

FREE

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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June 2 - June 15, 2010

Get ready to pay to park downtown

by Ventura Girl

First they built a movie theatre. Then came a parking structure. Next came quaint lights strung from tree to tree. Now - gasp - they are going to put parking meters downtown?!

People please.

Virtually everyone says they want a revitalized, fun and thriving downtown. Name me one such downtown in a city more than 100,000 people big that doesn't have parking meters. They did it in San Diego, they did it Austin, heck, they're doing it in Glendale for peat's sake.

Here's the skinny.

To start, it's a done deal. Meters were approved back in May 2008. They were supposed to be installed in October last year, but the date was pushed back be-

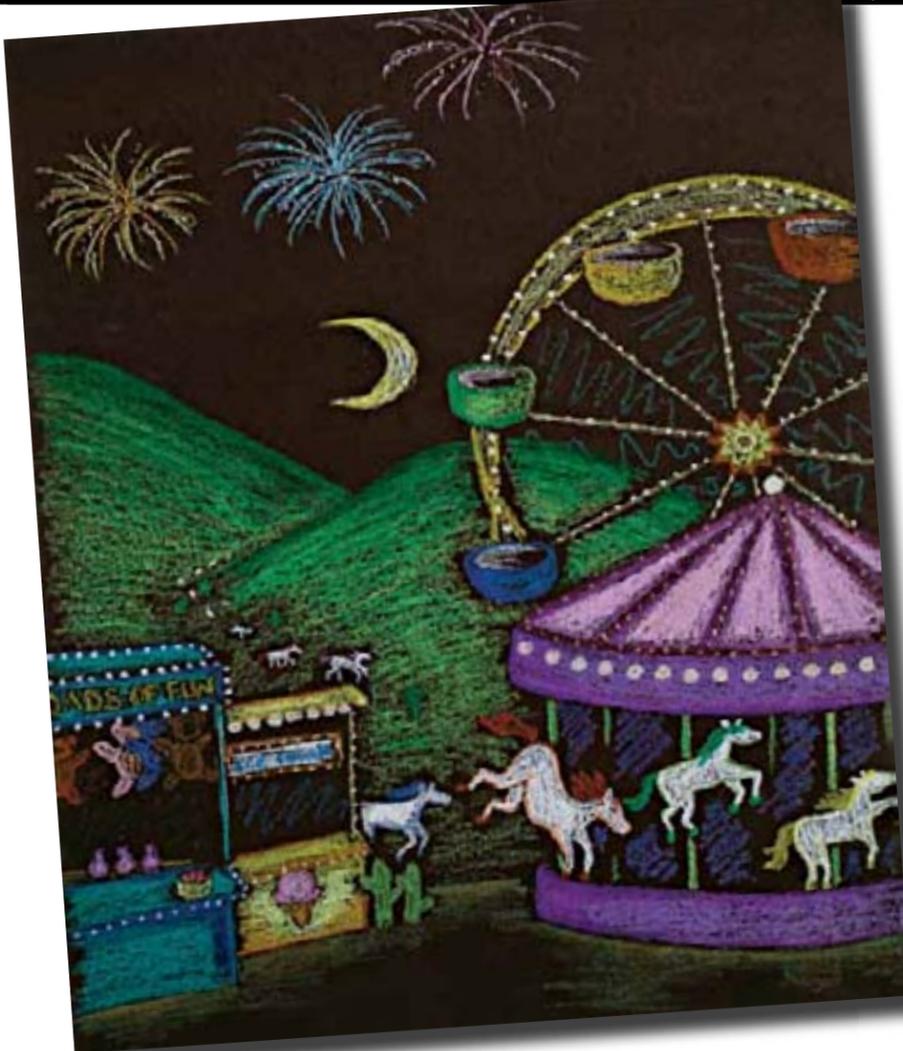


This is an image that is close to the design of the soon to be downtown parking meters. They are being manufactured now so there is not an actual image of what will be installed. They will all be solar powered and Wi-Fi communication enabled so there will not be any major construction required to perform the installation.

Hopefully they will not be this gaudy color but either way they will probably just be another visually inappropriate addition to our historic downtown area.

cause of - that's right, political reasons. Apparently October was too close to the November City Council election which if you remember was a doozy with 16 candidates.

In January a new date of June was set for installation, but was later pushed back to August due to negotiations with the manufacturer taking



Ventura very talented 14 year old Kayalin Akens-Irby chosen as winner of the Ventura County Fair Poster Contest

Ventura County Fair announces poster contest winners

75 Ventura County children in grades 5 through 12 competed in the Ventura County Fair Poster Contest with entries that illustrated the Fair's 2010 Theme: "Western Nights and Carnival Lights". Of these entries, three were chosen by a panel of judges as the winners of the 2010 Ventura County Fair poster contest.

First Prize went to Kayalin Akens-Irby (14) of Ventura for her rendition of horses bounding down a Ventura County hillside and onto the carousel as fireworks explode in the air above. The work is rendered in oil pastels on black paper in a playful style that is colorful and fun.

Second place was won by Mattie Myers (14) of Ventura for her beautiful illustration of a Ferris wheel in a style that is reminiscent of Art Nouveau and also of 1960s abstract. The sky is aglow with fireworks and the fairgrounds is populated with little people engaged in all sorts of fair activities.

longer than expected.

I didn't say it was a streamlined process, only that it was inevitable.

According to city Transportation Manager Tom Mericle the meters will go live in September. Don't expect to see traditional per-space meters atop metal posts. To park downtown you will need to use a pay station.

The pay stations will be crazy-fancy,

but not too complicated to use promise city officials. A total of 65 wireless and solar-powered pay stations will dot downtown on Main Street and side streets one block off Main from Figueroa to Ash Streets. Mericle says this translates into approximately two pay stations per block.

Pay stations will take coins, credit

Continued on page 4



Police investigating the tragedy of two adults who were struck by an Amtrak train next to Vista Del Mar. This location has had other tragedies and a memorial has been established there in honor of someone killed by a train a few years ago

Tragedy on the tracks

On May 29, at 12:11 pm the Ventura Police Department received a call from Amtrak regarding two pedestrians who had been struck by a north bound Amtrak Train.

Officers arrived on the scene and found 45 year old Jamie Johnson and 42 year old Kim Rivas lying next to the tracks seriously injured. Ventura Fire and AMR personnel soon arrived on the scene to treat the victims. Johnson was pronounced dead at the scene and Rivas was transported to Ventura County Medical Center where she remains in critical condition.

According to witnesses the two victims were sitting on the tracks when the passenger train approached. Hearing the train's warning horn too late the victims began to get off of the tracks but were unable to clear the area in time and were struck by the train. Alcoholic beverages were located near the victims but it has not been determined if this was why they didn't respond soon enough to the oncoming train.

This area on the track, at the Seaward overpass located next to 2325 Vista Del Mar has been the scene of several close calls between pedestrians and trains and was the scene of a fatal train accident several years ago.

The train was delayed at the scene for approximately 40 minutes while the incident was investigated.

Diane Brown, who lives on Vista Del Mar, knew that something was wrong when she saw the Amtrak train just stopped on the tracks across from her house. She said "It is very unusual for the pedestrian trains to stop at this location; freight trains often sit so I assumed that something had happened west of Vista Del Mar at but not behind the train to the east. When I looked up the street and saw police, fire and an ambulance I kind of knew what had happened."

"I have seen near misses at this location as folks cross over the tracks on their way to the beach. Some walking there dogs or carrying their bikes. And the Amtrak trains are very quiet."



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Breeze writer Tim and wife Jayne Pompey are thrilled to be new grandparents by way of son Chris and his wife Lindsay Pompey. Christopher William Pompey (Jr.) was born May 10 at St. John's Hospital in Oxnard. He weighed in at a hefty 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Hello Venturans:

I am Dayna M. Samuels and I've been swimming competitively as a member of the Ventura YMCA Dolphin swim team for three years.

As this is my Bat Mitzvah year, I had the chance to do a project to help the world around me. A week or so after I had started brainstorming, the Haitian earthquake happened. When I heard that 2 million people were homeless and 250 thousand of them were injured, it inspired me even more.

With AmeriCares at my side, I plan to have a Swim-a-Thon, on June 15th, 2010

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

Late breaking news: A divided city council has voted to move ahead with plans to eliminate 762 positions while continuing to seek concession from the unions that represent city employees. They pressed forward with an array of cuts, including reducing library hours and drastically scaling back the number of trees that will be trimmed.

The job cuts are scheduled to go into effect in the fiscal year that starts July 1.

This sounds bad for Ventura doesn't it? Except this is about the City of Los Angeles City Council. The point being that all cities, states and countries are having huge financial problems, not just Ventura.

I would like to congratulate Sandra Walker, the new CEO of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce (see separate article.)

I have known her for many years, starting back when she was the Affinity Bank Manager in downtown, and feel that she is exactly the young fresh blood that the Chamber needs to appeal to younger members that are sorely needed. I feel that they need a new direction and image that she can bring them.

I wish her much success and look forward to working with her on future projects and endeavors.

I went to the recent Tea Party and was very disappointed, not one cup of tea, just a lot of people with signs, so I went home and had some "Organic Mint Melange".

Mailbox

at my local YMCA in Ventura, to raise money to help the earthquake victims. There are 2 ways to donate, either with a 'per lap' donation or with a 'flat' donation. Per lap donations cannot be made until after June 15th, so you can wait 'til then or contact me at 794-6574 or e-mail me with your pledge per lap. Please visit my AmeriCares webpage for updates and information on how to make a donation: www.firstgiving.com/daynasamuels

But I need your donations. No, Haiti needs your donations! Organizations like AmeriCares need the money to send food, clothing, tent shelters and doctors down to Haiti. And with the rainy season coming, Haiti needs all the help they can get.

So please, find it in your soul to help the recovering country of Haiti.

Please contact me at swimming-forhaitianrelief@juno.com or call 805-794-6475 with any questions you may have.

Thank you so much....

Dayna M. Samuels

To the Editor Ventura Breeze:

The May 17, 2010, Ventura City Council Meeting was very poignant indeed. So many lives are saved by our wonderful firefighters. We need every one of them, and their stations. We need police services to meet the needs of our city, libraries to enrich our citizens, parks and our community pool to keep us healthy, our roads paved, our streetlights working, support for the arts and clean beaches so we can enjoy a quality of life in our beautiful city.

I would like to personally thank Brian Randall, Ventura Principal Planner for helping to expedite a



small addition that I am drawing (wearing my architect's hat). Even though this is a small project it is this

type of thinking that we need to get much needed construction going in Ventura.

In fact I think Wednesday's should be "Free building permit day" or landscaped, but I think that the new downtown County Museum will be a very unattractive and non-descript building when it is completed.

Not at all very good looking and not at all in keeping with our "Historic downtown area". Would love to hear what you think, perhaps I should wait until it is completed?

I received a very nice note from the Schilkens that said "Thank you for reporting the real Ventura news" and a very nice gift. Thank you very much.

I very much appreciate hearing from our readers, and bringing Ventura news is what the Breeze is all about.

I know that this is blasphemy, especially with some of my own staff (like Nanci Cone), but I agree that the Senior Center on Santa Clara should be partially rented out or even closed.

This is a complete reversal of my previous thoughts but this is why I feel that this is appropriate:

We have another senior center one mile away on the Avenue.

The Avenue senior center has a commercial kitchen and has a senior lunch program.

If we have two centers the other one should be on the East side.

The Santa Clara Center is used mostly for meetings that could be held in the building behind city hall or at Foster Library.

Even the very successful senior travel program could be administered out of city hall. (Please see the related story on page 5.)

Many seem to be focused on finding somewhere else to cut the budget. We are out of places. The state has taken our local funds and our public library funding. The deficit burden should not be placed on city workers alone. It is unreasonable to expect the Fire Dept. to respond in less than three minutes and risk their lives to save us at a cut rate, while the rest of the citizens contribute nothing more during these tough economic times.

The cost of everything has gone up. We pay more for gas, groceries, and we need to pay more to preserve the city services we need. Other cities pay more taxes than we do. Nobody likes taxes, but service is the product the city provides to us. Salaries are the cost of service. Yes, city workers have and should contribute during these tough economic times, but so should the rest of us.

One gentleman at the Council Meeting said he had planned a fishing trip, but when the bills came in he had to postpone it. I suggest we all postpone a few things, and cut a few corners to preserve the city services we need. The times call for shared sacrifice.

I would like to see a discussion of the services that are essential to the quality of life in Ventura, an assess-

ment of the cost of providing these services, and support for a tax structure to sustain us during these difficult times.

