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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Second-grade Ventura teacher feted

by Mira Reverente

Room 9 at Will Rogers Elementary School was abuzz not only with the arrival of students but also the presence of small, fuzzy creatures. In the last few days, seven chicken eggs hatched under the watchful eyes of the second-graders. No time was wasted in naming them but not surprisingly, a consensus has not been met.

"Remember to be gentle. Don't squeeze them and take turns," calmly says Kristine Guzman, a second-grade teacher and the 2010 Ventura County Teacher of the Year. Guzman greets every student that enters the room, addresses every concern including a "band-aid emergency" and still manages to oversee the furry flock.

Patricia Short, principal at Will Rogers explains her decision to nominate Guzman, "She's all about meeting the needs of every student, inside and outside of her classroom. She's this total teacher package - enthusiastic, relentless, determined and selfless." Guzman was first recognized in the district level before being named County Teacher of the Year by the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE).



Kristine Guzman, Teacher of the Year is always all smiles to her second-grade students

Late bloomer

Teaching came a little later in life for this native of Idaho. "I waited till my youngest child was in middle school before getting all the teaching credentials and pursuing it full-time. I worked as a substitute teacher first for five years," says Guzman.

She was always drawn to children, her own two and others'. Since she and her husband moved to Ventura in 1980, she was deeply involved in her children's athletic pursuits and a fixture in their school events. She has done it all - from the PTA to the school site council to various school committees.

"The children give me energy. I feed off of their energy. They keep me young. It's not always the same with adults," laughs Guzman. On those rare times when she can decompress, the 57-year-old mother of two likes to tend to her garden and just be around nature. She says that "plants are just like children" and need to be handled differently -



Ventura has never had so much "sex in the city" at one gathering all to help raise money for WEV. Photo by Troy Overman.

Sex and the City 2 - a night of fun and fundraising

by Nanci Cone

Ventura was buzzing with excitement on Friday, May 28 as approximately 300 women and men, dressed in their finest, strolled the pink carpet to help raise money for Women's Economic Ventures (WEV).

"Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) is such a worthwhile local cause, and the Women and the City 2 event is such a fantastic way for people to support WEV's mission of creating an equitable and just society through the economic empowerment of women. The entrepreneurship training programs and small business loans that WEV offers make it possible

for women in business to be a major force in our communities and our economy," said one of the organizers, Marni Brook of Montecito Bank & Trust.

She adds, "We are incredibly thankful to everyone who has helped put this event together—our dedicated WEV team, Ace-ana Promotions, volunteers, and sponsors Fashion Forms, Venoco, Inc., the Aqua Lounge/Crowne Plaza Hotel. We couldn't do this without the support of the team and community."

And Ann Deal, CEO and founder of Fashion Forms, notes, "WEV plays such an important role in providing indi-

viduals with the tools they need to start their own businesses and with connecting them with organizations that can help with start-up financing. Without this program, many people might never be able to become independent and I'm proud that I can be a small part of helping them."

Everyone at the event was there to have fun and to see and be seen. People strolled along Main Street and California Street laughing and greeting one another while stopping in to try the incredible food being offered and to sample the various wines. Everyone I stopped loved how well the event was organized and they were thrilled to see their money going to such a worthy cause.

In program year 2009, WEV provided training and support to over 1,200 women and men. From 1991 to the present, WEV has served almost 4,000 clients in our self-employment program and over 10,000 clients in all programs. Today, WEV is expanding the scope of its services to assist women entrepreneurs throughout the business lifecycle: start up; launch; grow; and sustain. WEV offers a free, one-hour informational session to help you determine your "readiness" to enroll in their Self-Employment Training (SET) course and provide the opportunity for you to learn about the various services available to you through WEV. Attendance in an orientation is required to enroll in the SET course. The next orientation will be Monday, June 28 from 12-1 pm. To register or to learn more about WEV programs, call 667-8004 or send an email to lsomers@wevonline.org.

some with a more gentle touch and others with a firmer hand.

Teaching philosophy

The same thinking has led Guzman to come up with innovative ways to constantly engage her young, diverse audience. She breaks new ground every school year with enrichment classes that range from art to animals to gardening.

This "out-of-the-box" thinker will even use personal money to purchase supplies needed for the classes and clubs she has pioneered. Guzman explains, "I try to be resourceful and I have asked for and received money from grants. But sometimes, we don't need a lot of things to educate children. I prefer to give them opportunities to lead and shine."

Identifying leadership potential is more imperative for her. "I believe in offering equal opportunity to children and creating situations where they can develop leadership skills," she says. In her essay, Guzman also cites making personal connections and recognizing achievement in small increments, as her teaching philosophy.

Inspiration to all

As the bell rings at 8:00 am, the children scramble and take one last, longing look at the chicks. But not without show

Continued on page 5



How do you support your local school and get a great lunch date in return? Be the winning bidder of "Lunch with a Local Hero" at Pierpont School's "School Carnival and Silent Auction". Pictured here are Faith Mackie and Danielle Askar, with Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney at Duke's Grill on Seaward. They enjoyed lunch, video games, and getting to know all about Ken's job. The girls even got to see him in action when there was a car accident nearby! Faith is a fourth grader and Danielle is a fifth grader at Pierpont Elementary School.



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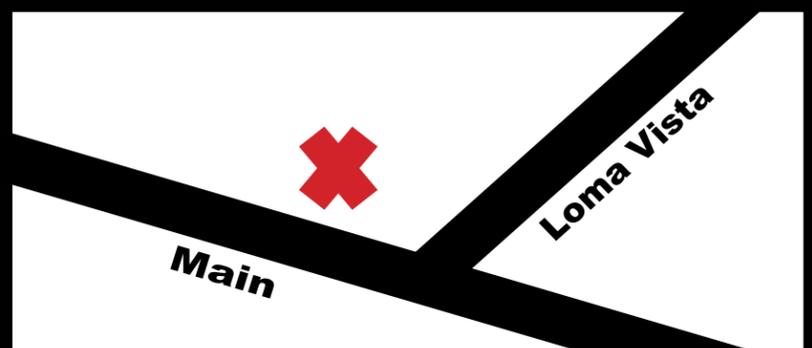
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Your Hometown Paper

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Venturans

'Restore St. Mary's Cemetery' leaders have researched the long history of the city's cemetery desecration, the subsequent mistreatment of the grounds and tombs. This 1862 cemetery contains many of the historic leaders of Ventura county including Spanish land grant families, pioneers, war veterans (Civil War, Indian War, Spanish American & World War 1 and 2), native Americans, and Medal of Honor recipients.

One mile east of the Mission San Buenaventura, Ventura's dog park 'Cemetery Park'

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

In our last issue we reported on the parking meters that will be coming to downtown and in this issue the partial paid parking that is now at the Harbor.

I support this, as do most of the merchants in these areas, as a way to free up parking spaces so that there are, hopefully, always some open spaces for customers.

As it is now employees (and long term parkers) use spaces that should be open for shoppers. Employees will need to walk a few blocks to work but we all need more exercise anyway.

We have all tried to shop-eat downtown and at the Harbor only to find no open spaces so just leave. Historically paid parking will free up about 25% of the spaces for customer short term use and without customers the merchants will not make it (in this economy a lot aren't now) but it is felt that this will bring more business to these 2 areas.

I know that this has been tried before but let us give it a try for the summer and see what the results are and see what the merchants think.

As you might know (but maybe not) Ventura has had 2 film festivals that were both using the same name, Ventura Film Festival (actually 3 if the Ojai-Ventura Film Festival was included) which, of course, has been very confusing.

One is still called the Ventura Film Festival (playing in July) and the other is now called the Ventura Film Society (their Festival is in March and they are also showing films at the WAV monthly).

They are completely different film festivals with different venues and different films. They both have websites that you can check out to see what they are all about.

If you have seen the Google Venturafiber.com banner in front of City Hall and don't remember (or ever



knew) what it means it is to remind everyone (especially Google) that we are still serious about Google bringing Google Fiber to Ventura.

Because it would be so important

to bring it here no city money has been spent on any of the efforts to do this. The entire effort has been accomplished by citizen volunteers who understand what this could mean for Ventura.

Please help if you can, go to venturafiber.com for more information and to get involved.

So who decides that (805) 653-0791 should now be written 805.653.0791, some 16 year old who found it easier to text and it takes over the world? Us old timers sure have a difficult time with basic changes like this.

And talking about old timers I love the phrase that programs for kids are available to "keep them off the street". When I was growing up we came home from school had some milk and cookies and went out to specifically "play in the street".

Kick the can, hide and go seek, football and baseball games with rules that we made up. Like if the ball went over the blue truck it was a "home run" and if it broke a window it was a "run home" quickly for us.

How strange that seems now.

A Staci Brown update, doing well in the general Denver area and trying to get used to the ever changing weather. In a span of 2 weeks rain, snow, hail, winds and 90 degrees. Working and says hello to you all, misses Ventura of course.

Mailbox

(located between Main and Poli Streets). 3,000+ graves of Catholics, Protestants, Asian, Jewish, native Chumash, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient war veterans (Civil War, Indian Wars), pioneers, and many Spanish land grant family members tombs buried in the defiled St Mary's ex-cemetery. In 1964, the city took the cemetery property. The city employees quietly dumped hundreds of valuable historic family marble tombstones into local Hall Canyon and along an adjoining riverbank, which is now under a levy. City work crews only covered the graves with a topsoil layer for grass. Again, thousands of historic religious early tombs were NOT moved and re-interred elsewhere. Cemetery Park is where its many neighbors (consisting of several city officials) walk illegally un-leashed dogs to defecate liberally everyday on unmarked hallowed soul's tombs. Some poignant examples of the current public reaction to the cemetery restoration of consecrated family graves is apathy, indifference, arrogance, and some extreme dislike to this honest plea.

'Restore St. Mary's Cemetery' must continue to make all efforts to change closed minds with the real truth and facts. Mr. Schleder and his activist group members have been instrumental in garnering government, public & media attention to Ventura's municipal mistake and correct it. Please help and tell your friends & join our crusade to correct this error.

Restore St Mary's back to a cemetery for our honored dead!

For more information go to <http://www.restorestmarys.org/>
Tony Genovese
Ventura

Hi All,

Thought you might want to review some directions from the Council regarding grandfathering. Christy Weir also had some directions but I cannot find them.

Please let me know if you know what meeting that was, or if I am missing any others. The article, authored by Neal, was in the Breeze. The first comment from the Council on the attached document, preceded the failed effort for mandated rental inspections. The Council opted instead for the pilot program for proactive inspections which also included rentals. That program revealed that about one in four homes have code violations visible from the street, in 73% of the neighborhoods. Prosecuting that many people might just bring down the whole city, so the Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative is working on a third remedy. Currently, the only affordable remedy (for most people) offered by the city is demolition and that is counter to the General Plan (to preserve existing housing)

A different paradigm would be an economic stimulus plan (grandfathering) that creates jobs, releases pent up needs for home improvement (people are afraid to pull permits for fear of retroactive punishment) gets agreements on occupancy and pulling permits, raises property values, creates revenue for the city and the community, keeps people in their homes and allows people to stop living in fear.

The first promoted public meeting will be towards the end of June on the West side. The Council extended the time frame from June to November for the committee to report, but forgot to add meetings for the Committee to meet. I am almost certain it was just an oversight that will be corrected, since the Council would want the Committee to

finish its work. Local economic stimulus plans are too rare nowadays.

Have you left your input at <http://grandfatherventura.com> yet?

With kind regards,
Camille Harris

Breeze:

It's no surprise that teens know how and where to get alcohol in Ventura. And it may not be all-too shocking that retailers - local convenience stores and gas stations - sell booze to teens. Most recently, four out of 14 locations in Ventura were caught selling alcohol to minors. Two of these places are within a few hundred feet of the Pacific View Mall, a frequent hang-out for teens.

With more than an excess of 300 alcohol outlets in the city of Ventura, and 3 new applications approved by the Planning Commission in April—one of which will be a 5,000 square foot "Big Box" liquor store directly across the street from Anacapa Middle School—the City appears headed for a "pound of cure" rather than an "ounce of prevention."

Alcohol poses dangers to youth. Now if a retailer is looking only at the bottom line, it's truly tempting to sell alcohol to youth. It's estimated that 17% of alcohol profits (\$18 billion nationally) come from underage drinkers. If one liquor store won't sell to teens, they'll go to the next one that will, and the honest retailer loses that sale.

Now, enter the Macerich Company, and a bundled set of three permits to sell alcohol at the Mall. If underage drinking is dangerous, why would the City be say

Continued on page 11

Most men make use of the first part of their life to render the last part miserable.

