warrants deep thought from its audience. *Interstellar*, the latest film from director Christopher Nolan will stay with you long after you've seen it and is undoubtedly the most philosophical film to play outside of art-house cinemas this year.

Set in a near future when Earth can no longer sustain life, the film follows Cooper (Matthew McConaughey), a former engineer and NASA test pilot turned farmer. A message of mysterious origin leads him to a team of scientists on a mission to find a new, habitable planet, in which to save mankind. In order to save his family, he joins their journey, which takes them into the farthest reaches of both space and the human condition.

The massive spectacle of the film's space sequences gives way to a story about Cooper and his daughter Murph (played by Mackenzie Foy and Jessica Chastain), a surprisingly emotional center to a story of this magnitude. Nolan's style is very similar to that of French New Wave directors of the 1960s. Scenes will suddenly cut away without letting a character finish a line of dialogue, or a major plot development will be communicated in one line as opposed to calling attention to itself through action or a

scene in its dedication. This will catch some viewers off guard and may well prove to be the film's biggest crutch.

Without a doubt, the sequences set in space will leave the audience scratching their heads as to how the filmmakers were able to accomplish feats of zero gravity appear seamless and demonstrate the theory of relativity in a way everyone will easily understand (keep the tissues handy, you may shed a tear). The work of physicist Kip Thorne takes center stage, at times unexpectedly putting science before the plot.

The film veers into experimental territory in its sound mix. Composer Hans Zimmer's minimalist score is subtle and hypnotizing. Turning on a dime, the music brings us back to reality through the usage of a powerful pipe organ backed by massive orchestra and choir. The scene set on a planet whose surface is comprised of water showcases what is perhaps Zimmer's best work in years. The music at times overpowers the dialogue, a creative decision that will undoubtedly divide viewers.

The cast, led by Matthew McConaughey, is fantastic. His character is that of a pilot channeling the cowboy spirit of Chuck Yeager. Anne Hathaway's normally charming style of acting is subdued, giving way to the charismatic McConaughey. Michael Caine and John Lithgow bring their best to the supporting cast and both of their performances are major highlights. As great as the actors may be, come awards season, the cast will be overshadowed by the film's impressive CGI sequences.

Films of this nature must be celebrated. Christopher Nolan does not ask the audience to turn off their minds and be numbed by action sequences and explosions. *Interstellar* is a film that challenges its audience and thinks of it as highly as it does the science

behind the film. Although dealing with a bleak subject matter, the story is full of hope for the future of mankind.

Film rated PG-13. 169 minutes / Sci-Fi Drama

Interstellar was seen at the Century Downtown 10.

Two on the Aisle

Oscar winner gift to local theater

by Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

"And the Oscar goes to....."

Annually the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognizes the movie industry's best of the best for their work in all levels of the production process. Winners of the awards, the Oscars, ordinarily continue focusing their energies in film work.

Occasionally, an Oscar winner will also share his or her skills in other entertainment genres. Ventura County is fortunate to have such a person actively involved and contributing to the quality of local live theater. His name is Steve Grumette.

An engineer/physicist by education, Grumette first became active in film in the 1960s. He pioneered development of computerized special effects. The movie *War Games* was the first to use his special technique for eliminating the "frame flicker" that occurs when a TV screen or computer monitor was filmed. From that entry point he expanded into acting, editing, cinematography, directing and producing.

Numerous national and international awards have been bestowed on Grumette for his contributions in both the technical and performance aspects of movie making. A film he co-produced and edited, *The Magic Machines*, won the Academy Award as the Best Live Action Short Subject.

After serving as a judge at an out-of-state film festival, Grumette returned to found and launch the Ojai Film Festival in 1998. He still serves as the artistic director for the annual Festival, which has become a premier event.

For many years Grumette has also been lending his technical and artistic talents to enhancing theatrical productions at various local theaters, including the Ojai Art Center Theater and the Elite Theatre Company. Backstage his contributions often involve upscale sound and lighting design and execution. His onstage contributions are more visible when he slips on the mantle of director, producer or actor for a play.

A quiet, unassuming man, Grumette does his job(s) so well many patrons don't even discern the excellent of his contributions. People notice when things go wrong, but seldom are aware when everything goes according to plan. That's Grumette's job – to do things so well they are seamlessly incorporated into the action without being noticed.

Ventura County's association of theaters, the Four Star Theater Alliance, has its own version of the Oscars – the Four Star Awards. They are presented annually to honor excellence in the various aspects of live theater. Grumette's contributions are perhaps best summarized in a comment by John Hankin, long time professional journalist and the Ojai Art Center Theater's publicist for the past 12 years. Hankin said, "Steve Grumette is our Renaissance man. He has won a total of 21 Four Star Alliance Awards, including awards for directing, sound, light and set design and acting."

