

FREE



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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The approved "design" plans for the remodeling of the proposed Walmart building include a new facade for the entire structure

Walmart moves steadily toward opening store on Victoria

by Rebecca Wicks

Having cleared a number of hurdles, Walmart continues to inch its way closer to gaining approval for a store on Victoria where the former Kmart store stood. Earlier this month the company presented revised plans for a 98,000 square foot store.

Alterations to the new plans were minimal with slight changes made to the parking area and landscaping. The plan was favorably accepted by the city's design review committee who gave Walmart additional recommendations for changes.

Suggestions included added landscaping and some minor modifications to the facade of the building as well as the parking lot.

According to Community Development Director Jeff Lambert Walmart could receive final approval upon the next plan revision which will likely be re-submitted to the city within four to six weeks.

Feelings among Venturans remain split despite the failure of Measure C last November which did not pass with 54 percent voting against the measure.

Continued on page 18



The St. Pat's Day Parade was enjoyed by throngs of people on another beautiful day in Ventura

Thousands line Main Street for celebration and fun at the St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 22nd annual County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on Saturday, March 13 and the people who came out to celebrate were not disappointed. With over 90 entries from all over Ventura County, the parade offered fun for everyone. Horses, cheerleaders, bands, clowns, classic car clubs, lots of dogs and more were in the parade including Councilmember Jim Monahan playing St. Pat's himself.

Thousands of people from around the county turned out for the parade

this year. Spectators were treated to the charm and wit of Ventura's own Zachary Levi, star of NBC television's "Chuck". Zachary graduated from Buena High School and reminisced with the Breeze about the local restaurants that he worked at as a high school "busboy".

There were many signs showing support for the Google planned high-speed fiber optic Internet network. Google recently announced they would bring "ultra-high-speed internet access" on a pilot basis to several cities. Dozens of American communities have indicated interest including Ventura.

Judges for the parade were Barbara Quaid, CEO, Ventura County Fairgrounds; Trudy Arriaga Ventura Unified School District Superintendent; Sheldon Brown, publisher of the Ventura Breeze; Anthony Romero, VP and Manager of Rabobank, Ventura; James Lockwood, St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee (also with the Ventura County Fairgrounds) and Dan Frederickson, Ventura business owner.

Sheldon commented that "Being a judge was a great and wonderful experience. Viewing the parade from the elevated judge's area gave it an entire new perspective."

"All of the other judges were wonderful people and we had a really fun time alternating between being serious and being really stupid. (Is that anyway for the Ventura Unified School District Superintendent to act?)"

Ventura's golf course snack bar

by Christy Weir, Ventura City Councilmember

The City of Ventura owns two municipal golf courses. Money for operating the golf courses is in the city's Golf Fund and comes from golf fees -- State law requires that it be spent only on the golf courses. In 2002, the City borrowed money to revamp both courses to keep them attractive and competitive. Recently, when lower interest rates provided the opportunity to refinance these golf loans, the City decided to use some of the savings from the refinancing to build a small snack bar and pro shop. This will provide both an additional source of revenue for the golf courses and a more attractive venue for play.

Legally, the City's General Fund and Golf Fund are separate, as are our Sewer Fund and Water Fund. The savings from the Golf Fund refinancing must either stay in the Golf Fund or be used for golf course improvements. That money can't be switched to fund police or fire or parks or libraries. Public safety and parks are paid for out of our General Fund, which comes mostly from property and sales tax revenues. Specific user fees (like Golf, Water and Sewer fees) go into designated Funds and must be kept completely separate and spent only on Golf, Water or Sewer projects.

The Golf courses are run as businesses, under city ownership and private contract management. As a business decision, the new snack bar and pro shop are designed to improve the bottom line for the Golf Fund. It's important to remember that Golf money has to stay in the Golf Fund. As much as we might like to shift money between Funds, we can't. Savings from refinancing a golf loan cannot legally be used for a library or any other non-golf expense.

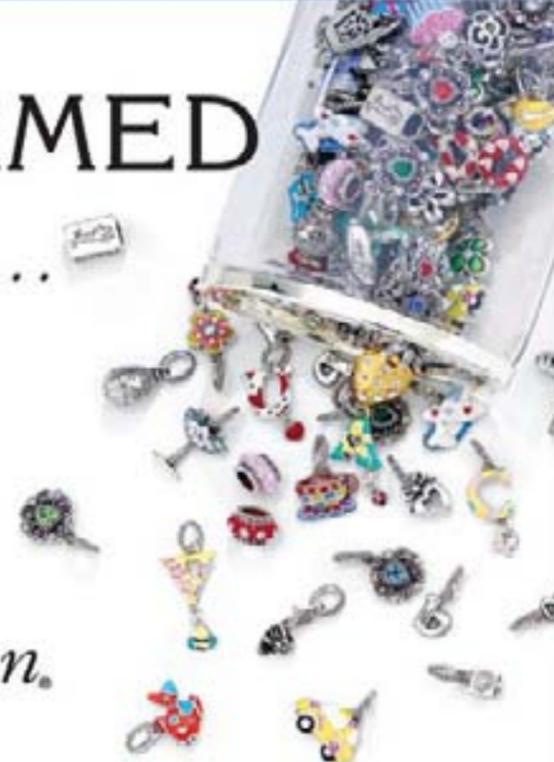


The City of Ventura has completed their 6th annual Digital Photography Contest. The Breeze will be presenting some of the winners in this and future issues. This is the People's Choice in the Altered Images category "Piling Heron Watercolor Effect" by fotogrphr55.

Opinion/Editorial.....	3
Mail Box.....	3
City News.....	4
News and Notes.....	5
Community Events.....	7
Ventura Film Society Program.....	9
Senior Living.....	13
Sports.....	14
School.....	14
Art Scene.....	14
Professor Scamp.....	15
Police Reports.....	15
Health.....	16
Business.....	17



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Photo by Tim Hauf Photography

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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

BAN-THE-CAN: I have written about his before but now I am on a mission to rid Ventura of the "billboard" trash cans that are mostly in our "Historic" Cultural Downtown Ventura

district.

These trash cans are ugly, an eyesore, out of scale with their surroundings and not at all in keeping with the ambience of what we want downtown to be (gee, maybe I don't think much of them). And not historic or cultural.

I think that having these "billboards" also gives the wrong message to tourists as it cheapens the look of Ventura and implies we are desperate for money.

And, even if we might be the income from these doesn't even go to the City but goes to the DVO, and very little at that.

The DVO originally proposed these trash bins and had them installed but hopefully with the coming of new leadership in the DVO they will realize that this was a mistake and try to get rid of them.

One of the motivations of installing them was to keep the homeless from searching through the trash but I'm sure that there would be a more aesthetic solution to this problem. And the new downtown Ambassadors will help keep the homeless from doing this.

Would love to hear your thoughts (and the DVO and a few council members) regarding these trash enclosures,

maybe you all just love them.

As you have probably heard Google is planning to install high-speed, fiber optic internet connections to home and businesses in a few select communities, if Ventura is selected it will be a great thing for our city. This could bring in new business models and increased educational and city services.

It is very important that we all try too make this happen, the results of us getting this would be enormous.

There is only a few days left to be heard so go to www.venturafiber.com to nominate Ventura, this is our final push to get this wonderful service to Ventura.

The new Museum of Ventura County now under construction has announced that the first phase of the building will open the weekend July 4. This would be the Smith Pavilion and the Main Street Plaza.

The Smith Pavilion will seat 200 and can be used for a variety of different events. With Ventura in desperate need of a decent venue this will be a welcome addition for our cultural events. The exterior plaza is designed to be tented for events for another 150 guests.

A sad part of the opening is that the temporary museum located on California Street will be closed. This has been a wonderful addition to downtown and will be sorely missed.



Digital realization by studioNothing

With apologies to readers:

To make room for the Ventura Film Society schedule it is necessary to once again pull the Lighter Breeze page, which features the comics, crossword, sudoku and the horoscope, out of your issue.

But fear not; it will be back next issue (really) and just for now you can access it on our web site, www.venturabreeze.com.

Mailbox

essary work instead. What will it take to get action?

This is not about just the beachfront homeowners. While the City dithers in their negotiations, the rest of the Pierpont Community also suffers. Safe access to and from the beach is the City's responsibility and should be being provided now and not part of any negotiation.

Until the City sees fit to create a buffer zone along Shore Dr. between the Pierpont Community and the ever blowing sand this situation will continue. The sand level in front of the City's and beachfront homeowners' retaining walls must be lowered to such a level that sand stops cascading onto the beach access stairs, into the storm drains and into to the homeowner's yards.

George Robertson
Ventura

Venturans;

If you have changed out a leaky faucet or water heater, your home can be cited by code enforcement if you live in Ventura, as substandard. Venturans now have a chance to release themselves from years of flying under the radar and start with a clean slate.

This effort is the silver lining following an anguished public outcry following the city's change to "proactive" code enforcement after a lifetime of complaint based code enforcement. A group of citizens and the city have come to agreement after a year of meetings, to seat thirteen open minded citizens on a stakeholder committee that addresses the issue of grandfathering, how to do it, permit fees and how to make them affordable for all.

A huge number of Ventura's property owners have lived in fear of code enforcement for years, because they live in properties with improvements that like-

ly weren't permitted. Code enforcement wants to find a way to dispel those fears and collaborate with the community.

Meetings will be public and you can speak to the committee with anonymity. You can weigh in on what you think should be added to code enforcement policies or removed from the policies at the anonymous website www.grandfatherventura.com. There will be at least six meetings of the stakeholder group, called the Safe Housing Collaborative, before they return to the city council with their recommendations. What are your recommendations? For further information, email grandfatherventura@gmail.com.

Camille Harris
Ventura

Venturans

Undoubtedly you may have been surprised to hear me speaking at the City Council meeting on March 8, possibly believing that the last page of "The Saga of the Slipping Slope" had been written. The disturbing reality is that a final chapter is yet to be added.

The City continues to ignore the fact that the new buyer (of the lot next door to Helen), in December 2009 assumed all the conditions and terms of the first sales contract on Feb. 2005. This contract required development with concurrent stabilization of City Lot #7 within 3 years, or by 2008. The first buyer defaulted on all counts, and in 2009, the city granted his request to extend his contract to give him time to find a new buyer, recoup his investment in the failed project, and get himself off the liability hook, which he did.

But wait, hear this!!! Sadly, after the Feb. 3, 1998 massive landslide, the City, instead of addressing the problem of stabilization at the outset, failed to apply for available FEMA funds.

The City then dumped the problem on me, making it necessary for me to purchase and install the needed plastic slope protection to prevent further erosion and damage to my property. Unbelievably, I was even forced to buy encroachment permits to enter upon City property to do the City's job in order to save my home.

I include this information to make you aware of the City's cunning and vicious methodology to discourage citizens, like myself, from pursuing justice and seeking fair play. Throughout these past twelve years of hell, the city accomplished its true intent and purpose---to dodge its responsibility to fix its substandard lot

It is no wonder our citizens have evidenced their distrust in the City by rejecting the sales tax. It is no wonder that our citizens are disenchanting and angry over the City's ongoing disregard of citizens' rights and needs. It is no wonder that the citizens, in ever increasing numbers, are recognizing the fact that the Council has forgotten that our government is founded on the principle-"Of the people, by the people and for the people."

Can any one of the Council members explain to me why I have been singled out and so persecuted over the past twelve years? Can they explain how my constitutional rights have been stolen, and stolen with impunity? And finally, what efforts will our Council make to prevent such miscarriages of justice in the future?
HelenYunker

Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is the probable reason why so few people engage in it.

—Henry Ford

Mayor and City Council,

Because the City of Ventura has failed to maintain Shore Dr. over the last decade, there now is no effective access to the beach from many of the lanes in Pierpont. Additionally, a number of the storm drains are completely full of sand. In spite a successful lawsuit brought against the City by a number of Pierpont Beachfront homeowners and the VCSB (Ventura Citizens for a Safe Beach), this situation still exists. The City continues to dither in its negotiations with the homeowners on doing the required work. The City has spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on this lawsuit which should have used to do the nec-



City News (Also see pages 6 and 20)



Councilman Neal Andrews and Instructor Suz Montgomery discuss the City's current fiscal crisis with a group of senior citizens in Montgomery's weekly "Schmooz with Suz" class

Councilmember discusses city's fiscal woes with seniors

by Tim Pompey

Around the table, the topic is hot. Councilmember Neal Andrews has come to Suz Montgomery's "Schmooz with Suz" class to talk with a group of seniors at the Ventura Townhouse about money. Specifically, the City's lack of it. The questions are flying. The City's outlook is not good.

Andrews seems to be on a mission: go out to the community and talk straight about the City's fiscal crisis. No doubt he has a point to make. He passes around a petition that, if enacted into law, would make it illegal for the State to do its customary grab from the City's treasury. He's working to revise the City Charter. And he wants to do something about the City's spiraling cost in salaries and benefits. Today, he's zeroing in on upcoming contract negotiations with the City's powerful police and fire unions.

The City has already cut almost 15 million dollars from its budget in the last two years. Some salaries have been cut and city employees are currently on furlough for two days a month. Still, the bad news continues to mount. Andrews estimates in the next year and a half, they will have to cut another seven million dollars, maybe more if City foreclosures continue to mount.

Since most of the City's expendable programs have already been eliminated, where will the remaining cuts come from? According to Andrews, it has to be either employees or salaries, and those cuts will almost certainly involve members of the City's police and fire departments.

According to Andrews, salaries and benefits make up two-thirds of the City's budget. Of the total operating budget, 56% goes to police and fire. And of the total compensation that police and fire draw, nearly 50% goes toward their retirement and other benefits.

Given the decisions the City faces, Andrews feels compelled to fight for a change in the City's compensation policy. They say timing is everything. It just so happens the City's contract with its police force expires in June and its contract with firefighters expires in December.

What does he suggest? In a nutshell, Andrews would like to put a cap on the amount the City pays out in retirement benefits. He would like to implement a retirement system where the City's contribution is clearly limited. Currently, it pays the entire cost for police and fire retirement benefits. He would like to see them share this cost and pay into their own plan. He would also like to extend retirement ages, or at least defer when retirees can begin to draw. And, finally, he would like to reduce the amount placed in their retirement plan from 3% to 2%.

Andrews knows what he's up against politically. He's worked in the past for pension reform and gotten nowhere. He claims that the local police union has him in their

crosshairs. "They spent 56 thousand dollars in the last election to defeat me," he says with a smile. "It hasn't worked so far."

He believes that at the heart of the issue is a fear by his fellow council members that, if reform is implemented, police and fire employees will pick up shop and move elsewhere. "My colleagues say no because, if we're the first to do this, they believe everyone will leave for more competitive environments." Andrews doesn't buy this argument. He thinks the economic recession and the investment by long-term officers in their seniority makes this scenario unlikely.

Andrews takes questions as a lively discussion ensues about Ventura's fiscal policy. For a man facing an uphill battle, he seems remarkably relaxed. Maybe it's his nature or maybe he feels he has a real shot this time around at implementing fiscal change. One thing is for sure. There's going to be many more lively discussions around tables in the near future. More than likely, they'll be less friendly. Still, Andrews seems to relish his role. He knows the facts. He's got his arguments lined up. In his view, the City is at a crossroads. Either reduce costs or go broke. Maybe this time around, he feels the odds for implementing change are in his favor.

When they are 18

by Jill Sarick Santos,

City of Ventura, Environmental Services Division

In the City of Ventura, approximately 25% of the residents are below the age 18, the legal age to vote. By the time many of them will be old enough to vote, the world will be a very different, perhaps downright challenging place to live. Yet, in the debates surrounding environmental stewardship, youth voices are left out of the conversation. More local youth should be brought into the discussion about environmental issues, because I as one youth said, that if we wait for today's youth to take a leadership role when they are senators, it will be too late. The time to act is now and they are more than ready to join in!

The City of Ventura shares this way of thinking and sponsors environmental education programs in the local schools. City sponsored programs like, "Dr. Rot" and "Where does it go?" Provide local youth with information about how our every day activities have a cumulative affect on the environment. Take trash for example. Many youth are surprised to find out that on average, Americans toss out about 4.5 lbs of trash per person per day. When they start multiplying the numbers, they begin to realize that all that trash has to go some place...and therein lays the predicament: where does it all go?

