

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper



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Ventura libraries may break from county system

by Rebecca Wicks

In October the Ventura city council voted in favor of giving the county a required six-month notice that it may withdraw its libraries from the county library system. The decision came after nearby city Camarillo made a final move to leave the system after questions regarding the county's ability to efficiently run its local branches rose.

The move was made even after the city learned the withdrawal would take effect on December 31 of this year. According to Elena Brokaw, a city department head who oversees libraries, the California Education Code dictates a city withdraw from a library system at the start of a calendar year.

City administrators originally believed the change would take place June 30 of next year allowing the city time to solicit bids from private organizations that might better run the city's two libraries - E.P. Foster Library and Avenue Library. This scenario would have freed the city from its county contract on July 1.

Cost savings is the biggest motivator for a move away from the county. Camarillo will withdraw from the county system at the year's end having hired

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Out with the old and in with the new

Anacapa Island reopens after six month hiatus

It literally took an army to finish a newly constructed stairwell on Anacapa Island's eastside landing cove - the only way to access the island. To be exact it took members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, two helicopter pilots, a handful of welders and other national park employees to take the old decrepit stairwell away and bring a new one in.

The old 30-foot staircase, located on a steep 150-foot cliff was deemed unfit



The annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, held on Saturday, December 4 in the California Mini Park, was attended by a large enthusiastic crowd.

A 20 foot tall, professionally decorated fresh cut tree was installed on the main stage of the park and will remain on display through the month of December.

The Ventura Youth Choir, Channelaire Chorus, Trinity Lutheran Choir, and Ventura First Assembly Group were all present to guide the community in fun sing-a-long songs for the whole family.

Santa Claus arrived on a fire engine to greet the children and was joined by Mayor Fulton to light the holiday tree. Photos by Bernie Goldstein.

last June forcing the temporary closure of the island to visitors. Anacapa is the closest island to the mainland with a travel time of approximately one hour by boat. According to National Park Services, the island plays host to an average of 60,000 visitors a year. Travelers come to visit the island's popular lighthouse and see wildlife up close including pelicans and sea lions. Hiking and camping is permitted on the island though the island has no potable water supply.

Yvonne Menard from the Park Services Administration stated there are many bird enthusiasts who have been waiting for the island to reopen eager to see a number of bird species including pelicans and cormorants up close and personal.

The task of building a new stairwell 12 miles out at sea became a daunting one for all those involved. According to Karl Bachman, the facility manager of the park the initial plan was to construct the new staircase on the mainland and then transport it by barge to the island. A crane located above the stairs would then be used to move the old staircase and put in place the new one. However, the planning crew quickly learned the crane, which is more than 75 years old, no longer works properly and would also need to be replaced.

It was at this point the Army Corps was called in to help.

With the crane out of commission the crew looked to use a helicopter in order to bring in and hoist the stairwell into place. Finding a helicopter which could lift the excessively heavy 9,000-pound staircase became the crews next hurdle.

In the end a Sikorsky crane helicopter, usually used to dump thousands of gallons of water on wildfires, was commissioned for the task. Welders cut the old staircase as the helicopter utilized a 150-foot cable to fly it back to the Ventura Harbor. There it picked up and flew the newly constructed staircase back out to the island.

It took a pilot manning the helicopter and one on the ground to direct the staircase into place. Helicopter pilot Steve Bligh who was the pilot stationed on land explained that for the staircase to move an inch, the helicopter had to move four feet. This awkward equation combined with wind made for a more than difficult docking mission.

The task was far from simple proven when the staircase crashed into and broke a water pipe resulting in water spewing on welders and other workers below. It took the team a total of four attempts to get the staircase in its place.

"The really amazing part was the ability of the helicopter to stand virtually still while the staircase was being installed," said Sheldon Brown, publisher of the Ventura Breeze who was on-hand to witness the installation.

The rest of the day was spent welding, bolting and cementing the staircase in place. In the end the project cost approximately \$400,000.

The project was described as "one of the most challenging jobs" he had ever been part of by the Army Corps civil engineer Bob Doran.

Anacapa's six-month closure was the longest any of the islands had been off limits to the public since they became a national park 30 years ago.

Housing Authority breaks ground on a new development

Encanto Del Mar is a 37-unit new construction affordable rental development with an estimated total project cost of approximately \$17 million. Once a gas station that has been environmentally remediated, the 0.58-acre in-fill site sits at the corner of Oak Street and Thompson Boulevard in downtown Ventura. Its proximity to public parks, transportation, shopping, schools, a medical clinic and Downtown Ventura make the site ideally located for affordable housing for large families. The development will provide much needed housing for downtown retail and service workers. With many green design features, designed by Ventura's Mainstreet Architects & Planners, including solar photovoltaics, the development will be green point rated by the Build It Green Institute.

Ed Moses, CEO of the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Buenaventura has this to say to the Breeze "This is a great project which will provide much needed housing for downtown workers and their families and at the same time provide 112 jobs in construction-related work for the city of Ventura. The Housing Authority is pleased to work on this effort and I want to thank all of the folks

Continued on page 4



Encanto Del Mar will be located at Oak and Thompson and will provide much needed housing for downtown

For an extensive list of musical happenings in Ventura, see our Music Calendar on page 16.



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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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PUBLISHER

Sheldon Brown
editor@venturabreeze.com

PET EDITOR

Professor Scamp
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 Kobli
Annie-Gabriel (AKA Gaby)

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

John Ferritto
Bernie Goldstein

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

Leslie Ann Matthias
leslie10@sbcglobal.net
Adele Rosales
a.rosales99@gmail.com
805.236.8438
Diane Grabau
d_grabau@yahoo.com

PRODUCTION

Alfred J. Lewis/studioNothing
alfred@studioothing.com

PRINTING

Roger Wirsing
American Foothill Publishing Co.

REACHING US:

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS
events@venturabreeze.com

OPINIONS

opinions@venturabreeze.com

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

editor@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@venturabreeze.com

Ventura Breeze

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



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Breeze:

On December 8th, many responded to the WAV (Working Artists Ventura) Theatre Gallery as our meeting place by the invitation of Chris Velasco, meeting facilitator, and WAV developer and president of P.L.A.C.E. (People Linking Art Communities, and Environment) to discuss the future of Art Walk. Many came to be part of this meeting including the mayor, council mem-

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

"Twas the fortnight before Christmas"

Well it's the time of year that my wife says to me "let's go buy our tree". A chill goes up my spine. How do I get through this without having a big fight? "Be mature", that's it.

Off we go to a multi-purpose store so that she can look at trees and I can go to the "man's department". So while she is selecting a tree I look at hammers and screwdrivers.

After a while she comes to get me and says "come help me" with the trees. So I go to the tree department with her and we walk up to rows of trees that are 4 deep. She says "I want to look at the one in the back". "Okay I" say, I've been through this before.

So I move three, rather heavy, 8'-0" tall trees to get to the one in the back. "No", she says, "that's not quite it".

So I put them back and we go to another location "I think that I like the third one back" (better then the first time) so I bring it out. "What do you think" she asks? "I like it very much" says I (I'm no dummy, I've done this before).

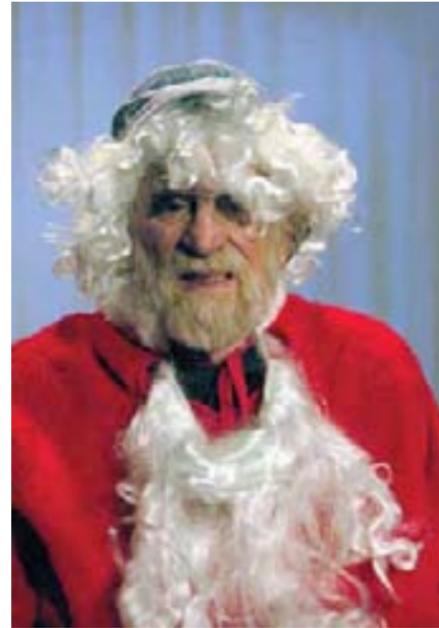
"Okay let's go look at another one I like over there". So we go over there and I take out a few more and I answer every time that "I like it very much".

"Well which one do you like best" she asks. I answer that "I think that they are all very nice" and "we" finally decide which one to buy.

When we get it home she reminds me that I have to cut off the bottom. I get the hand saw, as I do every year, to do the cutting. About half way through

I wonder why I don't use the electric saw. I go through this thought process every year but have to prove how manly I am to cut it by hand. I finally manage to make the cut. "Wait" she says "you didn't cut enough off"..... so I do it again.

We are now ready to put it in the holder. So I cut off a few bottom branches so it will fit in and stick it in the holder. Not not deep enough in the holder says she so we take it off and I cut off more.



This was the only Santa that was in our budget

Perfect this time so we tighten all of the screws that hold it in.

"All right put it over there by the piano". "By the piano, why didn't we put it there to begin with?" "I couldn't decide until it was up." So I roll it over and set it in place.

It is now ready to decorate and I know better to even volunteer with this process so I leave the room and she goes to work.

In a few days she is done and I tell her how beautiful it looks and we have managed to get through another year of buying the tree without a divorce.

Some things never change-reprinted from Ventura Breeze December 19, 2007

The Breeze is looking for outgoing, motivated and energetic people to become advertising advisers selling ad space in the Breeze in Ventura and other local communities.

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Mailbox

ber, and other city officials. Most people in every area of the Ventura arts community were present.

Here's my take:

1. The meeting went well as a cross-section of different representation of concerned individuals and organizations within our art community.

2. The most promising ideas:
Possible name change would be: "Art City Days" and "Art City Ventura"

Ventura, the "New Art City" could be set in four sectors: Westside cultural arts district, Mid Downtown, Beach, and Harbor.

Each sector would plan its own events and raise its own budget. Lotto would determine the prime dates for the first year.

Some sectors could choose a 7 day event, a 3 day weekend event, or a 4 day holiday weekend event based on their own participation and available activities.

Activities could include Artist Studio tours, art workshops, performing arts (music, dance, theatre, etc). There would be ideal times of each day to offer these activities. Food, drinks, and wine tasting can be incorporated to enhance the arts.

The impact would give the city a manageable means to accomplishing their goal for arts.

Young student artists opportunities can open up with the planning participation of the school district, art and music teachers, and students that love the arts.

I believe with the right offering and planning, that the rest of the art community will get behind young student artist programs. It's hard work but worth it.

On-Line student competitions are coming in 2011 which are requested by at least two corporate sponsors so that their sponsorship dollars have more payback in the

programs. Some attendees involved in our planning meeting want student competitions to include the performing arts.

The WAV Theatre Gallery represents the visual arts and the performing arts.

The scope and prospects for this new art project are excellent for the future.

All of the above ideas, have been analyzed by a group of WAV artists that confirmed the input.

Thank you Ventura. I have a love for you... and the arts.

Saint Pierre – The WAV Breeze:

Saint Pierre is executive producer for the monthly concert/ art shows at the WAV Theatre Gallery. His personal mission is the successful convergence of the visual arts and the performing arts.

An article on this meeting appears in this Breeze on page 5.

Breeze;

As much as I hate to be "that guy" (full disclosure: actually I love to be "that guy") I have to ask who, if anybody, is in charge of approving designs for downtown? Our beautiful, century old downtown is dotted with "man from Mars" parking meters, "Dracula's coffin" newspaper racks and, well, I can't think of a better simile than "damned ugly" recycling containers.

I'm not unreasonable, in fact I was one of the few downtown advocates who didn't mind the green flames on Wild Planet and I use juxtaposition in my own

art and designs quite often, but the visual dissonance downtown is teetering on the brink of cacophony (yes, I got a Word a Day calendar for my birthday) and I, for one, ain't digging it.

Alfred J. Lewis
Ventura



Breeze:

Something that really bugs me are the stop and go hands on our stop lights to direct pedestrians.

They cause more animosity than they do good.

No one pays any attention to them so drivers get mad because they need to stop for pedestrians that aren't supposed to be in the cross walk and pedestrians get mad because cars drive through the cross walks when they are in them.

Why not just remove the stupid things?
Megan Boyle
Ventura

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

– Nelson Henderson



City News

Celebrate the light in our community

by Mayor Bill Fulton

Ventura is a great place to spend the holidays. It's warm during the day yet wintry at night, with a splash of rain from time to time. So we can enjoy the best of both worlds—vigorous outdoor activities during the day and cozy moments by the fire at night.

We can also celebrate the fact that here in Ventura our community includes many different faiths, each of which brings something special to our community. One of the things I love about Ventura is that it's a diverse place. The fact that we all respect and appreciate each other—and we all work together for the benefit of our community overall—is one of the most wonderful things about our town.

On the first Saturday of December, it was great fun to join Santa Claus in lighting our community Holiday Tree in the mini-park on Santa Clara Street next to the parking garage. It's the first time we've had the tree in that location—thanks, Kathleen Eriksen and Downtown Ventura Organization—and the turnout was great. So was the music, thanks to four great choirs—the Ventura Youth Choir, the Channelaires, the Trinity Lutheran Church Choir, and the First Assembly of God Church Choir.

Over the past several months, I have visited more than a dozen churches in Ventura on Sundays, with special emphasis on evangelical Christian church-

es. Thanks to their ceaseless efforts, the Kingdom Center is now making a dent in the homeless problem in Ventura. And several of our churches are helping temporarily homeless families through our “safe sleep” program. (If you haven't heard anything about that program lately, that's because it's working—with no problems and no incidents.)

The next day it was my honor to participate in our annual community menorah lighting program at the Ventura Harbor. Rabbi Yakov Latowicz of the Chabad Center here in Ventura—and his colleagues from around the country—always does a great job of putting a program on. This year, I had the special privilege of sharing the stage with Yuli Edelstein, a former Russian diplomat and currently Israel's Minister of the Diaspora and Public Diplomacy, who went some 30 feet up in the air in a cherry-picker to light the huge menorah.

