

See What's  
"On The  
Menu"!  
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## Do you get scared during Samhain?

by Tim Pompey

So you're picking costumes, hanging spider webs, preparing for parties. Halloween is coming, the second most decorative holiday in America, behind Christmas. And then, suddenly you pull up and ask, Why? And where did this spooky holiday come from?

Well, it's very old and very new. It comes from across the ocean, yet is distinctively American. It's full of old rituals but is considered by most quite secular. Yes, as you might guess, with a night that features long ghost stories and adults drinking strange concoctions, modern Halloween are quite a mixed brew.

With Halloween closely tied to celebrations and a wee bit of drink, you can imagine its origins. That's right. It comes from old (very old) Ireland. More than 2,000 years old. Before electricity, candy corn, or even pumpkins.

These ancient "Celts" celebrated a festival called "Samhain" and regarded November 1 as New Year's Day. It was a time to store the harvest and prepare for winter. It was also a time when boundaries between the living and the dead dissolved and increased the possibility of harm from evil spirits. So, on the evening of October 31, to ward off these mischief makers, the Celts built bonfires, threw livestock bones into the flames, and danced around in costumes and masks.

After Ireland converted to Christianity, the church attempted to layer religious festivals on top of old pagan celebrations. Pope Gregory IV standardized All Saints Day as November 1. Thus came the festival of All Hallows Eve and the origin of the word "Halloween". However, Samhain continued on October 31 and some of its traditions carried on.

It was the Irish who brought Halloween to America, particularly during their great migrations in the 1840's. But its influence took a dark turn and by the early 1900s it became associated with vandalism. It took the national influence of the Boy Scouts and the Boys and Girls Clubs to clean it up and encourage the practice of trick or treating. Given the choice, citizens thought it better to pass out free candy than have their property destroyed. By the 1930's, an American Halloween was emerging.

The commercialization of Halloween is as distinctly American as capitalism. Halloween cards were first sold in the early 1900's. Halloween costumes began

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This fire in the Ventura Riverbottom closed the 33 freeway for some time. Photo by Bruce James-News Media Services

## Brush fire closes 33 freeway

On Oct. 11, at 12:45 pm Ventura City Fire Units responded to a reported vegetation fire in the Ventura Riverbottom. Upon arrival, fire units determined that a fire had started in an area of homeless encampments.

The fire was in heavy brush and Arundo, and was being pushed by westerly

winds of approximately 20 mph. Additional units were dispatched due to the high winds.

The CHP closed the 33 freeway due to heavy smoke and the need for firefighters to douse spot fires due to embers landing on and east of the 33 freeway.

The fire was contained at approximately 3:30 p.m. However, approximately 80 firefighters remained on scene until 7pm to complete extinguishment and overhaul smoldering areas.

This fire appears to have started in an area of an illegal campfire.

## 11th annual Kinetic Sculpture Race

Join in for the 1st Annual 5K Run and Walk at the Ventura Harbor benefiting Turning Point Foundation on Oct. 25. The race will start at 8 am at the Ventura Harbor boat launch at Schooner Drive and Anchors Way with on-site registration at 7 am. To register, please visit [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or for more information contact Jane Lax at 652-0596, ext. 11. Registration is also available at Inside Track at 38 W. Main St. in Ventura.

So if you have friends that love to run or walk, be sure to tell them about this new opportunity to compete at the beautiful Ventura Harbor. The run is being organized by Michele Martinez from N'Step Events.

Following the 5K Run & Walk will be the Kinetic Sculpture Race starting at 10:25 am at the same location. The Race is now in its 11th year in Ventura; this year's event is being presented by The Players Club.

The Kinetic Sculpture Race is a terrific, fun-filled, free family event featuring amazing people-powered works of art built to travel over an exciting all terrain course with challenges such as the harbor water launch, crossing sand mound and dazzling sand, a figure 8 race track, and a huge mud pit to make it to the finish line.

The race benefits Turning Point Foundation, a Ventura County non-

profit organization providing housing, rehabilitation, recovery and support services to adults disabled by mental illness. Turning Point Foundation helps people to stabilize, rebuild, and empower their lives - helping them overcome barriers and reach their highest potential as contributing members of the community.

Once again, the Kondor Queen, Karen Taggart will serve as head judge as well as creator of kinetic awards to be distributed the following day. As a special treat this year, Don Kahle of Eugene, OR will provide color commentary at the race and MC the awards ceremony, as he has done at the Corvallis Kinetic Challenge for many years.



5K Run and Walk and Kinetic Sculpture Race to benefit Turning Point Foundation



# VENTURA BREEZE

The Ventura Breeze is a free, local, community newspaper published every two weeks and circulated throughout the City of Ventura.

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### Samhain

Continued from page 1.

to appear in the 1930's and became readily available in the 1950's. Merchants (as in retailers and confectioners) smelled money. The rest is Madison Avenue history.

Add to this the development of the film and television industry, which led to horror classics such as Frankenstein, The Mummy, and most recently (you guessed it . . .) Halloween, and you see why this holiday, with all its frightful frivolity, has become a classic American tradition.

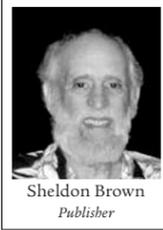
So there you have it. When you celebrate Halloween, you're joining the Irish and millions of others in Canada, England, Wales, Australia, Europe and Mexico in dancing with the dead and the tipsy. Now, the most important part—have fun and get home safely. Because, come November 1, the living goes back to work!

*A pumpkin in the hand is worth 2 in the bush.*

*Author unknown*

Correction: In our last issue, on page 4 we had a wonderful photo of "Light Up the Cross". The photographer was Evan Cohan.

## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown  
Publisher

■ The Breeze will not be making recommendations for the elections or propositions. We just don't have a large editorial staff to write profound reasons for our choices and I'm not smart enough.

I will tell you though that I am (with a wink to you) voting for Obama. I just think that this country is a mess and "perhaps" a young new face can help turn us around.

I was considering not voting for either one of them because anyone that would want to be president, at this time, with the mess that this country is in, may not be stable enough to run the country.

What confuses me is folks, that weeks before the election, have not made up their minds of who to vote for: they should just stay home.

■ In our last issue we had an article regarding the dozens of people holding flashlights to illuminate the Grant Park Cross. The culminating action of the 2nd Annual "Light Up the Cross," as churches and congregations from around Ventura County gathered on Sept. 27 for a night

of prayer and song.

A few years ago, when there was concern that a religious symbol didn't belong on city property, (I know that it is no longer city property) we were told that the cross was not a religious symbol at all but an historical one (even though it was built only about 50 years ago).

I don't see it being maintained and celebrated as an historical symbol now but as a religious one.

I would much rather have had the folks that wanted to save the cross be more honest in their quest and call it was it was and how they planned to use it.

■ It's really handy to still have a local hardware store that will provide personal assistance and service.

Last week I needed a very special lock washer to fix one of the axles on one of the wagons that we use to deliver the Ventura Breeze.

I couldn't find the part any where including Steve's Plumbing & Hardware on Thompson. Dennis Stanley, the fairly new owner of Steve's (don't call him Steve), took the axle in the back room and drilled a few holes in it then "gave" me a few cotter pins to use to hold on the wheel, thus solving the problem.

They also sell plumbing fixtures and shower doors, so go visit them and tell them that I sent you in. If you think that Walmart will hurt local businesses, you should support them.

■ I don't do much shopping so perhaps many stores have this policy besides Office Depot. I recently purchased something there for my printer and paid with a check. They immediately removed the money from my bank account and gave the check back to me (I know that this is becoming standard practice) which means that I had just actually paid in "cash".

What I purchased was not the correct item for my printer so I took it back the very next day and was told that because I had paid with a check they had to hold my money for 10 days.

I was shocked and somewhat outraged. I explained that I had actually paid by "cash" and this policy was no longer applicable.

I was not given my money back which means that they could use it for the 10 days and perhaps even make money from it. I know that my \$25.00 would not mean a lot but \$25 times thousands of customers is a lot of money for them to have for their use.

## Election Fraud?

by Sophia Kidd

Confucius, in the fifth century B.C., stood on a bridge one day stroking his long white beard. He commented on how water just keeps on flowing, just keeps on rushing by. This is how life feels now for many, many who feel that our economy, our war, and our elections are passing us by. There are many sensitive, threatening, and oh-so-serious issues at hand this 2008 election, but one issue is more important than all of them—election integrity. Totally essential is a sound election process, where every vote is guaranteed to be counted, whether touch screen, paper, provisional, absentee, or mail-in ballot. Every vote should be counted, even if isn't cast by midnight on Election Day. Yet in Ohio, 2004, there were people who, after waiting in line for 12 hours, had still not cast their vote when election results were announced in Dubya's favor.

Could it happen...again? That's supposing election fraud happened once, in 2000, when Florida got weird, or in 2004, when Ohio got weirder. The 2000 Presidential election fruited discrepancies with paper ballots, optical scanners, and exit polls. 2004 involved all of the

above, plus problems with touch screen voting machines. Concerns over possible election fraud this November is on many minds, lips, pens, and blogs. The evidence of past fraud is overwhelming, for example, the 2004 live testimonies given by voters in Ohio whose votes, they demonstrated, were either not counted or were otherwise obstructed. But isn't this all just water under the bridge? Doesn't it just keep rushing by?

What's the use of scrapping over abortion or the war in Iraq, if our minds, once made up, could be wasted on uncounted ballots? Can we rely on touch screen computers that could be hacked from a remote location? Should we trust optical scanners that could be hacked with software patches implanted by unsupervised election provider technicians? Should we ask for more transparency from our election providers? As it is, 70% of our votes are tallied by election providers such as ES & S and Diebold, both of which companies are closely associated with each other. Should elections use private software created by for-profit corporations? Or should these corporations be asked to disclose their software code to election oversight committees? Should we consider using open source software for our elections?

Important to remember, regardless, is that it's still important to vote—no matter what. Some stymied voters in the last couple elections feel that voting is futile. According to plan, every vote will be counted. And if a vote isn't counted, then that's one more stain on the hands of those who would murder democracy. Out stain! Out out!

In the meantime, give your local election clerk a call and confirm that you are registered to vote at the poll you used during the Primaries. Confirm that your registration is still good. If there are discrepancies on election night, get involved. Focus on exit poll results and don't accept figures that suddenly flip or appear manipulated at the end of the day. Become conscious of who is providing your election and your election coverage. If something weird happens, and it's neck and neck and all-too-nebulous, call your candidate and insist that he, or she, not concede early. Call the media networks and demand that they lay off until every vote is cast, and counted.

There's no reason to feel that the state of U.S. and world affairs is out of our control. Our witness and testimony is priceless. Watch this upcoming election very closely, and may the best candidate not only win, but take office.

## Mailbox

Dear Breeze:

I would like to commend the Breeze for printing the Flash Gordon Comic. It has long been absent from the papers in Ventura County. This classic strip represents a true epic with three heroes thwarting the ambition of evil tyrant Emperor Ming. Glad to see its return in its new form.

Richard Senate Oak View.

Dear Sheldon:

Let me start by congratulating you on your start up, the publishing of the Ventura Breeze.

At the risk of doing a little flag waving, and in spite of any economic turmoil that is currently going on, one of the beauties of living in America is the right to participate in the free enterprise system. I am writing to comment on your recent coverage about a study that apparently documents that if Walmart comes to town it will possibly draw revenue from other existing businesses. DUH!

Did it actually take a room full of academies from various impressive universities to come to that conclusion? I think in any competitive industry (i.e. drug stores & newspapers to name a few)

there will probably be a finite amount of discretionary funds in a community that will be spent within that market sector. Those that provide the best goods or services shall be rewarded with those funds because they are providing value to the consumer. Is it right for us to bar competition within the free enterprise system as a result of that?

For example, I would personally find it egregious if anyone said that you should not be publishing the Breeze because you will be potentially drawing advertising dollars (which I assume there is a finite amount in Ventura) away from the Reporter or the Star. However, if I understand the opposition to Walmart, it is based upon a similar line of think

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# Ventura City Government

## Venturans to Decide Vacation Rental Requirements

by Rebecca Wicks

Residents, property owners, property managers and city officials have made progress towards resolving a number of issues relating to vacation rental rules and requirements.

In the first two meetings, issues of excessive noise, length of stay, beach fires, parking, trash and occupancy capacity were covered. A range of issues still needs to be discussed including the handling of response to complaints; inspections; advertising and signage; record keeping and how to handle repeat violations.

Two additional meetings which are open to the public have been scheduled for Oct. 30 and Nov. 5, all at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

According to City Attorney Ariel Calonne at least one additional meeting will most likely be needed to cover all of the issues.

"It's exciting to have people in the community participate in the actual writing of new rules," said Calonne. "Most of the time people are passive - this is awesome."

Calonne added the process may take more time than originally expected but that it will be for the better in the long run.

The meetings were spurred by some residents who have repeatedly complained about the lack of clear and consistent rules for vacation rentals and their owners - especially for repeat violators.

Vacation rentals can bring a good source of income to the area, some asking upwards of \$6,000 a week. At the same time, they can also be the source of loud parties, and parking

and trash issues.

More than 20 people have attended each of the meetings that have taken place. Calonne has been charged with outlining an initial draft of performance standards that captures the sense of the group.

Participants have all been very optimistic about the meetings so far.

"We have had remarkably good agreement on these issues," commented Calonne. "It's best to let community-behavior rules come from the community. You get better compliance and more understanding."

Once the performance standards are completed by this group, it will go to the City Council as recommendations for the council to vote on.

The goal is for the performance standards to go the council in early January before next year's summer rental season. Last August, a new regulation was adopted in an effort to curtail loud parties and rowdy behavior. Property owners of short-term rentals are now required to obtain a city permit and pay a one-time administration fee. In order to qualify for a permit, the owner must post a bond to cover any city fines for violations and provide a contact person who would be available 24 hours a day to address violations.

Also, according to an addition made this year by the council, rentals are required to post their city permit number in all advertising in order to help expose non-permitted rentals.

There are more than 30 homes currently registered in Ventura as short-term rentals. Some residents, especially in neighborhoods such as Pierpont believe there are many more not registered.

## Holiday Street Festival applications due by Nov. 6

Non-profit organizations, fine arts and handicraft vendors should apply by Nov. 6 to take part in the City of Ventura's 32nd annual Holiday Street Festival on Sun., Dec. 7, from 10 am to 4 pm in the historic Downtown Cultural District. "Joyland Express" is the 2008 theme.

For more information contact the City of Ventura Special Events office at 654-7749 or download applications & guidelines at [www.venturastreetfair.com](http://www.venturastreetfair.com). This dozen-block open-air Main Street festival showcases the arts and crafts of 300 California artisans, and attracts over 30,000 visitors each year.

Participating artists must handcraft all items on display.

Holiday music is a perennial tradition at the Holiday Street Festival. Choirs and choral groups are invited to apply to fill the streets with the sounds of the holidays.

## Westside Community Council receives award

On Oct. 6 Mayor Christy Weir honored the Westside Community Council with the Beautify Ventura Award during the City Council meeting at 6 p.m. in City Hall.

The WCC was recognized for their efforts to aesthetically enhance the city of Ventura, particularly their adoption of the bike path along Stanley Ave.

The Westside Community Council, led by chair Michael O'Daniel, takes on two major beautification projects each year. In addition to their Neighborhood Cleanup day, when residents fight blight by filling dumpsters with green waste, metal and other trash from the area, the WCC has adopted the bicycle path along Stanley Avenue at Highway 33. The bike path project has neighborhood volunteers pitching together to remove old undergrowth and plant the area with shrubs, bushes and flowers, and ground cover. Volunteers maintain the area with clean-ups every other month.

"We congratulate the Westside Community Council for mobilizing committed volunteers to beautify Westside neighborhoods," said Mayor Christy Weir. "Their clean-up efforts and adoption of the bike path are improvements to our public spaces that the entire community will be able to enjoy."

