

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

It's Election Time!



The ugly side of the first amendment.

IF YOU DO any traveling around town at all, it can't have escaped your notice that it's campaign season in Ventura. With City Council and School Board signs dotting every street corner, our local sign companies must eagerly anticipate this event when it rolls around every two years.

Ventura is one of the few cities in the county with any election activity on Nov. 6. In this general municipal election, we're voting to fill three spots on the City Council and two on the Ventura Unified School District Board of Education.

Also on the ballot is Measure C7, which will update the method the city

uses to calculate and collect the Utility User's Tax on telecommunications.

The City Council alternates the elections of its seven members every two years. Three spots are up this year; four more will be voted upon in two years. The mayor and the deputy mayor are chosen by the council members following the municipal election. Each member serves a four-year term.

This year voters will have plenty of candidates to choose from.

All three incumbents—Mayor Carl Morehouse, Deputy Mayor Christy Weir, and Councilmember Bill Fulton—are seeking re-election.

They are joined by challengers Lou Cunningham, a retired school facilities director; Mike Gibson, a business manager for Santa Barbara County Parks; Doug Halter, a local landscape business owner; Jerry Martin, a local tax consultant, Brian Lee Rencher, a community volunteer; and Carroll Dean Williams, a retired college professor.

Hot-button issues in this year's campaign include the possible addition of a Wal-mart on Victoria Avenue, the building heights of development in midtown, and generating more economic activity for the city. Various advocacy groups have been vocal about these topics.

With special issues getting a lot of attention, voters would do well to look at all of the positions a particular candidate holds.

Study the candidates' statements on the sample ballot mailed to all registered voters.

Many of the contenders have also provided statements to the Breeze. For an in-depth look at most of the candidates, local TV station CAPS-TV has

posted excellent interviews with them on its website (www.capstv.org), as well the Ventura County Star, which ran an excellent nine-part series on the elections.

With all the hoopla surrounding the City Council race, the School Board race has gotten less attention.

Like City Council, the Ventura Unified School District Board of Education alternates the elections of its members every two years and all serve four-year terms.

Looking to retain their seats this year are incumbents Barbara Fitzgerald and Debbie Golden.

Challenging them are Monique Dol-lone, an education consultant; Lupe Hekelnkaemper, a family day care provider; David Norrdin, who provided no ballot information; and Carroll Dean Williams, who is also running for City Council.

In the last general municipal election for council and school board in 2005, 56 percent of registered voters cast a ballot (32,823 citizens).

Before that, in 2003, only 13,467 voted.

The City of Ventura has been trying to boost voter turnout with its "I Vote, I Count" public information program. As a result, many more voters (about 45 percent) are now voting by absentee ballots, which were mailed out to residents the week of Oct. 8.

There are no national, state, or county elections sharing the Nov. 6 ballot in Ventura.

Regional and national elections always draw more voters out.

If you haven't already voted by absentee, please do your civic duty and go to the polls on Nov. 6. ■

Residents, businesses welcome Breeze to the community

By Staci Brown
BREEZE PUBLISHER

WELCOME to the first issue of the Ventura Breeze, the City of Ventura's only completely local newspaper dedicated to the people, businesses and community interests of Ventura. We are very excited about this publication and what it will bring to our city.

With a focus on neighborhood news, local government, schools, service clubs, events, business happenings, activities and other updates about the changing city we live in, the Ventura Breeze is committed to covering news that is central to the people who want to stay in tune to what is happening in our beautiful city. The Breeze will be published every other Wednesday and with a circulation of 10,000 copies will be available for free at various places throughout the city.

In this first issue we bring to you a variety of stories. You will find coverage of upcoming election issues that are pertinent to our city of Ventura. We also share with you the story of an amazing 107-year old Venturan, Mil-

dred Thompson. These are just some of the interesting stories you'll see in this issue. In upcoming issues we'll be covering more including high school and college sports, real estate, entertainment, and much more. We also feature an opinions section, which I personally believe will be an important part of the paper.

The Breeze is dedicated to doing more than just reporting on the happenings of this city. It will be an active participant in the community. We are dedicated to helping local businesses grow and thrive. As a resident of Ventura myself, my personal goal is to make the Breeze a central part of getting everyone to play a more active role in what happens in our city.

The Breeze staff believes our newspaper should be about information. Some of that information will be news, public notices, interesting stories of achievements and updates on the progress or setbacks of the community. We don't believe all news needs to be serious. We do believe our readers need to have an equal voice in order to be successful.

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The Ventura Breeze is published every two weeks and is circulated throughout the City of Ventura

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Opinion: LETTERS & EDITORIALS

Why, oh why?

WHY DID we decide to publish a local, community-based newspaper in San Buenaventura? Well, we did it for very personal reasons.

We moved here from Los Angeles about seven years ago. We loved the unique, small-town atmosphere and sense of community, which was so very different from the urban sprawl of the cold, impersonal metropolis we'd left behind. We looked forward to becoming involved in community events and local activities—the kind of lifestyle you associate with smaller, coastal communities.

This, however, has not been the case.

Why? Because we don't have a community newspaper.

We often stroll past a local event and don't have a clue what it is. Shops open and close without us ever knowing about them. New restaurants and bars hold grand openings we would have attended—had we been aware of them. Local news just isn't easily

accessible.

If you're really committed and have absolutely nothing else to do with your time, I guess you can scour every square-inch of some of our "so-called" local publications. Problem is that they fill their pages with news about other cities in Ventura County, as well as interna-

tional news and generic features. Even if you do take the time to read them all from cover to cover there's a good chance you still won't find a great deal of truly relevant, local news.

Most small cities have a local community newspaper. It's about time that Ventura had one too. That is why we are launching the Ventura Breeze. With a few exceptions we will only publish articles and information relevant to our city.

Thank you for reading the first edition of the Ventura Breeze. We welcome your feedback and hope that you'll find it to be a very enjoyable and valuable resource for many years to come. —SHELDON BROWN, *Publisher*



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

Letters

Because this is our first issue we, obviously, don't have letters from our readers except for a few regarding the candidates so we have made up a few.

Dear Breeze:

How did you get a picture in Paris for the first issue?

EVIN BROWN

Very easily, we e-mailed the cover to our correspondent in Dublin who drove his bike to Paris took a picture of Christine drove back to Madrid and e-mailed it back to us.

Dear Breeze:

In Bill Green's cartoon there is a palm tree growing through a house. Isn't that unusual?

JOLI SEEMAYER

You are very observant. Actually the tree is not growing through the house. The house was built around the tree and Bill is an environmentalist and refuse to erase it in order to draw the house.

Dear Breeze?

Will you have crossword puzzles and sudoku? I need something to do when I have dinner with my husband.

DIANE RUBIN

Yes we will in the next issue. Perhaps we should also have a marriage counselor column.

Dear Breeze:

Is Scamp really a professor?

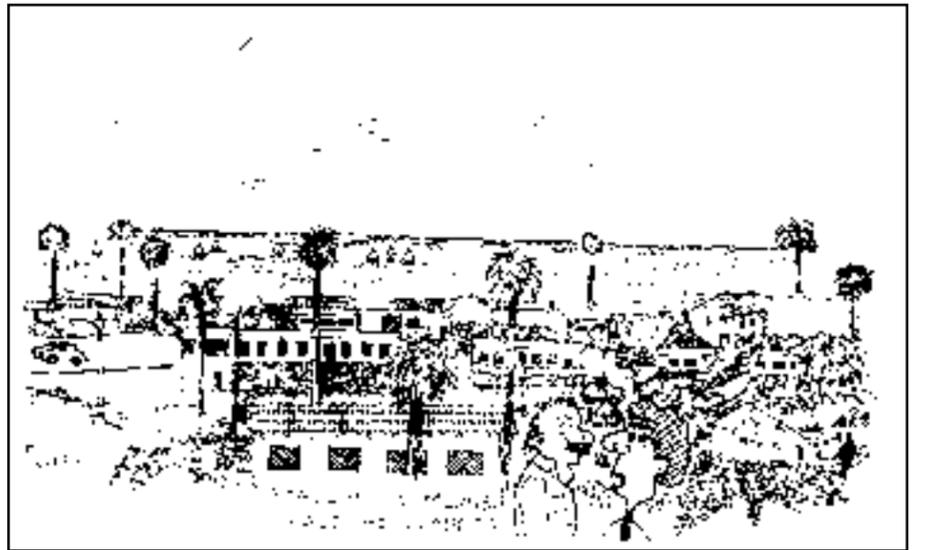
FUZZY FIDO

Yes he is. He obtained his degrees from Furrey State.

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Police & Fire Report

Crimes of the last few weeks include the following:

On October 20, at approximately 2:42 am, Ventura Police Department Dispatch received numerous 911 calls stating that several shots had been fired in the area of the 2500 block of Peacock Avenue.

Ventura Police Department Patrol

Officers responded to the area and found numerous bullet casings lying in the street. One vehicle and a nearby fence had been struck by the rounds however, there were no victims present.

According to witness statements, a group of individuals were hanging out near the west sidewalk of Peacock

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ENDORSEMENTS

Ventura Breeze endorses Halter, Cunningham for Council

THERE IS a need for new leadership at the top in the City of Ventura. Now is the time for common sense to be brought back to local government. Now is the time for elected leaders to embrace economic vitality as a principle source of revenues that support public services. Now is the time to elect Doug Halter and Lou Cunningham to the City Council.

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee supports and endorses these candidates for their

vision and rational approach to solving problems. We believe they will help Ventura's families and businesses thrive as they help provide quality of life and sense of place. Currently, our bedroom boroughs continually seem to be divided and pitted against each other as they compete for community planning resources.

Delays and legislated reductions in



Candidate Lou Cunningham

economic opportunity in the development of the Harbor, Pacific View Mall, downtown district, and local merchant corridors cause more traffic as we are forced to drive to other parts of the county for goods and services.

Businesses that provide high value high wage local jobs, like the Star, have left Ventura while public safety and public works have suffered for the

lack of revenue to pay for personnel and improved infrastructure. The Chamber PAC trustees disagree with the spending of millions of dollars and countless staff hours on what appears to be fruitless planning. We question recent attempts to increase taxes and fees, to authorize problematic art projects, and to create moratoriums in business districts.

We support, endorse, and believe in Doug and Lou and invite all citizens to investigate the views and experience of these two candidates and then vote for them in November. ■

Police, firefighters endorse Weir, Fulton, Martin

The Ventura Police Officers and Firefighters Associations are proud to say that we are supporting Deputy Mayor Christy Weir, Councilmember Bill Fulton and Jerry Martin for election to the Ventura City Council.

When the Police and Fire associations embark on the task of determining who to support for city council, our first priority is to decide who we believe will best serve our city in all areas of city government. We then examine who we feel will fulfill this responsibility with a strong focus toward enhancing public safety.

Our process was extremely thorough. It included a "Question & Answer" forum consisting of Police and Fire representatives, a review of the candidates' philosophies on the development of our city and its economic growth, as well as their views toward public safety issues. After this extensive process, and for the first time in nearly 12 years, the police and fire associations independently determined that Christy Weir, Bill Fulton and Jerry Martin are without a doubt the three candidates that best suit the needs of Ventura.

