

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Arrest made in Faria Beach murder case

by Tim Pompey

It caused panic in north Ventura County and along the coast of Ventura: the brutal stabbing and murder of Brock and Davina Husted last May in their Faria Beach residence. Now there appears to be a break in the case. "After 10 months of exhaustive work, an arrest was made in one of the most traumatic multiple homicides in Ventura County history," Sheriff Bob Brooks said.

Charges in the case were announced by District Attorney Greg Totten on Tuesday, April 13. A six-count complaint in the triple homicide had been filed against Joshua Graham Packer of Ventura. Packer is being charged for a triple murder in the slayings of Brock and Davina Husted as well as their unborn baby, Grant.

The charges carry with it the use of a knife in the commission of the murders as well as three special circumstance allegations: 1) the suspect committed multiple murders, 2) those murders were committed during a robbery (defined as the intent to take something by force), and 3) the murders were committed during a burglary (defined as the intent to enter a residence and commit a felony).

Because of the special circumstance allegations, Packer's conviction means that he could face either life in prison without the possibility of parole or the death penalty. As of this writing, there has been no announcement from the District Attorney's office about whether or not his office will seek the death penalty.

Packer's attorney asked that his arraignment be delayed until next month. The judge granted the request. Arraignment is scheduled for May 12. The spe-

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Former Ventura High student Joshua Graham Packer has been charged with 3 murders



City Corp has recently come under the leadership of former Deputy Sheriff and City Council candidate Ken Cozzens. Pictured here in front of City Corp's headquarters are Brian Calvert, Zac Mandernacht, Volunteer Coordinator Mallory Taylor, Brian LaBare, Paul Durand, and Center Director Ken Cozzens. For the full story see page 5

Stricter rules target thrift stores

by Rebecca Wicks

Earlier this month the Ventura City Council enacted new measures aimed directly at how thrift stores operate including what their storefront windows will hold as well as ensuring the limitation of items lingering both in front and in back of the stores.

The regulations stemmed from conversations which began when long-time antique dealer Nicholby's closed and locals were informed a Goodwill store would be moving in. Concerns about the size of the alley behind the store and donations building up in the small front and back door areas quickly cropped up pressuring the city to act.

The city council voted 6-1 to enact an emergency ordinance which takes effect immediately and impacts both current and future stores. The measures require new stores to submit an application for a city development director's permit which would then be reviewed at a public hearing.

According to the city the change should save new thrift stores money. Previously the permit required Planning Commission approval, took approximately 90 to 120 days and cost \$5,684. Now, an application will cost \$1,625 and could take as little as 60 days to process.

The only vote against the ordinances was by Councilman Neal Andrews who

called the rules discriminatory toward thrift stores. Andrews felt singling out thrift stores didn't make sense and applying rules such as these to all stores would have been a better move.

A number of council members have insisted the intent of the ordinance is to prevent messes in downtown which is home to eight thrift stores.

New rules which will be specific to thrift stores in Ventura include:

Storefront window displays will be maintained in a professional and attractive manner.

Stores will have a dedicated area inside the building for receiving donations with store property free of trash and debris at all times.

Donations will only be received during business hours. Donations cannot be displayed or stored outside.

Loading and unloading must take place in a designated zone.

Stores must add signage and lighting to discourage illegal dumping and in some cases will need to add video cameras to document illegal dumping.

City officials warn rules will not be proactively enforced due to budget and staffing constraints. Investigations and fines will occur as a result of documented complaints.

According to Goodwill officials the new rules will not stop Goodwill from its planned June opening on Oak and Main Streets.

This new emergency ordinance was put in place because the rules must be approved by the Coastal Commission because of its location. Because it is unknown when the commission will review

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Commander Quinn Fenwick new VPD Assistant Chief

Commander Quinn Fenwick is the new Ventura Police Department's (VPD) Assistant Chief. Commander Fenwick was sworn in on April 1 in a ceremony at the Ventura Police Department and assumed his position on April 3.

In selecting Commander Fenwick Police Chief Corney said, "Quinn has all of the attributes needed for this position, most notably his willingness to give 100% each and every day and the recognition that first and foremost it is our people that make this department great." Added Corney, "This was an extremely difficult decision to reach. Quinn was selected internally from amongst our department's six Commanders, all of which are extremely talented, dedicated, and capable individuals."

Commander Fenwick began his career as a Police Cadet with the VPD in 1981. He was hired as a Police Officer in 1986, and ultimately promoted to his current position of Commander in January 2001. Commander Fenwick currently oversees the Traffic and Special Operations Divisions with responsibilities for the Traffic Unit, School Resource Officer Program, Training, Volunteers, Alcohol Enforcement Officer and Program, and Youth Services programs. Commander Fenwick has also worked as a K9 Officer, Field-Training Officer, Major Crimes



Assistant Chief Quinn Fenwick

Investigator, Supervisor of the department's Special Enforcement Team, and was also a member of the department's SWAT team for four years. Quinn holds a Bachelors Degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara and graduated from Command College in 2009.

Said Commander Fenwick, "I am very excited and grateful to have been selected as Assistant Chief. Chief Corney has placed his trust in me and I know it was a difficult decision for him to make, especially considering the quality of candidates from which he made his decision. VPD really is a part of my family as I have been with this department for my entire law enforcement career. I am honored and look forward to helping further guide VPD on the road to success."



WOVEN WONDERS

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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

The Ventura Breeze is your free local community newspaper published every other Wednesday and circulated throughout Ventura and to many locations in Ojai and the Channel Islands Harbor located in Oxnard.

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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

I would like to congratulate Breeze writer Tim Pompey for being selected to serve on the board of the Turning Point Foundation. Just another way that we are serving the community.

Ventura County must return more than \$850,000 to the City of Thousand Oaks for an error made in payments for library services for underpaid funds for the last 10 years.

Now wouldn't it be nice if the County has short changed us \$850,000, maybe we could keep Wright Library open until 2015 when the lease with Ventura College runs out.

This last weekend was an incredible one to be living in Ventura (someone must be doing something right).

On Saturday the YMCA had an open house. Activities for the kids, a fire truck and so successful that they ran out of turkey burgers.

After attending that I went on a demonstration helicopter ride at the Harbor with Channel Islands Helicopters. They want to start one weekend a month tours of Ventura out of the Harbor. This may turn out to be very controversial with some of the neighbors so we will keep you informed on it's progress.

An exciting vibrant art experience filled the rest of the weekend.

On Saturday was Art Walk throughout the greater downtown area and the

Ventura Charter School's day-long Earth Day Eco Fest at Promenade Park (that's right next to Seaside Park if you didn't know).

And the day ended at 6pm with the official opening of the WAV project with all of Ventura's "dignitaries" in atten-

Ventura County must return more than \$850,000 to the City of Thousand Oaks for an error made in payments... Now wouldn't it be nice if the County has short changed us \$850,000, maybe we could keep Wright Library open...

dance as well as hundreds of folks listening to congratulation speeches, enjoying an evening of wonderful entertainment and visiting the thriving artist's studios. This has quickly become the place to be for art and live entertainment with several shows coming up.

Mailbox

'friend raiser' over the past two years."

Susan L. Gerrard
Director of Marketing Museum of Ventura County
Breeze:

You are very welcome, as you know we are very big supporters of the Ventura art scene.

We will really miss the downtown location; it has been a wonderful addition to downtown. The closing quilt exhibit is outstanding.

Sheldon-Ventura Breeze,

I have lived in Ventura for over 35 years now. I was here to see the downtown make its way out of the dismal semi abandoned 1970s-early 805 era, after the new government center was built.

Back in the day, Ventura was only known for three things. That was lemons, oranges and antique shops. It was the antique shops that saved the empty downtown and kept tourists coming.

Fads come and go. Antiques are no longer the rage and are quickly being replaced by the new standard jewelry, clothing, bars and eating establishments. This is the new pattern for most of the California coast. Unfortunately, the city has gotten it in their head that only this type of business will succeed. At the rate clothing stores are shutting down shows otherwise.

Visitor and locals come downtown to get out of their normal element. Out of their surroundings and experience things of interest, be it food, arts, etc. I believe the downtown is well on its way to becoming a store bought town with little handmade or cultural feel to it at all. The new trash bins are a perfect example of this. The new mini versions of large commercial trash bins and mini versions of commercial billboards do little to add to the charm of downtown. There is nothing worse than a city that tries to com-

bine all the wrong elements and give it a good shake and hope for the best.

We have wasted talent in this town going to pieces trying to make a living and seldom does the city ask for local talent. We have designers, artists, builders, ironworkers, craftsmen, of all sorts trying to stay and make a living in Ventura.

When I first saw the new city trash bins, I thought to myself, has the city lost their mind? I quickly realized that was lost years ago by the way Helen Yunker has been treated and continues to be treated. The city has lost its mind.

Sincerely,
Michael Gonzales

Editor;

A long time ago there was a commercial stretch of Melrose Avenue between La Brea and Fairfax which had fallen upon hard times. Real hard. Dozens of vacant store fronts. Capital B Blighted. So bad, in fact, that the landlords did the unthinkable and cut the rents. Almost overnight little shops and galleries popped up and a couple of years later it was one of the hottest commercial strips in the world.

Ventura has its share of vacant storefronts, and not just downtown. I understand that, for example, Johnny Trueblood's old space is going for \$5,000 per month. If the old rules still apply, you need to net \$50,000 a month to make that kind of rent and, with the exception of Walmart or Target, who makes that these days? It's a great space and it's been sitting empty for most of the last 5 years. I can't help but wonder what would happen if the landlord, and others, would

On Sunday the fun continued with Art Walk, many live performances throughout downtown and the Avenue and a wonderful kid's fashion show at Bell Arts Mattress Factory, located on Ventura Avenue, with their wonderful artist galleries and comedy at the WAV.

Now this has absolutely nothing to do with Ventura but two incidents of false billings have happened to me lately that makes it extremely important that you carefully review all of your bills.

My AT&T bill included 4 calls billed on Behalf of LEGACY LD INTL., INC. They were all for exactly 3 minutes for a total cost of \$42.06.

When I called LEGACY I was told that they were for collect calls that I had made. I explained that I have never made a collect call in my life then I was told "they were for collect calls that I had accepted". When I explained that this phone was on an answering machine and how could the machine except collect calls I was told to hold on for moment and then was told that the charges would be reversed.

This was for \$42.06 but if each of our bills contain a \$1.00 charge for something not legitimate and a million users pay it that amounts to a lot so verify any charges that you don't recognize.

The other incident involved a purchase on one of my credit cards for WORLD-WIDESOFT.COM MOSCOW for \$51.50. When I called credit card services I was told that this was a phony charge and that I should cut up my card and would receive a new one.

consider doing the unthinkable and, rather than let their properties sit empty, take a little less per month. The turnaround could be spectacular.

I also wonder why it was so important to give the Top Hat the heave-ho when there's nothing in the works for the property in the foreseeable future.

Or why breasts on a bronze mermaid are offensive.

Could some of you MBAs out there (and prudes) please enlighten this poor old man?
Alfred J. Lewis
Ventura

Scamp:

Now don't get any big dog ideas about hangin' around with those two adorable dogs in the most recent issue. They're too young - they'd just wear you out.

Mahma wanted to send you an email telling you where she'd like to use her \$30 gift certificate (for winning the Scamp photo title contest).

She thunk and thunk and thunk about it, and she decided she would love to have a gift certificate from Parts Unknown, because it is one of the coolest stores on Main Street.

Ya know Scamp, we never was so interested in art before, but the Ventura Breeze makes the whole thing just a big part of what makes Ventura so wunnerful.

Be good, and remember, you owe me a walk in a dog park.
Love & Sniffs,
The Magster
(the wonderful dog)

It is preoccupation with possessions, more than anything else, that prevents us from living freely and nobly.

—Bertrand Russell



City News

2010 Art Tales creative writing contest winners

The City of Ventura is pleased to announce the winners of the second annual Art Tales creative writing contest. Short stories and poems, which were submitted in both adult and youth categories, were inspired by Municipal Art Collection works currently on exhibit in the E.P. Foster Library.

More than 80 entries from Ventura, Oxnard, Ojai, Santa Paula and Fillmore were judged by a committee of professionals: Elena Brokaw, Director of Community Services for the City of Ventura; Denise Sindelar Interim Cultural Affairs Manager for the City of Ventura; Mary Stewart, Head Librarian for E.P. Foster Library; and Marsha De La O, writer. The first place winners were:

Story – Adult – Donald Sommerfield for “Late Night Coffee”

Poem – Adult – Dominga Zambrano for “American Dreams”

Story – Youth – Sofia Felino for “The Synesthete”

Poem – Youth – Chris Medrano for “Carwash on the Avenue”

All winners will receive a bound edition of the winning entries and first and second place winners will receive a cash prize.

“The City of Ventura was pleased to partner with E.P. Foster Library in hosting this contest, which called for imaginative and inventive writers to examine a work of art and then write a short story or poem reflecting their unique interpretation,” said Denise Sindelar.

Donations for American flag display downtown sought

The City of Ventura, in partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gold Coast Veterans Foundation and American Flags and Cutlery has launched a donation drive to renew the tradition of displaying American flags along Main Street, Thompson Boulevard and Ventura Avenue from Memorial Day through Independence Day.

Councilmember Jim Monahan, who led the 2007 pledge drive to restore the flag display in midtown, downtown and the Westside, says that the program is only possible through the generosity of donors. Monahan noted that he hopes the program – which is intended to honor veterans for their service – can be expanded to include California Street.

People who would like to contribute \$25 toward an American flag may do so by sending a check payable to “Veterans of Foreign Wars” or “Gold Coast Veterans Foundation” at PO Box 24350 Ventura 93002.

