

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 3, No. 15

Published Every Other Wednesday

May 5 - May 18, 2010



Move to recall Mayor Fulton advances

by Rebecca Wicks

A small group of Venturans received the green light from the City Clerk and Ventura County Elections officials to move forward with their quest to recall Mayor Bill Fulton from his position last month.

This was the fourth attempt made to file the paperwork for Ventura resident Maili Brocke who submitted the recall notices. Three earlier sets of paperwork were ruled defective for a reasons including erroneous language, a disqualified signer and a missing provision.

Fulton has called the recall campaign "divisive, expensive and unnecessary."

Many Venturans seem to agree.

"I'm not happy with the state of our city but in the end he hasn't done anything illegal and I don't think he's trying to hurt Ventura," said Yolanda Gomez of Ventura. "We elect our officials and if we don't like them we don't re-elect them."

Fulton is a two-term councilman and is up for re-election in 2011.

A total of 20 validated registered voter signatures were submitted with the paperwork. Now Brocke will need to collect 9,500 additional signatures in 160 days in order to qualify the recall. If signatures are turned in by Jun. 10, the recall measure will appear on the Nov. 2 ballot. If the signatures are turned in after June it would push the measure onto its own special election - at the cost of \$250,000 in taxpayer dollars.

Brocke's paperwork states an unhappiness with Fulton's representation. His vote for the 911 fee which was later discontinued as well as his vote to close the H.P. Wright Library are listed as examples of his disservice to the citizens of Ventura. The recall notice accuses Fulton of "refusing to work on behalf of the community's best interests."

Fulton believes Venturans want him

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Students, teachers, parents and Putt-Putt (not shown) all enjoyed the Foothill Technology High School victory

Foothill Technology High School students compete at the National FIRST Robotics

The national FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), held April 15 in Atlanta, Georgia, played host to one of the newest teams on the block: team 3271 - the Dragonbots - from Foothill Technology High School (FTHS) in Ventura. Nine high school students, three adult mentors, one FTHS teacher, plus four parent volunteers comprised the party traveling from Ventura to Atlanta.

The team received the invitation to attend this prestigious national competition after being awarded the coveted "Rookie All-Star" award at the Los Angeles Regional competition, held in March in the Long Beach Arena.

According to FIRST, the "Rookie All-Star" award recognizes outstanding achievement by a first year team. The award celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young but strong partnership effort, as well as implementing the mission of FIRST to inspire students to learn more about science and technology. Judges at the event, based on a written submission as well as interviews with

team members during the event, select the team receiving the "Rookie All-Star Award".

In addition, team 3271 brought home the "Highest Seeded Rookie Team" trophy, which celebrates the highest seeded rookie team at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds.

The team's robot, affectionately known as "Putt-Putt", resembles a wagon and is able to handle and kick a soccer ball (even Scamp can't do that).

Performance of the robot during the competitions was assessed according to its ability to score points in a game known as "Breakaway. During the finale, robots could gain additional points by either climbing upon platforms or suspending themselves from the towers set up in the fields.

Video of the robot in action is available at www.thebluealliance.net/tbatv/match/2010ca_qm71.

More information about FIRST's programs can be found at <http://www.usfirst.org/>.

The world's unluckiest traveler

by Mira Reverente

un-lucky (adjective)

1. *having bad luck: not experiencing good luck*
2. *full of misfortune or failure: full of bad luck or failure*
3. *bringing misfortune: causing or heralding misfortune*

A Ventura doctor was thousands of miles away from home when his luck ran out. His 30-foot fall from a cliff resulted in three surgeries, 10 screws and a metal plate.

Dr. Gary Feldman was in Vietnam, squeezing in some sightseeing and visits to friends three weeks before the start of a medical mission. "This trip, my 33rd actually, was a bit different because I was scheduled to deliver a lecture. In the past, I was usually in charge of the pre and post-operative care of children," explains Feldman, a pediatric geneticist.

The fall

It was mid-morning, one day in October 2009. Feldman recalls, "I asked the driver of our bus to pull over so I could take pictures. So I got off and stood on loose gravel. Before I knew it, the edge of the cliff gave way and I think I did a complete somersault."

He landed on his right leg and broke it. Miraculously, there was cell phone service. An ambulance was summoned, arriving two hours later. "I didn't want to look down. I went numb and I think I was blanking out, thinking he might die any minute," says Ada, Feldman's wife of 46 years.

It took 10 local men to drag Feldman up the hill, as he kept sliding off and holding on to dear life. Despite his injury,



Dr. Gary Feldman was in Vietnam to help others in the hospital, not to end up in a hospital himself

his medical instincts did not leave him. On the phone, he instructed the ambulance staff to bring a splint and some painkillers.

After an initial evaluation in Hanoi, Feldman was evacuated to Bangkok where

Continued on page 10



Have your portrait painted at the Relay For Life by a world famous portrait artist

by Sheldon Brown

Award-winning portrait artist Johanna Spinks, who for years worked as a top Hollywood makeup artist to the stars applying her artistry to many famous faces before they went under the lights recently

opened her studio in Ventura .

Recently I was privileged to have her ask me to sit to have her paint my portrait. When I asked her how many sittings it would take I was shocked to have her tell me "this will be one of my quick portraits that will take about 2 hours" which is about what it took. You may have seen it in the Ventura Breeze.

Her work, which also includes still life and landscapes, has won her national acclaim being featured in the New York Times, and earning her juried recognition, awards and show acceptances from various art institutions.

She stated that "No one wants to see a dull soulless portrait however well it is painted. There are plenty of those on

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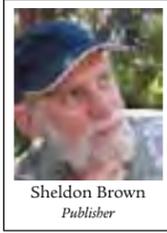
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The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

First I would like to wish all moms a very happy and special mother's day. Please take advantage of all of our wonderful shops, attractions and restaurants and keep your dollars being spent in Ventura.

Even though Ventura County has a pretty good rate of return, thus far at about 75% it is very important that we strive for 100% of us completing our census forms. It is extremely important that you cooperate with the census workers that are now going door to door to have you fill out the forms if you have not yet sent yours in.

If a census worker comes to your door, please cooperate and be sure to see their identification. Visits are strictly confidential and take no more than ten minutes of your time and helps ensure that we get our fair share of tax dollars. If you have a census question you can call (866)872-6868.

The wonderful WAV project had their official opening a few weeks ago with all of Ventura's finest in attendance. We will have more on this in the next issue.

The artist's portion of the project is just wonderful and has been very successful and is a must place to go to visit with the artist's at their studios and to enjoy the concerts that are being presented there. This has brought a new excitement to Ventura's wonderful art community.

But I still feel that the WAV is a huge social experiment mixing some very diverse populations together, both economically and socially but this just might

not ever happen because the expensive condominiums (for several reasons) are not selling and sit empty. At some point it might be necessary to just lease them out to get folks living in them.

This, coupled with the retail spaces also sitting empty must be making the project very difficult to financially maintain itself.

I want to congratulate our Elmhurst and Poinsettia elementary schools for being recognized by state officials as be-

The Pierpont Racquet Club-Ventura Breeze Team will be at the Relay For Life with a Team member running, walking or crawling on the track for all of the 24 hours

ing included as a 2010 California Distinguished Schools. The annual awards program cited 484 California elementary schools for academic achievement and reduction of the achievement gap among it's students.

The winners will be recognized on June 4 at an awards ceremony in Anaheim.

A very nice gentleman named Clifford recently called me. He has lived here since 1946 and was very upset that an-

other thrift store (Goodwill) is opening up downtown and wanted to know why the city is allowing this.

I explained to him that any business that is allowed by the zoning code (and some not if approved by a variance) can open up anywhere in the city where the use is allowed. I also told him that the city does have new regulations regarding the design and running of thrift stores that hopefully will keep them clean and as attractive as they can be.

He still wasn't thrilled with the idea of more thrift stores opening downtown and I tend to agree with him.

On May 15-16 (24 hours non-stop) the Relay For Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society will be held at Buena High.

The Pierpont Racquet Club-Ventura Breeze Team will be there with a Team member running, walking or crawling on the track for all of the 24 hours straight from 10am to 10am (that is the way it works). It is a day filled with music, laughter, food and occasional crying. There is still time for you to become a member so please email Kerrie at admin@pierpontrc.com to get more details and to become a member of the team, would love to see you there.

I'm sorry to say that non-service dogs are not allowed so Scamp won't be there but you can pet me.

Ventura County populations for 2010 for a few local cities:

Ventura 109,946 up 1.2% from last year
Oxnard 200,004 up 1.6% from last year and almost double ours
Pt. Hueneme 21,887 down 1.2% from last year (so they must have moved to Ventura).

Mailbox

taken care of immediately. It is almost a foot deep in some locations. This sand is blowing off of a City owned lot.

Murray Robertson – A Very Concerned Pierpont Resident
Murray,

Here is what I understand from Public Works is the game plan on the sand and the rain and the lanes.

The drainage crew has specially made steel plates that fit right over the drains, and they are placed over the inlet covers when it is not raining, in order for sand NOT to go into the drains.

When rain is anticipated, and we keep a close look out for the weather, we take the steel plates off. We put the plates back on immediately when the rain is scheduled to stop.

The sand that is removed is only sand that will threaten the drains. The entire street is not cleaned off during this time.

Mayor Bill Fulton

Hi Sheldon,

Thank so much for adding our picture for the Corporate Games in your newspaper. I took several copies of it and distributed throughout our company (we have 7 buildings and around 400 employees). People were very excited to see our picture on it and the brief information you added about our company.

Again, thank you so much for this opportunity.

Geovany Cousins-Jones
NuSil Technology

Venturans:

Regarding the closing of a senior center why don't the City just eliminate a few of the manager's positions - they're a bit too top heavy anyway - and use THAT money to help the seniors? It's

not like they're really going to open a senior center on the east end. Having a lunch program there is not the same thing as having a senior center. I was at Camarillo Health Care District yesterday - all I can say is wow! Every Ventura senior should immediately move to Camarillo if they know what's good for them. The programs are amazing and they are opening up another building in July to provide even more services for people with Parkinson's, brain injuries, Alzheimer's, etc. I can't believe everything they offer to seniors there. They even have an office in Leisure Village that provides free health, wellness, referral and resource info. I'll say it again - wow!
Nanci Cone
Ventura

Hey there:

I just noticed that Pierpont Produce appears to be shut down. What's the story? Inquiring minds want to know.

I love that you guys keep abreast of truly local news -- I always pick it up whenever I find it!

Best,
Melinda Pearson
Melinda:

Not a great story there Tracy just had the opportunity to "retire" and get out of the biz to spend more time with her son so she took it.

She told us that she misses all her wonderful customers but is just really enjoying life.

A yogurt shop is planned for the building if they can obtain all of the required permits and approvals. And thanks for reading the Breeze.

Ventura Breeze:

Recently you had some negative comments regarding the fairly new trash bins (the ones with the big ads on them) that are located downtown.

I completely agree with you that they are an embarrassing eyesore. I know that the city needs money but I don't think that this is the way that we should get it.
Evin Lucas

Evin:

Actually the city isn't to blame (except for allowing them). They were placed by the DVO who receives the money from them and we understand that it is very little money at that.

Corrections

In our last issue we had an article on a remarkable teacher at Ventura High, Mr. De Clerck. We inadvertently spelled his first name wrong, it's Sebastien not Sebastian. Sorry Sebastien.

We also had a photo of team NuSil Technology getting ready to participate in the Corporate Games. We stated that they were from Camarillo when they are actually from Carpinteria.

I never met a food I didn't like.

—Scamp (with thanks to Will Rogers)

Public Works:

Many of the lane storm drains are full of sand. With the wind blowing today at 25 + mph, many more will soon become filled. In order to prevent the lanes and homes from flooding it might behoove Public Works to expeditiously clear these drains and pickup the sand at the ends of the lanes that have storm drains next to the beach. Note also that access to the beach is extremely dangerous/next to impossible when the stairs are covered with sand.

Additionally, the accumulation of sand on Martha's Vineyard, where the mothers pick up their children, is becoming downright dangerous and needs to be



Ventura city budget: navigating in a sea of red ink

Living within our means, 2010 style

by Mayor Bill Fulton

On April 26, the City Council got our first glimpse of what the 2010-2011 city budget is likely to look like.

Before I talk about the grim part of this year's budget, let me quickly review what's been going on and where we are:

-- The City's General Fund revenue has dropped from about \$95 million to about \$81 million in two years. That's a decrease of around 15%. We're likely to see a leveling off at about \$81 million in 2010-11.

-- We've already made some pretty severe cuts. Last year, we were the first city in the state -- so far as I know -- that successfully negotiated a pay cut (not a furlough) from our employee unions.

-- We've eliminated 40 jobs (out of about 650) and we're currently holding about 40 more jobs open to save money.

-- We've had an open and public pension reform dialogue for a year now, and two weeks ago the City Council committed itself unanimously to the philosophy of "sustainable pension reform" by pursuing such ideas as a two-tiered pension system and getting employees to increase their own pension contributions.

Among the steps to actually reduce service are the following: possibly closing the downtown senior recreation center (more about that later), leaving Fire Station #4 at Telephone and Clinton empty, and reducing the number of sworn police officers but maintaining the same number of beat cops.

Among the steps to reduce cost are a permanent elimination of those 40

vacant jobs and seeking an extension of wage concessions from our unions. (The latter has not been negotiated yet and so is not reflected in the draft budget).