Oscar winner Steve Grumette is a true gift to local theater.

Decline of jazz in America

Continued from page 1

old Chuck Cecil of Ventura has been on the air for 60 plus years, and still going.

Although his show "The Swingin' Years" is legendary among jazz lovers everywhere, WPPB in Long Island, N.Y. is the only station broadcasting his show as of this publication date.

It began as filler for an empty Saturday morning slot on Hollywood's KFI station in 1956 and was later syndicated to more than 300 stations nationwide and broadcast internationally, to 240 ships and 170 military bases, by Armed Forces Radio Network.

Though the show is now heard only on Long Island's WPPB, it reaches an average of 46,000 listeners a week. The show can be heard on-line at www.WPPB.org Sundays at 8:00 pm ET, 5:00 Pacific.

But, like jazz, Chuck is winding down. "I am quietly ending like a good career should," said Cecil in a recent interview by the Breeze. When asked to describe his proudest accomplishment, Cecil said, "Besides marrying Edna, my wife of 69 years," whom he met just after returning from WWII duty as a carrier fighter pilot in 1945, "the proudest moments for me were the interviews I conducted over the years." Cecil has interviewed many of the greats of the jazz age including Tony Bennett, Harry James, Artie Shaw, Bing Crosby and Peggy Lee, just a few of the interviews he has conducted over the past 60 years.

"I think maybe jazz like life has had its beginning, its middle years and of course its end" said Cecil. When asked why young people have not embraced the genre he added "I thought my show would end more than 20 years ago, but then there seemed to be a resurgence that kept me going, but young people today have not embraced jazz." Now almost 92, the host seems a little mystified by the show's longevity.

Cecil said more than a year ago, he sometimes tires of the 15 to 20 hours required to produce each week's "Swingin' Years" broadcasts. "I've done more than 20,000 hours of programming," he said. "Maybe that number has got my attention, but I've lost a little of my zip for the show. "Young people don't listen to radio anymore" said Cecil, "Radio itself is so diversified, things used to be more consolidated, like when Benny Goodman would create music and held off releasing the records, it kept people excited and coming back and listening," he added.

Volunteer of the year Lindsey Svete

Continued from page 1

Organic Farms, www.wwoof.net.

Lindsey has been a constant presence at all of our Ventura River clean ups since returning to the area and her spirit and enthusiasm have really energized our work crews. "I love to volunteer with the Conservancy on the Ventura River because water is the foundation of life, and to reconnect a community with its watershed and encourage stewardship of natural resources is a beautiful thing." We couldn't agree more!

On behalf of the Conservancy, Lindsey received a Certificate of Appreciation from Congresswoman Julia Brownley as well as a sculpture from Mike Batt of Crazy N'Ocean, whose "Arundo Man" sculpture stole the show. Mike uses nothing but reclaimed and recycled material in his environmental friendly art works: the arundo for "Arundo Man" came from our Big Rock Preserve in the Ventura River! Check out his work at <https://www.crazyocean.com>.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Lee Sherman at 643.8044 or send him an email at ls Sherman@venturahillsides.org.

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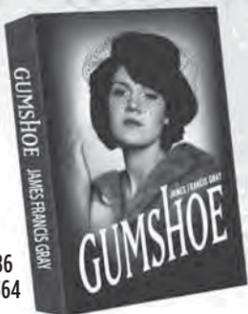
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VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Schools of Choice Information Night

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

5:30 p.m. Session I

6:30 p.m. Session II

Education Service Center – Christa McAuliffe Room

255 W. Stanley Avenue, Suite 100, Ventura

Schools of Choice 2015-2016

Application Window is January 16-30, 2015 (4:00 p.m. deadline)

Applications will be available at every school site, the Educational Services Center, and on the Ventura Unified School District's website (<http://www.venturausd.org>) beginning January 16, 2015.

Lighter Breeze

Mutts



Baby Blues



Beetle Bailey



Tiger



Dustin



Shylock Fox

Find six differences between these panels.