An important, but relatively new concern is marine debris. If trash isn't recycled or properly disposed of, it can end up in the ocean where marine mammals, birds and fish mistake it for food. They can ingest as much as 6 times more plastic than food in some cases. As residents of this beautiful coastal community, it is important that everyone be aware that their activities reach well beyond their homes and schools, and can have devastating global impacts. Scientists are studying the ocean gyres, where currents and debris collect to quantify affects. The current data is discouraging.

But fortunately, Ventura's youth are not complacent.

Since September 2009, over 2000

youth have participated in city sponsored environmental education programs. And, countless more have participated in volunteer programs like beach cleanups and restoration projects through Volunteer Ventura. Schools have organized other projects like cleanups, recycling and energy conservation. Several schools recycle bottles and cans as fundraisers, while diverting thousands of pounds of material that would otherwise end up in our landfill or worse, the ocean.

Ventura's youth are capable at shifting environmental policies; not just as token accessories, but as real, empowered citizens, working with us to solve these challenges. It's apparent that our generation created much of the environmental challenges we face today. I think it's exciting, but most importantly it's timely, to engage our youth as leaders. Because we really can't wait until they are 18.

There are plenty of ways youth can get involved today:

Contact The City of Ventura's Environmental Services Division at Ventura's Environmental or call 652-4501

Volunteer for a beach clean up on Earth Day - call 654-7771

For info on marine debris check out The 5 Gyres Project

Check out the local Surfrider Chapter for events and opportunities

Making tough economic choices

by Mayor Bill Fulton

As the City Council tries to figure out our budget priorities for next year, we tried something a little different on Saturday, March 6 -- a kind of round-robin, small-group discussion between councilmembers and the people. Consider it a community version of a family kitchen-table conversation about how to trim things back to balance the household budget.

Put this on your calendar: We'll have another event, a kind of a "drop-in and talk," at ArtWalk downtown on April 17.

Next year's budget is going to involve a bunch of tough choices. We had to cut \$11 million out of this year's budget -- going from \$96 million for a "business as usual" budget to \$85 million -- and next year it's going to be more like \$15 million, going down to \$81 million. So there's no getting around those tough choices.

And the message I'm getting from our folks -- if Saturday is any indication -- is pretty simple: Make the tough choices.

If you've been following our approach to this, you know we've been looking at how to prioritize four different approaches in order to balance the budget:

1. Eliminate low-priority services.
2. Continue reductions in employee compensation.
3. Reinvent city services so that we can deliver the same services more efficiently.
4. "Muddle through," by continuing to provide services in a way that is probably unsustainable in the long run and wait for the economy to get better.
5. Promote additional revenue through economic development or other approaches

On Saturday, we tried to take the community's temperature in an informal way. We set up a round-robin discussion where the folks sat in small groups and the councilmembers -- each of whom took a different approach on the list above -- moved from table to table for 15-minute conversations.

We wound up getting close to 200 people at Poinsettia Pavilion -- so many that we had to vastly expand the number of tables and draft quite a few city staff members to augment the councilmembers as facilitators. Wow! I love the way Venturans get involved.

Not surprisingly, the conclusion of most of the folks I spoke with was that we shouldn't muddle through. Instead, we should do what we got elected to do: Make the tough choices in consultation with our community. Given the budget situation, we probably don't have much choice.

But along the way, the folks I talked to threw out some terrific ideas about how we can stretch our dollars farther. There were two that I heard over and over again:

-- Use more volunteers and use them more effectively. The volunteer power we have in Ventura is amazing, and we ought to be able to make tremendous strides by using them as well as we can. Volunteers clean up the beaches, help out the police, assist even in refilling the dog bags in the parks. I agree: Let's keep going in this direction.

-- Crossstrain city employees. Our city employees do a great job. But to stretch our resources in this economy, we ought cross-train them more so that they are capable of doing more different jobs and working more flexibly. Obviously there are limits to this (you might not want an office worker working as a police officer -- or vice versa!) but it's still a great idea for "reinventing government" that's worth exploring.

It's always hard to get everybody involved, and it's never easy to reach consensus, especially when we have to make tough choices. But Saturday's event was a great start to this year's budget discussion. Thanks to everybody who came.

Breeze:

This is a wonderful way to be heard instead of grumbling under your breath, so go and let the council members know what is on your mind

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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News and Notes



Saint Pierre, one of the new artists to move into WÄV, is a professional musician and manages several music acts. He plans to sponsor and promote many concerts at the new black box theater opening at WÄV.

Saint Pierre amps up the music at WÄV

by Tim Pompey

Walk into Saint Pierre's unit at the WÄV and you notice immediately he has a lot of stuff. Guitars on the wall. File cabinets from floor to ceiling. Recording equipment. Video equipment. There's a good reason for this. Saint Pierre is a music and video producer (www.saintpierre.org) and what I'm seeing is his professional home and headquarters. "I've got a 24 track recording studio, so I can do live recordings. I've got equipment for doing music videos. I also do 30 minute cable TV shows. I'd like to bring back variety shows, have different music acts combined with visual arts."

One thing's for sure. The man is busy. As we talk, his phone never stops ringing. He has four albums out and is online with iTunes, Napster, and twelve other online stores. Meanwhile, in his spare time, he manages five music acts - rhythm and blues, bluegrass, and Christian rock.

Saint Pierre grew up in New England. His father managed a country western bar. But the person who gave him his start as a musician was his grandma. "Grandma Marie Louise went to Tijuana and bought a \$5 guitar. She gave it to me and said she'd pay for my guitar lessons, which she did, at \$2.50 a week."

That guitar is on his wall by his front door. It's pretty dilapidated, missing a few strings. But it's right next to a picture of his grandmother. Saint Pierre continues, "When I was 12, my daddy threw me on the stage, and that was my first performance. I knew one song, Hank Williams 'Your Cheating Heart.' I played there every week."

Now that he's at WÄV, Saint Pierre hopes to bring his musical expertise to the new black box theater at the WÄV plaza. He talks about this as we tour the theater. "I believe this convergence of the performing arts and the visual arts can enhance each other." And Saint Pierre wants to be square in the middle of that convergence.

Right now, the theater is empty. If his vision takes root, this will soon change. Plans are being discussed with the City to approve indoor/outdoor seating capacity. Including designated balcony space, he foresees fitting as many as 600 or so people in and around the theater. The idea is to include both community and ticket based music events.

He turns on some Eagles music to help me get a sense of the sound in and around the theater. Here's a notice to all WÄV residents. Buy some lounge chairs and portable patio furniture. The way this courtyard is set up, there's not a bad seat in the house. Also, despite the traffic on 101, plenty of volume.

No doubt, all this music output will benefit the community, both at WÄV and in the City of Ventura. But Saint Pierre also feels that WÄV has had an impact on him: "Living here four and a half weeks, WÄV

is already transforming my vision toward future projects through my community involvement and my desire to see WÄV succeed."

All right, I think. Saint Pierre helps WÄV and WÄV helps Saint Pierre. If the end result of this artistic convergence is more music, all the better. So, time to get out the guitars, keyboards, bass, and drums. Pass out the flyers. Arrange the folding chairs. Let's plug in those instruments and get this party started. WÄV residents, are you ready to rock?

Ventura Hillsides Conservancy receives third land donation

The Ventura Hillsides Conservancy has received a third donation of land to add to its conservation holdings. The gift came from Ventura County residents Donald Moore and Gary Moore. The parcel, consisting of approximately 1/2 acre, is adjacent to the two parcels donated to the Conservancy in 2009 by the Waldo Trust. The Moore and Waldo properties are located between the Ventura River and the Ventura River Trail to the south of Foster Park.

Donald Moore, who lives in Ojai, and his younger brother, Gary Moore, who lives in Ventura, donated the scenic riverside property that they inherited from their parents. Gary Moore stated that he was pleased to give the lush riparian area to the Conservancy because "it should be protected from development."

"This generous donation is important because it shows our continuing commitment to the Ventura River Parkway project that was announced by the Trust for Public Land and the State Coastal Conservancy a few years ago" says Executive Director Matt Sayles. The Ventura Hillsides Conservancy serves as a key facilitator of the Parkway project, and is the only entity willing to hold land for conservation purposes in the lower Ventura River valley.

The Conservancy hopes the Moore donation - like the Waldo donation before it will inspire other landowners along the river to participate in the vision for the parkway.

Riparian - situated or taking place along or near the bank of a river

Boys & Girls Club is hosting All You Can Eat Taco Wednesday

The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura's Oak View Center, 555 Mahoney Ave., Oak View will hold an 'All You Can Eat Taco Wednesday' for \$5.00 per person from 5:30 -6:30pm that is open to the public.

On March 24 the Oak View and Westview Centers will combine Club talents to present a Talent Show following the Wednesday night taco dinner. Club members have been rehearsing their performances for weeks and will perform on the stage of the Oak View Center.

For additional information or to make reservations contact Oak View Branch Manager Chris Coudert at 649-9000.

The "sandwich" generation

by Kris Humphries

I am a classic example of the "sandwich" generation; a child in kindergarten, one in college, parents in their 70s and 80s, family and friends spread out all over the world. It is a real struggle to find ways to keep in touch with so many generations and levels of technological know-how. This is what forced me, kicking and screaming, to create a Facebook account - it was the only way I was going to know what was happening with our younger family members and with most of my friends far away. And it works. I almost love it. And then it hit me what a tremendous venue Facebook could be for the elderly with the same issues of dispersed family and friends and the added challenges of limited mobility or income to travel.

I recently found a Facebook link to a site dedicated to the Jewish Community Center in the town where I grew up, Canton, Ohio. My stepmom, Bette, was the Aquatics Director at the JCC for 30 years; she holds near goddess status for many, many people. She has lived in our area for the past 25 years and, even at age 83, still teaches swimming at the Carpinteria pool! Anyways, on the JCC site there is an entire discussion tab dedicated to testimonials of Bette and of course, she had no idea this existed because she wasn't familiar with Facebook. So I created an account for her, gave her a quick tutorial, and she was off to the new world's version of a koffee klatch.

My husband, Doug Reed, has had great success with organizing a seniors' class at the City's Senior Center called Programming Your Gadgets. High school students volunteer to help seniors with whatever gadgets (cell phones, cameras, GPS units, Ipods, MP3 players) they bring in for technical assistance. It is clear that the seniors want to communicate with their families and communities but the technology can be quite intimidating. Enter Facebook.

In our particular situation, my parents don't currently own a computer. However, the beauty of a Facebook account is that they can walk to the library in Carpinteria, log on, and there is their world, past and present. They can receive pictures from their grandchildren and chat with friends from past decades. It is done on their own time schedule and it is free. They don't have to calculate what time it is in Sweden, worry about the expense, maintain a computer, and it can be

as brief or as engaged as they wish.

My interest in writing this article for the Breeze was to spur others to consider establishing Facebook accounts for their parents or grandparents. For a non-technological person, the initial set-up can be daunting which is why I took on the task for my parents. But once the account is established, it is a breeze (sorry Sheldon). My folks are thrilled to have more immediate and personal contact with family and friends and having a testimonial page dedicated to you while you are still living is the greatest gift imaginable.

Breeze:

Computers for this purpose are also available at Foster Library in downtown Ventura.



Olivas Adobe welcomes visitors to witness annual return of nesting owls

Just as the famous swallows return to Mission San Juan Capistrano every spring, a pair of Great Horned Owls comes back each year to breed in the great eucalyptus trees at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park. The City of Ventura welcomes visitors to come often to the park, at 4200 Olivas Park Dr. to quietly observe this wonder of nature as well as the owl display in the exhibit hall.

The Adobe docents—who have named the pair Olivia and Papa—first sighted the owls in early February perched in the Courting Tree where Papa still stands guard while Olivia is already in her nest, sitting on the eggs, in a nearby tree. She generally lays two to four eggs and has successfully raised three owlets at a time in the past.

Only the mother owl sits on the eggs during the incubation time of 26 to 35 days and she never leaves the nest. The male feeds her and is likely to bring her

Continued on page 6

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News and Notes



The Ventura Pier is a popular spot for young lovers. Photo by Darren Block

“Pier Into The Future”

by Julie D. McCampbell

In 1993 a dedicated group of community leaders created Pier into the Future, a non-profit organization, to establish a \$1 million endowment fund to preserve and maintain the Ventura Pier for future generations to enjoy.

Jenise Wagar, Executive Director of Committee, one of the founding board members, shared with me some information about the committee. “We have a partnership with City of Ventura and groups of community leaders. The Committee formed after our initial meeting and we became official.”

Since 1872, local residents and travelers to the Pier. It has stood as a symbol of the region’s rich history and natural resources. The Ventura Pier is a favorite attraction for fishing, picnics, sunset strolls and beautiful views of Ventura’s coastline and the Channel Islands.

Jenise continues, “volunteers come from all walks of life, from community leaders to business owners, and those that have a passion about the Pier.” Their committed group is continually seeking volunteers to help Pier into the Future reach its goal through community outreach efforts at events such as the Ventura County Fair, the City of Ventura’s Street Fairs and the ever-popular food and wine tasting event Pier Under the Stars which happens annually in October. For further information please see their website at www.Pierunderthestars.com.

The committee strives to keep the Pier a landmark for future generations to enjoy. “Up keep of the Pier, maintenance, etc. is provided by the Committee who continues to have a partnership with the City of Ventura. We fund the enhancements and continually monitor and maintain the Pier,” Jenise said.

With our economy, I was curious to know how the funding is going. Jenise responded, that costs are minimal, to maintain the committee, and funding through their events have been successful. “2009 was our most successful year thus, raising funds to put towards the Pier’s endowment. We are a very small committee, we don’t have administrative expenses, and money that is raised goes towards the endowment”.

Jenise said she is currently working on a memorial for Pearl Harbor survivors, brought forth to her by a local widow whose husband served at Pearl Harbor. “This

would be located on the Admiral Level in granite. Adopt A Bench is another one of our most popular programs for memorials, for loved ones.”

Existing benches are available to be dedicated in memory of loved ones or to honor a special person. All donors receive a bronze plaque adhered to the bench for a 10 year period.

Another way for you to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or to commemorate a special occasion is an engraving on the granite panels at the entrance to the Pier. This provides a meaningful way to permanently display your appreciation for that special friend or family member.

Engravings at the deckhand level are \$175 and include 25 characters engraved on the granite, a pier plank certificate suitable for framing and a pier pin declaring your support of the Ventura Pier.

Pier Into the Future Board of Directors are all committed to preserve one of our precious landmark’s, our history. A special thanks to them all: Bob Tobias-President, Monty Clark - Past President, Brian Brennan - Vice President - Public Relations, Judy Cunningham - Vice President - Volunteer Development, Doug McAden - Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director- Jenise Wagar, Kathy McAden - Secretary, Bill Danforth, Priscilla Holmes, Don Mills, Mel Sheeler, John Holden, Charnell Smith, and Ronda Holden - Board Members

To request a brochure please call Pier into the Future at 797-7544 or visit their website www.pierintothefuture.org.

Y’s Got Talent, do you?

The Ventura Family YMCA, located at 3760 Telegraph Rd. will be hosting their 3rd annual “Y’s Got Talent” show on March 26 at 6pm. YMCA members as well as members from the community will have an opportunity to show off their talent for a chance to win first place in their category. Entry into the talent show is free and five categories are available for participants to choose from. The overall winner will win a 3-month family membership to the Ventura Family YMCA.

Professional audio, lighting and equipment, such as amplifiers and karaoke tracks will be available this year for all participants thanks to Ventura Family YMCA member Brian Parra owner of the event entertainment service Saturday Night Sound. Community members are welcome to participate as long as at least one participant is a member of the Ventura Family YMCA.

If you would like more information on the talent show contact Amber Stevens at 642-2131 ext. 19 or visit www.ciyymca.org/ventura to fill out an application.

Ed Summers announces candidacy

Having pulled papers with the Ventura County Elections Division, former

Ventura city council member Ed Summers has announced his candidacy for Ventura County Treasurer-Tax Collector. Summers enters the race with a background that includes educational, professional and elected service in finance and banking. A broad base of community and business leaders including former Ventura County supervisor Susan K. Lacey and former Ventura County Supervisor Judy Mikels, and Mayor Bill Fulton have formally endorsed the candidate praising the strength of Summers’ community service in addition to a strong financial background.

