

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Young student tackles global warming, Part 1

by Tim Pompey

Alec Loorz is not your typical 15-year-old high school sophomore. At least not when it comes to discussing global warming. He has his own research website (www.kids-vs-global-warming.com). He's traveled across the country talking about global warming. He's become a dedicated political activist. Last December, he traveled to the global warming conference in Copenhagen. For Alec, studying global warming has become a passion and a vocation. Don't be surprised, someday, to see or hear him on TV or radio discussing the topic on some large media outlet. For now, however, he's a local kid working hard to raise public awareness about the threat of global warming. The Breeze thought it might be interesting to hear what he has to say. This is part 1 of the interview.

T: I'm really curious. You're fifteen years old. How did you get interested in this issue?

A: I really knew nothing about climate change or the environment or anything of that sort before I saw Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." And that's what really sparked this awareness.

T: You were how old at that time?

A: I was twelve. It sparked something inside of me. I realized, if it's my generation that's going to be effected by the consequences of climate change, then it's we as youth that are going to have to grow up and deal with the consequences of the decisions made today by our leaders and parents. So, I was made aware: it was our future and our planet.

T: There is a lot of debate about global warming. What sources do you feel are most reliable or strongest as evidence for issues related to the existence of global warming?

A: Well the group that really kind of

Continued on page 20



The Top Hat Burger Palace decision to not ask for an extension on their lease did not come lightly. Dedicated patrons were waiting at opening time to get their last favorite foods on closing day.

Nostalgic over burgers

by Mira Reverente

People's names may be hard to remember but not their favorite food. Think Mr. Toasted-buns-with-no-cheese or Mrs. Chili-dog-with-cheese fries. "If I'm walking down Main Street for example, and I see someone familiar, I know what they always order, but maybe not their names," says an amused Charlotte Bell, owner of the recently closed Top Hat Burger Palace.

The past 44 years has given Bell plenty of time to get to know her customers and vice-versa. Jerry English, born and raised in Ventura, has been a patron since it opened at the corner of Palm and Main Streets. "I just love the place and have gotten to know Charlotte and her employees really well. They know what I want. It's like visiting your best friend's home. You know you're always welcome," says Jerry.

Memories of '66

English and the rest of Top Hat's loyal clientele are still in disbelief over Top Hat's closure. Jerry explains, "I feel like

someone burglarized my home. It's really a shame."

Bell clearly remembers the day that Top Hat opened in 1966. A hamburger was \$0.35, a hotdog was \$0.25 and a pop soda was \$0.05. Daily sales for the 8 x 22-foot burger stand were \$100, considered a lot of money then. "There was nothing in downtown Ventura then except empty buildings. It's hard to imagine our monthly rent was only \$75," recalls Charlotte.

The menu has been nearly untouched. Staples such as the Top Hat special (double patties with white cheese in the middle), chili dog, fish burger and chili cheese fries have been offered since day one. Bell remembers experimenting with corn burritos, which flew off the walk-up window at the rate of 30 dozen a week. Business partner and grandson Jack Bell was prepping them at home to keep up with the demand.

Trying times

So when the 30-day eviction notice came in January, the family took it hard. Jack was reportedly notified in the middle of the night. The decision to not ask for an extension did not come lightly. "The owners refused to give us a lease. So it was futile to ask for an extension and just prolong the agony," says Charlotte.

The Bell family has dealt with similar situations before. In 1987 and 2005, they were also notified to vacate the location, supposedly to give way to development projects. Petitions were circulated and patrons rallied to keep Top Hat open. Charlotte recalls, "I saved those petitions. I'm not sure why. Maybe to remind myself that people care?"

This time around, the Internet has revolutionized the way people can express their support and sentiments. Shortly before its February 2 closure, a "Save The Top Hat" movement sprouted on Facebook. As of press time, the Top Hat group had over 4,300 supporters on

the popular social networking site.

Supporters have also posted various Top Hat photos and videos on the Facebook page. There are also ongoing discussions and various speculations on whether the historical fixture will (or should) re-open or not.

Bright possibilities

Councilman Jim Monahan is staying optimistic. "I really hope they re-open. Top Hat is part of Ventura's history. It's a destination point for visitors and returning locals."

Charlotte is understandably saddened but also hopeful. "We are studying some options. I think we will re-open, but I'm not sure where, when or on what scale. But we will," she says, with determination written all over face.

Hyatt Place hotel coming to Ventura

The proposed 152-room Hyatt Place, located off of Seaward (behind the Golden China Restaurant) has finally obtained approval by the Ventura Planning Commission.

Based upon fears of blocking their views the Affinity Group (located on Vista Del Mar) had requested more 3 dimensional drawings be submitted to the commission.

The San Diego developer, Pacifica Cos. presented these drawings and even though there was still some opposition to the project by some the commissioners were satisfied that views would not be blocked and approved the project by a 5-1 vote with Commissioner Martha Piccotti casting the lone no vote.

Commissioner Martin Johnson said, "There is a negligible visual impact to the neighboring homes and businesses."

"I am satisfied," said Commissioner John Hecht. "In most public hearings, we don't make everyone happy."



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 Judge's Choice in the Altered Images category "Ventura Pier Blue" by Stephanie Saul.

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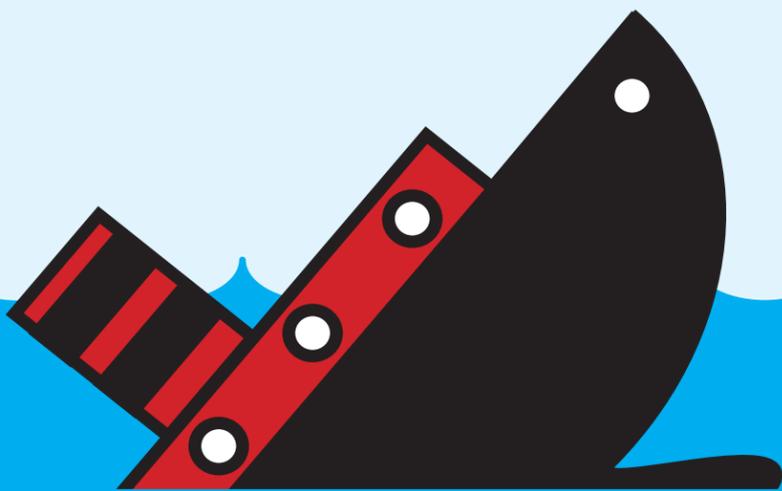
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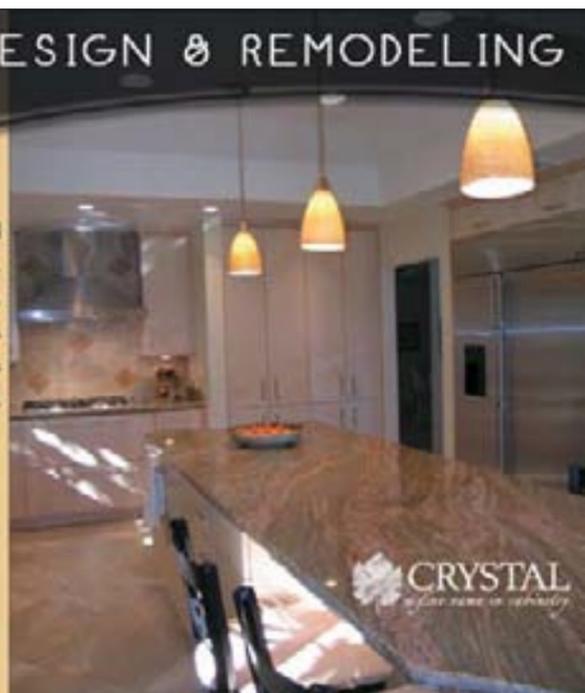
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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

DVP Board President David Armstrong has announced that the Downtown Ventura Partners (DVP) have started a search for a new executive director to replace former DVO director Rob Edwards who has left the position. A new job description to manage the Downtown Business Improvement District is being drafted by the board of directors

The Breeze wishes Rob much success in his future plans.

I am very happy (as are merchants) to see that the parking lot behind the shuttered Top Hat has been re-opened.

The rumors of more layoffs at the Ventura County Star have been confirmed. The paper's entire news and sports copy desk was informed recently that their jobs are moving this spring to Corpus Christi. They will be allowed to apply for the jobs in Texas. The paper's owner Scripps is centralizing its desk operations in Corpus, so at least 15 local editors and designers are expected to lose their jobs in May.

Even though it might help the Breeze obtain more advertisers I would hate to see the Star fold. Every time a newspaper closes down it hurts the entire industry.

The other day Diane, Scamp and myself picked up a sandwich and went to Marina Park to have lunch. Sitting on the

bench looking at the ocean and sail boats and surfers and the breakwater and the nice little bay right there and the kids playing on the "ship" I realized, again what a great town that it is that we live in.

Sometimes living here it is easy to become complacent about what a wonderful place that this is.

So I was thinking how lucky we are to live where people come to "vacation" and then we found out that Ventura has been ranked among the top ten cities in a recent national Gallup survey per an article in this issue.

If you were wondering why the construction has stopped on the remodel of the Eric Ericsson's snack bar on the Ventura Pier the answer is very simple, they failed to obtain the required permits for the work. Permits are required for most any construction that is done and design review approval is required for commercial projects.

The Pier Into the Future Board of Directors has provided the following comments to the city for consideration in approving this design.

"The snack bar facilities should be set back at least ten feet from the beginning of the wood deck and end of the granite monuments. Ten feet of separation between the two facilities is essential to maintain the visibility and dignity of the monuments."

"The construction underway does not fit the architectural design of the oth-

er buildings on the Pier. The appearance of the new snack bar extension should be enhanced by painting the corrugated sheet metal (or using a different material) and other new construction should be the same or similar earth-tones as existing buildings."

After the opening of the Fresh & Easy Market (Day & Telegraph) last week I walked over to Wright Library to see if anything was going on. To my surprise the lights were on and a few people were inside.

One, a library employee that knows me, opened the door so that we could talk. To my surprise the book drop-off is still open so she has to go there everyday to pick up books and while there she, and a volunteer, do a little library work.

So it seems to me that it would be very simple and economical to have the library open 2 days per week using one library employee and the zillion volunteers that are willing to help out.

Folks using the library would certainly understand if they couldn't get as much help as in the past and that it took longer to check out.

If the employee makes \$20 per hour (I made that up) that would amount to about \$1,500 per month which could easily be raised in the community if the city (or county) does not actually have the funds.

How about if you in the know let me know if this is feasible?

Mailbox

Concerned Venturans

If you would like to stay updated on the efforts to reopen Wright Library, here is the new website. Please forward to others who may be interested. Thanks. <http://reopenwrightlibrary.com>
Wendy Halderman

Editor:

In my opinion the Notre Dame plan for downtown Ventura looks great. My only criticism would be that it does not take into account the fact that within 30 years the Pacific Ocean will, all kidding aside, be breaking waves against the 101 freeway. Future plans must account for the coming rise in sea level or we will all be busy filling sandbags along Ocean Avenue.

Dave Cintron
Ventura

Ventura Breeze:

I read over the State of the City 2010. Interestingly, the Mayor avoided making any mention of our beaches as being one of Ventura's major assets...other than a reference to surfing. Oh, and he did mention "beach cleanup" when he was talking about volunteerism (but we know that's about cleaning up just the stuff that human's leave behind and not really cleaning up the stuff that is the real problem).

Based on the sorry state of our beaches, I guess he was correct in not mentioning them. While all of the other beach cities we compete with for tourism clean and groom their beaches, Ventura elects to have beaches that are unable to be walked on in your bare feet for fear of being stabbed by the chards of arundo that are scattered though out our sand. Until that is deal with, I guess we shouldn't consider our beaches an asset.

If we are to have a truly meaningful Beach Management Plan, these cleaning and grooming issues also need to be dealt with along with the sand encroachment into the Pierpont Community along

Shore Dr.

John Whitman
Ventura

Breeze:

A complete copy of the Mayor's "State of the City 2010" speech can be found at www.venturabreeze.com

Hi,

I have two ideas for ways that funding may be gotten for the Mutt-Mitt program. It has taken years for people to get in the habit of being responsible to pick up their pets waste. The convenience of having the containers available at park locations plus the use of biodegradable bags, is what has made this program so widely accepted. If people have to be counted on to bring their own bags, it won't be long before they get out of the habit. Plus it's not going to help our environment for additional grocery store/non biogradable bags to be added to our land fills.

One idea is to have a 501 3C organization such as C.A.R.L. set up a program whereby people can donate by text message to a Mitt Mutt account (this worked quite well after the Haiti disaster). If the amounts collected surpasses the \$35,000 needed, surplus monies can go to spay/neuter programs or other needs. Almost everyone who is at the parks walking their dogs, has a cell phone with them. If the boxes were set up (that the bags go in) with signage of the program and how to text a contribution, I'll bet it would be funded. I've already pitched this idea to Terry at the Ventura Pet Barn's adoption program and she is going to take it to their board for discussion. It would be great P.R. for them as well.

My second idea is to have the county tack on an addition couple of dollars to the annual registration fee specifically for

the Mitt Mutt program. It could even be voluntary to donate an extra amount. The cost of registering a pet in this county is low enough so that contributing a little extra to keep our parks and oceans clean is a small price to pay.
Pamela Hazard

Scamp: Do you readers have any other wonderful solutions to getting the Mutt-Mitts back?

A poem by Janice Tieken

Why oh why oh why oh
won't they tell us what we want to
know
they closed the Wright
and started a fight
but won't tell us about the saved
dough.

They said it's the money
sad words dripping honey
but how much was saved
is the number we've craved
that they won't say just isn't funny.

Not to answer is suspect
their silence we reject
we just want the truth
they are just so uncouth
that's why they have lost our respect.

Breeze:

Besides being a poet Janice Tieken, BFA, MA is an outstanding artist; check her work out at www.janicetieken.com

The Breeze will be having a poetry contest in the very near future. This is a good example of a poem dealing with Ventura.

Look for a future issue that will give the details about the contest.

There is nothing so easy but that it becomes difficult when you do it reluctantly.

- Terence

Breeze:

Thank you for the update on the railway trestle. (Obviously trellis was a typo.) I'm sending it on to be passed around among my Carpinteria friends who keep asking me why the city hasn't taken care of the graffiti.

Also, I appreciate that in the article on parking meters you did include the point that the meters are only one aspect of the parking management plan that has been in the works for several years.

Barbara Evans
Ventura

Breeze:

Of course it wasn't a typo. A trellis "to support or train a plant such as a vine on a trellis" so doesn't this support a train? Okay, okay, we goofed, thanks for picking up this error.



City News

Nonprofit Sustainability Center seeks tenants

The City of Ventura is seeking local cultural and social service nonprofit organizations interested in leasing space in the Nonprofit Sustainability Center, located on the fourth floor of the former county building at 505 Poli Street behind City Hall. Currently housing four nonprofit tenants, this office space is being made available temporarily to other nonprofits for below-market rates in order to assist them in weathering the current recession. Proposals are due by Friday, March 5.

Qualified tenants will receive a three-year lease (with two one-year renewal options) at the rate of \$1 per year plus utilities and building/maintenance costs at a rate of .50 cents per square foot monthly. The lease includes work areas designated for each organization, common space, including a conference room and bathrooms, plus 24-hour access to the building.

Any nonprofit organizations currently housed in and serving the City of Ventura are eligible to apply. All tenants will be required to carry liability insurance and name the City of Ventura as an Additional Insured.

For more information contact City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Supervisor Eric Wallner at 677-3911 or ewallner@cityofventura.net to arrange a pre-submittal inspection and receive the full RFP.

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.

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Enter City of Ventura's "Art Tales" Poetry & Short Story Contest by March 15

The City of Ventura, in partnership with E.P. Foster Library, is pleased to announce the second annual "Art Tales" creative writing contest. For application requirements and guidelines for this free contest, visit the City website at www.cityofventura.net/ArtTales. Entries are due March 15.