And just a few weeks ago, I had another great privilege—cutting the ribbon for the grand opening of the Ventura County Hindu Temple, the first such temple in the Tri-Counties area. The Temple opened just in time for Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

In these dark times, we in Ventura should be grateful that we still have wonderful sunshine during the day—and so many ways to celebrate the light in our community.

American Flags and Cutlery, coordinates a donation drive to renew the tradition of displaying American flags along California Street, Main Street, Thompson Boulevard, Ventura Avenue and the beach promenade from Memorial Day through Independence Day. This year's donations allowed for the purchase, maintenance and display of more than 200 new flags throughout Ventura.

The several businesses, organizations and dedicated individuals who have contributed to this year's flag display program were recognized with certificates of acknowledgement at the City Council meeting on Monday, December 6.

Council member Jim Monahan, who spearheads the flag donation and display effort, said the program is only possible through the generosity of donors: “Working in partnership with local organizations, businesses and families we've been able to generate enough funds to raise the Stars and Stripes throughout Ventura—and honor our veterans for their service.”

People who would like to contribute \$25 toward an American flag may do so by sending a check payable to “Veterans of Foreign Wars” at PO Box 1297, Ventura, CA 93002. All donations are tax deductible and will be recognized with a letter acknowledging the donation amount. Recent donors include City Corps and the Downtown Ventura Organization.

For program contributions or questions regarding properly retiring worn flags, contact Jim Monahan, City of Ventura Council member, at 340-1356.

City of Ventura offices to be closed

From December 24 through December 31, some City offices and facilities will be closed for a weeklong winter shutdown. The following locations will be closed as noted, and will re-open Monday, January 3:

- * Aquatics Center, 901 S. Kimball Road (closed Dec. 20 - Jan. 2 for annual maintenance)
- * Avenue Senior Center, 550 N. Ventura Avenue (closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 2)
- * Senior Nutrition Programs at the Eastside Café, 650 S. Petit Avenue and the Westside Café, 550 N. Ventura Avenue (closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 2) However, patrons will be offered a weeklong supply of food prior to the closure.
- * Maintenance Yard, 336 San Jon Road (closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 2)
- * Senior Recreation Center, 420 E. Santa Clara Street (closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 2)
- * Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street (closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 2)
- * Westpark Community Center, 450 W. Harrison Avenue will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and January 1, but will be open on regularly scheduled days from 2:30pm - 6pm.

Water customers who need service activated or discontinued during the closure should call the Water Billing Office at 667-6500 before Wednesday, December 22 to make arrangements. For water-related emergencies during the closure, please contact Ventura Police Dispatch at 650-8010.

City Manager Rick Cole explains the winter shutdown as a way of “focusing on delivering the highest and best level of service to our citizens -- while living within our means. Public demand for customer service plummets during the

holidays. We've found that we maximize efficiency and save utility costs by closing our offices during the last week in December.”

Housing Authority

Continued from page 1

who assisted us to make this project come to fruition.”

Encanto Del Mar will have six one-bedroom, 18 two-bedroom and 12 three-bedroom apartments with an on-site two-bedroom manager's apartment and an approximately 1,680 square-foot community building. The development will be managed by the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura and owned by Encanto Del Mar Apartments, L.P., a tax credit limited partnership.

The contractor, Roam Builders estimates the project will take about 13 months to complete

The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura has served the needs of low income residents since 1949 with 716 public housing units and 1214 Section 8 vouchers and prides itself in providing decent, safe and affordable housing to approximately 2000 low and moderate income families in the City of Ventura.

Ventura libraries

Continued from page 1

LSSI a private international firm to run its central library. Camarillo expects to save upwards of \$700,000 next year.

City Councilman Neal Andrews who made the initial proposal to give notice to the county has in the past voiced his support for putting more pressure on the county as a way of maintaining good library service.

Mayor Bill Fulton has been clear he wants the city to proceed cautiously. Fulton believes libraries will be able to maintain their current level of service in the short run, more concerned about future library services.

“I am not sure we will be able to maintain this same level of service in the coming years,” said Fulton. “Especially since the county is predicting a 50 percent increase in pension costs in the next five years.”

Many residents have already voiced trepidation about letting a private company manage the city's libraries. Going solo means Ventura libraries won't have access to materials housed at other county libraries.

“The E.P. Foster Library hasn't had the last four books I was looking for so I ended up having to request them online – they ended up coming from Simi Valley or Camarillo branches,” said Sid Willems, a Ventura resident. “If we leave the system we'll become an island and simply won't have that many books, movies and more to chose from.”

More than just access to a greater amount of books, the county currently collects and distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to each of Ventura's libraries – money that Ventura branches would miss out on if they leave the county's system. Non-Ventura property taxes – taxes collected outside of the city – account for about \$530,000 of Ventura's \$2.7 million library budget.

Because of this many believe contemplating leaving the county system may not make financial sense.

“Ventura has exactly zero dollars in its budget to fund its libraries,” said Colleen Bays a Ventura resident. “We have a wonderful resource in the county-funded library, privatization would be economi-

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Botanical Gardens gets the “green” light

On December 6 the Ventura City Council voted unanimously to approve the lease option for the Ventura Botanical Gardens to be located in Grant Park above city hall, one of the city's most stunning pieces of land.

At least 25 Ventura Botanical Garden supporters were in attendance to show their support to the City Council and broke into applause and cheers at the Councils' final vote.

The significance of this action is that the City of Ventura has now officially green lighted the project so that it can move forward into the next stages of development. With the lease in hand (almost) VBGI can now proceed to secure funding and donors to make the Gardens a reality.

Brooke Ashworth, a member of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission, said, “I think this will be a huge asset to our community.” The Commission recently voted in support of the proposal and lease terms. Ashworth praised the backers for their professionalism and extensive public outreach.

The Ventura Botanical Garden supporters have spent three years building support, researching and developing their vision of having a public garden which could include everything from native wildflowers, indigenous species and redwood trees to hiking paths. Additionally, the group envisions a gift shop, tele-

scopes on site, a tram leading downtown, and perhaps one day, a much needed amphitheatre and educational center.

Grant Park has a quiet, majestic character with its stoic cross, poignant figurative bridges to the area's history, and a surreal panoramic view of glorious hillsides and coastline. Local non-profit, Ventura Botanical Gardens, Inc. (VBGI) picked the park out of 17 potential sites as the ideal setting for Ventura's own botanical garden. 107 acres with a 360-degree view overlooking downtown Ventura, the coastline, the mountains and the area's expansive agricultural fields.

In a previous issue of the Breeze Doug Halter, vice president of VBGI stated that “I can tell you, I have never been so excited about a project. Having chosen a site, VBGI will next seek approval from City commissions and form partnerships with other community organizations, such as the Tourism Bureau and Arts Council, in order to move ahead.”

Despite the ongoing economic challenges faced by our nation, VBGI is committed to pursuing the opportunity to transform a breathtaking, yet underutilized site, into a cultural venue of regional and national importance. They have stated “We are dedicated to bringing such a garden experience to our county. To this end, we have spent countless hours developing a Vision Plan and negotiating a lease and lease option with the City of Ventura.”

Successful American flag donation

The City of Ventura, in partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and

News and Notes



Margarida Eidson the new director of the Ballet School

All American Ballet School & Company names new managing director

All American Ballet School & Company (AAB) has named Margarida Eidson the managing director of its ballet school. Ms. Eidson has been a member of the AAB ballet faculty since 2008.

AAB is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation that operates a ballet school and performance company in Ventura. Under the artistic direction of its founder, Romanian-born and trained Clarissa Boeriu, AAB provides serious ballet training based on the classical, Russian-originated Vaganova technique. Their students participate in a minimum of two major performances per year, dancing side by side with professional dancers.

Ms. Eidson was born and trained in Portugal, beginning her primary dance training at the age of five under the instruction of Elsa Roquette and Bento da Camara. In 1976, she was accepted to the National Conservatory Dance School of Lisbon, Portugal, where she completed the seven year Ballet and Fine Arts program in five years.

Margarida and her husband moved with their four boys to Ventura in 1998, where she has been and continues to be an active volunteer in many community organizations, including President of Loma Vista Elementary PTA, President of Cabrillo Middle School Music Boosters, Cotillion Chairperson, Boy Scouts Committee member, Board Member of Tigres Track Club, Treasurer for the 5th Grade Outdoor Education, Treasurer for the Parents Advocates of Gate Education PAGE and Member of Assistance League.

For more information on All American Ballet, go to www.allamericanballet.org.

Spark of Love Toy Drive

The Ventura City Fire Department is participating in the Spark of Love Toy Drive that benefits families who live in the city of Ventura. Toy donations are accepted at all fire stations until Thursday December 23. Only new, unwrapped gifts will be accepted.

Families in need can register for the toy drive with Project Understanding at 43 East Vince Street, 652-1326 or call the Fire Department Administration office at 339-4300.

County Fair elects new president

The Ventura County Fair Board of Directors has elected Director Janis Berk (Port Hueneme) to the position of 2011 board president. Ms. Berk will replace outgoing Board president Michael Bradbury. Director Leslie Cornejo (Oxnard) was elected vice president.

Directorship of the Ventura County Fairgrounds Board, officially known as the 31st District Agricultural Association, is the result of a gubernatorial appointment. The 31st District Agricultural Association is a state entity within the Department of Food and Agriculture. The 31st DAA is a self-supporting entity, receiving no tax dollars.

For more information about the Ventura County Fairgrounds please visit www.venturacountyfair.org.

Six of the best--- six of the worst

by Ivor Davis

The older we get the quirrier we get.

As we head into a New Year and after three decades in Ventura I decided to take a quickie look at life in our Town.

Make no mistake. I love it here. The positives far outweigh the negatives. June glooms aside the weather is fantastic.

But for the record here are half a dozen things I love-- and six I hate about Our Town.

In my curmudgeonly opinion most of the negative items can be easily remedied.

I Love:

1. The bread at My Florist (although not always the service.)
2. The incredible range of world class entertainment we now have on our doorstep: Ventura Music Festival, Rubicon and New West Symphony.
3. Our polite and civilized cops
4. The view of the ocean from the hills on a clear day.
5. Our banana republic City Hall Building
6. The slightly decaying Community Hospital Fastrac Gym --and it's unique mix and match members.

I Hate:

1. The perilous off ramp at 101 and California.
2. The City of Ventura's laissez faire attitude towards fixing our roads.
3. Arrogant downtown Ventura chefs who ignore customers' complaints.
4. The senseless/selfish closure of Poli Street by Ventura High School.
5. Probably because of the above: Ventura High School students who never look before they cross any road anywhere in town. Take that (thwack) Ventura School Board!
6. The lunacy of not cleaning the debris off our beaches -- in a town that wants tourism to thrive.

Red Cross hires new Regional Chief Executive Officer

After four months of tireless searching, the American Red Cross, Ventura County Chapter has hired James McGee as the new Regional Chief Executive Officer of Ventura County.



Chris Velasco, President and Executive Director of PLACE, moderated a meeting at the W&V as artists and community leaders met to discuss the future of ArtWalk.

ArtWalk's future debated at the W&V

by Tim Pompey

Given the City of Ventura's current budgetary constraint, ArtWalk as it has been celebrated in the past is on hiatus; that, according to Denise Sindelar, the City's Community Partnerships Manager.

At a meeting on December 8 moderated by Chris Velasco, President and Executive Director of PLACE (Projects Linking Art, Community & Environment), at least 80 members from the arts and business community, plus members of the City Council, gathered at the W&V's community theater to discuss how to replace ArtWalk. Sindelar and staff organized the meeting to seek feedback from its community partners and determine if any future ArtWalk type event might be feasible.

Velasco, whose organization helped to finance and design W&V, noted how the City has changed since the first ArtWalk. "It's a different time since ArtWalk first started. There is the Bell Arts Factory and the W&V project. There are fewer galleries along Main Street and more restaurants. In many ways the environment has shifted."

Asked why he agreed to moderate the meeting, he noted: "The City asked me to do it. It's useful because we're from out of town, with a neutral point of view, and that's seen as a good thing."

Velasco explained to the group that the goal for this meeting was to "come up with a set of principles to decide the purpose of the event." The outcome of the meeting would result in "principles to envision what that event might be."

The large audience was divided into four groups to deal with four different issues: 1) the event's purpose; 2) when and where it would be held; 3) how it would be organized; 4) how to pay for it.

The group collaborations led to a wall full of bulleted points and some

heated discussion. Some artists, such as Guy Wilson and Michele Chapin from the Stoneworks Gallery, felt strongly that the event should be focused solely on the visual arts and that the intent of the event should be art sales.

Others suggested the event should be broader in its focus and include a wider range of arts. Many suggested there should be more entertainment and a stronger emphasis on education, studio tours, and family participation, particularly for children.

After the group sheets were posted on the wall, participants were able to vote for their preferences with a set of colored stickers. Some complained that the number of posted choices was overwhelming. One participant asked if the choices could be e-mailed to group members and voting take place via e-mail. Sindelar noted that this meeting was a preliminary discussion and that the output and results would be gathered by City staff, consolidated, and passed out at a future meeting.

Sindelar summarized how this data gathering would progress. First, City staff would analyze and synthesize the information. Once tallied, the results would be e-mailed to the group. Another meeting is planned for January, during which the updated recommendations will be refined. Her hope is that the results from these meetings will eventually be brought to the City Council, at which point the City will decide on their support and participation.

Sindelar spoke about the relationship between the City and any future arts event. "The City will support, but the City will not be the entity that runs it," she says. "We're looking at how we'll partner with various arts organizations, community groups, and citizens."