Summers spent a career in financial services and community banking after earning a bachelor’s degree in business finance at the University of Southern California and a master’s degree in business administration from Claremont Graduate School. He is a 20-year resident of Ventura, and spent four years as a city council member beginning in 2005.

He said “I did not have future political ambitions in mind when on the city council but when the current county treasurer decided to not seek another term I started thinking about seeking the position in December and decided to go for it in January”

“Ventura County voters can feel confident in my experience, passion, and commitment to serving them as treasurer-tax collector,” says Summers. “I will provide more than good stewardship for Ventura County – the role of treasurer-tax collector is about the voters entrusting me to look out for the taxpayer funds that flow into our County’s cities and schools as well. Being treasurer-tax collector means working together in non-partisan fashion to ensure prosperity for Ventura County in the long term.”

Summers continues: “I’ve spent my life managing finances – in the private sector, in the community as former chair of the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County and Ventura County Economic Development Association, and in public service on the Ventura City Council’s Finance, Audit, and Budget Committee.”

For more information, please contact Ed Summers’ campaign at 644-5122, edsummers4countytreasurer@gmail.com, or 3875A Telegraph Road #107, Ventura 93003.

Breeze: This is a full-time position that pays a salary of \$150,000 per year

Ask the Director

by Jay Panzica

Ventura Chief Financial Officer

Q: How is the city preparing for next year’s budget?

A: It’s budget time again, and the city of Ventura has begun the budgeting process for next year. As in past years, we start the process by reviewing how we are doing this year, and determining how accurate our revenue and expense projections have been. We do this to make proactive adjustments during the course of the year to make sure we live within our means.

To gain a better understanding of where our money comes from and where it goes, a short summary might help. This year’s general fund budgeted revenue is about \$85 million dollars, almost half of which comes from property tax (\$26 million) and sales tax (\$15 million). The next largest sources are utility taxes at \$9 million, vehicle license fees at \$8 million, fees for services at \$7 million and transient hotel taxes of \$4 million. The rest is comprised of a variety of smaller taxes, interest income, leases and more.

Since the government is a service-oriented business, as compared to a manufacturing business that produces a “product,” you can imagine that our largest expense, \$57 million, pays for the people providing those services. This is followed by supplies and contract services at \$23 million, capital expenses at \$3 million and contractual obligations at \$1.5 million.

As I mentioned, we regularly look at the current year revenue in order to adjust spending accordingly. This year, the big unknown has been sales tax, along with dropping real estate values. The decline of these two items, combined with a few smaller ones, has resulted in more than a \$4 million revenue shortfall. Combined with \$2 million worth of employee compensation reductions that are due to expire and some unfunded mandates such as stormwater regulations, we are looking at a shortfall in the neighborhood of \$6 million to \$7 million for next year.

Recognizing that tough choices will need to be made, your City Council will be addressing this issue over the next few weeks and months. They will be making these decisions by utilizing the guidelines of the City of Ventura’s operating principles. A brief summary of these are:

Eliminating, reducing or restructuring lower priority programs and expenses.

Making investments that will lead to increased revenue or reduced expenses.

Making greater use of partnerships and collaborations.

Giving higher priority to programs that produce income, or save expenses versus those that simply consume revenue.

Evaluating the entire employee complement to determine that we have the best available talent to meet our needs.

Emphasize economic prosperity to ensure sustainable funding for necessary city programs and to meet critical needs, including maintaining the high priority City Council has placed on public safety, financial stewardship, and streets and public utilities.

Over the next few months, you will hear much discussion about five options the Council has identified for reducing the budget. They are:

Follow the Budgeting for Outcomes prioritization philosophy for additional reductions in lower-priority programs and services.

Continue to reduce employee compensation.

Reinvent the way we provide services to achieve lower costs.

“Muddle through” with project delays, funding shifts and other short-term measures that are not sustainable over the long run.

Promote additional revenue through economic development or other approaches.

While this is a challenging time for the country, the state and our local government, our leadership is committed to living within its means. For more information on the city’s budget and the choices ahead, visit the city’s Web site at <http://www.cityofventura.net>.

Nesting owls

Continued from page 5

a huge variety of offerings after his nighttime hunt. Owls hunt almost anything available to them, even prey two to three times their own weight.

Docents watching the nest predict the sight of adorable little white fluff balls within the next several weeks. After six or seven weeks, the babies will have grown and will start exploring the nearby tree branches. They won’t fly well for another 10 weeks or so, and even then, they will continue to be fed by their parents for several more weeks.

For more information and driving directions, visit www.olivasadobe.org.

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Community Events

Musicians bring classics from Vienna to Ventura

by Rebecca Wicks

Vienna may seemingly sit in the shadow of bigger European cities like Paris, London and Rome but when it comes to classical music it holds its rightful place near - if not at - the top. This year the Ventura Music Festival will celebrate music from the humble city of Vienna featuring famous composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms and Strauss.

Cheryl Heitmann, executive director for the festival calls the season's lineup "incredible and amazing."

"No one would be disappointed with any concert they chose," insists Heitmann.

Heitmann believes music is a gift to any community calling it something "good for the soul, especially in these stressful times."

The festival begins on April 29 with the annual Tea and Trumpets event where music goers are treated to a traditional English tea while being entertained by Festival Brass. The festival continues through May 8 with a concert by pianist Yeol Eum Son.

Two major highlights will include the Grammy-decorated Herbie Hancock who will perform on Ventura College's athletic field and world-renown violinist Itzhak Perlman.

"Herbie Hancock is simply a legend," said Heitmann. "The concert at the college is one of the most popular we have each year."

Heitmann describes the outdoor concert event as family-friendly where even small children can attend.

Perlman, who will perform at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center, the only concert taking place outside Ventura has stirred excitement in the classical community in Ventura.

"He's hands-down the best violinist alive right now," said Tiffany Cho, an amateur violinist in Ventura.

"He's just who he is - the world's leading violinist," said Heitmann who notes the venue makes the performance even more special. "You'll be able to see and hear him well which is sometimes difficult at his often large concerts."

For one member of the Escher String Quartet it will be a homecoming of sorts. Originally from Thousand Oaks, cellist Andrew Janss is more than excited about the Viennese-themed event.

"When it comes to a Viennese program, your mind goes straight to Schubert," said Janss whose group will also be playing pieces by Beethoven and Mozart on May 7 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Ventura

The group is named for M.C. Escher the mathematically inspired artist famous for works such as graphically interlocking birds and hands.

"Escher believed art is a series of interconnected pieces," said Janss. "It's basically how a string quartet works, separate voices are not interesting, but together the interaction makes it interesting."

The group, which came together at the Manhattan School of Music has been playing together for five years and has toured around the country and the world.

Janss and the Escher Group will likely

draw a large crowd in Ventura with many members and followers of the New West Symphony, the Thousand Oaks-based group Janss started with in attendance.

"The Escher Group has a wonderful career," said Heitmann. "We are more than excited to have them."

Heitmann who has been the executive director of the Ventura Music Festival for four years expresses as much excitement if not more when talking about the group's youth outreach programs.

"These days, there are so many budgets being cut especially arts programs," said Heitmann. "Anything we can do to increase music's presence we see as a win."

The group's programs reach elementary through high school students and include general exposure to instruments all the way through sponsored competitions.

Other groups performing at this year's festival include Grammy-award winning guitarist Sharon Isbin, the Celefax Reed Quintet from the Netherlands and the Rising Stars who will perform with the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic.

Police report cottontail bunny spotted at Ventura Harbor Village

Ventura Harbor Village fills with sights and sounds of family-fun on Saturday, March 27, for the Cottontail Day event from 10am - 3pm at the Ventura Harbor Village main lawn.

Celebrate Spring time with friends and family! The Cottontail Bunny can be spotted hopping around giving children a chance to take a photo or grab a hug. Plus, a hands-on arts & crafts project table offers a chance for children to create keepsake mementos to take home. Visit the free Great American petting zoo to see a llama, donkey, wallaby, ducks, and goats or make a toy for the rabbits at the Camarillo Animal Shelter booth! More family fun activities include face painting, inflatable jumpies, and chalk art on the main stage. For children ages 1 - 7 bring your baskets and join in the \$1 egg hunt held every 30 minutes from 11am - 2 pm.

Enjoy the springtime air and go early for Sunday breakfast or lunch at one of the many harbor-view restaurants or take the family on a Harbor cruise. Stop by the Village Arcade for a fun family game. Need an extra sweet for the baskets. Enjoy unique items and a seaside experience at the Ventura Harbor Village shops along the promenade.

Audubon April field trips

Beginners are welcome on all field trips, and rain cancels any trip. More information and directions available at www.VenturaAudubon.org

Saturday, April 3, 9-noon: Restoration Work Day, Santa Paula. Hedrick Ranch Nature Area restoration program. 8:00 for birding! Leader: Sandy Hedrick (340-0478). Long pants and boots or closed shoes are required.

Wednesday, April 7, 8:30 a.m. Bird & Plant Walk, Arroyo Verde Park. Leaders: Carl and Nancy Schorsch (643-5825).

Orioles will be abundant and hopefully the wildflowers will be blooming and Carl will identify them. Meet at the last parking lot with restrooms on the left.

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. VAS' April program presents Paul Abravaya, zoologist and photographer, on The Birds and Wildlife of Costa Rica. Mr. Abravaya worked in Costa Rica in the Peace Corp and in the ecotourism business.

Saturday, April 24, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Beginners' Bird Walk, Ojai-Persimmon Hill area. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-903). See Hooded & Bullock's Orioles, Western Bluebirds, hummingbirds, and many more. Bring binoculars, a field guide, hat and water.

Wednesday, April 28, 8:30 a.m. Lake Casitas. Leaders: Jan Lewison (643-3353) & Betsy Bachman (646-4407). See Snowy & Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, spring migrants, and many more.

Ventura events

The Ventura County Philatelic Society meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month 7:30 - 9pm at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission and parking are free. Go for a great evening. They are a fun group.

Contact: vcpsforyou@lycos.com

The Conejo Ventura Mac User Group (CVMUG), the world's first MAC User Group, is an educational user group. They meet the first Thursday each month - 7pm at the Ventura Adult Education Center, 5200 Valentine Rd. (the Ron Halt Classroom). Admission and parking are free.

Contact: Susan Herrera 504-3610.

Mended Hearts Of Ventura

Please share if you have had heart surgery or stent implant.

Group meets the first Tuesday each month at Community Memorial Hospital - 7pm - 8th floor. They have excellent speakers - leading cardiologists, nutritionists, dietitians, etc. from our area who give excellent information.

Contact: Dick Hiser 646-4636.

March 27: "Come Travel With Us" at the annual fundraiser hosted by Nancy R. Brandt Auxiliary of Assistance League® of Ventura County. The speaker this year is local author Ken McAlpine who will share stories about the Channel Islands and other locations from his new book *Islands Apart*. The event will include luncheon, "postcard" grab bags, fashion show, and silent and live auctions. It will be held Saturday, from 10a.m. to 2p.m. at historic Pierpont Inn, 550 Sanjon Road. All proceeds from this event will be used to support Assistance League programs.

For reservations or more information concerning the event or the auxiliary, please

contact the Assistance League Chapter House at 643-2458.

March 28: Local and very popular Singer **Britney Christian** is doing a benefit concert to help with the medical bills of Karen Humbles who has been battling cancer for many years. Karen is a former preschool teacher and active community volunteer who has touched the lives of many Venturans.

"One Unity Benefit Concert" for Humbles Family will be on Sunday, at 7 pm at Bible Fellowship in Ventura located 6950 Ralston. Join in for a night of music featuring Britney Christian. Donations of any amount accepted at the door for the Humbles Family".

March 28: The Ventura County Chapter of USA Dance, Inc. will be holding their **March Dance Party** on Sunday at The Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road. The event starts with a dance lesson at 1:30 PM followed by open dancing from 2 to 4:30 PM. Dance music is a variety of Big Band CD's.

Also featured are refreshments, a 50/50 raffle and male dance hosts.

Admission: \$10 General, \$7 USA Dance members \$5 Youth. Info: 646-6271

April 4: A February 8, 1948 broadcast of Sherlock Holmes in The Case of the Sanguinary Spectre and 1923 to 1930 recordings of bass Ezio Pinza will be featured in the Dudley House historic recording series during the Dudley House open house. The house with its newly completed roof will be open from 1pm to 4pm. The Dudley Docents will give tours of the history of the house with its Dudley family furniture and the museum's most recent acquisitions, the c. 1810 John Barr tall case clock, Oscar "Dooley" Dudley's 1905 alto saxophone, and the c.1870 Victorian doll trunk. Admission is free.

The Dudley House is located at the corner of Ashwood and Loma Vista in Ventura. Anyone interested in working on the docent tours of the house, call Steve Cummings at 644-3286.

April 10: The **Soroptimist Ventura club** is holding a yard sale to raise funds for its annual scholarships and grants on Saturday, from 7:30am to 2pm, 32 Dana Point Ave. Clothing, furniture, electronics, household items of good quality. Soroptimist International is a non profit, tax exempt service club founded to serve women and girls. Questions call 701-1251.

The following special events will be taking place in Channel Islands Harbor. For more information on the events listed, the public can call the Channel Islands Harbor Visitors Center at 985-4852.

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Community Events

migration of the Pacific Gray Whale with the 14th Annual "Celebration of the Whales." Whale watching excursions to the Channel Islands National Park are offered daily from Channel Islands Harbor. Island Packers offers half-day trips through mid April. Call 642-1393.

Ojai events

The Ojai Valley Museum hosts its **5th Native Plant Sale** on **Saturday, April 3** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the museum's Back Courtyard. In celebration of the Easter weekend, this sale will include orchids and Easter lilies in addition to the usual inventory of native and drought resistant plants. All plants available for sale are suitable for climate and water conditions of the Ojai Valley and nearby southern California valley communities.

Plants are being provided by Lawrence Nicklin, Plantasia Landscaping; Scott & Betsy Smith, Euterpe Farms; David Mason, The Village Florist. Plant experts will be available during the sale for advice and information.

Proceeds from the Plant Sale benefit the programs of the Ojai Valley Museum. Museum members receive a 10% discount on purchases; a Membership Table is available at the plant sale for new member sign-ups throughout the day.

Event will be held at the Ojai Valley Museum, 130 W. Ojai Avenue. For more information, call 640-1390.

On Saturday afternoon, **March 27**, at 4:30 p.m. at the Ojai Theatre, the Ojai Valley Green Coalition will make a special presentation of the documentary film **The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil**,

The film focuses on the economic crisis that befell Cuba when its chief sponsor, the Soviet Union, collapsed in 1990. Without its oil subsidy, Cuba was forced to virtually reinvent its economy overnight. Instead of importing foodstuffs, the government turned to encouraging the production of local foods.

The Cuban experience offers lessons to help prepare other nations with petroleum-based economies—such as our own—for a future in which oil will become more expensive and could eventually be unavailable.

Speaking prior to the film screening will be two-term Santa Barbara City Councilmember Das Williams. He will speak briefly on issues related to the film.

There is a \$10 suggested donation.

For more information, please contact Deborah Pendrey, Executive Director of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, at 669-8445, or via email at coordinator@ojaivalleygreencoalition.com.

On **March 26, 27, 28** you have a unique opportunity to see a production of Terrence McNally's acclaimed and controversial play, **CORPUS CHRISTI**. This professional touring production will be presented at the Besant Hill School of Happy Valley in Ojai at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be purchased at 108productions.org or by calling 640-1210.

EAT is the theme of this year's **photograph exhibition** at the Ojai Center for the Arts. The seventh annual juried show celebrating food and eating encourages any photographic style including photojournalism, agrarian landscapes, food stills, photomontages, etc. The show opens **June 5** and runs through July 7, 2010.

Last year more than 40 works by nearly as many photographers were displayed at the Art Center. This year we expect that

more artists will compete to have one or more of their works in the show.

Photographers are invited to submit their work on June 3 or June 4. Detailed submission information can be found on the Photography Branch page of the Art Center website (www.ojaiartcenter.org).