All donations are tax deductible and will be recognized with a letter acknowledging the donation amount.

For more information, contact Jim Monahan, City of Ventura Council member, at 643-4275 or Christy Bonifer, Gold Coast Veterans Foundation, at 477-9888.

Three back-to-back Ventura Music Festival performances by Itzhak Perlman, Herbie Hancock and Sharon Isbin provide a rare weekend treat for audiences

What a difference three days can make. For Ventura County music lovers, the last day of April and first two days of May 2010 will become a weekend to remember. Three of music’s true greats will grace local stages as they perform to capacity crowds as a part of the Ventura Music Festival’s 16th season entitled “Romanze.”

On the weekend of April 30, May 1 and 2, three critically acclaimed and hugely popular GRAMMY award winning musicians, Sharon Isbin, Itzhak Perlman and Herbie Hancock, will share their individual musical geniuses in three back-to-back performances with appreciative fans across Ventura County.

On the evening of Friday, April 30, Sharon Isbin, acclaimed classical guitarist, will kick off the weekend when she performs at 8 p.m. at Ventura’s Missionary Church.

Itzhak Perlman, the world’s reigning violin virtuoso, will perform on Saturday, May 1 at 8 p.m. at Oxnard’s Performing Arts Center to what is sure to be a sold-out performance.

Rounding out the weekend will be a concert by Herbie Hancock, “the nation’s first-call jazz ambassador.” On Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m., Hancock, who is often referred to as a “true icon of modern music,” will take to the Ventura College athletic field outdoor stage.

E-Waste Recycling Event on Earth Day

Stop by Ventura Highspeed Internet on Earth Day and get rid of that old computer sitting in your garage. The Internet & Computer Repair company is hosting their annual Electronic Waste Recycling Event starting on Thursday April 22 through Saturday April 24.

Last year Ventura Highspeed gathered nearly 2 tons of broken computers and electronic equipment and this year they are hoping to gather 5 tons which will be properly recycled and kept out of our local landfills.

When not properly recycled, certain materials can be harmful to our environment such as mercury, sulfur, lead, and cadmium, all of which are found in old electronic devices.

Ventura Highspeed is also accepting working equipment, which will be

donated to various local charities and organizations.

In celebration of Earth Day there will be free drinks and snacks, so stop by and check it out, and help the planet by properly disposing of that old hunk of junk taking up space.

For more information call Ventura Highspeed Internet at 643-4375, or stop by at 2110 E Thompson Blvd. For earth Day Ventura Highspeed is offering 50% off all PC and Mac computer repairs.

Faria Beach Murder

Continued from page 1

cial circumstance allegation required that Packer be held in jail without bail.

The case has frustrated law enforcement officials for months, but Ventura County Sheriff’s Department Chief Deputy Gary Pentis told reporters they caught a break when Santa Barbara police arrested Packer in January for his involvement in a gas station robbery last September. Packer was arrested in Santa Barbara and DNA was collected from him, The sample was run through a database and matched to DNA collected at the Husted house.

Pentis said he did not expect more arrests in the Husted case. “My personal opinion is this was not a random act,” he said, but did not elaborate on whether or not Packer knew the Husted.

The crime, committed May 20, left the Faria Beach community in shock. Questions swirled around among residents as to who and why. Brock and Davina Husted, both 42, were repeatedly stabbed by an intruder who was described as wearing a motorcycle helmet. He had slipped into their Faria Beach home through an open sliding-glass door. The 9-year-old son witnessed a man confronting his mother in the kitchen and ran to wake up his 11-year-old sister. The children then went to a neighbor’s home and called 911. Brock, sitting in the master bedroom, heard noise and came out to investigate. Both Brock and Davina were stabbed to death in their living room. The children escaped unhurt.

The fear in the community was compounded by the fact that two weeks after the Husted killings, Wendy Di Rodio, who lived with her parents in the Ventura Keys, was found stabbed to death in her bedroom. Pentis and Ventura police do not believe Packer is a suspect in the Di Rodio homicide, which remains unsolved. However, police do suspect Packer might have been involved in the September robberies of two gas stations, a Dairy Queen, and a liquor store in Ventura.

Described by local residents as “rock star friends,” the Husted were active members of the Faria beach community. Brock owned Couture Concepts in Santa Barbara and designed wrought iron works for such stars as Oprah Winfrey, Susanne Somers, and Mel Gibson. Davina was a devoted mother who was actively involved in local charity work. Their two children attended Pierpont Elementary School.

When John Husted, Brock’s brother, was notified about the arrest, he described his emotion as he woke his mother to tell her: “I was just hoping and praying that in her lifetime she would know that whoever did this was in custody and paying for their crime.”

Perhaps he also spoke for the many residents of Ventura, as well as the police investigating the crime. Perhaps now there is a sense of relief among those most closely connected to the Husted. Thanks to hard work by local law enforcement and the science of modern DNA technology, a suspect in a horrendous crime may finally have his day in court.

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herbie hancock

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News and Notes

Six outstanding foster teens have a new place to call home

Teens currently in placement as foster children and on track to emancipate at the age of 18 often leave the system without a secure residence or birth family to live with. A recent funding opportunity from the County of Ventura will help Aspiranet, one of California's largest nonprofit social services agencies, extend funding for its Transitional Housing Placement Program and provide a stable living environment for six teenage girls between the ages of 16-18.

Youths will be referred to Aspiranet social workers by the County of Ventura. Robin Cruz-Bradley, THPP program manager at Aspiranet in Ventura, said six participants will be selected in part by individual academic responsibility and foster care situations.

Full-time house managers will reside in the home to provide support, counseling and encouragement. The young women will learn self-sufficiency in preparation for independence, including financial literacy, maintaining a home, caring for themselves, obtaining employment, learning to drive an automobile and pursuing individual goals.

One of the unique aspects of Aspiranet's THPP program is that it allows for each teen to receive her bedroom furniture as a gift upon graduating from the residence.

To become a partner in the lives of young teens, or to make a donation to the program, contact Aspiranet Ventura at 289-0120.

FOOD Share declares immediate 30-Day Call to Action

Due to a huge increase in demand for food, FOOD Share is seeking the community's help to restock its shelves with non-perishable items or monetary donations and provide food items to its 150 partner agencies throughout Ventura County. The 30-day call to action started on April 12 and will end on May 12.

The nonprofit currently serves 150 nonprofit partner agencies throughout Ventura County and more than 54,700 friends each month.

Food and/or monetary donations can be dropped off or mailed to: FOOD Share, 4156 Southbank Rd., Oxnard 93036-1002

For corporate donations or to set up a food drive, call 983-7100, or online through FOOD Share's virtual food drive link: www.foodshare.com.

Or at the Ventura Music Festival's Herbie Hancock concert, 2 p.m. May 2 at Ventura College West Athletic Field.

Items will also be collected from doorsteps on May 8 as a part of the National Association of Letter Carrier's annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive.

"The increased need is astounding. Fifty-four thousand and seven hundred

people in Ventura County receive food each month from FOOD Share and our 150 partner agencies. Although we are reaching many hungry citizens, we know there are at least 80,000 more people each month who still need our help," said Bonnie Weigel, FOOD Share president and CEO.

Nicoll celebrates 20 years as an agent

James C. Nicoll, broker and owner, of Nicoll Insurance & Financial Services, based in Ventura County, is celebrating his 20th anniversary as a career agent. He has expanded his practice by aligning with Questar Capital.

Nicoll has lived in Ventura with his family for over 25 years.

Turning Point Foundation welcomes new board members including Breeze writer Tim Pompey

The Turning Point Foundation was established in 1988 and is governed by a board of directors drawn from the Ventura County community. Serving more than 500 clients each year through its shelter, supported housing and rehabilitation programs, Turning Point is the only non-profit agency in Ventura county that addresses the critical community support needs of mentally ill adults.

Turning Point improves our communities by helping those facing mental illness remain or become functioning, integral community members. They are a critical support organization for families dealing with the devastation of mental illness.

The new board members are:

Tim Pompey

Tim Pompey is a writer with The Ventura Breeze. He has lived in Oxnard for 24 years and had careers previously in public and adult education with the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office and UCSB Extension. He is also a musician and published poet. His education includes a B.A. in Sociology, an M.A. in Theology, and an M.Div. in Pastoral Studies. Tim has been married for more than 30 years to his wife Jayne and has one son who is married and also lives in Oxnard. He spends most of his free time writing short stories and novels.

Michele Olsen

Michele Olsen, a native of Buffalo, New York, and has worked for Paychex Inc. as a payroll sales and tax consultant for 5 years, and is also trained and certified by the IRS to present payroll and tax seminars. Previously Michele was a sales manager for May Company. Michelle is a graduate of the Buffalo Urban Arts College, and has a degree from Ventura County Community College in Liberal Arts. Michele and

City Corp under new leadership

by Tim Pompey

Ken Cozzens is a big man with a big smile. And now he has a brand new big job. Managing the youth volunteer group in downtown Ventura known as City Corp. A job for which he himself has volunteered. He has two things in his favor: energy and enthusiasm. Plus all his years of experience in law enforcement planning operations to nab the bad guys. Now he's out to nab some good youth and put them to work around the city.

Ken is a Venturan with deep roots in the community. A Buena High graduate. A retired Ventura County Sheriff's Deputy who spent thirty-two years with the force. A recent candidate for the Ventura City Council. A local business owner. Now City Corp Director. He admits the new job has its challenges. "We're a young organization. I see these last few years as a growth period, trying to work within everybody's expectations."

He openly acknowledges some of City Corp's past struggles, mostly having to do with consistent leadership and funding. "They were trying to do the best they could with what they had. I've come here as the beginning of a new day. We're working hard to turn things around."

Starting with their most basic need. Fundraising. They've gained the local support of organizations like Kiwanis, Aera Energy, and Pacific Oaks Federal Credit Union. Volunteer Coordinator Mallory Taylor is working at this from a grant perspective. She realizes that the Center's organizational and financial health is in their own hands. "Going at this from a grant perspective, we have to show we can do the job and we have to take greater ownership for our own fund raising." For Ken and Mallory, this means one basic thing: running an organization that gets the job done.

This starts first and foremost with the kids themselves. Ranging in age from

12-24, City Corp consists primarily of high school kids looking for community service hours to fulfill class or graduation requirements. When they gather at the center to sit down and discuss assignments, Ken and Mallory provide them with what's known as an "Operations Plan/Project Proposal." It's a simple one page form, filled out, posted, scheduled, and acted on. If a group member has their own idea, they are encouraged to fill out the form and provide leadership for the task. Typical tasks could include things like gathering fresh produce for Food Share, working on a project for a local senior citizen, or filling in as volunteers at the recent Ventura Film Society 2010 Film Festival.

The new approach seems to be working. Walk into the Center and you notice the nice vegetable and flower garden in front. Inside, there's a sense of calm, like a house that's been put in order. Ken is in and out, assisting with fundraising, or running kids to their job sites and making sure that what is scheduled actually gets done. He's a man on a mission and he makes it clear whom that mission should benefit. In his typical straightforward fashion, he reiterates: "City Corp is for the kids."

He believes it's not just the volunteer work that's important. "City Corp provides kids a place of belonging." The same sense of belonging Ken has in a city where he has grown up, worked, and raised a family. Perhaps these young volunteers may someday look back on their own Ventura connections and point to the time they spent picking oranges, planting a garden, helping a senior citizen, or working at a film festival. "The point here is to tie them to the city they live in." Here in this building with the fresh garden and open floor space, he plans to put those budding connections to good use.

her husband Randy of 25 years live in West Ventura. Michele is an active member of Community Presbyterian Church, Downtown Rotary, Ventura Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, and a Board member of the Downtown Ventura Organization.

Marilyn Scott

Marilyn Scott is a retired public manager having served for over thirty years as a Personnel Manager, Finance Director, Budget Director, Redevelopment Director, Assistant City Manager and City Manager for several cities in

California. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Master of Public Administration from Arizona State University and has been certified as an Industrial Engineer. She is currently an Adjunct Professor for the University of La Verne in the College of Business and Public Management. Marilyn has served on a number of non-profit boards in Northern California and Ventura and is currently the President of the Rotary Club of Ventura-South. She is married to Don and has a step-daughter, Kristin.

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News and Notes



Sometimes Lisa and Jackson have "a good run and a good cry" while running to cope with the death of Lance Corporal Nicholas Hale Anderson

One mom, many marathons

by Mira Reverente

Oprah Winfrey and a magazine subscription both had something to do with this woman's foray into running. "I was running a little bit and I had a subscription to Runner's World. In one issue, I read that Oprah ran and finished the Chicago Marathon before her 40th birthday. I thought that if she can do it, so can I," says Lisa Anderson, 47.

Eleven marathons and too-many-to-mention half marathons later, Lisa persists in her running. But her strides now have more purpose than ever.

The healing process

In 2004, Lisa lost her oldest son, Lance Corporal Nicholas Hale Anderson after he was ejected from a humvee in Iraq. He was 19 years old. She wanted to honor him and decided that running marathons was the way to do it. But not just any marathon would do.

Lisa signed up for her first marathon, the 2007 Marine Corps Marathon in Washington DC. To help her achieve her goal, she joined a local running club. Then the proverbial running bug bit her and she started signing up for races one after the other. The LA Marathon, Malibu, Santa Barbara and most recently, Catalina soon followed the Marine Corps Marathon.

Lisa explains, "I don't know what I would have done without running. It keeps me from thinking too much about Nick but at the same time, I do a lot of thinking when I run."

Pounding the pavement at the crack of dawn, Lisa gets her miles in before the rest of Ventura awakens. Most days are good, but some are not so, when her grief overwhelms her. "There are some days

when I've had a good run and a good cry," recalls Lisa.

