



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 3, No. 5

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Rated R: Risky and Rogue for the Rubicon

by Mira Reverente

They “ooohed” and they “aaahed” and giggled like schoolgirls. A dozen distinguished and respectable women were gathered at the Rubicon Theater mid-morning one fall day bursting with nervous anticipation. What was the excitement all about?

The event was the unveiling of the 2010 Hot Dames calendar, featuring the Grandes Dames, the all-volunteer auxiliary of the Rubicon Theater Company. No ordinary calendar by any measure, the glossy calendar featured the women in various sensual scenes from previously staged plays at the Rubicon.

Making a statement

Wendy Gillett, president of the Grandes Dames, had a light bulb moment. “We’ve done cookbooks and wine labels in the past. I wanted to try something out of the ordinary, to raise money for the theater. So I brought it up with the women and they embraced the concept,” said Gillett.

The Grandes Dames was formed in 1999, the same year that the Rubicon Theater converted an old church on Main Street and made it its home. Long-time Ventura resident and patroness of the arts Sandra Laby recalled, “Over the years, we’ve always done some type of



At least 1,000 Venturans braved the 50 degree weather on Saturday, December 5 to enjoy the lighting of the tree at the San Buenaventura Mission.

Hot cider was served on the Plaza by the Watermark to take the chill off and Santa was there on his one horse open sleigh brought in by the Armstrong family.

Choirs and carolers on every corner, children and friends abounded and the holiday spirit was all around! Fr. Mike spoke from the mission steps with a blessing for all...it just doesn’t get much better! It was truly a Holiday Happening!

fundraising for the theater and its upkeep. But this year, we wanted to make a statement!”

The “calendar girls” were chosen using a lottery system. Anyone could nominate anyone, including themselves, for \$25. Stephanie Moro explained, “So we were all sitting there with bated breath until the 12 names were picked out.

Continued on page 2



The Rubicon Grandes Dames Dolores Sherwood, Gene Pitman, Rosa Lee Measures, Hazel Faciano, Stephanie Moro, Sandra Laby, Faye McDonald, Merle DiVita, Cynthia Louhgman, Helen Yunker and Seana-Marie Sesma show “it all” in the 2010 Hot Dames calendar. Photo by Jeanne Tanner Photography.



Being sworn in as new city council members are Jim Monahan, Neal Andrews, Mike Tracy and Brian Brennan. Monahan, Andrews and Brennan are returning to the council and Tracy is a new member who was also selected by the council to act as the new Deputy Mayor.

City Council installs new leadership

by Tim Pompey

It was a changing of the guard, so to speak. The Ventura City Council installed its new leadership during its regular weekly meeting on Monday, December 7. A new Councilmember. A new Mayor. A new Deputy Mayor. One outgoing Councilmember.

There were ceremonies, presentations, and congratulatory speeches in abundance, not to mention a large cake, a party at The Watermark, and a political surprise or two.

Certificates of recognition and words of note were passed along to outgoing Mayor Christy Weir and outgoing Councilmember Ed Summers from such political aficionados as California Senator Tony Strickland, County Supervisor Steve Bennet, California Assemblymember Pedro Nava (via his Field Representa-

tive Marie Lakin), and Deputy Mayor Bill Fulton. Weir received a sculpture from Michele Chapin. Summers received a pigment print from Liz Schwitters. Both are noted local artists from Ventura.

Continued on page 2

Opinion/Editorial.....	3
Mail Box.....	3
City News.....	3
News and Notes.....	4
Community Events.....	9
Art Scene.....	10
Professor Scamp.....	11
Police and Fire Reports.....	11
Senior Living.....	13
School.....	14
Wright Library - the battle continues..	15
Business.....	16
Health.....	16
Religion.....	17
Movie Time.....	17
The Lighter Breeze.....	18



Brighton. DEC 4th, 2009 - DEC 20th, 2009

BRIGHTON ON THE GO '09

Receive this **FREE** custom designed 2010 Dayplanner & Journal set when you make a single Brighton purchase of \$100 or more. Our Brighton 2010 Dayplanner & Journal set will help you manage your time and best of all, it fits in your Brighton handbag! (Limit one per customer, while supplies last.)

394 EAST MAIN STREET, VENTURA, CA 93001
(CORNER OF OAK AND MAIN)
(805) 648-4654
STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 10-6 SUNDAY 11-5
partsunknown.com

Donate \$5 SAVE A LIFE!

American Red Cross
Ventura County Chapter

"We are able to focus on the fires because we know the Red Cross will be there for the families".

Now, they need our help.

One \$5 donation, the equivalent of one cup of fancy coffee, from each of us will ensure Red Cross of Ventura County will be there when we need them.

go to...
www.5dollarsavesalife.org



The Hot Dames look beautiful even with their clothes on

Rated R

Continued from page 1

It was fun waiting for the line-up to be completed." Moro appeared in the group photo.

Getting into their characters

"February!" was the first thing that came out of Merle Di Vita's mouth when her name was picked. Wearing nothing else but her red stilettos and garters, the certified financial planner from Ventura channeled Nurse Ratched from "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest."

Noted Ventura philanthropist Helen Yunker was thrilled to be a calendar girl for the first time in her life. Photographer Jeanne Tanner recalled a funny moment with the octogenarian, "Tom Lowe, in character as Stanley, from "A Streetcar Named Desire" was talking dirty and growling at Helen to keep things fun. She was sassy as Blanche, tossing comments right back at him."

Tanner added, "Let's just say that a few of the women said they would have also loved to have Tom as a prop!" That is probably what was on former Ventura deputy mayor Rosa Lee Measures' mind - a prop to ensure some coverage. "I had some butterflies in my stomach. I also made some requests like no cleavage and legs only, to make sure it was modest," said Measures.

No regrets

Looking back after stepping into female lead Aldonza's shoes for "Man of La Mancha", Laby considered a couple of variations. "Perhaps a little wine in my belly would have helped calm my nerves. Plus more props maybe? I went first so by the time the others got their turns, they had all sorts of props. But everyone was wonderful and professional," said Laby.

Tanner, who specializes in boudoir photography among other things, also

had good things to say. Tanner explained, "The women were brilliant to work with. They embrace life and love the arts. They showed their support in an unabashed way."

To see the ladies "bear it all" the calendars are available for \$25 at:

The Rubicon Theater
1006 E. Main Street
Ventura, CA 93001
805.667.2912 ext. 237 (Amber Landis, development coordinator)

Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau
101 S. California St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805.648.2075

The Wine Rack
14 S. California St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805.653.9463/805.648.7748

Breeze:

The ladies of the night will be signing the calendar at the Wine Rack this evening from 6:30 to 8pm so be sure to go to meet the ladies and to buy a copy.

City Council

Continued from page 1

In his outgoing speech, Summers urged citizens to recognize the differences between Ventura and other cities in the County regarding how tax revenues are assessed and to "look to the betterment of our community and have all our priorities in line, not just individual ones."

The evening turned lively when nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor were announced. Current Deputy Mayor Bill Fulton was nominated for Mayor by Weir and Morehouse and received a unanimous vote from the Council.

The surprise of the evening happened

Continued on page 5

Let us be your sleigh ride to LAX...

Happy Holiday Discount!
\$30.00 one way for travel before January 1st.
Round trip \$60.00

the VENTURA county
Airporter shuttle

Depart Ventura
4:30am • 6:30am • 8:30am • 10:45am • 1pm • 3:15pm • 5:30pm • 7:30pm
•Oxnard departs 15 minutes later.
•No departures: 7:30pm Vta, 7:45pm Oxn, 9:30pm LAX-on Saturdays only.

Depart LAX
6:30am • 8:30am • 11am • 1pm • 3:15pm • 5:30pm • 7:30pm • 9:30pm

805.650.6600 PSC 6291
Holiday Inn Express
FREE Parking at the Holiday Inn parking lot
1080 Navigator Dr., Ventura
e-tickets online at www.venturashuttle.com

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

The Ventura Breeze is your free local community newspaper published every other Wednesday and circulated throughout Ventura and to many locations in Ojai.

PUBLISHER

Sheldon Brown
brownsheldon@sbcglobal.net

PET EDITOR

Professor Scamp
scampclub@venturabreeze.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tim Pompey
Rebecca Wicks
Nanci Cone
Karlene Lang
Mira Reverente
Joseph Owen

SENIOR ADVISORS

Nanci Cone
Suz Montgomery

ADVERTISING ADVISORS

Leslie Ann Matthias
leslie10@sbcglobal.net
Stacey Armijo
ccmijo@aol.com

PRODUCTION ADVISOR

Alfred J. Lewis
studioNothing
alfred@studioothing.com

PRINTING

Roger Wirsing
American Foothill Publishing Co.

REACHING US:

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS
events@venturabreeze.com

OPINIONS
opinions@venturabreeze.com

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS
editor@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING
advertising@venturabreeze.com

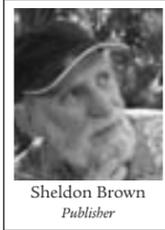
Ventura Breeze

1575 Spinnaker Drive, 105B-393
Ventura, CA 93001
805.653.0791 · Fax 805.641.3158



The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

Shooting Da Breeze

I want to wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope that you have a wonderful holiday.

Well, I need to apologize one more time for my sardonic sense of humor. Admittedly, I should listen to Diane and leave the jokes to Scamp. No one ever gets mad at him, the lucky dog. In my last article, I made a comment regarding the city council that some took way too seriously. One example comes from the following email.

Sheldon:

First you said that "Mayor Weir said that they would be taking a 10 minute break and it was at least 15 minutes long, that is 50% longer than stated".

Yet at the bottom of the page I see: "If you follow all the rules, you miss all the fun" (Katherine Hepburn).

Party Pooper!

Name withheld by me.

I was kidding, folks.

The recent inauguration of our new city council was the "social event" of the year. The standing room only crowd was full of people whom I have never seen at any other city council meeting. I guess

this event is something that Venturans have to be seen at to be part of the "in" crowd. It would nice to see them also attend meetings that deal with more important issues affecting our community.

The big surprise of the night was Mike Tracy being selected to the mostly ceremonial position of deputy mayor 10 minutes after officially becoming a first-time council member. With no experience under his belt, he is now a flu bug away from acting as mayor. As qualified as Mr. Tracy may be, that is a big responsibility for the "new guy." Historically, selection of the deputy mayor is based upon seniority, which means that the council should have elected Neal Andrews to the post. However, by a 5-2 vote the newbie was elected instead. Could it have been because Neal is often the only "no" vote on council actions?

The humor of the night came from one of my favorite gadflies, who was apparently trying to make some point by complaining that the city hall bathrooms had Boraxo dispensers and foam soap dispensers (or something like that -- no one really knew what he was talking about or the point he was trying to make). In any event, I thought that his concern merited an investigation so I checked out the

public bathroom after the meeting. To my horror, I was shocked to find very expensive toilet paper with flower designs stamped into it. It doesn't take an advanced degree in economics to figure out that the city could buy its toilet paper at the 99 cent store and save at least \$8.43 per year. What could they be thinking? (I'M KIDDING!)

I have two observations about the Harbor.

The Port District has hired a Realtor to try to rent currently vacant space and have installed 3 large rental signs on Spinnaker which really detract from the Harbor's ambience. Rental signs are fine (have to fill the space up), but can't they be smaller and have a theme that ties into the Harbor's overall design and colors?

And speaking of colors, my other observation is that white seagull droppings are already showing on some of the newly-painted, orange buildings and it looks awful! The droppings aren't so readily apparent on the lighter paint and that should have been a design consideration when selecting the new colors. It will probably need to be changed at the expense of the Port District. The orange roofs have this same problem, but I suppose nothing can be done about that.

Mailbox

the mother who recently described her enjoyment of the playground equipment adjacent to the Ventura pier. She waxed on about the natural wonders of the area only diminished by smoke from the nearby frequenters of the path under the pier.

Well, we all know who was spoiling the bucolic scene: It was the homeless. I went down to take a look and, sure enough, there was a gaggle of more or less ragged folks congregating near the pier. I'm guessing that some of them may sleep under the pier or in the nearby bushes. The wind, as it sometimes is, was onshore.

I'm not homeless, I drive an SUV so I'm not part of the gaggle. My complaint is that while she complained of cigarette smoke I'll bet she excepted BBQ and chestnuts on an open fire from her list of abhorrent odors.

I know she probably had second-hand smoke in the back of her mind and perhaps second-hand smoke is distasteful in a bar or office. What she really meant was that it was too bad that people had to be poor, mentally ill, addicted or homeless in front of her.

Any day, but especially these days, people may suffer the adversity of being foreclosed upon, homeless, bankrupt, or a dirty martini too far. What angers me is the gross lack of compassion shown by those who by fortune are still solvent or sober. These people spoil my day every day and today I say so.

John Deegan
Ventura

Dear City Council Members and Staff:

Tonight (Dec. 7) I am making my last presentation for the year 2009, and I just wish it could be my last on the status of City Lot #7. Twelve years ago, a major landslide occurred and there is still no final solution of a permanent fix to stabilize to protect my home.

Since 2005, when the city sold the lot, the city has done NOTHING to enforce the terms of the sale which required the urgently needed stabilization within 3 years, or by 2008. And now, the buyer also does NOTHING and defaults. Shockingly, the city extends the buyer's contract on June 1st, 2009 in order for him to find a replacement buyer to take over the terms of the original sales agreement. But, most impor-

tantly, it allowed the City to avoid again taking responsibility for ongoing damages being caused by its own destabilized lot.

To date, "three birds in the hand" have backed out of escrows and a 4th bird has now gone into the escrow nest with a closing date of February 2010. Then, the new buyer will have another 3 years to develop the lot. Is this not "passing the buck" and hanging me out to dry -- or DIE?

The Christmas holidays are now here, and time to remember our family, friends and associates with a card greeting. Tonight I have in hand the Christmas card I presented to you in 2002, four years after the landslide. Tonight, as we approach the 12th Grinchmas-after-landslide, I am sadly compelled to present the same card, with the same sentiments.

"You stole my rights, You stole my home, You stole my money. You stole my life, You stole 12 Christmases from me."

Hopefully, with the new council, this nightmare will end, allowing me to resume my Good Works in our community during my few remaining years.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!!!

Helen Yunker

Corrections

We have 3 corrections after the fact that are not our fault, but we still should have caught them. We don't always have time to verify all of the information that we receive in press releases.

In our last issue we had a story on giving blood at the Saturday Farmer's Market that stated that "Individuals who donate a pint of blood will receive a \$250 gift certificate to Trader Joes". It should have said that you would be entered to win the \$250.00 certificate. Hopefully you still gave blood if you went there.

The second error was a police report about an incident at a local high school during school hours that said the incident occurred at 11 pm. Now, our students are conscientious but they're not at school at 11pm, obviously it should have been 11am.

Finally, we reported that the Mission tree would be lit at 5:30 but it was actually to be at 6:30. It was a wonderful event and evening, so waiting until 6:30 was very worth it.

City News

Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Rennie to lead the Ventura Fire Department

Congratulations to Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Rennie who has been chosen by Ventura City Manager Rick Cole as the next chief of the Fire Department. Rennie was selected from a group of 3 that also included 2 other very qualified candidates

Battalion Chief Luis Espinosa and Captain Doug Miser. The candidates were rated by a special panel which included two fire chiefs, three city division heads, a captain representing the Ventura City Firefighters Association, and the city's current and future Police chiefs. Kevin was praised for his experience, vision and character.

Rennie, a near-30 year veteran of the Ventura Fire Department will step in for five-year fire chief Mike Lavery, who retires at the end of December. Lavery served the Ventura Fire Department for more than 30 years.

The fire department is in a major transition which will impose many challenges on Kevin such as even steeper bud-

Continued on page 17

Hi Sheldon,

I think I found an article that may need a little clarification. In your Dec 2 edition, page 17 under the bank robbery on Telegraph Rd., it states that on Dec 13th at 11:00 p.m. that the VPD was dispatched to the site. At the end of the article it said the school was locked down. Was this robbery at night? If so, why was the school on lockdown? Perhaps the robbery was 11 am.?

Thanks,
Michael Blankenship
Oxnard

Michael:
Thanks for noticing that, we might have dedicated students but they don't go to school until 11pm.

And thanks for being an Oxnard reader.

Dear Breeze,

This letter has fermented and festered in my mind for about a month, maybe longer. The genesis of this mind-splinter was

Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Act as though it were impossible to fail.