—Jean De La Bruyere



City News

New library books delivered to school libraries

More than 100 new library books were delivered to three school libraries on Ventura's Westside on June 9 thanks to a successful six-month book drive campaign headed by the City of Ventura Community Services Department and Westside Lions Club. Presentations were made at E.P. Foster Elementary School, Sheridan Way Elementary School and De Anza Middle School.

"The Westside School Libraries Book and Fund Drive raised more than \$1,600 towards the purchase of new books requested by school librarians at E.P. Foster Elementary School, Sheridan Way Elementary School and De Anza Middle School," said Community Services Interim Manager Denise Sindelar.

This year's selected schools participate in the City's PEAK after-school enrichment program, a partnership of the Community Services Department, Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and Police Activities League (PAL). PEAK was formed in 2002 to develop and implement an inclusive after school program for elementary and middle school children and currently serves 500 children per year.

In the spirit of community partnerships, the Downtown Lions Club provided a generous donation of \$1,000 towards meeting this project goal. Barnes and Noble Booksellers also sponsored this project by offering a 25 percent discount on all books ordered for the book drive. The Police Activities League served as the fiscal receiver for this fund drive.

For information on how you can participate in future book drives, please contact Denise Sindelar at 658-4793 or dsindelar@cityofventura.net.

Westside & North Avenue Community Open House on June 26

Get Involved! Please join in for a Westside & North Avenue Community Open House to discuss the process of creating a Community Plan, Development Code and Redevelopment Plan for the Westside and North Avenue communities. The Open House is Saturday, June 26, from 10 am to noon at the Bell Arts Factory, Janet Addison Community Room, 432 N Ventura Avenue. Community input is needed to help shape the physical future development of this neighborhood. There will also be a free art activity for the children whose families are attending the event. For more information call 654-7726.

News and Notes



Cave Executive Chef Gary Daniel worked with Wish Child, Ben Ostertag, of Camarillo to create special hors d'oeuvres

Help raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation at the Cave

We hope that you join the Ventura Wine Company as they present Wine and Wishes - Sunday, June 27, 2-5 p.m. 4435 McGrath St. Suite 301. This will be a Grand Wine Tasting Event featuring over 100 favorite wines and small bites prepared by the Cave's chef and 7-year-old Wish Kid, Ben, who went to meet the Iron Chef crew on his wish. He helped Chef Gary design small plates for the event so look for some special items! Ben won't be there on the day of the event, but if you ever see a little dude in a chef coat and hat in the kitchen you know what is going on!

Ben has a passion for food and cooking and was elated to meet Chef Gary.

The event will feature entertainment and a keepsake logo wine glass. Tickets are \$55 per person. Of that fee, \$30 goes to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties. 200-275 people are expected with an anticipated gift of \$6,000. All guests must be 21 and over. Purchase pre-sale tickets by contacting Nicole at Nicole@venturawineco.com

Second grade teacher

Continued from page 1
ing off their "books", documenting the life cycle of the chicken egg. "See it takes 21 days for the eggs to hatch! I think it's really cool that she lets us hold the chicks," says Sophie, 8.

It's just another day in the classroom for 22 eager learners. But not to Guzman who relishes every school day and sees it as another opportunity to inspire and mold young minds.



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This year you can celebrate Independence Day by attending a Star-Spangled Cookout with us. We'll fire up the grill so you can sit back, relax and enjoy a classic summertime tradition, all in the comfort of our gracious community.

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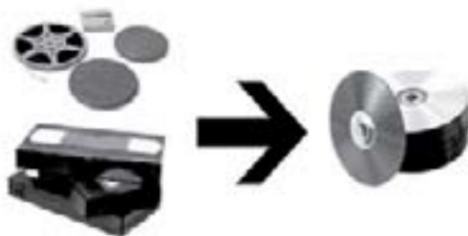
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News and Notes

Master Vision Plan – Ventura Botanical Gardens

The public is invited to the presentation of the Master Vision Plan for the proposed Ventura Botanical Gardens on Thursday, July 1, from 5:30 to 8pm. It will be held at the Seaview Hills Condominiums Community Room located at the summit of Tioga Drive, directly adjacent to Grant Park, the intended home of the Botanical Gardens. There will be a walking tour of the site after the presentation. Please wear sensible shoes.

The design by noted landscape architects Mia Lehrer +Associates, which was developed with input by community members at two previous public workshops, envisions a stunning botanical garden that embraces the unique qualities and climate of the proposed 107-acre Grant Park site.

Police Chief Ken Corney announces multiple promotions

Police Chief Ken Corney recently announced a total of eight promotions from Corporal through Command Staff, and the appointment of a new Administrative (Chief's) Secretary. The promotions took

effect on June 12, with an official swearing in ceremony held today at 2 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

We'd like to congratulate the newest members of the Ventura Police Department's (VPD) Command Staff, Sergeants Brock Avery, Al Davis, and Juan Reynoso were promoted to Commander, and Senior Police Services Officer Laura Perry was promoted to the position of Administrative (Chief's) Secretary. Additionally, the promotions of Darrick Brunk, Tom Higgins, and Rick Payne from Corporal to Sergeant, and Detective Officer Chris Borkovec was promoted to Corporal.

Said Chief Corney of the promotions, "Our Department has exceptional talent at every level of the organization. Promotions decisions are difficult, because of the number of highly qualified and extremely competent candidates we have at VPD. I am honored to work with such an outstanding team of dedicated crime fighters and thank each and every one for their teamwork and dedication."

Radio trial of scrooge wins third award for county drama troupe

Every Now and Then Theatre's original radio drama, "Scrooge's Sanity Hearing" has won an International Communicator Silver Award of Distinction in the audio category. Earlier, the production won an International Davey Gold Award and an International OMNI Bronze Award, both for radio entertainment. Rock hall-of-famer

Chris Hillman hosted the radio drama aired on stations AM 1520 KVTA and AM 1400 KKZZ.

"These radio drama awards salute our county's acting and production talents," said troupe founder James Wortman of Ventura. "The Communicator Awards is the largest and most competitive awards program honoring the creative excellence for communications professionals. Thousands of entries were received from across the US and around the world. Judging is overseen by a membership representing a 'Who's Who' of acclaimed media, advertising, and marketing firms."

"Scrooge's Sanity Hearing" was co-directed by Linda M. Stiegler of Thousand Oaks and Wortman. Sound engineers were David Tuomi of Thousand Oaks with Aletheia Regier of Moorpark, and Bob Allen of Ventura.

Celebrating their 21st year as Ventura County's select troupe for radio theatre, the all-volunteer Every Now and Then Theatre produces radio dramas exclusively for broadcast, they maintain a webpage at www.everynowandthentheatre.com.

Registration open for Museum's Chumash Youth Summer Program

The Museum of Ventura County is now taking registration for their summer Chumash Youth 2010 program. The two sessions are June 21-25, and June 28-July 2, from 9 a.m. to noon, and are open to students currently in 3rd or 4th grade.

Each session features presentations about Chumash culture, traditional arts, songs, and games. Hands-on activities include making yucca cordage, soapstone pendants, arrowheads, and simple musical instruments. Chumash elder Julie Tuma-mait-Stenslie will also teach Chumash songs and share legends and stories of her people.

T-shirt, snacks and all materials are included in the registration fee, which is \$50 for the general public and \$40 for museum members. Scholarships are available; for information, call 641-1876 x 300. Registration forms may be downloaded under education resources at www.venturamuseum.org, or picked up at the Museum of Ventura County, 89 S. California St., from 11 a.m. to 6 pm, Tuesday through Sunday.

National Train Day celebrated

Elected officials and members of the community gathered in May, for Amtrak's third annual National Train Day, celebrating the 141st anniversary of the transcontinental railroad's completion. Events kicked off at the Santa Barbara station with the arrival of the Northbound Surfliner.

An impressive array of elected officials from across Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, including Ventura Mayor Bill Fulton, Ventura Councilmember and former Mayor Christy Weir and Ventura City Manager Rick Cole.

Regional cooperation is important to relieve congestion and address the environmental impacts of the thousands of commuters who make the daily commute north from Ventura to Santa Barbara County.

"We are making progress with our won-

derful Coastal Express service and I want to thank SBCAG for helping us with that but that is not going to be enough. We are going to have to improve our rail service," noted Bill Fulton.

Councilmember Christy Weir reiterated the need to work across county lines to address transportation challenges, saying "Rail is our future and we are here to pledge to you in SB and Carpinteria that people in Ventura will work with you to make that happen."

The idea of less congestion and more alternatives appealed to many in the crowd, as well as officials present at the event. "It is so much better socially and emotionally to look at the ocean and not be driving a car. Let go of the stress and let the train take you," encouraged Carpinteria Councilmember Kathleen Reddington.

Ventura City Manager, Rick Cole also called for more train service, noting that it's time had come again. He added that we need to "re-train" the country, and pointed up the need to educate the public.



The striping portion of Spinnaker Drive in the Harbor is done. The parking on the inbound side of Spinnaker will start after entrance #3 and continue to the entrance to Harbor Cove Cafe. Striping on the outbound side will start after the entrance to Harbor Cove and continue to the entrance to Surfer's Knoll.

New parking spaces and fees at the Harbor Village

People visiting the Ventura Harbor will now have to pay to park longer than 2 hours at the Harbor on some days at certain hours.

Motorists can park free the first 2 hours, but then there is a \$2.00 per hour fee after that with a maximum of \$6.00 per day. These charges only apply from 6am to 6pm on weekends and holidays. There will be no charge for parking on weekdays or in the street.

"We just don't have enough parking on the weekends," Harbormaster Scott Miller said. "People are driving around and around and are exiting, and we don't want that." Instead, he said "the pilot program will help better manage parking demand, reduce congestion and make it more convenient for drivers."

Also portions of Spinnaker Dr. have been re-striped down to a single lane. The change allows for a wider bike path and provides an additional 140 on-street parking spaces that will be free at all times.

This program will run from June 19 to September 12. Arriving cars will receive a time-stamped permit when entering the lot and if there is a fee it will be paid upon exiting.

All parking fees will be used to defray the cost of providing the following services:

1. New water taxi that will run from the Harbor Village to the launch ramp, Port District office and Marina Park
2. Lifeguard services at Harbor Cove
3. The restriping of Spinnaker Dr.

For further information or comments, email parking@venturaharbor.com.



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News and Notes



Riders and team members were all equally enthusiastic at the end of the Tour du Green ride which focused on sustainability and environmental progress

Eco-Ride breaks from the Pack!

by Dan Holmes

The Tour du Green, the Nation's first sustainability cycle ride, attracted bicycle enthusiasts from across Southern California and as far away as New Jersey and Arizona. The riders had the choice of riding 100, 50 or 25 miles, on routes designed to provide a safe, fun, and educational tour of Ventura County and 10 award-winning sustainable "Ecosites". This year's premier Tour du Green was run in May. It started and ended at Ventura's Marina Park.

Over 150 riders enjoyed the 3 routes developed by veteran ride producer Ventura Velo who partnered with the cities of Thousand Oaks, Ventura, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. Breaking from traditional rides - the Tour du Green was designed as a cycling educational event, focusing on sustainability and environmental progress. Riders were given the opportunity to visit some of the greenest and most sustainable facilities in the state, while raising funds for charity.

Ventura Velo is a non-profit corporation dedicated to cycling advocacy, sustainability and community service. According to Liz Bailey, president, an enthusiastic supporter of cycling and local issues, "Our mission is to get as many people riding as possible, and support sustainability in every way possible".

Ventura Velo supports several charities and all proceeds from the Tour du Green are donated to cycling advocacy and to fight Cancer, MS and Arthritis. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Los Angeles Team - provided route design, rest stops and outstanding "SAG" support. The rest stops served local organic, and sustainably produced foods, and tours of award-winning ECO sites. Industry professionals lead tours showcasing several new technologies in solar, water, agricultural, and recycling innovations. An "ECO" van tour was provided for non-cyclers.

Riders and team members were all equally enthusiastic at the end of the ride at the cool and foggy Marina Park. Jeff Bass, Co-founder of Amgen, commented "This was a fabulous ride. The stops were "Green" sites in Ventura County, the food was great, and the volunteers were friendly and helpful. Great event & I'll definitely sign up next year!"

Paul Schuster, Physics teacher at Buena High School, said "the ride was very

well supported with great people, and it was a fantastic to be able to see and visit the environmental facilities".

Forward-looking companies and facilities participated by providing rest stops, food, and tours.

