



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 3, No. 6

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

Ventura Music Festival unveils treasure chests

by Tim Pompey

Romance is coming to Ventura. Or, as the Ventura Music Festival calls it: Romanze! In case you're wondering, that's the German spelling, a tribute to the romantic music of Germany and Austria that will be featured the week of April 30 through May 8, 2010. Think Beethoven, Strauss, and Schubert.

To kick off their 16th season, the Festival introduced their annual art exhibition on Friday, December 10, at the Pierpont Inn. This year's featured art pieces are "treasure chests": fifteen large, ornately painted boxes donated by artists from Camarillo, Oak View, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Ventura. These chests will be exhibited at various locations throughout Ventura and eventually auctioned off by the Festival.

The Festival invited members of the local community to the Pierpont to see these chests publicly for the first time and to meet with the artists. Themes ranged from visions of the rural Austrian countryside and coastal views of California to Japanese chrysanthemums and a topside perspective of the columns at Ventura City Hall. Art mediums included watercolors, oils, and one design that featured colorful strips of paper.

In addition, the Festival formally introduced its 2010 lineup. This year's performers include such notables as classical violinist Itzhak Perlman, Jazz artist Herbie Hancock, guitarist Sharon Isbin, the Calefax Reed Quintet, and the Escher String Quartet. Another group of international young artists will also be introduced at the annual Rising Stars! Soloists series.

Founded in 1994, the Ventura Music Festival began with a group of arts advo

Continued on page 4



An incredibly beautiful warm night further enhanced the wonderful 33rd anniversary Holiday Parade of Lights at Ventura Harbor held on Friday, December 18 and Saturday, December 19 that even spilled into Sunday. The parade was followed by fireworks that glistened off the calm waters and filled the night sky.

Zillions of spectators enjoyed the revelry as boats adorned with Christmas lights and decorations illuminated the Ventura Harbor.

A family carnival and a visit with Santa made the entire weekend a child's paradise and the adults had the opportunity to get a head start on Christmas shopping or to experience fine cuisine at one of the ten Harbor restaurants.

Some photos shown (the nice ones) by Dan Harding.

Breeze Year in Review - 2009

In January 2009, the Breeze was pleased to announce that Karl Keller was named the Ventura Chamber of Commerce's "citizen of the year" and it was announced that Wright Library was scheduled to be closed in July of 2009. January also brought "the most historic-

Continued on page 9

Is this Goodwill to impose a moratorium against new thrift stores?

The Ventura City Council has imposed a 45-day moratorium on new thrift stores downtown. This could affect the opening of the Goodwill faculty to be located on Main as previously reported in the Breeze.

In a 6-1 vote the council said a moratorium is needed while rules are written to minimize potential effects on neighbors.

Local businesses expressed concern for trash and public drop off containers that are frequently ransacked. Goodwill has stated that this will not be a drop-off center but the concerns were how is this controlled.

The emergency ban expires after 45 days but director Jeff Lambert said that this might not be enough time to present staff recommendations so an extension might be necessary.

Councilwoman Christy Weir said shoppers enjoyed the thrift stores "But we need

the rules, because they are a mess, I'm sorry to say."

Councilman Neal Andrews, casting the lone no vote, feels that the same rules could be put in place without a moratorium. He felt that this action was discriminatory against Goodwill as they have obtained a city business license and based upon that have signed a lease at the space now occupied by Nicholby's Antiques, which is now having a going out of business sale. Goodwill hoped to open by March.

Continued on page 4



The City of Ventura has completed their 6th annual Digital Photography Contest. The Breeze will be presenting some of the winners in this and future issues. This is the judges' choice in the Community Life category "When Pigs Fly" by Larry Brambles.

Mail Box.....	2
Opinion/Editorial.....	3
City News.....	4
News and Notes.....	5
The Arts and the WAV.....	8
Community Events.....	9
Art Scene.....	10
Professor Scamp.....	11
Police and Fire Reports.....	11
Senior Living.....	12
School.....	14
Sports.....	14
Wright Library - the battle continues..	15
Business.....	16
Health.....	16
Religion.....	17
Movie Time.....	17
The Lighter Breeze.....	18



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

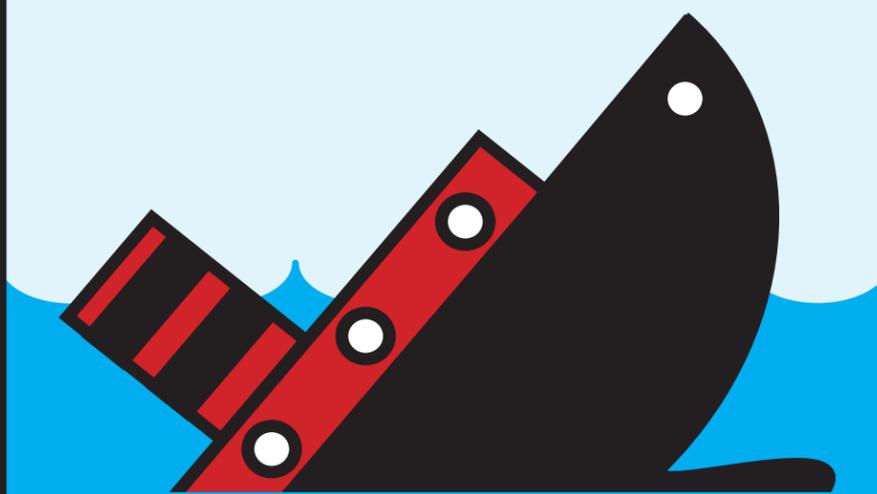
New Year Sale



Take an additional
10% OFF
one Sale item
upon presentation of this Ad

VALID THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2010

Call us before



you go under.

Real Estate
Probate
Boating Law

Law Offices of Pies and Young
805.765.7167
818.634.5201

Mailbox

Mayor and City Council,

Several years ago I proposed to the City Council an "assessment district" in Pierpont to pay for excavating the sand along Shore DR to create a "buffer zone" between the Pierpont Community and the ever-encroaching sand.

It is my understanding that the City is now considering establishing this assessment district. Note it is also my understanding that it is the Pierpont property owners and not the actual Pierpont residents that would be voting on this assessment.

Given that the City has had little success in getting "new taxes" through of late, I doubt that a sufficient percent of Pierpont property owners would vote in favor this assessment.

In the past the City has wasted taxpayer monies putting proposed tax increases to a vote when clearly there was no chance of these increases passing. I am writing this letter to ascertain that the City do its homework before putting this assessment to a vote. We shouldn't put this assessment to a vote if it has no chance of passing.

Additionally, this assessment would have a better chance of passing if it included the "grooming" of the fore beach... e.g. the removing of the sharp pieces of arundo that are strewn all over Pierpont Beach which make it impossible to walk on without injury. State Parks says there is not enough beachgoers to warrant the expense of "grooming" Pierpont Beach. It is my contention that it is the other way around - beachgoers/tourists do not frequent Pierpont beach in vast numbers simply because it is not groomed like all of the other City beaches in Southern California...e.g. Oxnard Shores, Hollywood Beach, Silverstrand, Santa Monica, Manhattan, Hermosa, Redondo, etc. Note, we are in competition with all of the other cities in Southern California for tourist dollars.

Lastly, it is my strong belief that in relation to Pierpont Beach, State Parks has been more of a hindrance than a help and that the City of Ventura should make every attempt to regain ownership of the entire beach in front of Pierpont and get State Parks out of the equation. This would also lend support to establishing the assessment district in the Pierpont Community that would deal with all of the most important beach issues not just the sand encroachment issue.

Murray Robertson

A very concerned Pierpont/Ventura resident

Hi Murray:

As you know, those of us who represent PCC have devoted numerous hours and energy to the stakeholder process in pursuit of a revision to the original proposed

Beach Management Plan. We have met no less than 12 times with city, state parks, and Surfrider to craft a document that will serve to meet the needs of all who are invested in our beach. The meetings have been productive and are near conclusion. All who have participated have been respectful and diligent. The process will produce a new plan which will be presented to the community. Those of us who are intimate with the details will make every effort to create an awareness of the overall benefit to the community. Hopefully the outcome will be positive and we can all move on to the funding portion of the project. Right now, we need to focus on the plan itself...one step at a time!!!

Thanks,
Dan Scully

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take a minute and thank your staff for the Local Crime Reports. I truly enjoy reading them. I really do...

We are Ventura locals (8 years) and appreciate the Ventura Breeze and are dedicated readers and will continue to be.

Thank you for your newspaper. You're doing a GREAT job!

Regards,
Heather Anderson & Barton Riggs
Ventura, CA

Dear Sheldon,

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoy reading the Breeze! I lived in Ventura from 1962 until 2007, and hopefully will be able to return again from the Oxnard area.

I have just one question: Is proof-reading a lost art?

For example: The article on the Grand Dames was delightful, and the photos excellent! However ----- did the writer mean "Risqué", and not "Risky" as printed? Was it "baited" breath, not "bated" as stated? Finally, I think the ladies "bare" it all ----- to "bear" might be a little challenging!

Meanwhile, I do thank you all for a wonderful issue, as usual.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year to you and your staff!

Sincerely,
Name withheld per request of sender
Oxnard

Breeze:

We make mistakes to make shure that our readers are paying attention as you curtainly are. Thank you for your obzervations; much appreciated.

And we are the first to fess up to our mistakes.

Happy to be your designated driver for New Years!

\$35 one way,
\$70 round trip
Discounts for groups
and charters!



805.650.6600 psc 6291
Holiday Inn Express

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

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
Peter Godinez
Sophia Kidd (from China)
Nelson Wallace

SENIOR ADVISORS

Nanci Cone
Suz Montgomery

ADVERTISING ADVISORS

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

Julie (call me Jules) D. McCampbell
MCCAMPBEL2@aol.com

PRODUCTION

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

I would like to wish our dedicated and wonderful readers a happy New Year and thank you for embracing and supporting the Ventura Breeze. Also, a happy New Year, hope for a prosperous 2010, and a special thank you to our wonderful advertisers who continue to support Ventura and the Breeze by advertising with us. In addition, a most sincere thank you to our very dedicated and talented staff of writers, designers and distributors for helping the Breeze become the "loved" paper that it is. And let's not forget Scamp for never being late with an article.

The coming year will be a wonderful one for the Breeze and exciting things will be happening as we bring on more advertising advisors to better serve Ventura and some of our surrounding communities.

I would also like to wish our city council and city staff the very best in the coming year. I think that they are doing a commendable job during these extremely tough times. I don't always agree with the city council but certainly support their efforts and commitment to making our wonderful city even better.

Even though Wright Library and police and fire services are important to me, they are not at the top of my wish list for next year. They can only be supported by an improved economy, which is my top priority for next year for Ven-

tura. To facilitate this, we must speed up our building permit process from planning and design approvals, to plan check times, to appeals, and to working alongside developers (oh, no not the "D" word) so that they don't give up after years of going nowhere with their projects here and leave our city to develop in other areas. Streamlining the process is especially important during these times when so many proposed projects are being abandoned because of the economy. Need evidence? Just look at the abundance of empty lots that have had their "Proposed Project" signs replaced with "Lot for Sale" signs.

Of course, I want well-planned and well-designed projects that add to the beauty and uniqueness of our city, and this can be accomplished. Extending downtown Ventura to the beach is a top priority. For years, builders have proposed extending the freeway in Beverly Hills underground, at their expense, for the lease rights over the freeway. Perhaps we could offer something along those lines here in Ventura.

On a completely different subject, the comments in my December 16 editorial regarding Neal Andrews not being elected deputy mayor may have been misunderstood based upon the following email that I received.

Sheldon:

Your December 16 editorial pointed out that historically, selection of the Ventura deputy mayor is based on seniority. However this time the most

senior candidate was not awarded the post. You ask "Could it have been because Neal Andrews is often the only 'no' vote on council actions?" I'd say your surmise is absolutely correct.

A person must demonstrate leadership to claim it. Seniority, a matter of standing in line the longest, does not establish a sensible claim. If time and again after debate is closed, one stands alone in the vote tally, one can hardly claim to be a leader. An independent maybe, but not a leader.

For better or worse, Neal Andrews finds himself a party of one on the city council. The deputy mayor election didn't create that isolation. It simply confirmed it.

Ted Hoople
Ventura

This is my response to Ted and my readers (both of you):

Ted:

I appreciate your letter, but that really wasn't my point at all which I, obviously, didn't make very clear.

My point was just the opposite and was that the rest of the city council might have been punishing him because he doesn't always go along with them, not because he doesn't show leadership qualities.

I think that he precisely shows his leadership qualities because of his independent thinking which is why I voted for him. Leaders don't always need to agree with the masses and they shouldn't.

By the way, he often does agree with the rest of the council and votes that way.

Sheldon

Mailbox

Hello Sheldon;

Just wanted to wish all of you Merry Christmas. Give Professor Scamp a scratch behind the ear for me. It's great to know when we launched the Breeze it stayed afloat. I miss working with you and Staci, but doing great in snowy Utah. Have a GREAT holiday.

Karen
Breeze

Karen helped us launch by delivering papers and doing most anything else we asked of her to help launch the paper. She is certainly missed by us all, and a woof-woof from Scamp.

City Council:

Monday evening it was very cold. I saw a cold homeless person and called Ventura Police to inquire as to where a known homeless shelter was, particularly during cold weather. They only knew of a Catholic facility on Ventura Avenue which they said was only open during the day. I then called the Salvation Army transitional living facility, where they said there had been a real increase of homeless people in Ventura without shelter, particularly of elderly women, whom they said could be seen particularly in the vicinities of Ventura Avenue at night. They also indicated they had 'heard' about an armory somewhere within Ventura where homeless people could sleep, but that many homeless people do not want to have to adhere to the rules of such shelters.

1. Is there a central "armory" or equal in Ventura that serves this function and what are the hours, if known?
2. Could not the PD be given an accurate description of such information to pass on for those who contact them on behalf of others?
3. Ventura is a city which publicly claims to reach out to the poor. One would think this should be more fully addressed as the weather remains cold.

4. It has been said a culture is best evaluated by how it treats its women.

5. What rules are abhorrent to homeless people, many of whom are schizophrenic and their reactions are not always to be taken at face value?

John Stewart
Ventura

Hi Sheldon,

What a joyous day. Rest assured, the spirit of giving is alive and well in the county of Ventura. Today we had our suitcase distribution to children in the foster care system in Ventura County. Families were invited to bring their foster children to Cypress Place Senior Living to pick out a suitcase of their choice any time throughout the course of the business day.

When the families and children arrived, they were met with over 1,000 different suitcases to choose from. Comprised of all shapes, sizes, colors and designs, it was truly a sea of suitcases. Food and drink, arts and crafts tables, Santa Claus handing out teddy bears and listening to Christmas wishes, were also available for those who came into the community. (The teddy bears were donated by someone who heard about the program and purchased them all herself to be given to the kids.)

Sheldon, I have to tell you, I saw nothing but beautiful smiles on the faces of these children as they picked out a suitcase of their very own. I consider myself blessed to have been able to witness it. From little ones pulling suitcases bigger than they were, to older children finding something just right for their own unique style and personality, it was awesome to see.

The importance and unimportance of the self cannot be exaggerated.

— R.H. Blyth

And the children are blessed that you and the Breeze were there to get the word out to the community about our need for suitcases. Our goal was 800 suitcases. We weren't sure if it would be possible. We exceeded that goal by over 200 suitcases, thanks to you and the wonderful staff at the Ventura Breeze.

Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone there who helped make this a reality. You truly gave a wonderful gift to a lot of beautiful children this holiday season.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year! See you in 2010.
Mike Macke
Community Marketing Director
Cypress Place Senior Living

Sayings from the Breeze 2009

Every minute that you are angry you lose 60 seconds of happiness.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

I learned long ago, never to wrestle with a pig. You get dirty, and besides, the pig likes it.

—George Bernard Shaw

The greatest happiness you can have is knowing that you do not necessarily require happiness.

—William Saroyan

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

—Dorthea Brandt

Continued on page 14

Corrections

In his article in our Dec. 16 issue "City Council installs new leadership" Tim Pompey wrote the following. "Summers received a pigment print from Liz Schwitters."

We received the following correction from her.

Editor:

I'd like to thank Tim Pompey for mentioning me in his article, "City Council installs new leadership". To avoid confusion, I do have a European spelling of my full name, "Elisabeth" which I shorten to "Liz".

"Liz Schwitters" should have been "Lis Schwitters" in the article. Thank you for this clarification.

Lis J. Schwitters



City News



New Mayor has work cut out for him

by Rebecca Wicks

In 1987 Bill Fulton moved his family to Ventura from Los Angeles after having had his eye on the small beach town for some time.

"We were looking for a good place to raise a family," said Fulton. "We wanted to live next to the beach."

Fulton described an immediate connection with Ventura when he first saw it.

"I'm from upstate New York and the strong downtown and small town feel really appealed to me," said Fulton. "It was a quality of life decision."

Twenty three years later the choice seems more than kismet with a successful career, a grown daughter and now the title of mayor to add to his accolades.

Fulton plans to hit the ground running and while being the mayor doesn't give him ultimate power to direct the city's agenda, he has prioritized three areas where he would like to push the ideas of collaboration and reinvention.

Fulton has already pressed the concept of finding efficiencies and the first area he would like to see further economic changes made is in the area of safety.

He gave the example of Medic Engine 10 as a smart way to accomplish city services at less cost. Funding for the roving engine was recently cut from the city's budget and ceases to exist.

Former Fire Chief Mike Lavery had called the implementation of Medic Engine 10 one of the projects he was most proud of calling it "important and imperative to improving response times across the city."

"The concept of the roving engine is great," Fulton said. "Who says every engine needs a fire house?"

Fulton wondered if this concept can't be applied to library services.

"The Wright Library closing has only accentuated this conversation," said Fulton. "Maybe there can be a way a book can be delivered to you, or at least close to you."

These are all ideas that city groups are looking at in the struggle to determine if city residents would be best served by one

central library, or multiple locations.

A third area Fulton describes as needing further scrutiny is public transportation.

"Funding for this area is about to become a crisis," said Fulton. "Does every person need access, and where do people need access?"

Fulton underlines repeatedly that he alone cannot provide solutions and that it will take groups of citizens to come together in order to collectively make decisions for the community.

"No individual organization can do their job alone," said Fulton. "If politics in a city consists of individual constituents then the town isn't going to work very well."

Fulton pointed to the Kingdom Center project which the council recently approved as an example of community collaboration to help with the plight of homelessness. While there is controversy surrounding the daily program the facility will provide which includes a place for homeless to shower and eat, the residential portion of the program has been embraced by most everyone.

The program itself is entirely funded by private philanthropy.

"The city is helping where it can in this project, but it really it is the community that has come together to make this project work," said Fulton. "It takes collaboration between groups to solve the city's problems, especially in a down economy."

Many worry the new mayor may have more than an uphill battle during his mayorship.

"The economy is going to be the 900 pound gorilla in the room with every decision made during his tenure," said Jill Taser, a local resident. "I wish him luck."

Others who were hoping to elect new candidates to the council in the last election are concerned that Fulton has been part of the group who has, in their opinion moved the city to embrace further inefficient practices.

"I have my doubts that efficiency is his number one priority," said Bill Walton, a local resident who voted for what he calls "fresh blood," at the last council election.

Not new to Ventura politics, Fulton has been a council member since 2003. Before this, Fulton was chair of the citizen committee that produced the "Seize the Future" community vision. The 39-member committee spent 18 months and drafted a vision for Ventura's future.

"The general plan and strategic vision of that original document still exists today," Fulton stated referring to the current general plan for the city. "Language such as 'our well-planned community,' and so forth are from that plan."

Fulton also served on the city's Library Advisory Commission and was a vocal opponent to the 2002 ballot measure which aimed to okay the construction of 1,300 houses on Ventura's hillsides.

Fulton is also an author and urban planning analyst. He is a principal at Design, Community & Environment, an urban planning firm with offices in Berkeley, San Diego and Ventura.

(DFIRMs) set to go in effect January 20, 2010. DFIRM's replace the paper maps and outline the areas in the county that are at risk for a two percent or greater flood probability and consequently determine if property owners require flood insurance. The City also requested that FEMA revise the DFIRM effective date so that parcel owners would have at least 90 days from the date of the corrected alignment to purchase flood insurance. Corrections cannot be made to a map that

has not been published; therefore the digital maps will be implemented before they can be corrected, which could interrupt requirements for flood insurance.

According to FEMA, alignment errors are not uncommon when converting from paper to digital maps. Many of the existing flood boundaries were plotted 20-years ago at a crude scale. The map alignment in Ventura will be addressed through a Letter Of Map Revision (LOMR) process whereby FEMA will re-delineate the area.

More than 500 property owners in the city of Ventura received a Special Flood Hazard Determination letter this month from the City's Flood Plain Manager advising them that their property is within the flood hazard area. Property owners that are adjacent to or in the flood hazard area and have a federally backed mortgage may need to buy insurance, which is available at reduced cost before January 20.

The city participates in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, which allows city residents to purchase flood insurance through the subsidized program. Parcel owners adjacent to water ways and/or flood zones who do not currently have a flood insurance policy should contact FEMA as soon as possible to understand the insurance requirements.

In March, the City invited property owners to a meeting with FEMA at the County Watershed Protection District office to explain the DFIRM process. The City also hosted one of two educational meetings presented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency earlier this month at City Hall; a second meeting will be held in January 2010.

For more information regarding flood insurance, call FEMA at (888) 379-9531 or www.floodsmart.gov. Questions regarding maps and City outreach may be directed to: www.cityofventura.net/floodplain, FPM@cityofventura.net, or (805) 207-9300.

Ventura Financial Officer to speak at Foster Library

The League of Women Voters, Ventura Unit, will hear from Jay Panzica, Chief Financial Officer of the City of Ventura, who will describe the spending cuts that are being made as a result of the failure of Measure A in the November election. He will also explain the City's budget, its categories and how to evaluate it. Thursday, January 14, 2pm, Topping Room, E. P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St. (parking in rear). The public is invited. Call 658-0587 for more information.

Ventura Music Festival

Continued from page 1

cates, business leaders, and local politicians who declared that Ventura should claim its rightful place as a regional cultural Mecca. The initial ideas for the Festival gave birth to the Ventura Chamber Music Festival (now known as the Ventura Music Festival) set in the city's historic downtown district

The Festival, known for its eclectic programming, has included such classical artists as violinist Leila Josefowicz, opera singer Nicole Cabell (a local Venturan), and pianist Alexander Ghindin, as well as crossover artists such as Branford Marsalis, Paquito D'Rivera, Pink Martini, and trumpeter Chris Botti.

"We're thrilled with this year's festival," says Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta.

"We've got the dean of classical music, Itzhak Perlman, and the dean of Jazz, Herbie Hancock." The Festival will feature music from the romantic Austrian period, a fifty-year span roughly from the mid 1700s to about 1830.

The treasure chests will be exhibited at various locales in Ventura including the Museum of Ventura County (December 11 - January 13), Ventura City Hall (January 13 to February 11), and the Sylvia White Gallery (February 17 to March 5). They will be auctioned off during the Festival's annual fundraising dinner March 6 at the Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor.

For ticket information on the auction and the Music Festival, visit their website at www.venturamusicfestival.org.



Ventura Music Festival Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta introducing the 2010 series at the Pierpont Inn. The L.A. Times calls Nuvi Mehta a young Gary Cooper, saying, "His old-fashioned Hollywood charisma extends to an eloquent and theatrical way of speaking that is almost entirely lost today..."

Goodwill

Continued from page 1

Goodwill board member David Mead stated that the new store would not have drop-off bins, would take care of its trash and strive to be a good neighbor. "This store will be no different than any other downtown retail store," Mead said.

Mayor Bill Fulton said that the city is just trying to ensure that all thrift stores are good neighbors and that the process shouldn't delay Goodwill's opening.

"Hopefully we can get in and out of this quickly," he said.

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

nandrews@ci.ventura.ca.us

Brian Brennan

bbrennan@ci.ventura.ca.us

Bill Fulton

Mayor

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

FEMA to realign Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps

The City of Ventura has requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to correct zone alignment errors in the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps

News and Notes



Wonderful Venturans who make a difference were honored by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce

Chamber pays tribute to Venturans

by Rebecca Wicks

This month the Ventura Chamber of Commerce honored businesses and residents who strive to make a difference at their annual Poinsettia Awards luncheon.

The Chamber strives to serve as a business resource as well as a social link to other businesses in the community. The 13th annual event was held at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel.

This year's winners were chosen from dozens of nominees.

Small Business of the Year – Consortium Media Services

Founded by Denise Bean-White, the marketing company specializes in advertising, public relations, promotions, web integration, social media and creative design. They represent a wide range of clients from the nonprofit sector to banking, financial services and hospitality industries.

Mid Size Business of the Year – Island Packers

Island Packers is the authorized boat concessionaire for the Channel Islands National Park and transports more than 80,000 passengers annually to the islands for educational cruises, whale watching, day trips and camping.

Large Business of the Year – Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor

Extensively remodeled in 2008-09, the hotel features 106 guest rooms including 4 suites and more than 12,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor event space. The hotel is also home to The SPA by Diane Loring.

Ventura Environmental Excellence Award - Cypress Place Senior Living & Tangerenz

Cypress Place is a senior living community that started a "go green" campaign within its walls where a culture of "reduce, reuse, recycle" has been fostered and embraced.

Owned by Gavin Skill, Tangerenz is an AVEDA salon that wastes nothing and recycles everything. From the foil used to dye hair to the hair swept off the floor daily, all of it is recycled.

City Supervisor of the Year - Sue Taylor

A seasoned employee of the city, Sue has worked for the city since 1980. Working in the code enforcement area, Sue was nominated and elected with glowing words.

Firefighter of the Year - John Toll

A member of the Urban Search and Rescue team, John has served the city of Ventura for 23 years. John has trained a

number of firefighters and is known for his superior mechanical skills.

Police Officer of the Year - Adam Delgado

Beginning his career with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, Adam came to the Ventura Police Department in 2000. Adam serves as a Field Training Officer as well as being an investigator for the Street Crimes Unit.

Educator of the Year - Kristine Guzman

Kristine is a teacher at Will Rogers Elementary School. She is also known for coaching soccer, softball, baseball and basketball as well as her involvement in Cub Scouts and 4H.

Male Student of the Year – Charith Samarasena

A senior at Buena High School, Charith maintains an impressive 4.3 GPA and is a member of varsity swim team, the Rio Mesa Swim Club and the California Scholarship Federation.

Female Student of the Year - Beth Brooks

A student at El Camino High School, Beth has earned an "A" in every course she has taken which includes some courses taken at Ventura College. She has also spent more than 500 hours of time volunteering for a number of schools, libraries and more.

Non Profit Organization of the Year - Tri-County Teen Challenge

A faith-based, one-year residential program, the Tri-County Teen Challenge provides help for drug and alcohol addiction for youth, adults and children. The facility houses 50 beds and functions at no cost to the individual.

Citizen of the Year - Jim Duran

Jim is the executive director for the Cypress Place Senior Living, senior pastor of The River Community Church and father of six children. He is also involved with a wide range additional groups including the YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce, the Buccaneers football program and more.

Ambassador of the Year - Stephen Joyce

A travel consultant for WorldVentures, a web-based business Stephen amassed the most points for attending events and encouraging individuals and businesses to join the Chamber.

Jewel Key Award - Ventura Port District

Committed to the refurbishment of Ventura Harbor Village, the organization has led a number of projects including

improved lighting and is in the process of creating new signage to guide visitors as well as new landscaping.

Chamber Volunteer of the Year - Barbara Hinton

Barbara is the mastermind behind the Ventura Art Festival event. She originally presented the concept to the Chamber's marketing group and spent countless hours to bring the event to fruition.



McElrea Heights Neighborhood Holiday Party

The McElrea Heights Neighborhood Holiday Party at the home of Paula and Jim Stoltman with Patti and Gary Chaner and Judy and Skip Warner as co-hosts was another jolly event. This year the organizers chose to honor Gloria Paine a dear neighbor and friend who passed away this summer. In lieu of gifts, neighbors were requested to bring a donation for the LMVNA-Hospice. The magic of the night happened when the donations were tallied and a whopping \$1,260 was collected.

The McElrea Heights Neighbors have earmarked their annual gathering for a charity, perhaps the start of a tradition in our community, certainly on their hillside!

The McCune Foundation fuels community organizing

The McCune Foundation recently awarded more than \$440,000 for community organizing and social justice initiatives in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Fourteen groups received grants in November to organize residents

in voicing their concerns and vision about immigration reform, job creation, affordable housing, and other vital issues.

"As communities confront increasing pressures, it is critical that citizens come together to develop their own solutions and become more engaged in local affairs," said Sara Miller McCune, the Foundation's president and founder.

In 2009, the Foundation provided 25 grants totaling more than \$750,000. Grassroots organizations that meet the Foundation's funding guidelines and that are interested in being considered for a grant may submit a letter of inquiry by the next deadline on January 15, 2010. Details on applying for a grant are available at www.mccunefoundation.org.

The McCune Foundation was established in 1990 by Sara Miller McCune and George D. McCune. The Foundation focuses its grantmaking exclusively in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties with the mission of being an agent of productive change in society by supporting the growth of social capital in communities.



Photo by John B. Mueller Photography

FOOD Share community celebration

A live radio remote, family fun and a canned food drive brought the community together on a chilly December 22 at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel for the FOOD Share community celebration.

During the extremely cold evening Bo Jaxon from B95.1 provided entertainment and a live remote and the kids visited with Santa. Complimentary much needed hot chocolate and cookies were provided by the Crowne Plaza Beach Hotel.

Those attending were asked to bring donations of canned foods.

For further information on FOOD Share call 983-7100 or go to www.foodshare.com.

FILMORE & WESTERN RAILWAY CO.
www.fwry.com HOME OF "THE MOVIE TRAINS" 800-773-8724

ALL ABOARD FOR FUN

Saturday Scenic Excursions
to Santa Paula & Loose Caboose Garden Center
Jan 9th through March 20
Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
Jan 16-"Bugle Boy Murders"
Jan 30-"Viva Lost Vegas"

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY TRAIN
Fri. Dec 31 8:00pm-2:30am
Elegant Dinner, Dancing, Famous
"Hollywood Personality" actors,
Midnight Champagne Toast

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS
APRIL 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25

RAILFEST MARCH 27 & 28



News and Notes

A Venturan in China

Somehow Thanksgiving was on the radar

by Sophia Kidd

When you live in China, you try and keep major holidays off the radar. Food holidays are the worst. You can't call up a good stuffing on the telephone, and even if I found a turkey anywhere, there's no way I could smoke it slowly over bourbon soaked wood chips. You can't simulate a cranberry sauce out of goji berries. Even the milk is different here, a condensed milk, which is fine, except when you need mashed potatoes to taste like mom makes them.