"The WCC believes that by beautifying the Westside, we give our residents pride in their neighborhoods, themselves, and encourage new business growth in the Westside," said O'Daniel. "We'd like to thank our volunteers for making these projects a continued success, and the City of Ventura for their support; particularly, Bob Wilsher in the Public Works Department and Jennie Buckingham in the Economic Development Division. Together, we have all helped make the Westside a better place to live, work, and raise our families." O'Daniel also thanked architect Michael Faulconer for providing the initial funding for the beautification project.

O'Daniel invites the Westside community to attend future Beautification Project events at the bike path on Stanley Avenue at Highway 33: Dec. 13, 2008; Feb. 14, April 11, and June 13, 2009. For more information on volunteering, please e-mail [wcc@wccventura.org](mailto:wcc@wccventura.org).

Venturans who wish to submit a nomination may obtain a form online at [www.cityofventura.net/beautifyventura](http://www.cityofventura.net/beautifyventura). The form asks for a description of how the nominee has aesthetically enhanced Ventura, and requests that photos be included in the submission. Nominations are ongoing, and will be accepted through the mayor's office at City Hall. Forms can be e-mailed to Mayor Weir at [council@cityofventura.net](mailto:council@cityofventura.net), or mailed to: Mayor Weir, c/o City of Ventura 501 Poli St., Box 99 Ventura, CA 93002-0099



## "Vote by Mail" ballot drop-off at City Clerk's Office

The Ventura City Clerk's Office is participating in the County Elections Division "Vote by Mail" ballot drop-off program for the presidential election. Any Ventura county "Vote by Mail" voter can drop their ballot off during business hours at the City Clerk's office until the day of the election on Tue. Nov. 4, at 8 pm.

The City Clerk's Office is located in City Hall at 501 Poli Street in Rm. 204, and is open Mon. through Frid. from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. and closed alternate Fridays.

The deadline for registered voters to request a "Vote by Mail" ballot is Tue., Oct. 28. To register to vote, or to request a "Vote by Mail" ballot, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 658-4787.

## Mailbox

Continued from page 2

ing to my analogy. All I can say is "Welcome to Ventura" and good luck in participating in the free enterprise system. If you get lucky, there will be no organized opposition from others to stop you from doing so.

Wally Geer

Dear Mr. Lilly:

Thank you for your informative and educated article in the 08-24-2008 issue of the Ventura Breeze.

It was excellent! I only wish that you had included the fact that this building is our first and finest example of "New Urbanism" and its contemporary "New Age" fraud.

I have been told that the owner will be paying something like \$850.00/foot for total construction costs after the City gets done with their fees etc.

The San Buenaventura Conservancy should have said something as to this

building's design and the Sec'y. of the Interiors' Standards in relationship to other existing architecture on California St., they being the self-anointed guardians of the town's historic architecture.

It seems that they are no more than a franchise for the Historic Resources Group of Los Angeles and a source of income for the SBC past president.

Being a '501 c 3,' I had mentioned to their Board and president, that using the non-profit for personal gain was against State law. I was summarily voted off the Board, forfeiting my position as the founding vice-president, during a special meeting that was held when I couldn't attend.

I hope that you will continue to actively participate in the public forum. Your appreciation of "space-without-greed" is very refreshing and sorely needed.

Sincerely,  
Steve Schleder

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# Ventura City Government

## Citizen View Protection Task Force meet

In their first meeting, the newly formed Citizen View Protection Task Force selected Rob Corley to serve as interim Chair. The task force selected consultant Torti Gallas for the project, but the scope is being negotiated. The task force will meet at 6 p.m. the first and fourth Thur. of every month until April 2009. Locations for these meetings will vary, and will be published in the agenda and posted online in advance of the meeting date.

The City Council recently took action to move forward on further implementing the City's 2005 General Plan requiring preservation of public viewsheds and solar access. The City Council has asked the 15-member task force to review existing codes and regulations to ensure that they adequately address the issue of public viewsheds and solar access as intended in the General Plan, and recommend changes and controls as needed; refine definitions of public viewsheds and solar access; and create neighborhood specific policies to protect public viewsheds and solar access for pending and future Community Plans, including Westside and Midtown. The task force will present their recommendations to the City Council in April 2009.

The Task Force's 15 members: Doug Halter, representative from Seize the Future Citizen Outreach Committee. Rob Corley, representative from Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC). Randy Hinton, representative for the Chamber of Commerce. Oscar Pena, representative for the Visitors and Convention Bureau. Diane Underhill, repre-

sentative for the Ventura Citizens Organization for Responsible Development (VCORD). Dan Cormode and Richard Pillow, representatives for the East Ventura Community Council. Juanita Vega and Roger Case, representatives for the Westside Community Council. Karen Flock and David Ferrin, representatives for the Midtown Community Council. Lisa Burton and Brett Becker, at-large representatives. Richard Nyznyk, representative for the Building Industry Association. Representative for the City's environmental organizations TBD.

*A note from the Mayor...*

*Ventura is a beautiful city, with rolling hills on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. The community and the City Council are committed to protecting our environment while*

*Ventura is a beautiful city, with rolling hills on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other.*

*allowing Ventura to be a vibrant hub of culture and commerce. The City Council recently created a 15-person team called the Citizen View Protection Task Force. The diverse Task Force is composed of passionate people representing environmental organizations, our Chamber of Commerce, citizen groups, our Community Councils, the building industry and others.*

*They've been asked to examine Ventura's codes and regulations to make sure they meet the 2005 General Plan's goals for preservation of public viewsheds and solar access. The Task Force will make recommendations to the City Council. These meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend. The next meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23 at the Police Department - 1425 Dowell*

*Drive. For more information, please visit the City's website at [www.cityofventura.net](http://www.cityofventura.net).*

*Christy Weir*

*Mayor, City of Ventura*

## City staff "Taking It To The Streets"

Community members, groups and businesses from the Midtown, Harbor and Pierpont neighborhoods are invited to a "get-together" with Ventura city staff on Thur., Nov. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Ventura High School cafeteria, 2 North Catalina St. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event, especially those who live, work or go to school in Midtown Ventura and beach areas.

The initiative, called "Taking It To The Streets," is a great opportunity for the public to meet their neighbors and speak directly with City staff, one on one, to get answers and solutions on the spot. City staffers will be prepared to answer questions or concerns about such neighborhood issues as crime, graffiti, street maintenance, the Safe Routes to School and School Resource Officer programs, traffic and water services.

Community members can find out more about major planning projects in the Midtown and Pierpont areas, including the Community Memorial Hospital expansion, the Fresh and Easy Market (Thompson Blvd. at Jordan Ave.), The Bluffs (Vista Del Mar Drive & Seaward Ave.) and Hyatt Place (Seaward Ave. at the 101 freeway).

Representatives from the Ventura Fire and Police Departments, City Manager's Office, Community Development (building, planning and economic develop-

ment), Community Services (recreation, social services, cultural events) and Public Works (environmental services, parks, recreation, streets, traffic, water) will be available to answer questions.

Community partners, such as the Midtown and Pierpont community councils and Chamber of Commerce, will also be on hand to let the public know about their current projects. Light refreshments will be served.

This "Taking It To The Streets" get-together is the third in a series of events held across Ventura as part of the city's outreach initiative, "You and your city working together...one neighborhood, one project at a time." The August 2007 gathering at Cemetery Memorial Park drew many downtown area residents and business owners, and the December 2007 event at Sheridan Way Elementary brought together many Westside community members. Future events are planned for the East Ventura community.

## City of Ventura Among Agencies Affected By National Financial Crisis

As publicly reported, beginning with the September 15 Council meeting, the global financial turmoil has put at risk \$10 million of Ventura's \$160 million investment portfolio. The City holds two \$5 million corporate notes, one with Lehman Brothers and one with Washington Mutual Bank for a total of \$10 million. Both Lehman Brothers and Washington Mutual Bank have filed for bankruptcy and at this time it is unclear what value will be recovered through these proceedings.

The City is not alone in this situation. Many, if not most, cities and agencies have or will be affected by this downturn in the marketplace. Reports are beginning to show that nationally tens of thousands of public agencies, corporations and private citizens have suffered losses as a result of just one of the failures, Lehman Brothers Holdings.

California State law, and the City of Ventura's more restrictive investment policy, provides direction that the City can invest up to 30 percent of its investment portfolio in corporate notes having a rating of "A" or better by Moody's and Standard & Poor's. Our securities were in full compliance with these policies and laws when acquired. Furthermore, the Lehman Brothers securities remained rated as "investment grade" up until the very day they filed for bankruptcy on September 15.

Some encouraging news has recently been received in that H.R. bill 1424 entitled "Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008" just passed, and this bill specifically addresses the need to ensure stability for United States public instrumentalities such as counties and cities that may have suffered losses in the current market turmoil.

The city's Investment Committee and Budget Adhoc Committee have been monitoring the situation daily as well as meeting several times weekly to keep abreast of the situation. Status updates will continue to be provided to City Council on a regular basis, including this evening at 6 p.m. Council meetings can be viewed on Channel 15 in the City of Ventura.

## Person to Person

by Karlene Lang

### Who are you going to vote for President and why?



**Cheryl Von Chmielewski**

"I'm a Democrat and I believe Obama's plans will be the best for the country."



**Ed Boughton**

"McCain - he has much greater experience than the other guy."



**Amy Grater**

"I already voted for Obama because I feel that he will be able to turn things around for the better."



**Leo Molitor**

"Obama because I'm opposed to the Iraqi war and he's the best man to end it."



**Jim Vasquez**

"McCain - I'm conservative and I want conservatism in our court system. I think Palin is more conservative than any of them."



**Dalyn Koren**

"McCain - I think he's got a lot of good economic reform policies. I'm a registered Republican and will be voting for our Party's ticket."



# News and Notes



Yvonne Knepper – Community Marketing Director, Jim Duran – Executive Director, Mike Macke – Community Marketing Director, Ron Dalzell, DVM, National Police Dog Foundation board of directors member, Officer Scott Garrett – Ventura Police Department. Pictured in front: K-9 Eros – Ventura Police Department are presenting \$2,500.00 that was raised at Cypress Place Senior Center

## Benefit for National Police Dog Foundation exceeds expectations

A Country Hoedown & Fundraiser to benefit the National Police Dog Foundation exceeded the expectations of the organizers at Cypress Place Senior Living. On Sep. 13, the senior living community raised \$2500 for the foundation, which raises funds to support K-9 programs for various law enforcement agencies, including the Ventura Police and Sheriff's K-9 units.

"We had an overwhelming response, from not only our residents and staff here at Cypress Place, but also from the general public who attended the fun filled afternoon," says Jim Duran, Executive Director of Cypress Place.

The festive event included live music by the "Old Time Fiddlers", line dancing, pony rides, and a real police car for kids and interested adults to sit in. Hearty appetites were satiated with a bountiful array of Western Style Fixins, prepared by Cypress Place's own Chef Irma Rocha.

But the highlight of the event was a K-9 demonstration with several police dogs and their handlers from the Ventura Police Department. The dogs and

their trainers demonstrated how they work together as a team to carry out their duties.

"I want to thank everyone at Cypress Place for a great job and a fun day," said Ron Dalzell, a member of the National Police Dog Foundation board of directors and veterinarian for the local K-9 units. "The funds raised today will go toward the replacement of retiring K-9 officer "Felix" of the Ventura Police Department," according to Dalzell.

"And the food was great," said Dalzell. "I saw a Ventura Police Department Sergeant buying something like six plates to take back to the station."

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. For more information, please call 650-8000, or visit [www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com](http://www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com). For more information about police dogs, visit [www.NationalPoliceDogFoundation.org](http://www.NationalPoliceDogFoundation.org).

If you'd like more information about this press release, please contact Jim Duran at 805.650.8000 x14, or via email at [Cypressd@isllc.com](mailto:Cypressd@isllc.com)

## City Council okays more new homes in East End

Earlier this month the Ventura City Council sanctioned the conversion of a 35.6-acre farm into an assortment of housing and parks. The parcel will include 180 homes and 5.4 acres for parks.

The property owner agreed to give a portion of the site located on the southeast corner of Telegraph Road and Saticoy Avenue, to the Ventura Housing Authority to build 20 farm worker homes. The property owner will also be contributing \$600,000 in developer fees for those units to be constructed.

According to plans, the new community will include larger family houses, smaller houses, row condominiums and quadplexes. Lots will be at least 50 feet wide. There will also be new streets, bike lanes, a community garden and agricultural buffers.

In the meeting, the council also made the decision to protect undeveloped land near Telegraph Road which is currently two lanes giving the city flexibility to expand it to a four-lane road if needed.

Thelma Hansen, the final member of a longtime Ventura farming family left the land to the University of California when she died in 1992. Since then the university has managed the land. Now, the university will sell the land and entitlements to a developer to build the homes. Proceeds of the sale will go towards the trust's Hansen Agricultural Learning Center at Faulkner Farm in Santa Paula; a site best known locally as an historic property that attracts thousands of people to its annual fall pumpkin patch festival.

In the past, the city of Ventura has been critiqued by some for not having affordable farm worker housing within the city limits. There have been many concerns over how farm worker housing should be developed and where.



## Bugliosi speaks at book signing

On the evening of Oct. 10, the Poinsettia Pavilion was filled to the rafters with every seat taken and at least 50 people standing wherever they could.

The reason was to spend An Evening with Vincent Bugliosi. The famous attorney was there to discuss his new book "The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder".

He does not believe that Bush should have been impeached but said "I set forth an air tight legal case that proves George Bush took this nation to war under a lie. If justice means anything at all in America, we have no choice but to charge Bush for the deaths of over 4,000 soldiers".



## On vacation

7 year old Sarah and 10 year old James Florez were sure to take the Ventura Breeze on their vacation to Australia. They are seen here on the balcony of their room at the Greenmount Beach Resort in Coolangatta, Australia. The beach and water in the background is Rainbow Bay where they surfed and swam earlier in the day but had to get out of the water because they were ringing the shark bell and to read the Breeze.

## Ventura's own Botanical Gardens

by Becca Richman

Perched above San Buenaventura City Hall, Grant Park has a quiet, majestic character, with its stoic cross, poignant figurative bridges to the area's history, and a surreal panoramic view of glorious hillsides and coastline. Local non-profit, Ventura Botanical Gardens, Inc. (VBGI), picked the park out of 17 potential sites as the ideal setting for Ventura's own botanical garden.

I can tell you, I have never been so excited about a project," said Vice President of VBGI and landscaper, Doug Halter, addressing an audience which included Mayor Christy Weir, at a public meeting on October 8. Having chosen a site, VBGI will next seek approval from City commissions and form partnerships with other community organizations, such as the Tourism Bureau and Arts Council, in order to move ahead, he said.

Halter is an outdoors-y spirit whose enthusiasm for planting and weather systems, trees and shrubs, etc., infects one with wanting to grab a trowel and tossing up some Grant Park soil to, straight away, break ground on the project. He suggested that a botanical garden constitutes "a rare non-divisive

*Halter is hopeful for government approval on a lease of an initial ten acres of land by the end of the year, to be followed by a finalized design concept and a start to construction in 2009*

issue" for Venturans, an investment in "creating a beautiful space for all of us to enjoy" which will "preserve and enhance what we love, and offer a better

tomorrow for future generations." He reflected on the community's shared values with respect to nature and family and called Ventura "a unique location on the most dynamic coast of the world." The botanical garden will be to Ventura what Golden Gate Park is to San Francisco, he said.

Halter is hopeful for government approval on a lease of an initial ten acres of land by the end of the year, to be followed by a finalized design concept and a start to construction in 2009. Ventura's botanical garden will model environmentally conscious practices; and preliminary design plans include indigenous and drought-resistant species, and "believe-it-or-not" Redwoods, which are fire retardant and drink up to 700 gallons of water per night from fog, he said. As micro-climates are further explored and created, other types of gardens, such as rose and tropical, may be added to the whole. The group expects a Spring fund-raising tour of local gardens to provide further design inspirations. Also, VBGI envisions a restaurant, gift shop, theatre, telescopes, additional hiking trails and perhaps even a tram from City Hall in the project's

long-term outlook. For now, they aim for smaller adornments, like benches and markers, in their fund-raising naming campaign.