With a successful career in the health, consumer products, and technology industries, McGee brings a broad range of leadership and business development experience to the CEO position.

"I'm excited to bring my talents and experiences to a tremendous organization like the American Red Cross," said McGee. "I'm honored to carry forward a great legacy of providing critical services and support to local families in times of need."

McGee earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Business

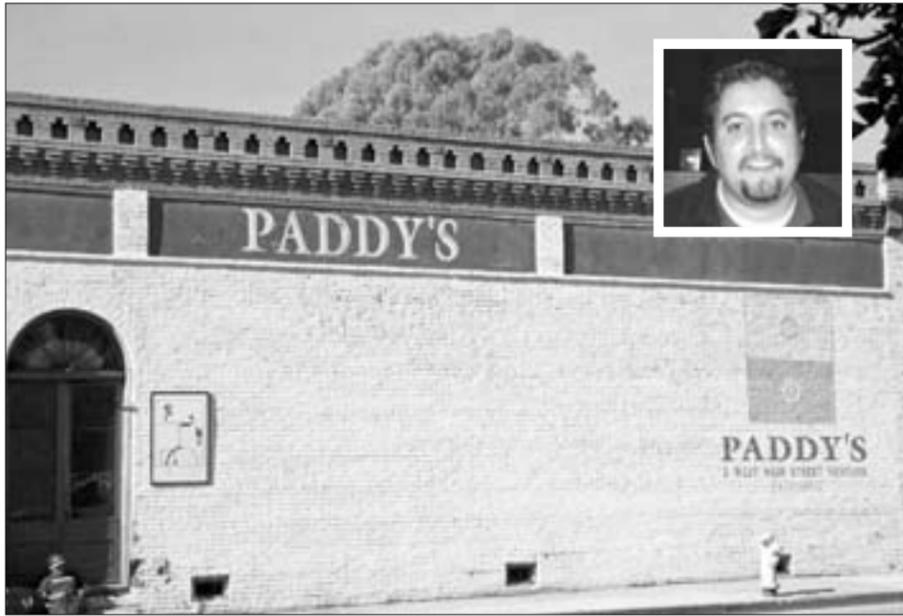
from Wheaton College and completed a Master's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Operations and Management at the University of Southern California.

In addition to his professional experience, McGee serves the Ventura County community as a Board Member of Ventura Missionary School and is active in several youth mentoring and sports programs.

Born and raised in Southern California, McGee, his wife Wendy, and sons Liam and Noah make their home in Ventura.



News and Notes



DJ Michael Kohli is the music host (and Breeze writer) for the Tuesday night gathering of Glee watchers at Paddy's in downtown Ventura. Photo by Erik Schiemann Brooks photography student

Holiday Glee celebrated at Paddy's

by Tim Pompey

The TV series Glee has created a nationwide phenomenon. Avid fans who follow the show are nicknamed “gleeks.” Glee songs are posted online every week. And the Glee cast was even featured in a recent issue of “Rolling Stone.”

Like the show American Idol, Glee features young singers trying to escape obscurity. In Glee's case, that obscurity is their existence at William McKinley High School, where athletes and cheerleaders are in and Glee singers are not. Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester runs her glamorous “Cheerios” like a squad of storm troopers. Glee club director Will Schuester has to duck and run amidst their numerous assaults. Still, week after week, he rallies the troops, and week after week, the kids deliver their songs.

At the center of all this hubbub is chorister Chris Colfer, whose gayness has been both an emerging discovery and a musical highlight. His melodic voice, sharp wit, and vulnerability provide the show's heart and soul.

Perhaps this explains why Glee has become a Tuesday night staple at Paddy's in downtown Ventura. Known locally as the spot where the LGBT community can gather, Paddy's features a long bar, pool tables, a big screen TV, and a relaxed atmosphere. Like the old Cheers on TV, it's a place where good friends can hang out. “Everyone is welcome,” says bartender Dennis Romero. “When the gay community gathers here, all the bias is left out.” Romero likes to think of Paddy's as “just another bar” where people can feel at home.

DJ Michael Kohli describes his Tuesday Glee gatherings as a “fun experiment.” Kohli started it as a one night

event last September to watch the opening show, then gather on the big dance floor adjacent to the bar for some after-Glee entertainment. But what was originally intended as a sole night of entertainment has stretched on for twelve weeks and drawn huge crowds for guest appearances by Britney Spears, Carol Burnett, and John Stamos.

Bar patrons Koa and Steve are big fans of the show. “I like the renditions of the songs they cover,” says Steve. Indeed, Glee is known for its outrageous musical numbers and big-time dance moves. Koa appreciates “all the pizzazz when they sing.”

Tonight is the end of the fall season and features the episode titled “A Very Glee Christmas.” Arch-nemesis Sue Sylvester, a snarling school Grinch, steals all the presents purchased by Glee clubbers and fellow teachers and defiantly stacks them in her office. As usual, the Glee chorus tries to sing those presents back under their tree.

And therein is the appeal of the show. There's always hope when different people with common struggles use music to change the way folks relate to each other. As the episode ends, even Sue has to admit. There's something about a Christmas song that melts even the stoniest heart and brings people together.

It seems simple enough. Where there's a bar and a TV, friends will gather. Or sing. Or sing along, because where there are friends, there's also music, and music creates friendships. And where there is music and friendship, Glee seems to thrive. As the show proves tonight, whether gay or straight, everyone loves a good song.

“Twas The Night Before” radio drama airs Christmas eve

Every Now and Then Theatre, Ventura County's select troupe for broadcast, presents a new radio drama honoring military families with, “Twas the Night Before.” The story unfolds in the golden era of radio on December 24, 1944. Four American families in a rural township, af-

fectured by World War Two, come together at their annual holiday gathering for the reading of a famous poem. Something happens that no one expects.

NewsTalk 1520 KVTA and 1400 KKZZ will broadcast the production this Christmas Eve, December 24 at times to be announced and displayed on the station's website at www.kvta.com. A countywide cast of top local actors mixed with beginners are challenged to perform with only one group rehearsal.

“What's on the radio in 1944 becomes one of the characters in this show,” said Linda Stiegler of Thousand Oaks, who

plays the lead character of Christine. “This time period was a turning point for America in World War Two. We researched details to place the listener right into the life and times of that day. It's a heart-tugging story with a joyful ending.”

The cast features Arryck Adams, Bob Allen, Abby Collins, Dano, Bob Decker, Jim Diderrich, Judy Diderrich, Celeste Van Etten, Keith Hurt, Penny Krenenas, Shawn W. Lanz, Ray Mastrovito, Courtney Potter, Bill Smith, Linda Stiegler, Robert West, Steve Wood, and James Wortman.

Every Now and Then Theatre shows benefit foster children in Ventura County by making CDs of broadcasts available to cast in trade for donations. The troupe maintains a website at www.EveryNowAndThenTheatre.com.



Was the 35 minute wait worth it?

Was the Wine Walk too successful?

by Kimberly Castro

The first annual Ventura Winter Wine Walk occurred on Saturday, December 4 in downtown Ventura. The event had a tremendous turnout with hundreds of avid wine drinkers on hand to sample the many different wines that were positioned throughout downtown Ventura.

Although the event was very well intentioned, there were a few glitches that did occur and hopefully will be remedied in time for next year's event. Upon our 5pm arrival, an estimated four hundred people were lined up at the Cal State Channel Islands gallery to receive their tickets that would allow them to taste from the different wineries.

After a thirty-five minute wait we received our tickets, a map and a plastic cup. At approximately 5:45pm we arrived at our first stop, Café Fiore. Unfortunately, one of my guest's plastic cups cracked before we arrived but was quickly replaced and our tour continued.

We eagerly sampled the Summerland Wine from a very pleasant host and positioned ourselves near a window to watch the lighting of the city's Christmas tree. When we tried to go back for a second tasting, the line appeared to be approximately 50 people long so we moved on to our next stop, the Birkenstock store.

A band playing festive music greeted us before we entered the store and the

owners eagerly filled out glasses with wine. Although the wine was less than spectacular, the store was filled with people having a good time.

Our last stop for the evening was at 71 Palm. Unfortunately, the winery that was positioned at 71 Palm had run out of their 4 cases of wine and had already left the premises. Luckily, there was a table for four available and we ended having a delightful dinner with some exquisite wine tempered with great conversation from the chef/owner Didier.

Hopefully, next year's event will have multiple check-in locations and perhaps a nice collectible wine “glass” instead of plastics cups to sample the wines. All in all, the night had a few hiccups along the way but the event brought over 1,500 patrons to the downtown area and allowed them to visit many of our finest stores and restaurants along the way.

Personally, I would try the wine walk again if they did resolve the issues I mentioned and had some more notable wineries involved with the event.

How many people die homeless in our county

Although it is impossible to know exactly how many people die homeless in our county each year, the names of at least thirteen residents who have died homeless since the first of the year will be read at several local congregations and at the Homeless Person's Memorial Service on December 19 at 3 p.m. in Plaza Park, across from the post office in downtown Ventura. The youngest was thirty-two and the oldest was sixty-five. The local service is being held in observance of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day which was designated as such in 1990 by the National Coalition for the Homeless to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to memorialize those who have paid the price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

The service is part of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Ventura's Lift Up Your Voice Project, a collaborative effort aimed at ending homelessness.

In speaking to the Ventura City Council on November 15, Rev. Jan Christian, minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, noted, “If fires were raging in our hills, we would have an emergency shelter open within hours. There is a different fire in this city and it is just as devastating to life. It is time for a sense of urgency. It is time that we all become uncommon leaders willing to build the common good.”

After the service there will be a walk in silence downtown with cardboard signs highlighting the need for an emergency shelter.

Members of the public are welcome to bring blankets, bedrolls and warm clothing to augment the church's donations. To add names to the list or for more information call Beth at 644-3898 ext. 101 or email her at luyv.beth@gmail.com.

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News and Notes



Caps Chat

Teaching TV

by Rich Burlingham

When I first joined CAPS my first assignment was to start a kid's media camp. Of course, it didn't matter that it was already February and that I had never run a camp of any kind let alone a media camp. But I was determined to figure out a way. That was back in 2007 and we did put on one week of camp that summer, called Camp CAPS and partnered with the YMCA. Since then we have gone out on our own, expanding to three paid weeks of what is now called CAPS4Kids Digital Storytelling Summer Classes with great success. The CAPS4Kids Youth Programs expanded to include an in-school media course we've taught at local elementary schools and our high school and college internship program that gives students vast experience working on both single camera and multi-camera, field and studio productions.

I have found that working with these kids, ages 8 and up, has been both rewarding and eye-opening. I've seen kids who were the trouble-makers in a class or unmotivated by the normal curriculum suddenly find their niche as a filmmaker. I have watched them blossom, finding something that they were excited about participating in and an activity that they were actually good at doing. The fact that we have kids come back to take our summer classes over and over, with some graduating on to become interns, is testament that not only are we providing a valuable service but that we're doing a pretty good job.

But the truth is that it takes a lot of time and effort by a great many skilled individuals to make these programs happen. We can't continue to run these programs without financial assistance. Grants have allowed us to go into the schools to teach media literacy but it's tougher and tougher to find those funds. We need our friends in the community to step up and contribute the dollars so that we can continue to go into schools and provide these kids exposure to an art form that is certainly not included in the normal curriculum.

CAPS4Kids is but one example of the value of a community media center like CAPS but an important one. The one thing I've learned from working with all these kids is that they teach me as much as I teach them and that there are a lot of creative, talented, and smart kids in our community and they make me feel safe knowing that not only are the media arts in good hands, but so is our country.

We welcome you to come by our media center for a tour and perhaps you'll see why you should support CAPS. Go to our web site or call us to see how you can become a member, volunteer or donate. If you have something to say CAPS is THE place to say it or as we like to shout, "What's your story? We can help you tell it." Find us at www.caps-tv.org or 658-0500 or Facebook us at CAPS TV Ventura.

\$180,000 raised by the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura

A large crowd of enthusiastic supporters celebrated the 43rd Annual Boys & Girls Club of Ventura's Great Auction, 'Dancing With The Stars Of Tomorrow' at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel on November 6. \$180,000 was raised at the event to support the programs of the youth at the five centers in the Ventura, Saticoy and Oak View communities. The event was presented by E. J. Harrison & Sons, Inc.

Emmy nominated dancer/choreographer Louis van Amstel from 'Dancing with the Stars' was the event's Master of Ceremonies. Young Club members from the ballroom dancing program presented a dance routine. In addition to the youth dance team, Sandra Laby, winner of the 2010 Salsa Festival Dance Competition and her professional dance partner, Ricky Campos performed an exciting salsa routine.

All funds raised from the auction benefit on-going programs for the 3,500 kids and families who annually participate in the after-school and summertime programs at the five Clubs in Ventura, Oak View and Saticoy.

Kwanzaa the holiday

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from December 26 thru January 1, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

The first-fruits celebrations are recorded in African history as far back as ancient Egypt and Nubia and appear in ancient and modern times in other classical African civilizations such as Ashantiland and Yorubaland. Kwanzaa builds on the five fundamental activities of Continental African "first fruit" celebrations: ingathering; reverence; commemoration; recommitment; and celebration.

Rooted in this ancient history and culture, Kwanzaa develops as a flourishing branch of the African American life and struggle as a recreated and expanded ancient tradition, it draws from the cultures of various African peoples, and is celebrated by millions of Africans throughout the world. Moreover, these various African peoples celebrate Kwanzaa because it speaks not only to African Americans in a special way, but also to Africans as a whole, in its stress on history, values, family, community and culture.

