

FREE



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Sandra Laby knew that she must perform well in front of her infant grandchildren

72-year-old Sandra Laby crowned Queen of Oxnard Salsa Festival

Even though she knew she would not be spending her 50th wedding anniversary with her husband and 2-month-old twin grandchildren, Ventura Music Festival (VMF) Board Member, Sandra Laby, wanted to compete in the 2010 Oxnard Salsa Festival's Dancing with Our Community Stars (DWOCS) competition on July 25.

Laby's top priority was to raise funds for the VMF's "Music in the Schools" educational outreach programs. Laby was one of six community members that were paired with professional salsa dance instructors for the annual competition. The couples, each dancing for a different charitable organization, were given six short weeks to learn their routines before then competing in front of a panel.

As she walked onto the dance floor and faced over 7,500 people, Laby was surprised and excited to see her infant grandchildren in the audience. Her son surprised the new grandmother by bringing the babies to be a part of the contest. "Wow," Laby said, "Now, I have to really win."

Paired with the youngest DWOCS instructor, Ricky Campos, Laby's flawless performance won over the judges.

Founded in 1994, the Ventura Music Festival presents world renowned classical, jazz, and crossover musicians in various venues throughout Ventura and surrounding areas. Most of the venues have historical significance and provide warm and intimate settings for the world-class musical performances. Today, the festival stands as one of Ventura County's signature events, attracting upwards of 10,000 concert-goers during the first 10 days of May.



Piece of Ventura history burns to the ground

by Rebecca Wicks

Earlier this month the fabled E.P. Foster house was completely destroyed by fire ending an ongoing discussion on what should be done with the historic house which once belonged to one of, if not the most prominent, philanthropic family the city has seen.

Five fire engines and more than two dozen firefighters worked on the August 3 early morning blaze on the 2700 block of N. Ventura Ave. They were unable to save the vacant two-story house. According to an official fire report "the building was a total loss." The cause of the fire is unknown and an investigation of the fire is currently underway.

The house, along with the land which also includes the old Avenue School is owned by the Ventura Unified School District. It was gifted to the school district by Orpha "Pearlie" W. Foster, the daughter of the well-known Eugene Preston Foster and Orpha Foster who funded a number of public entities including the county's first parks including Camp Comfort, Eugene C. Foster Memorial Park and Seaside Park now home to the fairgrounds. The Fosters also gave money for the construction of a city library, City Hall as well as Community Memorial Hospital then named Hospital de Buenaventura.

A number of preservationists have been pushing to restore the home. Most recently the Foster Legacy Foundation had begun to seek non-profit status in hopes to start serious discussions with

the school district about purchasing and obtaining rights to the house for restoration.

According to Joe Richards, the school district's assistant superintendent of business services, the property sits on the group's surplus land list.

"Currently, there is no plan for the land and it isn't on any specific agenda," said Richards. "Right now we're waiting to hear back from the fire department to see what clean up will entail."

Richards explained at one time the school district looked at possibly reopen-

ing the Avenue School but learned it would not be possible due to state regulations limiting how close schools can be to gas lines which happen to run adjacent to the property.

Richards confirmed initial discussions had taken place between the school district and members of the Foster family but stressed that no explicit actions or agreements had taken place.

"We have been in a holding pattern," said Richards who stated the school district had done nothing to market or try to

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Which one of these "early birds" raced to the gates to claim to hold the honor of being the first one into the Ventura County Fair? Will we ever really know?



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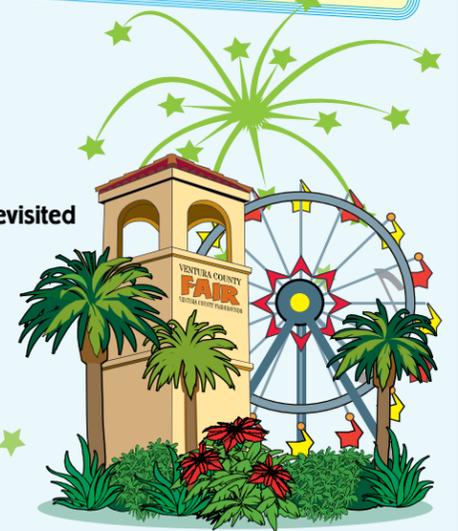
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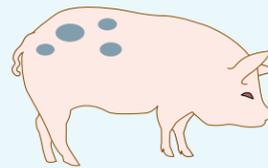
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Thanks to the Sponsors of the 2010 Ventura County Fair, including...



Katie Wicks enters the midway on opening day at the Ventura County Fair with friends Dylann Breton, Hayley Harris and Olivia Mowad

From the land of fried and frozen food

by Rebecca Wicks

My four-year old went to the fair for the first time two years ago. She has been a ride junkie ever since. Last summer she proclaimed she was going to get married at the fair. This year, armed with our pre-purchased ride tickets we headed out to the fair on opening day - because that is what serious fair goers like ourselves do.

We met some friends because while rides are fun, rides with other giggling four-year old girls are just that much more exciting. The girls rode cars, airplanes, helicopters, boats, swings...you get the idea. We snacked on cotton candy and ice cream. We saw animals. We perused exhibits. All in all, the fair did not disappoint.

Here are some of the highlights - in order - according to my four-year old.

The caterpillar ride was good, but not as fast and missing what she thought should have been a bigger drop than she

would have liked.

She was ecstatic to learn she was 42 inches (measured officially by the auspicious carnie manning the carousel) clearing her for solo non-adult accompanied missions on rides.

She won a panda bear playing a water gun game which she promptly named Pandy.

Getting ice cream with mommy. How much did I love that I made the list? The four-day old baby pigs. "Mama, were they born for the fair?"

Now, from a mommy's perspective here are some highlights and observations.

Fair food is a beast of its own. With no place on the U.S.D.A.'s food pyramid, virtually everything at the fair is fried, frozen, yellow or contains more than your daily allowance of sugar. You know it's bad when the fair Website actually recommends you bring antacids. By the way, fried Twinkies are so yesterday. Go for chocolate dipped bacon instead.

All fair rides are designed to make you dizzy and nauseous. They all spin. Some spin in a straightforward manner, for example the carousel, while others are more like poorly weighted tops spinning awkwardly from one side to the other.

Carnies are as aggressive as ever. My favorite was the gal trying to convince me that giving my four-year old darts to throw wasn't going to end poorly.

If you love rabbits, pigs or cows the fair is the place to go. In their respective areas for example you will see rabbit after rabbit after rabbit in numbers upwards of 100.

No one was happier than me when the carnie measured my daughter at 42 inches. That spinning dragon ride looked like bad news to me.

Lastly, here are some tips for a speed-

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300 pounds of love on display at the Fair

Good times and fond memories flood the 2010 Ventura County Fair. For one local resident, this year's fair is a tribute to his mom.

For 40 years, Tony and his Mom, Louise Swartz, have watched a small fern grow to be 300 pounds hanging in the shade of Louise's avocado tree in Port Hueneme. Louise kept saying she was going to enter the fern in the Ventura County Fair, but never got around to it. Louise died a year and a half ago.

This month, Tony Swartz untangled the Multiple Shield Staghorn Fern from the ropes and wires that has bound it to the avocado tree for four decades and hauled it to the Ventura County Fair to enter it in the Floriculture department. He has entered it in memory of his mother.

The fern is on display throughout the 2010 Fair. Go see this enormous plant dangling like a piñata in the Floriculture!

Junior livestock auction

The smell of BBQ fills the air and the rattle of the auctioneer echoes through the Clark Pavilion. Kids in white uniforms wait anxiously with their steers, goats, sheep, and pigs, decorated with Hawaiian leis and brightly colored ribbons. The Junior Livestock Auction is about to begin!

The 2010 Junior Livestock Auction takes place on August 13, beginning at 9 am in the Clark Pavilion. Youth ages 9 to 18, from all over the county will be selling their animals in hopes of making a profit.

All year, these young people take care of their animals: feeding, washing, and walking them regularly to get them ready for the fair in August. 4-H, Grange, and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members track expenses from their animals throughout the year and then subtract those from the auction proceeds to determine the profit. Many then deposit the profit into a college savings account for later use.

Without a doubt many of our Ventura County youth have been able to attend college due to the support of the local community. Being part of such programs has allowed them to learn the importance of hard work and persistence, as well as how to manage money.

The excitement spreads to all who attend, so stop by and witness the fun. Walk in to the sound of the auctioneer up in the announcer stand and pig canes banging against the metal corral as bid placards fly up in the air. Then step through the sawdust to find a seat and you'll be offered samples of meat from a silver platter. A large screen will display the buyers and prices of the last several animals sold and loud cheering will commence each time a participant brings

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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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

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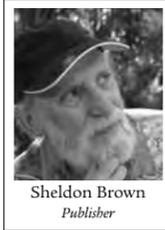
The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

Correction

In our July 28 issue we had an article about the tragic death of Katie Lively in a fatal traffic accident at the intersection of Johnson Drive and Northbank Drive.

We said that the date of this accident was July 7, it was on July 17. We apologize for this error.

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

♣ There are several building projects that are in the pipeline going through city approvals that might interest you (and maybe not).

A 78,000 square foot Winco Market to be located in the Riviera Shopping Center located at 4750 Telephone (I'm not familiar with the market chain but they have a whole bunch)

63 hotel rooms to be added at the Holiday Inn Express next to the harbor.

A 4,300 square feet, free-standing Chick-Fil-A restaurant at Valentine and Eastman.

♣ Ventura will retain control of the shuttered H.P. Wright Library building for the foreseeable future but there are still no plans to reopen the library. The Wright Library closed in November of last year because of budget problems.

Even though the city still owns the building on Day Road, it sits on Ventura College property and the city has a \$1.00 per year property lease that expires in 2015.

The college wants to use the building for its purposes and believes that it has the right to take back ownership if it's not being used as a public library per the original lease agreement.

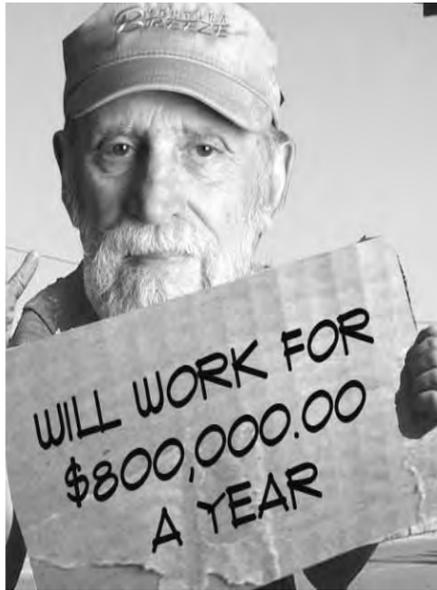
In a recent legal opinion, Ventura City Attorney Ariel Calonne stated that the city doesn't have to give up ownership as long as it only temporarily suspends library use. I'm certainly not sure if this is a "temporary suspension".

♣ As I'm sure you know, the City of Bell has been paying most city officials absolutely outrageous and immoral salaries ranging from the chief administrative officer's \$800,000, police chief's \$457,000,

and many others' \$300,000 to \$400,000 per year for this city of \$37,000 middle income workers.

Residents of Bell are so uninformed that even a current member of the city council making \$8,000 per year was shocked to find out that the other council members are making \$100,000 for their part-time jobs.

Finally the LA Times has published articles regarding this, and finally Bellurans are outraged and doing something about it (about time, I would say).



The Bell City Council has voted to reduce their salaries by 90%; even with this they will still be making more than our city council members.

The more I read of this the more I appreciate our gadflies (someone continuously annoying another person or organization, usually by criticizing them), even if they occasionally make up

their own numbers and information and criticize the city council based upon false information, often in an extremely rude and boisterous manner.

But even if some (certainly not all) of their criticism is unwarranted, it does keep the council on their toes knowing that they will be challenged often; and it makes other Venturans pay close attention to what is going on that they might not otherwise really care at all about.

City council member Neal Andrews has an article in this issue regarding this subject. Because two Bell employees worked for Ventura many years ago their high salaries at Bell will impact our portion of their retirement in a very negative way, so this is also our problem.

City retirement is based partially upon the highest salary an employee earned in other cities where they worked, so our portion would be higher than if they had stayed here.

I did ask Mayor Bill Fulton to write an article for the Breeze: "How does the Bell problem impact Ventura and why couldn't this happen here?" He told me that he would think about it, but I am still waiting; perhaps in our next issue.

♣ One night recently the lowest temperatures in California were: Ventura 49, Big Bear Lake 48, Mammoth 46, Lake Tahoe 35, and in Ojai 49; so every one here was complaining "When is summer going to arrive, I hate this cold weather?"

The next day the high in Ventura was 67 and in Ojai it was 97, so quit complaining and enjoy our wonderful weather. The summer will arrive soon enough and then you can complain that "this 80 degrees is killing me".

♣ I hope that you have, or are planning to, attend the Fair

Mailbox

Hi Sheldon:

Just wanted to share compliments about your publication. I was at water aerobics class yesterday at the Ventura Community Pool. The instructor mentioned an upcoming article that was going to be published in the Breeze. Three of the ladies next to me in the water commented..."Oh, I really enjoy reading the Breeze." "They have a lot more local news." "I never miss an issue."

So keep up the good work. You are making a difference.

Regards,
Marianne Coffey

Mr. Brown:

I just received a printed copy of the July 14 - 27, 2010 issue of your newspaper.

I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for publishing my recent rail safety letter.

Perhaps it will have a positive impact on our communities. I am grateful.

Sincerely,
Arthur James "A.J." Farrar, M.S.
AJF & Associates

Breeze:

Thanks are in order for your reporter, Nanci Cone. Not only did she do a very respectful interview with me, Ventura's Resident Lyme Disease Coach, National Lecturer, Published Writer and Documentarian for the Advocacy & Education of Lyme-Related Issues, but, Ms Cone really listened carefully to accurately record the facts, the problem at hand with rising tick-borne illnesses, lack of proper testing, and an in depth explanation of the Hyperbaric Medicine, that should be

an automatic adjunct to anyone's Lyme-Literate Protocol...