Solutions on page 15

(For a beginners guide to playing Sudoku go to venturabreeze.com)

1				7				9
		9		2	5			3
	2		8			4		
4	5				2			6
7			3			5		
		6		8				2
		8			3	9		
	7		6					1
2				5		7		3

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

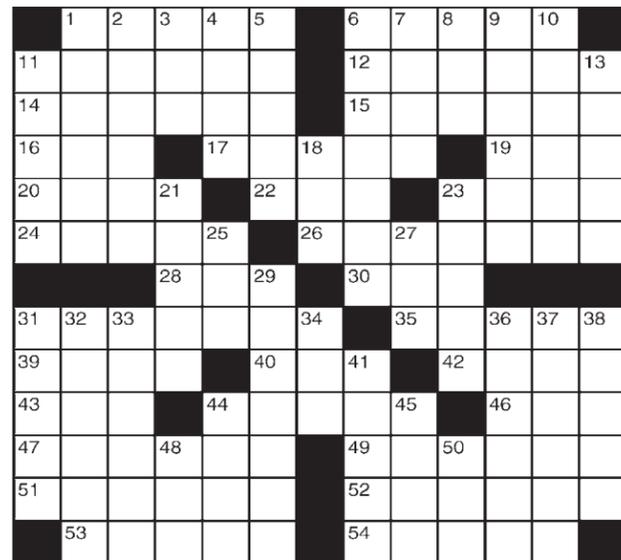
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Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Great —!"
- 6 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
- 11 Woman's snug hat
- 12 Jong and Kane
- 14 Steve of the WWE
- 15 Steve of "The Jerk"
- 16 Edge
- 17 Bessemer material
- 19 U.N. workers' org.
- 20 Screen image
- 22 Day divs.
- 23 Acknowledge
- 24 Muddle with liquor
- 26 Fishermen
- 28 However
- 30 Moray, e.g.
- 31 Combination
- 35 Trunks
- 39 Unrivaled
- 40 Fond du —, Wis.
- 42 Garden intruder
- 43 Third degree?
- 44 Frank — Wright
- 46 Aye undoer
- 47 Steve of "Family



- 49 Steve of "Evan Almighty"
- 51 Just off the ocean's floor
- 52 Feudal lords
- 53 Buzzing instrument
- 54 Perfumery compound
- DOWN
- 1 Floodgate
- 2 Carl Sagan topic
- 3 Autumn mo.
- 4 Not that
- 5 First extra inning
- 6 Legal possession of
- 7 land
- 8 Kazakh river
- 9 Creme de cassis cocktail
- 10 Hardly idle
- 11 Tar
- 12 Antillean tribe member
- 13 "The — of Kilimanjaro"
- 18 Historic time
- 21 Aristocratic
- 23 Let
- 25 Yank
- 27 Understand
- 29 Fox hunt cry
- 31 Socially dominant
- 32 Punk rock-er's coif,
- 33 Tenor Bocelli
- 34 Long March leader
- 36 Break a promise
- 37 Caulking matter
- 38 Pastoral pieces
- 41 Washer phase
- 44 Toy block name
- 45 Speaker's spot
- 48 Namely (Abbr.)
- 50 Pensioned (Abbr.)

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22) Your most important New Year's resolution should be to work out problems with a family member in order to avoid continuing misunderstandings. Do it soon, for both of your sakes.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The New Year has much to offer the intensely determined Scorpion, who isn't afraid to take on challenges and stay with them until they surrender their rewards.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You'll have many fine opportunities in this New Year. But be warned: Reject offers of "help." You work best when you're free to be your own creative self.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The New Year offers changes that you might feel you're not quite ready for. Best advice: Deal with them one step at a time, until you've built up your self-confidence.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Travel is a dominant aspect of the New Year. This could mean relocating to another city (or even another country) in connection with your education or your career.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) This New Year brings news about a change you've been anticipating. You might have a problem persuading a loved one about your new plans, but he or she will soon go along with them.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for making people feel safe and protected. You would make an excellent youth counselor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The New Year brings challenges that can change many things in your life. You need to be prepared not only to confront them, but also to deal with what happens afterward.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have what it takes to set your goals quite a bit higher this year. Learn what you need to know and put what you learn into your efforts. A partner offers loving support.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) In true Gemini Twin fashion, you're conflicted about a decision you know you'll have to make in this New Year. Best advice: Get the facts before you make any commitment.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A friend offers you an exciting opportunity for this New Year. Although your positive aspects are strong in most respects, caution is advised. Investigate before you invest.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You can make this New Year a roaring success. Start by readjusting your goals to reflect the changes in the economy. Your den-mate offers both wise and loving support.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The New Year brings new opportunities for change. But you need to be ready to move from the comfortable status quo to the challenging unknown. It's up to you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

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Ventura Music Scene

It's a wrap!

by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

We're wrapping up 2014 and hoping for big things to come in 2015 for Ventura's music scene. First things first, let's take a look at our options for closing out the year. So many venues are pulling out the stops for New Year's Eve beckoning patrons with some great music lined up. Discovery has Crooked-Eye Tommy and Guy Martin with Spencer from The Vibe keeping the dancing going; Bombay Bar and Grill will have crowd favorites Mandex, Shaky Feelin' and Rising Son along with two DJs Carlism and Darko; W20 at the Watermark will offer music from Dr M and ADD; and Shawn Jones will rock in the New Year at Grapes and Hops. All the aforementioned venues have a cover and offer special beverages and food. Reservations are highly recommended to ensure admittance.