Marianne Coffey
Ventura

Venturans;

The Ventura City Fire Fighters Association (VCFFA) would like to express thanks to the overwhelming number of citizens who have shown their support in the fight to save Fire Station #4. Unfortunately this fight is not over, as the Mayor and the City Council have yet to remove this closure from the proposed budget. VCFFA is actively working with the city, through potential concessions in pay and benefits, to assist in keeping Fire Station #4 open.

Two upcoming Council meetings, June 7th and June 21st, are additional and important opportunities for you to oppose this closure. You can also call or email the Mayor, and the City Council, at any time. For additional information on this matter please visit www.savestation4.info.

Tell them to FUND WHAT MATTERS MOST!

Ben Davis, President
Ventura City Fire Fighters Association (VCFFA)

When people are bored it is primarily with their own selves that they are bored.

— Eric Hoffer



City News

Ask the Director

City of Ventura's water-where does it come from?

by Ron Calkins,

City of Ventura Public Works Director

Question: Where does the City of Ventura's water come from? Other communities may be facing restrictions this summer, should we be concerned about our water?

Ventura's drinking water is completely supplied from local sources – the Ventura River, Lake Casitas and groundwater wells throughout the city. Although we are "water independent," (one of the few communities not reliant on supplemental water supplies such as State Water), Ventura residents still should be mindful about protecting and conserving our water supply.

This summer, we do not expect water reductions, as the city's supply from Lake Casitas is stable and levels in our groundwater wells are within normal ranges. However, residents are encouraged to continue conserving water as much as possible. Since 40-60% of urban water is used for landscape irrigation (watering lawns), please decrease watering cycles, check for leaks, water before 8 am, and adjust sprinklers for overspray. Consider planting a California-friendly garden featuring native plants and trees; they need less water and naturally thrive in our coastal climate. For more water conservation or gardening information, please visit www.cityofventura.net/h2o.

While saving water has always been important to Ventura, the public as well as

regulatory agencies are recognizing that a healthier natural environment is healthier for people, too. Our community does, however, face the challenge of balancing our financial resources with the goal of developing solutions to protect our environment and water. For example, the restoration of the Ventura River ecosystem, which needs clean water to thrive, may limit how much and when this water source is available to us in the future. City allocations from groundwater aquifers are also highly regulated and monitored. Threats to its quality, such as seawater intrusion, may also reduce our future supply. A variety of watershed and source water protection approaches will need to be considered as part of our overall strategy to address these changes. By using water wisely at your home and business, you are an important partner in protecting Ventura's water supply now, and in the future.

Pay to park

Continued from page 1

cards and debit cards. You will also be able to add money to your meter wirelessly via your cell phone. Like I said, fancy.

Parking will cost \$1 per hour for the first two hours and \$1.50 each hour after that. Why does it get more expensive the longer you stay? Because studies show downtown areas without meters tend to be more congested with cars assumingly circling for spaces. The goal then is to create greater turnover and hence, a greater number of people frequenting downtown on any given day.

If you don't want to pay for parking you have four options. One: Don't come downtown, which is silly because option two is to park in any of the public parking lots downtown because they will all

remain free. Yes, out of the 4,800 available public parking spaces 400 will be metered leaving a lot of remaining spaces for you to park free of charge.

Option three: bike. The city will be adding more bicycle spaces. Option four: ride or purchase a motorcycle which are also free to park in designated motorcycle parking spaces.

And, if you live downtown don't worry, parking permits will be available for residents.

All revenues from the meters, which are being projected at upwards of \$1.1 million annually, will be used exclusively to improve parking and parking-related programs and projects in downtown including public safety.

I understand change is difficult, and that there will inevitably be a learning curve for everyone involved including the city. And yes, it is a little scary that the rates will be "flexible" with the ability to go up or down with demand because really, how often do rates ever go down?

Don't get me wrong, I'm not fired up about the impending invasion of high-tech meter monsters. I just think there are bigger fish to fry when it comes to issues in this city. Perhaps it's a defeatist attitude, but change is a-coming folks. This isn't exactly the 911 fee, it's paying for parking. You can be ticked, but it's probably not worth threatening lawsuit on this one.



Joseph Lopez-Ventura High, Shelby Macal-Ventura High, Kyle Pryor-El Camino High, Robert Wright-Pacific High, Kyle Jensen-Community Day, Hannah Haskins-volunteer team gardening leader, Nancy Castro-Ventura High and Jenessa Cardona-Ventura High are all hard at work planting and maintaining the City Corps garden located at their facility at 77 N. California across from City Hall. Perhaps they will help you with your garden. Contact Malory at 653-2351 or malorytaylor@gmail.com and find out.

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147 E. Main St.
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Pep Boys
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Ventura Harbor Village
1449 Spinnaker Dr.
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News and Notes

Ventura Hillsides Conservancy gains additional acreage

by Rebecca Wicks

The County of Ventura District Attorney's office recently announced the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy will benefit - to the tune of approximately 12 -15 acres - from mistakes made by Shull "Buzz" Bonsall Jr.

According to District Attorney Gregory D. Totten, Shull, doing business under the name Rancho Cañada Larga illegally altered the streambed on his land. According to Totten, vegetation was cleared and graded along a tributary to Cañada Larga Creek without a permit from the Department of Fish and Game.

Instead of paying the \$28,000 penalty, Shull who has admitted no wrongdoing, agreed to enter into a real property donation agreement. This requires him to donate land in and along the Ventura River to the Conservancy.

Final appraisal of the area will determine how much land will be given to the Conservancy.

Shull Bonsall, Jr., is the Trustee of the Shull Bonsall Family Trust which owns property in and along the Canada Larga Creek in the County of Ventura. Separately, Bonsall appeared at a recent City Council meeting during a discussion around the possible annexation of the basin of basin of Cañada Larga. He championed the idea that the area would be ideal for the construction of executive ranch homes.

The land being gifted to the Conservancy is outside the possibly annexed area the city is discussing.

The Conservancy group is more than excited to receive the land and sees the judgment as an opportunity for its group to further its progress in restoring areas between the land and the river.

"We've been ramping up interest in river area," said Matt Sayles, executive

director for the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy.

Since it received its first parcel of land in 2007 as a gift, the group has accumulated two additional land donations. The Cañada Larga land will be the group's fourth donated parcel of land.

Land under the Conservancy's stewardship includes property on Cedar Place in Ventura's Westside neighborhood, and three parcels located along the Ventura River just west of the Ventura River Trail and south of Foster Park.

The group aims to preserve the hillsides, canyons and open space for environmental, aesthetic and recreational purposes. In 2007 it extended its scope of interest to the Ventura River helping to create a lower Ventura River parkway plan which aspires to protect the area including the river basin.

"What we don't want to see is the cutting off of the city from the river," said Sayles who is dismayed you can't even see the river in some places because of a dike constructed to protect the city. "We believe there are more natural ways to protect the city."

Sayles points to the possibility of creating "softer" barriers, essentially open spaces which could be used as recreational areas to separate and protect the city from the river.

The group takes care of its open space with monies raised through donations, grants and fundraising events such as the Ventura Hillsides Music Festival. The well-known community event has featured a number of famous artists from Jack Johnson and Jackson Browne to Los Lobos and The Neville Brothers. This year's event to be held on Sept. 25 in Arroyo Verde Park.

A portion of the Santa Clara Senior Center is for rent, but time is running out

Ventura is seeking proposals to lease a portion of the downtown senior center located at 420 E. Santa Clara St. from non-profit organizations.

As senior services are moved to the senior center located on Ventura Ave. about a mile away the space will become available. The Center on the Avenue also has the senior lunch program

The city has set June 3 as the deadline for proposals from qualified nonprofit groups interested in leasing portions of the building. The city is seeking roughly \$3,000 per month in rent and interested parties must submit their proposals by 5 pm on June 3 so there is not much time left.

Proposals should be address to Peter Brown, Community Services Manager, P.O. Box 99-501 Poli St., Suite 226 , Ventura , CA 93002 .

The city hopes to keep the building open by having a non-profit sublease 1/2 of the building. They would also take over facility maintenance and utility costs.

The city would continue to occupy the eastern portion of the building would still be occupied by the city which would keep the social hall available for rentals and other activities.

The very popular Ventura Travel Program would remain on Santa Clara.

For information, contact Brown at 658-4707 or pbrown@cityofventura.net.

ful adult. Almost 700 children are currently in foster homes in Ventura County, and every day, another child is removed from their home because they have been neglected, abused or abandoned. Open your heart and home to foster parenting and make a difference in the lives of children at risk. For more information call 654-3456 or go to vchsa.org/foster.



Lisa Burton recognized for commitment to climate change

Ventura garden designer receives recognition for environmental work

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors awarded Lisa Burton of Nature by Design special recognition for her commitment to "Think Global/Act Local" as part of their 2010 Countywide Climate Change Action Award ceremony earlier this month.

Lisa Burton has been committed to creating sustainable garden landscapes and wildlife habitats for her clients since she started her business 10 years ago and has made "Think Global, Act Local" a significant part of her mission.

"The idea of creating sustainable garden landscapes for homeowners is catching on in a big way and is so much more widely accepted in the neighborhoods than in the past." Lisa said. "Almost every call I have received in the last year is from people looking to eliminate or reduce the size of their lawns in favor of a garden."

Lisa believes that garden landscapes can transform whole neighborhood ecosystems and can eliminate the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers while supporting a healthier environment.

Foster parenting information meeting

Discover the rewards of foster parenting at a Foster Parenting Information Meeting Tuesday, June 15 from 6 to 8 p.m at the Ventura County Human Services Agency, 855 Partridge Dr., Ventura. Learn how you can provide the healing, support and guidance that can transform a child at risk into a self-assured, success-



At a recent mixer held for Ventura County Treasurer candidate Ed Summers at Nona's Courtyard he found himself in special company surrounded by ex-Ventura mayors Greg Carson, Jim Friedman, Ed himself, Carl Morehouse, Sandy Smith and Brian Brennan.



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News and Notes



Chuck Swift, captain of the ship the Bob Barker can be seen on "Whale Wars" on the Animal Planet

Swift's way of saving whales

by Mira Reverente

A local man is literally making splashes across the icy waters of Antarctica. Meet Chuck Swift, captain of the Bob Barker, the newest addition to the fleet of the marine wildlife watchdog, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

Born and raised in Ventura and Oxnard, Swift began volunteering for the Sea Shepherd in 1990. Prior to that, he had been involved in various campaigns involving whales and seals, including the 1994 Whales Forever campaign, where the Norwegian Coast Guard viciously confronted the Whales Forever, a Sea Shepherd ship.

Animal Planet's "Whale Wars," chronicles these confrontations at the South Ocean Whale Sanctuary and tackles the controversial whaling trade with a new 13-episode season starting on June 4. Swift gives a bit of a teaser, "You'll see our ship, the Bob Barker, docked in Mauritius, while undergoing repair. We were 12 days behind schedule. To add to that, a Japanese vessel unexpectedly pulls in beside us."

The captain

In 2009, Swift was appointed deputy chief executive officer (CEO) of the Sea Shepherd, in charge of administration and ship operations. He helped with the top-secret acquisition and refitting of the Bob Barker, made possible by a generous donation from the former TV game show host and animal rights activist, after whom the ship is named.

In their latest campaign dubbed "Operation Waltzing Matilda", Swift led a crew of 26 on a three-month expedition against the Japanese whaling vessels that attempted to capture whales ostensibly for scientific research. Japan's interest in whaling started in the 12th century when the Japanese were dependent on whale meat for sustenance and whale oil was considered a prime commodity.

Swift gives a glimpse of his emotional state at sea, "I went through a wide range of emotions out there. I was excited and scared. I was also hopeful but proud that we did this and made a stand against this illegal and exploitative practice."

In between expeditions, the 44-year-old Swift is in school, completing his Masters in Communication and Leadership, performing Sea Shepherd administrative duties and gathering resources for the next voyage.

The anti-whaling campaign

The Bob Barker joined the Steve Irwin, the Sea Shepherd's flagship and the Ady Gil, a sleek, fully submersible ship often used for reconnaissance missions. In the first episode, viewers will witness Swift's most daunting moment on the water, involving a collision between the Ady Gil and the Shonan Maru 2, a Japanese whaling vessel.

Founded in 1977 by Steve Irwin captain Paul Watson, the Sea Shepherd has been very vocal and pro-active against the destruction and slaughter of marine wild-

life. The organization helps to enforce ocean laws and treaties such as the 1986 moratorium on commercial whaling imposed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The Sea Shepherd also employs several tactics to slow down or disable whaling vessels allegedly violating ocean laws. Some of their tactics include the use of a long-range acoustical device (LRAD) to disturb electrical equipment, scramble messages and cause confusion. The high-frequency LRAD can cause hearing damage. They also utilize stink bombs, slippery bombs and water cannons as defensive measures.