VBGI President, Midge Stork, described botanical gardens as serene places of reflection, where people may share in the peace made of art and nature together.

You can help this project plow forward, so to speak:

Set up a meeting with your decision makers

Become a charter member – sign up a new member by Dec. 31

Join a committee – outreach, funding, garden, education, publicity, administration, installations, construction, maintenance, membership

Suggest funding opportunities

Introduce VBGI to a liaison for an organization

Be a unifying force: engage the public in the value of a botanical garden for Ventura

Contact Midge Stork at 642-4390 or at [midgecfp@earthlink.net](mailto:midgecfp@earthlink.net) to get involved



## News and Notes

### National Philanthropy Day Luncheon Nov. 12

The 2008 award winners for philanthropy, volunteerism and professional fundraising have been announced by the local Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). The winners will be honored at the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon on Wed., Nov. 12 at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach.

The National Philanthropy Day luncheon is an annual event held in local communities across the nation each November to honor the spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism.

The award recipients who will be recognized for their extraordinary contributions to their communities are: Clifford and Juliette Sponsel, Philanthropist of the Year, Santa Barbara County; Theodore R. Jensen, Philanthropist of the Year, Ventura County; Joanne Rapp, Volunteer of the Year, Santa Barbara County; Lynn Mikelatos, Volunteer of the Year, Ventura County; and Rebecca J. Merrell, CFRE, Professional Fundraiser of the Year.

Clifford and Juliette Sponsel have generously supported more than twenty charities over many decades of philanthropic service to the area. They were lead donors for the New Serenity House Campaign for Visiting Nurse & Hospice; their generous "kick-off" gift was later followed by another significant "completion" gift.

Theodore "Ted" Jensen embodies the philanthropic spirit, giving tirelessly of his time, talent, and treasure to Ventura County organizations. He has been a generous supporter of the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) as well as local programs in arts and music, and other church and charitable institutions, including Cal Lutheran University and KCLU National Public Radio.

Joanne Rapp has displayed an unwavering commitment to organizations that sustain and enhance the lives of all South Coast residents. She has served on the Board of Directors of Cottage Health System for nine years, actively aiding and supporting the Campaign for Cottage Health System.

Lynne Mikelatos' commitment to service is focused on youth and helping those in need. In her hands-on approach to volunteerism she created the Ventura Commerce & Education Foundation, and has assisted numerous nonprofits and institutions including the Coastal Marine BioLabs School, Ventura City Corps, Ventura County Greek Festival, the Turning Point Foundation, River-Haven homeless program, and many more.

In a more than 20-year career as a fundraising and management professional, Rebecca "Becca" Merrell has partnered with a wide variety of nonprofit organizations—educational institutions, youth and human service organizations, health care and arts organizations—to guide them in achieving their fund development goals.

"It is our privilege to celebrate these deserving individuals who personify the true spirit of philanthropy by actively giving of their time and resources for the benefit of others," said Rick Politte, AFP

Co-Chair for the event. "National Philanthropy Day is a fitting occasion to reflect on the gifts that caring people bring to our communities and the differences they make."

For information on how to register for the November 12th luncheon, please call Lora Barker.690-6215, or visit [www.afpsbv.org](http://www.afpsbv.org).

### Homeless evacuation considered

by Tim Pompey

The problem is not new. Homeless campers migrate to the Ventura River. For years the city of Ventura has attempted to move them out and every year they return. Call it a stalemate.

Now, however, a new player has entered the scene. The Wood-Claeysens Foundation has requested permission from the County to bring crews into the Ventura River to eradicate a nonnative plant called arundo (similar to bamboo) on 73 acres of land it owns along Highway 33. "The arundo is crowding out native species of plants. Our hope is to free up land along the river so that native plants and wildlife can return and spread," says Anna Huber of Wildscape Restoration; the company hired to coordinate this project.

When the Foundation learned that campers had taken up residence on their land, they requested that law enforcement come in to provide protection for its work crews and evict any trespassers.

Currently, community advocates, city, and county officials are trying to coordinate resources to assist with a potential relocation effort. "People are still working together to meet the need of any displaced campers," says Karol Schulkin, Ventura County's Program Coordinator for Homeless Services. And the question facing this task force; what happens to the homeless who live in these camps? The immediate answer: It depends.

First, the clearing is planned for 14 acres on the east bank and 59 acres on the west bank. Most of the identified camps appear to be located on the east bank. As Huber states, "A large portion of the river will not be affected. It's entirely possible that if residents so choose, they may simply move to other parts of the river."

Second, it is uncertain how many residents live on the Foundation's property. Once work begins, the crews will clear out approximately an acre a day. Final numbers can only be determined once the project has finished.

Compounding the relocation - the area's potential for brush fires and severe drought conditions make the riverbed a potential tinder box. City and county fire crews, in addition to putting out these fires, must also plan for potential camper evacuations.

So it appears, as the camps are removed, that the city of Ventura may have to deal with additional displaced residents on city streets or, inevitably, the return of campers to areas of the river not affected by the Foundation's project.

What remains to be seen is how this relocation will affect city and county resources in the coming months.

Breeze:

See article on page 1 for the latest fire started there.

### CMH Suit Scrutinized Over Statute of Limitations

This month Ventura County Superior Court Judge Kent Kellegrew began examining if the statute of limitations was reached two years ago for Community Memorial Hospital to file a lawsuit against its former legal counsel and accounting firm.

By law, there is a statute of limitations for filing lawsuits. The defendant's claim the statute was reached before the hospital filed the suit. The hospital has stated since, they did not know about the wrongdoing until February 2007, they were within their rights to file the suit.

The suit accuses Ventura law firm Goldenring & Prosser; attorney Peter Goldenring; the Santa Barbara accounting firm of Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf; and a former partner in that firm, Ron Camp of committing malpractice, fraud and conspiracy in covering up alleged misconduct of former hospital administrator Michael Bakst.

The suit, which was filed in Ventura County Superior Court, makes claims that the accused took illegal actions to protect Bakst. Because of this, CMH did not know what was really going on with some of its finances stated George B. Newhouse Jr. the attorney representing CMH.

The suit does not explicitly name financial damages sought by the hospital, but Gary Wilde, current CMH CEO has stated it was in the seven-figure range.

Those named in the suit have all stated that they feel the lawsuit is unfounded and unjustifiable.

James Prosser, a principal in the law firm has said that the allegations are not true and claims his firm has done nothing wrong or illegal.

In July, Santa Barbara accounting firm Bartlett, Pringle & Wolf and accountant Ron Camp submitted a document that

claimed the hospital failed to file the suit in order to keep the federal government from realizing the degree to which the hospital's own actions were in fact illegal.

Kellegrew stated he would take the arguments from both sides and issue a ruling later.

Kellegrew did question if the hospital had suspicions that it might have been wronged as long as four years ago.

The judge referred to a specific section of the lawsuit which spoke of a letter to Goldenring on Feb. 26, 2005 from the hospital's chief financial officer which questioned the propriety of 10 loan transactions between the hospital and physicians.

Attorney Mark DiMaria who represents the accounting firm cited this incident and made the claim that the two-year statute of limitations begin as soon as the hospital suspects they may have been wronged, not when they have the full facts.

Hospital attorney Newhouse says Glycer never saw the accountants' report that cleared Bakst and that the audit findings were related to rumors of other alleged financial wrongdoing, not the loans.

"Nowhere in the complaint does it say the CFO had received a copy of the sanitized report," Newhouse told the judge. "He did not know the findings. All he was told was that Bakst was cleared of these issues."

Kellegrew upheld an argument from DiMaria that the hospital could not sue over whether the firm had failed to disclose a conflict of interest - that Goldenring represented Bakst in his divorce as well as serving as the hospital's legal counsel.

The judge said he knew of no state law governing that issue.

### Grizzly Youth Academy's free presentation

Are you 16,17 or 18? A high school drop-out or at risk of dropping out? Behind in credits? Truant or expelled? Tired of the way your life is going?

Then you, and interested family members, should attend the Grizzly Youth Academy's free presentation on Oct. 30, from 5-7:30pm at Our Lady of the Assumptions Church located at 3175 Telegraph Rd.

This 22 week residential charter high school can change your life and this is a free program paid for by State and Federal funds to help you jump start your education and move on to a successful future.

Class starts in Jan. of 2009. For more information call (800)926-0643 or [ngy-cp.org/ca](http://ngy-cp.org/ca). To RSVP for the presentation contact Kati Escallier at 216-5749.

### Ventura Surf Club Halloween contest and camp-out

The Ventura Surf Club will hold its annual Halloween surf club contest and camp-out with the Santa Barbara Surf Club on the weekend of Oct. 31 thru Nov.2 at Hobson's State Beach.

Friday night is "trick or treat" night plus a haunted house and Sat.

morning is the costume surf contest. The contest will be a blast as club members take to the waves dressed up in their favorite costumes ranging from a financial shark to a club waving barbaric caveman and their favorite, cave-women. Everyone is welcome to come and watch these ghouls and goblins ride the wild surf! It's fun entertainment for the kids, the kid in you and a great way to see first hand at the kind of fun and camaraderie membership can be. For more information on this event contact Marvin Lee at (510) 520-1573.

The Ventura Surf Club exists to preserve, promote and perpetuate the values, beliefs and essence of surfing. Ventura Surf Club membership is open to surfers of all ages, genders and skill levels. To learn more about the Ventura Surf Club, visit [www.venturasurfclub.org](http://www.venturasurfclub.org).

### Bonita C. McFarland Scholarship program deadline

Oct. 27 is the deadline to submit applications to the Museum of Ventura County's 2008 Bonita C. McFarland Scholarship program. Scholarships are open to continuing college students

Continued on page 19.



## Community Events

### Celebrate newly completed Pepper Tree Corner Garden

The City of Ventura is hosting a celebration honoring the newly completed Pepper Tree Corner Garden, located at the intersection of Poli and Hall Canyon Rd. The festivities are scheduled for Sat., Oct. 25, from 10:30 am until noon. On hand for the occasion will be artists Kathryn Miller and Andreas Hessing to talk about environmental artwork, sustainable gardening, water conservation, and native plants.

As part of the Pepper Tree Garden Booster Pump Station Renovation Project, The City of Ventura's Public Art Program and Public Works & Utilities Department established a demonstration garden to provide residents with knowledge about sustainable and economical gardening practices using conservation landscaping. Artist team Kathryn Miller and Andreas Hessing were commissioned in 2007 to develop a design that supported this vision.

For over 25 years Kathryn Miller has been a leader in the field of environmental public art. As a tenured professor of art at Pitzer University in Claremont, Ms. Miller has completed landscape art projects for the National Park Service as well as numerous other national and international projects. With degrees in both fine art and biology, she combines these disciplines to honor unique ecosystems and educate the public.

The Public Art program, established in 1991, sets aside 2% of Capital Improvement Project costs for the commissioning of artists and artist services.

### 2008 US Waveski Surfing Championships coming

The 2008 US Waveski Surfing Championships are to be held at 'C Street' between Fri. Oct. 31 and Sun., Nov. 2.

This event is open to International competitors and will result in naming a new US Open Champion, as well as the new US Waveski National Champion. Sign up early as the Waveski Open event is limited to 32 competitors.

This year will pay special homage to Merv Larsen, considered to be the father of modern waveskiing by including the California freestyle or finless division into West Coast Waveski Competitions.

Heats will be 15 or 20 minutes in length, and scores will be based on the best 2 or 3 waves depending upon conditions. The format will follow World Waveski Surfing Association rules and include recharge rounds insuring that everyone surfs at least twice in every division. The top 4 competitors in every division will receive awards.

C Street is a world renown point break that works from 1' to 10' plus and offers rides in excess of a quarter mile! Quality waves are found at multiple peaks along this mile long cobble point. This allows more rides per surf session. The actual contest site will be located 'Up top' at C Street just east of the Ventura river mouth.

#### Ventura Events

The **Ventura Theater** proudly presents the following 4 October events:

**Oct. 23:** 7pm **Blind Melon** formed in California in 1991, with members from Indiana, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania. The band gained buzz from vocalist Hoon's association with Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose, and Hoon's backing vocals on several Guns N' Roses tracks on 1991's Use Your Illusion albums, most notably "Don't Cry".

<http://www.myspace.com/blindmelon>

**Oct.26: Los Enanitos Verdes** is a successful rock group from Argentina, formed in 1979 in the city of Mendoza. Throughout their career they have managed to gain important positions on Argentine and Latin American charts.

<http://www.loosenanitosverdes.net/>

**Oct 29:** The **New York Dolls** are an American glam rock band formed in New York City, United States in 1971. Two of original whom, David Johansen and Sylvain Sylvain, continue on today and released a new album in 2006. The original bassist, Arthur Kane died shortly after their first reunion concert. <http://www.nydolls.org/>

**Oct. 30:** doors 7pm **All Time Low** is an American pop punk band from Luther-ville-Timonium, Maryland. <http://www.alltimelow.com/>

**Oct.23:** The Women of Jewelia want to thank you and celebrate your support for their many charitable causes. Join them for a free community event "**Thank You**" will be held on Thur., Oct. 23 at My Florist Café & Bakery from 5:30-8pm. Be sure to be there.

**Oct.25:** Hear the internationally renowned speaker **Prem Rawat** on the subject of Inner Peace. He speaks with simplicity, passion and humor about our innate need for peace and fulfillment. 3pm-6pm at the E.P. Foster Library Topping Room 651 E. Main St.

This 'Open House' will feature ongoing DVD clips from recent events along with live music, refreshments and plenty of complimentary materials. Stop by anytime between 3pm and 6pm to explore this simple message of peace. All are welcome. For more information please visit <http://www.wordsofpeace.org>.

**Oct.25: Dance Jam Ventura** is a space for people to dance barefoot, with or without partners, in a free-style manner, to a wide, lively variety of danceable music on firm spongy mats. It is a smoke-free, drug-free, and alcohol-free environment, a family friendly event, conducive to free expression without judgment. The motto is "Dance like no one is watching." Dance Jam is Contact Improvisation friendly 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm at the Makoto Dojo 3026 Telegraph Rd, Adults \$6. Youth 16 and under \$1

Information: 650-7112, <http://www.waywebby.com/dancejam/>

**Oct.31:** Ventura Improv Company (VIC) will be serving up chills, thrills, candy, and libations as a spooky comedy improv show comes to the stage from 8-10pm at **Ventura Improv Company**, 34 N. Palm, Downtown Ventura

Families are encouraged to come — VIC will supply the laughs and the candy. They'll also supply a glass of wine or champagne for the grownups and soft drinks for the kids. Additional concessions will be available for sale.

"Our performers look forward to performing in costume," Gary Best, VIC's Artistic Director, says. "They can create extra bizarre characters and really cut loose."

Tickets: \$15 each, \$10 for under 18

Special deal: Families/groups of 4 or more: \$10/person

RESERVATIONS/MORE INFO: [tickets@venturaimprov.com](mailto:tickets@venturaimprov.com) or (805) 643-5701

**Nov. 2:** In addition to docent-led tours of the 1892 **Dudley Historic House Museum** from 1 to 4 p.m., a flea market & collectibles sale will take place on the grounds beginning at 9 am. Parlor entertainment will feature the 1908 election speeches of William Jennings Bryan and William Howard Taft. In the upstairs library landing, the radio will be tuned to the Jack Benny Show of Dec.1947. Admission is free and is at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets in Ventura. For information please call 642-3345 or visit the website [www.dudleyhouse.org](http://www.dudleyhouse.org).

**Nov.1:** Celebrate Halloween/Day of the Dead at the Olivas Adobe, 4200 Olivas Park Dr.

Our own actor/docent, Douglas Friedlander, will present a puppet show "**The Stage Stopped Here**" telling us about vaquero José Sanchez' new adventures at Rancho San Miguel.