Ventura Velo's Board members: Liz Bailey, Marilyn Becker, Paul Callaway, David D'Antoni, & Glenn Mutch developed the concept, and routes.

The riders were delighted, leaving comments such as: "Great Ride, good fresh food, great SAG"; Very Well organized, the volunteers were very helpful and friendly"; "The Staff was Uberfriendly, great route, will be back"; "This ride is one of my favorites!"

The final highlight of the day was the fine organic meal provided by Sharky's Woodfired Mexican Grill, information provided by California Solar and the Body Shop, along with free samples of tomatoes and cucumbers from Houwelings' Hot House.

Four young violinists share prize money at competition

Four young violinists competed in the third annual Henry Schwab Violin Competition on in May, at Guthry Hall, Ventura College. They were the four finalists selected at the preliminary audition held at Ventura College on January 23.

Each finalist had the opportunity and challenge to play a complete classical violin concerto, by memory, with the Ventura College Symphony, under the direction of Dr. Burns Taft.

Abigail Tsai, 11, of Simi Valley, won the first prize of \$1,000, playing Violin Concerto #3 by Mozart. Her teacher is Sue Wei Liu.

Second place was a tie between Brad Boelman, 20, of Thousand Oaks, whose teacher is Melissa Phelps-Beckstaed, and Curtis James, 18, of Ventura, whose teacher is Moon Jun Allison. Each student received a prize of \$375. Brad played Violin Concerto #5 by Mozart and Curtis the Violin Concerto in G Minor by Max Bruch.

Keith Downer, 17, of Ojai, won third prize, playing Violin Concert #3 by Friedrich Seitz. His teacher is Amy Hagen.

Congratulations go to these fine musicians, who worked so hard and diligently to master and memorize a complete classical concerto. The enthusiastic audience was visibly impressed.

The Schwab Family Charitable Fund is in memory of Henry Schwab, violinist, concert master and dedicated violin teacher, whose passion in life was to encourage and nurture young violin students.

2010 Ventura County Fair Entry Guides are available

Entry Guides for the 2010 Fair are available now! You can get a hard copy at any County Library (check out a good book while you are there). You can also download the Entry Guide on line. Entry Dates for most departments are Friday, July 23, Saturday, July 24 and Sunday, July 25. Here is a list of the Fair departments and some suggestions of what you

can enter!

Agriculture- Enter something you grew in the garden; Enter agriculture products; cheese, beer, wine. There is a Youth division, so encourage your children to grow and show.

Fishes and Friends- If you like raising tropical Fish, Goldfish, Turtles, or Tortoises this is the place for you! Create a beautiful Aquarium, or enter the Fish on its own merit.

Floriculture- Flowers and Arrangements, Cactus, Succulents and Bushes, Gardens, Ponds and Patios. Youth and adult divisions available.

Gem and Mineral- Enter Jewelry, Gems, Gem Cutting, Minerals, Fossils and more. Youth department available. Note there are special entry dates for Gems and Minerals!

Hobbies and Collections- Adult and Youth divisions! Model airplanes, Ships, Space Craft, Figurines, Models of all kinds. Collections of Baseball cards, Trains, Ornaments, Dolls, Stamps and all other collections.

Home Arts! Amateur Art, Arts & Crafts! Creative Writing & Poetry! Dolls and Doll Clothes! Scrap Books, Wood Carving. Baked Goods and Preserved Foods! Talk mom into entering her best recipe, she will love you for it!

Horse Shows- Western, Drill Team, English, Friesian, Mules, Draft Horses, and other special events!

Large Livestock- Sheep, Goats, Swine, Heifers, Lambs, Steers and more! Please check the rules very carefully before entering!

Small Livestock- Enter your Chickens, Turkeys, Rabbits, Cavy (Guinea Pigs) and more! Great contests like Chicken Clucking and Rooster Crowing! Animal dress up contests!

Photography- Color, Black & White, Series, Portraits, Landscapes, Photo Stories and more can be entered in this incredible department!

Professional Arts- If you are a professional painter, sculptor or at other fine art take a chance and enter into the Pro Arts departments juried show. Only the best get in.

Youth Expo- Kids from pre Kindergarten to 12th grade enter in a LOT of categories! Scrap Booking, Computer Art, Photography, Creative Writing, Painting, Drawing and so much more!

The 2010 Fair theme is "Western Nights and Carnival Lights". The Fair opens Wednesday, August 4 and runs through Sunday, August 15.

So join the fun of the Fair and be a part of the greatest showcase of talent our county has ever known! If you have any questions, call the Fairgrounds at 648-3376. Remember, Entry Guides can be found at all Ventura County Public Libraries and on line at www.venturacountyfair.org.

Ventura author wins award for Humor

Ventura author Carrie Triffet, author of the book Long Time No See - Diaries of an Unlikely Messenger, has won the 2010 Independent Publisher Book Award for Humor, recognizing excellence in Independent Publishing.

For more about Carrie Triffet and Long Time No See visit http://unlikelymessenger.com/website/media_home.html.

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Community Events



Lynn Mikelatos and Alex Stamakinley display a poster and flags in front of The Greek at the Harbor Restaurant. They are helping to coordinate the 32nd annual Greek Festival, to be held June 25-27 at the Camarillo Airport.

Greek Festival celebrates proud heritage

by Tim Pompey

Lynn Mikelatos is not Greek, but she may as well be. She met her Greek husband Makis during a cruise to Greece. Together they co-own The Greek at the Harbor Restaurant. She's been involved in some form or fashion with just about all the Greek Festivals celebrated at the Camarillo Airport in the last thirty years. And she's very proud of her family's Greek heritage. "It's such a rich culture," she says. "The Greeks have so much fun and have so much to share."

The Greek Festival has been celebrated at the Camarillo Airport since 1978. Its purpose is twofold: as a fundraiser for St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and as an invitation to the public to learn more about and participate in Greek culture. The church itself serves about 200 families but its connection to the local Greek community is much larger. Lynn estimates maybe 25,000 people in Ventura County have some connection to Greece and Greek culture. In turn, Greek culture has had an important impact in our local communities. So much so that, on June 22, Board of Supervisor Kathy Long will present the Festival a Proclamation declaring June 20-27 as Greek Heritage Week.

Alex Stamakinley, Public Relations Coordinator for the Festival, talks about her own upbringing in a staunch Greek family. "They're a proud people. My father was always pointing out the importance of Greek culture to me. I learned it from him and now I've passed it on to my son."

The Festival is being held June 25 - 27 at the Camarillo Airport. Admission is two dollars for adults. Children 12 and under are free. Free admission coupons are available on the Festival website (www.vcgreekfestival.org) and all military families, firefighters and sworn officers will be admitted free all

weekend with an ID or badge.

This year Alex emphasizes that the Festival will be more family oriented, including a Mommy and Me fashion show and dance lessons. There will also be what she terms "OPA" time in which select discounts will be announced throughout the day at various booths. Music will be provided by a traditional Greek band from Orange County called The Olympians. And, for a five-dollar raffle ticket, the grand prize will be a drawing for a free trip for two to the island of Crete.

But the real attraction at the Festival is the mouth-watering food. Things like loukaniko sausage, flaming saganaki cheese, spanakopita, and hummus, to name just a few samples. Plus, new this year, will be succulent lamb chops and Greek fries sprinkled with feta cheese and oregano. And, of course, who could overlook the spicy aroma of fresh gyros sandwiches.

So, who cares if Lynn is not Greek? You can tell by talking to her that she has certainly adopted her second homeland with gusto and the Festival is her cultural outreach to the community. She would like people to enjoy themselves and, as she describes it, "Be Greek for a weekend." With all this food and fun, why not? Being Greek might just make my day, especially if it includes baklava. Now that's what I call a big yummy opa!

Ventura Film Festival opening night events

The 2010 Ventura Film Festival opening night and main event is 6pm, Thursday, July 1, at the Majestic Ventura Theater. The event showcases the screening of Renzo Gracie - LEGACY. The film by Gethin Aldous is a documentary about mixed martial arts pioneer Renzo Gracie and is presented by Brazilian Jiu Jitsu - Gracie Barra Ventura. 3 time world champion and MMA fighter Fabio Leopoldo will be available for autographs and questions.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Sade Champagne and the Ventura Film Festival Breakdance Team and Ventura's own, Todd Hannigan.

Tickets are \$25 for an all access pass or \$10 at the door with priority given to those who have purchased the all access pass.

To register for this event go to <http://venturafilmfestival.org/rsvp>.

There will be a pre-gathering and limousine pickup at 5pm at 394 Lounge (394 E. Main St.) and an after-party following the film at 394 Lounge immediately after the question/answer session.

Salute! A festival to celebrate finely crafted beer and food

by Nanci Cone

To raise awareness and money for FOOD Share, Ventura County's only regional food bank, Joby M. Yobe, co-owner of Ojai Beverage Company and Christine Hansen, President & CEO of Thirty-Three Productions, Inc. present Salute! - a premiere beer and food pairing event for the general public and VIPs between 11am - 5pm on Saturday, June 19 at San Buenaventura State Beach in Ventura.

The festival will feature local and national craft breweries with food from regional restaurants and music from some of Southern California's musical talent. "There will be plenty of action and lots of gustatorial delights to help FOOD Share," says President & CEO Bonnie Weigel. "We are an organization that collects and receives food year-round, distributing to more than 150 partner agencies throughout Ventura County. FOOD Share provides food to more than 54,700 people each month countywide through programs such as Senior Brown Bag for low-income seniors and Snack Attack to provide nutritious after-school snacks to students. This event will help us continue to feed the ever-growing population of our hungry friends throughout the County" she adds. Ms. Hansen notes, "I am doing this event because it is my mission to bring dreams to reality for my clients and for my local community." And, as Mr. Yobe puts it, "I want to share my passion for finely crafted beer and food while helping give back to the community."

Guests will spend the day enjoying nearly 300 craft brews and almost 100 delicious selections from fantastic purveyors of fine food and craft beer, all for one ticket price of only \$60 per person. A \$135 VIP ticket includes early entry for a two-hour private reserve beer tasting with invited brewers, special beer and food pairings and access to the private VIP lounge. Each ticket includes a souvenir 4 oz. tasting glass, four hours of unlimited beer and food tasting (yum!) and live entertainment. To purchase tickets, get the latest news, and more festival information, visit their website at www.salutebeerfestival.com.



Ventura 4th of July events

Street Fair

Ventura's downtown area comes alive on Independence Day, when the 30th Annual 4th of July Street Fair brings more than 300 artisans to a dozen-block area of the cultural district.

Booths will offer handmade arts and crafts and food from local restaurants, while live entertainment, a children's pa-

rade and children's activities will bring a festive atmosphere to the event, which lasts from 11 am to 5 pm.

Starting the celebration at 10:30am will be the "Pushem - Pullem" parade. The parade begins at Cemetery Park. The parade participants decorate wagons, strollers, bicycles and anything that is not motorized by can be pushed, pulled or pedaled.

Free shuttle service will take place from the Ventura County Government Center parking lot closest to Telephone & Hill Streets, beginning at 11am and continuing until 5pm. The shuttle drop off point at the Street Fair will be at California & Santa Clara Streets by the Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau.

July 4 Family Festival and Fireworks Show at Ventura College presented by the Ventura Rotary Club

The Ventura 17th annual 4th of July Family Festival and Fireworks Show will be held again at the Ventura College athletic field, at the west end of the campus near the corner of Telegraph and Ashwood Ave. This safe and sane outdoor family style event begins at 5pm (after the street fair) with activities and entertainment for all 7,000 attendees. Bring blankets, lawn chairs and jackets, and begin with a picnic on the grass. Enjoy live entertainment by Ventura's own Men on the Moon dance band, hooping performances and lessons, juggling, dancing and more. Catch up with family, friends and neighbors as you unwind and wait for the fireworks.

A dozen food vendors are ready to supply snacks, coffee or a complete meal, and there are supervised games and contests for the kids as well as a huge open grass area for all to run, jump and play catch, or to just hang out. No glass, pets, or alcohol are allowed inside the event, so bring any home cooked food in plastic containers. Our traditional fireworks and music extravaganza begins at 9pm. This year's 20 minute presentation of "America the Beautiful" by Pyro Spectaculars features more than 2,400 pyrotechnic shots. After the fireworks show, the gates are opened and the area is immediately lighted, enabling a quick and efficient departure with Ventura Police providing traffic control at all the major intersections.

Free parking for the event is available in several on-campus parking lots and in the adjacent neighborhoods. There is no parking on the event field. The suggested handicap drop off point is in front of Trinity Lutheran Church at 196 N. Ashwood Ave., which is about 400 yards from the picnic area.