More venues offering music to bring in the New Year include Peirano's with the Mighty Cash Cats, Gigi's with Cynthia Manley, Keynote with Red Rhythm, the Wine Rack has Mark Heyes, Café Fiore with Mojo Box and of course Jonny Reese at Amigos has Toni Jannotta with some sexy jazz to warm up the evening at 6 and then the Iron Butterfly Experience will keep the party going until 1 am.

Play it safe and don't drink and drive. Cabs will be out in abundance; have their phone number handy or better yet arrange for a designated driver who you will shower with gifts for taking the bullet this time around.

Kudos to Josh and Adam at Squashed Grapes for bringing the talent this year. They'll be closing their doors after a Tillford Jackson Christmas special on Tuesday, December 23, until the end of the year, but they'll be back January 2 with even more amazing jazz for 2015; Doug Webb with Danny Carey of Tool returns on January 9, they'll have the Jim Calire Piano Trio on the 15, Karl Hunter's Quartet on the 24 and so many cool jazz cats in-between. Please, I beseech you;

if you haven't been in to check out this cool venue, make it a point to do so in 2015.

Jan and Jerry of Hi-Hat Entertainment has really been bringing amazing shows and artists to Ventura for quite some time now and 2015 looks to be a stellar year for them at their new venue, the Ventura Beach Club. You won't want to miss Albert Lee's return to the stage along with Carl Sonny Leyland on January 2, and then on the 16th, it's none other than Kim Simmonds and Savoy Brown one of the earliest British blues bands touring since the mid Seventies.

I wish you love, joy and music for the New Year! Thanks for reading about Ventura's music scene, much more to come in 2015.

If you have any music related news or upcoming shows you want help publicizing? Send all information short or long to Pam@VenturaRocks.com.

Music Calendar 12/24 - 1/6

For more events go to VenturaRocks.com

Amigos Cafe & Cantina
546 E. Main St.
805-874-2232

Mondays: 6 pm Karen and Joe;
8:30 pm Joey's Blues Jam
Tuesdays: 6 pm Nathan McEuen;
8:30 Acoustic Showcase
Wednesdays: 6 pm Jazz on Main Street; 9 pm Mark Masson and Friends
Thurs 12/25 - St Pierre Christmas special
Fri 12/26 - 6 pm The Cash Cats; 9 pm Spencer the Gardener
Sat 12/27 - 6 pm Camp Franco; 9 pm the Vinyl Gypsies
Sun 12/28 - 6 pm Nine Mile Skid
Wed 12/31 - 6 pm Toni Jannotta; 8:30 the Iron Butterfly Experience
Billy O's
2819 E. Main Street
(805) 652-0327
Mondays: Acoustic Showcase

Tuesdays: Open Jam Night
Wed & Thurs - Karaoke
Fri 1/2 - Pleasure, Philthy Heathens, Smoke Wizard, Tule Fog

Bombay Bar & Grill
143 S. California St.
805-643-4404

Live Music every Wed thru Sun
Wednesdays - Tommy Marsh and Bad Dog

Thursdays - Musician's Brew with Coso
Wed 12/31 - Mandex, Shaky Feelin, Rising Son

Café Fiore
66 S. California Street
805-653-1266

Fri 12/26 - Ricky Coz
Sat 12/27 - Sound Effect
Tues 12/30 - Leigh Vance and Friends

Wed 12/31 - Mojo Box
The Cave
4435 McGrath Street
(805) 642-9449

Sat 12/27 - Warren Takahaski

Discover Ventura
1888 Thompson Blvd
Wed 12/31 - Tommy Marsh, Guy Martin

El Rey Cantina
294 E. Main Street
Fridays 4 pm

Xoco Moraza and Friends

Gigi's Cocktails
2493 Grand Avenue
(805) 642-2411

Mondays: Maggie's Drawers open mic

Thurs & Fri: Karaoke
Sat 12/27 - Blues Bullet
Wed 12/31 - Cynthia Manley

Golden China
760 S. Seaward
(805) 652-0688

Karaoke seven nights a week

Swing night Thursdays 6:30 pm

Cumbia music Fridays with DJ

Carlos at 9:30 pm

Reggae Sundays 8:30 pm

Grapes & Hops
454 E. Main Street
Wed 12/31 - Shawn Jones

The Greek Restaurant
Ventura Harbor
Sat & Sun through December
DJ Dancing until 1:30 am