Bonding time

For the fourth year in a row, Lisa's packed racing schedule includes the Marine Corps Marathon this fall. For the first time, her other son, 15-year-old Jackson will toe the start line with her.

Jackson's marathon training schedule is somewhat similar to his mom's, except for the soccer practices. Mother and son try to get their long runs in along the beach most weekends. "I try to run six days a week. It also helps with my soccer game and vice-versa," says Jackson.

His marathon expectations are modest - to finish and to savor the experience. He elaborates, "I think I may be like my mom. I may get hooked and do more marathons. She has incredible willpower though. And getting up that early to run so she can bring me and my little sister to school takes a lot of determination."

Just another endurance event

Kids and running are not the only things on Lisa's plate. She also works part-time at Island Packers, a tour operator that takes visitors to the Channel Islands National Park.

June Muller, a good friend and team captain of the SKIRTs, Lisa's relay team, will be counting on Lisa's stamina come April 23 and 24. June says, "We have an all-female, six-person team and 200 miles to traverse from Ventura to Dana Point. Lisa and the others will average about 30+ miles each, over two days. But she's always so positive and fun to be around so there won't be a dull moment that weekend for sure."

Memories of Nick will keep Lisa go-

ing during the relay and countless other races she has entered or will enter. She plans to keep running for as long as she can. Life, after all, is just another endurance event. Her voice barely above a whisper and her eyes misty, Lisa says, "I just don't want people to forget."



Anxious students wait for their turn to spell "enrichment"

How do you spell PEAK? Could you use it in a sentence?

About 100 people attended the PEAK spelling bee to see Juan Navarro, age 11 win the top honors at the spelling bee for the second year in a row.

Both he, and his father Oswaldo burst into tears after his victory.

About 30 students from seven after-school programs around Ventura competed at City Hall in the 3rd annual spelling bee for PEAK (Program Enrichment for After-school Kids).

PEAK's youth program offers athletic and academic programs for 480 children on weekdays after school.

PEAK is a joint effort of the city Community Services Department, Ventura Unified School District and Ventura Police Activities League.

Each contestant received a blue ribbon medal and a prize for participating. Judge Raylene Villalpando said she loves pronouncing the words for the competition each year and using the word in a sentence. She said "Sometimes it is difficult to use some of the words in a sentence that the kids will understand but that is my challenge. It is just a wonderful experience to be with these kids who are trying very hard to succeed."

Happenings at the Pierpont Racquet Club

Get Active America :

Get Active America comes to the PRC, May 7 - 9! Pierpont Racquet Club participates in a National Campaign to get Americans to exercise by opening its doors to the public! Come in and take a tour and register during Get Active America Week to be eligible, and to experience their full facilities. (Must be at least 18 years old, have a valid California I.D., and a completed PRC liability waiver to participate).

Tennis Across America:

A national grassroots program in its 21st year, with the goal to get anyone interested in tennis out on the court, playing tennis! Open to the public! Tennis Across America takes place at the PRC on Saturday, May 8 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Adults and advanced juniors can participate in "Cardio Tennis" for a vigorous workout, "Mini - Tennis" for beginners ages 5 - 8, or join the group clinic to hit some groundies and volleys! Registration is required as space is limited so sign up by calling 648-5161.

Relay for Life in support of the American Cancer Society:

The Pierpont Racquet Club has the goal of raising at least \$1,000 for the 2010 Ventura Relay for Life Campaign, May 15 - 16, through team participation and sponsorship! Visit www.relayforlife.org/ventura.ca for event information and the many ways you can participate, make a donation, or purchase a luminaria in honor or memory of a loved one, in person at the PRC, and receive a free one day guest pass to the Pierpont Racquet Club! Join the PRC Team in collaboration with the Ventura Breeze team and help support the American Cancer Society through this local fundraiser, and get some exercise while doing it! May 15-16, 10 a.m. - 10 a.m. (24 hours around the clock) at the Buena High School Stadium. Call for more information at 648-5161 and to become a part of the team.

Livingston's Mother's Day Luncheon

Mothers are the jewels and primary caregivers in our lives and the community. Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association will honor Janice Petit Willis and remember Margaret Martin Daily at a Mother's Day Luncheon, Friday, April 23 at the Las Posas Country Club in Camarillo.

Individual tickets are available for \$125 each. Event proceeds fund Ventura County's only nonprofit provider of comprehensive home health care and medical hospice.

For tickets, sponsorship and other event information, please contact Marc Wilde at 642-0239 x603, mwilde@livingstonvna.org, or visit the agency website: www.livingstonvna.org.

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association provides healthcare in the home for the sick, handicapped, elderly and homebound. Livingston is a community-supported non-profit agency, which provides professional, licensed home health and hospice care.

Kiwanis Health Fair provides answers

In response to an overwhelming demand by Ventura county residents, the Kiwanis Club of Ventura Suburban is sponsoring a health fair, hosted on the lawn at the Ventura Harbor Village from 10am to 3pm on Saturday April 24.

Health care is a hot button issue for thousands of senior citizens and Ventura county residents who want to know more about what's happening with health care.

A wide variety of health care providers and vendors will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on a wide variety of topics.

United Blood Services will also have a mobile donation unit on site - so if it's been a while since you've donated - this will be your opportunity to support our county's blood supply.

Ventura Harbor Village is conveniently located on Spinnaker Drive in the beautiful Ventura Harbor - make it a day of valuable information in very pleasant surroundings.

The children in Community Memorial Hospital's pediatric unit will also benefit as proceeds from the health fair will go to provide a "Fun Center" mobile entertainment unit which is designed to make the children's stay in the hospital more pleasant.

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Community Events

Fabulous gardens in full spring bloom

by John Burke

Help create a botanical garden in Ventura by going on the Spring Garden Tour this Saturday from 10AM till 4PM.

For twenty-five bucks you can visit five beautiful home gardens while making a tangible contribution to the vision of a botanical garden in Grant Park. Tickets are tax deductible. More importantly, this tour would make a great impression on a first date. Think about it guys, you get the same credit you would for going to the opera and you can even ride in a golf cart.

The last garden on the tour is also the site of a sunset wine reception at a Mediterranean style estate overlooking Grant Park and the Channel Islands. Take your own car and start where it best suits you.

According to Jonell McLain, a garden volunteer, "you can park at the Community Presbyterian Church on Poli and take a shuttle to the houses on Encinal and Kalorama. You can park on Summit and a golf cart will take you up to the house on Kalorama."

Tour five gardens. Visit a working ranch where an open artist's studio is surrounded by lush English style gardens. And all is hidden in a citrus grove. Jonell says, "The Japanese garden is on North Brent in the Cunnane Tract...Strathmore is in the Ventura Mutual Tract. Sweet midtown totally redone... young, hip and urban. Encinal is off Poli by the Community Presbyterian Church...wonderful classic Spanish home and garden. And Kalorama... the grand finale... is a fantastic home overlooking Grant Park."

Close the day at the fabulous estate for the Sunset Wine Reception Garden from 4 - 7 pm. Bringing the day to a beautiful close with a toast to the end of a perfect day. Tempt yourself with unique gifts from the boutique and fabulous offerings from the silent auction. Indulge in the exciting possibility of winning a 40" flat screen TV in their raffle.

Wine Reception tickets also available during tour.

For tickets go to www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=201172. Or pick-up tickets at any tour stop: 354 North Brent, 3201 Strathmore, 11971 Darling Rd, 530 North Kalorama and 86 Encinal Place. Tickets are also available at these locations in Ventura: Palermo, 321 E. Main St. 643-3070, Pure Life & Home, 576 E. Main St. 641-2500

The following rules were established for the sake of the very generous show homeowners. Please respect them:

No children under the age of 12.

Please wear flat shoes.

No smoking permitted on any property.

Gardens close promptly at 4 pm (last entry at 3:45 pm).

Please allow 3 - 4 hours to complete the tour.

Events at the Fillmore & Western Railway

MAY 1,8,15,22,29 "Saturday Scenic Excursions Train Rides" - Take this daytime train ride between Fillmore & Santa Paula. Have lunch in the diner or sit in the fresh air observation car. Depart Fillmore at 12 pm, return at approximately 3:30 pm (rain or shine). Adults \$24, Seniors \$22,

Youth 4-12, \$14, Child 2-3 \$10. Cab Rides are also available, \$50 one way, ride the other way in regular coach cars.

MAY 2, 16, 23, 30 "Sunday Wine & Honey Express" - Take this daytime train ride on Sundays through the beautiful Heritage Valley century old citrus and avocado orchards. The train will depart downtown Fillmore's Central Park at 12 noon and return at approximately 4pm. With the purchase of a meal in the 1928 Powhatan Parlor Car or the San Cayetano Diner, passengers will receive complimentary wine tasting and a complimentary dessert. Adults: \$24 Seniors: \$22 Youth 4-12: \$14 Child 2-3: \$10 (Meals are an additional charge)

MAY 1, 2, 8, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 "Cab Rides" On any Weekend Scenic train ride departing at 12pm, Cab Rides are available during each direction of the ride. Ride in the cab of the locomotive with the train engineer. Adults 18 years or older or children 6 years or older accompanied by a paying adult. Cab rides: \$50 each direction

MAY 1 "Bugle Boy Murders of Company C" - Murder Mystery Dinner Theater - It is 1942 and "Big Band" leader Johnny Fontaine is en route to his next USO show. Get out your old uniforms or period costumes and participate in the fun. Adults over 18 years only \$89 per person.

MAY 7 "Shake, Rattle & Rail" - 50's Revue Night Family Dinner Train. A zoot suited DJ plays the tunes of the 50's and 60's in the onboard dance car. Diner food is served before you stroll downtown Santa Paula's popular classic car show. Adults \$47, 4-12 \$32, Child 2-3 \$24, Under 2 free on lap, ride only, no dinner included

MAY 8 "Margarita Madness" - Viva la Margarita! Enjoy an authentic Mexican dinner and Margarita in our vintage dining cars. Party and dance to a live band on our open-air dance car. Enjoy the madness on a 3-hour train ride as it travels through the pristine avocado and citrus groves of beautiful Heritage Valley in east Ventura County. Adults over 21 only \$53 includes tax.

MAY 9 -- "Throw MAMA On The Train" - Mother's Day Lunch Train - Give MAMA the day off and treat her like a queen with lunch, a train trip and a rose. No fuss, no mess to clean up. Let Mama enjoy the day on a vintage train ride through the peaceful and serene Heritage Valley orchards. Two train departure times during the day, 11am or 3pm. Two and a half hour train ride. Adults: \$47 Youth 4-12 years old: \$26 Children 2-3 years old: \$23

Call Fillmore & Western Railway at 524-2546 or (800) 773-8724 or go to www.fwry.com for reservations and further information.

Local boaters donate 1st prize to Food Share

by Don S. Lehman

Boaters in Channel Islands Harbor have found a way to spread the cheer of the holiday season throughout the year. The end of each year is traditionally celebrated with the annual Parade of Lights in December, with the winners of the Dock Decorating Contest receiving a catered dock party. The most recent dock decorating contest winners had a plan to help those less fortunate and spread their prize throughout the county.

Channel Islands Harbor Marina's H-dock was voted best decorated dock during the 2009 Parade of Lights. Judging took place the day before the Parade of Lights on December 12. Extravagant lights covered every boat, with last minute decorations being

What the Google-China crisis looks like from within the great China firewall

by Sophia Kidd

Venturan in China

Even with high-speed wireless, I can't get to Google's official blog from where I sit, here on the second floor of a monster Starbucks in the central Chinese city of Chengdu in Sichuan province. Nor can I get on Facebook, Youtube, nor to my Wordpress or Blogspot blogs. I can stomach all of this. But if Google leaves China entirely and I can't get on gmail, use its search engine, or find my way around town using its maps, I will be lost.

In January of this year, just after the Google-China conflict kicked up, I conducted, or attempted to conduct, three interviews with random Chinese citizens regarding the Google situation. One woman refused comment, her face visibly twitching at the sight of my digital voice recorder, despite the promise of anonymity. Two other interview subjects almost refused to be recorded until I convinced them of its part in a journalist's writing process.

A second interviewee was indifferent about Google leaving China, stating, "Frankly, I'm a Baidu user." He felt that Google's layout is unattractive to Chinese users and search results are either too general or irrelevant. I then asked him whether he thought the lack of Google as a rival would lead to stagnation in the Chinese internet industry, as some Chinese articles have recently suggested. He laughed and replied, "If one leaves, there will always be others to take their place."

A third interview subject was a Google user. He felt that Google wouldn't follow through with its threat to leave China. "Do you know why they threatened to leave in the first place?" I asked. His answer avoided mention of alleged cyber attacks on Google, "Well, it's hard to say why they want to

leave. I think it's because they're under a lot of stress."

"But have you heard about the attack?" I pushed. Yes, he conceded. He had heard about it.

"But Baidu has been attacked, too!" He insisted, without giving specifics, that Baidu had been hacked once, making users unable to open the search engine's homepage over the space of a few hours.

I changed the subject, asking whether he thought lack of Google would lead to Baidu's stagnation. He thought most definitely it would, and that Yahoo or other search engines were laughable in comparison to Google technology. My last question was on the issue of internet censorship. Did he agree with it?

"Well, it's the same in the United States," he answered, "In China, the internet is controlled by the government. In the U.S.A., search results are censored by market forces. It's all the same, really. The result is the same."