There were "traditional" Thanksgiving dinners served at "Western" restaurants around town. My American friends and I, who'd ganged up against melancholy, decided against it. We discussed each the ways they could get Thanksgiving dinner wrong. The turkey could be dry, the mashed potatoes, well, different. Would there be cranberry sauce? Do they know what stuffing is? We felt that \$20 dollars a plate, and wine at six or seven dollars a glass, which we'd need plenty of, wasn't worth it.

We'd decided, as the best vegetarian option, on hot pot. Hot pot is a pot of boiling broth laid into the center of your table. There's a heat source under the pot and you flash cook your own food in it. We decided on mushroom hot pot because it's not spicy at all, and Jack, our Chinese friend, was allergic to spice.

We let Jack order for us, while I arranged the beer. When the food showed up, on a three tiered tray set beside the table, it consisted of a fifteen plates of fifteen different kinds of local mushroom. No kidding. We were too full of beer to object. By the time we ate it all, we looked up and remarked to each other about how odd it was that we had only mushrooms for Thanksgiving. It wasn't right, we said, so we ordered a few plates of green vegetables, and some more beer. Somebody ordered a pineapple cake and when it hit the table nobody could believe such a thing as pineapple cake existed. We dived on it with great hope.

Back in my room I started up my computer, hoping for some turkey day incoming email. We're sixteen hours ahead, so T-day was just starting in the America. On

my i-google homepage, my how-to wiki was, "How to make a turkducken." I clicked on it. A turkducken, I found out, was a chicken stuffed inside a duck stuffed inside a turkey.

Oh My God.

That this kind of meal even existed blew my mind. That this kind of meal was so far out of my reach...blew my mind. But one thing blew my mind even more. And that was a memory of a clip of conversation we'd had at table that evening. Someone had mentioned stuffing, and we'd groaned and lugubriously poured more beer. But Jack looked up in curiosity until Kim, who'd visited Jack's village with me recently during a Chinese holiday, explained.

"Well you see," she said to Jack, "In America, nobody eats animal organs. We throw those out. So what we stuff the turkey with in lieu of its organs is a kind of bread-making made with vegetables, spices, and oils. Jack and the rest of his family had thought Kim and I were freaks for not eating any of their dishes made of intestines, tongue, ear, brain, or other organs. Then when Jack learned that we actually put "stuffing" inside the animal where the organs would be, he was more than amused. Being a metaphorical thinker, 'stuffing' and Jack's reaction to 'stuffing', strongly represented the China-America divide to me at that moment.

So turkducken. This past Thanksgiving, some lucky families enjoyed three different foul in one recursive dish, while we had fifteen types of local mushrooms in a vegetable broth. I suppose you can't even compare the two experiences. Comparisons aside though, when I get back to states, I'm gonna learn to make the best turkducken around. I may even open own restaurant based on turkducken. And I may open it in Chinatown, Ventura.

Breeze:

Sophia Kidd is a Venturan foreign correspondent for the Breeze. She is presently reading for her Masters in Classical Chinese Literature at Sichuan University. She will be sending us stories regarding personal experiences as well as reporting first-hand on China's present social, economic, and political development. Please send ideas, requests, and feedback to the Breeze at editor@venturabreeze.com



Thought you saw a pudgy tat? You did, you did!

A mountain lion has been seen four times in Ventura in a period of 4 days.

- On December 17, at about 9:28 pm a mountain lion was running NB across Foothill Rd. near Hill Top. The person

reporting the sighting is familiar with mountain lions and described it as approximately 3 feet tall and 5 feet long.

- On December 18, at about 1:10 pm a mountain lion was seen near the restrooms of Arroyo Verde Park at 5005 Foothill Rd.

- On December 22, at about 1pm a mountain lion was seen in a residential backyard near Sherwood Drive and Fernwood Drive above Ventura High School.

- On December 24 at about noon again a mountain lion was seen in the residential area near 1200 Blk of Sunnycrest Ave.

Officers responded to all incidents however were unable to locate the lion. The park was posted with warning signs and homes in the area were notified using the city's high-speed telephone notifications system. State Department of Fish and Game has also been notified. If a person sees a mountain lion they should stay away and dial 911 with information.

Citizens can get more information on Mountain Lions and steps that can be taken to protect their family and pets by going to the following web site: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/docs/lion-brochure.pdf>

Social media services for getting business results

by Peter K. Godinez
(Social Media Sales Hero)

Being a smart Ventura business owner, you need to come to the decision to market your products, services, support and information through social media. It is quite alright that some business owners do not know where to get started. The important action is to get started even in the smallest way. There are thousands of businesses in Ventura that need help creating a presence on the internet.

Here are just some of the few services that you should have knowledge when you are ready to get started to save time, save money, make more money by increasing the presence of what you are offering to a bigger more targeted audience.

Video Creation and Marketing - The opportunity to create videos and placing them on strategic video sharing sites can be as easy as using a iPhone to using a high quality video camera to capture what will be appealing to the right customers. If a "picture paints a thousand words", can you imagine what a video will do for you?

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and Backlink Generation - A SEO and backlinks gets your website a higher ranking which means more people able to find you and what you are offering. Finding the proper "keywords" that narrows down your specific niche value increases the opportunity to be found.

Content Creation - There are several offerings in content creation such as content on your website, blog writing, article writing, email messages for campaigns and press release writing. The word on the internet is "Content is king"!

Directory Submission - This is very important to perform for any business so potential clients can find you when they need you. This can be accomplished by submitting your business offering on top directories, local directories and niche directories.

Pay Per Click (PPC) Campaign Management - Get help managing a internet campaign that you pay a certain amount when potential clients click on your links. Google, Yahoo and Microsoft each have services that do PPC. Your goal is once the person clicks on your link they will convert to a buyer from your landing page.

Social Networking Setup - The use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr and other networking sites are becoming quite popular in our business culture. Choosing which one's are right for your causes and goals is important to your success.

E-mail Marketing Setup - Capture the right kinds of E-mails and use them to market your offering. This can be accomplished by setting up capture pages and autoresponders.

General Marketing Consultant - The combination of traditional and social media works in a synergistic way. This involves anything that helps your business to reach your established efforts, goals and dreams.

Peter K. Godinez, your social media sales hero, is available to help you determine which of the above service is right for your business. He can be reached at gosaaleshero@gmail.com or (805) 340-4676. Visit his helpful website on social media <http://www.petergodinezsc.com>

Create a YouTube & make money for your business today. Get started marketing for a new world. I'll show how! Call me right now. Peter Godinez (805) 340-1169 gosaaleshero@gmail.com <http://www.petergodinezsc.com/socialmedia>

Applications now accepted for violin & viola competition

Applications are now being accepted for the third-year Henry Schwab Ventura County Violin Competition, which for the first time will also be open to viola students. This exciting competition is open to young violin and viola players from 10 to 25 years of age.

Sponsored by a grant from the Schwab Charitable Fund, this competition would like to encourage young musicians and also further their musical education.

A total of \$3,000 in prize money will be awarded to contestants who compete in two events taking place as follows:

The preliminary audition will be held January 23, 2010, at 9a.m. at Guthrie Hall, Ventura College. Four candidates will be selected - each of whom will receive \$250.00. These four finalists will compete on May 22, at 8 p.m. at Guthrie Hall accompanied by the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra. The finalist will be honored by playing his or her concerto selection at a later date with the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra, directed by Dr. Burns Taft.

The 2009 winner of the competition was 14 year-old Jonathan Tang of Oak Park, student of Mrs. Dianne Rammon.

For further information or to request an application, call: 525-0144 or 658-8508

Applications for the competition are also available on the Ventura College website: www.venturacollege.edu.

The completed application should be mailed by January 7, 2010, with an entry fee of \$30.00, to: Dr. Burns Taft, Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003.

Everything you ever wanted to know about New Year's Day

New Year's Day is the first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar and is the oldest of all holidays.

It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4,000 years ago in the Middle Ages. Most European countries used the Julian calendar and observed New Year's Day on March 25 and celebrated the occasion on which it was revealed to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God.

Continued on page 13



News and Notes



Pat Reardon selected to share diamond necklace

Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but these diamonds are taking it a step further – they're connecting women across the country and allowing them to "share the bliss" through one exceptional necklace.

Pat Reardon was selected to share a 16.5-carat diamond necklace as part of The Hershey Company's "Share the Bliss" program. The program is based off the best-seller, "The Necklace" in which 13 women, from Ventura joined forces to purchase and share a 16.5-carat diamond necklace. The Hershey Company has replicated the necklace and is offering women the chance to be "blissed" for a two week period by wearing the necklace.

Pat is the fifth and final winner and was chosen by the previous winner based off a story her daughter, Tricia, of Ventura, shared online. Here is her entry:

My parents met in 1947, she was 15 and he 16. It was a classic Danny and Sandy story from the movie Grease. She was the new girl at school. She was wearing a yellow angora sweater when he first noticed her walking down the stairs in the high school building. Although he was one of the "kids," a James Dean look alike, it was love at first sight for him - she, on the other hand, wasn't too sure. It took her a few weeks to fall for this young man. He finally stole her heart with a necklace. A simple gold locket, engraved with: to Pat Love Bud. This past May, after more than 57 years of marriage, she lost him suddenly to a stroke. She's heartbroken. Maybe another necklace, this one, could help her discover a bliss in this new phase of her life.

Pat received the necklace and will have it through the end of the month. She is blogging about her experience on www.hersheysbliss.com. The winners will be invited to meet in person for the first time at the Young Survival Coalition's (YSC) spring 2010 charity benefit in New York City where the necklace will be "blissed" for the last time. Hershey's Bliss will continue the company's long-standing support of the YSC and raising awareness for breast cancer by donating the 16.5-carat diamond necklace to the organization's annual fund raiser.

Multiple stab wounds kills Ventura employee

On Tuesday December 15 around 5:30pm Ventura Police Officers responded to a report of someone injured in an alley

behind a commercial building in the 3600 Block of Arundell Circle. Officers arrived on the scene and determined the victim, 49 year old Stanley Parker, had suffered multiple stab wounds and an injury to his neck. Ventura Fire Department Personnel arrived and declared Parker dead at the scene.

Ventura Police Detectives followed numerous leads in the case and soon identified a possible suspect by the name of Robert Zamora, a co-worker of the victim. The 47 year old Oxnard resident was arrested on Wednesday and booked into Ventura County Jail on charges of 187 PC (murder) with bail set at 500,000 dollars. A search warrant was served at Zamora's residence and a vehicle was impounded that was used during the commission of the crime.

On Thursday Ventura Police advised Zamora and Parker had worked together at Spring Industries, a spring manufacturing company located at 1899 Palma Dr. and sometimes Zamora gave Parker a ride to work because Parker didn't own a car. Zamora was arrested after police found evidence at the crime scene that linked Zamora to the killing. Police say there is no evidence to indicate the killing was work related.

On Friday December 18 Judge Bruce Young postponed the arraignment of Zamora until January 8. According to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Zamora will be charged with first degree murder and the use of a knife causing great bodily injury. It appears the suspect's case will be handled by the Ventura County Public Defender's Office.

News from the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy

As the VHC draws to the close of their 7th year working to conserve the hillsides, canyons and open space in the Ventura region, you are urged to consider a tax deductible gift to the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy in your year-end giving. In the seasonal spirit of giving, you are also encouraged to share your passion for conservation with those close to you by giving the gift of membership.

Make a tax-deductible donation in the name of a friend, family member or co-worker. Your contribution will be acknowledged with a gift card of appreciation, and the new member will begin receiving their newsletter as well as notifications regarding Conservancy special events. Go to <http://www.venturahillsides.org> for further information.

The Conservancy has partnered with the Hands on Network and Disney! In 2010, Disney wants to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their communities and celebrate their good works by rewarding each of them with one day free admission to a theme park at Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort.

The Conservancy is a participating organization and will be hosting events in the near future to take advantage of this great incentive. You must pre-register and sign up for eligible volunteer opportunities at DisneyParks.com after Jan. 1, 2010.

Ticket quantities for this program are limited. Must be at least age 6 to participate. Other terms and conditions apply. For details, see DisneyParks.com.

Digital Camera Playground – Part 8 – JPEG vs. RAW: Discussion

by Nelson Wallace

Your camera lens maps light from the scene to an image on the focal plane, and the image sensor there converts the photons into electrons. The limit on the number of electrons a pixel can hold is called the "full well capacity". For typical focal plane arrays, this can be from 800 to 1,600 electrons per square micron. If the image sensor has square 7 micron pixels, the area of each pixel is 49 square microns, so a fully illuminated pixel might hold 80,000 electrons.

We want to know the pixel's brightness very accurately. Because the camera has a digital readout, the light level has to be expressed as a binary number. The most accurate way to report the amount of light on a pixel would be in units of photoelectrons. So a bright pixel with 80,000 electrons would, in binary, be represented as 10011100010000000. That's 17 bits. Multiply that times three colors, and times 10 million pixels, for a total of ... a lot of bits! And thus few photos stored on your memory card, and big transfer times.

Image compression crams information into a smaller number of bits. One of the ways to do this is to reduce the number of different shades assigned to a color. This is done by "quantization", a fancy term for putting things into bins and reporting the bin number. For example, instead of representing the numbers of electrons in a pixel individually, any value of between 0 and 313 electrons could be represented by the value 0. The value 1 would represent 314 to 627 electrons, etc. The value 255 would repre-

sent the highest numbers of electrons. In this way, the range of values can be reduced from 80,000 to 256 values, 0 to 255. The value 255 expressed in binary is 11111111, which takes just 8 bits. The downside: delicate color changes in an image are lost because all the subtle original shades may have been lumped into one shade, and are now indistinguishable. Color quantization actually destroys information, and is thus a "lossy" compression method.

Picture-based compression is also possible. JPEG is one such scheme, and allows various levels of compression. Higher levels of compression use fewer bits, but cause more loss of image quality. How does JPEG work? In a gross oversimplification, JPEG basically decomposes an image into big stuff (i.e., the meadow) and small stuff (i.e., the flowers). JPEG then reports the big stuff information with more bits, and the small stuff information with fewer bits. What this usually does is to degrade the crispness of edges; instead of a sharp black-to-white step in an image, there's a line of grey at the border. There are other image degradations from JPEG, called "artifacts" in the trade.

Is JPEG a problem? Not to worry; powerful processing is available from your eye-brain combination. The small loss of image quality for edges, and the loss of subtle color tonality, is probably something you won't even notice. Or maybe you will notice. Image compression can be a good thing; the trick is to know how much is enough.

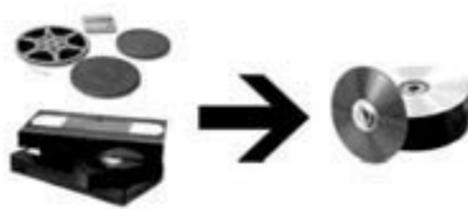
RAW images aren't compressed. They have almost enough bits per pixel to actually count electrons, so the subdivision of colors into subtle shades is wonderful. And images haven't been degraded by your camera's JPEG processing. But they're BIG files, and that can cause processing problems galore.

The next article will have the usual experiment, so please read up on recording modes.



The gang at Island Packers wishes you a World of Peace. Warmest regards, Mark, Lil, Cherryll, Jason, Alex, Keith and Staff

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



The Arts and the WAV



Larissa Strauss's current exhibit of paintings and mosaic art is showing at the Buenaventura Gallery through January 2.