First, Kwanzaa was created to reaffirm and restore African culture. It is an expression of recovery and reconstruction of African culture which was being conducted in the general context of the Black Liberation Movement of the '60's and in the specific context of The Organization Us, the founding organization of Kwanzaa and the authoritative keeper of its tradition. Secondly, Kwanzaa was created to serve as a regular communal celebration to



Elaine Muray had a great November

Storyteller awarded a grant by Forum of the Arts Endowment

Professional storyteller and Ventura resident Elaine Muray has two things to celebrate this past month. In November she learned that she was awarded a grant by the Museum of Ventura County Forum of the Arts Endowment to develop a digital storytelling project. The project will explore the narratives of the full cast of characters who play a role in the bullying dilemma, including the victim, the silent onlooker, members of the community and former bullies who now regret their past behavior. Elaine hopes to complete filming by the end of the 2010-11 school year and have a master ready for review in the community during National Anti-Bullying Month in October, 2011.

On December 1, Elaine also found out that she was elected to the Board of the National Storytelling Network (NSN), the national association of storytellers. She will serve as the Pacific Regional Director, overseeing activities in the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. Her responsi-

bilities will include growing and serving the NSN membership, identifying new niches for membership and developing new marketing initiatives. Additionally, Elaine will also serve as the International Representative on the Board, serving those outside of the US who become members of NSN. Her term will be from 2011-13.

Elaine is the founder of the Ventura County Storytelling Guild and Ventura Village Voices Adult Storytelling Series. This past year she produced, in Ventura the annual Southern California Storytelling Swap, an annual gathering of southern California tellers. She has performed at the Australian Storytelling Festival and in 2008 was chosen by her peers to perform at the National Storytelling Conference. In 2010 she was co-chair of the National Storytelling Conference's All Region Concert and also performed in its Pacific showcase.

You can learn more about Elaine's body of work at www.embodiedvoicestoryarts.com.

reaffirm and reinforce the bonds between people. And Kwanzaa was conceived as a fundamental and important way to introduce and reinforce these values and cultivate appreciation for them.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karina, professor, Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, author and scholar-activist who stresses the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African American culture.

Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one, and can be practiced by Africans of all religious faiths.

Gifts are given mainly to children, but must always include a book and a heritage symbol. The book is to emphasize the African value and tradition of learning stressed since ancient Egypt, and the heritage symbol to reaffirm and reinforce the African commitment to tradition and history.

The last day of Kwanzaa is the first day of the new year, January 1. Historically this has been for African people a time of sober assessment of things done and things to do, of self-

reflection and reflection on the life and future of the people and of recommitment to their highest cultural values in a special way. Following in this tradition, it is for us then a time to ask and answer soberly and humbly the three Kawaiida questions: Who am I; am I really who I say I am; and am I all I ought to be? And it is, of necessity, a time to recommit ourselves to our highest ideals, in a word, to the best of what it means to be both African and human in the fullest sense

Holiday toy drive

The Children's Therapy Network is now hosting its second annual holiday toy drive. Canned or non-perishable goods and packages, and unwrapped toys and blankets are welcome as donations, to be given to those in need. Donations should be taken to the organization's office located at 1234 E. Main Street in Ventura. Hours are 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Call 667-8200 or fax 667-8201 for further information.



Community Events

The Nutcracker to be presented in Ventura

All American Ballet (AAB) promises a lavish and exciting production of The Nutcracker, to be presented in two shows on December 19 in Ventura. New Victorian-style costumes in richly-hued fabrics of velvet, taffeta and tapestry will grace the skilled pre-professional and emerging student dancers, who will perform the beloved classic alongside professional guest artists.

Camille Wallace, AAB's Board President, stated "You will see added visual interest in our Nutcracker production this year. Along with the gorgeous, new costumes, we have engaging original choreography, including a surprise aerial feature, all of which will enhance the magic of the show."

The aerial piece will be performed by students who have been studying aerial dance at AAB's School with topflight aerial artist, Carmen Curtis, co-owner of and performer in Airealistic, a site-specific aerial theatre company

Guest artists in AAB's Nutcracker include Alexander Greschenko, Kaitlin Alena, Darrell Haggard, Megan Tatum and Sebastian Adams.

"Whether it's an annual tradition or a first ballet experience, children and adults alike will delight in The Nutcracker's magical story, memorable music, beautiful staging and uplifting dancing, all in the festive spirit of the holiday season," states Mrs. Wallace.

The December 19th shows will be pre-

sented at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at Ventura High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$25, \$18 and \$15, and \$10 for children and groups of four or more in selected seats. For tickets, call 650-6316 or visit www.AllAmericanBallet.org.

Concert to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura

Hi Hat Entertainment and Leon Rouso Associates will present the first annual Christmas Celebration Concert to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura on December 17 at Yolie's Fresh Mex Grill, 138 Main St. Tickets are on sale for \$25 by calling 676-1110 or 641-5585. The doors open at 7pm for the 8pm concert.

Concert entertainment for the evening includes Dynamo JUMP featuring Albert Lee, who has been called the "world's best blues/rock guitarist" by Eric Clapton; Grammy Award winning guitarist and producer Pete Anderson; and vocalist, songwriter and keyboardist, Teresa James.

The Boys & Girls Club President and professional saxophonist, Leon Rouso will also sit in with the group.

All proceeds from the evening benefit the on-going programs of the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura and their five centers in Ventura, Oak View and Saticoy. Over 3,500 kids and families are served annually by their after-school and summertime programs.

The Club also serves "at risk", dis-

advantaged and special needs youth between the ages of 6-18 years of age with a non-discrimination policy on the basis of race, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation or financial considerations.

For additional Club information, special event schedule, to schedule a tour, volunteer or mentor check the website at www.bgclubventura.org or call 641-5585.

The Minstrel Streams Holiday Family Show

"A Joyous Expression of Seasonal Music & Dance For All Ages" will be presented at the WAV Theater Gallery on Saturday December 25 Christmas day at 4pm and 7pm.

Featuring ten artists including Saint Pierre with guests: Minstrel Streams, Matt & Rebecca Stuart Lady Moonbeam, Debi McAlpine, The WAV Little Dance Girls: Leeza & Sasha, and the WAV's own Anne Miller. Also featuring visionary WAV artist storyteller, Frances Spencer, with her new original holiday story piece, to be enjoyed by all.

There will also be amazing art boutique presentations by WAV resident artists and guest student artists.

Minstrel Streams is a powerful, original, and inspirational show. Matt & Rebecca Stuart create a heart touching and engaging atmosphere through the passion in their music. A great performance to experience in today's holiday season of festivities. Their show has been enjoyed by many audiences up and down the California coast.

Come celebrate the first annual Christmas Day show, a pleasant alternative to the movies and closed restaurants. The show is designed for the whole family, and those without a family.

Gourmet home style soups will be available with fancy toppings, gourmet breads, hot apple cider, teas, and coffee.

The WAV Theater And Gallery 175 So. Ventura Avenue, Ventura, California 93001

(Free parking at the corner of Ventura Avenue and Thompson Blvd)

For tickets call: (800) 350-7787. Major credit cards accepted. Suggested ticket donations \$10 advance, \$12.50 at the Door. Both shows have a special family package for \$29.95 ticket (advance only) donation. Call with code 777NEWSL.

Ventura events

Wednesdays take Greek dance lessons and have a Greek feast at the Greek at the Harbor. From 7 - 9pm for \$25.00 per lesson. And \$5 will be donated to a charity of our choice. Call 650-5350 for reservations and more information.

December 17 & 18: Randy Willis, the owner of the Harbor Cove Café will be having **2 kid's play days** on the big lawn area right next to the Café. There will be games with prizes for children.

They will be open from 7:30am-2:30pm and will be opening back up at 5:00pm for a wonderful view of the Parade Of Lights and dining.

December 19: Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra, KuanFen Liu, Artistic Director, and First United Methodist Church present the annual "**A Messiah Sing-Along.**" The event will be held at First United Methodist Church (located at 1338 East Santa Clara Street, Ventura) on Sunday, at 3:00 p.m. Soloists Sophie Wingland, soprano, Louise Lofquist,

alto, Grey Brothers, tenor, and Michael Shasberger, bass, will be featured in the performance. Suggested donation is \$20. The audience will be the chorus in the great oratorio by G. F. Handel, and vocal scores will be available. Rehearsal will be held at 2 p.m. for those who wish to practice. Come sing or just come and listen with a friend. Call 643-8621 or visit www.chicovc.org for more information.

December 20: Joel Clemens will be at the Rubicon Theatre for one night only on Monday at 7pm. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Buffalo Records (648-3345).

To hear Joel's music go to www.joelclemens.com

January 5: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN) is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, golf, dining, wine outings, reading, biking, etc.

For more information, please go to their monthly meeting on at 9:30am. Meetings are held at The Greek Restaurant located at 1583 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura Harbor No charge for meeting. Coffee or tea is available at a nominal charge of \$1.00.

Guest Speaker will be Jeanne Scott, Author.

For additional information, please call 644-9668 or 644-5086 or go to beachcitiesnn.zoomshare.com

Walking in a winter wonderland

Rediscover the joy of holiday shopping wandering through a festive seaside village at the popular Ventura Harbor's Winter Wonderland & Carnival on Sunday, December 19 from noon - 4pm. Faux snowfall every 15 minutes, a full carnival with rides and games, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and their two live reindeer, fudge tasting, Dickenson carolers, a strolling toy soldier band, ice sculpting demonstration, holiday characters, kid's crafts, and much more greet visitors at the Ventura Harbor Village!

Admission and parking are free as well as visits with Santa and live reindeer at the Carousel Stage from noon - 4pm, and be sure to bring your camera. Children can also visit with friendly holiday characters wandering the Village while twirling under the faux snowfall. Also included is New York Life free Child ID booth and a kid's craft by Ventura Creates.

Explore the Ventura Harbor Village boutiques for unique holiday gifts with a Holiday Sidewalk Sale, taste Village Carousel's famous homemade fudge, and stay into the evening for dinner at one of Ventura Harbor's many restaurants to experience wonderful and sea-festive holiday decorations lit up along the Harbor Village Promenade.

Plus, after dinner make a reservation to explore the Harbor and Ventura Keys on a California Sleigh Ride for the best view of the lights on the water with Ventura Boat Rentals. California Sleigh Rides take place at 6pm and 8pm every evening in December.

Visit www.venturaharborvillage.com for more information or call 477-0470. The Ventura Harbor Village is located off of Harbor Blvd and Spinnaker Drive.

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Photo contest



For \$30 where was this photo taken? The first reader who can tell us the area where this photo was taken will win a \$30 gift certificate from any advertiser in this issue. Just email

your answer to editor@venturabreeze.com. Photo by Marsha Moreland (but she won't tell you where it was taken)

Ventura libraries

Continued from page 4
cally irrational."

Still others believe it's a bad idea to mix a private firm with public services.

"Every decision the county makes is about maximizing its service to the public versus every decision LSSI makes which has to be about maximizing profit," said Marianne Coffey of Ventura. Coffey also expressed concern turning over book-buying power to a private firm who has funded the Republican Party.

Putting a private company in charge means many decisions may be completely out of the city's control including book selection, staffing, salaries and more.

"The city is looking to save money, and that's good," said Thomas Martinez of Ventura who admits he is not sure if

having a private company run the city's libraries is a good idea. "I don't know if the county is the best choice either – they are the ones after all who decided to close the Wright Library."

Some residents are optimistic believing hiring a private operator could result in the reopening of the H.P. Wright Library.

Even with an end-of-the-year deadline looming, Browkaw believes the city still has some options. The city could leave the county system on December 31 and carry on its search for a private organizations paying for the county services while doing so. The city could also wait, create a long-term vision for library services over the next six months and then use this to lead a competitive bid to private companies with the intent to leave the system in 2012.

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Friday, December 17th & Saturday, December 18th

5 pm Carnival Festivities & Visits with Santa

7 pm Boat Parade & Fireworks

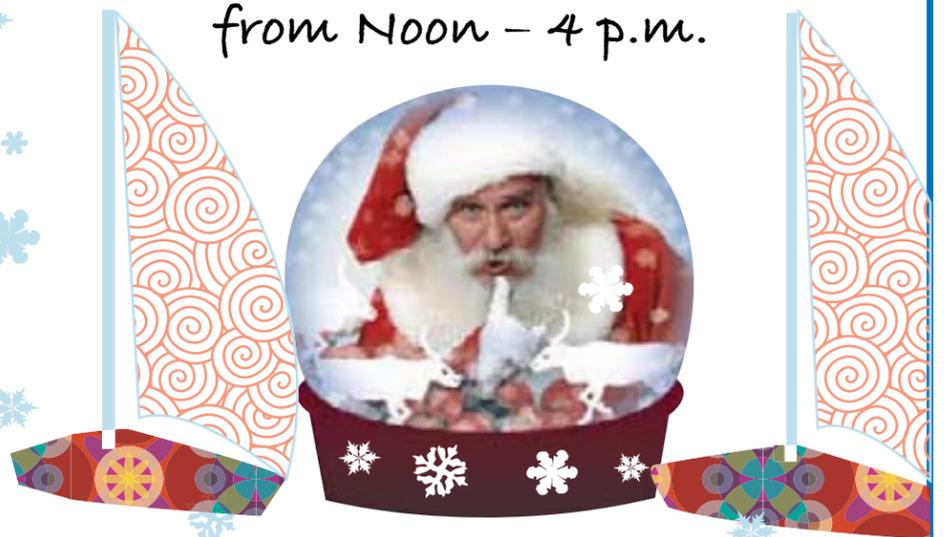
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Sunday, December 19th
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Holiday Characters • Toy Soldier Band • Faux Snowfall
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Ventura Creates Kid's Craft • Free Kid Tattoos & More!
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Art Scene



Photographer Jacqueline Woods poses next to her recent exhibit entitled "Nine Standing Women," developed from a photographic process that dates back to 1839.

