

**FREE**

# VENTURA BREEZE

**Your Hometown Paper**

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## A non-statistically significant take on parking meters

by Rebecca Wicks

Ventura is not the first city to install meters in its downtown, and following in the footsteps of many a city it has also found itself embroiled in controversy around them.

The debate however, doesn't seem to be so much amongst shoppers as much as it is between merchants. After speaking with more than 40 merchants, property owners and others who operate businesses downtown I have to report, it's a pretty even split.

I will state upfront, this was a non-scientific survey. I took a lot of statistical analysis classes in college, and my process for this article was not in line with any of the rules or parameters outlined in any of those classes.

I simply called as many merchants as I could. A number of people refused to speak to me. Of those that would speak with me, many asked not to be named in the article in return for their candidness.

Here is how the breakdown of my informal survey of 41 interviewees went.

Eleven interviewees believed the meters affected their business negatively and wanted the meters either removed or at the very least suspended through the holiday season.

Nineteen interviewees categorized themselves as neutral, stating they neither liked, nor disliked the meters. A number claimed they believed their business would remain the same with or without the meters present.



On November 8, City of Ventura employees and their families held a rally to bring attention to what they see as the misplaced budget priorities that continue to result in reduced services for Ventura residents.

After shining flashlights and candles, and focusing a giant spotlight on Ventura City Hall city workers from the Association of Fire Fighters, Police Officers Association and SEIU 721 presented their budget ideas to the City Council at their meeting that evening. They offered to work with the City to strengthen resources and services.

And, in the end I placed eleven interviewees in the pro-meter camp. I will stress no one was overly excited about the meters, however this group was generally optimistic about what the meters, and meter revenue could translate into for the downtown area including more police presence and cleaner streets.

"I'd probably get tarred and feathered for saying this, but if parking meters mean my sidewalk will be clean all the time I'm all for them," said the owner of a local salon. "We all want a safer cleaner downtown, and the bottom line is the money has to come from somewhere."

Others who remain firmly against the meters worry about their and other businesses ability to survive with meters seemingly deterring customers.

"Times are already tough and the city is not helping," said a local Main Street retail store owner. "Does the city want to see more businesses close downtown? It sure seems that way."

Kathleen Eriksen, the executive director for the Downtown Ventura Partners stressed the future benefits of the meters which include improved lighting, additional cadets, more police presence and help to stop panhandling.

"We're trying to work with merchants to be successful," said Eriksen. "And, we want to create an environment that they can be successful in."

A group of merchants who staged a protest against the parking meters earlier this month saw about two dozen people join their cause.

"I don't think the negativity and the hostility are helping bring people downtown," said Dave Armstrong chair of the Downtown Ventura Partners (DVP). "We've asked merchants who are in support of the meters to come forward but many feel threatened or bullied."

"I am happy they put meters in," said a retail owner. "I don't want someone who works in the shop next door to park in front of my store."

She added, "I've found the people who are willing to feed a meter 50 cents are more likely to make more sizeable purchases – and, those are the people I want to leave the spaces in front of my store for."

Still others are adamant the meters have cut down on the number of people who are walking in through their doors.

## Governor's Council honors Summerfest with \$10,000

Jake (Body by Jake) Steinfeld, Chairman of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports was at Cabrillo Middle School to honor Summerfest for its efforts to help Ventura County children get physically active and fit. Steinfeld presented Summerfest a check for \$10,000 for winning "Event of the Year" in the 2010 Spotlight Awards presented by the Anthem Blue Cross Foundation.

In its' 5th year, SummerFest 2010 served over 6,000 kids and families, the majority from Title 1 schools. SummerFest activities included an elementary school run, dancing, and a bike rodeo in which kids could bring in their bikes for expert repair and instruction. SummerFest officials also sent unclaimed bikes from the local police department home with many kids at the end of the event.



Ed Wehan, Summer Fest Founder, Dr. Trudy Arriaga, Ventura Unified School District Superintendent, Mark Benhard, Anthem Foundation, Sharon Wiggins, Anthem Foundation, Jake (Body by Jake) Steinfeld, Chairman Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and Kenny Rogers Executive Director Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Photo by John Ferritto



Halloween, the holiday where parents take their kids out collecting candy and then won't let them eat it.

"I don't care what people say," said a shop owner. "There have been noticeably less people in my store since the meters were put in and more people browsing means more sales – period."

Many city officials and other local leaders stress the meters have been in place for less than two months and need to be given a chance.

"Since implementation, there have been multiple changes made to the program with potentially more to come," said Sandra Burkhardt, president and CEO of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce who supports the city's decision to place meters downtown.

Last month some changes were made to the meters including making the 24 minute parking spaces free.

How to change the meters to make them better for downtown business has been a much discussed topic. Last week the city's parking advisory committee

*Continued on page 4*



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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.

PUBLISHER  
Sheldon Brown  
[editor@venturabreeze.com](mailto:editor@venturabreeze.com)

PET EDITOR  
Professor Scamp  
[scampclub@venturabreeze.com](mailto:scampclub@venturabreeze.com)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Tim Pompey · Rebecca Wicks  
Nanci Cone · Karlene Lang  
Mira Reverente · Veronica Johnson  
James Spencer · Shirley Lorraine  
Sheli Ellsworth · Donna MacBride  
Emily Thiroux · Michael Kohli  
Annie-Gabriel (AKA Gaby)

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER  
John Ferritto

INTERNS  
Brooke Demchuck – Ventura High School  
Kathryne Duckwitz – Ventura High School  
Danielle Peak – University of San Diego  
Erik Schiemann – Brooks Institute

SENIOR ADVISORS  
Nanci Cone  
Suz Montgomery

ADVERTISING ADVISORS  
Leselie Ann Matthias  
[leselie10@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leselie10@sbcglobal.net)  
Adele Rosales  
[a.rosales99@gmail.com](mailto:a.rosales99@gmail.com)  
805.236.8438  
Diane Grabau  
[d\\_grabau@yahoo.com](mailto:d_grabau@yahoo.com)

PRODUCTION  
Alfred J. Lewis/studioNothing  
[alfred@studionothing.com](mailto:alfred@studionothing.com)

PRINTING  
Roger Wirsing  
American Foothill Publishing Co.

REACHING US:  
EVENTS & HAPPENINGS  
[events@venturabreeze.com](mailto:events@venturabreeze.com)

OPINIONS  
[opinions@venturabreeze.com](mailto:opinions@venturabreeze.com)

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS  
[editor@venturabreeze.com](mailto:editor@venturabreeze.com)

ADVERTISING  
[advertising@venturabreeze.com](mailto:advertising@venturabreeze.com)

**Ventura Breeze**  
1575 Spinnaker Drive, 105B, Box 393  
Ventura, CA 93001  
805.653.0791 · Fax 805.641.3158

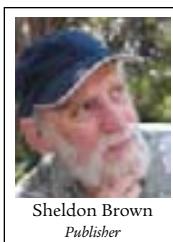


The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

Sheldon:

Hey, we finally were in town for lunch this weekend, and that means we picked up the Breeze and saw it was a celebration of 3 years for your publication. Congrats!! We thought the Breeze has been around longer than that (which is a compliment), because it has become everyone's favorite paper to read. All our friends, neighbors, and co workers agree-

## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown  
Publisher

■ The article that we have in this issue regarding the new parking meters will be the last (except for opinions) until next year. Enough has been said by all parties, so now let's just see how they work out for the rest of the year. I think that an evaluation after the holidays will tell us more.

Personally I like them because there are now open spaces available downtown, it is only a short block away from free parking if one doesn't want to pay, and they are Ventura Breeze blue.

I also like the fact that you can add money to your time from any station and now from your cell phone (some 16-year-old will need to explain to me how) so you do not need to walk back to your car to do this.

■ The economy (and some poor management in some cases) has taken its toll on Ventura's finer restaurants.

A while back Scotch & Sirloin closed, then the Hungry Hunter, now The Dume Room and 394 Main downtown and I see that Café Bariloche is for lease. During tough economic times eating out at finer restaurants is greatly scaled back.

■ Yesterday I was on KADY TV.com with Maria Sanchez at 4:30 discussing the news to be found in the latest issue of the Breeze.

I will be doing this on the Tuesday before each issue if you want to get a sneak preview of what will be in the paper. I will also be bringing on some of Ventura's leading personalities (and characters).

■ American Apparel's financial crises

continue as they reported a double-digit decline in sales and a loss of \$9.5 million in sales during the last quarter.

Hopefully our downtown store can make it through the holidays as American Apparel tries to solve their huge problems.

■ If you watch our City Council meetings you are familiar with Melody Joy Baker, who has also run for Ventura City Council several times.

At a City Council meeting held a few months ago Mayor Bill Fulton had to cut the meeting short because of her disruptive manner and refusal to keep quiet.

At the City Council meeting held on November 8 she was arrested after becoming extremely agitated and started hollering profanities for all to hear, in-



cluding many children in attendance. Many parents were seen covering their kids' ears.

She wheeled herself into the hallway and continued to curse very loudly. When police, who had been in attendance, tried to stop her screaming she threw coffee on an officer and was ar-

rested for battery (oops, I mean suspicion of battery) toward the officer.

On many occasions she has asked me put an article in the Breeze about her so that she could get some publicity, so here it is.

■ And speaking of closings I am really sorry to see the Gallery255 (on Laurel) close its doors.

Sandra McCullough has maintained this art gallery and studios, composed of many local artists, for some time. Hopefully she can find another location for what was one of Ventura's more unique artist's spaces.

■ Ventura College recently presented a play at the former Wright Library which brought up many questions to city staff because of fear that the city had given up ownership of the building (it sits on property leased from the college but is owned by Ventura).

City Manager Rick Cole assured all that the college was given permission to use the facility as long as they did not make any permanent changes to the building. The play "Merton of the Movies" only involved the construction of a temporary stage.

■ I would like to thank the many, many extremely hard working Venturans who participated in Ventura's 2010 Relay for Life event. It exceeded its goals and netted over \$217,000.

Relay For Life of Ventura was recognized at the California Division Conference for being a Top 20 Fundraising Event in the State. Out of 385 events in California, Ventura came in 18th place! That is something that we all can really be proud of as a community.

Hope to see you there in 2011.

## Mailbox

-your paper is an important part of our community, and I am sure it is a labor of love. I also sometimes mail the Breeze to my sister and stepdaughter so they can enjoy a little bit of Ventura news--you keep it real, you keep it local, and you keep it fun.

Keep up the GREAT work!  
Cherie and Miles  
(and all our friends and neighbors)

*Breeze received a wonderful Happy Birthday card with a cute dog on the cover:  
“Hope you get your paws on lots of birthday goodies!”*

Dear Ventura Breeze:

Your paper is great. Keep up the great work!

Sean Methew (*hope that is spelled right*)

Breeze:

Downtown Ventura's new parking meters have been the source of discussion and controversy for the last couple of weeks. Here are the facts.

For years, potential customers and merchants complained that there was inadequate parking. In fact, there was plenty of parking in Downtown in the parking structure, on side streets and in nearby surface lots. But the customers who stayed away were absolutely right that there was no parking available on Main Street during the busy weekday and weekend hours.

Now that has changed. You can find a convenient pay parking space on Main Street almost any time of the day or a free one nearby. There are 2,915 public parking spaces in Downtown Ventura. Only 342 spaces are pay parking spaces. That means that 8 out of 9 parking spaces are still free! Anyone who wishes to park for

free has lots of nearby choices.

The parking management program is a work in progress and getting better. The 24 minute green parking spaces are now free. Paid parking now ends at 9 pm and paid parking does not begin until 10 am. The Downtown Parking Advisory Committee just authorized a new way to pay for parking, pay by cell phone. This will be a convenient way to pay for parking and also a great way for merchants who wish to pay some portion of their customers' parking.

Every dollar of parking revenue goes right back to support your Downtown. The new revenue stream is now funding a full-time police officer dedicated solely to Downtown. In addition, depending on the size of future revenues, the meters may be able to fund more enhancements of Downtown.

Downtown is a lively, eclectic, and happening place with unique shopping, a wide range of excellent dining choices, and the friendly ambiance of an historic business district. Come to Downtown Ventura, try out the meters or park for free and see for yourself.

Jeff Smith

*Chair of the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee*

To the Editor, Ventura Breeze:

Unlike Camarillo, Ventura is poised to make an informed decision about future library services. As Mayor Fulton affirmed, the county system is viable

without Camarillo. We may decide the county offers access to trained information professionals, competitive cost, and greater access to materials than any alternative.

Camarillo did not address the concerns of library patrons. The Council did not understand libraries and library administration, and in fact, one Camarillo council member required an explanation of book acquisition through Amazon.com.

Camarillo library patrons did not have an opportunity to study the LSSI model, learn the differences in library quality, voice concerns, or suggest alternatives. The contract was already on the table. The issues are too important to make a hasty decision.

For example, patrons in Camarillo decried that the Camarillo Library will now become a standalone library without guaranteed access to other collections. Adult literacy programs will not be offered, and retaining of children's programs is not guaranteed.

We lost our beloved Wright Library due to the evaporation of the State Library Fund, state raiding of local tax revenue, and the Great Recession. I am concerned about the wisdom of giving tax dollars to a for profit company. Thankfully Ventura is not Camarillo. We will take the time to do our homework, and use our libraries to research the best course of action.