Two shows will be staged; at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Admission is free.

**Nov. 3 & 17:** Do you have a Blue Nose? Are you a Philatelist and may not know it? If you collect stamps, you know the answer to the first question and are one of the second questions. Go visit them every 1st and 3rd Mon. of every month from 7:30-9:20pm at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd., Ventura.

**Amelia Earhart Survived** - the topic of Nov. 3rd presentation by Sally Knight - 8pm at the Ventura County Philatelic Society meeting - Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd, Ventura. Contact: Bill Garner (805) 320-1601. They are the **Ventura County Philatelic Society**, a fun group of people.

**Nov.5:** The Housing Rights Center and the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura present a **housing rights workshop** 5-7pm at the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura located at 11122 Snapdragon St. in the community room.

Do you have questions about Housing, Evictions, Security Deposits, Repairs, Rent Increases, or Section 8 (Voucher) Program.

Go to get your questions answered and learn about your rights and responsibilities as a landlord or tenant. RSVP Today! Call Karina at (800) 477 5977 x 26

**Nov.7:** Performances To Grow On is proud to present internationally acclaimed children's singer **Norman Foote** at 7pm at the Center for Spiritual Living, 101 S. Laurel.

Norman Foote is an award winning entertainer from Vancouver, Canada who has received international acclaim for his song writing, outrageous props and off beat sense of humor. His stage show is uniquely Norman and is innovative both musically and visually, featuring songs from his award-winning CD's. Norman will be joined by the Mound School choir under the direction of Liz Kinsch.

Tickets are \$8 for children and \$12 for adults and are available by phone at 805-646-8907 or online at [www.ptgo.org](http://www.ptgo.org).

**Nov. 8: Performance Theatre for Young Artist** is proud to present "One Wish"; Performances will be at Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura on Saturday, November 8th at 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Sunday, November 9th at 5:00 p.m. tickets \$15.00/\$12.00. Special "Faerie Queen Feast" Buffet and per-

formance on Saturday, November 15th. Feast starts at 6:00, performance starts at 7:30 \$25.00/\$22.00. For tickets call 805-653-1962, [www.ptya.org](http://www.ptya.org). Performance Theatre for Young Artist is a non-profit organization. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Publicity Chair Sharon Velzy-Lenington.

#### Ojai Events

The juried art exhibit at the Ojai Valley Museum continues until Nov. 16. This special exhibit showcases art by seventy artists working in a wide variety of media (painting, photography, printmaking, book art, sculpture, ceramics and mixed media), each inspired by an Ojai Valley theme. 130 W. Ojai Ave. 640-1390 for more information.

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Festival, Frozen River is a marvelous example of the kind of authentic, dramatic, personal story American independent cinema strives to create. Its themes and characters will be emblazoned in the viewers' consciousness. Director Courtney Hunt's remarkable and deeply emotional first feature is a realistic look at the world of human smuggling and the difficult choices facing poor, single mothers.

A masterpiece of topical characterization and alienation of the outsider, Frozen River explores the lives of two culturally dissimilar women who out of necessity and circumstance become partners in an illegal immigrant smuggling operation across the US/Canadian border on the Mohawk Reservation in upstate New York.

Frozen River is playing at the Ojai Theater (formerly the Ojai Playhouse), 145 E. Ojai Ave. on Sunday, Oct 26, 4:30 p.m. Tickets: \$9 for general admission; \$6 for seniors (65 yrs. and older) and students (with full-time student ID); free for Ojai Film Society 2008 sponsors

The Ojai Film Society is a non-profit, volunteer organization that is celebrating its twentieth year in operation. For more information call the OFS office at 646-8936 or go to <http://www.filmsociety.ojai.net>.

### Ventura Jazz Orchestra in concert

Ventura has a new swinging 18-piece band, the Ventura Jazz Orchestra. Dedicated to the playing of the wonderful big band swing era, the band will have its initial concert at the Poinsettia Pavilion, located at 33451 Foothill Rd., on Nov.1.

The passions of Dean Adams of Ojai, and Ted Richey, were the driving force behind the forming of the orchestra.

Adams, a trombonist, and Richey, a trumpet player, have always been huge fans of the big bands that gained their prominence in the 1930's and 1940's. Adams is the band's founder and managing director and Richey is the musical director.

Richey stated, "we take the audience back in time by replicating the music as closely as possible".

Tickets to the concert include dinner and dancing from 6:30pm to 10:30pm if anyone is still standing. Pricing is \$75 for 2 and \$40 for one including the dinner. The ticker purchase deadline is Oct.27.

For further information and purchasing of tickets call the Pavilion at 648-1143.



## Community Events



Mark O'Connor generously donates his time to promote music education and outreach. Photo by Jim McGuire

### Mark O'Connor presents musical workshop

GRAMMY® Award winner composer and violinist Mark O'Connor is presenting a unique musical workshop on Friday Oct. 31 to 1,400 Ventura middle and high school students as part of his personal mission to provide music education outreach to youth, a goal the Ventura Music Festival mirrors and supports.

The program is at 11am at Ventura High School.

O'Connor regularly presents two-day residencies, giving lecture/demonstrations or teaches workshops at many schools of music, including The Juilliard School of Music, Harvard, Rice University, SUNY Fredonia, University Of Texas, Curtis, Berkley College of Music, Eastman School of Music, Tanglewood, and Aspen Summer Festival. And, now - Ventura!

He generously donates his time in support of a number of organizations that promote music education and outreach, including Opus 118, Midori and Friends and Sphinx, and is founder and president of the internationally recognized Mark O'Connor Fiddle Camp and Strings Conference.

Each year at the Mark O'Connor String Camps, a wondrous, magical, musical event takes place. For five days in June, violin and other string players from all over the world, old and young, novice and experienced gather to learn, bond and create lifelong friendships - all bonded by the love of music.

Also on Sat., Nov.1, at 8pm Mark O'Connor's Appalachia Waltz Trio will perform selections from its Appalachian songbooks. The concert is hosted by the Ventura Music Festival and sponsored by Ann Deal and Fashion Forms. It will be held at the Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Dr. in Ventura. The cost is from \$45 to \$15 for students.

O'Connor, a violinist and composer, is widely recognized as one of the most gifted contemporary composers in America and surely one of the brightest talents of his generation.

With more than 200 performances, his first full length orchestral score "Fiddle Concerto" has become the most-performed modern violin concerto today.

His first recording for the Sony Classical record label, "Appalachia Waltz," was collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma and double bassist Edgar Meyer.

In 2002, O'Connor formed a new chamber ensemble, The Appalachia Waltz Trio. Performing a repertoire O'Connor created for his Appalachia Waltz and Appalachian Journey albums, The Appalachia Waltz Trio released its first album, "Crossing Bridges," in 2004.

For further information and tickets call 648-314 or [www.venturamusicfestival.org](http://www.venturamusicfestival.org)

### Youth Chorale auditions open

Fun and friendly auditions for the Master Chorale Children and Youth are now being scheduled and will be held throughout October. Under the umbrella of the Master Chorale of Ventura County, young people ages 8-17 will have the opportunity to use their voices to make great music, while learning rhythm reading, sight singing, proper breathing, and voice placement.

The Chorale is divided into three groups: Bel Canto girls (ages 8-12), Master Boys Choir (ages 8 and up with unchanged voices), and the Teen Chorale (ages 13-17 and experienced younger singers).

Rehearsals will be held weekly on Mondays at Trinity Lutheran Church near Ventura College, with multiple performances planned for the winter and spring seasons. A European tour is planned for June 2010.

"Students who participate will have an opportunity to perform with the Master Chorale and experience great choral literature. Come be a part of something wonderful," says Artistic Director Cheryl Gillaspay.

For information regarding tuition and requirements, or to schedule an appointment for a private audition, contact Ms. Gillaspay at (805) 796-1951 or email [cheryl@riverparkcc.com](mailto:cheryl@riverparkcc.com)

### Aztec ceremonial dances presented by Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc

Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc presents its 5th annual Day of the Dead event to be held on Sat., Nov.1 at Mission Park, 100 E. Main Street, from 1-8 pm. All are welcome to this free family-friendly event. The public is encouraged to build and/or view Day of the Dead altars/ofrendas at the park and enjoy over 25 vendors at the "Mexican Mercado" where Mexican day of the dead folk art, attire and traditional foods can be found.

There will also be free face painting for all ages from 3-6 pm. Live entertainment throughout the day will be provided. There will also be a procession from Mission Park to the Museum of Ventura County's art and ofrenda exhibition at 89 S. California St. at 3pm and another procession to "awaken the dead" at 6 pm from Mission Park to spectacular Dia de los Muertos art exhibit at Under the Sun Gallery, 432 N. Ventura Ave. Traditional Aztec ceremonial dances will be presented by Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc from 3:30-7pm which include more than 50 Aztec dancers from Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc is dedicated to offering the public a very grassroots and authentic cultural experience in addition to promoting awareness and appreciation of diverse traditions.

### Día de los Muertos celebrated

Between the Museum of Ventura County's 8th annual Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Community Celebration, and Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc's traditional Día de los Muertos Aztec



Have you ever wanted to learn to carve a professional-looking pumpkin?

### Sculpt a Pumpkin and Bring Out the Hidden Artist in You!

by Nanci Cone

Perhaps you've seen incredible pictures of carved pumpkins (like this) that almost look real. They're in newspapers or on the internet and you have to appreciate the talent and hard work that goes into creating these masterpieces.

Terri Hardin believes that inside everyone is a sculptor waiting to get out and she is well qualified to help you achieve that goal. As she puts it, "I believe everyone should have the chance to explore their artistic ability!" She has had an amazing and diverse career as an actress, animation character sculptress, a Muppets puppeteer, and a standup comedian. She has worked worldwide designing and sculpting various creatures for the Disney parks starting with the big Thunder Mountain ride attraction for Disneyland Paris and the Dragon's Lair for the same park. It was in California that Terri created the Splash Mountain Rabbit that sits on the Splash Mountain boat and a few figures in the new show. She is also a pumpkin carver, so she was asked by Disney to create a pumpkin for

them as well.

If you have ever wanted to learn to carve a professional-looking pumpkin, then you will want to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Ms. Hardin will be at McGrath's Pumpkin Patch located at 5156 McGrath Street (just off Knoll Avenue) on Sunday, October 26 from 12-5 pm. For only \$50, you will pick out a giant pumpkin (valued at \$50) and then learn step-by-step how to create a face on your pumpkin that will stop folks in their tracks. You will learn how to carve a fantastic and dimensional sculpted pumpkin that will look sensational once you place a light inside it. You'll certainly have the coolest pumpkin in the neighborhood!

McGrath's Pumpkin Patch also offers hayrides for a buck, an exotic animal corral, and an amazing array of pumpkins and gourds at really reasonable prices. Dave McGrath suggests you make reservations early for Terri Hardin's class as spots fill up quickly. For more information about the pumpkin sculpting class, hours of operation, or directions to McGrath's Pumpkin Patch, call 658-9972.

event, downtown Ventura is the perfect place to bring the family on Sat., Nov. 1.

This year, the museum's most popular event is being held Nov. 1 from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Albinger Museum, 113 E. Main Street, next to Mission San Buenaventura. The celebration includes traditional folk craft projects, face painting, and music by Mariachi Costa de Oro. Families can try their hand at decorating sugar skulls and masks, or make papel picado banners, papier-mâché butterflies, and paper flowers or skeletons. Ofrendas (altars to honor the dead), created by local schools, and community groups, are on display Oct. 31 through Nov. 7, at the Museum of Ventura County's 89 S. California St. site, also in downtown Ventura

Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc's traditional Día de los Muertos Aztec event is also being held Sat., Nov. 1, in downtown Ventura's Mission Park on Main St. from 1 to 8pm. It includes live music, authentic dance performances, a ceremonial procession, as well as a Mexican mercado. Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc is dedicated to preserving and promoting understanding of Mexica/Azteca culture, history, traditions, ceremonies and dances.

The tradition of Día de los Muertos honors the dead who are said to come back to walk among the living on Nov. 1 and 2. Colorful ofrendas are built to

honor departed relatives and friends, and include objects they enjoyed in their lifetimes. Humorous skulls (calaveras), and skeletons blithely going about worldly business are the dominant symbols of the holiday. Día de los Muertos 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-Latinos alike.

### Visit Ireland for an Afternoon

Join professional harpist Laurie Rasmussen on Sun. Oct. 26 from 1-3pm for a special afternoon of culture and music in "A Brief History of the Celtic Harp," presented through Ventura College Community Education.

"I have taken Laurie's Beginning Harp class through Community Education and thoroughly enjoyed it," notes Karen Gorback. "Laurie is a gifted artist who is passionate about sharing her craft with the entire community."

The fee for this unique event is \$29.00. For further information and registration, go to [www.communityed.venturacollege.edu](http://www.communityed.venturacollege.edu) or call 654-6459.



Art



## Jon May, man of 1000 faces

by Sheldon Brown

Boo!

These scary faces are only the incredible sculptures of local Ventura artist Jon May.

He has been living in Ventura for the past 12 years and originally he and his wife only came here to visit their boat in the harbor, they finally decided what a wonderful place this is to live in and to work his artistic magic.

This self taught artist has been sculpting since he was a little kid and worked with the "normal" materials such as clay and wax for a long time. But he found that they took to long to dry for his creative mind to wait for so he spent 3-4 years developing his unique ability to sculpt using and working with epoxy. Jon loves working with this material because it dries in 4 hours without firing, can define very small details and lasts forever so that his work can be enjoyed for many generations.

May also does all of the painting on his dolls and designs, and sketches all of the original clothes. He has several local

sewers actually produce the clothes but I'm sure if he had the time he would do that also.

He produces a lot of original commissioned caricature sculpted pieces done just from photos (that way they can be a surprise) that usually shows his subjects posed in one of their favorite activities such as playing tennis or golf. Even though Jon's caricatures might seem expensive, they are an incredible gift for the very special person who has everything else that they can enjoy forever.

He occasionally sculpts a limited edition (maybe 5 or 6 copies) by making a silicone mold from his original epoxy piece and casting it in resin or fiberglass. Jon's "Einstein" is an example of a limited edition and he is now working on an amazing Lincoln.

For the last 6 months his gallery-studio has been located at 265 Laurel right off of Thompson.

Jon is almost always there working away and is like a little kid showing you his work, definitely worth a visit...and be sure to tell him that I sent you in.

## Teatro de las Américas comes to the Bell Arts Factory

Exciting news! Teatro de las Américas is taking its final production of 2008 on the road again, with its celebration of the Day of Dead, presenting the comedy, *La noche de las sincalzones/The Night of the No-Undies*, by the Mexican playwright Antonio González Caballero (1931-2003).

The play is directed by Patricia Casiano, with local actors. It is a PG13 - level production with parental guidance suggested, with some rough language and sexual allusions. It is presented in Spanish with English super-titles.

Judas Tadeo and his family, humble small town people, decide to communicate with the deceased General Emeterio Relumbrón to ask him where the stolen gold is buried. They contract a "niña santa/holy girl" who is a medium as well. Will General Relumbrón come? And what do the undies have to do with it? These questions result in a hilarious play.

Antonio González Caballero is recognized as one of the greats of Mexican theater. He wrote and staged plays beginning in 1960; he taught acting in a number of settings, including his own

workshop for 32 years (1971-2003). He was the recipient of many honors. His works have been included in many anthologies, translated into several languages, produced in many countries, in film and on TV. He died in 2003.

Since it is unlikely that González Caballero will join us as we present his work, unless the "niña santa-medium" can summon him, we will have the pleasure at some of the productions to have Olivia Obregón, who studied under him, share with the audience and cast her experience with González Caballero.

\$10.00 general admission  
\$7.00 students and seniors,  
Reduced prices for groups.

Bell Arts Factory Community Room  
432 N. Ventura Ave. in Ventura  
Saturday Nov 8 @ 8 pm  
Sunday Nov. 9 @ 5 pm.