The way we're approaching the senior center is a good example of how we're re-inventing government:

The senior center costs \$100,000 a year in overhead and is located less than a mile from a second senior center on Ventura Avenue. Worst case scenario is that all the senior programs get moved to the Avenue (none would be cut). But the city's goal is not to shutter the downtown center; it's to save \$100,000 in overhead. So the city is negotiating with various private organizations who might lease the building and still make it available for some senior programs.

I'm most proud of the fact that we've had a very public and straight-up discussion about what to do about the budget. From the beginning, we've laid out our budget issues in public, early on, and invited widespread public debate. We're not always rewarded for this (a lot of people seem to think that we're in worse shape than other cities, which isn't true, just because we talk about our budget issues more). But it's a great improvement over the days before I was elected, when our city -- like so many others -- resorted to gimmickry, band-aids, and stop-gap measures to avoid dealing with the real issues.

A public hearing to discuss the budget is scheduled for May 17. We have two coming up, both Monday nights at 6 p.m.: May 17 and June 7.

vice by this Fire Department was roughly 11,500. This is almost double the number of calls that occurred in 1987, which was the last time staffing or coverage levels were increased. Medic Engine #10, which came online in 2007 and was shut down just two years later due to budget cuts, was the first increase in staffing and coverage in this City in 20 years. Medic Engine #10, designed as a stepping-stone toward a desperately needed additional fire station in the Harbor area, made a significant impact on response times and area coverage while it existed.

The current budget proposal, for fiscal year 2010-2011, includes \$1.3 million in cuts from the Fire Department. This proposed reduction will mean the closure of Fire Station #4, located at Montgomery Avenue and Telephone Road. The area currently covered by Medic Engine #4 will be distributed between the adjacent Fire Stations #3, #5, and #6. Fire engines that are already struggling to adequately cover this City, with its very challenging geographic layout compared to other cities, will now be spread even thinner.

The goal of the fire service is to arrive at any emergency in less than 5 minutes. The national standard is to meet that goal 90% of the time. Currently, with 6 fire stations, we are meeting that goal about 49% of the time. With Medic Engine #10 in service we were at roughly 59%. With the loss of a full fire station, and the fire engine company it houses, the projected decrease in adequate response times could reach 30%.

Simply put...after the closure of Fire Station #4...one traffic accident requiring extrication will consume roughly half of

all available Fire Department resources in this City, and one residential house fire will leave no fire engines available to respond to other emergencies. These situations are not rare occurrences, and the proposed reductions will have severe impacts on the level of emergency services that are provided on a daily basis.

\$7 million budget slash to effect city services and jobs

by Rebecca Wicks

Venturans are sure to feel the effect of the phrase "living within our means" which keeps appearing in city memos when more than \$18 million in programs, services and jobs go by the wayside in the next two fiscal years. On the chopping block include the fire station on Telephone Street near Montgomery Street, the downtown senior center, the permanent elimination of 40 now vacant city positions as well as a number of sworn fire and police officer jobs.

Other cuts proposed by City Manager Rick Cole include the further reduction of cultural and homeless programs, code enforcement and parks and city landscape maintenance including trash removal. Cole's report also recommends the consolidation of some city divisions and the outsourcing of specific activities such as Web site management.

Cole mentioned, but fell short of recommending the closure of the Aquatics Center at the Community Park which could save the city approximately \$500,000 a year. Closing the Aquatics Center would not eliminate the annual \$500,000 debt the city is responsible for its construction.

"It's pretty grim," said Mayor Bill Fulton in a blog post. "For the first time in this long recession we are likely to see some serious cuts in service no matter what we do."

Cole's suggested cuts for the 2010-11 fiscal year fall in line with an \$80.4 million spending budget. This can be compared to the \$85.1 budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year. This new budget proposal represents the first time the city is looking at layoffs.

"Revenue reduction of this magnitude did not allow for simple trimming of expenses," said Cole. "[It] required a fundamental redesign of government."

Cole explained in his plan "highest priority went to public safety, followed by efforts to restore prosperity by focusing on economic development."

Still public reaction to the closing of a fire station was ill-received by many.

"How are we prioritizing safety if we're closing a fire station?" said Amber Verdries of Ventura. "It's hard to believe we can't find somewhere else to cut."

While firefighters will be relocated and not laid off, officials admit response time will most likely be effected.

Amy Hallerman who lives in Fire Station No. 4's coverage area is most concerned about the time it will take help to come to her house in a possible emergency.

"I understand the city needs to cut their budget," said Hallerman. "But at the possible cost of lives?"

Currently, Fire Station No. 4 cov-

ers the city area loosely bounded by Hill Street, Telegraph Street and Saticoy Avenue.

In addition to the closing of the fire station, the department will lose 10 jobs for a total of \$1.4 million in savings to the city.

At the last city council meeting a sizeable discussion took place around the closing of the downtown senior center. Fulton is optimistic about being able to save the senior programs which currently take place downtown.

"The city's goal is not to shut the downtown center; it's to save \$100,000 in overhead," said Fulton who said the city is looking into possibly moving some programs to other downtown locations such as the Topping Room at Foster Library.

Fulton and Cole both point to employee union contracts as a sizeable indeterminate factor in the city's budget. All city union contracts will be expiring between July and January. Last year city employee unions agreed to a wage concession saving the city more than \$2 million.

The \$2 million was not figured into Cole's recommendations meaning if the unions agree to continue their concession, some cuts may not be necessary.

A total of 11 police officers assigned to special duties would be cut in the 2010-11 fiscal year. These include officers in the areas of administration, patrol task force, records, patrol, graffiti investigation, school resource programs, training, human resources support, street crimes investigation and lifeguard duties. The savings to the city for these job eliminations would total \$2.4 million.

A public hearing to discuss the budget is scheduled for May 17. An additional meeting will take place June 21. Following these meetings final council recommendations will be made and budgets will be voted on for approval.

"I'm most proud of the fact we've had a very public and straight-up discussion about the budget," said Fulton who also stated he feels the city is doing its best and not resorting to "gimmickry, band-aids and stop-gap measures to avoid dealing with the real issues."

City generates controversy over request to lift deed restriction

by Tim Pompey

In a move to help push forward the proposed Edgewater development at the Ventura Promenade, the City has become embroiled in a controversy regarding their attempt to lift part of the deed restriction that was attached by California State Parks when the property was turned over to the City in the early '90s.

The request was initiated last fall by Assemblyman Tony Strickland in the form of a bill to be presented to the State Legislature (SB1001). This spring, however, word leaked out about the move to lift the deed restriction. Vince Kinsch, Chair of the Ventura County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, submitted a formal letter to Senator Roderick Wright, the chair of the Governmental Organization Standing Committee "urging the Committee to reject this misguided legislation." Strickland has since withdrawn the bill and admitted that the State Leg

Continued on page 16

The City's current budget proposal includes \$1.3 million in cuts from the Fire Department

by Ben Davis, President

Ventura City Fire Fighters Association (VCFFA)

As you read this article there are 6 fire engines and 1 ladder truck staffed within the City of Ventura. These fire engines are each staffed with 3 people, and are assigned to one of 6 fire stations located strategically throughout the City to provide even coverage. The ladder truck has 4 people and is responsible for providing more specialized functions across the entire City, and in some cases even to neighboring cities as well. This delivery model, and staffing level of 22 on-duty firefighters, provides 24-hour safety and security to the entire City of Ventura, population 106,000.

Your City Fire Department is made up of professional men and women trained in specialties that include paramedics, hazardous material spills, arson investigation, urban search & rescue, ocean and surf rescue, and confined space rescue. This is in addition to the daily regimen of their "regular" duties such as medical and traumatic emergencies, vehicle accidents, and fires of any and all types.

Last year the number of calls for ser-

News and Notes



Jeff Argend, Harold Powell, Bob Hahn, and Brian Meyer, the current property owners, stand in front of one of the buildings currently being renovated at The Kingdom Center

Where faith and property meet: The story behind Kingdom Center

by Tim Pompey

It started out as a standard business transaction. A little over three years ago, Harold Powell, Jeff Argend, and several other partners purchased the old City Center Motel near the corner of Ash and Thompson. Their hope was to eventually have a valuable piece of commercial property that provided a financial return. What they ended up with was a faith-based operation called Kingdom Center, a transitional living center for the homeless.

It's certainly not what they envisioned when they started. As Powell explains, "It started out as a mixed-use project. We even had a demo permit pulled because we thought we'd tear it down and start from scratch." In the meantime, they discovered the old motel had problems. Mostly with numerous police and fire calls. Not news to the neighbors or the City, but certainly an eye opener to the new owners. "The motel was problematic already," Powell continues. "That was one of the reasons why demolishing it seemed the thing to do."

Toward the end of 2008, Powell received a lunch invitation from his pastor, Larry Reichardt, of South Coast Fellowship Church. The subject of using the motel as a transitional living center was broached. The idea blossomed and took off.

Eventually, Pastor Sam Gallucci from Harbor Church signed a lease agreement with the property owners and became instrumental in developing The Kingdom Center. The agreement includes a right of first refusal. Many individuals and churches throughout Ventura became involved in various aspects of fundraising, construction, remodeling, and program management. Last March, The Kingdom Center had its grand opening.

The story, however, is ongoing. While the Center has been launched, meeting expense and mortgage payments remain a challenge. Powell knows the hurdles they face. "When we set up the lease, from a business perspective, it probably doesn't make a lot of sense. Even when it's fully leased, we still have a negative cash flow. We took a huge step of faith that somehow we're going to be able to make up the difference."

So, Jeff Argend has stepped in to become more than a financial partner. He's now the director of fundraising. He wants you to know that the Kingdom Center still needs your help. There's even a website where you can donate: www.thekingdomcenterventura.com.

Regarding the property's future, the partners' main focus at this point is to establish Kingdom Center's financial sta-

bility. Powell says, "What we hope to see is that the income that's there will be sufficient to cover the debt service. We want this eventually to be self-sustaining."

While finances are certainly a concern, community support for this project has been nothing short of phenomenal, both among churches in Ventura and within the City government. As Argend comments: "The unity of this is a very unique aspect. Bringing all these churches together, it's pretty amazing."

They're also aware of the City's support. As Powell observes, "When we ran this through the City, we were amazed at how the votes were unanimous: the Design Review Committee, unanimous, the Planning Commission, unanimous, the City Council, unanimous."

No doubt, Argend and Powell have their hands full. But looking toward the future, might they consider an additional faith-based project? Argend smiles, as if, at this point, managing one of these properties is quite enough. But Powell believes more than standard business practice is at work here. "I would not be surprised if something happens where supernatural meets natural and things happen that make us go 'Huh?' Even the way this whole thing has come about has been more supernatural than natural."

A lesson for future investors in Ventura real estate. Don't be surprised if you start with Plan A and end up somewhere totally different. Some properties have a mind of their own, or perhaps a higher power who's really in charge. Things happen, plans change, ideas take off. Sign on the dotted line and you could be the next proud owner of something miraculous. Don't laugh. Just ask Argend and Powell. It could happen.

The article above by Tim Pompey was based upon the following correspondence.

Good Afternoon Breeze,

I would like to express my surprise and disappointment with the picture and caption on the front page of your April 7-20 issue. In the Kingdom Center grand opening photo the caption lists the participants in the opening, but you did not list two of the most important individuals by name- Jeff and Louise Argend. I feel that it was a glaring omission when you consider that the Kingdom Center would not be possible without these two individuals, who are standing to the right of Pastor Sam Gallucci. Jeff has provided the property, and his firm has completed extensive renovation of this location, for the Kingdom Center. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Respectfully,

Mike Daly,

Ventura Resident

Mike:

My apologies Mike, I wrote the original article and I can assure you no slight was intended. I simply did not know who they were. As you can tell in the photo, it was a large group shot and I had to make an editorial choice about how many names to list in the caption. I will be happy to call Jeff and talk about Kingdom Center. Thanks for pointing out our omission. We like to give people credit where due.

Tim Pompey

Tim:

Thank you! Your response to my emails and openness as a publication are great indications of the integrity of your publication.

Mike

Foster Parenting – caring for the community

Maria,* a recent nursing school graduate and former foster youth, sought out her former foster mother many years after her one-week stay with her. Maria contacted her former foster mother to tell her that her words of encouragement and validation of her worth during a late-night conversation all those years ago had given her the strength to complete her education and begin her career. Spending just one week with a caring foster parent made a lifelong impact on Maria.

On May 4, the County Board of Supervisors recognized May 2010 as "Foster Families and Kinship Caregivers Awareness Month" in honor of the nearly 220 foster families and 135 relative caregivers who provide love, care, and understanding to over 600 foster children County-wide. The tremendous efforts of foster parents and relative caregivers, who nurture children who have suffered neglect or abuse until they can return safely to their biological parents or a permanent home, were commended by the Board.

Judy Webber, Deputy Director for the County's foster care program, stated: "Compared to last year, there are nearly 30 more foster homes available to vulnerable children. Each additional home makes a significant difference in our ability to match a foster child with a home in

which the child will thrive."

Webber credits the growing number of foster homes to ongoing support from the Board of Supervisors and coordinated efforts with the faith-based community, including the Ventura Missionary Church.

Most foster children adjust more readily when they are able to remain in a community that is familiar to them. In describing the need for more foster homes in diverse neighborhoods throughout Ventura, Webber added, "Foster families who are able to help sibling groups, children with disabilities, and teenagers are particularly needed."

Couples or single adults can become foster parents. Working parents are welcome; social workers can assist with child care arrangements. Resources available to foster parents include: monthly reimbursement for each child's basic needs; medical and dental coverage for each child; and ongoing training and support from social workers, educators, and other foster parents.