I'll have to think about that one for awhile. Meanwhile I sit in Starbucks sipping my free-trade coffee blend (no cream available) and await the results of the Google-China situation. Just last week, Google.cn became Google.hk (hk for Hong Kong), as Google.cn vacated its Beijing headquarters and relocated in the former English colony. As Hong Kong is still officially in China, it's a kind of half in/half out situation. Some say that the company's relocation to the former British colony "saves face", penalizing Google for its stubborn independence while at the same time allowing it to operate under a set of relatively free jurisdiction while preserving its place in the Chinese internet market. In the meantime, I consider getting a new email provider, just in case Chinese authorities firewall Google once and for all.

added and festivities in full swing under the threatening forecast of rain. The first place prize of a catered dinner for the winning dock was highly sought after by many of the docks in the harbor. Once the judges' decision was made and the prize won, the victorious H-dock mariners all agreed to share their good fortune by donating the award to a local charity during this time of economic downturn. The Channel Islands Harbor Foundation, which generously donated the prize, supported the decision completely and agreed to turn the 1st place prize of a catered dinner into a cash gift of \$750. Food Share, Ventura County was selected as the worthy recipient of the donation.

On Monday, March 29, 2010, Bob Snycers of the Channel Islands Harbor Foundation presented a check for \$750 to Bonnie Weigel, President/CEO of Food Share, Ventura County. A large number of H-dock members attended the ceremony, showing their support of the donation. This donation will help support all of Food Share's programs in their effort to supply 55,000 meals per month to the needy of Ventura County. Members of H-dock are already looking forward to the 2010 Parade of Lights in hopes of winning best decorated dock again and further supporting a worthy local charity with the donation of their prize.

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Community Events

Locals residents announce online guide to Ventura

Fun-in-Ventura.com is a comprehensive online guide that features fun things to do in Ventura and supports local businesses, artists and the historical preservation of the city and surrounding areas. Diverse as Ventura itself, the site covers such topics as agritourism in Ventura, Channel Islands sea-cave kayaking, family fun and nightlife and hosts a local event calendar as well. Other noteworthy sections include an extensive Ventura history timeline and an "In the Spotlight" page with in-depth interviews highlighting people and businesses positively impacting the community.

Long time Ventura residents, Michael Mendelson and Angela Rosales, have made a habit of exploring Ventura like tourists in their own town. To put all their "research" to use, they created Fun-in-Ventura.com to become a user-friendly resource to fellow Venturans and out-of-town visitors. The site also contains submissions from site visitors who contribute their own shared stories, photos and ideas. Like many Ventura residents, this husband and wife team is passionate about the city in which they work and live. They aim to promote the places and people that make Ventura special. Angela writes the website's content and Michael focuses on layout and design.

Fun-in-Ventura.com has just concluded a Spring Photo Contest with the winner announced in this edition of the Breeze as well as on Fun-in-Ventura.com and its Facebook page. The current "In the Spotlight" section features accomplished Ventura artist, Sarah Kalvin. May's spotlight will feature Ventura Breeze founder and publisher, Sheldon Brown. Fun-in-Ventura will be participating in upcoming community events and will announce its next contest in May. Michael and Angela can be contacted through Fun-in-Ventura.com or at 223-5447.

Boys & Girls Club to hold Garden Party

The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura will hold its 17th Annual Garden Party, May 2, 2-5pm at the historic Pierpont Inn in Ventura. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door.

This signature event features food

and wine tasting from many of the area's finest restaurants, caterers and wineries. A silent auction is also included in the afternoon's events. Karl Keller's 'Sax in the City' will perform in the garden with Frieda Ramey from Beach City Sound Club, Martha "B" and Colene Rizzo making cameo appearances on vocals. Boys & Girls Club Board President, Leon Rousso will also make a guest appearance with vocals and saxophone.

The Garden Party chairperson is Pam Drake with the following committee members: Ellyn Dembowski; Lynda Girtsman; Nancy Gregg Keller; Diane Koranda, CEO; Joy Marin; Rosemary Pace; Melody Thurman; Leilani Schlick; Bonaventure Wakam; and Catherine Wastweet.

All proceeds from the Garden Party benefit the on-going work of providing a safe, positive place for the community's youth at the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura. The Club has five centers in the communities of Ventura, Oak View and Saticoy serving over 6500 youth (ages 6-18) and families in the community. Their year-round, age-appropriate, diversified programs are offered in five areas: Character & Leadership Development; Education & Career Development; Health & Life Skills; The Arts; Sports, Fitness & Recreation.

For additional event information call Joy Marin at 641-5585 or check the website at www.bgclubventura.org. Tickets are also available on-line.

President and co-founder of Jewish World Watch to speak

On Sunday, April 25, at 9:30am, Temple Beth Torah is presenting Janice Kamenir-Reznik, who will be speaking during a bagel and lox brunch. Janice is the President and co-founder of Jewish World Watch, and will share her moving stories from a recent trip to the troubled Congo. Jewish World Watch works to mobilize communities to combat genocide and other violations of human rights around the world.

The community is invited to attend the brunch and program. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Temple Beth Torah is located at 7620 Foothill Road in Ventura. For more information, please call 647-4181.

Little Shop Of Horrors devours the TO Civic Arts Plaza

A tuneful, funny musical score meets a giant man-eating plant when Cabrillo Music Theatre's production of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS plays at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. One of the longest running Off-Broadway shows of all time, with a hit movie and a Broadway revival to its credit, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS takes root on Friday, April 23. Locally produced exclusively for Southern California audiences, performances take place at the 1,800-seat Kavli Theatre at located at 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd. in Thousand Oaks.

In this affectionate spoof of 1950s sci-fi movies, a down-and out skid row floral assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Soon "Audrey II" grows into an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore who offers him fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite, finally revealing itself to be an alien creature poised for global domination!

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS plays through May 2, and is directed by Cabrillo Music Theatre's Artistic Director, Lewis Wilkenfeld. John Charron will choreograph, while Matthew Smedal musical directs and leads the Cabrillo Music Theatre Orchestra. LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS is finger-snapping fun, but, with a touch of adult language and some "people vs. vegetation" violence, it may not be suitable for the very youngest family members.

For further information and tickets call 449-2787.

Ventura events

The Ventura County Public Health Tobacco Education, Prevention, Policy, Cessation program is having **free Stop Smoking Classes** in Ventura starting **April 26** and ending on June 14 (8 sessions), from 5:30-6:30pm. The last day to register is **May 3**. **Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy Products** (patches, gum, or lozenges) will be provided. They also reimburse up to \$125.00 on pharmaceutical products. This Program is offered to anyone who lives or works in Ventura County and is 18 and over.

The classes will be held at the Ventura Public Health Building at 3147 Loma Vista Rd.

Call George Arce at 652-3377 or Kathy Cook at 652-3231 for further information.

April 22: Project Blue, jazz - fusion - bop - band will be playing an exclusive performance at My Florist Café on Thursday, April 22 and Friday, April 23 from 9-12 p.m.

My Florist is located at 76 S. Oak Street. For further information and reservations call 653-0003.

Community Memorial Hospital Gift Shop

April 21 & 22 book sale 8th floor auditorium 8am-4pm

May 6 & 7 \$6.00 sale

Lobby and Huntsinger Patio 6th 7am-6pm, 7th 7am-4pm

May 27 & 28 orchid sale 8th floor auditorium 9am-4pm

June 9 & 10 "appreciation event" discount tickets for hotels, cruises, golf courses, spas and much more. Basement by cafeteria 9am-4pm

April 29: Chocolate tastings are part of the delicious fun during "**Chocolate Travels with Maya**," on Thursday evening, at 6:30 pm, at the Museum of Ventura County.

Aficionados can indulge their passion for one of the world's most delectable tastes, as Maya Schoop-Rutten, owner of Chocolate Maya in Santa Barbara, talks about savoring chocolate and how to appreciate its distinctive personalities. She will also illustrate her travels in search of the world's best chocolate. The event includes chocolate tastings from Chocolate Maya, a signature chocolate drink, samples of "mole drumettes" created by Austin's at the Pierpont Inn chef Oscar Ledesma, and samples of the "pisookie" dessert from BJ's Restaurant in Oxnard. Music will be by Arturo Pérez.

The event is \$20 for the general public and \$15 for museum members. To make reservations, please call 653-0323 x10. This event is a fundraiser by and for the Museum's Latina support

Thrift shop rules

Continued from page 1

the requested changes the emergency ordinance fills the void.

When it was announced last December that Goodwill was coming to downtown the Council put in place a 45-day interim emergency ordinance creating a moratorium on new thrift stores in downtown. Then in January, the Council adopted an urgency measure by a four-fifths vote that extended for four months the moratorium on new thrift stores while specific language was drafted for the most current emergency ordinance.

Community Events

group, Las Contemporáneas.

The Museum of Ventura County is at 89 California. For information, please go to <http://www.venturamuseum.org> or call 653-0323.

May 2: A flea market and collectibles faire and a **1932-35 recordings of Joe Venuti** will be featured in the Dudley House historic recording and old time radio series during the Dudley House open house. The house will be open 1pm to 4pm with the flea market and collectibles faire beginning at 9am. The faire will have antiques, collectibles, jewelry, floral decorations, dolls, crafts, and many other items on the grounds of the house. 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 c. 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.

May 5: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN) is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, golf, dining, wine outings, reading, biking, etc.

Their next monthly meeting on will be at 9:30am The Greek Restaurant located at 1583 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura Harbor No charge for meeting. Coffee or Tea is available at a nominal charge of \$1.00.

The guest speaker will be Doug Haines, terrorism specialist.

For additional information, call 644-9668 or 644-5086 or www.beachcitiesnn.zoomshare.com

Ojai events

Conservation biologist Brian Holly will speak about **Ojai's Libbey Park Riparian Habitat Restoration** project on **April 28**, at 7 p.m., Chaparral Auditorium, 414. E. Ojai Ave. Learn more about the Ojai Valley's watershed. Your \$2 suggested donation will be used to purchase mulch for protection of the new seedlings along the creek. For more information, go to www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org or call 669-8445.

Go to the Ojai Center for the Arts and share a medieval experience with the **Ojai Madrigal** performing traditional Renaissance and medieval music -- a cappella madrigals, folk songs, chants and carols, almost all of it written prior to 1650.

This is a rare chance to hear the group perform on a stage in the storied theatre. Be in the audience and hear each soaring voice as they blend and intertwine in delicate harmonies, sometimes haunting, sometimes playful, in rich unison and complex counterpoint.

The troupe will perform at 7:30 p.m. with tickets on sale at the door, \$12 for Adults and \$10 for seniors, students, and art center members.

The **Ojai Storytelling Festival, April 29-May 2** will be celebrating its 11th year with a stellar lineup of acclaimed storytellers from around the world. While storytelling is an ancient art form, the Ojai Storytell-

ing Festival presents the oral tradition in a contemporary way. Festival organizer Brian Bemel says, "Listeners will definitely hear traditional tales, but many of this year's tellers will offer a very modern take with stories firmly rooted in today's culture."

In addition to the performances, the festival offers special programming for children that includes a special Saturday morning experience that presents puppetry and hands-on art experiences.

Tickets and information about the festival are available by phoning 646-8907 or online at www.storyfest.org

The Ojai Storytelling Festival encourages adults to invite a little wildness into their lives and attend "Naughty Tales" on Saturday, May 1 @ 9:45 pm at the Ojai Center for the Arts. Seating is reserved and organizers urge people to purchase their tickets early. Tickets are \$40 and can be ordered online at www.ojaistoryfest.org or by phone at 646-8907.

Matilija Junior High School will present The Quebe Sisters Band in a fundraiser concert for the MJHS Music Department. The concert will take place on Friday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Matilija Auditorium, which is located at 703 El Paseo, in Ojai.

The Quebe Sisters Band was recently named Group of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists and was a recipient of the Crescendo Award, which is presented by the Western Music Association. The concert also features The Iron Mountain Boys.

Regular tickets \$20 each. Premium seats \$35 each.

Tickets are available online at www.quebesistersband.com and through the Matilija JHS office.

The Transportation Committee of the **Ojai Valley Green Coalition**, inactive since its original Chair, Kenley Neufeld, had to step down to handle other commitments, is now having a renaissance. According to new Chair Suza Francina, starting on **April 7** at 4pm. the group will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Papa Lennon's Pizzeria, 515 West El Roblar in Meiners Oaks.

The mission of the Transportation Committee is to promote transportation options that result in reducing air pollution, traffic congestion, and reliance on petroleum as a primary fuel source.

Suza Francina, the committee's new chair, is a longtime bicycle/pedestrian advocate who served as Mayor of Ojai in 2000 and also served on the Ventura County Transportation Commission. If you would like to join the committee contact Suza Francina at Sfrancina@aol.com or 646-2613.

The time is now to think art. If you are a fine artist or appreciate the arts make your plans now to take part in the traditional opening weekend of summer with the **33rd annual "Art in the Park."** The open-air juried art show is presented by the Ojai Center for the Arts drawing artists from all over California. For an artist's application or further information about Art In The Park, call 646-0117 or go online at www.ojaiartcenter.org.

Ojai ACT is accepting submissions for plays to be produced as part of the 2011 season.

The community theater will produce

five full-run plays that include a musical, comedies and dramas, a holiday show plus a sixth shorter-run family show.

Only previously produced and published plays will be considered and you need not have a director or producer in mind, but it is helpful if you do. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, May 4. Anyone can submit a script by mailing it to Ojai ACT, P.O. Box 331, Ojai, CA 93024, or by dropping off a copy at the Ojai Art Center office at 113 S. Montgomery Street.

The **Ojai Valley Museum** will host a Gala Opening Reception on **May 8** from 5 to 7 p.m. It will be catered with a no-host wine bar; entertainment will be provided. Tickets are \$30.00 and are available by reservation only by calling the OVM at 640-1390 or by e-mail at: ojaimuseum@sbcglobal.net

On Sunday, **April 25** the Ojai Film Society continues its Spring Series with the screening of the Academy Award nominated film *The White Ribbon*.