And that we have Mike Bittner's Hyperbaric O2 Clinic right here in Ventura in the Chamber of Commerce Bldg, these past few yrs! (I moved here from Hwd to live by his HBOT clinic, which has saved my "Lyme-Life"!

Your article also announced the very first Lyme Disease Group in Ventura, (LymeDiseaseCoach@gmail.com) which was held on 7-21, at the very first hyperbaric oxygen therapy center in Ventura!(HCOCinc.com) KUDOS!

Peace
Annie (Gaby) Gabriel, CHt, LLHC

Dear Editor,

I was astounded at the recent rejection of Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy's proposal to the Board of Supervisors to put the issue of public employee pensions to a vote of the people. It wasn't so much the fact that the other four Supervisors (Steve Bennett, Linda Parks, Kathy Long, and John Zaragoza) opposed this idea (that wasn't much of a surprise at all). What irked me was the way in which they castigated Supervisor Foy for even bringing the issue forward. Supervisor Bennett even went as far as doing a Power Point presentation detailing all the reasons he was adamantly opposed to pension reform and the other three chimed in in full agreement afterward.

What this says to the public is that we

Supervisors could care less about providing some accountability and control over runaway public employee pensions to protect the taxpayers, but would rather continue to pander to the public employee unions that we are all beholden to and have sworn our allegiance to. This is an absolute abomination and I certainly hope the voters remember this when these four are up for reelection. One thing is abundantly clear to me -- we have four elected Supervisors who do not feel it is in their job description to look out for the taxpayers by adhering to any form of fiscal responsibility whatsoever. Instead, they feel it is more important to cater to the employee unions that continue to provide financial and moral support for their reelections year after year.

The ones who get left out of the equation here, of course, are the taxpayers. What a shame.

Mike Gibson
Ventura

Dear Jim and Shirley,

You make an old lady happy!

I thank you with all my heart for the kind mention of CMT and Larry and me. I have been rather shocked how we had been ignored after we worked so hard. Thank you so much.

Larry passed away many years ago at the age of 46. I still miss him. He was

Continued on page 5

Thus to be independent of public opinion is the first formal condition of achieving anything great.

– G.W.F. Hegel

City News

Could we become another Bell?

by Neal Andrews
City Council member

The travesty in the City of Bell with respect to the salaries of public officials underscores the error of “leaders” who argue that public agencies must offer pay equal to other cities to stay “competitive.” Such a policy inevitably means that we become the captives of the weakest, stupidest, most incompetent or corrupt public officials in neighboring communities.

While no one is likely to argue that the salaries paid in Bell had any rational basis, the fact is that unreasonable salaries and benefit arrangements are commonplace in the public sector. Public employee unions naturally press politicians everywhere for better pay and benefits. That’s their job. Sooner or later they find politicians desperate to have the unions’ money at election time. That’s what happened with Governor Gray Davis who caved in to the California Highway Patrol and the California prison guards, and in doing so set an outrageous standard for compensation that police unions all across the State used to jack up their pay and pension benefits, all in the name of the phony need to remain “competitive”.

No one is suggesting that our public employees should not be paid reasonably. Quite the contrary, we should pay well based on merit for good employees, but our elected officials also have a duty to the taxpayer to assure that what we pay is consistent with the labor market.

Clearly the public sector needs to change its compensation systems. When only six firefighters in the entire Fire De-

partment made less than \$100,000 last year, the public says we have a problem. When a patrol officer in the Police Department who barely performs well enough not to be fired can retire at fifty years of age with a pension in excess of \$70,000 per year for the rest of his life, a pension that costs the taxpayer at least \$1,200,000, the public says we have a problem. The public is correct!

Local politicians who insist on the myth, as in Bell, that our public agencies will just fall apart if we don’t pay “competitive” salaries and benefits may have to learn the hard way! That’s up to the voters.

In the meantime, we need to change the entire public sector compensation model. We need to align it to the labor market. We need to emphasize performance and accountability and promote merit based pay, not simply longevity-based pay. And we need to radically reform pensions. Police Chief Randy Adams’ brief time in Bell, under the current Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) rules, could cost the taxpayers of Ventura as much as \$120,000 a year over and above the \$100,000 or so per year they were already obligated to pay, and they will do so every year for the rest of his life. We need a defined contribution plan, not a PERS plan, so that our obligations are fixed and known. We need to make sure we cannot be jacked around ever again by politicians in some other community making stupid, greedy decisions.

expect to see after the fee is enacted.

In July 2009, water and wastewater treatment bills saw a seven percent increase. This, combined with the lingering economic downturn, seems like a lot for a number of residents.

“I just feel as if we’re being whittled away at these days,” said Katherine Gross of Ventura. “Our parks aren’t as clean, our roads not as nice, and we’re about to pay more? It just doesn’t seem right.”

The exact fees have not been settled. Officially the fees would be levied in order to “recover unbudgeted expenses” and would work like the existing garbage fee customers now pay to make up the difference in area landfill cost increases.

An official recommended fee structure will be presented to the City Council in September.

Calkins, along with others, has repeatedly warned that additional cost increases for water are all but inherent as water becomes a more prized commodity in the future.

Currently Ventura’s water is supplied via wells, Lake Casitas and the Ventura River. It is one of only a handful of cities that does not rely on State Water Project deliveries. The city actually pays \$1 million each year in order to keep the rights to the state water. Tapping into the state water would mean additional costs to the city in order to connect to it.

All bridges that need to be crossed when it comes to Ventura’s water involve further expenditures for the city.

Over the last 15 years Ventura has spent approximately \$127 million in upgrades to its water and sewage infrastructure.

Separately, state water officials are working to stop the city from putting out more than 9 million gallons of processed sewage water or effluent on a daily basis. Regulators want to see the water reused instead for watering fields, parks and golf courses.

Moving this plant could cost the city hundreds of millions of dollars.

Olivas Adobe docents given city award

The Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters (OAH) received the Volunteer Ventura Community Collaborator award for July, as presented monthly by the Ventura City Council to local individuals and groups who volunteer their time and talents for the benefit of the City.

The award was presented to OAH at the City Council meeting on July 12 by Mayor Bill Fulton.

The Community Collaborator award recognizes groups for their participation in or creation of volunteer projects that directly benefit the City of Ventura and its residents, said Fulton as he presented the framed document.

You can be part of this “history with a future” by training as a docent for the all-volunteer Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters. Call to schedule an interview at 658-4728 or send an e-mail to mail@olivasadobe.org) prior to September 12. After the interview prospective docents will be scheduled for the next short and fun docent training activities—just two Sundays, September 12 & 19, from 1 to 3 pm, at the Olivas Adobe.

Mailbox

Continued from page 4

a musical genius conducting our big orchestras.

I celebrated my 86 birthday on June 1st. I am mostly remembered, if at all, for my ballet, but very seldom for directing all the shows. I live in Ventura...for 18 some years and loving it.

I am happy when I read about the good work CMT does, through I have not seen any of the shows.

Thank you one more time, Jim and Shirley!
Fondly,
Mara Lysova
Breeze

The writer is a co-founder of the Cabrillo Music Theatre, which was created 40 years ago. Her letter refers to historical observations made by our theatre critics, Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine, which appeared in their July 28, 2010 review of the CMT’s production of “Cinderella.”

Breeze:

I reviewed the news article about the museum, saw the photos, and admired your involvement and your story.

You did a great thing and you are blessed.

Proud to be your neighbor and fellow WAVr.
Congratulations.
Saint Pierre

Attn: Mr. Doug Magnum
Dear Mr. Magnum:

I enjoyed your picture of the Two

Trees. A point of interest to you on the subject.

When I was 13 or 14 I rode a horse with the then owner of all of those hills from Sexton Canyon to Hall Canyon, Mr. Walter R. Sexton. He was a long time friend of my grandfather. We were in route from Sexton Canyon to Hall Canyon and stopped to rest the horses under those trees. At that time there were five. Mr. Sexton told me in passing that he had been about my age when he had helped his father plant the five trees. Vandals subsequently cut down three of the trees. Some good citizens Replaced the three trees and they were promptly destroyed again, never to be re-planted.

Sincerely,
R. D. Willis-Ventura

Breeze:

Doug’s photo appeared on the Breeze cover on July 14

Ventura history burns

Continued from page 1

sell the property.

The foundation saw the house as a potential event center similar to the Camarillo Ranch where high-end weddings, wine tastings and conferences are held.

“We are devastated over the loss of the house,” said Phil Ranger representing the foundation. “So much time and effort has gone into formulating the best method to raise the necessary funds.”

Ranger is still optimistic when it comes to the property and hopes the school district will hold onto the land while the foundation becomes a legitimate non-profit organization. He and his group still see using the property for something that “blends advancement in both education and philanthropic endeavors.”

“It could still become a shining light on the west side of Ventura,” said Ranger.

Many are more than disappointed with the loss of the 130-year old house and place blame squarely on negligence by the school district.

“This is unforgivable,” said Sarah Calvin, an artist and descendent of the Foster family who believes the school district were poor stewards of the home. “The Foster family was so generous to the community and the receivers just didn’t appreciate it.”

Calvin who created the website Fragile Sands which highlighted the E.P. Foster home along with other historically significant structures in Ventura is afraid apathy for our history is growing.

“The Fosters were the most generous philanthropists in Ventura County,” said Calvin. “For people like that to be forgotten is more than a tragedy.”

Junior livestock auction

Continued from page 3

their animal into the ring. After circling the ring a few times and becoming more excited as each bid comes in, the participants will sell their animals and exit to have their picture taken with the new owner.

Be part of this fun event and incredible opportunity for our Ventura County youth. You can register to be a buyer at the fairgrounds administration office or at the auction. Then enjoy a day of excitement, bid on animals, and have a delicious lunch before taking off for the rest of the fair!

Venturans can expect water fee spike

City officials announced last month water is likely to get more costly for Venturans due to a number of factors including costs related to complying with new regulations and higher expenses for pumping.

The new fee which will be added onto customer bills is being labeled a “pass-through” fee. In a July City Council meeting the group approved the concept and asked the staff to conduct further research into a “pass-through” charge to customers.

According to City Public Works Director Ron Calkins, the basis for the additional fee is two-fold. First, what the city pays for groundwater has ballooned from \$340,000 to more than \$740,000 in only five years. This large increase was not figured into the city’s already difficult budget.

The second reason for the added fee is due to expenses the city will need to incur in order to stay in compliance with a number of new environmental regulations. New ordinances define specifics for how the city obtains its water, as well as how it dispenses of water from its treatment plant. All of these potential ordinance changes add costs to the city’s operations.

The city’s water and sewage operations use funds separate from the city’s general operating budget. This means rate-payers must pick up the difference in cost.

A ten percent increase is Calkins’ initial estimate of what customers can



News and Notes



Proposed Harbor project being explained by Oscar Pena and Michael Sondermann

Harbor Master claims construction site is "area of liquefaction"

by Sheli Ellsworth

The Ventura Harbor Community Council hosted Michael Sondermann of Sondermann Ring Partners on July 22 to answer questions regarding the proposed Sondermann-Ring project. According to Sondermann, the 300-unit apartment and 21,300 square foot retail complex on Anchors Way Drive was approved by the City of Ventura in 2007 and the project is waiting on final approval from the California Coastal Commission. Diana Christenson of the Coastal Commission reported to the Breeze on August 3, that the project managers and the City of Ventura are still making revisions and the final approval will not be on the Coastal Commission Agenda until 2011 at the earliest.

Many residents from the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park, across from the proposed site, were present at the meeting. Concerns ranged from increased traffic flow, parking, and emergency vehicle access. Sondermann has pledged \$3.25 million toward the funding of a new fire station in the area. Several residents had questions about the site's geographic stability. Oscar Pena, General Manager of the Ventura Port District answered the question saying, "The whole area is a liquefaction area. We should be worrying about being hit by tsunami more than an earthquake."

Sondermann-Ring's acquisition of the harbor property is based on a long-term lease. The apartments, retail stores and boat slips will be managed by Sondermann-Ring who claims to currently own over 8,000 units in California. The units will lease for \$1200-\$3000 based on today's market and range from 600

sq. ft. to 1500 sq. feet. Twenty-seven of the units are to be designated as affordable housing.

The project proposal is a five-block plan that will contain one, two and three story buildings. Resident parking is to be self-contained covered spaces. Two additional parking structures designed with boater facilities and restrooms are planned. Street parking will be available as well as four 20-unit bicycle parking buildings. "The street parking will make the streets narrow, but that's designed to slow the traffic flow," Sondermann says.

The project aimed at younger, adult residents in the 25-35 age demographic, will also have a lap pool, volleyball court, tennis courts and pet park, as well as a recreational facility. The 2.5 acre park will be open to the public as well as the pedestrian promenade along the waterfront.

Changes to the original 2007 plan have also dragged the approval process out, according to Sondermann. Staff cuts at the CCC have also delayed the project.

"Once building begins, it should be completed in three years," Sondermann said. He is planning to use local construction companies in the development of this "world class waterside community" and will be adding 104 new boat slips to the harbor.

Sondermann-Ring completed a similar project in Marina del Rey in 2008. The Esprit Marina del Rey's 437 units lease for \$2200-\$6000 per month.

Sondermann said, "It was Doug Ring's hope that this project be completed in his lifetime." Unfortunately, Ring was found dead in his home in November 2009.

Potential members are welcome to attend one meeting. If they wish to continue, they must officially join the club. Membership dues are \$45 a year. If interested, contact Shelba Cole Robison at 653-2307.

The Club is also proud to announce the third edition of its biannual anthology, this year's entitled "Windows". The volume will contain 73 pieces that were selected from club members, winners of the various club contests, and other submissions. Included are nineteen short stories, thirty-five poems, two memoirs, and a variety of artwork illustrating specific poems and stories.

"When we first came together as a committee," said Barbara Piszczek, chairwoman of this year's Anthology Committee, "we set a goal that each anthology would be better than the previous one. I'm impressed with the wealth of talent in our community".