Ticket prices are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children when purchased in advance. A family pack of 6 admissions (any age) is \$25 in advance. Individual tickets are \$2 more at the gate and the family pack is \$10 higher.

Discounted pre-sales tickets are available starting on June 24 at all Ventura City McDonalds and Vons stores. Also available at the Street Fair on July 4th.

The Ventura Rotary Club has been serving the local community for over 90 years. With more than 100 members from all walks of life, the club provides a forum for individuals to join their talents, skills and desires toward service projects that make a difference.

The Ventura College Foundation is co-presenter of the Fourth of July Celebration.

More information is available at www.VenturaFireworks.com.

Breeze:

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Community Events

of Fashion Forms. She provides the funding through donations to the Ventura Promise. The Ventura Promise provides that every student can attend his or her first year of college free of charge. The Ventura College Foundation, co-presenter of the Fourth of July Celebration, raises money to finance this education through donations such as those from Ann. Deal. A percentage of the proceeds from the Fourth of July event goes directly to the Ventura College Foundation.



Where did the birdies go? Find out at the Rubicon.

“Magic for Our Military” at the Rubicon

The best in family entertainment from across the world comes to the Rubicon Theatre as “Magic for Our Military” on June 19. Magicians from England, Belgium, Israel, Las Vegas and Hollywood will make their way to the Rubicon to support Sealed With A Wish Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing some of the comforts of home to U.S. troops serving in combat zones. Performances at 2pm and 8pm. The Rubicon Theatre is located at 1006 E. Main St. Tickets are available only via the theatre’s box office: 667-2900 or www.sealedwithawish.org

Sealed With A Wish Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves to enrich the lives of U.S. troops serving in combat zones by providing comfort/care items from home. Most members of the Board of Directors are also members of the Academy of Magical Arts Hollywood’s Famed Magic Castle.) SWAW’s Board of Trustees includes Neil Patrick Harris, Steve Valentine, Susan Powell (Miss America 1981) and Lance Burton, Master Magician

Calendar of events, Fillmore & Western Railway Co.

June 19, 26 – “Saturday Scenic Excursions Train Rides” - Take this daytime train ride between Fillmore & Santa Paula. Have lunch in the diner or sit in the fresh air observation car; 3 ½ hour round trip train ride through the beautiful citrus and avocado groves of the Heritage Valley includes a layover in Santa Paula.

June 27 – “Sunday Wine & Honey Express” - Take this daytime train ride on Sundays through the beautiful Heritage Valley century old citrus and avocado orchards. Your first stop will be in downtown Santa Paula, where you can visit the museums or murals of the historic down-

town area. The second stop will be Loose Caboose Garden Center and Gift Emporium. The train will depart downtown Fillmore’s Central Park at noon and return at approximately 4pm. With the purchase of a meal in the 1928 Powhatan Parlor Car or the San Cayetano Diner, passengers will receive complimentary wine tasting and a complimentary dessert.

June 19, 26, 27 – “Cab Rides” On any Weekend Scenic train ride departing at noon. Cab Rides are available during each direction of the ride. Ride in the cab of the locomotive with the train engineer. Feel the power of the locomotive under your feet.

June 19 – “Margarita Madness” - Viva la Margarita! Enjoy an authentic Mexican dinner and Margarita in the vintage dining cars. Party and dance to a live band on the open-air dance car. Enjoy the madness on a 3-hour train ride as it travels through the pristine avocado and citrus groves of beautiful Heritage Valley in east Ventura County.

June 20 -- “Father’s Day BBQ Lunch Train” - Lasso Dad up and bring him on down to the train station. Enjoy a BBQ lunch for Dad, King of the day while taking the train ride to Loose Caboose Garden Center and Gift Emporium where the family can browse and shop. Trains depart at two convenient times: 11am and 3pm.

June 26 -- Murder Mystery Dinner Theater - “Night Train To Murder (1930’s)”-World famous director Caesar Deville and his crew have just completed location work on the new Pandamouth Pictures film “Night Train to Murder”. Everyone is excited because prohibition has just ended and, for now, anything goes; maybe even murder! Sit back and play along, who knows what may happen right before your eyes!

For pricing and reservations call Fillmore & Western Railway Co at 524-2546 or visit www.fwry.com.

Ventura events

June 18: The Joy Burnworth Show produced by Saint Pierre @ The WAV Theater Gallery on Friday at 7:00 p.m. Doors Open 6:00 p.m. Advance Ticket Donation \$10.00, \$12.50 At The Door.

Also performances by Saint Pierre, and other great performing artists, special encore music appearance by Ms. Marie Parie. Also WAV legend Danny Flowers, is performing with his 16 year old daughter, Rachel Flowers. For Tickets: (800) 350-7787. Major credit cards accepted.

June 19: The Ventura County Genealogical Society will be holding their regular monthly meeting Saturday at 1pm. The meeting will be held at the Ventura LDS Family History Center, 3501 Loma Vista Rd. (at Mills Rd.). Before the meeting begins and during the breaks, genealogy books and supplies are available for purchase. Guests are always welcome to attend their free meeting. For more information call Gwenda at 485-7930.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Anne J. Miller speaking about family history problem-solving with her lecture on “Overcoming Obstacles that Interfere with Finding Your Ancestors.”

June 20: Here’s something Dad would just love for Father’s Day: poetry! “Donald Sommerfield presents an Afternoon of Mighty Fine Poets, New and Used.” If you are a poet, want to be one, or just want to hear great words, go to the WAV Theater, 175 S. Ventura Ave. Sunday, at 2pm. Admission is free, and snacks will be provided.

If you would like to sign up to read, or if you just really like him, email Donald Som-

merfield at newshound620@yahoo.com.

June 20: New Jazz Venue! The “Margie Nelson Jazz Group” will be featured Sunday, June 20 at the Oxnard Elks Lodge, 801 South A Street, Oxnard. This will be the first meeting at the new monthly venue of the **Channel Cities Jazz Club**. The public is welcome for dancing and listening. Food and drink are available for purchase.

Margie Nelson is especially well known for her outstanding jazz vocal performances throughout the Tri-Counties. Her featured performance from 3-4pm is preceded by jam sessions of qualified amateur and professional musicians starting at 1pm and followed by jams until 5pm.

Non-member admission is \$10.00, \$7.00 for members. For further information please call 487.3062 or see [\[tiesjazzclub.org\]\(http://tiesjazzclub.org\).](http://www.channelci-</p>
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The Channel Cities Jazz Club is a CA not-for-profit corporation devoted to promoting jazz through afternoon performances the 3rd Sunday of each month, and through sponsoring aspiring middle- and high-school musicians to Summer jazz camps.

June 20: The Ventura County Chapter of USA Dance, Inc., will be holding their June Dance Party on Sunday, at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Theme is Fathers Day. The event starts with a free dance lesson at 2pm, followed by open dancing from 3 to 5:15pm. Dance music is by Big Band CDs. Also featured are refreshments, a 50/50 raffle and Male Dance Hosts.

Admissions: \$10 General, \$9 Dance

Continued on page 13



2010

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Art Scene



Michael Bingham stands next to a print of one of his larger paintings entitled "God Give Me Strength." Michael specializes in painting the human form with various shades of color and light.

WAV Artist Interviews: Michael Bingham

by Tim Pompey

It's been a long road for Michael Bingham, from his small town roots in Greenville, Ohio, to Los Angeles, and now Ventura. After graduating with a Bachelors in Fine Arts from Wright State University in Dayton, a brain tumor and subsequent surgery robbed him of his ability to paint. "I lost my hand-eye coordination," he says.

Sixteen years later, Michael decided that, in order to paint, he needed physical therapy. He enrolled in art classes at a local community college and worked to regain his touch. Eventually, he and his partner, John Leamer, opened a small piano bar/art gallery in Dayton where they sold Michael's paintings and organized numerous local art events and charitable benefits.

When they moved to Los Angeles in

2007, Michael's paintings were an immediate hit. He smiles when he recalls being chosen for a prestigious exhibit in West Hollywood: "Someone came up to me and said, 'This is really big.' I was from out of town. I just didn't know any better."

Today, Michael's WAV apartment is his studio. His art is a beautiful mixture of human form, color, and light. "I paint introspectively and tend to focus on the use of light." Moreover, his figures appear to jump off the canvas, a technique he describes as being "three-dimensional on a two-dimensional surface."

Yes, it's been a long journey for Michael, but you can tell by the energy in his paintings. The artist Bingham has definitely returned. For samples of his work, visit his website at www.wmichaelbingham.com.

Brooks Institute exhibits Setlist: Music Portraiture by Todd Roeth

Brooks Institute is proud to present Setlist: Music Portraiture by Todd Roeth. This exhibit is at the Visions Gallery in the Marriott Ventura Beach and will be on view until August 7. Setlist is a collection of imagery that captures bands, singers, songwriters, and musicians away from the stage. Roeth's work reveals the artist as an individual, beyond the performance and away from the spotlight. Bring your smart phone

to add an auditory quality to this exhibit as each portrait is accompanied by a link to a song by the musician.

Often classified as Indie Rock, Roeth recognizes and captures the genuine passion of these musicians to create their art as they see fit in the best, and often the only way, they know how.

He is a storyteller, who prefers to do so around a campfire among friends with guitars, but most often speaks for himself and others via graphic design and photography.

He received his undergraduate and Masters of Arts degree in Visual communications from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

The Marriott Ventura Beach is located at 2055 East Harbor Blvd. The exhibit is free.

Call To artists for the 2010 Ventura Art Festival

The Ventura Art Festival will take place on Saturday, October 2 from 10a.m.-6p.m. and Sunday, October 3 from 10a.m. - 4p.m. at Plaza Park in downtown Ventura

Artists of all original fine art and fine craft disciplines may apply. Artists must submit one application per category. All entries will be juried. Digital images of artwork required for jurying. The show will be juried by Michael Kelly, fine artist/designer and Director, Ray Bradbury Theater and Film Foundation.

Application Fees are:

\$25 Application Fee (received by June 30)

\$35 Late Application Fee (if received by July 23)

Artists must provide their own displays and/or canopy. Space fee is \$175.

This year, the Ventura Art Festival will select a Featured Artist. The Featured Artist's work will be displayed on the festival poster and other promotional items.

This outdoor event will feature fine art, food by local restaurants, wine and refreshments and music throughout the day.

Part of the proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Buenaventura Art Association.

For more information: Contact the Ventura Chamber of Commerce at 676-7500, www.VenturaChamber.com or, email barbara@venturaartfestival.com

In Your Face - an exhibit of self portraits

An open juried show at the Ventura Artist's Union Gallery is being held from June 19 to August 1. The juror is Beverly Decker and the curators are Jeanne LaRocco & elle-je' freeheart

Self portraits are a way for artists to examine their personal lives and inner psyches. Using the intimate subject of "the self," artists reveal themselves by making the private, public. Our personal lives and inner conversations are fertile ground for developing ideas and imagery of universal concern.

Show Dates: June 19-August 1

June 19 - Opening reception 6-8:00 PM

Special Dates:

July 2 - First Friday ArtTalk with Michele Foster Michele Foster, Director of Bell Arts youth arts program 6:30pm

July 17 - Getting to Know You: an evening of short autobiographies with Vonder Gray & Friends 8pm

July 23 - Book signing and talk with award winning author Gary Ryan

Artists' Union Gallery, 330 S. California St., 643-3012 or www.venturaartistsunion.org

An evening with John Nichols

John Nichols has been a teacher, museum curator and small business owner. He is a gifted essayist. He has served as stage manager for 35 years at the Monterey Jazz

Festival. His passion for history and photography culminated in a superb collection of materials about the St. Francis Dam Disaster, recently purchased by the Museum of Ventura County. Guided by a belief that art can be a vehicle for social change, he and artist Gail Pidduck founded the AgArt Alliance. It combines his respect for agriculture in Ventura County with art created by local artists. "With AgArt," says John, "everything has come together." Inspired by poets, theologians, and other observers of what it is to be human, John, in turn, inspires us. Please reserve your seat today!

Saturday, June 5, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Brooks Institute Motion Picture -Campus Screening Room, 5301 N. Ventura Ave., Ventura.

Co-sponsored by: John & Cherie Brant and Jordan & Sandra Laby.

\$10 General Admission - \$5 Students and Seniors. Free to FOTM members, Brooks Students and faculty & students under 18.