The Keynote Lounge
10245 E. Telephone Road
805-647-9390

Tues & Weds - Karaoke

Thurs - Open mic jam

Fri 12/26 - End of year jam

Sat 12/27 - Tate's Trilogy

Wed 12/31 - Red Rhythm

Milano's Italian Restaurant

Ventura Harbor

(805) 658-0388

2nd & 4th Tuesdays

12/23 - Bluesgrass jam

Paddy's

2 W. Main Street

(805) 652-1071

Fri & Sats

DJs

The Patio at Player's Casino
6580 Auto Center Drive
805-643-1392

8:00 - 11:00 PM

Fri 12/26 - Ashun

Sat 12/27 - Action Down

Fri 1/2 - Sean Wiggins & One

Goat

Sat 1/3 - Sound Effect

Peirano's

204 E. Main Street

Fri 12/26 - Colene & Co

Sun 12/28 - JJ Frank

12/31 - The Mighty Cash Cats

Pierpont Inn

550 San Jon Road
(805) 643-6144

Fridays 7-9 pm: Ken Minardi

Saturdays 6-9 pm: Mark Anthony

Rookees Sports Bar & Grill

419 E. Main Street

(805) 648-6862

Friday and Saturdays

10 pm Rotating DJs

Saloon BBQ Co.

456 E. Main Street

Sun 12/31 - Mark Sellers

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut

(805) 643-4539

Mondays - Karaoke

Tuesdays - Twisted Tuesday

Wednesdays - Open mic

Thursdays - DJ Spinobi

Sundays - DJ Darko

Fri 12/26 - Alligator Dave

Sat 12/27 - Hubcap Stealers

Squashed Grapes

2351 E. Main St.

805-643-7300

Fri 1/2 - The Jazz Police

Surf Brewery

4561 Market Street

(805) 644-2739

Sat 12/27 - Braids & Dreads (Dan Grimm acoustic)

The Tavern

211 E. Santa Clara Street

Motown Mondays

Metal every Wednesday

DJs every Thursday

Fri 12/26 - Mojo Box

Wed 12/31 - DJ Nick Dean; DJ

Steeze Steve

Ventura Beach Club

281 W. Main Street

Fri 12/26 Holiday party (Hi-Hat Entertainment)

Fri 1/2 - Hot Roux with Albert Lee & Carl Sonny Leyland (Hi-Hat Entertainment)

W20 Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St. (above Watermark)

805-643-6800

Live Bands every Fri thru Sun

Sat 12/27 - The Bomb

Wed 12/31 - Dr M; ADD

The Wine Rack

14 S. California Street

Fri 12/26 - Catwalk Trio

Sat 12/27 - Jill Martini

Wed 12/31 - Mark Heyes



Crooked Eye Tommy bringing in the New Year at Discovery. Photo by Tammy Mosby.



An important part of the FOTM artist's documentation process is the building of an image library. FOTM documented artist Jim McCarthy is placing a selection of his artwork in chronological order. The images are then compiled into a PowerPoint presentation and shared with the audience during the Artist Spotlight interview.

Seven artists selected

Focus on the Masters (FOTM) is pleased to announce that seven artists have been selected for FOTM formal documentation by a distinguished jury of educators and artists for the 2015 season.

An artist will be featured monthly beginning with Jordan Laby, on Saturday, January 24 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. as part of FOTM's popular Artist Spotlight interview series, now in its twentieth year. Inventor, philanthropist, he and his wife Sandra established the San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts.