Entries will be accepted in either English or Spanish and will be judged by a committee of professionals, educators, librarians, and City of Ventura staff. Winners will receive a cash prize of \$30, see their work published on the City's website, and receive a bound edition of the winning entries.

For more contest information, please contact Denise Sindelar at 658-4793.

Ventura Places among top ten "Happiest Cities in America"

Ventura ranked among the top ten cities in a recent national Gallup survey recently released. The survey polled more than 350,000 people nationwide in 2009 on 'happiness factors' such as local job opportunities, personal finances, physical health, moods, emotions, and community. Ventura shares the ranking with Oxnard and Thousand Oaks as part of a metropolitan statistical area, and ranked eighth in the nation among cities of similar size.

"We're so fortunate to live in this beautiful coastal setting, but the Gallup-Healthways poll shows much more than that: that the Ventura experience is shaped by the many opportunities afforded here in business, culture and education alike," commented Mayor Bill Fulton. "We decided what kind of city we wanted to be when we created the 2005 General Plan, and we make Ventura the community it is every day."

The survey – considered the largest of its kind in history – polled 1,000 U.S. residents near-daily for two years, leading to more than 725,000 responses. Respondents from the Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura statistical area totaled 972. The survey was conducted by Gallup, a respected behavioral science authority, and Healthways, the largest well-being management company in the nation. Of the survey's relevance, Gallup-Healthways said: "While these rankings are not intended to be a competition – they do provide government policy-makers, community leaders, media agencies, employers, health plans and healthcare providers with an unprecedented level of detailed information about where communities are doing well, where they are struggling and where to best target policies and investments to assist residents to maximize their well-being."

For more information on the survey, visit <http://www.well-beingindex.com/>.

News and Notes



Julianna Fjeld, the regional director of Tri-County GLAD, showing how the videophone works

Do you hear what I hear?

by Mira Reverente

Sonia Delgado cannot remember the last Christmas carol she heard. She lost her hearing when she was a toddler. "Growing up, I was often frustrated and isolated. Finding employment was a real struggle for me," recalls Delgado, through an interpreter. Things changed in high school for the young mother of one after she heard about Tri-County GLAD through a teacher.

A subsidiary of the Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness, Tri-County GLAD has been assisting with the social services needs of the deaf and hard of hearing population in Ventura, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

Out of the almost 800,000 people in Ventura County, 63,000 or almost 8 percent are deaf or hard of hearing. As an outreach agency, Tri-County GLAD provides many services including advocacy, peer counseling, independent living skills, employment assistance and referrals.

Information-challenged society

"There are several misconceptions about us, like being passive or not being smart enough. I think it's just a lack of information and awareness on their part and that's why we do this type of work," explains Julianna Fjeld, regional director of Tri-County GLAD.

Born deaf to hearing parents, Fjeld, an army brat, spent a considerable part of her childhood living in military bases across the country. Battling isolation and the growing need to find her own identity, Fjeld found her niche at Gallaudet University in Washington DC, at the California School for the Deaf in Berkeley and other schools with programs for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Fjeld recalls, "Those times were really different. There are more programs and services that are in place now, especially in the schools."

Technology boost

Technology has also taken giant strides since then. At the GLAD office in Ventura, the videophone is widely utilized clients like Joel Garcia. "It is very easy to use and I can use it anytime during business hours. It has been a huge service to people like me," says Garcia.

The videophone, connected to a TV, operates through a broadband Internet connection. Clients have the option of making a point-to-point call provided the other party can also communicate using the American Sign Language (ASL). The second option is the video relay service wherein an ASL interpreter can contact a

third party using a standard phone and relaying conversations.

Causes of hearing loss

Delgado and Fjeld have a common denominator – an unknown cause for their hearing loss. There could be a number of pre-natal causes such as pregnancy complications including rubella. Some medications can also damage the hearing system of a baby before birth.

Genetics can also play a role in congenital hearing loss, but not always. Mark Robinson, who had been interpreting for Fjeld, Delgado and Garcia is a KODA (kid of deaf adults). "I had to learn ASL so I could communicate with my parents. That eventually led to my stint here," says Robinson, a full-time interpreter at Tri-County GLAD.

Post-natal causes of hearing loss include premature birth, severe jaundice or a lack of oxygen at birth. Infections like measles, mumps and meningitis may also lead to hearing loss, as well as head injuries and exposure to loud noise.

Empowerment

Garcia personally prefers the term "communication-challenged" to "deaf" or "hard of hearing" or "hearing-impaired." Garcia says, "I think it sounds better. It's a more positive description of us."

He knows it will take time before the term becomes widely accepted. Christina Montero, a community advocate, agrees, "It's really about changing perspectives and making people understand that our clients are entitled to equal rights. Empowerment is such a powerful tool and we want to help them acquire it."

For more information:

Tri-County GLAD
702 County Square Drive, Suite 101
Ventura, CA 93003
805.644.6322 voice
805.644.6323 TTY
www.tcglad.org

Ventura Job & Career Center early March career shops

Tuesday, March 2 - Computer Basics for Job Seekers, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm - become familiar with Windows desktop programs to enhance your job skills.

Wednesday, March 3 - Power of VOS (Virtual OneStop), 1 pm – 4 pm - Learn about the Virtual OneStop website and how you can use the various tools in the system to build your resume and customize your job search to a specific location and occupation. Must have basic computer skills.

Thursday, March 4 - Resumes that Sell, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm - hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters. Walk away with a portfolio that shows off professional skills and experience.

Tuesday, March 9 - Explore Your Future, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm - complete a self-evaluation to help identify your skills and aspirations. Gain insight into the hidden labor market and develop a career strategy based on high-demand occupations.

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

News and Notes



Beverly McCaslin, President of VBG welcomes all to the workshop preparation meeting

Ventura Botanical Gardens gets ready for a Community Workshop

by John Burke,
Landscape Architect

Efforts to create a botanical garden in Grant Park came one step closer to fruition at a recent meeting of the designers, city officials and Ventura Botanical Gardens, Inc. (VBG). This is part of the lease option process approved by the City Council in November of last year.

To ultimately secure the lease for this public-private garden, VBG has to prove they can actually pull this off. Creating a Master Plan for the gardens is among the first steps. That plan, to be developed over the next few months is the blueprint for gardens that could last centuries. Great gardens often do.

You can participate in creating these gardens by attending the first Community Workshop to be held Saturday March 13 on the main floor of the Crown Plaza Hotel on Harbor. If the warm-up meeting was any indication, you can probably just follow your nose to the snack table. These people put on a spread.

February's preparation meeting was hosted by the volunteers of VBG, attended by city staff and conducted by Mia Lehrer of the landscape architecture firm Mia Lehrer + Associates. Beverly McCaslin, President of VBG, started the evening by describing the four-year effort that led up to the meeting. She said volunteers looked at a lot of other places before visiting Grant Park. What struck them most about Grant Park were the views, San Buenaventura indeed.

Mia Lehrer began by describing how she goes about making a plan to create a 107-acre garden. She starts by learning all she can about the site, reading, looking at maps and drawings, visiting the site and talking to experts. She looks at the history; she looks at the plants; she looks at the terrain. At the March 13th workshop she will share with you what she has learned.

The steep terrain of Grant Park presents both challenges and opportunities for creating gardens. To better visualize possible designs, Mia has created a three-dimensional model of the crenellated landscape. The model will be available at the workshop so you can better visualize what landscape architects call "the opportunities and constraints".

The real purpose of the community workshop is for you to express your opinion about what you want. In addition to open discussion there will be a questionnaire asking what activities interest you

such as hiking, bird watching, having a picnic? What programs interest you: arts, gardening, exercising or something else? What facilities would you like to see: a café, an amphitheatre, a children's playground?

March 13 coincides with the St. Patrick's Parade. What better way to show your green than by taking part in a community garden workshop? You can learn more about this effort at: <http://www.venturabotanicalgardens.com>.

Paralegal Springtime Education Conference

The Ventura County Paralegal Association's 2010 Springtime Education Conference will take place on March 27 at the Four Points Sheraton located in the beautiful Ventura Harbor/Marina area. The conference is open to paralegals, lawyers, students entering the legal field, and anyone who would like to get some interesting information on topics pertaining to our field.

Keynote speakers and topics include: The Ethical Issues behind Volunteering;

Identity Theft and the Technology Involved, to be presented by Corporal Terry Medina of the Ventura Police Department.

Legal Ethics and Corporate Officer Fraud, to be presented by Lynn Connor of Parasec.

Technology and Conception: The inheritance rights of posthumous in vitro children, to be presented by Mark Philips, Esq., a partner with Goldfarb, Sturman & Averbach.

Process Service Facts and Post Trial Document Essentials Every Legal Practitioner Should Know, to be presented by Kristian Pujol of Commercial Process Serving, Inc.

The conference is a very economical way for attorneys and paralegals to obtain 5 CLE units, 2 of which are in ethics. If your organization is interested in becoming an event sponsor, your staff and/or members are entitled to a discount on the conference fees.

The conference program and registration form may be downloaded from VCPA's web site at www.vcparalegal.org.



Sheldon Brown chats up the ladies

The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN) meet at The Greek Restaurant at 1583 Spinnaker Drive, in the Ventura Harbor. They meet for monthly coffee and a speaker on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30am.

On Wednesday, February 3 Sheldon Brown, publisher of Ventura Breeze was their featured speaker.

Sheldon stated "I usually bring 20 extra papers to meetings that I speak at to pass out. I was shocked to enter the Greek and see the entire dining area full and ladies even sitting at the bar because it was a full house. There were close to 100 attendees who asked wonderful questions and made my appearance a most enjoyable one. A group definitely worth checking out and joining."

Active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, golf, dining, wine outings, reading, biking, etc., are invited to visit and join BCNN. For further information call 644-9668 or 644-5086.

Westside Community Council meeting

In August, 2005 Ventura adopted its General Plan, which was to serve as a citywide blueprint for growth and development for the next 20 years. Westside Ventura was identified as an area that needed a new community plan and development code. As far back as the 1990s there have been workshops, charrettes, and neighborhood meetings to engage residents in this planning effort. In 2006 there were concentrated efforts to accomplish a Westside Plan, but unfortunately things seemed to stall out.

On Wednesday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m., Westside Community Council's meeting will host Jeffrey Lambert, City of Ventura's Community Development Director, and Sid White, Economic Development and Revitalization Manager, in the hopes of giving the plan a kick start again.

This gathering will take place at Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Avenue, and is open to the public. They welcome your attendance and input as discussion is held about the feasibility of establishing a redevelopment project area and potential North Ventura Avenue development. "Brownfields" or land used in the past for oil industry purposes, will also be discussed.

For more information about the WCC, go to their website at wccventura.org or email questions to wcc@wccventura.org.

Digital Camera Playground - Part 12 -The End

by Nelson Wallace

This is the last article in the series. The first one started with these words:

"Even the cheapest digital cameras have lots of features. Unfortunately, the average person is often unable to take advantage of them. This is Nelson's first of a series of articles to help the amateur photographer get more out of his or her digital camera. The articles will feature a few words about some aspect of a digital camera, and a simple experiment to gain some familiarity."

The topics covered were exposure, self-timer, motion, aperture & focus, accessories, dynamic range, JPEG versus RAW, white balance, movies, and ISO, with other stuff thrown in along the way. What wasn't covered (exposure compensation, sharpness, contrast, noise reduction, ...) you can probably figure out for yourself with a little experimentation. As always, please don't forget to backup the shots in your camera before you play around.

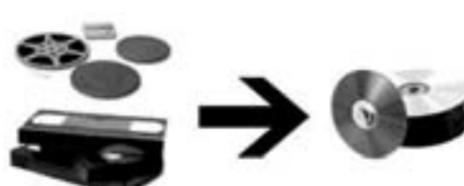
What's next for the budding photographer? Here are some suggestions.

1. Carry your camera often and take lots of shots. You'll find the camera sees things you don't. Only practice will reduce that.
2. Feed your interest; read a lot. Some photography magazines have great pictures and articles. Books on composition and lighting are timeless, and are cheap used. Kodak books especially.
3. Learn about composition. Local camera club websites and contests can teach you better than anything. We're lucky to have some great ones in Ventura County 4. Hit the galleries, and look at what the pros are selling. Take your time; when you see a photo you like, ask yourself, why does this work or not work? Students' shows are good too.
5. Learn more about cameras, lights and other equipment. Most camera stores are worth a visit, and they can be friendly and knowledgeable.
6. Only replace your camera when it shoots worse than you.

Most of all, try to learn to see. Photographic seeing is a special skill that is well worth developing. The start is recognizing subtle beauty when you see it.

Good luck creating pictures that are new and special and all your own.

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News and Notes

Mini-park may soon close

by Rebecca Wicks

The mini-park on the south side of E. Main Street between Oak and Palm Streets may not be a hangout for homeless people and transients for long. An initial conceptual design was submitted to the city's Design Review Committee in January outlining a catering venue for Savory Café.

The space itself, once a department store building that was removed after a fire engulfed the building. The site is privately owned and leased to the city who maintains the small grassy area. The site is home to a handful of small public events and craft fairs.

The project, still in its infancy has already gained wide approval by many.

"I think turning that space into a fun outdoor eating area of some sort would be really great," said Samantha Foxton who frequents downtown to shop.

Having been hassled by panhandlers at the park in the past, Foxton admits to oftentimes crossing the street so as not to have to walk in front of the park.

Mayor Bill Fulton, who had not seen the plans himself since they have only been submitted to the design committee and not the city council, believes there is merit to the concept. He sees the project as a possible boon in two areas.

"There is clearly a demand for outdoor dining and activity downtown," said Fulton. "And, the mini-park has proven to be a location where aggressive panhandlers are."

It is unclear whether the city council will ever need to approve any element of this proposal. Because the site is privately owned it may only be a land-use issue.

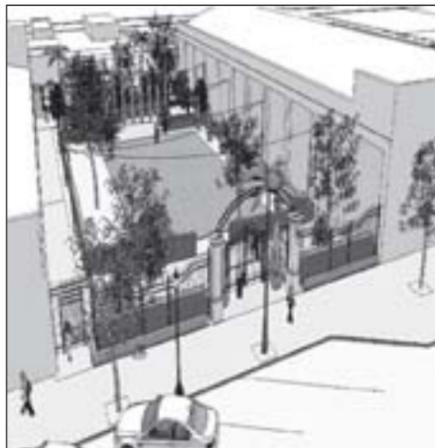
According to the plans submitted by Savory Café, located across the street and approximately one block away from the site, fairly minor upgrades to the property are being proposed.

Changes include fencing off the property on either ends with a decorative 10-foot wrought-iron gate and the construction of a storage shed. There would be two parking spaces on the alley-side of the site.

The plan drawings also show a paved entry-way, lights strung back and forth from the building tops, an event stage and landscaping including new trees, topiaries and flowering plants.

Many local businesses see the project as a good thing for downtown, possibly helping the ongoing battle against aggressive panhandling which plagues the area.

Nicole Ramirez, owner of Chi Chi Angels which closed its doors in Ventura at the end of January cited vagrants and beligerent panhandlers as one of the main reasons she is looking to move her store to a different location outside of Ventura.



Main Street Architects has prepared the preliminary drawings for the conversion of the downtown mini-park into a catering venue for outdoor events



Sanjon and Harbor taken January 28, 2010

The following article appeared in the April 8, 2009 Ventura Breeze but is still applicable

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Every year the corner of Sanjon (or is it San Jon?) floods and the street needs to be closed. Why can't a drain be added that drains to the channel next to the road so that it could just drain off? I just don't get it.

Thanks
James Hill
Ventura

James:

We have often wondered that ourselves so we went right to the source and met with Ray Olson, Environmental Services Manager Department of Public Works, at the flooding area to get an answer.

He has a tremendous knowledge of all things water in Ventura and was able to thoroughly answer the question and brought out many other interesting facts about very long term plans for the area that will be in another article in the future.