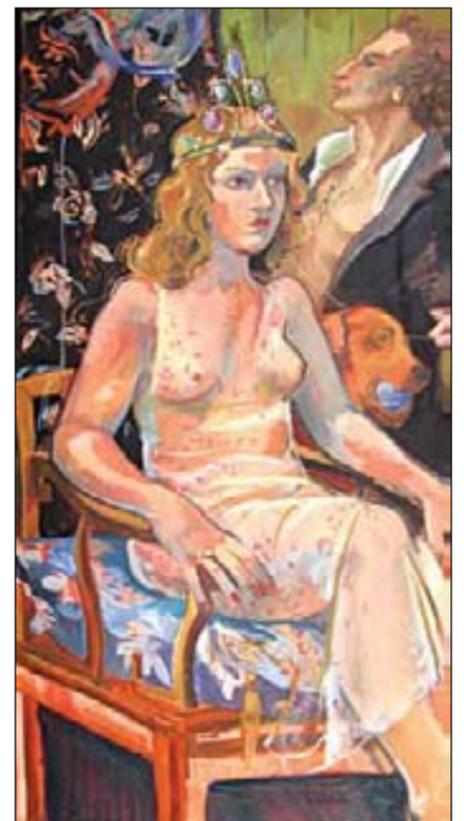
Please RSVP at 653-2501 or by emailing Mary.Galbraith@FocusOnTheMasters.com.

"Innocence and Experience" at Buenaventura Gallery

Susan Seaberry's exhibit of recent works titled "Innocence and Experience: The Figure in Art" shows at the Buenaventura Galley from June 22 to July 17. Opening Reception is Friday, July 9 from 5-8 pm. Meet the artists for First Fridays Ventura at the Buenaventura Gallery on July 2 from 5-8 pm.

With nods to mythic subjects and symbolism art scholars interested in deciphering a hidden meaning will be amused. Those with a need for an immediate gratification will be intrigued as well. Her palate is "just to die for, daahling!" and her most recent simplistic pieces are drawn with the trained eye many artists dream of achieving. No frames on these larger charcoals will allow these bodies to move with those in the room, bringing an element of motion to the exhibit.

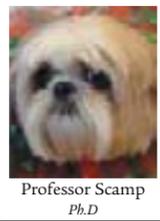
The Buenaventura Art Gallery is located at 700 E. Santa Clara St. Hours are Tuesday-Friday from noon-5pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5pm. Please call 648-1235 or visit www.buenaventuragallery.org.



"Birthday Triptych (detail)", oil painting by Susan Seaberry

Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



The Summerfest All-Breed Dog Show at the Fairgrounds will be on July 9-11 from 8am to 5pm. The admission is free so go check out all of your favorite dogs and see how your "best friend" compares.

I would compete but they don't have an "over-weight" class.

My good friend Colton wrote to me with an important message that I want to share with you. Colton is an 8th grade Cabrillo Middle School graduate and is 14.

It is wonderful that he has such great passion for his furry friends.

Scamp:

So many dogs are needlessly being put down

People have always said that "dogs are man's best friend" yet more than 2,000 dogs were destroyed alone last year just by the Camarillo Animal Shelter.

There are too many homeless dogs in Ventura County, so many, in fact, that the shelter is 100% full. Can you imagine that? The shelter provides housing for over 200 dogs per day. There is an average of 25 new arrivals every day, so they make certain that at least 25 dogs leave each day, dead or alive. This is a terrible, awful tragedy that happens daily. These poor dogs need homes desperately, and you can help. These poor animals don't deserve to be neglected, abandoned, and killed. They deserve a loving home just like all pets.

The dogs that were put to sleep by euthanasia will never fetch again. They will never chase a cat, or a ball, or lick a kid's face. How does that make you feel? These were good dog, are excellent loyal companions that love and protect you as



Colton and his very "bestest" friend Daisy long as they live.

If you feel the same way that I do about helping these animals, and I hope you do, then please, do what I do, and start volunteering at an animal shelter.

People breed and sell dogs to make a profit. Some very awful people even breed dogs to fight. This is so wrong of them.

Dogs should be fixed or altered so they cannot breed and people should adopt dogs from the shelters.

So many people think that having a cute little dog would be fun. It was fun until they found out that raising a dog is a big responsibility. Dogs are not to be thrown away like broken toys. They shouldn't be discarded because they get old or aren't as pretty as they once were.

In conclusion, dog's really are man's best friend, and so many of them are needlessly being put down just because there is not enough room for them in the shelters. Please help by donating time or money to your local animal shelter and help spread the word. Tell your family and friends that if they really want to give a dog a great home, they should adopt from the animal shelter. My family adopted our Hound Dog, Daisy, from the shelter 5 years ago. She is the greatest dog on the planet. She's my best friend.

Colton Darrough

Scamp Club



Hi:

I'm Darwin and I live in a beautiful back yard garden paradise that was designed by my mom, Lisa Burton of Nature by Design. The beautiful flowers and plants support a lot of birds, butterflies and beneficial insects. I must say that it's fun to chase them from time to time, but mom scolds me about that and I'm not very good at catching anything anyway.

Mom takes me to the beach or park often to run and roll around on the grass and that means good exercise for both me and her. Can't get better than that! WooHow!

See ya around town.

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.

Police and Fire Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Attempted Robbery

On Saturday, May 29th, at 2a.m., Brian Judd, 37 years old and from Campbell, was traveling from Northern California with his two minor children when he stopped in the Motel 6 parking lot, at 2145 Harbor Boulevard, to rest. While Judd was still seated in his vehicle, Jaime Duenes, 23 years old and from Oxnard, approached Judd on foot and reached in the driver's side window, attempted to remove money from Judd's pockets, and stated that he was taking money. Christopher Barajas, 23 years old and from Oxnard, used a vehicle to block Judd from driving away.

After Duenes was unsuccessful, he and Barajas fled. Judd hailed CHP units who were in the area. VPD was advised by CHP of the circumstances. VPD officers responded to and conducted a search of the area where they located both Duenes and Barajas who were later identified by the victim as the individuals who had attempted to rob him.

The vehicle that was utilized by Duenes and Barajas was also located in the area. Inside the vehicle, officers located items of personal property and were able to obtain the identities of other possible crime victims, from vehicles on Sharon Lane in Ventura. Officers returned the property to the owners.

Both Duenes and Barajas were booked at the VC Jail.

Residential Fire

On Thursday, May 27th, at 4p.m.,

Ventura City Firefighter's prevented a fire on top of a stove from spreading throughout a residence in the 100 block of West Harrison Street. Arriving firefighter's found a growing fire on top of the stove involving plastic storage containers. The resident had started cooking and left to a nearby store to discover the fire upon returning home. The female resident and her young daughter exited the home and went to a neighbor's to call 911. Firefighter's extinguished the fire and assisted the residents who complained of minor smoke inhalation. Both mother and daughter refused treatment and transport to the hospital after being examined by paramedics. Fire and smoke damage was limited to contents within the home. There was no smoke detector present at the time of the fire. Firefighter's installed a new one prior to leaving the scene.

Stabbing

On Monday, May 31st, at 7:17 p.m., officers responded to a call of a stabbing in the area of Park Row and Olive. Officers found the victim, Pasqual Hernandez, 36 years old, at Fix Way and Garden. Hernandez had two stab wounds in the torso and was treated at Ventura County Medical Center. His wounds were serious but not life threatening.

It appeared that the incident occurred in the 100 block of Mission Avenue. Several residents were contacted however no witnesses to the crime could be located.

Hernandez said he was walking down a street when he was jumped and stabbed

by two males. He ran away from them, but does not know the reason for the attack. Hernandez was not able to provide descriptions.

Strong Arm Robbery I

On Wednesday, June 2nd, at 9:10 a.m., an 89 year old woman left Chase Bank located at 3498 Telegraph Road and was walking through the alleyway north of the 3400 block when she was approached from behind by the suspect. The suspect grabbed the victim and threw her to the ground. As the victim was on the ground, the suspect grabbed the victim's purse and fled in an unknown direction. The victim went to a nearby residence and police were called. Officers checked the area for the suspect but were unable to locate him. The victim sustained minor injuries and was treated at the scene.

Strong Arm Robbery II

On Tuesday, June 1st, at 3:30 a.m., the VPD responded to a strong armed robbery in the 200 block of Thompson Boulevard. The victim was driving when her vehicle sustained a flat tire. She pulled over in a parking lot to assess the damage while her male companion went to find assistance.

While the victim was waiting in her car, three suspects approached her vehicle as one of the suspects opened the door and took an undisclosed amount of money from the victim. The victim attempted to regain the money from the suspects when they threatened to harm her.

The suspects fled in an unknown direction from the parking lot.

Mailbox

Continued from page 4

ing "yes" to three new sales locations near St. Bonaventura and a stone's throw, and across the street from Anacapa Middle School??

Answer: "Revenue." A big box liquor store might generate millions in city tax revenue over time, and, in the grand scheme of things, maybe more revenue from alcohol is not such a bad thing. But there are two problems. First, the City Council said "no" to Target's application for alcohol sales at the Mall two years ago, specifically citing its proximity to Anacapa Middle School. Secondly, the new revenue at the Mall's "Super Booze Big Box" outlet may very well come at the expense of local independent operators.

If you thought Lowe's was bad for local hardware stores, just wait until you see what a super store does for your neighborhood local corner wine shop. Some say "what's the big deal? Bring in the Wal-Mart of wine." Others are not so sure.

Suz Montgomery
Ventura

Ventura Breeze

I'm writing to express my enjoyment of all your cultural articles, some overlooked by other papers.

You first wrote about the Mermaid Statue, but details on its location were not given. Later we learned it is in Soter Park in Marina Park. I mailed the article to a friend telling of the statue and the photo.

The Russian immigrant (who installed the statue) she had in an adult ed. class taken in high school.

Sincerely,
Georgia Scarlott



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Senior Living



Ron Dalzell, DVM, National Police Dog Foundation board of directors member; Mike Macke – Community Marketing Director; Yvonne Knepper – Community Marketing Director; Jim Duran – Executive Director; Officer Jack Ortega – Ventura Police Department and K-9 Artus – Ventura Police Department.. Photo by Phil Knepper.

Cypress Place Senior Living raises \$5,475 for local K-9 Unit

A Cinco de Mayo celebration and Fundraiser to benefit the National Police Dog Foundation exceeded the expectations of the organizers at Cypress Place Senior Living. The senior living community raised \$5,475 for the foundation, which raises funds to support K-9 programs for various law enforcement agencies, including the Ventura Police and Sheriff's K-9 units.

"We had an overwhelming response, from not only our residents and staff here at Cypress Place, but also from the general public who attended the fun filled afternoon," says Jim Duran, Executive Director of Cypress Place.

"I want to thank everyone at Cypress Place for a great job and a fun day," said Ron Dalzell, a member of the National Police Dog Foundation board of directors and veterinarian for the local K-9 units. "These types of fundraisers are so important to K-9 programs. Without them, some agencies might not be able to have K-9 units."

To learn more about Cypress Place Senior Living of Ventura, visit their web site at www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com. To learn more about the National Police Dog Foundation, visit their web site at www.policedogfoundation.org.

They are my heroes
Scamp

You can't eat at the new SCAN Internet Café except for a bagel

Seniors are invited to visit the new SCAN Internet Café at the SCAN Senior Resource Center in Ventura on Friday, June 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. Drop by and enjoy a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate and a bagel. Guest computers will be available, and staff will be on hand to assist seniors new to the center and the Internet.

"There are many components to healthy aging," said Steve Lehman, manager of the SCAN Senior Resource Center in Ventura. "We are here to support seniors with healthy lifestyle classes, exercise programs, access to information, and to serve as a forum for social interaction. These are all important to keep your body and mind healthy and active as you get older."

There is no cost to use the SCAN Internet Café, and it is open to all seniors, not just SCAN members. The SCAN Senior Resource Center is located at 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 200, in Ventura. For more information, call 658-0365.

Spanish anyone?

Do you know a little Spanish and want to know more? Then go to "Espanol on Fridays" at the Ventura Senior Center.

Every Friday from 9am to noon, they have conversation, exercises and practice in an easygoing way. If you're 20 or if you're 80, you'll fit in and have fun. Stop in at the Senior Center, 420 E. Santa Clara to sign up or call 648-2829 or teacher Susan Martz at 654-9005.

Ventura skilled nursing facility gets top scores on survey

Victoria Care Center (VCC) has recently completed its annual licensing survey from the California Department of Health Services. This survey is conducted annually for each skilled nursing facility in the state and is designed to be very rigorous in order to assure optimal care is being delivered to all residents and patients.