— Dorthea Brandt



City News

The future of community development in Ventura: An interview with Jeffrey Lambert

by Tim Pompey

As of June 2009, Jeffrey Lambert is the new community development director for the City of Ventura. A graduate of Clark University and USC, Jeffrey previously worked as a planner in West Hollywood and Santa Clarita. The Breeze recently caught up with him to discuss the future of community development in Ventura.

T: What do you see as some of the major challenges currently facing community development here in Ventura?

J: Roughly, the biggest is infill. It's one thing to set a policy of "infill" first (i.e. filling in available lands within the city as opposed to creating more urban sprawl). What that does is create development that's adjacent to existing communities, so there's potential conflict with that development. Our challenge is to make sure that we can fulfill the goal of infill first, as opposed to continuing to push out into the backland.

T: So that philosophy is a challenge in what sense?

J: It's an important way of doing business in city development, because it really is an efficient way of doing development. It allows people to have stuff nearby that they want to go to without having to drive everywhere: school, shopping, jobs. This means our first goal is to actually build on development that may be vacant. It's easier to build out where nothing's happening because there's nobody around to be concerned. Infill is just inherently harder. It doesn't mean it's impossible. It just means we have to work a little harder and have better communication with the surrounding neighborhood councils.

T: Is that part of what you describe as "smart growth"?

J: Yes, the whole concept of urban infill is smart growth. Ventura set the stage to be a leader in this area when we adopted our general plan in 2005. The whole approach of Ventura is to do urban infill and not push out to the edges. In this county, where agriculture is so important, it makes sense to do that.

T: What areas do you foresee as having the greatest potential for housing growth in Ventura?

J: What the city did after approving the general plan in 2005 is to move toward a form-based code, which is less about use and more about the form of the building. That's probably more important to us than

the actual use because it's all about the way the building feels. We put a form-based code into place two years ago for the two corridors on Main and Thompson. Ultimately, when people start looking at development along those corridors, most of it will be mixed use (ground floor retail, residential above), so I would say those two corridors have great potential for housing.

T: Given the city's current revenue shortfall, what do you think community development can do to help increase the city's tax revenues?

J: We own real estate downtown (mostly through our Redevelopment agency), and the purpose of owning real estate is to leverage the land we own into development. We have active properties that we're continuing to talk about on both sides of Chestnut, south of Poli — the two parking lots — so we're talking to those surrounding property owners about how to use our land and leverage it into development. We own a lot of the parking lots downtown, south of Main Street. So making that land available is clearly a strategy that redevelopment allows and encourages us to do.

T: What type of redevelopment?

J: Probably consistent with our downtown specific plan. It would be mixed use, commercial on the ground floor, maybe additional parking or another parking structure so that we can encourage development downtown. Our biggest challenge with downtown development is parking. Our biggest asset is land we own. We don't have a lot of cash to offer as incentives for development but we have land and that's a pretty big incentive.

T: Is there any specific type of economic area that you're targeting?

J: When people ask what's the basic industry in Ventura, right now it's government. We don't have an Amgen: that sort of significant high-paying job. We now have a strategy that came out of the economic summit held back in May. The city along with the Chamber of Commerce sponsored this economic summit. So much of our economic strategy is going to be from the outcomes of that summit and the biggest one is to focus on growing "green" jobs — looking for opportunities for people to create an environment for people who want to create green, environmentally sensitive jobs that are also well-paid and that can locate here.

Humane Society seeks donations for abused puppy's surgery

The Humane Society of Ventura County is seeking donations to help cover the surgical and care costs for a Boxer puppy whose front leg and elbow recently were broken in several places as a result of alleged animal cruelty.

The five-month old puppy who the HSVC has named Emily was allegedly beaten by a Ventura man who was angry at his sister and took out his anger out on the dog, according to Sherry Brockus, executive director of the local nonprofit organization.

Humane Officers Tracy Vail and Alina Hoffman impounded the puppy and im-

mediately took her to Matilija Veterinary Hospital in Ojai, where x-rays revealed the severe injuries to her leg, Brockus said.

Dr. Matt Bailey of Matilija Veterinary hospital, and Dr. Eric Wright, DVM of Small Animal Surgical Associates in Ventura are helping cover some of the costs for the puppy's care and surgery, but Brockus estimates HSVC's costs to come to approximately \$2,500.

Brockus said HSVC officers are preparing a case to turn over to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, which will determine if charges will be filed.

The Humane Society of Ventura County is a private, nonprofit organization. It does not receive federal, state or local tax dollars to operate and relies solely on private donations. Donations may be sent to the HSVC shelter at P.O. Box 297, Ojai, 93024. For more information, call 656-5031, or visit www.humanesocietyvc.org.



Ex-mayor Christy Weir (now city council member) recently welcomed all to the opening of the new SHORE (Supportive Housing Opportunities in a Residential Environment) housing units on the corner of Thompson and Garden in downtown Ventura located in the WAV building

Venturans

It has been my honor and privilege to serve our city as Mayor for the past two years. We live in dynamic, challenging times—times of economic instability and declining revenues for local businesses and for the City of Ventura. Yet I have seen opportunities for positive change and a community that works together for the greater good, in the midst of financial challenges.

The City Council's job is to make fiscally responsible decisions in the context of what matters most for the long-term future of Ventura—for our children and grandchildren. With the economy in turmoil and our city budget shrinking, these choices can be unpleasant and are seldom popular. Approving the closure of Wright Library, the reduction of police patrols, sidewalk repairs, tree trimming and litter removal throughout the city, plus many more cuts, was painful but necessary to not burden current and future generations with unsustainable rising costs. Next year will hold more difficult debates on staff compensation policies, pension reform and additional service cuts because we have made a commitment to decrease our costs in proportion to our revenues.

When city government alone cannot afford to sustain a program or make neighborhood improvements, we will need to increasingly rely on collaboration. Public-private partnerships will prove to be even more crucial for enhancing our quality of life because we cannot continue to count on growing sales tax revenues with consumer spending on the decline.

One partnership that I'm particularly proud of has resulted in the revitalization of downtown Ventura. Visionary, motivated property and business owners (the Downtown Ventura Organization) working with City government have been responsible for exciting improvements we can all enjoy in the historic heart of our city. In spite of the recession, our downtown is becoming more vibrant and has seen dozens of unique new businesses open over the past two years.

The Community Park and Aquatic Center is another example of citizens working with the City to accomplish an ambitious goal. Through the dedication and drive of many community activists and city staff, funds were raised to complete three swimming pools and much-needed ball fields in east Ventura.

The City recently partnered with two non-profits (PLACE and Project Understanding) to build over 50 units of affordable housing downtown. This WAV (Working Artists Ventura) project will be our first certified "green" housing development.

The Chamber of Commerce collaborated with the City this year to create a high-tech business incubator behind City

Hall, which has already attracted nine start-up companies. New jobs are being grown here to help build high-wage employment in Ventura.

The Pierpont Community Council is actively working with the City on permanent solutions for sand build-up and problems with debris on our beaches.

There are opportunities all around us for individuals to participate in improving our community. The Botanic Garden board has received conceptual approval from the City Council to lease part of Grant Park to create world-class landscaping on our most geographically spectacular site. Your involvement is welcome.

A consortium of churches is renovating an old motel to create a transitional living center for the homeless called the Kingdom Center. You can help.

We will be collaborating with the Friends of the Library to upgrade Foster Library to ensure that our citizens have the best library services possible within our funding limits.

Volunteers are needed weekly for litter removal, beach clean-up, serving at our Senior Centers and at our youth and homeless programs. Donations of toys and food and clothing will help children in need. This holiday season, we can all give gifts to make someone's life better. To find out more about ways you can help, log on to www.cityofventura.net/volunteer_opportunities.

Ventura is blessed with active, caring citizens. We are fortunate to have an abundance of outstanding service clubs, small businesses, cultural and environmental and educational organizations, community councils and city staff. When you combine those assets with our deep historical roots and our gorgeous setting between two rivers, the ocean and the hills, what better place could there be to call home? Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Mayor and work together with so many talented, dedicated people who make a difference in our beautiful city every day.

Christy Weir

Council Contacts

These are the email addresses of your city council members. If you think that something in the city is wrong or right or needs improving, please email them and let them know. They are here to serve you.

Neal Andrews

ndrews@ci.ventura.ca.us

Brian Brennan

bbrennan@ci.ventura.ca.us

Bill Fulton

bfulton@ci.ventura.ca.us

Jim Monahan

jmonahan@ci.ventura.ca.us

Carl Morehouse

cmorehouse@ci.ventura.ca.us

Mike Tracy

mtracy@ci.ventura.ca.us

Christy Weir

cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us

Rick Cole

City Manager
citymanager@ci.ventura.ca.us



News and Notes

Memorial service honors Ventura homeless

At least twenty-one residents of the county have died homeless since the first of the year. The youngest was thirty-six and the oldest was seventy-one. Their names will be among those read at the Homeless Person's Memorial Service on December 20 at 3:00 p.m. in Plaza Park, across from the post office in downtown Ventura. The local service is being held in observance of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day which was designated as such in 1990 by the National Coalition for the Homeless to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to memorialize those who have paid the price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

The Rev. Jan Christian, minister of the Ventura congregation, notes that, "Those who are homeless are often feared and shunned, but the truth is that they are more often victims than perpetrators of violent crimes and they are among our most vulnerable citizens. What keeps us from ending homelessness is not a lack of resources, it's a pervasive belief that some people do not deserve our care and compassion, but the way we treat others always says more about us than it does about them." Last year, local clergy took out an ad which read, "It's 2008 and There is Still No Room at the Inn," drawing attention to the fact that there is no year-round shelter in this area, a problem that has yet to be remedied.

The service will include a reading of names of those who have died homeless, original music and readings from various religious traditions, all of which call on their adherents to care for those most in need of help. Hot drinks, cookies and bags with personal items will be provided by the Ventura church's youth group. Donations of blankets, jackets and bedrolls are welcome. To add names to the list or for more information, call Beth at 644-3898 ext. 100 or email her at luyv.beth@gmail.com.

Death Valley Days: professor leads museum trip

Experience the unique sand dunes, sculptured rocks and volcanic craters of Death Valley with geographer Dennis Napier as your tour director on a Museum of Ventura County three-day motor coach tour February 25-27, 2010.

The trip includes Death Valley National Park and Scotty's Castle tours, the ½ mile wide Ubehebe Crater, and other sites such as Badwater, the lowest elevation in the Western hemisphere. Trip director Napier, who taught geography at Long Beach City College for 32 years, leads travel programs throughout the world.

The tour is \$525 per person for double occupancy (single occupancy \$655), which includes the escorted motor coach tour, tours of upper and lower Death Valley and Scotty's Castle, 2 nights at the Furnace Creek Ranch, three meals, and luggage handling. The tour departs from Ventura, Glendale, or Mission Viejo.

To register by the Monday, January 25 deadline, contact the Museum of Ventura

County's Danielle Martell at 641-1876, x 305. For more details about the trip, visit: www.californiadiscovery.com.



Central Coast Rotary sends Ventura young professionals to Bangladesh

Rotary Group Study Exchange program promotes vocational and cultural exchange

Rotary District 5240 is pleased to announce the selection of the 2010 Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team to Bangladesh. Under the direction of team leader and Rotarian, John Kenyon, the GSE team will leave for Bangladesh, in early January 2010 and return in February 2010. The four team members are Andrea Barkan, Marjorie Wass, Jim Bailey and Kevin Clerici.

Rotary's GSE program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for non-Rotarian businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 who are in the early stages of their careers.

The four team members were chosen out of a pool of 17 applicants from Rotary District 5240.

Rotary District 5240 welcomes the following 2010 GSE Team Members and Team Leader:

The two selections from Ventura are:

Andrea Barkan who works as a grant writer for the Santa Barbara Symphony and as a grants manager for Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association in Ventura. Barkan attended California State University, Northridge and earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism.

Kevin Clerici has been a staff writer at the Ventura County star since 2004. Clerici attended the University of Arizona and earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Creative Writing.

The two other winners are Marjorie Wass, a resident of Santa Barbara and Jim Bailey a resident of Ojai.

Team Leader John Kenyon is a resident of Ojai. He was a Jiffy Lube Franchisee with stores in Los Angeles and Ventura County from 1985 to 2008.

Those interested in applying to participate in the 2011 GSE program can call John Kenyon at 798-0886 or email jlkenyon@aol.com.

City Council

Continued from page 2

opened during nominations for Deputy Mayor. General assumption was that, based on seniority and rotation, Neal Andrews would be the logical successor. His name was put forth by Carl Morehouse. Citing their political differences in the past, Morehouse chose to set them aside, calling Fulton and Andrews the Council's "intellectual powerhouses." He urged other Councilmembers to follow his example.

However, Brian Brennan nominated newly elected Councilmember Mike Tracy, largely because of his background in public safety, something that could prove quite valuable during upcoming negotiations



Nerces Eykjian from Nerces Fine Jewelry; Debbie Fox from Fox Fine Jewelry and Bob Lynn, from Lynn's Jewelry Studio have banded together to aid the Points of Light Institute

Three tough jewelry competitors in Ventura become allies

Three Ventura jewelry stores have banded together this holiday season to send a united message of giving and volunteering in a program called "Share Ring". They are raising money for the charity Points of Light Institute by donating 100% of profits from a symbolic necklace. The same necklace will be given away to the unemployed.

Fox Fine Jewelry, Nerces Fine Jewelry, and Lynn's Jewelry Studio have joined forces, selling the Share Ring necklace for \$39.99. The circular sterling silver pendant is inscribed with Hope, Strength, and Unity. It is fashionable for both men and women when paired with either a chain or a black cord.

100% of manufacturer's, distributor's, and jeweler's profits are donated to the national charity, the Points of Light Institute. The Institute promotes and manages volunteering and donating through its 250 member partners nationwide, including Handson

Network and MissionFish, which raises over 50 million annually for thousands of charities see www.pointsoflight.org.

Necklaces will also be given away, for free, to the unemployed. To claim their necklace, individuals show proof of unemployment, such as an unemployment stub or termination letter, along with personal identification.

"Our local jewelers are demonstrating that in spite of the bad economy, we can all help," notes Debbie Fox, co-owner of Fox Fine Jewelry. "Buying, wearing, and giving Share Ring reminds people to volunteer and donate. We can pull ourselves out of this crisis by finding ways to give and help others."

For more information or to purchase Share Ring, please visit the local jewelers, www.sharingring.org, or one of the additional 15 national participating jewelers listed on the website.

with the local police union. In a 5-2 vote, Tracy carried the day and became the City's new Deputy Mayor.

The evening was capped with remarks made by former Deputy Mayor Bill Fulton, who will now serve as Mayor for the next two years. Taking time to thank his family members, Fulton proclaimed that "this moment is not about who the new mayor is, but the miracle of democracy." He continued by saying that "this moment is about voters and what the voters have done."

He promised he would be focused on three things. First, he would take time to "reshape things" and make his primary

goal one of "prosperity." Second, he would work to make Ventura "financially sustainable as a city government." Finally, in a nod to the current global warming conference in Copenhagen, he promised to address Ventura's environmental issues. Admitting the possibility of rising sea levels along the Ventura coast, he admitted: "You can't prosper while you're drowning."

When the speeches were finished and the Council adjourned, a rare moment was witnessed in Council chambers: They finished early and there were a lot of smiling faces. For those who had won an election, along with friends and family, it was time to celebrate.