Interested in becoming a foster parent? Attend one of two information meetings this month: Tuesday, May 18, 6-8 p.m., Human Services Agency, 855 Partridge Drive, Ventura; or Saturday, May 22, 9-11 a.m., Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Drive, Ventura.

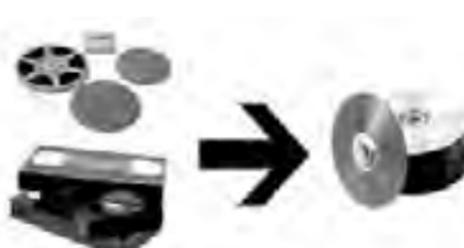
To register for a meeting, request information, view a video featuring local foster parents, or learn other ways you can help, call 654-3456 or visit www.vch-sa.org.

*Name of former foster youth has been changed



On April 24 the Ventura Botanical Gardens, held their Spring Garden Tour. Enjoying the wine reception at the home of Drs. Thomas & Lynn Kong were landscape architect Jack Kiesel (Strathmore house), Diane Beeler garden designer (Brent St. house) and Janet Fukumoto charter member of the Ventura Botanical Gardens and member of the marketing committee, and even little kids enjoyed being on the Garden Tour.

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News and Notes



City Corps; helpful, friendly and a whole lot more

The Ventura City Corps supports our community by staffing festivals, establishing community food gardens, litter and graffiti abatement, providing a fun and safe place for teens to meet and by helping protect our environment or even assisting seniors to mow their lawns.

Helping out at the recent Ventura Film Society Festival were Mondo Salceda, Malory Taylor (who makes sure that they are always doing their job) and Luis Camacho.

Mallory would be happy to speak with you to see how they might help you. She can be reached at 653-2351 or malory@venturacitycorps.org.



Chief Ken Corney was the Master of Ceremonies for the Boys & Girls Club breakfast

Power of One Breakfast held at the Derby Club

Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney was the Master of Ceremonies at the 5th Annual Power of One Breakfast presented by the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura held at the Derby Club at Seaside Park.

The theme of the Power of One breakfasts is that it just takes the Power of One to help transform the life of a youngster; to make fundamental changes in the lives of kids who are struggling with their future and their environments.

Chief Corney stated that most of these kids have only 3 choices:

- Get out of gangs
- Go to jail
- Get killed

He went on to say that "the after school programs, such as those offered by the Boys & Girl Clubs are the best way to achieve getting out of gangs so that they don't go to jail or get killed."

Speaker Junior Navarro, club staff member at La Fevre Boys & Girls Club stated that the Club has been a very im-

portant part of my life for 17 years and that "because of my life with the Club I went on to be the first in my family to graduate from high school."

Anne Deal, founder and CEO of Fashion Forms, gave the closing remarks and stated "What a huge impact the Boys & Girls Club has on the kids and the community. For only \$600.00 per year these kids have the opportunity to reach their full potential and truly making a change in their lives. The support by our community is vital to the success of the Club."

For 72 years the Club has provided a safe, positive place for the community's 6 to 18 year old kids regardless of race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation or financial well-being.

For more information, or to visit one of their 5 sites call 641-5585.

About Youth at Risk

Youth at Risk began as a regional project of the San Francisco-based Breakthrough Foundation in 1985. Claudette C. Faison, one of the co-founders, has been the Executive Director since its inception. The program's focus is on the development of youth who exhibit maladaptive behaviors such as truancy, gang membership, physical and verbal violence, and at-risk sexual activity. Youth at Risk has intervened in the lives of over 7,000 youth and their families, and has trained over 700 youth service professionals.

Youth at Risk organizations have been established in many cities and countries and are currently working in Ventura to implement Youth at Risk programs.

Youth at Risk has a proven process that empowers youth to create a positive life worth living. Youth at Risk's vision is to unlock futures so that youth in trouble do not have to become adults in trouble.

Since 1991 Youth at Risk has invested in a series of independent evaluations that indicate that youth who participate in their programs make positive changes that their friends and siblings do not.

Their programs are effective because their young people desperately want a chance - they want a change. Youth at Risk offers them this chance, gives them the tools they need, and creates a community that can support them in living the meaningful and fulfilled lives they deserve.

On May 23, at 6:30pm they will host a Youth at Risk Funny Fundraiser at the Ventura Harbor Comedy Club located at the Ventura Harbor.

Call 650-6972 for more information and to purchase tickets.

Recall mayor

Continued from page 1

and other council members to face financial difficulties head-on.

"Don't be afraid to make tough choices," is what Fulton said he has heard from Venturans. "We on the City Council are listening to our constituents and making the tough choices."

"This whole thing is pretty silly, I certainly don't think a special election is something we taxpayers want to foot," said Kati Ramirez of Ventura. "Plus, if I remember correctly Fulton wasn't the only one who voted for the 911 fee or to close the Wright Library."

Still others would like to see changes made.

"I'm not sure if a recall is the right move, but I do think something needs to change in city government," said Sandy Gutierrez of Ventura.



Ojai's Libbey Bowl amphitheater to be re-built

by Michelle Ellis
Ojai Museum Director

In Ojai an outdoor landmark of world-renown will be razed to the ground on June 21, 2010 and reconstruction will begin immediately thereafter. Beginning in 1957, Ojai's Libbey Bowl amphitheater has gathered international music and theatre groups attracting audiences from southern to northern California, and from east coast to west coast. As a tribute to the past, present and future of Ojai's Libbey Bowl, the Ojai Valley Museum will mount an historical exhibition showcasing the highlights of the Bowl's first 50 years, and the plans for its

reconstruction and future use.

The exhibit, entitled "Ojai's Libbey Bowl/Past, Present, Future," will run through July 11, in the changing gallery of the Ojai Valley Museum.

To illustrate the "Future" of the Bowl, architectural drawings and a maquette (small model) for the re-built structure will be on view. Also exhibited will be the maquette of the "1% for art" public work by musical sculptor, Trimpin. The Seattle-based sound artist will install his commissioned, kinetic, motion-activated "Sound Arch" at the entry of the new Libbey Bowl.



Recently PODS, the Camarillo, Oxnard and Ventura Chambers of Commerce united for an evening of fun, food, entertainment and fundraising to support 5 local charities. The event raised money for Aspiranet, Boys and Girls Club, Casa Pacifica, FOOD Share and the Turning Point Foundation.

The event featured raffles and wonderful food and deserts from many local restaurants. It was held at the PODS Ventura storage facility and also celebrated PODS 5 year anniversary.

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Community Events



Concert to benefit Zambia orphanage

On Saturday May 8 Sade Champagne will present The Lending A Hand Benefit Concert at Epic Ventura located at 2855 Johnson Drive.

The concert will benefit the Promised Land World Outreach Center's Zambia Orphanage. It will start at 7pm and will cost \$10 per person

Sade Champagne is a 22 year old professional well known musical artist, performer and motivational speaker residing in Ventura County. She believes that one person can make a difference and said "I've been working with The Promised Land World Outreach Center since August of 2009 helping them to build an orphanage in Zambia Africa."

"My first benefit for the Zambia Orphanage raised over \$700, and my most recent one at the Ventura Theater on January 30 had over 750 people in attendance and raised several thousand dollars! We are so close to raising all the funds needed to get the children into their new home."

The concert will be hosted by KNS Rockstar and will feature performances by Sade Champagne, Lisa Houston, Dance-Fusion, Young & Company, Dilini, Mad Toys, Flamin Souljaz, Courtj3zta rAN-DUMBness, Bible Fellowship Church Grounded Youth Choir, Shayde Bridges, and Jerkin Outta Control Crew.

Pampers moms at Ventura Harbor Village

The Ventura Harbor Village rolls out the red carpet for mothers on Thursday, May 6 from 4 - 7 p.m. for National

Mom's Nite Out! A fun and exhilarating evening packed full with complimentary tastings, live music, raffle prizes, shopping incentives and sales, free yoga classes, food and drink specials, giveaways, free personal training and belly dancing lessons, bartending demonstrations, and more to From sipping half off martinis with their friends while viewing the first Sex & the City movie to \$1 wine and cheese pairings at Ventura's newest wine and tapas bar, Ventura Harbor Village businesses treat moms with lavish splendor including a free dinner and show at the comedy club(while tickets last) and complimentary mini massages and hair consultations.

For the active mom, gentle yoga classes relax the mind, body and soul overlooking the boats at 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and moms learn about the latest kettle bell workouts craze. Or hop aboard a floating Yolo (You Only Live Once) Kayak board for a quick ride. (no special gear or swimsuit needed)

The event keeps moms ahead of the curve with a free professional digital photo to use for business or to update their Facebook page.

Live music is on tap at the Carousel Stage in the Harbor Village with chances to win a free photography studio session, a trip to the Channel Islands, and stand-up paddle board lessons.

National Mom's Nite Out event is free to participate and open to moms and their daughters or girlfriends over the age of 16. For daily updates on Ventura Harbor Village's Mom's Nite Out visit Ventura Harbor's Facebook page or log onto www.VenturaHarborVillage.com. Because let's face it- moms deserve it!

Audubon May events

Saturday, May 8, 8:30 a.m. Hedrick Ranch Nature Area. Leader: Sandy Hedrick (340-0478). Annual Meeting and Picnic. \$10 for lunch. Bird this lovely area with the possibility of seeing Least Bells Vireos and a Thick-billed Kingbird.

Saturday, May 8, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy Wild About Ojai. 8 a.m. walk with Jesse Grantham (\$10 for OVLC non-members which includes Fri. night slide show. Reservations required at 649-6842.

Sunday, May 16, 8 a.m. Camarillo Regional Park. Leader: Eric Waian (671-9913)

Saturday, May 22, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Beginners' Bird Walk, Canada Larga Road. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037). Walk and drive this road where you will find Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, orioles, Cliff Swallows and maybe some left-

over Lewis' Woodpeckers. Bring binoculars, a field guide, hat & water.

Sunday, May 23, 8 a.m. Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Leader: Jack Gillooly (646-3867). Birds of Spring. Many habitats attract colorful migrants and summer residents: Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, roadrunners, warblers, and the elusive grasshopper sparrow.

Please call the team leaders for more information and directions.

Calendar of events at the Fillmore & Western Railway

MAY 15 ----Murder Mystery Dinner Theater--"Viva Lost Vegas" 1960's - Come to Vegas and enjoy the "infamous Rat Pack". Who knows what other Vegas celebrities you might meet. Come with us on the train to Murder and Comedy. Dinner included choice of: prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, or salmon. Great entertainment provided by P. Maxwell Productions troupe. Adults only: \$89 per person.

MAY 22 --,"Murder Mystery Express Luncheon Train Ride" - All aboard the Saturday Scenic Excursion for a hilarious, outrageous afternoon murder mystery performed by the P. Maxwell Production troupe while enjoying our signature "Orange Blossom chicken" 3-course lunch. Join in the fun and guess "who-done-it". Shop and browse at the Loose Caboose Garden Center & gift Emporium during the intermission. Adults: \$61 Youth 6-13): \$32

MAY 22 - "The Wine Express" - Join us as we travel the beautiful Heritage Valley celebrating the grape. Enjoy the 3-hour vintage train trip while dining on a sumptuous buffet and partaking of wine-tasting. Top off the evening in the Dance car as you kick up your heels to the jazzy tunes of our DJ. Adults 21 years or older only, \$63.00 per person.

MAY 29 --"When The West Was Wild" - Murder Mystery Dinner Train-The year is 1974; the town of Fillmore is booming, there are rumors of a gold strike in the hills and opportunity is everywhere! Of course these elements DO tend to attract folks of dubious character. Could it be you're hoping to win the Red Rock Saloon's Annual Poker Tournament? Or help Mayor Townsend win the next election? Departs 6:30 p.m., Returns 9:30 p.m. \$89 per person.

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

gift that can make a real difference to kids with life-threatening medical conditions."

The Foundation can accept donated miles from AirTran Airways, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines, Northwest Airlines, United Airlines and U.S. Airways over the phone. To donate miles, locate your statement and call Janelle at 676-9474 x0.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. If you want to refer a child to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, call 1-888-899-9474. Donations may be sent to Make-A-Wish at 4222 Market Street, Suite D, Ventura 93001. To donate your vehicle or your airline miles call 676-9974. For more information on these or other ways to help visit their website at www.tri-counties.wish.org.

Ventura events

The wonderful Ventura band **Los Dudes** will be playing at the following Ventura locations and dates in May:

Sans Souci, Friday, May 14th 10 pm

J's Tapas, Saturday, May 15th 8 pm

Dargan's, Thursday, May 20th 10 pm

Dume Room, Thursday, May 27th 8:30 pm

Star Lounge, Saturday, May 29th 9 pm

May 6: Address to focus on the construction of a new CMH.

The public will receive updates on the construction of the new Community Memorial Hospital and other building projects, including the new Cancer Center, when President and CEO **Gary Wilde** gives the 2010 State of the Hospital address on Thursday, May 6.

The address will be held at 6 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Refreshments are at 5:30 p.m.

Wilde also will discuss healthcare reform and what it means to all of us on a local level, to our health system and our patients during his address.

Space is limited, so reservations are encouraged. For reservations, call 652-5385, or RSVP online at www.cmh-health.org/rsvp.

May 8 celebrates three big events on one great day for families!

Celebrate spring with three big events on one great day for families—as the seventh annual **Family Festival, Kids Swap Meet** and the ever-popular **Fairytales in the Park** series all return to the Barranca Vista Park, 7050 Ralston Street in Ventura, on Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm.

The Kids Swap Meet starts sooner this year from 9 am to noon for early bird shoppers—a great opportunity for kid vendors to clean out their closets of gently used, toys, books, games and more or to shop for valued secondhand items.