Meet the artist: An interview with Larissa Strauss

by Tim Pompey

How does one put together a work of art, one small piece at a time? That's a question artist Larissa Strauss faces every time she goes to work. Larissa is an artist who fits together tiny bits of glass into mosaics. Her latest exhibition, "Enchanted Loom," is on display at the Buenaventura Gallery in downtown Ventura through January 2.

Strauss, a graduate of Ventura High school and UC Davis, came to this work by accident. "I never thought I could be an artist. But I always had a deep longing to find some creative outlet."

She was twenty-nine when she decided to team up with an art student to create a mosaic of an ancient Greek coin for her parents. When a friend of the family saw her work and commissioned her to create a mosaic of an 18th century angel, she was hooked. "It took me four months. I quit my job and decided this

was what I wanted to do."

Currently, Strauss has been selected to design a series of historical mosaics that will be installed next spring on the new wall at the renovated Museum of Ventura County. Her work also greets visitors at the entrance to Marina Park.

The concept of mosaics can be difficult to comprehend: creating a picture using cut pieces of glass. Where does it all start? As Strauss explains, a sketch is created, blown up, cut out, and traced. Unless of course, she chooses to do it using the Ravenna method. Then it becomes considerably more complicated: a sketch, blown up, traced again with a fountain pen, and pressed into lime putty or clay. It's become a dying art, but she has learned some of these techniques through a visiting Scottish artist, Paul Zanotti, who studied classical mosaics in Ravenna.

Her current exhibit at the Buenaventura Gallery focuses on photographs that were sent back to earth through the Hubble telescope (www.hubblesite.org). How did she discover these photographs? "I was talking with my friend, Paul Benavidez, about new ideas for mosaics and he suggested galaxies and nebulas. For years I collected clippings from the paper of nebulas with the intention that, at some point, I would make mosaics out of them. So, when we found this website, it was as if a whole new world of beauty and possibilities had opened up."

Strauss also has another new event in her life. She's recently moved into the WAV project in downtown Ventura. How does she feel about living around other artists? "It's a wonderful opportunity to be part of an experimental community." She believes there is a definite artistic synergy to this building, like being in college with a similar circle of friends. "Artists like to meet with other artists. I've met some of my neighbors and everyone is interested in interacting. I think we realize, as artists, that we need each other."

There's a galaxy of creative energy surrounding Strauss. Given her inspiration and her living quarters, she looks forward to creating big things. "I'd like to create massive galaxies and nebulas in public places so everyone can see what's out there." Cut glass. Big settings. One small square at a time. That's what she loves to capture.

days as just last month she was chosen as one of the residents of Ventura's WAV arts complex. The complex provides low cost living and work spaces for qualified artists. Spencer, who has been hard-pressed financially and short on studio space, is full of joy and gratitude.

"The project had over 300 artists applying," said Spencer still in awe. "And because I was lucky enough to be one of the first, I stumbled into being filmed for a year-long documentary about the project."

The stars must be aligned.

"It has been like manna from heaven," said Spencer, who feels honored to be a part of it all. "Things just keep happening."

Spencer's show will hang Jan. 10- Feb. 4 at The Ojai Center for the Arts, 113 S. Montgomery, with Gallery hours 12 until 4:00 p.m., Tues. through Sun.

Come see what the excitement is all about and meet the artist and author who tells tales with her canvas at her opening reception 1-3:00 p.m., Jan 10. For more information got to ojaiartcenter.org

The WAV-some of the artists have arrived

by Sheldon Brown

The WAV (Working Artists Ventura) project was the result of a public private partnership to create an affordable green place for artists (and others) to live and work.

It is hoped that it will create a vibrant community that involves many different economic and social groups that will provide a profound positive impact on the downtown community and thus all of Ventura. It will house artist residents, supportive housing residents (who have moved in), condo residents and retail stores.

I was on one of the professional interview panels the purpose of which was to interview the candidates to establish their level of commitment to their art and to this unique community.

The candidates were asked 7 questions, their answers evaluated as being the most or least consistent with their level of commitment to their art and to the community. Each question was given a number and the final combined numbers (each question had different importance) were used to determine who would be invited to live at WAV.

We were not to actually evaluate their art work but just the answers to the questions, this was difficult to do but we all stuck to the guidelines that we were to follow.

The applicants varied from painters, jewelry makers, performing artists, musicians, sculptures, dancers, furniture makers, photographers and poets.

The questions were:

Please tell us about your art and what inspires you to create it

Please tell us about your educational training and/or experience as it relates to your art

What impact had on your life and/or the lives of others

Why are you interested in living and participating in the WAV

Describe what is most important to you about community as you define it, and how you have worked to promote that value

What interests you the most about the WAV, and what interests you least

Please describe any volunteer work you have done

Some that got accepted moved in and some didn't.

Bobbi Jo Free is one that didn't. She wrote to me in part:
Hello dear friend.

The latest is I've left Ventura and moved to SF. There were some unforeseen changes in my rent amount with WAV that occurred in the week prior to move in that put it out of my reach. Although that was eventually resolved a few days before my move in date, by then I had bolted into action on the other options available to me."

Artist Laura Ray also changed her mind after being accepted.

She told us "I talked to Chris Velasco on Friday and he said someone had backed out of one of the units, and he asked me if I wanted it. It's in a location I would not find desirable, right on the deck behind the theater, and on the second floor with someone above and neighbors on both sides. The rent is \$935. I'm paying that now and I have a garage, and a laundry facility, and nobody on top of me. So I said No, thank you, as it wouldn't make sense for me, I asked him to keep me in mind for one of the smaller units, something with a lot less rent opens up, so perhaps I might still live there one day."

Mike Bingham is new to Ventura and is working at Ventura's wonderful new art supply store and gallery the Ventura Creates located at 2037 Thompson and has moved into WAV after accepting a higher rent than he anticipated.

Mike first heard of WAV while living in Reseda through a friend's son who lives in Ventura. He went to their website and filled out an application and attended the townhall meetings that were held.

He thought that the interview process was well thought out and presented.

When he received his "you're in" phone call from Chris he was both excited and concerned when told that the rent had gone from the \$430.00, that was originally told to applicants for his unit to \$935.00 but felt it was still worth it as it also included most of the utilities and he did want to live there.

After only a few weeks he is happy to be living there and said that "I love the artistic community here and the inspiration that will come from the other artists living here." He said he will feel even better after he unloads the many-many boxes sitting on his floor.

Art tells tales

by Linda Harmon

Frances Spencer to move into WAV "The Visionary Art of Frances Spencer" is the new exhibit opening Jan. 8 at the Ojai Center for the Arts by an award winning and nationally exhibited Ventura artist. Spencer, tells tales in her art.

Spencer says the one-woman show in Ojai will give her a chance to spread her artistic wings. They are very talented "wings." The Artist will be showing work that illustrates her painterly style "rooted in medieval, expressionistic and surrealist art." Spencer wants her audience to "take the journey with me into strange, unfamiliar worlds."

Audiences should know that Spencer also tells tales with words and is a produced playwright. In October she was chosen as a 2009 finalist for her futuristic, doomsday play "The Ant Colony," at L.A.'s Shriekfest, an international science fiction festival

Spencer dual life is extra full these



The WAV, AKA as hopscotch and skateboard heaven

Community Events

Audubon January field trips

Beginners are welcome on all field trips. Light drizzle does not necessarily cancel trips, but heavier rain will. If in doubt, please call trip leader. More information on VAS is available at www.VenturaAudubon.org.

Saturday, Jan. 2 Christmas Bird Count. VAS will conduct its 30th annual Christmas Bird Count. For the count, Ventura is divided into 7 sectors, each with a designated leader. Anyone interested in participating in the count should contact Karl Krause at 525-2452 or krausefamily836@msn.com.

Sunday, Jan. 10, 9:00-12 a.m. Restoration Work Day, Santa Paula. Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Restoration Program. Come at 8:00 for birding! Leader: Sandy Hedrick (370-0478). Long pants and boots or closed shoes are required.

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Public is welcome to VAS General Membership Program presented by Michael Zarko on the bird species of India, and how habitat preservation and restoration are making a difference in their population numbers.

Saturday, Jan. 16, 8:30 a.m. Saticoy Ponds. Leader: Eric Waian (671-9913). Bring scopes and meet outside the gate. Please be prompt as we need to enter together. Directions: The ponds are located on the northeast side of Hwy 118/Los Angeles Ave. From Ventura take Wells Rd. which turns into Los Angeles Ave./Hwy 118 and cross over the Santa Clara River Bridge.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Jan. 19, 29, and 21 all day, Ventura Audubon Society is partnering with Mimi's Café, 3375 East Main St., Ventura in a fundraiser to provide funds for binoculars to use in outreach programs with school children. Mimi's will donate 15% of proceeds from each group presenting a flyer validating the VAS fundraiser. Print the flyer from the VAS web site: www.venturaaudubonsociety.org, For information call 484 8415.

Saturday, Jan. 23, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Beginners' Bird Walk. Ojai Meadow Preserve. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037). There is usually a large variety of birds, such as, raptors, meadowlarks, sparrows, egrets and bluebirds.

Saturday, Jan. 30, 8:30 a.m. Ormond Beach Nature Conservancy. Leader: Richard Handley (535-5533). The Nature Conservancy owns approximately 175 acres of remnant wetlands. 200-300 species of birds are present during the year

Ventura events

Jan.10: Ventura Village Voices, a storytelling series for adults and featuring tellers from California, will have its first quarterly show on Sunday, January 10th from 4-6 p.m. at the Improv Theatre, 34 N. Palm St. In honor of Martin Luther King's birthday, featured tellers will be Ina Buckner-Barnette ("Traveling Shoes & Talking Drums") and Michael D. McCarty ("Stories of Struggle, Stories of Freedom"). \$10 at door. For more information, contact Elaine at 407-2538 or elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com.

Jan. 13: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a special meeting on Wednesday at 7 PM at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. A professional photographer from the area will critique members' prints and digital images. The topic for the month is "Symmetry" which features some interesting photographs. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. See the club's web site for more information about the club and examples of member's works or call 908-5663. www.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com

Jan. 15: Ventura TOPS Chapter 2428 announces an open house from noon to 2 PM on Friday. Healthy refreshments will be provided, educational materials and video presented.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), is a weight loss support group. This chapter meets at SCAN Senior Resource Center (open to the public) located at 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 200, Ventura, CA. For additional information call 658-0365.

Club president Lolly Jeffreys states "TOPS has helped me lose over 50 pounds in the last 18 months. Impossible for me without TOPS support."

Jan. 17: The Ventura County Chapter of USA Dance is holding their January Dance Party on Sunday in the Santa Paula Room of the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. A free dance lesson at 1:30 PM will be followed by open dancing from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. Big Band CD Music, Ballroom, Latin and Swing. Featuring: Male Dance Hosts, 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Info: 646-6271

Breeze year in review

Continued from page 1

ally correct Columbus replica ever built," the Nina, to the Ventura Harbor as well as announcing that the Veterans home was coming to Ventura. Our crime rates decreased for the first half of 2008, and the biggest announcement, Barack Obama became America's first black president.

February in Ventura, the Breeze announced that St. Bonnie star, Patrick Hall was going to USC to play football. In the same month the city was facing a financial deficit of \$6.3 million but obtained exclusive rights to negotiate with developers regarding the "Edgewater" project between the pier and the Crown Plaza hotel. Like January, the Harbor brought another visiting ship, a 122-foot square topsail schooner LYNX. The Breeze informed the public of the 3 years in the making proposal for the Botanical Gardens at Grant Park.

In March 2009, Venturans were invited to apply for their 911 fee refund. Former VC basketball coach, Greg Winslow was arrested on 5 counts of felony grand theft and one count of public officer crime. The Ventura Music Festival had a successful auction and fundraiser featuring "musical chairs" and our very own father, daughter team, Sheldon and Staci Brown were honored by the Turning Point Foundation as the media "champions of mental health".

In April we announced that the Ventura County Museum had closed its doors on March 30, moving to a temporary site, to remodel and expand the existing site for a grand re-opening in 2011. Charter acquired WAVE Broadband which resulted in many service issues affecting its customers. Advocacy group "Save Our Schools" planned a rally to help save the Ventura Unified School District from radical budget cuts. Co-Publisher Staci Brown announced her resignation (but is still contributing to the Breeze in a small way) and the Breeze introduced their new viewer supported logo.

In May, the birthday month of Publisher Sheldon Brown, Harbor Village began their remodeling and plans were unveiled for a new six story hospital building. The City Council approved a planning code regarding proposed and existing buildings on Victoria Avenue and local residents Lynne Clark and Catherine Pulisic coordinated the Ventura Relay for Life Cancer Society fundraiser.

June brought a new roof to City Hall and the speculation that the Ventura Fairgrounds were for sale. City Corps helped with the beautification efforts at Serra Cross Park and the council decided to leave considerations for a change to Cemetery Park for a later date. Island Packers brought the tall ship "Bill of Rights" to its home port in Channel Islands to be available for three hour coastal cruises.

In July 2009 the Harbor had its annual "Pirate Days" celebration and the Fairgrounds announced the theme for the 134th annual fair. The Breeze uncovered Elmer Bernstein's greatest fan and toured the WAV project. Sadly, Ventura's 4th murder of 2009 occurred. Ventura decided to start a pilot program for the homeless population called "The Safe Sleep" program.

August 2009 brought us our most anticipated event, the Ventura County Fair which saw a total of 307, 000 people go through the gates. The Breeze announced the fifteen people running for City Council in November and Venturan Ivor Davis introduced his book about the Manson murders. Illegal rental conversions were given a 30-month amnesty time to comply with the law.

In September, Affinity bank was seized and sold to Pacific Western Bank. The public supported the proposal of the "Safe Sleep Program" and the Ventura police department was fortunate enough to get an upgrade of the dispatch center. The first of the series of council candidate forums kicked off and unfortunately it was announced that Ventura would have to cancel their holiday street fair. The Breeze was also privileged to interview Dave Mason who was a performer at the Ventura Music Hillside Festival.

During October 2009 a local pastor from Solid Rock Christian Center was accused of bilking a church member. The Harbor's trash receptacles were beautifully painted by local students and high school wrestlers chipped in to clean the sand buildup at Pierpont Lane. The Design Committee approved the plans for the transitional housing center on Thompson Blvd. and the three ballot measures for November were announced.

In November, City Manager Rick Cole announced the selection of Assistant Police Chief Ken Corney to replace retiring Chief Pat Miller. Free flu shots were offered at CMH and the new SHORE facility built at Thompson and Garden as part of the WAV project had its grand opening. Additionally, Ventura's registered voters had voted down all three ballot measures and re-elected 3 incumbents and Mike Tracy to the city council.

In December the Breeze reported another successful "One City, One Meal" Thanksgiving Day lunch for all in need and a peaceful "peace" march was held downtown. Because of the budget cuts, the city's roving fire engine and downtown foot police patrols had to be eliminated. The Rubicon Grand Dames unveiled their 2010 "Hot Dames" calendar and proudly, new city council members Jim Monahan, Neal Andrews, Mike Tracy and Brian Brennan were sworn in with Mike Tracy also having the privilege of being selected as the city's new Deputy Mayor and outgoing Deputy Mayor Bill Fulton becoming the new Mayor.