Information and reservations @ 485-5445, ext. 1 or [www.teatrodelasamericas.org](http://www.teatrodelasamericas.org)



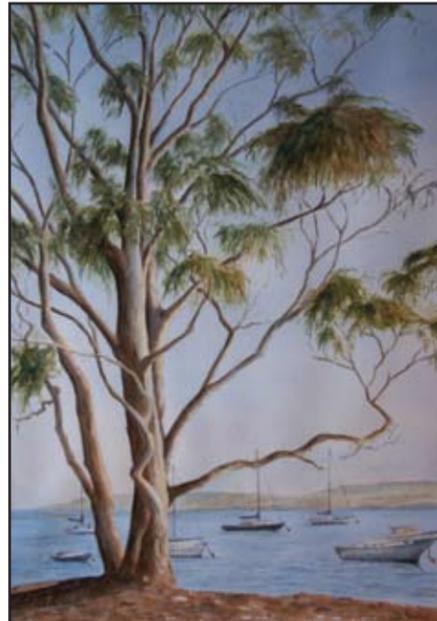
## Magnolia Tapestry Project at Sylvia White Gallery

Sylvia White Gallery, 1783 E. Main St. is proud to present an exhibit of Fine Art Tapestries produced by Magnolia Editions.

Tapestries have long been a form of artistic expression for a variety of cultures. The Magnolia Tapestry Project adapts this historic practice of weaving to modern times by integrating it with contemporary art and today's technology. Magnolia editions developed a computerized method of weaving that allows the loom to capture even the most subtle details that appear in an artist's work. This process allows for the unique vision of the artist to be accurately portrayed in the tapestry. The Magnolia Tapestry Project features tapestries based on the work of some of the most important contemporary artists of our generation.

John Nava's tapestries for the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles inspired the formation of the Magnolia Tapestry Project. Together the artists presented demonstrate the diverse styles of art that can be achieved in contemporary tapestries.

Exhibition Dates Oct. 22- Nov. 29  
Ventura First Friday, Nov. 7, 5-7PM  
Gallery Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, noon to 5pm



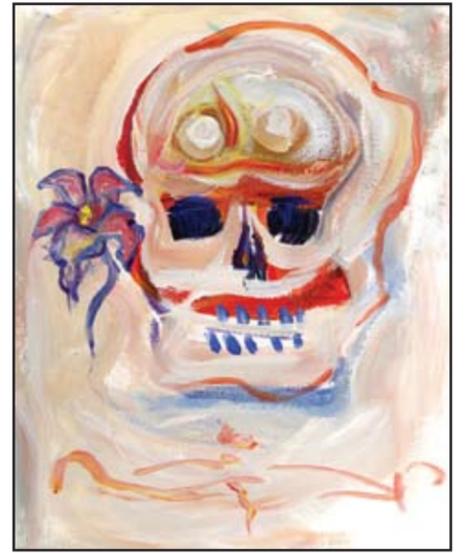
*Eucalyptus at Morro Bay* by Dani Willis will be displayed at Fox Fine Jewelry

## Outdoor Inspirations, at Fox Fine Jewelry

Dani Willis and Lois Bloom will display their art in Outdoor Inspirations, a show at Fox Fine Jewelry, located at 210 E. Main St. running from Nov. 6 through Jan. 12, 2009. An artists' reception will be Sat., Nov. 8, 6 - 9 pm.

Dani Willis loves watercolors because of the "transparency and the way the colors flow together when wet." There is a softness and gentleness about her work. Dani is inspired by nature, and enjoys the possibilities of painting nature in the misty mornings or in the shadows of dusk.

Lois Bloom is always ready with her camera when she vacations in Kauai and Costa Rica, and she paints from her vast pile of accumulated photos. Since her husband and son are avid surfers, she has become the family historian in terms of tropical photos and magnificent watercolors.



*Ladyskull* by Sarah Kalvin

## A Celebration of The Day of the Dead

by Alicia Morris Soto and Sarah Kalvin

Altars are one of the important elements of the celebration of Dia de Los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). Traditionally, altars with offerings are set up in one's home as a place of honor for deceased family members. It is believed that the placement of objects associated with the loved one will encourage a visitation by the deceased. However, those who simply engage in the practice of creating an altar often discover the sweetness of remembrance itself, of taking time to contemplate with gratitude those whose former existence has enriched their lives.

On Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2, and First Friday Nov. 7, Bell Arts Factory artists Alicia Morris Soto and Sarah Kalvin will transform Bell Arts Factory's new Tool Room Gallery into what will be for a few days the Tool Room Chapel.

Alicia Morris Soto will create an altar based on her fund of significant knowledge of the Day of the Dead. Soto states, The inspiration for the altar at the Tool Room Chapel is simply to engage the community in this reflective aspect of the celebration. The altar will have some traditional imagery and symbols; however, the community is invited to bring offerings, memories, and stories of their own.

The Bell Arts Factory is located at 432 N. Ventura Ave.

## El Dia de los Muertos at The Sea Breeze

The El Día de los Muertos Celebration at the Sea Breeze Art Gallery will be held on Nov. 2 from 5 to 10pm with free admission. The Sea Breeze Art Gallery is located at 255 S. Laurel St.

Join Sea Breeze Art Gallery & Resident Artists as they celebrate its fourth annual Dia de los Muertos Celebration and Juried Art Exhibit.

Festivities include an interior community altar that attendees can contribute items in remembrance of loved ones: Light a candle, place a photo, favorite food, drink, or memento. Sea Breeze Art Gallery will also have a juried art exhibit, Oct. 30 to Nov. 29. Enjoy art, music, food, face painting, and have your photo taken.

There will be a 50/50 Raffle, fundraising event for this year's Dia de los Muertos. Buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win 50% of the total pot.



# Wine

## Discovering your favorite wine personality and style

Wine is so much like people. We are all slightly unpredictable; we have varying personalities and can change as we age. Some people, like wine - can have split personalities, a pretentious side and a relaxed side. Maybe even many layers of style and nuances that change depending on what is happening around us at that time. I have always enjoyed assisting people in discovering all these aspects of wine and people. Discovering your palate and unknown wines is always an adventure; it is like meeting new friends - they can teach you something, share new styles with you and that is a part of your own evolution as a human being. Going wine tasting with friends gives you the same opportunities - learning about the wines that they like and what is appealing to their palate, you will discover that your styles of wine preferences will evolve and this gives you the opportunity to discover new wine personalities and styles.

Next time you taste a wine that you like, forget about the varietals name. Do not think about that fact that it is a Cabernet or Syrah. Think to yourself about the style of the wine. Swirl the wine in your glass for a few swirls and stick your nose in the glass. I mean really stick it in there and take in the aroma. What is the first thing that comes to your mind? Whatever you think or say- you are RIGHT! Yes, everyone experiences different aromas and you are all right. Now, sip the wine...but wait as you are swallowing it take in a bit of air and swirl it

over your tongue. Somewhat how you used to slurp your soup, just try to be a bit more grown up about it. I know your mom would be so disappointed, but the rules have to go out the door here a bit so you can really let yourself be free to experience the wine on your taste buds. As you are rolling it across your tongue, just think about the flavors. Now swallow, and as you think about the finish, what did you experience? Dryness, another flavor, or was it the same? Nevertheless, take another sip and think about what you are experiencing on the front, middle and back of your tongue. We are now discovering the style of the wine, how it evolves from the nose, to our tongue, to the finish. Some wines are the same from point A to B and some evolve and change in the glass and in our mouths. When you learn to describe the style of wine you like, you can now describe that to a wine shop or wine steward to help you with options that are your wine style of preference. Try not to limit yourself with, "I only drink Cabernet." What is it about the cabernets that you have drank, that you liked? Did you like the dark chocolate nose, with a palate that is intense in flavor and a mid palate that changed to a dark rich fruit and a slightly dry finish? So now, you can describe that to me and I would have you try a few Zinfandels, and maybe even a Bordeaux varietal blend and expand your desires.

Take the time to discover your favorite wine personality and style, just as you discover new friends and we can have so much fun together.

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## Go Green

### Good to Go: The Green Vote?

by Tea Silvestre

I vote by mail, so I've already cast my votes for the November election. And I don't mind telling you that I really wanted to vote for Props 7 and 10. It gave me warm, fuzzy feelings to see clean energy initiatives on our ballot.

But warm and fuzzy doesn't always indicate the smartest path. And good intentions never make up for inadequacies in oversight. At first glance, Props 7 and 10 may look cute and cuddly, but they are actually the complete opposite - ugly and scratchy.

Prop 7 seeks to accelerate renewable electricity production in California, thereby helping us reduce both global warming and dependence on foreign oil. The measure sets a goal to produce 50% of in-state electricity from renewable sources by 2025. A most excellent idea, no?

But Prop 7 defines how to measure progress toward that goal by stating that only facilities producing at least 30 megawatts will count. This leaves out the most promising source of photovoltaic electricity: ordinary rooftops, installed one at a time.

A set of solar panels on the average home generates about three kilowatts. It would take ten thousand just like that to generate 30 megawatts.

Under Prop 7, that individual home won't count toward the 50% goal because the "facility" is too small. Prop 7 will force utilities to focus exclusively on large electricity plants, eliminating the incentive to help millions of homes and businesses go solar. This would be tragic.

And among other craziness, Prop 7 places limits on what producers can charge for electricity from renewable sources but not from fossil fuels. Under the measure, the state Energy Commission determines the "market price" for electricity, and renewable energy producers can charge up to 10% above that. Oil, coal and natural gas fueled electricity, however, is under no such limitation, and producers may charge whatever they can get people to pay. I'm no expert, but this is just plain backwards. If we cap anything, it should be the price polluters can charge.

And then there's Prop 10. This measure calls for \$5 billion in bonds to subsidize natural gas powered vehicles along with a modest investment in renewable energy development. While we certainly want more clean energy in our transportation mix, Prop 10 focuses on natural gas - not electricity - and is funded by T. Boone Pickens's Clean Energy Fuel Corporation and would cost us \$10 billion over the 30 year life of the bond.

Prop 10 uses taxpayer handouts to favor natural gas powered vehicles over cleaner technologies such as hybrids. Clean Energy Fuel Corp. is a major supplier of natural gas for vehicles and it stands to make a fortune if the initiative passes. Always be suspect of those who try to use the law to make themselves rich(er).

And NOT ONE environmental group has endorsed this one, folks.

But on a lighter note - I did get to vote Yes -- on Prop 1A. While it's an expensive project, it pales in comparison to the cost of new highway and airport expansions which we would need to fund if this project doesn't happen.

What do you think? Please let me know at [tsilvestre@socialgoodconsulting.com](mailto:tsilvestre@socialgoodconsulting.com).

*Tea Silvestre is CEO of Social Good Consulting, a Ventura-based firm that provides strategic business and marketing planning for green businesses and assists other organization focus on sustainable management practices. She is a member of the Ventura County Advisory Council for Women's Economic Ventures (WEV). If you have any local "green" news, please contact her at [tsilvestre@socialgoodconsulting.com](mailto:tsilvestre@socialgoodconsulting.com).*

### E-Waste Recycling Day

Gather your e-waste-monitors, desktop MAC and PC's, notebook MAC and PC's, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, zip drives, cell phones, printers, copiers, scanners, cables. 100lb. limit per person/call for details.

Bring it to Ventura High Speed 2110 Thompson Blvd Ventura 93001.

That's it-you've just helped the environment.

E-Waste Recycling Day-brought to you by Ventura High Speed Internet [www.venturahighspeed.com](http://www.venturahighspeed.com). Saturday Nov. 1, 9am-6pm. 805.643.4375

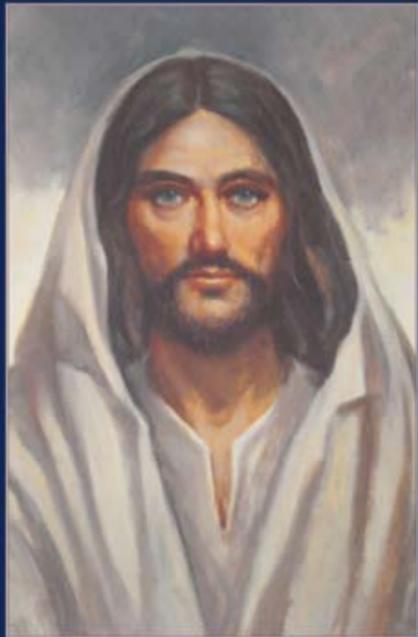


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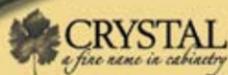
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# On The Menu

## Zagat claims Suzanne's Cuisine in Ojai as one of America's 1,000 top Italian restaurants

Suzanne's Cuisine is located at 502 W. Ojai (Bristol Ave), Ojai 93023. 805-640-1961. Reservations are recommended.

This "fantastic foodie place" from mother-daughter team Suzanne Roll and Sandra Moore uses "fresh" ingredients from area farmers in its "superb" seasonal French-Italian fare; an "unassuming", "California casual" café "on the main drag", it has a "peaceful garden", making it "a delightful escape" that's worth it for a "special occasion" or a "trip" in itself. 2008 Zagat Survey, LLC

Sandra proudly speaks about her mom and the restaurant (on their website [www.suzannescuisine.com](http://www.suzannescuisine.com)): Mom and I opened the restaurant in 1992. She, a talented cook with a true love and understanding for food, wanted to test her abilities professionally. I, with my MBA from the University of Chicago, was unfulfilled in my corporate finance position. I longed for the autonomy and creativity of running my own business.

We are Italian American by descent and we lived in France when I was a child. These are the two biggest

influences on my Mom's cooking. She adores the flavors of Provence - tomatoes, garlic, olives and olive oil. Simple, natural flavors that are honestly delicious and not over-contrived. Mom has a love for food. Consequently, the menu reflects other influences in her life as well - a little Asian, a little Mexican and maybe some interesting spice that she picked up at the Indian market. In the fall of 1992, the question we answered most often was "what kind of food will you serve?" It was difficult for us to explain, because, quite simply, it was Mom's food. As we struggled for a name, it seemed that Suzanne's Cuisine was the logical choice. Suzanne's Cuisine isn't just her kitchen; it is her cooking as well.

Mom is passionate about quality. She travels to three farmers markets and the produce markets to hand select our produce (90% of which is organic). She loves to share her food with friends and guests. I once read that "food is love made visible". With no one is this more true than with Mom. On the home fronts, I keep the bills paid, the staff trained and the restaurant organized. In short, Mom is what makes Suzanne's Cuisine special and I am what makes it happen. Neither of us could or would be here if it weren't for the other.

We appreciate the love and support of our staff and customers throughout the years. Without you, we would not be here. If you are new to Suzanne's Cuisine, we sincerely hope that you will join us. We promise to indulge you with a memorable evening comprised of delicious food and caring service.

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## Senior Living Suz Montgomery keeping seniors up to date

by Sheldon Brown

You can attend these classes even if you are not 97!

A wonderful free source of constant learning and keeping abreast of local and international news is to attend Suz Montgomery's afternoon classes at the Ventura Towne House, located at 4900 Telegraph, given every day at 1pm.

You certainly do not need to be a senior to attend her "open" classes at the Townhouse. Each day is a different subject such as looking at and discussing classic movies, discussing some wonderful dish that she has cooked specifically for the class, reviewing a best selling book, discussing politics or listening to a wonderful speaker.

At one of her recent classes, Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett was the guest speaker. It is a tribute to her and her senior students that he would take the time from his extremely busy schedule to come to speak to her class.

Attending this class was a 97 year old, an 86 year old and another lady who was celebrating her 87th birthday and they all asked very relevant questions, as do all of her students.

Steve Bennett very thoroughly answered the thoughtful questions that were presented to him.

Bennett explained that the Board of Supervisors has a wide variety of responsibilities. "We deal with all of the citizens and their concerns in Ventura County



Supervisor Steve Bennett was the guest speaker at Suz Montgomery's class

and in many cases with the cities located within the County".