North Pole Express
November 28—December 27
Wednesday Through Sunday
6:00pm or 7:30pm
Come in your PJ's, ride to the "North Pole" to pick up Santa.
Adults \$26 Youth 2-12 \$16
Child under 2 free on lap

Christmas Tree
Saturday and Sunday
Nov. 28 thru Dec. 20 10am & 2pm
Ride the train to cut down your own tree and visit with Santa.
Adults \$24 Senior \$22
Youth 4-12 \$14 Child 2-3 \$10

Dinner With Santa
Friday and Sunday Evenings
Dec 4 thru Dec. 20 Departs: 5:30pm
Dining with a visit from the jolly old gent!
Adults \$47 Youth 2-12 \$26
Child under age 2 (ride only) Free on lap

FILLMORE & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.
800.773.TRAIN www.fwry.com 805.524.2548



News and Notes

THE PIERPONT INN & SPA

Holiday Events

Christmas
Dinner 12PM-6PM
Traditional menu with a gourmet twist
\$35 Adults / \$15 Children 5-12 / Children under 12 years eat free

New Years Eve
Dinner 5-9PM
Five Course Prefix Dinner with Champagne \$65 Per Person

Lounge Bash 9PM-1AM
Cover charge includes: one cocktail, hors d'oeuvres, party favors, live music by the Eric Lemaire Band
Call for more info

Overnight Package
Includes: hotel room, continental breakfast, NYE dinner for 2, entrance to the NYE Lounge Bash \$250

Make your reservations today!
Call 643-6144

99 Years of Tradition
550 Sanjon Rd., Ventura www.pierpontinn.com

Contractor performing repairs at Casa Serena

McCarthy Building Companies' "Heart Hats" community involvement program is dedicated to encouraging, supporting and recognizing McCarthy employees' volunteer efforts in a variety of causes to ensure real needs are being met in communities where employees work, live and play. McCarthy "Heart Hats" donates countless hours of in-kind services and monetary contributions to improve communities each year.

A team from McCarthy's Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital project will be performing repairs to Casa Serena's Main House, which services phase I residents in a 90-day program, and the Grad House, used for phase II longer-term care. Casa Serena has been helping women in the Santa Barbara area for 50 years and is located at 1515 Bath St. Santa Barbara

Harrison holiday pickups

Since both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Friday this holiday season, only customers of Harrison Industries who have their trash and recyclables or green waste collected on Friday will have them collected one day later than usual both weeks. Service will remain the same for customers who have their trash and recyclables or green waste collected on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

As a special holiday feature, residents may put out twice the amount of trash at no extra charge during the two weeks following Christmas. Please make sure the trash is in bags. They will also collect extra recyclables, but please make sure to flatten all boxes.

Also, Harrison Industries is making it easy for its customers to recycle their Christmas trees. All customers need to do is remove the ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, bows, nails and tree stand, then cut the tree into sections no more than 4 feet long and place in the yard waste barrel on their scheduled pickup day. Please note, however that flocked trees cannot be recycled.

Bus fares to increase

On December 2 Gold Coast Transit adopted its first fare increase since 2003. The increase will occur in two phases. Starting January 24, 2010, GCT's adult bus fare will increase from \$1.25 to \$1.35. Fares for a trip on GCT's ACCESS paratransit service, for people with disabilities and seniors aged 65 or older will increase by \$0.20 to \$2.70.

In July of 2011, the second phase of the fare increase will take effect, with GCT's adult bus fare increasing \$0.15 to \$1.50 and GCT's ACCESS paratransit service increasing by \$0.30 to \$3.00 per ride.

"Our primary goal is to keep buses operating for those who depend upon public transportation the most and we have done that for the near term" said Deborah Linehan, GCT's General Manager. "We are able to avoid major bus service reductions for now by reducing some expenses, taking advantage of federal stimulus funds and asking the Board of Directors to approve a moderate fare increase after seven years of fare stability," Linehan said.



Goodwill replacing Nicholby Antiques

by Rebecca Wicks

Downtown will be losing yet another antique store when Nicholby Antiques vacates its retail space sometime in January next year. A longtime fixture on Ventura's Main Street, the store is one of a series of independently-owned stores that have closed including Truebloods, Heirlooms, RustyNail Furniture and Main Street Antiques.

Goodwill has signed a five-year lease with two five-year options for the coveted corner space which has some Venturans concerned.

"There is a lot of rummaging that goes on behind some of those thrift stores on Main Street," said Tiffany Read. "It ends up looking like a big mess, and that's where a lot of us park when we go downtown - it's unsightly."

Ventura and Santa Barbara County Goodwill President and CEO Kathy Leahy explained that there will be no drop-off services at the retail-only store slated for the space.

"I worry that people will just drop things off anyway," said Jeff Turner, a downtown resident.

Other concerns include issues surrounding regular delivery-truck traffic and trash issues in the seemingly narrow back alley behind the store.

"It's such a small space back there, there isn't even room for a trash dump-

ster," said Turner.

Prompted by these and other anxieties, the Ventura City Council voted last month to instate a moratorium on new thrift stores so that rules can be created to reduce unwanted impact to the neighborhood.

The measure outlined that thrift stores should be defined and handled differently than general retail outlets. It is unclear whether the moratorium will delay or stop Goodwill from entering the space.

Councilman Neal Andrews was the only member to vote against the moratorium calling it unnecessary.

Leahy has stated she is looking forward to participating in process of developing rules for thrift stores in Ventura. According to Leahy, there are plans to significantly enhance the interior of the building which is preparing for a March opening.

The store will be the second Goodwill store in Ventura, and the 11th in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Leahy expects the store to hire 10 employees.

Many long-time antique shoppers of the area are disappointed to see Nicholby's leave.

"I love shopping downtown for antiques and will miss Nicholby's," said Wanda Wear of Thousand Oaks who drives to Ventura to shop in the downtown antique stores once a month. "The stores are definitely starting to thin out though."

"Downtown is definitely losing some of its charm and character," said Jennifer Kirk, a graphic designer in Ventura who regularly shops downtown. "I'm sad to see another Ventura establishment go."

Kirk does shop at the Goodwill and says she will most likely go to the new downtown location when it opens. She likes the convenience of having stores such as Urban Outfitters and American Apparel nearby, but still shops and encourages others to support local businesses in order to "keep the quirky, unique stores afloat."

Breeze:

After hearing testimony at a marathon council meeting held on Monday Dec. 14 the city council, on a 6-1 vote (Andrews being the no) approved a 45 day moratorium on thrift stores in the Downtown Specific Plan Area.

A 45 day moratorium is the maximum allowed under these conditions. Staff will return to Council during that period with recommendations and the possibility of extending the moratorium another 10 months as allowed by law.

Dexters Camera "Since 1960"



Transfer your Old Home Videos To DVD!

Make Pictures 1x1 to 24x36 in Minutes

Ventura 484 E. Main st. 805-643-2172

Ojai 1117 Maricopa Hwy 805-646-2771

News and Notes

Digital Camera Playground - Part 7 - Dynamic Range

by Nelson Wallace

The focal plane detector array inside the camera is composed of thousands of tiny detector elements called pixels. In them, photons of light from the scene will generate electrons that are read out and converted to digital counts. The pixels that are illuminated by a bright part of the scene generate more electrons, the dark scene pixels generate less. As electrons collect in a pixel, they begin to repel one another. A pixel may be as small as a few microns on a side, so there's not much room to hold all of the electrons generated by bright scene. Some excess electrons may travel to an adjacent pixel, causing blooming. Additional specialized circuitry may be able to reduce the problem, but the fact remains that there is an upper limit to the scene brightness the sensor can handle. When the pixel has collected all the electrons it can, that's all there is, there ain't no more. In the jargon, there's a "headroom problem". So if you take a picture with a very bright object in the scene, the detail in the bright region may be washed out despite your best efforts.

On the other hand, when the detector array is in total darkness, a few noise electrons will be generated. Most people are familiar with noise in audio systems. If you turn up the volume on your music system without a CD playing, you may hear a faint hum or maybe some static. This is due to electrons generated by thermal motion and other mechanisms. The same happens in imaging systems. So if you take a long exposure image of a night scene, some completely black regions in the scene may come out as very dark gray in the photo.

Let's experiment. Read your manual about the Manual mode, since this mode typically allows the longest possible shutter speed. Back up the shots that are in your camera, put your camera into Manual mode, set the f/number to the open-most choice (f/2.8?), and set the shutter speed to the longest exposure (16 seconds?). Turn off the flash, go into a totally dark room, and press down the shutter all the way down. Now download what should be a totally black image to your computer and look at it closely. See those little bright spots? If you have the software to zoom in, you'll see that the spots are actually squares; you're looking at noisy pixels, and maybe some blooming.

But for most shots, the noise level is amazingly low. Try this. On a very dark night, go outside, support your camera on a stable base, and take a shot with this same very long exposure. You may be amazed by what you can see in the photo, particularly in regions of deep shadow where your eye can't see anything at all.

Noise on the dark end and saturation on the bright end limit the range of scene contrast your camera can handle. This is the "dynamic range" of your camera.

A scene that exceeds the dynamic range is said to have "excessive contrast". The high exposure problem is usually solved by metering on the medium brightness area of the scene, and taking a hit on the brightest part, typically the sun or its grazing reflection. Some cameras allow temporary metering (without autofocus) to help with this problem. It's called different things on different cameras; look in your manual for "metering subject brightness" or AE lock.



Pastor Sam Gallucci stands at the old City Center Motel near the corner of Thompson and Kalorama, currently being transformed into a transitional living center for the homeless.

City Center Motel to become transitional living center

by Tim Pompey

It's a small church in a quiet neighborhood in midtown Ventura. Even as you drive up and park, it appears quite peaceful. But step into its court yard and things change drastically: dozens of people milling around, chatting, playing chess, killing time. This is The Harbor Church. Average attendance in the mid 70s. Haven for the homeless.

According to Pastor Sam Gallucci, this is by design. "When my wife and I came here two years ago, we wondered about our church's mission and noticed a lot of homeless people in the area. We decided to launch a ministry to help them. It grew rapidly and became Operation Embrace."

Gallucci looks more like a Silicon Valley CEO than an advocate for the homeless. Once you meet him, however, it doesn't take long to notice his warmth and enthusiasm or the fact that he's quite busy these days spearheading a huge project in downtown Ventura. And, if things go as planned, his wandering flock from off the streets will soon have a different gathering place near the corner of Thompson and Kalorama. Once called the City Center Motel, its new name: The Kingdom Center.

The blueprints he spreads on a table in his office are proof of his plans for the motel's massive facelift. When all is said and done, it will house about eighty adults in an area he calls the "transitional living center." The motel's current front court yard and office will be revamped to provide a variety of social and career services managed by Lutheran Social Services. All of this will be sharply focused to move people off the street and into permanent housing. Eventually, he also hopes to have the same type of daytime drop-in center he currently offers at his church.

To pull this off, Gallucci has recruited an army of churches and faith-based partners to purchase individual rooms, volunteer with operations, and donate

money. Churches and social service organizations like the Lighthouse Church, the Rescue Mission, Teen Challenge, Turning Point, Catholic Charities, and Project Understanding have agreed to refer the homeless for services at the Center and collaborate on sharing resources.

The enthusiasm they share for this idea was demonstrated at a recent Planning Commission meeting in which Gallucci received unanimous approval for the project by the Commission and the Design Review Committee. The chamber that night was standing room only. Supporters cheered when the final approval was given.

It's a daunting task: raising funds, supervising construction, maintaining partnerships. All this, on top of running a church. Gallucci seems unphased, but he admits he's surprised at how all this has snowballed. Still, as we stand by the wire fence surrounding the City Center Motel, you can tell the sounds of hammers, saws, and the general hum of construction makes him happy.

Judging by what was previously a seedy building, Gallucci thinks the improvements have a lot of upside, particularly for those in desperate need of assistance. "I believe this will help the community address the existing homeless situation," he states. "It will give many homeless men, women, and children hope in the future and help get them back into society."



Bench donor Cherie Fairweather watches as the bench dedicated to her late husband, John Fairweather, is installed as Douglas Fairweather looks on. Standing are Pier into the Future Board members Don Mills and Mel Sheeler.

Adopt-a-Bench Program to support the historic Ventura Pier

Looking for the perfect way to remember a loved one or for the holiday gift that keeps giving all year long? Pier into the Future, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the historic Ventura Pier, has the perfect solution for you- the Adopt-a-Bench Program on the Pier. Benches are available to be dedicated in memory of a loved one or to honor a special person. All donors will receive a bronze plaque adhered to the bench for a 10 year period.

The Adopt-a-Bench Program is a partnership between Pier into the Future and the City of Ventura Public Works Department. Funds raised through the bench adoption program are used to enhance the existing benches on the Ventura Pier.

The bench program, coordinated by

Pier into the Future--a non-profit 501 c (3)--"provides a unique and memorable way to remember a loved one", said Pier into the Future Executive Director Jenise Wagar. The organization was founded by a group of dedicated community leaders, in partnership with the City of Ventura, to establish an endowment fund to preserve, maintain and enhance the historic Ventura Pier for future generations to enjoy.

Those interested in adopting a bench can call 797-7544. Additional information can be found at www.pier-into-the-future.org.



Mrs. Trevelyn Yahr teaching her pre-ballet class at the YMCA in preparation for the Holiday Recital

Youth program participants take part in annual YMCA Holiday Recital

On December 11 the Ventura Family YMCA hosted its 9th Annual Youth Programs Holiday Recital. The event took place inside the Anacapa Middle School Cafeteria. Children who are currently enrolled in selected YMCA classes performed short routines in front of family and friends. YMCA ballerinas, hip hoppers, Irish dancers, drama students, and cheernastics stars took the stage for an evening of fun and excitement as youth program participants showed what they learned in their classes during the Fall Session.

The YMCA offers youth and aquatic programs year round. The next session of classes begins the week of January 4, 2010. Registration for YMCA facility members began on Saturday, December 12. The newest YMCA program guide for the upcoming Winter Session can be viewed online at www.ciyymca.org/ventura.

The Ventura Family YMCA serves over 20,000 individuals annually through facility memberships, before & after school childcare, day & resident camps, youth sports, swim lessons, teen programs, and many more healthy lifestyles and community enriching programs throughout Ventura, Oxnard, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Saticoy. The Ventura Family YMCA is located at 3760 Telegraph Rd.



News and Notes



The grand opening of the new Ventura Veterans Home will provide 60 beds for our hero veterans

Ventura veterans home has grand opening

by Tim Pompey

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger highlighted his remarks at the grand opening of the new Ventura Veterans Home by quoting Teddy Roosevelt: "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards." His visit to Ventura commemorated the huge gathering of dignitaries and city leaders that celebrated the official opening of The Veterans Home of California — Ventura, located on the corner of Telephone and Wells Road.

The home is part of the California Department of Veterans Affairs large scale construction of what is referred to collectively as the Veterans Homes of California — Greater Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. In addition to Ventura, a new home was recently opened in Lancaster and another is scheduled to open next year in West Los Angeles. New homes have also been proposed for veterans in Fresno and Redding.

The facility is a partnership between the Veterans Administration and the State of California. Funding for the site is split roughly 60% from the VA and 40% from the state. State funding is based on the passage in years past of various ballot propositions for veterans benefits. Total cost for the facility is estimated at around \$26.5 million. The home has 60 beds available, 48 in shared rooms and 12 with private rooms. In addition, residents have onsite access to such amenities as physical therapy, transportation, and recreation.

Governor Schwarzenegger was part of a huge crowd of approximately eight hundred well-wishers honoring not only the opening of the home, but the service of local military residents as well as the 2.1

million veterans who live in California.

The home was decked out with numerous flags, including one measuring fifty by eighty feet that was donated by Dave Whittaker, a veteran from the Los Angeles area and founder of "Veterans Cottages," an advocate group for homeless veterans (www.hvva.veterancottages.org). It was draped from a crane provided by Rolls Scaffolding. The flags around the perimeter were formerly placed on the coffins of military men and women who had previously died in battle.

The keynote speech was delivered by Captain James McHugh, Commanding Officer of the United States Naval Base, Ventura County. Also on the agenda were speeches by local elected officials and Colonel George Compton, who received an award for his efforts in helping bring the veterans home to Ventura. Music was provided by the Air National Guard Band of the Southwest Brass Quintet and Mike Reynolds of the Pacific Coast Highlanders Pipe Band.

Jeanne Bonifilio, Public Information Officer for Veterans Home of California, was extremely pleased with the community's response to the opening: "CalVet would like to thank the communities of Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles for their constant support and dedication to this grand opening ceremony."

Roger Brautigan, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs called the ceremony a "great day for veterans, particularly in Ventura County." Schwarzenegger described his own sense of satisfaction by stating that "there are few moments that compare to standing here this morning fulfilling a pledge to build five veterans home."

Teens for jeans sought by Teen Voice

A local group of young ladies (age 14-17) have taken the initiative to lead a very unique charitable project. They are a delightful, intelligent and diverse group with lots of energy and charisma. Please consider helping them meet their goal to collect 500 pairs of jeans.