It turns out that it isn't the street that is filling up that could just be drained into the channel next to it, it is the entire area, including the channel, that backs up and floods the street.

This area was, and still remains the San Jon Barranca, a natural estuary that nature is trying to reestablish (it wants it back). This area is meant to contain an assortment of birds and other living things not including surfers as it did when it was a natural estuary. It is one of the primary coastal watersheds in the city of Ventura, the Sanjon-Prince Barranca* system.

This is a natural process just trying to reestablish itself and the flooding is just the consequences of man taking over.

Additionally the Allesandro Lagoon fills up and the excess water from it is stored and then dumped into the channel right at this point, the small square building right under the freeway is the pump house.

What happens is that a "sand bar" forms a natural dam at the beach at the end of the channel drain which causes this backing up of the water.

Both the short term and long term solutions to this problem are extremely complicated as both solutions involves many government agencies. The long term solution is making this area back into a wetlands restoration/urban creek area for all of Venturans to enjoy.

The short term is constantly removing the sand bar which is also more complicated than it would seem.

Both solutions can involve many agencies which, of course, can be very difficult. Including the US Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Control Board, California Department of Fish & Games and the California Coastal Commission and public hearings. We are sure that they could just work it all out over a cup of coffee.

But for the future it would appear we will just have to get used to this occurring every winter.



Top left: Bruce Schoppe (current president of the Ventura Audubon), Brian Brennan, Steve Bennett; middle right: Bruce Schoppe, Jane Spiller, Peter Gaede; lower left: Ed Wehan at the unveiling of the Audubon interpretative display

Birds, dogs and the Ventura Estuary

by Ed Wehan,

Ventura Park & Recreation Commissioner

On Friday February 12, the Ventura Audubon unveiled a beautiful interpretative display explaining to all of us who live in this area the value of wetlands while identifying the types of birds that inhabit this area. Located near the Ventura River mouth, the display will be a popular stopping off point for joggers, walkers and cyclists that use the bike path.

The Audubon worked closely with the City of Ventura Parks and Recreation commission, attending several meetings to explain their project in detail. The Commission greatly appreciated this and gave the project its support. The Audubon's effort is a great example of a high benefit project at little cost to City taxpayers.

The Parks Commission was represented at the unveiling by Chris Lopez, Jim White, Brooke Ashworth and Ed Wehan. City Council member Brian Brennan joined with Supervisor Steve Bennett in thanking the Audubon for their support of the estuary.

One of the challenges that the Ventura Estuary faces is that dogs and birds don't mix. Dogs are not allowed anywhere in the Estuary area from the beach on upstream. Yet, it is common to see individuals or families down in the sandy area with their dogs loose and no birds in sight. Often, dogs are in the Estuary chasing sticks that have been thrown. It is hoped that this display will be the first step toward informing the public of the beauty of the area and the need to protect it. A step in the right direction would be

to formally designate this area as the Ventura Estuary Wildlife area which might allow for greater protection and greater awareness.

The 30 x 40-inch laminate panel is located adjacent to the foot and bike path at the mouth of the Ventura River. It is a work of art, featuring a drawing of the estuary and the birds commonly found there. Designed by Jane Spiller of Ojai, and the artwork done by noted Santa Barbara wildlife artist, Peter Gaede, both of whom spoke of how the image evolved.

The panel project began several years ago under the leadership of former Ventura Audubon presidents Neil Ziegler and Marianne Slaughter. A committee composed of VAS Board members Reed Smith, Nancy Schorsch and Susan Bee saw the project through to completion. Reed Smith who is the Science Chair for Ventura Audubon spoke about the estuary, its value and its protection.

As the project neared completion, it was decided to dedicate the panel to the memory of Terry O'Neill, a charter member of Ventura Audubon and one of its early presidents who passed away in early 2009.

CAPs TV in Ventura filmed the unveiling and will be showing it on channels 6 and 15 in the near future.

Breeze:

Ed Wehan who was instrumental in getting city approval for the location spoke of his longtime association with the estuary at the dedication.

Community Events

Fins, Kids, Bags and Bids

by Nanci Cone

Are you looking for something fun and different to do on Friday, March 5 from 6-8 pm? If so, I suggest you head over to the CSUCI Ventura Gallery at 21 California Street in downtown Ventura. The event is to benefit the Ventura Chapter of Surfrider, the nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the world's waves and beaches. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 50,000 members and 90 chapters worldwide.

According to Jim Moriarty, Surfrider's Chief Executive Officer, "It is one thing to value something and another entirely to act to protect that value. We're here for the simple reason that we value the coasts and we're working to protect them. At Surfrider Foundation every minute contributed counts, every focused talent counts and every cent contributed and invested counts. This is not abstract to us. In fact it's crystal clear, like we expect the oceans to be. Please join us in our collective efforts to protect coasts everywhere."

The Fins, Kids, Bags and Bids event is the brainchild of four WEV (Women's Entrepreneurial Ventures) graduates who took Jim Moriarty's advice to heart

and decided to spend some time teaching two third grade classes about preserving the ocean and keeping it clean. From that lesson, the students created art that is being transferred to canvas grocery bags for the auction. There are also local artists such as Valerie Eybensen (Glass Art) and Anthony Bevilacqua (Photography) along with others donating pieces or other businesses donating items such as a wine basket from Wine Rack and some items from Patagonia.

"Come out on Friday, March 5 and help the Surfrider organization. Donate so that your children, grandchildren and their descendants can continue to enjoy the oceans and the beaches. We need to come together to help prevent our coastline from being lost forever," says Cory Yniguez, one of the originators of this event.

To donate an item for the auction or to learn more about the event, contact Cory Yniguez, Dandyline Designs at (714)293-1268, cory@dandylinedesigns.com or Llewellyn Somer, Lemon Blossom Paper Company, 479-1183, llewellyn@lemonblossompaper.com.

For general questions, contact the main event email at finskidsbagsandbids@gmail.com.

Audubon March Field Trips

Beginners are welcome on all field trips. Light drizzle does not necessarily cancel trips, but heavier rain will. More information is available at www.VenturaAudubon.org. Contact leader for directions.

Sunday, March 7, 9-12 a.m. Restoration Work Day, Santa Paula. Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Restoration Program. Come at 8:00 for birding! Leader: Sandy Hedrick (340-0478). Long pants and boots or closed shoes are required.

Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 p.m. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3454 Foothill Rd., Ventura. VAS March program features Blake Massey, US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, who will speak on the current status, management and research efforts of the California Condor Recovery Program. Included will be an account of recent nest guarding successes.

Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. Lake Los Carneros, Goleta. Leader: John Pavelko (640-9040). The lake and surroundings provide a great range of habitats and species. We should see some late-winter feeding flocks, early spring migrants, raptors, ducks, and always a few of the uncommon or rare.

Saturday, March 20, 8:30 a.m. Meher Mt., 9902 Sulphur Mountain Rd. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037). Celebrate the first day of Spring on this beautiful property which is a mixture of oak woods and open fields at 2,900 feet. With a water source, natural habitat and feeders, there should be a large variety of birds.

Saturday, March 27, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Beginners' Bird Walk. Fillmore Fish Hatchery/Lake Piru Area. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037). The Fish Hatchery usually produces several good species of herons, egrets and other birds that come to feed on the leftovers from the fish feeding, as well as several other species of birds. Remember to bring binoculars, a field guide, and water.

Kiwanis Club of Ventura presents Festival of Talent

On February 27 the Festival of Talent, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Ventura and the Ventura Education Partnership, will take place at the Ventura High School Theater. The show starts at 7pm, but there are festive pre-show activities starting at 6pm, which will include interesting drawings and sandwiches for sale. There will be presentation of student art through the Ventura Arts Collaborative. There will also be a live auction during the show.

While this is an opportunity to showcase the wonderful talent within the Ventura Unified School District family (students, staff, parents, and others associated with the district), this is not your ordinary school talent show. There will be 20 very talented performers. Their talent will be enhanced by the professional direction of Bryon McDonald from the Rubicon, and professional sound provided by Kenny Hobbs.

This is a fundraiser for Ventura Education Partnership. The Ventura High School Kiwanis Key Club are providing 25 volunteers to help run the show.

This is a high quality show offered at \$10 general admission and \$20 for reserved seating. Tickets can be obtained from any Ventura Unified School District school site.

Seaside Park Events

Feb. 28: MODEL FEST 2010 Santa Rosa Hall Vern Morseman
Ventura Hobbies Sun. 8:30a-3p; \$6 Admission

Feb. 28: VENTURA FLEA MARKET Full Grounds
Sun. 9a-2p; Admission \$5; Early bird \$10

Mar. 3: SWAP MEET Lot A

Wed. 7a-2p

Mar. 6 & 7: GEM & MINERAL SHOW

San Nicolas Hall Andy Anderson
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society McBride Hall

Sat. 10a-5p; Sun. 10a-4p; free admission
vngms_editor@roadrunner.com

Mar. 6: BUTTERFISH SURF SERIES

Lot D

Sat. 6a-dark

Mar. 6: VRA SPRINTS, DWARF CARS, IMCA Pacific Arena MODIFIEDS, JR MIDGETS & MINI DWARFS

Sat. 5p; Gates 3p; \$14 Adult; \$11 Senior/Military/Student; 12 & under free

Mar. 6: DANCE San Miguel Hall

Sat. 7p-1a; Admission: \$35-\$40 presale

Mar.10: SWAP MEET Lot A

Wed. 7a-2p

Mar.11: POULTRY MEETING Barn 300

Seaside Feather Fanciers

Local performers dance to raise funds for AIDS programs

Ventura County AIDS Partnership (VCAP) provides passionate leadership and much needed funding for our local HIV/AIDS programs. Recent state budget cuts for HIV/AIDS funding have been devastating and yet community leaders are stepping forward with determination to take care of our community.

On March 6 Ventura County AIDS Partnership (VCAP) will host Rhythms of Life: Dance for AIDS to benefit local AIDS programs in Ventura. Rhythms of Life: Dance for AIDS is a community driven, family oriented, multi-cultural dance performance that inspires and uplifts as it tells the story of AIDS locally and globally. Over 300 guests will be entertained by a cast of 100 performers.

"We are thrilled at the community's response to this new program. Dance for AIDS was designed to engage the community in the AIDS cause. We have amazing sponsors, 9 local dance groups and over 300 support volunteers. It will truly be a night to remember," says Madhu Bajaj, event organizer and Executive Director for the AIDS Partnership.

The evening will begin with a reception at 7 pm, followed by the show at 8. For those 21 and over, the excitement continues at the After Glow Party at Paddy's in Ventura from 10pm complete with body painting and

glow in the dark fun! For tickets to Dance for AIDS, please go to www.danceforaids.org or call Madhu Bajaj at 485-6288 ext. 232.

Democratic Club hosts 35th assembly district candidate debate

The Democratic Club of Ventura will host a debate between the two Democratic candidates for the 35th Assembly District, Susan Jordan and Das Williams. The debate is open to the general public and will be held on Thursday, February 25 in the Topping Room of Foster Library. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the meeting will start at 6:30. This meeting is free of charge, as usual, however they do request donations to cover expenses.

Susan Jordan is an award-winning environmental leader, businesswoman, health advocate and mother with 15 years of experience working to protect California's coastline as an economic, environmental and recreational resource.

Das Williams has dedicated his life to the protection of the coastal environment and working families. In 15 years he has done this by serving 4 years as a legislative aide, 5 years teaching, 6 years on the Santa Barbara City Council, and working in over 26 elections for progressive candidates and causes.

Snacks will be served.

Blood Drive at Downtown Ventura Farmers' Market

The Ventura Downtown Farmers' Market, located on the corner of east Santa Clara & Palm Streets, will host a Blood Drive scheduled for Saturday, March 13 during regular Farmers' Market hours, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Those interested in giving blood, must be well and healthy and be able to show identification. Individuals who donate a pint of blood will have the opportunity to spin the wheel for prizes such as t-shirts, chains, and pens. In addition, donors will receive \$5 in gift certificates to use towards their purchases at the Farmers' Market. Both walk-ins and appointments will be accepted. To make an appointment, call 805-654-8104 or register on line at www.bloodhero.com. The sponsor code is VCCFM.

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Community Events

Temple Beth Torah's 7th Annual Jewish Film Festival

by Nanci Cone

In 2004, a new tradition was born with the inception of Temple Beth Torah's Ventura County Jewish Film Festival. This festival brings new and exciting, Jewish themed movies from around the world to the western Ventura County community and, for the first time, by popular demand, it will run for three consecutive weekends! The films will be shown on Temple Beth Torah's state-of-the-art projection system, and in the 35mm-equipped Regency Buenaventura 6 Theatre (1440 Eastman Avenue).

The films that will be highlighted this year are:

"Saviors of the Night" is based on the memories of Marg Spiegel and describes how courageous farmers in southern Münsterland hid her, her husband Siegfried and their little daughter Karin from 1943 until 1945, thus saving them from deportation to the extermination camps in the East. (Saturday, March 13, 7:30 pm, Regency Buenaventura 6)

"A Matter of Size" concerns a group of fat people from the Israeli city of Ramla fed up with the sanctity of diets and the 'Dictatorship of the Thinness' of the diet workshop they participate in. They leave it and discover the world of sumo, where fat people like them are honored and appreciated. (Sunday, March 14, 3 pm, Regency Buenaventura 6)

"The Finaly Affair"- This thriller is based on the true case of the Finaly Brothers and is a powerful expose of the role the church played in regard to Jewish children in their care during World War II. (Saturday, March 20, 7:30 pm, Regency Buenaventura 6)

"The Case for Israel: Democracy's Outpost" - Well-known attorney Alan Dershowitz, one of Israel's most prominent and articulate advocates, makes the case for Israel. Learn what Israel is up against and what is at stake (Sunday,

March 21, 1 pm, Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Boulevard)

"Nora's Will" - Before dying, Nora schemes a plan to make Jose, her ex-husband, take care of her corpse but she is missing something which leads to an unexpected outcome, reminding us that the biggest love stories are sometimes hidden in the smallest places. (Saturday, March 27, 7:30 pm, Regency Buenaventura 6)

"Amnon's Journey" - Documentary about master Israeli violin maker Amnon Weinstein's search for violins played by Jews during the Holocaust, and how he restores them to be played again. Preceded at 12 noon by lunch provided by Temple Beth Torah Brotherhood followed by a violin performance by Lindsay Deutsch at 2 pm (Sunday, March 28, 12 pm, Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Boulevard)

Additionally, this year the Temple will hold a free pre-screening event on Sunday, March 7, 2 pm sponsored by Ventura County Jewish Family Services through a generous donation by Ray and Mimi Diller of the film "Yoo Hoo Mrs. Goldberg." Call 641-6565 for reservations.

Sam Goldberg, Festival Director, says, "By expanding from one weekend to three consecutive weekends, we give you the opportunity to attend our films in the evening as well as during the day. We are looking for film sponsors and, anyone who donates more than \$250 or more will receive an invitation to a celebration held at Spasso Cucino Italiana, the gourmet restaurant located at 1140 S. Seaward Avenue."

Tickets are \$10 for individual films or \$54 for a Festival Pass. The deadline for receiving advance mail-in reservations at Temple Beth Torah is Monday, March 8. For more information about tickets or becoming a sponsor, contact Temple Beth Torah at 647-4181 or visit the website www.vcff.org to view trailers of the upcoming films.

CI Chamber Orchestra in concert

On Sunday, March 14, at 4 p.m. the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra, KuanFen Liu, Artistic Director will present Spring Voices Spectacular.

The orchestra will perform Orchestral Suite #1 by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The concert will feature the combined voices of The CSU Channel Islands Choir and The Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church in Nānie Opus 82 by Johannes Brahms and Lux Aeterna by Morten Lauridsen.

The concert takes place at the First United Methodist Church, 1338 East Santa Clara St.

The suggested donation is \$20.00.

More information is at 643-8621 or www.cichamberorchestra.org.