Marianne Coffey  
Ventura

**Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth.**

—John F. Kennedy



# City News



Mary Galbraith "backbone" of the FOTM

## Mary Galbraith honored as "Community Motivator"

On Monday, November 8th at 6 p.m., Focus on the Master's Executive Assistant Mary Galbraith was honored by Ventura's Mayor Bill Fulton for her dedication as a volunteer within the organization. The Mayor's "Community Motivator" Award recognizes individuals for outstanding service and volunteerism. Community Motivators use their unique talents to serve others, have a strong ethic of service, a pure compassion for people and an inspirational nature to motivate those around them to serve. Mary was chosen as an outstanding example of a "Community Motivator" through her generosity and service to others.

Mary has dedicated the last seven years to volunteering for Focus on the Masters (FOTM), a non-profit arts education and appreciation program that documents, preserves and presents the works and lives of accomplished contemporary artists.

Mary routinely donates between 20-40 hours per week organizing the volunteer-staff, coordinating mid-year and end-year appeals, writing artist biographies, maintaining the organization's database in addition to managing the day-to-day operations of FOTM.

Considered by many to be the "backbone" of the organization, Mary is more than just a dynamo at multi-tasking. Mary's 30+ years of philanthropic experience, combined with her love and enthusiasm for the arts as both a volunteer and a patron, are an example of how an individual's involvement and passion can inspire and motivate an organization and a community.

In addition to volunteering, Mary and her husband Jim also support other local arts organizations such as the Ventura Music Festival and the Rubicon Theatre.

Their generosity does not stop there as they have established college scholarships in both their names through the Ventura County Community Foundation to assist the youth in our community in furthering their education.

## Let's be "One City at Thanksgiving"

**by Mayor Bill Fulton**

Here in Ventura, we have a Thanksgiving tradition, which we call "One City, One Meal". The Salvation Army, Ventura Social Services Task Force and Ventura Missionary Church, with support from the City of Ventura, offer a Thanksgiving meal for our community to break bread together. The

idea is that on the day of thanks we share a meal with friends and neighbors who live in the same city.

We have a strong sense of community in Ventura. We are unified in our passion to make Ventura a better place, yet our community members are diverse in religion, politics, culture and economics to name a few. Which makes this an ideal opportunity to connect with each other, honor and embrace our differences and perspectives and share a meal with fellow community members.

One City, One Meal will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 25 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 36 Figueroa Street. There will be 3 seatings - 11am, noon and 1 pm (with a capacity of about 150 per seating). Volunteers are needed for set-up, clean up, serving, and table hosts. Food donations and monetary or supply donations are welcomed. You can find out more about how you can participate in One City, One Meal by calling Nola Grunden at the Salvation Army at 659-3598.

## 2010 Mayor's Arts Awards recipients announced

Ventura Mayor Bill Fulton has announced the winners of the 2010 Mayor's Arts Awards. This program was created to honor major contributions of individuals, organizations and businesses to Ventura through the arts; cultivate greater visibility and understanding of the value of the arts; and build new leadership and develops patrons for the arts.

The 2010 Mayor's Arts Award Honorees are:  
Helen Yunker - Arts Patron  
Jack Halbert - Artist in the Community  
Sylvia White - Creative Entrepreneur  
Margaret Travers - Arts Leader  
Bob Moskowitz - Arts Educator  
Chris Jay - Emerging Artist

In September, a selection panel representing philanthropic, educational, and cultural interests was convened to review nominations for this year. Using criteria established in the awards guidelines, one honoree was selected from each of the six categories.

## Ventura Water begins water system flushing maintenance

Ventura Water has begun routine maintenance operations to improve water quality and protect pipe integrity by flushing sediments and minerals that may have accumulated in the City's water distribution pipes over time. To minimize impacts to customers, operations will be conducted from 10 pm through 6 am, Monday through Thursday, approximately every other week from November through February.

During the operation, residents may hear and see water as it is discharged from fire hydrants into the streets and road travelers are asked to take extra care. Following the flushing in their area, residents may notice brown or discolored water when the tap is first turned on in the morning. If this happens, customers should open the cold tap nearest the water meter - usually the front outside faucet - to full flow and run

the water into their garden or lawn for a few minutes until the water clears.

More information is available at the City of Ventura's Environmental and Water Resources Facebook page. If you have any questions, please call Ventura Water at 652-4500 or Nancy Broschart at 654-7526.

## Council member Neal Andrews receives NLC leadership training honor

Neal Andrews will be recognized by the National League of Cities (NLC) for reaching the Silver level in its Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program. Sponsored by the NLC Leadership Training Institute (LTI), the award will be presented in Denver, Colo. at the annual Congress of Cities in December.

To achieve the Silver level, a local official must earn 36 credits encompassing all five core competency areas of the LTI curriculum, referred to as "Cornerstone," "Competent Practitioner," "Communicator," "Collaborator" and "Catalyst."

Andrews is one of the fewer than three hundred and fifty NLC members to have reached the Silver level in the Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program since its inception.

NLC is committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of our nation's local elected officials. As part of the NLC mission to create stronger communities, the Leadership Training Institute provides local officials with the professional development opportunities to assist them in promoting positive change and innovation within their communities. At the same

time, seminars are designed to explore the nature and practice of local governmental leadership.

Each training seminar addresses one or more of the core areas of municipal leadership, including personal leadership growth and development, effective governance, effective communications, skills in developing and promoting partnerships and managing change.

NLC's Leadership Training Council established the Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program in 1999. The primary purpose of the program is to recognize and acknowledge excellence in leadership by NLC members.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

### Parking meters

*Continued from page 1*

discussed but ultimately decided to put off the decision to turn the meters off through the holiday season.

The group did strike down a number small changes recommended by city staff regarding the reduction of hours and the cost of meters on side streets. The group stated making these changes would add confusion for customers.

The advisory committee did agree to add a feature to the meters which will let people add time to their meters using their cell phones.

The committee meets again next week. The city council will also be addressing meters at its November 22 meeting.

"I'm worried we're airing our dirty laundry out in public," said a Main Street shop owner. "What matters is what customers think, and if they can get used to meters - they don't need to hear all of us bickering at each other."



Master of ceremonies Louis Van Amstel reading the list of auction items at the "Dancing with the Stars of Tomorrow"

## The 43rd Great Auction

On Saturday, November 6 the 43rd Annual Great Auction was held at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel entitled "Dancing with the Stars of Tomorrow."

The stars being the girls and boys that attend their clubs in Ventura.

The fund raiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura featured the music of Karl Keller's "Sax and the City", silent auctions, a wonderful dinner, live auctions, dancing by the kids from the Boys & Girls Club and an after party at the downstairs Aqua Lounge featuring the

sax playing of Leon Roussso and was attended by several hundred people.

As 2010 Auction Committee Chair Becky Harmon stated "Your donations tonight will invest in the future of our Stars of Tomorrow".

The master of ceremonies was Louis Van Amstel, ballroom dance champion, who appears on Dancing with the Stars.

According to Breeze writer Scamp the highlight of the evening was a Shih Tzu puppy being auctioned off for \$2,300. He said "can you just imagine what a famous dog like me must be worth."



## News and Notes



Some of Betty Eagle's family members: her husband, Norman, and sons, David and Harry

## Memorial for cherished local advocate

by Sheli Ellsworth

Local peace activist and icon, Betty Eagle, was honored posthumously on Sunday, November 7, by several community organizations. Ms. Eagle, born in 1927, began a path of social consciousness in her teens when she worked with the Zionist movement for the creation of the State of Israel. Later, she worked for peace and justice for the Palestinians. She continued to become involved in some of the prominent issues of her time, including civil and labor rights. She also worked to stop the Vietnam War; support the lettuce and grape boycott of the 60s and 70s; help local mushroom harvesters in contract negotiations in 1998; and end the bombing and occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Ms. Eagle passed away unexpectedly in July after a lifetime of political activism.

The daughter of Hungarian Jewish immigrants, Ms. Eagle claimed her right to a library card at age four after proving she could read. She eventually became an elementary grade school teacher who passed on her love of reading to many. She also founded and conducted for 15 years the European Classical Musical Festival tour of Wolfgang Mozart's life winning the Marco Polo Prize for excellence from

the travel industry.

Married to Norman for 58 years, the Eagles served as charter members of the steering committee of the Peace Coalition of Greater Ventura. In 2001 Betty and Norman Eagle were awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation from the United Farm Workers of America. In 2007 the Eagles received the Earth Charter Award for their "Commitment to Democracy, Non-Violence and Peace."

The memorial was sponsored by Citizens for a Peaceful Resolution and The Peace Coalition of Greater Ventura and supported by Venturans for a Just Palestine, Veterans for Peace, VC COOL C.A.U.S.E., Green Party VC, Todo Poder al Pueblo and the United Farm Workers. It was organized by Cindy Piester at the request of, and with the assistance of, the Eagle Family. It began with the dedication of an eight-foot bench in Plaza Park and was followed by a peace and justice march in downtown, ending with a memorial ceremony at Foster Library.

Ms. Eagle is survived by Norman, brother, Bernard; sister, Ruby; three sons, David, Jeremy and Harry; daughter-in-law, Nancy; and grandchildren, Alison and Jesse.

## Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) 'Alumni' host fundraisers to help fill funding gap

by Nanci Cone

Due to an unexpected and significant decrease in funding from both foundation grants and corporate gifts, non-profit WEV is now facing a \$200,000 budget gap for 2010. At a time when WEV's self-employment and small business training programs and small business loans are needed more than ever, WEV program

clients and 'graduates' are hosting a series of events at their own businesses from now through December to benefit WEV programs.

"If you know of WEV, you probably already know about all the great things they do and lives they touch," said Talia Wunder, owner of Devone Design Perfect Fit Jewelry and a founding member of the WEV Alumni Fundraising Committee. "I know firsthand as WEV helped me on my journey from stalled to success after I lost my full-time job last year."

The goal is for alumni to individually give and/or raise \$500 each or \$3,000 per team of alumni toward a goal of \$100,000. WEV's board and staff goal is to match that \$100,000 with grants and major gifts.

"We are so grateful to our alumni who are banding together to make sure WEV can continue to serve others in the community," said Marsha Bailey, Women's Economic Ventures Founder and

CEO. "These women and men are the ones who best understand what WEV does, why we do it and how it helps."

The next fundraiser in Ventura is an Underground Dinner hosted by WEV Self-Employment Training graduates Lynne Castillo and Talia Wunder on December 12 with location and time to be decided.

Today, WEV offers a continuum of programs to help women succeed at every stage of the business lifecycle. To learn more, visit the WEV website at [www.wevonline.org](http://www.wevonline.org). Since, Women's Economic Ventures has been helping

be one of a handful of locomotives in the country to "go green".

The locomotive was purchased by Fillmore & Western in December of 1999 from Dodge City Railroad in Dodge City, Kansas and hadn't seen service on the rails since the 1960's. View photos taken that follow the day-to-day progress of the restoration on their website at [www.fwry.com](http://www.fwry.com).

The locomotive will be "back on track" during the December Christmas Holiday. Frequent the website to learn when #14, will once again, exert its awesome power on the rails. Be a part of re-living history by being aboard.

All Aboard for Fun! 524-2546

## Back on track after 50 years at Fillmore & Western Railway

The #14, a Baldwin Steam Engine 2-8-0 locomotive that was built in 1913 is going to be chugging back on the railroad tracks again after a 50 year absence. That's a generation of time it sat idle. After intermittent rebuild projects spanning the last 5 or 6 years, a decision was made in March to step-up the effort and get the job done. In April an intense effort was put forth by Fillmore & Western Railway steam engineers to restore the locomotive to its original glory and their efforts are nearing completion, and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The locomotive has been converted from a coal-fired to oil-fired and will go through its initial trial runs fired by fuel oil. The locomotive has been outfitted to be fired by recycled vegetable oil and will

## Volunteer in the beautiful Ventura Harbor

Channel Islands National Park needs Volunteers. Positions are available in the Robert J. Largomarsino Visitor Center located in the beautiful Ventura Harbor. Volunteers will present information to people interested in the Channel Islands. Volunteers will work alongside National Park Rangers who provide training in the natural and cultural history of the Channel Islands, as well as various travel opportunities to the islands. Volunteers work a half day per/week and make a commitment of at least one-year. Call today and discover the Channel Islands. Contact Bill Faulkner at 658-5734 or email: [bill\\_faulkner@nps.gov](mailto:bill_faulkner@nps.gov)

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

**Nov. 20, 2010**  
**Jan. 15, 2011 & Feb. 19, 2011**  
**9 am - 2 pm**

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE:**

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- Household Cleaners
- Pesticides
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- Paint, Polishes & Varnishes
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Call Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm for an Appointment

**Limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds per visit.**

**ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED INCLUDE:**

- 55 Gallon Drums of Material
- Commercial/Industrial Waste
- Compressed Gas Cylinders
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- Explosives, Ammunition, Fireworks
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## News and Notes



Ventura County D.A. Totten at Ivy Lawn Veterans Day service. Photo by John Ferritto

### Ventura County District Attorney Greg Totten keynote speaker

Ventura County District Attorney Greg Totten was the keynote speaker at the 18th annual Veterans Day service held at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park in Ventura on Thursday, November 11.

The ceremony, "A Veterans Day Dedication to World Peace," began at 10:30 a.m.

George Compton, a retired Army colonel and former Ventura County Veterans Service Officer, served as mas-

ter of ceremonies. Color Guards representing local service organizations were there as well, the Pacific Coast Highlanders Pipe Band performed and Jennifer Vasquez played "Taps."

Over 1,000 American casket flags were on display during the ceremony, courtesy of the Veterans' Avenue of Flags Organization. Each flag has the name of the veteran it belongs to written on the binding.



Barbara Meister (center), with scholarship winners Charlene Dickson and Joceline Lam receiving their \$5,000 scholarships

### Meister Foundation awards \$5,000 scholarships to two nursing students

Charlene Dickson and Joceline Lam, students in Ventura College's Associate Degree Nursing Program, are recipients of the 2010 Meister Family Foundation Nursing Scholarship, offered through Community Memorial Health System.