Teen Voice seeks community help for New Year's goal to collect 500 jeans to donate to shelters and charities for home-

less people

Teen Voice — a high school leadership program operating on five local campuses throughout Ventura — has been working for months on its current community project of collecting 500 pairs of new and used adult-sized jeans by January 1 to donate to shelters and charities to make a difference in the lives of homeless people in Ventura.

Xelina Miramontes, City of Ventura Teen Voice Advisor stated "We are asking the community's help as we continue working towards reaching our New Year's goal. We are hoping to unite City and County employees, individual high

school students and staff, faith-based organizations, neighbors and family members by requesting their support and participation in this project." Contact xelina.miramontes403@dolphin.csuci.edu or 654-7845 to donate.

Teen Voice students originated the "Teens for Jeans" idea last summer during their annual Leadership Retreat as an effective project to fulfill actual needs of Ventura's homeless when they researched and discovered that clothes pantries run out of jeans by mid-January, leaving many homeless people without sufficiently warm winter clothing.

The mission of Teen Voice is to build positive relationships between high school students and the community by providing students opportunities for community involvement and betterment of their schools, neighborhoods and city.

Soroptimist scholarships applications are now available for minimum \$1,000 awards

Soroptimist International of Ventura, a local service club for business and professional women with the goal of making a difference in the lives of women and girls, announces that applications are now available for two scholarships. Applications are due on or before January 15, 2010.

The Violet Richardson Award honors young women for their volunteer efforts in their school or community. It is awarded annually to a teen, ages 14-17, and her volunteer organization to recognize the inspiration and dedication it takes to be a volunteer making a difference in the lives of others. The minimum award from SI Ventura is \$1,000 and winning it automatically makes the teen eligible for an additional award from SI.

The Women's Opportunity Award is targeted at women who provide primary financial support for their families and are enrolled or accepted in a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program. SI Ventura's award will be a minimum of \$1,000 and the winner is eligible for additional regional and international awards from SI.

Applications are available from Kay Armstrong, 656-5218, or any club member. You may also request one via email at SIVenturaclub@gmail.com.

For more information about Soroptimist and how you can become a member, please call Dena at 642-9715.

The Salvation Army Christmas kettles are down

by Captain Bill Finley

Last year The Salvation Army Ventura Corps and Transitional Living Center raised \$85,000 through our annual Red Kettle drive which collects donations outside grocery and department stores in Ventura, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. Donations are down 12.8% from this time last year.

This is attributed to two primary causes: first, the economic situation means that many people do not have as much loose change. Secondly, we

depend upon the cooperation of stores to allow us space to collect donations. This year both Trader Joes in Ventura and Best Buy in Oxnard did not grant us permission to solicit donations in front of their stores. In both cases the store managers had previously allowed The Salvation Army despite corporate no solicitation policies. This year both stores were forced to comply with corporate policy. While Trader Joes will be supporting The Salvation Army through in kind donations the location represented 10% of last year's Red Kettle Drive.

Every year The Salvation Army silver bell signals that Christmas is here. What many do not realize is that the funds raised at Christmas allow The Salvation Army to meet needs throughout the year. This includes housing 14 homeless families and 10 homeless single women at the Transitional Living Center in downtown Ventura. At our family services offices over 150 families receive food every month and clothing vouchers are given to those who are seeking employment. In East Ventura 75 low income seniors live at the Silvercrest Residence, an independent living apartment complex. Next door The Salvation Army Corps and Community Center offers programs for seniors and in partnership with City of Ventura an average of 45 seniors eat lunch daily at the Eastside Café Senior Nutrition Program.



15 year old Taylor Kennepohl took a pie in the face as an auction prize at the Stephanie Huffaker Breast Cancer and Dinner Memorial Benefit and Omar Castro tried to share a little of it with her

Donations will help Chase continue to pay his expenses after the death of his mother

Stephanie Huffaker was a single Ventura mother with a 14-year old son. She had been battling breast cancer for 3 years but lost her battle on November 1.

Stephanie remained strong and courageous throughout her illness and never lost her faith. Through all of this her son Chase has performed excellently in school and soccer while at the same time taking on numerous responsibilities.

On November 20 the Stephanie Huffaker Breast Cancer and Dinner Memorial Benefit was held at the Family Moose Lodge located at 10269 Telephone Road.

Donations can be made to the Stephanie Huffaker Cancer Benefit at County Schools FCU, 4591 Market St., Ventura 93003. Donations will be used to help Chase's needs and to pay expenses that have not been able to be paid due to Stephanie's illness. Thank you for your help.

Community Events

Join Aegis in their toy drive and Holiday Party

In the spirit of Holiday giving, please join Aegis of Ventura and the 23rd Marines of Port Hueneme for Toys for Tots Drive and Holiday Party. Thursday, December 17 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Toys for Tots provides hope and happiness to economically disadvantaged children through the gift of a shiny new toy during the holiday season. These gifts offer children recognition, confidence and positive memories that they will cherish for a lifetime.

Enjoy a jazz piano performance by Dillon Paige and friends. Dillon has performed for Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan and PLEASE BRING A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY.

Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please RSVP to the concierge at 805-650-1114.

Aegis of Ventura is located at 4964 Telegraph Road.

The Canyon Club

28912 Roadside Drive, Agoura Hills
818 879-5016 Box Office www.canyon-club.net

MICHAEL SCHENKER GROUP Featuring GARY BARDEN RADIO GRAFFITI

SAT DEC 26 - \$25.00
Doors 6 PM Show 8 PM

THE SPAZMATICS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

THURS DEC 31 - \$58.50 - \$39.50
Doors 6 PM Show 9 PM

JETSTREAM & GUESTS

FRI JAN 1 - \$10.00
Doors 6 PM Show 7 PM

ROBBEN FORD KING OF THE SURF GUITAR JIMMY DALE

SAT JAN 9 - \$25.00
Doors 6 PM Show 7:30 PM

AARON LEWIS OF STAIND SOLO LIVE ACOUSTIC ALL THE SONGS YOU KNOW

MON JAN 11 - \$45.00
Doors 6 PM Show 8 PM
Seated General Admission

PONCHO SANCHEZ

THUR JAN 14 - \$20.00
Doors 6 PM Show 8 PM

STEVE MORSE BAND SARAH SPENCER & ANGELFIRE

FRI JAN 15 - \$29.50
Doors 6 PM Show 7:30 PM

Ventura nightlife

Bariloche at 500 E Main Street (from 6:30pm to 9:30pm)

12/16 Candi Sosa, Cuban Music
12/17 Teka, Bossa Nova
12/18 Juan Pablo Perez, & Ruben Martinez, Latin Jazz w/ Flute & Guitar
12/19 Ruben Valenzuela, Latin Jazz

12/20 TLC, Tango Brunch (11:00am-2:00pm), Ignacio Lopez, Paraguayan Harp
12/21 Sergey Taranov, Latin Guitar
12/22 Teka, Bossa Nova
12/23 Candi Sosa, Cuban Music
12/24 Teka, Bossa Nova
12/25 Juan Pablo Perez, Ruben Martinez, Latin jazz w/Flute & Guitar
12/26 Ruben Valenzuela, Latin Jazz
12/27 TLC, Tango Brunch (11:00am-2:00pm), Ignacio Lopez, Paraguayan Harp
12/28 Sergey Taranov, Latin Guitar
12/29 Teka, Bossa Nova

Good Bar at 533 E Main Street

12/16 Reggae
12/17 Tricky Disco
12/18 Cosolive
12/19 Irie Smile
12/20 Teresa Russell
12/21 Musician's Brew
12/22 DJ's Top 40's
12/23 The Situation
12/24 TBA
12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
12/26 The Situation
12/27 The Illusory
12/28 Musician's Brew
12/29 DJ's Top 40's

San Souci at 21 S Chestnut

12/25 OPEN...MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Zoey's Café at 451 E Main Street

12/17 Doug Pettibone
12/18 Sally Jaye, Brian Wright, Chris Seefried & Shane Alexander (HOLIDAY SHOW)
12/19 Glen Phillips
12/26 White Buffalo
12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION w/ Chris Pierce & Delaney Gibson
01/10 Beehouse Records Showcase

Ventura events

Dec.17: Does your nonprofit need money immediately?

Katherine Wertheim, CFRE, is teaching a three-hour **fundraising seminar** in Ventura. She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive with more than 25 years of experience in raising millions of dollars for dozens of non-profit organizations.

Katherine's classes are highly interactive. She has taught more than 200 seminars nationwide with top ratings and evaluations. You'll walk out knowing what to do and how to enlist others to help you. You'll also receive lots of training materials to help you.

How would you like these results?

Two people attended in Santa Barbara on October 10, 2009 and raised \$12,500 within two weeks.

One person attended in Atlanta on September 17 and raised \$50,000 in one month.

One organization raised \$350,000 in three months in 2009 using these methods.

Thursday, December 17, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street.

The fee is \$149, please email Katherine@werth-it.com to RSVP or call her at 275-2100 for more information.

Dec. 18: The Kiwanis Club of Ventura will be hosting a **holiday party** for handicapped school children from the Ventura Unified School District on Friday from 11 am - 12:30 pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura.

Contact Matt Kohagen for more information at 805-795-1445.

Dec.31: Country Lovers Western Dance Club will be holding a New Year's Eve celebration in the Grand Ballroom at Four Points Sheraton, 1050 Schooner Dr., in Ventura. Cocktails 6:30 - 7:30

pm.; Fabulous Dinner 7:30 - 8:30 pm. Dancing & Celebrating 'til 1 a.m.

Music will be by deejay "Jammin' Country". Cost is \$65.00 per guest. To RSVP, or more info on the dinner/dancing event, contact Country Lovers Hotline 647-1893 or visit their website at www.countrylovers.com.

Jan.3: A February 1, 1948 broadcast of **Sherlock Holmes** in The Case of the Avenging Blade and 1908 to 1913 recordings of singers at St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater will be featured in the Dudley House historic recording series during the Dudley House open house. The house with its newly completed roof will be open from 1pm to 4pm. The Dudley Docents will give tours of the history of the house with its Dudley family furniture and the museum's most recent acquisitions, the c. 1810 John Barr tall case clock and Oscar "Dooley" Dudley's 1905 alto saxophone. Admission is free. The Dudley House is located at the corner of Ashwood and Loma Vista in Ventura. Anyone interested in working on the docent tours of the house, call Steve Cummings at 644-3286.

Jan.7: The Ventura County Storytelling Guild will meet on Thursday from 7:30-9:30, at Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave. The first hour of the class will give a sample of Elaine Muray's "Cinematic Storytelling Workshop" which will be offered as a 10-week class at Ventura Adult Education starting January 12. For more information, contact elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com or call 407-2538.

Ojai events

One of Ojai's most popular inns, Best Western Casa Ojai, has dropped its franchise name and marketing affiliation and is now known as the Casa Ojai Inn.

"Ojai has always been filled with family owned businesses. Casa Ojai is no exception," explains Geoff Wells, President of the newly formed Ojai Hospitality Group. "After 28 years as a member of Best Western, we have decided to embrace Ojai's desire for a franchise-free, small town atmosphere by separating ourselves from the Best Western label. We fully intend to maintain the high quality product our guests have come to expect here at Casa Ojai Inn. We hope that our guests enjoy the many changes that are being made and thank them for their continued business."

In addition to the Casa Ojai Inn, the parent company, Ojai Hospitality Group, owns and operates Su Nido Inn, also located in the Ojai Village. Founded in 2008, the company is currently in a grow-

ing and acquisition mode, according to Wells.

The Ojai Art Center Theater has canceled its Holiday Season Celebration scheduled for Dec. 11-20 due to unforeseen technical difficulties and scheduling conflicts.

Although the variety show is canceled, Ojai ACT wishes the community happy holidays and invites all to a free preview of its 2010 season set for 7 p.m. on Sunday, Jan 17. At that show, scenes from each of the plays will be performed.

They are: Shirley Valentine, Inherit the Wind, Cabaret, Other People's Money, Wait Until Dark and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Get into the holiday spirit with your neighbors at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. For reservations call 640-8797 or log on to www.OjaiACT.org.

Ojai Art Center Theater has a 2010 season consisting of an insightful drama, a scary story, entertaining comedies, a stylish musical and a tasty treat for the whole family.

The season -- chosen by a committee of astute thespians who read scores of prospective plays -- consists of five full run shows and two shorter run productions.

Ojai ACT will again have a free preview of all the plays in January. This full-house event will feature local actors doing short scenes from all the plays and includes free food and drink and mingling with the directors, actors and producers.

The season, in date order, includes:

"Leading Ladies" (Jan. 29 - Feb. 27) by Ken Ludwig is about two English con men posing as women in order to gain an inheritance, directed by Frank Malle.

"Inherit the Wind" (March 19 - April 17) is the intense drama set in 1925 over the controversial "Scopes Monkey Trial," in which the top attorneys of the day battle over whether or not evolution can be taught in the classroom. Taylor Kasch will direct this drama written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Edwin Lee.

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (May 7 - May 22) will include kids and adults in this wonderful fantasy written by Roald Dahl. Director Gai Jones is back to work her theatrical magic in a play that is sure to delight the whole family.

"Cabaret" (June 25 - July 25) is this year's choice of a top musical offering. It is set in the seedy Kit Kat Klub in 1931 Berlin as the Nazis are rising to power. Tracey Williams will direct this piece, written by Joe Masteroff with lyrics by Fred Ebb and music by John Kander.

Continued on page 14



KITCHEN DESIGN & REMODELING

For quality, value & personal service come to Midtown Kitchens. We're a family owned & operated, full-service design firm that has been remodeling the hearts of homes since 1990.

MIDTOWN Kitchens
INCORPORATED
LIC# 830418

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
Tues.-Sat. 11am-4pm or by appointment
2122 E. Thompson Blvd. Ventura 93001
805.643.3063 www.MidtownKitchens.net

Art Scene



Small paintings are on display at the Harbor Village Gallery

Buenaventura Art Association at the Harbor Village Gallery

An exhibit of small, original artworks by Buenaventura Art Association's (BAA) members is at the Harbor Village Gallery until Sunday, January 24, 2010. Reception is Thursday, December 17, from 5 - 8pm.

For your holiday shopping stop by the Harbor Village Gallery or the Buenaventura Gallery, filled with abundant works of art, all under fourteen inches at affordable prices. The "Small Image Exhibit" consists of a diverse sled full of art work, with stunning gifts for everyone. Jolly bundles of joy consist of drawings, mixed media, and paintings in acrylics, oils, watercolors, and more. Subject mat-

ters range greatly from portraits to landscapes and to abstract renditions. For an unforgettable gift for your special ones pick out a precious, original work of art! The Harbor Village Gallery is located at 1591 Spinnaker Dr., entrance # 3 in the Ventura Harbor Village, next to the big lawn. Open everyday except Tuesday from 12 to 5 p.m. The Buenaventura Gallery is located at 700 E. Santa Clara St., in downtown Ventura. Open Tuesday through Friday from 12 to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the gallery at 644-2750 or visit www.harborvillagegallery.com or www.buenaventuragallery.org



"Section of M51 with Progenitor Star", glass mosaic by Larissa Strauss

Julie Merrill watercolor classes

January watercolor classes at Seabreeze Gallery, 255 South Laurel St. taught by Julie Merrill at 340-3987 or julie_merrill@yahoo.com. All 4 week classes are \$85.00.

Beginning watercolor on Tuesday, Wednesday evening, Friday morning and Saturday afternoon. Create clouds, landscapes, seascapes, still life and various techniques and have fun.

Gallery changing name

As we come to a close for 2009, we at Sea Breeze Art Studios are excited to announce the name change of our exhibiting space to "Gallery 255". We thought the name of the gallery should match the caliber of contemporary art exhibiting. Stayed turned in 2010 for more details about our exciting new exhibits and events.

Larissa Strauss exhibits "Enchanted Loom" at the Buenaventura Gallery

Enchanted Loom is the most recent collection from artist Larissa Strauss. Her mosaics and glaze painting will be on exhibit until Saturday, January 2, 2010 at the Buenaventura Gallery.

A bold move to go where this woman has not gone before, Strauss look towards the stars for inspiration. Her show will draw you into the mystifying beauty of Strauss's talent and the mesmerizing subject matter she has chosen to spread her horizons with.

Strauss explains, "My show is an exploration of images taken from the farthest reaches of the universe, down to the minutest molecular structures of the body."