The message

Swift is thrilled about the whaling-free days they enforced and the 528 whales they saved during "Operation Waltzing Matilda" resulting in millions of dollars of lost profits for the Japanese whalers. But he stresses, "We're not a protest group. We're non-violent. We're not anti-Japanese but we are against Japanese whaling. It is illegal, immoral and corrupt."

*"Whale Wars", Season 3, premieres on Friday, June 4, at 9 PM (ET/PT) on the Animal Planet.

For more information, go to: <http://animal.discovery.com/tv/whale-wars>



The Relay for Life was very successful for raising money and awareness to help stamp out cancer. Addressing the participants at the closing ceremony are Trudy Tuttle Arriaga, Ventura Unified School District Superintendent and Lynne Clark, Event Chair

Ventura raises funds for American Cancer Society

by Tracy Valentine

They walked to honor those lost to cancer. They walked to celebrate survivors, to celebrate birthdays, to raise funds for cancer research, to fight back.

Some even joined in to have fun, but whatever the reason, they circled around and around the Buena High School track, keeping at least one member of their team on the track at all times for 24-hours during the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, held this year in Ventura May 15-16.

After setting up camp for 24 hours under chilly, overcast, misty skies, a group of girls in their early teens looked no worse for the wear as they packed up their tent following the event, promising to return next year for the relay.

"We've done this before, and it was fun," said Kelly Lomagno.

Jana Van Wagoner chimed in, "We've done this for 4 years."

"We stayed up all night. I ran a mile at 5 a.m.," said Kailen Malloy.

"We've all known people who've had cancer," said Kori Farrell, another teen in the group.

The girls each raised 100 dollars through their efforts in the relay.

Shaun Davis, team captain for the Ventura City Firefighters, agreed that he'll return next year for his 4th relay.

As a firefighter, Davis said he is aware that he is frequently exposed to carcinogens in his line of work, and cited this as one of the reasons he's actively involved with the Relay for Life.

"We've lost two Ventura city firefighters in cancer deaths, and I feel it's important for us to be out here supporting the American Cancer Society, raising funds," Davis said.

Davis said his team raised about \$4,200 in this year's relay.

Ventura Breeze publisher Sheldon

Brown also took part of the event, the Ventura Breeze joining team forces with the Pierpont Racquet Club.

Lynn Clark, organizer of the event this year, said in the closing ceremony Sunday morning that the relay raised a preliminary total of \$190,000.

From the podium, Clark said, "My father passed away because of cancer. I'll be back again next year, and I'll keep coming back every year until we find a cure. Now let's all go home and get some sleep!"

History of Relay for Life

One person can make a difference. Nowhere is that more evident than with the story of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, which began in Tacoma, Washington, as the City of Destiny Classic 24-hour Run Against Cancer.

In the mid-1980's, Dr. Gordy Klatt, a Tacoma colorectal surgeon, wanted to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society office. He decided to personally raise money for the fight by doing something he enjoyed—running marathons.

In May 1985, Dr. Klatt spent a grueling 24 hours circling the track at Baker Stadium at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma for more than 83 miles. That first year, nearly 300 of Dr. Klatt's friends, family, and patients watched as he ran and walked the course.

While he circled the track those 24 hours, he thought about how others could take part. He envisioned a 24-hour team relay event that could raise more money to fight cancer.

In 1986, 19 teams took part in the first team relay event on the track at the colorful, historical Stadium Bowl and raised \$33,000. An indescribable spirit prevailed at the track and in the tents that dotted the infield.

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Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Tires slashed on Del Norte Street

On Wednesday, May 12th, at 6:24 a.m., officers responded to the 10900 block of Del Norte Street in reference to a vehicle with its tires slashed. Officers found 12 other vehicles in the same area with slashed tires. The crimes may have happened between May 11th at 9:30 p.m. and May 12th at 5:00 a.m.

Illegal dumping

On Wednesday, May 12th, at 8:34 a.m., a concerned neighbor called VPD in reference to two male suspects illegally dumping in a ravine near Tioga Street and Kalorama Drive. The suspects' vehicle was driven by Alfredo Garcia, 47 years old, with passenger Fredi Hernandez, 28 years old, and both are residents of Riverside. The suspects were detained.

The two were disposing brand new phone books down the ravine. Staff from the Directory Distributing Associated of Oxnard stated that Garcia and Hernandez were hired to pass out phone books to customers. A total of 739 phone books were recovered. The suspects were arrested. Hernandez also had an outstanding misdemeanor arrest warrant. Both were booked at VC Jail.

Hit and run on Olivas Park Drive

On Friday, May 14th, at 1:10 a.m., VPD officers were attempting to locate the driver of a hit and run accident on Olivas Park Drive. The suspect was possibly in the area of Motel 6 at 3075 Johnson Drive.

Arriving at the Motel 6, an officer was hailed by James Gibbons, 57 years old and from Fontana. He told her that an individual demanded money and struck him in the hand with a crow bar. Gibbons pointed out Steven Dillon, 55 years old and from Oxnard. Dillon was taken into custody.

The investigation revealed that Dillon was the driver who fled. Dillon was treated at VC Medical Center and booked at the VC Jail.

Burglary on South Kalorama Street

On Friday, May 14th, at 2:15 a.m., an anonymous party called the VPD after noticing a Hispanic male jumping the fence to the rear of the Kwiki Mart located at 107 South Kalorama Street.

A short time later, VPD officers arrived on scene and saw Jesus Fuentes, 18 years old and from Ventura, walking from the rear of the business, carrying what appeared to be a large black bag. Fuentes was detained and later found to be in possession of 13 bottles of alcohol.

Further investigation revealed that Fuentes forced entry into the Kwiki Mart, selected a total of 18 bottles of various liquors and fled on foot just prior to being contacted by officers. Fuentes was arrested and booked at the VC Jail for burglary.

Burglary at Ventura Christian School

On Thursday, May 13th, at 8:40 p.m., VPD received a call of an interrupted commercial burglary at Ventura Christian School. One witness, an employee of the school, explained that she opened the locked office and saw a male subject. The suspect fled on foot. Another witness stated that she watched the suspect flee and recognized him because he was loitering in the area previously.

An officer located a subject matching the description in the area of Ann Street and Main Street. Witnesses later identified the subject as Michael Millam, 49 years old and from Ventura.

A records check of Millam showed him to be on parole for burglary. Millam

was booked at the VC Jail.

Stabbing at Pacific View Mall

On Wednesday, May 19th, at 8:51 p.m., Ventura Police Communications Center received a request for assistance. There had been a fight between suspected gang members at the Pacific View Mall, 3301 East Main Street. As Officers arrived, Mall Security advised there had been a stabbing. The suspects fled by vehicle. They were stopped and detained.

The victims had been in the Mall when they were approached. The suspects attacked victim 2. Mall Security escorted all parties outside, where both victims were attacked again. Victim 1 received several stab wounds.

The stabbed victim was transported to Ventura County Medical Center where he underwent surgery. All three suspects, Omar Romeo (21), Joaquin Sepulveda (22), and a 17 year old male were arrested.

Cars broken into on South Crocker Avenue

On Saturday, May 15th, at 2:00 a.m., an off-duty VPD officer witnessed Michelle Bonds, from Ventura and 21 years old, and a 16 year old male juvenile enter several vehicles in the 300 block of S. Crocker Ave. The officer immediately dialed 911.

The off-duty VPD officer's presence was discovered and Bonds cooperated with orders to remain at the scene. The juvenile fled on foot.

VPD officers set up a perimeter. The juvenile was located hiding in a backyard and was taken into custody.

Bonds was arrested and booked at the VC Jail for burglary, conspiracy, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The juvenile was cited for theft and conspiracy, and released to a guardian.

Drug arrest on East Main Street

Police Officers have been conducting an investigation regarding illegal activity occurring at the Vallarta Bay Cantina, at 2485 East Main Street. During the investigation, it was found that an employee and a patron of the bar were involved in the sales of illegal narcotics.

On Friday, May 14 Officers from the Ventura Police Department arrested Jose Parda, 40 years old from Santa Paula, and Carrinna Mendez-Gonzalez, 21 years old and from Oxnard, for sales of narcotics. Both were booked into Ventura County Jail. Several females in the bar were cited and released for soliciting and begging for alcoholic beverages.

The business also breached several alcohol license violations, which could result in a revocation of their State ABC license along with their Alcohol Use Permit.



Bank robbed

On Monday, May 17th, at 1:33 a.m., a white male in his late twenties, wearing a black and brown baseball cap, approached a teller inside the bank, displaying a robbery demand note and indicated that he was armed. The teller complied. The suspect fled from the

bank in an unknown direction with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Stabbing on East Harbor Boulevard

On Saturday, May 15th, at 1:00 a.m., Jamie Romero, 20 years old and from Ventura, and a male acquaintance were confronted by eight Hispanic males near the 600 block of East Harbor Boulevard. Both groups exchanged gang slurs and threats. A fight ensued and Romero was stabbed three times in the upper torso.

A private party transported Romero to Community Memorial Hospital where he was treated for his injuries. Romero was apprehensive in cooperating with the investigation. The investigation is on-going.

Cars broken into on Santa Clara Avenue

On Friday, May 21st, at 4:15 a.m., a citizen observed Raymond Weaver, 24, and Miguel Hernandez, 24, break the rear window out of an SUV in the parking structure at 555 East Santa Clara Avenue. The suspects then entered vehicles, removed property, and broke the front windshields of three vehicles before fleeing. The citizen obtained the license plate and reported the incident.

An officer spotted the vehicle driving in the area of Seaward and Thompson Boulevard. After the occupants were identified as the individuals at the parking structure, they were each arrested.

Weaver kicked out a rear window of the patrol vehicle and was charged with an additional count of felony vandalism. Both were booked at the VC Jail.

Shooting on Bristol Road

On Saturday, May 22nd, at 4:40 a.m., the VPD responded to a call of a man, Mandeep Singh, 20, Ventura Resident

bleeding in front of the Seven-Eleven at 6300 Bristol Road. Officers arrived on scene and determined that the clerk had been shot during a robbery. His injuries are non-life-threatening.

The suspect entered the Seven-Eleven armed with a handgun. The clerk and suspect were involved in a brief struggle and the victim was shot one time. The suspect fled on foot.

The victim was transported to the VC Medical Center where he is being treated. Detectives are currently reviewing video surveillance footage and collecting physical evidence at the scene.

On May 24, Ventura Police Detectives were investigating several leads into the attempted murder and robbery. During the course of the investigation a lead developed to a potential suspect, which the detectives followed up on.

The suspect realized he was wanted for questioning by the detectives and turned himself into the police. The suspect, Dyland Fields, who is a 16-year-old male juvenile Ventura resident, was arrested and booked into Juvenile Hall on charges of attempted murder and robbery.

It has been decided that due to the nature of the crime that he will be tried as an adult

Robbery on Warner Avenue

On Saturday, May 22nd, at 3:59 p.m., a Hispanic male, 18-20 years old with an unknown tattoo on the right side of his neck, approached Conception Xulo, 23, and brandished a handgun while demanding money at the east end of Warner Avenue. Xulo complied and the suspect fled.

Officers were on scene and began

Continued on page 9

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Community Events



Footworks Youth Ballet, a Ventura-based non-profit ballet company, will perform the timeless tale of Cinderella on Saturday June 5 and Sunday June 6, 2010 at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

Comprised of talented young dancers from Ventura County, the cast of Cinderella, choreographed by Kirsten Oakley of Oakley Ballet Center, ranges in age from 7 to 18.

Dancing Cinderella offers Aurora and the other 60 cast members the opportunity to bring this much-loved fairytale alive onstage.

To purchase tickets visit www.footworksyouthballet.org, www.footworksyouthballet.org or call the Ticket Hotline at 340-9878.

Women reach new heights at Health, Wealth and Life Goals Summit, June 5

The Kipp Financial Group will host a Women's Health, Wealth and Life Goals Summit from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on June 5 at the Ventura Beach Marriott.

The exclusive full-day, ladies-only event will feature a series of informative and inspirational guest speakers addressing specific skills every woman needs to help ensure financial, physical and emotional well-being in the future.

Stephen Kipp, CEO of the Ventura-based financial planning firm, Kipp Financial Group, will set the tone for a day of education and enlightenment in his opening remarks entitled, "Building Your Dreams: Creating, Managing & Transferring Wealth; Establishing estate plans to insure that your wishes come."

Following Kipp, a series of highly sought-after special guest speakers will share techniques on how to set and improve life goals, core values and personal habits.

Guest speakers will present one-hour seminars.

The cost is \$35 per person and includes educational workshops, valet parking, breakfast, lunch and wine and cheese speaker's reception. Net proceeds will be donated to LifeChronicles and Women's Economic Ventures.