The scholarship winners each received \$5,000. They were chosen by a four-member CMHS nursing committee based on criteria that included grade-point average, community service, financial needs, a 500-word personal statement focusing on career goals and a letter of reference from a VC nursing faculty member. Upon graduation, these nurses may be offered nursing jobs at CMHS.

Dickson, who serves as a certified nursing assistant in Community Memorial Hospital's fifth-floor Medical-Surgical Unit while attending school, said she chose a nursing career, due in large part to the sup-

port and care she received from nurses when she was a patient.

"CMH is very important to me," Dickson wrote in her personal statement. "I had my children there, and my cancer surgeries there. I was supported in my recovery by my favorite people, nurses."

Lam, who works in CMH's operating room, said she grew up wanting to be a medical doctor, but decided to switch to nursing after earning her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California at Riverside.

"I knew I wanted to not only help people, but I also wanted to reach out to patients on a more personal level," Lam wrote in her personal statement. "Nursing became the clear answer that fulfilled all of my career criteria."

Barbara Meister, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Barber Automotive

Group in Ventura, has served on the board of the Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation since its inception in 1984. A longtime Ventura County philanthropist, she established the yearly \$10,000 nursing scholarship in 2007 to show her gratitude for the caring treatment her late husband Larry received during his stays at the hospital.

### Ventura Police and high schools partner to educate

The Ventura Police Department and the Ventura Unified School District are partnering with Motivational Multimedia Assembly (MMA), which uses high-tech imagery to present a dynamic, celebrity-filled multi-media show. Using popular music videos, movie and TV program clips, MMA creates a powerful impression viewed on 11 foot by 43 foot screens, conveying age-appropriate messages encouraging youth to make informed decisions on difficult choices and first-person stories on youth being challenged to make better decisions concerning their health, safety and future.

The Ventura Police Department is committed to our youth and working with MMA to educate our leaders of tomorrow with these key messages: youth having control, being responsible, the consequence of underage drinking and drug use as well as perception versus reality.

Upcoming presentations will be held at two assemblies at Ventura High School, 2 North Catalina Street, on November 18 in the Auditorium; three assemblies at Buena High School, 5670 Telegraph Road, on November 19 in the Auditorium.

School Resource Officer J. MacLellan, Ventura Police Department, will be the facilitator for all presentations.

For more information regarding these presentations contact Public Information Officer: Sgt. J Richards, Ventura Police Department, at 339-4470 or 805 339-4399 or email: [jrichards@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:jrichards@ci.ventura.ca.us)

## Cooking Donna's Dishes

by Donna Mac Bride

*For all you foodies out there, I've started a new recipe column based on home cooking by local Ventura cooks. We'll emphasize entree's or side dishes, salads for now. Just send me your simple recipe ideas to [Vtafoodie@yahoo.com](mailto:Vtafoodie@yahoo.com) include name, and picture if you like. Open to Ventura residents only. Share what works for your family and friends.*



### Turkey breast - easy thanksgiving

by Jean Pitney, Ventura

1 turkey breast, on the bone, rinsed and patted dry with paper towels  
- 10 large shallots, peeled  
- 3 medium carrots, peeled, and cut into 2-inch pieces

**Turkey paste:**

- 4 tablespoons whole-grain mustard
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil

**Gravy:**

- 2 cans or 4 cups of chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, for seasoning

Mix paste together and cover the top of the turkey breast.

Place in large baking pan surrounded by shallots, carrots and any other root vegetable. Bake 375 until done.

Gravy: scrape up any turkey left in pan and add chicken stock, flour, s&p and stir well until gravy is formed.



*The third Living History Day at the Olivas Adobe presented docents and volunteers greeting the visitors with demonstrations of how life was in the mid 1,800's by demonstrating wine making, quilting, washing of clothes, carpentry, use of firearms and other activities of the time all dressed in clothes of the period.*

*Of course Mr. & Mrs. Olivas were there reminiscing about the raising of 21 kids in the Adobe.*

*They explained how the boys slept outside on the balcony to protect their sisters from the overly rambunctious cow hands.*



## News and Notes



Residents and staff of the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura receive Awards of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. Top row, Director of Resident Services John Garcia, Chief Operating Officer of Public Housing Jose Gomes, and Director of Information Technology William Rhodes Bottom row, Residents Celia Zavala and Wanda Sumner, Etiquette Instructor Mary Barrientos and Commissioner Phyllis D. Kozel.

## Housing Authority receives Awards of Merit

The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura received Awards of Merit for Innovation in Resident Services for their Etiquette Plus Program, and for Administrative Innovation for their Electronic Master Calendar Program, announced Edward L. Moses, CEO.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) conferred the prestigious awards, which were presented to those member agencies that have developed creative ways of making a difference in the lives of the people they serve.

Recognized for Administrative Innovation, the Electronic Master Calendar ensures that each of the agency's departments have met their individual tasking, reporting and submission goals on time to the agency, to local and state organizations, and to United States Department

of Housing and Urban Development. Since the inception of the program in June 2009, the agency has recorded a 99.5 percent completion rate on all agency-related tasks and reports.

In its third year, Etiquette Plus is an intergenerational program for housing residents who want to advance their personal skills for success in school, social, or business settings. Through exposure to a world beyond housing and by teaching communication and social skills via a tailored curriculum, guest speakers and field trips, participants realize increased confidence and learn vital life skills.

"I am so proud of staff for being recognized with these awards," said CEO Ed Moses, "But more importantly, I am proud of our residents for participating in the programs we offer for their personal development and growth."

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## Harrison's Thanksgiving schedule

In observance of Thanksgiving Day, the employees of Harrison Industries are taking the day off on Thursday, November 25. As a result, customers who normally have their trash and recyclables or green waste collected on Thursday or Friday will have it collected one day later than usual.

The Thanksgiving holiday will not affect customers who have their trash and recyclables or green waste collected on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

The regular schedule for all customers will resume the following week.

For more information, call 647-1414.

## Exercise equipment for the Veterans Home

Los Angeles Police Officer Kristina Ripatti Pearce was tragically shot and paralyzed in 2006 while in the line of duty and she became a spokesperson for NuStep. She used Nu-Step fitness equipment as part of her rehabilitation and recovery to transform the tragedy of paralysis into a triumph of fierce determination – and to rebuild a life of family, friends and fitness.

NuStep is committed to helping men and women in the Armed Forces

and Veteran residents at the new Veterans Home of California. Barbara Spiegel, Regent, Conejo Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, spearheaded efforts to obtain the exercise equipment for the Veterans Home. The group generously funded a portion of the equipment.

## Thanksgiving Potluck is this evening

The Ventura Family YMCA is inviting everyone in the community to join in for their free Sixth Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Celebration. At 5 pm on Wednesday, November 17. There will be a great variety of delicious food and entertainment.

The Thanksgiving Potluck is a yearly celebration where staff, members and individuals from the community join together for an evening of great company and a free meal. The staff at the Ventura Family YMCA also uses this opportunity to give thanks and appreciation to its members.

"The potluck is our special way to say thank you to the members and individuals in our community, as they are the ones that truly make the YMCA a wonderful place" said Amber Stevens, Aquatics Director at the Ventura Family YMCA.

They invite you to join them for an incredibly fun event that will shed a spirit of thanks throughout our community and throughout the Ventura Family YMCA. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share as we reflect on what we are thankful for and the exciting future to come.

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A standing "room" only crowd thoroughly enjoyed the great music of the Shoemaker Brothers on October 31 at the last of the October concerts "New Music Outdoor Lounge" held at the Ventura Harbor Village.



## Community Events

### Holiday Swing Big Band Dance

by Sheli Ellsworth

Dance—listen to jazz—enjoy the harbor view. The Ventura Jazz Orchestra will be kicking off the holiday season with the Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club on December 4th at 3451 Foothill Road.

Orchestra founder, Dean Adams, left a career in sales to follow his passion. After much soul searching, he decided to spend his days as a handyman and his nights with Sinatra, Fitzgerald, and Dean Martin.

"We have a wonderful show lined up. It's our yearly Holiday Big Band Swing Dance. We will be performing tunes like Baby It's Cold Outside, Santa Baby, and the Harry Connick version of Sleigh Ride," says Adams. "I like to divide the show into thirds." Part of the show will feature female vocalist Donna Greene and male vocalist Glenn Novack. The remainder will be instrumentals like In the Mood.

With over twenty shows under his belt, Adams feels he has the "finest musicians in Ventura County." The 19-piece show band consists of four trumpet players, four trombonists, five saxophonists, a stand-up Bassist, an electric guitarist, a drummer and a pianist.

Adams is dedicated to producing a first class show, "I tell my orchestra, half measures avail us nothing. Full measures are when you practice and rehearse." The band promises to be full of energy when they start playing at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$12 at the door, parking is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 648-1143.

### Nutcracker coming to Oxnard

On November 20, for the first time ever, the Ventura County Ballet Company (VCBC) will share the spotlight with Ventura College's 52-piece orchestra (VCO) to incorporate live music in the company's annual must-see holiday shows.

"The Ventura College's collaboration with VCBC is exciting for the community, enhancing both groups' missions to serve young artists and the community at large," said Norbert Tan, Executive Director of the Ventura College Foundation. "Ventura College looks forward to its ongoing artistic partnership with VCBC, especially leading up to the unveiling of its multi-million dollar theatre renovation in 2011."

The Ventura College Foundation is delighted to sponsor the VCBC and Ventura College Music Department's collaboration of The Nutcracker Ballet in November."

Usher in the holiday season with performances on November 20 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and on November 21 at 2 p.m. at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way in Oxnard. Following each matinee will be a Sugar Plum Cookie reception complimentary to all ticket holders.

Tickets are \$10 - \$25 for general admission, \$17 for seniors 65 and

older, and \$12 for children 12 and younger. Tickets can be purchased at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center Theater Box Office at 486-2424 or online at [www.venturacountyballet.com](http://www.venturacountyballet.com) or [www.oxnardpacc.com](http://www.oxnardpacc.com).

### Wright Library- No books but "Merton of the Movies"

The Ventura College Theatre Arts Department presents "Merton of the Movies" by George S. Kaufman and Marc Connelly, presented at the Wright Library, located on Day Rd. on November 13, 8 p.m. Thursday, November 18, 8 p.m. (free); Friday, November 19, 8 p.m. Saturday, November 20, 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 21, 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$9.00 general admission; \$7.00 students/staff/seniors - available at the door

Merton Gill wants to be a movie actor like Holden Studio's leading man, Harold Parmalee, or their leading actress, exotic Sasha Petrovna -- the Russian seductress who breaks men's hearts. These are real artists, or so Merton thinks, who have influenced Merton's high standards for film acting. Merton lives in Simsbury, Illinois, and is a store clerk at Gashwiler's General Store.

One night Mr. Gashwiler has had enough of Merton's acting out his movie fantasies with his store dummies and gives him an ultimatum -- no more movie actor-playing. He must stop going to the movies, or he will have to get another job. Merton decides to go with the movies. He quits and leaves for Hollywood, which proves tougher than he anticipated. But, a spunky young stunt-girl takes pity on him and decides to help him out, and she helps him right into the kind of films he loathes -- slapstick comedies. Complications ensue.

### Ventura County Fairgrounds events

**11/17 SWAP MEET** Lot A Sue Adams SNA Designs (818) 590-5435 Wed. 7a-2p

**11/20 USAC MIDGETS, USAC FORD**

**FOCUS** Pacific Arena Jim Naylor MIDGETS & USAC JR FOCUS MIDGETS (805) 985-5433 J.W. Mitchell Fall Classic for USAC Midgets Sat. 5p; Gates 3p; \$18 Adult; \$15 Senior/Military/Student; 12 & under free

**11/20 DANCE** San Miguel Hall Valdivia Marketing Group (805) 487-6933 Sat. 7p-1a; Admission: \$35-\$40 presale

**11/24 SWAP MEET** Lot A Sue Adams SNA Designs (818) 590-5435 Wed. 7a-2p

**12/1 SWAP MEET** Lot A Sue Adams SNA Designs (818) 590-5435 Wed. 7a-2p

### Ventura events

#### Audubon field trips

**Sunday, Nov. 21, 8 a.m. Wheeler Canyon.** Leader: Gary Tuttle (525-2327). This canyon provides good birding opportunities. We will be looking for raptors, ground doves, Western Bluebirds and maybe a Lewis' Woodpecker.

**Saturday, Nov. 27, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Beginners' Bird Walk, Camino Real Park.** Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037). Many good birds in this park with its barranca and eucalyptus trees. Should see Red-shouldered Hawks and maybe the start of the season for White-crowned & Golden-crowned Sparrows. Meet by the tennis courts.

**November 19:** Community Concert & Cultural Art Show at The WAV Theatre Gallery 175 So. Ventura Ave in downtown Ventura: Two shows 7pm & 9pm. Saint Pierre Production music variety and visual art show, Dinner and Bar 6pm. "Easy listening rock" and "classical flamenco" featuring the El Nino Miguelito Show, with dance artist Lady Monica Ramos plus Saint Pierre & 10 other artists. Donation: \$10 in advance, \$12.50 at door, or both shows \$15, advance \$20 at door (free parking at corner of Ventura Ave & Thompson Blvd). Tickets: (800) 350-7787 WAVart.org.

**November 20:** Cameron Powers and Krisrtina Sophia, Musical Ambassadors of Peace, nominated for the 2010 Presidential Citizens' Award, return in concert to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Ventura on Saturday at 6 p.m.