Ventura events

DBSA Ventura, the local chapter of the Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance hosts a weekly confidential, peer-led, self-help support group in Ventura. The support group meets during the evening, every Tuesday, from 6:30-8:00 pm at Bible Fellowship Church located at 6950 Ralston Street in Room 301 of Building 300. Attendees should enter the parking lot off Johnson Dr. Email DBSA_Ventura@yahoo.com, visit www.dbsalliance.org/ventura or call 201-0619 for more information.

Feb. 28: Carnival celebrating Purim 9:30 am to 1:00 pm at Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Rd., 647-4181.

The carnival will rock you with its 70 foot G-Rock, Jolly Bouncers, games, costume parade, food and so much fun, bring family and friends for this special community event. There will be a silent auction with items donated by members

of the community as well as activities for toddlers through teens.

Feb. 28: Purim Celebration featuring a hilarious Purim Shpiel (play) by Balzac. Music by Deborah Kline-Iantorno (Jewish and Salsa).

The rest is shmoozing and Hammentaschen... and other goodies!

Bring a Middle Eastern Dish (hummus, baclava). Dress in Purim costume if you wish.

Suggested donation is \$5.00.

Elohim Hu Ahava Congregation @ Harbor Community Church, 3100 Preble Ave., Ventura. Sunday at 6pm. For more information call 289-4835 Liliana Yasky-McDermott, Spiritual Leader.

March 3: Children's Therapy Network presents **Developmental Screening** for children showing delays in physical, mental or language skills. Developmental screening is a procedure designed to identify children who should receive more intensive assessment or diagnosis. To be held at 1234 E. Main at 10am. Call 667-8200 to reserve your spot as space and availability is limited.

March 5,6 & 7: The Ventura College Theatre presents the **Spring 2010 Student One-Act Play Festival**. The Festival of four student directed one-act plays includes Medusa's Tale by Carol S. Lashof, directed by Michael Byrne; The Least Offensive Play in the Whole Darn World by Jonathan Rand, directed by James Fraker; Ode to Gwen Stacy, written and directed by Joshua Shain; and Am I Blue by Beth Henley, directed by Jordan Shockley.

The One-Act Play Festival will be presented in Guthrie Hall on the Ventura College Campus on Friday-Saturday, March 5-6, 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 7, 3 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, March 12-13, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, March 14, at 3 p.m. The final dress rehearsal, Thursday, March 4, 8 pm, is free and open to the public. Tickets are \$7.00 general admission and \$5.00 for students, staff, and seniors. For more information, please contact Jay Varela at 654-6400, extension 3194.

March 7: The Saticoy Lions Club will have their semi-annual **Ice Cream/Jazz Social** on Sunday at the Poinsettia Pavilion located at 3451 Foothill Rd., 1 to 4pm and the tickets are \$10.00. Live Jazz band Schneiders Main Street will perform. Funds raised go to help the Saticoy Boys and Girls Club, Saticoy Little League, Tobias Memorial Scholarship at Ventura College, eye exams and glasses for children in need. Please attend and join in for great music, good ice cream, coffee and lemonade. For more information call 647-3749 or 642-7205.

March 7: In addition to docent-led tours of the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum from 1 to 4 p.m., a **Flea Market & Collectibles Sale** will take place on the grounds beginning at 9 a.m. Parlor music will feature 1920's jazz greats Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang and, in the upstairs library landing, the radio will be tuned to a 1948 broadcast of the popular program, "The Great Gildersleeve." Admission is free. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets. For more information please call 642-3345 or visit their website at www.dudleyhouse.org

March 6&7: The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. (VGMS) presents the **48th Annual Gem, Mineral, Lapidary & Fossil Show** at Seaside Park.

Hours: Saturday, March 6: 10am-5pm; Sunday, March 7: 10am-4pm. Admission is FREE!! (Ventura Fairgrounds charges parking, however)

March 11: The Ventura unit of the Ventura County League of Women Voters will meet on Thursday, at 2p.m in the Topping Room of Foster Library. Cathy Brudnicki, chief executive officer of the Ventura County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, will speak on the progress being made by her group. She will also bring attendees up to date on the newest project in the city named "Kingdom Center."

The public is invited to this meeting, as are members of the Ojai and Oxnard LWV units. Refreshments will be served. For information contact Eunice Koch at 643-3153.

March 16: Discover the rewards of foster parenting at a **Foster Parenting Informational Meeting**. Learn how you can provide the healing, support and guidance that can transform a child at risk into a self-assured, successful adult. Almost 700 children are currently in foster homes in Ventura County, and every day, another child is removed from their home because they have been neglected, abused or abandoned. Open your heart and home to foster parenting and make a difference in the lives of children at risk. From 6-8pm at 855 Partridge. For more information call the Human Services Agency of Ventura County at 654-3456 or go to www.vchsa.org/foster.

Ojai events

Shirley Valentine, currently playing at Ojai's Art Center Theater, is a sheer theatrical delight. Santa Barbara's own Jenna Scanlon couldn't be more perfect in this demanding and complex role as she succeeds in holding the audience spellbound for the entire course of the evening. Although this is a one-woman show, Scanlon, under the consummate direction of Frank James Malle, manages to embody all the imaginary characters in the play so adroitly, that we can almost see them physically on stage performing with her.

The play begins with Shirley having her customary glass of wine while preparing her husband's dinner. She has just been invited by one of her neighbors to accompany her on a two-week vacation to Greece. Unable to imagine how she'd ever be able to leave her husband for that long, "If I go to the bathroom he thinks I've been kidnapped", she succumbs to talking to the wall for support and encouragement.

To watch this remarkably talented actress weave her magic with playwright Willy Russell's provocative and amusing script is alone worth the price of admission.

Shirley Valentine runs through **February 27**, Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 7pm. Do yourself a favor and go see this little gem of a production before it closes.

The **Ojai Valley Lavender Festival**, scheduled for **June 26**, 2010, is inviting all local artists to submit their best work conceptualizing what the lavender festival has come to represent in the Ojai Valley. This annual festival, featuring all things lavender, draws thousands of guests to the Ojai Valley each year. The winning entry will be the featured work of art representing the 2010 Festival.

Ownership of the artwork will be retained by the original artist who will also receive a booth during the festival at no cost. All submissions will be on display for a limited time at The Lavender Inn. Deadline for submission is 5pm on March 8. All artwork should be delivered

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Community Events

to the Lavender Inn, 210 East Matilija Street.

For details about submitting the art email: writesource4you@yahoo.com or visit their website: www.ojaivalleylavenderfestival.org.

Friday March 26 at 7pm at the Matilija Auditorium 703 El Paseo Road, enjoy folk legend **Noel Paul Stookey and a member of "Peter, Paul & Mary"**. Ticket Cost: \$20 in advance, \$24 at the door.

The singer/songwriter has been altering both the musical and ethical landscape of this country and the world for decades—both as the “Paul” of the legendary Peter, Paul and Mary and as an independent musician who passionately believes in bringing the spiritual into the practice of daily life.

Please note: This show will be held at the Matilija Auditorium, 703 El Paseo Road, Ojai. If you have never been please give yourselves a little more time to get there and find parking.

For Tickets or more information go to: www.ojaiconcertseries.com or call Shane at 665-8852.

You may also buy advance will-call tickets and assure yourself a seat: send a check payable to Shane Butler, to 4585 Casitas Pass Rd. Ventura 93001. You will be put on the will-call list and your tickets will be at the door; please include email or phone for confirmation

On Saturday, **February 27** Our Seeds: Seeds Blong Yumi will be screened at the Ojai Theatre, 145 E Ojai Avenue, at 4:30 p.m. This 57-minute documentary chronicles the travels of Michel and Jude Fanton, cofounders of Seedsavers.net, as they visit 15 countries recording the native farming practices of harvesting, saving, and sharing seeds. Created to encourage the protection native seed banks for future generations, the film promotes awareness of the devastation of forests and seed varieties that are being lost to commercial food production. Filmed with the breathtaking beauty of a travelogue, this movie is suitable for family viewing. Admission is \$10. For more information, go to ojaivalleygreencoalition.org or call 669-8445.

On **February 27** at 7:30 pm The Ojai Foundation, located at 9739 Ojai-Santa Paula Rd. is offering a **Full Moon Ecstatic Dance** event with the live music of Timo Beckwith and World Wind.

Taking place in the Ojai Foundation's new Council House, with it's heated floating floor and sacred geometry design, the intention of the event is to create a safe nonverbal container where people can explore the depths of their spirit through movement.

With live improvisational music created specifically for ecstatic dance, World Wind adds another layer of connection as the dancers and musicians interact, inspiring each other in one beautiful circle of soulful expression. No dance experience is required!

For more information about the event and directions: Ojai Foundation 646-8343 or www.ojaifoundation.org. Suggested donation \$10 to \$15

Director of Senga Classic Stage Company, Francisca Beach, enjoys an **entertaining audition scene** performed by Vivien Latham and Douglas Hill as Adriana and Antiphilus in Shakespeare's hilarious "Comedy of Errors". A Company of twelve actors perform scenes, monologues and songs in Senga's next production, Shakespeare at the Grange. Prepare for a fast moving rollicking Elizabethan romp!

2 weekends only. **March 13, 14 and 20, 21**, Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm. The Ojai Valley Grange, 381 Cruzero Street, Ojai. All tickets \$12.00. To reserve call 646-4885 or www.francisca-beach.com

The **Ojai Raptor Center** is gearing up for the 2010 season for rehabilitation, and are looking for baby songbird care, feeding at the farm, volunteer intake at the farm, transporters within the Ojai area, and a few other tasks.

The date is Saturday, **February 27** from 10am - 12 pm. Meet at the new ORC Farm site at 370 Baldwin Road (Hwy 150). Because of limited parking space park in the large lot you see when turning into the property, and then walk down from the lot, always staying to the right until you reach the ORC building (E-1).

Please bring your own chair/blanket as seating is limited. Adults must accompany minors.

If you plan to attend, please call 722-5800 or e-mail gheine8@gmail.com to RSVP or for more information.

Montessori School of Ojai presents "Experience Climbing for our Kids" a family climbing social and brunch in Ventura. Learn to climb, eat, or just hang out, as MSO raises money to install a climbing wall. Bid on many outdoor products and foods at their silent auction. Enjoy a great brunch featuring Chef John, Chef John will prepare you an omelet the way you like it! Enjoy a massage! Listen to music. Entry fee \$5.00 includes brunch, Ages 13 and younger free. Entry does not include climbing fee or rental equipment. Sunday, February 28 10 a.m.-12p.m. Vertical Heaven Climbing Gym. 1954 Goodyear Ave, Ventura.

Please RSVP to: Karberry67@gmail.com or 649- 2525.

9th Annual "Awesome Art" Exhibition opens at the Ojai Valley Museum on **Thursday, March 4** and runs through Sunday, April 11. Reception and awards ceremony will be Thursday, March 11, 4 to 6 pm.

The exhibit showcases ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, graphic design and digital art by upper level students from six Ojai High schools.

The Ojai Valley Museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Avenue and is open Thursday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 4 p.m. Specials tours can be arranged for Wednesdays. Adult admission is \$4.00. Students are admitted free to this particular exhibit.

For more information call the museum at 640- 1390 or visit the museum website at: <http://www.ojaivalleymuseum.org>.

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Art Scene



First Fridays at the W&V kicked off on February 5, with members of the local community invited to drop in and meet W&V artists. Pictured are Cynthia Thompson, W&V resident and artist Sarah Kallvin, and Suzanne Lawrence.

W&V artists kick off First Fridays

by Tim Pompey

It's pouring rain. Not ideal conditions for a night out. Still, it doesn't dampen the enthusiasm of the artists as they launch their initial First Fridays at the W&V. Despite the weather, they've kept their doors open and the snack food handy. Finally, after years of anticipation, W&V residents are happy to be in their new homes. The art is unpacked and it's time for everyone to meet their new neighbors. "Working Artists Ventura" is a reality.

If you haven't visited here, you should. Lots of interesting architectural designs tucked in various parts of the complex. Some are more hidden than others. As I discovered, it helps to have a map, and a guide.

Sarah Kallvin, painter and graphic artist, is easy enough to find. Center court. Third floor. She welcomes me in and shows off some of her recent watercolors hung in the living room. She hasn't created an art studio yet but she assures me, it's in the works. Right now, her current works-in-progress, a series of mobiles, are spread across her dining room.

The rental units are definitely not cookie-cutter. They range from single level studios, to split-level, to what I call three-level "tower" units. Sarah lives in a tower unit. Her lower space is filled with all her artifacts. The middle level is the dining and kitchen area. The top level is the bedroom area. One caveat for most of these units. The bedroom is an open floor plan. No doors or curtains. So, it's always a good idea, if you're expecting company, to make your bed and put away your clothes.

Sarah loves living among other artists and First Fridays are a great opportunity for her to meet and greet. She thinks it might even expand to a Sunday. "There are lots of people who browse around downtown Ventura on Sundays. This would be a good option because sometimes people just want to do something that's not heavy entertainment."

From the tower, I mosey down to ground level and meet Katrina Maksimuk, a vivacious photographer whose studio unit looks like a freshly converted garage. Really. It has a garage door next to the front entry. Katrina tells me it's for art exhibits. I snoop around to see if she's hiding a Smart Car.

The uniqueness of her place is that her sliding glass patio doors open directly onto a cloistered garden courtyard. Come summer, it will be a delightful place to stretch out in a lounge chair. A few neighbors have the same setup. Block party anyone?

Katrina bristles with energy. "I'm excited to have an opportunity to align my life with community, art, and environment, and to align that vision to help build a community to support and be supported by artists." Translation. She likes the place.

From ground level, I wander back to the second floor and meet Andrew Cummins, a Ceramicist. That's not a medical profession. He makes pottery. And not just any pottery. He's a Raku artist. Andrew is from Rancho Palos Verdes by way of Cal State Channel Islands. His unit is a split-level. Big downstairs gallery. Combined upper dining room, kitchen, and bedroom.

Andrew likes two things about living here. "I love how open this place is, and the potlucks. Plus, having a personal gallery space is also nice. Here, I'm the curator of my own space." Okay, that's three things. He reminds me. He's open for business, in case anyone needs a vase. Raku style. They really are quite lovely.

It's time to go home. I've seen several units and only scratched the surface. Another forty or so to go. This is great. Free snacks. So many different artists. Musicians, writers, sculptors. Even someone who makes wooden angels. One thing for sure. I'll be back to bask in all these creative vibes. Hope next time, it doesn't rain.

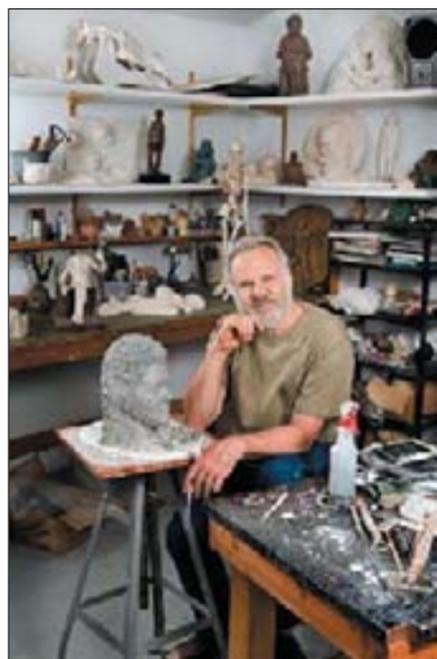


Quilts can be wonderful pieces of art as shown in this work by Sally Gould Wright showing at the Museum of Ventura County

Creativity threads through Art Quilts Exhibit

Quilts aren't always made to keep you warm on a winter night. Some are created to hang as art, and might include photo transfers, digital, sun printed or painted textiles, hand and machine stitching, beading, appliques, and unexpected patterns and subjects. See how 28 quilt artists from Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties prove the point in Museum of Ventura County's "Becoming Art at the Seams: a Juried Exhibition of Art and Contemporary Quilts," opening with a free public reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 12, the exhibit continues through June 20.