A release party is planned for September 28 when many of the authors will be available to sign copies of the book. Advanced orders are available at a discounted price. Contact Barbara Piszczek at bpiszczek@yahoo.com. After its release, the book will be available for purchase through the VCWC website and on Amazon.com.

For more information, visit www.venturacountywriters.com or call Kathleen Kaiser at 524-6970.

Solutions for Ventura's Fire Department

by Bill Knox

Mounting overtime costs, pension liabilities and shrinking revenue sources have resulted in the closing of a fire station and elimination of firefighter positions. Using volunteer firefighters to assist professionals could save the city millions and improve public safety.

Response Times

According to national standards, firefighters should respond to emergencies within five minutes. This is critical because resuscitation from cardiac arrest after five minutes typically results in brain injury or death. Our department fails, on average, to meet the response standard over 60% of the time. With the planned elimination of nine positions, response times will increase by an additional 30%.

Lack of Funds

The fire department's budget is \$14.5 million. The city closed station No. 4 in hopes of reducing costly overtime pay. In 2009, the city paid \$1,700,000, in overtime payments. New employees receive a compensation package in excess of \$85,500. Senior employees cost substantially more. In addition, the city has an unfunded pension obligation of more than \$50,000,000. Taken together, the fire department's budget is stretched to the limit and the city cannot afford to maintain or expand current positions.

Volunteers

The Ventura Police Department uses 44 volunteers to supplement the professional force. If 44 volunteers each donated 48 hours per month to the fire department the city could eliminate overtime and reduce compensation expenses, saving the city nearly \$3 million! If police supplement their professional force, there is no reason that the fire department cannot achieve similar results.

According to FEMA, over 92% of fire departments in the U.S. use volunteer firefighters. California cities such as Chico, Fillmore, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santa Paula, Stockton and Turlock use volunteers to supplement their professional forces. If Ventura



Happy couple ties the knot at Grant Park

Saturday, July 3, was a day that started out like any other. The traffic was rolling by as beach-goers raced to taste the salty waters of the ocean. But a few very lucky individuals had the pleasure of gathering at Grant Park on this day, to partake in the Holy Matrimony of Dennis Jenks and his beautiful bride Claire Lewis.

Guests were able to take in the stunning view of the beaches of Ventura as they looked on at the happy couple exchanging their vows. After the ceremony, guests were able to enjoy amazing food catered by Milanos' restaurant while listening to the folk stylings of J. Peter Boles and friends at the gala reception that would follow.

Both their home and the home of Ken and Adela Trainor would be host to the festivities. Both guests and the bride and groom had a spectacular time. The happy couple has since returned from a honeymoon in Cambria.



Winners of the Women's and Men's Hat Contests at the Ventura Botanical Gardens "Polo, Picnic & Paradise" fundraiser were Peggy Harris, first place in women's contest; Bernie Krakower, second place in men's contest; Grace Brandt, third place in women's contest; Monroe Kaplan, first place in men's contest; Donna Germat, second place in women's contest; and Jacques Bellesiles, third place in men's contest.

News from the Ventura County Writers Club

Two exciting things are happening with the Ventura County Writers Club.

One is a new workshop and critique group for playwrights. Currently, the group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in Ventura to read and critique members' work. However, as the group grows, this schedule is open to change depending on members' schedules.



News and Notes

modeled any of these communities, it would save between \$2.5 and \$3 million annually.

Volunteers, like professionals, must complete mandatory training comparable to beginning professional firefighters. A well trained volunteer force will provide quality applicants from which to pick when the time comes to add additional professionals to our force. By training and utilizing volunteers now, the professional department would have personal knowledge of a person's character and fitness to serve as a member of our honorable and professional force.

The use of volunteers will help alleviate the burden on our professionals and allow them to reduce overtime hours. In addition, creating a volunteer force would provide adequate staffing and help reduce response times to emergency calls. A supplemental volunteer force is the right answer for Ventura.

It is time we gave a much needed hand to our fire department and help them to do what they do best: serve the public interest through ensuring public safety.

Breeze:

Bill Knox has new website where he gives his opinions on items regarding Ventura. He will be contributing articles to the Breeze.

Please visit www.theventuraobserver.blogspot.com to read and find out more.



Suzanne Lawrence at the ArtWalk 1910 Time Traveler performance at Bell Arts in April as part of the Steampunk ArtRide & Fashion Show. Photo by Marie Gregorio-Oviedo

The passing of Suzanne Lawrence

by Moses Mora

The Tortilla Flats and friends community lost a powerful ally when Suzanne Lawrence passed away on Friday, July 30. Suzanne's impact on our efforts is almost immeasurable. When MB Hanrahan and myself took on the Tortilla Flats Mural Project in 1994 we thought we were involved in another art project. Little did we know that we would have to become amateur historians in the process. So little was documented about the original Tortilla Flats neighborhood that we had to do our own research, including the oral history interviews of many of the ex-residents (a process that continues to this day.) We realized right away how rich and rewarding this process was because it

offered us the opportunity to meet some of the best people of Ventura, the elders and families of Tortilla Flats.

It took Suzanne Lawrence to give us the perspective to see and understand the historical significance and value to future researchers and students of history that had been unearthed by our research. Suddenly a real historian was on our side. When Suzanne joined our team she elevated us to new heights as she brought her knowledge and eloquence on the lecture circuit with us to community groups, libraries and colleges. She took our rough diamond and polished it. She started transcribing the interviews, she even organized the information by subject and location. She critiqued and advised us. Soon she was participating in the interviews and brought her own memories of growing up in Ventura to the process and she arranged for us to interview her father, the late L.M. (Manny) Paquette who gave us a most wonderful interview from his perspective as a fireman in Ventura of the last century.

She was active with us to the end, we will miss her greatly as we offer our heartfelt condolences to her family. She also did so much for many other community groups, we are all richer for her life. Memorial services were held on Sunday August 8 at the Ventura County History Museum in downtown Ventura.

Downtown Ventura Partners hires new Executive Director

Downtown Ventura Partners (DVP) has announced that they have hired a new Executive Director, said Dave Armstrong, DVP's chairman.

Kathleen Eriksen, who has over thirteen years of downtown economic development experience will start as the organization's new executive director on Monday, August 16.

According to Armstrong, "Kathleen has the hand-on experience we need in this difficult economy. She's started businesses and had to make a payroll. She's developed housing and multiplied downtown budgets through successful grant writing. We're looking forward to implementing a number of exciting programs in downtown."

Ms. Eriksen will be coming from Battle Creek, Michigan, where she worked as downtown development director for seven years. In addition to many other achievements, Ms. Eriksen was instrumental in developing downtown housing in Battle Creek. Her work garnered numerous awards and grants, including the Merit Award from the American Institute of America and national television coverage on HGTV's Restore America.

Prior to her tenure in Battle Creek, Ms. Eriksen was the executive director for the Downtown Development Authority in Jackson, Michigan.

Ms. Eriksen and her brother successfully owned and operated three restaurants in downtown Jackson for more than 10 years.

Her experience as an owner of several downtown businesses puts her in a unique position to relate to the perspective of independent business owners and more readily respond to their needs.

"Ventura has a special sense of place



Appearing at a recent evening of great music at the WAV were Tim (The Breeze) Pompey presenting a Johnny Cash Tribute. He was accompanied by his lovely wife Jayne, Saint Pierre and Danny Flowers.

Many great shows and movies will be presented at the WAV throughout the year.

and clearly values its unique character, the arts and cultural community, aesthetics, healthy lifestyles and green living. I'm thrilled to be involved with such exciting work and look forward to continuing the momentum created by Downtown Ventura Partners and the city of Ventura."

Land of fried and frozen food

Continued from page 3

ier, thriftier trip to the fair with young children.

Get there early. This seems like common sense, but there are nearly no lines for rides from 11 a.m. to noon.

Don't park in the fairgrounds parking lot. Not only will you save yourself \$10, but the line to get into the parking

lot generally stretches down Harbor to C Street and beyond. If you get there early exit Sanjon Rd. head for downtown and look for street parking near Figueroa, Santa Clara and Juniper Streets. Or, avoid the crowds and park at any of the fairground shuttle sites.

Consider going on Aug. 12 when a ride wristband costs only \$25. With smaller rides averaging \$2.50 each, if you go on more than 10 rides (which a four-year old can do in less than an hour) you'll easily make your money back.

Pack a lunch and beverages. Save your money for treats and rides.

If your kids are old enough, enjoy the fair during the day, get your hand stamped and come back in the evening for fireworks at 10 p.m.

Music Under the Stars

Dance, dine & delight all summer for just 2 Song!

Great concerts at Ventura's most historic party site!

August 14 Ethno & Flamenco Fusion
Presented by Barber Automotive Group

Spanish for "fire", this guitar driven jazz ensemble will light up your feet with propulsive grooves, intoxicating trance vibes and Nuevo Flamenco improvisations that soar on South American, Middle Eastern and East Indian melodies.

August 21 Zydeco
Presented by Andria's Seafood Restaurant

This Grammy©-nominated fiddler and her five-piece Cajun band—our series' most popular act every year—return to infect us with their volcanic "swamp-roots rock" from the bayous of Louisiana full of joyful "get up and dance" Mardi Gras rhythms.

Olivas Adobe, 4200 Olivas Park Drive
Concerts 7:30 - 9:30 pm - All seats \$18
RSVP Options: Table for 4/\$10 & catered hot buffet dinner \$13.50 per person
Tickets at door or call: 805-658-4726



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Community Events

Of, by and for the kids

by James Scolari
jimscolari@yahoo.com

It's been nearly five decades since President Kennedy urged the nation "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," yet in that interval the service ethic has taken root and thrived, as is happily evinced in numerous ways in Ventura. The ethic will be on display nowhere more prominently than Rubicon Theatre Company on Monday night, August 16, when a group of performers step up to give something back to Rubicon in the second annual Kids for Kids benefit concert.

In the frosty economic climate of this age independent theatre has seemed on the endangered species list, with more than ten percent of the nation's private theatre companies closing their doors this year alone.

A standout among the region's most celebrated theatre companies, Rubicon Theatre's educational outreach program is widely acknowledged for their dedicated support in offering performing arts initiatives to Gold Coast youths of all income brackets. The program serves upwards of 250 kids each year, many of whom can only attend with the aid of the theatre's generous scholarship program. This year's benefit, conceived and produced by Rubicon youth alumnae Gabby Trainor, will feature her and other young performers, joined on Rubicon's main stage by Broadway mainstays Teri Bibb, who top-lined Phantom Of the Opera over 1,000 times, and Joan Almedilla of

Miss Saigon and Les Miserables. "Over the years Rubicon has become like my second family," explains Trainor. "I look back on all the ways they have been there for me, and now it's my turn to give back."

"The Rubicon has been a wonderful collaborator with the Ventura Unified School District in promoting the importance of arts in education," adds Trainor's mother, Adela Trainor. "They fill an important niche in providing performing arts education to students whose schools—like my daughter's—simply don't offer it. Without programs like theirs, opportunities for our kids to grow in the performing arts would be nearly nonexistent."

The Kids for Kids benefit concert will be on Monday, August 16 at 8 pm. For ticket information, call the Rubicon Theatre box office at 667-2900, or log on to www.RubiconTheatre.org.

Do these jeans make my booty look big?

It can feel like rocket science - so many shapes of women, so many styles of denim, way too little time. Get back the hours lost in the fitting room; Pacific View's Jeanious Bar invites women to meet with their panel of "Denim Jeanies" to narrow the shopping field with a free, individualized assessment of the best fit for each woman's shape, tips and strategies for how to find a flattering pair and recommendations for which specific brands and styles will be a perfect fit.

Attendees will be given a denim "pre-

Community Events

scription" from each retailer.

Also as part of its Great Denim Days, shoppers are encouraged to donate a gently used denim item throughout the month of August that will be donated to specific men, women and children being served at one of three charities. Project Understanding, Ventura County Rescue Mission and Lighthouse for Women and Children.

Jeanious Bar on August 14 from 1-4pm.

The Great Denim Benefit on August 26 from 6-8pm.

Top acts at the Ventura Hillsides Music Festival

Billboard chart-topping independent rock giants the Gin Blossoms have been announced as the latest musical act to join the stellar lineup of the Ventura Hillsides Music Festival. The Gin Blossoms join multi-Grammy winning artist and headliner Emmylou Harris, and the Glen Phillips/Nickel Creek project WPA for the September 25 benefit event in Ventura's Arroyo Verde Park.

For the 8th year, the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy will present the annual Ventura Hillsides Music Festival in Arroyo Verde Park - this time, on Saturday, September 25.

The Ventura land trust's annual fundraiser has become a popular local celebration of music and conservation that raises funds and awareness for the Conservancy's land conservation and restoration work.

Harris recorded her first album in 1969 and two years later she began touring and recording with Gram Parsons. In the years that followed, Harris blossomed as a solo artist, winning her first Grammy in 1976 for best female country vocal performance.

Tickets are available at Salzer's Records, Great Pacific Iron Works, The Wine Rack, Pete's Breakfast House and Simone's Coffee & Tea in Ventura, and through the Conservancy's website: www.venturahillsides.org.

General admission is \$45. Special \$150 Gold Circle Seating packages are available only online at www.venturahillsides.org. By popular demand, the Conservancy is again offering a Family and Friends Four Pack for \$160, and has added Firestone Walker Six Pack for \$270, and a Party Ten Pack for \$375.

The Ventura Hillsides Conservancy is dedicated to permanently preserving the hillsides, canyons and open space that contribute to the unique character and natural environment of the Ventura region.

Kinetic Sculpture Race returns

An event where engineering and art collide will return this fall for its 13th year in Ventura County. The Kinetic Sculpture Race in Ventura features human-powered vehicles created to run through water, sand, and mud, as well as on the road.

With the race months away, Christy Cantrell, chairwoman of the event, said now is a good time to get started on designs.

"Several months is good for preparation," she said.