We feel that the candidates we have chosen to give our endorsement for council are going to provide more than just the basics to our community. We feel that they are committed to

enhancing our already strong police and fire services as well as improving other city departments that will meet the growing needs of our city.

We are finding out that some people are wondering why we are not supporting Carl Morehouse in his bid for reelection. As public servants, members of the Police and Fire associations know that would be the easiest thing for us to do. However, we strongly believe that Mr. Morehouse is not at all concerned with improving Police or Fire services. In fact, he said so in our "Q & A" forum on September 17th, when he described his commitment to public safety as "Luke warm at best." He then went on to rate himself as a "Five" on a scale of 1-10 regarding his views and support of Police and Fire services.

Obviously, the members of your Police and Fire departments strongly feel that our citizens deserve much better than a "Five" or "Luke warm" when it comes to your safety and emergency services. We hope the members of our community feel the same way we do.

However, regardless of whether you agree or disagree with our determination on who to support for City council, we hope that you will at least do your part in shaping the direction of your city by voting this November 6th.

Jerry Foreman President, Ventura Police Officers Association ■

Planned Parent recommends Halter, Morehouse

City Council candidates Doug Halter and Carl Morehouse returned a candidate questionnaire with responses that reflect a 100% pro-choice position on our issues. He has consistently demonstrated support for the Planned Parenthood mission as did School District candidate Debbie Golden.

These recommendations were made by the Planned Parenthood Action Fund an independent, separately incorporated 501(c) (4) non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization affiliated with Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties. The Action Fund is dedicated to protecting and advocating freedom of choice through educational activities and the promotion and endorsement of pro-choice candidates.

Under federal law, a duly incorporated (c) (4) organization may devote up to 49% of its expenditures and activities toward electoral activities. Protecting reproductive freedom and access to reproductive health care through the election of pro-choice candidates is the primary goal of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund's electoral activities. This Electoral Policy incorporates the legal requirements for (c) (4) organizations, the organizational requirements established by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and the non-partisan philosophy of the Action

FUND.

Pro-Choice Criteria

Any candidate for elected or appointed office must at a minimum support:

1. The terms of Roe v. Wade and oppose any attempt to overturn Roe

2. Public funding of abortion services, prenatal care, family planning, and other reproductive health care services for all who are eligible;

3. The right of minors to confidential family planning, abortion, prenatal care, and sexually transmitted infection screening and treatment services;

4. Comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality and HIV/AIDS education in public schools that is also medically accurate and free of racial, ethnic, and gender bias;

5. The provision of, or referral for, reproductive health care services by any health care entity that receives public funding for providing health care services;

6. The inclusion of all reproductive health care services, including abortion, in any health reform plan; and

7. The enactment of laws, and enforcement of existing laws, that protect reproductive health care providers, their staff and patients, and their families from the ongoing campaign of violence, intimidation, and harassment being waged against them. ■

CITIZENS' ENDORSEMENTS

MIKE TRACY: HALTER

On November 6, 2007, we have the opportunity to move Ventura forward by electing Doug Halter to the City Council.

Many of you already know and support Doug Halter. I've known him for more than 15 years. He is a small business owner, entrepreneur, and involved citizen. When I was Police Chief, Doug served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Police Activities League.

We are all blessed to live in Ventura. Over the years we have seen the community grow; we've seen some things get better and some things stagnate. While we recognize the accomplishments, many of us are frustrated by missed opportunities, endless planning without results, and misplaced priorities.

Doug understands that our future is dependent on economic vitality which will allow us to have a first class municipal infrastructure, diverse housing stock, and safe schools, public places and neighborhoods. He knows that Public Safety is a top priority of municipal government, and he is committed to providing adequate police and fire services without adding new taxes.

Doug Halter will work diligently to make Ventura a great City. He has the vision, creativity, integrity, and work ethic to accomplish that goal.

Please join me in voting Doug Hal-



Candidates at the Art Forum

ter for City Council on Tuesday Nov. 6.

Mike Tracy is the retired chief of the Ventura Police Department.

RON ELLIS: HALTER

I know you have all been waiting breathlessly for me to announce my personal picks for the Ventura City Council Race. My picks are, I think, the only logical picks a person can make, that is if they want to improve Ventura in the next four years, and put us on a track to economic prosperity.

My number 1 pick is Mr. Doug Halter, Doug is a visionary, an extremely hard worker, he loves Ventura, and he was the person that originally came up with the idea to cover over the 101 Freeway at California street in order to re-connect Old Downtown Ventura with the Beach, making Ventura a true "Beach Town."

My number pick is Brian Lee Rencher, Brian may not visually appear as a suit and tie kinda guy, but I'll let you in on a well known secret. Brian

knows more about the workings of the City Hall than any person that works there. He especially knows more about the operations, finances, and internal workings than any of the present Council or Administrators. He is so honest he squeaks, you never have to ask him twice about anything that is going on with the city.

My number 3 pick is Mr. Lou Cunningham, I don't personally know Mr. Cunningham but from all I have heard you won't find a more consciences, honest, hard working person. He has had a lifetime of managing multi-million dollar projects. I believe he has the best interest of Ventura at heart.

If were lucky enough to elect all three of these people to the Ventura Council I believe you will see improvements almost immediately. We certainly don't need another four years of the Status Quo, we have had enough of the spinning, lack of foresight and less than stellar management.

Actually Brian Lee has been wearing a

nice brown suit and tie to the forums. —Ed.

WAYNE ALLEE: MARTIN

I cannot vote for Jerry Martin as I live in Santa Paula, but I feel he can do an outstanding job for you on your City Council.

I have known Jerry and his parents, before his Dad passed away, for close to 40 years. After he graduated from high school, he got into the electrical apprenticeship program. Shortly after becoming a Journeyman Electrician, he came to work for the same contractor I worked for.

Up until I retired, we worked together off and on, for close to twenty years doing various jobs throughout Ventura County. I found Jerry to be a great working partner and / or boss. He always had things set up and lined out, so that even I could follow the directions. We both worked for an electrical contractor, and our job waste make money for the company, Jerry always strived to make the customer satisfied and happy. His way of doing this was by having a good work ethic. Jerry said, "If you make the customer happy, the contractor has to be happy."

I believe if you elect Jerry to your City Council, that he will bring the same work ethic with him, that he has followed all these years. He can and will be one of the best Councilmen Ventura ever had. ■



CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

BUSINESS MANAGER MIKE GIBSON

My name is Mike Gibson and I am running for Ventura City Council.



The reason I think the citizens of Ventura should vote for me is, first and foremost, because I represent change. For far too long our City has been stuck in neutral. We have done very little

to move forward on the economic development front due to the burdensome rules and regulations coming out of City Hall that discourage new businesses from coming to town or existing businesses from expanding. New business opportunities in the community translate to additional sales tax dollars to support needed City services, such as police and fire, street and park maintenance, additional recreational opportunities for our youth, etc. With declining property tax revenues anticipated in the near future due to the decline in the housing market and a leveling off of sales tax revenue, we are going to have to become more proactive with our economic development efforts to secure the City's ability to continue to provide high quality services to its residents. The City is currently mired in bureaucratic inertia that sends a chilling message to those in the business community that might otherwise consider Ventura as a place to locate their business.

Some recent examples of this are the Ventura County Star moving to Camarillo, Kinko's moving out of town, and the moratorium imposed on commercial development along the Victoria Corridor so that the City could "study" a reconfiguration plan for this major thoroughfare that would have eliminated essential traffic lanes and turned it into a Parisian boulevard. The price tag on this study, by the way, was close to \$250,000.

As these examples illustrate, we need a shake-up in leadership at City Hall. We cannot afford to continue down this path of inertia and inaction. It will take bold people with an interest in changing course at City Hall in order to improve a City that is a jewel on the central coast with so much potential to become a first class tourist destination location. I firmly believe that by becoming more business-friendly and welcoming new high quality development that we can chart a new course for our City and, in so doing, secure its financial future. We can do this with-

out sacrificing our quality of life or changing the unique character of the City that makes it such a wonderful place to live. Please join me in helping to move Ventura forward into the future. Vote for Mike Gibson on November 6th.

BUSINESS OWNER DOUGLAS A. HALTER

Today is the dawning of a new era. An era where leaders help bridge the differences in our community and focus on achieving our vision. Where we balance environmental needs and preservation desires with the need for economic vitality. Where we use public policy to encourage the right activities to happen and not simply create additional barriers to effectively addressing our challenges. Where leaders listen to and have the trust of the public and the courage to make the best decisions not just the politically correct ones.



The time is now to bring back to Ventura the essence of what made California a great state. To support and encourage entrepreneurship and creativity. To use the passion and diversity of our citizenry to create opportunity and a vibrant community. To encourage our citizens to believe in themselves and strive to reach their dreams and in so doing make their lives and the quality of life of those in Ventura even better. We need to focus on retaining our jobs and bringing good jobs back to Ventura. We need focus on funding the needs of Public Safety and transportation while raising the standards of our roads and beaches. And yes, we can better educate people on the need to protect sensitive environmental habitats, while creating better access to our beaches and natural settings.

And finally, at this point in time as the world and our lives become ever more complex, government has an onus to help simplify our lives and not complicate. We can better leverage our limited public resources to encourage the private sector to help us clarify and reach our community vision and not simply rely upon more taxation.

Together we can make Ventura a model City in every way while creating a ripple effect across our beautiful state. Together we can make a brighter future for our entire community and future generations.

Now is the time for change. Now is the time for Action. Please Vote Doug Halter for City Council on November 6th.

Comments by Lou Cunningham

I want to thank the Ventura Chamber PAC for its endorsement it means a great deal to my campaign and the people of Ventura. I am running to serve the city of Ventura as a whole, serving all of the people from, the East End, West End, Mid Town, Down Town, the Harbor, all areas within greater Ventura.

I want to unite the people around practical ideas to implement a better life in our city. I want to help our city; its businesses and families grow and prosper with out losing its uniqueness.

I want to use my experience dealing with budgets, infrastructure, land use, and other delicate issues that effect people's lives. I feel that the average Venturan and the city itself are under represented on the City Council.

We face some tough issues ahead, but I am ready to roll up my sleeves, work hard, do my homework, and provide common sense to re-build the citizens trust in City Hall.

My goal is to make sure that City Hall is spending our tax dollars wisely and that we receive the quality of services we expect while re-building our infrastructure, providing a safe level of police and fire protection, and paying for past and present employee wages and benefits, all while maintaining our reserves.

I believe with my style of leadership I can bring the people of Ventura together.

DEPUTY MAYOR CHRISTY WEIR

It's been a privilege to serve on the Ventura City Council for the past four years, two as the Deputy Mayor.



I have been an effective advocate for my community in the 22 years I have lived here, bringing positive people skills and a centrist approach to solving the issues facing our city.

A former teacher and editor with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies, I raised two children in Ventura with my husband, Tim, and I am now a grandmother of three.