Free Introduction to Meditation held in Ojai on **Sunday, March 28** from 1-2:30pm with Diana Lang. These sessions are held each month and provide an opportunity to learn about meditation and to experience inner work in a group setting. Please pre register on line. www.meditation.com

Also Full Moon Community Meditation in ARIES with Diana Lang will be Monday, March 29 @6:30pm. They invite you to participate in this joyous act of celebration and service at the time of the full moon. Meditation Mount, 10340 Reeves Rd, 646-5508 or www.meditation.com.

The first of two April creek-restoration and planting volunteer workdays will begin at 9:30am in Libbey Park in Ojai. Wear sturdy work shoes, long sleeves, and long pants, and bring lunch if desired and plenty of water. Meet at the Libbey Park Gazebo for initial training. Project is sponsored by the Watershed Committee of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition in partnership with the Earth Island Institute, the Wetlands Recovery Project, and the Coastal Conservancy of Southern California. For more information, go to www.ojaivalleygreencoalition.org or call 669-8445.

Eating on the Avenue

There are many Mexican restaurants located on Ventura Avenue. Most of them have counters that you order at

and then you sit down waiting to be called. At a few you sit-down and you have a server wait on you and bring you your food.

They vary from very comfortable to just okay.

176 Johnny's Mexican Food
Order and sit down
Interior seating- one large exterior bench

362 Taqueria Tepatitlan
Order and sit down
Large dining area with small bar

375 Ortiz Taco Time
Coming

397 Mi Tierra Mexican Grill & Bakery
Restaurant and bakery. Order and sit down
Large dining area

819 Super Taqueria
Order and sit down. Just 2 benches
Parking lot

920 Arco Iris
Order and sit down
Parking lot

1117 Cuernavaca Taqueria
Order and sit down
Parking lot

1285 Red Barn Liquor
Basically take out with 2 benches
Parking lot

1580 Lalos
Order and sit down. Exterior seating-some covered
Small parking lot

2271 El Sitio
Order and sit down
Decent parking

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Virginia Mayo stars opposite Jimmy Cagney in the film "White Heat," showing Sunday, 11 A.M., March 28, at the Elks Lodge in downtown Ventura. The film is part of the Ventura Film Society's Festival 2010.

Hollywood star relished local life

by Tim Pompey

She was one of the glamour girls of Hollywood in the '40s and '50s. It was said that the Sultan of Morocco claimed her beauty was proof of the existence of God. She starred in dozens of films, from comedies, to musicals, to dramas. Yet, at heart, she always remained a girl from Missouri, a devoted mother who sacrificed her career to move out of Tinseltown and settle in the backwoods of Thousand Oaks. Her favorite place to take her family was Ventura Beach.

This was film actress Virginia Mayo, whose local connections remain strong. Her daughter, Mary Johnston, still lives at her mother's Thousand Oaks residence. Her grandson, Lucas Johnston, works in downtown Ventura at the Pacific Western Bank. And best of all, you can still catch her on the big screen. Her 1949 classic "White Heat" will be featured at the Ventura Film Society's Festival 2010.

Mayo moved from Encino to Ventura County following her husband Michael O'Shea's testimony in the infamous Friar's Club scandal in the mid '60s. "She was afraid for her family," says her daughter, Mary Johnston, "and the smog was so bad. She just decided to move her family out." Mayo and O'Shea looked around for property, even thought about moving to Ventura. They finally settled in Thousand Oaks, considered, by Hollywood standards, the boonies.

Asked to describe it, Mary recalls, "I remember once, we met someone, a Portuguese guy, who was tending sheep out in the hills. That's how remote it was."

Mayo loved her new home. "She loved to paint, take drives, and travel, and she loved boats," says Mary. "She could get glammed up for some Hollywood event. Then on the way home, she'd say, 'Let's go to Taco Bell.'" Mary continues, "Still, as much as she loved to travel, she didn't want to leave Thousand Oaks."

Lucas remembers that "at home, she was just grandma." For fun, they

Continued on page 12



VENTURA FILM SOCIETY FESTIVAL 2010
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THURSDAY MARCH 25TH

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

5:30-7PM

THEATER 1: 7-9pm
THEATER 2: 7:20-9:20pm

Paul Mazursky Tribute Video



We Have Decided Not to Die
(Daniel Askill, Australia 2003, 11 mins)
Three rituals. Three figures. Three modern day journeys of transcendence, from visionary Australian Director Daniel Askill.



We Live in Public
(Ondi Timoner, USA 2009, 90 mins)
On the 40th anniversary of the Internet, WE LIVE IN PUBLIC tells the story of the effect the web is having on our society as seen through the eyes of "the greatest Internet pioneer you've never heard of", visionary Josh Harris. Award-winning director, Ondi Timoner ("DIG!"), documented his tumultuous life for more than a decade, to create a riveting, cautionary tale of what to expect as the virtual world inevitably takes control of our lives.



Q&A w/ Director Ondi Timoner

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

9:30-11:00PM

MUSIC BY "RUNNIN' LATE"

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11:00AM

12:00PM

1:00PM

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9:00PM

10:00PM

11:00PM

FRIDAY
MARCH 26TH

THEATER 1

11:00AM-12:15PM

TUPPERWARE (Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, USA 2004, 65 mins)

The remarkable story of Earl Silas Tupper, an ambitious but reclusive small-town inventor, and Brownie Wise, the self-taught saleswoman who built him an empire out of bowls that burped.

THEATER 2

11:00AM-12:00PM

ONCE THERE WAS A COUNTRY (Kimberly Green, USA 2007, 53 mins)

"Once There was A Country: Revisiting Haiti" examines the causes of the present health care crisis in Haiti at the beginning of the twenty-first century and provides examples of how innovative, self-sustaining health care programs can alleviate poverty and disease in the most isolated regions of Haiti.

12:25-2:10PM

THE THIRD WAVE presented by Sean Penn (Alison Thompson & Alex Gubernati, USA 2007, 94 mins)

Four independent volunteers race off to volunteer in tsunami ravaged Sri Lanka. They stumble into Peraliya, a tribal village which has been totally destroyed by a 40-foot wave overturning a train and killing over 2500 people. The volunteers push on through the death threats and break every rule in the 'Disaster Aid Books'.

Q&A w/Jesse Giglio

2:20-3:40PM

GOOFYFOOT (Chris Cashman, USA 2009, 17 mins)
A young man deals with the loss of his older brother to a surfing accident.

Q&A w/ filmmaker

3:50-4:40PM

3 SHORT FILMS
UNE VIE MERVEILLEUSE (Sean Broadbent, USA 2009, 8 mins)
D.ON DAROX & LINDA THE FOX (Simara Sousa & Melina Pizano, USA 2009, 13 mins)
BOUNTIFUL BOUNTY (Nathan Cox, USA 2009, 7 mins)

4:50-6:50PM

AN UNMARRIED WOMAN starring Jill Clayburgh (Academy Award nomination - Best Actress), Alan Bates, Michael Murphy. (Paul Mazursky, USA 1978, 124 mins)

The story of Erica, a wealthy New York City wife whose "perfect" life is shattered when her stockbroker husband (Michael Murphy) leaves her for a younger woman.

7:00-8:30PM

NO IMPACT MAN (Laura Gabbert & Justin Schein, USA 2009, 93 mins)

Follow the Manhattan-based Beavan family as they abandon their high consumption lifestyle and try to live a year while making no net environmental impact. This fascinating film examines the effects of living an extremely sustainable lifestyle.

8:40-10:30PM

THE SICILIAN GIRL (La Siciliana Ribelle) (Marco Amenta, Italy/France 2009, 110 mins)

Inspired by a true story. In 1991, Rita Atria, a 17-year-old Sicilian girl goes to see an anti-Mafia judge to denounce the Mafia system responsible for the murder of her father and her brother. From that moment on Rita's days are numbered.

12:10-2:15PM

MOLOKAI - THE STORY OF FATHER DAMIAN starring David Wenham, Peter O'Toole, Derek Jacobi, Sam Neill, Tom Wilkinson. (Paul Cox, Australia/Belgium 1999, 122 mins)

Father Damien, the recently canonized Catholic priest, ministered to the victims of leprosy in Hawaii starting in 1893. Director Paul Cox and screenwriter John Briley ("Gandhi") bring great honor to this story of the Belgian priest who gave his life to ease the suffering of others.

2:25-4:15PM

NEXT STOP, GREENWICH VILLAGE starring Christopher Walken, Shelley Winters, Lou Jacobi (Paul Mazursky, USA 1976, 111 mins)

An aspiring actor moves out of his parents' Brooklyn apartment to seek his fortune in the bohemian life of Greenwich Village in 1953. He struggles to come to terms with his feelings about his mother's overbearing nature, while also trying to maintain his relationship with his girlfriend.

4:25-5:35

COMPAÑERAS (Matthew Buzzell & Elizabeth Massie, USA 2007, 60 mins)

Profiles America's first all-female mariachi band, Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles. Founded in 1994, the 12 members of Reyna shatter age-old stereotypes.

Q&A w/ filmmakers

5:45-7:00

GIRLS ON THE WALL (Heather Ross, USA 2009, 62 mins)

The teenage girls of Warrenville Prison get a shot at redemption in a most unlikely form: a musical based on their lives.

7:10-8:55

BOB & CAROL & TED & ALICE (Paul Mazursky, USA 1969, 105 mins)

After a weekend of emotional honesty at an Esalen-style retreat, L.A. sophisticates Bob and Carol Sanders (Robert Culp and Natalie Wood) return to their life, determined to embrace love and complete openness. Bob and Carol happily reveal their ensuing love affairs to everyone, sparking both the curiosity and repulsion of their conservative friends Ted and Alice Henderson (Elliott Gould and Dyan Cannon).

9:05-10:35

MANDA BALA ("Send a Bullet") (Jason Kohn, USA 2007, 85 mins)

A powerful documentary film about corruption and kidnapping in Brazil. It premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival where it won the Grand Jury Prize for Documentary and the Excellence in Cinematography awards.

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Previews provided by Tim Pompey

Moon Over Parador

Welcome to the beautiful island of Parador, where the winds are warm, the carnivals hot, and the island's dictator, President Alphonse Simms, rules as an amiable moron. Unfortunately, he's also just keeled over dead. Meanwhile, actor Jack Noah, on location to shoot a movie, just so happens to look like Alphonse's twin brother. In fact, Jack does such a great impression, he's corralled by Secret Service Director Roberto Strausmann to take Alphonse's place. Thus begins the spoofiness and goofiness, as Jack plays El Presidente, falls in love with Alphonse's girlfriend, and gets tangled in political chicanery. It's the role of a lifetime, but will Jack make it off the island alive? How exactly did Sammie Davis Jr. end up here? And will I ever be able to sing "O Christmas Tree" again with a straight face? I think not. Features Golden Globe nominated performances by Raul Julia and Sonia Bragg.

Blue Gold: World Water Wars

Question: What's the most valuable resource on earth? Gold? Diamonds? Oil? Nope. Water. That's according to this award winning documentary directed by Sam Bozzo and narrated by Malcolm McDowell. Featuring com-

mentary by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, authors of the book "Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water," this film documents the environmental assault and corporate takeover of our major waterways. Pollution, urbanization, and economics are all leading to giant global fights over water. Contamination in Mexico. Riots in Bolivia. Court battles in Michigan. Dried up lakes in Kenya. This film raises the thought-provoking question: When I turn on the tap, who owns the water? Suez? RWE? Veolia? Walking through grocery store aisles, ever wonder where all that bottled water comes from? This documentary tracks the world's battle over water and shows, with every drop wasted, why the price for using it goes up.

Gadjo dilo (The Crazy Stranger)

Remember Cher's old hit "Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves?" Well, it turns out the Gypsy part is true. They do exist. French-Algerian Director Tony Gatlif uses an actual Gypsy village in Romania to tell the story of young Frenchman Stéphane who is searching for his dead father's favorite singer, Nora Luca. Cold and hungry, he meets and drinks with Izidor and ends up staying in his village. It's culture clash from the start. Stéphane doesn't speak Romanian. Izidor doesn't speak French. In a comedy of hand signal errors, they chatter and shout at each other without the slightest clue as to what it all

means. Add a fiery love interest, Sabina, and you get comedy, love, drama, and lots of intriguing music. Nominated for three César awards, and winner for Best Music, this film is unique in that it's done as a feature but feels like a documentary.

Girls on the Wall

Illinois' Warrenville Prison houses some tough teenage girls. Murder, theft, assault. Not a place you might think of as a creative hotbed. In Heather Ross's directorial debut as a documentary filmmaker, she shows us otherwise. Thanks to a program called the Fabulous Females Theater Program run by Meade Palidofsky, these girls are encouraged to produce a musical about their lives in an effort to help them express sadness, pain and anger. The film focuses on three inmates: Rosa, Christina, and Whitney. Each struggles to tell her own difficult story. On the cusp of adulthood, how will they face the past and move forward to embrace a different life? This film shows the end result of childhood abuse and abandonment. It also deals with the fragile flowering of personal insight and hope. Shocking, sometimes tough to watch, this documentary proves that art can be crucial for finding self acceptance and freedom.

Waiting for Hockney

Billy Pappas is an art school graduate from Baltimore who wants to make a name for himself. And, like many great artists before him, he's looking for his

first big break. Of course, we've seen similar movies - obscure artist gets discovered and becomes world famous. What's unique here is that this documentary observes the possibility of artistic "success" in the making. With Billy's masterpiece in tow, a detailed pencil drawing of Marilyn Monroe, his entourage sets out to pull in David Hockney, one of the premiere artists of our time, as his primary mentor. Talk about bucking the odds! Billy thinks he has what it takes to be great and receives encouragement to pursue his dream. But what makes great art? Is it talent or something much more elusive? This film documents the thin line between obscurity and fame and the fickle nature of what artists themselves perceive as "great."

Herb & Dorothy

Here's the story. A New York City postal worker and a librarian get married and work hard to make ends meet. Guess what they do with their money? Plan for retirement? Nope. In Herb and Dorothy Vogel's case, they collect art . . . and more art . . . and . . . well, you get the picture. Or should I say pictures. Almost 4,700 various works of art crammed into a small apartment. In this documentary, Herb and Dorothy reveal their amazing forty-five year journey as they scour galleries throughout NYC searching for art nouveau. Turns out they have a pretty keen eye. So good, in fact, they could have made a fortune. They didn't. Why not? This story has a happy twist and offers an eighty-seven minute course

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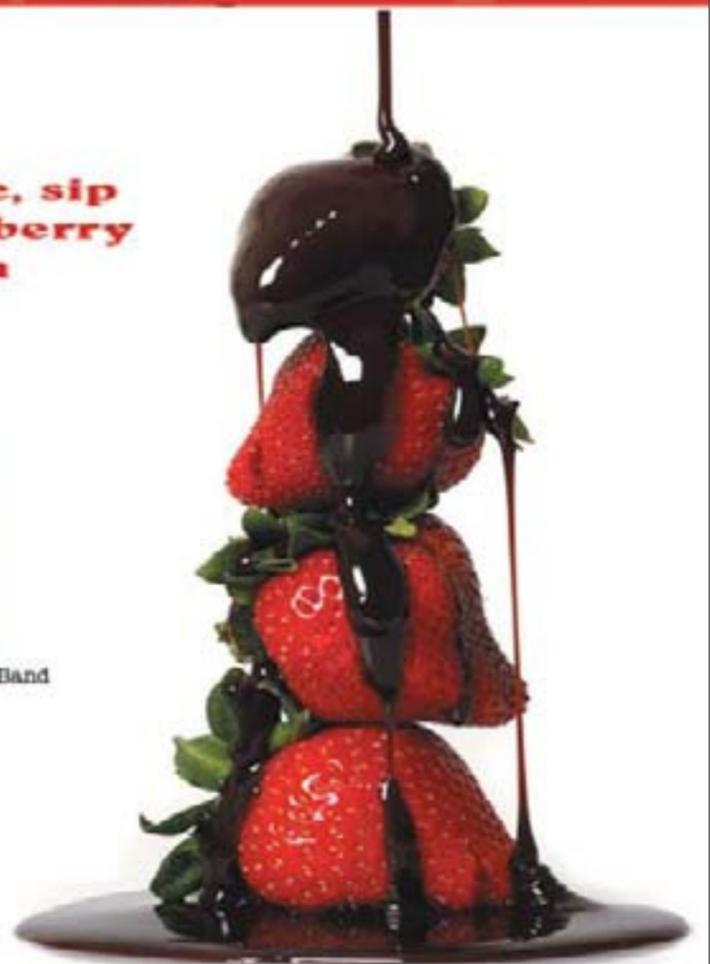
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on art as a passion. If you've ever wondered whether art could inspire regular folks, here's a great example. Meet Herb & Dorothy. Ordinary people. Cute couple. Extraordinary collectors.