The former racer explains that all entries are welcome, from the very basic to the most intricate designs.

It's difficult to construct a vehicle dynamic enough to last on water, sand, and mud, let alone move upon such wishy-washy surfaces. Since many of the contestants don't have the opportunity to fully test their models, some participants find their creation doesn't work during the water run. Cantrell explains, "It's always a compromise, because if it does well on the sand, it may not do well on the water."

Despite the challenges to the racers, the entire event, free to watch, revolves around fun, with many awards given throughout the event. For instance, one of the first recognitions is given to the vehicle that breaks down during the preparation round.

The race will be held on Oct. 23 at the Ventura Harbor on Schooner Drive. Proceeds benefit the Turning Point Foundation, a group that focuses on providing care and services for people with mental illness in Ventura County.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities and vehicle registration, call 652-0000, ext. 102, or visit <http://www.kineticrace.com>.

Ventura events

August 13: Kathleen Good's green short "The Re-Useniks" will be aired on CAPS_TV on Friday @ 8:00pm and on Saturday, August 14 @ 2:30 pm. See schedule at www.cpastv.org

August 13: The **Alchemy Handbell Ensemble** from the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Woodland Hills will present a concert on Friday, at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1338 E. Santa Clara St., 643-8621. A freewill offering will be taken with proceeds benefiting the Handbell choir at First United Methodist Church, Ventura.

August 16: Jill Martinez, of Oxnard, will present a parliamentary lesson titled "Privileged Motions and Questions of Privilege" at the Monday meeting of Zeta Chi. Zeta Chi is a local unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP.) The lesson covers two topics that are frequently confused by those who begin parliamentary study.

The unit meets at 7 p.m. in the Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St. Free parking is available behind the library. Zeta Chi holds regular study meetings at the library on the third Monday evening of each month except December; unit member dues are \$25 per year. For more information, please contact the unit Vice-President Sandra Sanders at 643-5928 or sandy108@pacbell.net

August 18: Program on the **Ventura Marsh Milkvetch Plant** and North Shore Development will be offered by the Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society at the E.P. Foster Library's Topping Room, from 7-9 pm. Mary Carroll, botanist with ARCADIS, will describe her work with this endangered plant: monitoring onsite population and establishing offsite populations. Program is free. For questions, call David Magney, 646-6045

August 21: The **Ventura County Genealogical Society, Inc. (VCGS)** will be holding its 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 the free meeting. For more information call Gwenda at 485-7930.

Community Events

Guest Speaker: Caroline Braxton Rober-How to work with land and probate records together to solve some genealogy brick walls

August 21: The Veterans Home of California - Ventura, will hold their first **community garage sale** on Saturday, from 8 a.m. until noon at 10900 Telephone Road (at Wells Road).

There are three ways to participate! Purchase a selling space (one table) for a \$20 donation to the Veterans Home of California-Ventura and sell your items! Or donate items to the Veterans Home of California - Ventura to be sold by the Veterans Home to raise money for their activities fund. Or just go on over and pick up a bargain! Clothing, small furniture items, craft supplies, knickknacks and other items will be available!

For additional information, please call 659-7506 or 659-7526.

August 21: Sixty miles off Point Mugu lies San Nicolas Island, the most remote of the Channel Islands, and a unique haven for threatened, endangered and protected species. Join marine biologist John Ugoretz on Saturday, at 2p.m., for a presentation at the **Museum of Ventura County** on the state of current wildlife on San Nicolas.

The presentation at the Museum of Ventura County's new Pavilion is \$5 for the general public and free for museum members. For reservations, call 653-0323, x 315. The Museum is located at 100 E. Main St. Go to www.venturamuseum.org for more information.

Today on San Nicolas Island, marine mammals outnumber humans a thousand to one. Around 25,000 California sea lions are born there each year, which amounts to 60% of all sea lion pups born in California. The island's breeding population of northern elephant seals accounts for about 30% of their overall population in California waters.

Ugoretz is responsible for oversight of marine mammal monitoring and marine ecosystem management at San Nicolas Island for the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Point Mugu Sea Range.. **August 23:** The Rotary Club of Ventura South has announced that on August 23 **Marty Robinson**, Chief Executive Officer for the County of Ventura will speak on the state of Ventura County government.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional men and women united worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and build global goodwill.

The Rotary Club of Ventura South meets Monday's at noon at the Wedgewood Banquet and Wedding Center, 5880 Olivas Park Dr. Guests are welcome.

For additional information and directions to the Wedgewood call 647-7612.

Aug. 28: 8a.m. **Traditional kick-off walk** for the Audubon year is at the Ventura Wildlife Ponds. Leader: Art Marshall at 642-1585. Take Harbor Blvd to Spinnaker and enter Ventura Harbor. The Water Treatment Plant is on Angler, a left turn before Spinnaker curves to the right. Turn in & meet inside the gate. More information on Ventura Audubon is available at www.VenturaAudubon.org.

Also a wonderful opportunity to see Ventura's hidden gem, the ponds.

Ojai events

Ojai Film Society presents fundraising films. Sundays, 4:30 pm Ojai Playhouse, 145 E Ojai Ave, Ojai. All Tickets:

\$10 For more information call 646-8946 or visit www.ojaifilmsociety.org

Sunday, August 22 City Island 2009 USA 1 hr., 44 min. Rated PG-13
City Island introduces us to the Rizzos, a boisterous family of four living in the blue-collar seaside spit of Bronx real estate called City Island. The Rizzos don't talk much to each other but when they do the neighbors hear every word..

Sunday, August 29 Solitary Man 2009 USA 1 hr., 30 min. Rated R
Solitary Man is a sharp, small-scale comedy of male misbehavior that turns out to be one of this year's pleasant cinematic surprises.

The Ojai Valley Museum's annual juried art show, **Ojai Celebrates Art III**, is open to artists 18 and older working in any gallery media. The theme is open this year, so enter your best work! Selection for inclusion in the show will be made from prints, slides or CD's mailed to the museum by September 7.

Cash awards will be given for first, second, and third place winners in the amounts of \$300, \$200 and \$100. An awards ceremony will take place on October 16 (Ojai Day), from 4 to 5 p.m.

For questions and additional information call 649-1390 or contact ojaimuseum@sbcglobal.net. Submission instructions and entry form are at <http://www.ojaivalleymuseum.org/>

The **26th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair** is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and **Sunday, August 21 & 22**. Located inside the Chapparal Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave. Parking is free in the adjacent municipal parking lot, and admission is always free.

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

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

Iconic California painter **Richard Rackus** invites you to come on over to Ojai's Café Emporium and see the light, his that is.

It is somehow fitting that the internationally respected artist should have an exhibit in Ojai at a light-filled gathering place, where locals and tourists alike share a leisurely meal, instead of the rarified atmosphere of most galleries.

The plein air landscape artist is one of the last working painters from the heyday of the California Revivalists, and his exhibition at the Emporium should not be missed.

Don't miss a chance to see his work and enjoy a coffee or a meal until **September 14**. The restaurant is open seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., located at 108 S. Montgomery. More information is available at www.ojaicafe.com <http://www.ojaicafe.com> or call 646-2723. Rackus will also be exhibiting his work after September 18 at an upcoming City Gallery exhibition located in Ojai City Hall, 401 S. Ventura St. .

Meditation Mount presents healing music of North India.

An evening concert of Sarod and Tabla. Internationally recognized Pandit Vikash Maharaj and son Prabhash Maharaj. August 14 @ 7:30PM. \$25, or \$20 pre-registered online @ www.meditationmount.org

Vibrant, mesmeric, and sublime, the music of India is Life, Art and Love... Don't miss this extraordinary musical experience!

Meditation Mount, 10340 Reeves Rd. 646-5508 meditationmount.org

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Art Scene



Mark Mollgaard sits in his WĀV apartment among the many variations of his clay sculptures.

WĀV artist interviews: Mark Mollgaard

by Tim Pompey

From dreams and visions to clay transformations, Mark Mollgaard's figures and heads are more than just sculpted ideas. They're images from another realm of human consciousness. "I feel like I'm just the messenger," he says, "who brings these things into reality for others to see."

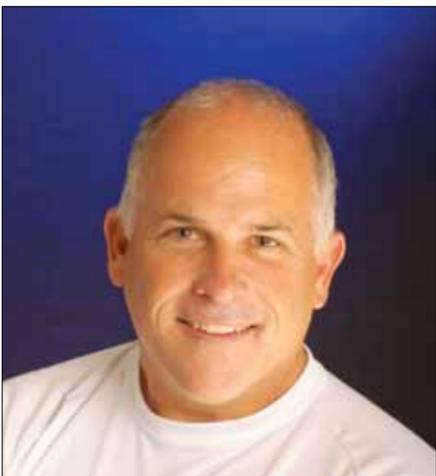
Mollgaard, raised in Long Beach and Carlsbad, became aware of this gift during his senior year in high school. He still has the small sculpture that inspired him. As he describes it: "In my bedroom one night I was doing this sculpture and I realized I could do this. I could envision my whole life in front of me as a successful sculptor."

Not that he immediately became a professional artist. Mollgaard majored in Psychology and Human Development from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and currently works as an educator. However, as

evidenced by the diverse styles and large number of figures in his apartment, his passion for clay sculpture has definitely blossomed.

Mollgaard approaches his art from a unique perspective: "Creating my art is not about knowing something. It's about quieting my own mind. When I do this in front of a chunk of clay, I see new beings and life forms that want to come out." He describes this as working toward a sense of emptiness "from which things just happen."

Mollgaard uses his hands and tools to express what he sees. His deepest feelings help guide him. He believes his task in the creative process is to let go of his preconceptions, create his sculptures, then get out of the way and allow the art to speak for itself. For more information on Mollgaard's sculptures, contact MollgaardCreates@gmail.com.



Joshua Addison is the founder and president of the Bell Arts Factory, located on North Ventura Avenue between Harrison and Prospect.

Bell Arts celebrates fifth birthday

by Tim Pompey

Hard to believe, but the Bell Arts Factory (www.bellartsfactory.org) is five-years-old. To celebrate, they are sponsoring a "Fandango Bell Arts Birthday Bash" Saturday, August 21, from 3-10 p.m. at their West Ventura location on 432 North Ventura Avenue.

Josh Addison, founder and president of Bell Arts Factory, describes the Center's impact on the west side: "It's provided a sense of opportunity for positive change at a location where much of that effort could be organized." Addison sees the need within local communities to provide some type of arts center, particularly for young people. For him, it's important to have a "place devoted to creative exploration where artists can have space and community members can interact." As an example, Bell Arts provides such services as the Vita Art Center, youth arts programs, and affordable artist studios.

In addition, they also serve as a nonprofit clearing house for arts funding. Arts organizations like the Vita Art Center, the Ventura Film Society, and Ballet Folklorico, partner with them to solicit grants. As he explains, "We incubate these high impact community projects by providing a nonprofit umbrella. They apply for grants and we provide the necessary infrastructure and become their fiscal sponsor."

Addison is quite clear about why Bell Arts is on the west side of Ventura. The simple answer - his own family ties to the area. His grandparents owned the original Bell Mattress Factory. Even though he grew up in Santa Barbara and San Diego, and has traveled extensively, he admits

Continued on page 15

The Heart of the Artist

Breeze and Bell Arts Factory; two treasures

by Emily Thiroux

When I had decided to move to a new community, I knew I was looking for a place that supported the arts and had an active community of talented artists. On an early visit to Ventura, two things made me think that I had found home. First, I picked up a copy of Ventura Breeze and was delighted at the arts coverage. In so many communities, art is generally ignored in the newspapers so people in the community can't really see what is out there. The Breeze shows you all kinds of options from openings to classes and performances.

The second thing I discovered was Bell Arts Factory at 432 North Ventura Avenue. The building is covered with striking olive green and orange murals in a flowing, slightly psychedelic style that makes it one of the most interesting looking buildings in town. Created in October 2004, this former mattress factory is the home to 27 artists' studios, a gallery, VITA Art Center, Tea by the Sea tea room, and a wonderful arts education program. Amazing.

I go to Bell Arts most "First Fridays" and wander through to see what new is being created in the studios. I love to watch Regina Vorgang weave on her giant looms. Her studio is full of beautiful rugs and wall hangings. You can go into studios and see painters creating water colors, acrylic, and oil paintings. You will also see ceramists, fused and stained glass artists, and mixed media artists. They even have Anca Colbert who offers Art Advisory Services.

And a trip to Bell Arts is not complete without a visit to Tea by the Sea. Cindy Yoshitomi will pour you a cup of tea while she visits with you about the wonders of all sorts of teas from around the world—the art of drinking tea.

On Saturday, August 21 from 3 to 10 pm, Bell Arts will be hosting Fandango, their big fifth anniversary bash. They are featuring food, drink, birthday cake and lots of music.

You will be entertained by Fish Fry, The Sus Corez Trez, Rooster Ra, Francisco de Leon, Donna Lynn Caskey, Zacamandu, and Emy Reynolds.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at <http://bellartsfandango2010.eventbrite.com> Proceeds go to support BAF (Bell Arts Factory) youth programs. BAF believes that "all children need safe, creative environments in which to build their spirit, skills, and potential." With the support of generous sponsors, Bell Art's Factory is providing just such an environment in its multicultural after school and Saturday programs for children, youth, and families. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

So stop by Bell Arts on a First Friday after 6 pm or come to their big birthday bash. I know you'll love this place as much as I do. And you can follow them on Facebook.

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



The Potters' Guild is part of Art Night. Inset is one of the clay works by Christine Watte.

Art Night at the Ventura Harbor

On Thursday, August 19, from 5 to 8 pm the Ventura Harbor Village will be celebrating many local artists who exhibit, sell and create in the Ventura Harbor area. Two of the oldest and most well-known arts organizations have locations in the Ventura Harbor Village, The Buenaventura Art Association and the Ventura County Potters' Guild.

The Ventura County Potters' Guild recently opened a pottery shop in the Village which showcases varied styles and firing methods of pottery and sculpture.