Furthermore, he said, "we also act as the agent of the State of California in carrying out their policies that pertain to the County."

He expressed his own personal concerns about the extremes in our society, the children and the elderly, that are being most hurt by funding cuts. Groups that he says, "fall through the safety net".

"The State had mandated senior ombudsman programs and just recently cut funding for this extremely important volunteer program." (see article in this issue)

He also answered, very thoroughly,

the situation with the large addition under construction at VCMC. He explained that, "there were hearings in 1993-1994 regarding the height of the proposed hospital addition that all could attend and express their concerns. I was elected in 2001 so was not involved at that time but I have been very involved since listening to the concerns of the neighbors."

He went on to say that "there is no way to stop the construction now, but some things have been done to help the concerns such as moving the building over from its original location".

You should attend some of her classes; you will leave a much more informed person.

## Governor guts ombudsman program

With the stroke of his pen, Governor Schwarzenegger has imperiled 250,000 nursing home and assisted living residents by eliminating all state funding for California's long term care ombudsman program.

In a little publicized line item veto on September 23, 2008, the Governor cut \$3.8 million (100 percent of California state funds), which represents about half of all funding for ombudsman services.

Since its inception three decades ago, the ombudsman program has investigated elder abuse and other complaints on behalf of residents of California's 1,300 nursing homes and more than 8,000 assisted living facilities. Many of the extraordinarily vulnerable people living in long term care facilities have no family or friends who visit or advocate for them.

Ombudsman staff and hundreds of state-certified volunteers fill this void by making regular visits to facilities and responding to residents' complaints and concerns. Their frontline work has exposed countless incidents of neglect and abuse and often helps residents protect important rights that might otherwise be ignored.

The California Department of Aging (CDA), which administers the ombudsman program at the state level, is sitting on its hands while the infrastructure of local ombudsman programs is being ripped apart. Perversely, the Governor maintained full funding for CDA's state ombudsman office - which provides no services to residents - and hasn't diverted any of its funds to support the local programs that serve residents.

The Governor gutted the ombudsman program just days after the federal government issued its latest report condemning conditions in nursing homes. A September 18, 2008 report by the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services reported that over 90 percent of nursing homes violated federal standards last year and about 17 percent had deficiencies that caused actual harm or immediate jeopardy to residents.

Lack of money is not the problem. The Governor's new budget authorized another lavish Medi-Cal rate increase for California's nursing homes, whose annual payments from Medi-Cal have increased by more than \$1 billion since he took office. He sought and signed a multi-hundred-million dollar nursing home rate increase this year, and signed legislation calling for 5 percent rate increases in each of the two following years.

"These appalling cuts speak volumes about Governor Schwarzenegger's lack of concern for residents who are suffering from infected bedsores, malnutrition, physical and chemical restraints, and many other types of mistreatment," said Patricia McGinnis, CANHR's (California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform) Executive Director. "We call on him to restore local ombudsman funding immediately and strengthen oversight of all California long term care facilities."

## California Senior Legislature announces filing period

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging announces the opening of the filing period for the special election of either one senior senator or one senior assembly member to serve on the California Senior Legislature. This election is being held in conjunction with the early retirement of a current representative. The individual elected will serve through June 30, 2010.

The election will be held on Jan. 14, 2009 when eligible voting members of the Area Agency on Aging's Advisory Council cast their ballots. Each candidate will be asked to address the Advisory Council before the ballots are cast.

Candidates for the California Senior Legislature must be aged 60 years or older on the date of the election, and be registered to vote in and a resident of Ventura County. To qualify for the ballot, candidates must submit a completed Candidate Nomination Packet. The packet includes a ballot petition in support of the candidate's nomination, which must be signed by a minimum of 25 individuals aged 60 years or older who are registered to vote in Ventura County.

The packet can be downloaded from <http://aaa.countyofventura.org>, by selecting "What's New", then Publications or It can be picked up during regular business hours from the Area Agency on Aging's office located at 646 County Square Drive, Suite 100, Ventura, CA. To

request the packet by U.S. mail or e-mail, call 477-7305. The completed nomination packet must be received in the Area Agency on Aging's office by 4:00 p.m. on Nov. 7, 2008.

## Santa Clara Senior Center holds fall outing

Come join the Santa Clara Senior Center on Saturday, Nov. 1 for a fall outing in the Ventura County backcountry near Rose Valley. Magnificent white sandstone formations, mountain views and the lovely Sespe Creek are the highlights of this hike. Transportation, snack and lunch are provided.

While this is not a strenuous trail it does require a moderate degree of conditioning and the ability to walk safely and comfortably over uneven terrain. The hike is a total of 3-5 miles, depending on how far up into the Piedra Blanca they decide to go. Total elevation gain is about 500 feet. The trailhead is at 3,500 feet elevation. There are a couple of ankle-deep stream crossings that might require wading. You can either quickly take your shoes off or bring a pair of secure sandals to change into for the crossings.

Weather and temperature can vary dramatically over the course of the day. It could be cool and foggy in Ventura and hot and sunny by afternoon in the mountains. Dressing in layers is the best approach. Bring a light coat that you can easily shed and carry with you, along with a lighter shirt or two for underneath. Cotton will keep you cool if it is hot, however, synthetics are better if there is any chance

of cold or wet weather. A hat, sunglasses and sturdy shoes are essential.

In addition to the clothing listed above, sunscreen, insect repellent and a small backpack or fanny pack will be very helpful. Lunch and a snack will be provided. If you like a few extra calories, however, bring a sport bar or other snack for yourself. There will be extra (emergency) water available, but you are responsible for your own water during the hike.

Most importantly, bring a positive attitude and a sense of adventure.

Meet at Senior Recreation Center (SRC) for check in at 8am at 420 E. Santa Clara St. for an 8:30 departure. Return will be about 4pm.





# Professor Scamp, Ph.D. (Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp  
Ph.D

## Scamp:

On occasion I will have a guest columnist. This issue it is Scampclub member Truffelia, a 6 year old yellow lab. He is a former Guide Dog for the blind, and a local attendee of Marina Park.

Hello all!

Truffelia here, bringing the news that matters most. Scamp has had his paws full with an obedience class so I took the wheel. Where should I begin? Life's brought me quite a ride over the past 6 years. Many hated vet visits, meeting lovely and offensive dogs in the park, being raised as a guide dog and getting to go everywhere with my human (Yes, you heard right! Even the grocery store!).

I've learned more than I'd like to remember at the moment. I also learned how to 'figure eight' as my human calls it. It's where I run circles through her legs. I know, I know a little demeaning but seeing the smile on my humans face and the saddened confused look on my brothers gets me high every time! See, my brother doesn't know how to do it!

Take that Boogie. Don't get me wrong, I love him quite dearly but he's so pushy and robs me of my highly deserved attention. Speaking of my brother, it's with a heavy heart that I have to tell you that someone is stealing Bulldogs! My brother is a bulldog so it hits close to home. He was adopted and looks nothing like me or my family...Thank god! That's beside the point; evidently these disgusting rotten thieves take them when no ones home, or sometimes even out of the backyard! Can you believe that? In my opinion it's like stealing a baby out of its

crib. It is not acceptable and I won't stand for it. I've already devised a plan in case anyone decides to try anything fishy with my brother, and it involves my teeth.

With that in mind make sure all dogs are safe and secure in your home or yard. Make sure your human checks all gates and doors to make sure they shut and lock properly. Also keep a look out for friends and neighbors for anything that looks suspicious. You know what to do, just bark if it looks weird!

With the October winds we've been having lately I've noticed a few gates flung open on my walks throughout the neighborhood. That's exactly how my cousin Jemma got lost. It's avoidable so let's keep those unnerving situations avoided! Well I'm off to find the next big newsbreak...I'll get back to you as soon as I do. Hope to see you all on Halloween. Keep your eyes open for a four-legged pumpkin!



Guest columnist Truffelia

## ScampClub

Hi: I'm Pogi and I am just 12 weeks old. I am the youngest member of the Scampclub. I am a chug (Chihuahua/pug) and I weigh 3 pounds. I am told that I have a personality that sucks you right in, I don't want to brag but I'm sure that is correct.

I'm not sure what my favorite things are yet but I think that I will probably get into a lot of trouble, especially with my grandma Nanci.



## Join ScampClub

Animals of all sorts can join the Scampclub. Email me your picture and a little about yourself, including your address, to **Scampclub@venturabreeze.com**. You will be in the Breeze and receive a Scampclub Card that will get you the following discounts. Scampclub members can receive:

- 10% off dog wash at **Cameos Dog Grooming**, 1058 S. Seaward 648.3800
- \$3.00 off bathing at **Applause Four Paws**, 2008 Thompson 648.2757
- Free bag of Kibble after purchase of 10 bags of the same variety at **Naturally for Paws**, 1766 Thompson 648.7297



## Police & Fire Reports

### Man shot at

At 10:56pm, on Oct.6, Ventura Police Officers responded to 1515 S. Saticoy Ave. in reference to a shooting that had just occurred. The victim, a 44 year old male Ventura Resident, fled the scene and was contacted by officers a short time later. The victim told Officers that he was sitting in his vehicle waiting for a friend and was approached by an unknown Hispanic male who broke out the driver's side window of the victim's vehicle. The victim drove off and the suspect fired 2-3 gunshots at his vehicle, striking it. Officers searched the area for the suspect but were unable to locate him. The victim did not sustain any injuries.

### House fire on Empire Avenue

Ventura City Fire units were dispatched to a report of a house filled with smoke on Oct.4 at 10pm. located in the 700 block of Empire Ave.

On arrival the engine companies found a fire in a bedroom. The fire was quickly extinguished before it spread to the remainder of the duplex. An occupant was home at the time of the fire and smelled smoke. The fire was able to grow undetected due to the bedroom door being shut and the lack of a functioning

smoke detector. A Ventura City Electrical Inspector secured the circuit to the damaged portion of the residence. The occupant was able to return to the home after all utilities were restored and the smoke detector was placed back in operation. The second occupant, who resided in the bedroom that was damaged, was not at home and will not be able to occupy the room until repairs are made. Damage was estimated at \$7500. There were no injuries to occupants or firefighters.

### Gas station robbery

On Oct.10, at 4:26 pm, an Hispanic male 30's unshaven 5'-7" slender and an Hispanic male 30's both wearing gray hooded sweatshirts and dark pants were seen several minutes prior to the robbery outside the Shell Gas Station located at 7841 Telephone Rd.

They appear to have been watching the business for a brief period of time and walked away. A few minutes later, both suspects walked into the business and began demanding money and pointing a handgun at the clerk. The suspects climbed over a counter and threatened the clerk with the handgun. One suspect forced the clerk into a rear office area. The other suspect took money from the

cash register and the clerk's bag with personal items inside. Both suspects ran from the business toward Kimball Rd. The clerk was not injured.

Anyone who may have been in the area between 6 am and 6:30 am are urged to call with any information they may have about this crime.

### Rescue at Ventura Harbor

On Oct.9, at 5:13pm, Ventura City Fire Units responded to a water rescue with an unknown number of victims in the ocean at the Ventura Harbor South Jetty. Ventura Harbor Boat 17 located 2-3 persons in the water not knowing if they were in distress.

Ventura Engine 2 found that there were two juvenile swimmers, a sister and brother that had been caught in a rip current on the ocean side of the south jetty. A nearby surfer, Al Saldana, rescued the female by bringing her around the south jetty and safely onto the rocks inside the Harbor. The second rescuer, Kyle Duty, entered the water with a boogie board and also brought the male around the south jetty and into the beach inside the Harbor. The rescued victims had minor injuries and were released to their parent.

### Jogger beaten

On Oct.15, at 10pm a 50 year old Ventura resident was jogging in the area of the linear park adjacent to Rio Grande and Northbank Drive. The two suspects, an Hispanic male, 5'-8", white T shirt, unknown color shorts wearing a mask, and an Hispanic male, 6'-2" white T shirt, unknown color pants wearing a mask were armed with wooden clubs, walked up to the victim, and demanded his money.

After telling them he did not have any money, he attempted to call 911 on his cell phone as he ran away from the suspects. The suspects chased after him, and once they caught him, he was knocked to the ground and struck multiple times with the clubs by the suspects. The suspects then fled the area on foot. The victim's cell phone was broken during the incident, but no property was taken. The victim received minor wounds from the blows with the clubs.

## VPD warns of multi-state check scam

The Ventura Police Department (VPD) would like to advise members of the community to be aware of the possible reemergence of a multi-state check fraud and lottery scam letter circulating throughout the community. In March of 2008, our department issued a press release regarding a similar letter/scam and was recently contacted by an alert community member regarding this late-

Continued on page 15

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**

**Adult Buffet Rates Wednesday Dec. 31, 2008**

**\$80.00** per person includes  
Dinner Buffet, Live DJ Music, Midnight Sandwiches & Champagne Toast!

**Celebrate the New Year at**  
The Four Points By Sheraton  
1050 Schooner Drive, Ventura, CA

**DANCING & MUSIC UNTIL 2:00AM**

**Please contact Patricia Rago to make your New Year's Eve Reservations!!**  
Call 626-705-6886 Cocktail Hour: 5:00pm - 6:00pm Dinner Starts: 6:30pm - 8:30pm



## Police, con't.

### Check scam

Continued from page 14

est version. Following are the details of how the scam (and variations of it) appears to work.

In this latest example, a resident received an authentic looking letter from "TD Financial of Canada" notifying her she had won \$75,000 in a multi-state "Super-7" lottery contest. The letter came in a plain white envelope correctly addressed to the resident and bearing a Canadian stamp. In the letter the recipient is asked why they have not yet

*Essentially, the scam works whereby the scam artist(s) send an official looking letter claiming to be from a recognized financial institution, or other entity, and enclose a check that appears valid and legitimate. In fact, even the bank may be fooled. The catch is that the check is bogus.*

claimed their winnings, and is encouraged to cash the enclosed check (from "Citibank of New York") in the amount of \$3,985 to cover taxes and any legal and administrative fees. Additionally, the recipient is asked to money-gram (in this case \$2,985) to the supposed "tax agent" listed in the letter. The letter goes on to state that upon receipt of the funds the tax agent will Fed-Ex their winnings to them.

Essentially, the scam works whereby the scam artist(s) send an official looking letter claiming to be from a recognized

financial institution, or other entity, and enclose a check that appears valid and legitimate. In fact, even the bank may be fooled. The catch is that the check is bogus.

Typically, banks will make funds that are deposited available quickly - usually within one to five days, depending on the type of check. But just because an individual can subsequently withdraw the money doesn't mean the check is good. It can take weeks for the forgery to be discovered and the check to bounce, and this is exactly what the scam artists are counting on. They hope the victim believes the check is real and will be willing to send them money back.

The scammers may mention you were given an advance on a sweepstakes prize and that some "fee" (tax, legal fee, or additional payment) is necessary in order to process your payment. Additionally, the victim may be told they are being paid the taxes, or even the first installment of the prize, and they will receive additional money after wiring a portion back.

Whatever the set-up, the results are the same. If you send money back you'll be out twice. YOU are responsible for checks or monies deposited into your account. When a check or money order bounces YOU will owe the bank the money you withdrew and the scammer will have the additional money sent in his/her pocket.

The letters, e-mails, and phone calls often sound legitimate and can be very convincing. If in doubt, shred the mail, hang up the phone, or refuse to open the door to your home to someone you don't know and trust.

You can report scams online to the National Consumers League's Fraud Center at [www.fraud.org](http://www.fraud.org). They maintain a national repository of information and will insure your information gets to the proper investigating authority. If you are the victim of a crime please report it immediately to the VPD at 805-339-4400.

## Sports

### USA Football names Gus Bernal advisory committee

USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, has named Gus Bernal of Ventura, to its Youth Coaches Advisory Committee. Bernal, head coach of the Ventura Buccaneers, is one of eight committee members contributing toward USA Football's coaching resources, employed by football coaches in all 50 states and Washington D.C.