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 89 S. California St. and is open Tuesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; free admission, except for some events. For information, go to <http://www.venturamuseum.org> or 653-0323.



Richard Matzkin in his Ojai studio. Photo by Donna Granata - FOTM Portrait Series 2008

An evening with Richard Matzkin

Richard Matzkin's life has gone through many exciting changes, join Focus On The Masters on March 13, at 5pm for Saturday Artist Spotlight in their new venue, Brooks Institute, Motion Picture

Screening Room, 5301 N. Ventura Avenue in Ventura for an evening with Richard Matzkin.

In a very real sense, Richard Matzkin's life has come full circle. He showed an early talent for the arts but in the 60s his interests changed to music and psychology. Some 20 years later his wife enrolled him in a clay sculpture class and he again found a natural inclination for art. Richard and his wife Alice Matzkin live in Ojai and are members of the Ojai Studio Artists.

\$10 General Admission - \$5 Students and Seniors, free to FOTM members, Brooks Students and faculty, recently unemployed and students under 18. Please RSVP at 653-2501 or by emailing Mary.Galbraith@FocusOnTheMasters.com

THE ARTS IN VENTURA

Art is a moving experience

Focus on the Masters has moved. After months of preparation they have become part of the City of Ventura's Sustainability Center located at 505 Poli St., a building just behind City Hall. They have joined several other groups whose collective missions play an essential role in contributing to a healthy community.

In these challenging times a reduction of expenses is essential to the health and well-being of any business, including those in the non-profit sector. Their move will enable them to reduce their overhead, allowing them to continue their important work documenting and archiving the artists who live and work within our community. They will continue to bring outstanding artists to the forefront of the community through exhibitions, educational programs, electronic media and their exciting artist interviews now known as the Saturday Artist Spotlight Series (formerly Tuesday Talks).

Helle Sharling-Todd Exhibits "Figures and Spaces" at the Buenaventura Gallery

Figures and Spaces an exhibit of fused glass and steel by Helle Sharling-Todd will be at the Buenaventura Gallery from Tuesday, March 2 to Saturday, March 27. An opening reception is on Saturday, March 6, from 4 - 7 pm.

Figures and Spaces is a collection of episodes, as Sharling-Todd titles them, depicting moments of human interaction. Her inspiration comes from observing people and the drama they create among themselves, simply by being alive. "To observe humans and their activities never ceases to amaze me, and to create little dramas between a group of figures is fascinating," explains Sharling-Todd.

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

Last chance to see the fabulous "decorated chests"

The general public will have its last opportunity to view 15 decorated chests at the Sylvia White Gallery through March 5. The gallery also will host a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. on Feb. 27.

Painted and adorned by 15 accomplished artists, each used the chest as a blank canvas to highlight this year's festival theme, "Romanze." The chests will be auctioned on March 6 at the Ventura Music Festival's "Evening of Note" annual fundraiser dinner at the Four Points

Continued on page 14



The future is now.

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

www.venturabreeze.com

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



Well, I am having a contest. Name my photo with a witty title and send it to me at scampclub@venturabreeze.com.

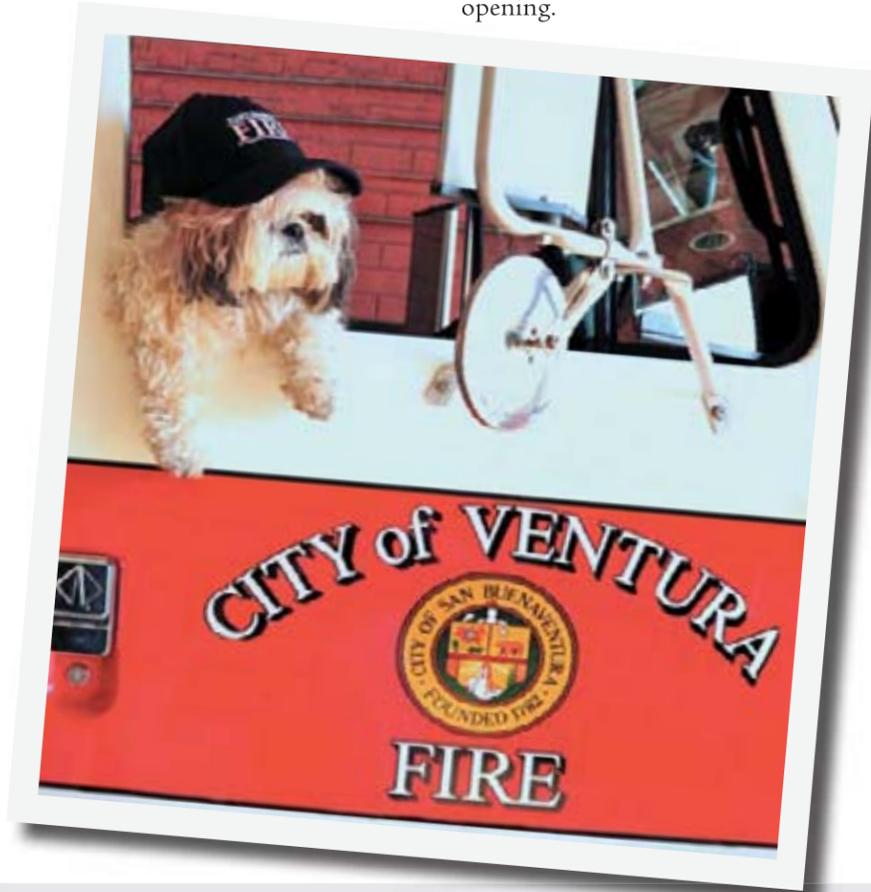
The writer of the title that I select to be the best will receive a \$30 gift certificate to any of the advertisers in this issue of the Breeze.

Thanks and be funny, I love to laugh.

I would like to thank Breeze writer Nanci Cone for giving me some of the wonderful liver dog treats that she makes.

But, to be honest, I really prefer chopped liver from Danny's Deli.

I would like to thank the new Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market for donating \$1,000 to CARL (Canine Adoption & Rescue League) at their recent grand opening.



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

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Hi, I'm Saunders a sweet 12 year old Australian Shepherd. I'm an older dog who has loads of love to give. I'm looking for a new home because my current owner has fallen on hard times (lost job and home). I'm grateful to be in a wonderful foster family, but I'd really love a family to call my own.

I enjoy going for walks and runs, being around people and other animals. I'm good with other dogs, cats and children. I'm house and crate trained and walk

well on a leash. I've had some formal training -- come when called and know the commands sit, stay, lay down and shake. I go to my bed when asked and I wait patiently for my food. I'm the perfect addition to any family. I hope it's not long before I'm a cherished member of a loving family who will take care of me for the rest of my life.

Scamp:

Saunders sounds like a just wonderful dog, would make a wonderful addition to your home. Even I can't shake and you know how smart I am.

The Canine Adoption & Rescue League
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805.652.1001 www.carlvc.org info@carlvc.org

Scamp Club

Hi: I'm Pismo, a 3 1/2 year old German Shepherd and I live in Ventura. My very favorite thing is playing Frisbee.



Police Reports

Ruptured gas line at Ventura College

On February 11, at 9:30 am Ventura City Fire units responded to a report of a ruptured gas line on the campus of Ventura College. The first arriving units found construction crews on scene advising that during the scheduled replacement of a campus sewer line, a backhoe had inadvertently punctured a 4" low-pressure gas service line. The quick action by construction personnel and fire units at the scene aided in the mitigation of the hazardous condition. The leak occurred outside and in an area that was off limits to students. Atmospheric monitoring determined that the surrounding area was not in danger of a fire hazard. Gas service was shut off to the campus until repairs could be made. Only minimal disruptions were noted to classes at the college and all classes scheduled resumed without incident. No injuries were reported.

Stolen car recovered

The Ventura Police Department took a stolen vehicle report from a Ventura resident on Feb.12. The stolen vehicle was a black 2008 Honda Accord equipped with LoJack. After the report was filed the LoJack stolen vehicle locator was activated. VPD units equipped with a LoJack

locator received signals that the stolen Honda was in the area of San Jon Rd and Thompson Blvd. VPD units followed the LoJack signal and found the stolen vehicle occupied by two subjects at the "All Aboard Storage" located at the south end of Laurel St.

Two subjects were detained and at the conclusion of the investigation Celeste Garcia, 38 was arrested for 10851 CVC (stolen vehicle). The vehicle was returned to the owner and there was no property damage or injuries to either party. The vehicle was recovered less than 2 hours after it was reported stolen.

Pizza delivery man robbed

On February 14, at 8:10 pm, a Dominos Pizza deliveryman was robbed at gunpoint in the 6300 block of Nightingale. The victim, Roy Yanev, 45 of Ventura was returning to his vehicle after attempting to make a delivery at a nearby apartment complex. The suspect was standing next to Yanev's car and brandished a handgun. He demanded money and Yanev handed over an undisclosed amount of cash to the suspect. The victim was not harmed during the robbery.

The suspect was last seen running towards Peacock and Whippoorwill. He

was described as an Hispanic adult male, 20's, 6'-0"-6'-2", medium build. He was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and dark pants. Officers responded to the surrounding neighborhoods and canvassed the area but were unable to locate the suspect.

Man assaulted at Plaza Park

VPD Officer Knackstedt was driving on Chestnut Street adjacent to Plaza Park, located at 600 E. Santa Clara when he saw a man and a woman in a struggle near the park restroom. Officer Knackstedt saw

Continued on page 12

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Police reports

Continued from page 11

that the women, Kathleen Simpson, 45 year old transit was armed with a tire iron and was aggressively poking Kenneth Santini, also a 45 year old vagrant in the chest with the tire iron.

Officer Knackstedt approached, and Simpson stopped her attack on Santini and tried to hide the tire iron in a car parked nearby. The investigation revealed Simpson struck Santini several times with the tire iron after a dispute over a cell phone. Santini was not injured. Simpson was booked at the Ventura County Jail for assault with a deadly weapon.

Skateboarder injured on Poli Street

On Feb. 17, at 9:40pm Anthony Gourdine-Woodard, 22 Oxnard resident was riding a skateboard south bound down the Ann Street incline while his friends watched for cross-traffic on Poli Street. At some point, the bystanders yelled for the pedestrian to stop due to an east bound vehicle driven by Steven Greco, 21 year old Ventura resident approaching the intersection. Anthony became separated from the skateboard and collided with the vehicle in the intersection.

Anthony suffered significant injuries and was transported to VCMC for treatment for a broken pelvis and chest injuries. A preliminary investigation points to the actions of him as the cause of the accident.

A Word from the Fire Department

Shutting off your gas supply

by Kris McDonald

Captain, Ventura City Fire Fighters Association (VCFFA)

Natural gas emergencies can and do happen in our area. Natural gas pipelines can be easily damaged by vehicles, equipment, or by natural disasters. They can also begin to leak, or fail completely, due to corrosion. With a little basic familiarization you can be prepared to take the first steps in the handling of a minor gas leak. In the event of a leak you should quickly shut-off the supply of gas to your home, then contact the utility company or a licensed professional, who will respond and assist you in fixing the leak and restoring gas service.

It is important to remember, however, that you should only shut-off your gas supply, even in the event of an earthquake, if you suspect a leak. Once you shut off your gas supply you may need to have a representative from the utility company, or another professional, re-light your gas appliances if you cannot do so yourself. If there is a large gas leak, and/or a possible ignition source nearby, you should evacuate the area immediately and call

9-1-1. If you suspect a leak you should never light a match, candle, or cigarette. Do not turn any electrical devices on, or off, not even lights.

The first step is to know where your gas meter is located, or where the main gas supply to your home is. Trim any plants or brush that might be hiding it. You should see a shut-off valve in-line with the gas pipe, prior to the meter, and usually six inches or more above the ground. The part of the valve that you turn is a raised metal piece similar in shape to a "minus" symbol. When this valve is turned 90 degrees in either direction, so that it is crosswise to the pipe, the gas supply is stopped. Turning it in-line with the pipe again restores the supply. A 12-inch adjustable wrench should be kept near the valve, or in your disaster kit, for this purpose.

Natural gas has a distinctive odor, similar to rotten eggs. This odor is intentional, by use of additives, to help you identify a leak. Even though natural gas is lighter than air it can, depending on weather conditions, accumulate in areas and not dissipate immediately. A gas leak may present as a hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a gas appliance or pipeline. Other signs of a gas leak could be dying vegetation, flying dirt or water, or fire. Any large gas leak should be regarded as an immediate and serious hazard.

Take the time to familiarize yourself with your natural gas supply to your home. Quick action may mean the difference between a small problem and a big one. If in doubt, call 9-1-1 and evacuate immediately.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

Monday Feb. 1

7:00 a.m. A VWM C-dock tenant reported that an intoxicated man fell into the water about 2:30 a.m. He was pulled out of the water by other tenants. He was not injured.

Tuesday Feb. 2

11:32 a.m. Patrol received a report that an intoxicated driver, whose car had two flat tires, pulled into the VIM parking lot. Patrol advised the reporting party to contact P.D., and then responded. The driver, a known harbor local, who stated that he swerved to avoid a pothole (but wasn't successful) and called for a tow truck. He did not appear to be intoxicated, but PD arrested him for outstanding warrants.

1:16 p.m. Patrol received a report that an intoxicated man in a white van knocked over a light pole in the Harbor Cove parking lot. Patrol and PD responded. Patrol assisted PD in getting the subject out of the vehicle and into the back of the PD unit. PD arrested the subject, and his car was towed.

Wed.

Feb. 3

1:50 p.m. Patrol received a report of an abandoned Christmas tree creating a fire hazard by the Scotch and Sirloin. Patrol

Continued on page 14

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Senior Living



Senior Helga von Websky has written a charming book about a bird that wanted to marry

Senior Cone-nection

Helga von Websky has good news for German language teachers

by Nanci Cone

Ventura resident, Helga von Websky, a senior, has written a charming book in her native language called: “Ein Vogel wollte Hochzeit feiern” that means, “A bird wanted to marry.” The story is about a little house finch telling of an enchanted garden, kept secret in the back yard of the author’s home in Ventura. Along the way, we meet other birds, such as the hummingbird and blue jay that visit her garden and learn what they eat and how they live. A raccoon and an opossum frequent the garden and Helga lets the house finch tell us in simple language the history of these interesting animals.

“I was born in 1939 on a little farm in Schleswig Holstein in the northern part of Germany,” says Helga. She then adds, “I think the seed was planted there for my love of all animals. My husband, Egmont, moved to the USA in 1965 and I followed in 1968. We lived in various places and in 1985 we came to roost in beautiful Ventura. My husband built a lovely back yard for me with a Koi pond where lots of critters moved in with us. While taking pictures of my garden friends the idea came to me to create a book, in which the little house finch tells a story of the happenings in our garden. With this book I also wanted to contribute to the tradition of story telling. The reason I wrote the book in German was to refresh and preserve my native language and I wanted to tell my Great Nephews Jan-Martin, Mika and Jendrik who live in Germany what is happening in our backyard.”

“I find the book an excellent tool for first year students that want to learn the German language,” writes Alice Kotzen, a reader of the book and language teacher in Palm Desert in her review posted on amazon.com.

David McCarley, a German language instructor at Ventura College for 30 years says, “This book tells a story, which takes its title from an old folk song, and it has lots of pictures from Helga’s garden. It offers lively examples of the German narrative past tense and eases a student into the prose rhythm that German people hear when they’re reading a story. It’s a little harder for someone learning the

language to get the feel for such a rhythm that students in Germany, Switzerland and Austria grow up with.” He adds, “The book has a picture or two for every four to six lines and there’s a personal image to these pictures that allows for a closer connection to what is being read. I hope to scan in the pictures to project them on the screen in the classroom. Helga is recording the book so we can synchronize the pictures and the sounds to help the students.”

For more information about this book, contact Helga at vw2@roadrunner.com or visit www.xlibris.com, www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com.