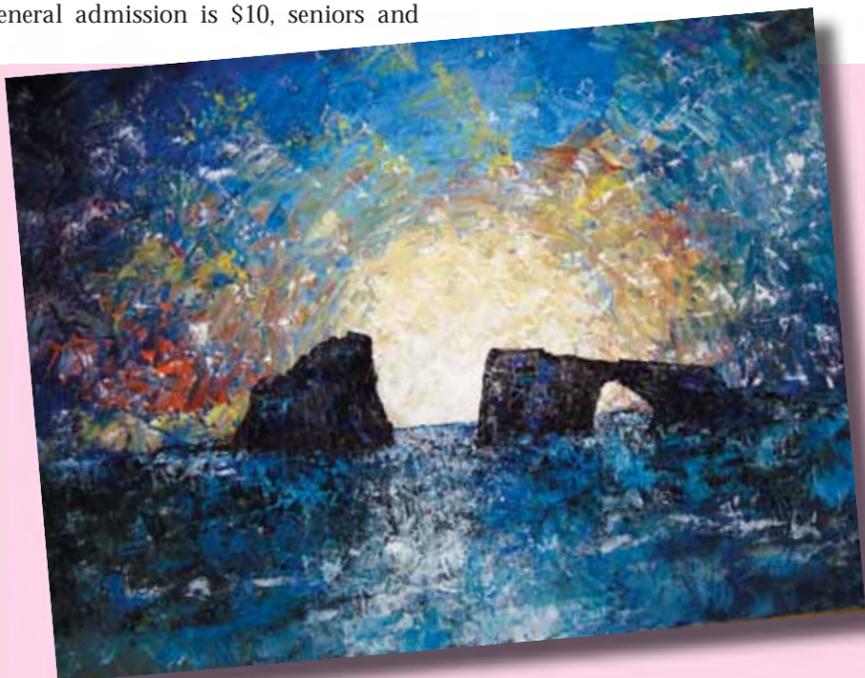
The interviews, filmed before a studio audience, will take place at The Brooks Institute Screening Room, 5301 N. Ventura Ave. Documentation derived from this interview, extensive in-depth oral interviews and visual documentation, will be added to the prestigious FOTM archive.

Admission to the Artist Spotlight interviews is free for FOTM members; general admission is \$10, seniors and

students with valid ID \$5. For membership information, visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com.

To support the production of Artist Spotlight, FOTM enlists the help of generous donors who wish to sponsor or co-sponsor a Spotlight Interview. Full sponsorship is \$1,200; co-sponsorship is \$600. The sponsor's name is included on the FOTM website and in all publicity material regarding the artist. It should be noted that sponsorship does not fully cover the documentation expenses.

AfterGLOW Special Events will be planned after each interview. These popular salon style gatherings offer art enthusiasts the opportunity to visit with the featured artist in an intimate setting while enjoying a light supper in the company of dedicated arts supporters. If you would like to sponsor an artist or host an AfterGLOW in your home, please call Mary Galbraith at 653.2501 or Mary.Galbraith@FocusOnTheMasters.com.



Arch Rock, Anacapa, acrylic painting by Gerardo Segismundo is just one of the many works of art on display at the Gallery At The Crowne Fall '14/Winter '15 Show until January 15.

10 artists exhibiting over 65 pieces of work! Including Paul Abravaya, Carrie Dawn, Michael Eagle, Lois Freeman-Fox, Susan K. Guy, Art Karrer, Mary Mulvihill, Diane Yunck Neale, Chris Ryan and Gerardo Segismundo.

Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel, 450 E. Harbor Blvd.