A native of Santa Barbara, Strauss moved to Ventura at an early age, and

then left home to complete her education at University of California, Davis in 1993. For the last ten years, she has been focusing her time on mosaics and is largely self-taught. She began painting only a year ago when making cartoons for the museum project.

The star studded new path Strauss has taken is sure to inspire a bit of contemplation on what is out there and how incredibly it translates to the beauty we have down here.

The Buenaventura Art Gallery is located at 700 E. Santa Clara St. Hours are Tues - Friday from noon - 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. Please call 648-1235 or visit www.buenaventuragallery.org.



The future is now.

The Breeze is available online 24/7, along with useful links, staff biographies and online-only goodies.

www.venturabreeze.com

Enjoy the holidays this year!

Avoid the rush and save at ProFlowers

15% off your order*

bouquets & gifts starting from \$19⁹⁹



ProFlowers

only at: www.proflowers.com/cheer
or 1-877-606-8385

Give The Gift That Will Thrill Everyone!



Save \$104⁰¹

Gift Giving is Easy with Omaha Steaks!

	
TOP SIRLOINS	PORK CHOPS
	
STUFFED SOLE	GOURMET FRANKS
	
CHICKEN BREASTS	STUFFED BAKED POTATOES

The Grilling Collection

- 4 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 2 (4 1/2 oz.) Stuffed Sole *with Scallops & Crabmeat*
- 8 (3 oz.) Gourmet Franks
- 4 (4 oz. approx.) Chicken Breasts
- 4 (5 1/2 oz.) Stuffed Baked Potatoes

Reg. \$154⁰⁰. **Now only \$49⁹⁹**

Call 1-877-692-5029 and ask for 45102DXJ

2 FREE Gifts with purchase

6-Piece Cutlery Set

And FREE Cutting Board to every shipping address

Limit of 2 Packages and 1 Cutlery Set & Cutting Board per address. Standard shipping & handling will be applied per address. Offer expires 12/31/09.



HEARTLAND QUALITY OMAHA STEAKS SINCE 1917

www.OmahaSteaks.com/os56

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp Ph.D

Because this is our last issue before Christmas I want to wish my millions (in dog counting) a vurry Furry Christmas. Remember to give your furry friends something special for the holidays 'cause we are here for you all year round.

I need to clarify an erroneous fact that even I occasionally misuse. It is commonly stated that 7 human years equals 1 dog year and this is just not correct.

If the average human lives to be 75 and the average dog 15 than 5 human years equals 1 dog year and smaller dogs can even live longer which could bring the ratio down even lower which means I am only around 35 years old even though I look much younger.

If I was a bigger breed I would be around 45, of course I might look like a bigger breed because I'm "big boned."

Mario Cedillo, 27, of Frazier Park has been arrested on suspicion for abandoning puppies in the Los Padres National Forest. He was arrested after being observed abandoning puppies belonging to him. Seven puppies have been recovered by local residents shortly after he was observed leaving them.

If convicted on all counts he could receive 4 years in jail. Why not just leave him in the middle of Death Valley?

PETA has requested that the University of Georgia either use an animatronic dog or a costumed mascot in place of their bulldog mascot. They feel that the extensive running that the mascot does could be deadly for a purebred bulldog because of their poor respiratory systems.

They could use me because I refuse to run after 5 minutes and couldn't get a football in my mouth anyway. Is there an ocean in Georgia? If I can't go surfing I wouldn't want to live there? And who would want to clean up after an animatronic dog leaving pieces of metal?

Chapman University has decided to let a bunch of puppies hang out outside of the university library during "cram week" for students to pet and play with.

The idea is called "Furry Friends for

Finals' and it is felt that the dogs will help students to relax during stressful times at school, especially the ones who have left their dogs at home while they go to school.

When I was a student at Furry State the other dogs there didn't help me to relax much because all they wanted to do was play and I was a serious student. I make up for it now by playing whenever I can find someone to play with.

I have been approved to visit with residents at Cypress Senior Center so that they can relax while petting me (lucky them) and had to obtain my county dog license to do such (okay, I admit that I have been illegal and should have had my license to be writing for the Breeze suspended, I was an illegal canine from Fillmore).

I needed a copy of my rabies shot certificate and when I took it to the city it said that I was an MI. That means "male intact" if you know what that means. It means that I had not been fixed (I didn't know that I was ever broken) and, if not, the license was \$75.00 instead of \$20.00 which means I would have to write some extra articles to pay for the license.

I was able to locate the proof of my fixation and obtain my license.



I went to Naturally for Paws, located at 1766 E. Thompson to just hang out with some friends and all of a sudden I was sitting on the lap of this funny looking guy with a very phony beard who kept asking me if I had been a good dog and what I wanted for Christmas. What I wanted was to get off of his lap.

Police and Fire Reports

by Joseph Owen

Girls hit by car on Saticoy Avenue

On Sunday afternoon November 29 Esaul Alamillo was driving his 2007 Chrysler 300 northbound on Saticoy Ave. As he approached the Ventura Community Church located at 1045 S. Saticoy Ave. two female juveniles, ages 11 and 12, attempted to cross the road when they were struck by Alamillo's vehicle.

Cause of the collision has not yet been determined as witness statements are still being collected. The two juveniles were taken by ambulance to the Ventura County Medical Center where one of the juveniles is listed in critical condition. There was no evidence of drugs or alcohol at the collision scene and the accident is currently under investigation.

Burglary on Encinal Way

Around 8:00am on Tuesday, December 1, a local resident returned to her home in the 100 block of Encinal Way after dropping her daughter off at school and found a 15 year old male intruder standing in her kitchen. When the victim yelled at the burglar he responded by running out the back door and then escaping over the backyard fence.

The victim immediately drove around

her neighborhood on the lookout for the thief. She quickly spotted the male suspect and by using her cell phone alerted Ventura Police Department of what had happened. The male suspect was eventually captured by responding officers near the intersection of E. Main St and Santa Cruz St. after running several blocks.

During the investigation the victim remembered while driving her daughter to school she had seen the suspect and a female juvenile walking in her neighborhood. After further investigation the male juvenile was identified as a Ventura High School student.

The high school resource officer assisted in the investigation and also identified the second juvenile as a 15 year old Ventura High School student. Officers located the female juvenile hiding near a residence about one half block away from the school. Both juveniles were arrested and the victim's stolen property was recovered.

Burglary on Jamestown Street

Early Thursday morning on December 3 a resident in the 10100 block of Jamestown St. was awakened by his dogs barking in the backyard. When he checked on them he found a burglar prowling around in

Continued on page 12

Dogs to Adopt

Hi, I'm Crash a playful 4 month old Pit Bull mix. My siblings Caden, Candace, Carl, Cassidy, Chloe and I are all waiting for our forever families to take us home. We're young puppies so children in the home must be 6 years or older. Puppy classes are required so we can learn right from wrong and grow up to be well behaved dogs like Scamp. We can bond as we learn new things together. We hope it's not long before we're cherished members of a family. Stop by and meet us, you're sure to fall in love with us.



The Canine Adoption & Rescue League
3004 Telegraph Road
805.652.1001

www.carlvc.org info@carlvc.org

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
- Wed. \$3.00 off Grooming, 10% off for all Seniors (Over 62) **Naturally for Paws**, 1766 Thompson 648.7297
- 50% off first grooming - 10% off following grooming at **Aloha Grooming**, 1076 Front Street, 643.4852
- 10% off pet sitting, dog training and MORE at **Prancing Pet Services**, 890.1406

Holiday Hair Specials

FREE HAIR CUT

with Color Service
(New Clients Only)

Expiration Date 12/29/09

\$35

\$10 OFF WOMENS' HAIRCUT

Regular Price \$35
(New Clients Only)

Expiration Date 12/29/09

Ask for Rebecca
Located in Harbor Hair Design
1559 Spinnaker Drive, Suite #103
Ventura, 650.9014

Ventura Automotive Repair

Complete Auto, Truck Repair and Service

\$10

FREE GAS

With your next smog certificate
Must present Coupon Expires 1/31/10

\$37.00

Smog Check with Certificate
(Most vehicles)

Must present Coupon Expires 1/31/10

FREE
Towing
to our shop
w/repair

PUBLIC NOTICE

DON'T SPEND YOUR MONEY
GROSS POLLUTER CERTIFICATION CAP/
GOLD SHIELD TEST AND REPAIR STATION.
CAP and Ventura Automotive Repair can
help you with your repairs. If your car
fails at any smog test only center or
repair station, you may qualify for up to
\$500 in free repairs. For more information,
call 648.5262. Ask for Francisco.



Japanese Engines
and Transmissions
Available
Emergency Service
24/7
657.8341
866.304.2957

Open Seven days and on Sunday, too!
500 N. Ventura Avenue, Ventura
648.5262/218.9846
vtaautorepair.com



Police and Fire Reports

Police and Fire

Continued from page 11

the front of his home. After confronting the prowler, the homeowner spotted a second suspect also standing in his front yard acting as a lookout.

The victim's neighbor, an off-duty California Highway Patrol Officer, happen to be leaving for work and saw what was taking place. He quickly rushed next door to assist the victim and, after identifying himself as a police officer, attempted to detain the suspects while the victim called 911.

The suspects chose not to obey the officer and fled down the street with the CHP officer in pursuit. After a foot chase of approximately one block the officer was able to catch up to the suspect. A brief struggle ensued, but with the assistance of the homeowner, the suspect was taken into custody.

When Ventura Police Officers arrived on the scene they took custody of the 17 year old Hispanic male, but after a search of the surrounding area the second suspect, a 15 year old Hispanic female, could not be found.

The investigation revealed the male juvenile had in his possession stolen property obtained from breaking into numerous vehicles in the area. The burglar was later booked into Ventura County Juvenile Hall on the charges of theft from vehicle, prowling, and resisting arrest.

The off-duty CHP officer was the only person whom sustained injuries (minor) during the incident.

Collision on Loma Vista Road

Around 5:00pm on Saturday, December 5, Ventura City Police responded to a report of a single vehicle traffic collision at the intersection of Loma Vista Rd. and Byron Ave. The caller advised the vehicle had collided with an Edison Power pole and the driver was trapped inside.

Officers responded to the scene and found 50 year old Amanda Quitoriano of Ventura intoxicated and sitting behind the wheel of the vehicle. The gold 2009 Dodge Caravan had collided head-on with an Edison Power pole positioned on the south side of the intersection.

The vehicle had sustained significant front-end damage from the collision and the force from the impact had snapped the power pole now lying on top of the van. The pole, normally supplying power to 80 homes in the area, was barely held in place by small guide wires that was preventing it from falling into the intersection.

Because of the extreme danger of electrical shock, officers shut down access to the surrounding streets and closed the intersection until 2:00am

Sunday. Edison quickly responded and restored power to the 80 residential homes effected in the area.

Quitoriano was transported to Ventura County Medical Center via ambulance, but on arrival, refused treatment for her injuries. An investigation was conducted and Quitoriano was determined to have been operating a motor vehicle while impaired from alcohol. Quitoriano was then transported and booked into Ventura County Jail for 23152(a)(b) VC- driving under the influence.

Robbery on East Main Street

On Sunday afternoon December 6 a lone clerk was on duty at H & H Liquor 1839 E. Main St when an armed robber entered the store. The suspect immediately attacked the clerk by pummeling him in the head and upper torso with a hammer. The robber then removed all the money from the cash register and fled the area on foot. Ventura City Police Officers checked the surrounding area for the any sign of the attacker, described as a Hispanic male, but could not locate him.

The clerk was transported to Ventura County Medical Center by ambulance where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Stabbing on Devon Lane

At sunset on Sunday December 6 a middle aged couple were walking their dogs in the 1300 block of Devon Ln. in the Pierpont area when they noticed a compact car with two white males driving dangerously erratic on the street.

The man approached the occupants in the car and asked them to drive more carefully. After a brief exchange of words, the passenger in the car sprayed the couple with pepper spray as the driver pulled a knife and stabbed the male victim in the side, then fled in their car.

Ventura City Police were summoned and the male victim was transported to Ventura County Medical Center by ambulance where he was treated for minor injuries and released.

Juvenile arrested on Lupine Way

On Monday December 7 at approximately 4:16pm Ventura Police Department Officers responded to a phone call that a male juvenile was knocking on residential doors in the area of Lupine Way. The caller advised that the juvenile was asking neighbors for a person by the name of "Oscar," but actually believed the teenager was casing houses to break into.

Ventura Police Officers searched the area and spotted a subject matching the description given by the caller exiting the rear yard of a home located at 375 Lupine Way. When officers questioned the juvenile he identified himself as a Ventura

High School student looking for a friend in the area.

A School Resource Officer from Ventura High School was called to the scene and assisted in the investigation. When officers transported the juvenile back to Ventura High to continue the investigation items fell out of the juvenile's pants pocket. Officers recognized the items as reported stolen from the home located at 375 Lupine Way. After further search of the juveniles person, more stolen property was found. The 17 year old juvenile was arrested for 459 PC- residential burglary and eventually released to his parents.

Car fire on Carlyle Street

Neighbors in the 10,000 block of Carlyle St. awoke early Tuesday morning on December 8 to find a vehicle owned by Ventura resident, Teresa Rodriguez, parked on the street engulfed in flames. Ventura City Fire Department responded and extinguished the blaze, but not before it consumed the entire interior of the vehicle.

A joint investigation conducted by the Ventura Police Department Officers and a fire arson investigator determined the conflagration was suspicious in nature and, in addition, declared the vehicle a total loss.

An investigation is continuing and anyone with information about how the fire was set is asked to contact Ventura Police or Crime Stoppers.



Arson on Main Street

Ventura Fire units responded to a reported structure fire at a Main Street psychic reader business in the mid-town area on Nov. 30. When on scene, firefighters found light smoke emanating from a broken front window of the business. A small fire was burning just inside the broken window. Firefighters gained entrance to the business through the front door and quickly extinguished the fire and cleared the residual smoke. Police and firefighters found evidence outside the business that suggested the window had been deliberately broken and the

Continued on page 17

ROYAL RETIREMENT SERVICES, INC.

Let Maggie & Claudio be a part of your family.
People who really care for the elderly.
Caregiver placement services... looking out for your needs
Please call us for a free consultation at
805-642-2472
Royal Retirement Services



Claudio & Maggie de Medeiros

The Best Just Got Better



Happy Holidays

Come by for a tour of our newly remodeled building. We are thankful for all of you!

CYPRESS PLACE
Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care
1200 & 1220 Cypress Point Ln., Ventura
805.650.8000

COUPON!  **FREE DELIVERY**

2 Extra Large one topping \$21.99 (additional toppings \$2 each)

1700 E. Thompson Ventura
805.648.1070

Special! Extra Large Pizza Monday & Tuesday only, 4 - 9, \$10.99



BEACH PLUMBING & ROOTER SERVICE

CALL LARRY 653.5440 Lic. 389968

We will clean ANY DRAIN \$45 including main sewer*

* YARD AND AREA DRAINS NOT INCLUDED, RESIDENCES ONLY. ALL DRAINS AND STOPPAGES MUST BE READILY ACCESSIBLE.

Enjoy Great Savings, Service and Benefits ... with the **AARP Auto & Home Insurance Program** from The Hartford.

Call The Hartford Toll-Free Today to Request Your **FREE** Quote:

1-877-630-4397 CODE: 471103

Monday-Friday, 7AM-11PM Eastern Time
Saturday & Sunday, 8AM-6PM Eastern Time

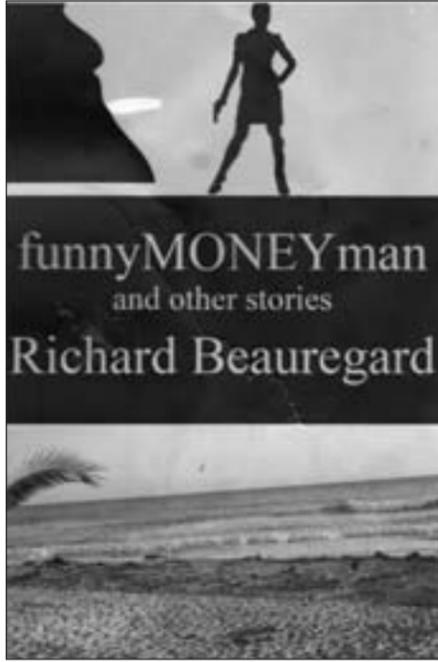
Most AARP® members qualify for an immediate phone quote. Please have your policy handy.