Widely traveled "street musicians," Cameron and Kristina have appeared before audiences all over the world, performing traditional music of the area and building bridges of trust and understanding. This evening promises to be another entertaining and uplifting cultural adventure.

A wine bar and snacks will be available, and a donation of \$10 is suggested. The Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 5654 Ralston St. in Ventura. November 20: The Ventura County Genealogical Society, Inc. (VCGS) will be holding its regular monthly meeting Saturday, at 1 PM (Sharp). 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 meetings. For more information call Gwenda at 485-7930.

Certain tips and tricks can help your research as you visit public, university and private libraries. This presentation will discuss how to search card catalogs and special collections. Preparing to research at a library so that you get the most out of your time there will also be discussed.

**November 21:** The Channel Cities Jazz Club will feature Patti Kelly and The Men of Note at 3pm at the Oxnard Elks Lodge, 801 South A Street, Oxnard. Everyone is welcome to join in to dance and listen to jazz music. Food and drink are available for purchase.

Jazz singer Patti Kelly and her Men of Note are well known top musicians throughout Southern California. They perform from 3-4pm, preceded by jam sessions of qualified amateur and professional musicians starting at 1pm, and followed by jams until 5pm. Non-member admission for the afternoon is \$10.00, or \$7.00 for members.

### Ojai events

On Sunday, November 21 at 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen the French film, Mademoiselle Chambon, a drama about a settled family man who becomes transfixed by his child's



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# Community Events

schoolteacher. "Made with the kind of sensitivity and nuance that's become an almost lost art." --Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

On Sunday, November 28 at 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen the film, Get Low, starring Robert Duvall as Felix, a recluse who decides to throw himself a funeral party before his death. Duvall keeps getting better with age and could easily garner his seventh Oscar nomination with this role.

The public is welcome. General Admission \$10, Seniors & Students \$7 and 2010 Subscribers FREE. Ojai Playhouse, 145 E Ojai Ave. View the screening schedule at [www.ojaifilmsociety.org](http://www.ojaifilmsociety.org)

Senga Classic Stage Company bravely presents: "The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production Of A Christmas Carol" by David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin Jr. Directed by Senga's Artistic Director, Francisca Beach Two specially-composed songs provided unique, show-stopping opportunities for the ladies to wrap their vocal cords and feet around.

December 3rd - 19th Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for seniors and students).

(A special performance on Thursday 16th Dec. at 8. All tickets \$12) Group rates available. Ojai Valley Grange, 381 Cruzero St. Free parking. To reserve please call 646-4885

Fresh Roasted Concerts will present Moscow Nights on Saturday, Dec. 4 @ 7:30 at Matilija Auditorium, 703 El Paseo, Rd, Ojai. Moscow Nights offers a program of classical Russian and folk music performed in lively engaging style with plenty of humor and virtuoso musicianship. One of the highlights of the program will be a musical version of the Nutcracker played on Russian folk instruments. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors as well as a special group rate(4 or more tickets are just \$14 each). Tickets are available at Ojai Coffee Roasting Company, by phone at 646-8907 and online at [www.ptgo.org](http://www.ptgo.org).

Moscow Nights is an exciting, versatile trio of world recognized, prize winning musicians from Russia . In a little over two years, they have already established themselves as one of the fastest rising folk groups in the U.S.

While times may be hard, hard work has paid off for Ojai Trees. The grassroots group of Ojai residents wanted to do something positive for the community and the environment. Two years

ago, led by Tom Bostrom, they founded Ojai Trees. Since then they have planted over 357 new trees and logged over 1500 volunteer hours through their Neighborhood Tree program.

"This year we're branching out into street trees," said Bostrom, President of the Ojai Trees Board of Directors. "We've been awarded two grants to plant 25 new

## "Rivers and Tides" at The WAV

The film "Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy, Working with Time", by filmmaker Thomas Reidelsheimer, will be presented at The WAV, 175 S. Ventura Ave., on Dec. 1 at 7 pm. This special film is presented by Ventura Film Society's WAV Screening Series which is sponsored by Barbara Meister-Barber Automotive Group.

Reidelsheimer has created a brilliant portrait of the life and work of Scottish environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy, who creates intricate and ephemeral

sculptures from natural materials such as rocks, leaves, flowers, and icicles. This deeply moving film, shot in four countries (Germany, Finland, United Kingdom and Canada) and across four seasons, helps to define the elusive nature of the beauty that is always there in nature but which we are often blind to.

The film is being sponsored by Ventura Hillsides Conservancy ([www.venturahillsides.org](http://www.venturahillsides.org)). It is 91 minutes long. Call the information line at Ventura Film Society 628-2299 ([www.venturafilmsociety.com](http://www.venturafilmsociety.com)). Full VFS information and advance tickets are available at [www.venturafilmsociety.com](http://www.venturafilmsociety.com). Tickets are also available on screening nights at the WAV Theater Gallery. \$10 donation for adults, \$7 for seniors, students, WAV residents, and Ventura Hillsides Conservancy members.

Reidelsheimer has created a brilliant portrait of the life and work of Scottish environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy



Three legends of the skateboarding world in the 70's were together again- Jack Waterman, Tom Fain and Lonnie Toft were present at the opening of the Ojai Skatepark. Lonnie is the original inventor of the snowboard and the recent ocean paddleboard. Tom won the world skate championship in 1978 and Mark won it in 1979.



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## Art Scene



Marina Fliagina played the wicked stepmother in the 2009 production by the Ventura County Ballet Company of "Cinderella." Her husband, Sergei Domrachev (right) was featured as one of the stepmother's daughters.

## WAV Artist Interviews: Marina Fliagina

by Tim Pompey

For Russian ballet artist and choreographer Marina Fliagina, dance comes natural. "When I was young," she says, "I always danced. When I was five, I went to the theater and started to dance like a swan and some usher told me to sit down."

It didn't stop her. Fliagina went on to graduate from the prestigious Perm State Academy of Ballet in 1986. She danced professionally for eleven years in Russia before moving to the U.S. For the last five years she has served as Associate Artistic Director of the Ventura County Ballet Company. She also teaches at the Ballet Academy of Ventura.

While Fliagina may be classically trained, she views ballet from a contemporary perspective. For instance, the production this year by the State Street Ballet (where she serves as Ballet Master) and the Santa Barbara Choral Society of the Beatles inspired "Love Love Love."

In her current work with VCBC's "The Nutcracker," she talks about the

joy of ballet. "I feel like it's very important to have the right spirit for the holidays," she says. "I feel like we should bring the community together." She works hard to maintain her creativity: "Every time I do the Nutcracker, it's a little different. It has to be fun and delightful."

In her work as a choreographer, she loves to teach children about ballet and believes, when children experience dance, they learn the importance of art. "My ballets are always educational," she says, "and children get it."

Fliagina is excited about the future of ballet in Ventura County. "My hope is that VCBC can produce live music, live theater, and live dance, to bring world class entertainment to the community."

For more information about VCBC's upcoming production of "The Nutcracker," go to <http://www.venturacountyballet.com>.



Michele DePuy Leavitt (1956-2010). Photo by Christine Beirne

## Michele DePuy Leavitt- passing of a pillar

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a pillar of the arts community. Michele DePuy Leavitt. She passed away peacefully in her sleep

on Saturday, October 30. Her sudden death has shocked and saddened the arts community. Michele, a graduate of UCLA with a Bachelor of Fine Art Degrees in art history and studio art, came to our community through the Studio Channel Islands Art Center in the fall of 2004 as a part-time gallery coordinator and soon became the Executive Director.

Michele's career encompassed all facets of the art world from teaching artists' technical workshops to course writing for the Art History department of UCLA Extension for over 15 years. Her work with some of the most renowned galleries in the Los Angeles contemporary art scene gave Michele a rich foundation and unique perspective that she generously shared with all who sought her advice. These galleries included the Janus Gallery, the James Corcoran Gallery and the Frank Lloyd Gallery to name just a few.

Michele impressed everyone who met her with her gracious demeanor and optimistic personality. She encouraged many local artists to strive for higher achievement, to broaden their

*Continued on page 13*



The gift of art is forever-flowers by Emily Thiroux

### The Heart of the Artist

## Buy Art for the Holidays

by Emily Thiroux

'Tis the time of the season when we are rushing for holiday gifts.

Consider the gift of art. In the age of gift cards, the concept of a personal, unique gift is appealing for giving and receiving. A work of art that hangs on a wall, sits on a desk or coffee table, or sits in a garden serves as a constant reminder of the loving thoughts of the giver. So when trying to come up with those last minute gifts, think art. Any kind of art.

You don't have to spend lots of money. You can write a note on a pretty piece of paper and frame it for someone to keep on the desk as a constant reminder of your thoughts. Or you can make a collage of some of your special photographs. Or create a little video.

Ventura is so fortunate to have so many

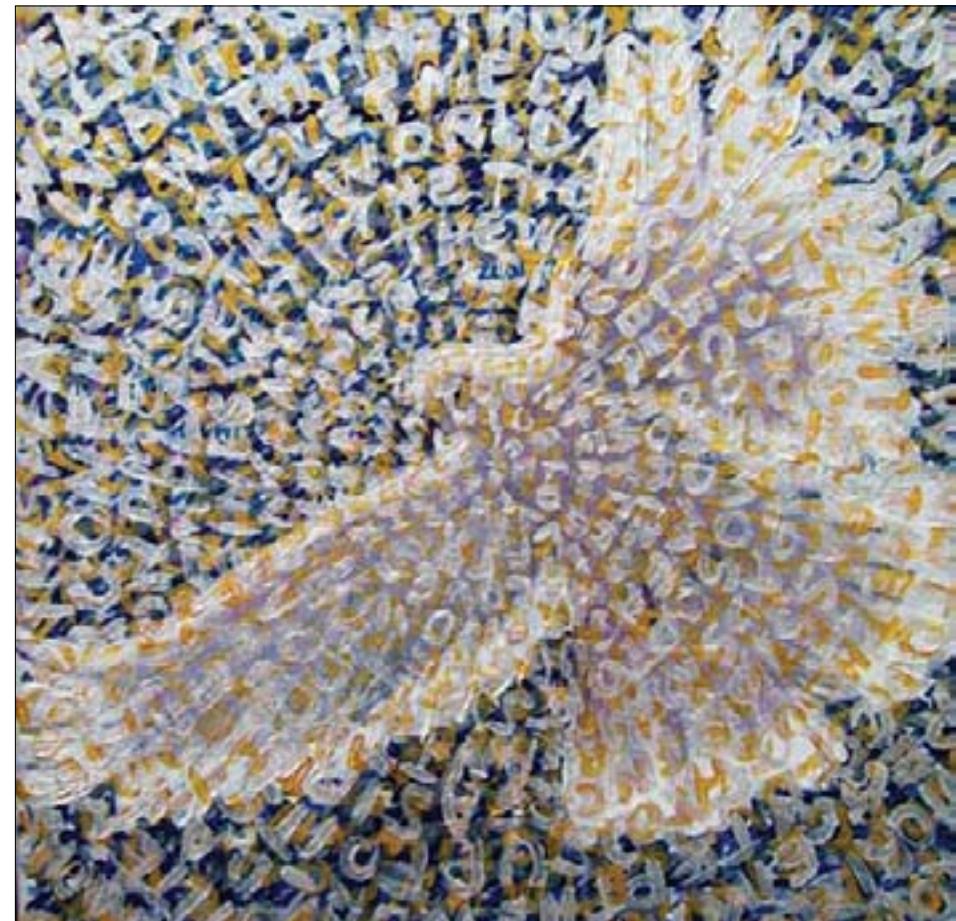
easy resources to find gifts of art. One place to look is at Ventura Harbor Village. The Ventura County Potters' Guild and The Buenaventura Art Association both have stores featuring work of local artists varying from sculptures to bowls to note cards, to photographs. You'll find an amazing variety of ideas here with varying prices. Art gifts do not have to be expensive.

Another place you can go is at the foot of California by the beach. There you will find the Gallery at the Crown featuring paintings and photographs from local artists many featuring scenes from our area, from paintings of the ocean, beach, and islands, to agricultural scenes. Also drop by the San Buenaventura Artists' Union Gallery which whose current show is the show Post Rock. Post Rock features centuries old Kansas limestone fence posts. Fossils, barbed wire, rusted hardware, quarrying scars and mineralized patinas bespeak their journey through time.

Also, try Ventura Avenue. There are many artists' studios in that area. Try visiting Gallery 1317 at 1317 Ventura Avenue which is open on Saturdays through the holidays. They feature ceramic works, vivid frogs, and bronze sculptures. Another wonderful place to shop is Ventura Hot Glass at 777 N. Olive. They feature lovely glass bowls, vases and more. Their large pieces are quite spectacular.

I love the gifts of art I have in my home. When someone comes to visit, I can point out a lovely bowl that a friend brought me from Romania, or point out paintings done by artists I know. I love being able to say that piece of art was created by an artist right here in Ventura! Sharing that back story on piece of art is a great conversation starter.

*Continued on page 13*



## The Beverly Decker calligraphy at E.P. Foster

The E.P.Foster Library in downtown Ventura is pleased to present a new exhibition of paintings by nationally renowned artist Beverly Decker. This collection of recent works was inspired by over 40 years of study of Eastern-Western

philosophy and spiritual practice.

"With the thought of peace, love, joy, and compassion let me contemplate the world. May this peace, love, joy and compassion extend to its four horizons and increase beyond measure let me encompass the whole cosmos up to its very confines"

Blending calligraphy and philosophy, this beautiful show is open Monday-Thursday from 10-8, Friday-Saturday from 10-5. Paintings are available for purchase. The Friends of the Library receive 25% of all sales.