My extensive community involvement includes:

- Founder of the Serra Cross Conservancy, which owns the Cross in

Grant Park

- Founding Board Member of the Downtown Ventura Organization
- Board Member of the Ventura Music Festival

- City Council Liaison to County Fair Board and Visitors Bureau

- City Council Liaison to the Ventura Unified School District

- Ventura Cultural Plan Task Force Co-Chair

- Midtown Community Council Member

- City Council Homelessness Committee

- Board Member, Community Commission for Ventura County

- CSUCI Leadership Council
- Elder, Community Presbyterian Church

I believe it is vital that we preserve and enhance what makes Ventura uniquely beautiful—our beaches, hillsides and the two rivers that border our town. I'm committed to a cleaner, greener Ventura, with continued attention to maintenance, cleanliness and landscaping of public spaces.

Ventura is fortunate to have fascinating and distinct historical roots. I believe that preserving our historic structures will ensure that Ventura's character is protected.

As a founder of the Downtown Ventura Organization, I have worked hard for our Downtown to make sure our dreams are realized for this vital business center.

I support development that is sensitive to existing neighborhoods, with the highest quality of architecture, landscaping and environmental responsibility. ■

Candidate Jerry Martin to speak

Jerry Martin will be the guest speaker at the Ventura Democratic Club meeting to be held at 7:30 pm on October 25 at the Topping Room at Foster Library downtown

He will speak on issues affecting the City of Ventura. A social hour will be from 7 to 7:30 pm when you can learn more about the Club if you haven't attended any previous meetings. ■



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PROP C7 ENDORSEMENTS

The Breeze supports Prop C7

IN THE upcoming election, Venturans will be asked to vote on Measure C7, which will lower the Utility Users Tax on telecommunications to 4.5 percent. With a ballot statement seven pages long printed in tiny type, it's a complicated subject, so here are a few basics:

- We are already charged a 5 percent Utility Users Tax (UUT) on telecommunications. This includes landlines, cell phones, and cable TV. This money goes into the general fund and helps pay for police and fire services, park maintenance, beach cleanup, etc. The tax generates \$2.8 million a year. Without it, important city services could be cut.

- The existing code for the tax is outdated. It was written 40 years ago when there were no cell phones or competing telecommunications companies. What is happening around the state is the telecommunications companies are challenging this tax saying it was writ-

From the Measure C7 voter guide
“To maintain essential city services while decreasing tax rates, shall an ordinance be adopted to comply with new federal requirements and to preserve funding for critical city services, including police and fire protection, paramedic and emergency response, street repair and maintenance, youth services, and reduction of trash and pollution from parks, beaches, and coastal waters, by updating the method for calculating and collecting the communication users’ tax”

ten before cell phones were invented and that cities can't apply this old code to new technologies. Los Angeles is currently enmeshed in such a lawsuit.

- More than 150 other California cities charge this tax and all are looking at updating their codes.

- Rewriting this code requires that it go before the voters. It requires a 50 percent passage because the money goes straight into the general fund and is not earmarked for a specific purpose, as was P6 last fall with police and fire. This measure would apply solely to telecommunications. The city is rewriting its code to include a broader inter-

pretation of “instant telecommunications” so it doesn't have to go back to the voters when technologies change again. For example, if we some day we all switch to video phones, this could be taxed as well.

- C7 will not boost the taxes of Venturans. We'll be paying about the same as we do now. Different things will be taxed as technologies evolve, that's all.

- Under federal law, Ventura's Utility Users Tax be cannot be extended to Internet services. Congress is very unlikely to change this rule.

- To assure passage of this code rewrite and protect this important rev-

enue source, the city decided to lower the tax rate to 4.5 percent. To make sure the measure ends up being revenue neutral and does not lose money for the city, it was extended to include the formerly exempt inter-state and international calls.

- If C7 does not pass, Venturans will still be charged the existing higher 5 percent rate, but the city could be involved in a costly lawsuit over the cell phone portion of the UUT, as Los Angeles currently is. Pending federal and state legislation as well as current legal challenges could all affect the outcome.

Our city cannot afford to lose this important revenue resource. Please vote yes on C7. For more information, go to the city's web site and click on the tab for Measure C7.

Two opposing views are also presented below.

www.ci.ventura.ca.us

Mike Gibson recommends

I WILL BE supporting local measure C7 on the November ballot because I feel it is necessary to protect approximately \$2.8 million in ongoing general tax revenue the City currently receives from the communications section of its users utility tax. This is the City tax that is assessed on telephone devices and other communications technology. This revenue is vital to the City because it is used for general city services, such as police and fire protection, paramedic services, streets and parks maintenance, beach and coastal access clean-up, etc

The current users utility tax ordinance was written in the 1960s and is outdated in the sense that it didn't anticipate all the new technologies that have come on line since then, like cell phones, cable television, etc. C7 does not impose any new taxes. It simply rewrites an existing tax ordinance that allows the City to continue to assess this tax to communications devices and services. Without this measure, the existing utility tax would become subject to lawsuits from telecommunications companies that could challenge its legitimacy in court.

Ron Smith opposes

I HAVE JUST received a copy of the Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet. There is only one Measure for the Voters to closely examine and decide.

The cities analysis has spun so hard on the explanation of the measure they probably made themselves dizzy, I know they have made me dizzy, or dizzier anyway. They start out by intimating that if the voters don't vote yes on this “Tax on Taxes” all critical city services will come to a grinding halt, the truth is all money collected through this “communication users tax” goes directly into the “general fund”, which means that it can be used for any purpose they choose. Granted they may use a very small part of it for “critical city services” such as a mid-year raise for the Police Chief or the like.

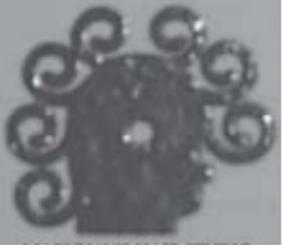
Then they use the phrase “decreasing tax rates”, this is their one truthful statement, the “tax rate” will be decreased from 5% to 4.5%, what they don't tell you is that along with the “tax rate” decrease they will be adding a plethora of other communication systems to the tax code, thereby actually increasing the amount of actual “tax/money” you will be paying each and every month, possibly by 3 or 4 times the amount you are paying now,

depending on what kind and how many communication services you use.

The impartial analysis by City Attorney on Measure C7 actually spells it out for you. He says, “expands the types of taxable communication services to cover the newer communications and video technologies (including movies from Direct TV), not covered by the current ordinances, as a result the 4.5% tax would be broader based in generally applying to all types of communication and video services regardless of the technology used.”

The main thing here is that once again the city is trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the citizens of the City of Ventura, they have the mistaken belief that the voters are below average in intelligence, they also have the mistaken idea that they can mouth any misinformation, bend any facts, they choose and nobody will care. We have to show them now at the voting polls that they are wrong and we will be holding them accountable for all their un-truthful ways.

These opinions and comments are those of the writer and not necessarily of the Breeze.

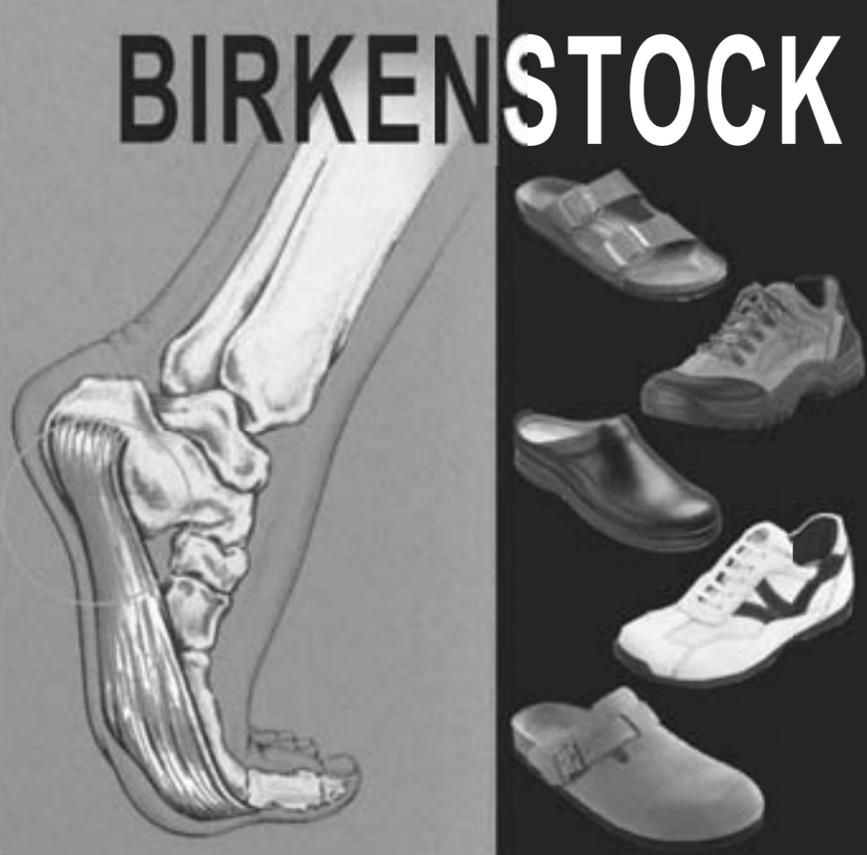


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News

Morehouse wins leadership award

CITY OF VENTURA Mayor Carl Morehouse received the Outstanding Distinguished Leadership Award for an Elected Official on Oct. 2 during the California Chapter of the American Planning Association's State Planning Conference annual awards luncheon in San Jose, Calif.

The awards program recognizes cutting-edge planning achievements and outstanding individual contributions in creating communities of lasting value.

Morehouse, who has served as mayor of Ventura since 2005 and continuously on the Ventura City Council since 1999, has been an APA member for more than 27 years and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 1990.

The APA recognized the Ventura mayor with its Outstanding Distinguished Leadership Award for an Elected Official based upon a strong history of support for the planning community, most notably for the city's groundbreaking work in affordable housing, form-based codes, downtown revitalization and green building, which has garnered extensive media coverage.

A tireless champion of improved planning, Morehouse has helped bring national attention to the City of Ventura, winning recognition as being among the "Most Livable Communities" in America by Partners for Livable Communities, a national non-profit organization.

Fulfilling a philosophical commitment to engage residents in the planning process, Morehouse collaborated in creation of the Ventura County Civic Alliance and the Faulkner House Group, both non-governmental organizations dedicated to steering land-use and sustainability issues in the city and county.

True to his personal mantra that "No one of us is as smart as all of us combined," Morehouse won credit and praise on behalf of the City of Ventura for a project partnership with California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo that gathered and analyzed feedback from Ventura residents regarding specific planning projects in the community.

Morehouse accepted the award during the CCAPA's awards luncheon in San Jose.

'07 Cappie award winners

Community Access Partners of San Buenaventura (CAPS-TV) has announced the winners of its annual CAPPIE Awards honoring programming that appeared on Channels 6 and 15 from October 2006 to September 2007.

The ceremonies, held at the CAPS Media Center in Ventura, included a chips-and-salsa reception, a catered Mexican fiesta dinner and the awards ceremony, which took place in the new CAPS studio. With a crowd nearing 50 members and guests, it was an exciting and enjoyable evening for all who attended.

CAPS Executive Director Todd Thayer played the part of Master of Ceremonies first introducing a CAPS produced video highlighting programming that aired on CAPS Channels between October 2006 and October 2007. Mr. Thayer quickly segued into the CAPPIE Awards presentation as the anticipation grew. Video clips from nominated programs preceded the announcement of each winner. There are seven categories. Winners receive an

Is the devil really coming to Ventura?