Family Festival in the Park, established seven years ago to showcase the many artists who teach at the Barranca Vista-Imagination Center also provides a place for local groups to introduce themselves to the community. Daylong stage entertainment includes dance, theatre and music performances as well as health and wellness demos. Hands on booths will feature,

The season opener for the Fairytales in the Park summer 2010 series starts at a special festival time of 2 pm with The Frog Prince. Throughout the day the City of Ventura Summer 2010 My Ventura guide will be available and registration can be taken on site for summer classes and camps.

Admission to the full day of activities

TRAIN RIDES
Getaway in your own backyard

WEEKEND SCENIC EXCURSIONS
Sat. to Santa Paula & Loose Caboose
Sun to Loose Caboose & Bennetts Honey Farm
12:00 PM-3:30PM

MURDER MYSTERY Dinner Train
May 15 - "Viva Lost Vegas"
May 29 - "When the West Was Wild"

"Throw Mama From the Train"
Mother's Day Luncheon onboard
No mess, no fuss, no dishes
Sun. May 9 11am or 3pm

Murder Mystery Express Luncheon
Saturday, May 22 12noon-3:30pm

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Make-A-Wish Foundation seeks frequent flier miles

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties is asking people to donate frequent flier miles to help grant summer travel wishes. The donated miles are used to send sick children and their families on wish trips. Heading into their largest travel season, reserves of donated miles are almost depleted. The local Tri-Counties chapter needs about 12 million miles each year to grant local wishes.

Chapter CEO, Shanna Wasson Taylor asks that "instead of turning in small balances of miles for magazines and other things, that frequent flyers donate miles, a

Community Events

is free thanks to sponsorship from the Buena Lanes, Main Street Dental Group and the City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Division. Visit www.kidsbowlfree.com/ Buena for more sponsor details.

May 11: Dr. Steven Alff, D.C., president of the National Health Federation (NHF) Ventura Chapter will be showing the award winning film *The Drugging of Our Children* by Gary Null at the Ventura Spinal Care Center located at 1590 E. Main.

Please join them at 5pm for the film, followed by the National Health Federation meeting at 6:30 pm.

The other main agenda item for the meeting will be to educate on the anti-DSHEA (Dietary Supplement Health & Education Act) legislation that Senators McCain and Dorgan are putting through Congress.

Established in 1955, the National Health Federation is a consumer-education, health-freedom organization working to protect individuals' rights to choose to consume healthy food, take supplements and use alternative therapies without unnecessary government restrictions. Please RSVP at 648-7987.

May 14: The Alexandra Nicole Concert at WAV Theater/ Gallery Friday May, at 7 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for the WAV Concert. Alexandra has performed for the Rod Stewart Benefit, and Jesus Christ Superstar. She is recipient of Cannes, France Artist 2007 Award and is a talented R & B rock vocalist and song writer. Tickets are \$10.00 advance, \$12.50 at the door. Other talented WAV artists: Saint Pierre, Danny Flowers, Visual Artists' Presentations, and other gifted artists will be performing into the midnight hour. For Tickets: (800) 350-7787 Visa, MasterCard Accepted.

Special guest appearance by Jade Hendrix, Cousin of Jimi Hendrix

May 15: The Country Lovers Western Dance Club will be holding a country western dance at The House of Dance, 3007 Bunsen Ave., Suite E, in Ventura. Theme will be "Prom Nite - Enchantment Under the Sea". Open dancing 7-10:30 p.m. A dance lesson will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Music will be by deejay "Jammin' Country". Cost is \$7.00 per guest; kids under age 13 are free. All ages welcome. Partners are not necessary.

Also the Club holds its weekly dance lessons and party every Tuesday evening at The Family Center, 10269 Telephone Rd.

Partners are not necessary and all ages welcome. For more info contact Country Lovers Hotline 647-1893, or visit their website at www.countrylovers.com.

May 15: The San Buenaventura Friends of the Library book sale will be from 10am-3pm.

Held at the Wright Library parking lot (it's still used for something) proceeds from this book sale will go to support the Avenue and Foster libraries.

Good used books in all categories, priced so you can afford lots of them! The San Buenaventura Friends of the Library is an all-volunteer group, working hard to help

Ventura's libraries serve the public need for knowledge and opportunity.

For more information contact Will Thompson, San Buenaventura Friends of the Library at 642-4358 or wily1@earthlink.net

May 15: On Saturday, 2010 TOUR du GREEN visits some of the most Earth-sustainable Projects on the planet! This EARTH educational tour explores the majestic Pacific coast & mountain eco-

systems between Malibu & Santa Barbara. With over 5,000 feet of climbing on carefully crafted Century, Half & Quarter Bike routes, there is an EcoVan option for Non-Cyclists. The May 15 tour will challenge your cycling skills, expand knowledge of all things GREEN and fundraise for charity. GET YOUR GREEN RIDE ON, make a positive impact on the environment and ride the TOUR du GREEN. Register now on ACTIVE.COM. <http://www.venturavelo.org> for more info.

May 16: Bears Ventura and the Ventura County Rainbow Alliance will host the first ever afternoon of bingo. This event will occur from 12:30 to 5pm at the Ventura Harbor Comedy Club located in the Ventura Harbor Village. This is a fundraiser to help raise needed funds for the Ventura County Rainbow Alliance's services, such as HIV Rapid Result testing, Mental Health & Counseling and the Youth Empowerment program.

Event tickets are \$25.00 cash at the door and will include 10 games of bingo. Extra tickets and early bird games will also be available.

For information or questions on the event, please contact Arthur Ramirez at events@bearsventura.org or at 415-7785.

Ojai events

Join former artistic directors and actors Paul Backer, John Slade, Jaye Hersh, Susan Kelejian and Claire Haider for a rich and colorful look back at the Ojai Shakespeare Festival.

The presentation is in conjunction with the Ojai Valley Museum's exhibit Ojai's Libbey Bowl, which runs until **July 11**. The Ojai Shakespeare Festival is one of numerous local groups that have enriched the Ojai community using the cherished Libbey Bowl venue.

This gathering will be held at the Ojai Valley Museum, 130 W. Ojai Avenue. The event is free to 2010 museum members and \$8 for non-members. Seating is limited, reservations suggested. Reservations for non-members must be paid in advance. Call the museum at 640-1390, to make a reservation or for additional information.

Fresh Roasted Concerts will culminate this year's world music series with a spectacular performance under the stars with award winning guitarist, **Robert Michaels** on Sat., **May 22 @ 7:30 pm** at the Oak Grove Pavilion, 220 W. Lomita.

Michael's incomparable signature sound, dazzling guitar flourishes and haunting vocals will sweep listeners away on a journey of raw emotion.

Tickets in advance are \$20, \$15 for seniors(65+) and students, tickets at the door are \$3 more. Tickets are available at Ojai Coffee Roasting, by phone at 646-8907 or online at www.ptgo.org.

Study the Esoteric Wisdom Teachings on Death and Dying at Meditation Mount. The studies will be primarily based on the compilation of Alice Bailey's writings found in the book entitled *Death: The Great Adventure*. You are invited to participate in this interactive group dedicated to meditation, reading and commentary, building a community of exploring and learning together.

Whereas participation in all 12 sessions is highly recommended, individuals are welcome to attend whatever sessions they can.

10340 Reeves Rd. 646-5508

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", by Roald Dahl is playing at the Ojai Art Center Theater with a cast of nearly 50 adults and kids **until May 23**.

Go to this famed family-friendly story at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2pm on Sundays at Ojai ACT, 113 S. Montgomery St. Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 for seniors, students and Art Center members and only \$5 for kids under 12. Reservations are strongly recommended; call 640-8797 or log on to www.Ojai-ACT.org

The 26th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, May 15 & 16. Located in the Chaparral Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave. Parking is free in the adjacent municipal parking lot, and admission is always free.

Held rain or shine, the Peddler's Fair is chock-full of quality antiques, collectibles, handcrafts and international crafts. This is a benefit for the Mira Monte PTO.

For more information, please contact Pat at 964-8915 or Jodie at 640-4384 x2284.

Strangers in a Strange Land: Honoring Our Introversion in a Culture that Idealizes Extroversion. A free talk/sharing with Ojai psychologist **Robyn L. Posin, PhD.** on Tuesday evening **May 11** from 7 to 8:30pm at a retreat setting in Ojai.

Posin explores the possibility of celebrating the healthy joys of introversion, solitude and the more contemplative lifestyle. She focuses on ways that we can more openly affirm and claim the juicy richness of this different path that we walk.

Call Robyn at 646-4518 for reservations, more information and directions. Please leave a message for call back. Call early, space is limited to 15 - 20 women.

On Sunday, **May 16**, at 4:30 the Ojai Film Society continues its Spring Series with the screening of the film **The Messenger** at the Ojai Theatre (formerly the Ojai Playhouse), 145 E Ojai Ave.

The Messenger is a gripping account of two soldiers assigned the dispiriting duty of informing the next of kin of their loved one's death.

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 Ojai Film Society is a non-profit, volunteer organization that has been bringing independent and foreign films to the Ojai Community for over twenty years.

Channel Island Harbor events

Gypsies in a Trunk present Fairy Tales in the Park. Sundays **June 6, July 11, August 1 and September 5** at 2pm at Harborview Park.

Gypsies in a Trunk, an all-volunteer troupe of actors perform fairy tales for the young and young at heart. The troupe's love of children's theatre has led them to perform every May through September all over Ventura County. The shows are free with donations suggested. For more information please visit *Gypsies in a Trunk*.

Safe Boating Expo

5th Annual Channel Islands Harbor Safe Boating Expo on Saturday **May 22**, from 9am - 5pm. at the US Coast Guard Station 4201 S. Victoria Ave.

- Air, sea and fire rescue demos 11am and 2pm.

- Tours of USCG vessels 9am - 4pm.

- Safety demonstrations including fire extinguisher, flares, life jackets and more

- Booths and displays

- Bring your outdated flares for safe disposal

- Vessel safety examinations - trailered boats at the launch ramp

VC Community Education classes

Ventura College Community Education is now taking registrations for a sizzling summer full of classes, workshops, and seminars designed for both professional development and personal enjoyment.

In the area of green technology, Community Education is pleased to offer Energy Auditor Training with BPI Certification. This new, week-long program is designed for individuals in the fields of construction, design, inspection, contracting, and utilities who want to earn their Building Performance Institute certification as an energy auditor.

On Saturday, May 1, car enthusiasts will not want to miss a morning with alternative fuel guru, Joel Woolf, who will conduct a seminar titled Veggie Powered Vehicles explaining the basics of converting diesel engines to run on vegetable oil.

A new, Small Business Development Series includes writing a Business Plan, Quickbooks® for Beginners, Build Your Own Business Website, Social Media Marketing for Small Businesses, and Starting Your Own Business - The Laws You Need to Know.

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Art Scene



This oil on canvas "Faulkner Farm" will be one of the amazing 40 paintings on display by Tony Jankowski

Jankowski at the Santa Paula Art Museum

From the Classics to Plein Air a wonderful art exhibit by talented Ventura artist Tony Jankowski will be held at the Santa Paula Art Museum, located at 117 N. 10th Street in Santa Paula. You are invited

to the preview exhibition and reception on May 15 from 4-6pm. The show runs until August 15 and costs \$15 for members and \$20 for non members. Please RSVP to 525-5554 for the preview evening.



Some folks living above Ventura High School have definitely figured out how to make lemonade from lemons by turning the awful pot-holes on their street into pop-art.

Now the city has to figure out a way to fill them with thick glass so that they can be viewed forever. Of course if the city never fills them they will be viewed forever.

Art projects for adults at Museum of Ventura County

Become a kid again—make your own art project, and hear the story behind a unique quilt made of T-shirts, at the Museum of Ventura County during First Fridays Ventura's evening gallery crawl on May 7.

The museum has an active evening planned that night, to coincide with their current exhibit of art quilts. From 6 to 6:30 p.m., hear Laura Peck show and talk about the story-quilt she created from souvenir t-shirts she and her husband collected on their travels. From 6:30 to 8 p.m., you can join award-winning quilter Pat Masterson in a quilt-inspired art project for adults. Admission to the museum is free.

Learn creative ways to transform fabric and everyday objects into art during a demonstration by Eileen Alber on Saturday, May 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum of Ventura County.

A surface design and quilt instructor, Alber will demonstrate easy-to-do-at-home techniques with fabric and objects. Seating is limited to 25 participants; reservations can be made by calling 805-653-0323 x 10. Admission is \$5 for the general public, free for museum members.

Alber, nominated in 2003 for the Quilt Teacher of the Year Award from Professional Quilter Magazine, has been a quilter for 35 years, and her teaching concentrates on developing individual style and skills in surface design, as well as honing quilt-making techniques.

World famous artist

Continued from page 1

museum walls already. That special spark which brings tears to the client's eyes on delivery has to be there or you haven't done your job as a portrait artist. I want people to say 'Wow, you really captured the person...and it's also a great painting. Then I know it is a job well done.'

Johanna has accepted my invitation to do one of her quick portraits at the Relay For Life to raise funds for the American Cancer Society, to be held at Buena High on May 16. She will do this portrait for \$500.00 and she will donate the entire amount to the American Cancer Society; her normal charge for this type portrait is \$1,000.00.

She will be doing only one portrait at the Relay so if you would like a one of a kind portrait you had better respond to me quickly. It would make a wonderful mother's day gift.

To see her wonderful work go to www.johannaspinks.com

Please contact me at editor@venturabreeze.com to set up your "sitting".