The White Ribbon has received numerous best film awards including the Golden Palm at Cannes, the Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Film of 2010. It has also garnered an equal number of cinematography nominations and awards for its stunning black-and-white photography. *The White Ribbon* is a haunting film that will linger long in your mind.

On Sunday, **May 2** the Ojai Film Society continues its **Spring Series** with the screening of the film *The Wedding Song*.

Director Karin Albou's *La Petite Jerusalem* (2005) follow-up feature explores the relationship between two young Semitic women in Tunisia during World War II with the looming Nazi occupation of North Africa.

Tickets: \$9 for general admission; \$6 for seniors (65 yrs. and older) and students (with full-time student ID); free for Ojai Film Society 2010 Subscribers.

The **Ventura County Pastel Artists** will be presenting their 17th Annual Spring show, "The Sky's the Limit", on Saturday, **May 1**, 4-7pm, and Sunday, May 2, 11am to 3pm. Sixteen members will be exhibiting their original pastel paintings at the Bert Collins West Hills Gallery, 1545 Cuyama, Ojai, on the corner of Cuyama and Highway 33. Attend and meet the artists and enjoy the show. For further information, contact sydkopeikin@aol.com.

Channel Island Harbor events

Fairy tales come alive at channel islands harbor.

Gypsies in a Trunk to perform "The Frog Prince," May 2.

Channel Islands Harbor presents Gypsies in a Trunk, the all-volunteer troupe of actors who perform free fairy tales for the young and the young at heart. They will be performing "The Frog Prince" at 2 p.m., May 2 at the north end of Harbor View Park, located adjacent to Marine Emporium Landing and the Farmer's Market.

Gypsies in the Trunk will also perform a variety of other productions at Channel Islands Harbor .

June 6 "Clash of the Giants: McCoole vs.Cuchulainn"
July 11 "The Stepsister's Tale of Cinderella"
Aug. 1 "The Three Little Pigs"
Sept. 5 "Peter Pan 2 - Hook's Revenge"

All performances are at 2 p.m. at the north end of Harbor View Park . For more information, visit www.channelislandsharbor.org. You can also visit Gypsies in a Trunk's website at www.gypsyplayers.com.

The **Ventura Audubon Society** and the **Ventura County Maritime Museum** are pleased to invite the public and the press to a reception for the Audubon "Share The Shore" Children's Art show on Saturday, **May 1** from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ventura County Maritime Museum, 2731 Victoria Ave.

The juried art show will exhibit the work of elementary school children from 25 classrooms in Ventura County who participated in the "Share The Shore" effort to educate the public about how to protect nesting shorebirds. The program was initiated as a grant from Audubon California, Toyota Together Green and the Morrissey Family Foundation to the Ventura Audubon Society. The project coordinator was Jane Spiller.

School children learned about the threatened Snowy Plover and the ways to protect shorebirds on beaches. Then teachers worked with students to create posters. Some of the children's artwork will be made into signs that will be placed on critical habitat fencing which is installed annually during nesting season. Similar children's signs in Central California resulted in less vandalism to signs and protective bird fencing. . The public is invited to participate in a "people's choice" award at the show.

The exhibit will run from May 1 to June 1. Admission to the art show is free.

For further information contact Bruce Schoppe at 658 2396.



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Art Scene



Tracy Hudak, the new Bell Arts Factory Executive Director

Tracy Hudak has an unfailing belief that art makes a difference

Tracy Hudak has a diverse background in the arts which makes her perfect for the new Executive Director

position at the Bell Arts Factory. While attending Ohio State University for Medical Illustration, Tracy stumbled on a job writing for the College of the Arts. She discovered that, "there were blurry lines between art and other fields -- that artists inhabit these worlds as fully as their respective professionals do." She studied at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and shifted her focus from painting to performance art. Hudak felt that it allowed her to better focus on the social causes she was aligned with.

Tracy has worked with multicultural community art spaces such as Randolph Street Gallery in Chicago and Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica. Her performance practice morphed into acting, writing and directing theater. She became the co-founder of Zoo District Theater company, which used its productions to revitalize downtown Los Angeles.

She answered a few questions:

Q: As the new director of Bell Arts what is your vision for Bell Arts' future?

A: The design of Bell Arts allows a community member ownership of the experience and the space, which makes the neighborhood intimate to the participant. There is a sacredness to simply creating space for human potential. What I am bringing to the table is the desire to create larger-scale community projects where artists collaborate with community members using art to address issues.

Q: How do you feel Bell Arts is uniquely able to serve the Westside?

A: While the goal of the project is to create opportunities for cultural and civic engagement for Ventura, we are extra lucky because we are rooted in a neighborhood. I think the boldness of putting an arts factory right on Ventura Avenue makes visible a value system that says the arts are a vital part of this community. We foster the strength and success of those endeavors while at the same time giving a wider public access to them. Through free art classes, we put the tools of self-expression into the hands of youth and adults who may not be able to afford them elsewhere.

Summer art classes at the Vita Art Center

This summer let the Vita Art Center be your source for exploration, instruction and inspiration. Vita presents a large selection of high quality educational opportunities this summer for children, teens and adults interested in expanding and exercising their artistic awareness and abilities. All classes are taught by highly skilled teaching artists and are designed to encourage students to unleash their imaginations while receiving formal lessons in an engaging environment.

Registration is now open. Week long session fees range from \$85 to \$120 per student and include class materials and scholarships are available.

Classes are located at Vita Art Center in the Bell Arts Factory at 432 Ventura Ave. Studio 30

For more information, contact Mary Perez at 644-9214 or maryperez@vitaartcenter.com. View the class schedule at www.vitaartcenter.com

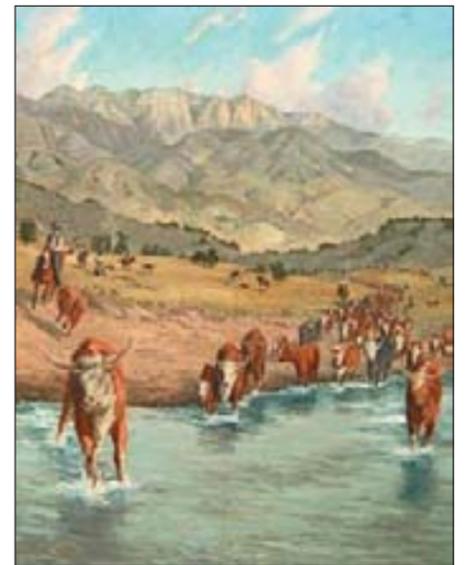
en of courage and strength. His canvas, proudly adorned with bold and beautiful women, have modern angles and feminine curves.

From powerful to passionate, de la Cruz's subjects flirt, seduce and cajole with their postmodern compositions, intelligence and grace. The artist has a defiant disregard for standard rules of painting.

A native of Mexico his interests in history, art, fashion and architecture are the foundation for his artistic motivation. Frequenting regional galleries or cosmopolitan museums, he tunes into art movements and master painters succeeding before him, for inspiration and drive to keep painting. This is his first solo show with Buenaventura Art Association.

Pedro de la Cruz's opening reception is Saturday, May 1 from 4-7pm. The exhibit of paintings shows from April 27 to May 22.

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



These murals were painted by Marguerite Hardeman and will be on display at the Olivas Adobe during mother's day

Celebrate Mother's Day at the Olivas Adobe

Where else can you celebrate mom on her special day with flowers, beautiful images and a tribute—all for free? The Olivas Adobe, at 4200 Olivas Park Drive, will showcase a series of colorful murals depicting the history of Ventura, its beautiful rose garden and a pictorial tribute to mothers as a free event on Sunday, May 9, 11 am to 3 pm on the grounds of the historical park.

The murals, each measuring 4 by 8 feet up to 8 by 8 feet, were painted by Marguerite Hardeman in the 1960s and have been stored at Olivas Park. Each year, the murals are brought out for display around the park grounds and the rose garden in celebration of spring.

The 15 murals depict different moments from the founding of the city of San Buenaventura and its early history.

Members of the Ventura County Rose Society will be on hand to answer questions about roses. Visitors will not want to miss the tribute to mothers, some famous, others unsung and even a mother owl named Olivia.

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



the Buenaventura Art Gallery

Pedro de la Cruz's paintings

"She is so Strong Willed" is an exhibit of color and confidence. The recent works of de la Cruz is homage to wom-

Jan Martin and Jendrik Schröder reading the Ventura Breeze while relaxing at the Waterkant. They live in Rübke near Hamburg, Germany at the Elbe River.

Jan and Jendrik said "Reading the Breeze is a wonderful way of learning English and to know what is going on in the city where my great-aunt Helga lives.

They plan on visiting their great uncle Egmont and great aunt Helga in Ventura when they are a bit older. "It's all the way in America," Jendrik said, "and a long trip by airplane, almost 6,000 miles!"

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Ride the Wave at Pierpont Elementary School

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



The Humane Society of Ventura County is holding two events in conjunction with upcoming national drives to raise awareness for shelter pet adoptions.

Kate Nelson, the local nonprofit's new volunteer coordinator, will set up informational booths at the Ojai and Oak View U.S. Post Offices on April 30, the day the U.S. Postal Service issues its "Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet" stamps in 10 designs. The pets all had been homeless at one time

HSVC is also marking National "Be Kind to Animals" Week on May 2-8 by offering free programs throughout Ventura County each weekday. Children will have the chance to see and pet the Humane Society animals while learning how to be kind, respectful, responsible and safe. Free handouts will be available for both children and adults.

Be sure to take the small ones to go pet the animals, especially any of them that might be a little skittish about doing that. There lives will be super better if they have a "Scamp" in the home.

Tuesday, May 4, 3 p.m., at Libbey Park in Ojai, with animal behaviorist Allison Leete;

Wednesday, May 5, 3 p.m., at Barranca Vista Park in Ventura, with biologist Crystal Huerta;

Thursday, May 6, 3 p.m., at Oxnard Community Park in Oxnard, with dog lover and Spanish interpreter P.J. Robles (this is good if the animal speaks Spanish, don't laugh police dogs speak German, I just speak "food")

Friday, May 7, 3 p.m., at E.P. Foster Library in Ventura, with dog walker and rescuer Suzanne Blanco.

For more information, call 656-5031, or visit www.humanesocietyvc.org.

As a search dog handler, Ron Weckbacher, has seen the devastation caused by many disasters. The destruction caused by the Haiti earthquake was the worst that he has ever seen.

He, and 6 other handlers with the Ojai-based National Disaster Search Dog Foundation traveled to Haiti with their dogs in hand as part of Los Angeles County's search and rescue task force.

They successfully rescued nine survivors from the earthquake damaged buildings during their 2 week stay in Haiti.

The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation actually adopts dogs from shelters and other rescue groups and funds their training through grants and donations.

I am very very proud of them and their wonderful dogs.

The Ventura County Animal Regulation Department is planning various improvements at the department's 5-acre facility located at the Camarillo Airport. Included in this is a \$150,000 remodeling of the front office and reception area, and a sunroom for cats (so dogs don't sun themselves?).

It is the facility's first major remodel in its 25-year history. They feel that a very comfortable waiting area will change people's idea of what the shelter offers.

A Lakeside woman, Alice Via, 65 was recently arrested on suspicion of felony animal neglect after police found 60

Scamp Club

Hi, I'm Rambo, I was adopted when I was 8 months old from the SPCA-LA in Hawthorne after I was found on Petfinder.com.

I am very sweet and rarely bark. I love all people and dogs and have a great personality. I do have some food allergies and cant have any grain, soy, wheat or brown rice (which is okay I don't like them anyway). My human house-mates wondered just what kind of dog I was (besides being adorable) so had DNA tests done on me and found out I am a true mutt and a combination of an American Bull Dog, Curly Coated Retriever, Golden Retriever and Lab. The shelter thought that I was an Irish Wolfhound Mix—but I showed them.

My "pet" peeve is that the City of Ventura is cutting down trees and spreading large, sharp pieces of mulch in the dog park at Camino Real Park in Mid-town. I have broken 3 of my rear toenails in 2 trips since they started spreading this material. Before the park was largely dirt with some grass spots, Now it is all sharp sticks.

Also, since the City can't afford the disposable poop bags anymore, owners are neglecting to pick-up after their pets. Shame on the pet owners.

And, as you can see from my photo I love going to the beach.

dogs in filthy, cramped conditions inside her home.

She was taken into custody after San Diego County animal control officers served a search warrant at her home which is, sadly to say, where she operates a rescue shelter.

The dogs were in small crates stacked on top of each other inside the extremely small residence.

I always think how lucky us dogs are to be in a wonderful home and it makes me very sad to read this, if I could I would cry.

Join ScampClub

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

Police Reports

Robbery on Telephone Road

On March 4, at 10pm a 15 year old was approached by 3 Hispanic males ages 16-18 as he walked along the south sidewalk in the 5600 Blk. of Telephone Rd. The suspects surrounded the victim and ordered him to empty his pockets. The victim complied and after giving his property to the suspects, the suspects left the area walking westbound Telephone road towards Saratoga Ave.

A Ventura Police Patrol Officer was in the area at the time the call was broadcasted and he attempted to stop the suspects.

The suspects fled the area and the officer caught one subject after a brief foot pursuit. He was booked into juvenile hall for robbery and resisting a police officer. The other two suspects were not located.

Child molester arrested

On March 7, at 7:15am detectives from the Ventura Police Department concluded their investigation of reported attempted child molestation by serving a search warrant in the 100 block of E. Simpson. During the service of the warrant, the suspect, Jacob Holder (24 years) was arrested for attempted child molestation.

During the course of the investigation, detectives learned that Holder had been using his status as a prospective Hell's Angels member to threaten and intimidate the victim and witness into not cooperating with the investigation.