Advance tickets are required :to RSVP and purchase tickets, call Pat Zanuzoski 650-7654.

Summerfest offers full day of activities!

A day-long celebration of healthy living is scheduled for Saturday, June 5 from 9 am to 2 pm, at Ventura Unified School District's Educational Services Center at 255 W. Stanley Ave. SummerFest 2010 marks the 5th anniversary of the popular community event, designed to provide a hands-on, engaging environment for children and families to learn how to become more fit and active.

The festivities of the day begin with a 5K Run/Walk at 8am. Following the 5K Run is the popular Gary Tuttle mile for children of all ages at 9 am. Participants are encouraged to pre-register. Early registration for the 5K is \$25 for adults and youth 18 and under is \$10. The Gary Tuttle mile is free for children, but registration is still required. Race entry forms

can be found at www.vep4vusd.org or at Inside Track, 38 W. Main Street. Race day registration will begin on-site on Saturday, June 5 at 7 am.

The ever-popular Bike Rodeo will be offered by VCCool. Learn about traffic safety for bicycles and test your bicycling skills. Volunteers will look over your bike and do minor repairs if needed. Artists can custom stencil your helmet and if you don't have a helmet -you can be fitted with a new one while supplies last courtesy of the Channel Islands Bike Club.

Summerfest will also feature over forty community and sports organizations. Learn how to play football, field hockey, soccer, water polo and more! A full day of entertainment is sure to delight the crowd on two stages featuring Big Tweed, the Cabrillo Jazz Band, CPR demonstrations, an animal show and much more. The First 5 California Hands-On Health Express will be a featured exhibit at Summerfest with special guest Sid the Science Kid.

In an effort to promote healthy eating a new Garden Pavilion area will be available for children to learn about gardening, composting and how to pack a healthy lunch using re-usable containers and more. And the Summerfest Healthy Recipe Contest is open to youth in pre-school through high school and cash prizes are awarded for the top recipes.

"Building on the success of last year's event, SummerFest 2010 is gearing up to be our biggest and best ever. The community is coming together to promote health and fitness to our children and their families. The support from the community has been tremendous and we hope to see you June 5", shared Jenise Wagar, Summerfest Director.

All proceeds from the Summerfest 5K Run support VUSD's Healthy Schools Projects, part of a nationally recognized program promoting healthy eating habits and increased physical exercise in an effort to reduce childhood obesity. For more information visit www.vep4vusd.org or call 641-5000 x1550.

Ventura events

June 4: Kiwanis Club of Ventura is hosting a **Guest Day** for prospective new members on Friday from 12pm- 1:30pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura. The Kiwanis Club is involved in Community Service Projects, youth clubs at local schools and fundraising. Proceeds support local charities. For more information contact Matt Kohagen at 795-1445 or revmrk@aol.com.

June 6: A 1944 broadcast of Amos 'N Andy and 1902 to 1910 recordings of wax cylinders of classical, orchestra and instrumental pieces will be featured in the **Dudley House** historic recording series during the Dudley House open house.

The house will be open from 1pm to 4pm. The Dudley Docents will give tours of the history of the house with its Dudley family furniture and the museum's most recent acquisitions Admission is free. The Dudley House is located at the corner of Ashwood and Loma Vista.

June 5-7: The Beehive Salon and Boutique, 844 E. Main St. will host a fundraiser from 9 am - 7 pm benefitting **Ventura County AIDS Partnership** (VCAP) and local AIDS programs. Hair cuts will be \$20 with 100% of the proceeds going to support VCAP's programs. Guests will enjoy exciting door prizes and light refreshments, while getting a fabulous new hair design and knowing they are helping provide HIV prevention and AIDS care services for those most in need.

Mallory Jean Barrett, owner of The Beehive, feels it is especially important to support local AIDS programs during this time of steep budget cuts.

For more information please call 653-0499. For more information about Ventura County AIDS Partnership, www.vcaidspartnership.org, www.facebook.com/vcaidspartnership or call 485-6288.

June 9: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, at 7pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. A professional photographer from the area, will critique members' prints and digital images. The topic for the month is "Connections" which features some interesting photographs. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. See the club's web site www.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com for more information about the club and examples of member's works or call 908-5663.

June 11: The American Cancer Society Inaugural Ventura County Event **Community Kickoff Breakfast** will be on Friday, at the Ventura Beach Marriott, 2055 East Harbor Boulevard, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. RSVP no later than June 4 at 478-2255 or makingstridesventuracounty@cancer.org Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. More information: <http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/ventura>.

June 11: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution May meeting will feature the program: "**George Washington and Dale Carnegie**", presented by Steve Hurst, California Society Sons of the American Revolution (CASSAR) Vice-President South. There will be a surprise during the program. The luncheon event will take place at 11:30 am, in the Garden Room, Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1295 S. Victoria Ave. All SAR compatriots, war history buffs, friends and visitors are welcome at this special free event! The self-pay luncheon cost is \$16 per person, with a slice of pie an additional \$1. Call Robert Taylor 216-7992 or Ron Riskey 647-0751 if you have questions, and please visit the Chapter website <http://pattonpatriots.org> for more information on SAR Chapter activities.

June 15: As local Toastmasters begin preparing for the 2010 District 33 **Evaluation Contest** in the fall, Toastmasters X-L Club will present an evaluation workshop on Tuesday, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the E.P. Foster Library, Topping Room. Four District 33 Evaluation Contest Winners will present evaluation skills and techniques in a 1 1/2 hour workshop. Presenters are local residents who have achieved the highest level in Toastmasters educational awards.

Toastmasters and the general public are invited to attend the workshop. There is no charge for attending this event. For more information, contact Gloria Davidson, VP Public Relations, at 279-1115 or www.toastmasters.org.

Ojai events

A contingent of capricious comics from the **Ventura Improv Company (VIC)** are bringing their "scripts are for sissies" attitude to the Ojai Art Center Theater for an evening of merriment and comedic contests at 7 p.m. Sunday, **June 6** at Ojai ACT, 113 S. Montgomery St. Tickets are \$15 general or \$12 for seniors, students and Art Center members. Call the box office at 640-8797 or log on to: www.OjaiACT.org

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Community Events

ing feat of the "Alps". The film is based on the legendary attempt made by Toni Kurz and Andreas Hinterstoisser who climbed the north face of the treacherous mountain. The film pits the idealism of youth against the brutal mountain and the Nazi machine anxious to exploit the feat as Germanic superiority. While on the mountain the film soars. Directed by Phillop Stolz, North Face is all action and adventure leaving the audience incredulous that anyone would attempt such an undertaking. It is as riveting as well as a heart-breaking experience. -Betsy Sharkey, Los Angeles Times

Screens: Sunday, June 13. The Ojai Film Society: 701 N Montgomery.

Ojai Concert Series kicks off with a summer series of shows at Dancing Oak Ranch. The first show will be on Friday **June 11**, with the Scottish legends, "The Old Blind Dogs" a premier Celtic band of the UK. The four lads play with compelling energy and rhythm. The event will be held in a large private home near Lake Casitas. The potluck party starts around 5pm and the music begins around 7:30pm.

The 2nd show will be Friday, July 23, with the bay area, all girl folk rockers "Blame Sally". This four piece acoustic/electric group will light up the night at "Dancing Oak Ranch." Directions to "Dancing Oak Ranch" will be included with your PayPal receipt.

Tickets for each show are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the gate.

Tickets online for the series of shows: at www.ojaiconcertseries.com or CALL Shane at 665-8852

For a day packed with the magic of lavender, pencil in on your calendar the "**Ojai Valley Lavender Festival**" on Saturday, **June 26** in Ojai's Libby Park. Nearly 100 vendors will be there with their lavender products. For more information please visit www.ojavalleylavenderfestival.org

Volunteers needed to assist at the 64th **Ojai Music Festival** slated for **June 10 to 13**. Positions include: hospitality, security, setup, ushers, artist liaisons and office assistance for morning, day and night shifts. Also needed is pre-festival help. For volunteer application go to: ojaifestival.org/support/volunteer. Or call 646-2094 x100.

The **64th Ojai Music Festival, June 10 to June 13** features composer George Benjamin as Music Director. Joining him "The Ensemble Modern" in its West Coast debut. Pianist Eric Huebner, and Indian musician Aashish Khan.

The 26th annual **Ojai Peddler's Fair** (filled with antiques & collectibles) is being held from 9am-4pm Saturday & Sunday, **June 19t & 20**. Located inside the Chaparral auditorium at 414 E Ojai Ave, downtown. Parking is free in the adjacent parking lot, and admission is free. Need more vendors. For more info: Pat 964-8915 or Jodie 640-4384x2284.

Senga Classic Stage Company's spring production, presents George Bernard Shaw's comedy about the Russian empress, "**Great Catherine**", directed by Francisca Beach. **June 11-June 27** Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm.

Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students) Group rates available. Ojai Valley Grange, 381 Cruzero St., Ojai. Free parking. For info call: 646-4885.

"The Theater Acting for Youth" workshop will present "**Charlie Brown and Friends**", directed by award winning Gai Jones. The workshop is aimed at grades 2-6. It runs 12 sessions from 8:45am-11:15am, Monday thru Thursday from **July 12 to July 29**, ends in a 7pm public performance on July 29 at the Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St.

The California Educational Theater

Association has honored Jones with a Life Achievement award. She is author, actor, director and producer. The book "Raising The Curtain" available at www.perfectionlearning.com and a self-published workbook, "Break A Leg...Tips for Theater Teachers." Which is available at www.gaijones.com

Gai Jones has directed dozens of children and adult plays. Contact Gai Jones at gai@sbcglobal.net for the registration form for the 12 week active course which is 24 hours of instruction.

Special Olympics Lions Club of Ventura County-A perfect way to give back to the community

With the organization of the Special Olympics Lions Club of Ventura County, a new kind of volunteer organization is coming to the community.

"Increasingly people want to volunteer for a cause," says Dan Lyon, District Governor Lions Clubs District 4-A3 "People want to work for a cause that will improve their communities and have a positive impact on the group they serve." In this light a special new Lions Club is forming in Ventura County; a Special Olympics Lions Club." The club's first meeting will be held today at 5:30 at the United Way Conference Room 1317 Del Norte Road Camarillo.

Lions clubs are groups of men and women who identify needs within their community and work together to fulfill those needs. For more information or to get involved with the Special Olympics Lions Club, please contact Dan Lyon at 302-0017 or liondanlyon@gmail.com or visit www.lions4a3.org/olympics.

Police reposts

Continued from page 7
searching, which was concluded after an hour. The suspect was not located. The victim was not injured. The investigation is continuing.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

May 1:

9:30 a.m. Patrol received a call that seven ducklings were stuck in a storm drain by Harbor Village. Apparently, mother duck led her brood across the grate and the ducklings all fell in. Over an extended period of time, Patrol was able to capture all of the ducklings and reunite them with momma duck and they all swam off (hooray).

May 2:

10 a.m. The Marina Manager notified Patrol that yesterday someone dumped used motor oil and filters in the dumpster at the fish offloading dock. The Dockmaster had gotten video of the subjects and a license plate on their vehicle. The investigations are continuing.

May 10:

6:50 p.m. Patrol received a report of dead fish in the Keys. Patrol responded and found hundreds of dead fish with thousands of live fish swimming just below the surface. Patrol notified PD and FD of the situation.



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"FATHER'S DAY BBQ LUNCH TRAIN"
Sunday, June 20th Departures: 11:00am or 3:00 pm
MAKE DAD KING OF THE DAY!

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER
June 5 "The Love Train"
June 26 "Night Train to Murder"
6:30pm-9:30pm Adults 18+

THE WIZARD EXPRESS-June 12
Family Murder Mystery for Harry Potter fans!

MARGARITA MADNESS-June 19

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May 11: 9:21 p.m. The Dockmaster found the front door of a retail shop open. The tenant's husband and son arrived to lock the door.

May 12:

9:10 a.m. Patrol received a report from HV Boatyard that there was oil in the water. Patrol investigated and found a boater who had accidentally kicked a bucket of used oil that was on his deck. Some of the oil entered the Harbor. The boater was cleaning up the oil with absorbent pads.

May 17:

4:50 p.m. A retail shop notified the Dockmaster that a shoplifter stole something. The Dockmaster filled out an Incident Report. VPD was advised and requested that the shop notify them directly.

May 20:

10:30 a.m. Patrol monitored a very strong "May Day" from a vessel reporting

that they are dragging anchor and heading on the rocks. Patrol responded to the outside of the breakwater and found a vessel less than ten feet from the rocks. They took the vessel into tow and released it to Vessel Assist.

8 p.m. The Dockmaster received a report of a fall victim at Harbor Village. The customer fell between the dive shop and Milano's and broke two teeth. The subject refused medical assistance. The Dockmaster completed an incident report.