# Professor Scamp, Ph.D



I have a guest columnist this issue because this is such a nice story. And, like me, Fwonsa has a PhD. Us dogs sure are wonderful – hope that you have one.

Scamp

## We've traded our traveling shoes, for morning kisses

by Esther Cole

She shivered when I held her in my arms at the shelter. She huddled in the carrier all the way home. She moved tentatively on the walk in front of the house. Then we walked into the kitchen.

The small, short-haired, honey-blonde creature morphed. She looked about, walked the perimeter of the rooms, looked at us, and completed her tour. We could see the thought processes.

"Hey! This isn't bad." She gave us another once-over, and our mind-melds continued: "These old guys are OK. I think I'll hang about."

That was 18 months ago, and Fwonsa rules. She rocks. She's taken us over like a symbiote.

This is the first time we've lived with a pet 24 hours per day. Fwonsa—she's named after the heroine of my husband Les's first novel—knows everything we do and when we are supposed to do it. She herds us into the kitchen at mealtime. She does the same in the afternoon at nap time. She's taken on the responsibility of getting us up in the morning.

She needs a bathroom break about 5:30 am. Les lets her out and brings her in. She comes to my side of the bed and I drop my hand. She kisses my fingers, then trots back to her own bed.

Sevenish, she's on Les's side of the bed, sticking her nose under the

sheets, making sure he's up and moving before heading for my side. She sits up, waiting for me to stick my head up to admire her. She bounces against the side, pulling the sheet off me, until she's assured I'm getting up.

Fwonsa, the heroine of Les's book, is a Libyan princess: haughty, spoiled, beautiful and smart. Fwonsa, our housemate, is all those things and more.

She's a mixed breed: mostly Doxie with gazelle and vacuum cleaner. She doesn't run around the back yard, she leaps, she bounds.

Sometime, before moving in with us, she did graduate work in "cute," and got a PhD in "adorable." She speaks several languages. Maybe speaks is the wrong word; she understands in several languages. And eats in all of them.

What she does best is make us giggle, laugh, howl. She's a natural clown and mimic.

She's learned to sit up. For everything. Thus, she has not had to learn any other trick. She tries it in the back yard where she sits up under the apple tree inviting the birds to fly down and play with her.

She's done a great job of training us. To the point where we're satisfied not to go traveling. We loved doing that. Now we love staying home and watching Fwonsa.

I think it's a satisfactory deal.

We've traded our traveling shoes, for those morning kisses.

## 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](mailto:Scampclub@venturabreeze.com). You will be in the Breeze and receive a Scampclub Card.

# Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

### Ventura City Fire Department launches Facebook page

On October 26, the Ventura City Fire Department launched their official Facebook page. Venturans, the local media, and all other internet users will now be able to track the latest news and information about the Ventura City Fire Department and ongoing incidents.

"It is extremely important for the fire department to communicate with our public. Whether we are reminding people to check their smoke alarms once a month or updating the community during major emergency incidents, we need to get information to citizens and visitors," says Ventura City Fire Chief Kevin Rennie.

The Ventura City Fire Department's Facebook page is located at [www.facebook.com/venturacityfire/](http://www.facebook.com/venturacityfire/)

### DUI checkpoint

The VPD conducted a DUI Checkpoint on November 6 on Harbor Blvd. south of Schooner Drive. As a result of the checkpoint, 3 drivers were arrested for DUI. Their blood alcohol levels were .22%, .21%, and .17%. The legal limit is .08%. In addition to the DUI arrests, two drivers were cited for driving without a li-

cense and two drivers were cited for driving on a suspended license. 4 vehicles were impounded during the checkpoint.

The Ventura Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for a year-long anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. Additional enforcement measures in place to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$172,884.00 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to the Ventura Police Department.

### Assault on police officer

On Saturday, October 30th, at 1:50 a.m., officers responded to the Karma Lounge, on 281 West Main Street, in reference to a large fight outside the bar. Security was escorting all patrons out of the bar, but a portion of the crowd was trying to get back inside. Nathan Mullett, 21 years old, was assigned to the gate area. Cavell McClure, 23 years old, was trying to push his way back in. McClure threatened Mullett several times and then punched him. Mullett was struck and kicked by other patrons. McClure had made statements in regards to having a gun and threatening to shoot Mullett.

McClure tried to flee the area, but officers were able to stop the car. Officers were able to place him into handcuffs af-

ter his resistance.

Clinton Panton, 24 years old, took a fighting stance against officers. Panton flicked a lit cigarette at one of the officers, striking him in the face. Panton tried to flee, but the officers caught up to him. The taser was deployed and officers placed him in handcuffs.

Mullett was transported to VCMC by AMR. McClure and Panton were treated at VCMC and booked into VC Jail.

### Tampering with electrical box

On Saturday, October 30th, at 8:30 a.m., VPD received calls regarding a subject lighting illegal fireworks near the beach in the shoreline construction project. Officers contacted a reporting party who said she heard a loud bang; she looked down the beach and saw a subject

who appeared to be on fire. Officers contacted Russell Pulley, 32 years old, at the intersection of Peking Street and Main Street. Pulley's clothes were burned and he had severe electrical burns to his extremities. Fire personnel transported Pulley to the hospital, where he is in stable condition.

Pulley entered the closed construction area in search for copper wire, which he could sell. Pulley later admitted to tampering with the wires, by using tools. Inside the electrical box, Pulley made contact with a live wire, an electrical current traveling through his right hand and out his thigh.

### Commercial burglary

On Tuesday, November 2nd, at 10:18 p.m., the VPD was notified in reference

*Continued on page 12*

(Pretty Happy Dog)

# Dog to Adopt



Hi:

I'm Olga a beautiful Chow Chow mix. I am a lady about 3 years old and I was found as a stray and taken to Animal Regulation where no one claimed or adopted me. I'm grateful to C.A.R.L. for rescuing me. I'm good with some dogs, so if you have a canine companion already, bring him/her along so we can meet. I walk pretty good on a leash. I know I'll get better with all the long walks we can take together. I hope it's not long before I get my forever home.

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

[www.carlvc.org](http://www.carlvc.org)

# Scamp Club

Hi:

We are purebred Pomeranians. Cinderella, right, almost 5 years old, and Pippen, almost 3 years old. We love to wrestle in the morning for awhile and then nap.



After patrolling the backyard awhile we take another nap. We nap again while we're out on our errands and then when we return we like to have some lap time.

What a life!! Never a dull moment.

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# Senior Living



**Senior Cone-nection**

## Interview with Brad Berens – the new leader for CAREGIVERS, Volunteers Assisting the Elderly

by Nanci Cone

*NC: Tell our readers about your background?*

BB: I have been involved in the nonprofit sector since my early twenties and administrating charities that dealt with drug rehabilitation, family counseling,

emotionally disturbed adolescents, the chronically mentally ill, and 19 years dealing with all issues related to aging as the executive director of a large non-profit in Santa Clarita.

*NC: What made you decide to make the transition to CAREGIVERS?*

BB: My desire to work with CAREGIVERS stemmed from the fact that our mission is very much focused on the needs of the more frail and home-bound seniors where we endeavor to keep them in their homes and "age in place" avoiding institutionalization. Our focus on the low-income seniors and the use of volunteer services through our professional care managers is a mission that is truly "pure at heart".

*NC: What is your impression of CAREGIVERS at this point?*

BB: Our organization is truly a god-send to our Ventura County communities where our services provide for a continuum of care through case management, in-home services, transportation, and advocacy.

*NC: What are your immediate goals?*

BB: My immediate goals include the expansion of service delivery through increased volunteerism, securing new funding streams, and duplicating our intergenerational programs where both ends of the aging spectrum experience reciprocal and rewarding experiences that allow our frail elderly to thrive in spite of the challenges they face.

*NC: Where do you hope to see the organization five years down the line?*

BB: This is dependent on several factors. Sheer demographics will dictate

our need to expand three-fold at a minimum with our current services. My vision includes additional affordable housing with services that enhance aging in place dynamics, a social day care, paratransit services for our clients, and perhaps a larger facility that would lend itself to providing a "focal point on aging".

*NC: Let's talk about funding.*

BB: Funding is the critical component, and all charitable organizations are struggling. To balance the resources for an agency like ours, the need to pursue federal, state and local government funding will be paramount. Our agency has the lowest overhead costs I've seen anywhere coupled with professional and quality service delivery; and, I think that is a good starting point in procuring Older American Act funds, and Community Development Block Grants that actually target the population we serve, especially those of limited incomes.

*NC: Is there anything you would like to add?*

BB: Eventually, almost every family will need our services to ensure their loved ones have the optimal quality of life while facing the vicissitudes and challenges of growing to advanced age. The costs of eldercare are prohibitive to so many. We are here and we hope that people will think of us for their charitable giving. Our supporters help to keep the promise that "no call will go unanswered."

For more information or to make a donation, please visit the CAREGIVERS website at [www.vccaregivers.org](http://www.vccaregivers.org).

munities where they work.

Duran received his award on October 25 in front of a packed audience of over 250 conference attendees. He has served as the Executive Director at Cypress Place for five years. Duran and his stellar management team have taken their community to new levels, to include hosting monthly functions such as fundraisers for local nonprofits.

Duran is also a husband, father of six children, and pastor at River Community Church. He founded the Ventura Executive Directors' Advisory Council to encourage cohesiveness and unity among those serving seniors. He's closely involved with the local YMCA and Chamber of Commerce, among others.

### Police reports

*Continued from page 11*

to an alarm activated at Cal Coast Motor Sports, located at 5525 Walker Avenue. VPD Patrol Officers arrived on scene within 4 minutes of the call and the suspects were observed running from the location. Officers chased the suspects along the bike path northeast of Golf N Stuff and the suspects were last seen climbing a wall into the Power Self Storage facility on Victoria Avenue.

With assistance from Oxnard PD and VC Sheriff's Department Air Unit, officers searched the area for the suspects, but they were not located. Investigating officers determined that the suspects smashed a window to the business in order to gain entry. Property from the business was recovered nearby.

### Explosive device at Buena High School

On Wednesday, November 3rd, at 12:55 p.m., the School Resource Officer, J. MacLellan, was notified by school administrators that two devices had exploded in the cafeteria during lunchtime. A 15-year-old female student sustained minor irritation and redness to her right leg due to a chemical in the explosive device. The school nurse treated the victim on scene. An additional explosion occurred in the southeast corner planter outside of the cafeteria wall.

Further investigation revealed that the suspect, a 15-year-old student, had researched how to make these explosive devices. The suspect had obtained the necessary materials from home and took them to school, setting the explosives in the cafeteria during lunchtime.

### Vehicle Pursuit

On Saturday, November 6th, at 8:30 p.m., the VPD received a report of an intoxicated driver in the area of 1200 North Ventura Avenue. Officers located the vehicle driven by Eric Headworth, 29 years old, traveling south on Ventura Avenue.

Officers stopped Headworth, who initially yielded. He accelerated away. Headworth ran several stops, driving through red signals. Officers discontinued the pursuit.

He drove north on Oak Street and attempted a turn onto eastbound Main Street. He lost control of his vehicle and veered across the westbound lane where he struck a parked pickup truck. Headworth exited his vehicle and fled. Officers chased Headworth before he was taken into custody.

### Conspiracy arrest

On Tuesday, November 9th, at 3:14 a.m., VPD responded to a call of a burglary in progress at a residence in the area of Martha's Vineyard and Pierpont. The homeowner heard noises outside his home and his garage door open. A suspect had entered the victim's vehicle and removed the garage door opener. The suspect activated the opener, but fled the scene.

A patrol officer saw two males acting suspicious near a parked car a block away from the crime. A search of the car revealed the stolen garage door opener and a backpack full of tools and gloves. The suspects



Pam Kerr, Regional Operations Director, Integral Senior Living, Jim Duran, Executive Director, Cypress Place Senior Living and Chris Kasulka, Chief Operating Officer, Integral Senior Living

## Executive Director of Cypress Place receives prestigious recognition

The California Assisted Living Association (CALA) presented Jim Duran of Cypress Place, an Integral Senior Living Community in Ventura, the organization's prestigious Outstanding Executive Director award during their Fall Conference that recently took place in Costa Mesa.

CALA chooses recipients of these awards based on commitment to providing outstanding, quality care and service to residents in the Assisted Living com-

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<b>JANUARY 26</b> <b>Health &amp; Wealth Expo.</b> 11:00am – 1:00pm	<b>MARCH 23</b> <b>Seniors Gone Wired</b> 10:00am – 4:00pm	<b>MAY 7</b> <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> 11:00am – 2:00pm
<b>JUNE 30</b> <b>Salute to Our Veterans</b> 11:00am	<b>AUGUST 24</b> <b>A Taste of Cypress Classic Car Show &amp; 50's Party</b> 5:30 – 7:30pm	<b>OCTOBER 15</b> <b>Country Hoe Down</b> 12:00 – 2:00pm
<b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>Thanksgiving Celebration</b> Exclusive to Cypress Place Residents	<b>DECEMBER</b> <b>Holiday Dance &amp; Dinner</b> Exclusive to Cypress Place Residents	

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are believed to have committed further crimes.

Cory Sullenger, 24 years old, and William Page, 37 years old, were booked at VC Jail.

## Harbor Patrol Blotter

### A little of what the Harbor Patrol tends to 11-2

4:25 p.m. Patrol monitored a distress call between a vessel disabled off Ventura Point and the Coast Guard. Patrol responded, took the vessel into tow just outside of the surfline and released it at the long dock.

### 11-3

3:05 p.m. Patrol received a report of a vehicle in the water at the launch ramp. Patrol responded and contacted a towing company. State Lifeguards dove to connect the tow line to the boat. The vehicle was removed.