The Third Wave

On December 26, 2004, a giant Tsunami hit Sri Lanka, swamping villages, killing thousands, and leaving an entire country destitute. At random, four people from different parts of the world decide to pack their bags, leave their countries, and go help. This documentary, directed by Alison Thompson, one of those four volunteers, chronicles how these individuals - Alison, Donny, Bruce, and Oscar - accidentally meet and travel to the village of Peraliya. With the town destroyed and no sign of outside aid, they band together in a remarkable effort to save lives. Working long hours to clean up, provide medical help, solicit aid, bury bodies, and organize a village shocked by tragedy, the foursome work for six months to restore hope. It's a weary battle against heat, bureaucracy, riots, bickering, jealousy, and even threats on their lives. Watch and admire as these determined volunteers dig in and miraculously snatch victory from chaos.

Paraiso Travel

This film will have you asking - What were they thinking? - as two young lovers, Marlon and Reina, from Medellin, Colombia, decide to immigrate illegally into New York City to pursue their own good fortune. Turns out they didn't read the fine print in the travel

brochures. After a harrowing journey through Guatemala, Mexico, and the U.S., Marlon and Reina are suddenly and tragically separated in New York City. Marlon, lost among millions of strangers, meets a Colombian couple who own a restaurant. They offer him a job and the chance to keep searching for his lost girlfriend. In the meantime, he falls in love . . . again. And now there are two! Good performances all around by Angelica Blandon and Aldemar Correa. John Leguizamo also gives a strong supporting performance as Marlon's kinky roommate, Roger Pena. Includes an interesting mix of Latino music blended with the eerie sounds of Iceland's Sigur Ros.

Short Documentaries

Stone on Stone: This film by director Peter Levin documents the construction of two stone ramparts at Serra Cross Park in Ventura. Designed by Junji and Seminori Awata, a Japanese father/son team, these ramparts are built by "dry walling": each stone hand laid and designed to fit perfectly. With the help of Tomas Lipps from the Stone Builders Foundation, Paul Lindhard from Art City, plus a large group of volunteers, the end result is remarkable.

Freeheld: Director Cynthia Wade films the battle of dying police officer, Lieutenant Laurel Hester, in Ocean County, New Jersey, to have her local County Freeholders (Supervisors) approve an extension of her pension benefits to her domestic partner Stacie. It's a definite nail biter, as we watch Laurel's health rapidly deteriorate and County Supervisors refuse to budge.

Winner of the 2007 Academy Award for Best Short Documentary as well as a 2007 Sundance Special Jury Prize.

The Sicilian Girl

Francis Ford Coppola, take note. Here's a mafioso movie based on a true story that's every bit as gripping as "The Godfather." Italian filmmaker Marco Amenta, whose 1997 documentary "Diary of a Sicilian Girl" covered the same events, returns with a feature film about Rita Atria, a teenage Sicilian girl who decides, in November 1991, to inform on a family of drug lords in her village responsible for the deaths of her father and brother. Rita knows the risks but wants revenge and provides prosecutors with seven years worth of her own diaries chronicling daily mob activities. She also agrees to testify. It's a cat and mouse game between the mob and the Italian police to keep her alive and available as a witness, and Rita - fiery, independent - doesn't make their job any easier. This film will keep you on the edge of your seat and has a surprise ending.

I Am Love

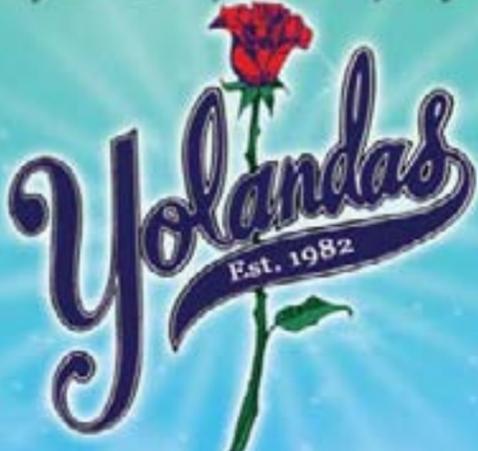
Tilda Swinton returns to the Festival this year as Emma Recchi, a Russian-Italian immigrant married into the wealthy Recchi family. She has everything: beautiful villa, wonderful children, comfortable lifestyle. She's reasonably content until she meets Antonio Biscaglia, a friend of her son Edoardo, who happens to be a very fine chef. When she meets Antonio, some-

thing clicks. Perhaps the shrimp he serves at his restaurant or his rugged good looks. Well, you can guess where this is going. Beautiful woman, younger man, tasty aperitifs, fireworks, tragedy. Director Luca Guadagnino takes us on an erotic journey into the lavish lifestyles of the Italian rich. Done quietly and with great attention to detail, this movie is hypnotic and filled with artistic and natural details. Add to this the wonderful score by classical composer John Adams and you'll definitely want to put this movie (and these locations) on your Italian to do list.

White Heat

In a stellar American classic from director Raoul Walsh, Jimmy Cagney gives one of his best performances as the psychotic Cody Jarrett, professional robber and cold-blooded killer. Jarrett tries to beat the rap on a train robbery he pulls in California by crossing state lines and pleading to a lesser crime in Illinois. The U.S. Treasury Department sets up a mole behind bars to befriend Jarrett and get inside information. Lots of twists and turns in this film as well as one of the greatest criminal performances you might ever see on the big screen. This film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Writing by Virginia Kellogg and features strong supporting performances by Virginia Mayo, Edmund O'Brien, Margaret Wycherly, and John Archer. Hollywood black and white film noir and its nail biting finest. Watch Cagney's face and decide: Is he acting or is he really that crazy?

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SATURDAY MARCH 27TH **SUNDAY MARCH 28TH**

THEATER 1

11:00AM-11:30AM
SURFING DOLPHINS
 (Greg Huglin, USA 2010, 20 mins)
 A Santa Barbara filmmaker crosses the liquid line that separates us from them. It's a stunning labor of love—fourteen years in the making—with visuals that will elicit gasps of wonder and awe.
Q&A w/ filmmaker

11:30AM-1:10PM
BLUE GOLD-WORLD WATER WARS
 (Sam Bozzo, USA 2008, 90 mins)
 Wars of the future will be fought over water as they are over oil today, as the source of human survival enters the global marketplace and political arena. Can the human race survive?
Q&A w/ Director Sam Bozzo & Panel

REPEAT SCREENINGS
1:20-1:35PM
WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO DIE
 (Daniel Askill, Australia 2003, 11 mins)
 Three rituals. Three figures. Three modern day journeys of transcendence, from visionary Australian Director Daniel Askill.

1:40-3:10PM
WE LIVE IN PUBLIC (Ondi Timoner, USA 2009, 90 mins)
 The story of the effect the web is having on our society.

3:20-5:35PM
MOSCOW ON THE HUDSON
 starring Robin Williams, Maria Conchita Alonso. (Paul Mazursky, USA 1984, 115 mins)
 When a Russian circus tours the U.S., a clown wants to defect but doesn't have the nerve. His saxophone playing friend (Robin Williams) comes to his own decision to defect in the middle of Bloomingdale. We follow his life as he works his way through the American dream.

5:40-8:00PM
BLUME IN LOVE starring George Segal, Marsha Mason, Kris Kristofferson, Susan Anspach (Paul Mazursky, USA 1974, 115 mins)
 Lawyer Stephen Blume (George Segal) specializes in divorces. While his own marriage is breaking up, he finds he's still in love with his ex-wife.
Q&A with Paul Mazursky & George Segal

8:10-8:35PM
RIDING HIGH (Tiffany Israel & Emily Ray, USA 2009, 18 mins)
Q&A w/ filmmakers

8:35-8:50PM
DAISY
 (Jack Major, USA 2009, 12 mins)
Q&A w/ filmmaker

8:50-10:10PM
PARIS IS BURNING
 (Jennie Livingston, USA 1990, 78 mins)
 A compelling documentary that reveals the secret world of Harlem Drag Balls where gay, black, and Hispanic men stage elaborate costume competitions in which they embrace and parody society's mainstream ways.
Q&A w/ Jay Smith-Ventura County Rainbow Alliance

THEATER 2

11:00AM-11:30AM
14 DAYS WITH OMAR (George Sandoval, USA 2010, 30 mins)
(Work-In-Progress)
 Omar D'Leon, celebrated Camarillo artist from Nicaragua, discusses his eventful life and artistic career. Commissioned by the Ventura County Museum. **Q&A w/ Omar D'Leon & George Sandoval**

11:40AM-12:40PM
YCM / YOUTH CINE MEDIA
 (USA 2010)
 Santa Barbara-based video action group Youth Cine Media returns to Ventura with a powerful new slate of films from our area's at-risk youth.
Q&A Osiris Castaneda & YCM crew

12:50-2:00PM
FORGOTTEN ELLIS ISLAND
 (Lorie Conway, USA 2008, 60 mins)
 A powerful memory piece about the little-known and highly controversial Ellis Island Hospital where lives were decided before they even began.
Q&A w/ filmmaker

2:10-4:10PM
MOON OVER PARADOR starring Richard Dreyfuss, Raul Julia (Paul Mazursky, USA 1988, 103 mins)
 A little known actor (Richard Dreyfuss) is working on location in the dictatorship of Parador at the time the ruler dies. The dictator's right hand man (Raul Julia) makes Jack an offer he can't refuse - to play the dictator, leading to hilarious and dangerous results.
Q&A w/ Paul Mazursky

4:20-4:50PM
KICK LIKE A GIRL
 (Jenny McKenzie, USA 2008, 25 mins)
 The story of what happens when "The Mighty Cheetahs", an undefeated third grade girls soccer team competes in the boy's division.

4:55-6:55PM
TOUCH THE SOUND
 (Thomas Riedelsheimer, Germany/UK 2004, 99 mins)
 While still a student, Evelyn Glen-nie learned that she was going deaf. Rather than abandon her study of music, in which she had shown such talent, she instead turned her focus toward percussion instruments and developed her ability to feel the sound through her body.
Q & A and drum demo w/ Kim Brower-Pulse Drumming Ventura

7:05-9:10PM
PARAISO TRAVEL (Simon Brand, USA/Colombia 2008, 116 mins)
 The story of Marlon Cruz, a young Colombian man motivated by his girlfriend to leave his comfortable life in Medellin and flee with her through Guatemala and Mexico, to an illegal life in New York City.
Q&A w/ Producer Jonathan Sanger

7:50-9:35PM
CRAZY STRANGER ("Gadjo Dilo")
 (Tony Gatlif, France/Romania 1997, 102 mins)
 A vibrant exploration of Romany culture that is at once seductive, mysterious and enduring. In this bawdy and colorful tale, a young Frenchman in search of a legendary singer is befriended by a Gypsy community in Romania.
Q&A w/ Paul Mazursky & editor Richard Halsey

9:20-11:20PM
I AM LOVE ("Io Sono L'amore")
 (Luca Guadagnino, Italy 2009, 120 mins)
 A tragic love story starring Oscar-winner Tilda Swinton. Set at the turn of the millennium in Milan, the film chronicles the breakup of a wealthy family wracked by the forces of greed, passion and unconditional love.
Q&A w/ Paul Mazursky & editor Richard Halsey

THEATER 1

11:00AM-12:30PM
HERB & DOROTHY
 By Megumi Sasaki, USA 2008, 89 mins)
 He was a postal clerk. She was a librarian. With their modest means, the couple managed to build one of the most important contemporary art collections in history. This film defines what it means to be an art collector.

12:40-12:50PM
THE CLOSET ARTIST (Michael Thanouser, USA 2009, 10 mins)
Q&A w/ filmmaker & Steve Aguilar

12:50-2:20PM
WAITING FOR HOCKNEY
 (Julie Checkoway, USA 2008, 80 mins)
 A Baltimore man spends 10 years on a single portrait, believing it is his means to fame and fortune. He believes the only one man that can lead him there is the famous artist David Hockney.
Q&A w/ filmmakers

2:30-4:45PM
HARRY & TONTO starring Art Carney (Paul Mazursky, USA 1974, 115 mins)
 Art Carney won a Best Actor Oscar for his role as a retired teacher and elderly widower who is forced from his Upper West Side apartment in New York City when his building is condemned. He decides to travel cross-country with his pet cat Tonto.
Q&A w/ Paul Mazursky & editor Richard Halsey

4:55-5:40PM
PAUL MAZURSKY ACTING TRIBUTE
 The Ventura Film Society presents a very special program devoted to Mazursky's long and distinguished career as an actor.
Q&A with Paul Mazursky

5:50-7:40PM
DOWN & OUT IN BEVERLY HILLS
 starring Bette Midler, Richard Dreyfuss, Nick Nolte. (Paul Mazursky, USA 1986, 103 mins)
 Beverly Hills couple Barbara and Dave Whiteman are very rich but not happy, until a homeless man (Nick Nolte) tries to drown himself in their swimming pool.
Q&A w/ Paul Mazursky & editor Richard Halsey

7:50-9:35PM
CRAZY STRANGER ("Gadjo Dilo")
 (Tony Gatlif, France/Romania 1997, 102 mins)
 A vibrant exploration of Romany culture that is at once seductive, mysterious and enduring. In this bawdy and colorful tale, a young Frenchman in search of a legendary singer is befriended by a Gypsy community in Romania.
Q&A w/ Paul Mazursky & editor Richard Halsey

THEATER 2

11:00AM-1:15PM
"STARRING VIRGINIA MAYO"
 (Longtime Ventura County resident)
WHITE HEAT w/ JAMES CAGNEY & VIRGINIA MAYO (Raoul Walsh, USA 1949, 114 mins)
 A psychopathic criminal with a mother complex (James Cagney), makes a daring break from prison and leads his old gang in a chemical plant payroll heist.
Q&A with Virginia Mayo's family

1:25-2:25PM
(Work-In-Progress)
STONE ON STONE (Peter Levin, USA 2010, 22 mins)
A CONVERGENCE OF STONE
 (Phil Taggart, USA 2010, 15 mins)
 Two films chronicling the work of Japanese temple builders creating two stone ramparts in Grant Park.
Q&A w/ filmmakers, Christy Weir & Paul Lindhard

2:35-3:40PM
9503 MARYKNOLL (Phil Taggart, USA 2010, 5 mins)
SAMPSONIA WAY-CITY OF ASYLUM
 (Jose Muniain, USA 2007, 11 mins)
FREEHELD (Cynthia Wade USA 2008 40 mins)
 Oscar-winning short chronicling the struggle of a dying New Jersey policewoman for social justice.

3:50-4:05
DEVOLUTION (Gavin Heffernan, USA, 2010, 13 mins) World Premiere examining mankind's questionable progress.
Q&A w/ filmmaker

4:10-6:10PM
4 MONTHS, 3 WEEKS, 2 DAYS
 (Christian Mungiu, Romania 2007, 113 mins) During the final days of communism in Romania, two college roommates are busy preparing for a night away for Gabita's illegal abortion.

6:20-6:50PM
RIFT (Andrew Huang, USA 2009, 10 mins)
 Returning VFS filmmaker conjures up another visually compelling tale.
Q&A w/ filmmaker

REPEAT SCREENING
7:00-8:15PM
GIRLS ON THE WALL (Heather Ross, USA 2009, 62 mins) The teenage girls of Warrenville Prison get a shot at redemption in a most unlikely form: a musical based on their lives.
Q&A w/ filmmaker

8:25-9:15PM
EMMETT (Dan Chapman, USA 2010, 30 mins)
(Work-In-Progress)
 Portrait of L.A. musician and inventor Emmett Chapman, creator of "The Stick", an innovative electronic instrument.
Q&A w/ filmmaker & Emmett Chapman

OPENING NIGHT PARTY 9:30-11:00PM
MUSIC BY EMMETT CHAPMAN AND FRIENDS

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Hollywood star

Continued from page 9
 would all sit around as a family and watch her movies. Yet, she always kept that Hollywood connection. "She would take us on her cruises," says Lucas. "That was my first glimpse of her celebrity status. We sat once with Barbara Eden and Phyllis Diller."