By John-Arthur Ingram

On Oct. 18, 2007, at the Pointsettia School in Ventura, the "Stop Wal-Mart Coalition" met in the school cafeteria. Approximately 250 eager citizens came together to support their cause.

The issue to them is simple: prevent the "invasion of a Wal-Mart Super center" at the Big K-Mart location on Victoria Avenue. Wal-Mart proposes a 150,000 square foot super center, and they promise needed tax revenues.

Jim Alger and Das Williams directed an informative presentation on what they feel are Wal-Mart's negative qualities and selfish intentions. The presentation included a quick overview and a clever power point presentation to make their points.

However, "Is this enough?" Lilith, a second-time attendee, asked. "Sitting and looking at a slideshow is not going to stop Wal-Mart. We have to let the officials know."

Consequently, a plan of attack was proposed. Martel Fraser of the United Food and Commercial Workers has joined the fight and stated that there is "only one way to stop Wal-Mart and that's with an ordinance." The first step is to set up a foundation for an initiative campaign.

Alger and Williams are asking the community to gather 9,000 signatures by next November to gain a ballot measure and attain an anti-big box ordinance. This will keep Wal-Mart

and other "big boxes" out of Ventura for good. According to "their" presentation, 62 percent of the community oppose Wal-Mart and 74 percent want an ordinance stopping them.

The second step would be to pass the ordinance, when election time comes. At the end of the meeting approximately 100 attendees responded to the request of collecting the 9,000 signatures.

Apparently, they feel that Wal-Mart has already begun fighting back in the form of taking down coalition signs and tapping into the coalition's e-mail list. Obviously, there is not proof of this happening.

There is a long fight ahead of them, however, Alger and Williams assure that victory is possible. Many cities have defeated Wal-Mart stores across the nation, especially here in California. They also stated that "the best way to deal with Wal-Mart is to never let them in, in the first place."

This is, of course, not possible if they comply to all of the existing City Ordinances. They could probably just remodel and move into the existing K-Mart building without enlarging it if that meets their needs.

If you support, or disagree, with their actions the Breeze would love to hear your comments and suggestions.

For more information on the Stop Wal-Mart Coalition visit their website.

www.stopwalmartventura.com

attractive clear Lucite trophy inscribed with their name, program title and winning category.

Any CAPS member community producer and institutional partner producer are eligible for a CAPPIES Award. Members submit programs in the following categories: Arts & Culture, Civic & Community, Home & Garden, Music & Variety, Travel & Leisure, Inspirational & Spiritual, Education and Governmental, which is broken up into three sub categories representing the three PEG initiatives of access television: public, education and government.

Special CAPPIE Awards were also presented to Barry Tronstad and Jenise Wager for their commitment to community access television and for their seven years as members of the CAPS board of directors.

CAPS is a member-based non-profit corporation providing individuals, non-profit organizations, City departments, schools and other government agencies with the necessary equipment, resources and training to produce non-

commercial community based media programs. These programs are then aired on CAPS Channel 6 or VTV Channel 15 (Ventura TV), and on the web via CAPS Media Portal. CAPS Media Center is located at 65 Day Road.

New Bus Book and additional bus service

OXNARD—Gold Coast Transit (formerly known as SCAT) has published its first Gold Coast Transit Bus Book, a compilation of all route maps, schedules, and information relating to the transit system into a single book. The new Bus Book became effective Oct. 7, and its distribution was timed to coincide with the start of new routes and service improvements. The new services include:

New Route 30X: OTC-VTC Express will provide weekday commuter express service between the Oxnard Transportation Center and the Ventura Transfer Center.

New Route 31X: Ojai/Government Center/OTC will provide weekday com-

muter express service between Ojai and the Ventura County Government Center, the Topa Building and the Oxnard Transportation Center.

New Route 32X: OTC/Ojai Express will provide weekday commuter express service between the Oxnard Transportation Center and the Ojai Park and Ride lot at Fox Street and Ojai Avenue.

In addition to the new express routes, Gold Coast Transit has implemented other service improvements in October.

The new Bus Book provides detailed information on how to read schedules, pay the correct fare and load bicycles onto the racks on the front of each bus.

Deborah Linehan, general manager of Gold Coast Transit, commented: "With the new Bus Book, Gold Coast Transit passengers have all the information they need at their fingertips."

The new Bus Book will be available on all buses, at the Customer Service Center in the Oxnard Transportation Center, libraries, city halls, Oxnard and Ventura Colleges, and other locations throughout western Ventura County.

For more information on any route or schedule, go to their website or contact the Gold Coast Transit Customer Service Center at 487-4222 or 643-3158, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

www.goldcoasttransit.org

Frequent fliers can benefit from making wishes

The Make-A-Wish Foundation needs help with a special campaign to gather airline miles to help grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.

More than half of all the wishes granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties involve travel. Locally, 12 million frequent flier miles are needed each year, and only one million are donated.

Purchasing airline tickets is the most avoidable expense for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. On October 3 they launched Giving Miles, Making Smiles campaigns throughout the central coast to address this critical need.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is asking groups, small and large, throughout the tri-counties to host miles campaigns. Campaigns are being started at schools, workplaces, and church across the central coast.

High School student Stephanie Bower is hosting three campaigns in Ventura at Foothill Technology High School, her mom's gym, Curves, and her dad's employer, Caterpillar. She will utilize the work she does on this campaign to fulfill her high school community service requirement.

Wish Mom Priscilla Matherly is hosting a campaign at her church as a way to say thank you for her son Jacob's wish for a computer.

Ronda Chung is hosting a campaign at Wellpoint, whose employees have already donated almost \$25,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation in the last few years and are now eager to donate miles as well.

A campaign kick-off event was held at the Ventura Wish Center, 4222 Market Street Suite D, Ventura, CA, on October 3 from 6 to 7 p.m. for all those interested in hosting a campaign.

To get a starter kit or donate your own miles, contact Kelly at intern@tri-counties.wish.org or 805 676 9474 x4.

Starter Kits contain everything needed, including forms, sample



Going on vacation?

Be sure to take the Ventura Breeze with you. Take a photo and tell us a little bit about your trip and e-mail to breezehappenings@sbcglobal.net

This is Christine Cardoso, of Ventura, in front of some structure on her recent three-week sojourn to Europe. She had a great time but really missed little 2 year old Carter.

Did you know that Gustave Alexandre Eiffel designed this famous landmark for the Paris World's Fair in 1889? And he certainly would have read the Breeze if it was in French.

Senior Living

SCAT has new name and bus book

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The new look of our busses.

Center, the Topa Building and the Oxnard Transportation Center.

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Park and Ride lot at Fox Street and Ojai Avenue.

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For more information on any route or schedule, go to www.goldcoasttransit.org or contact the Gold Coast Transit Customer Service Center at 487-4222 or 643-3158, Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ■

Trivia Time

By Walter Branch

1. What group marked its 15th year together with a 15-song album titled "15 Big Ones?"
2. What puppet show won a 1953 Emmy as the best children's program?
3. What was the most ambitious target the U.S. tried to hit with a rocket in 1958?
4. What French couturier established Rive Gauche boutiques for ready-to-wear fashions in 1966?
5. What 1958 horror movie was hyped, "It crawls! It creeps! It eats you alive! Run!"?
6. Who won 42.4 percent of the vote in the 1968 New Hampshire Democratic primary?
7. What was the last name of the brothers who lived in Bayport in "an old stone house set in a large, tree-shaded lawn"?
8. How many horses drew Prince Charles and Princess Diana's carriage on the route away from their nuptials?
9. Whose literary works usually begin: "It was a dark and stormy night . . .?"
10. What variety show was Barry Manilow once the conductor-arranger for?

Don't peak, we have ways of knowing.
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See page 8 for answers.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Part B payments to rise

By Carol Martin

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that Medicare Part B premiums would increase by 3.1 percent next year, to a total of \$96.40 per month per senior.

Excluded from their announcement is the fact that premiums have jumped 93 percent since 2001, when premiums were just \$50.00 per month.

Part B premiums are rising almost five times faster than the annual Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) seniors receive each year, which is intended to help them keep up with rising costs. While Medicare

Part B premiums will have soared by more than 93 percent from 2001-2008, the COLA will have crept up by just 19 percent during the same period.

A majority of the 48 million Americans aged 65 and over who receive a Social Security check depend on it for at least 50 percent of their total income, and one in three beneficiaries rely on it for 90 percent or more of their total income. But because the Social Security COLA will be completely eaten up for millions of low income seniors due to increasing Medicare premiums, the nation's elderly will see their spending power diminish again next year, as it has for several straight years.

To help offset the cost of Medicare Part B, The Senior Citizens League is lobbying for a change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used to determine the COLA. The government currently calculates the COLA based on the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), a slow-rising index that tracks the spending habits of younger workers who don't spend as much of their income on health expenditures.

However, the government does track the spending patterns of older Americans and has done so since 1983 with the CPI for Elderly Consumers, or CPI-E. By tying the annual increase in the

COLA to the CPI-E, seniors would see much needed relief in their monthly checks.

For example, a senior who retired with a benefit of \$460 in 1984 would have received almost \$10,300 more over the past 23 years with the CPI-E. ■

Senior Happenings

Educational Programming

Ventura Readers Book Club at E.P. Foster Library Book lovers, come join the club the first Saturday of the month 10 am-12 pm to discuss new fiction, history and biography selections. The meetings are free. Light refreshments will be served. To get information about this month's book, please call 654-7745.

Computer Classes

Free classes for people 50 and over are offered through Ventura Adult Continuing Education Monday through Friday from 8-4 and Tuesday and Thursday night on the Avenue. Please call 289-7925 for more information.

Adult Literacy Program

The adult literacy program through the Ventura County Library offers one-on-one tutoring at no cost to anyone interested in learning how to read Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:30 - 7:30 at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center. Please call 641-4452 for more information.

Dessert and Discourse

The City of Ventura, in collaboration with Ventura College, has developed this lecture series designed for mature adults interested in cultural activities and mental, physical and spiritual health on the last Friday of the month from 6-7:30 pm at Guthrie Hall. Refreshments will be served. All events are free, but reservations are requested by calling 648-2829.

Safe Drivers Classes

The Mature Driver Safety Program

sponsored by AARP is offered at our centers. These collaborative classes offer a certification of completion recognized by most insurance companies that might assist to lower your rates. Classes are offered throughout the year. Please call the centers for schedule information and registration to the Ventura Avenue Adult Center 648-3035 or the Senior Recreation Center 648-2829.

Health and Fitness

YMCA Free Swim Program

Free swimming for Ventura seniors is offered at the YMCA Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8-9 am. Please come prepared with a lock, towel and your driver's license or California ID.

The New Ventura Senior Lunch Program has something for everyone.

Join us at the Westside Café, 550 N Ventura Ave from 12-1pm for a hot nutritious meal including our new salad bar. \$2.75 if you are 60 or older, \$5 if you are under 60. Please call 805-648-3035 to make your reservation for lunch.