### 11-4

5:45 p.m. Patrol observed a becalmed Hobie Cat near McGrath State Beach. Patrol responded. The people on board requested assistance. Patrol towed the vessel to the launch ramp and released it.

### 11-7

9:55 a.m. PD reports a possible suicidal person at Marina Park. Patrol staged at the dock, then assisted P.D. in searching the area by boat. The subject's vehicle was located near the Harbor as was his ID. PD located him about 11:00 a.m. at the pier.



"Expressive Trees" by Meredith Brooks Abbott on display at Museum

## California impressionist's exhibition at the Museum of Ventura County

Atmospheric landscapes, garden paintings and portraits by California Impressionist Meredith Brooks Abbott will be on solo exhibition at the Museum of Ventura County, from December 5 to February 13, 2011.

Abbott has spent most of her 50 years as a painter in the South Coast region; she is a founding member of the Oak Group of painters dedicated to preserving open spaces, and exhibits regularly with the California Art Club. This museum exhibit draws from collections in Ventura and Santa Barbara, and showcases her ability to capture the natural world around her with quick brushstrokes and subtly related colors.

The Museum of Ventura County is open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Go to [www.venturamuseum.org](http://www.venturamuseum.org) for more information or call 653-0323.

### Michele DePuy Leavitt

*Continued from page 10*  
audience and share their talents beyond our community.

At the same time, she raised awareness of SCIART's presence, bringing regional and national attention to the resident artists. Under her directorship, SCIART mounted major exhibitions, gaining tremendous visibility.

Most recently, Michele turned her attention to the development of the Regional

*Continued on page 15*

arc and short circuit in the building which ignited equipment and ordinary combustibles including paper, boxes, and plastics. Once the building was secured and clear of smoke, occupants/employees were allowed to enter to retrieve personal belongings. The building was going to remain closed for normal operation at least for the remainder of the day. Damage was estimated to be approximately \$30,000 including fire and smoke damage to contents and structure and no injuries were reported.

### Buy art

*Continued from page 10*

Artists work all year to create the gifts of their art for the world, so this season, we can give back to the artists by purchasing their works.

The value of art can be calculated, while the gift of art can be priceless.

Have wonderful holidays!

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](mailto:emily@theheartoftheartist.com). And I hope that you'll read my blog and support the artists I feature. <http://www.theheartoftheartist.com/category/Blog/>



## Fire at the Ventura Health Care Agency

Ventura City firefighters responded to a reported structure fire with additional reports of a transformer fire at 2323 Knoll Dr. Upon arrival, units found a street transformer smoking and proceeded to check the building interior. Reports from occupants within the building were that a first floor computer server room may be involved. Firefighters encountered heavy smoke on the first floor of the building and fire response was upgraded to a working incident. Edison was requested to respond.

Firefighters began to attack the fire with hose lines and were able to gain control within 15 minutes after arrival. Fire crews worked to clear smoke throughout the first floor and basement area of the building. The building was occupied at the time of the fire by employees of the Ventura Health Care Agency. Most occupants self evacuated prior to fire department arrival.

City and County electrical inspectors were on hand to assess the damage and determine the source of electrical malfunction. Edison crews were also on the scene addressing the transformer outage and related problems. The cause of fire is suspected as being related to the blown transformer causing an

## Victorian Holiday Boutique At The Dudley House

Celebrate the spirit of holiday's past at Ventura's historic Dudley House. This unique event, held over three weekends, will feature:

- High-quality crafts
- Home decorating items
- Antiques and collectibles
- Home-made candies
- Tearoom with silent auction, refreshments, bargain items & kids' crafts table

**Place:** Historic Dudley House, corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Street in Ventura.

**Dates:** Nov. 26, 27, 28; Dec. 3, 4, 5; Dec. 10, 11, 12

**Time:** 10am to 6pm

Flea market on the grounds every Sunday during the Boutique, 9 - 4pm

Bring in this ad for a free cookie in our Tearoom.  
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# School

## Ventura Job & Career Center

**Wednesday, December 1 - Resumes that Sell**, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters. Walk away with a portfolio that shows off professional skills and experience

**Thursday, December 2 - Online Job Search Strategies**, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - teaches useful and successful methods of surfing the Internet for job leads, and how to properly respond. Must have basic computer skills. Bring your completed resume on 3 1/2" floppy disk.

**Wednesday, December 8 - Power of VOS (Virtual OneStop)**, 1 pm - 4 pm - Learn about the Virtual OneStop website and how you can use the various tools in the system to build your resume and customize your job search to a specific location and occupation. Must have basic computer skills.

**Wednesday, December 15 - Job Retention**, 1 pm - 4 pm - learn how to succeed at your new job. This mini-career shop will help you discover what employers are really looking for in their employees and how to make yourself more valuable.

**Monday, December 20 - Explore Your Future**, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm - complete a self-evaluation to help identify your skills and aspirations. Gain insight into the hidden labor market and develop a career strategy based on high-demand occupations.

**Tuesday, December 21 - Winning Interviews**, 9 am - 4 pm - supplies the tools to make a lasting first impression when interviewing.

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

## Elks scholarship applications have December deadline

The Ventura Elks Lodge #1430 is working with an early scholarship application deadline for the 2011 Most Valuable Student (MVS) scholarship contest. The deadline is 9pm on Wednesday, December 1.

The 2011 MVS Scholarship Applica-

tions from the Ventura, Ojai, Santa Paula and Fillmore areas must be received at the Ventura Elks Lodge, 2126 Knoll Drive, Ventura, CA 93003 by this deadline. The Elks National Foundation (ENF) holds the MVS contest open to all high school seniors who are US Citizens.

The 2011 MVS Scholarship Applications received will be judged for local Lodge awards. The judging criteria include scholarship, leadership and financial need. Female and male students compete separately for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards. Last year's Ventura Elks Lodge winners came from Buena High School, Fillmore High School, Foothill Technology High School (Ventura) and Nordhoff High School (Ojai). Each year the local winners then move on to District competition for potential qualification to subsequent State and National award levels. At the National level the ENF will award \$2.296 million in four-year college scholarships to a total of 500 high school seniors. In past years the Ventura Elks Lodge has proudly had a number of our local winners compete at the National level; two local winners last year received State awards.

MVS applications are available at the Ventura Elks Lodge, as well as online at [www.elks.org/enf/scholars](http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars). MVS information and applications have been made available to the high schools in the Ventura, Ojai, Santa Paula and Fillmore areas. High school seniors are encouraged to check with their school's career counselors for assistance. Other areas of Ventura County are served by the Elk Lodges in Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. Questions may be directed to the Ventura Elks Lodge office during business hours at 639-0303.

## Health

### Stop smoking for free

The Ventura County Public Health Tobacco Education, Prevention, Policy, Cessation program is having a free stop smoking class and nicotine replacement therapy products for 10 weeks. Also get reimbursed up to \$125.00 on pharmaceutical products. This Program is free to anyone who lives or works in Ventura County and is 18 and over.

In Ventura at 3147 Loma Vista Rd., Thursday, December 2 and January 20 from 12-1pm or 5:30-6:30pm.

For further information call 652-3377.

## 26th Annual Light Up A Life

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association has begun its 26th Annual Light Up A Life campaign. The beginning of the campaign coincides with National Hospice and Palliative Care month, November, and runs through the holiday season. The campaign goal is to raise \$50,000 to benefit Livingston Hospice, the first Medicare Certified hospice in Ventura County.

Livingston invites all residents of Ventura County to support this year's campaign. Memory Stars can be ordered online for \$25 each at [livingstonvna.org](http://livingstonvna.org) or by calling 642-0239. Event sponsorship is also available.

Hospice Care is a home program, which provides care for the terminally ill and their families. The hospice care teams are available to give compassionate support to the patient and family 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Sports

### Good waves create opportunity for goodwill

by Danielle Peak

This year's 24th annual California Street Longboard Classic Surf Contest, held September 18-19 at Surfer's Point in Ventura, parlayed a weekend of fun into a successful fundraiser that will benefit two local surf-related efforts.

"A weekend of great surf helped us get more contestants than we expected," said Ventura Surf Club president Michael Mariani. "The contest has always been a locally run event that relies on the generosity of local support."

The club funds a summertime surf grant for the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura, providing kids with surf lessons and teaching them things like surfing etiquette and how to care for the ocean environment.

The second project also focuses on Ventura's rich surfing history. Since 2007 surf club members have filmed 14 interviews with local surfing legends, putting to tape precious memories that might otherwise be lost forever.

Using funds from the C Street contest, VSC will now take the oral history project's next step. With help from students at Foothill High School, the footage will be reformatted so that the interviews can be more easily viewed and widely distributed. Long-term plans include a kiosk where visitors and residents can watch the interviews, which will be interwoven with surfing footage and vintage photos to capture the magic of Ventura's surfing experience.

The Ventura Surf Club is a group of surfers of all ages and abilities. The

club hosts special events (film screenings, surf photography exhibitions) and competitions, aiming for camaraderie and a chance to share the pure joy of surfing. The club welcomes new members.

For more information and to sign up online, visit the Ventura Surf Club website at [www.venturasurfclub.org](http://www.venturasurfclub.org).

## VC Pirate Lady's open their season

by the Hammer

The Lady Pirates of Ventura City College open their season on the road this year. The defending Western State Conference Champs (34-1) will be extremely busy playing in back-to-back-back weekend tournaments. Each of these tourney's consist of eight teams playing from Thursday-Saturday.

On Thursday November 19th their first tip-off will be in Glendale's "Vaqueiros' Shoot Out". Our VC team will be facing always tough Chaffey CC at 3pm.

Ventura's home coming will be next weekend, as they host the Annual Ventura College/- Kiwanis Tournament. The first game begins at 3pm with Mt. San Antonio vs. Taft. VC's first home game will be at 6pm against Santa Monica.

Last season, the Pirates started off with a 12-0 record, before being knocked off by host Pasadena CC 81-72. After that bump, VC went on a 22 game winning streak, capturing their first state championship since the 2001-2002 season.

The Lady Pirates season could be an interesting one. Of their 13 player roster, only three are returnees. They are Jessica Kidder (6'5"), Ariel Hall (5'11") and Danielle Keller (5'7") who red shirted last year. Of the ten (10) freshmen, the Pirate Lady's added height. They are Destinee LaFountain (6'1"), Candace Sakuda and Ja'Lisa Gatin. Both Lady's are 5'10"

As a reminder, the starting time for the men's and women's flip-flop each season. This year the women will be at 5pm, the men at 7pm (in single scheduled games).

## Openings for 8-ball

The west-county social group of 8-ball pool players, the Mobile Cues, is getting ready for the spring session (Jan-Apr). Any retirees 55 through 100 who enjoy 8-Ball pool and live in Camarillo, Oxnard, Ventura, Santa Paula, Oak View, or Ojai are encouraged to join in the fun. It's once week, on a day and at a time of your choosing. A \$10 fee for a 15-week session covers all the administration expenses. All men and ladies who enjoy playing 8-ball pool and are free during daylight hours are strongly invited. Openings for the spring session will close December 12, play will begin on Monday, January 10. Get more information and answers by calling Kenn Ritz at 644-6955.

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# Youth



Laci Kay poses with her parents Cindy and David Schoonover in their back yard in east Ventura.

## Young Ventura actress lights up the screen

by Tim Pompey

She's bright, energetic and makes her living as an actress. She's also a student at Anacapa, plays clarinet in the school band, and loves to bounce around on her trampoline.

12-year-old Laci Kay is unique in that she's worked in the "business" since she was quite young. Not that many people would know it. She tries to keep her profession low-key: "I'm just a normal kid," she says.

But make no mistake. Laci's website ([www.lacikaysite.com](http://www.lacikaysite.com)) is filled with a long list of credits. Still, it's not fame or fortune that drives her. She just loves her work. Mention acting and her face lights up: "I'm doing this for the experience. I think it's really fun."

Her career began inauspiciously at Mira Monte Elementary School in the 1st grade with a school play called "Rumpus in the Rainforest." Then, in 2007, her parents attended "Kids Fest by the Pier" and handed in an interest form to the Santa Clarita School of Performing Arts. They were surprised when the school called and invited Laci to visit, but decided to give it a shot. "We were skeptical," says her mother Cindy, "because we figured not much would happen."

While attending SCSOPA, Laci made a mock commercial and caught the eye of Jeremy Apody from Abrams Artists Agency. They took her on as a client. The rest, as they say, is history, or at least history in the making.

Her credits include an appearance in Christina Aguilera's video "Hurt" and an upcoming role in the ABC series "Modern Family." She's also worked locally with the Elite Theater Company in Oxnard and the

Rubicon Theater in Ventura. Laci says her most difficult role was Alice in the Elite Theater's production of "Alice in Wonderland." She had to memorize 300 lines. "Once I got it," she says, "I was really relieved."

Laci knows how difficult show business can be. She's gotten some roles, been turned down for others. For her, the hardest part is going up against all those other boys and girls for the same job: "There's usually tension in the room. To me, it's like a sport. It's one of the most competitive things you could do." One thing she has in spades—determination and confidence. "It's hard work," she says, "but if I'm really focused, I usually get it."

As if acting wasn't enough, there's another side to Laci. She's a singer—a serious singer who plans to release a CD. "I love writing songs," she tells me. "Whenever I get bored, I usually pull out a pen and paper."

She likes pop and country and ticks off favorite artists like Selena Gomez, Ke\$ha, Katy Perry, and Jason Mraz. She's also a big fan of Glee and considers herself a full-fledged "gleek."