WAV Artist Interviews: Jacqueline Woods

by Tim Pompey

Jacqueline Woods describes herself as a "conceptual artist still practicing in the traditional photographic processes." In lay terms, she lives, works, and creates photographs the old-fashioned way: in a dark room with paper, water, and the alchemy of light. By using what's termed a "paper negative," she traces her technique back to the infancy of photography, before film was even invented.

Her fascination with the camera, which began in a high school photo class, has blossomed into a thirty-year passion. Since graduating with a B.S. in Applied Art and Design from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1988, she has worked as a photographer, a custom picture framer, and an archivist for photo collections. Her work is held in museums, corporate, and private collections.

Woods considers traditional photography to be a "supernatural" medium—a complex combination of magic and chemistry. "I have a deep respect for the genius of photography and its

power of representation," she says. "My work explores memory and identity, both personal and collective." The experience of making hand-made prints is quite meditative. As she describes it: "When I'm in the dark room, I'm transported to another realm."

Her current exhibit, "Standing Women," transforms found photographs of anonymous women using paper negatives. After five years on this project, Woods has a personal connection to each woman. "I want to keep them all safe," she says, "and preserve them because this is proof that each of the women, now dead, once existed."

Illustrating these women is Woods' way of capturing and holding onto their past, recognizing their contribution, perhaps even documenting her own. "For one instant, when the shutter opens" she says, "they're floating forever in this emulsion."

For more information about Woods photography, e-mail her at woodsphoto@sbcglobal.net.



Sylvia White has created Arts on Main
The Heart of the Artist

Ventura: City of Art

by Emily Thiroux

Get ready, Ventura! An amazing opportunity is coming up for artists and patrons of the arts. Sylvia White, who recently won the Ventura Mayor's award for Creative Entrepreneur, is the owner of the prestigious Sylvia White Gallery and the consulting firm, Contemporary Artists Services. Described as an "artist guru, creative business leader and social network creator," Sylvia has worked with hundreds of artists both locally and around the globe. Now she is using her creativity to come up with a new project for Ventura.

Through pure serendipity, Sylvia

had the opportunity to meet the man who owns the block on Main Street across from the mission and close to the museum. In their conversation, Sylvia said that what that location could really use is art. A current popular trend in art cities like New York is to rent wall space to artists. Because artists aren't in shows all the time and trying to find stores who want to sell the work of artists is difficult, and frequently not fruitful, artists are thrilled to have a place where they know they can get their art seen. Then people who want to purchase art can have a place to go where they can find a range of new works. Using this concept, Sylvia suggested that they use one of the empty stores as a gallery where artists could rent space to be seen. Thus, Arts on Main was created at 242 East Main Street in downtown Ventura. This experiment will run through at least this December.

Now it gets more exciting. With a 5,000 square foot building two doors down from Arts on Main at 242 Main Street, Sylvia suggested the idea of creating a combination space of artist's studios, a gallery with regular shows, and wall space for artists to rent wall space. The concept is somewhat like Bell Arts which is right around the cor-

ner on Ventura Avenue. Sylvia came up with the name for the space as MASS, Main Street Art Studio, because she sees it as an unedited place where any artist, in any medium, can create their own space to work. It suggested to me, art for the masses. This ideal location will bring art to everyone, an idea we don't see often enough. The concept makes the art experience available to the public who walk through the area.

Arts on Main and MASS combined with the WAV, the museum, Bell Arts, and all the artists' studios on Ventura Avenue to strengthen Ventura's art district and make it a destination for tourists and local people alike. Sylvia is seeking artists to participate right now. This is an awesome opportunity to be part of the creation of a real artists' co-op. Those who get on board from the beginning will be in on the planning and design of the space which could include anything from a photo lab to a kiln to a glass blowing area depending on the desires of the first artists to be involved. Contact Sylvia now at Sylvia@artadvice.com

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. And I hope that you'll read my blog and support the artists I feature. www.theheartoftheartist.com/category/Blog/

Wonderland Windows at Bell Arts Factory

It started as a pretty simple, spontaneous idea: why not use the large windows of the Bell Arts Factory to showcase the art of some of the studio artists working in the building.

The now famous old mattress fac-

tory, which five years ago was transformed into the first community arts building in Ventura, has many windows facing on Ventura Avenue and Prospect Street. Most of the time, the shades are down, but they figured that the people in the neighborhood, both on foot and the traffic driving by, would be intrigued and hopefully prompted to go in and explore this unique building and its residents if they could see these artworks facing out to the street. Many people in Ventura are still surprised at finding out about the richly creative life inside the familiar old building on the Avenue.

Anca Colbert (the art consultant and appraiser) and Regina Vorgang (the weaver) share Studio 96 at Bell Arts. Anca jump-started a volunteer effort with Regina as the co-pilot. Together they contacted all the Bell Arts residents and also got Lynn Le Tourneau (a painter) involved in shaping and directing the effort. This dynamic group met several times, their process guided all along by a joyful spirit of camaraderie. Finally, it evolved into a unique installation, made of large (32"x36") paintings as diverse in inspiration and technique as the artists who created them for this special project: Elena Brookes, Lynn Le Tourneau, Len Poteshman, Beatrix Rohlsen, Johanna Spinks and John Weikel.



Regina Vorgang, event co-organizer, with artists John Weikel, Beatrix Rohlsen, Johanna Spinks and Lynn Le Tourneau installing the paintings for the "Wonderland Windows -2010". Photo by Anca Colbert



The Foster house by Sarah Kalvin can be seen at the BAA

Roots Ventura – The Foster legacy exhibit

The Buenaventura Art Gallery is exhibiting Roots Ventura to commemorate E.P. Foster and the contribution and gifts that he and his wife Orpha gave to the community in the early development of Ventura County.

Twelve pictorials of the Fosters' philanthropic efforts are featured in the exhibit and in the Buenaventura Art Association's 2011 calendar. Also on exhibit are rarely seen historical photographs of the Foster family and photographs of the Foster House in the 1940s and 50s.

The exhibit and calendar is a result of the work of local artist and activist Sarah Kalvin, who in 2009 organized the painting and photographing of the Foster House with on-location events. Her efforts are the means by which the house, destroyed by fire on August 3, 2010, will now be well remembered.

The exhibit runs until January 1, 2011, at 700 E. Santa Clara St. in Ventura. Visit FragileSands.com for a comprehensive history of E.P. Foster told by R. Gird Percy, the Ventura Historical Society's first president.

Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



■ To continue with my questions to my friend Diana Edwards, APDT, professional dog trainer, I asked her the following:

Scamp: *I know that this time of the year many children wish for a puppy for xmas. I was wondering if parents know what they are getting themselves into.*

Is a puppy or even an adult dog an appropriate xmas gift for a child?

Diana: Unfortunately parents don't realize sometimes what they get themselves into by giving a puppy as a "present". The decision to bring a dog into your family should be a family decision not a surprise gift. Instead parents should educate themselves with their children on different breeds and mixed breeds and decide which would best fit into their lifestyle. Instead of putting a "live" xmas present under the tree, select some educational dog books, pet magazines or videos. These presents are wonderful ways to introduce the joys yet responsibilities of pet ownership.

Or make your own cute certificate, wrapped in a dog bowl with a picture of a puppy or picture of some dogs from your local rescue group, that could become part of your family. Being a pet parent is a long term responsibility and should never be an impulse purchase. Initially, even the most committed young child doesn't have the attention span and self-discipline yet to care for a pet. Older children without fail lose interest in just a matter of time redirecting their interest to school, dating and new social activities and leaving all together to go to college.

Some holiday gifts can just be boxed up and put on the shelf after the novelty is over. This can't be done with a loving and deserving pet. One of the parents almost always ends up feeding walking and scooping and doing all the other chores the children once promised to do. Unfortunately a lot of times this loyal 4 legged friend that was under the xmas tree, ends up in the shelter and homeless.

Animals cannot speak, but I can and you can. So we need to be their voice and convey the message that pets aren't disposable. They are dependent on humans and de-

serve love, commitment and forever lasting homes.

For advice on selecting the right breed or mixed breed for your family contact Diana Edwards at 253-0323 or e-mail diana@bestinpetcare.com.

■ A judge sentenced Oxnard resident Jesus Sanchez, 29, to a year in jail after he pleaded guilty to felony cruelty to animals in connection with cutting the ears of a 4-week-old puppy earlier this year.

Ventura County Superior Court Judge Edward Brodie said Sanchez will also be on felony probation for three years, during which time he may not own or possess any animals (how about a rattle snake, no ears to cut off?).

Brodie also said Sanchez must pay \$1,135 as restitution to the Ventura County Animal Regulation.

Sanchez claimed the animal was a pit-bull mix breed and that those dogs have their ears cut because some people like the breed with clipped ears, according to Senior Deputy District Attorney Karen Wold.

Sanchez admitted cutting the dog's ears. He claimed that he could sell the dogs with clipped ears for more money, authorities said.

I wonder if I cut off some of his parts how much he would be worth? Probably even less then he is worth now which isn't much.

■ Seniors seeking to adopt a pet could benefit from a new incentive program proposed by the head of Ventura County Animal Regulation.

The "Seniors for Seniors" adoption plan promotes adoption of older pets from the county shelter in Camarillo. It will allow seniors (aged 55 and older) to adopt an animal aged five years or older at a discounted price. And we are such wonderful companions.

Join Scamp Club

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

Dog to Adopt



Hi:
I'm Mavis a gentle and affectionate 5 year old female Fila Brasileiro. I was found as a stray and not claimed. I'm an active dog, who is house trained and eager to please. My new family must have experience with my breed or has someone that can be a mentor who has experience with my breed. I'm hoping it's not long before I'm a cherished member of a loving family.

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

www.carlvc.org



Scamp Club



Hi:
We are Mandy, an 11 year old female beagle and Toby a 4 year old male dachshund and we live together.
Mandy likes to escape (but luckily is always caught) and eat almost anything.
Toby is a rescue dog and loves Mandy and likes to eat carrots and to bark at the garbage trucks and mail people.
We had our pictures taken at Naturally For Paws with this funny looking man and were afraid at first but Scamp assured us that it was okay and had his picture taken first so we figured that it was okay.
The funny looking man said that he loves reading the Ventura Breeze newspaper, but we think that newspapers are only good for chewing on.

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Felony Vandalism

On Saturday, November 27th, at 5:00 a.m., the VPD received a call of two males spray-painting on the sidewalk in the 1600 block of Squirrel Lane. Officers located graffiti painted in various areas throughout the Todd Ranch Condominium complex. The suspects had spray-painted graffiti upon the sidewalks, street signs, and exterior walls of several condominiums.

Officers located the two suspects in a nearby condominium complex. The suspects, Ryan Summit, 18 years old, and a male juvenile, ran upon seeing the officers. They were taken into custody after being found hiding in a residence.

Summit was booked into the VC Jail. The male juvenile was lodged at VC Juvenile Hall.

Vehicle Pursuit

On Wednesday, December 1st, at 7:25 p.m., VPD Officer McCaskill observed a vehicle code violation and initiated a traffic stop in the vicinity of Ramelli Avenue and Telephone Road. The driver of the vehicle was later identified as Andrew Jensen, 35 years old. He failed to yield and sped off. Officer McCaskill went in pursuit of the suspect vehicle.

The pursuit traveled through the east end of Ventura and reached a maximum speed of 45 mph. The vehicle pursuit ended when Jensen abandoned his vehicle in the 400 block of Mackay and fled. The officers chased after Jensen on foot and pursued him into an acquaintance's residence on Mackay. The officers were able to place Jensen into custody without incident.

Andrew Jensen was lodged at the VC Jail.

Robbery

On Saturday, December 4th, at 2:38 p.m., the VPD received a call of a robbery in progress at the Bank of America on 2698 East Main Street.

Officers were told that a white male, between the ages of 37 and 40, had waited in line with other customers. When it was his turn in line, he came forward and told the teller he was there to rob the bank. At the same time he exposed a handgun to the teller that was tucked in his waistband.

The teller complied with the suspects' directions giving him an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect then left the bank, heading in an unknown direction.

Stabbing

On Sunday, December 5th, at 10:36

p.m., VPD responded to a call of a stabbing that had just occurred inside the Keynote Lounge, located at 10245 Telephone Road. Officers located the victim, Richard Strange, 38 years old, inside the business with several stab wounds to the back.

After the stabbing, Judson Mashburn, 39 years old, ran from the bar and was followed by bar patrons. A citizen directed officers to a residence on Clay Avenue, where Mashburn was seen hiding. Mashburn was located in the backyard of a residence in the 1400 block of Clay Avenue and taken into custody.

Mashburn was booked at VC Jail. Strange was transported to VCMC where he is currently being treated for his injuries and is in stable condition.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Thursday, December 9th, at 3:08 p.m., students informed the Buena High School Resource Officer, Jamey MacLellan, that there was a fight between two females in the PE locker room.

The victim and the suspect are both students at Buena High School and had a verbal altercation in the PE locker room. The victim pushed the suspect as the argument became more intense. A fistfight ensued and the suspect used a combination metal lock to strike the victim on the face and head several times causing the victim to stumble backwards and flee. SRO MacLellan saw the victim walking toward the main office as she was bleeding profusely from the forehead.

The victim was transported to VCMC and treated for two lacerations and major

Continued on page 13

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JUNE 30 Salute to Our Veterans 11:00am	AUGUST 24 A Taste of Cypress Classic Car Show & 50's Party 5:30 – 7:30pm	OCTOBER 15 Country Hoe Down 12:00 – 2:00pm
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Senior Living

The Senior Cone-nection

Homeshare is back again in Ventura!

by Nanci Cone

The Homeshare program has been resurrected because of the need for affordable housing in the community, and the need to help seniors stay in their homes. This program was started by the City of Ventura in 1982 as a senior program, and expanded to the county a few years later. At that time it was determined, because of legal requirements, the program should be opened to all ages. From 1987-1996 it was coordinated by Muriel Steiger and sponsored by the Housing Authority of the County of Ventura, which provided office space in Camarillo. Muriel became involved when she answered an ad in the paper from a man who was running the program on a volunteer basis in Camarillo.