This year, Victoria Care Center achieved its highest score in the history of VCC as a result of an extraordinary year long effort to address and correct deficiencies that were found the year before under the prior center administration.

John Albrechtsen, Executive Director who assumed leadership responsibilities for VCC operations following last year's disappointing survey results states "I am so proud of our entire team including all of our care givers, our housekeeping and maintenance crews, and our management team."

Victoria Care Center has 188 beds and has over 170 trained and certified and leadership employees..

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Senior Day Center



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Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.5000
License # 565800229

Ventura events

Continued from page 9

Buddies, \$7 USA Dance members, and \$5 military and youth. Info: 646-6271

June 26: There is a **Boaters Swap Meet** on Saturday June 26, from 8a.m. until 3p.m. at Peninsula Yacht Marina . There will be New and Used Boat Equipment, Marine Supplies, Boat Tools, Electronics, Hardware, Sails, Fishing Gear, Sail & Power Boat supplies and more. Have Fun in the Sun at 3700 Peninsula Rd. Oxnard . Call 985-6400 for information. There is free admission for all to enjoy the day to Look, Buy, Sell or SWAP. Reservations are required.

June 30: The Ventura County Maritime Museum will sponsor a get-away day trip on Wednesday, by chartered bus to the **Newport Harbor Nautical Museum** and for a cruise of the harbor. Snacks and beverages will be served. Lunch is included in the \$85.00 price. The bus will depart from the Maritime Museum parking lot in Fisherman's Wharf at 8 am and return between 5-6 pm.

Tickets may be purchased from the Maritime Museum, 2731 South Victoria Ave., Oxnard or by phone at 984-6260. The reservation deadline is Monday, June 21, 5 pm.

The Ventura County Maritime Museum is open daily, 11-5 pm. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated. .

Ojai events

Symphony of Life Spiritual Center invites you to its Bingo Bash on June 19 at 7pm. This frolickin' affair will be held at the Little House (111W. Santa Ana St.,Ojai) and there will be music, entertainment, great prizes, and a raffle. Admission is \$10 and it includes a bingo card, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. Everyone is welcome!

Symphony of Life Spiritual Center
Karen Wylie, Minis
ter 640-3743- www.solsc.org

Watch Dirt! The Movie and Learn All About Our Planet's "Skin"

The movie takes a humorous look into the history and current state of the living organic matter that we come from and will later return to. In a screening sponsored by the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, the film will be shown at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, at the Ojai Theatre. Making a special appearance at the screening will be Andy Lipkis, the founder of TreePeople.

This event is being sponsored by Agromin, the local organic recycler and soil-amendment purveyor, and a \$10 suggested donation at the door will include entry in a drawing to win eight 25-pound bags of Agromin vegetable/garden soil amendment mix.

The Ojai Valley Museum has created a unique fundraising event, an auction of altered Libbey glass bowls, as a benefit for Ojai's "Save Libbey Bowl" campaign. The idea for local artists to produce artwork on the bowls originated in May 2009 and will culminate in a Gala Auction of the embellished bowls on June 27 at a private home. The museum will donate half of the proceeds from the "Bowled Over" auction to the Rebuild Libbey Bowl fundraising effort. The auction will take place midway through the museum's current exhibition, "Ojai's Libbey Bowl: Past/Present/Future," which runs through July 11.

For further information or to purchase tickets to the "Bowled Over" Auction, please call the Ojai Valley Museum 640-1390, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

When the Ojai Valley Museum docents have their bimonthly meeting, the museum might be closed on the outside, but it's open to a lively get-together inside.

The Ojai Valley Museum currently has openings for new docents. If you are interested in enriching your life and contributing to the

community, investigate becoming a docent! Please call the museum and speak to Jill Helson about your interest in the Docent Program at the Ojai Valley Museum.

Babies are coming in daily right now. The Ojai Raptor Center has 22 baby great-horned owls, 60 baby barn owls, their first baby red-shouldered hawk baby, black phoebes, baby ravens hatched in their incubator, sparrows, finches, hummingbirds and several other species. Plus their 20 resident ambassador raptors.

Please join them for the Ojai Raptor Center annual fundraiser:

For the Birds, Saturday, June 26, from 11:00 - 3:00 with a catered luncheon at the Embassy Suites, Mandalay Bay Resort that includes:

Fabulous silent auction and raffle, music by Sus Corez, visiting with live birds, and a no-host bar.

Seating is limited so get your tickets now! First 125 reservations accepted.

Tickets are \$50 which includes an annual membership to ORC!

For more info, directions and tickets go to www.ojairaptorcenter.org/FTB2010.ht

A final spring Ojai Creek restoration workday for volunteers will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday June 19 in Libbey Park , to weed and mulch the areas already planted with native vegetation. Wear sturdy work shoes, long sleeves, and long pants. If you have gloves, shovel, rake and/or wheelbarrow, those would be helpful but not necessary. Meet at the Libbey Park Gazebo for initial training. Project sponsored by the Watershed Committee of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition, in partnership with Earth Island Institute, the Wetlands Recovery Project, and the Coastal Conservancy of Southern California. For more information, go to www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org or call 669-8445.

Meditation Workshop with Diana Lang Sunday, June 27th 1-4PM \$35 Online \$40 Door.

A longtime friend of the Mount, Diana has led many group meditations. She has been teaching yoga and meditation in the Los Angeles area since 1980. She brings a fresh perspective to this ancient wisdom, creating a supportive and uplifting environment for students to stretch to a new level of spiritual growth. www.dianalang.com

Yuval Ron Ensemble Mystical Music Of The Middle East. Saturday, June 26 7:30pm \$20 Prepaid \$25 Door

Please pre-register and pre-pay online @ www.meditationmount.org

Meditation Mount,10340 Reeves Rd. Ojai ,646-5508

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Answer

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

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Blue Grass Concert

**Thursday
JULY 22nd
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Ted's Tropical Troubadours'
Magical Luau

**Thursday
August 26th
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School



Ventura author Dallas Woodburn, had her first book published when she was ten years old, now teaches youngsters how to improve their writing skills

Write On! Summer Camp

by Nanci Cone

What do you get when you combine Ventura author Dallas Woodburn and enthusiastic kids ages 8 to 18 who love to read and write? You get Write On! summer camp that consists of four two-hour workshops held on consecutive weekends, July 10-11 and July 17-18. Because of its growing popularity, there are two sessions available: either from 10 am to noon, or 1 - 3 pm. The camp, held in the conference room at Jensen Design and Survey at 1672 Donlon St., allows students to have fun while learning how to improve central components of their writing, including dialogue, characterization, plot and setting, through various creativity-inducing writing exercises.

The cost for all four sessions is only \$150 – a real bargain – and a price breakdown is available at www.writeonbooks.org. A portion of the money raised will go towards the youth organization “Write On! For Literacy” founded by Woodburn in 2001 to encourage kids to discover confidence, joy, a means of self-expression and a connection with others through reading and writing. “From a young age, I knew I wanted to reach out to children to help them understand the magic waiting for them in books and to teach them how to express themselves,” says Woodburn. “Once these students learn the power of words, I’ve seen how it changes their lives,” she goes on to say.

This summer, Woodburn is releasing the first anthology, “Dancing With The Pen,” from Write On! Books publishing company, a collection of stories, essays and poetry written entirely by writers in elementary school, middle school, and high school. More than

sixty young writers from the United States and such countries as Canada, Singapore, New Zealand, including former participants of the program, are featured in the book.

Woodburn, 22, a 2009 summa cum laude create writing graduate from USC, was recently accepted to their M.F.A. Woodburn is an acclaimed writer, speaker and teacher, with experience as workshop instructor and coordinator of the Young Writers Program of the prestigious Santa Barbara Writers Conference. She taught the Write On! Summer Writing Camp the past two years to great success and has also taught an online short-story writing course.

Woodburn, recently signed by the highly regarded agency Foundry +Media to represent her first novel, is the award-winning author of two self-published collections of short stories. Her first, *There’s a Huge Pimple On My Nose*, was published when she was ten years old, and her latest, *3 a.m.*, was featured on the nationally syndicated PBS book talk show *Between the Lines*. Additionally, her short fiction, nominated for a Pushcart Prize, has appeared in numerous literary magazines and in dozens of national publications. In April, *Glamour Magazine* honored Ms. Woodburn as one of four national “Best of You” award winners for her volunteer work with Write On! For Literacy. To register for the camp, or for more information: visit www.writeonbooks.org, e-mail dallaswoodburn@aol.com or call 889-5570. Also, be sure to catch Dallas at the Ventura Book Festival on Saturday, July 27 at the Crowne Plaza where she will be moderating a panel on children’s books.

Citizens Advisory Committee created

The Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) Board of Trustees took action to form a Citizens Advisory Committee comprised of local community leaders. This advisory group

was established to assess state economic challenges and critique District budget assumptions to ensure VCCCD will continue to meet the needs of its students. “As the State of California continues to struggle with economic turmoil, the Board has taken a proactive stance in dealing with continued reductions in operating revenue and increased student demand for our services,” stated Robert Huber, Chair of the Board of Trustees. “The Citizens Advisory Committee is a way for the citizens of Ventura County to

take an active part in advising the Board on issues affecting the education of our students. This committee represents a group of exceptional caliber that will bring a diversity of experience and views to the table.”

The Board appointed the following nine members:

Harry Culotta, Ventura resident, former Business Service Director, Oxnard College

Cheryl Moore, Thousand Oaks resident, Executive Director, Workforce Investment Board, Board member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Board Member of Conejo School Foundation

Dr. Frank Barajas, Oxnard resident, Associate Professor of History at CSUCI, Oxnard College graduate

Anil Garg, Simi Valley resident, financial planning firm owner, former Rotary Club District Governor (Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern counties), current Rotary member

Cecilia Cuevas, Fillmore resident, Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor, former Fillmore Councilwoman

Hank Lacayo, Newbury Park resident, Congress of California Seniors President

Beth Pallares, Santa Paula resident, retired school teacher, past Chief Negotiator for VUEA

Dr. Michelle Dean, Oxnard resident, Principal of Montalvo Elementary School, Ventura

Raquel Montes, Oxnard resident, Casa Pacifica Youth Advocate, Oxnard College graduate



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 environment 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.”



VCBC ballet lesson being taught by Colleen O’Callaghan, a former ballet dancer and current director of outreach for Ventura County Ballet Company. Photo by John Arnold

Ballet company presents education outreach program to elementary students

On May 21, more than 800 elementary students from schools in the El Rio, Oxnard and Ventura Unified School Districts participated in a unique education outreach program sponsored by the Ventura County Ballet Company (VCBC).

Children were giddy with anticipation to see excerpts from the company’s current production of *Sleeping Beauty – A Fairytale Ballet*, choreographed by Marina Fliagina.

The treat of live ballet was preceded with a school lesson in performing arts by Colleen O’Callaghan, a former ballet dancer and current director of outreach for VCBC and director of curriculum at Ballet Academy Ventura, VCBC’s official ballet school.

O’Callaghan encouraged every child and adult to stand up from their seats and rise to the occasion, demonstrating the “dancer’s alphabet,” or positions. Following along, children from the ages of 3 to 10 learned classic stands and jumping in unison.

Prior to the ballet, teachers were provided with lesson plans to prepare classrooms for the experience. The extension of learning ballet in the classroom was brought full-circle with the outing.

For information about the Ventura County Ballet Company, to sponsor an upcoming ballet or educational programs, call 653-2800.



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Business



Dianna Wilke has joined local law firm META

Venturan Dianna Wilke joins local law firm

The Ventura based Muegenburg Estate & Trust Attorneys - META, law, inc. - welcomes to their firm attorney Dianna M. Wilke. Dianna is a Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law, certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

A third generation Ventura native, Dianna attended Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai, where she now serves on the school's Board of Directors. She said, "All of my family is here as well as a lot of families I grew up with; my husband is a Ventura native as well, so my dream was always to come home and do my work. I have a deep affinity for this community. I am proud to be from here, and I am so excited to be back."

"I am thrilled to welcome Dianna to the META law team. Her expertise, enthusiasm and, most especially, her care for her clients is a great asset for us and our clients" stated Ted Muegenburg.

META, law, inc. is located at 1893 Knoll Drive in Ventura,

Ventura County Credit Union elects board members

Ventura County Credit Union (VCCU) recently had elections for the Board of Directors and Supervisory Committee, made up entirely of volunteer members, at last month's Annual Meeting for VCCU members. With a new board and a new year, VCCU hopes to share the well-kept secret of the value of Credit Unions with the residents of Ventura County.

Credit unions like VCCU are a not-for-profit financial institution, unlike banks.