Domestic abuse on South Arcade

On March 7 Ventura Police Department Detectives concluded their investigation into a domestic battery and witness intimidation case by serving a search warrant at the residence of Ethan Akins(34 years) in the 100 block of S. Arcade. Akins is a member of the Ventura Chapter of the Hell's Angels.

Investigators learned that Akins allegedly battered his girlfriend, then used his

status as a member of the Hell's Angels to dissuade her from calling the police and cooperating with the investigation.

Search warrants executed

On March 2 and March 7 detectives from the Ventura Police Department's Special Enforcement Team conducted a probation search at the home of Martin Kada (37 years)in the 10200 block of Darling Rd. Kada is a member of the Ventura Chapter of the Hell's Angels and is a convicted felon. During their search they found a .22 caliber rifle in the residence.

On March 10 detectives served a search warrant at Kada's residence related to him being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm.

Burglary on Crestwood Avenue

On March 10, at 12:39 am , a 24 year old Ventura resident heard glass breaking outside his residence in the 300 block of Crestwood Ave. and went to investigate. Upon doing so, he observed Christopher Lopez (19 years, Ventura resident) and Francisco Jaime (20 years Oxnard resident) inside his vehicle and a third suspect standing near the vehicle acting as a lookout.

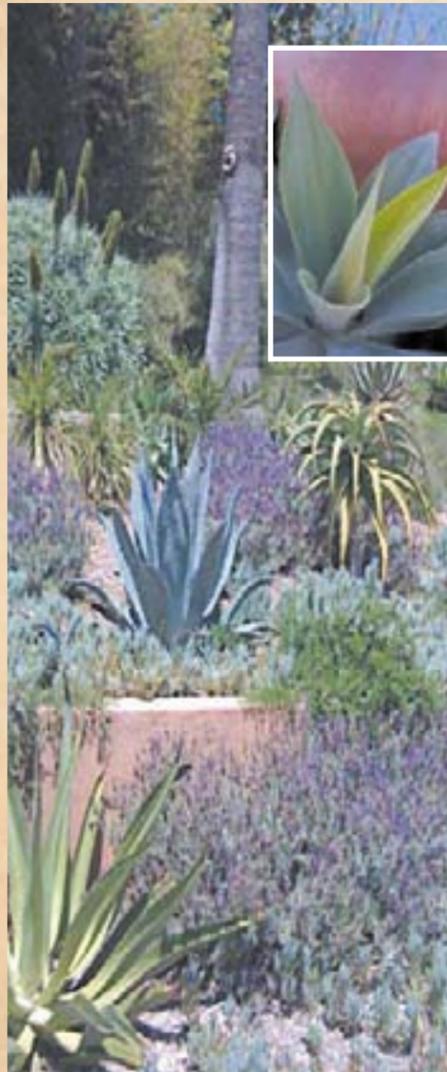
The victim confronted the suspects who immediately fled the area. He followed the suspects and upon doing so he observed a vehicle being driven by Elizabeth Torres (25 years Oxnard resident).

The victim contacted the Ventura Police Department as he continued to follow the suspects. Responding officers located Lopez hiding in the yard of a residence on Lynbrook Ave. He was taken into custody without incident.

Officers continued to search for the other outstanding suspects and located Torres and Jaime in the parking lot of CVS pharmacy in the 5900 block of Telegraph Rd. The 4th an Hispanic male in

Continued on page 13

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Senior Living



During last year's Cinco de Mayo celebration at Cypress Place Jim Nicoll, of local business Nicoll Insurance & Financial Services, participated in the Jalapeno eating contest. Will he try it again this year?

Cypress Place Senior Living to host two events

Cinco de Mayo celebration

Join Cypress Place Senior Living for a Cinco de Mayo celebration and fundraiser to benefit the National Police Dog Foundation. This foundation raises funds to support K-9 programs for various law enforcement agencies across America.

Bring your children to sit in a real police car and watch a K-9 demonstration with several police dogs and their handlers from the Ventura Police Department and the Ventura Sheriff's Department.

The festive event takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 1.

"Last year we raised \$3,200, and hope to raise even more this year" said Jim Duran, Executive Director of Cypress Place.

Attendees will enjoy a gourmet Mexican buffet, including homemade tamales. Sip on refreshing margaritas and Mexican beer while listening to the live music of a Mariachi band.

"I want to thank everyone at Cypress Place for a great job and a fun day last year," said Ron Dalzell, a member of the National Police Dog Foundation board of directors and veterinarian for the local K-9 units.

Suggested \$5 donation for lunch. All proceeds will benefit the National Police Dog Foundation. Residents, families, and friends of the community are welcome to attend.

Free seminar for families of wartime veterans and surviving spouses

Saturday April 24 join Cypress for an important and informative seminar and learn from the experts about the Aid & Attendance Benefit. This little known VA administered benefit can help pay for increasing medical costs associated with aging.

Seminar topics will include: Understanding VA benefits and the application process. How to become eligible. What benefits you are entitled to for residing at an assisted living community.

The afternoon seminar is presented by The American Association for Wartime Veterans.

Don't miss this important information by these specialists. Wartime Veterans may qualify for up to \$1644 monthly and Surviving Spouses may receive up to \$1,056 monthly.

The free seminar begins at 2:30pm and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. Seating is limited for the seminar so please call to reserve a seat. For more information or to RSVP, call 650-8000.

Coping strategies to manage health conditions

"Healthier Living," a free program that provides participants with effective and practical coping strategies to manage their ongoing health conditions, will begin on May 3 at 8 a.m. at the SCAN Senior Resource Center, 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 200.

Provided in partnership with Stanford University, the Camarillo Health Care District and Partners in Care Foundation, the program includes 2-½ hour weekly workshops presented over a six-week period. The curriculum includes behavior modifications and coping strategies to enable participants to better cope with their chronic diseases, manage their medications and increase physical activity levels.

"After completing these workshops participants demonstrate significant improvement in their self-reported general health," said Steve Lehman, MPH, MBA, manager of the SCAN Senior Resource Center. "We all need to be active participants in our own health. This program teaches you how."

Complimentary breakfast will be served to participants. Classes will meet Mondays: May 3, 10, 17, 24 and June 7. There will also be a class on Tuesday, June 1. Participants should be 65 or older, have a significant ongoing chronic disease, and agree to attend all six sessions. Call 658-0365 to sign up and see if you qualify.

Senior Connection

The Importance of Adult Protective Services

by Nanci Cone

The Human Services Agency's Adult Protective Services (APS) program states that "each year, more than 2,000 elderly and dependent adults are provided support so they can live in a comfortable and caring environment, free from abuse, neglect and financial mistreatment."

This state-mandated agency helps people with limited abilities protect themselves from friends, family and caregivers that may be abusing them. APS is a free, bilingual program that investigates allegations of abuse and neglect, assesses client needs, provides short-term case management and links clients to services that can help them stay in their homes safely.

According to Marci Snyder, APS Program Coordinator, "Many times it's difficult to determine there has been abuse on the part of a trusted individual and often a client needs help because of self-neglect due to cognitive capacity. Our job is to provide help as well as to educate the public and other agencies about the signs of adult abuse."

Signs of adult abuse include:
Neglect by self or others – inadequate food, malnourishment, dehydration, untreated medical conditions, unsafe housing
Financial indicators – misuse of funds, unpaid bills, missing belongings, checks cashed by others, lottery scams, unusual bank activity
Mental suffering – fear, agitation, confusion, severe depression, or serious emotional distress brought on by threats, harassment, or other forms of intimidating behavior
Physical injuries – cuts, bruises, burns, unexplained injuries, physical restraints, evidence of sexual abuse, and deprivation of food and water
Untreated medical conditions – lingering illnesses, ignored injuries or, general decline in health

Isolation – prevention of receipt of mail, phone calls, visitors, or contact with other concerned persons

Abandonment – being left alone and unable to provide the basic necessities of living

Marci Snyder adds, "Everyone in our community is responsible for reporting suspected adult abuse. Additionally, all full- or part-time custody or care providers of elderly or dependent adults are required to serve as mandated reporters and apprise APS of suspected abuse or neglect. Additionally, social workers, members of the clergy, health care practitioners, financial institutions, advocacy groups, and fire department personnel are required to report abuse."

It is important to know that no person required to report elder/dependent adult abuse will bear criminal liability for reporting suspected abuse unless the person knows the report is false and the identities of those filing reports are confidential.

To learn more about APS and how to recognize the signs of physical, sexual, emotional abuse or symptoms of neglect or financial/material exploitation, visit their website at www.vchsa.org. If you believe there is evidence of abuse, contact the Adult Protective Services 24 hotline at 654-3200.

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Religion

Ventura CROP for Hunger Walk

Save April 25 for a Sunday afternoon walk to fight both local and international hunger. The 5 or 10k Ventura interfaith CROP Hunger Walk starts at First United Methodist Church at 1 PM (arrive by noon to register). Proceeds from the walk are split 75/25 between Church World Service or any donor-selected international aid organization and four local organizations fighting hunger (Project Understanding, Catholic Charities, Family to Family, and Food Share).

2010 will mark their 32nd year! In that time, the Ventura CROP Walk has earned over \$606,000 to stop hunger. Over the years, 6,500 people took a Sunday afternoon walk to "do something" about local and world hunger.

Another way to support the Ventura CROP Hunger Walk is through material goods. As they have for several years, walkers and supporters will collect canned food and bring them when they check-in before the Walk.

In addition to walkers and sponsors, organizers of the walk are looking for volunteers to help on the day of the walk, as well as donations of snacks, water, and prizes for participants at the post-walk celebration.

Contact Renata Hundley 658-7446 for more information.

community is to "Partner with others to help them enhance their quality of life." For More Information please visit their website at www.TheRiverCommunity.org or call 815-5795.

Police reports

Continued from page 11

his early 20's, 5'-10", 140 pounds and wearing white t-shirt was not located.

Man with gun on Loyola Avenue

On Saturday, April 10th, at 11:56 p.m., officers responded to the 800 block of Loyola Avenue in reference to the brandishing of a firearm. Further investigations revealed that the victim Ryan Webb, 27 years old and from Ventura, was attending a party at the general location.

A neighbor later identified as Christian Alvarez, 19 years old and a resident of Ventura, was upset about the noise and disturbances the party was causing. He brandished a handgun at Webb and other partygoers. Alvarez was contacted at his residence, located in the 5600 block of North Bryn Mawr Street. Alvarez was identified as the suspect and arrested without further incident.

Stabbing on South Hemlock Street

On Sunday, April 11th at 2:50 p.m., officers received several calls from residents of an apartment complex in the 200 block of South Hemlock Street, reporting a possible stabbing. Officers found the male victim, 41 years old, in front of the complex with a minor wound to his forehead. He refused to give a statement.

Subsequent investigation revealed the victim and female suspect, 29 years old, were husband and wife and had been involved in a domestic dispute. Based on evidence and statements from witnesses, the female was arrested for domestic violence causing injury, false imprisonment, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Illusionist

Danny Ray at The River Community

Danny Ray is one of the world's premiere illusionists and has amazed 1000's of audiences. Danny is a member of the world famous "Magic Castle" in Hollywood.

Danny has a unique way of making people laugh and interacting with audiences. Look for Danny's new DVD called "Effortless Illusions."

Danny will be performing at The River Community Church, 1620 Mesa Verde Ave. on Sunday, May 2. The doors open at 4:30pm with the show beginning at 5:30pm; refreshments and childcare will be provided.

On Saturday night, May 1 from 11pm to 2am, Danny & members of The River Community will be on the streets of Ventura near California & Santa Clara passing out free bottles of water and slices of pizza while Danny performs some incredible illusions.

The River Community has been serving families and the community unselfishly and the vision of the River



Two events at the Veterans Home of California

On Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the new Veterans Home of California in Ventura will be teaming with driving experts, occupational therapists and trained technicians to hold a "CarFit" event -- a unique education program designed to help drivers 55 and over understand how to improve driving safety by ensuring their cars are properly adjusted

Continued on page 19

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Saturday, May 1, 2010
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- Live Mariachis
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- Margaritas & Mexican Beer
- Gourmet Mexican Buffet
- Homemade Tamales

Suggested \$5 Donation for lunch
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(805) 650-8000

Help Cypress Place Senior Living raise funds for the National Police Dog Foundation that is committed to raising funds and awareness in support of Police K9 units across America. Come support Ventura.



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School



Mr. De Clerck is a loved teacher at Ventura High School—What a teacher should be

Foreign language teacher inspires many

by Brooke Demchuk
Ventura High School

Throughout most students' school careers they acquire a favorite teacher. A teacher whom not only made them learn, but made it fun at the same time. These teachers are almost always people who get to know their students as an individual, not just another student. Quite often in cases such as these, the teachers even end up inspiring students not only in high school, but later in life. For many students at Ventura High School, that teacher is Mr. De Clerck.

Growing up in Brussels, Belgium, Sebastian De Clerck had always wanted to become a teacher. "I love the energy and passion in the classroom," said Mr. De Clerck, "Though originally, I wanted to teach little kids."

He moved to America when he was fourteen, and learned English mainly at home, due to the fact that French is his first language. After he graduated high school, Mr. De Clerck attended USC and received a B.A in Italian and in Philosophy. With a true passion for culture and language, and a desperate need for a job, he started teaching at a charter school.

"When I went to the school, I told them that I wanted to teach Italian. They said "We don't teach Italian, we need a French teacher" so, French is what I taught. I had one classroom that was full of 6th-12th graders," he stated. Falling in love with the profession of teaching teenagers, he realized that what he truly wanted to be was a high school foreign language teacher, and that's just what he became.