Wherever her career takes her, Laci's future is bright. Acting, singing. Who knows? Whatever she chooses, she'll attack with her usual gusto. Laci has that kind of energy. Then again, she sees herself as just a normal kid with a very supportive family. "What I do, I dedicate to my brother Jake, my sisters, and God. All this I do for them."

Well not everything. I think she plays on the trampoline just to have a good time. After all those auditions, the memorizing, the acting, who can blame her?

### King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.



### Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

3	8	7	9	1	5	2	6	4
9	6	2	4	7	8	3	1	5
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## Twelve year old has her wish granted

Aned Hernandez, from Oxnard lives with Osteosarcoma and had her wish granted for a shopping spree on October 29 on her twelfth birthday.

After stops at Best Buy and Toys R Us for a Wii and Wii games she continued to Macy, then to Target and then to her favorite restaurant - Kentucky Fried Chicken. She is excited to share her Wii with her brothers Alexis (13) and Eduardo ((9).

Macy's is a major supporter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation through their Thanks For Sharing and BELIEVE campaign.

Wishes may be adopted by donors with a gift of \$5,000. Aned's wish was adopted by the Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club who recently hosted the Ladies Who Do Lunch Over the Rainbow Luncheon. The fund were raised at the luncheon through a combination of a silent auction and a "Man Table" where husbands and boyfriends of the women were invited to be part of the Flying Monkey's Table when making a \$500 gift to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. With a staff of only four and the help of more than 100 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties has granted over 1000 special wishes to children in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

If you want to refer a child to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, call 1-888-899-9474 . Donations may be sent to Make-A-Wish at 4222 Market Street, Suite D, Ventura, 93001. To donate your vehicle or your airline miles call 676-9974. For more information on these or other ways to help visit their website at [www.tri-counties.wish.org](http://www.tri-counties.wish.org).

## Mentor school children in the Ventura Watershed with the Once Upon a Watershed program

Once Upon a Watershed seeks to awaken wonder, appreciation, discovery and connection with the natural world. Through hands-on watershed education, restoration, and stewardship experiences, their programs cultivate a sense of shared responsibility for our whole earth system, instilling confidence and hope by empowering young people to make a real difference at the local watershed.

They are having a volunteer orientation on Tuesday, November 30 and January 18 at 11am. If you plan to attend, contact 649-9998 for locations!

Volunteers will support educators in guided service projects and wilderness exploration. Their students are 4th - 6th graders from public and private schools throughout the Ventura River Watershed, including Ojai, Oak View, and Ventura. With 1-2 classes at a time of approximately 30-60 kids. Field ac-

tivities are scheduled during the school day and generally run about 2 hours each.

Classes are located in various locations throughout Ojai and Ventura, including the Ojai Meadows Preserve, the Ventura River and the Ventura Estuary

Visit their web page and learn more about the program and staff at [www.onceuponawatershed.org](http://www.onceuponawatershed.org). or phone Heather King at 649-9998 or [heather@onceuponawatershed.org](mailto:heather@onceuponawatershed.org).

## Kids & Families Together receives \$43,000 grant

The Ventura County Community Foundation recently awarded Kids & Families Together a \$43,000 grant for sustaining Alice's House, a cooperative transitional living house for 18-24 young women who recently left the foster care system. Kids & Families Together is a counseling and resource center for families that have come together through foster care, kinship care (primarily grandparents raising grandchildren) and adoption as well as youth who have aged out of the foster care system.

The Alice's House project developed in response to the need for our community to help the 50-60 youth who age out of Ventura County's foster care system each year at age 18. Up to 65% of these youth have no home to go to, no job, are not in school and have very few life skills to help them take care of themselves for the rest of their lives.

David Friedlander, Executive Director of Kids & Families Together saw an opportunity to address the housing need for these youth when the former home of Alice McGrath (a prominent social activist from Ventura) became available after she passed away. Laura D'Auri originally bought the house for her mother, Alice McGrath. After Alice passed away last year, Ms. D'Auri generously offered Kids & Families Together use of the house to create a home for young women leaving the foster care system.

The grant from VCCF will assist K&FT in providing room and board, therapy, social events and a resident advisor to help the residents navigate and manage school, create budgets, find and maintain jobs and other skills to develop habits of success so they are productive and contributing members of the community.

Kids & Families Together are located at 856 E. Thompson Blvd. For further information call 643-1446 x100.

### Michele DePuy Leavitt

Continued from page 13

Arts Museum in Thousand Oaks, serving as their Executive Director. She leaves a lasting legacy of excellence, service and passion for the arts.

Please feel free to visit her Facebook page and view all of the beautiful comments and photographs posted. [www.facebook.com/profile.php](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php)

Services for Michele De Puy Leavitt will be held on Sunday, November 21 at 1 p.m. at the Annenberg Community Beach House located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica. All of Michele's friends are welcome to attend.

Please make a contribution in lieu of flowers, in her honor to:

The City of Hope, Attn: Gift Administration, 1500 E. Duarre Rd., Duarre, CA 91010



# The Music Connection



Saint Pierre on the Dr. Bunny Vreeland radio show on KKZZ

## Where the Music Flows

### Saint Pierre at the WAV

by Michael Kohli

#### Friends of the scene!

Hi there to all the people in our music scene. One of our friends here in the scene, known as Saint Pierre, has been a contributing extraordinaire to the recent shows at the new WAV Theater & Art Gallery. Providing the sounds, lights, stage and more to the events, he also books many of his own variety creations.

This Friday, November 19, Saint Pierre, unveils his latest creation featuring 10 artists. The El Nino Miguelito Show (An Amazing Expression of Music & Dance of All Ages) that will feature live performers, dance, and art. In addition to Saint Pierre and El Nino Miguelito performing, the evening will also feature performances by Sir Michael Murphy, Lady Monica Ramos, Joey G., and Mark Solomon. The event will also feature art presentations by local WAV residents; Stew Birbrower, Julinya Vince de Vidigal, Russ Berrens and the youth artists' Arts In The Park awards presentation of elementary, middle, and high school students art work.

The event will have two shows, one at 7pm and one at 9pm. Drinks and beverages start at 6pm. For more info; [www.wavart.org](http://www.wavart.org) or email@saintpierre.org.

Look in this issue for the special 2 for 1 coupon for the show.

#### Friends visiting the scene!

Meet this band, Black Rose Phantoms at The Dirty (on Thompson Blvd in Ventura) on Saturday, November 27. Visiting from Long Beach, this band likes to fuse psychobilly, metal, punk, country, rockabilly genres together mixed in with their own styled stage show! Currently on Smelvis Records, check out the music on their Facebook page. Songs highly recommended include, "Losing Touch 2", "Remember Me", and "The Witching Hour."

Other upcoming shows at The Dirty include; Crowded By Fire & Braindead on Thursday November 18 and Aggression, Dirty Filth Mugs, Gutter Poets, and Killing Regime on Saturday November 20.

Check out The Dirty's page on Facebook for other upcoming events; including live music on the weekends, Drink 'N Draw on Tuesday nights and more. Facebook Search: The Dirty (DV).

Thank you so much for reading! Feel free to write me feedback at [VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com](mailto:VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com).

Michael Kohli

Kohli Rocks Entertainment [www.kohlis-musicpit.com](http://www.kohlis-musicpit.com)

PS: Also, keep an eye out for my next music event in Thousand Oaks at The Borderline on Sunday, November 21. This will be my last show booking of 2010. Kohli Rocks Entertainment will return in 2011. The show at The Borderline is 18 and over and will feature many ventura favorites including; Roman Candle Wars, The Calamity, Delaney Gibson, Happens Again, and Arrica Rose and The ...'s. Stay tuned to my website;

### Top 10 Pop Singles

#### This Week Last Week

1. Far\*East Movement feat. Cataracs & Dev.....No. 1 "Like a G6" (Cherrytree)
2. Bruno Mars.....No. 2 "Just the Way You Are" (Elektra)
3. Rihanna.....No. 4 "Only Girl (In the World)" (SRP/Def Jam)
4. Nelly.....No. 3 "Just a Dream" (Derry)
5. Usher feat. Pitbull.....No. 5 "DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love" (LaFace)
6. Trey Songz feat. Nicki Minaj.....No. 10 "Bottoms Up" (Songbook)
7. Katy Perry.....No. 7 "Teenage Dream" (Capitol)
8. Taio Cruz.....No. 8 "Dynamite" (Mercury)
9. Flo Rida feat. David Guetta.....No. 9 "Club Can't Handle Me" (Poe Boy)
10. Pink.....No. 11 "Raise Your Glass" (LaFace)

### The future is now.

Don't miss a beat! Check out the music scene right now.  
Come visit us!

[www.venturabreeze.com](http://www.venturabreeze.com)



# CONCERT FRIDAY 11/19

A SAINT PIERRE PRODUCTION @ THE WAY THEATRE GALLERY  
FLAMENCO & EASY ROCK with EL NINO MIGUELITO, SIR MICHAEL MURPHY & LADY MONICA RAMOS, JOEY G, MARK SOLOMON and THE WAY art show.  
TWO SHOWS: Friday Nov. 19th 7pm & 9pm. Gourmet dinner & beverages available.  
DONATION: \$10 advance, \$12.50 at the door, or both shows \$15 advance, \$20 at the door.  
LOCATION: 175 S. Ventura Ave. (Free Parking. Corner of Ventura Ave. & Thompson Blvd.)  
TICKETS AND MORE INFO: (800) 350-7787 or [www.WAVart.org](http://www.WAVart.org)  
2 FOR 1 ADMISSION WITH THIS AD (OFF THE REGULAR \$12.50 TICKET DONATION PRICE).

## & CULTURAL ARTS SHOW

### Show Time

#### Two on the Aisle

### Period Comedy at Ventura College is Good Fun

by Jim Spencer &amp; Shirley Lorraine

For a bit of old-fashioned fun, ske-daddle on over to the former Wright Library on the east end of the Ventura College Campus to see "Merton of the Movies" presented by the Ventura College Theatre Arts Department.

The gutted library has been turned into a theater venue with ultra-comfortable chairs, a stage and movable lighting. It works, in the old "let's put on a show" style.

Doing what it does best, the Theatre Arts Department has assembled a cast up to the challenge of the campy material, outfitted them expertly in detailed 1920's period costumes and hair styles, and provided a few prop pieces that really set the tone. Add to this mix a crew of highly choreographed scene-changers and you have a smoothly run production. Even the scene changes are well done - triangular "walls" transform into new settings with ease.

The piece itself is just fun. Written by George S. Kaufman, Merton has been seen on both Broadway and in film, not once, but twice. The most recent resurrection (1947) featured comedian Red Skelton in the title role.

Set in 1922, the story is one that has been written and rewritten in many forms. A star struck young man has dreams of being in the movies at a time when the movie business is in its infancy. He longs to leave his humdrum job as a retail clerk to seek his

fortune and fame. Despite having no talent, he fancies himself a dramatic actor and sets out to conquer the silent film world in the fashion of his idols. Along the way he meets a beautiful and helpful young woman, is faced with the realities of the movie business, and finds success - even though not in the way he planned.

Toby Tropper, in the title role of Merton Gill, has a grand time running the gamut of facial expressions and body language. He is well matched with Morgan Bozarth as his savior and ultimate love-interest, Eva Montague. Other standouts include Dillon Francis, whose natural versatility allows him to effectively play not one, but four roles, Aly Bennett as the savvy-with-a-soft-spot casting director, and Dan Saad as Sigmund Rosenblatt, the overblown film director. Cast members seem to be thoroughly relishing the opportunity to deliberately overact, some to better effect than others.

The fourteen-member cast includes some who are only walk-ons, but each adds an element to the overall picture. Director Jay Varela incorporates upbeat ragtime music and a "film reel" shown on a side screen to enhance the feeling of the period. The play is suitable for all ages, although the reminiscent silent film era will likely appeal more to older generations. Younger audiences, while enjoying the action, may not fully appreciate the mannerisms, references and jokes inherent to the decade.

"Merton of the Movies" runs through Sunday, November 21. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. On Thursday, November 18, admission is free. For other performances tickets are \$9 general admission, \$7 for students, staff and seniors. Tickets are available at the door. Parking is ample. An added bonus - if you have any library books left to turn in, the book drop at the front door is still accepting returns.

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# The Lighter Breeze

Arctic Circle



Shoe



Crock



Zits



Mother Goose and Grimm



Hargr the Horrible



Solutions on page 15

Solutions on page 15

## King Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 NYPD rank  
5 Rotating parl  
8 On in years  
12 U.S.  
13 Hearty brew  
14 Unaccom-  
panied  
15 Indian wrap  
16 Liquidity  
measure  
18 Civil War  
battle site in  
Tennessee  
20 Almost not  
21 Bric-a-  
23 Adore  
24 Boxing day  
28 Uninteresting  
31 Blackbird  
32 So'l drinks  
34 Vast  
expanses  
35 Erronee  
37 Late night  
TV fare  
39 A low  
41 Thin aperture  
42 Bird with a  
fanlike crest  
45 Removed  
the lid  
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57 Otherwise

## DOWN

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19 Spheres

22 Songs' end

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24 "Hum bug!"