The Ventura County Potters' Guild was founded in 1957 to promote the art and craft of ceramics in the community, and to provide a forum for local potters to share their experiences and knowledge of clay.

Combined, these two groups bring over 100 years of celebrating the arts in the region. The Harbor Village Gallery and Artisan Store rotates group shows featuring some of their 200 members. The Potters' Guild is currently exhibiting the works of 14 of their 150 members and is showcasing varied styles of firing methods of pottery and ceramic sculpture. The Guild has arranged for one of their juried members, Christine Watte, to demonstrate how she makes her wall hanging fish and more of her creations on Sunday, August 22, from 2 to 4 pm at their new gallery.

Meet the artists, check out the art work and try to catch a few creations in the making at each of these participating locations which will be open until 8 pm in the Ventura Harbor Village for Art Night in the Harbor.

For more information, call the Buenaventura Art Association at 644-2750 or 648-1235 or visit them on line at www.buenaventuragallery.org.



A new feature at the Foster Library downtown is a changing art exhibit featuring local artists. The shows will run for 3 months and if something sells the Friends of the Library will get 25%.

The first show is an exhibition of oil paintings Ventura artist Jack Halbert. Paintings are available for purchase or rent.

Library hours are Mon-Thurs 10-8, Fri & Sat 10-5

Artists wishing to exhibit at this new venue may contact Fosterlibrary-arts@gmail.com

Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



The Humane Society of Ventura County (HSVS) will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for its Harry Valentine Visitors Center on Wednesday, August 18, at 10 a.m.

In addition to a visitor center, the new 2,500 square-foot building will house several employee offices, reception/adoption area, conference room, gift shop, storage area and new bathrooms. Made possible through a \$2.4 million donation from the estate of Harry Valentine, the building is expected to be completed in about a year.

After completion of the of new visitor center HSVS will start the remodel and expansion of the spay and neuter clinic (ouch). This plan will allow them to increase the numbers of animals being helped (that part is good).

The public is welcome to attend, but RSVP by August 13 by calling 646-6505. The Humane Society of Ventura County is located at 402 Bryant St. in Ojai.

Summertime (it will be here sometime I'm sure)

When it's summer, we canines enjoy frolicking outside even more than usual but I've learned it's important to take some extra precautions so I will continue to be healthy, hydrated and happy.

Schedule a checkup. Make sure you get shots (ugh) updated for dangerous communicable diseases like bordetella and have the doctor do a complete physical similar to what you get each year (I hope you do, we need you to stay healthy). It's also a good time to stock up on flea/tick and heartworm medications.

Run free. It's easy for us to get out of shape during winter months (with the snow and all) and now is the perfect time to work off what we've managed to pack on! It's important to go on regular walks, of course, but even more fun when I get to go to the dog park at Camino Real Park so I can be off-leash and play to my heart's content while working off those extra pounds.

Be prepared. I may not notice how warm it is or how tired I've become. Brush up on the signs and symptoms of health problems like dehydration and heat stroke and make

sure you know basic first aid techniques (no mouth to mouth though). Keep a canine first aid kit in your car which should include, at a minimum, antiseptic spray, water-based antibiotic ointment, bandaging (such as sterile gauze, Vetrap or other elastic bandages), a thermometer, tweezers and single-use cold packs. You should also keep the number and address to my doctor and an emergency vet stored in your phone.

If you follow these simple suggestions, you and your best friend will have the happiest kind of summer together!

Dog obedience training (now I could use this)

The Canine Obedience Club of Ventura County (COC-VC) is holding dog obedience practice each Saturday at the park behind the Oxnard Performing Arts Center located at 9th Street and Hobson Way. These sessions are free to all parties showing an interest in working their dogs and providing an improved canine presence in our community.

They meet regularly at the park and expect members to work at the practice matches sponsored at this park five times a year. In return members are provided one picnic a year (I like that part) and a Christmas Awards dinner sponsored and paid for by the club.

The obedience training classes are taught by Meda Whitley, a professional trainer with over forty years experience at all levels of dog training. Contact Ed Koger or Patti Koger, 985-3145 for details and more information on the club activities and the classes.

Join Scamp Club

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

Dogs to Adopt



Hi: I'm Little Sheila, a sweet 1 year old lady Lhasa Apso mix. I love other dogs and know how to sit. I have lots of energy so I'll need an active family who will give me lots of love, attention and exercise that I need. I was found as a stray all dirty and matted. No one came to claim me and now I'm up for adoption. I've been bathed and groomed and I know I'm one of the lucky ones who has been given a second chance at finding my forever home where I'll be a cherished member of the family. I hope I don't have to wait long. Stop by and meet me, you're sure to fall in love.

I am in need of a foster home as well as a permanent home. If you are interested in fostering call the Adoption Center.

The Canine Adoption & Rescue League, Sam's Place
3203 East Main St., Ventura, 644-PETS (7387) www.carlvc.org

Scamp Club

Hi: I'm Buddy, a 6 year old male pure breed Sheltie and I am a lot of fun.

I love to fetch and play with bones and balls that are thrown to me. I love walks and to socialize with other dogs on various dog paths. Playing in the sprinklers and biting at the water spraying out are also things that I like to do.

I don't like it though when my "humans" dress me up to look funny, but if it makes them happy it's okay with me.



Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Robbery

On Wednesday, July 21st, at 6:43 p.m., Roque Garcia, 48 from Ventura, entered Arana Insurance at 921 East Main Street. He demanded money from the victim, Vincente Vargas, and threatened to cut the victim with a circular saw blade. When Vargas hesitated, Garcia swung the blade toward the victim's throat. Vargas rolled backwards in his wheelchair and avoided injury. Vargas then complied with Garcia's demand and opened the cash drawer. Garcia removed a small amount of cash and fled.

Responding patrol officers located Garcia a short distance from the crime location and he was taken into custody.

Possession of a Stolen Vehicle

On Thursday, July 22nd, at 9:30 a.m., officers were patrolling the area of 200 South Hemlock when they observed a vehicle leaving a residence. Officers conducted a registration check on the vehicle and learned it was stolen. The vehicle was stopped and both subjects inside were taken into custody. The driver, Nathan Stevens, 29 and from Ojai, was arrested. The passenger, Robert Burnett, 43 was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

Officers returned to the residence and recognized one of the males as having been involved in a commercial burglary at Target, Robert Banagan, 45 from Ventura. He was placed under arrest. The second subject, Todd Stine, 39 years old, was placed under arrest for being in possession of controlled substance. Officers conducted a search of the residence and located a female hiding in the attic. The female had several outstanding warrants for her arrest. All 5 were placed under arrest.

Robbery and Stabbing

On Thursday, July 22nd, at 2:46 p.m., VPD officers responded to a call of a stabbing in the parking lot of the Ralph's Shopping Center located at 9372 Telephone Rd. Officers learned that Tyler Spann, 25 from Ventura, was walking in the parking lot of the Ralph's Shopping Center when a suspect, a man of an unknown race and in his 40's, approached him from behind. The suspect pushed Spann to the ground and removed an undisclosed amount of money from Spann's pocket. During the incident Spann was stabbed once in the leg.

Armed Robbery

On Friday, July 23rd, at 2:49 p.m., the VPD received several 911 calls regarding a robbery. The victim, Janet Newton, 51

from Camarillo, was walking along the storefronts at the Ross shopping center when the suspect confronted her. The suspect demanded her purse and Newton refused. The suspect then grabbed a hold of Newton's purse and tried to pull it away from her. Newton struggled and began screaming for assistance.

A witness saw Newton in distress and went to help her against the suspect. The suspect was unable to steal the purse and was seen running to a waiting vehicle. The two suspects were seen fleeing from the shopping center in a white colored vehicle.

Later, on July 27th, VPD located the suspect vehicle involved in the attempted robbery. The vehicle, which was a reported stolen car, fled from officers into the neighborhood near Santa Cruz and Ocean Avenue. After parking in the area, both suspects fled.

Both suspects were located and arrested. They were Stephanie Vaivao, 18 years old, and Daniel Gonzalez, 24 years old.

Theft from Vehicle

On Friday, July 23rd, at 3:17 a.m., the VPD received a call of a car alarm sounding in the area of the 200 block of Via Baja and found one vehicle had

been entered and ransacked. The victim was able to give officers a description of items taken from the vehicle. Officers searched the surrounding area and found four male juvenile suspects hiding in the bushes in the area surrounding a nearby church on Foothill Road. The suspects were in possession of several items of stolen property.

Possession of a Stolen Vehicle

On Sunday, July 25th, at 1:14 a.m., officers were patrolling the area of downtown Ventura, when they observed a vehicle driving on Main Street. Officers recognized the vehicle as matching the description of a vehicle reported stolen earlier in the day and confirmed it was stolen. The officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle, but the driver panicked and fled. After a short distance the driver of the vehicle jumped into the back seat and continued at a slow rate of speed, colliding with a parked vehicle.

The Juvenile driver, from Ojai, was unhurt, and was arrested without further incident and lodged in Juvenile Hall. A male passenger in the vehicle was unhurt and was released at the scene.

Commercial Burglary

On Sunday, July 25th, at 2:51 a.m.,

Continued on page 15




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Senior Living

The Senior Cone-nection

Wall of Tears

by Nanci Cone

Twenty years ago, Jane LeMond-Alvarez was fighting the system to save three children from inhuman conditions. Children's Services and the San Diego Police Department had been called several times and been out to see the children 29 times in all. Their clothes were ragged and they lived in an apartment that was filthy and roach-infested without much food on hand for them. Even though the children were being abused and there had been reports of sexual molestation, starvation and broken bones, it took years of fighting the system before she finally gained custody and gave them a loving, caring environment where they received the care they needed. When the children were safe, Jane wrote a book about her experiences called "Blinders—The True Story of a Woman's Battle Against the System and What Really Happens to Most Abused Children."

Perhaps some of you may have been following the stories in the Los Angeles Times about the disconnect at Children's Services throughout California. So many children have died needlessly due to lack of communication, not enough resources or no follow-through with teachers, counselors, neighbors and other family members who have tried to help these abused children. All counties in California are the same as Los Angeles. They all share the same philosophy of family preservation and, in all cases, the child is the one who pays the ultimate price.

For years, Jane and her husband Leo have tried to stop this. "I started to track child abuse/cruelty reports in my capacity as a Crime Analyst. I found an alarming number of children being returned only to be further abused and/or killed. Did you know that since 9-11, over 4,500 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan? During that same period, almost 16,000 American babies have been killed in the United States by their caregivers. Because of this I have created a Memorial Wall of Tears and I have listed their names, ages and method of death on my website www.theinjusticefiles.org."

In 2009, while in Oklahoma City doing a radio interview, she stated that she knew there was someone out there who would help her build a traveling Memorial Wall of Tears and, the next day, the station called to tell her that a contractor named Rodney Faulkenberry would donate his time and labor to build that wall. By next summer, Jane hopes that her proj-

ect, Move That Wall, (will be 7-8" tall, 25" long and have two 52" television screens on either side scrolling the names of the children killed by their caregivers) will be ready to tour the nation to raise awareness of child cruelty and change the federal law, Title 42USC that permit battered children to be returned to their abusers. Her wall will honor the children killed as well as raise the awareness of child cruelty.

"As a senior and a crusader against child abuse, I have heard from many grandparents who are desperate to help their battered grandchildren. They feel frustrated and helpless and unable to get help from a broken system," says Jane. To find out how you can help, visit Jane's website or call her at 320-7625.

Over 55? Enjoy playing 8-Ball pool? No one to play with? No more daytime blues!

In America, over 43 million people enjoy playing pool; some of them in Ventura are not playing. In September, 1997, twelve senior men and lady 8-Ball pool players from Ventura were organized into a west-county social group called the Mobile Cues. The group now has over 40 players from Camarillo, Oxnard, Ventura, Santa Paula, Oak View, and Ojai.

Ages range from 55 to 93; skill levels range from novice to expert. The players are divided into groups of similar skill level and play a different player each week according to a published schedule; the schedule is flexible to account for appointments, travel, hospitalization, and visiting grandchildren. The two players determine on what day and at what time they want to play. The scoring is handicapped, so all players have an equal chance to win a match.

A weekly results sheet is sent to each player. Three 15-week sessions (spring, summer, and fall) are played each year, so that players can choose what time of the year they want to play or don't want to play.

A \$10 fee for a 15-week session covers the administration expenses. All men and ladies who enjoy playing pool and are free during daylight hours are strongly invited to join the Mobile Cues. Openings for the fall session will close August 15, play will begin on Monday, September 6. Obtain more information and answers to all questions by calling Kenn Ritza at 644-6955.

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Senior Living



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“For this year’s event, however, we’re changing things up a little bit,” says Executive Director Jim Duran. “Cypress Place Senior Living is teaming up with the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura and this year’s ‘A Taste of Cypress’ is going to be a fund raiser for this stellar organization.”

Back by popular demand, this year’s event will also include the Classic Hot Rod Car Show and a 1950s themed party.

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



First place dance contest winners George and Judy Sandoval show their stuff during last year’s ‘50s-style dance contest at Cypress Place Senior Living.

A Taste of Cypress Classic Car Show

Cypress Place Senior Living will host its 6th annual “A Taste of Cypress Classic Car Show and 50’s Party” community event complete with great food from local merchants such as Watermark on Main and Main Course California, among many others.

Festivities take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18. The suggested donation is

Concert at Aegis

On July 2 the Restless Hillbillies presented a blue grass concert at Aegis of Ventura in their wonderful courtyard for a wonderful evening of music, dancing and eats.

There will be only one more concert in their summer concert series on August 26 featuring Ted’s Tropical Troubadours so that will be your last chance to enjoy a most enjoyable musical evening at Aegis.