Seniors to learn how to improve driving safety at the new Veterans Home of California in Ventura

On Saturday, February 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the new Veterans Home of California in Ventura will be teaming with driving experts, occupational therapists and trained technicians to hold a “CarFit” event -- a unique education program designed to help drivers 55 and over understand how to improve driving safety by ensuring their cars are properly adjusted just for them. A special team will lead drivers through a free 12-point CarFit checklist to ensure they understand how to use vehicle features properly.

CarFit is not a mechanical inspection of the car or a test of the driver’s ability. Instead, during each 20-minute CarFit session, trained technicians recommend personal vehicle adjustments and adaptations and offer resources that could enhance senior driving safety. RSVP is a volunteer program that helps people age 55 and older find meaningful opportunities to serve within their community.

The CarFit event will take place at the Veterans Home at 10900 Telephone Rd. The check-up is free, but appointments, made by calling 659-7501, are required. Each appointment takes approximately 20 minutes. “We are delighted to be offering this free service to our community at the new Veterans Home of California,” added Administrator Brenda Manke

Your Senior Tidbits

How do you see your life?

Let’s look at health.

One group sees health as something a doctor maintains. You go to the doctor. He issues a prescription. If that pill doesn’t resolve the problem, you go back again. By the time you’re through you may be taking 10 different pills.

The second group approaches their health a little more creatively. They look at the evidence from other cultures that don’t live and eat the way we do. They see that these people are healthier, and don’t suffer from the same diseases that we do. So instead of going to the doctor for a pill, they change the way they live. They exercise, they eat a diet high in plant foods and they eliminate excess refined foods and fats.



Enjoying looking for their perfect mate at the Aegis Dating Game are Tom Weaver singing, Micki Rickard, Henry Settle, Diane Savard, Alexandra Zinik, and Edna Laden-Lipstein.

The Dating Game Redux

by Nanci Cone

To celebrate Valentine’s Day, Micki Rickard of Aegis of Ventura, 4964 Telegraph Road, decided to do something a bit different. As a former contestant of the original Dating Game television show, Ms. Rickard knew how much fun it would be for Aegis residents, staff and guests and really got into playing the role of game host, Jim Lange.

For those of you not familiar with the program, created in the 1960s by Chuck Barris, the basic premise was that each week someone single would try to pick the “perfect” date from among three individuals hidden from sight by a colorful screen. The bachelor/bachelorettes would come prepared with questions and some of the answers were incredibly funny leaving the audience hysterical – especially because they could see everyone. Some of the original contestants, pre-stardom, included Tom Selleck, Farrah Fawcett, Suzanne Sommers, Steve Martin, Burt Reynolds and Michael Jackson. The Aegis version of the game didn’t have as many celebrities but they probably had twice the fun!

On the Thursday before Valentine’s Day folks from all over the County stopped by between 6-8 pm to hear live music provided by Tom Weaver, dance, check out the tasty hors d’oeuvres prepared by chef Brenda Plascencia and to sample the wine and beer and non-alcoholic beverages. Brenda commented that, “I’ve been at Aegis five years already. I love what I do and I love making the residents’ lives better!” And everyone to whom I spoke raved about the meals she prepared daily and her positive attitude.

The partygoers showed up “dressed

to the nines” and it was obvious they were having a great time. Foothill High School student Alexandra Zinik said she loved volunteering and wouldn’t miss any of the events Aegis planned. Resident Claire Lamb said, “They treat us well and I highly recommend it” while Sylvia Bjelde, another resident noted, “Everyone knows you and greets you warmly. Also, the service here is great!”

Even though Micki Rickard has only been at Aegis five months, she feels like she has found the perfect fit. She says, “Aegis provides thoughtful care, which is much more than a corporation slogan. We truly take care of your loved ones as if they were our own.” Executive Director, Diane Savard was on hand to give tours to family members and friends. She claimed, “We want fun activities for our residents and families. We want to encourage the public to come and see how things have changed. People are dancing, eating and drinking wine and having lots of fun. We want to appeal to everyone.” There was no question about that! There were more than 100 people at the event and there was lots of laughter and camaraderie wherever you looked.

Activities Director, Nancy Gamino said, “I get to play and I get paid. I’m having a great time – how many people can claim that?” And Edna Laden-Lipstein added, “I’ve been here for only two month and I love it!” From the looks on everyone’s faces, The Dating Game was a huge hit. Nancy said, “You ain’t seen nothing yet – just wait until our Saint Paddy’s Day party!” I, for one, am looking forward to it and I know I’m not alone.

Let’s look at finances.

There are multiple ways of dealing with finances. Some cause more anxiety than others. Being completely dependent upon Social Security creates a great deal of stress. There is uncertainty as to the stability of the whole system. And even with cost-of-living adjustments, it doesn’t keep up. Seniors who looked at retirement as that goal in life are much more likely to find finances one of the stresses they have to deal with in retirement. The creative group of seniors stops looking at retirement as something to attain. Instead they look at life is a continuum where you can choose to cut back as you get older, but you never disengage in life. There are CEOs of major corporations in their late 80s still making a contribution. They don’t retire. They remain involved. Their life continues to have meaning, and they continue to earn money almost as a sideline. And it probably isn’t a surprise that these seniors stay healthier.

Let’s look at relationships.

Seniors have three kinds of relationships in life, a family, a close inner social circle and a broader social circle. Loss of the broader social circle, such as the friends you have at church or at work, has some impact but most seniors can deal with this loss. But loss of a close inner social circle or family is the real concern.

Many seniors complain, especially as they get older, that all their friends have died off. Sometimes even their children have died. And they really feel alone. This is more likely to happen to someone who is naturally shy and finds making friends difficult.

Creative seniors, even the shy ones, realize the value of maintaining connections with others. While losing someone you love is painful, failing to open yourself up to others is even more painful, because it leaves you feeling lonely, disconnected, washed up. The creative senior

Continued on page 14

Sports

Head coach to leave VC football

After 20 years of coaching football in the city of Ventura, Jon Mack announced last month that he will be departing for the job of head coach of Crespi High in Encino.

Mack was most recently the head coach of Ventura College's football team. In his short three-year stint as head coach Mack led the team to a Western State Conference title and two bowl berths.

Perhaps most notably, Mack is known for his prior job as head coach of St. Bonaventure High School. He is often credited for putting St. Bonaventure on the "high school football map" during his 17-year tenure there. It was at St. Bonaventure where he took the relatively unknown Seraphs and built them into a Southern California powerhouse leaving the program with a 163-47-1 record which included a memorable 43-game winning streak.

Mack and his wife Kathy were elated during interviews following the announcement.

Many have surmised Mack is a better fit in the private Catholic high school environment, emphasizing the "private" and "Catholic" aspects of the job setting.

Still others have ventured Mack may have felt censured at Ventura College, with the inability to talk about religion, as part of the reason for leaving the program.

While Mack has not spoken ill of Ventura College, he himself admitted the importance not only of Christ in his life, but how he is highly amenable to the idea of being able to talk about faith openly when coaching.

"Being able to talk about Christ is important to me," said Mack. "That's part of me as a coach developing young men and faith."

"That's the element that Jon works best in," Kathy Mack added. "Everyone talks about his winning record, but he takes boys and turns them into men... It's just easier to do that at a private Catholic school."

The 2009 inductee of the Ventura County Sports Hall of Fame and his family will not be moving out of Ventura. Kathy Mack will continue to teach at St. Bonaventure until the graduation of their 16-year-old daughter Kristin who is a junior.

According to his wife, Jon will commute.

The announcement leaves the Ventura College program scrambling to find a new head coach.

Ventura College president Robin Calote has stated the importance of hiring a new

full-time coach quickly. According to reports, Calote and Ventura athletic director Will Cowen are in conversations with a number of possible candidates.

While the departure may seem like a major blow to the Ventura College team, many of the players have insisted it may have less effect on them than widely perceived. A number have spoken out insisting if the other coaches remain, little might actually change for them.

"I feel like if everyone stays on board, Coach Mack's departure will not be that big of a loss," said linebacker Brenden Daley, insisting defensive coordinator Gary Anglin was as important as Mack to his success.

Defensive lineman Tommy Stuart echoed his teammate's thoughts.

"Mack was a recruiting coach," said Stuart. "He got it done. He got everyone fired up. But I still think everything will be fine at VC if the other coaches stay."

More charges brought up against former basketball coach Greg Winslow

It seems bad has gone to worse for former Ventura College athletic director and coach Greg Winslow. Last week, an additional six felony charges were formerly tagged onto an already long list of charges against Winslow.

The added charges were not a surprise after Winslow's friend Kevin Wise testified that Winslow used his Social Security number and other personal information to open a bank account in his name without his permission or knowledge.

It was during this hearing a judge made the decision there was enough evidence for Winslow to go to trial.

New charges include identity theft, filing false financial documents and forgery.

Now Winslow faces a total of 11 felony counts and one count of misappropriation of public funds.

The first four felony counts are linked with the accusation that Winslow was behind more a number of basketball players being registered as in-state students enabling them to pay lower tuition and giving them eligibility for scholarship funds not accessible for out-of-state students.

Because of this, prosecutors estimate the school was cheated of approximately \$50,000.

Prosecutors now say Winslow's actions

starting in 2000 have cost the college upwards of \$100,000.

Winslow is accused of using the illegal bank account to accept payments for the rental of college's gym. The monies was supposedly earmarked for support for the men's basketball program. Prosecutors charge Winslow used the funds inappropriately including for a rental of a beach house and repairs to a personal boat.

Winslow's lawyer Ron Bamieh stated that in his opinion more counts does not equal a better case.

Bamieh has tried and failed twice to have the case dismissed.

Last month Ventura County Superior Judge Kevin DeNoce refused to dismiss grand theft charges against Winslow or disqualify the District Attorney's Office from prosecuting him.

Bamieh was successful in having original prosecutor Wendy Macfarlane and district attorney investigator Lance Steaman moved off the case as they were privy to attorney-client privileged emails from Winslow's home computer. He had asked that the case be dismissed for these reasons.

The emails in question were from a computer taken from Winslow's home taken by authorities while executing a search warrant. The emails included correspondence between Bamieh and Winslow.

Both Macfarlane and Steaman denied the allegation.

DeNoce ruled that while the attorneys did have access to the information, it was "inadvertently gained." He added it was common for investigators to seize computers which can have potentially privileged information.

DeNoce did not dismiss the case but later removed both of them from the case. He also ordered the district attorney to destroy the attorney-client documents.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

Continued from page 12

picked up the tree and disposed of it.

7:20 p.m. Patrol received a request for assistance from a Boston Whaler disabled behind the breakwater. Patrol took the vessel into tow and released it at the launch ramp.

Thursday

Feb. 4

6:30 a.m. Patrol transported three USCG personnel as they boarded commercial fishing vessels.

8:15 a.m. Patrol buried about a dozen dead pelicans and other birds on the South Beach because there was going to be a funeral service on the beach later this afternoon.

1:21 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to an unconscious victim at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Upon arrival, the patient was conscious. AMR and FD treated the patient after Patrol left the scene.

8:40 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Upon arrival, the woman was suffering from stomach pains. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

Friday

Feb. 5

9:50 a.m. The Dockmaster observed pelican rescue personnel capturing pelicans off the fish pier and the surrounding area. According to reports from them, they have captured 80-100 birds. Many pelicans are currently dying from a number of factors.

10:50 a.m. The VWM Manager reports that a vessel is leaking petroleum product into a slip. He requested absorbent pads. Patrol delivered absorbent pads to the VWM maintenance.

4:54 p.m. A boater at VWM reports a 38-foot cabin cruise was taking on water and in danger of sinking. Upon arrival, Patrol observed that the vessels swim step was two inches underwater. They dewatered the vessel. Apparently this vessel's owner does not return calls and the vessel is in a state of disrepair.

Saturday

Feb. 6

1:45 a.m. The Dockmaster found an unlocked restaurant door. He locked it. The alarm company called and the Dockmaster relayed the information to the alarm company.

2:48 p.m. A boater at VWM reports that the vessel that was taking on water yesterday is in the same state. Patrol responded.

Senior Tidbits

Continued from page 13

looks for opportunities to interact with people. It might be church, or volunteering at the blood bank, or attending a workshop. It might be volunteering as a "grandma" or "grandpa" for a foster child. There are many ways to get involved, and the creative senior looks for them.

Creative seniors retain their independence longer, because living life to its fullest supports better health. And when you have better health, it's easier to stay in your home.

Claudio & Maggie de Medeiros.

Royal Retirement Services Inc.

Art, a moving experience

Continued from page 10

Sheraton Ventura Harbor.

"The treasure chests are creating quite a buzz in our community," said Cheryl Heitmann, executive director of the Ventura Music Festival. "Everyone who sees them recognizes the hours of labor that went into making each one, is astounded by their intricate detail and is excited about the possibility of owning such a beautiful piece of art to display in their own home."

Sylvia White Gallery, 1783 East Main St. 643-8300 Hours: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wed.-Sat.

Photos of the Treasure Chests can be viewed online at www.venturamusicfestival.org.

Professor leads encore trip

Due to popular demand, another Museum of Ventura County trip to Death Valley is being offered, April 11 through 13, with a reservations deadline of March 11. Experience the unique sand dunes, sculptured rocks and volcanic craters with geographer Dennis Napier as your tour director during the three-day motor coach tour.

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

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

To register by the Thursday, March 11 deadline, contact the Museum of Ventura County's Danielle Martell at 641-1876, x 305. For more details about the trip, visit: www.californiadiscovery.com.

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School



Karine Osborne and her 3 children Camille, Eithan and Liam are shown with some of the 14 countries that were visited at the art show at Pierpont Elementary School

“The World Of Art” at Pierpont Elementary

On February 4 a most wonderful art show was held at Pierpont Elementary School “The World Of Art” through the eyes of children.

As a volunteer art instructor for the Pierpont School, where she has been volunteering since 2005, Karine Osborne has taught multicultural art classes to children from kindergarten to 5th grade. Each class starts with a slide show of the country followed by an art project.

The children studied over 14 countries and created beautiful folk art related to each country.

Hopi Indians, Egyptians masks, 5 different African tribes and their ceremonial masks, Mexican clay suns, a cave and tunnel for the prehistorical paintings of Lascaux (flashlight required), pyramids for Egypt, a full Pueblo Indians village for Hopi and Zuni people; they were all there to admire and to learn and each visitor received a passport stamp at each country.

Karine stated that “We started working on the show in October and the children went beyond my expectations, working with plaster, clay, stone and mosaics. I am so proud of them all. These children are magical and the most important is that they really understood the culture, belief and messages of others in the world.”

“I really, really want to thank the

children for all the work they put in it. Every teaching minutes was worth it. So thank you CHILDREN.”

There were so many visitors to the show that they were not all allowed in the exhibit room at the same time because of the maximum number of people allowed in the room so a very large line formed outside waiting to see the show.

Mr. Hardesty, the school principal, is very fond of art and let the kids create freely and was very involved in making art possible in the school. The Pierpont PTA paid for all the supplies for the show.

Karine also wanted to thank her husband Dane (owner of Shoreline Pest Control) who patiently saw a pile of laundry get bigger by the day and ate poorly prepared dinners for month.

The most amazing fact is that the whole show cost 4 dollars a kid: thanks to the PTA and parents who donated recycled items. The masks were done with cereal boxes, the Hopi villages with boxes, the cave with big cardboard donated by a Pierpont school dad and so on...Art is possible even with budget cut, all it needs is imagination and work.

The children were so excited and the show so successful that Karine would like to do it again, “but the theme will be a secret!” (more TV dinners for Dane)



Third graders from E. P. Foster School enjoying their new dictionaries donated by the Rotary Club of Ventura

Dictionaries for students

During the last week of January and first week of February, the Rotary Club of Ventura with help from the Rotary Club of Ventura-South, distributed over 1,450 dictionaries to all third grade students in 16 public and 5 private schools in the city of Ventura. Third grade is the year students are introduced to dictionaries.