Mayo had a varied career. She starred in lots of small films, but she also had some opportunities to work with big name stars. She was featured in the blockbuster "The Best Years of Our Lives," which won seven Academy Awards. "She always got a kick out of Bette Davis saying she was robbed of an Oscar in that film," Mary says. And then there was "White Heat." As Mary recalls: "She always told me, those scenes with Cagney were no picnic. He was rough with her. Mom thought he was a very intense man, but a wonderful person to work with."

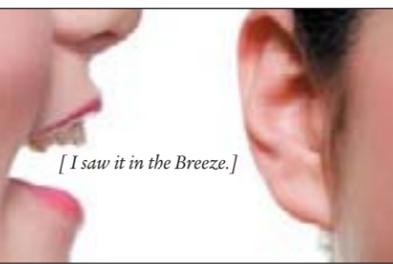
Mary doesn't mind talking about her mother's movie career. "I love having the opportunity to have my mother's career recognized," she says. "I'm very proud of her. She worked hard and always tried to be cheerful." Mary insists that "my Mother was grateful for having the opportunity to do this. Both she and my Father considered themselves very lucky." Lucky for us, her films survive, as well as her family and their strong connections to Ventura County.

"White Heat" will be shown on Sunday, March 28, at 11am at the Elks Lodge in downtown Ventura. The family will be available for a Q&A session.



Anna Dato, Certified Personal Trainer & Restorative Exercise Specialist was a recent guest during the Ventura Breeze portion of the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on local radio station AM-1400KKZZ.

Anna Dato has been providing massage therapy in Ventura for over six years. Her firm, Body Thrive Massage Therapy, is located at 4243 Telegraph Rd. (302-4387).



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Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection



John Hankins and Suz Montgomery are the only couple from Ventura who are performing in Ojai Art Center Theater's "Love Letters". They do it on April 9, 10 and 11. Photo by Morgan Tangent

John Hankins and Suz Montgomery performed "Love Letters"

by Nanci Cone

When A. R. Gurney wrote the Pulitzer prize-winning play "Love Letters," I'm sure he had no idea it would be so successful. The play centers on just two characters, Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III. Using a form sometimes found in novels, they sit side by side at tables and read the notes, letters and cards that have passed between them throughout their separated lives. Over nearly a 50 year period, they discuss their hopes and ambitions, dreams and disappointments, victories and defeats.

First performed in Connecticut in 1988, it opened a year later in New York with a different cast of "name" actors each week such as Kathleen Turner, Christopher Reeve, Richard Kiley, Elizabeth Taylor, Julie Harris, William Hurt, - and the list goes on and on. Since then, it has also been translated into various languages and performed worldwide.

On Friday, March 12, our Suz Montgomery and her real-life groom, John Hankins, offered up their version of the play for residents of The Venturan, an assisted living facility for those recovering from disease, injury, or surgery. Residents, guests and employees were truly moved by the play, especially since it was obvious there was such a strong relationship between Suz and John. Suz is a popular adult education teacher, activist and host of the long-running "Schmooze with Suz" TV show and a regular contributor to The Breeze. John is a journalist who has acted for decades in roles ranging from the smart Sherlock Holmes, the sassy Larry Gelbart and a malevolent judge in "The Crucible."

One of the residents, Al Freeman, noted, "The characters were as complex as the weather, and left the audience wanting to see them in a relationship together. They get close, and then run off, in other directions! John Hankins gave a powerful performance as the uptight, somewhat priggish Andy who was stuck in his own world, until the end; when he realizes what he wanted all along. Suz Montgomery as Melissa was a tortured victim of her surroundings and the

audience ached for her. Both actors were excellent as they brought us to another world of failed hopes and lost dreams. Everyone should see this play and these two actors in their roles of Andy and Melissa."

Visitors Wayne and Verna Montgomery (no relationship to Suz) couldn't stop talking about how much they enjoyed it. As Wayne noted, "I spend a lot of time here. I started coming to Suz's classes and this was truly outstanding!" Verna added, "I loved seeing them - they're a great couple and they seemed to feed off each other during the performance."

Suz and John, directed by Gai Jones, will perform "Love Letters" April 9, 10 and 11 at the Ojai Art Center Theater and, she firmly states, "This is the first and last time I'll ever act. Garbo goes back into the classroom and the shadows on April 11!"

Four real-life couples over four weekends, starting March 19, will each take turns interpreting "Love Letters." The play will be staged Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 4 pm. Enjoy a different interpretation each weekend and pay just once: \$18 general, \$15 students, seniors and Art Center members. For reservations, call at 640-8797 or log on to: www.OjaiACT.org.

Strawberry festival coming to Cypress Place Senior Living

Join Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura for a strawberry festival on Saturday April 3. Celebrate spring there and enjoy live music and fresh strawberries. Build your own strawberry shortcake, sip on strawberry champagne and strawberry Margaritas - and of course, indulge in chocolate covered strawberries. Entertainment will be provided by the Riverboat Dixie band. Residents, families, and friends of the community are welcome to attend.

The event runs from 1pm to 3pm and admission is free. Wear your best strawberry hat. Prizes will be awarded for the best/most creative hats. Come meet the residents and other local community members while enjoying great food and live entertainment.

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane. For more information or to RSVP please call 650-8000.

Investment Group

The "Investment Group" meets at the Senior Recreation Center located at 420 East Santa Clara Street in Ventura on Mondays from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Activities include a review of the week's economic events, viewing investment-related videos, review of relevant articles, discussions about potential investments for seniors, and may include presentations by guest speakers. Membership is free and all are welcome.

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Activities include:
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Floral arranging at Moran Manor is only one of the many activities that enhance the social interaction for all who attend

Moran Manor is truly a community treasure

Conveniently located for over 12 years in the heart of Ventura at 1690 E. Main Moran Manor is a cost effective opportunity that provides a safe and comforting place for those needing supervision and stimulation on a daily basis. The home-like atmosphere and friendly staff create a warm welcome. The local Department of Education helps to provide an Adult Education Program for Frail Elderly at Moran Manor. Together with Moran Manor staff, it provides a daily program to enhance activities and social interaction to all who attend.

Many elderly, who might not otherwise be able to continue living at home or with family can avoid placement in institutional settings much longer by staying at the Manor. The participants are provided nutritious meals and companionship in a secure and caring setting.

Moran Manor Senior Day Center is a family owned and operated business. Proprietors, Don Whelan and Eithne O'Niell both come from families who

cared for the elderly. Their combined experience spans over 40 years caring for frail elderly and providing families with much needed support. They have built their business on traditional principals of providing dignified care to their entire elderly clientele.

The program at Moran Manor offers recreation, education, music therapy, arts and crafts, various exercise programs, bingo, games, cooking classes, massage, floral arranging of flowers donated by Ted Mayr Funeral Home, memory games, reminiscing and lots more. The program is appropriate for active seniors, as well as, those with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. Those needing day time supervision or who may be socially isolated or in need of peer companionship are served. Participants with physical or mental limitation are provided patient and dignified care. The goal of their experienced staff is to enhance all of the members' quality of life in a home-like environment in their leisure years by creating social interaction, creative inspiration and loving care.

An Institute on Aging Study released by Business Wire on March 2, 2010 says that adult day care programs "play a vital role in helping senior participants maintain their health and independence." Also, when comparing a group of seniors, some of whom participated in programs and some who did not they said "After one year, the day center participants reported significantly fewer problems with regular daily activities than those individuals who did not attend a day center. They also perceived an increase in their quality of life, which numerous researchers believe can result in better health, reduced health care utilization, and reduced mortality." They went on to say "We know that day

Continued on page 18

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Sports

Organized sports can be dangerous for children and teenagers

by **Kris McDonald, Captain**
Ventura City Fire Fighters Association
(VCFFA)

Injuries to children and teenagers, during organized sports or recreational activities, occur at the staggering rate of over 3.5 million each year nationwide, with traumatic brain injuries being the most common cause when a sports injury proves debilitating or even fatal. While almost all organized and competitive sports have guidelines regarding minimum safety equipment, the safety equipment used by children during recreational activities is parent regulated. Over 50 percent of head injuries sustained by children occur during bicycle, skateboarding, and skating accidents, most notably collisions of some kind. Simple, but often overlooked, head protection is necessary to prevent these potential tragedies.

Technology has come a long way in providing helmet options that are lightweight, comfortable, and even moderately fashionable while maintaining high strength. Almost every sport or recreational activity these days has its own specialized equipment, including helmets. There are, however, models of helmet available now that can span various sports and disciplines, making it less necessary to have multiple helmets for the multiple sports your children enjoy. Any helmet that you purchase should be of reputable brand, be suitable for use in the sport or activity intended, and meet the minimum safety standards set forth by governing bodies such as Snell, ASTM, or CPSC. Any helmet that conforms to these standards will be labeled as such, and if that labeling does not exist you should not assume that it measures up.

When you purchase a helmet for your child it should be properly fitted, according to the manufacturers recommendations, with the assistance of the retailer. A helmet that is too large, too small, or just plain uncomfortable will not only be less likely to be used when the parent is not looking, but also may not protect your child in the manner it was designed to. Chin straps are what keep helmets in place and if they are not buckled you can almost guarantee that helmet is going to fall off, so ensure that the chin strap mechanism is comfortable enough for your child to keep it fastened at all times.

Helmets should be stored properly, out of direct sunlight and other elements, to prevent weakening of the material. Most helmets have a recommended lifespan that is outlined by the manufacturer, after which time the helmet should be discarded. If a moderate to severe impact is sustained to a helmet it should be inspected immediately for damage and most likely retired from service and discarded. During an impact a helmet can sustain damage internally, without any obvious external signs, compromising its future performance without you knowing. If in doubt, replace the helmet.

Helmets are a very important piece of safety equipment for any recreational activity. As a parent you can help protect your children from head injuries by not only providing them with a helmet, but also by providing a quality example in wearing a helmet yourself and explaining to them the importance of doing so.

Duplicate bridge is calling you

by **Helen Elardo**

For over fifty years there has been an active, thriving bridge club hosting Sectional and Regional Tourneys and providing exciting bridge games every day. With a membership exceeding 200 players it includes its share of nationally ranked players, but is comprised mainly of devotees of the game at all levels.

Bridge, while it is a challenging game, has many rewards for the social player, the novice and those who enjoy climbing the masterpoint ranks. The Ventura Bridge Club welcomes new members and offers beginning classes. On Wednesday mornings at the Senior Center there is an introductory session, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday games at the First Christian Church, Saturdays game is again at the Senior Center and Mondays and Fridays in Ojai. You are welcome to come play with us. The first game is our treat; however, there is a modest fee for regular games.

The Ventura Bridge Club has had a rich tradition through the years. Some of the most celebrated players have attended our annual tournaments. Plans are underway at present for the Ventura Sectional May 14-16 and again this year there will be a Regional Tourney October 25 where players from throughout the country will attend.

Bridge in Ventura provides a nice social atmosphere, coffee and light refreshment, but beyond these amenities, it offers a wonderful exercise for the mind and the promise of pleasant partnerships. For those interested in joining the Ventura Bridge Club, Unit 547 of the American Contract Bridge Club or visiting our games, please call our President, Mike Gaddis 644-4081 or visit our web site www.vcbridge.org.

New Sales and Marketing Director at Ventura golf courses

Nadia Osborn-Chapman recently took over duties as sales and marketing director at Olivas Links and Buenaventura Golf Course. Osborn will be responsible for tournament sales and group events at both municipal courses.

Osborn's professional career includes working in sales and marketing for the past five years within the tri-counties. More recently, she worked as a freelance public relations specialist providing a wide range of services on a contract basis.

"With Nadia's extensive knowledge of the Southern and Central California Valley golf market, as well as her unique educational and personal background, she will be a great asset as Kemper Sports begins its five-year contract with the city," said Matt Kalbak, PGA General Manager for both courses. "We look forward to bringing an exceptional golf experience for years to come."

Osborn earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Public Relations from California State University Northridge. She lives in Ventura with her husband, Michael, and enjoys gardening and walking her Irish wolfhound, Rambo.

School

Student-organized activities at Ventura High School

by **Brooke Demchuk,**
Ventura High student

Home of the Cougars, Ventura High School is a school that holds something for literally every student. A vast variety of clubs and events are offered for those wishing to broaden their horizons and try new things. As the school year starts to wind down, the most exciting events at Ventura High are taking place.

A majority of the events, shows, club meetings, and festivities are solely run by the student body. The student leaders of these activities are wholly responsible for all decisions. They choose everything, from the date and locations that these events will occur, to the refreshments and entertainment that will be provided to please the spectators.

On March 26, the campus will be hosting its annual Ventura High School Cougars talent show. To be able to participate in this exciting program, attending tryouts is necessary. Numerous talented students will be able to show the school and public their astonishing skills. The acts vary in categories from dancing, to singing and acting. Refreshments will be served and all students, family, and friends are welcomed, as long as they have purchased tickets.

Following the school's highly anticipated talent show will be a national event called The Day of Silence. This event is annually run by the popular club GSA, an acronym that stands for Gay Straight Alliance. The Day of Silence is meant to promote gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender acceptance. The first 100 students that sign up to participate will get a free Day of Silence t-shirt, which will be designed and handmade by the GSA club itself.

Once a student signs up for The Day of Silence, they have vowed to be silent for 24 hours in honor of teenagers that have been unsure of their sexual orientation, but were too afraid to come out to their family, friends, and loved ones. Each person participating is not allowed to talk the entire day, with the only exception being talking to teachers. Allies, students who are not silent, but explain to others why the students involved are not talking, are assigned to all participants that would like one. The high school's overall goal is to raise awareness on how serious the issue of anti-LGBT behavior is. GSA holds several other creative events throughout the school year that are also meant to encourage accepting behavior from peers when it comes to sexual orientation.

The Cougar's infamous Food Faire was recently held on March 11. The Food Faire is an event held on the Senior Lawn where clubs sell an eclectic variety of homemade and store bought foods. As this event only happens once a semester, making a decent profit is a big priority for the organizations that partake in the Food Faire. For many clubs, this is not an issue.

Generally speaking, each Food Faire is the only chance for clubs to make money for the school year. What they earn is their budget for everything: events, t-shirts, and snacks for meetings. Every

Food Faire, the lawn is covered with tents and stands. Large mobs of people move from booth to booth, purchasing things all the way from crepes, to cotton candy and horchatas.

"Everyone loves the Food Faire", a fellow Cougar, Kathryn Duckwitz, relates, "There's a food there for everyone, and it's so reasonably priced that it's hard to resist buying something. I really think that this has been the most successful one yet."

Art Scene

Gerald Zwiers art contest at the Buenaventura Gallery

The Gerald Zwiers "One Person Art Contest" will be at the Buenaventura Gallery from Tuesday, April 30 to Saturday, April 24 with an opening reception on Friday, April 2, from 5 - 8 pm. Gallery events also include art giveaways and raffles during Ventura's Spring ArtWalk on Saturday, April 17, 12 - 9pm and Sunday, April 18, 12 - 5pm.

The Buenaventura Art Gallery will be hosting a most unusual show by award-winning artist and author, Gerald Zwiers. The artist will give away over 100 works of art during the four week event, which is planned as a fund-raising benefiting the following local non-profits: Ventura Hillside Conservancy, the Ventura Film Society and Focus on the Masters. The Gerald Zwiers "One Person Art Contest" will showcase the creative range of the human mind, with fun events designed to generate good for our community. There will be lots of prizes and free gifts.

This will be Zwiers first solo show with the Buenaventura Art Association.

The Buenaventura Art Gallery is located at 700 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, CA 93001. Hours are Tues - Friday from noon - 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. Open for Spring ArtWalk April 17, 11 am to 9 pm and April 18, 12 to 5 pm. Please call 648-1235 or visit www.buenaventuragallery.org.