Unluckiest traveler

Continued from page 1

he received top-notch care in an American-Thai hospital that usually caters to medical tourists. But his ordeal was not over. Feldman describes the next two weeks, "I got a terrible life-threatening infection after my second surgery. I was sick as a dog. My doctors put me on a super high dose of antibiotics round-the-clock."

The contest

Eight weeks later, the Feldmans were homebound. A routine mailer that came with an insurance claim caught Feldman's attention. Travel Guard, a tra-



"After the Storm" oil painting by Ron Zolkover

Paintings by Ron Zolkover at Harbor Village Gallery

Ron Zolkover's collection of oil paintings "Golden Days and Starry Nights" will be exhibiting at the Harbor Village Gallery from Wednesday, May 12 to Sunday, June 13. The artist Reception will be held on Saturday, May 15, from 5 - 8pm.

Zolkover leads us on a guided tour of our golden state's striking landscapes. His exuberant brush strokes capture warm western lights and fresh summer days. Created outside in a plein-air style, his paintings are fresh from the scene.

A passionate Californian native, Zolkover has spent some time sailing and surfing. His work reflects his innate connection with the sea and nature. He strives to catch lively impressions of his surroundings and the moment. Painting has become a refuge and obsession, releasing his creative side, bringing a new level of enjoyment to his life.

vel insurance and assistance company, just launched "The World's Unluckiest Traveler" contest.

Feldman's daughter entered the contest for him, describing his recent misfortune. Ada describes her husband's competitive nature, "It gave him something to do while he was recovering." He sent out e-mail blasts daily encouraging family members and friends to vote.

Snakes on a plane, an avalanche in India, sand fleas in Jamaica, a malaria case in Ghana, a lost wedding dress, hurricanes during a cruise were some of the other travel catastrophes. "I think my closest competitor was this girl from Roswell, New Mexico who wanted to marry an alien. So I countered her story by saying that if they voted for me, it would save the fate of mankind," chuckles Feldman.

Voters bought the "save mankind" story and Feldman won in February. Erin McKeon, an account supervisor at MMG Mardiks, Travel Guard's public relations agency describes the contest criteria, "The unlucky travel experience or mishap doesn't have to be medical or anything in particular. It can be something silly or outrageous. Any misfortune will do!"

Enough misfortune

Feldman hopes that that's the end of his unlucky streak. The semi-retired doctor took some time off to recover but is currently practicing two days a week. He is under the care of a local orthopedist but his leg is not completely healed. "I get a little discouraged and nervous sometimes. Hopefully I won't need any more surgery, but I may," he says.

Does bad luck really come in threes or multiples of three? Feldman laughs, "I hope not! I would go on another mission in a heartbeat. I just don't want to break my leg again."

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



Los Angeles County recently reported a record number of heartworm cases, and a veterinarian in San Gabriel diagnosed heartworm in a dog, once a rare occurrence in our area. This can become a serious concern for us pets and our human companions.

Until recently, heartworm wasn't considered a threat to pets but recently an increasing number of dogs and cats have been diagnosed with the disease.

Veterinarians are increasingly concerned about pet owners' knowledge of heartworm and the serious threat it poses to their pets. Some think that the local coyote population carries heartworm, and that the disease is also being spread by the mosquitoes that populate in standing water. And, with mosquito season just around the corner, veterinarians are worried about the number of dogs and cats that aren't being tested or protected.

I suggest that you speak to your vet about this and tell them that you heard it from me.

A San Clemente man has been sentenced to a year in jail and three years' probation after he was convicted of killing a dog by slamming its head on concrete.

Bayron Reyes Lopez, 26, pleaded guilty to one felony count each of animal cruelty and vandalism in the death of a 5-year-old miniature schnauzer

named Kokanee
Prosecutors said Lopez yelled at a woman walking her dog and when she ran, her dog's leash became tangled around a street sign. Lopez caught the dog, choked it and banged its head on the sidewalk.

Certainly Kokanee meant very much to his companion person yet us animals still aren't considered that important by the courts, what if he did this to a human being instead of Kokanee? He would go to prison for a very long time. At least they should slam his head on the concrete a few times.

Dealing a setback to the animal rights movement, the Supreme Court has struck down, on free speech grounds an anti-cruelty law that made it a federal crime to sell videos or photos of animals being illegally wounded, killed or tortured.

They said that the law was too broad and could allow for prosecutions for selling photos of out-of-season hunting, for example. I think that should be illegal also.

Again why not just allow videos of people being illegally wounded, killed or tortured and forget the whole thing?

A 10-year old toy poodle called Frazzle, from Ojai has won the victory in his class at the American Kennel Club's Preferred National Agility Championships recently held in Tulsa, Okla.

Scamp Club

Hi Scamp,

I'm happy to know that any animal can join Scampclub. I am a 12 year old, plus-size cat and quite attractive (they tell me). I moved in on my own to live with my current family about 5 months ago.

My former caretaker had to move. My current family consists of 2 retired RNs who moved to mid-town last July. I live outside by choice and also because of their cat allergies. I never leave the property and have several cushy beds in the garage and heat at night and on chilly days. I also get great food (although I'm afraid she's about to cut my calories a bit) I also get daily rub downs and lots of schmoozing.

My family had a Scamp type dog for many years. I like some dogs and lived with one for a while. They might be looking for another dog and of course must like me.

Sincerely, Gwen

Gwen:

Thanks for writing to me. I like cats a lot even though I kid around a lot about you cats not having to do anything for your keep. I really like you because you make me look thin.

If you decide to get another dog please consider adopting one of the dogs that we feature in the Breeze and tell them that I sent you.

Scamp



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.

It's the first year the AKC has held a Preferred National Agility Championship to complement its more well-known National Agility Championship. The new competition was designed for older dogs who want to keep competing. What about a class for "big-boned" dogs like me?

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Assault with deadly weapon

On Saturday, April 24th, at 1:28 a.m., several Ventura Police Officers responded to a call of a large crowd gathering in the parking lot at Karma Lounge, 281 West Main Street, starting a fight. Arturo Villalobos, 22 and a resident of Oxnard, was observed striking the victim, Frederick Anaya, 23 and from Oxnard, with a glass bottle.

Villalobos was immediately apprehended and taken into custody. Anaya was transported to the Ventura County Medical Center where he was treated for his injuries, which were not life threatening.

Villalobos was booked at the Ventura County Jail for assault with a deadly weapon.

Assault with a deadly weapon

On Saturday, April 24th, at 2:00 a.m., Antonio Huerta, 29 years old and a resident of Ventura, was walking through the parking lot of Denny's Restaurant, in the 2148 block of Harbor Boulevard. Huerta was confronted by a group of 7-8 suspects. The suspects challenged Huerta to a fight and then attacked him. Huerta was knocked to the ground and beaten by the suspects. Two of the suspects were armed with knives and slashed Huerta numerous times on his body.

Huerta was transported to the Ventura County Medical Center where he was treated for his injuries, which were not life threatening. The suspects were not located.

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

Assault with a deadly weapon

On Saturday, April 24th, at 2:07 a.m., officers responded to the San Souci bar, on the 100 block of South Chestnut Street, in reference to a possible brandishing of a knife. The victim, Jeffrey Lisenbee, 29 and a resident of Ventura, was inside the bar when a fight erupted between bar patrons.

Angel Garces, 28 and a resident of Ventura, attempted to prevent security from stopping the fight. Lisenbee attempted to intervene. Garces armed himself with a knife and lunged at Lisenbee and attempted to attack him. Garces was restrained by security, but fled before officers arrived. He was contacted by the police shortly after and less than a block away from the bar.

Garces was arrested and booked at the Ventura County Jail for assault with a deadly weapon. Lisenbee was not injured.

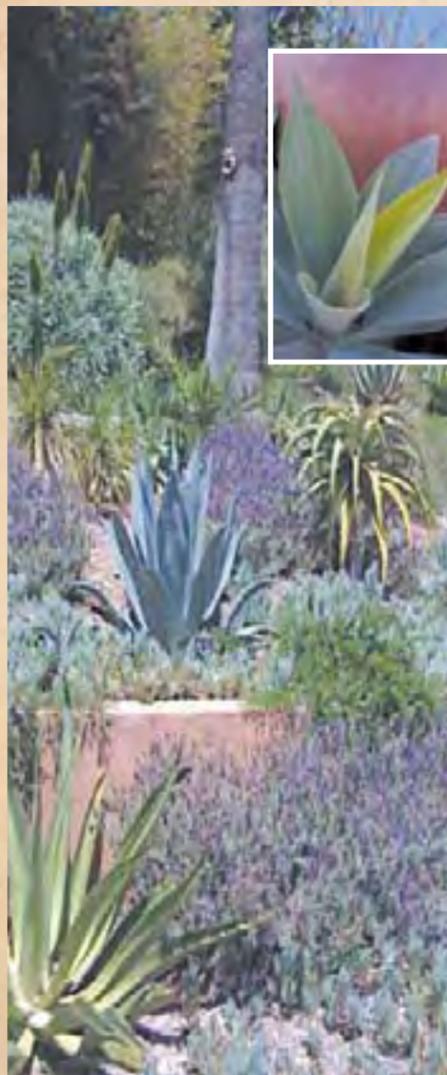
Burglary arrest

On Saturday, April 24th, at 6:30 a.m., officers responded to a report of a subject loitering at the College United Methodist Church on the 4300 block of Telegraph Road and possibly in possession of church property. Several church members were talking to the subject, Mark Wilson, 39 years old and a resident of Ventura, and awaiting police arrival. The responding officers found a burglary had occurred overnight at the church and their investigation led to Wilson's arrest.

Upon arrest, officers discovered Wilson was in possession of heroin and prescription drugs. Further investigation at Wilson's residence several miles away led to the recovery of property belonging to the church. Wilson was lodged at the Ventura County Jail for a variety of felony and misdemeanor charges.

Continued on page 16

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Senior Living Never too late to start

by Mira Reverente

“Reach overrrr.”
“Sit baaaaack.”
“Time to streeetch.”

In his deep baritone voice, Frank Jackson coaxes about 15 class participants to follow his lead and do some low-impact exercises while sitting on a chair. The setting was the dining area of the Ventura TowneHouse, a senior residential facility on Telegraph Road. The students are mostly octogenarians and nonagenarians.

Everyone was quiet and attentive until one gentleman, started “complaining.” “I’m too old for this,” says Arturo, 90, as Frank persuades him to go behind a chair for the next set of exercises. The women giggle as the men rib him for grumbling. Arturo eventually goes behind the chair and the class resumes.

“He’s funny and witty. He will complain but he’ll do the exercises anyway,” says Frank of his 90-year-old newest recruit. Arturo had just moved into the facility a couple of weeks before and had just started attending the daily classes.

Living better, living longer

The evidence is clear, daily physical activity is beneficial for everyone. Several studies have reported that even just 30 minutes of physical activity, at least

the motions, but avoiding the main dining area.

Maintaining a routine

The no-pressure approach is attractive to some, even to non-residents. One of the youngest participants and a non-resident, Satsumi, 73, says, “Frank is very good. I like this class and I make it a point to go at least twice a week.”

The class is a part of some residents’ daily routine. Ann, 97, a widow and a daily-goer says, “It has helped me not only physically, but mentally as well. There’s something to look forward to everyday.”

Bill, 80, the self-appointed Ventura TowneHouse “historian” because he knows everyone and their stories, also likes going to the gym in the basement. “Two to three times a week, I’ll go to the morning class. Then I’ll head to the gym the other days. Frank is always there to help us with the equipment and make sure no one gets hurt,” says Bill.

The basement gym houses some basic cardio equipment like treadmills and also hand weights, and also serves as Frank’s office. Non-residents like Satsumi can attend the morning classes and use the gym if they sign up and pay the \$10 annual fee at the Adult Education Center.

Aiming far and wide

Frank tries to be flexible and considerate. “Some mornings, I can tell they don’t even want to be here. But they show up anyway and I adjust the routine according to their vibe or mood,” he explains.

On the weekends, Frank can also be seen on CAPS Channel 6 and VTV Channel 15, demonstrating his no-nonsense and basic approach to fitness. Frank looks to the future, “Eventually, I want to tape more routines and reach a larger audience. If I can spread the word that exercising does not need to be fancy and can be started at any age, then I have done my part.”

For more information: Ventura TowneHouse, 4900 Telegraph Rd. 642-3263 or www.vth4u.com



Frank Jackson

three times a week, can reduce the risks of heart attack, Alzheimer’s disease, stroke and some types of cancer.

It’s never too late to start. A long-time athlete and senior fitness instructor for the past 30 years, Frank has been telling just that to his clients. Strong and buff like a weightlifter, with the patience of a saint, he keeps his routines simple. “These are delicate people. I just want to get them out of their beds, out of their rooms and just get moving. I stick to a basic routine targeting their range of motion, with minimal equipment,” he explains.

In fact, there is no other equipment except for the chairs. For 30 minutes each day, class participants spend about 80 to 90 percent of their time doing the head-to-toe exercises while seated. Some participants come daily, while some attend whenever they please. Some are in the fringes of the dining area, going through



Yippee-eye-oh

On April 24 The Lexington Senior Living facility hosted their wonderful Wild West party: an old fashioned western-style food, music and dancing affair. Especially enjoying the western band were non-stop resident (in the front) Ethel Vinson, other residents, guests and employees. The Lexington is located at 5440 Ralston St. and can be reached at 644-6710.

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Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

Celebrate seniors and volunteer at Caregivers!

by Nanci Cone

May is Older Americans Month—a tradition dating back to 1963 to honor the legacies and ongoing contributions of older Americans and support them as they enter the next stage in life. This year's Older Americans Month theme—Age Strong! Live Long!—recognizes the diversity and vitality of today's older Americans who span three generations.