Each year volunteers from the Rotary clubs take the dictionaries to the schools, visit the third-grade classrooms and hand out the books. The students apply stickers and a bookplate on which they can write their name; then they look up a few selected words. The immediate results are amazing, funny and poignant. The students especially like trying to pronounce the longest word in the English language; they enjoy the section on the planets, and they notice that the dictionaries also contain the scientific table of elements as well as the multiplication tables. One student recently commented, “I didn’t even know they had books like these.” This is the third year in a row that the Rotary clubs have donated dictionaries to students in Ventura.

The money to purchase the dictionaries comes from half the proceeds of the annual Gold Coast Ride for Literacy, this year to be held April 17. The other half helps fund the Adult Literacy program in Ventura. For more information, contact president@venturarotary.org.



Brian Ibarra of E.P. Foster Elementary received three standing ovations at last year’s Festival of Talent. He’s back again this year.

Festival showcases Ventura’s most talented youth

Some of Ventura’s most exciting young entertainers — from singers and dancers to a blues band and a yo-yo novelty act — will perform at the Ventura Education Partnership’s annual Festival of Talent on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Ventura High School Auditorium.

This family-friendly event kicks off at 6 p.m. with great food, music, prizes and a silent auction. This year’s event will highlight the Ventura Unified School District’s new Arts Master Plan for integrating arts education into the core curriculum.

The show starts at 7 p.m. and features a kaleidoscope of the best young entertainers in the city.

Tickets are \$10 (advance general admission), \$20 reserved, \$15 (at-the-door general admission) and are available at all VUSD school sites and the Education Service Center, 255 W. Stanley Ave., Ventura. Also purchase tickets online by going to www.vep4vusd.org.

This year’s exciting live auction is offering passes to the Magic Castle, tickets to Universal Studios and Disneyland, a helicopter ride and season tickets to the Rubicon Theatre, a spa day and shopping spree, and a Santa Barbara getaway.

VEP is still seeking sponsors for the show. If you would like to help, call 320-4633 and for more information, call 641-5000, ext. 1550 or email to info@vep4vusd.org or visit www.vep4vusd.org

Doo-Wop musical comes alive

by Leselie Matthis

Since August 7, 2009 Hudson Mainstage Theater, located at 6539 Santa Monica Boulevard in Hollywood has been performing “Sh-Boom Life Could Be A Dream” every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8pm and Sunday Matinees at 3pm. By popular demand they have had three extensions making the play run thru April 25, 2010.

The play takes place in Springfield, USA during an exciting and eventful week where two boys hope to make it big by winning an advertised singing contest on Big Whopper Radio. Both Denny & Eugene have a lot to learn about singing and working together. What started out to be a duet soon becomes a trio with the addition of Wally. When Skip becomes involved the final group becomes a quartet. As everyone knows with any good story it is always a woman that energizes the plot and that’s where Lois enters the story. Do they win the contest and who gets the girl are questions that will be answered?

What truly was amazing is how only one set was used throughout the entire play, yet the audience felt like they were in different locations. You truly will feel you are back in the 1960’s. Don’t be ashamed if you start to bob in your chair because the audience definitely got involved. The stage is small yet the choreography by Lee Martino expanded its size and was superb. Michael Paternostro was responsible for the musical direction and the play was written and directed by Roger Bean.

It was a treat to have such wonderful talent on stage. Each character played their roles exceptionally well with nuances that made them stand out yet they blended perfectly at the same time. The play moves along so quickly with so many favorite songs of the era done so remarkably well by the cast. A few songs that you definitely will recognize: Get A Job, Tears On My Pillow, Earth Angel, Runaround Sue, Pretty little Angel Eyes, and of course SHBOOM (Life Could Be A Dream) to name a few. This musical is a must see and truly entertaining.

Breeze:

Sometimes we Venturans need to get out of Ventura and explore the rest of the world so we will occasionally cover happenings that are actually out of town.



Business



Store manager Roger Mohan cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Ventura's new Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market

Ventura's first Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market has arrived

On February 17 Fresh & Easy opened its doors in Ventura at Telegraph & Day across from Ventura College. A crowd of at least a 100 anxious customers waited at the door to be their first customers and many-many more first time shoppers were right behind them.

Venturan's Bob & Dee Coshland were there to check out the market. They had shopped at Tesco markets in England (the owner of Fresh & Easy) and wanted to see how this store was compared to Tresco.

They were both very pleased with what they saw, wide aisles, a good selection and many prepared meals. Bob stated "I will enjoy shopping there because it is smaller than a big super market but has everything, Sometimes when my wife sends me to the market to buy 6 things it takes me 3 hours." (he moves much quicker on the tennis courts)

Also there was Venturan Stan Weisel.

He had been to Fresh & Easy in Simi so wanted to see this one, He also like what he saw and said "I will come back when there aren't a zillion people here. I especially like their fresh prepared meals."

At roughly 10,000 square feet, the stores are much smaller than the typical supermarket while carrying everything customers need to do their weekly shopping. The store will employ approximately 20 to 30 people. The second Ventura Fresh & Easy will be on Thompson Blvd. right off of Seaward. The existing building that was there has been demolished but construction is not expected to start for a while.

As part of the openings the public was invited to nominate a local, non-profit organization to receive a \$1,000 donation. The Canine & Rescue League (CARL) was there to receive the check as the winner of the nomination which made Scamp very happy.

were our biggest customers coming in for lunch."

Hard work has paid off. Rod and Yolanda Gietzen have established 4 restaurants since 1982. From its inception, the Oxnard restaurant was a great success and soon customers from Ventura urged them to open one in their city. Only two years after Oxnard opened, Yolanda's Ventura became a reality and the community has been very supportive over the years.

In 2001, after many requests from the customers who reside in Camarillo, Yolanda's Camarillo was welcomed with open arms. Yolanda's is growing. There is a new location in Simi Valley. David Mock, Enrique Cobian, and Tara Roberts serve as managers for the Yolanda's locations. David went on to share, "we provide a family atmosphere and have the least amount of turn over in our restaurants. Rod is a very generous man to his employees. He acknowledges the hard work of his employees."

Most of their workforce consists of long term employees who enjoy the friendly and supportive work environment the Gietzens have created. Rod started out at Hughes Market, and his dedication to providing customer service was recognized by the Sierra's Mexican Food in the San Fernando Valley. While Rod was there he met his wife Yolanda.

An opportunity arose to begin his own restaurant, and Rod stepped into the world of entrepreneurship, and the rest is history. They are delighted with the overwhelming community support over the years. The Gietzens have built enduring

relationships with customers, vendors, government leaders, county employees, etc. Some of their regular customers have been with them for decades. As a family-orientated establishment, they are very dedicated to enhancing and contributing to each community they are a part of.

They are community leaders and give of themselves and their resources to help others. Rod is currently an Ambassador in the Chamber of Commerce for Oxnard. The Gietzens currently reside in the city of Oxnard. Their success is a direct result of quality food, service and atmosphere provided at each of their locations. David continues, "Rod is always reevaluating and growing with the times. We can now be seen on Facebook. Each location will have it's own Facebook page where fans can keep up to date of our specials, menus, and events at each location. We are also looking into better parking solutions for our customers at the Oxnard location. We want to continually provide convenience and hospitality to our customers."

For reservations and locations please visit their website at www.yolandasmexicancafe.com



Welcome VCCU @ccess center

A ribbon cutting grand opening celebration was held on Tuesday, February 9 for the new Ventura County Credit Union's unique inside/outside ATM kiosk on Main Street in the City of Ventura.

At the opening Joe Schroeder, VCCU President/CEO stated that "We pride ourselves on being local, and this is as local as it gets, more than ever, we are where our members are."

On hand were these credit union representatives and staff: Brandi Stankovic, Linda Sim, Bert Herrera, Al Duff, Joe Schroeder, Roxanne Ostrem, Glenda McGill, Brenda Morris, Bill Frank, Beth Carr and Gavin Bradley.



Pattie Braga, Community & Business Development Manager at the Ventura County Credit Union was a recent guest during the Ventura Breeze portion of the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on local radio station AM1400KKZZ.



Social Media: What's in it for Ventura?

by Peter K. Godinez
Social Media Sales Hero

Anyone who has lived in Ventura for a good amount of time can't help but see the wonderful diversity that exists in our beautiful city. It did not occur to me that this is what makes our city so special. Ventura is a wonderful place to live in many respects.

I hear the question, "Where are the jobs going to come from?" Will big businesses come to our rescue? Can government create more jobs? Is creating more opportunities for tourism helping Ventura?

So what does this have to do with social media and Ventura? One must look at the "niche" talents we have here in this community. Can you see the headlines: Ventura - capital of e-commerce, where more people in the world make a comfortable living while living in paradise? Here are some suggestions to get started: 1) Understand what it is you enjoy doing and be honest. So much of what we believe about ourselves is based on what other people have told us. Know the core of your business, and make that the center of your work, especially through the amplifier of social media.

2) Get started somewhere in the many social media opportunities. If you like to write start a blog. If you like taking pictures post your work on a photo sharing site (Flickr.com). If you dreamed of being a film director, then start shooting videos. Post your passion on a video sharing site (YouTube.com). If you enjoy radio, open up an account on blog talk radio where your program can be heard my millions of people all over the world.

3) Don't wait for everything to be perfect. If you do this you will never get started. Realize that content that is encouraging, educating and entertaining is more important than being perfect.

4) Start thinking about the types of people who are right for you. Try to remember you are not trying to gain the entire planet earth.

5) Think long term, and commit to it. Lose the microwave mentality and be patient with your results.

6) Unless you can convince some rich person to invest in you, don't quit your day job. Start it as a passionate hobby.

7) Respond and comment on other people's sites and social media tools. You must learn to be engaging and show interest in others beside yourself.

8) See social media as it really is. Social media was not meant for marketing and selling but for communication and connection to people.

10) Share the Wealth. I'm talking about time, information and knowledge. In social media, sharing is the fuel of the conversation engine.

Social media tools are only that - tools. The real energy, spirit and power of social media is people. We are social media. Ventura is social media.

You can reach Peter K. Godinez, The Social Media Sales hero at <http://www.petergodinez.com>. He is sponsored by the direct manufacture Canon Business Solutions of Ventura and Santa Barbara.



Health

Optimal wellness through whole body movement

by Anna Dato

LMT, CPT-RES, BodyThrive Therapeutic

Whole body movement is necessary for optimal physiological functioning (e.g. blood, lymph, digestive/elimination, respiratory systems). With movement, muscles intermittently contract and relax creating a pumping action that pushes fluids along. When we don't get enough movement, some muscle groups must work harder (e.g. the heart moving blood) or we can develop stagnation in certain areas. Check to see if there is an egg-like indentation or a puffy/spongy bulge under your arm when you lift it. If there is a bulge, it's possible it's an accumulation of lymph fluid that is not effectively circulating. A good massage will manually improve fluid circulation and is a good supplement to whole body movement, but everybody needs whole body movement to achieve optimal wellness. Even athletic and fit people need it in addition to their "sport" of choice.

The BEST whole body movement is walking. It provides the necessary movement for optimal wellness without overtaxing or underutilizing the body. For example, excessive wear and tear in the form of injury and hairline bone fractures are evident in runners from the impact the skeletal system absorbs. Swimming strengthens muscles, but does not provide the weight-bearing activity necessary for healthy bones. Both sports are rewarding, but do not accomplish all that walking does.

Whole body movement is not just walking, but walking with proper alignment. This includes an arm swing with the elbow reaching straight back behind you (not off to the side or fists thrusting forward) and propelling yourself forward by pushing backwards with posterior leg (back of thigh and calf) and buttock muscles. Because most sit a lot, we have lost the strength, range of motion and motor skills necessary for this optimal gait pattern. Instead, the muscle length of our posterior walking musculature shortens (the length between attachment points of muscle to bone) and our walking stride adjusts to accommodate. This adaptation means we advance by leaning forward and lifting our knees to walk (a controlled fall).

It's important to learn a proper gait pattern. You can get started at home with a calf stretch. With outside edge of feet parallel and hip-width apart, both legs straight and weight in your heels, place the ball of one foot on a 3-4 inch folded towel - keeping heel on the ground. Step forward with opposite foot, if you can, while still keeping legs straight and both heels on the ground. Hip should be over heel of calf you are stretching. Stretch each side 2-3 times daily within your own tolerance. To get more information about gait evaluation, classes or training with experts in the field of biomechanics go to www.BodyThrive.MassageTherapy.com or www.RestorativeExercise.com.

Urgent Care opens

RediMedic Urgent Care will have a grand opening, ribbon cutting ceremony and a blood drive on Friday, February

26 from 12 to 4pm at 3418 Loma Vista Drive 1-B.

Attending will be members of the chamber of commerce, councilmember James Monahan, president of the Boys and Girls Club Leon Rousso, Breeze publisher Sheldon Brown and deputy mayor Mike Tracy.

Public invited to meet local health professionals

Two Ventura-based businesses are inviting the community to attend an open house to learn more about personal and family well-being. The event, hosted by San Buenaventura Family Wellness Care, and Main Street Counseling Group, will be on Friday, March 5, from 6-9 p.m., at 738 E. Main St. Guests will be offered wine and beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and raffle prizes. The event is free to the public.

The owners of these two businesses say they hope to answer questions about better personal health and healthier family relationships. "We want to meet members of our community and provide information to help them make better choices for their health - physical and emotional," says Dr. Pierre "Pete" Barnes, D.C., of San Buenaventura Family Wellness Care.

Dr. Barnes is a graduate of Cleveland Chiropractic College in Los Angeles and Ms. Solieri received her Master of Social Work from California State University at San Diego and the University of California at San Diego.

Support group for children offers hope

Now there is a support group in Ventura specifically designed for children of families affected by cancer. Kids Circle is a support group for children ages 5-12 who have a parent or grandparent with cancer. The group is free of charge and is co-sponsored by The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura and Community Memorial Hospital.

Kids Circle meets the second and fourth Monday of each month from 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Meetings take place at the CMHS Cancer Resource Center, located inside the Center for Family Health, 120 N. Ashwood Ave. Under the guidance of professional therapist Ruth Lever, PhD, children learn how to deal with fear and uncertainty caused by the diagnosis of a serious illness. They also make friends, play games, and create art with children who can relate to their experiences.

"Even if young children do not know what cancer is, they can sense when things are 'not right' and can become fearful, especially if they sense the possibility of losing a loved one," says Dr. Lever. "The anxiety can put a strain on their psychological, and even cognitive, development. This is where Kids Circle comes in. It provides a place for children to feel comfortable, share information, increase confidence, develop social contacts, and express their struggles and their joys, all in the presence of other children who share their journey."

Kids Circle is offered free of charge, however registration is required for participation. To register or learn more, please call the CMHS Cancer Resource Center at 652-5459.

Movie Time

Review of *Shutter Island*

by Tim Pompey

★ ★ ★

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo, Ben Kingsley, Michelle Williams

Currently Playing at Century 10 and 16

Prepare to be creeped out by this paranoid thriller directed by Martin Scorsese. Set in a mental institution for prisoners on a lonely island somewhere off Boston, it's the perfect foil for Marty's meditation on madness. Good Lord, does he ever sink his teeth into this. Messing with your head? You bet. This time around, the man's a sadist.

It's 1954. Teddy Daniels (DiCaprio) and partner Chuck Aule (Ruffalo) are U.S. Marshalls assigned to investigate the case of a missing prisoner at Shutter Island, a prison hospital for the criminally insane. Right from the get-go, Teddy senses trouble. As he vomits on the ferry out to the island. As he questions the implacable Dr. Cawley (Kingsley) about Rachel, the missing prisoner. As he realizes, nothing about Shutter Island makes any sense.