Call for Artists: Earth & Sky Art Exhibit

This year Sea Breeze Art Gallery is celebrating Earth Day with a juried art exhibit. They invite all local visual artists to submit up to 3 pieces of art. Artists are encouraged to use recycled materials in keeping with the Earth Day theme. The artwork must have an earth or sky inspired theme in honor of Earth Day.

Artists may submit up to 3 pieces of art. Two & three dimensional work are accepted with no limit on size or medium. There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$15 per entered piece. Submit your artwork on Friday April 4, 5-8pm and Saturday April 5, 12 - 5 pm. The exhibit opening reception will be held on Saturday April 12, 5-8pm. The exhibit will run April 10 - May 17, 2010.

Sea Breeze Art Gallery is located at 255 S. Laurel Ave., 643-3973

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



“OOH, MAYBE THEY’LL ASK ME TO BE IN THE 2011 HOT FIREFIGHTER’S CALENDAR”

Title to this photo of Scamp is the winner of the “Name this photo contest” that was in a previous issue of the Breeze.

The winner of the \$30 gift certificate, Diane Skiles just can’t decide which one of our wonderful advertisers that she would like to go to. Woman have a hard time making up their minds. Scamp



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Training classes are recommended as I can use more work on my social skills with other dogs and I also need some work on walking on a leash. I hope it’s not long before I get a home where I’m a

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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 discounts.

ScampClub

Scamp:

I’ve been ever so busy since my picture appeared in an issue of the Ventura Breeze. Dogs of every shape, size and color appeared at my doorstep, wanting to see if I was as gorgeous in dog-person as I was in the article. And then it started, first they just wanted to meet, and then when they saw what an awesome, pretty girl I am, they stayed to “chat”. Lining up from the front porch all the way up the Avenue, The Traffic Department came, but they couldn’t do anything about it because the dogs didn’t drive.

Well, my next door neighbor, Alexis, with the help of her big dopey brother Rhino, has figured how to get into my house. They dug a big hole under the fence, and after my mama goes to work, Alexis just comes inside, and does what she pleases. She eats left-over food, sits on my bed, jumps on the couch and watches TV. All the while, Rhino pretends to be a watchdog. Maggie May, Rhino and Alexis

Police Reports

Searching for DUIs

On March 17 officers from the Ventura Police Department, the Oxnard Police Department, the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department, and the Simi Valley Police Department teamed up to conduct a DUI “Saturation” enforcement detail throughout the city of Ventura.

All of the officers involved in the enforcement detail are trained in the detection of alcohol/drug-impaired drivers.

Funding for this enforcement detail is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The saturation effort produced the following:

- 6 drivers were arrested for DUI
- 164 traffic stops were made
- 35 traffic citations were issued
- 7 cites were issued to drivers who were unlicensed
- 3 cites were issued to drivers having a suspended license
- 28 drivers were asked to perform Field Sobriety Tests
- 5 vehicles were impounded

Burglary on Wolverine Street

On March 13, at 3:43pm, Ventura Police patrol officers responded to a residence in the 7000 block of Wolverine Street in reference to a burglary in progress. The victim was sleeping in a second story bedroom when she heard a noise downstairs. The victim investigated the noise and saw the suspect, (a male, age unknown, dark hair with a possible Spanish accent), reaching through a window and grabbing her property off of a counter inside the residence.

The victim yelled at the suspect and immediately locked herself in her bedroom and called 9-1-1. As officers were investiga-

ting this incident, a neighboring residence was found with an open side gate leading to the backyard. As officers went to investigate, they located an open sliding door to the residence. The officers determined that the suspect had entered the second residence as the occupants were sleeping and removed property. They searched the area for the suspect, however he was not located.

Animal cruelty investigated

The Ventura, Oxnard and Santa Paula Police Departments Violent Crimes Unit and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Officers from the Ventura County Humane Society have concluded a month long investigation into animal cruelty violations committed by members of a Ventura based criminal street gang.

Throughout February, Gang Investigators from the Ventura Police Department’s Special Enforcement Team received information regarding animal cruelty charges and possible dog fighting. Evidence from their investigation allowed them to obtain search warrants for four residences in Ventura County.

As a result of the investigation, several suspects were arrested for Animal Cruelty, Street Terrorism, Possession of a Stolen Handgun, Felony possession of a Stolen Handgun and Felony possession of Ammunition.

Although initial information received indicated possible dog fighting might have been occurring, no actual evidence was found during this investigation that substantiated those charges.

Gang fight in Montalvo

On January 27, Ventura Police Gang Unit and several Patrol officers were investigating a report of a gang fight that occurred in the Montalvo area. As part of their investigation,

gang investigators conducted a probation search. Upon arrival, the gang officers heard several shots being fired in close proximity to their location. Investigators left the apartment to locate the shots but their efforts were unsuccessful. No one was injured as a result.

Over the next several days, the Ventura Police Department began receiving a volume of information from anonymous concerned citizens in the Montalvo community the shooting, on-going gang and narcotic related criminal activity.

With this information and other evidence gathered from their investigation, the Ventura Police Departments Special Enforcement Team and Street Crimes Unit obtained search warrants for three separate locations and along with the SWAT Team, served search warrants between February 17 and March 3.

As a result of the investigations, several suspects were arrested for Street Terrorism, Sales of Methamphetamine, Battery, Possession of a Deadlt Weapon, Outstanding Warrants. All three subjects were booked at the Ventura County Jail. All three men are believed to be members of the local street gang that claims that particular area as their turf.

The Ventura Police Department would like to thank all the citizens in the Montalvo area that provided critical information that helped lead to these arrests.

Car crash on Johnson Drive

Multiple agencies responded to a reported overturned vehicle in the parking lot at the intersection of Johnson Dr. and North Bank Dr. Ventura City Fire units arrived to find the 34 year-old male driver trapped in the pickup truck, he had been driving southbound on Johnson Dr. For undetermined



reasons, the vehicle left the road and flipped, striking a parked car and coming to rest on its roof. Firefighters used rescue struts to stabilize the vehicle as they began extricating him from an upside down position, suspended by his seat belt and trapped by a crushed cab area. Firefighter/Paramedics carefully and skillfully utilized several hydraulic heavy rescue tools, including the “Jaws of Life,” to systematically dismantle the vehicle and remove the driver from his precarious position. American Medical Response paramedics continued treatment and transported the driver to a local hospital with moderate injuries.

Burglary on West Ramona Street

On March 20, at 2:14pm, Ventura PD patrol officers responded to a burglary in progress at Doc’s Market located at 354 West Ramona Street. When Officers arrived, a 17 Yr. old male juvenile was found inside the business. The suspect was immediately taken into custody without incident. Officers determined that the suspect had accessed the business through a vent in the roof and once inside was unable to exit due to the business being secured with barred doors from the outside. The suspect was booked at Ventura County Juvenile Hall for burglary.

Health



Tolani Finley, Captain of the Salvation Army Ventura, has become a strong healthcare advocate for her clients based on her own experience coping with a rare disease known as Intracranial Hypertension.

Rare disease inspires Salvation Army Captain

by Tim Pompey

In September 2004, Tolani Finley, a Captain at the Salvation Army Ventura, woke up one morning and noticed something unusual. She had a line in the middle of her eyesight. As she describes it, "like a straw in water." When Tolani went to LensCrafters to get an eye exam, they discovered she had a swollen optic nerve. Eventually, an ophthalmologist diagnosed her with a "pseudotumor cerebri."

A week later, Tolani woke up from a nap and realized, as she reached to turn the alarm clock off, she couldn't see it. She was blind. When she and husband Bill went to the emergency room, no one understood her problem until doctors decided to do a lumbar puncture. When they inserted the needle, her spinal fluid shot out like a broken water main. She was diagnosed with intracranial hypertension, a rare disorder in which the body produces too much cerebrospinal fluid and squeezes the brain too tight.

Eventually, she had to have eye surgery at the Doheny Eye Institute at USC Medical Center. Then, in January 2005, she had a shunt installed in her skull to relieve the pressure. It didn't work. Spring 2005, she had to have it removed. Now, she takes drugs to help with some of the symptoms, but the disease itself is incurable.

For Tolani, the last five years have been difficult. As a working mother and a Captain at the Salvation Army, she has struggled to keep up. "I have persistent headaches. When I need to remember things, I have to write it down. I can't speak as well. Some of the drugs I take tend to trip up my tongue. I'm used to being active. I'd like to do more, but I've had to learn to take it easy. My husband has to remind me sometimes to slow down."

So, how does she manage day to day? The Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation (www.ihrfoundation.org) provides her with up to date information on the disease, as well as an online Facebook page. She connects regularly with other people who suffer from IH, some of them local to Ventura. "It helps," she says, "when I'm having a bad day, these people understand what I'm going through."

The biggest difficulty for Tolani, outside of the disease itself, is explaining it to other people. "If you say to them, I have headaches, people wonder: What's the big deal? They have no idea what I'm going through."

Her affliction, however, has driven her to become a strong healthcare advocate for clients at the Salvation Army. Mothers, children, seniors. Folks who regularly have to choose between food and medicine, clothes and dental care. Tolani makes sure, when they walk through the doors, they receive good healthcare, whether it's senior nutrition, doctor appointments, or dental service. Whatever they need, she makes sure they receive it. More important, she tries to teach them what good healthcare is all about. "I really believe that, because my health is so up to me, I make sure that when they leave here, they learn the importance of health."

For now, Tolani is coping with this disease as best she can. She looks at it from a positive perspective. "I'm incredibly blessed. I could be blind. I could be a lot worse. This is hard, but lots of people have it worse than I do. I don't have time to wallow in self pity. There are thousands that need help. I either have to help them or sit and do nothing."

Tolani is helping. A little slower than she'd like, but she's persistent. And she's gone to great lengths to help her clients understand. Health is not a luxury. It's a necessity. She's had to learn that the hard way. She hopes others will follow her example and strive to be healthy.



Cancer Center breaks ground

Construction has begun on a new comprehensive Cancer Center, which will be located across the street from CMH, on the corner of Loma Vista and Brent Street. The new Cancer Center will house radiation therapy and other cancer-related services such as the Cancer Resource Center, providing a more convenient setting for patients and their families. Construction for this project is slated to be completed by the end of 2010.

Bootcamp: The big weigh in

by Anna Singleton

If you have been following the Adventure Bootcamp episodes in the Breeze here is the latest installment. If not, then please let me update you. My mother in law (MIL) and I, Anna 27, both Venturans, have embarked on a journey to health and fitness for 2010. We signed up with Adventure Bootcamp for Women; four days a week of working out at 6.45 am for an hour in the local park and beach areas. Running, weights and an assortment of new and strange exercises and equipment that includes large rubber bands and heavy balls are used, it has certainly been an education.

So, having completed a whole entire month of Bootcamp, the results are in. Feeling a little like a contestant in the Biggest Loser, MIL and I headed to Bootcamp HQ to be weighed and measured. Now sadly I didn't do too well. In all honesty I had signed a declaration at the beginning of camp stating that I wouldn't drink alcohol or touch junk food with a barge pole and I admit now, I did not stick to it. In fact the knowledge that I was working out so vigorously persuaded me to indulge a little more. At 120 lbs I hadn't much weight to lose - the focus was for me to add lean mass to my frame.

During the month I had puzzlingly somehow swapped some lean mass for fat mass even though the scale weight remained the same. To find out why it was decided that I would complete a food journal to be assessed by Shannon my trainer, and so it was uncovered that it is my diet that is letting me down, big time. Although I did not lose any weight I have a renewed vigor for life, increased strength and posture and I can manage more than a handful of push ups, which is a long way from the one I struggled with on that first day of camp.

However, there is a reigning champion in this story. MIL who had some big goals to achieve in terms of health and fitness literally ran the whole mile. She has shrunk inches all over, lost fat weight, held on to her lean mass and most importantly gained confidence. From the woman who rarely exercised she is now currently off skiing in Mammoth in 27 inches of powder, according to the text I received this morning! That is the power of exercise in just one short month. The proof really is in the pudding. I, Anna Singleton exercise hater extraordinaire, have voluntarily signed up for another month of Bootcamp. This time, I am getting my diet into shape too. I will lose that muffin top, I will. Super svelte bikini body here I come!

Around 68% of Americans are currently obese and 50% adults do not exercise enough in a week to reap any real health benefits, whatsoever. Don't become a negative statistic. I really do encourage you, the people of Ventura to do something. It is March 2010, that's one quarter through the year - have you done anything yet to improve your health? Please I urge you, do this and try something. The longest journey starts with the smallest step and you could take that step today, right now. Please; if we can, you can.

Breeze: We plan to ask Anna for a picture in her bikini after she is happy with her new look, even though the old one ain't bad

Managing repetitive motion injuries with bodywork

by Anna Dato, LMT, CPT-RES

Millions of Americans suffer from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, CTS. If you've been diagnosed with CTS or any other Repetitive Strain Injury, RSI, (e.g. golfer's or tennis elbow), you're probably familiar with the soreness in the forearms, pain in the hands and a feeling of tightness that may spread from hands and wrists all the way to the elbows. You may even be experiencing neck and shoulder discomfort, frequent headaches or weakness in the affected hand. While surgery is one option (and not always a successful one), doctors often recommend bodywork, a less invasive, less expensive way to manage symptoms.

Repetitive strain injury is a wearing out of the tissues involved in a particular motion - tiny tears in the fibers of the soft tissues, tendons and sheaths, that if continually worn prevent the body's natural regeneration process. Nerves that control the hand run from the neck, under the collar bone, through the armpit and elbow all the way to the wrist. Poor posture and tight muscles contribute to the issue by creating excessive pressure at the joint resulting in more friction and heat. Swelling ensues, which pinches the nerves, producing the classic symptoms of tingling, swelling, and even loss of grip strength of CTS.

Deep tissue massage can reorganize connective tissue fibers, break up scar tissue, and reduce or eliminate the cause of inflammation. Bodywork to the entire arm, shoulder, and neck will also free soft tissues where hidden tightness can contribute to the problem. Inflammation can exist throughout the connective tissue framework and even cause headaches. Massage can restore these tissues to normal function.

A study conducted at The Touch Research Institute at the University of Miami School of Medicine, www6.miami.edu/touch-research, found that after just four massage sessions, participants experienced an improvement in grip strength and a decrease in pain, anxiety, and depression. Participants also showed improvement in specific medical tests used to diagnose CTS.

To prevent future repetitive motion injuries such as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome start your home care today with some simple self-massage. Using a small firm ball such as a golf ball or children's "super" ball, roll the ball between the palm of your hand and the "meaty" part of the backside of your forearm (between the elbow and the wrist), known as the extensors. This is the muscle mass responsible for lifting the fingers and hand while the palm is face downward.

For relief from existing Repetitive Strain and Carpal Tunnel symptoms, working with a professional massage therapist whose practice focuses on injury and pain relief can be very helpful.

For more information go to my website, www.BodyThrive.MassageTherapy.com or the Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals website, www.ABMP.com.

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Business



Ambassador Mike keeping our downtown clean and healthy

Ambassadors to help keep cleaner and safer downtown

by Rebecca Wicks

In an attempt to make downtown Ventura a cleaner and friendlier destination for shoppers and diners, the Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO), a nonprofit group funded by tax-accessed fees has hired three "hospitality ambassadors." Their job description includes everything from picking up trash and moving loiterers along to being eyes and ears for local police.

The three, who are employees of Service Group Inc., have met with police to learn about city laws and ordinances as well as how to handle transients. They have also been first aid and CPR-trained.

"I think it's fantastic," said Sally Hernandez who considers herself a frequent downtown shopper. "Just having people like that present has got to help deter some of the less-than-desirable activities that go on downtown."

That is part of the intent according to the DVO. In addition to being armed with graffiti paint remover and maps, the ambassadors will also carry smart phones which merchants can call to report complaints and make direct requests.

Ambassador phones will be connected to Snapshots, an online system that will log and keep track of requests made.

The team of three - dressed in blue polo shirts - will be working the streets of downtown morning, day and night Wednesday through Sunday, with a heavier presence Thursday through Saturday, which are considered the area's peak days.

"I think we need more than three middle-aged guys to fix our problems but, it's a start," said a downtown merchant who asked not to be named. "At least we're seeing something being done with the half a million dollar fund."