Parkinson's Support Group

Facilitator Susan Kline from the California Neuroscience Institute at St. John's Medical Center conducts a support group for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers at the Senior Recreation Center, 420 E. Santa Clara St., on the second Wednesday of every month, from 1 to 3 pm. Just show up or call facilitator at 988.7599 or coordi-

nators Richard or Muriel Mark at 647.2960 for more information.

Free Ongoing Health Screenings

The Public Health Nurses will be at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center

550 N. Ventura Ave., every 3rd Thursday of the month from 9am-

1pm. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 648-3035.

Free Brown Bag Program

Food Share program offers a free weekly groceries program for low-income residents. This program is

Continued on page 8



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Are you only 90? I could be your mother

By Rebecca Wicks

The year is 1900. Sigmund Freud publishes his famous *The Interpretation of Dreams*, the Boxer Rebellion comes to an end, William McKinley is President, the cost of a first class stamp is 2 cents and all of Ventura County boasts a whopping 14,367 residents. And, Mildred Thompson is born.

This holiday season Mildred, a long time Ventura resident will turn 107. Nineteen U.S. Presidents have served in office during Mildred's lifetime. She has been alive for an insurmountable number historical firsts, from the first airplane flight and the first talking

movie to the advent of television and the awarding of the first Nobel Prize.

Mildred was recently interviewed by Breeze editor Sheldon Brown and Suz Montgomery, a volunteer and teacher at the Venturan Convalescent Center where Mildred now resides. She went on to tell of a full life filled with adventure and an insatiable quest for knowledge.

Mildred was born on a Dec. 27, 1900 in Jamesport, Mo. Raised on a farm, she was one of five children. She attended Stephens College a private women's college Columbia, Mo. for a teaching degree. It was there she was convinced by teachers to travel to Puerto Rico, a



Suz class with Mildred at her side.



Suz personal collection of great old stuff

then considered possible next U.S. state, to teach its residents English. "I knew very little about Puerto Rico," Mildred admits, "I only vaguely knew where it was." Her adventure there was rich and of course fun. She remembers forgetting where she was when she was dancing in Puerto Rico and how the music "had a lot of rhythm."

Later, back in the states, Mildred worked in Chicago as a millinery where she designed and made hats that cost upwards of \$60, which was quite expensive in the current day. She also worked as a schoolteacher at a number of different schools. Her love for travel eventually brought her to California and then Ventura where she moved after she retired.

Today Mildred begins each day with exercise. She was said to still be doing somersaults at age 100. She attributes

her long life to two things - exercise and her ongoing need to learn. Mildred attends classes everyday at the Venturan where she lives. There she learns about new things with teacher and friend Suz Montgomery.

Mildred has always loved to learn. She is incessant about needing to learn from each other as well as from books and other traditional sources. She speaks fondly of learning from her brothers and sisters and believes firmly that "boys and girls can learn a lot from each other."

Through it all Mildred has kept to a few mantras, the first is to always learn, be honest and be truthful. The second in her words is to "give to the world the best that you have and the best will come back to you." She is often referred to as a hero by her fellow residents and friends, and now we can understand why. ■

Senior Happenings, cont'd

available at the Senior Recreation Center Mondays 9am-11am and the Ventura Avenue Adult Center Fridays 8am-noon. Please call 983-7100 for eligibility criteria and application.

Recreation

The Community Sing Thing!

This free music program is open to anyone who likes to sing and meets every Tuesday from 3-4:30 pm to at Ventura Avenue Adult Center.

Cribbage

Learn to play cribbage, a popular card game played with a partner. It's easy to learn and fun to play and free. We will provide the lessons, the playing cards and the cribbage boards used to keep score. Every Thursday, 10am at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center.

Scrabble

Scrabble is a game that combines elements of luck, skill and plenty of enjoyment in equal measure along with a good deal of fun. Offered free Tuesdays, 10am at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center.

Bingo

Feeling like a winner? Want to make some new friends? For 50 cents a card, you can put a little fun in your life with a weekly game of Bingo, for adults 18 years and up. Monday and Friday, 1-3pm at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center.

Over 90?, cont'd.

Bridge Lessons/Novice Bridge

Want to learn how to play bridge? Bridge lessons every Wednesday 9:30-10 am, taught by a veteran bridge player. After your lesson you can put into practice your newly learned skills by joining Novice Bridge games from 10-noon at the Senior Recreation Center on Santa Clara.

Mah Jong

A growing group welcomes all Mah Jong players! Don't know how to play but want to learn? One of the players has graciously offered to teach anyone interested in learning how to play. Offered free Mondays, 10am at the

Ventura Avenue Adult Center.

Legal Assistance

Commission on Human Concerns offers free legal advice for all ages to help one sort out social security benefits, divorce, adoption or wills and many other legal issues. To make an appointment at VAAC, please call 486-4725, to make your appointment. Free

Home Energy Assistance Program

Home Energy Assistance Program assists income-eligible households with current gas or electric bills.

9-11 am 2nd Thursday at the Senior Recreation Center

9-11 am 4th Thursday at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center

Homeowners/Renters Assistance

If you are 62 years of age or older, blind or disabled, you may be eligible to receive tax relief. Claim forms, preparation and filing assistance are available July-September. Please call the Ventura Adult Center at 648-3035 or the Senior Recreation Center at 648-2829 for more information.

Free Tax Preparation

Free tax preparation is available for low income and people 50 and over through AARP and the Commission for Human Concerns. This free service is available at the Senior Recreation Center, Tuesdays and Thursdays afternoons, please call 648-2829 to make your reservations, and at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center Tuesday and Thursday mornings, please call 648-3035 to make your reservations.

HICAP

The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program provides free assistance for beneficiaries from 9:30 am-noon on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Senior Recreation Center 648-2829, and at 1:30-3:30 pm on the fourth Thursday at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center 648-3035. Please call for more information. ■

Trivia Time Answers: 1: The Beach Boys. 2: "Kukla, Fran & Ollie." 3: The moon. 4: Yves St. Laurent. 5: "The Blob." 6: Eugene McCarthy. 7: Hardy. 8: Four. 9: Snoopy's. 10: "The Ed Sullivan Show"



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HALLOWEEN

What is it?

HALLOWEEN—or Hallowe'en—is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31.

Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, Halloween festivals, bonfires, costume parties, visiting haunted houses, viewing horror films, and going on haunted hayrides.

Halloween originated from the pagan festival of Samhain celebrated among the Celts of Ireland and Great Britain. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried versions of the tradition to North America in the nineteenth century. Other western countries embraced the holiday in the late twentieth century.

Halloween is now celebrated in several parts of the western world, most commonly in Ireland, the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom.

The term Halloween (and its older rendering Hallowe'en) is shortened from All-hallow-even, as it is the evening of/before "All Hallows' Day," also known as "All Saints' Day." It was a day of religious festivities in various northern European Pagan traditions until Popes Gregory III and Gregory IV moved the old Christian feast of All Saints' Day from May 13 to November 1.

In the ninth century, the Church measured the day as starting at sunset, in accordance with the Florentine calendar. Although All Saints' (or Hallows') Day is now considered to occur one day after Halloween, the two holidays were, at that time, celebrated on the same day.

Liturgically, the Church traditionally celebrated that day as the Vigil of All Saints, and, until 1970, a day of fasting as well. Like other vigils, it was celebrated on the previous day if it fell on a Sunday, although secular celebrations of the holiday remained on the 31st.

The Vigil was suppressed in 1955, but was later restored in the post-Vatican II calendar. ■



You'd look like this too if someone lit a candle in your head.

Boo at the Zoo

BEST-LOVED fairytales come alive when the Santa Barbara Zoo is transformed into a magic world of fiery dragons and brave knights, beautiful princesses and wicked witches—and so much more.

Boo at the Zoo is three nights of safe, traffic-free trick-or-treating in a walk-through wonderland with dozens of costumed actors adding to the fun. It is the perfect outing for young children but also features a Scare Zone for older kids. There are Boo-Choo-Choo train rides, Creepy Crawly animal encounters, Spooky Storytelling, Goblin Games, nightly costume parades, and much more!

Boo at the Zoo: Once Upon a Time, Fairytales at the Zoo, a very merry-not-too-scary family-friendly Halloween festival, is held the weekend before Halloween: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 26, 27 and 28 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Boo at the Zoo is designed for children ages 2-12 accompanied by an adult. *Continued on page 10*

Día de los Muertos: Day of the dead

The "Day of the Dead" puppet show, which is guaranteed to please both kids and adults alike, will be performed October 27 & 28 at 1 pm and 2:30 pm. at the Olivas Adobe Exhibit Hall, 4200 Olivas Park Drive.

Doug Friedlander, a resident of Ojai, not only creates his puppets, but also designs his own sets and costumes. After or before the performance, visitors are welcome to take a docent-guided tour of the grounds and casa grande.

The Olivas Adobe and its adjoining land was a gift to the City of Ventura, which was developed as the Olivas Golf Course. The trust deed stated that the use of the adobe and land must be for historical and recreation purposes.

Media or historical groups can contact Ross Goodman, event coordinator, at 805-382-1752 or e-mail fredgood@verizon.net for additional information. And be sure to read Richard Senate's scary story in the Breeze. ■



But can they play Beethoven?

The most haunted place in Ventura

By Richard Senate

HAVE BEEN to the site hundreds of times, but sometimes the old house has a distinct aura looming around it. It's an atmosphere one can cut with a knife, cold, dark, forlorn and yet not empty.

The site is the old 1847 adobe home of Don Raymundo Olivas on Olivas Park Dr. For my money, and I base this on the collected reports of a quarter of a century, it's one of the most haunted places in all California, if not the whole of the American West. I unlocked the gate and walked into the darkened courtyard where Don Raymundo once held lavish parties. I peered deeply onto the shadowy balcony. What there something there or were my eyes playing tricks upon me? I have seen most of the ghosts here first

hand but, there is always room for a new one to pop up.

Tonight, a group of students had signed up for a class offered by the city of Ventura. Called "Ghost Camp" it would outline America's fastest growing hobby—Ghost Hunting. The popularity of the TV show Ghost Hunters has made what was once the domain of a few die hard fans into a wide spread phenomena. Tonight I would instruct them in what to do and then see what they could find in the old adobe. I could tell by the feel of the place they wouldn't go away empty handed. The first part was instruction on how to take a deposition from a witness. I had one come forth and describe the night she saw an eyeless apparition of a ghostly girl here. The fearful experience was fully described as was the

story collected by psychics (but not confirmed) of a terrible murder where a demented Yankee cut the eyes from the living girl so she couldn't identify him. The fiend was tracked down and suffered a terrible, but perhaps well deserved, fate. After telling them the do's and don't of ghost hunting and how to use all the tools we had assembled, they were taken to the old adobe to see what they could find.

They came away feeling icy cold spots. Seeing rocking chairs rock by themselves, hearing voices and getting strange pictures. One student got a misty face with two red eyes! They came away convinced that at least one ghost walks the halls of the Olivas Adobe if not more. In the past, a number of sightings have been recorded. The most seen ghost is that of a lady in

a black dress on the second floor of the house. Another ghost is that of a little girl with a white night dress and cap. Others have seen a large woman with a white shirt and grey skirt. Still others have seen a boy with a straw hat and another boy in a tan shirt leading a phantom thoroughbred horse. Some have even seen a ghostly padre in mission robes and others report a floating glowing candle.