It doesn't help that the oily surgeon, Dr. Naehring (Max von Sydow), seems to be taunting the marshalls, or that Teddy is dreaming about his dead wife (Williams) and the piles of slaughtered prisoners he witnessed as a soldier when he helped liberate Dachau from the Nazis. What's worse, a huge hurricane is about to hit the island. Needless to say, Teddy and Chuck aren't going anywhere soon. Meanwhile, the madness worsens. For Teddy (and for the audience), what's real and what's imagined becomes hallucinogenic.

This movie starts out as a standard, dare I say, stereotypical story about life in a mental institution. You know. Crazy doctors cutting into crazy patients' heads. Crazy patients smiling. The dialogue is a little starchy, the music overbearing, the settings recycled. I admit, I sat for the first hour or so and doubted. I mean, how many times would I have to watch Teddy frown at the camera?

However, by the time the movie finished, I realized that the crafty old director had led me off in one direction, only to yank me out of my seat and send me someplace else. As the film moves into its final chapters, the stiff acting dissolves, the screenplay starts to sizzle, and the dank prison cells start to get into my head. The story takes on its psychotropic setting. What's real. What's not. It's anybody's guess. I can just see Scorsese smiling as he wraps things up, thinking: Gotcha sucker.

There's no denying the craft and thought that went into "Shutter Island." Powerful and thought provoking, I'm sure it will rank as one of Scorsese's masterpieces. With great acting, a haunting score (stay for the credits and listen to Dinah Washington), and a mind-bending story, you'll probably feel, when you walk out of the theater, that you just survived your worst therapy session ever. You might even say to yourself, "Ah, it's great to be free!" But where are you? And who are you? Think you've got it figured out? Guess again, my friend. Only Scorsese knows.

VFS Film Festival 2010

The Ventura Film Society returns March 25-28, with its Festival 2010 at the Historic Elks Lodge, located in Downtown Ventura at 11 S. Ash Street @ Main.

The four-day celebration of film expands on the theme, "Discover the World around You".

This year's festival will be another stunning mix of local voices and global visions and will include more than 50 films from local and international filmmakers. Featured events include a 10 film tribute to writer/actor/director Paul Mazursky, who will be attending the festival. Also screening will be the new Tilda Swinton film, "I Am Love", the award-winning documentary feature "No Impact Man", as well as two films starring the late Silver Screen Legend and longtime Ventura County resident Virginia Mayo

"Community response to last year's Spring Festival and Fall Series events was outstanding. There was an outpouring of support and enthusiasm for bringing quality alternative cinema to Ventura", says Festival Director, Lorenzo DeStefano.

The Ventura Film Society's Festival 2010 schedule will include a broad range of films.

Narrative Feature Program includes "4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days", "Crazy Stranger", "Paraiso Travel" (Colombia), "Bandit Queen", "Molokai-The Story of Father Damian" and "Innocence" from director Paul Cox.

Feature Documentary Program includes "No Impact Man", "Manda Bala", "Blue Gold-World Water Wars", "The Third Wave", "Forgotten Ellis Island", "Girls on The Wall", "Waiting For Hockney", "Herb & Dorothy", "Tupperware!", "Paris Is Burning", "Compañeras", "A Journey With Paul Cox", and "Signatures".

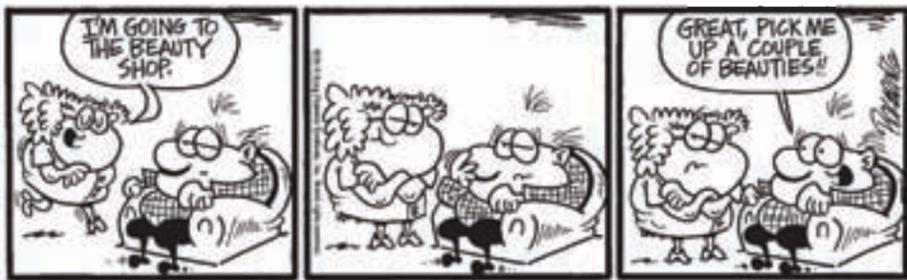
Short Film Program includes "We Have Decided Not To Die" from visionary Australian filmmaker Daniel Askill, "Rift" from returning VFS filmmaker Andrew Huang, "Kick Like A Girl" by Jenny Mackenzie, "Sampsonia Way-City Of Asylum", "Surfing Dolphins" by Santa Barbara filmmaker Greg Huglin, "Goofy-foot" by Chris Cashman and the world-premiere of "Devolution."

The VFS Festival 2010 presents a number of shorts from Ventura's Brooks Institute and will also feature the dynamic new work of young filmmakers from Santa Barbara based Youth Cine Media. Special programs will pay tribute to the great American writer/director/actor Paul Mazursky. One of America's most respected filmmakers, Paul has created a body of work over the past forty years that illuminates the personal, intimate and often hilarious aspects of our human condition. The 10 film tribute will include "Down & Out in Beverly Hills", "Blume In Love" starring George Segal (2010 Festival attendee), "Moscow On The Hudson", "Next Stop, Greenwich Village", "Harry & Tonto", "Winchell", "An Unmarried Woman", "Enemies-A Love Story", "Moon Over Parador", and "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice". Mazursky's work as an actor in films and television projects including The Sopranos, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Fear & Desire and Blackboard Jungle will also be honored. "Starring Virginia Mayo" celebrates Hollywood star and longtime Ventura county resident, the late Virginia Mayo, with screening of "White Heat" and "The Secret Life

Continued on page 19

The Lighter Breeze

The Spats



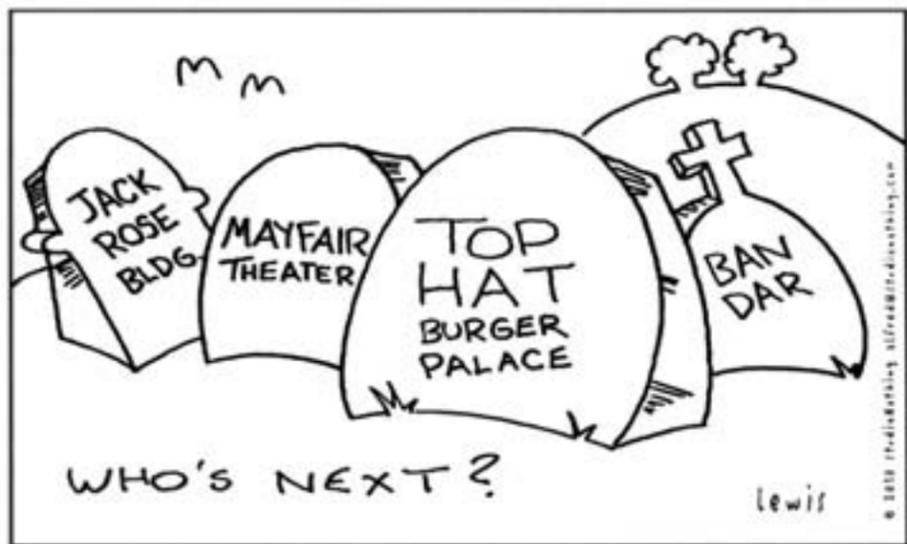
Shoe



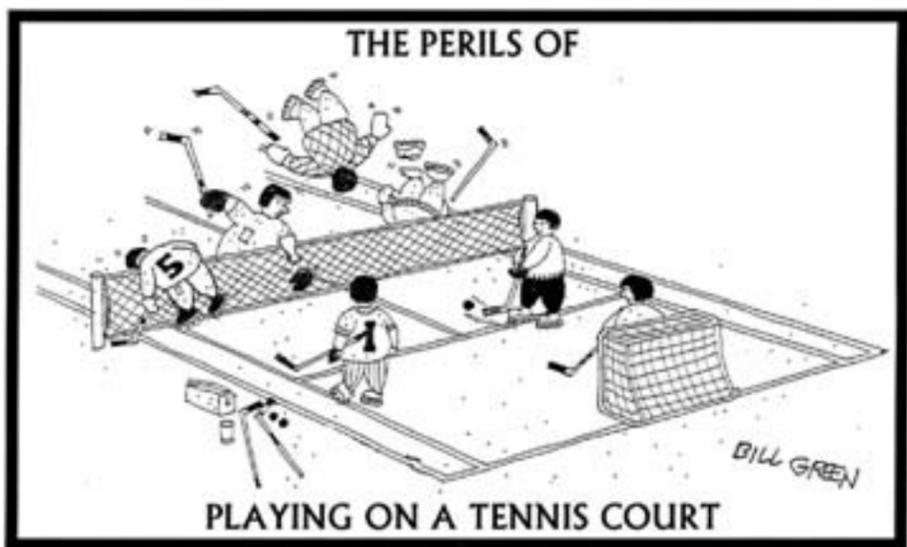
Zits



I Yell Because I Care



Bill Green's Comic Scene



Solutions on page 20

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 20

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Amazement, plus
- 4 Glistened
- 9 Insulation material (Abbr.)
- 12 That girl
- 13 Melodic and harmonic
- 14 Golf ball's position
- 15 Tinseltown
- 17 Help
- 18 Having a bug
- 19 Villain, slangily
- 21 Asian capital
- 24 "— It Romantic?"
- 25 Sprite
- 26 Lorne Michaels' brainchild, for short
- 28 Quarrels
- 31 Union payments
- 33 Obtained
- 35 Any time now
- 36 Refine metal
- 38 "Holy cow!"
- 40 Kimono sash
- 41 Bad witness
- 43 In the thick of
- 45 Hallux
- 47 Couric's network
- 48 Fuss
- 49 Glenn Miller

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
54						55					56		
57						58					59		

- 32 Narrow cut
- 34 Head of the class?
- 37 Follower of Lao-tzu
- 39 Hearth remains
- 42 Actress Zellweger
- 44 Doctrine
- 45 Hairless
- 46 Notion
- 50 Airline initials
- 51 Praiseful verse
- 52 "— Town"
- 53 "Le Coq —"
- 7 Judd or Campbell
- 8 Firstborn
- 9 Greenhouse buy
- 10 Henry —
- 11 Relinquish
- 16 Back talk
- 20 Blackbirds
- 21 Kennedy and Koppel
- 22 Grad
- 23 James Brown hit
- 27 Journal
- 29 Watch chains
- 30 Fit of peevishness

DOWN

- 1 Bonfire residue
- 2 Personal question
- 3 Conger, for one
- 4 Fashions
- 5 Coyotes' din
- 6 Yoko of

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Having second thoughts could be a good thing, even if you're determined to go through with your plans. You might find it worthwhile to take a fresh look at how things have been set up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Financial matters could continue to be a problem until you're able to straighten out some of the more pesky situations. Once that happens, the rest should be easier to unsnarl.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Family matters once again take center stage, and should be dealt with competently and quickly. And, again, insist on others taking on their fair share of the responsibilities.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your creative pursuits seem to be running into a roadblock. But rather than blame outside factors, look within to see if you might be holding back your efforts for some reason.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Keep that keen Cat's Eye focused on relevant aspects of this new situation in your life. Don't be distracted by trivial matters. You need the pertinent facts before making a decision.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) As much as you prefer doing things on your own, continue to accept help if you still need to resolve the problem affecting your project. Some cheerful

news is about to come your way.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) While you might begrudge the added time it will take to get your project from point A to B to C, etc., you could benefit from the facts that will emerge over this expanded time span.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Regarding your workplace suggestions, be prepared to produce the facts to counter reactions from skeptics who feel your approach is unreasonable or even impossible.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Savvy Sagittarians will look for work-related answers on their own rather than rely on unproved assumptions. It might take more time to do so, but the payoff is worth it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your aspects continue to favor family issues, with special emphasis this week on changes in and around your home. Get everyone to suggest what he or she would like to see done.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A matter you thought had been settled might still produce surprises. Best advice: Continue to gather facts to bolster your position just in case you need to produce them quickly.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) While your instincts are usually right when discerning 'twixt truth and deception, you could benefit from doing more research on the new "prospect" that you've been pitched.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your wisdom is only matched by your generosity, making you the sort of friend everyone hopes to have.

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The new Stone Foundation stone castle ramparts in Grant Park was a collaboration of many trades, volunteers, supporters, the Serra Cross Conservancy and the City

Two stone castles in Ventura

The Stone Foundation project located at the Serra Cross Park in Grant Park has been completed. Recently a closing ceremony was held.

Mayor Bill Fulton was on hand and said that "Ventura now has a permanent monument to our city". He then presented a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the city to the stonemasons.

City Council Member Christy Weir, who was instrumental in the formation of Serra Cross Park was also there to thank all for attending the closing ceremony.

Seana Weaver, owner of the Wine Rack presented nice gift baskets to the participants including Paul Lindhard, of Art City who was the creative force behind getting this project to Ventura.

Installed on both sides of the steps leading into the park the two stone castle ramparts were designed by internationally noted stonemasons Jyunji and Suminori Awata, 14th and 15th-generation stonemasons specializing in the restoration of medieval Japanese castle walls who were also the coordinators for the project:

The Stone Foundation is based in Santa Fe, New Mexico and the project was part of their annual International Stonework Symposium 2010.

The Park is open to the public, so be sure to go see this wonderful new edition to Ventura and to enjoy the incredible views from Grant Park. More information regarding the Serra Cross Park and the Conservancy can be obtained at their website www.serracrosspark.org or by calling 648-3008.

Curves Hosts Food Drive

Curves of Ventura is encouraging women in the area to show their philanthropic strength by participating in the annual Curves Food Drive.

From March 1 to 31, Curves of Ventura will collect non-perishable items and monetary donations for food banks in the local area. The goal, according to Penny Donswyk of Curves of Ventura, is for the community to come together to help families in need.

Member who donate a bag of groceries or make a minimum donation of \$30 during the month of March will receive a reusable Curves grocery freezer bag for free. Non-members who do likewise between March 8 and 20 can join Curves for free. Curves will waive the cost to join.

Curves is located at 2611 E. Thompson Blvd. For more information about the event contact Penny Donswyk at 641-9600 or 9BJ1E4LK@curvesmail.com.

VFS Film Fest 2010

Continued from page 17

Of Walter Mitty". The Works-In-Progress Program includes film about the recent Temple Wall Project built by Japanese artisans and resident sculptors at Ventura's Grant Park that is shown in this issue of the Breeze.

Advance tickets sales: Paypal Online: www.venturafilmsociety.com/tickets 805 641-3845. Tickets can be purchased at the Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau, 101 S. California St., 648-2075

For further information contact 628-2299, info@venturafilmsociety.com or www.venturafilmsociety.com



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Young student

Continued from page 1

pioneered this awareness and that came out with scientific reports proving global warming was the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (www.ipcc.ch). It's a group of 5,000 scientists from many different countries. They've come out with several full reports assessing climate change. They're the ones that



Alec Loorz is a sophomore at Ventura High School who has become active in studying scientific research about global warming. He has traveled across the country providing awareness to youth and adults about global warming's drastic effects on the environment.

Al Gore got his research from. He's not a scientist himself. He's just kind of translating the science that these thousands of scientists have corroborated and putting it into terms that people can understand. And that's kind of what I do, is translate it even more so that a kid can understand.

T: *You're a sophomore in high school with a full load of courses. Where do you find time to do your research?*

A: I'm actually doing an independent study in high school now because of this work. Doing this work, then doing the research counts for two classes at school. I get credit for it. I can travel, so I only have to go in a few days a week just to take tests and get work. Other than that, it's all on my own. It's kind of at my own pace, so I can do things and give presentations. It doesn't affect my school work and I get credit for it. It works.

T: *Okay, for the last three years, you've been involved in this. So, where are we at today climate wise and where do you see us in twenty-five years?*

A: The main issue is this natural cycle that has become off balance. It's not just about global warming. It's about an imbalance in the way our climate works. For instance, ice is melting faster than scientists could ever predict. In the middle of the Pacific Ocean, it's two degrees warmer. Hurricanes are forming and because the water is warmer, they are becoming more destructive. In Darfur, Lake Chad has completely dried up. At the same time, places in Ethiopia have been experiencing floods. So it's not just that global warming causes warm waters, it knocks everything out of balance.

(To be continued.)

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

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