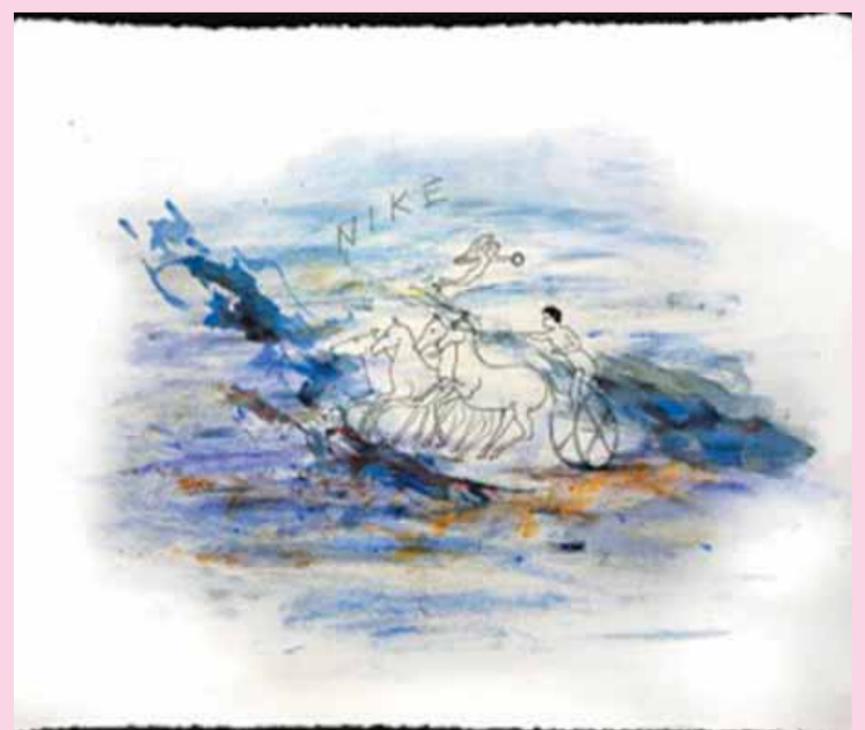
Art, a la Carte

The life experiences of figurative artists Tiger Huang, Maggie Kildee, and Elle-Jé Freeheart could not be more different, yet all three approach the image of the human body as a portal to our emotions. A free reception for their joint exhibition Image and Essence, is on Saturday, January 10 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Blackboard Gallery of Studio Channel Islands Art Center in Old Town Camarillo. The exhibit runs January 3 - 28.

Describing herself as an outsider artist, Elle-Jé Freeheart's ceramic sculpture includes features such as incomplete bodies or unconnected parts or wounds.

Rather than being expressions of anguish, the artist explains that the sculpture pieces are containers of emotional feelings: angst or elation made visible.

Studio Channel Islands Art Center and Blackboard Gallery are at 2222 Ventura Boulevard in Old Town Camarillo. Hours are Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Wednesday through Friday 11:00 to 5:00 and Saturday 10:00 to 3:00. For information, visit www.studiochannelislands.org or call 805-383-1368. On the First Saturday of the month, as many 40 resident artist studios are open to the public.



Bill Buffinger's attention has been drawn to the historical chapter of the Greeks contribution to art. He first expressed this interest in high school when he made finished drawings of Greek sculpture, fascinated by the portrayal of the idealized human figure. Recently, Bill has found himself drawn again to the Greeks, this time to explore their storytelling on pottery.

These stories and paintings are the subject of his work to be seen at Studio 1317 throughout January.

Exhibition dates: January 2, to January 31

Opening Reception: January 2, 6 to 9 pm

J Peter Boles will provide music. Wonderful refreshments.

Studio Artists Are: Lynn Creighton, Frank Bauer, Larry Bryant, Jane Peterson, Francisco Magdaleno, Donna Zaza.

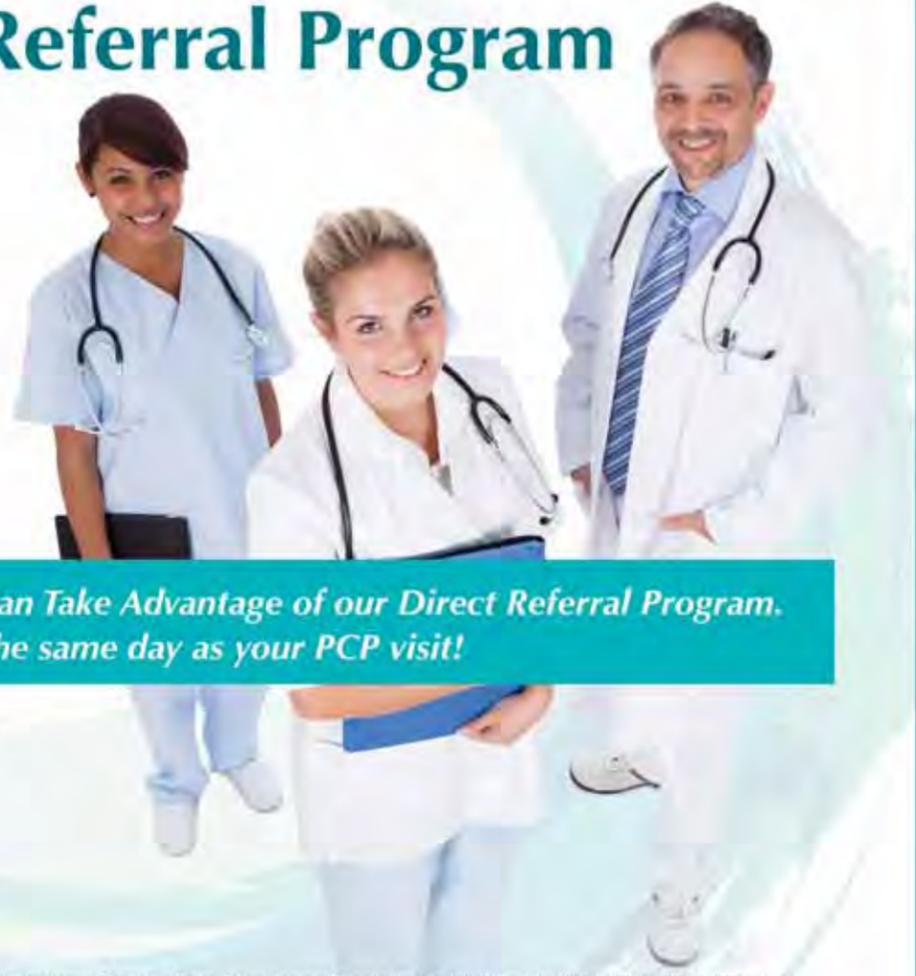


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The work of Asante began in 1999 in Rwanda.