Holiday Hair Specials

FREE HAIR CUT
with Color Service
(New Clients Only)
Expiration Date 1/12/10

\$35

\$10 OFF WOMENS' HAIRCUT
Regular Price \$35
(New Clients Only)
Expiration Date 1/12/10

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

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
1124 430418

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
Tues.-Sat. 11am-4pm or by appointment
2122 E. Thompson Blvd. Ventura 93001
805.443.3063 www.MidtownKitchens.net

Art Scene



Growing to a height of nearly 10 feet the tree encourages viewers to walk under its canopy

The tale of the Community Story Tree

A trio of artists from Bell Arts Factory, Rosel Weedn, Michele Foster and MB Hanrahan, had an idea to create a community art project to bring people together to make something unique and magical from recycled materials that could travel around to tell the story of how resourcefulness, creativity, and community joined forces to address global warming in its own way. During conception of the idea, the project was invited to be a part of the Bell Arts Factory first-ever youth play, WeSource. The Magical Forest setting of WeSource inspired the project to take the form of a Tree that could take center stage as the focal point of the set.

A call to arms went out into the community to gather and donate the recycled materials to make the Tree. With the creative inspiration of kids from the Bell Arts Youth Program, along with other lo-

cal youth programs such as Patagonia, Living Love Foundation, and Boys and Girls Club, the project took shape. Clear plastic bottles became the 'bark'; colored plastic bottles became flowers; a myriad of paper, wire, buttons, and beads became leaves and birds that inhabit the branches. Growing to a height of nearly 10 feet with branches spanning over 12 feet, the tree encourages viewers to walk under its canopy to see the details up close. Over 10 artists from the Bell Arts Factory worked along with youth, parents, and citizens who walked in off the street to create the Tree and the rest of the magical forest flora and fauna that inhabit it.

It now is on view at the Ventura County Government Center recycle-themed art show and is scheduled to appear at Ventura City Hall at the beginning of the year to spread the word about the importance of community engagement.

Call for entries for 24th annual open competition at Buena Ventura Gallery

Buena Ventura Art Association announces a "Call for Entries" for their 24th Annual Open Competition at the Buena Ventura Gallery. The exhibit will run from January 5 - January 30 with the bring-in for the artists on Sunday, Jan. 3 and Monday, Jan. 4 from 11 am - 2 pm. The awards ceremony (with \$1,500 in prizes awarded) will be on Saturday, January 9 from 4 - 7 pm. Dane Goodman, Director of Atkinson Gallery, Santa Barbara City College will be the juror.

Goodman's artworks range a variety of mediums, from installations to prints, and have shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States. Honors include nominations for the Los Angeles based Friends of Contemporary Art's FOCA Fellowship and the National Awards in the Visual Arts. During summer 2008, Goodman served as a panelist for the National Endowment of the Arts.

Goodman states "I bring no agenda except to do the best I can in the given situation. I am open to all styles and media. I do look for a certain authenticity in the work, the something that makes the work the artist's own and not someone else's."

Eligibility for the exhibition is open to all professional and amateur artists. Downloadable bring-in forms are available at www.buenaventuragallery.org or stop by the Buena Ventura Gallery.

The Buena Ventura Gallery is located at 700 E Santa Clara St. in downtown Ventura. Hours are Tues - Friday from 12 - 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information and entry form, visit their website at www.buenaventuragallery.org.

Parshall Terry who has three degrees in physics and has worked for the U.S. Navy for 20 years found his passion in study of ink painting and Chinese calligraphy. Parshall, who has chosen to use his first name in reference to his art activities, is compelled by the way ink flows through his brush on to rice paper. It has led him into extensive studies in the art of ink painting with several well-known sum-e masters in Ventura and Alhambra. This passion has also taken him on travels to Asia and he continues to study Japanese and Chinese. While Parshall has exhibited in Ventura, Los Angeles and Florence Italy, this will be his first solo exhibit.



Louis the XIV will visit the Museum of Ventura County. Photo of John Stuart figure by Peter D'Aprix

Palace of Versailles setting for elegance in George Stuart monologues

Explore the grandeur of Versailles when artist and historian George Stuart recounts the lives of those who lived and ruled from the rooms of Europe's most famous palace. Three presentations of Stuart's monologue If these Walls could Talk: Versailles are scheduled at the Museum of Ventura County on two Mondays, January 11 and February 1, 2010, both at 1:30 pm, and on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 pm.

The George Stuart Historical Figures® of King Louis XIV and Marie Antoinette with her children are also on view at the museum through February 28. The one-quarter, life-size sculptures are renowned for their expressiveness and intricately detailed costumes.

Monologue seating is limited, so reservations are required. Call 641-1876 ext. 305. Admission for the general public is \$15, for museum members \$10, and members of the George Stuart Historical Figures® Guild may attend at no charge.

Versailles has been synonymous with elegance in fashion and etiquette since 1682, when Louis XIV made it the showplace of the French monarchy. Today the palace and its grounds remain one of Europe's most visited sites.

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 89 S. California Street in downtown Ventura. For more museum information please go to www.ventura-museum.org.



Parshall is compelled by the way ink flows through his brush

Parshall Terry at Gallery 255

Parshall Terry will be showcasing a collection of ink painting and Chinese calligraphy at Gallery 255 in Ventura this January 21 through February 13. The title of the exhibition is "The Way of the Brush".

Give The Gift That Will Thrill Everyone!

Save \$104.01!

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. \$154.00, **Now only \$49.99**

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

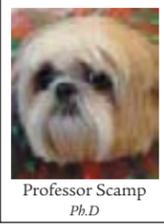
OMAHA STEAKS

SINCE 1917

www.OmahaSteaks.com/os56

©2009 UCG | OmahaSteaks.com, Inc. 11958

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



First I must wish you all a Yappy New Years. I'm happy that I was able to keep my job and write for you for another year. I must be doing a wonderful job or perhaps it is because

I work for treats.

I think next year you should all just start spending your money so that the economic situation will turn around. Maybe a new dog leash, a new collar, a new dog house would get things going.

In my last article I told you that I had located my "I've been fixed" certificate but failed to tell you how.

I called the Mercy Crusade's Spay & Neuter Clinic in Oxnard where the crime was committed, but was told by Jose that they probably wouldn't have the cert because it was too long ago.

I left my cell phone number and Jose called me a bit later and told me that he had found it which was very nice of him.

So I had my buddy drive me there to pick it up so that I could give Jose a big lick.

The "Mutt-Mitt" Pet Waste Disposal Program is in need of advertising sponsors.

The City of Ventura's "Mutt-mitt" program, with 60 dispensers of pet waste bags located along the beach promenade and area parks is in need of funds. The city is looking for advertisers to fund the bag program. Please call the Environmental Services Office at 652-4525 for more information, or visit www.cityofventura.net/environment.

Many cities are rushing to prohibit the controversial procedure of cat declawing before the January deadline for a new bill in Sacramento that bans local governments from banning the practice of declawing cats.

Vets, who do not want cities control-

ling their profession, persuaded the legislature to adopt the ordinance. Several cities, including Los Angeles have recently passed laws to prohibit the practice.

Personally I feel the practice is okay if the cat is very young and done by a very caring vet, I don't think that it should be allowed on older cats (see, I do care for them sometimes)

Introduced by Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, H.R. 3501—known as the Humanity and Pets Partnered Through the Years ("HAPPY") Act—is a federal bill that would reward responsible pet parents by allowing them to keep more money in their pockets come tax time.

We all want to give our animal companions the best care we possibly can, but it seems that pet care costs are always on the rise—and these days, it's harder than ever to stretch the family budget. That's why the ASPCA, and I support H.R. 3501, which would amend U.S. tax code to allow qualifying pet care expenses, including veterinary care, to be tax-deductible.

This means that when you prepare your income taxes, money you spent on pet care that year would count as non-taxable income—and you can deduct up to \$3,500 per year!

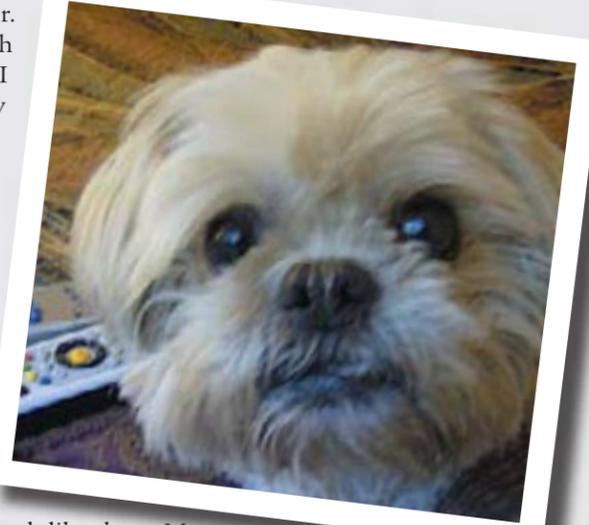
Please help us support the HAPPY Act, H.R. 3501

■ Recently 15 sick puppies were seized at the Mexican border. The puppies were being smuggled in to be sold as Christmas gifts. A majority of the 2-month old mixed breed miniature poodles were found to have parvo, a virus that can be deadly to dogs.

The driver, Jimenez Gonzales admitted that he was taking the dogs to LA to be sold as presents.

"I learned something today" he said "it is difficult to smuggle in barking dogs hidden under a blanket in the back seat of a car".

Scamp Club



Hello , my name is Mr. Bongo and I'm a Shih Tzu just like Scamp. I live in Ventura with my Mommy and big sister. I am a 12 year old senior, and I spend most of my days sleeping, but I still love taking long walks and playing with my stuffed bone. My favorite treats are Beggin Strips and the occasional French fry or popcorn. I am also a big talker, my family calls it Ewok talk because they say I look like them. My Mommy and sister adore me, of course they do, I give them a million kisses a day and I am a handsome guy!

Scamp: Of course your handsome, you're a Shih Tzu!

Join Scamp Club

Animals of all sorts can join the Scampclub. Email me your picture and a little about yourself, including your address, to Scampclub@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

Police and Fire Reports

by Joseph Owen

Murder suspect arrested

Michael Lane, 34 was recently taken into custody at a motel on Harbor Boulevard in Ventura. Lane, a British national was arrested with the assistance of the FBI, Los Angeles police and Ventura police in connection with the death of a Las Vegas woman.

Las Vegas police were sent to a home on Westfield Street in Las Vegas on Nov. 30 to investigate a report of a missing woman. When arriving they found that the home had been ransacked and the body of Ginger Candela, 44, was found in the garage.

Police said that Michael Lane had recently met Candela.

Lane (AKA as Chae Saville) is a motivational speaker who provides spiritual healing. He is suspected of befriending and defrauded numerous women while visiting Las Vegas, Portland and San Diego.

He is being held at Ventura County jail without bail.

Man with shotgun on Bristol Road

On Friday December 18 at about 4pm Ventura Police Patrol Officers responded to a report of a person brandishing a shotgun at his neighbor in the 6500 block of Bristol Rd.

The disturbance initially started as a verbal disagreement but then turned grim when 65 year old Jack Caldwell brought out a shotgun from his residence and threatened to kill the neighbor. Officers surrounded Caldwell's residence, but he refused to exit or to communicate with officers.

Caldwell continued to refuse to exit

while speaking with crisis negotiation officers, so officers requested assistance from the Ventura Police SWAT team.

Tear gas was eventually shot into Caldwell's home by the SWAT team and Ventura County Sheriff's "Bomb Robot" was deployed to the rear of the residence, but Caldwell still refused to exit. At approximately 2:00am Caldwell finally opened his front door and SWAT team members entered and arrested the suspect.

Caldwell was transported to Ventura County Medical Center where he was treated for minor injuries caused from Taser gun deployment (used by SWAT). He then was booked into Ventura County Jail for 245 PC (assault with a deadly weapon), 422 PC (terrorist threats), and 417 PC (brandishing a firearm).

Woman sentenced

On Thursday December seventeenth 36 year old Ventura resident Cindy Ann Skipper was sentenced to a year in jail after pleading guilty to taking more than \$50,000 from her employer. Skipper could have faced a maximum of up to four years and eight months in prison. Skipper took the money from the Oxnard Law Office of Jody Moore during the period January 2005 through July 2007. As office manager Skipper handled payroll and wrote herself more than 50 unauthorized checks. She also claimed work hours that she did not work. The thefts totaled over \$88,000 according to court records. Superior Court Judge Bruce Clark ordered Skipper to pay \$147,861 in restitution to the victim and for failing to declare the income for tax purposes from

Continued on page 12



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 \$19.99



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

ProFlowers
*Offer valid on gift cards in certain areas. Excludes all flowers, plants, and specialty items. Offer good while supplies last. ©2009 ProFlowers, Inc.

Senior Living

New yoga class for seniors

by Nanci Cone

SCAN Health Plan and Ventura Adult Continuing Education (VACE) have joined together to sponsor a modified yoga program for mature adults ages 50 and older. Taught by the very talented and very dedicated Lynn Thurston, this program is designed to help seniors improve strength, flexibility, balance, and body awareness in order to live and function more independently.

Lynne has a California State Adult Education credential in fitness and conditioning and teaches in private studios, Ventura County Schools and for the City of Ventura. "I've been teaching yoga and meditation for more than 40 years to children and adults and have found that yoga is a lifelong learning experience," says Lynne. She goes on to say, "It helps us learn to focus on our mental and physical well being as we move through our daily lives."

The class will be held every Monday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at SCAN Health Plan Resource Center, 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 200 in Ventura and is limited to 27 participants. There is an annual registration fee, with checks made payable to VACE, of \$10 and a \$20 fee for the 10-week session - a real bargain. The first session begins January 4 and runs through March 22 and the next session begins March 29 and ends June 17.

For those individuals who cannot attend Monday sessions, Lynne also teaches yoga every Wednesday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at the SCAN Health Plan Resource Center. Her next 10-week session will begin January 13 and runs through March 17.

All participants can remain seated for this "chair Yoga" class though there will be a brief time spent standing and using a stretch band to help increase strength. For more information about Senior Yoga or directions to SCAN Health Plan Resource Center, call 658-0365.

Senior investment group meets Mondays

An Investment Group meets at the Senior Recreation Center located at 420 East Santa Clara Street on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 am. Activities include a review of the week's economic events, viewing investment-related videos, presentations by guest speakers, and discussions about potential investments for seniors. Attendance is free.

On January 11, Jana Scarborough, of Re/Max Gold Coast Realtors, will speak about Ventura city and Ventura county real estate. Jana is a licensed, experienced real estate professional active in the area for 17 years.

Your Senior Tidbits

I think most people have had some form of fraud committed to themselves. California has the most millionaires in

the United States and this in turn creates opportunity for criminal activity.

The California Department of Corporations "Seniors Against Investment Fraud" program was established in 2001. SAIF alerts and educates Californians over the age of 50 about financial and investment fraud, scams, and unscrupulous sales practices that specially target seniors.

Affinity Fraud consists if mutual trust, friendship, and people who share religious beliefs, ethic background, language, culture, age, and profession. A person will gain your trust and promote their products and services and have you buy into their program. The worst part of this is the snowball effect of the first person telling two friends and those two friends tell others and so on.

The most recent and famous scam was "The Ponzi Scheme", Mr. Madoff was able to steal 65 billion dollars from his investors in a twenty year period. Mr. Madoff promoted great returns on his investments and showed data of the success of their business. Unfortunately, all the investments and data were all fraudulent. Mr Madoff would take from one persons investment to pay for a pervious investors dividend or payout. Eventually he was unable to continue the expected returns and payouts and his empire crumbled. Many intelligent and wealthy people were victims of this scheme.