CAREGIVERS, Volunteers Assisting the Elderly has been on the forefront of helping seniors by promoting health, well-being, dignity and independence. CAREGIVERS, a nonprofit agency, helps by providing assistance such as transportation, visiting companionship and telephone reassurance – all at no cost to the person served.

"We have been doing this since 1984 when we received a startup grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and we've been working hard to help people through grants and donations ever since," says Executive Director Carol Boatner. "With the state of the current economy, it is harder than ever to get the money we need or enough volunteers to help the many seniors that need us. Last year alone, CAREGIVERS provided 61,000 hours of free service and donated 116,244 miles of transportation for 438 homebound seniors," she adds.

Audrey, one of the Ventura seniors being helped states, "I am very grateful for the high quality of these volunteers you have. CAREGIVERS has made a difference in my life by their caring and assistance. My life has been easier and they have alleviated my loneliness." Anne, another senior in the program says, "I cannot say enough about your services. My volunteer Marie was attentive and showed such concern for me that my doctor and staff thought she was a relative. Having CAREGIVERS as a resource has certainly changed my life and I feel more in control. I have my independence back!" And long time volunteer Terry, adds, "Personally I feel like I get back much more than I give. I love being part of the CAREGIVERS family!"

"We're looking for volunteers and tax deductible donations of money, goods or services," says Carol. "Each year, we have two major fundraising events – our Wearin' o' the Green Golf Tournament usually held on St. Patrick's day in March and our Sailathon, a job-a-thon type competition but with sailboats that will be held this year on Sunday, October 10th. We can always use help with donations of raffle items or volunteers to help with these events. Additionally, we are a terrific place to donate that vehicle you no longer want. And, if you are unable to spare the time as a weekly volunteer, you may want to consider becoming a part of our Board of Directors or serving on a particular committee such as Marketing or Public Relations to better connect with the

public," she goes on to say.

Other ways you can help include sponsoring a lonely senior for one year - \$500; providing 20 hours of household help, errands and companionship - \$100; providing 5 round trips to the doctor or grocery store - \$35; making a tax-deductible contribution in any amount; sending in monthly donations; making contributions to CAREGIVERS in memory of loved ones or to honor someone (They promptly acknowledge your generosity to the designated person); remembering us in your will or trust or donating your appreciated securities and realize tax benefits.

To learn more about CAREGIVERS, Volunteers Assisting the Elderly, visit their website at www.vccaregivers.org or call 658-8530 – and make a difference in someone's life!

Classes for persons over 50

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Cal State University Channel Islands offers educational classes for persons over 50. These classes, while of university caliber, do not have tests, grades, or college credits, but are for intellectual stimulation. In collaboration with the Ventura Senior Center, two classes will be offered this fall at the center at 420 E. Santa Clara St. The classes are held on Tuesdays, 10-12:00 and 12:50 – 2:50, from August 24 – October 12. The morning class studies the evolution of humans during the late Pleistocene epoch. How did the first peopling of Africa, Asia, Europe Australia and the Americas take place in the era of modern humans? It is taught by Matthew Curtis, Ph.D., a lecturer at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The afternoon class is quite different. Taught by Bruce Collins, who taught for many years at Ventura College and at Elderhostel, this class examines the history of popular song from the 19th century to Tony Bennett, concentrating on the period after invention of the microphone, which opened the "golden age" of popular song. The cultural changes wrought by the microphone will be studied.

For more information about courses and fees, visit www.csuci.edu/exed/osher.htm, or call 437-2748. Enrollment closes on August 20, but some classes fill before that date.

Express yourself

Every Wednesday, between 4 and 6pm Sam Povar hosts a wonderful conversation group at the Senior Center located on Sana Clara, a group that he founded. With over 175 names on the list and averaging 16 to 24 people each Wednesday they talk about everything, everything goes, there is no political correctness in this group. All ages from 16 to 85. Republicans, Democrats, independents, socialists, liberals and very conservative men and women all participate. For a lively night of conversation be sure to join them.



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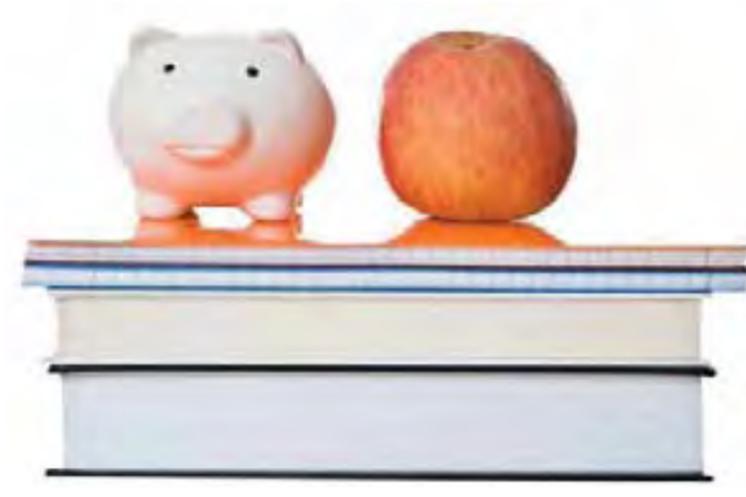
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School

High school in cyberspace

by Kathryn Duckwitz

Being in high school is like being employed in a communications station. Messages are constantly being sent and received. Students can be spotted on a regular basis listening intently into a set of earphones. Numbers are dialed, ringtones sound, pictures and texts are exchanged. This plethora of communication never slows, never rests and never quiets. The truth is that one can pretty much guarantee that unauthorized electronic device usage is always present – even in the most unsuspecting places.

At one point in time, using cell phones and iPods was just generally frowned upon. However, it was then often viewed as acceptable for the students to be able to take them out and use them in class during their spare time. It was never taken quite as seriously as it is today. So what changed? The answer can be summed up in one word: cheating. More specifically, cheating on a state test. A few years ago two students were caught texting each other the answers to a California Standards Test (CST). These tests are taken very seriously, for even teachers are not allowed to look at them prior to the testing sessions. That's because many of the questions on the test are recycled or are only slightly altered for the next year,

so it's essential that the answers don't get distributed throughout the student body. That event was what spurred Ventura High's strict policy of immediate cell phone confiscation upon being seen used during class.

Nevertheless, many high school kids are far too determined to listen to music or text a few friends during class to be overly concerned with the consequences. This attitude has resulted in a very stealthy approach to do so. The most commonly seen in-class texting method is simply typing messages under the desk, although many teachers have become very alert to eyes suspiciously fixed downwards. Girls often will place purses squarely in front of them atop their desks and text from inside the purse while deceptively simulating searching for something. Also, if one is looking carefully enough, sometimes a masterfully concealed long, thin wire can be seen running from a shirt to under a hood or even hair. That student is definitely the most innocent appearing, as they usually do a fantastic job of making their teacher believe they are being given full attention as well. Some students go the high frequency route, using mosquito ringtones to alert them of calls or messages. Most adults can't hear the high frequency, but a few get headaches from them and recognize what's going on. Then there's my personal favorite: calling someone in the middle of class. It's unbelievable how students are able to pull this off completely

unnoticed. This maneuver involves a friend who is willing to feign conversing with the person calling while they are actually speaking to the person on the other end of the line. The lengths they go to in order to use their technology is on the verge of insane.

Is all the electronic usage out of control? Probably. I've encountered several students who easily manage to send over five hundred messages a day. It's certainly no wonder why there are more kids with carpal tunnel and arthritis of the hands than ever before. The problem is, however, this has become the current main form of communication and these resolute kids aren't willing to stop. It will be interesting to see what the next great technological advances will arrive to replace texting. It will be even more interesting to see what creative ways people will figure out how to use them.

Teach your kids that money doesn't grow on trees

When America's economy took a turn for the worse, financial education for kids and teens finally became a 'hot topic'. The question, however, of how best to teach kids that money doesn't grow on

trees remains. Here are five tips that will help parents prepare their youngsters for solid financial success as adults.

1: Talk to your kids about where money comes from. It usually comes from 'work' – either your work or your money working for you.

2: Familiarize your children with banks – not the piggy kind, but the institutions. A bank is the first place we go outside the home to save our money. Kids need to understand how banks work

3: Talk about what it means to 'invest' money, not just save it. Investing involves the purchase of different types of assets so that money grows over time.

4: Give your kids plenty of opportunity and time for "money practice": spending, saving, investing and donating. Practice is how we master almost everything and doing it now gives your kids the chance to make mistakes while the stakes are still low.

5: Help your children learn the language of money. Learning financial terms and definitions is the first step to successfully navigating the adult world of finance.

For more information and easy ways to teach kids about the wonderful world of money, visit www.campmillionaire.com or call Elisabeth Donati at 957-1024. Elisabeth Donati's Creative Wealth Intl, LLC offers financial education programs for kids, teens, and adults including Camp Millionaire and Moving Out! for Teens.

Senior Sound-Off

Hello Mr. Cole (Rick Cole City Manager)

I have heard that you and the city council are considering closing the Ventura Senior Center on Santa Clara St. As someone very knowledgeable about senior affairs in Ventura County and Ventura, let me provide information that should affect your decision.

I am Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Cal State Channel Islands. I founded OLLI in 2004, and began offering classes at the Senior Center in 2005. I am on the Advisory Board of the Area Agency on Aging and through that, I have more than a working knowledge of senior affairs in the county, and of senior centers in other cities. I was on the organizing committees for the County Board of Supervisors Senior Summits, sponsored by Linda Parks in 2005 and 2009. Thus, I am intimately involved in senior affairs in the county, and with most senior centers.

Your plans to close the Santa Clara center run exactly opposite to the need of seniors, and to efforts to deal with increasing needs throughout the county. Simi Valley has recently built a very large center for its senior population. Oxnard has three centers. And most significantly, Thousand Oaks will be building a second center, in Newbury Park, to meet the needs of its growing population of seniors. It is not enough to claim that the eastside senior center will complement the center on the Avenue.

Why are other communities increasing their services for seniors, and increasing their attention to the future of senior needs? Because other communities are aware that the number of seniors will double in the next 5-20 years. Because they are wedded to the concept of "aging in place", i.e., that seniors will want to spend their years in the same city, and not move to other locations. Seniors are citizens of your city and deserve city attention. But beside this, why

is it good policy to serve seniors and have them "age in place"? Seniors vote at a higher rate than younger people (is the city council listening?). They pay taxes, but use less of the city resources (e.g., they don't have children using the schools). They have a low crime rate.

You will drive seniors from Ventura. It is senseless to believe that seniors will be accommodated by the private sector. Private, for profit senior venues can not, and will not, handle the influx of seniors that will result from the center closing. Residents of these venues will object to other getting free services (e.g., exercise facilities) when they have to pay. This is known in Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley - why does Ventura think otherwise? In Thousand Oaks, for example, we are exploring access to private facilities with the Conejo Recreation and Park District paying for T.O. residents.

Limiting senior activities to the Center on the Avenue will not work, both because of the doubling of the senior population soon to come, and the fact that the center is not equipped to handle all types of activities even now. If you look at the activities hosted at the two center, you will see virtually no overlap.

To close the center just when the population of seniors is about to explode is senseless, and flies in the face of what other cities are doing.

Martin Kaplan, Ph.D.

Dr. Kaplan:

Thanks for sharing your thoughtful comments.

We are readying a budget package to go to the Council this month. In our effort to be transparent, we have notified our Senior Coordinating Council of the consideration of consolidating our nearby senior centers. We are actively seeking their input on how to more cost-effectively continue to provide senior

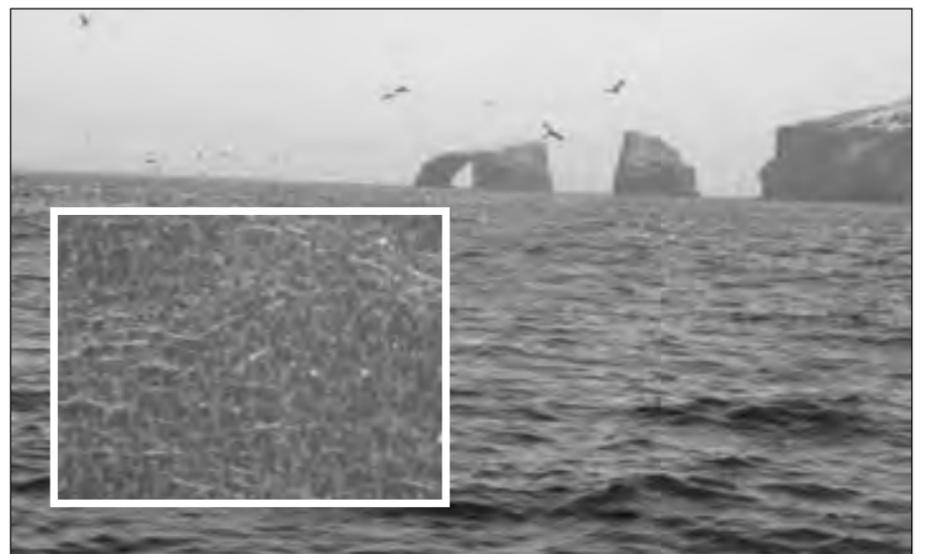
services and programs across the entire city, not just the Westside where both our senior centers are currently located.

The City Council and City staff share your concern about senior services. But we do not have a Recreation and Park District like Thousand Oaks. All such services must come from the City's budget which has to be reduced to

live within our means. Voters in Oxnard recently approved a sales tax increase -- voters in Ventura did not. Hard choices must be made that affect each and every city service, including police and fire.