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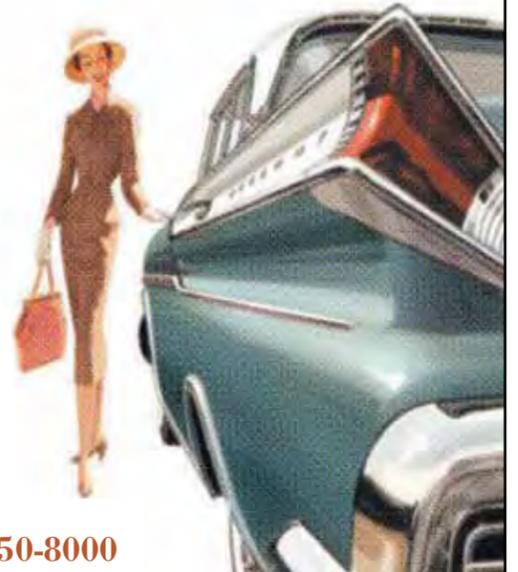
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All proceeds will benefit the Ventura Boys & Girls Club



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School

Summer vacation sans sunshine

by Brooke Demchuk

Summer vacation: a period of two months that students in America have off of school. For most teenagers, the mention of summer elicits not only excitement, but anticipation also. While most students claim that they look forward to summer because they'll be able to lounge, loaf, sleep in late, and relax, for many teenager these days, this is not the case. Summer has quickly turned from the cliché vacation where kids wake up at noon, play video games all day, and leisurely lay on the beach, to a busy, event filled time period.

Although students are free of actual classes and their studies during the summer, many of their day-to-day schedules are still filled up with school related activities. Two of the main things that rob students of so much of their precious time off is sports practice, and homework for either Honors, or A.P classes.

Practice for sports teams begins almost immediately after the school year has ended, and ends several weeks before school starts again, so as to give the athletes some time off to rest and enjoy other summer activities. Practices are held at the school and take place five days a week, just like they would as if it were the school year. They last for several hours and are very rigorous, due to the fact that they are meant to keep the school's athletes in tip-top shape for when the sport seasons and school year begin.

Almost every A.P or Honors class that is History or English will have summer homework requirements. Each year, the homework becomes progressively harder and there is more of it, just like the classes themselves. Generally speaking, for each of these classes, the homework will consist of a list of books that must be read, at least one essay, and other assignments, such as annotating specific pages or chapters. The homework is due on the first day of school or within the week, and is almost always worth a lot of points. Consequently, most students try to get the homework done as quickly as possible and to do a good job on it, so they start out the school year with a good grade. This homework takes up a significant portion of the summer of each student who is taking classes within the Honors and A.P departments.

Another thing that students fre-

quently do during their summer vacations is engage in summer camps. There is a summer camp for every type of hobby these days, and many children and teenagers love spending a week or more there every summer. There are now camps available specifically for music, dance, cheer leading, sports, every type of religion, drama, and other forms of art. Summer camps are a great chance for teenagers to participate in activities they love, while at the same time making new friends, and becoming more independent by being away from home. These camps are available in a multitude of price ranges, and for camps sponsored by larger organizations, scholarships are sometimes even available to give families the opportunity to send their child to camp. Between summer activities such as camps, sports, traveling, or homework, high school students have made sure to stay busy during their vacation.

Ventura High contributing to FOOD Share

What a difference a year makes. When FOOD Share, Ventura County's only regional food bank, launched its Garden Share program last spring, little did it know that in just one year's time, they would have received donations of over 65,000 lbs. of fresh produce from over 193 community garden partners.

"We felt that we could make a real difference by providing our friends and supporters with the tools and know-how to start a sustainable food supply," said Jeanne Benitez, FOOD Share's development manager

In addition to the year-round Garden Share program, FOOD Share teamed up with Agromin to launch an annual gardening contest to see which individuals and schools can grow and donate the most vegetables to help feed the hungry in Ventura County.

Ventura High School agricultural students harvest zucchini and cabbage from their school garden to compete in the contest.

"We have over 125 Future Farmers of America (FFA) students that have cultivated a thriving organic garden and they are proud to give back a large portion of their harvest to FOOD Share," said Andrew Moreno, Ventura High School agricultural instructor.

Those wishing to become Garden Share members can visit www.foodshare.com and click on the Garden Share logo.

Lincoln School recycling champ again

by Dr. Gordon Myers

Tami, a single-mom nurse, exclaimed one day, "Dr. Myers, it costs \$1,000 for my son to be on the high school track team, and that's without the shoes! I can't afford that! Four years ago, my daughter ran for free."

Another nurse, Jackie, announced, "Dr. Myers, I spent 3 days trying to get a recycling program started at my school. I must have talked to a dozen people. Finally, the administrator who could have approved it said no."

Five years ago, Lincoln Elementary of downtown Ventura was going to cut its art program. It was then suggested that if the school families pooled their recycling, they might be able to save the art program.

Since then, Lincoln students bring in recycling every day. They have now recycled over 50,000 pounds of trash and have been the state's recycling champions three years in a row.

The recycling program is now so fine-tuned that Dr. Myers runs it from his emergency room: "Beto, the shed's nearly full. Be-

to's Recycling then hauls off the recycling, sorts it, and gives Lincoln PTA a check for \$300-400.

My model, detailed in www.recyclenow-forlife.com, has been adopted by Loma Vista Elementary. PTA President Lauren Lanski said she choked up when she saw the line of kids bringing in bags the first day of recycling. Loma Vista earned over \$1,000 in six weeks. Beto's will pick up recycling from any school in western Ventura County.

Dr. Myers envisions placing a Beto's recycling truck near Ventura High every Monday through Friday, from 5 until dusk and all day Saturday. Ventura citizens will be able to donate bags of their unsorted cans and bottles to a cause of their choice, including athletic teams, the drama club, or music program. They will also be able to donate their recycling to construct schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

One can a day for the community residents of Ventura is worth two million dollars to needy students at home and abroad. *Breeze:*

Dr. Gordon Myers has been running a recycling program for the last 5 years at Lincoln Elementary to save the school's art program. He envisions a Beto's Recycling truck stationed at our high schools every Saturday, where the community will be able to drop off their recycling, and assign the proceeds to go to worthy causes: drama, music, athletics.

Sports



Gold Coast 14U wins VC title

After going undefeated in the regular season, Gold Coast's 14U team was top seeded going into the Ventura County League water polo tournament recently held at California Lutheran.

On Saturday, Gold Coast finished first in bracket play, defeating Channel Islands 16-4 and Titans Black 10-2, to advance to the championship round on Sunday.

Gold Coast then went on to defeat Ventura County Premier 6-3 and Malibu 9-5 to place first of nine teams, outscoring its opponents 41-13. Ventura County Premier placed second and Malibu placed third.

Top scorers for Gold Coast were Mi-

chael Villalpando with eight goals, Calvin Thorp, Ariana Singer and Tyler Gray with seven goals each, and Barrett Connelly with five goals. The top defenders were Villalpando and Thorp with 13 and 11 steals, respectively. Goalie Brycen Ulrich had an amazing 29 saves.

This team worked really well together as they managed to let everyone score at least once and several of the team members assisted those so that they could score for Gold Coast.

Gold Coast's 12U team also excelled, placing third out of 10 teams in the Ventura County league tournament.

Horseracing

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Health

Seminar to focus on robotic surgery for urologic disorders

Community Memorial Health System will hold a free seminar on Tuesday, Aug. 24, focusing on robotic surgery for urologic disorders.

Urologists Marc Beagler, M.D., and Seyed Khoddami, M.D., will lead the seminar that will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital, 147 Brent St. They will discuss the application of CMHS's da Vinci Robotics device, a

less invasive surgical option to traditional procedures for prostate, bladder and kidney cancers and other urologic disorders.

Dr. Beagler received his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Neb., and completed a urology residency at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. He is a member of the American Urological Association and is on staff at both Community Memorial Hospital and Ojai Valley Community Hospital.

Dr. Khoddami received his medical degree from the University of Tehran School of Medicine in Iran. He completed his residency in urology from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Dr. Khoddami is on staff at CMH.

Admission is free but space is limited, so reservations are suggested. Call 652-5436, or visit www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp.

Religion



Tom Obmer, Kathi Gravino, Tony Benson and Rena Petrello star in the drama "One Life"

One Life comes to Ventura

The Harbor Community Church and The River Community Church, both located at 3100 Preble Ave. are partnering together to host an incredible drama entitled "One Life".

Writer-director Tim Kanter's multimedia short play will be performed three times on Sunday, August 29 at 10am, 5:15pm and 6:45pm.

The piece, which pulls no punches about its inspiration — the death and sacrifice made by Jesus Christ in the Bible — is intended for a wider audience than just weekly churchgoers.

The play consists of a series of multimedia clips interspersed between scenes documenting family and friends gather-

ing around the TV searching for clues about a disease affecting thousands.

Although the 45-minute play has the earnestness of the Christian apocalyptic thriller "Left Behind," it manages to find some room for a little domestic levity a la "Everybody Loves Raymond."

"Since it's a well-known message, we hope that the play can cause people to think twice: to be both impacted and entertained," said actor Tony Benson, who plays lead character Jeff Cline.

Childcare will be provided for all three Live Performances.

For more information, please call 815-5795 or visit the website at: www.TheRiverCommunity.org.

Police reports

Continued from page 11

after being refused the sale of beer about twenty minutes earlier, suspect Ricardo Garcia, 22 years old and from Oxnard, entered the Seven Eleven Store at 6320 Bristol Rd. with an aluminum bat. Garcia smashed the glass door with the bat, reached inside and took an 18 pack of beer and fled the store to a waiting vehicle. As officers attempted to make contact with several subjects at the residence, a male subject fled and began jumping fences in the area. After a search of the area they found the suspect Garcia, hiding on a roof. Garcia was taken into custody and was brought safely down from the roof, and booked into VC Jail.

Fighting and Resisting Arrest

On Sunday, July 25th, at 11:11 p.m., the event staff at the Ventura Theater removed Jose Alvarez, 29 years old, from a concert. Alvarez became intoxicated and climbed on top of some large speakers and began to dance. The event staff contacted Alvarez and asked for him to come down off the speakers.

Alvarez came down from the speakers and was escorted outside to the street. Alvarez became uncooperative, trying to hit one of the staff members. The event staff tackled Alvarez and held him on the ground.

Officers saw that Alvarez was being held down and that he was bleeding from his forehead. The officers took over giving verbal commands for Alvarez to stay down on the ground. Alvarez did not listen to the officer's orders and started to stand up. Officers deployed a taser and Alvarez was tased.

Multiple Traffic Collision

On Monday, July 26th, at 3:39 p.m., the VPD started receiving numerous 911 calls from citizens reporting a multiple vehicle traffic collision at the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Thille Street. The first responding units and determined there were several injured parties.

Angles Guzman, 18 years old, was southbound Victoria Ave. when she collided with Erik Lande, 35 years old, who was westbound on Thille Street. The impact of the collision between Guzman and Lande caused Lande's vehicle to collide with Tina Crouch, 38 years old, who was driving eastbound on Thille Street. It was determined that Guzman failed to stop for the red light and collided into Lande's vehicle.

Guzman and the female juvenile passengers in her vehicle were transported to VCMC. Lande, Crouch and another female passenger in her vehicle were taken to St. John's Hospital. None of the injuries sustained to any of the involved parties was life threatening.

Reckless Driving

On Tuesday, July 27th, at 9:49 p.m., a Ventura police officer on patrol saw a white GMC truck near Petit and Telephone and initiated a stop for a traffic violation. The driver refused to stop and fled the area. The pursuit covered a distance of approx 3 miles through many residential neighborhoods from Petit to Montgomery and south to Neath. Once the driver passed by Cardigan Street, he increased his speed. The pursuit was discontinued because of the danger the suspect's reckless driving posed to the public.

The truck was found unoccupied near Nevin and Neath Street. Patrol officers located David Weinhardt, 26 from Ventura, walking nearby and determined he was the driver of the truck. Weinhardt was arrested and booked at VCJ.

Possession of a Stolen Vehicle

On Wednesday, July 28th, at 4:10 p.m., VPD officers received information a stolen vehicle was parked in the area of Quail Street and Anthony Drive.

Officers observed Kilepoa Tuitama, 32 from Ventura, enter the vehicle and drive away. Officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle in the 2400 block of Woodpecker Drive. Tuitama fled on foot and manipulated several fences as he ran through rear yards of residences. Tuitama ran through heavy traffic as he crossed Johnson Drive. Officers were able to stop Tuitama. Tuitama refused to comply with officer's orders and a violent struggle ensued. Officers deployed a Taser device. Tuitama submitted to the officers and was taken into custody.

Bell Arts birthday

Continued from page 10

that Ventura feels the most like home. "My dad's family lived here," he says. "We would come here a lot for vacation."

When he moved to Ventura in 2003, he and his family decided to do something beneficial for their local community. Since Addison's father, Michael, was a noted theater director, Josh himself benefitted greatly from his own arts education. Given that inspiration, he and his family decided to transform the old mattress factory into an arts center.

Addison is not an artist by training. In fact, he has difficulty describing himself. "I guess I'm a generalist," he says with a smile. "I'm blessed and cursed with interests in many areas." He's been involved in extensive construction and building renovation. He describes his interests as "family, community, business management, and organizational development." Given his strong roots in Ventura, he admits he has a knack for getting things done. "I'm a real connector," he says.

Bell Arts is proof of that, and his faith in the impact of arts exposure on young minds drives him to keep the Center open and vital. "If you give young people a chance to explore the creative part of themselves," he says, "it really is transformational."

Fandango 2010 is a fundraiser for all the Center's community programs. It will include music by Rooster Ra, Fish Fry, Donna Lynn Caskey, and many others. The Bell Arts studios will be open and a special exhibition will be on display chronicling the transformation of the old Bell Mattress Factory to its present incarnation. Food and drink will be available. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20. Additional information can be found on their website or by calling Bell Arts at 643-1960.