AARP Auto & Home Insurance Program

FREE Calculator/Clock!
Take our savings challenge! See how much we can save you over your current auto insurance, and you'll receive this calculator/clock ... just for requesting a quote.

The AARP Automobile and Homeowners Insurance Program is underwritten by Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates, Hartford Fire Insurance Company, Hartford, CT 06183, CA License # 0132, in Washington, the Program is underwritten by Hartford Casualty Insurance Company, in Texas, the Program is underwritten by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company through Hartford Fire General Agency, Hartford Fire Insurance Company and its affiliates are not financially responsible for insurance products underwritten and issued by Southern County Mutual Insurance Company. AARP and AARP Financial Inc. receive from The Hartford members for AARP a license of its intellectual property for use by The Hartford and for services provided in connection with the Program. Amounts paid by The Hartford for this license are used for the general purposes of the Association and its members. AARP membership is required for program eligibility in most states. Applicants are individually underwritten and should read their policy. Specific benefits, credits and discounts may vary and may not be available in all states or jurisdictions with state filing and applicable law. The Program is currently available in Massachusetts, Canada and U.S. Territories or Possessions. All first time responders receive the free gift. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. The free gift offer is not available in Georgia, but residents may still request a quote. Insurance products are not available in all areas, including the state of Florida.

Senior Living



Senior Richard Beauregard always wanted to be a writer and finally has had his first book "Funny Money Man" published

Senior Cone-nection

Funny Money Man

by Nanci Cone

For as long as he could remember, Richard Beauregard always wanted to be a writer. As a child, he loved the television series, "Route 66" and the stories they enacted each week. As he grew older, he took creative writing classes and would often jot down ideas but they never reached fulfillment.

Richard was born in Ashland, Kentucky but his family moved to California when he was in elementary school. After graduating from high school, he eventually found work at the Navy base, married and forgot his youthful dreams of becoming another Rod Serling or Elmore Leonard. Everything changed a number of years ago when he and his wife parted ways and he retired - his entire lifestyle changed. He began writing again and read "Stephen King on Writing," a book that had a profound influence on his stories.

"I can't believe I'm a senior and having my first book published," says Richard. He has compiled his favorite short stories into a book he's written that will be out shortly and available for purchase from Ether Publications located at Got Mail, 1700 E. Thompson Street, Suite F. Mr. Beauregard goes on to say, "I was having my doubts and getting some rejection notices but people at least had read what I wrote so I started sending out different stories to the same magazines. I read that Stephen King

had 72 rejections before getting anything published so it gave me the confidence to continue sending out my stories. When the owner of Ether Publications read my works, he notified me that my dream had become a reality."

People dealing with the issues of alcohol and drugs connect Richard's stories. Some of his stories are humorous, some are adventurous and some deal with the supernatural. "I've drawn on a lot of my own experiences in life. As a youth, I went through some dark times but I emerged a better man because of it," says Richard.

The title story, "Funny Money Man," tells of a man who spends his inheritance and buys counterfeit money that he then uses to buy drugs in San Francisco. He is then pursued by trained killers while dealing with his drug addiction. "Ramsey's Cross" is named for the ship he was stationed on while in the Navy and "Grey Days" concerns a drug dealer who harasses a bag lady that turns out to be a witch. Each of these stories has a surprise twist ending. "I don't like predictable," says Mr. Beauregard!

He is now working on his next book and he will be bringing back the character of the bartender from "Funny Money Man" which will help connect the two books. As Richard notes, "If you want to be a writer, don't ever give up." He adds, "Ray Bradbury said to me to write with my heart and not with my head and that's what I've tried to do!"

Your Senior Tidbits

by Claudio de Medeiros

Any amount of exercise is better than none, so getting started is the key.

The American College of Sports Medicine and the American Heart Association suggests at least 30 minutes a day of exercise and 10 minutes of stretching before any exercise and a routine of 5 days a week in keeping in good physical form.

Your 30 minutes of exercise can be broken up into increments of 10 minutes. The most common forms of exercise are walking, jogging, dancing, biking, and swimming.

I am a big fan of the YMCA, and suggest you look into the many activities available for seniors. They have a terrific warm water therapy program and 3 aerobic classes running at different times that are geared to help seniors improve their mobility, strength and stamina. The atmosphere is helpful, friendly, and it is a great place to meet new people.

The Ventura Senior Center also has a silver stretch class available from 10-11 am

Nourish your mind and body with a night class!

Winter Night Classes Begin January 4



Careers • Computers • Personal Growth Classes

Classes include:

- Accounting/QuickBooks • Business/Computer • AutoCAD/SolidWorks/Revit •
- Graphic Design • Photoshop • Medical Office • Phlebotomy • CPR/First Aid •
- Aerobics/Workouts/Zumba Gold/Parkinson's Disease Exercise/Qi Gong/Yoga •
- High School to College Survival Guide • College Applications Boot Camp • Personal Growth and Parenting • eBay • Guitar • Investing Basics • Knitting/Quilting/Sewing •
- Cinematic Storytelling • Sculpture • Spanish • Social Media • New FTC Guidelines

Ventura Adult and Continuing Education
Ventura Unified School District
 5200 Valentine Road, Ventura, CA
 (805)289-7925

Call (805) 289-7925 or go to www.vace.com to access our Winter Class schedule.

Mondays and Wednesday.

The House of Dance offers Zumba classes, the big rage in dance exercise, class hours are Tuesdays 7pm and Thursdays classes 5-6pm.

Lastly, drink lots of water, 6- 8 cups. If you don't like the taste of water, add a squeeze of lemon or lime to flavor the water. Water is probably the best savior to many diseases, since your body is comprised of 75% water.

The Holidays are a time to honor seniors

by Micki Rickard

Older adults are often the best storytellers in the family. Their many traditions and talents are just waiting to

be shared. As we approach this holiday season, many older citizens won't be near their families. Travel can become difficult if loved one lives far away.

What better way to honor seniors in your family and community than by undertaking a project together this holiday season. There are a wide range of projects that individuals, families, and social service groups can participate in with older adults.

These activities bring generations together, nurture friendships, encourage volunteerism, and broaden understanding and support in a community.

Here are a few suggestions for this holiday season:

Host a storytelling time for older adults to relate their favorite holiday memories.

Visit a senior community. Many of these individuals would appreciate having

Continued on page 14

Power Wheelchair Sales & Repairs • Call Toll Free: 888-366-1767





VALLEY HOME MEDICAL SUPPLY
your quick response team

Medi-Cal, Medicare & Most Insurance Accepted
Certified Technicians on Staff

Delivery Available!

- Wheelchairs
- Scooters
- Knee Walkers
- Oxygen
- Hospital Beds
- Walkers
- Stair Lifts
- Ramps
- Chair Lifts

We have stair lifts!



Take 15% OFF entire ONLINE order at ValleyHomeMedicalSupply.com
 Use coupon code BREEZE at checkout.

7361 Topanga Canyon Blvd, Canoga Park 91303 Serving our clients since 1982

School

Ventura Job & Career Center January Career Shops

Tuesday, January 5 - Computer Basics for Job Seekers, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - become familiar with Windows desktop programs to enhance your job skills.

Wednesday, January 6 - Power of VOS (Virtual OneStop), 1 pm - 4 pm - Learn about the Virtual OneStop website and how you can use the various tools in the system to build your resume and customize your job search to a specific location and occupation. Must have basic computer skills.

Thursday, January 7 - Resumes that Sell, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters. Walk away with a portfolio that shows off professional skills and experience. Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers. Prior registration required by calling the Ventura Job & Career Center at 805-654-3435 to enroll.

Tuesday, January 12 - Explore Your Future, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - complete a self-evaluation to help identify your skills and aspirations. Gain insight into the hidden labor market and develop a career strategy based on high-demand occupations.

Thursday, January 14 - Dollars and Sense, 1 pm - 4 pm - gain a basic understanding of good/bad debt, credit, spending triggers, budgeting and financial goals. Take control of your financial future.

Tuesday, January 19 - Winning Interviews, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - supplies the tools to make a lasting first impression when interviewing.

Wednesday, January 20 - Job Retention, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - learn how to succeed at your new job. This mini-career shop will help you discover what employers are really looking for in their employees and how to make yourself more valuable.

Tuesday, January 26 - Online Job Search Strategies, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - teaches useful and successful methods of surfing the Internet for job leads, and how to properly respond. Must have basic computer skills. Bring your completed resume on 3 1/2" floppy disk.

Thursday, January 28 - Tap into

the Hidden Job Market, 1 pm - 4 pm - learn how to initiate contacts and job leads and why networking is so important. Gain important insight and tools for finding job leads before they are advertised.

Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers. Space is limited. Prior registration required by calling the Ventura Job & Career Center at 805-654-3435 to enroll. Location: Ventura Job & Career Center, 4651 Telephone Road.

Career Shops are presented in partnership with Ventura County Job & Career Centers and are sponsored by the Human Services Agency and the Workforce Investment Board. Equal opportunity Employer/Program/Service - TDD/TT Inquiries call 1 (800) 735-2922. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individual with disabilities.

Passing the bar - recent graduates of Ventura College of Law

Seventeen recent graduates from the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law have passed the July 2009 General Bar Examination, a key requirement for admission into the State Bar, the law school announced today.

Successful candidates from the Ventura campus were Ryan Blatz, Gina Herkel, Anzac Jacobs, Joseph Jones, Michael Labrum, Jennifer Lyons, Erin Mayo, Janet Mertes, Kimberlee Ray and David Tetzlaff.

"We are extremely proud of each of these individuals and look forward to welcoming them into the legal community," said College of Law Dean Heather Georgakis. "Through their studies these former students demonstrated a true passion for the law, and we know that the legal fraternity will be richer with them as members."

The three-day General Bar Examination is given twice a year (February and July) and consists of a multiple-choice multistate bar section, six essay questions and two performance tests designed to assess an applicant's ability to apply general legal knowledge to practical tasks. Those who pass the exam and who have satisfied other requirements for admission to the Bar may either take the Attorney's Oath individually or participate in admissions ceremonies held this month throughout the state.

Community Events

Ojai events

Continued on page 9

"Other People's Money" (Aug 13 - Sept 11) is about a corporate raider who aims at taking over a company which is a small town's major employer and run by an old codger. Directed by Steve Grumette, this timely topic is really a comedy with sharp insights.

"Wait Until Dark" (Oct 1 - Oct 30) is a thriller about sinister crooks terrorizing a blind woman who has something they want. Directed by Tom Eubanks, this scary drama is tautly written by Frederick Knott.

To keep tabs on Ojai ACT and its productions and to purchase tickets, go to www.OjaiACT.com.

Ojai artist, **Dennis Wood**, felt inspired to create a detailed painting of San Francisco, after working with an artist colleague, **Kate Hoffman**, to create an impressionistic street scene of San Francisco 1910. The artists painted a street scene of old San Francisco directly on to the back wall of the Ojai Valley Grange for Senga Theatre's Christmas production of I REMEMBER MAMA. An early 1900's black and white photo of San Francisco provided by Francisca Beach, Senga's Artistic Director, inspired the paintings. Wood treasures the city of San Francisco because his mother was born there in 1911. He wanted to depict, in detail, what San Francisco looked like at this period in time.

"I Remember Mama" by John Van Druten, Senga's heartwarming study of American family life runs until December 20th. Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 PM and Sundays at 2:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students). Group rates available.

Behind the scenes, and rarely men-

tioned, are two young gals who contribute to the smooth running of Senga Classic Theater's Christmas production of I Remember Mama at The Ojai Valley Grange.

Sisters from Ojai, Dallas Stephens (17) is the stage manager and her younger sister, Callie Stephens (13) is the assistant stage manager.

Back stage work involves long hours of hard work for the sisters. Dallas, who has been at every rehearsal since the beginning of the 6 week rehearsal period in October, noted down all the actors' moves, provided many of the rehearsal props as well as playing several small roles in the play. Dallas takes classes at Ventura College, practices Irish dancing and studies the violin in her spare time.

Callie Stephens is home schooled and joined the production the week before it opened. She helps Dallas, checking the actors' personal props, setting up backstage furniture and checking the front of house arrangement before the audience come in. She also plays several small roles in the play. Callie also practices Irish dancing, studies violin and makes jewelry in her spare time.

Ojai Valley Grange, 381 Cruzero St., Ojai. Free parking. For information and reservations, please call 646-4885.

Dec. 30: Meditation Mount presents Full Moon Community Meditation in Capricorn, Wed. Dec. 30th at 7:30 PM

Participate in this joyous act of celebration and service at the time of the Full Moon in Capricorn to invoke, anchor and distribute blessings to our world. Please join in this group meditation for humanity. Your generous donations are appreciated.

Meditation Mount 10340 Reeves Rd, Ojai, 646-5508, www.meditation.com



Back by popular demand a Rubicon Family Christmas Concert swings and sings its way through the holidays until December 27, a holiday musical celebration for the whole family that is fast becoming Ventura's newest holiday tradition! Besides the usual suspects the cast includes talented young artists from our community to celebrate the season.

Rubicon Theatre Co., 1006 E. Main Street. For tickets and more information call 667-2900, or visit www.rubicontheatre.org

Honor seniors

Continued from page 13

someone stop to share a conversation. Make holiday greeting cards for residents at a retirement center. Make a family photo album as a holiday gift.

Construct a family tree, giving children the opportunity to learn and share with an older member of their family. Ask a senior to share special talents, such as cooking or quilting to be passed on to interested young people.

The older we get the more the holiday season becomes about spending time with family and friends and not about gifts and parties. Giving of your time is the best gift you could possibly give. Share a holiday dinner and movie favorite such as Miracle on 34th Street. This classic touches every generation.

The holiday season is a busy time for all. For most of us this means additional stress as we try to squeeze into our schedule, time for sending cards, buying and wrapping gifts, decorating the house, and cooking holiday meals. So during this time we must remember that many older folks have special needs during the holidays as

well. The holiday blues can affect us all. Often thought of as the happiest time of year for many can sometimes mean sadness and depression for others. Being surrounded by family can often ease these feelings that are not uncommon in our senior population.

Holiday visits provide a good opportunity for adult children to gauge well-being and health of their elderly parents and family members. Discreetly taking notice during holiday visits of whether their family member has had a change in health, memory, living conditions or finances. Be aware of changing conditions and spend time with these family members to better understand what they may be going through.

Older adults are a vibrant, contributing part of our communities. They have a great deal of wisdom and insight to share; they deserve to be honored at this the holiday season as well as all year long. I know my life is enriched everyday by spending time with my senior friends.

Breeze:

Micki Rickard is the Marketing Director at Aegis Living of Ventura, 4964 Telegraph Road in Ventura. She can be reached at 650-1114

Horseracing

Live via Satellite



The

DERBY CLUB

AT VENTURA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Pari-Mutuel Wagering with
Instant Payoffs at Track Odds

10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
(805) 653-2533
www.venturacountyfair.org/derby

Free Admission and Parking
Wednesdays & Thursdays
Full Service Bars and Restaurant
Must be 18+ to enter

Wright Library – The battle continues

Wright library closing: The perfect storm

by Tim Pompey

It had the feeling of a wake. People mingling the night Wright Library officially closed. A whole community of mourners and well wishers. Forty years worth of reading and children's activities. These folks came to acknowledge how one small library served as a gathering post for them and their children.

Unfortunately, despite some valiant efforts by library supporters, Wright library and the patrons who enjoyed it so much couldn't turn back the perfect storm. Sentiment doesn't pay the bills. Government administrators have to play hardball when their coffers dry up. As the money goes, so goes government services. It's the old saying. You get what you pay for.

I've seen this before. Back in 2003, state-funded arts education had a similar fate. Remember Governor Gray Davis? The huge state budget crisis? Anyone ever hear of the California Arts Council? Probably not, unless you were involved, as I was, in school related arts education. For years, hundreds of small arts councils relied on CAC to fund their nonprofit arts education programs. In 2003, poof. State funding for CAC was slashed to the bone. My job and hundreds of others across the State disappeared overnight.

Well, here we are again. This time, the perfect storm has hit Ventura's library services. 1) A state economy, operating as boom or bust, goes seriously south, with State and County unemployment rising to 12 percent. 2) A county economy dependent on state revenues and property taxes to fund county libraries gets swamped by the state recession and suddenly, the usual tributaries for library funding dry up. 3) A city like Ventura, used to having the County supplement local libraries, gets hit with one of its worst budget deficits ever. Millions of dollars in the hole, it decides to ask its citizens for additional tax revenues to keep some services, including Wright Library, afloat. The citizens vote down the request.