Credit unions are also wholly owned by their members, and each member has an equal say in all the happenings.

Albert Duff, William Frank and Sue Tatangelo were each elected to a three-year term on the VCCU Board of Directors. For the Supervisory Committee, Jeffrey Landis was elected to a three-year term and Susan Craig was elected to a one-year term.

Social Media

Connecting the dots

by Peter Godinez,
Social Media Sales Hero

The past columns that I have written about social media have been focusing on the specific tools available to you to consider in beginning your journey in the age of New Marketing. If you are reading this article you most likely will fall into one of the following levels:

- You know nothing about social media
- You know enough to want to learn more about it or wondering when it is going away
- You have tried it as best as you can and you have stopped, saying you don't have time for this new media
- You know a lot about the subject and have many accounts open that you get very little response to, not sure what you are trying to accomplish and making no money
- Finally, you have it all down and should be teaching others how to do the same

Whatever your level, at a certain point you will want to connect the pieces and accomplish connecting with people with common interests.

So, how does a business or person "connect the dots" with tools like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Blogs and Google Key Words. Here is a short list of important things to make your social media efforts successful.

1. Social Media without passion is a big waste of time and effort. The passion is the special spirit in you, that even in challenging times you still enjoy it and daily do something to add to it. If you have not figured out what this passion is, you need to stop immediately, decide what it is and adjust your strategy appropriately
2. Social Media without a special niche or a very unique value will lead you into a pool of fierce competition and price wars. Long gone are the days where your value is great products, great service, great support and best price. Take the one word that describes your product and add as many adjectives to that word. For example the word "books", "children's books", "books for special needs children", etc.
3. Social Media starts with your top 100 clients, fans and friends. If you do not have a list of at least 100 of these profiles then you are making this very difficult for yourself and it will take too long to get to your destination.
4. Social Media tools are all connected to one another, meaning that if you post educating, encouraging and entertaining content on YouTube, then the same content will be posted on Facebook and Twitter automatically. One effort can go to several resources. Social Media content can be immediately available to your followers and best clients. Today's technology has made it inexpensive and easy to within seconds post your message to many sources.



Peter K. Godinez
Sales & Marketing Specialist
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Business Profile

Ventura Auto- motive Repair – 15 years of quality service

by Julie D. McCampbell

A mechanic shop should have the best technicians to be working on your car, right? I have just the place for you, here in Ventura, at Ventura Automotive Repair, 500 Ventura Avenue.

Francisco Escorscia received 8 years of auto repair training before becoming the owner and operator of Ventura Automotive Repair.

He said "We use quality parts and apply outstanding customer service, making our business a success for over 15 years."

"Our business is run and worked by my family. My 2 sons, my nephew, and our automotive technician, they all help me with making our customers happy and wanting to return. We run an honest business. You can't be in business without honesty and professionalism."

Francisco, I couldn't agree more.

Francisco's team specializes in everything that is needed to get the job done. Servicing imports, Japanese, Domestic, you name it. Services include repairs on alternators, brakes, engines, smog checks; they can work on all the mechanical repairs needed for your vehicle. "The only thing our shop does not do, is body work. But, we do our best at everything else. We can even do all the 30K or 60K maintenance requirement services, for our customers, that are done at most dealerships." Francisco stated.

Francisco settled into Ventura County some years back. After his 8 years of training, he got a job at a gas station in Oxnard, "and then one day, I saw this building and yard on the Avenue, and I have been here ever since."

He has been in the same spot all these years, and has no plans of going anywhere. "I did try a second shop, but I found I really wanted to just have only one shop to give my customers the attention they needed. We have many repeat customers from all over, from Los Angeles, Ventura County, and Santa Barbara."

Locally owned and operated, and daily specials, you can't get any better than this.

"I would really like to say thank you to all of our customers for all of your support and business who have been with us for so many years, and we want to keep on helping you for many more years to come."

Ventura Automotive Repair's website is at www.venturaautorepair.com or call 805-648-5262.

Be sure to look for their special coupons in this issue of the Breeze.



Recently Mike Dobreski, educational expert and consultant with Providence Hall High School, in Santa Barbara was a guest on the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on Ventura County radio station 1400AMKKZZ. Shown here with the "Coach".

The KKZZ AM radio story

by Coach Ron Tunick

KKZZ is the little engine that could. KKZZAM1400 radio wants to make a difference in the lives of Ventura County radio listeners. Every host has mastered their profession and shares wonderful stories, local and community events.

The daily line up is unique. 8am is "Two Moms and a mike" discussing the issues of moms and females in our community.

9am is "The Freeman Michaels Show" Freeman is the author of "Weight Release" the Freeman show could change your life forever.

10am is "That Thing You Do" with Bill (Billy the Brain) Frank. Bill has the reputation of getting the best radio guests in America.

11am is "Living the Inspired Life with Susan Burrell" need a pick me up? This show will improve your day and life.

Noon to 3pm is "Dr. Laura" 25 years on the radio and the number 2 most popular person on radio.

3pm. "The Dr. Bunny Show" Board Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist. First change the mental programming and then behavioral changes will come. Dr. Bunny has been helping the community for many years.

4pm to 6pm "Welcome to Tunickville" The Business of Life... The Coach knows your driving home and wants to put a BIG smile on your face. Tunickville is a fun place to be involved.

Every Monday, from 4-4:30 Breeze publisher Sheldon joins the Coach and brings in wonderful guests from the community.

KKZZ Radio AM1400 wants to give Ventura County radio listeners a place to go to obtain knowledge, to be entertained and inspired. All of the hosts work very hard to provide interesting programming every day. Tune in and see for yourself the difference in AM radio.



Show Time

Two on the Aisle

How do you spell super?

by James Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

The finals of the U.S. national spelling bee ended a couple weeks ago. Fortunately for Ventura County residents, the Tony-winning musical comedy "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" continues on stage at the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center through July 11.

This rollicking piece about the pubescent angst, trials and triumphs experienced by a wildly kookie group of finalists in a local school spelling competition has something for everyone. There are toe-tapping songs supported by an excellent small pit orchestra. There are recognizable and loveable over-the-top characters portrayed by exceptional up and coming actors who each have a list of professional credits. There is overall technical excellence.

Last, there is also real audience participation. A number of actual audience members are selected to go on stage and portray spelling bee finalists in cameo spots alongside the cast members.

The mayhem in the gymnasium is moderated by the local real estate lady and former spelling bee champ, Rona Peretti, along with Vice Principal Panch as the pronouncer and judge, who returns to the Bee after a five-year absence following an "incident" during the 20th Bee. Against the contestants' more colorful characters these parts are given life with skill and aplomb by Lori Lee Gordon and Sean Spence. Keith Borden demonstrates his versatility in a number of the "grown-up" roles, including Mitch the ex-con, who serves as official comfort counselor by handing out juice boxes to eliminated contestants as part of his community service obligation.

The mix of finalists includes Boy Scout and returning champion Chip (Nick Peters), whose title defense encounters an obstacle from an unexpected quarter, and Marcy (Chrissa Villanueva), the over-achieving transfer student who attends the local Catholic school. There is Leaf Coneybear (George Kraleman), who comes from a family of former hippies and makes his own clothes, and Olive (Jennifer Foster), a newcomer with a mother living in India to become enlightened and a father who is always working (even during the Bee). Logainne (Danielle Judovits) is a neat freak with two gay men as parents. Last, there is bushy-haired and slovenly William (George Chavez), who must spell each word out on the floor with his foot before answering.

Minimal, effective set pieces amplify the characters as the focus of the script. The actors sing with gusto and power displaying a considerable amount of talent throughout. Choreography, used sparingly, adds just the right amount of movement. The book itself is insightful, up-to-date and hilarious as it showcases the frailties and strengths of each contestant. All of the actors bring unique characterizations that are consistent and endearing. Each has a spotlight moment and several play several roles in mini-vignettes, furthering the plot line.

The show is staged by the Actors' Repertory Theatre of Simi, Jan Glasban, producer. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Adults-\$20. Seniors and students-\$16. Under 12-\$14. Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center, 3050 Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley. 583-7900. www.simi-arts.org.

Review of *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*

by Tim Pompey

Starring Michael Nyquist, Noomi Rapace, and Sven-Bertil Taube

★ ★ ★

Currently Playing at Century 10

Good news for Ventura movie fans. "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," circulating around U.S. art cinemas for several months, has finally come to Ventura. If you have time (at nearly three hours), don't mind watching subtitles (it's in Swedish with some English) and can be patient (there are more twists in this movie than a curling hair ribbon) you'll be amply rewarded by this erotic Swedish thriller based on the best-selling book by author Stieg Larsson.

In typical Scandinavian fashion, director Niels Arden Oplev quietly pieces together a tale about Uncle Henrik Vanger (Taube), who desperately wants to know what happened to his sixteen-year-old niece forty years ago when she mysteriously disappeared from the family compound. He thinks she was murdered, but was she? Each year he receives a framed flower on his birthday. Who sends it?

Henrik decides to hire journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Nyquist) to investigate Vanger's family. Blomkvist, waiting to be sentenced for a major slander conviction, decides to take the case to keep him occupied. As he starts the investigation, he discovers his computer has been hacked. Tracing the culprit, he confronts prodigy Lisbeth Salander, a researcher with a troubled past, currently under the watchful care of a lecherous estate guardian. Salander has been hired by a research firm to keep tabs on Blomkvist. Blomkvist convinces her to work with him on the case and together they become a team of determined researchers and, dare I say it, tender lovers.

I told you this was complicated. I'm only scratching the surface here. Blomkvist and Salander discover dark secrets about the Vanger family: Nazi sympathies, incest, and a set of serial killings stretching back more than forty years. The more they discover, the more dangers they encounter and, as everyone knows, the rich do not like to be antagonized.

The star of this show is Rapace, who provides Lisbeth with rage, intelligence, and tenderness, sometimes all in the same scene. It's hard to imagine a more difficult role to play: a brutalized woman with a brilliant mind and a strong sense of inner determination. Rapace merges all these together into a single fascinating personality. She is angry. She is sexy. She is brilliant. She can love. She can strike back. All that, and she's a darn good researcher.

Yes, this movie is long and sags a bit in places. Sometimes the characters suddenly speak English to each other. Why? I don't know. Still, the ending pays off and the journey is worth the wait. If you're looking for a film that takes adult themes and builds them into a complex story, this is the film to watch. It's snowy, it's bloody, it's sexy. I guess that makes it a great date film on a warm summer night, if you don't mind a little murder, terror, and violence mixed in with your romance.

Youth

Voices From Behind the Wall

A collection of memoirs by teenagers in Juvenile Hall

by Nanci Cone

Voices From Behind the Wall is a collection of often-haunting memoirs written by young people in the first Boys & Girls Club located inside a juvenile justice facility in California. Alan Hammerand, Chief Deputy, Juvenile Facilities notes in his Foreword to the book, "The stories you will read in this book show the traumatic and dysfunctional lives that these minors have lived."

Tim Blaylock, Chief Professional Officer of one of the local Boys & Girls Clubs, adds, "The average reading ability of youth confined in correctional institutions is at the fourth-grade level. As literacy has long been the foundation of a sound education, it is not surprising that many juvenile detainees have experienced serious academic difficulties."

For Mary Embree, Executive Director of the California Literary Arts Society (CLAS), this book was a labor of love. She has helped create several books of stories written by youth in Ventura County and, along the way has helped them express their innermost feelings. This latest effort is no exception.

"As a child I felt that adults do not understand children's thoughts and feelings and when children try to voice them, they are often ignored. I wanted to read a book that was written by a child like me because even then I knew when I grew up I would see things differently and I would forget how I felt as a child. My aim when we started the children's writing and publishing project was to give children a voice especially the ones who have committed crimes and are incarcerated because of them," says Mary.

She went on to say "It took a few meetings before the kids began to trust us but when they saw that we kept coming each week to work with them and that we were truly interested in their lives they began to warm up. Sometimes they weren't polite to the other kids in the group but they always showed respect for my two volunteers and me. When they saw the book with their stories in it it gave them a strong sense of self-esteem.

This book will soon be available for purchase on their website www.literaryarts-ca.org along with our other three books of children's writings. It will also be released for sale to the general public by bookstores and other outlets.

Soroptimist International announces scholarship

Soroptimist International of Ventura, a local service club for business and professional women with the goal of making a difference in the lives of women and girls, announced this year's scholarship award winner.

The Violet Richardson Scholarship was awarded to Kelsey Morton, a senior at Ventura High School. She was honored for her work with the Hate Free Zone and Friday Night Live Clubs which involve mentoring and teaching

study skills to high risk middle school students and providing fun activities free of drugs and alcohol for kids on Friday evenings.