Other scams are bait and switch, certificates of deposit with Bonus, FREE meals with seminars, living trusts, Life Insurance products, viatical and life settlement investment, wrong number and giving a stock tip on your answering machine, telephone solicitation, jury duty, charity, foreign letter, home repair fraud, impostor or distraction burglary, Medicare, mortgage and foreclosure, sweetheart swindle, phishing, online purchases, online escrow and sweepstakes and lottery winners.

The SAIF booklet is a thorough information guide to protect yourself from fraud, safeguard your personal info, how to file a complaint, elder abuse and financial abuse, preparing end of life paperwork, check before you invest form, resource guide with many important telephone numbers. SAIF is a fantastic 26 page booklet, you can call (866)275-2677 to order your free copy.

Claudio & Maggie de Medeiros. Royal Retirement Services Inc.

Police and fire reports

Continued from page 11

2005 to 2007 she was also ordered to pay \$20,715 to the Franchise Tax Board to cover back taxes, fines, and the cost of the investigation.

Mugging on Santa Clara Street

42 year old Oxnard resident Rigoberto Ordaz was walking in the area of Santa Clara and Palm St. on December 19 at around 7:30pm when two suspects approached and then attacked him taking his wallet. A witness saw the attack and went to the assistance of Ordaz. Between Ordaz and the witness they were able to wrestle one assailant to the ground until Ventura Police arrived.

The second suspect, described as a 40 year old white male approximately 5'8" and 190 lbs. ran off and has not been located. Ordaz did not sustain any injuries and his wallet was recovered at the scene. 37 year old Charles Tatum of Ventura was booked into Ventura County Jail for Robbery.



In the spirit of Holiday giving Aegis of Ventura, located at 4964 Telegraph Road, and the 23rd Marines of Port Hueneme held their for Toys for Tots Drive and Holiday Party on Thursday, December 17.

Toys for Tots provides hope and happiness to economically disadvantaged children through the gift of a shiny new toy during the holiday season.

Music, wine, Santa and hors d'oeuvres were enjoyed by residents and the many guests in attendance.

ROYAL RETIREMENT SERVICES, INC. *We care for your family.*

FREE CONSULTATION 805.642.2472

Caregiver Placement & Professional Estate Sales



Claudio & Maggie de Medeiros

Happy Holidays



Thank you for participating in our "Suitcase for Kids" program. Your incredible generosity allowed us to collect more than enough suitcases for all 500 foster children in Ventura County. Thank you for being a blessing to these wonderful children and our community.

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

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 rendered 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 4-5 weeks for delivery. The free gift offer is not available in Georgia, but residents may still request a quote. Insured's product is not available in all areas, including the state of Florida.

Senior Living

The Senior Cone-nection

Fighting osteoporosis by building strong bones!

by Nanci Cone

What happens when SCAN Health Plan, California Lutheran University (CLU) and Ventura Adult Continuing Education (VACE) get together to collaborate on a unique program? You get a special class that helps you build strong bones for life.

California Lutheran University has been working with SCAN Senior Resource Center in Ventura over the last several months to study the effect of a physical activity class on seniors' bone density, balance, leg strength and mobility. Students had final post-tests from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. a week after the session ended on December 16 in CLU's Human Performance Lab in the Gilbert Sports and Fitness Center.

Students Cole Olmon of Thousand Oaks and Scott McClave, the Exercise Science majors working on the project conducted pre-tests on 14 senior citizens in August to determine their bone density, strength and mobility. Since then, the seniors have been participating in the Strong Bones exercise class at the SCAN center. Faculty members Michele LeBlanc and Steven Hawkins are overseeing the study and. Dr. LeBlanc notes, "We were delighted to have had the opportunity to work with SCAN and VACE. While we know that exercise is valuable, this project was unique in that it is testing a community-based program."

SCAN, a not-for-profit organization focused on finding innovative ways to enhance seniors' ability to manage their health, will receive quantitative results showing whether the class it provides to seniors does what it was designed to do, and whether it has additional benefits. The CLU students had an opportunity to do hands-on research that benefits the community. And the seniors received free testing to measure their bone density, strength and mobility.

Dr. LeBlanc goes on to add, "Participants were extremely enthused about the program due to the excellent instructor, the positive social network that was developed in the class, and the sense that they were improving their health. Early results indicate that the program was successful." Researchers Michele LeBlanc and

Steven Hawkins, along with their student research assistants, will share the group results with the participants on January 12th at 10:00 am on the CLU campus. The community is welcome to attend the reception. For more information, call Michele LeBlanc at 493-3276.

Steve Lehman of SCAN comments, "SCAN's mission is to promote senior health and independence. One way we do this is by being partner's with VACE as we are in the age of budgetary cuts. I wanted to validate these adult educational exercise classes; hence, I approached SCAN to underwrite the study. I also want to show adult education activities makes a difference in seniors' health status."

It was obvious how much of a difference this class has made to the participants. Peg Stevens said, "I went to the doctor and started doing squats. This is something I had not been able to do since I was a kid. I have really bad knees so this is amazing!" Suzie Axtell, an instructor for VACE, has been teaching the Strong Bones class for a year and her reaction is, "It's been great! This is a really fun group. They bond very well, are extremely talkative, have good attendance and work very hard."

Sandra Quick jumped in to say, "I'm concerned about getting osteoporosis because of my family history. I'm hoping this will strengthen my bones. I've read about this disease and, after taking the Strong Bones class, I feel better. My husband and I exercise outside as well to strengthen our bones and we can't wait to see the final results." Her husband Pete adds, "This has been very beneficial to both of us. We feel this has been really helpful and we can't wait until the next class starts up in January."

Martha Cole notes, "It has been a wonderful experience and I think it is absolutely essential at my age. Thanks to this class, my balance is improving." And Rex Wollen adds, "It is a really interesting class. The exercises are definitely helping me and I look forward to the next class." Over and over, each member of the class echoed these same sentiments and everyone said they could see a noticeable difference in their mobility and balance.

The next session runs from January 4 through March 22, Monday and Wednesday from 2:30-3:30 pm at SCAN Senior Resource Center, 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 200 in Ventura. Registration is \$10 and the program fee is \$40 for the 10-week quarter. Each registrant must be at least 50 years of age to participate and the class size is limited.

During each class, each participant will lift weights to increase bone density

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.

and increase muscle strength while also working to better their balance. Weights are provided in class with each participant moving at their own speed and deciding how much weight to lift. For more information on this class or any other classes being offered by SCAN or directions to their facility, call 658-0365.

New Year's Day

Continued from page 6

With the introduction of the Gregorian calendar in 1582, Roman Catholic countries began to celebrate New Year's Day on January 1. Scotland accepted the Gregorian calendar in 1600; Germany, Denmark, and Sweden about 1700; and England in 1752. Traditionally the day has been observed as a religious feast, but in modern times the arrival of the New Year has become an occasion for spirited

celebration and the making of personal resolutions.

The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah, or the Feast of Trumpets, and is prescribed by the Old Testament as a holy Sabbath. It is celebrated (generally in September) on the first and second days of Tishri. The Chinese celebrate New Year's Day sometime between January 10 and February 19. It is their most important holiday.

The Romans continued to observe the New Year in late March, but their calendar was continually changed by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the New Year.

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



Nanci Cone is proud of her recent WEV graduation and to write for the Ventura Breeze

Ventura Breeze in the news

On December 16 Ventura Breeze writer Nanci Cone graduated with honors from the Women's Economic Ventures (WEV). The graduation was held at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort in Santa Barbara.

Nanci stated that "Even though it was the hardest thing I ever did 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.

Men are always welcome and 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. To register, contact WEV at www.wevonline.org or call 965-6073.

Sayings

Continued from page 3

Never say there is nothing beautiful in the world anymore. There is always something to make you wonder, in the shape of a leaf, the trembling of a tree.

—Albert Schweitzer

The more a man lays stress on false possessions, and the less sensitivity he has for what is essential, the less satisfying is his life.

—Carl Jung

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds...With consistency, a great soul has simply nothing to do.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts.

—Bertrand Russell

Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go into the making of genius. Love, love, love, that

is the soul of genius.

—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave and impossible to forget.

—Suz Montgomery

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.

—Bill Cosby

The true perfection of man lies not in what man has, but in what man is.

—Oscar Wilde

The importance and unimportance of the self cannot be exaggerated.

—R.H. Blyth

Resolve to be thyself, and know that he who finds himself, loses his misery.

—Coventry Patmore

Look at everything as though you were seeing it for the first or last time. Then your time on earth will be filled with glory.

—Betty Smith

Continued on page 15

Sports



Ventura golf courses to be under new management

Kemper Sports to manage and maintain our courses

As anticipated Kemper Sports has been selected to manage Ventura's two golf courses. The Ventura City Council has approved a five year contract, with the a possibility of a five-year extension. The Northbrook, Ill.-based management company will oversee the day-to-day operations, including all maintenance and customer services at Buenaventura and Olivas Links golf courses.

Kemper Sport's manages 17 golf facilities in California and will also handle the maintenance of the course.

Eric Burton, Ventura's golf services manager, was extremely impressed with their operation and recommended them for the position. Kemper accepted a lower annual management fee but can

increase it by meeting incentive goals. Burton told the council "Right off the bat, we are saving \$265,000 in base management fees."

Because the use of golf courses is down during the economic crunch Kemper doesn't project a positive cash flow until 2013-14

In a much more controversial decision the council also voted to exempt the company from the city's living-wage ordinance. This could save as much as \$335,000.00.

Council members were happy to hear Kemper's commitment. Councilman Neal Andrews stated "I think we probably have the best circumstances possible despite the grim forecast."

New rowing team designed especially for 8th graders

With their high school team already a success they have started up a new venture which focuses on 8th graders preparing for high school sports.

On January 9th at 8:30am LCRA will hold spring tryouts for their new 8th Grade program and their existing high school team. The tryouts are for beginners, so no experience is necessary but you must reserve a space.

The 8th grade program hopes to get kids involved in a sport so that when they go to high school they will already have a sports background in rowing.

"We want kids to already have a sport

that they are passionate about when they start high school" says Eric Gillett, executive director of Casitas Rowing. "Rowing is an incredible team sport and we want them to have the opportunity to try to out and see if it is right for them."

The new rowing club has had a lot of success in the short time they have been open and was recently awarded a grant from the LA84 Foundation which began shortly after the closing ceremonies of the 1984 Olympic games in order to help fund worthy sports teams around the area.

If you are, or know one, an 8th Grader or a high school age boy or girl that might like to give rowing a try call LCRA at 642-2288 or go to their website to reserve a spot www.CasitasRowing.org.

For adults who would like to give rowing a try they will also be holding their free quarterly learn to row event on the Saturday before on the January 2. Reservations are also necessary for this event.

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: “The people have spoken.”

by Wendy Halderman

Supporters of Measure A (the proposed sales tax increase) keep saying this, as if somehow Venturans caused their favorite library to close. Make no mistake--Venturans did not vote to close Wright Library, the City Council did, with full cooperation and backing from Ventura City Community Services staff, Ventura County Library, and the County Library Commission.

Decision makers wanted to close Wright from the get-go, although they would have gladly delayed its closure a few years in exchange for a sales tax increase.

The City's desire to close Wright explains why they did not seriously look at any of the numerous viable options, including the top three recommendations from their own Library Advisory Commission (e.g., rotating hours and/or days at Wright and Foster). It also explains why they wanted to open a new Children's Library at the Pacific View Mall, while simultaneously claiming "Ventura has too many libraries."

Further, it also explains why the city refused to enforce the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ventura County Library and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, which specifies a minimum service level of 40 hours at Wright Library; and also, why they refuse to enforce the building lease with Ventura County Library, which requires the County to "operate a functioning library" on the premises.

It seems the city wanted Wright Library off the table before they launched into the next round of long-term strategic planning. The last 10-Year Library Services Plan (1997) concluded that Wright was the best location for a library and that city investment should go there. But leaders ultimately wanted all investment to go to the Downtown Cultural Arts District, and they probably could not risk another independent study concluding that Wright was the best library location for Ventura residents.

Currently, the city's Library Advisory Commission is set to be subsumed into the Cultural Affairs Commission, with a non-Brown-Act governed and New-Urbanist-aligned "Library Steering Committee" to take its place. City leaders are redefining what a library is and should be, apparently for the purpose of building a "non-profit fundraising" entity in which library service is not its own separate concern, but rather, just one piece of a larger "cultural affairs mission".

It's clear by looking at the Ventura County Library budgets that there was never a "shortfall at Wright," nor a "4.5% drop in property tax revenue" as was previously claimed as a reason to close Wright. A \$351,000 "anticipated reduction in property tax revenue" mentioned by the Library Director at the Oct. 1 Library Commission meeting was added back to the 2009-2010 budget on Dec. 9--about a week after Wright was closed.

Ultimately, Wright did not fit in with the city's New Urbanist plan, which requires that libraries also generate revenue by being located in centralized shopping areas and "urban cores." Leaders apparently believe library foot traffic should be driven to "mixed-use" areas to create increased expenditures on personal and public transit, parking tolls and meters, and nearby retail goods and services.

I encourage everyone to attend up-

coming meetings related to the future of our libraries. For more information, please send an email to libraryjustice@yahoo.com.

Re: Wright

Editor of The Breeze re: the Helen P. Wright Library

I am writing in my role as Vice President of the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library (SBFOL) and Chair, Save Wright Library Campaign to refute and distance our organization from any association with the opinions and accusations leveled against Ventura County Library Director Jackie Griffin and Deputy Mayor Bill Fulton.

The pending consolidation of the Wright Library into the Foster Library is heartbreaking for everyone involved. SBFOL partnered with the city of Ventura and the County Library System to stave off that consolidation until decisions were made regarding a possible increase in sales tax. When Measure A failed last month, it was incredibly disappointing, and in my opinion, shortsighted by this community. That being said, the people have spoken. Fund-raising to keep the Wright open is simply unsustainable for any period of time. Some people have proposed a parcel or unit tax to fund libraries; however, in this economic climate where people are taking cuts in pay or losing their jobs, a 2/3rds vote for a parcel tax seems a pipe dream.

The irresponsible attacks on the integrity, honesty and professionalism of Director Griffin are simply unacceptable. They imply a conspiracy theory, and blaming the bearer of bad news for that news is simply unfair. I think it's safe to say that Library Directors would be the last demographic who would be advocating for the closure of libraries if it wasn't absolutely necessary. The trouble with funding Ventura's libraries is a long-time issue, preceding Ms. Griffin's tenure, one that needs to be addressed if we are to have excellent library services in the future.

Has Director Griffin done everything perfectly? No, she hasn't. I personally wish there had been better and clearer communication throughout the process. In my very civil conversations with her, Ms. Griffin has acknowledged that she and her staff (along with city staff) could have and should have done things differently. However I refuse to take the leap that better communication would have saved the Wright. The consolidation is the result of a budget crisis, nothing more, nothing less.

Deputy Mayor Fulton, and, indeed, the entire City Council, have been supportive of efforts to keep Wright Library open. Mr. Fulton has represented library interests vocally and ably. Unfortunately, even with all of our efforts, reality shaped the decision of our City Council.

I suggest that any anger and frustration that is lingering in this community regarding the closure of our beloved Wright be channeled into an effort to reinvigorate the Foster Library, and in building a library system that will serve residents of the both the west and east ends of Ventura.

There is no conspiracy; there is a lack of resources.

Sincerely,
Berta Steele
Vice President, SBFOL
Chair, Save Wright Library Campaign

To the Editor Ventura Breeze:

The last chapter of the story of our beloved Wright Library was very sad indeed. It was a community library in every sense of the word; a wonderful staff, great volunteers, dedicated student helpers, and the cheeriest little Children's Section, inspiring so many little ones. Before he passed away, my little grandson, Andrew, used to roll in on his wheelchair and devour every board book in the building.