When you run a family budget smartly, you routinely make decisions about what's important to you and your family. It's not always about how much money you spend. It's about what you value and where you pool your money to support those values. Parents routinely decide to fund activities that are valuable to their family. Sports. Music. Education. Entertainment. It's all about priorities. If there's less funding to play with, some

things, painful as it may be, get dropped.

The community of Ventura must ask itself some hard questions about priorities. Services don't grow on trees. They must be paid for. So, in the same way that families budget, Venturans must decide: How important are libraries in Ventura? What responsibility can the City and its citizens take upon themselves to pay for their own library (or libraries)?

At the core of this issue is the importance of literacy services to children and adults in Ventura. Specifically, tax-funded literary services. What priority does this have in the community? Remember, in a family budget, priorities get paid for out of pocket. Other items may get sacrificed for that priority. Funding is given to items at the top of the list. In this case, if

Wright closes its doors

by Rebecca Wicks

In a sad scene, library employees filed out of the 42-year old Wright Library on Nov. 30 for the last time.

Tears in their eyes, most had been working at the library on Day Road for multiple years.

"I watched kids grow up working here – I watched him grow up," said a ten-year veteran librarian who asked not to be named as she pointed to a boy across the way.

A final motion in mid-November by the city council sealed the library's fate which had been teetering for a number of months. The library was officially cut from

the issue of limited parking spaces at the E.P. Foster Library on Main Street and have asked city staff members to look into possible solutions.

Mayor Christy Weir voted with the motion that closed the Wright's doors, but stated she would support adding future developer's fees to support libraries.

"I will vote yes because it is our reality," said Weir in the council meeting where the motion was passed to close the Wright. "We can't make decisions on emotions. We are in a recession. We still have two libraries left."

"No one looks forward to closing the Wright," said City Manager Rick Cole. "We can't pretend that we have money that we don't have."

Cole pointed out the city is not in a financial position to take on funding the library having already cut \$11.5 million from the city's budget.

Council members Neal Andrews and Jim Monahan both voted against the motion.

Monahan urged the city to "think outside the box," and to continue discussions in order to come up with new ideas to fund the library.

"I have a real problem with this," said Andrews who likened closing the library to shutting down a company's most successful retail outlet. "We have cut so much of our quality of life services, I have cut enough."

At the following council meeting Andrews appealed to the council to use \$540,000 in developer fees to keep the library open through October 2011. The monies, from the Sycamore Village housing development are earmarked for planning a new library. Andrews failed in securing enough support from other council members.

Other supporters of the library lobbied the council to consider dipping into the city's reserve funds to keep the library open for another year, but the option was never formally considered. Prior to this meeting council member Carl Morehouse had stated that while it is a very emotional issue it was "not an emergency to use emergency funds."

Jen Mowad, mother of three-year-old and 17-month-old girls, described her youngest as just having become a "seasoned veteran...picking out books, taking them to a table and paging through them."

"We will deeply miss visiting the Wright," said Mowad who says her girls enjoyed the library immensely and always "throw a fit when I force them to leave."

The city currently leases the land on which the Wright Library sits for \$1 a year from Ventura College. The council directed city staff to discuss retaining the rights to the building through the end of the lease which ends in 2015.

Some like Scott Powers question why there wasn't more public pressure laid on the college to extend the lease.

"It's closing 2015 regardless, why continue throwing money at it?" said Powers.

Powers, 41, who remembers field trips to the library when he was a student at Elmhurst Elementary School points out that the college intended to take back the land at the end of the lease.

"I think the college [would have] simply euthanized it in a couple of years," said Powers.

The library's books will be moved to the E.P. Foster Library in down town Ventura. A small library located on Ventura Avenue which is funded by grants will remain open.

Last month Venturans rejected Measure A, a half-cent sales tax increase which would have helped fund the library.

Council members have acknowledged



a community decides to support library services, they must be willing to prioritize and pay for them.

I felt sad when I walked out of Wright Library. Yet, hand wringing aside, I wondered, despite all the protests, if the issue as a budget priority had been swamped by too much sentiment and not enough clear thinking. Perhaps some smart citizens in the community might put their heads together and ask this important question: When the storm clears, what can be done to fund library services? Should Camarillo and Oxnard be studied for clues? Might the current city-funded public art program provide a model for future library funding?

Citizens of Ventura. Ask yourselves honestly. What would you be willing to give to have your own library system? Remember. Budget. Priorities. City services. You get to choose.

Editor's note:
Our December 30 issue will contain several letters to the editor regarding the Wright Library closing.

Business



Breeze writer Nanci Cone (fifth from the left in the upper row) will graduate with other wonderful ladies from the Women's Economic Ventures. Photo courtesy of Terry Lynn Photography.

WEV is dedicated to economic empowerment of women

Breeze writer Nanci Cone will graduate with honors from the Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) held at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort, 633 East Cabrillo Blvd, Santa Barbara, tonight from 6-8pm along with students from the other WEV locations.

Nanci states that "it was the hardest thing I ever did - wow!! We all had to write a business plan if we were to graduate with honors. Unbelievable. It was a terrific experience - I learned so much and met so many dedicated people. This is something I highly recommend to anyone interested in opening their own business."

WEV is a local, non-profit organization dedicated to creating a just and equitable society through the economic empowerment of women. WEV provides opportunities for entrepreneurs in every phase of the business life cycle: start-up, launch, grow, and sustain. Their programs and services offered fall under the areas of training, access to capital and business services. All services are open to men and women entrepreneurs interested in starting or growing their own business.

WEV's Self-Employment Training course is 14-week course providing week-by-week training in the most important aspects of organizing, financing, marketing and managing a small business. Partici-

pants leave the course with a complete business plan including a marketing plan, a cash flow projection, an operations plan, and a core network to help sustain the business.

There are now more than 1,000 businesses throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties owned and operated by graduates of WEV's Self-Employment Training program or recipients of small business loans through WEV. The Self-Employment Training course is part of the continuum of programs WEV offers to help women start-up, launch, grow, and sustain their own business. The course is divided into five modules: Business Start-up Basics, Feasibility and Marketing, Business Finances, Business Management and Business Plan Writing.

The 14-week course meets weekly for 3 hours. In addition, there are two full-day Saturday workshops. The course is offered twice annually: February through May and September through December. Maximum class size is 30. Classes are taught in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Thousand Oaks. The course is offered on a sliding scale based on your household income for the past year.

The next WEV orientation will take place Wednesday, January 6, 6-7 pm at the Ventura Adult Continuing Education Center (VACE), 5200 Valentine Road, Room 205, Ventura. To register, contact WEV at www.wevonline.org or call 805.965.6073.

Randy Hinton, Ventura Chamber Chairman of the Board stated "We will look to an individual who is a motivator with strong team-building skills, someone who is experienced in financial management and proficient in government affairs, and will continue the path of success Zoe Taylor helped our organization to pave."

In addition to traditional methods, the Chamber will implement innovative strategies to fill the role of executive director, including online message boards, blogs, social media, and other outreach efforts.

"The Chamber's goal has always been to work in partnership with government, local, county, and state civic leaders and businesses and continue to bring vitality to the City of Ventura through mutual partnerships," Hinton said. "The role of our next executive director will take a considerable amount of research and reflection by the board of directors to ensure a perfect fit for our community and those we serve."

Hinton said the candidate will also need to be proficient in both team leadership and the exciting challenges of a continuing social and web media presence and it's relevancy to the Chamber's constituency.

Fausset Neely Affiliate acquires Houston office building

Richard L. Fausset, Richard L. Fausset, Jr., and Jack E. Neely, Managers of FN Northwest One, LLC are pleased to announce the purchase of Northwest One, a six-story 126,108 square foot office building located at 13100 Northwest Freeway in Houston, Texas. This is their first acquisition in eight years.

The building was purchased from a California real estate investment company for \$5,250,000, but has a replacement cost estimated at \$25 million.

Fausset Neely, Inc. partnerships and joint ventures have raised over \$62.5 million in capital to acquire over 2.86 million square feet of office, retail, and industrial properties and 274 acres of land at a total cost of \$87.3 million located in Texas, Louisiana, California and Alabama since 1992.

Fausset Neely, Inc. is a Ventura, California based full service real estate investment company.

Health

CMH offers free stroke screenings every Friday

Community Memorial Hospital is offering free mini stroke screenings every Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., through its StrokeAware program.

Stroke is the No.3 cause of death from men and women, and the screenings are offered as a prevention strategy to identify and educate those who are at risk. Participants have their blood pressure taken and are given rhythm strip and carotid auscultation tests. They also are educated on the signs and symptoms of a stroke.

No appointment is necessary; walk-ins are welcomed. The StrokeAware program is in the Heartaware Early Detection Center located across the street from the hospital at 168 N. Brent St. on the third floor.

For more information, call 667-2818.

CMHS promotes Becky Trevino

Community Memorial Health System has announced the promotion of Becky Trevino as its new Physician Liaison.

As the Physician Liaison, Trevino will serve as the main link between CMHS and local physician offices. She will be responsible for addressing the needs of our physicians, as well as developing and implementing communication strategies to help foster positive relationships. Her efforts will be aimed at communicating the services offered by our health system, while addressing issues that will lead to an enhanced working environment that benefits our patients and customers.

Trevino's career at CMH began as a Senior Radiology Technologist in Diagnostic Imaging. In her 18 years at CMHS she served in several capacities including

Director of Imaging, Outpatient Imaging Services director and Director of The Breast Center, where she was instrumental in establishing the Healthy Women's Program, a program which provides complimentary breast care and education to local women who lack access to pay for these life-saving exams.

Trevino is a 1991 graduate of the Harbor UCLA School of Radiologic Technology, and is certified as a Registered Technologist by both the California School of Radiologic Technology and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

Additional free flu shots offered at select centers

Community Memorial Health System has received a limited amount of additional seasonal flu shots to be available at two of Centers for Family Health on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Centers for Family Health locations where the flu shots will be available are at 138 W. Main Street, Suite E in Ventura and 2921 S. Saviers Road in Oxnard.

The free vaccinations, co-sponsored by the Ventura County Public Health Department, are for the seasonal flu - not the H1N1 (swine flu) virus - and are available in limited dose and will be available on a first come, first serve basis. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 585-3090 or go to www.cmhshealth.org/cfh.

H1N1 vaccine eligible list expanded

The Ventura County Public Health Department has expanded the list of who is eligible to receive the H1N1 vaccine once again and now includes all people, healthy or high risk, 6 months of age and older. This list has been updated and includes those adults aged 25-64 who are healthy; they are the last group to become eligible to receive the vaccine in Ventura County. "This basically opens the eligibility for H1N1 vaccine to everyone in our county," said Public Health Officer, Dr. Robert Levin.

Infants (under 6 months of age) are ineligible to receive the vaccine. Scientists believe the vaccine will not be effective in this age group.

This new dictum was arrived at due to the following factors:

The amount of vaccine that has arrived in the county since September has increased to adequate levels 25 to 30% of the high risk population in Ventura County has now been vaccinated against H1N1

There has not been an unmanageable increase in the length of lines at clinics where vaccine is being offered

"This vaccine isn't going to do anyone any good if it sits on the shelf," said Dr. Levin. "The more people we can get this into in our county, the better." The novel H1N1 (swine) vaccine is available for Ventura County residents only. Sites where the vaccine is available can be found on the Health Care Agency Public Health website: www.vchca.org/H1N1.

Breeze:

Please do not refer to this as "swine flu" this reference has destroyed the swine industry, you can not get this flu from eating or kissing a pig



"We are searching for a successor to take the helm of our organization and lead it into a new era," said Randy Hinton, Ventura Chamber Chairman of the Board

Chamber executive director

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce has announced a search to recruit dynamic candidates to fill the role of executive director.

Religion

A history of Christmas

by Tim Pompey

The history of Christmas carries centuries of cultural and religious tradition from Europe and Africa to the U.S. Mixing winter solstice rites, Christian history, and lighthearted legend, Christmas today is a melting pot of ideas intended to create a season of celebration.

The word "Christmas," first mentioned in church literature in 1038, came from Middle and Old English terms meaning "Christ's Mass." Christian tradition celebrates Christmas as the birth of Jesus, estimated between 7 and 2 B.C.E. This birth was noted in two of the New Testament Gospels: Matthew 1:18 - 2:12 and Luke 1:26 - 2:40.

The early church made no mention of a Christmas celebration. The earliest Christian reference to a "nativity" festival was noted in Egypt around 200, but the annual date for this commemoration is unclear. In 320, Pope Julius I officially proclaimed December 25 as Christmas, presumably to offset the Roman holiday Saturnalia. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, the holiday, practiced on January 6, became known as Epiphany.

After the Protestant Reformation in the early 1500's, many Protestants condemned Christmas as "papist." After the Puritans toppled the English monarchy in 1647, Christmas was officially banned until 1660, when Charles II was restored to the throne. Puritans in Boston outlawed Christmas from 1659 to 1681.

After the Revolutionary War, Christmas was considered too English and again fell out of favor in the colonies. Still, many settlers from Europe continued to bring their Christmas traditions with them. Examples include the German Moravians, who introduced the Christmas tree in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in the 1700's.

Our modern view of Santa Claus developed from stories about St. Nicholas (born about 280), a monk in what is now modern Turkey. These stories described his legendary charity and kindness. Other mythical legends include Kris Kringle in Switzerland and Germany, Father Christmas in England, and Jultomten in Scandinavia.

The American celebration of "Sinter

Klass" originated in December 1773 when Dutch families in New York, gathering to honor the anniversary of St. Nicholas' death, gave gifts to each other.

Christmas was revived in America in the early 1800s through literature. A modern Christmas was first suggested by Washington Irving's short stories in the 1820's. Clement Clarke Moore's poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (now known as "The Night Before Christmas") was written in 1822. Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was published in 1843. Our popular image of Santa Claus was drawn by German-American cartoonist Thomas Nast in 1863.

Modern holiday decorations began with the growing popularity of the Christmas tree in America in the 1800's. Early holiday ornaments included fruits, nuts, and other food items such as cookies, gingerbread, popcorn and cranberries. Glass ornaments followed in the mid 1800's. The invention of electricity in the 1890's led to the eventual development of Christmas lights.

Entertainment and retail industries have provided Americans with significant Christmas traditions. "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," published as a marketing poem in 1939 by Robert May to bring customers into Montgomery Wards, became an instant Christmas classic. In 1949, the popular song was written by Johnny Marks and sung by Gene Autry.

"White Christmas," originally featured in the 1942 film "Holiday Inn," was an Academy Award winning song by Irving Berlin. The movie "White Christmas" was released in 1954 and starred Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney. "The Christmas Song," composed by Mel Torme and Bob Wells in 1946, was popularized by Nat King Cole.

Today Christmas in the U.S. is a mixture of myth, spirituality, and economics. Still, in whatever format you may practice it, the spirit of the season brings happiness and smiles to young and old alike. Through songs, movies, decorations, and gift giving, we all understand the meaning when we say to each other "Merry Christmas!"

the cultures of various African peoples, and is celebrated by millions of Africans throughout the world. Moreover, these various African peoples celebrate Kwanzaa because it speaks not only to African Americans in a special way, but also to Africans as a whole, in its stress on history, values, family, community and culture.

First, Kwanzaa was created to reaffirm and restore African culture. It is an expression of recovery and reconstruction of African culture which was being conducted in the general context of the Black Liberation Movement of the '60's and in the specific context of The Organization Us, the founding organization of Kwanzaa and the authoritative keeper of its tradition. Secondly, Kwanzaa was created to serve as a regular communal celebration to reaffirm and reinforce the bonds between people. And Kwanzaa was conceived as a fundamental and important way to introduce and reinforce these values and cultivate appreciation for them.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karina, professor, Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, author and scholar-activist who stresses the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize

and promote African American culture.

Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one, and can be practiced by Africans of all religious faiths.

Gifts are given mainly to children, but must always include a book and a heritage symbol. The book is to emphasize the African value and tradition of learning stressed since ancient Egypt, and the heritage symbol to reaffirm and reinforce the African commitment to tradition and history.