May 21:

10:30 a.m. The Dockmaster received a report of a fight in progress at Harbor Cove. He responded and observed two women and a man involved in a physical, but weaponless, fight. He contacted VPD who responded and handled the situation.



Art Scene



Stew Birbrower poses in front of a quadrangle of his scenic village paintings which he describes as "primitive folk art."

WAV artist interviews: Stew Birbrower

by Tim Pompey

If you like the T.V. show "Mad Men," you'll love Stew Birbrower. He was actually one of those crazy Madison Avenue guys in the early 1960s who worked on ad campaigns. From story boards to creative director, he eventually became a film director for more than a thousand commercials. Remember Stuck on Band-Aids? Don't leave home without it? That was Stew.

Then something funny happened. After forty-five years, the guy who made a living in ads and commercials retired and went back to his first love: painting. After all, he was a fine arts graduate from Syracuse University. But he'd put down his brushes to work on Madison Avenue. Now, the true artist returned.

Stew describes his art as "Grandma Moses meets Walt Disney." His colors

have a Caribbean flare mixed with traces of classic impressionism. He admits his paintings look like story boards from some of his commercials. Still, they are bright, happy, and if you look closely, you'll notice he's been painting scenes from downtown Ventura.

Still, you can't take the ad out of the ad guy. Look around WAV and you'll see dozens of his clever posters. He's been doing public relations for WAV artists. You see, he used to sell "stuff." Now he wants to sell art.

Retired? Not really. He's working on film projects, comic books, posters, and, if any small business wants to hire an ad guy he states unequivocally: "I'm there." He is, bubbling over and raring to go. You can find him on the web at www.stew-art-ventura.com.



"El Nino at Pierpont" oil painting by Kay Zetlmaier

Art events at Harbor Village Gallery

Kay Zetlmaier's collection of oil paintings "Land and Sea, Our Beautiful Coastline" will be exhibiting at the Harbor Village Gallery from Wednesday, June 16 to Sunday, July 11. An Artist Reception will be held on Friday, June 18, from 5 - 8pm.

One is thrown into nature's adventures as their eyes are awakened touring her exhibit of lively oil paintings. Her works are full of movement and expression

Tammy Woodford and Christy Smolenski are offering a jewelry wrapping workshop with silver, semi-precious stones and gems on Saturday, June 5, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Harbor Village Gallery. The

cost is \$25 for Buena Ventura Art Association Members and \$30 for the general public.

Sign up for the workshop at the Harbor Village Gallery or call during Open Gallery Hours. You can also pay online with PayPal via the Buena Ventura Art Association's home page.



Fussell at Vita Art Center

Opening Reception: Friday, June 4 from 6-9 p.m. Exhibition Dates: June 4 - 26. 432 Ventura Ave. 644-9214, www.vitaartcenter.com. Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday from 10-5. Weekends by appointment.



The art of Sandy Wolk, a ceramic sculptor in Ojai will be featured on art tour

The Heart of the Artist

by Emily Thiroux

As a newcomer to Ventura, I find myself amazed and the quantity and quality of art in this area. And the support for the arts and artists is great here, too. My quest is to introduce you to fascinating, gifted artists so that you will be inspired to see their work.

I have been deeply inspired by the passionate artists I have met. The common thread I have discovered is just that, passion.

So this column is a gift from my heart to share the creativity of gifted artists. Every work of art has a story, and by getting to know the artist and their thoughts in creating their work, the work will evoke a richer sensation of appreciation.

One of the gifted artists is Sandy Wolk, a ceramic sculptor in Ojai. Sandy's Earthsong Studio garden showcases her fabulous work. Walking through this enchanted garden, you'll see sculptures ranging from a powerful woman reaching to the sky, to a loving couple encircled in each other's arms. Her multi-ethnic figures evoke a sense of communication with kindred spirits. Her studio is located next to her gardens so you can see her work in progress. Each sculpture creates its own story which will be different for each person who sees these creations.

One of my favorite discoveries in Ventura is Focus on the Masters. Donna Granata's long standing contribution to the support of the arts through the creation of this non-profit organization deserves to be noticed. Focus on the Masters (FOTM) is a non-profit art appreciation program that documents, preserves and presents the works and lives of accomplished contemporary artists. That emphasize the importance of the arts to a healthy society, check them out at www.focusonthemasters.com. Their next Saturday Evening Spotlight Series filming features John Nichols: photographer, gallery owner, curator, collector and writer from Santa Paula. The filming takes place on June 5 at Brooks Institute Ventura Campus, 5301 N. Ventura Ave. from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

I hope you'll introduce me to artists you want to learn more about. Contact me through Facebook at The Heart of the Artist. Or email me at emily@theheartoftheartist.com. And I hope that you'll read my blog and support the artists I feature. www.theheartoftheartist.com/category/Blog

On June 4, 5, and 6, The Heart of the Artist will host an art tour of Ventura and Ojai. To register for the Art Tour, go to www.theheartoftheartist.com/art-tours.



Stacie Logue at Gallery 255

Gallery 255 will be exhibiting new work by Stacie Logue one of the resident artists of Sea Breeze Art Studios. Ms. Logue's new work is a series of ceramic plaques.

While looking for inspiration she started pressing burlap and lace into slabs of clay to create textures. Then draping the clay over different forms she made the clay fold like fabric. Ms. Logue has developed a visual vocabulary in ceramics that is unique and recognizable.

"Impressions" runs June 10 - July 3. The opening artist reception will be held on Saturday June 12 from 5-8pm.

Gallery 255 is located at 255 South Laurel Street, 643-3973.



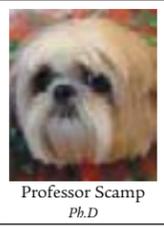
Art piece Marlo Bartel's bench stolen from gallery

Sometime between the hours of 9pm on May 21 and 11am on May 22 this wonderful Marlo Bartel's bench was stolen from the Sylvia White Gallery located at 1783 E. Main St.

Sylvia White, owner of the Sylvia White Gallery told us "The bench was stolen from outside...but, it was screwed and welded to the cement, so it had to take some serious planning...not to mention, it was solid concrete and weighed over 500 pounds! I love Ventura, and that means accepting every part of it, some of it good, and some of it bad. I will not let this experience sadden me. I have had a "Buddha" moment about this...if somebody wanted it that badly, they can have it. I am sorry they won't be able to fully enjoy it's beauty, knowing how it was acquired...and, who knows, maybe the guilt will be too much to bear and it will magically reappear. If the guilt isn't enough I am offering a \$500.00 cash reward with no questions asked."

If you know of anyone who may have been in the area during this time, or have any information to report, you may do so anonymously by calling the Gallery at 643-8300 or call the Ventura Police Department 339-4400, officer Chris Wilson.

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



Nine-year old Ronnie, a wire fox terrier, recently received the 28th annual National Hero Dog Award from the Los Angeles Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Ronnie came to the rescue when a coyote jumped over a 6 foot high fence and attempted to attack Janis and Eric Christensen. The coyote bit Ronnie's shoulder but he was still able to scare the coyote off.

I didn't get any awards for scaring off the squirrel from our back yard but he is still my hero.

The Postal Service places the safety of its employees as a top priority. Letter carriers fearing for their safety due to a loose or unrestrained pet may curtail delivery and ask homeowners to pick up their mail at the Post Office.

The Postal Service offers these tips to their employees but it certainly applies to all.

How to avoid being bitten

Don't run past a dog. The dog's natural instinct is to chase and catch prey.

If a dog threatens you, don't scream.

Avoid eye contact. Try to remain motionless until the dog leaves, then back away slowly until the dog is out of sight.

Don't approach a strange dog, especially one that's tethered or confined.

Before petting dogs always let a dog see and sniff you before petting the animal.

If you believe a dog is about to attack you, try to place something between yourself and the dog.

How to be a responsible dog owner

Obedience training can teach dogs proper behavior and help owners control their dogs.

When a carrier comes to your home, keep your dog inside, away from the door in another room.

Don't let your child take mail from the carrier in the presence of your dog. Your dog's instinct is to protect the family.

Spay or neuter your dog. Neutered dogs are less likely to bite.

Dogs that receive little attention or handling, or are left tied up for long periods of time, frequently turn into biters (I turned into an eater).

A Tennessee pit bull mix has been sentenced to obedience training for attacking a police car (bad choice but he probably didn't like the siren).

Winston didn't hurt anyone when he attacked a Chattanooga police car and managed to tear off a section of the bumper (must be plastic) and damage the tires.

Besides having to go to obedience *Continued on page 14*

Join Scamp Club

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

Dogs to Adopt



Hi:
I'm Honey an affectionate female 5 year old and playful Labrador/Pit Bull mix. I'm a rambunctious girl who has a lot of great energy. I do not like cats and children in the home must be 6 years or older. I know my basics and I'm good on a walk and in the car. I was rescued from Animal Regulation and I just want to go home with my new family. I need a fenced in yard with a wooden or wall fence as I can climb a cyclone or chain link fence that is at least 6 feet tall. I'm a very smart girl who just wants to please.

Scamp Club

Hi:
My name is Lil Topsy Cup, but my family calls me Topsy. I am 3 months old and am a toy pom. I just recently got all my shots and started taking walks around the neighborhood. I have already made lots of new friends because Ventura is such a friendly place

I hope to meet Scamp one day.



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Senior Living



Al Freeman is most proud of his son Pete and daughter-in-law Shelly who are shown here visiting with him at the Venturan Convalescent Center

Super Seniors

Senior citizen honored

by Tim Pompey

He may be 89 and in a wheel chair, but Al Freeman is still sharp, with lively eyes and a great dry sense of British humor. Al's life has taken him across oceans and continents, and today, during Suz Montgomery's monthly celebration called "This is Your Life" at the Venturan Convalescent Center in Ventura, a group of friends and family have gathered to learn just how interesting Al Freeman's life has truly been.

Born in Edmonton, England, a suburb north of London, he speaks fondly of his mother: her endurance during hard times, her love of reading, her positive attitude. He grew up surrounded by newspapers. "I've been around newspapers all of my life," he remembers. His small town used to carry seven or eight of them. "My mother used to sit and read them on Sunday. You couldn't pull her away." That would explain how he came to make a living in the printing business.

When Al grew up, he took a job as a printer's apprentice in London; that is, before he was conscripted into the military. In 1956, he married his wife, Dorthea, and together they took an unusual trip. He bought an old motorcycle in the U.K. and had it shipped by boat to Canada. He and his wife spent sixteen days riding across Canada. Sixteen precarious days. He tells of the time his gas cap was flattened by a semi in the middle of nowhere. They rode for hundreds of miles with an open gas tank before they found a dealer in Idaho to replace it. Al passes around a large photo of him next to the bike. He looks positively James Deanish.

Al's career as a printer led him to criss-cross from Victoria, Canada, back to England, then to Glendale, California. When work ran out there, he heard of an opening at the Star Free Press in Ventura. He was hired and eventually became a print foreman. Al also got his realtor's license and fixed up houses on the side.

No surprise that Al loves soccer. He was a good athlete and played on many English soccer teams when he was young. Al and family were responsible for the local development of AYSO. He started the first regional AYSO soccer league. His son Pete played on the first soccer team in the County.

Asked about the main differences between life in England and in the States, he

pauses for a moment. "Probably the language," he responds, "and certainly there's more space. And people in England are a little more conservative."

That might explain why he came to North America to ride his motorbike, raise a family, start a soccer league, and share all these entertaining stories. Al doesn't strike me as conservative. He's led an adventurous life. You can see his determined spirit in the way he smiles and laughs. "The best decision I made was to head for North America," he writes in his personal biography. Who knows? Maybe in America there's just a bit more room to wander off the beaten path. Oh, and, by the way, just to let you know how wonderfully unique Al is, his favorite animal is . . . the giraffe.

Polynesian Luau at Cypress Place

Cypress Place Senior Living will host its annual Polynesian Luau with a festive event complete with a Kahlua roasted pig, Hawaiian buffet, Mai Tais, Hawaiian dancers, and live Hawaiian music. Residents, families, and friends of the community are welcome to attend. The event is free to the public.

Festivities take place from 12 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 5. Come meet their residents and other local community members while enjoying great food and live entertainment.

Cypress Place Senior Living is a premiere senior community in Ventura County. The beautiful senior living campus features an Active Senior Living community and adjacent Assisted Living and Alzheimer's/Dementia Care community connected by a lushly landscaped courtyard.

This safe, loving environment offers residents a continuum of care through life's transitions. Amenities include three meals daily, weekly housekeeping, transportation, activities, utilities, as well as personal caregivers and laundry service in the Assisted Living and Memory Care communities.

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. For more information or to RSVP, please call 650-8000, or go to www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com.