Since the need for affordable housing still exists, the program was re-started to serve the City of Ventura, with an office at the Area Agency on Aging on County Square Drive. It is also sponsored by the Housing Authority and the City of Ventura, and is basically a match program. The process includes an application, an interview, inspection of a home provider's property, and careful background checking and follow-up. According to Muriel, "We envision being able to serve the whole county and that we will have enough people coming forward, opening their homes and hearts so that we can fill all those unused bedrooms."

The program is quite successful on an inter-generational basis, as the home provider is usually a senior, and the seekers are often younger. Although we put two people together, the match is ultimately made by the home provider and home seeker themselves and Homeshare periodically does a follow-up investigation of how the match is working. The program is not an emergency housing program, because of the fact that it

sometimes takes quite a bit of time and investigating to go through the application process.

"We matched a retired educator and a woman in her 70s with limited income who had been living in a garage in return for driving the homeowner a long distance to and from work each day. The educator needed a reliable person to care for her house and her plants during her absences. The improvement in the physical and mental well being of our client was remarkable," adds Muriel.

We need the help of the senior community to have faith enough in the Homeshare program to open their homes to someone who will offer companionship, friendship, help with household chores, and some income. Muriel states, "There are very few places available in proportion to the number of seekers. Our objective is to find more homes by getting the word out in the media, by speaking engagements, health fairs and brochures left in places like senior centers and churches."

Inquiries are welcome from both home providers and home seekers in the City of Ventura. For more information, call 477-7324, or email the organization at homeshareofventura@gmail.com

Toys for Tots Drive and Holiday Party

In the spirit of holiday giving, please join Aegis of Ventura and the 23rd Marines of Port Hueneme for Toys for Tots Drive on Thursday, December 16 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

You will enjoy holiday music and dancing, complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres

Please bring a new unwrapped toy to provide hope and happiness to economically disadvantaged children.

RSVP to the Concierge at 650-1114.

Aegis of Ventura
4964 Telegraph Rd
Ventura, CA 93003
AegisofVentura.com



The memory of Fran Tygell's life, who passed away at 91 years was evidenced by her adoring adopted family on Sunday, November 7, at the virtually spontaneous tribute within 24 hours of her passing in "Ode to Fran - Temple of the 99 cents Store," memorialized on film by MB Hanrahan.

Fran had an extraordinary and historic career with Max Factor Cosmetics for approximately three decades as well as being a friend to Hollywood's most legendary stars and historians.

Fran will also be missed as an avid student of lifelong learning, by her other adopted family, at the Ventura TowneHouse and Instructor Suz Montgomery's Extended Learning Class.

Senior Living



Dr. Bruce Woodling presents Taking Charge health lecture series at the Senior Center

Ventura Senior Recreation Center – alive and well

The past several months have seen a great deal of rumor and speculation about the closing of the Ventura Senior Recreation Center on Santa Clara Street. While there have been changes, the center has not closed. Many great services and programs are being offered to our local seniors every day.

All center activities are now taking place in their beautiful Social Hall. The library, resource center and even the piano have been relocated to the Social Hall making this room a friendly gathering spot as well as classroom, lecture hall and learning center. The center anticipates that this will be a very busy place.

Over the next couple of months the rooms on the opposite side of the building will be converted to offices in a cost-sharing partnership with the City of Ventura. They look forward to this sharing of the facility and the additional foot traffic and energy it will bring to the center.

Some programs and activities have been relocated due to the loss of available space. Mah Jong and Pinochle are now being played at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center. The popular pool and snooker tables have also moved to VAAC. The Wednesday social bridge game has moved to the Palms. The center was sorry to see these activities leave, but happy that they all found new homes.

Popular regular programs that continue at the center include:

- The Investment Group–Mondays 10-11:30 am
- Dr. Woodling Taking Charge Health Lecture–Wednesdays 9 am-noon
- Conversation Group–Wednesdays 4-6 pm
- Baby Blanket Making–Every 3rd Wednesday 2-4 pm.

Regular services include:

- Braille Institute–Tuesdays 10 am-noon
- Grey Law–3rd Tuesday and 2nd and 4th Thursdays 1-3 pm
- Food Share Brown Bag–Every other Monday 1-3 pm

Upcoming special events Include:

- Program Your Gadgets–Friday, January 21, 3-5 pm. High school students assist seniors with cell phones, ipods, cameras and other electronic devices.
- Valentine's Day Event–Monday, February 14, 11 am-3 pm
- Tax Preparation–Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, February through April.

The Ventura Senior Recreation Center also remains as the office for the Ventura Travel Programs offering a wonderful variety of trips and tours

near and far. Trips planned for this spring include: • Santa Barbara Culinary School, March 3 • Beauty and the Beast at the Pantages, March 10 • Lotusland, May 6 • Laughlin, NV, April 3-5 • Catalina Island Escape, June 15-17.

Please drop by any time. Hours at the Senior Center are:

- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9 am-3 pm
- Wednesday 9 am-6 pm
- Friday 9 am-1 pm

Phone 648-2829. Travel Programs Office 648-5606

Living better and longer

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 8, at 9:45 am sharp to meet at the Ventura TowneHouse, Vista Room at 4900 Telegraph Rd. across from the college near Day Rd.

There you will find your golden opportunity for an ongoing holistic experience for "Living Better and Living Longer." You will be exposed to valuable information from 3 professionals who have the best interest of seniors in mind: Dr. Woodling, MD/Dietitian, Suz Montgomery, motivational speaker and Frank Jackson, "Mr. Fitness." Don't miss this event, it is free and valuable.

Police reports

Continued from page 11
bruising to the face.

The suspect was booked at VC Juvenile Justice Center.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

A little of what the Harbor Patrol tends to

11-23

5:20 p.m. Patrol received a request for a jumpstart a vehicle at Anchors Way Drive. They were able to get the vehicle started.

11-24

10:03 Patrol received a report of a Hazard to Navigation in the Keys. Upon arrival, they found a green Harrison recycle bin with mud. They towed it to the launch ramp and removed it from the water. Harrison picked it up.

11-27

12:22 p.m. The Leo Robbins Sailing Center requested assistance with one of their capsized vessels. Patrol responded and assisted in righting the vessel.

12:55 p.m. Patrol received a report of a 14 HP outboard being stolen off a vessel that was moored at VWM. Patrol took a stolen property report and advised the person to also contact PD.

12:33 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a submerged vehicle at the lake at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Upon arrival, the occupant was out of the vehicle and a tow truck was on scene. The vehicle was towed from the lake.

2:21 p.m. A kite surfer reports another kite surfer in distress by the pier. Patrol responded and notified State Lifeguards. Lifeguards report two kite surfers in distress. One made it to the beach without assistance. Patrol took the second kite surfer onto the Patrol boat and dropped him off by the Pier into the care of State Lifeguards.

2:45 p.m. Patrol responded to a third kite surfer by Surfer's Point, took the subject aboard the Patrol boat and transported him toward the beach and into the care of the State Lifeguards.



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Mention this ad and get a **FREE** 30 minute massage!

Harrison Industries announces special customer services

Since both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Saturday this holiday season, only customers of Harrison Industries who have their trash and recyclables or green waste collected on Saturday will

have them collected one day later than usual both weeks.

The regular collection schedule will return the week of Jan. 3-8, 2011.

Residents may put out twice the amount of trash at no extra charge during the two weeks following Christmas. Please make sure the trash is in bags. They also collect extra recyclables, but please make sure to flatten all boxes.

Recycle Christmas trees by removing the ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, bows, nails and tree stand, then cut the tree into sections no more than 4 feet long and place in the yard waste barrel on the scheduled pickup day. Please note, however: Flocked trees cannot be recycled.



School

Ventura High School changes schedule

by Brooke Demchuk

For quite a few years now, the teachers of Ventura High School have been trying to change/alter the student's daily schedule. They have previously brought up different ideas, such as block schedules and seven period days, but none of them have been successfully passed. Because it is required that a minimum of two thirds of the teachers vote yes on a schedule in order for it to be taken into effect, it is extremely difficult for a new schedule to be passed. But finally, one has managed to win a two thirds majority.

Ventura High School's schedule for next year will be much different than the one currently being used this year. It will allow students to have a choice of taking from 6-8 classes each school day, rather than just six. This option allows every student the ability to catch up on extra credits that they do not have, to take all of the classes that they are interested in, and also, in some cases, to even accumulate extra class credits, allowing them to get ahead. Because Ventura College will not allow high school students to take classes there next year, this is a perfect way of still allowing students many opportunities course wise.

Also, some student's days will begin at 7:30, while others will begin at 8:30. The people who start at 7:30 will get out at 2:30, and the people that start at 8:30 will end school at 3:30. The time that a student starts school will be dictated by the classes that they sign up for, and which schedule would best fit their chosen courses.

There are mixed feelings about the new schedule all across campus. Many students are thrilled by the possibility of being able to finally catch up on the extra credits they need in order to graduate. A fair amount of students also love the fact that they will either get out of school earlier, or start school later. But while there is a large portion of students who are happy with these new prospects and find them positive, there is also a group of students who are dreading the new schedule. Many students are not looking forward to possibly of having to start school at 7:30 A.M, no matter how early they get out. But at the same time, they don't like the idea of having to end school a half hour later, either. Also, some teachers don't like the fact that they might have to be at work significantly earlier or later than the school days that they teach now.

Because this schedule is revolutionary in a way, many are anxious to see how it turns out. Due to the fact that the majority of stu-

dents and teachers are optimistic about the outcome, Ventura High anticipates it being a very successful and effective way of running the school year.

Religion



Pastor Jonathan Hall celebrates first Christmas as Senior Pastor of Ventura's First Christian Church

Young pastor leads old Ventura church

First Christian Church in Ventura has seen many generations pass through its sanctuary with a history that dates back to 1895. As the church advances into the 21st century, 27 year old Jonathan Hall has begun serving as the Senior Pastor. Pastor Hall was officially installed as the senior pastor in September following a two and a half year search to fill the position.

The new minister is bringing new energy to a congregation which like many traditional churches has grown older. Pastor Hall says he continues to wear the traditional ministerial orb because it speaks to the older generation.

First Christian is affiliated with the Disciples of Christ denomination which has 700,000 members in the U.S. and Canada. Pastor Hall described the denomination as a progressive church that is welcoming toward other religions. "It's not our job to convince others that we're right and they're wrong. We tried that in the Crusades," he said during a conversation in his new church office.

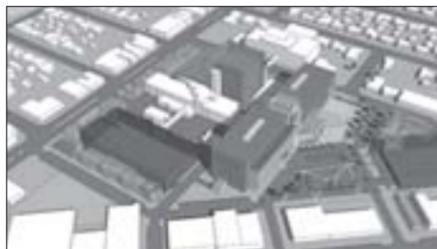
Growing up in Huntsville, Alabama, Hall says he began feeling some sort of call to the ministry at the age of 13. His journey to a church in Ventura has been a welcome destination. The interview process opened his eyes to a community where he felt com-

fortable. "People are blunt and honest here. That's why I came. They are true," he says.

Pastor Hall's education includes a Bachelor's degree from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, Master of Divinity at Eden Theological Seminar in Saint Louis, and Certificate in Ecumenical Studies at Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Geneva Switzerland. His new home in Ventura allows him to pursue other interests such as surfing, mountain biking, cycling and Spartan racing.

For more information on First Christian Church of Ventura visit www.fccventura.org

Health



The new Community Memorial Hospital campus will be a wonderful addition to Ventura

Concept approved for a new CMH

The Ventura City Council has approved plans for a new Community Memorial Hospital to be located adjacent to the existing hospital. The existing hospital would be remodeled into offices as part of the new master plan for the site.

The vote was unanimous at 6-0, with Council member Neal Andrews not present. No speakers spoke against it at the meeting. The Planning Commission had also previously unanimously approved the project.

All council members praised the new project and for what it will do for the city's midtown business district that has been struggling during these bad economic times (and even before).

Deputy Mayor Mike Tracy stated that "I think everyone agrees this is going to be a wonderful asset to our community,"

Community Memorial Hospital CEO Gary Wilde told the council prior to the vote, "I think it's the best design that I have seen, and I have visited scores of hospitals,"

California hospitals must meet new state earthquake standards by 2013 which prompted many public meetings over the past 3 years in order to meet this requirement. An extension of this time will be requested which the State has been granting if hospital's show good faith in meeting this deadline.

Demolition has already commenced.

The final approval for the specific design will be considered in January or February by the city's Design Review Committee.

Sports

VC basketball programs are in trouble

by The Hammer

That's right, there's an "S" on the word "program" For years the Pirate men have been under a microscope for many

reasons. From the result of findings of illegal players and illegal out of state recruiting, during the past decade the once proud program has logged a 19-100 record from the result of having to forfeit games and losses.

Last season was the first of a two-year play-off ban. This season the Pirate Men have one of their best starts for awhile. They shocked the city college world of basketball world last Friday night. This was titled the "high light" game of the Wells Fargo Tournament", and it was.

They took on California's number one team Mt. San Antonio. VC, ranked number six in the state, didn't blink, Mt. SAC did. With his team down by one point, Corey Hall calmly sank two free throws to put VC on top for good 74-73, handing Mt. SAC their first loss of the season.