These are tough economic times for everyone, even libraries. Many of us realized this first hand as we tried to raise revenue to save the Wright. Our City Council recognizes the importance of library services. Deputy Mayor Fulton has worked for years on both our city and county Library Commissions, and each of our council members has contributed to our efforts to save the Wright Library. This situation has been difficult for everyone.

We are very thankful we now have so many focused on the plight of our libraries, and luckily our great library staff is working very hard to bring additional library services to Foster in the interim. It is not helpful to dwell on what might have been. Obviously if these difficult economic times could have been foreseen we would all want to do many things differently, even Helen Wright.

We need to start our planning efforts now to meet the needs of Ventura in the future. We hope everyone will attend our public meeting in January, or contribute their thoughts and ideas through the library or city websites. Would neighborhood libraries or one central library work better for Ventura? Should we recycle existing vacant buildings, or build a large library with community meeting space, and a Friends Used Bookstore for revenue like Camarillo? I would like us to explore bringing a Children's Discovery Center to Ventura for extra sales tax revenue and locating a library nearby. Perhaps our business community would like to weigh in, as a large library or neighborhood libraries would bring foot traffic to an area.

How do we draw patrons who don't currently use the library, and most importantly how do we establish long term funding: a parcel tax dedicated to the library requires a 2/3 vote, or perhaps a foundation or a bond measure. Some feel we should try to pass a small parcel tax now in the next election to re-open Wright for the remaining five years of the lease.

We all want our future library services in Ventura to be a real page turner. We have many decisions to make, and we need to inspire the financial support we need to realize our goals.

My mom used to tell me stories of surviving on dandelion soup during the Depression. But these were just memories when I was growing up. I want to remind everyone things will get better. We can't give up. Please join our efforts and help us realize our dreams of GREAT library services in Ventura.

Marianne Coffey
cluemari@aol.com
Breeze:

Marianne is the chairwoman of the City Library Advisory Commission. She would love to hear your ideas regarding our library services.

Dear Mayor Fulton, city council members, and Ms. Griffin,

When will the public receive an answer to even one of my probing questions about the actual money being saved by closing Wright Library?

Just tell your constituents openly how much you are saving by closing Wright Library. Is it possible that it is not that much and the public might not agree with your

shuttering of Wright Library as opposed to the many options now on the table?

How long does it take to do the math for payroll, overhead and utilities at two library locations?

Certainly you must realize that the longer the City, County and library officials actually take to answer these basic financial questions, the less trust will exist between the local Government and the governed.

You publicly say you want us to trust our cities current leadership. We want to trust you, however we need some actions from you that are worthy of our trust.

Well, I for one am not going to go away quietly in to the night. I shall continue to confront this Wright Library closure issue in every public forum available until all the reasons behind why it was closed are made clear to the public. When one examines the official position of the City Government and Library staff, then compares it with what transpired in the months before Wright Library was slated for closure, the correlation is just not there.

I hope you can handle the focus of constituents seeking justice for our libraries and on those who chose to close Wright Library. The citizens of Ventura, your employer, have only just begun to collect and examine the actions taken by the 'library closure team' that led to the shuttering of our Wright Library.

I really wish all the librarians, who have served the families of Ventura so faithfully for so many years, could be kept busy at every library in the county. However, when the lean years come, it may not be possible to keep them all employed on a full time basis. I trust they understand that the public they serve appreciates their commitment and past service and is only interested in a compromise which has not been clearly articulated at this time. To show your support for Venturas libraries go to libraryjustice@yahoo.com

Ray Feath
Ventura

Sayings

Continued from page 14

What a wonderful life I've had! I only wish I'd realized it sooner.

–Collette

It is easier to go down a hill than up, but the view is from the top.

–Arnold Bennett

All things are possible until they are proved impossible--and even the impossible may be only so as of now.

–Pearl S. Buck

If you follow all the rules, you miss all the fun.

–Katherine Hepburn

The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes.

–Frank Lloyd Wright

The aim of life is to live, and to live means to be, joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely awake.

–Henry Miller

It is your work in life that is the ultimate seduction.

–Pablo Picasso

If you see in any given situation only what everybody else can see, you can be said to be so much a representative of your culture that you are a victim of it.

–S.I. Hayakawa

Your imagination is your preview of life's coming attractions.

–Albert Einstein



Business



Oscar Ledesma has recently been hired as the new Executive Chef at Austen's at the Pierpont.

Pierpont hires new executive chef

by Tim Pompey

He's a local boy made good. Thinking sports or entertainment? How about . . . cooking. And the best part is, he's still local. Meet Oscar Ledesma, the new Executive Chef at Austen's at the Pierpont off Sanjon Road in Ventura.

Ledesma was born in Mexico and raised in Santa Paula. Food preparation runs in his family. His mother once owned the Los Compadres Mexican Grill. After graduating from Santa Paula High School, he attended San Francisco City College and eventually ended up at the California Culinary Academy.

During his culinary training, he did a three-year apprenticeship at the Hayes Street Grill in the heart of old downtown San Francisco, plus an internship at Chez Panisse in Berkeley. He also spent six months at San Francisco's noted Jardinière Restaurant. Needless to say, Ledesma was a busy man during that time — taking courses, cooking, working toward achieving his goal to become an executive chef. It's been said that most people take ten years to reach that status. Ledesma made it in seven. And best of all,

he's come back home to do it.

So, what can folks who eat at Austen's anticipate? Chef Ledesma sums it up in one word. "Simplicity. And when I say simplicity, I mean letting the food shine for itself, letting the produce shine by treating it simply."

His describes his style of cooking as California style. He prefers using natural and local resources from within our state and approaches cooking from a "green" standpoint. "I use food that is sustainable and seasonally available," he says. "As a cook, I'm very aware of environmental concerns. I will only cook what's available in this area seasonally. For instance, I always use local fish caught in season. It's always fresh, always wild."

So, a guest at the restaurant can rest assured the produce in their salad is grown locally, the seafood served is from the Pacific, and meats are naturally raised: organic chicken, kurobuta pork, grass fed beef. With this philosophy, his goal is quite clear. "I want to make the fresh quality of food better. This means that the type of product on the menu might change daily based on availability."

Even though he's only recently come to Austen's, Ledesma is already in the process of making changes. In particular, producing a more affordable menu and evaluating and revamping the menu presentation without losing what customers have come to appreciate about Austen's. "I've kept some standard menu items," he explains. "They're located in an area of the menu called 'taste of heritage'. And to give customers an example of new foods, I have a seventy-five-dollar dinner for two that includes some really varied entrees. Eventually, I'd like to include a menu that changes daily."

Chef Ledesma has worked hard to get where he's at. Now customers in Ventura County can benefit from his experience and his cooking. Best of all, they can eat knowing he's personally overseeing the quality of their food. With Ledesma at the helm, fresh will always be a diner's first option.

environmental science issues. Rincon's workplace practices are employee centered, and we will continue to work hard to maintain this level of employee satisfaction."

This marks the latest in a string of industry acknowledgements for Rincon Consultants. Earlier this year they were ranked on the Inc. 500|5,000 list of "Fastest Growing Private-Companies in America," and were named one of the "Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies" by the Pacific Coast Business Times.

Fourth quarter financial planning makes dollars and sense

Ventura-based financial planning firm encourages investors to take advantage of year-end adjustments.

December is a time of the year when investors should consider taking a closer look at investment portfolios and make changes now for the highest return.

With the substantial stock market fluctuations over the past two years, year-end tax management changes are more important today than ever before. To help ensure clients finish the year in the most optimal financial position possible, Stephen J. Kipp, President and CEO of Kipp

Financial Group in Ventura, provides five year-end tips to aid investors in managing current tax liabilities and reducing future tax expenses.

1. Fully fund your 401(k). For 2009, the maximum contribution to a 401(k) account is \$16,500. If you have not maxed out your contributions this year and can afford to up the ante, increase your 401(k) or other retirement planning funding before the year ends. Contributions made to traditional IRAs and 401(k)s are made with pre-tax dollars and can substantially reduce year-end tax bills.

2. Make a traditional IRA or Roth IRA contribution. Investors have until April, 2010 to make up to a \$5,000 contribution to an IRA, Roth IRA or combination of both. Investors over 50 years of age are allowed an additional \$1,000 "catch-up" contribution in 2009.

3. Sell stocks to capture losses. Review your most recent portfolio statements to determine how well your investments fared in 2009. If securities are underperforming now is the time to harvest losses and reinvest in a different commodity. Selling low performing stocks before the year-end helps to capture capital losses and counterbalance long-term capital gains.

4. Make your home work for you. Homeowners can boost mortgage interest deductions in one simple step: make an extra mortgage payment in December. In addition, if your primary residence was made more energy-efficient in 2009, a tax credit of 30 percent (or a maximum of \$1,500) is in order for qualified purchases. Items to consider include the purchase or installation of solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps, wind turbines, or other qualifying alternative energy equipment that provide heating or cooling.

5. Meet with your financial planner. Although investment management is a year-round exercise, all investors are encouraged to take a closer look at personal portfolios prior to the end of 2009. Taking stock of how you have progressed towards financial goals and setting new goals for 2010 is an important investment strategy that will help build financial futures.

Professional financial advisors, including Kipp Financial Group, encourage all investors to re-evaluate personal portfolios prior to 2010 to further enhance financial opportunities and gains for every dollar invested.

VCCA presents \$14,000 to nonprofit organizations

The Ventura County Contractors Association (VCCA) recently presented nine local Ventura County nonprofit charities with donations totaling \$14,000.

Recipients included the Camarillo Health Care District, Casa Pacifica in Camarillo, FOOD Share Ventura County, Habitat for Humanity Ventura County, Livingston Memorial Veteran's Nursing Home, Meals on Wheels, Ventura County Rescue Mission, Ventura County Special Olympics, and Ventura County Teen Challenge.

The Community Contributions Program committee was chaired by Bill Huff, William Huff & Sons Construction. Huff was assisted by VCCA president Tommy Tangelato of OST Trucks and Cranes and Randy Gulden of Center Glass Construction.

Funds were raised through the VCCA's

annual golf tournament hosted each July at Spanish Hills Country Club in Camarillo. Tournament participants donate over and above tourney costs as sponsors in various categories.

Established in 1946, the Ventura County Contractors Association (VCCA) represents construction America at its best in our local community. Committed to dedication, education and specialization, VCCA has become a powerful tool not only for the local construction industry but for the local community as well.

The VCCA is a non-profit membership association of more than 750 members consisting of qualified general contractors, subcontractors, building material suppliers and many other leading construction industry businesses. It provides services throughout Ventura County's 10 incorporated cities, including Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Pt. Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Ventura.

For more information on the VCCA, visit their website at www.vccainc.com.

Health

Roze Room Hospice of Ventura seeks volunteers

Roze Room Hospice of Ventura, a family-owned medical hospice, is committed to providing patients with life-limiting illnesses the tools to experience a richer, fuller, more meaningful life in the time that is left.

One such tool is having an opportunity to review one's life in the presence of a caring person who listens without judgment. For those who find themselves socially isolated at the time of life's closure, a person who comes to visit from the kindness in his/her heart is a priceless jewel.

Another gem is a person who has training in compassionate touch. For hospice patients who find conversation difficult or impossible, touch is one connection that continues to reach the heart.

Roze Room Hospice of Ventura has two specially trained massage therapists who provide sensitive touch techniques designed specifically for patients with terminal illness. These volunteers were referred to Roze Room Hospice by The Heart Touch Project.

They are looking for volunteers with compassion to join their wonderful interdisciplinary team. Three different volunteer opportunities are open: Patient/Family Care Volunteers; Massage Volunteers; Office Volunteers.

Training is provided and then opportunities for you to talk with their diverse, interesting patients; listen to their stories; and discover what you may receive. You never know what you'll learn from others and about yourself, you will be matched up with a patient who lives near you.

The required skills are patience, compassion, caring, kind, and a good listener. Must be reliable, accountable, and able to complete brief documentation. Free training is provided. Transportation to visit patients and/or office is needed. Office volunteers must be a minimum of 16 years old. Patient Care volunteers and massage therapist volunteers must be a minimum of 18 years old.

To find out more contact: Carolyn Warren, volunteer coordinator at 654-0191 or cwarren@rozeroomhospice.org

Rincon Consultants named "best places to work"

Rincon Consultants, Inc., a Ventura-based environmental sciences and planning consulting firm, was recently named a Best Firms to Work For in a nationwide competition. ZweigWhite, a management consulting and research firm, and Stagnito Media, engineering media specialists, organized the competition. Rincon received First Place for Mid-sized Environmental Firms (50 to 249 employees) and ranked ninth place overall for Environmental Firms.

Awards were based on the results of a comprehensive survey of workplace practices, as well as an independent survey of employees. Employees participated through an online survey administered by ZweigWhite. On 97 of 109 survey questions, Rincon scored above the survey average. This high acknowledgement by Rincon's employees is what Stephen Svete, President, is most honored by. "We are very proud of this distinction. At Rincon, we emphasize the importance of a positive work environment, and we see a correlation between employee well-being and excellence in our product, which is outstanding consulting on a range of

Health



This wonderful CMH Auxiliary Sewing Group spreads cheer all year long

Community Memorial Hospital in the news: special stocking for CMH Christmas babies

No other Christmas stockings will be filled with gifts as special as these. Each year the CMH Auxiliary makes stockings for the newborn. "They are one-size-fits-all," says Connie Ferritto, a member of CMH's volunteer Sewing Projects Auxiliary Group. The babies can actually fit inside the stockings. This year the twelve ladies of the sewing group made 125 stockings.

With over 200 babies born each month at CMH, the nurses usually wait until the final two weeks of December before beginning to give out the stockings so as not to run out before Christmas.

Made with red flannel, with white trim, the baby stockings measure about 18 inches in height and 12 inches wide. Each one takes about 45 minutes to make. The Christmas baby stockings are actually only a small part of what the Auxiliary's sewing group does.

The Sewing Projects group, which meets every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., doesn't specialize only in kids' stuff. The volunteers also make pillows for the cardiac care and intensive care units.

They would love for you to join them.

Jill Hall, M.D., a Ventura obstetrician/gynecologist who specializes in urogynecology, will lead the public education program from 6 to 8 p.m.

Dr. Hall, who is on staff at Community Memorial Hospital, earned her medical degree at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. She completed her Obstetric and Gynecology residency at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and received a fellow-

ship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

Space is limited, so reservations are recommended. Call 652-5436, or register online at www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp.

Junior's Christmas caroling

On Monday night, December 7, sounds of caroling could be heard through the halls and lobby of Community Memorial Hospital. The event, hosted by Auxiliary Juniors chaired by Eddie and Chuck Marshall was thoroughly enjoyed by the patients, the staff at the nursing stations and guests of the hospital.

There were 13 Juniors and 9 Auxiliary adults in the choir. Many were dressed in holiday attire. The group began with a meal provided by the hospital and followed with lots of singing and fun.

This is an annual event that the Auxiliary Junior Chairs co-ordinates, providing song sheets and leading the choir. Both Juniors and Auxiliary look forward to the event which is a very festive and joyful time for all.

Cold or the flu?

You've got a stuffy nose, a sore throat, and a thumping headache. But is it a cold or the flu?

If your fever hits 101°F or 102°F and comes with chest discomfort plus major aches and exhaustion, it's probably the seasonal flu.