Go bowling at SCAN

A new round of virtual bowling sessions, using the Nintendo Wii gaming system, will begin June 4 and June 7 at the SCAN Senior Resource Center in Ventura. Sessions will last one-hour and will be offered on Mondays at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. and on Friday at 10 a.m. Each session will run four consecutive weeks throughout the month of June.

There is no cost to play. The sessions are open to all seniors, not just SCAN members. For the Friday session only, preference will be given to seniors not currently participating in SCAN's Wii bowling program. To register, call 658-0365. The SCAN Senior Resource Center is located at 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 200, in Ventura.



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Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

“Putting Life Back Into Living!”

by Nanci Cone

If you're dealing with chronic health problems, you won't want to miss this free seminar called "Healthier Living: Managing Ongoing Health Conditions" presented by Camarillo Health Care District in partnership with Stanford University and Partners in Care Foundation.

This award-winning program, graciously hosted by MediTech Health Services will be held at their facility located at 4562 Westinghouse Street in Ventura every Thursday from 9-11:30 am for six weeks beginning July 15. Participants will join others with ongoing health conditions, family members and friends of those with ongoing health conditions, and anyone interested in becoming more physically and socially active.

Sharon Bick, CEO of MediTech Health Services, says, "Being a health provider to people in their homes, we deal a lot with patients that have a lot of chronic illnesses. This program will help them lead healthier lives by having them attend these classes and teaching them to make positive changes. I find it a very novel program and one that is dealing with the chronic disease whether it be the person that has it or through educating a family member or friend about it"

Designed by Stanford University, the program helps individuals better manage chronic health conditions and live a happier, healthier life. Issues that will be discussed in the classes include:

- Manage your health and lessen impact on your life

- Reduce fatigue, anxiety, sleep loss and pain

- Communicate better with physician, family and friends

- Set goals and problem solve to make positive changes

Chief Resource Officer of Camarillo Health Care District, Sue Tatangelo, notes, "When I first learned of this award-winning evidence based program, I knew we had to offer it because it would make a difference in people's lives."

Stanford University, for the past 20 years, has developed, tested, and evaluated self-management programs for people with chronic health problems. Once they develop a program, its effectiveness is evaluated through a randomized, controlled trial, which is 2-4 years in length. It is only after a program has been shown to be safe and effective through these trials that it is released for dissemination.

"Thanks to this program," Ms. Tatangelo continues, "people have learned to cope better and to take charge of their health problems. We have received positive feedback from everyone who has taken these free seminars and it has made a tremendous difference in so many people's lives - both with people experience chronic conditions and with family and friends who have learned how to better interact and com-

municate with these individuals."

To register for this program or to find out where the next one will be held in Ventura County, please call 388-1952, ext. 101



Drake Lasley and Stan Weisel (seated) prep for a tough Knowledge Bowl challenge between high school kids and retired seniors while their teachers (Linda Brug and Suz Montgomery) cheer them on. Photo by John Hankins

The Knowledge Bowl - the juniors versus the seniors

Fresh off a victory against Ventura County high schools during the annual Knowledge Bowl in March, Ventura High School students have accepted a challenge by elder adults whose average age is 88.

While the teens may have higher energy and youth on their side, the seniors "have a lifetime of experience and learning," said Suz Montgomery, a Ventura Unified Adult Education instructor.

Meanwhile, Ventura High teacher Linda Brug tapped into the reigning 2010 Knowledge Bowl champs and believes they can win -- if only because of the teens' ability to answer quickly.

This fun and entertaining competition is free for all, starting at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, June 7 in the top floor Vista Room of the Ventura TowneHouse, 4900 Telegraph Ave., across the street from Ventura Community College.

The format is the same as the Knowledge Bowl, Brug said, in which a question is posed and the first to buzz responds. If the answer is correct, a bonus query is given to that team.

There will be two rounds of 20 questions each in history, geography, civics and current events.

The Ventura High team members are Drake Lasley, Lucas Souza, Matt Roberts and Garrett Baker, while the challengers are Stan Weisel, Betty Sherman, Mary Ayres and Don Haskell.

Although the Ventura teens are sure to be tough, Montgomery advises that two of the seniors were college professors, another one an informed business executive and, for good measure, a retired Ventura High School teacher.

Investment group

The "Investment Group" meets at the Senior Recreation Center located at 420 East Santa Clara Street on Mondays from 10 to 11:30 am. Activities include a review of the week's economic events, and may include presentations by guest speakers. Membership is free and all are welcome.

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School

Meeting graduation requirements: easier said than done

by Kathryn Duckwitz

With the final days of this school year quickly approaching, graduation-related thoughts fill the minds of Ventura High School students. For seniors, it must feel pretty gratifying. Going through four years of high school and experiencing the many trials and triumphs is truly quite an accomplishment. That very accomplishment, however, is what every other lower grade level must focus quite a bit on. Meeting all the graduation requirements is more complex and difficult than one might think. In fact, manipulating a student's schedule for their best opportunity for success requires more planning and deliberation these days than many people could ever imagine.

First of all, there are two main ways a student can complete and graduate from high school. There aren't so much two separate paths, but more accurately a personal lifestyle choice. One of the paths is to simply meet the basic and essential standards to graduate. College isn't for everyone, so this choice is clearly most often preferred by those who don't opt to attend college. English is the only class that has to be taken for all four years. The minimum requirement for mathematics is three years, and the student has to pass at least Algebra 1. Seven semesters of social studies are needed with classes such as Geography, World Civilization, U.S. History, Economics and Government. For science, a student must complete no less than two years as long as they have taken one year of a life science (i.e. Biology) and one year of a physical science (i.e. Chemistry). A single semester of Health along with the minimum two years of mandatory Physical Education (provided the student passes the California Physical Fitness Test) is required. Then there are the arts, which can easily be confusing in terms of what must be completed. There are two categories of arts: Fine Arts and Applied Arts. To begin simply, two full semesters of Fine Arts must be passed and two full semesters of an Applied Art must be passed. Fine Arts are basically the classic definitions of art like drama, music, art and photography. Applied Arts include classes such as woodshop, landscaping, auto shop and so on. Although Foreign Language falls under the category of Fine Arts, two years of a single language are required separately. Then to complicate things further, some classes can be counted as Fine or Applied Arts depending on what you have completed and what you need to complete. Those classes include but are not limited to Visual Communications, Journalism, Stage Craft and Computer Graphics. If all these classes have been completed on schedule, the student can also have the option of a four instead of six period schedule in their Senior year.

The second path a student can take to complete high school is to set themselves up for the best possible

college opportunities. This goes above and beyond just meeting the requirements. Although the recommended courses are generally the same as the previously stated classes, generally they just consist of adding another two semesters of core classes such as Science, Math, Social Studies and electives. For example: four years of math are recommended instead of three, three years of a foreign language are recommended instead of two, etc. The decision of taking extra classes is entirely the student's choice. However, in reality it takes more than just college recommended classes to look good for college. Community service hours, involvement in clubs and sports teams is also extremely helpful.

To those who haven't been thoroughly confused by the terms and conditions of graduating high school, congratulations for keeping up. For the rest - don't worry, many students out there are just as lost as you are.



Local parent Dawn Belden is introduced to Jerry Edling, of Malibu, one of the founding members of the new online school network. by Ventura educator Victoria Kindle Hodson at the launch party. Photo by Lynn Campbell

Teachers, parents merge to change the schools

A small group of teachers, parents, and community members met at a local bookstore recently to celebrate the launch of a new online campaign to influence public policy about how the nation's schools are structured.

"Right now, while Congress is studying changes to the No Child Left Behind legislation, is the perfect moment to put forth a new agenda about what we want our schools to become, for kids, teachers, and parents," said Patricia Kokinos, local educator and author who created the new public participation site at www.ChangeTheSchools.ning.com.

Both teachers and students are stifled by what has become a "factory" mentality in the nation's schools, Kokinos said, where results are judged by a narrow band of "standardized tests" that keep teachers' creativity in check and prevent students from developing their own talents and interests.

A more human-friendly environment, for teachers and students, is the answer, according to two other local organizers, Mariaemma Pelullo-Willis and Victoria Kindle Hodson, co-founders of the local Learning Success Institute.

"The current structure of the education system rewards a narrow spectrum of learners," said Hodson. The group discussed numerous ways in which a more personalized, coaching environ-

ment can open the door to deeper, more exciting learning for everyone involved, and less stress for students and teachers. Pelullo-Willis cited their twenty years of work in helping children and adults discover their learning styles as evidence of a proven, research-based method that can make school less painful for everyone, if the system were flexible enough to allow and support such work.

A former teacher and administrator in Ventura County, Kokinos has been involved in creating change in the public schools for 25 years. "I've discovered that our most intelligent changes cannot be sustained in a system that was built for assembly-line production," she said. "Until we gather and speak up in large enough numbers to influence legislators on state and national levels, we will continue to lose kids from the system who have never had a chance to become engaged with their own learning."

Ventura Job & Career Center June classes

Thursday, June 3 - Resumes that Sell, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters.

Thursday, June 10 - Dollars and Sense, 1 pm - 4 pm - gain a basic understanding of good/bad debt, credit, spending triggers, budgeting and financial goals.

Tuesday, June 15 - Winning Interviews, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - supplies the tools to make a lasting first impression when interviewing.

Wednesday, June 16 - Job Retention, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm - learn how

to succeed at your new job. This mini-career shop will help you discover what employers are really looking for.

Tuesday, June 22 - Online Job Search Strategies, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - teaches useful and successful methods of surfing the Internet for job leads, and how to properly respond. Bring your completed resume on 3 1/2" floppy disk.

Monday, June 28 - Explore Your Future, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - complete a self-evaluation to help identify your skills and aspirations. Gain insight into the hidden labor market and develop a career strategy.

Wednesday, June 30 - Tap into the Hidden Job Market, 1 - 4 pm. Learn how to initiate contacts and job leads and why networking is so important. Gain important insight and tools for finding job leads before they are advertised.

The Ventura Job & Career Center is located at 4651 Telephone Road, 654-3435

Professor Scamp

Continued from page 11

school he will have to wear a tag that says "potentially dangerous".

I never chase cars because I'm not sure what I would do if I caught one unless they are good to eat. My sign could say "potentially hungry".

The Los Angeles City Council is requiring pet companions to implant microchips in their cats and dogs that have been lost and returned to an animal shelter. The chips are only the size of a piece of rice and are installed into the back of the neck. The unique digit number on the chip identifies the animals through a private database.

Animal shelters already implant chips in animals in every dog and cat adopted.

I think that this is good idea, especially in us dogs that like to take a very long walk when we get out and might get lost.



Cabrillo Middle School's Wind Ensemble and String Orchestra, under the direction of Mario Boccali, each earned a Superior rating at the Heritage Festival in San Diego

Cabrillo Middle School music students win gold at renowned national festival

Music students of Cabrillo Middle School earned top honors at the nationally-adjudicated Heritage Festival held in San Diego. Composed of seventh- and eighth-graders, the Wind Ensemble and the String Orchestra, under the leadership of Director Mario Boccali, each received a Superior/Gold rating in the competition that included middle and high schools from around the country.

"The students have been working hard all year and they saw the superior results of their efforts at this Festival. The judges' comments are recorded and we study them in class for continual improvement," said Director Boccali.

Established in 1980 to provide performance and educational opportunities

for student music groups in the U.S. and Canada, the well-regarded Heritage Festival is an accredited travel study school.

CMS's award-winning program has been led by Mr. Boccali for the last nine years. Since 2004, Boccali's student groups have entered Heritage Festival contests each year and, each year have come home with top honors.

The next Cabrillo concert will be held on Monday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at the Ventura High School Auditorium. If you have questions about Cabrillo's music program or would like to make a donation as a Friend of the Cabrillo Music Boosters, call Margarida at 644-4855. More music department information is available at www.venturausd.org/cabrillo.htm.

Business



Everyone of importance attended the Chamber of Commerce breakfast

Chamber of Commerce sponsors economic outlook breakfast

by Tim Pompey

As if to ward off Ventura's recent bad economic news, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce gathered its core politicians and business leaders into one large room at the Pierpont Inn to talk about the potential future for business in the City.

Calling its breakfast "A New Decade to Return to Prosperity," The Chamber invited nine leaders from various segments of the community to share their plans. Turns out the news is not all bad. In fact, there's tantalizing business potential in the works, if the City can manage to keep the budget ship afloat, fix its permit processes, and gain some momentum from some large projects.

Calling the City's economic outlook an attempt to "build the next generation of prosperity," Mayor Bill Fulton said that his focus was to "nurture business that will grow and stay." He's pinning part of that hope on the recent effort by the City to develop high-tech businesses. As proof of this, he cited the opening of the Ventura Ventures Technology Center (V²TC) last year, which launched a total of twelve new businesses in 2009. He's also hoping that the new Community Memorial Hospital construction will create a "working lab where biotech can work hand in hand with health providers."