That set the stage for VC to face the state's third ranked team from Antelope Valley, a team that handed the Pirates one of their two defeats in November. AV did it again handing VC their third loss of the season

Ventura took third place by rebounding with a convincing victory over Citrus College, 65-60. Edward came back from an injured ankle to lead the Pirates with 19 points.

Cory Hall was named to the Wells Fargo Tournament first string team.

It's against the rules to recruit out of state players. One of the major allegations against former VC men's basketball coach Greg Winslow This year there are four men players from the state of Illinois.

As for the Lady Pirates, they are off to one of the worse starts in recent VC women's history. At press time their record is 5-4, and they are on a two game losing streak. The last time Coach Ned Miretic's gals started this slowly was the 2004-05 season.

The women of VC are the defending state champions. Yet five women that would have been sophomores this year, have left the school. Five players that were eligible to return, chose to walk away.

On a further note the trial of former men's basketball coach, and athletic director Greg Winslow is scheduled to begin next month. Winslow is being charged with grand theft. It is charged that his alleged fraudulent information on admission applications for some out of state players resulted in a loss of approximately \$40,000 in college tuition fees.

Youth



The "Barry Pond High School Christmas Present Exchange" brings joy to the Arc community

Ventura High School students help to bring Christmas joy

by Barbara Hinton

A special partnership has developed between students at Ventura High School

Horseracing

Live via Satellite

The
DERBY CLUB
AT VENTURA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

**Pari-Mutuel Wagering with
Instant Payoffs at Track Odds**

10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura (805) 653-2533
www.venturacountyfair.org/derby

- Free Admission and Parking Wednesdays & Thursdays
- Full Service Bars and Restaurant
- Must be 18+ to enter

Bring a Friend to the Derby Club for free.
Buy one admission & present this ad, your friend gets in FREE!

Youth

and Arc's Community Connections West participants. According to Jennifer Lozano, Supervisor of Community West's Behavior Management program, the relationship is over ten years old. Lozano said that the program began when Wendy Baulieu, one of the supervisors at Community West at the time, wondered if they could create a program like this. She connected with someone at Ventura High and thus the "Barry Pond High School Christmas Present Exchange" was born. The event was named to honor Barry, a former participant in the Arc program.

Preparations begin in the fall, when each Arc participant makes a Christmas tree ornament with his or her photo on it. Most importantly, each ornament contains three Christmas wishes. The ornaments are then delivered to Ventura High in early November.

At this point, Helen Scovell, the Activities Director, and her students become involved. According to Scovell, the program was in place when she started working at the school, so she continued the relationship. Her fourth period students enthusiastically support the idea and visit other classes at VHS to recruit other students that are willing to help fulfill the Arc participants' wishes. The students pitch in to raise funds and purchase the gifts. She indicated that the whole school gets involved. Sports teams have taken an ornament and chipped in to purchase the requested gifts and office staff and counselors have taken ornaments too. The gift requests vary, but Scovell mentioned that she has seen many requests for gift cards and craft items.

The culmination of the students' efforts comes on December 23 each year when the Christmas party is held at Arc's facility. The festivities include a Christmas tree, tamales and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Lozano told me that "Santa" is a retired sheriff who comes each year to play the role and distribute toys.

The students are invited to the party as well. Lozano expressed her gratitude that despite the economy, the students remain dedicated to the program. Last year, seventy-five Arc participants received gifts. She emphasized how much Arc appreciates the partnership and the students' efforts. She said, "Thanks to Helen Skoval's class, Arc participants will have a brighter Christmas."

To find out more about Arc go to www.arcvc.org.

Rotary Club kicks off Coats for Kids Project

The Rotary Club of Ventura, Four Seasons Cleaners and several other Rotary clubs in the area plan to collect, clean and distribute 10,000 coats and jackets of all sizes until December 31, to keep children and adults warm this winter.

Collection boxes were distributed to businesses, schools, government centers and public parks in Ventura County the week of November 1. Members of the Rotary Clubs of Ventura (Downtown), Ventura South, Ventura East and Oxnard Sunrise collect the donated coats and jackets, deliver them to Four Seasons Cleaners for cleaning and then distribute them to service organizations and schools in the community.

Last year over 7,000 coats and jackets were given to children and adults in the

greater Ventura community. The Rotary Club of Ventura also distributes coats at its annual Christmas Party. This year's event will be held on December 8. Last year over 50 needy elementary school students were able to select coats for themselves and for members of their families.

For questions, donations or more information, please visit the Rotary Club of Ventura's website at www.venturarotary.org. Collection sites are listed on the website.

Ventura Rotary meets noon to 1:30 on Wednesdays at the Derby Club, Ventura County Fair Grounds. The club is dedicated to serving the local and global community.

PEAK hosts annual fifth grade spelling bee

Family, friends and the public were on hand at the fourth annual 5th Grade Spelling Bee hosted by the City of Ventura PEAK (Program Enrichment for After-school Kids) on December 2 in the Community Meeting Room at Ventura City Hall.

Thirty fifth-grade students received medals for being the top spellers at the city's six PEAK sites before they compete "for the crown" to become champion at this annual event. The top three students during this competition were awarded plaques.

PEAK (Program Enrichment for After-school Kids) offers after-school activities for more than 480 youths and is a collaboration of the City of Ventura Community Services Department, the Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura Police Activities League.

PEAK's mission is to provide a safe and supervised after-school education, enrichment and recreation program for students in the City of Ventura

For more information contact Youth Programs Supervisor Mario Robinson at 654-7807 or mrobinson@ci.ventura.ca.us



Harrison Industries Vice President Myron Harrison (second from left) accepts the Ventura County Council, Boys Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. With Harrison are Steve Shinsky, Ventura County Council, BSA Vice President; U.S. Congressman Elton Gallegly, a past Distinguished Citizen of the Year recipient; and David Hedman, Ventura County Council, BSA President.

Boy Scouts honor Myron Harrison and Harrison Industries

The Ventura County Council, Boy Scouts of America has recognized Harrison Industries as its 2010 Distinguished

I Fight For Freedom

by A British Soldier

T'was The Night Before Christmas,
He Lived All Alone,
In A One Bedroom House,
Made Of Plaster And Stone.

I Had Come Down The Chimney,
With Presents To Give,
And To See Just Who,
In This Home, Did Live.

I Looked All About,
A Strange Sight I Did See,
No Tinsel, No Presents,
Not Even A Tree.

No Stocking By Mantle,
Just Boots Filled With Sand,
On The Wall Hung Pictures,
Of Far Distant Lands.

With Medals And Badges,
Awards Of All Kinds,
A Sober Thought,
Came Through My Mind.

For This House Was Different,
It Was Dark And Dreary,
I Found The Home Of A Soldier,
Once I Could See Clearly.

The Soldier Lay Sleeping,
Silent, Alone,
Curled Up On The Floor,
In This One Bedroom Home.

The Face Was So Gentle,
The Room In Disorder,
Not How I Pictured,
A True British Soldier.

Was This The Hero,
Of Whom I'd Just Read?
Curled Up On A Poncho,
The Floor For A Bed?

I Realized The Families,
That I Saw This Night,

Owed Their Lives To These Soldiers,
Who Were Willing To Fight.

Soon Round The World,
The Children Would Play,
And Grownups Would Celebrate,
A Bright Christmas Day.

They All Enjoyed Freedom,
Each Month Of The Year,
Because Of The Soldiers,
Like The One Lying Here.

I Couldn't Help Wonder,
How Many Lay Alone,
On A Cold Christmas Eve,
In A Land Far From Home.

The Very Thought Brought,
A Tear To My Eye,
I Dropped To My Knees,
And Started To Cry.

The Soldier Awakened,
And I Heard A Rough Voice,
"Santa Don't Cry,
This Life Is My Choice;

The Soldier Rolled Over,
And Drifted To Sleep,
I Couldn't Control It,
I Continued To Weep.

I Kept Watch For Hours,
So Silent And Still,
And We Both Shivered,
From The Cold Night's Chill.

I Did Not Want To Leave,
On That Cold, Dark, Night,
This Guardian Of Honor,
So Willing To Fight.

Then The Soldier Rolled Over,
With A Voice Soft And Pure,
Whispered, "Carry On Santa,
It's Christmas Day, All Is Secure."

One Look At My Watch,
And I Knew He Was Right.
"Merry Christmas My Friend,
And To All A Good Night."

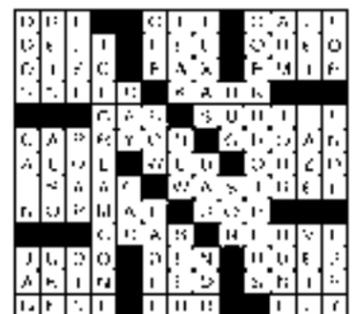
Citizen Award recipient. Vice President Myron Harrison accepted the award on Harrison Industries' behalf during a gala event on November 19 at the Ventura Beach Marriott.

Greeted by local Boys Scouts and emceed by Ventura County District Attorney Greg Totten, the event also served as the year's largest fundraiser to benefit the nearly 8,200 youth served annually by the Ventura County Council, BSA. Harrison Industries was documented for its unwavering commitment to local communities, and over 170 attendees enthusiastically outbid one another during a lively auction to raise over \$65,000 for our most treasured community asset: our children.

The festive evening was capped off with touching words offered by U.S. Representative Elton Gallegly, a past Distinguished Citizen Award recipient; Boy Scout Council President David Hedman (ThermaPure/Precision Environmental); and Boy Scout Council Vice President Steve Shinsky (City National Bank). All three presenters could not say enough about the parallel between Scouting's mission and that of Harrison Industries' passion to serve our communities best interests.

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



Show Time



Roman Candle Wars – an new band in town. Photo courtesy of Bryce Marck

Where The Music Flows

Introducing Roman Candle Wars

by: Michael Kohli

Greetings to all you fellow music fans out there! Thanks for stopping by my column. There is a new band I must tell you about. Roman Candle Wars. First off, you've got to love the name. And this band is incredible. Had the honor of booking them a few times this year. Most recently, we gigged together in November at The Borderline in Thousand Oaks. Sharing the variety show bill were acts such as: 8Stops7, The Calamity, Delaney Gibson, Happens Again..., and Arrica Rose. People seemed to be amazed by Roman Candle Wars once they took the stage. Roman Candle Wars' band members include: Gregory Azbell – Vocals, Guitar / Dan Ekblad – Vocals, Guitar / Joseph Mota – Drums. The music is sort of what you'd get if you blend in Muse and Franz Ferdinand together. Live on stage, this band is amazing. Check out their recent video clips and songs on RomanCandleWars.com.

Ventura's going through some changes?

Le Meu Le Purr announced last week in the promotion of their show at Rock City News that they this gig would be their final show as Le Meu Le Purr. I stopped by to see them last weekend, and even though they had a few tech problems in the beginning, they delivered a flawless show. Talking with fans on Facebook – it was sad to hear them say farewell to the band name. However, they do have two albums released under the name. But, to each is own. Looking forward to the new name and new music they have been working on. Stay tuned for more info.

The Dirty (aka The Dirty Vinyl) has officially changed hands again. The former bar known as Pangaea Nightclub has returned to reclaim the venue spot. The Dirty Vinyl sign out front has officially been taken down! Stay tuned here as well.

Thank you sooo much for your time!

Michael Kohli www.kohlismusicpit.com VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com

Music Calendar 12/15 to 12/28

For more events go to Fun-in-Ventura.com

Andre's Wine Bar

1575 Spinnaker Dr.
805-642-9463
12/16 Thur: Frank from Corsagan Brothers 8-11pm
12/17 Fri: Ashun 8-11pm
12/18 Sat: Hans Zermulin, Ric Fierabracchi, Davey Miller 8-11pm
12/19 Sun: Damo 3-6pm

Blackbeards Seaside BBQ

1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115
805-650-7773
Thur. 12/16: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm
Fri. 12/17: Los Blues 6-10pm
Sat. 12/18: Jodi Farrel & The Front Street Prophets 6-10pm
Sun. 12/19: Blue Stew 2-6pm
Thur. 12/23: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm
Sun. 12/26: Blue Stew 2-6pm

Cafe Fiore

66 California St.
805-653-1266
Thur. 12/16: Coso Live
Fri. 12/17: The Copy Cats
Sat. 12/18: Scott Carter
Sun. 12/19: Reggae Sundays
Wed. 12/22: Big Adventure
Thur. 12/23: Coso Live
Fri. 12/24: The Copy Cats
Sun. 12/26: Reggae Sundays

Charline's

546 Main St.
805-652-2255
Wed. 12/15: Del Franklin
Sun. 12/19: Sunday Funday Band
Tue. 12/21: Reggae Tuesdays
Wed. 12/22: Del Franklin
Sun. 12/26: Sunday Funday Band
Tue. 12/28: Reggae Tuesdays

Majestic Theater

26 S. Chestnut St.
805-653-0118
Thur. Dec 16: Xmas with "X"
Fri. Dec 17: Winterland
Sat. Dec. 18: Billy Idol

W20 Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St.
805-643-6800
Sun. Dec. 19: Shawn Jones

Wine Lovers

1067 E. Thompson Blvd.
805-652-1810
Wed. Dec 15: Enotica
Thur. Dec 16: Reggae Night
Wed. Dec 22: Enotica
Thur. Dec 23: Reggae Night

Zoey's Café

185 E. Santa Clara St.
805-652-1137
Thur. 12/16: J.R. Richards
Fri. 12/17: Chris Pierce, Lelia Broussard
Sat. 12/18: 50 Sticks of Dynamite, Nancy Lee
Tue. 12/21: Ones to Watch
Thur. 12/23: Lee Koch



Grammy Award-winner Melissa Manchester appears as the featured vocalist performing songs by Irving Berlin and George Gershwin as well as some of her own favorite hits at the Rubicon

Two on the Aisle

Two fascinating concerts in one

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter Melissa Manchester often performs for large audiences in gigantic venues. But through this Sunday, December 19, she will be performing in concert for groups of no more than 165 at Ventura's Rubicon Theatre.