The events continue to happen at the old place. For those curious about such things, these accounts will be the subject of a set of ghostly tours offered by the City of Ventura on Halloween Night. Tickets for this unique journey into the paranormal sell out fast so to secure tickets for these haunting tours call Community Services at 805-658-4726. ■



Sugar Skulls and Family Fun

BRING THE ENTIRE family to celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) at the Museum of Ventura County's Seventh Annual Free Community Celebration on October 28.

The festivities will open at noon with a blessing and dancing by Danza Azteca Cuauhtémoc, and continue until 3:00 p.m. The museum's most popular event will include traditional craft projects and face painting, music

by Mariachi Costa de Oro, ofrendas (altars to honor the dead) created by local artists and community groups, and an exhibition of Mexican folk art.

Humorous skeletons and skulls (calaveras) blithely going about worldly

business are the dominant symbols of the holiday, so families can try their hand at decorating sugar skulls and masks, or make papel picado banners, papier-mâché butterflies, and paper flowers.

The tradition of Día de los Muertos honors the dead who are said to come back to walk among the living on November 1 and 2. Colorful ofrendas are built to honor departed relatives and friends, and include objects they enjoyed in their lifetimes. The holiday has roots in pre-Columbian as well as Spanish religious beliefs. Celebrated in many parts of Mexico and Latin America, Día de los Muertos is now popular in the United States among Latinos and non-Latino alike.

Community groups displaying ofrendas include Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project, Cabrillo Middle School, Buena High School, Ventura High School and Sheridan Way Elementary School. Artists who created ofrendas for the event include Robert Bermudez, Maribel Hernandez, Flora Ito, Hilda Kilpatrick, Leslie McQuaide, Claudia Pardo, and Michele Serros.

Visitors to the celebration can also see the Museum of Ventura County's current exhibit, *Art & Soul: Arte y Alma*, which focuses on contemporary Día de los Muertos folk art from Mexico and photographs of Mexico taken by Ventura County artists. The exhibit runs through November 25.

The museum is at 100 East Main Street in downtown Ventura, across from Mission San Buenaventura. For further information, call (805) 653-0323 or go to their website.

www.venturamuseum.org



Above: Rejects.

Left: The \$1,000,000 winners for the best costumes. Actually, they are the Breeze family and they don't have money anyway. Perhaps next year. **Below:** Mom, I said that I wanted these two.



Boo at the Zoo, cont'd.

adult. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children aged 2-12. Zoo members receive \$1 off. Advance ticket purchase is recommended! Tickets are sold in advance at the Zoo, by phone at (805) 962-5339, or online at . This event sells out ñ tickets will be sold at the door only if supplies are available.

The Zoo will close for general admission at 3 p.m. during Boo at the Zoo. General Zoo admission tickets will be sold until 2 p.m. on those days.

Over twenty treat stations are located throughout the Zoo on the Trick or Treat Trail, along with live costumed characters and zookeepers, animal encounters, and merry-not-too-scary attractions. Children get their candy tickets marked at each station. On the way: be prepared for spooky music, creepy cobwebs and hidden surprises.

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The Arts

Orosco at the Harbor

ARNOLD OROSCO'S first solo exhibit, "Same Boy You've Always Known," will be at the Harbor Village Gallery, Oct. 24 through Nov. 19, 2007. An artist reception will be held on Friday, Oct. 26 from 5 to 8 pm.

Orosco is an artist of his time. His mixed-media paintings reflect the concerns and influences of his generation, Generation X: video games, graffiti and the resurgence of comic-book art. Gen-X had more visual stimuli than any other generation before them. As such, they have deconstructed and reexamined what it means to create art.

Orosco's imagery, coupled with his expressive brushstrokes, brings questions to the viewer rather than a "view." A Ventura native, Orosco is self-taught. As a young boy, he wanted to draw

dinosaurs and comic books. After graduating from high school he went to Ventura College to study psychology and criminology and learn to love art through his art courses.

Orosco was one of the winners in the March 2007 Buenaventura Art Association's "Emerging Artist Cup" Collegiate Competition, Professional Fine Art Division at the 2007 Ventura County Fair.

In the spring, Orosco plans to transfer to Columbus College of Art and Design. He was also accepted at Pratt in New York City.

The Harbor Village Gallery is located at 1591 Spinnaker Dr., Suite 117C. Winter hours are 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., closed Tuesday. For more information, visit their website.

www.HarborVillageGallery.com



Arturo Orosco's work is now showing at the Harbor Village Gallery.

Art events Under the Sun

UNDER THE SUN Gallery, located in the Bell Arts Factory galleries at 432 N. Ventura Ave., will host several art events.

On Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m., you can decorate and paint masks and altars. You can wear your masks at the main event and join the Aztec dancers on their procession to help "awaken" the dead. These workshops are free and for all ages!

Friday, Nov. 2, come celebrate a *Dia de Los Muertos* celebration from 5 to 8

p.m. Come shop for your *muertos* clothing, stickers, magnets, jewelry, fine paintings, and folk art before it's all gone.

Come enjoy the company of other Latino art lovers, the music of Grupo Yolipan, drinks, *pan de muerto*, *chamurrado* and more. Maribel Hernandez (Bell Arts Factory studio artist) will be having a "decorate your own sugar skull" table for all to enjoy for a minimal fee and the food and drinks are free.

Danza Azteca Cuauhtemoc will be

hosting the fourth annual *Dia de Los Muertos* celebration at Mission Park at 100 E. Main Street in downtown Ventura on Saturday, Nov. 3, from 1 until 9 p.m. This event was so much fun last year and we expect it to be even better this year. This is also a free event where

you and your family can enjoy entertainment by folklorico and musical groups, Danza Azteca, face painting "calavera" style, arts and crafts activities for kids, lots of *artesanía* (folk art) and food vendors, community altars, and more

Young photographers learn to focus

"THINK OUTSIDE of the box. We are all artists." The words encouraged, young students were glued to the speaker. They sat on the floor, at the speaker's feet, some in chairs, alongside their parents, some on the stairs in the back. Their ages varied from around 3 or 4 to some maybe in their early teens. Their intention: to learn some tips on how to take a great photograph.

They had reason to listen so intently. The youth's speaker, Donna Granada, is a professional photographer. She is also founder of Focus on the Masters, and an adjunct professor at Brooks Institute.

Granata spoke to a crowded room

full of aspiring young photographers and their parents at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Bell Art's Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave., as part of KidzSnap, one event in a series of arts encounters called arts explosion, presented by San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts and the Buenaventura Art Association.

While the students were young, Granada did not talk down to them. She taught some basics of composition, to work in threes, to look for triangular shapes. She emphasized composition in a slideshow of famous photographs.

Granada told each student to begin thinking about what they would photograph over the next week. "Light,

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Artist Christine Morla at Tech Development Center

SPEND AN EVENING with artist Christine Morla on Tuesday, Nov. 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Technology Development Center, 5200 Valentine Dr., Ventura. This is one of the Focus On the Masters Tuesday talk series.

Christine combines images from her Filipino-American background to create art that expresses universal statements about family, world events, and popular culture. She is a mixed-media artist who appropriates images from

television, print media, and family photos, combining them with a painter's creative vision, at times creating a barely perceptible sense of disorientation.

Her recent body of work, "Flowers in the Wind," reflects a haunting and playful mix of colorful images—some delicately covered by a sheer veil—and expresses futuristic landscapes. This is in contrast to earlier work that has been described as 'violent' and 'chaotic,' often with a politically charged

frame of reference. Christine, an Oxnard native, received her bachelor's degree in studio arts from Loyola-Marymount and her MFA from Claremont Graduate University. Her work as an educator at Oxnard College (where she chairs her department and teaches and directs the McNish Gallery) reflects the positive mentoring she received from her teachers.

She delights in bringing students with no previous art experience into a world that is new to them. She will

open a solo exhibition at the Upfront Gallery in Ventura on November 3. Please join us as host Donna Granata explores the colorful world of Christine Morla. To view the artist's work prior to the lecture please visit their website.

\$10 general admission, \$5 students and seniors. Free to FOTM members and students under 18. Please RSVP at 805/653-2501

www.patchworkblue.net

Petite Picasso: Art Classes for Kids

The Buena Ventura Art Association will present Emily Thompson's "Petite Picasso: Art Classes for Kids" throughout November.

Inspired by Channel Islands National Park, Sunday, Nov. 4, 1-4 pm; Sunday, Nov. 11, 10:15-5 pm; Sunday, Nov. 18, 1-4 pm. Ages 7-12. Cost for all three classes is \$100. Class includes a trip to Santa Cruz Island. Children will work with pencils, photos (camera provided), and pastels.

First Day: Students will walk through the Native Plant garden at the national park's visitor center in the Ventura Harbor and watch an informative short film on the Channel Islands National Park, explore the museum, and meet with a National Park Ranger or volunteer.

Second Day: A trip to Santa Cruz Island! A disposable camera will be given to each student for this trip. Please bring good walking shoes, a backpack with water and

lunch/snacks, a hat, sunscreen, and an extra layer of warmth for the boat ride.

Third Day: Students will assemble their collection of sketches, drawings and photos from their previous classes. A final drawing in pastel will be produced. Photographs will be "framed" in a collaged picture frame with images from the islands.

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 3-5 pm, Leave Your Mark. Take a walk on the beach and see the imprint of your footsteps in the sand, cover your fingers with paint and see colorful fingerprints immortalized on paper. Using ink, paint, and charcoal, students will learn about texture, patterns and how to creatively leave your mark.

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 3-5 pm, Flowers Grande! Using examples of Georgia O'Keeffe's famous flower paintings, students will learn how to look closer at the intricacies in a small object. Larger-than-life images will be rendered in a variety of media.

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 3-5 pm. Fun in 3D! Discover the potential of found objects and recycled material as we make art that stands, leans, hangs or balances.

Sign-ups are available online or at the Buena Ventura Gallery, 700 E. Main St., Ventura, or The Harbor Village Gallery. Children can sign up the day of the classes as well.

Thompson has taught numerous

classes through Ventura's Parks and Recreation program, as well as classes in her native Vermont.

"My goal is not just to teach art projects to children, but to teach them creativity," explains Thompson. "I am especially excited about this series of classes, because it will connect the students to the ocean and the community."

www.BuenaVenturaGallery.org

Young photographers, cont'd.

Continued from page 11
shadow, reflection, lines, all of these things make up a great photograph," Granada said.

Following Granada's lecture, students lined up to get their own camera, loaded with a roll of film, free of charge. Granada's assignment for the children: spend the week capturing

what their home and hometown means to them.

Jackson Morris, 7½, of Ventura plans to photograph his dogs for the assignment.

"If I can think of anything else, I'll let you know," Morris said.

—Tracy Valentine

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David Rivas featured at Art Walk

Meet David Rivas—the featured artist for Harvest ArtWalk 2007—and view his limited edition photographs at Fox Fine Jewelry, 210 East Main Street in downtown Ventura, on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007, between 1 and 9 p.m.

Rivas will sign posters of his featured artwork—an abstract image titled “Rose”—from 3 to 5 p.m. during the event.