Now, he is an Italian and French teacher at Ventura High School. But, what really makes him stand out is how well he knows his students. Mr. De Clerck contributes that to all the school-related organizations that he partakes in. "I am a member of GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), and I supervise and host in my classroom Italian Club, French Club, Film Club, and FPP. (Federation Players of Petanque)" The numerous amounts of clubs that he is associated with allows him to get to know not only his students better, but other people that aren't in his classes.

Having such an upbeat personality and fun and interesting teaching style also is a big contributing factor to how well-known and loved he is around the VHS campus. With such a small number of kids in the French and Italian program, Mr. De Clerck possesses a certain amount of freedom to what he teaches that many

other teachers don't. "I'm able to alter my teaching schedule to the children," he says.

"I spend a lot of time getting my room ready and prepared," he says when asked about the atmosphere of his classroom. Posters and paintings cover each and every wall, leaving no blank or white spots. The personality of the room immediately grabs the attention of every student that walks in and also gives the classroom a warm feeling.

It is infamous around campus that a plethora of students adore Mr. De Clerck and his classes. One of his French students, Sarah Schouten, says that "Mr. De Clerck's class is like a reward at the end of the day. His enthusiasm and humor makes the period lively and fun. Learning French is so much easier because he teaches us through games and makes it interesting."

When asked what his overall goal in teaching is, he replied with, "That's easy, to teach students to think and to discover themselves through culture."

In his free time, Mr. De Clerck greatly enjoys reading, cooking, and taking walks, and spending time with his family. He and his wife have three children together.

Ventura Job & Career Center classes

Tuesday, May 4 - Computer Basics for Job Seekers, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm - become familiar with Windows desktop programs to enhance your job skills. Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers.

Wednesday, May 5 - Power of VOS (Virtual OneStop), 1 pm – 4 pm - Learn about the Virtual OneStop website and how you can use the various tools in the system to build your resume and customize your job search to a specific location and occupation. Must have basic computer skills. **Thursday, May 6 - Resumes that Sell**, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm - hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters. Walk away with a portfolio that shows off professional skills and experience.

Tuesday, May 11 - Explore Your Future, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm - complete a self-evaluation to help identify your skills and aspirations. Gain insight into the hidden labor market and develop a career strategy based on high-demand occupations.

Thursday, May 13 - Dollars and Sense, 1 pm – 4 pm - gain a basic understanding of good/bad debt, credit, spending triggers, budgeting and financial goals. Take control of your financial future.

Tuesday, May 18 - Winning Interviews, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm - supplies the tools to make a lasting first impression when interviewing. Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers.

Wednesday, May 19 - Job Retention, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm - learn how to succeed at your new job. This mini-career shop will help you discover what employers are really looking for in their employees and how to make yourself more valuable.

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

Sports



Getting ready to participate in the Corporate Games is the awesome team from NuSil Technology. NuSil is a Camarillo cutting edge technology manufacturer of silicone based compounds for aerospace and many other applications. Several members of the team live in Ventura

No stuffiness about these Corporate Games

by Rebecca Wicks

This year, more than 66 companies are facing off at the 21st annual Corporate Games. Put on by the City of Ventura, events range from the traditional softball and 5K run to those sports less covered by ESPN including dominos, Texas Hold'em and Frisbee golf.

According to city event planners the six-week competition which ends May 15 is designed for companies to get outside and to get to know each other.

This year's games include 29 different sports. Rowing is this year's demonstration event.

"We had 16 companies compete [in rowing] this year with four other companies on a waiting list," said Chip Tarleton a supervisor for the City of Ventura. "It will probably be a full event next year."

Scott Powers, a four-year veteran of the Games will be competing in tennis, badminton and table tennis.

"The games are very well organized by the City and allow for a respectable level of competition without going overboard," said Powers a budget analyst for the County of Ventura. "The atmosphere created allows for people to partake in a sport that may not be in one's comfort zone but seems fun and entertaining to try."

Powers who considers himself a novice at tennis will, in his first match, play one of the finalists who competed in the gold medal match last year.

"I am completely overmatched," said Powers who was able to keep a sense of humor about the impending match. "The game starts at 8 a.m. and I plan on being home for breakfast that morning."

The Games opening event reception took place earlier this month at the Spanish Hills Country Club in Camarillo where a mix of sponsors, city officials and some participants mingled.

While sports like basketball, soccer and surfing are all part of the Games, the most popular games may better reflect the prevailing attitude of having fun. According to Tarleton, the most popular sport this year is bowling with 75 teams entered followed by miniature golf where 59 teams are registered. The next three most popular sports: board games including spades, dominos and Texas Hold'em; billiards and finally bocce ball which was last year's demonstration sport.

Competition is divided into divisions based on the size of each company. After the first week of competition in the Division A category Naval Base Ventura

County was in the lead with the County of Ventura in second and Amgen in third. In Division B Nusil Technology edged out Patagonia for the number one spot by one point, with Proctor & Gamble in third.

In Division C Northrop Grumman stood in first place with Dairy Farmers of America and Dako following. In Division D Limoneria was in the lead with Crescendo Interactive in second and Calavo Growers in third.

Tammy Butterworth, a management assistant for the watershed protection district has been competing in volleyball since 2002. She says meeting new people and the memories are both great aspects about the Games.

"My best memory is when our women's beach volleyball team won first place against the Navy one year," said Butterworth. "It was a great feeling."

On Apr. 17 participants joined an Earth day beach cleanup event which also honored Jacob Dole Prosbasco, a former city of Ventura employee who competed in the games and passed away in 2008.

The Games conclude on May 15 with closing ceremonies events at San Buenaventura State Beach. Events for the day include the mandatory tug-of-war contest, live music, a sandcastle contest and award ceremonies.



See all the action of the roller derby at the Ventura County Fairgrounds

Fishnet stockings and 12 vendettas – a cavalcade of roller derby action

Join the Ventura County Derby Darlins at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on May 1 and 2 as they challenge 12 coastal roller derby teams to 18 head-to-head bouts in the third annual Battle for the Coast 2010 flat-track roller derby tournament.

A two-day cavalcade of roller derby action, this event will feature 12 competitive teams including both the Ventura County Derby Darlins' VenDolls and Battalion of Skates

An epic 18-bout battle not to be missed, the first set of skates will stomp concrete at 10am on Saturday and bodies are expected to fall regularly in new bouts every 45 minutes until 8:30pm. On Sunday the top six competing teams will take the rink starting at 9:45am to set in motion six full-length, 60-minute bouts destined to weed out the wannabes. Back-to-back bouts will crescendo into a two final survival-of-the-fittest battles to determine Princess and Queen of the Coast at 4:30pm and 6:45pm respectively. A crowning ceremony to officiate her wicked majesties will round out the evening at 8pm.

The Battle for the Coast 2010 is an

Continued on page 20

Business



At Mi Tierra the aromas from the kitchen and bakery are divine

Mi Tierra Mexican Grill and Bakery

by Julie D. McCampbell

Opened just 3 months ago, and becoming a rising star, as one of Ventura County's authentic Mexican restaurants, is Mi Tierra Mexican Grill and Bakery

Jesus and Maria, the owners of Mi Tierra Mexican Grill and Bakery, are no strangers to having a business on Ventura Avenue.

A few years ago, they opened the Sea Bakery, just up the street from their present location. Jesus reflects back, "We saw an opportunity for having a Mexican Grill and Bakery together. So we opened Mi Tierra. We tossed around many names, and we liked Mi Tierra. It means 'My Home Town'. Years ago the avenue had some crime. But things are very good now. We feel very welcomed here. We love meeting new people and love our community."

Mi Tierra has a family appeal, with quaint tables and large windows to view our hometown. The hard work done by staff and family is well recognized. Their cleanliness makes their restaurant very attractive, providing a bright warm and relaxing atmosphere.

"We have a small staff, but we have provided some local people work. I feel good that we have provided work for our community." Currently, Jesus and Maria have 2 waitresses, a cook, and a baker as their staff.

"We enjoy our restaurant, our community here has very nice people. Our neighborhood is very friendly."

As we were sitting at one of the tables, I could sense what draws customers here. The aromas from the kitchen and bakery were divine.

Jesus, known to friends and family as 'Chuy', along with his wife Maria, combine their skills to make a great team. Both, Jesus and Maria, wanted to provide authentic Mexican food dishes and bakery items. "My wife can do everything. I love the cooking. My favorite dish to cook is the Filete a la Tami-piquenua - asada steak, enchiladas, and a serving of vegetables, from our local Farmer's Market. We like to have organic produce as much as possible."

Serving a variety of Mexican dishes, their menu consists of Flautas, Huevos a la Caballo, and Cecina. Weekends they have specials along with Menudo and Pozole as part of their delicious menu.

Jesus continues, "We will soon have live music to provide to our customers, we are waiting on the city. We want to keep a family atmosphere, but have nice music for our customers. A family atmosphere is what people know about us."

Since opening, Jesus has seen their

advertising dollars well spent. "Business is good, and more and more people are coming. Advertising in the Ventura Breeze has been very good. We have customers mentioning the Breeze. This is how they found us. We have great service from our Advertising Advisor Leselie."

Mi Tierra Mexican Grill and Bakery is just off the 101 Fwy. Close to shopping in Downtown Ventura, and close to our many beaches. Take the California Street exit or Stanley Avenue exit off the 33 Hwy.

For information of Mi Tierra Mexican Grill and Bakery, call 628-3448. Their location is 397 North Ventura Avenue. Or visit their website at <http://mitierragrill.com>.

Peter the "Social Media Sales Hero"

Peter K. Godinez (aka Social Media Sales Hero) is the President and Founder of Social Media for Business Results. He is an advanced practitioner of Social Media for Business Results. While formerly educated in Business Marketing at California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo, he has 29 years working in Sales and Marketing while mastering the art of Internet Technology. Peter gives small to medium sized business owners proper strategies they need to increase revenues. He uses specialized proven internet techniques.

As a 29 year sales producer and office technology consultant in the Ventura, Santa Barbara, Kern, and Los Angeles counties, Peter Godinez is a recognized leader in the implementation of office technology and related products and services. With his extensive product knowledge, Mr. Godinez helps local businesses use the best technology to optimize their office efficiency and productivity. His expertise in this industry enables him to provide consistent top service and support to his numerous clients through direct selling or creative marketing activities that produce results.

Peter is also a columnist who writes about Social Media for the Ventura Breeze and has won many awards for being one of the top advertisement, marketing and PR people in Ventura County.

According to Peter the following are just some of the reasons that Social Media is now the number one activity on the internet

"Twitter has delivered 5 billion posting since 2006 and YouTube, Facebook and My Space collectively has over 250 million unique visits every month."

Besides being our "Social Media Hero" his talents are also available to our readers and advertisers. Businesses are looking for new ways to increase clients. With Peter on board we know that we have only the best people to help businesses grow.

His life long dream is to make Ventura County the capital of small business marketing.

He also tells us that "Social media tools are only that — tools. The real energy, spirit and power of social media is people. We are social media. Ventura is social media."

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

Some of his services might be available to our advertisers for no charge. Please contact advertising@venturabreeze.com for further information.



Nadia Osborn-Chapman, Director of Sales & Marketing of the Ventura golf courses was a recent guest on the Ventura Breeze portion of the Coach Ron Tunick radio show, hosted on this day by Billy The Brain on local radio station AM1400KKZZ. She can be reached at nosborn@kempersports.com to answer any of your questions regarding our golf courses.

How does Coach Ron Tunick do it?

How does he do it? How does Coach Ron Tunick, a small business owner from Newbury Park interview so many interesting and famous guests on his radio show, The Business of Life?

"I'm pleased we're able to present radio guests that Ventura County residents find interesting," said Tunick. "There are so many authors, celebrities and businesspeople that our listeners wouldn't otherwise get to hear if it weren't for our show. We're the only live, long-format talk radio show in the county."

Tunick's recent guests include: Wink Martindale; Gary Owens; Art Linkletter; Jonathan Winters; Buzz Aldrin; Sue Grafton; Kevin Harrington, judge on Shark Tank, Matthew Lesko, the Government Money guy; Brian Tracy, business expert; Bart Starr, football quarterback; Dr. Tim Galloway, author of the Inner Game of Stress; Bob Brill, radio personality; Kelly Carlin, George Carlin's daughter; Chris Hillman; Arthur Von Weisenberger, publisher of the Santa Barbara News-Press; Patricia Bragg, nutrition expert; Gary Vaynerchuk, author of Crush It; Dom Sagolla, co-founder of Twitter; Jack Trout, business expert; Gary Ryan Blair, business expert; Dr. Marty Seldman, author of Executive Stamina; Rick Smith, author of Leap; Tim Ferriss, author of The Four-Hour Workweek; Chris Anderson, author of The Long Tail; Denny McLain, baseball great; Doug Christie, basketball star; Capt. Jim Worcester, Camp Commander at Port Hueneme; Dr. Stephen Covey, business consultant; Steve Forbes, publisher Forbes magazine; Tom Hopkins, sales training expert; Jean-Michel Cousteau, undersea explorer; Peter Noone of Herman Hermits; Bill Kurtis, legendary newsman; Dan Rather, legendary newsman; Phyllis Diller, comedienne; Peter Tork of the Monkees; Tommy James of Tommy James & the Shondells; Mike Farrell of MASH, Mark Lindsay of

Paul Revere & the Raiders; Harvey Mackay, business consultant & speaker; Jay Conrad Levinson, author of Guerilla Marketing; David Allen, organizational expert; Al Ries, business expert; and Larry Winget, TV business personality.

The Business of Life airs weekdays from 4 o'clock to 6 o'clock in the afternoon on radio station KKZZ, AM 1400 in Ventura and streams over the Internet at www.am-1400coach.com.