USA Football selected Bernal for his proactive approach toward coaching education and development.

USA Football's Youth Coaches Advisory Committee tests, refines and provides feedback on resources that the non-profit makes available to America's 500,000 youth football coaches. Resources include computer-animated training courses, practice planner software, a 3-D online drills library and more. USA Football, based near Washington, D.C., has trained more than 16,000 youth football coaches nationwide since March 2007 through full-day coaching clinics and its online courses.

"I think to be a coach, you have to broaden your horizons and speak to other coaches," Bernal said. "For us to teach kids, we have to be knowledgeable about what's going on in the larger scale."

"Gus's work on our Coaches Advisory Committee will impact thousands of men and women who teach this game to youngsters," said USA Football Executive Director Scott Hallenbeck. "So much of the success that the Ventura Buccaneers have experienced is attributable to Gus and others like him. We're proud to have him on our team."

USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, hosts 100 football training events annually offering education for coaches

and game officials, skill development for players and resources for youth football league commissioners. The independent non-profit also manages U.S. national teams within the sport for international competitions and provides nearly \$1 million in equipment grants and youth league volunteer background check subsidies annually. USA Football was started by the NFL and NFLPA in 2002 through the NFL Youth Football Fund and is chaired by former U.S. Congressman and professional quarterback Jack Kemp.

### Villanova Wildcat Classic Oct. 27

Villanova Preparatory School will be hosting its annual Wildcat Classic on Mon. Oct. 27 at the beautiful historic golf course at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa.

This tournament is open to all golfers and includes lunch, an after tournament dinner banquet, awards and prizes at one of Southern California's finest golf courses. Entry fees are \$185.00 per player.

Villanova is seeking sponsors at various levels. This is a wonderful way to advertise your business as well as contribute to a worthy cause. Sponsorships begin at \$250 for a tee sign and increase at various levels up to \$5,000 for the Father Glynn title sponsor. Donations are also being sought for auction and raffle items. The golfing classic benefits the Fr. John Glynn, OSA Scholarship Fund which provides tuition assistance to students from families demonstrating financial need. Villanova is committed to admitting all qualified students, regardless of economic capabilities. The Wildcat Classic helps to make this possible.

For questions about the Father Glynn, OSA Scholarship Fund, sponsorship opportunities, entry details, or donations please contact Heidi Whitman at 646-1464. You can also view event details at [www.wildcatclassic.org](http://www.wildcatclassic.org)

## From Ficus to Antiques

by Nanci Cone

If you've been looking for something fun to do on Wednesdays, you will definitely want to check out the new Swap Meet and Farmer's Market in the Ventura County Fairgrounds parking lot. There are vendors assembled at Seaside Park from 7am-2pm with a vast variety of goods available.

While walking through the aisles, I found jewelry, statues, furniture, crate labels, toys, plants, vegetables, baked goods, and lots, lots more! Even though I was there to take pictures and talk to Sue Adams, the lady who came up with the idea, I found myself reaching for my wallet because there were bargains I just had to have.

Lora Madrie, Sue's assistant, obviously thinks the world of her. She told me, "Sue is such a nice person. She'll do her best to take care of people and to make sure they're happy. If someone has a problem, she will bend over backwards to resolve the issue." When I caught up to Sue, I understood what she meant. She's a very sincere individual with a smile and a kind word for everyone. I was properly impressed with how she had managed to assemble such an eclectic group of sellers. She told me she had gone to flea markets and swap meets throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to raise interest in her project and it obvi-

ously paid off.

Raquel Allende of Ann's Bakery said she "loves the atmosphere and business has been good. Also, the customers are really friendly." People wandered leisurely up and down the aisles and they seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely while looking for bargains.

Dana Ralston of Camarillo said she found out about the Swap Meet when she bumped into Lora at the Home and Garden Show. It was her first time at the event and she bought some local lemon and orange crate labels from Ray Morua. She was shocked to find out the labels she bought were originals because the prices were so reasonable. When asked if she would come back, her response was, "Oh sure!"

Ray Morua of Crake Labels said, "I've been collecting and selling labels for more than 55 years and no one under-sells me." He was thrilled when he was approached by Sue to set up a booth at the fairgrounds. In addition to the labels, he's selling the Rotary Club of Ventura 2009 calendar which is to help raise money for charity.

Luann Anderson of Valencia sells a little bit of everything from jewelry to furniture. She said, "I was looking for meets with more vintage items and antique dealers. When I called Seaside Park

to see if they had any suggestions, they referred me to Sue and here I am!" She told me she loves what Sue has created and now considers herself a regular - a theme I heard from everyone to whom I spoke.

Sue put it best when she said, "Seaside Park is ideal because it's by the beach, the train stops right here, and the atmosphere is very nostalgic."

Anyone interested in setting up a booth can contact Sue Adams at (818) 590-5435 or show up at the fairgrounds to purchase a spot. Rent for a 20x30' space is only \$25 - a fraction of what most places charge. And Sue has special rates for non-profit organizations trying to raise money for their cause - just give her a call and she'll work with you. Currently, she has between 55-65 vendors with more coming each week since the opening on Sept. 3.

Parking is free and there is no admission charge.



Ray Morua, from Crake Labels and Raquel Allende, from Ann's Bakery are just two of the many vendors showing their stuff at Seaside Park



## Business

### FHA announces \$417,000 reverse mortgage loan limit

by Bob Davis

Branch Manager/Reverse Mortgage Specialist  
BOB DAVIS TEAM, First Mortgage Corporation

FHA Commissioner Brian Montgomery announced today that the new HECM, Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, nationwide loan limit will be \$417,000. The target effective date is November 1. This is a target date right now, not a set deadline.

There was significant debate within HUD to consider area limits at 115% of area median home value, with a floor of \$417,000 and a ceiling of \$625,500. Ultimately, the interpretation was determined that the new legislation will be a \$417,000 loan limit. This was the original limit embraced by the reverse mortgage industry.

A more liberal interpretation of HR 3221 considered a maximum loan limit to \$625,500 in high cost areas, such as Ventura county. The complexity of the bill's language created much debate and ultimately the final decision of the \$417,000 loan limit.

A majority of counties nationwide have lending limits at the existing loan limit of \$200,162 which has drastically reduced the amount of equity that se-

niors living in higher-valued homes could access. These new limits will have a significant impact on the quality of life and provide more relief to those seniors who need the help especially in today's turbulent economic environment.

These are all positive developments for the reverse mortgage industry and the older Americans served. As HUD moves toward the implementation of the many other important aspects of the housing bill including the ability to purchase a home using a reverse mortgage, the consumer will be able to look forward to additional developments in the near future.

Contact Bob Davis Team & First Mortgage Corporation for further details & the free booklet titled, "Reverse Mortgage... Fact or Fiction?" Call Davis @ (805) 658-7435 or email to senioradvantage@firstmortgage.com. Member of the prestigious National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association, www.nrmla.org and licensed by the Department of Corporations and the C.R.M.L.A.

### Whisenhunt Communications launches new web site

Whisenhunt Communications, a Ventura-based marketing and public relations firm, has launched its new Web site www.whizcomm.biz.

Founded in 1990, Whisenhunt Com-

munications specializes in helping businesses, school districts, governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations reach targeted audiences. The firm's many diverse clients make enormous contributions to the community, and the public relations firm has been instrumental in helping them accomplish their goals.

Whisenhunt has an expert team of writers, editors, photographers and designers who specialize in creating and placing advertising and press releases, planning events, coordinating election campaigns, creating brochures and other printed pieces, book publishing, web design, working with local and national media outlets, producing annual reports and developing newsletters. The firm's efforts have helped clients expand their businesses, relate better with their customers and win awards.

Company owner Stan Whisenhunt is a veteran journalist who worked for 24 years at the Ventura County Star, the last 17 years as managing editor. All Whisenhunt associates also have extensive experience in various print and digital media. The firm's many connections in the press and community ensure that clients get their message across.

For more information, call (805) 659-1464, or visit www.whizcomm.biz.

### Rotary Fall Program schedule

Rotary is an organization of business and professional men and women united

worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and to help build goodwill worldwide.

The Rotary Club of Ventura South meets Monday's at 12:00 noon at the Wedgewood Center, 5880 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura. Guests are welcome. For additional information and directions to the Wedgewood call 647-7612.

The following is their remaining fall program schedule:

**October 27, 2008** - Club Assembly  
**November 3, 2008** - Vern Alstot, speaking on the Mass Mutual Aid System  
**November 10, 2008** - Don and Barbara McDonald will share their recent ascent of Mt. Whitney with a Power Point talk.  
**November 17, 2008** - Marc Vertin, Past District Governor will speak about The Rotary International Foundation and Club grants. November is Foundation Month of Rotary International.

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### Jill Bath, Fitness Hero

*What was life like for you before Fitness?*

After 10 yrs. of competitive figure skating, I married at age 19 and ceased my daily practice. Now at age 44, having had a child, as well as having lost both of my lower legs, I've found myself feeling a mid-life change. Without regular exercise, my body has lost muscle and changed it into fat. In addition, my mental state and feelings of self-esteem have lessened greatly.

*What obstacles did you have to overcome before getting started?*

Feelings of entering a new gym after not having worked out for quite some time can be more than a bit intimidating. One can't help but compare themselves to others who have already been training and working out regularly. Unfamiliarity with the equipment and a proper workout to achieve one's best results make it hard to get started.

*Adding regular workouts to your week makes you wonder if, or when, you will find the time with today's busy lifestyle.* I had also wondered if I would have to spend time away from my daughter, as well as how I would be able to afford an additional monthly expense. For these reasons, I justified putting off my goal to begin a true workout regimen. I kept telling myself that there would be a better time to get started.

*What results have you achieved since you have started your Fitness Program?*

After joining Hollywood Fitness, in Downtown Ventura, I clearly noticed a significant increase in my strength and endurance level, even after only a few weeks of regular workouts. After hiring my own personal trainer - Victor Madueno - I found that the best achievement

I have made was a true goal of which I have been thinking of for a long time. This goal has given me a better outlook every day and even a better and more positive attitude. All of these things have reflected onto my family, friends and my own personal well-being.

*What you have learned about yourself?*

I am a person who loves self-improvement and wish I had not allowed myself to put off what I knew I have wanted to do for so long. I realize that I am a much happier person when I look and feel good both physically and mentally, two gifts that go along with regular workouts.

*What advice would you give to those who are thinking about getting started?*

Find out about all the options available at the gym, and you will find something that can work for you, your schedule and your budget. Make sure to talk with a trainer to discuss your goals and expectations, as they can help you to understand what is truly involved and how to obtain those goals.

If you are honest with yourself about what you want, you will be able to find the time and resources to get started sooner rather than later.



Jill Bath from Ventura California, and a Hollywood Fitness Hero



Playing almost every weekend at High-Cees, Bernadettes, J' Tapas, the Jester, Bombays, and much more; get on the mailing list to be kept up to date on where they will be rockin'. E-mail Brian Batchley at BBatchley@sbcglobal.net or David Reo at DavidReo@aol.com.

The Preachers Blues Band began in 1987 as a three piece blues and Rock-a-Billy band in Van Nuys, California. The original members were Joe Westbrook on guitar, Kevin Huddleson (The Fixtures) on drums and vocals, and Brian Batchley on bass guitar. The band began to play regularly at sold out shows at local Los Angeles venues. David Reo joined the band in 1992 when the band had a steady Friday night gig at The Beverly Hills Roadhouse on Wilshire Blvd in Beverly Hills, Ca. The band has continued to perform regularly since that time. At present, the band is fronted by original member Brian Batchley on blues harmonica and vocals, David Reo on guitar, dobro and vocals, Pierre Allard on bass guitar and vocals and the drummer de' jour. Their new album "Yeah Baby"

was released in 2007. Go to the website to hear this addictive Blues album which will keep you rockin', tapping and grooving to the beat. To purchase The Preachers CD - Yeah Baby, send cash, check or money order, to: The Preachers P.O. Box 407, Ventura, CA 93002.

Brian Batchley, (Harmonica and Vocals) was born on 1/1/57 in Queens New York and now resides in Ventura. Brian lived in New York until he was 20 years

old and then came to Southern California where he has lived ever since. At the age of 10, he received his first harmonica and at the age of 14, Brian started playing the Electric Guitar which he spent many years doing. Brian auditioned for The Preachers playing bass guitar and was quickly hired. He was nicknamed "Jack" because of his similar playing to Jack Bruce of "Cream". Eventually, Batchley began playing the blues harmonica, feel-

ing that it was his true calling. He became the premier front man because of his high energy style of harmonica playing as well as his gut-wrenching, blues, singing style.

David Reo is also a Ventura resident. He is a blues guitarist songwriter with a fine catalog of tunes including the blues, pop blues, country hybrid and easy listening modes. David has many other talents including being an apprentice writer for 26 Happy Days Television episodes, writing and selling a script to Quinn Martin Productions entitled, A Rock & A Hard Place., writing a one half hour situation comedy for the television shows Double Trouble, Blossom and The John Laroquette Show, as well as performing live on "Blossom". David has performed live in Los Angeles on a weekly basis for many years. Come see him performing with The Preachers Blues Band. David is a member of BMI and the Writers Guild of America. Scripts, music, dvd's, promo pack and live performances are available upon request. [www.youtube.com/swf\\_show/Dobro](http://www.youtube.com/swf_show/Dobro)

**Spotlight**  
**The Preachers Blues Band**  
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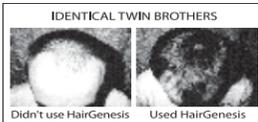
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**Amgen California Bikefest**

The Amgen Cycling Club is hosting a unique one day, cycling "lifestyle" event on Sat., November 1 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

The event, the "California Bikefest", will feature activities, education, exhibitors, organized rides, and racing for the four areas of bicycle culture: Bicycle Transportation and Commuting, Casual Cycling, Bicycle Tourism (known as Touring) and Competitive Cycling.

Their vision is to establish this event in the bicycle friendly community of Ventura and gradually build participation and visitor ship in successive years. They expect this growth because a bicycle event like this does not exist in Southern California. With the vast number of cycling enthusiasts from San Luis Obispo to San Diego, they expect this event to spark interest, attendance and tourism to Ventura.

Amgen Cycling is currently one of the largest cycling clubs in California as well as one of the largest cycling clubs in the United States. Within the last few years, Amgen Cycling has expanded to include chapters in Colorado,

Rhode Island, Washington State, San Francisco, Puerto Rico, Massachusetts, Europe and Australia.

Please contact Colby Allen at (312)543-4127, or [colbya@amgen.com](mailto:colbya@amgen.com) for further

**Photojournalism workshop**

Join photographer Helge Gerull for a photojournalism field study workshop on Nov.1 from 12-4pm. The classes' objective will be to shoot the "Day of the Dead Community Celebration" at the Albinger Archaeology Museum for Ventura's newspaper the Ventura Breeze.

The class will discuss the key elements of successful photojournalism and receive guidance on technical and aesthetic issues such as composition and exposure. The class will end with an image presentations and critique. Students will need to bring their own digital camera with its USB cable for viewing. The Instructor and an assistant will accompany students during their field study. The class will meet at the Ventura City Corp location at 77 N. California St.

The fee is \$45 and students should be at least 10 years old. Registration is by phone at 644-9214 or in person at Vita Art Center, 2040 E. Main St.