No doubt, however, if business is to come and grow, the City recognizes it will have to fix and streamline its business application and approval guidelines. That task has been given to the City's new Community Development Director, Jeff Lambert, who promised an eager audience that he's working to update the City's notorious approval process.

Lambert's office is busy with a variety of new projects. He's focusing on the development of green technologies and has hired new staff to increase the City's creative and cultural activities. Lambert reiterated the Mayor's view that the new hospital will play a key role in revitalizing the local economy. His hope is that, when completed, the new CMH will spur extensive redevelopment along the midtown corridor.

He also cited current projects in the works: The Anastasi mixed-use project at Seaward and Harbor; an ambitious harbor redevelopment design; the reopening of the north end of the Pacific View Mall; new expansion of the Ventura Auto Mall off of Highway 101. In addition, he cited plans for the redevelopment of the North Avenue.

As if to affirm the City's vision, other speakers lined up for nearly two hours de-

scribing various projects in the works. John Masterson of Western Automotive Consultants, and Vice President of Community Memorial Healthcare System, talked about the auto center expansion and new CMH construction. Dave Armstrong, Chair of the Downtown Ventura Organization, described plans to expand tourism. Brett Mascaro, Development Manager for Pacific View Mall, outlined plans for the redevelopment of the mall's vacant north end. Nick Dietch, Commissioner for the Port District, provided detailed drawings for the Ventura Harbor's expansion. Trudy Arriaga, Ventura Unified School District Superintendent, covered the role of education in Ventura. Gary Wilde, Board President for the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, described how the Chamber is working hand in hand with the City to promote prosperity.

Those who stayed till the end could not help but be enamored by all the development hope provided by the Chamber, as if the mantra "if we build it, they will come" might transfer its impact from an Iowa cornfield to downtown Ventura. No doubt, the City and the business community are working hard to change Ventura's economic outlook. As Mayor Fulton quipped, "We don't have to approve everything, but we do have to approve something."

Judging by this breakfast, make that multiple somethings. Fortunately, there are people working and plenty of plans on the table. The question remains: Can they make it through the planning process? With a new can-do attitude from City and business leaders, they just might.

Would you like to win a 42" LCD HD TV?

New President/CEO Sandra Walker is excited to announce the Ventura Chamber of Commerce is hosting the first ever combination auction, business expo and mixer event on June 24 from 4 - 8:00pm at the Four Points Sheraton Ventura Harbor Hotel. This exhibitor's sold-out event will feature businesses showcasing themselves



Sandra Walker is the new chief executive officer of the Ventura Chamber coming to us from the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce

New head honcho for Greater Ventura Chamber of Commerce

by Mira Reverente

A seasoned banker and chamber of commerce veteran is now at the helm of the Greater Ventura Chamber of Commerce. After conducting a nationwide search, Sandra Walker was appointed as the new chief executive officer, replacing Zoe Taylor who resigned last year.

Gary Wilde, chairman of the board, says, "We are delighted that Sandra has joined us. Under her leadership, we are also confident that we will meet the needs of our members better."

Mentored by the best

Mentored by Tom Kelley, chief executive officer of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Walker describes her steps forward, "The opportunity lined up with my career goals. It was a natural progression for me, having been involved in various chambers of commerce most of

my professional career."

Under Kelley and during her stint as director of operations at the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Walker learned the ropes of chamber leadership, including promoting community pride, encouraging business investments and getting involved in various issues affecting the local economy. Due to their long history of involvement and resolution, many chambers of commerce have become viable forces in the community.

Suited for success

Walker was equipped with the necessary tools for success early on in life. As an athlete, she had the persistence and drive to play competitive tennis and get ranked in Southern California. With the same razor-sharp focus, she earned her B.A. in Economics from the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

As a young go-getter, Walker was promoted to bank manager at the age of 21, after working her way up from bank teller at the former Affinity Bank. As an accountant for the City of Ventura, she learned how to sharpen her networking skills, "During my time spent at City Hall, I gained many valuable contacts, which will make it easier to collaborate with various sectors."

Outside work, Walker is busy visiting different parts of the county and campaigning for her husband who is running for Ventura County Treasurer-Tax Collector. She is also currently enrolled in an MBA program. She prefers to unwind outdoors and counts gardening, hiking and taking her dog for walks as some of her favorite pastimes.

High hopes

As she went to work last Monday, May 17, Walker is optimistic yet down-to-earth. Her more immediate plans include: aligning the chamber priorities with the city through the newly approved prosperity council and meeting with leaders from other organizations to share ideas and resources. She would also like to incorporate a young professionals group into the chamber, similar to the group she formed in Camarillo.

Walker shares, "I look forward to spending some time with the members, taking their feedback and ensuring we are providing the highest level of customer service and value for their membership."

while attendees enjoy networking and appetizers provided by the Four Points Sheraton Ventura Harbor. A no-host bar will also be available.

The many businesses who have donated gifts for the auction will be highlighted in a complimentary Referral Booklet provided to all attendees, along with paid advertisements.

Among the auction items are a hot-air balloon ride for two, lunch for four on a yacht cruising to the Channel Islands, \$250 gift certificate from Pacific View Mall, training day with Ventura Police SWAT, lunch with the Mayor, gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry and assorted much more.

All in attendance will be eligible to win a 42" LCD HD TV donated by Cypress Place Senior Living.

Auction items will be accepted and ads in the booklet may be purchased until June 8. Please call 642-3873 or e-mail andi_auction@yahoo.com. Tickets to the Auction by the Sea, Business Expo & Mixer are \$10 at the door, or can be purchased in advance by calling 676-7500. For additional information, please visit www.VenturaChamber.org.

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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

Show Time

Two on the Aisle

Driving Miss Daisy explores being in the driver's seat

by James Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

In many ways, times have not changed much. Segregation and class systems may have inched their way toward equilibrium, but the frailties of aging remain the same. In our struggle to remain independent as we age, we become more dependent upon others, not only for physical assistance, but for emotional support as well. The issue is one quite familiar to many Baby Boomers whose parents are now at "that age" where these tough decisions must be made.

These and other themes are all part of *Driving Miss Daisy*, now on stage through June 13 at Moorpark's High Street Arts Center. But primarily the play is a study in acceptance and friendship, both resisted at first, and both welcomed in the end.

The piece is superbly written, acknowledging some of the religious and racial barriers in post World War II Georgia without bearing on them heavily. Spanning the 25 years from 1948 to 1973, the play focuses on the people and their changing attitudes, rather than the changes inherent in the era. The result is a study in characters that are at once familiar and foreign. The message is timeless and the performances are first-rate.

Daisy, played to perfection by Helene Benjamin, is a woman who must come to grips with some realities her age heaps upon her. Miss Daisy, a 72-year-old Jewish widow, can no longer drive herself to the market or to worship. Several recent accidents have made that clear.

Her son, Boolie - given a strong, if a bit rapid-fire, characterization by Michael German - provides loving strength as he arranges for an African-American driver to assist her, much to her chagrin.

Of course, she resents being beholden to anybody, much less Hoke Colburn, a gentle giant of a man who patiently earns her trust and friendship. Eric Harris portrays Hoke with warmth, understanding and a playful gleam in his eye. For the first week of his employment, Miss Daisy gives Hoke nothing to do but sit in the kitchen and wait. Eventually and reluctantly, she accepts his offer to drive her to the market and the slow process of establishing friendship begins.

Veteran Ventura County theater pro Will Shupe has designed a multi-level set specifically for the High Street Theater, utilizing balcony areas to excellent advantage. Superb sound engineering and effects subtly accent the action in just the right spots, solidifying the picture as a whole.

The play is 90 minutes long and performed without an intermission. To have added a break would have disrupted the smooth flow for both the actors and audience.

Driving Miss Daisy plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, until June 13 at the High Street Arts Center, 45 E. High St., Moorpark. General-\$15. Students & 62+-\$12. Under 12-\$8. 529-8700. www.highstreetartscenter.com.

Although this show is not produced in Ventura, through this feature the Breeze intends to share with our readers information and observations about cultural opportunities throughout our cosmopolitan County, much in the same way reviews of films are presented for movies that may not be currently playing in our local theaters - Ed.

Review of Harry Brown

by Tim Pompey

★ ★ 1/2

Starring Michael Caine, Emily Mortimer, David Bradley

Currently Playing at Century 10

As the summer movie season approaches, leave it to the British to stab our current American film fluff in the heart. While this weekend's schedule includes comic book characters, video games, cardboard comedy, and dippy romance, director Daniel Barber gives us a dark jolt of English adrenaline. And who better to play good guy/bad guy than Michael Caine? Okay, in this film he's old. Not exactly Dirty Harry. Doesn't matter. He still knows how to be dangerous.

Harry Brown (Caine) is a retired Marine living in a gang-infested housing project somewhere in the bleak heart of London. He's painfully aged. His wife is dying. His last true friend is his drinking buddy and chess partner, Leonard Attwell (Bradley). Harry isn't looking for trouble. He avoids the street tunnel where the local thugs hang out. When Leonard complains about being harassed, Harry warns him to go to the police. Then Leonard is brutally murdered and Harry is grief stricken. One night, walking home from a night of binge drinking, he's confronted by a robber. Let's just say those old Marine instincts kick in. From there, the carnage begins.

I expected "Harry Brown" to be a standard revenge movie - good guy wronged picks up weapon, goes after bad guys - and I wasn't too far off base. What I didn't count on was the heart and soul that Barber and Caine bring to this film. Barber effectively creates a hellish, menacing environment. Caine gives Harry a palpable sense of contrast between a fearful, aging man and a street-savvy soldier.

All right, sometimes the plot runs a little thin. There's lots of stereotyping - street hoods, bureaucratic police, mad urban jungle, etc. Not to mention police detective Alice Frampton (Mortimer), who dresses like a flight attendant and seems bewildered about being a cop. But, when Harry's on the screen, the story snaps back. The camera focuses on his face, his fingers, his eyes, and gives you a sense of instant transformation - from doddering old man to trained soldier and back. Harry knows about killing, is reluctant to go back to his old ways, but, does he have a choice? The film effectively explores that question.

The primary reason to see this film is to enjoy Caine as Harry Brown. Even a bitter, elderly Dirty Harry struggling to hold his gun upright would have some admiration for the British Harry as he cleans out that little tunnel and goes on his stoic English way. "Harry Brown" is dark, introspective, and violent. It's also gritty, heartfelt, and touching. So, how on earth can you wrap this all up into a single film? Only one good answer to that question: Michael Caine. Yes, he's old, cautious, and likeable. He's also cunning brutal, and dangerous. Watch this film and tell me which Harry you like best? It's hard to pick. They're both pretty darn good.

Environmental

UCSB master's students tackle Ventura's greenhouse gas emissions

by Bren | AECOM group

Recently a group of master's students presented their thesis at City Hall. The group measured Ventura's current greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions and provided customized recommendations for the city to reduce those emissions.

In weeks the students will be graduating as Masters of Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at UC Santa Barbara. A unique aspect of the two-year Bren program is the required thesis, in the form of a Group Project.

A group of 4-5 students spends a year tackling an environmental problem for a real-world client.

In April the group of five master's students, Michael Conrardy, Gavin Feiger, Allison King, Aaron Sobel, and Justin Whittet, completed their thesis titled *Community Greenhouse Gas Solutions: Prioritizing Emissions-Reducing Strategies*, using Ventura as a case study.

Many communities, particularly in California, want to reduce their emissions regardless of, and due to, the lack of a global or national agreement. Local communities have the opportunity to build a global movement; reducing emissions from the ground up.

California is fortunate to have climate change legislation, in the form of AB 32, mandating a return to the 1990 emissions level by 2020; but communities are not yet charged with specific reduction goals. In preparation for upcoming mandates and to save money, forward-thinking cities like Ventura are beginning to act.

Partnering with the environmental branch of AECOM Consulting, the group addresses climate change at the community scale by recommending community-specific strategies to reduce ghg emissions. They measured the costs and benefits of 20 ghg reduction strategies such as installing efficient appliances, taking public transit and installing solar panels. The group chose Ventura as a case study to test their model and methods.

Ventura recorded their municipal ghg emissions in 2007. Municipal emissions include vehicles, buildings, and facilities owned or operated by the city. The group's first step was to expand this inventory to include the entire city limits, estimating annual emissions at 750,305 tons of CO₂-equivalent. Approximately 50% came from transportation with the remainder credited to electricity and natural gas.

The Bren group will be visiting China in late June to share their work and collaborate with students and professors on a similar low-carbon communities program.