Asante Children's Choir to perform in Ventura

The River Community Church, at 889 E. Santa Clara Street is excited to announce that the Asante Children's Choir from East Africa is scheduled for a performance of their "Jericho...moving forward" tour at TRC on January 4th, at 9 and 11am. The concert is free and open to all.

Asante is a Swahili word meaning "thank you". The Asante Choir is offering a "thank you" to supporting partners, by inspiring hope and joy through music and dance. In return, the Asante Choir raises support to give hope to many other children in East Africa.

The Choir will perform traditional African and American worship music, as well as African Folk Songs, drum music and vibrant dance. The choir is made up of 22 children from East Africa, ages 7-15 years old. Many of the children in the choir are orphans or have parents

who are unable to provide for them. In spite of the severe hardships most of the children have faced, they inspire people with their bright smiles and the joy of their hope. In "Jericho...moving forward" the children testify through song and dance that if you worship and praise God through your trials and tribulations,

The work of Asante began in 1999 in Rwanda, just four years after the genocide that claimed the lives of more than one million Rwandans. The founder, Amon Munyaneza, grew up as a child refugee. Amon began by supporting just one girl, called Naomi, with school fees and regular Bible studies. Soon his friends also started to support kids. Today, Asante is supporting more than 2,800 children and running three schools in East Africa.

Asante accomplishes his mission by nurturing physical health, providing educational empowerment and sharing the hope that is found in Christ. Asante's work is supported by local churches, donors and a growing network of volunteers.

For further information go to www.asantechoir.org.

Tis the Season to give, again

by Mary Galbraith

We need your help. Please support our worthy cause. Join us in this important venture.

Whoa! Hold on! Didn't you already give something last month?

And what about that auction you supported last August? Membership subscription due so soon?

This is the season of giving, my friends. And, of course, as a lifelong supporter of needy causes, I'm here to tell you that even though you gave at the office, you really do need to give again. And although I'd truly love for you to donate to my favorite non-profit, what I truly wish for in this season of sparkling lights and jingly bells, is for you to give to your favorites.

Let's face it: here where the gentle breezes flow and the Ventura Breeze brings us the news, we are darned fortunate. All over the community dedicated folks are working to make paradise even more wonderful. FOOD Share collects and distributes food. The Salvation Army provides assistance to our neighbors who are struggling. Habitat for Humanity brings people together whose only aim is put a roof over a family's head. The Rubicon Theatre Company, New West Symphony, Camarata Pacifica, Music Festival and Focus on the Masters bring the arts to us all and their education arms ensure that youngsters will learn the value of hard work, discipline and the joy of interpreting their world in new and exciting ways.

The world of non-profits relies on people like you and me who want to share our expertise and talents, who want to learn new skills, who want to simply work with like-minded individuals as they create a trail behind City Hall engineered by the Ventura Botanical Gardens, greet patients and their families in our hospitals, or prepare meals for the homeless. Those organizations need muscle.

And while there are marvelous philanthropic foundations in our

midst, you are also a part of the solution to a non-profit's balanced budget. If everyone who reads this issue of the Breeze would send just \$20 to your favorite non-profit, the results would be sensational. And if you decided to sweeten that pot a little more? Well, carolers wouldn't be the only ones singing your praises to the heavens.

So if you've put that fund appeal letter on the bottom of the bill file, if you're tempted to toss the envelope from that other charity, give it a second thought. We're all in this together and together we can make a huge difference in everyone's life.

My co-workers and fellow volunteers wish you all a marvelous holiday season, a healthy New Year, and suggest you give not 'til it hurts, but 'til it feels good, really good.

Mary Galbraith is a volunteer at Focus on the Masters. Her career of voluntarism has taken her to groups focusing on education for women, mental health treatment for children, social services for immigrant families, and veteran's affairs.

Ventura Council looks to improve oversight

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are due until the water is returned.

The RGMP was criticized by developers and their lobbyists as a biennial "beauty contest" where they competed for allocations. To its supporters, it kept the elected officials with stewardship of the community vision and it kept the community engaged as stakeholders. The community's response to the "beauty contest" criticism was, "What's wrong with beautiful developments that work with and enhance our city?"