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# The Lighter Breeze



## Salome's Stars

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) The high standards you set for yourself don't always translate into the behavior you expect of others. That relationship problem can be resolved if you're more flexible and less judgmental.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Not enough party bids to satisfy the Bovine's fun-loving side this week? Go ahead and throw one of your own. Then prepare for some serious work coming up early next week.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A new and intensely productive cycle is about to kick in. Be careful not to get too stressed out, though. Make time to restore your energies by relaxing with family and friends.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) This could be a good time to share some of your plans with those closest to you. Their comments could give you some added insight into how you might accomplish your goals.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) An attack of self-doubt might be unsettling for the usually super-assured Feline. But it could be your inner voice telling you to hold off implementing your plans until you've reassessed them.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) This is a great time for you to reward yourself for all your hard work by taking a trip you haven't spent months carefully planning, to somewhere you never thought you'd be going.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Some misunderstandings resist being resolved. But your sincerity in wanting to soothe those hurt feelings wins the day. By month's end, that relationship should begin to show signs of healing.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A hectic job schedule begins to ease just in time to blow off all that work-generated steam on Halloween. A family situation runs into an unexpected complication.

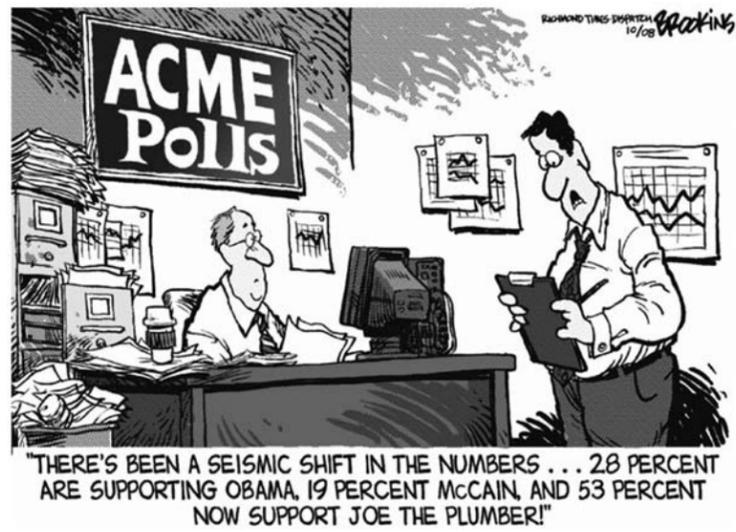
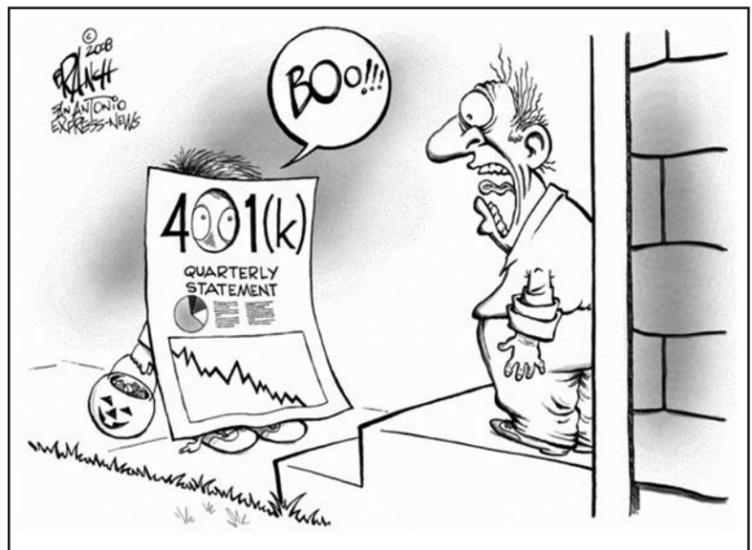
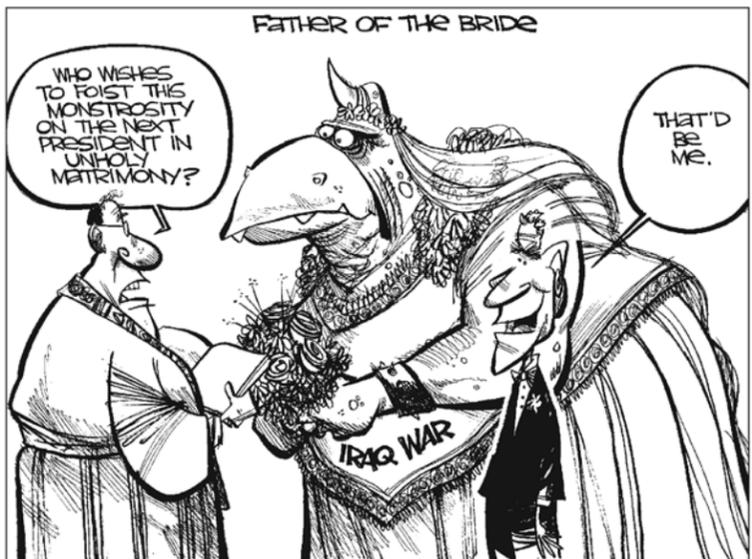
**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A cutting remark in the workplace needs to be handled with finesse. Remember: How you respond could determine the depth of support you gain from colleagues.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Once again, that Capricornian stubborn streak sets in and could keep you from getting much-needed advice. Fortunately, it lifts by week's end, in time to make an informed decision.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A surprise trip early in the week could lead to other unexpected offers when you return. Word to the wise: Avoid talking too much about this until you've made some decisions.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Learning dominates the week for perspicacious Pisceans, who are always looking to widen their range of knowledge. A series of important job-linked commitments begins late in the week.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your sense of humor generates good feelings and good will everywhere you go.



## Ventura Breeze Classifieds

Private party ads are free for the first 20 words plus 20 cents for each additional word. Minimum extra word charge is \$2.00

Help wanted and professional services offered classifieds are \$10.00 per issue for a maximum of 25 words. For ads over 25 words please contact Staci Brown at 805.644.5307.

1. Deadline is one week prior to publication date.
2. Ads shall be submitted with check payable to The Breeze.
3. Mail to: Ventura Breeze, 1575 Spinnaker, 105B-393, Ventura CA 93001 or FAX to: 805.641.3158

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## Classified

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Christian Family Childcare now has space available for infant/toddler. Karen has B.A. Psych, lic#566209532, near Blanche Reynolds Elementary. Hot meals, large backyard. References. 642-2452.

Camarillo-beautiful lakefront, fantastic view! 3+3, fireplace, 2-car garage, common pool, tennis, spa, fishing and boating. \$2,200.00 per month. Tamara 643-6770

Wind surfer sail \$75, boom \$75, harness \$30, foul-weather pants \$30, computer flat screen monitor \$75, 2-side printer \$50  
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# News and Notes

## Scholarship

*Continued from page 6.*

of the visual arts who are also Ventura County residents. Applicants need not be full time students, but must be actively pursuing art education.

A total of \$5,000 will be distributed in varying amounts, depending upon need and the number of students chosen. Applications must be received by mail only, by the deadline date. Further information and an application can be downloaded from the home page at [www.venturamuseum.org](http://www.venturamuseum.org). Applications are also available at the Museum of Ventura County, 89 S. California St. Museum hours are Frid. 11am to 8 pm, and Tue. through Thur., Sat. and Sun. from 11am to 6pm. An awards ceremony announcing recipients will be held at 4pm on Nov. 17, at the Museum.

Bonita C. McFarland was a generous benefactor to the arts in this county, and funds for this scholarship are generated from her endowment.

## Jail Time for Skinhead

by Michael Grisafe

Eugene Morrow, the purported leader of a local skinhead group, was sentenced to 15 years of prison October 7 after pleading guilty to felonies including possession of firearms, assault with intent to produce great bodily harm, and street terrorism.

Morrow, 39, and other alleged gang members were accused of attacking a Latino bouncer at the downtown bar, Sans Souci, in August 2005. A search of Morrow's house later revealed several illegal weapons.

Police officials searching Morrow's Ventura house following the incident found eight guns and white supremacist paraphernalia, which he reportedly sold through his web site.

A grand jury indicted Morrow on criminal charges for the 2005 and 2007 incidents, but he failed to appear in court January 11. Later, police apprehended Morrow in Pahrump, Nevada when he was arrested for criminal threats and suspicion of weapons charges.

Over the years, Morrow has been convicted of felony theft, possession of an illegal substance, and in 1998, a hate crime in which he stabbed an Asian man.

## CMH recognized by NRC

Community Memorial Hospital has been recognized by the National Research Corporation (NRC) as one of the nation's top hospitals within their 2008/09 Consumer Choice Award winners. The award identifies hospitals which healthcare consumers have chosen as having the highest quality and image in over 250 markets throughout the U.S. This is the thirteenth year NRC has awarded hospitals whose consumers have recognized them for providing the highest quality healthcare.

Ginny Martin, President of NRC's Healthcare Market Guide Division, said winners are determined by consumer perceptions on multiple quality and image ratings collected in the company's Healthcare Market Guide Ticker® study. Of the 3,200 hospitals named by consumers in the study, the winning facili-

ties rank highest in their Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), as defined by the US Census Bureau. The Healthcare Market Guide Ticker study surveyed over 200,000 households representing over 400,000 consumers in the contiguous 48 states and the District of Columbia.

"Consumers continue to be empowered to make decisions for themselves and their families when selecting their healthcare facilities and services," Martin said. "As care options multiply and consumer perception of quality grows in importance, dedication to providing a high level of quality healthcare becomes essential for hospitals. These Consumer Choice award winners exemplify the dedication it takes to provide quality healthcare to their communities, and we are please to honor them through the eyes of their patients."

NRC's Healthcare Market Guide Ticker is the nation's largest and most comprehensive study of its kind. No other study used to measure hospital performance and preferences contains more consumer responses than NRC's study. The study has a margin of error of + or - 0.2 percent at a national level. Co-winners are named when scores fall within the statistical margin of error for a given market.

National Research Corporation (NASDAQ: NRCI) is an industry leader, with more than two decades of experience in healthcare performance measurement and improvement.



Just a small part of group enjoying the wonderful evening at Pier Under the Stars

## 15th annual Pier Under the Stars a success

Since its original construction in 1872 the Ventura Pier has stood as a symbol of Ventura's rich history.

In 1993 the 121 year old historic Ventura Pier underwent a \$3.2 million restoration with funding provided by several State agencies.

Several years ago, in order to preserve and maintain the pier for future generations, community leaders created Pier Into the Future, a non-profit organization, to establish an endowment fund.

On Oct.4 they presented their 15th annual Pier Under the Stars, Ventura's premiere food and wine tasting fundraiser for the historic pier.

The event, attended by hundreds, included food and wine tasting (25 cuisine donors and 21 beverage donors), silent auction, music and dancing and seating on the boardwalk to enjoy the our beautiful ocean.

Even though it rained during the day at was an absolutely shirt sleeve evening for this wonderful event.

Also enjoying the evening was mayor Christy Weir and council members Jim Monahan and Carl Morehouse.

# At The Movies

## Pompey's Halloween Pics

by Tim Pompey

All right fans, it's that time of year, when studios allegedly roll out their annual sci-fi and horror pics and wait for you to plunk down huge amounts of dollars for blood, gore, fright, and nervous laughter.

Funny thing, though. This years, waiting for new releases from my roach coach of fright, all that's arrived (so far) are worn out retreads. Saw V? Quarantine? Please. So, ever diligent to make sure you get what you ask for, I've decided to recommend some spooky DVDs available in your local haunted video store. I want to satisfy what all Americans believe is their inalienable right, a genuine Halloween Fest.

**Spiderwick Chronicles:** Let's start on the light side. Here's a family flic for kiddies and parents who want scary entertainment that doesn't involve body parts and spattered blood. SC is wonderful magic with just the right amount of humor, adventure, and frightfulness. Good special effects and the lingering question: Are those brothers really twins?

**Cloverfield:** Never mind this movie might make you car sick, Executive Producer J.J. Abrams (from the T.V. series Lost) has pieced together (ala Blair Witch Project) a nice little homemade sci-fi video about a band of friends trying to escape nasty other-worldly invaders in The Big Apple. Be prepared for the inevitable.

These aliens are numerous, hungry, and the mother is very very . . . BIG.

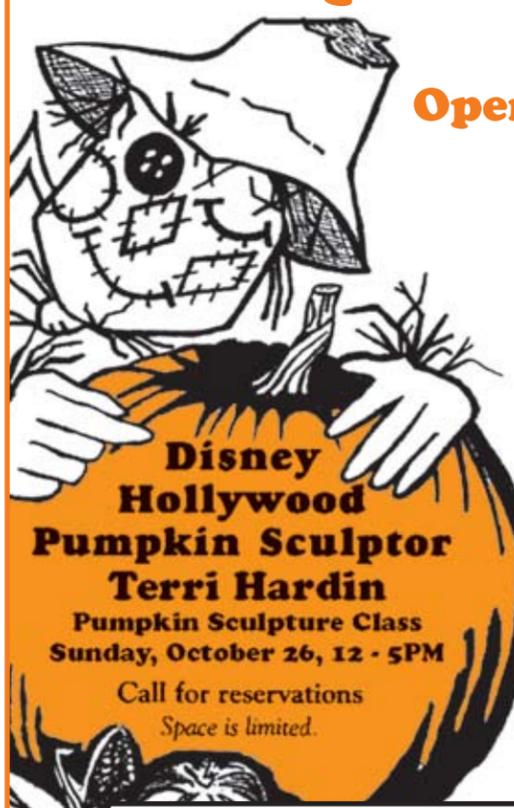
**Shutter:** You've seen American remakes of Japanese films (The Ring, Grudge). Here's an American remake of a Thai film with a Japanese director. Call it global horror. Joshua Jackson, a fashion photographer on honeymoon in Japan with bride Rachel Taylor, manages to pick up a very menacing "spirit" in his camera. Stick with it. There's a twist to this movie and it provides a lesson for all men. When you travel to faraway countries, please be courteous to the ladies.

**The Ruins:** College friends vacationing in Mexico decide to visit some ancient temples and encounter a gruesome species of singing vine. Ridiculous, yes, but creepy enough to get under your skin (literally). Should I say it grows on you? All right, stop it! But seriously, this movie will convince you that if you hear a cell phone ringing in the bushes, leave it alone.

**Otis:** Finally, here's one's for fans who like their slasher movies cheap, bloody, and funny. Truly offbeat, lots of mutilated flesh, and quite hysterical. Otis is a larrrrrrge pizza delivery man who wants a prom date. Never mind he's in his 30's. It's his methods of persuasion that need refinement. With a great supporting cast, lots of satire, and really bright lights, it's a guilty (and gruesome) pleasure.

Well, there you have it. Here's to Halloween and scary fun for everyone. And don't forget to turn the lights off when you go to bed. After all, tis the season and nightmares are the best part.

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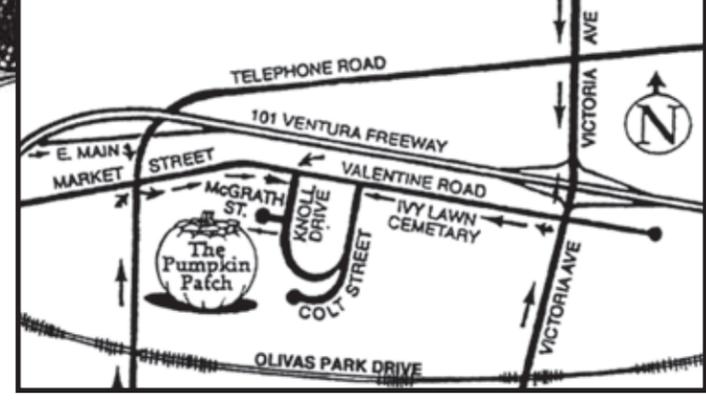
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Pre-register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)

**10:28 a.m. — Kinetic Sculpture Launch**  
Launch Ramp On Anchors Way Behind Four Points Sheraton

**10:30 a.m. — Water Course Race**  
Best Viewed Along The Ventura Harbor Village Promenade

**12 Noon — Sand Challenge**  
Harbor Cove Beach (a.k.a. Mother's Cove) To Surfer's Beach

**1:00 p.m. — See Vehicles Up Close & Meet The Racers!**  
Lunch Break At Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn

**2:00 p.m. — Kinetic Sculpture Road Race**  
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**2:30 p.m. — Mud Challenge**  
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PHOTO: CREDIT: ALAN HALE

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