This award-winning photographer is the twenty-second ArtWalk “Featured Artist” since the City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Division began featuring original artwork by area artists, selected by their peers, to promote the city’s tri-annual ArtWalks on its posters, postcards, guides and other publicity materials.

Now in its fourteenth year, the cultural event attracts over 30,000 visitors annually with an ever-changing display of visual multi-media artwork and performances. This self-guided walking tour brings together area artists, studios, galleries, downtown merchants, and visitors of all ages in a celebration of visual art.

David Rivas was born in San Anto-

nio, Texas, but grew up in California. After a stint in the Marines and a tour in Viet Nam, he attended design school at the L.A. Mart. A color photography class at Ventura College gave him the technical tools to capture the unique imagery for which he is now known—transforming industrial materials and even graffiti into dynamic art.

Rivas creates his highly original images—often inspired by his work as a boiler operator at Arcturus Manufacturing in Oxnard—with a Nikon FM3A camera and a small-multicolored LED light using a long exposure that captures various colors in different configurations.

“My photographs are most successful when they not only show beauty but also evoke a sense of wonder and mystery,” said the artist. “My work isn’t finished until the viewer makes a personal interpretation of what they see.”

During Harvest ArtWalk over 150 Southern California artists exhibit work at more than 70 downtown locations plus 20 performances and a free shuttle. For more information on the ArtWalk go to www.venturartwalk.org.

—Tracy Valentine

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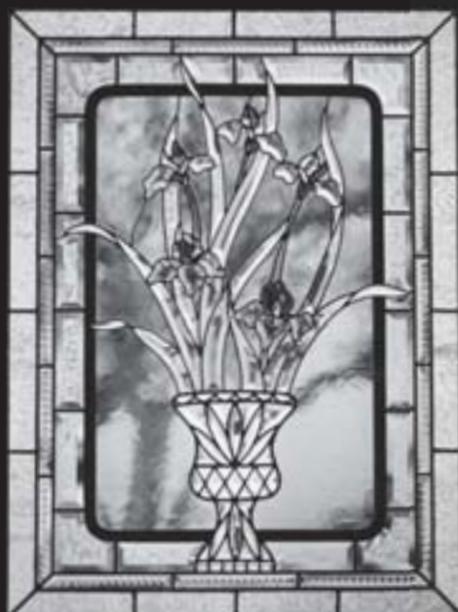
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Professor Scamp

Welcome to the Scamp Club

Professor Scamp Ph.D.
(Pretty Happy Dog)

PET EDITOR

HELLO, I'm Dr. Scamp. Well, actually, I'm not really a doctor but neither was Dr. Seuss and he got away with it.

To introduce myself I am the pet editor and an investigative reporter for The Breeze.

I am a Shih Tzu breed dog. Shih Tzus in dog shows look a lot different than me with their manicured hair but that is much too much work for my human and I am handsome enough as it is.

I am a boy dog about seven years old. I'm not sure when my birthday is, I'll have to find out.

I was hired for my position because I am, as you can tell from the photo below, extremely intelligent. I will write (paw and peck) about items of interest to pets and their families. I might even write about cats if I can think of anything interesting about them (just how



Couldn't we just text message?

do they get away without doing anything anyway)?

Please e-mail me your photo and a little about you and I will ask my pub-

lisher if I can publish your picture in a future edition of TheBreeze (please include your mailing address also). Just e-mail me at scampclub@sbcglobal.net. I look forward to getting your pictures, if a cute little grand kid is in the photo that's even better

I call it Scamp Club because I will be starting a pet club with all of you as members and we will do fun things together like have a party one day at the dog park at Camino Real Park. I certainly hope that you have been there. You will be issued a club card that will also get you discounts at some of our advertisers.

In a future issue (very soon) I will tell you which downtown restaurants are dog friendly that you can eat at (you must bring your human with you to pay the bill).

"Someone must have moved my bed"

PS: I hope that my writing is okay—remember I'm only a dog. ■

Doggie to adopt

The Canine Adoption and Rescue League is a Ventura County non-profit dog rescue organization. Almost entirely run by volunteers since 1996, The Canine Adoption and Rescue League has placed over 1,800 unwanted, abandoned, and homeless dogs. Dogs in our adoption program are placed in pre-screened loving and secure homes.

The Canine Adoption and Rescue League receives hundreds of calls from people who must find a home for a stray, a litter of puppies or even a family pet.

The Canine Adoption and Rescue League's mission is to advocate for animal welfare, seeking to end the needless deaths of companion animals through our adoption, education, and outreach programs.

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<http://www.carlvc.org>

Description: Chowder is a very handsome Chow Chow with a wonderful personality. He is gentle, affectionate, playful and outgoing. He gets along well with most dogs, but needs a home without cats. He loves to go for walks and ride in the car, and he is housebroken.

Your pets at Halloween

By Cleo & Brad Conrad

Halloween means candy and tasty treats are plentiful and easily accessible to young children and pets. Candy, especially chocolate, is toxic to animals and can cause vomiting, restlessness, heart disturbances, and even death. Although grapes and raisins are a healthy alternative snack for humans, they can be potentially deadly for dogs.

Candy wrappers can also cause health problems. Animals may eat the wrapper, causing obstruction or irritation to the pet's digestive system. Candy and wrappers should be kept out of pets' reach, and young children should be taught not to share Halloween goodies with their pet.

Seasonal foods such as pumpkins and corn may cause minor stomach irritation; however, they are relatively safe for Fluffy and Fido. Pumpkin seeds may cause digestive system

obstruction if consumed by smaller animals.

Outdoor pets should be kept indoors during the days surrounding Halloween. Unsupervised outdoor animals are susceptible to stress, inhumane practical jokes or theft. Providing a safe, stress-free environment reduces the probability of your beloved friend injuring himself or others.

Loud and excessive noise created by trick-or-treaters can frighten your cat or dog. Animals should be kept away from the door and out of hearing range of a constantly ringing doorbell and excited children.

Be sure decorations are safe from the paws and teeth of curious pets. Crepe paper streamers, fake cobwebs, glow sticks, plastic spiders and cardboard wall hangings can easily be chewed and swallowed, damaging your pet's digestive tract. Animals can also tip over the candle in a jack-o-lantern

and burn themselves or start a fire. Keep decorations out of animals' reach, and maintain supervision if they play nearby.

Transforming your pet into a superhero, witch, ghost, or goblin can be a stressful and unpleasant experience. If your furry friend doesn't mind dressing up, make sure that you select a costume that doesn't restrict his normal movements, breathing or vision. Costumes that interfere with these things can cause ligament or joint injuries, and animals are more likely to bite if their vision is impaired. ■

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Happenings

Business Market and Conference

Where can you plan your advertising budget, decide where to retire, find a moving company, meet a banker, meet the Ventura Breeze publishers—all in one place?

At this year's Ventura Chamber of Commerce's Ventura Business Marketplace and Conference, according to Nancy Maxwell, Membership Director of the Chamber. The conference will be held October 26 at the Marriott Ventura Beach Hotel, 2055 Harbor Blvd., Ventura.

"This is the Chamber's biggest event of the year, and hundreds of business people and consumers will attend," Maxwell said.

The conference begins with the Connection Breakfast at 7:15 a.m., followed by workshops throughout the morning. The exhibit hall opens to the public at 1 p.m.

Media personalities from KVTA 1520 AM's Spense & Bob Show will broadcast their show live at the event. This show features news, talk, traffic and emergency information. Other broadcast media favorites will broadcast live at the conference. B95.1 will broadcast live between 1-3 p.m., followed by KHAY from 3-5 p.m.

"There will be food, fun, interesting businesses, and people to meet at the conference. And the best part is that the conference and parking are free," Maxwell said.

Dudley house

A Flea Market and Collectibles Faire, and 1912 election speeches of presidential candidates of Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and William Howard Taft will be featured in the Dudley House historic recording series during the Dudley House open house on November 4. The Faire will be open 10am to 4pm and will have antiques, collectibles, jewelry, floral decorations, dolls, crafts and many other items on the grounds of the house.

The house will be open 1pm to 4pm. The Dudley Docents will give tours recounting the history of the house with its newly installed Dudley family furniture. Admission is free. The Dudley House is located at the corner of Ashwood and Loma Vista in Ventura. Anyone interested in working on the docent tours of the house, call Steve Cummings at 644-3286.

Photo contest

The City of Ventura Photo Contest winners will be featured in a Photo Ventura Exhibit at City Hall's New Bridge Gallery October 20 to November 3, 2007

Ventura's amateur and professional photographers submitted 170 entries in 13 categories for the fourth annual City of Ventura Photography Contest celebrating life in our community.

On September 28 judges selected twelve winners based on the use of color, quality and clarity, illustration of theme or category, evoking a sense of place, telling a story and depicting Ventura.

The judges - representing Ventura's finest professional photographers, artists and leaders - included Stephen "Schaf" Schafer, PhotoVentura organizer; Christy Weir, City of Ventura Deputy Mayor; William Hendricks, Ventura College Photography Department Head; Brent Winebrenner, Brooks Institute of Photography; and Barbara Fitzgerald, VUSD

school board member and artist.

All winners received \$50 awards and certificates presented at the City Council meeting on October 22nd.

Holiday Street Fair

The City of Ventura has extended the vendor application deadline for the Holiday Street Fair to November 9th for the event taking place on December 2.

There is still time to participate in the Holiday Street Fair! The City of Ventura's 30th annual Holiday Street Festival takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2 and applications for food booth, non-profit organization, fine arts and handicraft vendors will be accepted through November 9. This year's theme is "Holidays in Paradise."

This dozen-block open-air Main Street festival takes place in the Downtown Cultural District, and showcases the arts and crafts of 300 California artisans. The Festival attracts more than 30,000 visitors each year.

Applications are available through November 9. For more information concerning participation, please call the City of Ventura Special Events office at 805-654-7830 or download applications and guidelines at their website.

www.cityofventura.net/streetfairs.

Free films

The city's free outdoor film series sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Division hosts their final free event *Thriller Dancers* and Halloween Costume Contest and *Creature from the Black Lagoon*. This will take place October 27 at Ventura Community Park located at Kimball and Telephone Rd.

The family and teen fun begins at 5:30 p.m. when filmgoers are welcome to pose with the night's special guest of horror, "The Creature"—bring your own camera to record your encounter—prior to a Halloween costume contest for children and adults hosted by radio personality Lee Marshall (the Boomer) from local radio station 1450 AM.

Michael Jackson's "Thriller" will be performed to new moves choreographed by dance theater director Pam Cohen

and performed by the "Dance Crew" students from Oxnard College and Ventura's own Slippers & Masks dancers, which will precede the screening of cinema's original horror classic at dusk.

A movie concessions stand will be open, but bring your own blankets, low-back lawn chairs and picnic dinners.

Alcohol and pets are prohibited.

For more information about the Starlight Cinema series, please contact the City of Ventura Special Events Office at 805-654-7830.

www.cityofventura.net/starlight.

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Harbor Events

Towsurfer.com, will present the third annual Players Craft Haunted Harbor Showcase on the Carousel Stage at The Ventura Harbor Village.

This free event features two different shows each day: Haunted Harbor Showcase, featuring scenes with a seasonal theme, and The Wharf Rats Revue, featuring numbers from the more musical side of musical theatre. They will be presented Saturday October 27 and Sunday at 1:00 and 3:00.