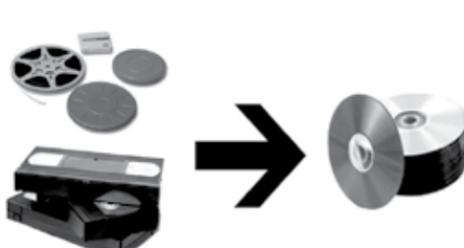
Rugs In Inspirational Places at the Buenaventura Gallery

Origins: Rugs in Inspirational Places is an exhibit of hand woven wool rugs by Regina Vorgang with photographs by W. Scott Miles at the Buenaventura Gallery. Exhibit runs from Tuesday, August 17 to Saturday, September 11 with an opening reception on Saturday, August 21, from 4 - 7 pm.

Vorgang's creations bring a new mea-

Continued on page 19

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The Music Connection

Where the music flows

by Michael Kohli

This week, I am happy to announce that Jessica and Peter Vang of "Soulvang", are expecting a baby girl later this year. The two have been involved with Ventura's music scene for over a decade. I recently caught a performance by Solvang earlier this year at JJ Brewery's in Camarillo. It had been a few years since I had crossed paths with them. I used to network with their other band, Northbound back in 2000-2003ish. It was great to see them again and see them perform on stage with their newest material. Check out music clips of "Soulvang" at myspace.com/soulvang.

Shoemaker Brothers have become the current "it" band of Ventura. People have been raving about them. Recently performing at the Watermark On Main, Bernadette's, and Margarita Villas, the band is currently slated to open at Canyon Club in Agoura Hills later this month. Check out the music video for one of their current fan favorite hits, "Sunshine," at shoemakerbrothers.com. The band recently relocated themselves here in So. Cal from Washington State. Every show they do, their fan base is growing. Keep an eye out for them!

Shades Of Day are in the final mixing stages of their forthcoming album, "Take All Night." The band originally had 40 tracks recorded but have selected 10 of them for this album. The album has been engineered and co-produced by Michael Dumas (Dwight Yoakam, Lucinda Williams) and features Rami Jaffee (The Wallflowers, Foo Fighters), Doug Pettibone, and George Merrill. Stay tuned for upcoming shows at Zoey's and Spencer Mackenzie's and an upcoming album release: info @ Shadesofday.net.

Le Meu Le Purr is working on their new album according to updates on their Facebook page. Getting feedback from people on ideas to release their upcoming music; \$5 CD's, \$1 Downloads or ?. The band is currently slated to play at the End Of Summer Blast later this month. Along with Shades Of Day, Army Of Freshmen, Franklin For Short, Lee Koch and The Grinders and more.

The Electric Liberaces (Featuring members of Pong), Hirbois, Champagne Sunday, Fearmia, Illusionistas, Kimmy Lenwell, Delaney Gibson & Belladonna Santa Barbara are among the acts announced to perform at VC Pride 2010. The event will be free to the public. And, will have two stages; Mission Park 12-4pm (with a Pride March 4-5pm) and at WAV 5-9pm with an after party to follow all night long at Paddy's Ventura. Activities include Picnic In The Park, Dunk Booth, Live Bands, Food, Vendors, Art, and more. For more info: vcpride.org.

You may reach me at Venturalivewire@gmail.com

Local music

by Michael Kohli

Here's a short listing of some important music shows coming up. If your favorite band, performer or venue is not listed - please contact me at VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com.

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California St. 643-4404 Ext. 3
26th Annual Beach Party (July 29th - Aug 1st)
Aug. 12 Carlism & the Shoddy Cons
Aug. 13 Skinny Bones Jones, Happens Again and La Vonnets
Aug. 14 Hindsite
Aug. 15 Last Dog and Pony Show and

Cynthia Manley
Aug. 19 Electric Hooligans presents Dj Spinobi
Aug. 20 Joey Peate, Grandmas, The Situation
Aug. 21 Hindsite
Aug. 22 4 on the floor

Good Bar & Grill

533 E. Main Street
Thurs. 8/12 Bruce, Rick & T.J @ 9:30pm
Fri. 8/13 Fear Mia @ 9:30pm
Sat. 8/14 Lexi @ 4, Irie Smile @ 9:30pm
Sun. 8/15 The City Band @ 3pm, 3 Man Weave @ 9:30pm
Mon. 8/16 Musician's Brew @ 9:30pm
Tues. 8/17 Skooter's Playhouse, Open Mic/Jam Session @ 9:30pm
Wed. 8/18 Karaoke With Becky @ 9pm

Zoey's Cafe

185 E. Santa Clara St. 652-1137
Aug. 11 Dave Girtsman, Reed Waddle, Liz Longley
Aug. 12 Lauren Donahue, Mike Wilson, Dean Dods Along With Swingcheese
Aug. 13 The White Buffalo
Aug. 14 The White Buffalo
Aug. 18 Ones To Watch Singer Songwriters Open Mic
Aug. 19 Birdfeeder, Kitten
Aug. 20 Jack Tempohin

Show Time

Two on the Aisle

Rubicon is here to stay

By Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

Responding to media reports, Mark Twain once said, "The report of my death was an exaggeration." It is a sentiment echoed today by Ventura's Rubicon Theatre Company.

The 12 year old, award-winning professional theater company enjoys a national reputation for innovation and quality. Impressions obtained from recent reports have suggested the Company may be about to close its doors due to financial problems. Not true, say others.

To find out the facts, we recently spoke with many closest to Rubicon operations, including producing artistic director Karyl Lynn Burns, Rubicon board president Dr. Rosalind Warner and honorary board chair Rose Lee Measures.

The Rubicon has been impacted by the current economic downturn, as have all nonprofit enterprises. It is reported 20% of nonprofit theaters across the nation have gone out of business. Unlike the others, the Rubicon has readjusted, restructured and realigned itself and is now on a track that will allow it to continue presenting quality professional theatrical productions, while retiring unexpected debt and stabilizing income sources.

Ticket sales cover only 40% - 50% of the theater's operating costs. The balance is made up through corporate sponsorships and special fundraising activities.

Like other theaters, the Rubicon established a budget and made commitments for each year well in advance based on historical income data. Prior to the economic downturn the Rubicon was operating within its budget. However, after the national meltdown started in Fall 2008 many donors and sponsors could no longer meet their pledge commitments and the Rubicon suddenly ended up with an unforeseen \$500,000 debt as its income continued to shrink.

In response the Rubicon Board of Directors approved a two-year plan to pay off the existing debt, adjust to economic realities

Show Time

and continue producing high-quality professional theater. In its most basic form, the plan called for generating a \$250,000 annual surplus to retire the debt, reducing costs wherever possible, and producing shows with the balance.

Cost cutting was first step. Expenses were trimmed. All staff salaries were reduced. The artistic directors took a 40% pay cut. Positions generated by attrition were left unfilled and there were some layoffs.

Step two involved income development. In a bold move the Company sought season ticket renewals, even though the shows in the season had not been determined because no one knew how much money would be available. Fortunately, the Rubicon had a dedicated subscriber base. There was a reportedly unheard of 92% renewal rate for the "mystery season."

Armed with cash in the bank from season ticket renewals and proof the two-year plan is working, the Rubicon has seen an uptick in sponsorships and a willingness on the part of creditors to assist in the recovery.

Mortgage costs have always been a concern. The Rubicon occupies a converted church building purchased during the mortgage lending boom. As a result of involved negotiations led by Rubicon board president Warner a deal in principle has now been reached to extend and restructure the mortgage which will reduce the monthly debt load.

Although, like the rest of us, not yet free from financial pressures, the Rubicon is well ahead of the curve on its two-year recovery plan. It is announcing a robust new season this week that includes classics to new works, musicals to dramas, and professional performers with familiar names. It seems the worst is over and the Rubicon is here to stay.

World premiere of Hello My Baby

by Leselie Matthias

On Friday August 6th at 8:00pm the world premiere of "Hello My Baby" written by Golden Globe and Emmy Award Winner Cheri Steinkeller took the stage. Set in early 19-teens artistic directors James O'Neil & Karyl Lynn Burns along with director Brian McDonald bring the Tin Pan Alley score to life. Musical arrangements were by George Stitt featuring music by Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern and more.

The musical score weaves the story with song-sellers, sweat-shop workers, debutantes and gangsters. Harrison Brian flew out here from New York to make his debut as Mickey Mckee and Juliette Goglia who played Nelly/Ned Gold has been acting since age seven and has been seen on TV and in movies as well. The story was delightful and the musical talent was outstanding. It was truly amazing to experience the caliber of talent in this group. This is part of the Rubicon Education Outreach that goes on every summer. "Hello My Baby" features 25 young actors ranging from 14-22 years of age. It is through the sponsorship of the Loretta and Mike Merewether Community Fund that a production like this can come to life here in Ventura.

"Hello My Baby" will be running this weekend Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00pm with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm and the final show will be Sunday at 7:00pm. If you love music and enjoy talented youth you won't want to miss this production.

Review of Middle Men

by Tim Pompey

Starring Luke Wilson, Giovanni Ribisi, Gabriel Macht, James Caan

★★

Currently Playing at Century 16

Two things you should know up front about this movie. First, it's "inspired" by the story of how porn landed on the Internet. Second, the previews sell this film as a dark comedy. Don't be misled. It is dark, but not a comedy. Funny moments, yes, but the subject matter is serious and so is the director's approach, particularly from the second half on.

So, meet the guys who actually made Internet porn possible: Wayne Beering (Ribisi) and Buck Dolby (Macht). They once had successful careers: Wayne, a dentist, and Buck, a NASA engineer. Unfortunately, they both got canned for drug use. Now it's 1995 and these dysfunctional friends have decided to room together in L.A. While they squabble, go bar hopping, and snort copious amounts of coke, Wayne toys with the idea of scanning magazine porn onto the Internet. Buck, in between fist-fights and wrestling matches with his roommate, invents a simple software program for making online payments. It's a financial revolution (complete with actual bells and whistles) and it works.

The problem is, these guys are a mess. Even with new stacks of money, they can't run a business and manage to sell themselves to the Russian mobster Nikita Sokoloff. When they run out of cash in Vegas, the devil comes to call, and they turn to sleazy lawyer Jerry Haggerty (Caan).

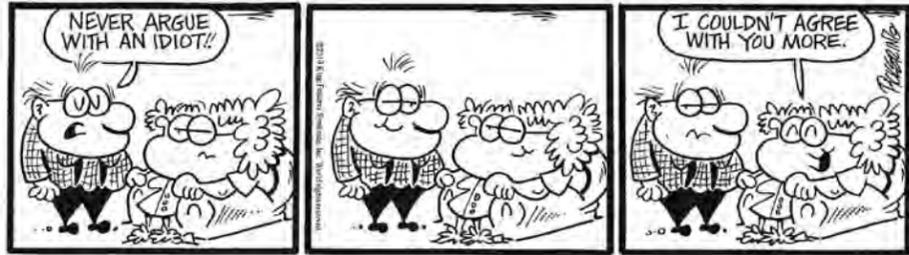
Enter Jack Harris (Wilson), the man Haggerty calls to straighten out the idiot twins. He's good at problem solving and manages to advance the concept of Internet porn a step further. He contracts with other porn providers and manages the server, thus becoming the "middle man" to an entire porn empire. But Jack's straightforward business proposal turns out to be anything but. Murder, seduction, double cross, kidnaping, child pornography. Jack gets rich but watches his soul (and family) get shredded.

Ultimately, this movie will be compared to "Boogie Nights." Same subject matter, just twenty-years later. "Middle Men" tries hard and sometimes finds its groove, but more often than not, approaches its subject matter cynically and tells the story assuming that all men are cold-blooded jerk offs. Even with strong performances by Luke Wilson and James Caan, the film often feels mechanical.

"Middle Men" tells the tale of bad people with criminal attitudes who double-crossed and killed to get their cut in the sex industry. So, should I really care what happened to these guys? Same goes for the movie. Perhaps meant to entice and arouse, all I can say is, there was a lot of flesh pedaling here but not a lot of intelligence. In the end, you have to ask: Is the story of men who invented Internet flesh that interesting? Not really. Pictures can titillate, but I have to care about who's on that screen. In the case of "Middle Men," I'd just as soon read a good book.