Tunick owns and operates Nations Transaction Services, one of the country's largest credit card processing companies, located in Newbury Park.

Breeze:

And on Monday's from 4-4:30pm he even gets to hang out on KKZZ with Breeze publisher Sheldon Brown.

25 Years in Ventura

The Allstate Insurance Company is recognizing Richard Roman of Ventura with its Agency Affiliation award for reaching an important milestone as an exclusive Allstate insurance agency owner. Roman is celebrating 25 years of helping area residents protect their property and prepare for the future through the local Allstate agency located at 2686 Johnson Dr.

"Time flies! It feels like just yesterday when we opened our doors," said Roman, who has owned and operated the Allstate agency since 1985. "This milestone with Allstate is very important to me. I have enjoyed working with so many families in Ventura and thank each and every one for supporting my business."

Sheeler Moving and Storage earns award

Sheeler Moving and Storage in Ventura has once again received a top industry award for high quality service to its customers.

Wheaton Van Lines recognized Sheeler Moving and Storage in March with the Total Quality Commitment Award for 2009 - the same award Sheeler has previously won several times. Winners must score high on the company's Total Quality Commitment Program.

In another exciting move forward, Sheeler Moving and Storage is pleased to announce the relocation of Sheeler Management Staff and Sheeler Records Management Dept to 6020 Nicolle St.,

At the new offices Sheeler also provides office space for the Boys and Girls Clubs Administrative Staff. President Mel Sheeler has supported the club for more than 25 years and is past president of the board.

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	L	M	A	R	E	A	S	A	N	T
S	E	A	S	A	M	B	A	L	O	Y
P	A	P	A	L	B	U	L	L	A	S
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G	A	S	P	E	D	R	O	O	M	
Y	E	P	P	L	Y	N	O	B	E	L
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Show Time



Tasha Ames, as Babe Magrath showing Ross Hellwig, as Barnette Lloyd how she made lemonade after shooting her husband in *Crimes of the Heart* at the Rubicon. Photo by Ed Krieger.

Two on the Aisle

Rubicon's "Crimes of the Heart" promises an uncommon experience

by James Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

Even before the lights go up for this week's opening night performance of the Rubicon Theatre Company's production of *Crimes of the Heart* audiences know it will be a show to remember. After all, the script by Santa Monica resident Beth Henley is filled with serious laughs and has already garnered a Pulitzer Prize, an Oscar nomination and numerous other awards.

The story revolves around the reuniting of the Magrath sisters, a result of the latest crisis in their forever dysfunctional lives. It seems the youngest, Babe, is about to be bailed out of jail for shooting and wounding her lawyer husband. This brings the middle sister, Meg, home from California, where she has been recovering from a failed singing career and a mental breakdown. They gather at the family home in the South where the eldest, Lenny, has been watching her marital prospects slip away as she serves as caretaker for Old Granddaddy. Simmering sisterly rivalries and the consequences of past relationships resurface as each of the girls deal with the fallout from their individual "crimes of the heart" in this funny and sexy show.

The question is, what is the Rubicon doing to add sparkle to this proven gem? To answer this question, during rehearsals we spoke with some cast members and the show's director, Rubicon Artistic Director James O'Neil.

First, we learned the cast is filled with polished professionals, all with a variety of stage, television and film credits. Several will be familiar to Ventura audiences from their prior appearances in Rubicon Theatre productions.

Second, the show has become a collaborative effort among artists, rather than the product of a single vision. Director O'Neil explains it this way, "This is a great cast, and they are all very open. We are all open to each other, and that doesn't always happen. But it is happening here and we're all finding our interpretation along the way together. It is very happy and creative and I couldn't be more excited about it."

Ovation Award winning actress Tasha Ames, who plays Babe, echoes O'Neil's sentiments. "The cast is really extraordinary... Everyone is doing things I have never seen before. Everyone is [creating] such an authentic experience. You put all six of us up on stage together, and I think we will have a different production of the story than anybody has ever seen."

As for her own character, at the time we spoke Tasha shared, "I don't have an agenda of what I want people to look at. At this point, Babe is in the family, is like the light in the family, the hope in the family - a dandelion coming up through a crack in the cement."

Such an uncommon approach to an uncommon script holds the promise of an uncommon theater experience.

Others in the professional cast include Jason Chanos, Faline England, Ross Hellwig, Kara Revel and Tina Van Berckelaer.

"Crimes of the Heart" plays at Ventura's Rubicon Theatre, 1006 E. Main St., Wednesdays through Sundays, with matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays, until May 16, 2010. \$39-\$59. (805) 667-2900. www.rubicontheatre.org.

With this issue the Breeze welcomes, and is thrilled to add Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine to our list of contributing writers. For over 15 years Jim and Shirley covered Ventura County theater and entertainment for another local publication. Their articles and reviews appeared under the title of "Two on the Aisle," a tradition the Breeze will continue. In addition to being award-winning freelance journalists, both have backgrounds as professional performers. So, their reviews and features often include insights only available from having experience on both sides of the footlights.

incredible intensity. AHBs do not possess any more venom than a typical honeybee, and they also can sting only once. One sting can be fatal to a person with an allergy. Hundreds, or even thousands, of stings from a swarming attack can be fatal to anyone, including pets.

In the event of being attacked by a swarm of bees you should remove yourself immediately from the area while attempting to cover your face. Seek shelter inside a structure or a vehicle. Jumping into a body of water or attempting to hide is not an effective escape from AHBs. Should you be stung once, or even multiple times, it is important to remain calm and to remove the stingers as soon as possible. Care should be taken to not "squeeze" the stinger as you remove it, as this will further inject any remaining venom. An item such as a credit card or fingernail can be used to "scrape" stingers away. Should any symptoms of an allergic reaction begin to appear, such as difficulty breathing and/or hives, you should contact 9-1-1 immediately. Self-treatment for a bee sting consists of washing the area, applying ice packs, and using an appropriate anti-itch cream. Follow up with your physician is recommended.

As bees are a natural and necessary part of our environment it is not standard procedure for the Fire Department to kill them when responding to a swarm. Generally, offensive actions are taken only when the bees appear to be aggressive, or when an attack is taking place. Many "swarms" are simply a group of bees moving through an area following their queen. In the event that bees do establish a hive, in a less-than-desirable location, the property owner can contact a bee removal expert. The bees are then captured and relocated to an area where they can do what nature intended them to.

Health

African honeybees are not intimidated by people

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

African honeybees were imported to Brazil in 1956 and soon after combined with the existing European honeybee to produce a hybrid, the Africanized honeybee (AHB). This "hybridization" process has expanded ever since and now affects a large portion of North America, with Ventura County documenting its first AHB in 1998. Commonly referred to as "killer bees" due to their aggressive behavior, this reputation has been greatly exaggerated in the media. This is not to say, however, that they are not dangerous. Fatalities resulting from AHBs have been documented in California and the number of stinging incidents has increased significantly since their arrival.

Although mostly indistinguishable from European honeybees, AHBs have several distinct behavioral traits. AHBs are not intimidated by people and will aggressively protect their hive. Once disturbed they may pursue a victim up to ¼ mile and remain agitated for several days. They are excessively sensitive to vibration and noise disturbances, especially power equipment. Like all honeybees, AHBs swarm around the victim attacking the head and neck areas. The difference is that AHBs do so with increased numbers and with

Ventura County Medical Center's ICU wins Award

Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC), located on Loma Vista, has announced that their Intensive Care Unit has received a Quality Leader Award from the California Association of Public Hospitals and the California Health Safety Net Institute. The awards are designed to showcase and recognize the innovative and creative system improvements achieved by California's public hospitals and health systems annually.

In November 2007, VCMC's ICU obtained a grant from the Kaiser Permanente Foundation, through the California Health Safety Net Institute and instituted "ICU Tracker," a web-based program. This program enables staff to gather and analyze ICU outcomes data, from various programs to optimize ICU quality measurement and performance.

By following best-practice bundles, VCMC's ICU patient outcomes, in this area, are among the highest rated for California hospitals; making VCMC a #1 ranked CHART (California Hospital Assessment and Reporting Taskforce) ICU, according to the second quarter 2009 CHART report.

CMH Community Memorial Hospital
Community Memorial Health System

Community Memorial Health System Presents

2010 State of the Hospital Address

THURSDAY, MAY 6
Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Road
Ventura, CA

5:30: Refreshments
6:00: Presentation

- HEALTHCARE REFORM: What It Means To You
- Changing the Future of Healthcare in Ventura County
- The Latest Updates on the New CMH and Building Projects

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VCCOOL recently celebrated Earth Day at Seaside Park by providing a variety of free educational, environmental, and public policy activities. Standing in their backyard garden in west Ventura are Executive Director Rachel Morris and Board Secretary and Treasurer Kendra Gonzales.

VCCOOL Celebrates Earth Day

by Tim Pompey

Earth Day is turning 40, but, for the environmental group VCCOOL (Ventura Climate Care Options Organized Locally), the issues are still as fresh as the local produce they encourage people to purchase. Just ask Executive Director Rachel Morris – about cycling safety and traffic design, or global warming, or the need for encouraging a local economy with farmers, or the reasoning behind Proposition 15. When it comes to things environmental, she and her group are a one stop shop. This was particularly apparent at their most recent Earth Day celebration on April 17 at Seaside Park.

Morris is an avid cyclist who understands only too well the tensions that exist on city streets between riders on wheels and drivers in a hurry. “It’s inevitable we have to share the same road,” she says. “People need to have an understanding of how to safely bicycle with traffic.”

So, as part of their Earth Day activities, VCCOOL sponsored classes for cyclists, including basics like how to fix a flat, care for brakes, and bicycle safety on the road. They also handed out flyers to promote their upcoming Kids Bike Safety Rodeo to be held June 5 at the Ventura Unified School District campus on Stanley. “Our goal is to teach kids about such things as safe riding,

how to fix a bike, and some of the basic rules for how to ride.”

Not a cyclist? No problem. VCCOOL also promotes the use of local farm produce. As proof of this, they provided a free salon demonstrating three ways to make beauty products. Tired of paying high prices for shampoo products? How about making a crème rinse out of avocados. Can’t afford a fancy facial? There’s a simple method for mixing honey and lemon juice. And for the feet, tired and beat up, there’s a wonderful mixture of olive oil and lavender. Pretty easy. Pretty cheap. Less waste. Best of all, you can find all of these items at any local farmer’s market.

As it turns out, all of this took place just a stone’s throw from Ventura’s ArtWalk. All the more reason Morris and Board Secretary and Treasurer Kendra Gonzales wanted to make sure that those who came to visit were not just inundated with pamphlets. “We didn’t want to just hand out a brochure,” Gonzales says with a smile. “We wanted our site to be interactive, plus show how to lower our carbon footprint in fun, everyday ways.”

No doubt VCCOOLers are a busy bunch. Just visit their website (www.vccool.org) to get a sense of all their activities. In addition to the bike rodeo, they are sponsoring what they call a “breakfast of champions” toward the end of June or early July. It’s a forum for organizing cyclists into activists and teaching them how to get involved in their local city government. City Council, be forewarned. All those spoked wheels churning up and down Ventura streets are rolling in your direction.

There’s no lack of creative thinking going on among members of VCCOOL. Morris’s goal is to get folks thinking about the many decisions they make in their lives, including how to be courteous to a cyclist turning legally in the left-hand lane. “It’s about how you live every day,” she says, “making decisions moment by moment.” Morris, Gonzales, and members of VCCOOL have all kinds of information and advice for many of these moments. It’s those one-at-a-time decisions that Morris believes will help save our planet, a local farmer’s livelihood, or, perhaps, during rush hour, a cyclist’s life.

Breeze:

Rachel was also seen at the Steampunk Fashion Show on April 18 at the Bell Arts Factory, a multi-talented lady.

OPEN HOUSE
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 Please call 805.962.4400 for more information.

Two events

Continued from page 13

just for them. A special team will lead drivers through a free 12-point CarFit checklist to ensure they understand how to use vehicle features properly.

CarFit is not a mechanical inspection of the car or a test of the driver’s ability. Instead, during each 20-minute CarFit session, trained technicians recommend personal vehicle adjustments and adap-

tations and offer resources that could enhance senior driving safety.

The CarFit event will take place at the Veterans Home of California at 10900 Telephone Rd. The check-up is free, but appointments, made by calling 659-7501, are required. Each appointment takes approximately 20 minutes. About 60 senior drivers attended the 2009 CarFit events.

To learn more about CarFit, please *Continued on page 20*

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Roller derby

Continued from page 14

all ages event with children under 10 invited to attend for free. Utilizing the Anacapa and Santa Cruz halls at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, the event runs Saturday May 1 from 10am-9pm and Sunday May 2, from 9:45pm-8:30pm. Tickets are available at daily and weekend rates with daily tickets running \$20.00 and weekend passes running \$30.00. Presale tickets are available online at a discount rate. A portion of all Battle for the Coast 2010 ticket sales will go to the Derby Darlins 2009 charity, the Ventura Ribbons of Life Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Ventura County Derby Darlins were established as an active not-for-profit organization in January 2007, the Darlins play regular home bouts monthly at the Ventura County Fairgrounds and the Camarillo Freedom Park Hockey Rink and participate actively in both community and charitable services.

Two events

Continued from page 19

log on to their website at www.car-fit.org. Or please call 482-0269.

On Saturday, April 24 at noon, the first "American Flag Retirement Ceremony" will be held at the Veterans Home to properly dispose of worn and tattered American Flags – those that have served well and are deemed no longer serviceable.

The United States Flag Code states: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way..."

"I encourage everyone -- Veterans and their family members, Veteran Service Organizations and the entire community -- to join us at this memorable and moving event," said Brenda Manke, Administrator of the Veterans Home.

For more information, please call 659-7501.

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