The Players Craft Acting Studio is a professional acting school in Ventura. Many of its students (both kids and adults) are working in "the business."

Haunted Harbor gives student actors the ability to show off their skills and gain invaluable experience. Students will perform everything from Shakespeare to original commercials they have written. Magic, puppetry, and music make this an event fun for the entire family. The outdoor venue at The Harbor Village, creates a fun environment for spectators.

Help your city

WHAT: Downtown Ventura clean up day

WHEN: Saturday October 27, 7:30 am - noon [Or anytime therein]

WHO: You! . . . and all your fellow Downtown Ventura supporters.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help clean, scrape, pick-up, paint and otherwise spruce-up the wonderful place we call home. Does your child need community service credit? We'll have several easy and safe projects for teens.

WHY: ArtWalk is the following weekend. We are preparing for all our out-of-town guests. If our shipment arrives in time, we will need energetic people to help string NEW holiday lights in the deciduous trees on Main Street and

remove the old rope lighting from the palm trees.

WHERE: Meet in the park at the corner of Santa Clara and California. Free all-day parking is available as well.

WHAT to bring if you can: Work-garden gloves; Windex; old newspapers; paper towels, solvent of any kind, brooms, rakes, dust pans/brushes; pliers [for removing staples from trees]; buckets and rags [for cleaning surfaces like newspaper racks, bike racks and trash cans]; bottled water; anti-bacterial hand gel; a digital camera.

Refreshments from Downtown restaurants will keep you energized!

Kinetic Sculpture Races

Ventura Mayor Carl Morehouse has penned a pretty little ditty to commemorate Ventura's tenth annual Kinetic Sculpture Race, happening this October 27th at the Ventura Harbor.

According to the Mayor, he wrote the song several years ago, but allowed it to languish. He recently dusted it off, and recorded it with the help of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's Scotty Morris. The tune's hook is a toe-tapping country beat, with rollicking, barrel-house piano, over which the Mayor's gravelly baritone invites one and all to "come on down to the Kinetic Sculpture Race." Various landmarks and popular contest entries are name-checked. He also manages to work in several creative ways to rhyme "kinetic." The song can be heard on the race's official website www.kineticrace.com as it accompanies footage from last year's race in a two-minute video.

The 10th Annual Kinetic Sculpture Race welcomes wacky, people-powered contraptions from all over the country and the world, to compete in a multi-stage obstacle course featuring a water

launch, sand scramble, road-race and mud pit. Contestants and judges often dress in outlandish costumes to accentuate this truly unique spectacle, and the public is invited to participate. Silly rules and ridiculous regulations, along with rampant bribery ensure that the winner is not necessarily the first one to cross the finish line.

The annual event is a benefit for local non-profit Turning Point Foundation, which provides help and services for adults disabled by mental illness. This year's event will also be featured on the Dish Network's Treasure HD program "Magnificent Obsessions." The 10th Annual Kinetic Sculpture Race will begin at 10 a.m. on Oct. 27 at the boat launch in Ventura's Harbor Village.

Depression and Bipolar Disorder support groups provide hope in Ventura

DBSA Ventura, the local chapter of the Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) hosts two regular, confidential, peer-led, self-help support groups in the County. One support group meets during the evening on Tuesday and one meets during the day every first and third Wednesday of the month. Both meetings take place in Ventura.

The evening meeting takes place every Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 pm, adults suffering from mood disorders can find hope for recovery at Bible Fellowship Church located at 6950 Ralston Street in Ventura. Attendees should enter the parking lot off Johnson Drive. Email DBSA_Ventura@yahoo.com or call (805) 201-0619 for more information.

The daytime meeting is held from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Adult Wellness & Recovery Center in Ventura on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The Adult Wellness & Recovery Center is located at 56 E. Main Street in Suite 103. The building is at the corner of Main Street and Ventura Avenue. Email DBSA_Ventura@yahoo.com or call (805) 671-5038 for more information.

DBSA support groups are open to anyone who is diagnosed with a mood disorder, has a family member or friend who is diagnosed, or who thinks they might have depression or bipolar disorder (also known as manic depression). DBSA support groups are not run by professionals, but instead offer peer-to-peer support which is an important component of recovery from mental illness for many people.

DBSA is the nation's leading patient-

directed organization focusing on the most prevalent mental illnesses—depression and bipolar disorder. The organization has over 400 independent local chapters that operate over 1000 self-help support groups around the United States. Visit www.DBSAAlliance.org for more information.

Unique winemaker dinner

Established in 1910, The Historic Pierpont Inn will host an Italian Wine-maker Dinner featuring Enoteca de Rham wines beginning at 6:30 pm on Friday, October 26. A four-course dinner plus appetizers, prepared by Chef Marcus Hollingsworth, Executive Chef at The Historic Pierpont Inn, and Chef de Cuisine Jerret Gildden will pair hand-selected varietals with haute cuisine.

As a special and unique feature, The Pierpont Inn will welcome master Italian vintner Baroness Barbara de Rham direct from the Enoteca de Rham to introduce and discuss each nuance and note of wines offered during the evening.

The premier agent of outstanding boutique wineries throughout Italy, Enoteca de Rham is situated in Florence and directed by the Baroness, bringing some of the foremost and respected Italian wines to connoisseurs throughout the world.

Representing more than 50 growers and offering over 300 wines, the Enoteca de Rham is considered to have one of the most diverse and distinctive portfolios in all of Italy.

Guests will arrive to offerings of antipasti, including fried "pillows" stuffed with braised rabbit, dried raisins, pecorino toscano and fresh organic herbs with a 35-year balsamico paired with a Vette Orvieto Classico Secco, vintage 2006.

Dinner, at 7pm will begin with "primi" - acorn squash and saffron risotto with a seafood terrine with eggplant and spinach. The accompanying vintage is a 2005 Cascina Castle't Barbera D'Asti.

An authentic Italian delicacy, latte di pecora panna cotta with fresh late berries and biscotti will be presented as the final dessert course, accompanied by a 2005 Cascina Castle't Moscato D'Asti.

Cost is \$100 per person, excluding tax and gratuity. Reservations are highly recommended by calling The Pierpont Inn at 805-653-6144, ext. 144.

The Historic Pierpont Inn is at 550 Sanjon Road in Ventura. For more information, visit the website.

www.pierpontinn.com.

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LIFE, BUSINESS AND CAREER COACHING

Welcome, cont'd.

We want to make the Breeze a great publication and that means we'll need feedback from our readers—you. Because the Breeze is for the community members of Ventura, a main goal is to make this publication a true forum for Venturans to express their thoughts.

This means, whether you agree or disagree, we want to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us to tell us what you think, what you see, what you

want investigated and we promise to do our very best to deliver.

And please send your photos and stories regarding Ventura, we would like to print them also.

I hope you will enjoy our publication. I invite you to share it with your friends, colleagues and neighbors. Let us know what you think.

You can also meet us at booth 39 at the Ventura Business Marketplace & Conference on Oct. 26 at the Marriott Ventura Beach from 1-7 p.m.

How to Contact Us

Send article ideas to: breezeditor@sbcglobal.net

Send information about events to: breezevents@sbcglobal.net

Send your opinions to: breezeopinions@sbcgobal.net

Send pictures of Venturans at play to: breezehappenings@sbcglobal.net

Avenue, when the suspect vehicle drove by them traveling southbound. As the suspect vehicle drove by, several rounds were fired from the vehicle towards the individuals on the sidewalk. It is unknown if any of the subjects on the sidewalk were struck.

On October 16, Ventura Police Patrol units responded to a report of tire slash vandalisms in progress on West Center Street.

Officers arrived on scene and detained a suspect matching the description given by a witness. The witness then positively identified Angel Alamilla as the suspect.

Officers located nine vehicles that had slashed tires. Officers on the scene attempted to contact the victims. In those cases where they were unable to make contact with the remaining victims, officers left notices on the victim's vehicle.

On October 16, at 2:00 pm, a white male, about 25 to 30 years old, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt entered the Meta Market. The suspect confronted the lone clerk and demanded money. The suspect displayed a firearm that was partially concealed in the sleeve of his sweatshirt. The suspect moved around the counter and retrieved an undisclosed amount of money from the

register. The suspect was last seen fleeing eastbound on Meta Street on foot.

On October 13, at 1:14 am, Ventura Police Dispatch received a 911 call from a resident in the 400 block of Poli Street stating that two suspects were breaking into a neighbor's residence.

The reporting party saw two suspects break a window to the residence and enter. As Ventura Police patrol units arrived on scene, two suspects matching the descriptions given by the reporting party were found in the immediate area and detained.

It was confirmed the residence had been burglarized and items had been removed. Evidence at the scene indicated that the two detained suspects were involved in the burglary.

Anthony Nevarez and Antonio Maldonado, both of Santa Paula, were arrested and booked into the Ventura County Jail.

On October 20 officers were dispatched to a report of a shooting victim at Community Memorial Hospital. The incident had occurred approximately 20 minutes earlier in the 600 block of Poli St.

The victims, José Gonzalez and Daniel Martinez, stated that they were walking home on Poli Street when a car with four occupants stopped near

them. Suspects #1 and #2 exited the car and confronted the victims. Suspect #2 attempted to strike Martinez with a closed fist while suspect #1 pointed a firearm at Gonzalez and shot him in the face. The victims fled the area on foot while the suspects fled in their vehicle.

Gonzalez and Martinez then called a family member for transportation to the hospital. Due to statements made by the suspects during the attack the case is believed to be gang related.

One of the suspects was a white male in his 20s, 5'7", 150 pounds, wearing a black baseball cap, black hooded sweatshirt and was unshaven. Suspect 2 was an Hispanic male, in his 20s, 5'7", 180 pounds, black baseball cap, blue hooded sweatshirt, long dark hair possibly dreadlocks or braids, full mustache and goatee.

If you have any information about any of these crimes, please call Ventura Police Detectives at 339-4394, or make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 385-TALK or 494-TALK. If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

And, of course, as always, every suspect is innocent until proven guilty.

Fire department

The City of Ventura Fire Department is a modern ISO rated Class 2 department providing comprehensive fire suppression, rescue and building inspection and safety to an area of approximately 20 square miles.

The department is staffed by 73 sworn and 27 non-sworn personnel in three divisions: Administration, Building & Safety and Operations.

The department takes pride in its team-oriented working environment, "can-do" attitude and genuine commitment to serve the community.

The Ventura City Fire Department responded to a report of fire at the Buena Vida Apartments located at 9050 Telephone Road. Local smoke detectors were sounding alerting a neighbor to investigate the source of the alarm. He was able to alert and remove the sole occupant of the apartment.

The fire arriving unit observed a small fire on the balcony. The room on the 4th floor was located and the fire extinguished. The fire caused minor damage to the interior of the apartment as well as contents on the balcony. The occupant was transported to a local hospital for minor smoke inhalation. The cause is under investigation. ■



Business Directory



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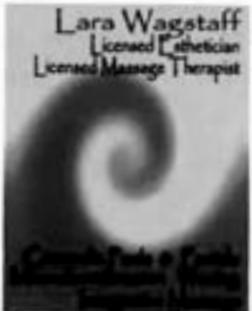


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