The Lighter Breeze

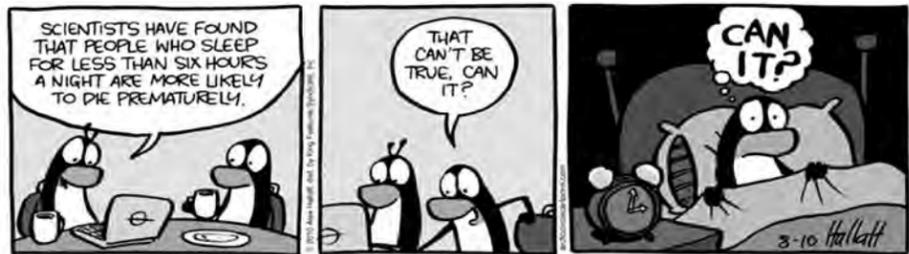
The Spats



Mama's Boyz



Arctic Circle



Zits



Crock



Mother Goose and Grimm



Shoe



Solutions on page 14

	2			4		1
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	7		2		4	3
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4					9	
						6

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 14

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Tobacco type
- 5 Possesses
- 8 Benedict XVI, e.g.
- 12 Places
- 13 Group of scenes
- 14 Acknowledge
- 15 Unoriginal one
- 16 Geese-in-flight formation
- 17 Rose or Townshend
- 18 Shrew
- 20 Go sightseeing
- 22 Accepts the truth
- 26 Make one
- 29 Speck
- 30 Feedbag morsel
- 31 Logical
- 32 Wrestling victory
- 33 Carvey or Delany
- 34 Citric drink
- 35 Pendulum site?
- 36 Brave
- 37 Office equipment
- 40 Chess piece
- 41 Gunman's missile
- 45 Connections

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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			40				41			42	43	44
45	46					47	48			49		
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

- 47 Egos' counterparts
- 49 Tiny bit
- 50 Drudgery
- 51 Poolroom stick
- 52 Wound cover
- 53 On the — (unfriendly)
- 54 Bart, to Homer
- 55 Throw
- his head high
- 5 Destruction
- 6 Blackjack component
- 7 Cowboy hat
- 8 — New Guinea
- 9 Cold-weather gear
- 10 Cauldron
- 11 Ram's mate
- 19 Festive
- 21 Frequently
- 23 Archie's wife
- 24 Catches
- 25 Remain
- 26 Mil. branch
- 27 Zilch
- 28 Unskilled
- 32 Eaters
- outings
- 33 Swordplay specialist
- 35 Manhandle
- 36 Wildebeest
- 38 Mardi Gras "faces"
- 39 "Peer Gynt" playwright
- 42 Crazy
- 43 H H H, in Greece
- 44 Surveillance
- 45 Pair
- 46 Debtor's letters
- 48 Pair

DOWN

- 1 Balkan native
- 2 Arizona tribe
- 3 Big name in desktop PCs
- 4 He can hold

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A relaxed mood early in the week could give way to high-temperature disputes. The Aries Lamb should resist being pulled into heated quarrels that could really singe your wool.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Satisfy that practical obligation first, then you can feel free to indulge in your creative endeavors. Also, check for hidden or overlooked areas where repairs might be long overdue.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Home is still the Twins' major focus this week. But outside matters begin to take on added importance, especially those involving possible career moves. Stay alert for signs of change.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A travel plan might need to undergo some considerable adjustment because of unexpected changes. Keep an open mind and let the facts guide you on how you want to handle this.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Playing cat and mouse with a matter you don't really want to tackle wastes time, energy and, most important, an opportunity. Ask someone with experience to help you get started.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A shift in policy might not please you, but before you put up a "No Go" wall of resistance, examine the circumstances. You might be quite pleasantly surprised by what you find.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Yesterday's critiques about your methods might have already evolved into today's praise for your achievements. Good for you. Now go on and continue to build on your credibility.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An occasional temperamental flare-up might occur as you continue to help get things back to normal. Stay with it. You should soon get some idea of where to take things next.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A negative reaction to what you believe was a well-deserved request might mean that you need to reconsider your position and make changes accordingly.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) There's always room for someone new at the Sea Goat's table. And the someone new this week could bring a message you've been waiting a long time to hear.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A pile-on of personal matters this week might seem too overwhelming to deal with. But handling them on a one-by-one basis could have you out from under it by the weekend.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A friend might need your good advice regarding a matter. Be supportive. But unless you can be absolutely sure you have all the facts, be careful about any suggestions you might be asked to offer.

BORN THIS WEEK: Few things make you happier than bringing people together and helping to forge new friendships.

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Business



Owner Jeff Mills sits in one of his big blue taxis. The taxis ride through the downtown area and are available to the public on a "tip" fee basis.

Bike taxis available downtown

by Tim Pompey

You may have seen them in the downtown area: bikes pulling blue carts, some of them with ads on the backs and sides. You're wondering if they're new and the answer is - yes, they are - within the last six weeks or so. They are Venturashuttlebugz, owned and operated by Jeff Mills, a former construction worker and current part-time employee at the Smokers' Castle in midtown. "I had the idea," he explains, "but somebody else also had the same idea. When it didn't work out, I inherited the machines and have taken it over completely."

Though they are bikes with carts attached, sort of a West Coast version of the rickshaw, technically, they're taxis. In other words, if you see a driver with an empty cart, you can hail it down New York style. Hop in and off you go.

The shuttles also serve as an ad ser-

vice. "You can rent space on the back and side," says Mills, "and even provide T-shirts if the company wants a driver to wear one." The ads are basically laminated plastic signs velcroed to the cart.

Mills, who hails from New Zealand, is a newcomer to the area. Initially, he arrived in 2003 as part of the construction crew who built the Bonaventure Assisted Living Center in east Ventura. He's moved around some, but has now returned and that suits him fine: "I love Ventura, especially the temperate climate." He hopes the shuttles will provide a source of green transportation (and inspiration) to the downtown community. Not to mention they're kind of cute.

It's a new operation, which means he's still working out some of the bugs. "The hardest problem is getting good riders, because they have to be prescreened." At the moment, he contracts with the riders for a fee and the drivers get to keep their tips. Right now, the routes are primarily along Main Street, the Boardwalk, and around the harbor area.

Considering some of the hilly areas downtown, especially along C Street, pedaling one of these carts with people attached can be hard work. "Yeah, it can be a bit of a push," he says with a smile. "We don't let them go up Oak and Palm. Eventually I hope they're electrified to make it easier on the driver." For now, however, it's all pedal power.

Mills is busy working out all the logistics. The website (www.venturashuttlebugz.com) will soon be redesigned and he hopes someday to be able to store the taxis downtown. Until then, you can catch them lined up during the day at The Smokers' Castle. And if you want to make special arrangements for a ride,

you can contact Mills at venturashuttlebugz@yahoo.com.

Yup. I can picture, on a nice sunny day with a couple out of town guests - piling in, and proclaiming: "Welcome to Ventura." Beautiful sky, soft seats, people waving. Almost as if you're having your own parade. Just remember, as the driver chugs along with you and your passengers in tow. Be generous with your tips.



Chuck Silvas filling his own Yukon at the station's first flex-fuel customer.

Chuck Silvas had a problem finding flex-fuel for his Yukon!

by Sheli Ellswrth

Where do you get flex-fuel for your 2009 GMC Yukon in Ventura County? Chuck Silvas had that problem, but as founder of Silvas Oil Company, his solution was somewhat elaborate. The Ventura County based family business expanded their operations to include a 24/7, open to the public, unmanned fueling station.

The high-speed "certified fueling network" station now offers the alternative fuels E-85 and bio-diesel along with red diesel, regular diesel #2, regular, super and premium unleaded gasoline to anyone with a credit card. Located at 6417 Ventura Blvd, just off the Johnson exit, the over-sized truck stop offers satellite diesel fueling service, a system allowing two pumps to fill one tank simultaneously. They also maintain a self-serve air and water station. The site is ideal for RVs and anyone pulling a vehicle or trailer because there is so much room to maneuver. There are no cash sales, however.

"The bio-diesel is a 20% soy based product that can be used as regular diesel," according to Silvas representative Krisie Ricks. "It can be used in place of regular diesel. You do have to change your filters more than if you use regular diesel though. The E-85 fuel is an ethanol fuel that uses only 15% gasoline, exclusively for vehicles designed to run on flex-fuel. Red Diesel is a tax-exempt product sold only for marine and off road usage."

According to Daniel Ybanez of Paradise Chevrolet, "Flex-fuel vehicles are becoming common place. Chevrolet offers the flex-fuel option as standard equipment. From '07 on, the Tahoe, Avalanche and Silverado 1500 were all available with the flex-fuel option."

The fuel pumps accept most major credit cards including MC/Visa, American Express, Voyager, Discover, and Wright Express. Customer service is only a call away with the phone number 1-877-GO-4-FUEL posted at the site. "Occasionally, when someone calls, we have to send someone down here" says Ms. Ricks—executive assistant, as she

helps a customer pump gas during this interview. I also get questions about the manufacturing and origin of our fuels. We are not chemists, but we try to answer questions as best as we can. That's the advantage of a local family business." Ms. Ricks says some of their customers drive from Simi to fill up.

Silvas Oil operations are currently managed by its founder's children John and Michelle Silvas. After 35 years in business, the Silvas' family is still proud to be a part of the local community. "Two of our biggest customers are the City of Oxnard and the school district. We also provide fueling for public transit. With our fuel management program we can track mileage and fuel consumption on any number of different vehicles and send out a report." The commercial accounts use a magnetic strip credit card. "We can even designate what grade of gasoline they are getting," according to Ms. Ricks.

Look for the large American flag flying over the parking lot.

Dan Lyon joins New York Life

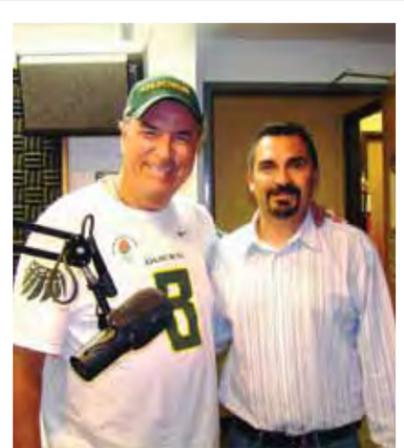
Dan Lyon will work as an agent for the Central Coast General Office of New York Life Insurance Company.

"We are delighted to have Dan join the NYLIC family," said Jane Choi, managing partner at the Central Coast General Office. "His eagerness to help families and business owners as they work to protect their financial futures will be beneficial to our community."

Lyon attended Santa Clara High School in Oxnard before receiving a BA degree from New Mexico Highlands University.

He has been past chairman of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and the Ventura Parks and Recreation Commission, Immediate Past District Governor of Lions Clubs International District 4-A3, past president of the Ventura Downtown Lions Club and Ventura Packers Youth Football, and is a current board member of the Ventura Family YMCA. Among other honors, he received an International President's Commendation from Lions Clubs International in 2009.

To contact Dan call 604-2135 or go to drlyon@ft.nyl.com.



Travis Escalante, owner of American Mattress, located at 2323 E. Main was a recent guest on the Ventura Breeze portion of the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on Ventura County radio station 1400AM KKZZ.

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Odds 'n' ends



Jacob Foko, Executive Director of Global Humanitarian Photojournalists, writes the names of children that he photographed in Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo in February 2008.

Photojournalist takes risks to tell stories

by Tim Pompey

Jacob Foko is not your ordinary photographer. For one thing, he's a Prince from Baleng in Cameroon. Second, he's here in the U.S. on a political asylum visa. And finally, he's not just a photographer. Jacob is a photojournalist – as he describes it, a humanitarian photojournalist – who uses his camera “to tell someone's story.”

Jacob discovered photography in high school. He once gained notoriety among students for taking a picture of someone sleeping in class. “I became something of a celebrity,” he says.

He worked at Cameroon Radio and TV as an intern while studying philosophy and Spanish at Samba Institute. This launched his career as a

correspondent with such international magazines as *Africa Express*, *Africa International Magazine*, and *Jeune Afrique Economie*. He also founded the Cameroon Association of Humanitarian Photojournalists.

While Jacob worked as a correspondent, he sponsored a public photo exhibition called “100 Faces of Poverty,” based on pictures he took documenting the struggles of poor Cameroon citizens. This landed him in hot water with the Cameroon government. “I was arrested three times,” he notes.

In 2003, Jacob was invited by the American Embassy in Cameroon to come to the U.S. and speak about the challenges he faced as a photojournalist. After he arrived in the U.S., he was granted political asylum.

In the U.S., he enrolled in English language classes and joined the American Society of Media Photographers. To further his photography training, he enrolled at Brooks Institute in 2005 and made Ventura his home. Upon his graduation in 2008, he was invited to be the keynote speaker. He also received Brooks prestigious “Outstanding Achievement” award.

While enrolled at Brooks, Jacob founded a group called Global Humanitarian Photojournalists (www.globalhp.org). For his first project, he traveled to the Congo and filmed a story on single mothers (known as flux mothers) who had been raped during Congo's recent civil war (1997-2000). Today, GHP operates as a 501C3 nonprofit. A local office of GHP has been established in the City of Ventura's new Nonprofit Center.

Jacob is moving his main office to

Washington, D.C. Eventually, he would like to provide research grants to other small photojournalism organizations in poor and developing countries. In turn, he would do documentaries on what they have learned and use this as a vehicle to speak to other universities.

Of course, Jacob's subject matter is difficult. One wonders how he can immerse himself in stories about poverty, torture, and violence. Jacob answers by pointing to his own nature – that of an observer. It fits well with his profession: “I have my own way of seeing things. When I was a child, I was a very quiet person, watching, listening to what people around me were saying. That built my way of seeing things.” He believes that photojournalism is important to the political and social well-being of a country. As he tells it, “A country needs great photojournalists to tell great stories, or a country will die.”

Though moving to D.C., he still considers Ventura his home. He plans to maintain a GHP office here and return for regular visits. His plans may carry him afar, perhaps to such places as Haiti, Kashmir, and Ghana. Still, he feels a sense of gratitude for his time in Ventura, particularly to his friends at the WÄV, where he has lived for the last six months. “They accepted me,” he says, “as one of the only ones working with social justice.”

Here's hoping, as he traverses the globe doing humanitarian work, some of his pictures work their way back to Ventura. Given Jacob's photogenic talent, those of us who love a good story would enjoy seeing the next chapter.

Rugs

Continued from page 15

ning to the phrase “consider the source”.

“There are people out there who don't even know there really are black sheep!” exclaims the artist.

The black untreated wool, as well as the variety of browns, grays, whites and every natural hue in between, have traveled from the farm only 20 minutes away to the loom in Vorgang's studio at the Bell Arts Factory.

Vorgang is a member of Designing Weavers, a Los Angeles based juried fiber artists guild and shows her work at her studio, gallery exhibitions, and juried art and craft shows such as the American Craft Council, Contemporary Crafts Market, and the Southwest Arts Festival.

The Buenaventura Gallery is located at 700 E. Santa Clara St. Hours are Tuesday thru Friday from 12 – 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. For questions or an appointment during other hours, please call 648-1235 or visit www.buenaventuragallery.org.

George Stuart Figures at County Museum

Liberty! The Genius of the People, an exhibit of 30 George Stuart Historical Figures® involved in our nation's revolution and founding, is now on exhibit through October 17 at the Museum of Ventura County. This is the first full gallery exhibition of the figures in two years, and marks their return to

the Smith Gallery in the museum's new and renovated facility at 100 East Main St.

Artist and historian George Stuart will also give a monologue presentation during the run on Tuesday, August 17 at 7 p.m., Founders in Focus will concentrate on those who influenced America's direction during our formative years.

The monologues will take place in the museum's new Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Pavilion. Admission is \$15 for the general public, \$10 for museum members; members of the George Stuart Historical Figures® Guild may attend at no charge. For reservations, call 653-0323 x 305.

The Museum of Ventura County hours are 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more museum information go to www.venturamuseum.org.



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