Breeze:

The five members of the Bren | AECOM group are Michael Conrardy, Gavin Feiger, Allison King, Aaron Sobel, and Justin Whittet

Religion

Doctor George Barna to speak on "overcoming poverty—one life at a time"

Dr. George Barna, well-known researcher and author will deliver a talk on "Overcoming Poverty—One Life at a Time" on Friday, June 4, at 7 p.m. at Ventura County Christian School, 96 MacMillan Ave., Ventura.

In his speech, Dr. Barna will address the causes and identity of poverty, as well as the spiritual nuances of helping the poor through local and personal solutions.

Also speaking is Rob Orth, the new Executive Director of Project Understanding, who will discuss the mission and future of the organization and how you can partner in serving our community.

Tickets are \$25 per person for this fundraiser benefiting Project Understanding's community programs.

Project Understanding is a faith based non-profit which has been helping people transform their lives in Ventura County since 1977. The

agency provides basic needs assistance including food, transitional housing, tutoring, community referrals and volunteer opportunities.

For more information, call Project Understanding at 652-1326 or visit the website www.projectunderstanding.org.

The River is on the move

The River Community Church is on the move! They have found a new location at 3100 Preble Ave. in Ventura. They will be meeting in the same building that The Harbor Community Church is meeting as well as a Messianic Jewish Church and a Korean Presbyterian Church. The first gathering at their new location will be on June 13 at 5:30 PM; refreshments and childcare will be provided. Pastor Chon Torres from The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship will be the guest speaker as The River Community settles into their new home.

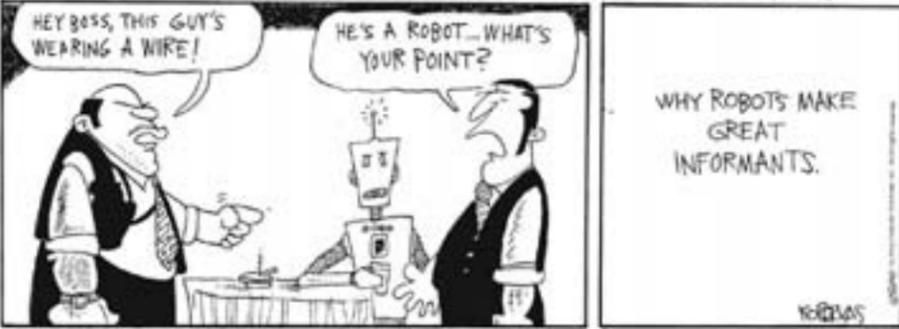
The River Community is a church that was planted by Pastor Jim & Pam Duran and his team in June 2005. They have been serving families and the community unselfishly and the vision of the River community is to "Partner with others to help them enhance their quality of life." For More Information please visit their website at www.TheRiverCommunity.org or call 815-5795.

The Lighter Breeze

Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



The Spats



Bring Up Father, 1921



Margulies



Solutions on page 15

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

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!

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
			18			19		20				
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
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46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

ACROSS

1 Crazy
4 Cabin components
8 Pushpin
12 Inventor Whitney
13 Last write-up
14 Turkish bigwig
15 Active person
17 MRI forerunner
18 "A mouse!"
19 Cow catchers
21 Insignia
24 Fond du —, Wisc.
25 Court
26 "Uh-huh"
28 Birth-related
32 "Desire Under the —"
34 Peregrinate
36 Infant
37 Change your offer
39 Intimidate
41 Barbie's companion
42 Period
44 Highway stopovers
46 Patella
50 LummoX
51 Tittle
52 1950s dance resembling an elaborate patty-cake
56 Tart

DOWN

1 Blanc or Brooks
2 "The Greatest"
3 Attack forcefully from above
4 Mellow
5 Sapporo sash
6 Y chromosome lacker
7 Filch
8 Urban

9 "Slumdog Millionaire" site
10 Converse
11 Kyser and Thompson
16 Moray, for one
20 Skedaddled
21 Ornamental pitcher
22 Double agent
23 Face
27 Atl. counterpart
29 Relax a bit
30 First victim
31 Photog's choice
33 Type of baseball

pitch
35 Comic DeLuise
38 "What's up, —?"
40 "Give a hoot, don't pollute" owl
43 California-Nevada lake
45 Trump casino-hotel
46 Smooch
47 Cranny
48 Needle holder
49 One of the Three Bears
53 Greek consonants
54 Energy
55 Water Fr.

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Coping with an old issue that has suddenly re-emerged could take a big toll on your emotional energies. Decide whether you really want to pursue the possibilities here.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) For all your skill in keeping your secrets safe, you could be unwittingly letting one slip out by the way you're behaving in that new relationship. Are congratulations soon to be in order?

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Good old-fashioned horse sense could help you get around those who unknowingly or deliberately put obstacles in your way. Ignore the confusion and follow your own lead.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A puzzling attitude change in a colleague from friendly to chilly might stem from a long-hidden resentment suddenly bubbling up. An open and honest talk should resolve the problem.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This week, many ever-generous Aquarians might find themselves feeling an acquisitive urge. If so, indulge it. You've earned the right to treat yourself to wonderful things.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Expect to get a lot of advice on how to go about implementing your plans. But once you've sorted it all out, you'll probably find that, once again, your way will be the best way.

BORN THIS WEEK: You enjoy the quiet times of your life, but when you're in the mood, you can throw a party everyone will want to go to.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Still operating under a full head of self-esteem makes you want to tackle a matter you had shied away from. OK. But be sure to arm yourself with facts before you make a move.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That smart move you recently made caught the attention of a lot of people, including some with financial deals to offer. Use your Taurean wariness to check them out thoroughly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Shyness might keep you from asking for more information on a potentially important matter. But your curiosity grows stronger by midweek and gives you the impetus for data-gathering.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Taking on too many tasks may not be the wise thing to do at this time. You might overspend both your physical and emotional energy reserves, and have to miss out on some upcoming events.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Try to keep your spending at an affordable level. Splurging now — especially on credit — could create a problem if your finances are too low for you to take advantage of a possible opportunity.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might not approve of a colleague's behavior during much of the week. But don't play the judgmental Virgo card here. As always, check the facts before you assume the worst.



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Friday, May 28
7:00 pm vs. Hollywood United Hitmen

Saturday, June 5
7:00 pm vs. BYU Cougars

Saturday, July 3
7:00 pm vs. Orange County Bluestar

Friday, July 16
7:00 pm vs. Lancaster Rattlers

Saturday, July 24
7:00 pm vs. Los Angeles Legends

Playoffs
July 30 - August 1 - PDL Conference Championship
August 6-8 - PDL Final Four Championship

3 WAYS TO PURCHASE SEASON TICKETS

- Buy them at the Ventura County Fusion Office, 701 E. Santa Clara St., #42, Ventura, CA 93001
- Make a check or money order out to: Ventura County Fusion and mail it to: Ventura County Fusion, 701 E. Santa Clara St., #42, Ventura, CA 93001 (please include your shipping address)
- Buy them online at www.vcfusion.com

*All 2010 Fusion tickets are flex tickets that can be used for any regular season home game

Sports



Bob McNab, the Fusion's new assistant coach, directs players during a recent practice session.

Ventura County Fusion hires international soccer veteran

by Keith R. Pillow, Correspondent

As the saying goes, success breeds success.

And so it is with the Ventura County Fusion, the region's first and only world-class, championship-caliber soccer franchise, which has attracted yet another high-profile talent to the club.

On May 19, the Fusion announced

the hiring of Robert "Bob" McNab, a global soccer veteran with over four decades of successful playing and coaching experience in North America and Europe, as the team's new assistant coach and director of player development.

In this role, McNab will assist Fusion Head Coach Ole Mikkelsen with player training, and identify and recruit new players from domestic and international sources. He will also provide Fusion players with networking assistance and business guidance once they're ready to move on to the professional ranks.

"McNab's arrival gives us a big advantage as we continue league play, and a significant credibility boost when it comes to attracting new players," said Ranbir Shergill, Fusion general manager. "He also brings a wealth of playing and coaching experience to the table, and offers valuable insight critical as we seek another PDL championship title and further build out our roster for 2011."

McNab joins Mikkelsen and former head coach Graham Smith as members of the Fusion staff with previous professional playing experience for highly-regarded squads in major soccer leagues throughout the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

"I appreciate the opportunity to join the experienced Fusion staff, and I look forward to helping the organization on multiple fronts as time goes on," said McNab. "Under the leadership of Coach Mikkelsen, I hope to leverage my wide-ranging soccer experience — as a player, coach, scout, and

Sports

consultant – to contribute as much as possible to the team, and to reinforce its standing as one of the strongest, most talented clubs in the league.”

McNab is a former pro soccer player, coach, and industry consultant with over 40 years of experience in the international football domain. He began his career as a defender with Huddersfield Town F.C., and then transferred to Arsenal F.C., a member of the English Premier League, and one of the most successful, storied soccer franchises in the world. While at Arsenal, he was a member of the squad’s famous “Double Team” which won both the division and FA Cup championships in the 1970-71 season. In total, McNab played over 400 league and cup games

for Arsenal before departing the club in 1975. McNab was also a member of the England National Team which played in the 1970 FIFA World Cup.

As a coach, McNab led the Vancouver Whitecaps of the North American Soccer League (NASL), the Tacoma Stars of the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL); and the San Jose Grizzlies of the Continental Indoor Soccer League (CISL). He also discovered and recruited international soccer sensation and two-time Major League Soccer (MLS) MVP Preki while on a 1985 scouting trip to Belgrade.

The Fusion’s next home game, to be played at Buena High School’s Bulldog Stadium, is Saturday, June 5 against the Provo, Utah-based BYU Cougars.



The hotly contested Tug of War ended the Corporate Games. Photo by Dan Holmes

Corporate challenge – The Tug of War

by Dan Holmes

Under grey skies and a cold ocean breeze, the Corporate Games wrapped up with spirited competition in the Tug of War and Sand Castle building. The Tug of War was by far the louder event. Teams from throughout Ventura County fielded teams of 12 of their strongest with a minimum of 3 women. Sizes ranged from large and powerful to thin and determined.

For the second year in a row, the overall winner of Class B Tug of War came down to the competition between Patagonia and CDR(Child Development Resources).

The competition was fierce – warm

ups, back pounding, last minute tactics – the teams grabbed the rope, dug in, and heaved. CDR prevailed in 2 pulls to advance to the final, and Patagonia outlasted Nusil Technology. The final between Patagonia and CDR was fast and brutal – the winner was Patagonia.

CDR team captain, Rick Diaz, said the event was tough, intense and a huge amount of fun. He was bursting with pride for his team, which has improved in the overall standings each year. They finished dead last their first year, won the Class B Bronze last year, and had a strong chance for silver this year. They were especially proud of Mario Ramirez

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Health

Turning Point Foundation to host Champions of Mental Health Gala

The Turning Point Foundation will hold its 4th Annual Gala honoring “Champions of Mental Health” on June 13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Ventura Beach. Turning Point Foundation has served adults who suffer from mental illness from throughout Ventura County for over 20 years.

This year’s list of stellar individuals being honored includes: Foundation: Ray Swift, Swift Memorial Healthcare Foundation Community Organization: Cathy Brudnicki, Ventura County Housing & Homeless Coalition Family Advocate: Nancy Borchard Consumer Activist: Denise Kriskhke Community Volunteers: Women of Jewelia

The goal of Turning Point Foundation, a community based non-profit, is to provide services to help mentally ill adults reach their highest potential as contributing members of the community. It actualizes this mission by operating Rehabilitation Centers in Ventura and Oxnard, providing overnight shelter and a multi-service drop in center at its 24/7 “Our Place” Shelter in Ventura, low-cost housing and supporting services through its Supported Housing programs in Simi Valley, Oxnard, Camarillo and Ventura,

and thru the self-sustaining River Haven community of formerly homeless individuals in Ventura.

Clyde Reynolds, the Executive Director of Turning Point Foundation, stated that “Our honorees this year are from our local community and they have all made significant contributions in decreasing the stigma associated with mental illness and improving the quality of life of those impacted by this illness. We depend on their support to fulfill our mission.”

The Champions of Mental Health Gala will include dinner and a silent auction-auction items are still welcome. Tickets are \$75 per person with proceeds benefiting “Our Place” homeless shelter. Business Sponsorships are also available. For information or to purchase tickets or for sponsorship information, call Jane Lax at 652-0000 ext. 102.

First aid classes offered by Red Cross

To give the skills and confidence that helps save lives, the American Red Cross, Ventura County Chapter is offering discounts of over 60% on two first aid classes on Saturday, June 5 from 8 a.m. 12 p.m. and 1 to 5 p.m.

The cost of the course is \$15 for those who pre-register or \$20 at the door, deeply discounted from the usual cost of \$40.

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