Be assured that senior services remain a top priority for the city.

Rick Cole
City Manager



Birds and krill as far as you could see

1/8" invertebrates triumph over 50 foot mammals

by Sheldon Brown

Recently Diane and I went on a whale watching trip with Island Packers.

Sure we saw the usual whales and the wonderful dolphins riding the boats wake and looking up at us from the sides of the boat but even though they are well worth the price of admission for us the star of the day was not a 50 foot mammal but an invertebrate only the length of the lead at the end of a pencil.

Krill is a shrimp-like marine invertebrate animal. These small crustaceans are important organisms of the zoo-

plankton, particularly as food for certain whales. The name krill comes from the Norwegian word krill meaning "young fry of fish," which is also often attributed to other species of fish.

There were zillions of them turning the ocean red and zillions of little fish eating them which together brought zillions of all kinds of wonderful birds covering the water. It was just a wonderful delight and experience to see the balance of nature in our world famous Channel Islands.

Religion

Creation Vs Evolution? You decide!

Many parents have removed their children from the public school system to place them in private schools or to teach them at home. What is the problem in our schools? Why do people pay taxes for the public school system, then pay tuition for a private school? While answers may vary some parents will tell you that one reason is the humanistic philosophy of evolution being promoted as a base for scientific truth in the public schools.

In order to give people a better understanding of the creation-evolution conflict and provide answers to some of the questions in this vital subject, The River Community, located at 1620 Mesa Verde Ave. in Ventura, will be hosting a free seminar at 5:30pm on Sunday, May 16.

The guest speaker, Eric Hovind, has had the opportunity to speak over 2,500 times, traveling to five foreign countries and all fifty states presenting and debating this life-changing message about creation versus evolution.

You won't want to miss this! For More Information please visit their website at www.TheRiverCommunity.org or call 815-5795.

Annual Ventura Prayer Breakfast

This year The Salvation Army is sponsoring the Ventura Prayer Breakfast on the National Day of Prayer, May 6, at the Top of the Harbor at Ventura Crowne Plaza. This interfaith, interdenominational gathering is designed to focus your attention on prayer.

This year's keynote address will be given by Pastor Britt Merrick of Reality Church in Carpinteria. Through Britt's leadership Reality churches have sprung up across the country.

Mayor Bill Fulton will be there to talk about his Jewish faith and how it guides his prayer life as he helps lead this city.

You can participate by purchasing tickets at \$20 each or a table for \$200.

To purchase tickets to the event please call Laura Foster at 648-4977 or email Laura.Foster@usw.salvationarmy.org.

New Executive Director for Project Understanding

Project Understanding, a faith based Ventura social service non-profit organization has announced the appointment of its new Executive Director, Rob Orth. Mr. Orth was selected following an extensive and thorough executive search process.

"As a local nonprofit serving families and individuals in distress, Project Understanding required a combination of vision, compassion, community connection and management expertise in its leader," said Judy Alexandre, the agency's Board Chairman.

Orth's highly diversified career portfolio includes work in the private sector and most recently, he served as Executive Director of ACTION Foundation, a faith based agency providing

social service assistance to individuals, families, and homeless in Ventura County.

"I am very gratified at having been selected as the agency's next Executive Director from a pool of highly qualified candidates," stated Orth.

Orth has worked with a cross section of public and private sector entities to forge lasting partnerships on behalf of individuals and families who are in various forms of crisis. His non-profit career has been dedicated to advancing the cause of people with special needs, to creating programs and services that promote stability and hope in lives that have been devastated by homelessness, mental illness, job loss and many other life challenges.

Business



Jackie Ambriz joins Bob Davis Team First Mortgage Corporation

Bob Davis Team First Mortgage Corporation is pleased to announce that Jackie Ambriz has been hired as the Senior Processing Manager.

Ms. Ambriz's responsibilities will include loan processing, marketing and communication with Spanish speaking families of Ventura County. Bob Davis, Branch Manager, said: "We are excited to add Jackie to our team. She's a respected industry expert and veteran who has more than 15 years of background and knowledge in the real estate finance industry. Plus, she's a married mother of four children. What a woman!"

Ambriz has also held significant positions with National Real Estate Lenders and Banking Facilities. She entered the industry in the mid 1990's as a receptionist. Quickly gaining the respect of her peers, Jackie was promoted regularly and gained success as a respected loan processor for highly successful lending originators.

The Bob Davis Team of First Mortgage Corporation is headed by Davis, a longtime Ventura resident with over 33 years of experience in real estate and real estate finance.

For more information call 658-7435, visit the Bob Davis Team First Mortgage Corporation at www.bob-thelender.com.

The elements of Social Media

by Peter K. Godinez
Social Media Sales Hero

Over the life of this social media column we have collaborated on the many elements of social media. You hopefully now know the basics of how to at least get started by choosing the appropriate social media tools and adding on a consistent basis content that is educating, encouraging and entertaining. Whether it is a written blogs, audio content or video you should look to you team (trusted advisers) and determine what specific variable set you apart from any of the "competition. The goal as crazy as it sounds is to minimum the number and kind of competitors by having something you do better than anyone else. Remember, you goal is not to sell to everyone.

I hear a lot of voices asking "so what" how does this going to make me profitable in my business goals. This is a question all of us need to ask ourselves and our circle of influence. One of the best things that can happen to your business is to have customers who are passionate about you product and or service. They are so passionate that they have positive conversations in person and in the tools available on social media. Word of mouth (World of Mouth) is still the number factor in influencing people's buying behavior. The opposite is also true. Unhappy clients will spread stories of bad experience if provided one. People in sales and marketing need to learn that the health and prosperity of any business depends on creating a delightful experience with what their offering provides. Working along side of operations and service as marketing and sales person is where it starts.

In social media you must provide powerful contact that present clients can comment or respond to based on their experience you're offering. The new marketing allows for the consumer to have a say in how a company can be successful. Whether it is a positive experience that you post to the world or a negative experience that you make an apology and make an adjustment to your process and behavior.

It has been heard that many well-meaning traditional businesses are waiting for social media to go away. The truth is it is not going away. Social Media most likely will adjust as it improves and people get better at using it to a happy ending.

Some people have the perception that a Social Media Sales Hero sits behind a computer and waits for business to start pouring in. Nothing is further from the truth. The person-to-person relationship will always be Queen (or King). Social Media is like the saying "it's the wind beneath my wings". The power of Social Media enhances the image of who you represent and what you can do to help people who need help. Whether is on a one on one visit to client your image of who you are on the internet makes you a perceived leader in your area of expertise and passion.

No matter your business you need to make the effort to get started. Traditional Media still can work side by side with social media just like the Ventura Breeze does.

The Ventura Breeze is here to assist you in getting started or reshaping

your campaign. Take a 1/2 to full page in color with the Ventura Breeze, and Peter Godinez will provide a one-hour session with your company to make it happen at no charge.

Contact advertising@venturabreeze.com for further details.

Canon Business Solutions of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties who make this column possible sponsor Peter Godinez.



Recently Sue Adams, creator and operator of the Ventura County Fairgrounds Swap Meet was a guest on the Ventura Breeze portion of the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on local radio station AM1400KKZZ. She is shown here with the "Coach".

The Swap Meet is held every Wednesday from 7am-2pm with free parking and admission.



King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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T	O	O	L		D	O	E	R		E	G	G	

Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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



Show Time

Two on the Aisle American Right is just about right

by James Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

Do you enjoy a who-done-it? How about a spirited debate? If so, *American Right*, a new work by playwright/actor/director/producer Tom Eubanks being staged by Oxnard's Elite Theatre Co., may be up your alley.

For the most part, the writing is tight. Author Eubanks takes full opportunity to have his characters philosophize and play word games, many of which are humorous and well placed. He clearly shows great insight into the huge juxtapositions of human relationships.

A college professor is missing. A faculty colleague is in the hot seat, having displayed a history of disagreements over political views. Place the action in an unnamed rural California community with several small-town-mentality police detectives on the case and a story is born. To this seemingly simple scenario Eubanks adds layer upon layer of relationships and intrigue. Most play well, while some - awaiting final polish - seem unnecessary, at least to these reporters and a few audience members.

The script demonstrates excellent skill in character crafting, using literate wordplay freely. Lead characters Vince Anders (engagingly played by Curtis Cline) and Detective Angela Zulinski (a solid if slightly somber performance by Kimberly Demmary) are especially articulate, sending volleys of verbal barbs careening about the stark police interrogation room.

Gary Cunial as seasoned Detective John Scott adds a measure of authenticity to his role, particularly in the first act. Elyse Sinkler gives a shining performance as Mina, a typical college student revealed to have a clandestine relationship with the missing educator. Joe Boles, Tricia Schaeztle and Wayne Cantero add color and flavor to the second act, introducing additional rapid-fire plot twists.

All members of the talented cast bring years of experience to this production. Some characters are more believable than others, which we attribute to the freshness of the script rather than the actor's interpretations. However, each contributes definitive dimensions to the piece.

It is a credit to the Elite Theatre Company that it has chosen to mount a new work, taking chances and allowing the theater community (both actors and audience) to experience the growth of a new play.

We found the overall script to be interesting, intelligent, articulate, often humorous and challenging. Although, in the end, it will benefit from the further fine tuning all new plays receive. The many plot devices become somewhat cumbersome toward the conclusion, overshadowing some of the story's credibility. A few technical aspects of police procedure and references to structure in the academic world occasionally succumb to literary license so as to infringe on our acceptance of selected parts of the action.

The set for the play is minimal. The words and ideas are the focus. At one point character Anders asks, "Is everything a conundrum to you?" We have to

admit that, yes, the show may be that for some. But audiences looking for mind stimulation and fodder for challenging discussion will find *American Right* just about right.

American Right is running week-ends through May 30 at the Elite Theatre Company's Petit Playhouse, 730 South B Street in Oxnard's Heritage Square. Tickets: \$17- adults; \$15- students and seniors. www.elitetheatre.org or 483-5118 for reservations.

Review of *City Island*

by Tim Pompey

Starring Andy Garcia, Julianna Margulies, and Emily Mortimer

★ ★ ★

Currently Playing at Century 10

Every so often you discover a little jewel of a film that passes through town faster than a bright comet in the sky, then disappears into oblivion. This is one of those films. A funny, touching, slice of life movie about the Rizzo family, long time residents of a little Bronx fishing village (who knew there was such a thing?) called *City Island*. Each family member carries around their own little secret. Daddy Vince (Andy Garcia) wants to be an actor and must partner with a beautiful stranger, Molly (Emily Mortimer) to reveal his darkest secrets. Mom Joyce (Julianna Margulies) suspects Vince is cheating on her and does her best to wreak havoc on her husband. Daughter Vivian (Dominik Garcia-Lorido) gets kicked out of college and works in a strip club. Son Vince Jr. (Ezra Miller) has an Internet fetish for large women. As they would say in the Bronx about all these covert shenanigans: No one knows nuttin' 'bout inytin.

And then there's Vince's hidden love child, Tony Nardella (Steven Strait), whom he discovers one day during his shift as a corrections officer at a local prison. Feeling guilty about his lost son's fate, he decides to bring him home for a little rehab, construction work, and home cooking. Does he tell anyone why he's doing this? Again, not talking.

It takes good timing and writing to pull off something like this. There are more legs to this plot than you'd find on the average crab, and they all have to work in synch to create comic timing. Fortunately, it holds together and provides a stew pot of hilarious conversations in the Rizzo household. This family has no shortage of opinions and they're all based on false premises. How it hangs together and gets sorted out is the genius of the film.

"*City Island*" feels like a cross between Greek tragedy and Charlie Chaplin. It does have its lulls, mostly during the scenes between Garcia and Mortimer. Then it snaps back to life as tempers flare and frustration builds. Okay, so in the end, it all gets resolved a little too neatly, but who's complaining? There's more than enough comedy in this film to overcome its weaknesses, and, if everyone decides to finally fess up and come back together, well, that only means there might be a sequel.

This film will probably pass through quickly, so catch it while you can. It's a rare opportunity to watch really good actors giving their best chops in a small film. Like the arc of a comet, you only see films like this on rare occasions. And who knows? You might get inspired by Daddy Rizzo and catch the acting bug. If a prison guard, sorry, corrections officer, can do why it, well, why not you or I? The way these guys act, it looks like fun.

Controversy

Continued from page 4

islature does not have the right to lift a deed restriction.

Dave Armstrong, President of Armstrong Real Estate Advisors, and one of the primary business partners in the Edgewater design, believes his company has gone to great lengths to work with California State Parks. "We met with them, they shared their concern, and we thought we had met it. Their primary concern was that they wanted to accommodate people who wanted to park their car and look at the beach." He reiterates that "we think we have a way to address their concerns, but nothing has been agreed to."

According to Armstrong, the San Buenaventura State Beach Master Plan identifies this beach as serving visitors downtown for recreational purposes. In addition, the Coastal Commission has approved the local coastal plan amendment (LCP) as being "consistent with the State's master plan for the beach." He also notes that the requested change in the deed restriction applies only to the area from the interior of the Promenade (including the parking garage) to Harbor Boulevard.

The State Parks' continued silence in this matter influenced the City to ask Strickland to introduce legislation. However, since this strategy is now off the table, Jeff Lambert, the City of Ventura's Community Development Director, is mulling over Edgewater's future: "We have to ask ourselves the question: Does the deed restriction itself actually restrict the proposal? Does it allow the developer to take this proposal to the next level?"