The Violet Richardson Award honors young women for their volunteer efforts in their school or community. It is awarded annually to a teen, ages 14-17, and her volunteer organization to recognize the inspiration and dedication it takes to be a volunteer making a difference in the lives of others..

As Kelsey expressed so well in her essay, "...this mentoring is all about providing troubled kids with trusting relationships and the skills and self-esteem to face any challenge." Kelsey also wrote articles for the school newspaper, sharing her own learning and growth from the mentoring program and hopefully encouraging other VHS students to engage in the effort. The award luncheon was attended by Kelsey, her mother Kerry Morgan, VHS counselor Barbara "Bobbie" Richards, and Sonja Frias, a VHS and Cabrillo Middle School Counselor, along with club officers and members.

Soroptimist International is a part of the world's largest classified service organization for executive and professional women. In addition to supporting international projects, Soroptimist clubs accomplish their service goals based on individual community needs.

For more information about Soroptimist and how you can become a member, please call Dena at 642-9715

California needs more foster homes. You can help.

In Ventura County, nearly 700 children are in foster care. Aspiranet's new Hero Initiative is a call to action designed to encourage potential foster parents and families throughout the State of California to learn more, get involved, change a life and support the hero within a child.

In California, more than 75,000 children are in foster care. For many foster children and teens, placement in the right home the first time predicts their success in foster care. At Aspiranet, one of the largest nonprofit social services agencies in California, taking the time to find a good match between a child and a family and securing a loving home is a top priority.

"The need for families willing and able to provide safe, nurturing homes for children and teens has never been more acute," said Vernon Brown, CEO of Aspiranet. "Foster care is a heroic commitment and the foster parents and families in Aspiranet's network are providing victories for children every day."

Every child has the potential to do great things with their life, but for some children whose families are unable to care for them Aspiranet offers hope for a better tomorrow, helping a child become a hero, not another statistic.

Aspiranet, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity, supports foster children, siblings, families, and the community with 35 core programs offering specialized services through 44 satellite centers within California. Founded more than 30 years ago as a six-bed group home for young boys in Moss Beach, Calif., Aspiranet is one of the most diverse nonprofit social services agencies in the state.

To inquire about becoming a foster family, visit <http://www.aspiranetheroes.org>.

The Lighter Breeze

Shoe



Baby Blues



Beagle Bailey



Zits



Grin and Bear It



"May I say who's disturbing him?"

The Better Half



"Is it really too much trouble to stand up and kiss me?!?"

Solutions on page 13

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Feathery neckpiece
- 4 Small ammunition
- 7 Rope
- 11 Felonious flights
- 13 A billion years
- 14 Do as you're told
- 15 Buckeye State
- 16 Excessively
- 17 Not pre-recorded
- 18 They get in the whey
- 20 Aspic creation
- 22 Intention
- 24 South American prairies
- 28 Santa's runway
- 32 Woo
- 33 Loosen
- 34 Satchel
- 36 Incite
- 37 Corpulent
- 39 On the — (discreetly)
- 41 Shredded
- 43 Diamond stick?
- 44 Squad
- 46 Carries on
- 50 Greek vowel
- 53 Dog's hand
- 55 Enjoying

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
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50	51	52				53		54		55		
56						57				58		
59						60					61	

- 7 greatly
- 8 Kimono
- 9 Gun the engine
- 10 Decorate Easter eggs
- 12 Malt-shop setup
- 19 Perch
- 21 Varnish ingredient
- 23 Unruly group
- 25 Knitting stitch
- 26 Jason's ship
- 27 Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
- 28 Oxidation result
- 29 Aware of
- 30 Stench
- 31 Cushion
- 35 Sailor
- 38 Calendar abbr.
- 40 Series of skirmishes
- 42 Pontifical
- 45 Creche trio
- 47 Rodents do it
- 48 Sicilian volcano
- 49 Any time now
- 50 Mamie's man
- 51 Lubricate
- 52 Pair
- 54 Marry

DOWN

- 1 United nations
- 2 Hawaiian island
- 3 Eastern potato
- 4 Wager
- 5 Prosperous period
- 6 Pry

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A plan you've kept on hold for a long time finally could be greenlighted. But in typical Aries form, you'll need to be sure that everything is in place before you hit the "start" button.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Others might urge you to act more quickly on your ideas. But you'd be wise to follow your Bovine instincts and get more facts to bolster your position when you finally present it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might be tempted to accept the well-meaning offer of a friend to act as an intermediary in a dispute. But you know best what it's about, and you can handle the challenge. Good luck.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Entertainment can play an important role this week. Enjoy some well-earned diversion with people you care about. Something especially wonderful might come from this well-spent time.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Catnaps and playtime are in order for Leos and Leonas who need to take some time off from their hectic schedules to restore their energies and rebuild their mental muscles. Have fun.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Virgos will need to keep an open mind this week about choices that seem improbable. A closer study might well reveal possibilities that might

have been overlooked. Stay with it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A disappointing outcome of a well-intentioned effort should be seen as a lesson in how to do it right the next time. Note all your changes and have your new plan set up by week's end.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Travel plans might need readjusting because of changes in the costs previously agreed to. Deal with the problem as quickly as possible to minimize any delays that might result.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your honest approach to an unsettling experience draws admiration from others. Use their positive feedback to build support for your program to introduce needed changes.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Travel is strong in your aspect this week, and so is nostalgia! You might want to consider planning a trip to a place that holds some very special meaning for you. Bon voyage.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A job-related situation could provide an opportunity you hadn't considered before. Look it over carefully and see where and how you can tailor it to fit your needs.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Showing strength as well as sympathy helps you deal with a difficult personal matter. It also helps you set an example for others when it's their turn to get involved in the situation.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of making people feel comfortable without losing one whit of your own dignity in the process.

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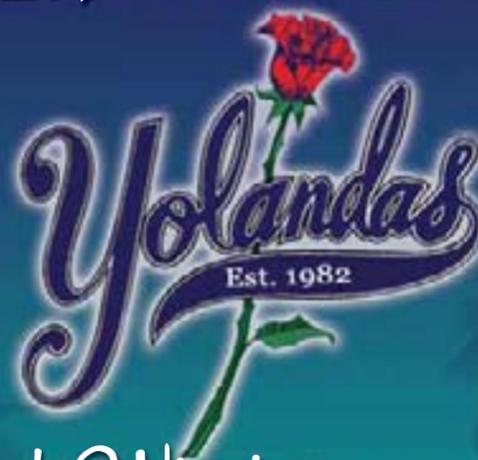
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Sports



Playing golf at Olivas Links is like playing in a wonderful local park

Olivas Links honored again

For the second year in a row, Olivas Links, a golf course owned by the City of Ventura, was nationally recognized on Golfweek's list of the "Best Municipal Courses in the Nation." The national publication ranked Olivas Links as No. 30 on its list.

"The Golfweek ranking reflects the dedication of the professional staff who oversee daily operations at Olivas Links," said Eric Burton, City of Ventura Community Services Manager. "It also reaffirms our belief that Ventura is a premier seaside golf destination for travelers and residents alike."

Originally designed by William F. Bell and redesigned by Forrest Richardson, the 6,818-yard Olivas Links features a rolling links-style layout defined by seaside grasses and natural habitat and is one of Southland's most unique and challenging courses. Olivas Links also features a large practice facility and has been rated a Top Municipal Course by Golfweek Magazine in 2009, was named "Best Places to Play" by Golf Digest and "Best New Courses 2008" by Golfweek

Magazine.

Olivas Links is alongside other Kemper Sports-managed municipal facilities including Butterfield Golf Trail and Chambers Bay. For more information on Olivas Links, please visit www.olivaslinks.com.

International Surf Weekend

The Ventura Chapter of Surfrider Foundation will be celebrating International Surf Weekend with a variety of events. On Saturday, June 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. a soft top surf contest will take place at C Street. Entry fee is \$5 for adults, kids under 16 surf free. A beach barbeque will follow from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at Foam Fins Fiberglass on 291 E. Thompson Blvd. On Sunday, June 20 a beach clean-up event will take place from 8 to 10 a.m. beginning on the beach promenade near the pedestrian round-about. For more information call 648-FOAM.

Health

CMH events

Hospital launches StrokeAware

Community Memorial Hospital announced the launch of StrokeAware, a risk assessment to help individuals determine if they have or are at risk for stroke.

The free screenings take place Fridays, from 11am to 1pm in the StrokeAware office across the street from the hospital at 168 N. Brent St. on the third floor. No appointment is necessary; walk-ins are welcomed.

A stroke or "brain attack" occurs when a blood clot blocks an artery (a blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the body) or a blood vessel (a tube through which the blood moves through the body) breaks, interrupting blood flow to an area of the brain. When either of these things happens, brain cells begin to die and brain damage occurs.

"StrokeAware can help us effectively identify people with risk symptoms for stroke," said Adam Thunell, CMHS's chief operating officer. "We have a responsibility to not only care for our community but to raise awareness of health risks through education and prevention. We feel StrokeAware can do just that."

For more information on StrokeAware, call 667-2818.

Caregiver workshop

The Wellness Community Valley/Ventura and the Community Memorial Hospital Cancer Resource Center invite cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers to a free workshop entitled "Care for the Caregiver" with Reverend Molly Rockey. The program will take place Tuesday, June 29

from 6-7:30 p.m. at the CMHS Cancer Resource Center, located inside the Center for Family Health, 120 North Ashwood Ave. To RSVP please call 652-5459.

This workshop will cover the five important ways cancer caregivers can keep themselves healthy and in balance, and in doing so take better care of their loved ones. Rev. Rockey is an ordained minister and the Spiritual Leader of Unity of the Oaks church in Thousand Oaks. As Patient Services Director of The ALS Association, Greater LA Chapter she created inspirational programs for caregivers, patients and healthcare professionals. She has been the caregiver for her husband Ed Rockey who is a two-time cancer survivor. She will share the tools that helped her in the most difficult of times.

Tenderlife fundraisers

Tenderlife Maternity Home and Women's Shelter will be hosting a benefit bingo at the Knight's of Columbus Hall located at 36 Figueroa Street, on Thursday evening June 24 to benefit the homeless, pregnant women and babies at their center. The doors will open at 6pm and the Early Birds start at 6:30 pm. Free coffee and homemade goodies will be served. A raffle and silent auction items will round out the evening of fun.

Also a Quilt Art Show will be held on Saturday, June 19 from 11am - 2pm at Our Lady of Assumption Hall located at 3169 Telegraph Rd. Quilts by Ardelle Faue, lovingly stitched in the Amish styling, will be available for viewing and purchase. All proceeds will benefit the programs and services provided to Tenderlife Maternity Home and Women's Shelter in Ventura. Homemade goodies will be available for sale and an array of raffle items will be presented. The community is invited to join in this fun event.

For more information about these events please call 653-7474 or visit the Tenderlife website at www.tenderlife.org.

Religion



Rev. Luther McCurtis is shown accepting a check for \$500 from Dr. Maria Denney to help pay off his church's mortgage

A little church with a big vision on the Avenue

There is a church on the east coast that has thousands of members, nationwide television coverage and a large budget. It is known as "a church without walls". Right here in Ventura we have a little church with a big vision, Total Life Christian Center. They consider themselves as "a church without borders".

They have been on the cutting edge of helping the hurting and needy here in our community for more than four decades. They have even extended their

helping hands in the Mississippi Delta, Honduras, Jamaica, Brazil and Africa.

From a small amount of money, one hundred dollars, Rev. McCurtis signed a contract in 1963 to purchase an old two-story house that was the worst eye sore on Ventura Avenue. The purpose of this old building was to build a Christian center that would minister to the total need of human beings, spiritually, physically and mentally.

He came to Ventura with his wife and five little children. Little by little, with prayer, perseverance and bull dog tenacity, he started this center with less than 25 people. The building and property is now estimated to be worth a little under a million dollars, with only \$43,000 remaining to be paid off.

Would you kindly consider being one of 100 people that they hope will make a generous tax-deductible contribution of up to five hundred dollars, so that they can wipe out their mortgage this year? If you would like to help please contact the Total Life Christian Center, located at 660 N. Ventura Ave. at 648-5868.

His friend, Dr. Maria Denney, who comes from Santa Barbara and now teaches in a college in Gainsville, Florida has agreed to be the Grand Marshall for this campaign in memory of her mother and has donated the first \$500.00 towards paying off the mortgage.

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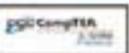
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