The H1N1 virus feels a lot like seasonal flu, but often comes with gastro issues, which make it even easier to get dehydrated. Drink plenty of fluids, and follow standard flu treatment. Stay home, and call your doctor if you're in the high risk category or if you're not better after a week.

If you have a runny nose, a little cough, maybe a low-grade fever it's probably a winter cold, which isn't associated with body aches or high fever like the flu. Staying hydrated will boost your immune system and help relieve congestion.

Movie Time

Review of Sherlock Holmes

by **Tim Pompey**

★★ 1/2

Starring Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Rachel McAdams, Mark Strong

Currently Playing at Century 10 and 16

You have to give director Guy Ritchie credit. He's certainly blown the lid off of previous movie versions of Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Dr. Watson. No uptight high brow portrayal here. No, these two are London's 1880s version of Batman and Robin mixed in with a little Jackie Chan and some turn of the (19th) century 007 technology. Fun? Some parts, yes. Making sense of it all? Not so much.

In this Holmes scenario, Watson (Law) is on the verge of getting married and moving out. You get the sense he's had his fill of Holmes (Downey, Jr.), who still has his moments of brilliance, but otherwise has come unhinged. Worst of all, Holmes is bored. The only interesting case he has at the moment is the notorious Lord Blackwood, black magic artist and murderer, and even he is due to be hanged. So, what's a sloppy, jealous, egomaniacal detective to do? Well, in this case, he toys with underground boxing, plays with dangerous weapons, and insults Watson's fiancée. That is until Blackwood calls him into his prison cell to utter a mysterious prophecy and his former nemesis and love interest Irene Adler (McAdams) asks him to investigate a case about a missing dwarf.

There are some genuinely fun (and funny) moments in this movie. Ritchie has a knack for combining good action sequences with snappy humor and he puts his gifts to good use here, at least in the first half of the movie. However, once the dynamic duo battle with a giant Frenchman and manage to catastrophically sink a ship in the Thames, the movie loses steam, as if the director and screenwriter suddenly ran out of original ideas and substituted other pieces of worn out plots in hopes the audience wouldn't notice.

Of course, the villain Blackwood is not who we think he is, and of course, Holmes has to explain to us who he really is and what illusions he used to trick us into believing he was who he was not. Confusing? Oh yes. Coherent? Only in bits and pieces.

Downey and Law manage to salvage this film with some good chemistry, even if they're spouting off words at warp speed that make no sense. Downey infuses Holmes with wit and Law plays well as the tolerant friend on the verge of leaving Holmes for a much nicer (and cleaner) wife. It would all have played well if they had managed to keep more of the old Holmes, with his passion for logic and order, or even maintained the fun new Holmes throughout the film. Unfortunately, it doesn't hold together. So, as you watch this movie spin and gyrate, you're forced to pick and choose what you like. The rest? Well, let's just say the old Holmes would not be amused that his signature hat and pipe have been so radically altered.

Seminar on women's issues

Community Memorial Health System kicks off its 2010 seminar series with a free seminar on disorders of the female urinary and genital tract on Tuesday, Jan. 12 in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital.

Religion

Lox and bagels and klezmer music, such a deal at Temple Beth Torah

Renowned filmmaker Yale Strom will speak and play fiddle at the January 10 Brotherhood Brunch at Temple Beth Torah from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Yale is a composer, film maker, writer, photographer, playwright, and ethnographer-artist of klezmer music and history with field research in Europe leading to seven award-winning documentary films and several books. His music has been heard on National Public Radio and is performed around the world including recently at the United Nations. With his klezmer band, Hot Pstromi, and his wife, vocalist, Elizabeth Schwartz, he has created twelve albums. He lectures widely, and is now scholar in residence at San Diego State University in the Jewish Studies

Program. He was also a guest curator for a musical and photographic celebration of the newly restored Eldridge Street Synagogue on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

A lox and bagel brunch will be served. Cost is \$7.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Call Temple Beth Torah at 647-4181 for more information



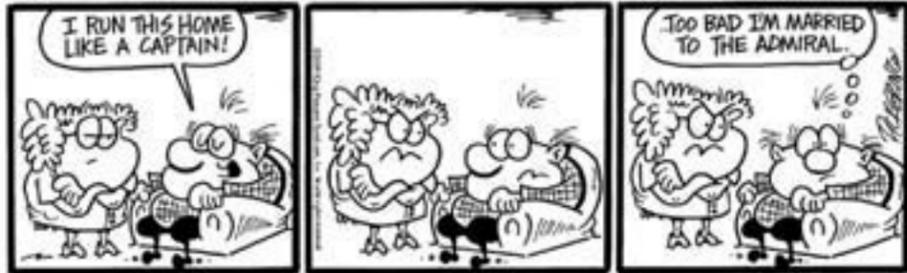
On Sunday, December 13 Chabad of Oxnard, Camarillo and Ventura presented a wonderful Chanukah party at the Ventura Pier. The day included live music, hot latkes and a giant menorah and plenty of sunshine.

The Lighter Breeze

Out on a Limb



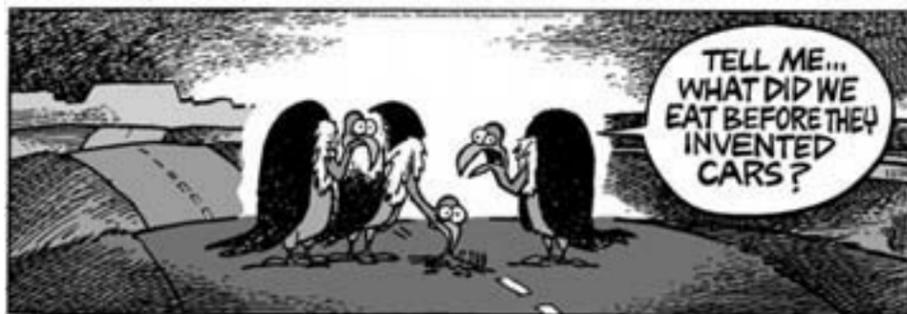
The Spats



Hagar the Horrible



Mother Goose and Grimm



Snapshots



Jason Love is a Ventura cartoonist and stand up comedian who routinely appears at the Ventura Harbor Comedy Club

Pardon my Planet



Solutions on page 20

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

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: ★

Solutions on page 20

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
			18				19	20			
21	22	23				24					
25				26	27				28	29	
30				31					32		
33			34					35			
		36					37				
38	39				40	41					
42				43	44				45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52					53		

ACROSS

1 Cry like a banshee
 5 "Say again?"
 9 Crafty
 12 Europe's neighbor
 13 German car name
 14 Tiny veggie
 15 Peter Parker's alter ego
 17 Cartesian conclusion
 18 Hostels
 19 Drove
 21 Founded (on)
 24 Unaccompanied
 25 Swiss peaks
 26 Directly
 30 Floral neckwear
 31 Actor Alan
 32 NASA deviation
 33 Last page?
 35 Small combo
 36 Nestling hawk
 37 Dashboard features
 38 Folkways
 40 Painter Mondrian
 42 Actress Gardner
 43 1984 mockumentary subject
 48 Buddy

DOWN

1 Existed
 2 Cleopatra's slayer
 3 Mid-afternoon hour
 4 Restroom designation
 5 Caution
 6 Runs smoothly
 7 Oklahoma city

8 Small-timer
 9 Freshwater algae
 10 Begin
 11 Sweet potato toes
 16 Conclude
 20 Yale student
 21 Hairless
 22 Sheltered
 23 It takes thyme
 24 Use a teaspoon
 26 Spheres
 27 Guitar's kin
 28 Greet
 29 Pairs
 31 Accumulates
 34 CBS logo

35 Named
 37 Narcs' org.
 38 Jerry Herman musical
 39 Ellipse
 40 Needles' mates
 41 "Meet Me - Louis"
 44 Use a crowbar
 45 Take a shot at
 46 Time of your life?
 47 Home for 14-Across

© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Events could inspire adventurous Lambs looking to make a major career or personal move. But as always, get all the facts before rushing into any sort of deal or commitment.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) What seems to be a great opportunity could cause even usually practical Taureans to ignore their inner caution cues. Best to move carefully to avoid falling into unseen traps.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Need a holiday now that the seasonal festivities are behind you? Good idea. Plan to go to someplace wonderful. You'll return refreshed and more than ready for a new challenge.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Progress continues to be made on that pesky workplace problem. Meanwhile, don't assume a personal situation will work itself out. Best to get more involved earlier than later.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Catnaps are definitely recommended for Leos and Leonas who had been going at a hectic pace over the holidays. Adding relaxation time to your schedule helps restore your overdrawn energy reserves.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Sure, some of the new friends you made over the holidays might move out of your life at some point. But at least one might show significant "staying

power" with some encouragement.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Encourage family members to join you in supporting a relative who could be facing a difficult emotional challenge in the New Year. Showing your love and concern helps keep his or her hopes up.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) While a long-deferred decision suddenly might take on some urgency after news on a related matter, you still need to weigh all factors carefully before deciding one way or the other.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time to reassess the earlier plan you made for the New Year. Some elements you felt you could depend on to make it work might no longer carry that assurance.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Forming a renewed connection with a former associate is only the first step toward working out your new plans. Be prepared for problems, and deal with them as soon as they arise.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A romantic situation that was going smoothly not too long ago might take a new turn. Be honest about your feelings before you decide whether to follow it or take another path.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The wise Pisces (that's you, of course) will make sure everyone knows you plan to keep your options open and listen to all sides of the situation before making any decisions.

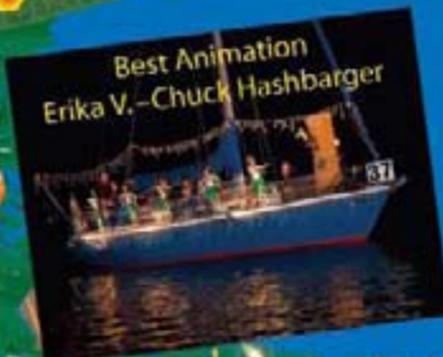
BORN THIS WEEK: Your honest approach to life and living is always an inspiration for others fortunate enough to know you.

© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

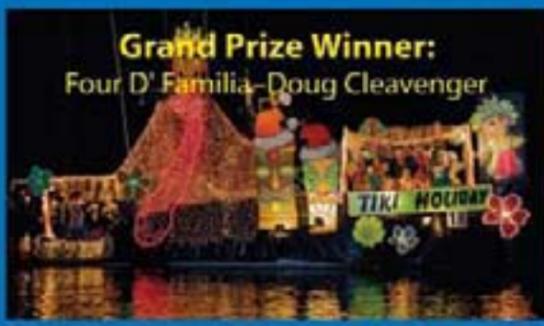
Holiday Tropical Tiki Party

Congratulations to the 2009 Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights Winners!

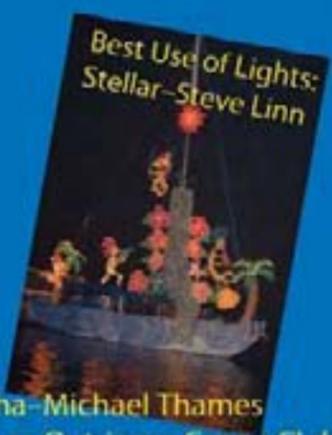
Best Animation
Erika V. - Chuck Hashbarger



Grand Prize Winner:
Four D' Familia - Doug Cleavenger



Best Use of Lights:
Stellar - Steve Linn



1st Place Winners:
 Top Row, from left: KISS - Jan Lawson • Heavenly - Jay Shapiro • Misha - Michael Thames
 Bottom Row, from left: No Regrets - Brian Stanton • Kukini Kapiikai - Ventura Outrigger Canoe Club
 Island Adventure - Island Packers • Petey - Jim Ludwig • No Name - Richard Knuppel



2nd Place Winners:
 Journey - Jeff Beller • Salt N' Light - Scott & Lee Allison • Bunji - Sue Goeku • Fore Play II - Charles Carter • Sea Ranger - National Park Service
 Dreamer (Blue) - Ventura Boat Rentals • Hokuloa - Hokuloa Outrigger Canoe Club

Thank you to Our Generous Sponsors

















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

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



Person to Person

by Karlene Lang

Tangerines, squashes, and flowers Oh My! Roses, chicken/apple sausages, jalapeno bread specialty cheeses, orchids and plants, even a tamale and steaming cup of Joe to sip. That's just some of what you will find at the 2 Ventura Farmer's Markets. One held on Saturday and one on Wednesday.

Saturday site manager Ben Dominguez tells us that customers are most intrigued by the variety of the produce, not just one kind of apple but maybe five varieties! Stop by - you won't be disappointed.

Question: Why do you shop at the Farmer's Markets?



Rose & Joe Avila, Oxnard: "We come to the market on Wednesday when we shop at the mall. We especially like the bakery items and the watercress."



Nicola, Aimee & Declan Hammond, Ventura: "I like coming to the market because the kids can sample many different fruits and vegetables. They like EVERYTHING!"



Faith Henkin: "Fuyu persimmons, they're the best. I also love the Pixie and Satsuma oranges from Ojai. You'll see me every week!"



Danika & Tyler Madonna, Ventura: "It's important to me to support the local vendors and I love the homemade pies."



Don Taylor & Tracy Long: "We come all the time. The produce is better than what you can get at the grocery store; in fact, EVERYTHING is better here than at the grocery store!"



Bryson Uhrich: "My wife Anne and I come every Saturday morning. Love the fresh, local produce and it's my only chance to get to talk to people."



Jill Webb, Ventura: "The produce is always so fresh and I like the unique items that you can't find at the grocery store like the proteas. Also think it's cool to meet and speak with the vendors."



Tina White: "I love all the fresh stuff. I come every week to buy flowers from Rosa at Myriad Flowers."

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Receive the gift of the Ventura Family YMCA for free from January 4th to 10th

The Ventura Family YMCA will be hosting a FREE Open House for members of the community from January 4th to January 10th.

Unlimited Open House gift certificates are available at the YMCA, located at 3760 Telegraph Rd., online and at multiple local businesses. The certificates will allow anyone in the community to have full access for the entire week to use the facility and participate in adult and youth classes including Tae Kwon Do, ballet, parent/child swim classes and more.

The week of Open House will also feature an array of activities and events. Along with facility usage and free classes, there will be complimentary programs

and wellness seminars like "How to Help Avoid the Flu" with Dr. Kay Larson as well as free cholesterol screening and body composition testing. Children will be able to participate in a variety of arts and crafts during the week while their parents enjoy working out.

Open House will wrap up on Saturday, January 9th with a member appreciation barbeque which will include a free food, jolly jump, live performance by "The Calamity" a softball tournament between staff and members as well as other community building events.

Those who decide to sign up for a membership during Open House at the Ventura Family YMCA will be pleased to know that along with our NO join fees and NO contracts, they will receive the rest of January for FREE. This incredible offer is only valid during Open House week.

So start off a healthy and active New Year with this wonderful opportunity to find out what the Ventura Family YMCA can do for you and your family. For a full list of "Open House" activities and to receive your gift certificates go to www.ciyymca.org/ventura.

The Ventura Family YMCA serves over 20,000 individuals annually through facility memberships, before and after school childcare, day and 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.

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

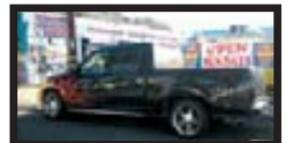
PUBLIC NOTICE

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



COUPON!
\$5 off any purchase of \$25 or more



FREE DELIVERY
1700 E. Thompson
Ventura
805.648.1070

We would like to thank all our loyal customers for their business. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!