Certainly any additional attempt to lift the restriction would bring more protests from Surfrider, and, while Surfrider is not openly opposed to the Edgewater proposal, they do object to any attempt to transfer a "gift of public lands to a private developer." Still, Paul Jenkin, the Ventura Campaign Coordinator for Surfrider Foundation, doesn't think development of this property needs to be an all or nothing type of approach. He does, however, want to protect the land's public use for recreation and ensure that any development like Edgewater remains open to community feedback. His hope is that "there will be opportunity for public comment as this project moves forward."

In the meantime, Lambert is considering a different approach. Rather than return to the legislative route, he has encouraged Strickland to set up a meeting in Sacramento between the City of Ventura and California State Parks. He hopes that this type of face to face dialogue will clarify the issue for both parties and lead to an agreement.

Lambert knows that asking a developer to move forward under these circumstances is a difficult decision. The question remains: "Do we continue to try and remove the deed restriction or move forward with the project and let the developer take the risk?"

Armstrong admits that, if the deed restriction is not lifted, it "doesn't kill the project, but it does make it a very different project."

Still, the odds of California State Parks conceding to the City's request do not appear favorable. Lambert admits that the City may have to reconsider its options: "We might have to go back to the Council to get clarification on their policy direction."

Police reports

Continued from page 11

It is believed that Wilson was working in concert with at least one other suspect who has yet to be identified. This investigation is continuing and anyone with information is urged to contact the Ventura Police Department or Crime Stoppers.

DUI Checkpoint

On Saturday, April 24th, from 8:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., the Ventura Police Department conducted a sobriety checkpoint on Victoria Avenue and arrested 2 drivers for a driving under the influence. 6 vehicles were impounded and 17 motorists were cited, 9 of them unlicensed drivers.

The goal of the sobriety checkpoint is to combat alcohol and drug related crashes by utilizing checkpoints and by publicizing the efforts. Additionally, Ventura Police are asking for the community's help. If you see an impaired driver on the road, call 911.

Graffiti arrest

On Saturday, April 24th, at 2:46 a.m., officers responded to a report of vandalism in progress at the Ventura Pier, 668 on Harbor Boulevard. The suspect, a 17 year old male from Oxnard, was observed tagging signs and other city property on the pier.

As officers were speaking with the group, the suspect was observed dropping a can of spray paint into the ocean. The suspect also had paint on his hands and clothing that matched paint that was found in several locations on the pier that were determined to have newly painted graffiti.

The suspect was booked at Juvenile Hall for felony vandalism.

Graffiti vandalism arrest

On Thursday, April 22nd, at 10:54 p.m., officers responded to a report of a subject on the roof of Ralph's Comic Corner, on the 2300 block of East Main Street. The responding officers located Aaron Echevarria, 18 and a resident of Ventura, on the roof using spray paint to vandalize the exterior of the business. Echevarria was taken into custody after an unsuccessful attempt to flee the roofline.

Officers later located similar tagging vandalism on the pillars under the 101 freeway at San Jon Road.

Echevarria was booked into Ventura County Jail for felony vandalism charges. Echevarria also faces possible civil penalties, up to \$1,000 per tag, as a result of Ventura's Graffiti Ordinance.

Injury traffic collision

On Thursday, April 22nd, at 4:30 p.m., the Ventura Police Department Dispatch Center received a call of an injury collision in the 4700 Block of Telephone Road. Ventura Police Patrol Officers, the Ventura Police Traffic Unit, the Ventura Fire Department, and American Medical Response responded.

When Police and Fire arrived on scene, they found Janice Hedden, 60 years old and a resident of Ventura, to be in physical distress. Ventura Fire personnel began administering CPR and tending to Hedden. Hedden's vehicle was stopped on the center raised median of Telephone Road with the rear end of the other vehicle on top of it.

It is unknown at this time if Hedden was suffering from a medical emergency prior to the collision or if the collision caused her physical dis-

Continued on page 19

The Lighter Breeze

Out On A Limb



Shoe



Crock



Hagar the Horrible



Margulies



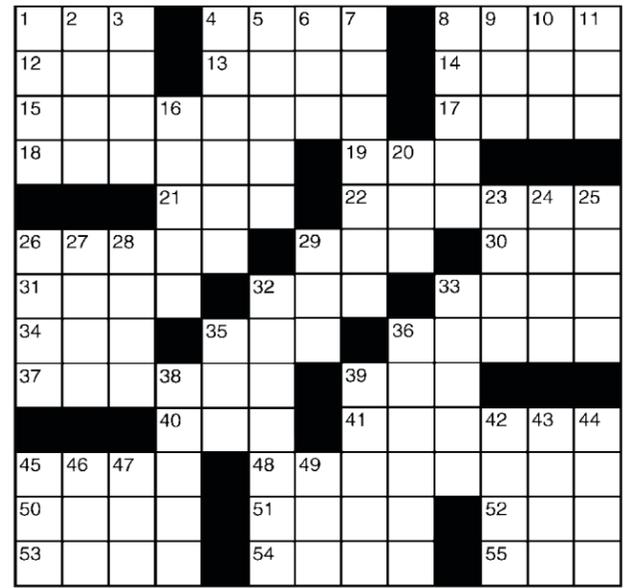
Solutions on page 15

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Totally dominate
- 4 Right on the map?
- 8 Liking a lot
- 12 Shooter ammo
- 13 Jubilation
- 14 Disposition
- 15 Where salmon go to spawn
- 17 Motivate
- 18 Gazing one
- 19 Chart format
- 21 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 22 Transmission to a spacecraft
- 26 Rural buildings
- 29 "No seats"
- 30 Dress in
- 31 Supplemented, with "out"
- 32 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
- 33 — gin fizz
- 34 Dead heat
- 35 Happiness
- 36 Public squabble
- 37 "You betcha!"
- 39 Spring mo.
- 40 Smokestack output
- 41 Shamelessly bold
- 45 Dixieland



- music
- qui vive
- family
- 6 Poseidon's realm
- 28 50-Across need
- 7 Deep-fried recipe
- 29 Agent
- 8 Urge
- 32 Rancher
- 9 Neither mate
- 33 Raw-boned person
- 10 As well
- 35 Alcott book, "— Boys"
- 11 Peculiar
- 36 More agile
- 16 Pollster's find
- 38 The Baxters' maid
- 20 Wall St. debut
- 39 Humiliate
- 23 Between jobs
- 42 Fill till full
- 24 Lunchtime, often
- 43 Complacent
- 25 Banjo supporter
- 44 Safecracker
- 26 — carotene
- 45 Least bit
- 27 In the same
- 46 Blood-group letters
- 47 Menagerie
- 49 Court

DOWN

- 1 Piece of work
- 2 Sobbed
- 3 Houston acronym
- 4 Exit
- 5 On the

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aspect. And this time, it could involve someone traveling a great distance to come to see you. Meanwhile, an important matter suddenly could need your attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A workplace situation becomes a lot more bothersome than you'd expected. Be careful not to be pulled into all that anger. Look for support among others who also want to avoid trouble.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Cheer up, lonely lovers, wherever you are. Just when you thought you'd been deleted from Cupid's database, the chubby cherub proves that's just not so. Congratulations.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A casual relationship could take a more serious turn. Are you ready for it? Your stars say you are. Paired Sea Goats also will find a renewed richness in their relationships.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Meeting a collaborator with new ideas seems to be a dream come true. But for both your sakes, be sure all your legal i's are dotted and t's are crossed before you start working together.

PISCES (February 19 to March 21) A romantic overture flatters the usually unflappable Fish. But since it's a sincere from-the-heart gesture, go ahead and enjoy it. A minor health problem responds well to treatment.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have the warm heart of a Taurean and the sensitivity of a Gemini. You would make a wonderful leader. So go ahead: Run for office.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might be a bit shaken by a friend's request. But before the Lamb leaps to conclusions, insist on a full explanation. You still might say no, but at least you'll know what you're saying no to.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Seeing red over those nasty remarks by someone with an ax to grind? Of course you are. So get out there and give your supporters the facts they need to get the truth out.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A changing situation should get you to reassess your vacation plans and make any adjustments as soon as possible. And don't fret — the change most likely will turn out for the better.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't put off dealing with any negative feelings that might be left over from a recent confrontation. The sooner all is resolved, the sooner you can move forward with fewer complications.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas might feel the urge to redecorate their dens, and that can turn into a good opportunity to strengthen family ties by putting the whole pride to work to make it happen.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Look for the most efficient way to get a job done quickly and well. Taking more time than you need to make it look more challenging is a short-sighted move you might regret later on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Travel remains strong in your

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5				8		6
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		8			3	9

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Health

Focus on Rheumatoid Arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis will be the focus of a free informational seminar that Community Memorial Health System is holding on Tuesday, May 11.

Tammy Cheng, M.D., an internist who specializes in joint pain as well as autoimmune conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, will lead the seminar that will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital, located at 147 Brent St.

Dr. Cheng will discuss the many different causes for rheumatoid arthritis and the latest treatment options available. She also will discuss many conditions that mimic rheumatoid arthritis, including osteoarthritis, Lyme disease, gout and pseudo gout, arthritis associated with inflammatory bowel disease and lupus.

Dr. Cheng, an active member of the CMH medical staff, earned her medical degree at Washington University School of Medicine and completed an internship and residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. She is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in both Rheumatology and Internal Medicine.

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

Community Memorial Health System is a not-for-profit health system, which is comprised of Community Memorial Hospital, Ojai Valley Community Hospital, and nine family-practice health centers entitled the Centers for Family Health.

Trying to find a suitable facility for a Crisis Residential Center

At the inception of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) in 2005, a description and implementation plan for an Acute Diversion Crisis Residential Treatment Program was submitted as part of the implementation of the MHSA in the County of Ventura.

Over the past five years, at least two attempts have been made to find a suitable facility for this Crisis Residential Center (CRC, as it is currently designated) in Ventura County.

The following items are a result of debate, deliberation and discussions with the stakeholders in this county.

1. The county believes the implementation of a CRC might take as long as 18 months, and funding might be lost in that period of time. A suitable site for this center has been identified at Casa De Esperanza where an existing licensed facility is currently being underutilized.
2. More than sufficient funds exist and are available to provide for a CRC. An RFP could be created from the original description and implementation plan, or to expedite the implementation, a sole source provider could be identified immediately.
3. Behavioral Health would need to develop a plan to relocate the TAY program currently instituted at the existing facility.

4. By beginning immediately the County will be able to rapidly implement and deploy the program, and if necessary, continue seeking a permanent facility.

5. The costs of maintaining a facility of this type is approximately \$320 per day for 24 hour care. This is not a great deal more than a Day Treatment facility at approximately \$200 per day for only five hours of treatment and less than a third of inpatient costs of over \$1,000 per day. Development of a CRC will immediately begin saving the County money.

6. Of greatest importance is the fact consumers, family members, mental health professionals and nearly every stakeholder in the county of Ventura have consistently and repeatedly requested the implementation of a Crisis Residential Center.

If Behavioral Health uses the existing Social Rehab facility at Casa De Esperanza as an interim location for the CRC, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) would be willing to assist in the location and development of the new facility. It is their goal to assist the County, the Mental Health Board, the County Supervisors and the mandate of the people of California who passed Proposition 63, the MHSA, to achieve the goals we as residents of this County would like to see achieved.

The County has a proposal that would utilize the Hillmont House facility, located across the street from the Hillmont Psychiatric Hospital facility on Hillmont and Loma Vista in Ventura.

NAMI believes this facility would be an excellent choice and are encouraging the Mental Health board to pursue any avenue possible to get this facility operational.

Police reports

Continued from page 16

Hedden was transported to a local hospital. Her status at the time of the report is unknown.

Harbor patrol blotter

Tuesday, April 20

7:20 a.m. VPD reported that they were responding to a domestic dispute that was occurring in a car on Spinnaker Drive. Patrol spotted the car and followed it as it exited the Harbor and turn toward town. PD contacted the vehicle as they turned onto Oyster.

12:40 p.m. Patrol received a report that the prop wash of an oil crew boat sunk a work skiff. Patrol contacted the skipper of the crew boat. He was unaware of the incident. Patrol assisted the skiff owner by pumping out the water. The two involved parties have contacted each other.

Wed. April 21

7:28 a.m. Patrol received a report of numerous dead fish in the first channel of the Ventura Keys. Upon arrival, Patrol observed dead fish in the rip rap the length of the channel. It appears that a large school of sardines entered the channel, exhausted the oxygen in the water, and died. Seagulls, other birds, sea lions and a cat were feeding on the fish.

12:10 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol

Continued on page 20

Mom's Nite Out at Ventura Harbor Village!

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Harbor patrol

Continued from page 19

and others to a report of a person not breathing at a restaurant. Upon arrival, the person was conscious, but light-headed. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

Thurs. April 22

5:50 p.m. Patrol observed hundreds of nails that were exposed at a common places for fires on the beach. Patrol picked up a bucketful of nails.

Friday April 23

4:20 a.m. Patrol deployed an aerator into the first dock of the Keys in an attempt to minimize the number of fish dying in the Keys.

Saturday April 24

6:30 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at the Sheraton. Upon arrival, the woman

stated that she woke up with her heart pounding and rapid breathing, but her symptoms had gone away.

9:00 a.m. Patrol deployed a second aerator into the Keys and made arrangements to have two additional units available on Monday.

1:30 p.m. Patrol took City personnel on a tour of the Keys. The City will assume responsibility for the clean-up, but will not be able to begin until Monday.

Sunday April 25

9:22 a.m. FCC dispatched the Harbor Patrol and others to a traffic accident on Spinnaker Drive. Upon arrival, the subject had hit a tree, but there were no injuries. Patrol cancelled AMR, but requested Fire Department continue to respond to handle a spill situation.

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