The \$443,000 budget he refers to is money that is levied from owners of commercial and residential properties to be spent on downtown only. The tax, which is self-imposed through a majority vote helped form a business improvement district charged with promoting and revitalizing the area.

The new ambassador program is part of the DVO's Clean and Safe Program which makes up more than 34 percent of the group's overall budget. Service Group Inc. is a national company that trains ambassadors for more than 20 U.S. cities.

Social Media

VenturaGoogle.com

by Peter K. Godinez,
Social Media Sales Hero

The internet giant Google is planning to launch an ultra high-speed, fiber optic internet connection to homes and businesses with a few lucky communities. Our wonderful city of Ventura is campaigning to be chosen for this enormous opportunity.

This potential victory is in line with the vision of Ventura being the capitol of e-commerce of the world, where Ventura's diverse people will be able to provide their niche products, services, support, ideas and useful information to the world. If done properly, many Venturan's will make a substantial living with their passions.

The big increase in internet connection combined with the components of social media will only make this vision more possible. The three elements of social media channels will be enhanced by this massive rate of speed (more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today).

The three social media channels are:

Social Platforms - Some examples are Facebook, LinkedIn, Plaxo and other social networks. Wikipedia provides collaboration platforms that drive consensus with people who are attracted to a subject.

Social Content - These are photos, videos, comments and blog post. These are the things that people make and share. It is a great resource to gauge your reputation and reception as it's currently viewed.

Social Interactions - This provides the participants the ability to keep track of what is going on. These are small pieces of information of what you just did or preparing to do. Twitter is an example of this in that you are limited to 140 characters.

All of these will be enhanced to make them faster to send and receive to Ventura's niche customers beyond our city.

If you visit www.venturafiber.com you will see the many Ventura businesses that support this campaign. It also provides you the opportunity to vote for Ventura and an opportunity to place your business logo (free of charge) on this well viewed website.

The Ventura Fiber committee leading this campaign is also impressively using all the elements of social media.

Twitter - <http://twitter.com/venturafiber>

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/googlefiberforventura>

YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/user/venturafiber>

Blogspot - <http://connectventura.blogspot.com/>

Picasa - <http://picasaweb.google.com/venturafiber>

These are excellent examples of the power of social media to start a conversation on an important subject that the people of Ventura will benefit from and provide feedback to.

Peter Godinez can be reached at <http://www.petergodinezsc.com> Peter is sponsored by Canon Business Solutions of Ventura who makes this column possible. <http://www.youtube.com/user/solutionscanon>

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Joe Owen is leaving us to be with his "other" family

by Sheldon Brown

About a year ago I was sitting at an event, minding our booth, when a gentleman came up to me to tell me how much he enjoyed reading the Ventura Breeze.

He went on to tell me that he had just retired from working for Ventura County and wanted to help with the paper in any way that he could (an old intern).

So I told him that would be wonderful and asked him what can you do. He said "well I can't write but there must be something that I could do".

I asked him if he would care to deliver papers (a paper boy) and he said yes anything to help.

He started doing that and I asked him if he would like to try writing the police and fire reports and he said that "I will give it a try". Well he did such a good job that I said how about doing some interviews and he did those so well that he actually realized that he could write and continued doing that and also delivering.

Joe has decided to move to northern Idaho to be closer to "blood".

His captivating personality and intelligence will be sorely missed by all of us and he knows that as soon as it starts snowing there he is always welcome to return to Ventura and to the Breeze.

We wish nothing but the best for him.

Any other retired County employees out there want to volunteer to write the police reports?

Joe's final reporting:

Though my literary accomplishments are legendary, I must humbly give all credit to Publisher/Editor Brown for enabling my star to rise to such astronomical heights. From his ability to spot raw talent to his innate skill in squeezing every available resource from deep within one's soul, Editor Brown must be given his due.

However, I knew my meteoric career from humble cub reporter to Clark Kent status would be short lived on the day I invited my mentor on stage to accept my Pulitzer, not just as a friend, but as co-winner, such was his influence on my journalistic path.

The question is, where or what does one do once having climbed the Mt Everest of literary acclaim? Again, Brown had the answer by encouraging me to expand my horizons and go forth to write the next Great American Novel.

Unfortunately, this has necessitated my moving out of state for research purposes, so I bid a fond farewell to sunny SoCal. In honor of their high rate of unemployment in my new locale and the abundance of one particular resource, my working title for my book will be "1001 Ways to Cook the Idaho Potato" (I sense I will be consuming a few).

Passover

The story of Passover belongs to the time when the Pharaoh of Egypt enslaved Israelites about 3,000 years ago. Haggadah, the Book of Exodus, mentions that Moses who was a simple Jewish shepherd felt deeply for the downtrodden conditions of his brother. God instructed him to go to the Pharaoh and demand the freedom of his people. However, Pharaoh ignored his plea. Moses once again warned Pharaoh of the God's wrath but Pharaoh turned a deaf

ear to him. God then unleashed a series of plagues on the people of Egypt, one by one and after each punishment, Moses again repeated his plea to the Pharaoh.

Finally, God ordered the Hebrew slaves to make a sacrifice of the lamb in the Holy Temple of Jerusalem and mark their doors with the blood of the lamb, as an indication to the God to 'pass over' their houses while slaying the first born males of the Egyptians. Hebrews followed the word of God and thus, their first born males were saved from the plague. This finally calamity was a final blow to the Pharaoh and he ordered Israelites to be set free immediately and allow their passage to freedom.

In their hurry to finally be able to live free lives, Israelites did not even wait to let their dough rise and bake bread but took raw dough instead to bake in the hot desert sun as hard crackers called Matzo's on their journey. With the grace of God, Jews managed to reach the Red Sea, where they were trapped by the vast expanse of water. Moses called upon the God for assistance and suddenly the Red Sea parted to give way to the Israelites and thus, they safely passed over to the other side.

Passover in 2010 will start on Tuesday, the 30th of March and will continue for 7 days until Monday, the 5th of April. In the Jewish calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day, so observing Jews will celebrate Passover on the sunset of Monday, the 29th of March.



Law firm welcomes two new associates

The law firm of Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP, located at 1050 S. Kimball Road is pleased to welcome two new associates, Joanna L. Orr, who will handle business, tax and real estate matters, and John A. Hribar, who will handle complex civil litigation matters.

Founded in 1982, Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP is one of Ventura County's largest law firms, with 25 attorneys handling a range of business, tax, family law, estates and trusts, criminal law employment, personal injury and other legal matters.

Joanna spent more than five years working for a Los Angeles firm where she engaged in a varied practice including taxation, business transactions and general civil litigation. Her pro bono work included advising nonprofit organizations working towards sustainable development in California.

Before joining Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP as an associate attorney, John worked as an attorney in the litigation department of a large Los Angeles law firm.

John has also worked with the judiciary, completing a one-year federal district court clerkship with Judge Dale S. Fischer in Los Angeles. As a clerk, John had the unique opportunity to work with several federal judges, gaining valuable insight into the judicial process and federal civil procedure.

John graduated from UCLA School of Law with Order of the Coif honors and has been a member of the California Bar since 2003. John also belongs to the Ventura County Bar Association.



Walmart

Continued from page 1

"I understand the majority of people who voted essentially said 'yes' to Walmart," said Jennifer Snow, a local resident. "But you have to think, 46 percent of Venturans voted for Measure C, that's a lot of people in the community who don't want a Walmart.

Many argue Ventura needs to stop pushing new business away.

"We need new business in Ventura, period," said Thomas Cline. "We need our city's economy to grow and new business will generate greater sales tax revenue."

Still others disagree.

"Sales tax isn't generated out of thin air," argued Terri Thomas an active advocate against Walmart opening a store in Ventura. "Any 'new' revenue will be taken from existing businesses, including locally-owned businesses."

Many are less concerned with Walmart and more concerned about traffic created on Victoria and the store's possible impact on Trader Joe's, a popular destination in the same shopping center.

"Last weekend the entire parking lot was more than two-thirds full, and that was essentially just for Trader Joe's," said Marcie Grey, a frequent visitor to the center. "Add Walmart and that lot will be an absolute mess."

The parking lot will be changed somewhat according to Walmart's plans, but there are no proposed changes in regards to the traffic in and out of the shopping center because it is considered a reuse project.

The proposed Walmart store will house grocery items, alcohol for off-site consumption, clothing, electronics and a garden center.

Police reports

Continued from page 15

Enforcement Team and Street Crimes Unit obtained search warrants for three separate locations and along with the SWAT Team, served search warrants between February 17 and March 3.

As a result of the investigations, several suspects were arrested for Street Terrorism, Sales of Methamphetamine, Battery, Possession of a Deadly Weapon, Outstanding Warrants. All three subjects were booked at the Ventura County Jail. All three men are believed to be members of the local street gang that claims that particular area as their turf.

The Ventura Police Department would like to thank all the citizens in the Montalvo area that provided critical information that helped lead to these arrests.

Multiple agencies responded to a repor-

ted overturned vehicle in the parking lot at the intersection of Johnson Dr. and North Bank Dr. Ventura City Fire units arrived to find the 34 year-old male driver trapped in the pickup truck, he had been driving southbound on Johnson Dr. For undetermined reasons, the vehicle left the road and flipped, striking a parked car and coming to rest on its roof. Firefighters used rescue struts to stabilize the vehicle as they began extricating him from an upside down position, suspended by his seat belt and trapped by a crushed cab area. Firefighter/Paramedics carefully and skillfully utilized several hydraulic heavy rescue tools, including the "Jaws of Life," to systematically dismantle the vehicle and remove the driver from his precarious position. American Medical Response paramedics continued treatment and transported the driver to a local hospital with moderate injuries.

Moran Manor

Continued from page 13

programs make good fiscal sense for California" You can view the entire article at www.businesswire.com

So if you have a family member, friend or neighbor who would benefit from a day program, contact Don at 643-5000 and he will be happy to assist you in making your decision.

SCAN Health Plan debuts the first Mobile Resource Center built specifically for seniors

SCAN Health Plan, a not-for-profit Medicare Advantage Plan, has unveiled the nation's first mobile resource center built specifically for seniors and caregivers. Years in development, the "SCAN Van" features state-of-the-art technology; senior-friendly custom design components; educational resources; and senior-focused, on-board activities such as brain fitness programs, virtual bowling and more.

SCAN currently offers many of these programs at its two established resource centers in Ventura and Phoenix, Arizona. Similar to those centers, the new SCAN Van is open and available at no charge to all seniors, not just SCAN members.

"We've taken what we have learned at our storefront resource centers plus

many years of working with seniors, and developed a unique, one-a-kind vehicle that takes our mission on the road," said Sherry Stanislav, vice president of operations at SCAN.

Built with older adults in mind, the SCAN Van offers ease-of-access lever handles, a low-slope entrance, low-glare surfaces and low-pile carpeting to minimize risk of falls. Contrasting interior colors between floor and walls improve special orientation and comfort. There is also an exterior presentation area with a 52-inch LCD monitor and audio system, which provides ADA accessible teaching activities outside the vehicle.

The SCAN Van will bring much-needed information and support services to communities throughout California.

Sex offenders checked out

Over the last several weeks, officers from the Ventura Police Department conducted checks on seven sex offenders registered within the City of Ventura. The purpose of the compliance check was to verify address, vehicle, and employment information that sex offenders are required to provide as part of their registration process per section 290 of the California Penal Code.

The investigation resulted in the following:

David Huffman - Arrested for failing to annually update within five business days of birthday.

Philip Shaw - Arrested for failing to notify law enforcement of address change within five business days of moving.

James Clark - Arrested for failing to report change of address and attempting to register as a transient.

Wayne Sweet - Arrested for failing to re-register upon release of jail within five business days of release.

Alejandro Soto - Failure to register as a sex offender. Arrest warrant requested. (Current whereabouts unknown).

Richard Garcia - Failure to report change of address. Arrest warrant requested. (Current whereabouts unknown).

Matthew Krohn - Warned regarding registration status, i.e., transient status vs. residential status.

The VPD conducts compliance checks periodically throughout the year. The City of Ventura currently has 185 registered sex offenders. In the state of California individuals who are found guilty of a registrable sexual offense are required to register within five business days from the date of release. Offenders must register with the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over their addresses or transient locations. Sex Offenders are also required to update their registration information within five working days of a change of address, within five working days of their birthday (annually), and within five working days of a release from custody. Transients must register every thirty days and annually within five working days of their birthday.

To find registered sex offenders within the state of California, and for additional information on sex offender laws, ways to protect yourself and your family, and for a list of FAQ's please go to: www.meganslaw.ca.gov. You may also contact the Department of Justice via the Megan's Law website if you know the whereabouts of a sex offender who maybe out of compliance.

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Goings on at City Hall

In an effort to recognize individuals and groups embodying the spirit of service, Mayor Bill Fulton through the Volunteer Ventura! Program has created a new monthly award as a way to thank and honor those who enhance the quality of life in Ventura through volunteerism.

The 'Community Motivator' Award recognizes individuals for outstanding service and volunteerism. The 'Community Collaborator' Award recognizes groups (businesses, non-profits, faith-based, or service clubs) for their participation in volunteer programs or projects that directly benefit the City of Ventura and its residents.

The first recipient of the Mayor's Community Motivator Award, Margie DeYoung, not only exemplifies the spirit of this award but also has set the bar for outstanding service and dedication to the City and its residents. As a City Hall Ambassador, Margie excelled in her role and no one could pass her without receiving a friendly smile, warm greeting, and an offer of assistance. From the historic desk in the City Hall foyer, Margie has donated more than 1,100 hours and it is estimated that she has interacted with and assisted more than 8,000 residents. On Feb. 2, 2010, after eight years of dedicated service, and a few days shy of her 90th birthday, Margie officially "retired" from her volunteer Ambassador position with the City.

The Mayor presented the first Community Collaborator Award in March to Santa Clarita Christian School. He noted that the school is a great example of an organization outside the city limits that routinely travels to Ventura and spends time not just enjoying the city but also enriching it. From serving lunch to seniors at both the Westside and Eastside Cafés, to cleaning up the Ventura Avenue Adult Center and the Imagination Center at Barranca Vista, to removing trash and debris from Ventura's beaches, the Santa Clarita students have served diverse areas of the population for three years now.

Mayor Fulton invites the public to recognize both individual and/or group volunteers who enhance the quality of life in Ventura and by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others

to make service a central part of their lives. Award criteria and nomination forms can be found on the City's website at www.cityofventura.net and clicking on 'Living in Ventura', then on 'Volunteer Opportunities'.

The third annual Teen Voice High School Leadership Summit will convene at Ventura City Hall's Community Meeting Room on Friday, March 26, from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fifty students selected from five Ventura Unified School District high schools will interact with professionals on workshops that include student motivation, leadership development, team-building, college information and youth employment.

The summit aims to inform students on positive ways to develop leadership skills, self-esteem, confidence in peer pressure, teambuilding, friendships and connections with professionals and community leaders.

The mission of Teen Voice is to build positive relationships between high school students and the community by providing students opportunities for community involvement and betterment of their school, neighborhood and city. The City of Ventura Community Services Department sponsors the program with additional support by the Ventura Unified School District.

For more information, contact Mario Robinson, City of Ventura Youth Programs Supervisor, 654-7807 or mrobinson@cityofventura.net.

Family, friends and the public are invited to witness the third annual 5th Grade Spelling Bee hosted by the City of Ventura PEAK (Program Enrichment for After-school Kids) on Tuesday, March 30, at 6pm in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall.

Thirty fifth-grade students will receive medals for being the top spellers at the city's seven PEAK sites before they compete to become the champion at this annual event. The top three students at this competition will be awarded plaques.

PEAK's mission is to provide a safe and supervised after-school education, enrichment and recreation program for students in the city of Ventura.

For more information, please contact Youth Programs Supervisor Mario Robinson.

Sheldon Brown, architect C5660 and publisher of the Ventura Breeze, can still find time to pursue both of his loves so is looking for small architectural projects in Ventura such as residential remodels and additions and tenant improvement projects.

Free consultation, free building department research and a free copy of the Breeze are provided with each project. Can be reached at 641-3158 or rkeetek@sbcglobal.net.



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