25 Lennon's

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44 Greek

vowels

46 Hammer's

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47 Right angles

48 Remove

from the text

50 Eggs



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) This year, instead of jumping into the whole holiday prep scene, move in a little at a time. You'll appreciate the sense of control you're more likely to enjoy.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) The separation between the Bovine's head and heart is never as far apart as it seems. Both senses work best when they come out of logic and honesty.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) The best way to keep those pre-holiday pressures under control is to just say no to taking on new tasks while you're still trying to work with a heap of others.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) News means a change might be on its way, but what does it hold? Don't just ask questions; make sure you get answers you can trust.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Old friends and new have one thing in common: Both your longtime and newly minted pals have much wisdom to impart.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) With time running out, this is a good time for you to show 'em all

what those **Virgo** super-organizational skills can do.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Librans and holidays are made for each other, especially if children and animals are going to be part of your joyous season.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Time is getting too short to allow a spat to taint the holiday season. Restart your relationship and reschedule holiday fun times.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Seeking advice is laudable. You might learn far more than you thought you could. Stay with it.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Continuing to assess changes works toward your getting your new project up and ready. Trusted colleagues remain ready to help.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) That new situation needs a lot of attention, but it's worth it. This is a very good time for you to involve the arts in what you do.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) It might be a good idea to slow your hectic holiday pace so that you don't rush past what — or who — you're hoping to rush toward.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Others pick up on your confidence in yourself, which inspires others to believe in you and your special gifts.

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9			8	3 1
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Please enter a number in every box in such a way that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: \*



## Business



*Jeff Sullivan, and Django have been all over the country*

### Jeff Sullivan: The apprentice as an asset

by Mira Reverente

When he was still too young to drive, Jeff Sullivan was sweeping the office floors of a moving company in the San Fernando Valley. "My early exposure to the moving and relocation industry inspired me to learn the ropes and climb the ladder, so to speak," said Sullivan.

Soon after, Sullivan became a truck helper, doing whatever the driver asked him to do. Then he followed his father's footsteps and became a moving truck driver.

#### Giving credit where credit is due

More than 25 years later, Sullivan is still climbing the proverbial corporate ladder but this time as a moving consultant. A natural salesperson, according to Mel Sheeler, president and CEO of Ventura-based Sheeler Moving and Storage, the 45-year-old Sullivan has far exceeded his mentor's expectations.

"I'm extremely proud of him. He's so good with people and attentive to details," said Sheeler. To prove his point, Sullivan has recently made it to the Top 10 Sales Representatives rankings of Wheaton World Wide Moving, of which Sheeler Moving is an interstate agent.

Steve Barnard, Western regional director of sales for Wheaton World Wide Moving confirmed, "Jeff Sullivan consistently makes it to the top 10." The internal rankings are released monthly and yearly and are based on customer satisfaction and sales revenues.

#### Anything but routine

As the only sales representative of the

company, Sullivan's days are packed with appointments, meetings, estimates and checklists. From Los Angeles County to Santa Barbara County, he meets with clients all-day long.

"It definitely helps that I was a truck driver before. It puts my clients at ease that they know what I'm talking about and their possessions are in good hands," he chuckled.

For the past seven years, Sheeler Moving and Storage has been providing residential, corporate and international relocation services; storage and records management services. "No job is too small, too far or too complicated," said Sullivan.

November and December are notoriously slow months in the moving industry, with the onset of the holidays. Sullivan stays busy by networking and staying in touch with clients, many of whom have repeatedly used Sheeler Moving for their local and cross-country moves.

When the peak season of June to August hits, Sullivan will be ready to tackle his clients' moving demands again. "I love my job because it's not routine at all. Every client is different," he explained.

Some moves are definitely more memorable than others, according to Sullivan. The recent move of a well-known actor from Malibu to Calabasas stands out because the crew had to cut off four inches from a bench so it could fit inside the truck. It was done with the blessing of the actor's brother.

"We also had to move some dangerous substances one time, for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)," said Sullivan. But it's all in a day's work for him.

Sullivan decompresses by taking his dog Django, a border collie, with him on long walks. "He's been all over the country with me," he said. Harley Davidson motorcycles and dirt bikes are his other passions.

#### Learning from the master

During these tough economic times, Sullivan has noticed that more people are packing their own things now to save money. He also goes the extra mile by giving them more money-saving tips and helping them work with their usually limited budgets. He said, "I'll bring them used boxes if I have to."

The protégé has done very well, according to the master himself, Mel Sheeler. Sullivan turned wistful at the mention of his mentor's name. "I've known him for over 10 years and I'm so fortunate he mentored me," he said.



*Among the dignitaries attending the "ribbon cutting" were city council members Christy Weir and Carle Morehouse, Jeff Lambert Director Community Development Department and members of the Ventura planning commission*

## Ralston Courtyards ribbon cutting

On November 10 the "Gem of a Community in the Heart of Ventura" the green Ralston Courtyards apartment complex held their grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony.

The ribbon cutting was attended by several hundred, including many well known Venturans and city employees including Ventura Chamber of Commerce CEO and President Sandra Burkhart.

They all enjoyed the wonderful food and tour of the units and grounds. The

Towbes Group project is located at 5525 Ralston.

The complex includes a swimming pool, refreshing spa, picnic area with barbecue, covered parking, electric vehicle charging stations and a spacious clubhouse.

The one and two bedroom apartment units include high-speed internet access, walk-in closets, washer and dryers and very large kitchens with refrigerator included.

## Chamber 2010 Poinsettia Awards

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of their 2010 Poinsettia Awards. An awards ceremony will be held in their honor on Tuesday, December 14 from 11:30-2pm at the Marriott Ventura Beach.

Congratulations to the winners!

**Small Business of the Year** - FastSigns of Ventura

**Mid Sized Business of the Year** -

PODS Moving & Storage

**Large Business of the Year** - Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach

**Jewel Key Award** - Museum of Ventura County

**The Innovation Award** - Ventura Venture's Technology Center (Ventura Incubator)

**Non-Profit/Service Org. of the Year** - Ventura Police Activities League

**Philanthropist of the Year** - Mark Hartley

**Hometown Hero** - Jim Duran

**Environmental Services Award** - AWS Automotive and Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach

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*The Ambassadors of Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Deputy Mayor Mike Tracy, Matthew Jones and Kathi White of Edward Jones at the ribbon cutting held in October at the new offices of Edward Jones Financial Services located at 121 N. Fir Street. Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada.*

## Business

# Who is in the Tech Incubator anyway? Part one

by Bill Knox

The Ventura Ventures Technology Center, or V2TC as it is known, is in the process of adding a second floor of available space in the city-owned building directly behind city hall. V2TC currently houses more than a dozen start-up technology based companies that the city council hopes will eventually turn Ventura into a regional hub for technology businesses and jobs.

V2TC currently occupies the 3rd floor of 505 Poli Street. It contains 10,000 square feet including a mix of conference rooms, workstations, office suites, a video game, table tennis and foosball room and a break room. With 76 workstations, outfitted with Cat 6 network/Internet access lines, each leasing for \$200-\$300 per month, small start-ups are hard pressed to find a better deal for workspace anywhere in the county. But the available space has proven to be too little for at least one company. In response the city council has decided to approve its expansion on to the fifth floor. With more than two years into this incubator experiment what companies are located in V2TC, how many local jobs are they creating and what is the cost to taxpayers? This and subsequent articles will take an in-depth look at the

companies that make up the V2TC and the city's commitment to it.

### The Trade Desk

The Trade Desk helps advertisers buy online media from existing advertising exchanges. The Trade Desk combines social network, search engine and display advertisement purchases in one account. The company recently entered into a new lease with V2TC to occupy the 5th floor of 505 Poli Street. The city must prepare the area at an estimated cost of \$27,200. The Trade Desk will pay \$20,000 in upfront lease payments and then \$3,000 a month for 3,000 square feet of space. The city anticipates incurring monthly maintenance costs of approximately \$1,650.

### Parking Logistics

Parking Logistics offers parking information in 100 cities and the largest and busiest airports around the United States. When asked about Parking Logistics' business model, Shawn Scott, founder of the company, responded we receive a small service fee for every reservation we process." While Parking Logistics does not offer any information on parking availability in Ventura, the company is working develop a process to determine the nearest parking meter to a given driver and whether the meter is available. Parking Logistics has one employee in Ventura.

### Lottay

Lottay allows users to make a gift of cash online through PayPal. Lottay received \$180,000 of city funds from Ventura's Jobs Co-Investment Account which is managed by DFJ Frontier. The start-up has two employees. David Cremin, founder and managing director of DFJ Frontier, also serves on Lottay's board of directors.

Next up: A look at Geodelic and CoupeeZ.

Recently, on the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on Ventura County radio station 1400AM KKZZ, were co-host Terry Paulson, the Coach and Jason Amelio, the Assistant Manager of the Derby Club located at the Ventura Fairgrounds.

Besides the wonderful live, on big screens horse racing the Club also serves wonderful food at their 2 restaurants. So even if you are not a racing fan it is a great place to have lunch and listen to people screaming (or crying).

Coach Ron is on daily from 4 - 6pm with many wonderful guests and Breeze publisher Sheldon from 4 - 4:30 on Mondays.



## Rincon Consultants planners achieve new certification

Two Rincon Consultants urban planners have become among the first professionals in the nation to achieve a new certification for expertise in sustainable neighborhood development. Stephen Svetec, Principal, and Cori Thomas, Senior Planner, recently passed exams developed by the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Green Building Certification Institute certifying them as LEED AP ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional in Neighborhood Development). Mr. Svetec and Ms. Thomas will join the firm's three other LEED AP professionals.

The exam tests knowledge based on the USGBC's LEED Rating Systems. LEED was created by the USGBC as a voluntary, consensus-based, and quantifiable rating system for green building and development. LEED has become the most widely recognized green building rating system in the world. When a project is LEED Certified, it means that a significant amount of sustainability practices went into its process, design, and construction. If an environmental professional becomes LEED Accredited, this demonstrates that they are an expert on one or more LEED Green Building Rating Systems and can participate in evaluating building and development projects for certifications within their area of expertise.

"Our environmental sciences and planning consulting firm has been focusing on the changing legislative and business shift to more sustainable practices," says Michael Gialkotsis, Principal at Rincon. "We are proud of the leadership Cori and Steve have demonstrated in our industry by being among the first in the nation to achieve the LEED AP ND certification."

## Bottoms up at Black Beard's BBQ

On November 10, Black Beard's Seaside BBQ, located in the Ventura Harbor Village received their liquor license.

Not you can enjoy their fine food and music and have your favorite cocktail while dining.

## "Coach" Ron Tunick speaks at VCCA Dinner

Motivational business and public speaker "Coach" Ron Tunick spoke at the Ventura County Contractors Association's (VCCA) Member-Dinner on October 26 in Ventura.

Using his unique perspective as an "industry insider", Tunick spoke to VCCA members about how to make a considerable profit in "today's culture of big government." The popular speaker talked about his 25 years of experience working with small business owners and how he motivates them to reach their financial potentials.

"We were delighted to have 'The Coach' speak at our Member-Dinner," said Thomas Tatangelo, president of the VCCA. "Our members enjoyed Coach's presentation and will hopefully be motivated by his common-sense business approach to operate more profitably."

Tunick emphasized the necessity for Ventura County business leaders and own-

**Tunick emphasized the necessity for business leaders and owners to get more involved**

ers to get more involved in the agendas of local and county governments.

"With the construction industry having its worst economy of the new century, it is of the utmost importance to try and make a difference in the decision making process," said Tunick.

"All too often governmental leaders are only listening to those who do not care what's in the best interest of business," Tunick elaborated. "What does the construction industry need to better its lot? More construction work obviously. You can make a difference and help public officials make better decisions when your voices are heard."

Coach Tunick is the President and CEO of Nations Transaction Services, Inc., the host of daily radio program "The Business of Life" on KKZZ 1400 AM, and the author of "The Thinking Room."

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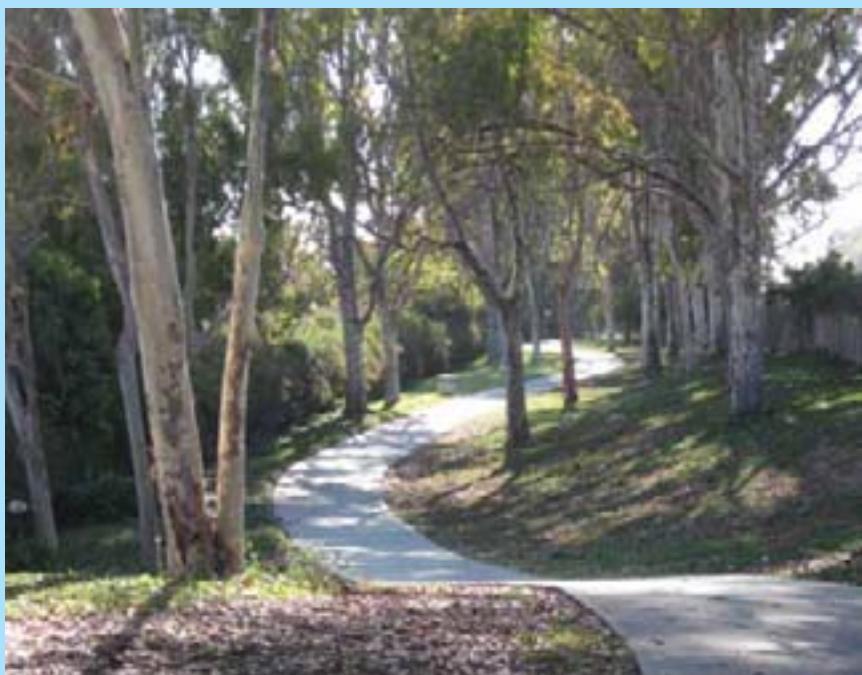
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# This 'n' That

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"Pier Under the Stars", the 17th annual benefit for the historic Ventura Pier was recently held and attended by over 800 residents and visitors. Held adjacent to the pier they sampled the county's best food and wine provided by over 50 area businesses.

Restaurants, cafes, wineries and breweries served their signature dishes and beverages from tented booths along the seaside Promenade while guests enjoyed live music by Luna Gitana, all to benefit the city's 138 - year - old pier.

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