The last day of Kwanzaa is the first day of the new year, January 1. Historically this has been for African people a time of sober assessment of things done and things to do, of self-reflection and reflection on the life and future of the people and of recommitment to their highest cultural values in a special way. Following in this tradition, it is for us then a time to ask and answer soberly and humbly the three Kwanzaa questions: Who am I; am I really who I say I am; and am I all I ought to be? And it is, of necessity, a time to recommit ourselves to our highest ideals, in a word, to the best of what it means to be both African and human in the fullest sense.



New chief of the Ventura Fire Department began his career as a full-time firefighter in 1981

Fire Chief

Continued from page 3

get cuts which are coming. Also, by the end of year, they will no longer have a roving city fire engine crew due to the budget cuts. The engine will be a great loss as it costs about a third of a fully staffed station and it helped reduced response time to emergencies by 10 percent.

Kevin has noted that collaborating with other departments and increasing community relationships may help with the losses. He stated that he was committed to creating a climate of change and opportunity by being agile and mobile, encouraging risk taking, developing their people and building their leaders. He praised the department employees and encourages suggestions for greater efficiency. The department offers a vast amount of services including medical emergency response, building inspections, code enforcement, natural disaster preparation, fire suppression and prevention as well as responding to hazardous materials.

"I want to ensure that the Ventura Fire Department remains a great organization that changes with the times," said Rennie. "We don't have a choice about the fiscal situation we face, but we will figure out a way to accomplish our goals efficiently. We will collaborate with other departments and enhance our relationships with the community."

Movie Time

Review of Invictus

by Tim Pompey

★ ★

Starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon
Currently Playing at Century 10 and 16

When I first learned of this film, my instincts warned me: Beware the sports movie, especially if there's a dramatic game involved where something important hangs on the outcome. How many of these over-hyped clunkers have already been thrown in our laps? Still, it had a good director and a notable cast. So, reluctantly I said . . . ehhhh, okay. Turns out my instincts were good. Unfortunately, this movie is not.

It's 1995 and Nelson Mandela (Freeman), recently elected as South Africa's first black president, has his hands full trying to pull a country out of apartheid. Solution? How about focusing on the nation's woeful rugby team, the South African Springboks, as a symbol of national unity? Enter Francois Pienaar (Damon) as Mr. Rugby captain. Mandela invites him to Pretoria for tea, inspires him with little pearls of wisdom (plus the poem "Invictus") and sets him loose to spread that inspiration to his (mostly) white teammates. Well, it just so happens, the Rugby World Cup is in South Africa that year. So, if the South African team could pull together and win the Cup. Well, imagine all that peace and harmony.

I don't doubt how much South Africans love rugby, or that Mandela was smart enough to use a sporting event for political purposes. What is disappointing is that Eastwood, normally a director with an eye for dialogue, let this clunker jog out on the playing field. If this script was a rugby player, he'd get crushed in the scrum before the ball ever rolled from the pile. Seriously. Too many cliches. Not enough focus. Too many pieces. Not enough cohesion. I mean, honestly Clint. Do we really need a side plot about Mandela's security force?

This is not to say that the actors — Freeman, Damon, and a host of international cast members — don't give it a valiant effort. There are inklings of inspiration throughout. Still, all those wooden expressions eventually pile up until the story collapses on itself. I couldn't help but wonder as I watched each scene: Does anybody in this movie really believe what they're saying? And, given the pressures that Mandela endured in office, was rugby really his ticket to national unity? Come on now. Really?

Trust your instincts. People say that all the time. Mine said no, no, no, but I gave in anyway. Just goes to show. When it comes to movies about life in South Africa, the bar has already been set: "Tsotsi." South African political thriller? Try "Catch a Fire." And when it comes to sports movies, there are only a few diamonds in the old coal bucket. "The Natural", "Chariots of Fire," and "Rudy" come to mind. This one, unfortunately, is mediocre. If this film entered itself in the Rugby World Cup, it wouldn't make it out of the quarterfinals. Sports fans and their political allies deserve better.

Kwanzaa the holiday

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from December 26 thru January 1, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

The first-fruits celebrations are recorded in African history as far back as ancient Egypt and Nubia and appear in ancient and modern times in other classical African civilizations such as Ashantiland and Yorubaland. Kwanzaa builds on the five fundamental activities of Continental African "first fruit" celebrations: ingathering; reverence; commemoration; recommitment; and celebration.

Rooted in this ancient history and culture, Kwanzaa develops as a flourishing branch of the African American life and struggle as a recreated and expanded ancient tradition, it draws from

The Lighter Breeze

Crock



Mother Goose and Grimm



Shoe



Zits



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sale sign is added 2. Button missing from woman's jacket 3. Ceiling light is added 4. Downer is missing 5. Man's tie is white 6. Flow of rings is missing

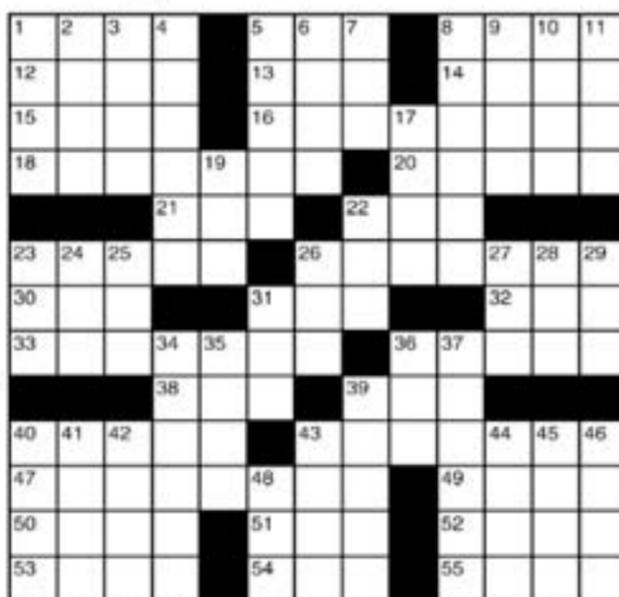


Solutions on page 20

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Branch
- 5 Scoundrel
- 8 Break suddenly
- 12 Hebrew month
- 13 Bullring cry
- 14 Ringlet
- 15 Apportion (out)
- 16 CB kin
- 18 Nassau's island group
- 20 Mountain nymph
- 21 "The Da Vinci Code" author Brown
- 22 Sky safety org.
- 23 Unkempt
- 26 German city
- 30 Noah's craft
- 31 Monkey suit
- 32 Back talk
- 33 "The Firm" author
- 36 Ballroom dance
- 38 Whammy
- 39 Has the ability
- 40 "Monopoly" building
- 43 Soccer star wed to a Spice Girl
- 47 Moorish kings' palace
- 49 Emanation
- 50 Venetian blind piece



- 51 "Of course" ex. payment
 - 52 Harness part 8 Sacred 34 Scabbard
 - 53 "Thirty days beetle 35 Captain's — ..." 9 Undraped place
 - 54 Ram's mate 10 Met melody 36 Pouch
 - 55 Wood-shaping tool 11 Trudge 37 Turkey's capital
- DOWN**
- 1 Child of 54-Across
 - 2 Concept
 - 3 Geometry or algebra
 - 4 Rye and pumpernickel
 - 5 "Yankee Doodle" man
 - 6 "Sad to say ..."
 - 7 Obama, for 31 April 15
 - 8 Sacred 34 Scabbard
 - 9 Undraped place
 - 10 Met melody 36 Pouch
 - 11 Trudge 37 Turkey's capital
 - 17 Wander 39 Stop
 - 19 Spring time 40 Corned beef recipe
 - 22 Office transmission 41 — podrida
 - 23 Periodical, briefly 42 ust one of those things
 - 24 Mess up 43 Concoct, in a way
 - 25 Schuss 44 Colored
 - 26 Drone 45 N. Mex. neighbor
 - 27 Einstein's birthplace 46 ion's pride
 - 28 Cage component 48 "See ya"
 - 29 Univ. transcript stat
 - 31 April 15

© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your love of the holidays creates a special bond between you and the people in your life. Use this as a way of building stronger relationships that will carry over well beyond this time.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A new approach could go a long way toward resolving a painful estrangement, especially at this holiday time. And since your aspects favor friendship this week, why not go ahead and try it?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your positives continue to dominate, and any negative factors that squeeze in can be dealt with easily. The secret is to tackle them at once and not allow them to benefit by your neglect.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Good news: A colleague's remarks could help you move toward ultimately resolving that persistent workplace situation. Meanwhile, enjoy the holidays with loved ones.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) No one reflects the bright holiday more than all you Leos and Leonas who love the shimmer and glimmer of the season. P.S.: There just might be a very special something from Santa.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Celebrate the holidays by being more receptive to new experiences. Overriding the Virgo reluctance to try new things could be the best gift you've given yourself in a long while.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Good news about a loved one makes the holidays even more festive. Expect some unexpected gifts, so be prepared with a few nicely wrapped packages of goodies to offer in return.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The holiday season provides an opportunity to meet new people, some of whom you might even consider "worthy" enough to join the Scorpio's select group of friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You always bring your own wonderful sparkle and light to the holidays, and don't be surprised if this year someone special reaches out to respond to your warmth in kind.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Togetherness is the dominant theme for the Goat's holiday celebrations this year. That means reaching out to bring everyone you care for into your very own special circle of light.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A reminder of a very special moment from the past makes the holidays more memorable for the romantic Aquarian. New friendships hold the promise of a romantic future as well.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Getting into the swim of things for all you party-loving Pisceans is easy enough this holiday season. And, of course, you can expect to impress people wherever you go.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your dedication brings you the success you strive for, and your generosity impels you to reach out and help others on their way up.

© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Solutions on page 20

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Ventura Harbor Winter Wonderland, Carnival & Sidewalk Sale

Sunday, December 20th from Noon - 4 p.m.

Live Reindeer • Visits with Santa
Strolling Carolers • Faux Snowfall
Carnival Rides • Holiday Characters
Ice Carving with Jean Luc • Games
Homemade Fudge & More!

Our Generous Sponsors:



Shop Ventura Harbor Village!

Spend \$5 in 3 Harbor shops for
a chance to win great prizes!

(values from
\$50 to \$350!)

Donate a
canned good at
the Village Carousel
for FoodShare &
receive a Free
Carousel Ride!



Prizes include 2-day
hotel stay, Monterey Bay
Aquarium tickets,
Whale Watching,
Dining Certificates
and More!

Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights Holiday Tropical Tiki Party

Friday, December 18th

& Saturday, December 19th

5 pm Carnival Festivities & Visits with Santa

7 pm Boat Parade & Fireworks



www.venturaharborvillage.com

Free Parking • Free Admission • 1583 Spinnaker Drive/From the North & South Exit
101 Freeway at Seaward Ave. - Left at Harbor Blvd. - Right on Spinnaker Drive



Planning An Estate Sale?
Call Sue Adams for a Free Consultation.

Ventura County Fairgrounds Swap Meet

Every Wednesday

7am to 2pm

Free Parking and Admission

Antiques • Collectibles

Farmers' Market

Vendor Space Available

For Information call Sue Adams

818.590.5435

10 West Harbor Boulevard

www.snauctions.com

Citi Foundation gives \$52,000 award to CEDC

The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) announced that the Citi Foundation has awarded a grant of \$52,000 to support predevelopment costs to build a new apartment community of 60 affordable homes in the City of Ventura. The development, named Azahar Place, will provide homes to low- and very low-income individuals and families. CEDC was given the opportunity to apply for this grant as one of only four organizations in the United States asked to pilot the Citi Foundation's new grantmaking program.

The Azahar Place project will offer housing to very low- and low-income families from the City of Ventura and western Ven-

tura County. Households will pay between \$414 and \$1,273 in net rent per month, depending on income level and unit size. In comparison, the average market rent for a one-bedroom, one-bath apartment in Ventura County is \$1,256, several times more than the rent that Azahar Place households will pay.

Construction on Azahar Place is anticipated to start construction in September 2010 and be completed in November 2011. This is the CEDC's first new construction development in the City of Ventura; CEDC previously partnered on an acquisition rehabilitation apartment complex.

Police and Fire

Continued from page 12

fire was started maliciously. Police and fire investigators conducted an on-scene investigation and collected evidence. Further criminal investigation

and a search for those responsible will continue through Ventura Police.

Chimney fire on Teloma Drive

Ventura City firefighters responded to a reported structure fire involving a chimney located at 283 Teloma Dr. on Dec. 9 at 10pm. Upon arrival, firefighters found that a fireplace had fire that extended into the surrounding wall concealed space up to the roof line. A quick attack knocked the fire down within 10 minutes. Firefighters conducted a search of the residence to ensure there was no further extension to the roof construction. The cause of fire was related to the operation of the fireplace by the occupant burning wood and resulting in the fire going up the face into the exterior wall space. There were no injuries reported and fire was contained to the chimney area construction.

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

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



Introducing Domino's® New Pizza
NEW SAUCE. NEW CRUST. NEW CHEESE.
STILL ROUND.

Everything about our delicious new pizza is new. From the herb tomato sauce with a red pepper kick, to the cheese made with 100% real mozzarella, flavored with just a hint of provolone, to the garlic-seasoned crust with a buttery taste, your mouth will enjoy the surprise. Did we actually abandon our old recipe and completely revamp our pizza? Oh yes, we did.

The Sauce is Boss
Our new tomato sauce has a medley of herbs and a red pepper kick.

"Upper" Crust
Our new garlic-seasoned hand-tossed crust with a rich, buttery taste is baked to a golden brown.

Mmmmm Cheese
Our new cheese is made with 100% real mozzarella, flavored with just a hint of provolone.

2 MEDIUM 2-TOPPING PIZZAS \$5.99 EACH
9151
ORDER NOW AT DOMINOS.COM
Minimum two or more...we'd suggest "OR MORE".

LEGAL STUFF ▶ Must purchase at least 2 pizzas. Our drivers carry less than \$20. You must ask for this limited time offer. Prices, participation, delivery area and charges may vary. Returned checks, along with the state's maximum allowable returned check fee, may be electronically presented to your bank. ©2009 Domino's IP Holder LLC. Domino's®, Domino's Pizza® and the modular logo are registered trademarks of Domino's IP Holder LLC.

MEGA DEAL®
One Large Pizza With Up to 5-Toppings
\$11.99 [5066]
No Double Portions, Please. Deep Dish Extra. Limited Time Offer.

PIZZA + PASTA + 2-LITER
One Large 1-Topping Pizza, Any BreadBowl Pasta & a 2-Liter Coca-Cola® Product
\$19.99 [8439]
Deep Dish Extra. Limited Time Offer.

PIZZA & WINGS
One Large 1-Topping Pizza & an Order of Buffalo Wings OR Domino's Pizza Buffalo Chicken Kickers®
\$18.99 [9001]
Deep Dish Extra. Limited Time Offer.

FAMILY MEAL DEAL
Two Large 2-Topping Pizzas, One Order of Cheesy Bread & a 2-Liter Coca-Cola® Product
\$28.99 [6346]
Deep Dish Extra. Limited Time Offer.

<p>CAMARILLO 805-585-6666 2801 Las Posas Pk. Serving Camarillo & Ojai</p> <p>MOORPARK 805-523-3030 101 High Street</p> <p>PORT HUENEME 805-984-4544 475 W. Channel Islands Blvd. Serving Port Hueneme, CMC Dred & Beach Area</p>	<p>FILMORE 805-524-9600 509 W. Ventura St. Serving Fillmore & Pico</p> <p>SANTA PAULA 805-953-2771 431 Santa Paula Out Rd.</p> <p>OJAI 805-640-0000 100 E. El Estero Dr. Serving the Ojai Valley & Lake Castaic</p>	<p>VENTURA 805-648-1100 1017 W. Ventura Ave. Serving West Ventura, Steamers & Beaches</p> <p>805-658-0080 3120 Sonograph Rd., Ste. #1 Serving Foresthill Avenue & Woodside College North of 120 Hwy.</p> <p>805-658-9911 2000 Johnson Dr. Serving East Ventura, Solving & Mendocino South of 120 Hwy.</p>	<p>OXNARD 805-487-5363 1200 Ventura Pk. Serving Central Oxnard & La Colonia</p> <p>805-988-1544 2501 E. Vineyard Ave. Serving North Oxnard & El Pico</p> <p>805-488-8101 400 Pleasant Valley Rd. Serving South Oxnard & Point Mugu</p>	<p> Delivery charge may apply.</p> <p></p>
---	--	--	---	--