The show is titled "Fascinating Rhythms" but it is more than fascinating. It is captivating. The audience is so close to the stage it is like having personal concert performance by this musical legend.

Actually, it is two concerts because woven through Manchester's musical numbers is a dance concert. It features eight stars of the dance world under the extremely creative direction of Cate Caplin who present entrancing, energetic interpretations of multiple dance and ballroom styles, including tangos, jitterbug, tap, Latin, disco and waltz - to mention only a few. Each dance segment tells its own story and there is not the tiniest lag in the pace or flow of the action even as the dance tempos and vignettes constantly vary.

The show is in many ways larger and more challenging than other Rubicon productions of recent memory. For example, the audience is closer to the performers because two rows of seats have been temporarily removed to permit an extension to the stage to accommodate the dancers.

Special kudos are due to costume designer Stacie Logue for the superb look and feel of each number as cast members make some 75 individual costume changes during the 90-minute show. Jeremy Pivnik's lighting design, ably executed by Vernon Willet, is itself a ballet of precise and subtle movement and change. There are 1,600 individual light cues in the show.

Manchester opens the show by sharing what will happen "From this Moment On." Through the rest of the evening she performs many of her signature hits ("Midnight Blue," "Through the Eyes of Love" from "Ice Castles," "Don't Cry Out Loud" and more), plus others with poignant messages, such as "A Mother's Prayer." The effect? The audience knows it has had a conversation with Melissa, as opposed to merely watching a super singer.

The caliber of the dancers is equally

memorable. Each is given individual showcase spots, as well as performing a part of the ensemble. "Dancing with the Stars" tour alumnus Anya and international award-winner Christopher Beroiz stun the audience with impact of their first presentation. Alicia Michelle Richardson, a U.S. National Champion in American-style Latin rhythm dance, and Willem de Vries, also a Latin style champion and the show M.C. when Manchester is not on stage, move through dance styles with skill and aplomb. Ballroom competition veteran Michael Kuka and partner Natalia Lind – a former classical pianist and Russian diplomatic translator – exemplify the fluidity and sophistication that are the hallmarks of pairs dancing. Tap virtuosos Richard Schwartz and Melissa Giattino combine vocal talent with a dash of comedic timing to heighten the pep inherent in their numbers.

As ensemble dancers the entire cast moves with a precision, grace and beauty that is akin to watching the opening of flowers as captured by time lapse photography.

"Fascinating Rhythms" plays until December 19 and seats are still available. Rubicon Theatre Co., 1006 E. Main St. 667-2900. www.rubicontheatre.org.

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 include name, and picture if you like. Open to Ventura residents only. Share what works for your family and friends.



Leek, cabbage and tomato soup

by Barbie Lange
Ventura

2 tsp Olive oil
3 Leeks, only white section, well washed and sliced
1 tsp. kosher salt or kelp
1/3 c. white wine
2 - 15 oz. low sodium veggie broth
1/2 head green cabbage, sliced or chopped
1 15 oz. diced tomatoes and juice

Sauté leek slices in oil for 2 min. Add salt and gently saute until transparent.

Add thyme, broth and dash white wine if desired. Add cabbage and tomatoes, simmer for 30-45 minutes until cabbages is tender.

CONCERTS SATURDAY 12/25
A SAINT PIERRE PRODUCTION FEATURING MINSTREL STREAMS & TEN OTHER ARTISTS
A CHRISTMAS DAY: FAMILY SHOW
TWO SHOWS: Saturday Dec. 25 4pm & 7pm. Gourmet soups & breads, hot apple cider, teas & coffee available.
DONATION: \$10 advance, \$12.50 at the Door. Special advance family (max. 6) package available \$29.95 code BR-25-6
LOCATION: WAV Theatre Gallery 175 S. Ventura Ave. (Free Parking, Corner of Ventura Ave. & Thompson Blvd.)
TICKETS AND MORE INFO: (800) 350-7787 or www.WAVart.org
2 FOR 1 ADMISSION WITH THIS AD (OFF THE REGULAR \$12.50 TICKET DONATION PRICE).
& CULTURAL ARTS SHOW

The Lighter Breeze

Zits



Mother Goose and Grimm



Beetle Bailey



Shoe



Sam and Silo



Solutions on page 15

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place the numbers in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column, and 3x3 square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

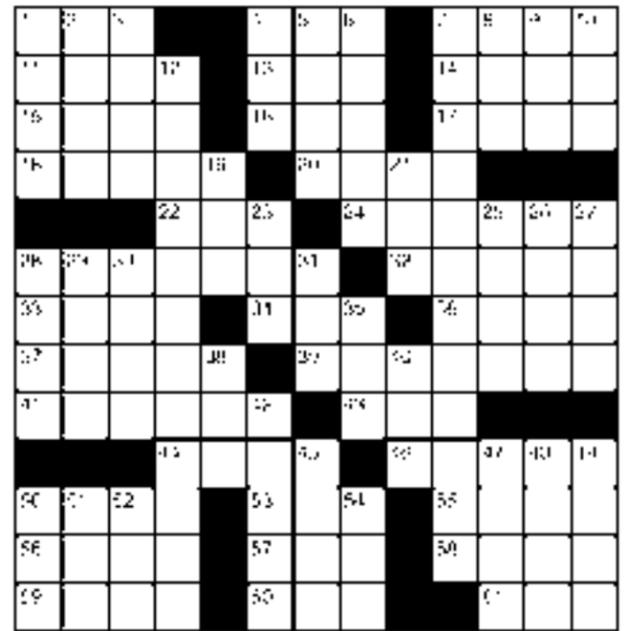
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Mine output
- 4 Mel of baseball lore
- 7 Bull's of spring
- 11 Sandwich shop
- 13 Lawyer's payment
- 14 Sandwich cookie
- 15 Platter
- 16 E-mail alternative
- 17 Eastern potterate
- 18 Villain's lock
- 20 Matel ne of "Blazing Saddles"
- 22 Taxi
- 24 Nuanced
- 28 Continue
- 32 React to a pun
- 33 Lotion additive
- 34 Symbol of intrigue
- 36 Greek liqueur
- 37 Virtuoso
- 39 Profligate
- 41 Standard
- 43 Homer's interjection
- 44 Grouch
- 46 Cnutzpan
- 53 Martial art



- 53 Lar
- 55 Regrets
- 56 Related
- 57 Writer
- 58 Cut quickly
- 59 Simmons or Kelly
- 60 Blunder
- 61 TV Tarzan portrayer
- 7 Film directors
- 8 Branch
- 9 Hawaiian memento
- 10 In support of
- 12 Scoop holder
- 19 Beam of light
- 21 Embrace
- 23 Acknowledge
- 25 Go
- 26 Lounge around
- 27 Carbon compound
- 28 First murderer
- 29 Additionally
- 30 Bellow
- 31 Fresh
- 35 Lousy
- 38 Automobile
- 40 Trinity member
- 42 Punch-bowl accessory
- 45 "Cheers" request
- 47 Mystical character
- 48 Bridal cover
- 49 Catch sight of
- 50 Bingo
- 51 Guitar's cousin
- 52 Cacophony
- 54 Nether partner

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your life.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Private and professional matters compete for your attention. Be honest in your assessment of which should get more of it, and for how long.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A seemingly endless list of must-do tasks is best handled by tackling them one by one, and taking energy-restoring timeouts between each job.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A vexing relationship seems destined to deteriorate no matter what each side tries to do. A third party's advice just might prove helpful.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Reach out to ease any tensions caused by home or workplace pressures before they threaten the relationship-building progress you've made.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You often go out of your way to show kindness to others. So, don't be surprised if other people want to do something nice for you this week.

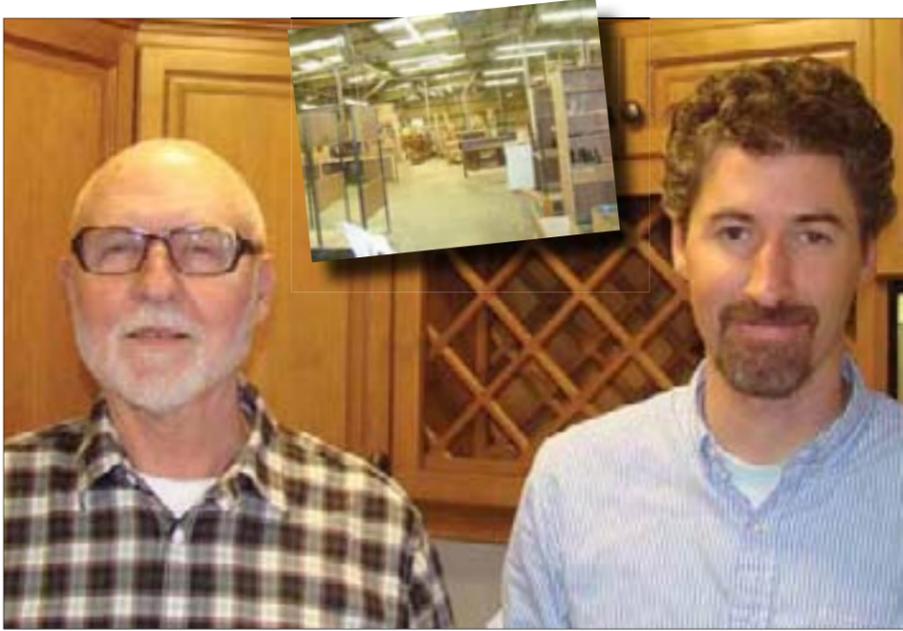
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) People in your life respect your Piscean wisdom, so don't hesitate to speak up about a matter that you feel isn't being handled quite the way it should be.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your personal warmth helps you make friendships, and your sense of fair play helps you keep them.

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Business



Gary McCoy and Jay McCoy carry on the family tradition of running their family cabinet making business

Generations own and manage W.L. Rubottom Company

by Sheli Ellsworth

Wilbur Lee Rubottom was a master carver and woodworker. In 1946 he founded W.L. Rubottom Company located in west Ventura. In 1972 his son Lee Rubottom took over the business and was president of the company until 2005. Currently Gary McCoy, Wilbur's son-in-law, is president of the company, and Wilbur's grandsons, Mark Rubottom and Jay McCoy, are prepared to step in as the third generation to own and manage the family's custom cabinet business in Ventura.

W.L. Rubottom Company now has 45 employees, and serves Santa Barbara County, San Luis Obispo County and Los Angeles County, as well as Ventura County. One thing that has kept the company in business is their dedication to classic quality—dovetail drawers are still available—and the practical utilization of newer technology like computer aided design.

The cabinet company is also dedicated to the green aspect of cabinet construction and uses low VOC (volatile organic compounds) and HAP (hazardous air pollutant) free products. They have used a waterborne, acrylic emulsion polymer finish since the 90s before it was a state mandate. Using formaldehyde-free finishes protects employees as well as customers. All of Rubottom's materials are compliant with the California Air Resources Board's standards for wood product formaldehyde emission. Wood and paper wastes are always recycled.

Jay McCoy says the green finishes hold up as well as any of older ones. "Our non-

toxic finish was recently submitted to the KCMA (Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association) for testing and received its highest ranking." The company offers standard and custom mixed stains and custom painted finishes with glazing, distressing and sand-throughs. The most popular wood choice is US Maple, but the company uses a lot of Alder and Cherry also.

The company uses local labor and a local milling facility. "We are able to provide many of the details like custom moldings and footed sink-cabinets because we have everything manufactured locally," McCoy said. "And because we have the ability to show the customer a 3D computer rendering, they can bring in their own pictures, samples and ideas. We frequently work with contractors, builders and architects. Our sales reps all have significant experience designing kitchens, but also real world experience working on projects from luxury high-rises to local remodels."

Mass produced pre-fabricated cabinets usually come in a limited number of sizes. Rubottom is able to manufacture any size and add details like pantry pullouts, spice pullouts, pantry and base organizational systems like those for trash and recycling. Corner cabinet Lazy Susan's and lower cabinet pullouts are also available, as well as wine racks and decorative features such as arches, corbels, dentil and crown moldings, staggered installations and glass doors.

The elder Rubottom returned to carving in the 1980s and was the leader of a team

that produced a wooden copy of Father Serra's crumbling cement statue in front of the Ventura City Hall. The hand-carved wooden copy was used to cast the 9' bronze statue you see today in downtown Ventura. McCoy added, "When we drive by the Father Serra statue overlooking downtown Ventura we look with some pride on a visible symbol of our family's handiwork in this community."

Keep it local

by Sandra M. Burkhardt

President and CEO Ventura Chamber of Commerce

I am excited to have the opportunity to write a column for the Ventura Breeze. The Breeze reports exclusively on the Ventura community and is a great supporter of the programs and opportunities offered by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce.

In the spirit of the holiday season, it is timely for me to write about shopping locally and its critical impact on the local community and economy. It's no secret that there are tremendous benefits when we buy our food locally. Food travels fewer miles, there is less packaging, it's healthier, more fresh and seasonal. It also supports our local small businesses and keeps money circulating in the local economy.

But what about all our other purchases? Are we jumping online to Amazon.com or stopping in at the closest national chain retailer because it's convenient or less expensive? How are the buying decisions we make each day affecting our local economy?

Spending with locally owned, independent businesses generates three times as much beneficial economic impact to our local economy than when you shop at national chain retailers that send most of their revenues to their corporate headquarters, far away from Ventura. Many of these national chains also buy their goods and services from non-local businesses. Specifically, for every dollar spent locally about 45 cents stays in the local economy, while the same dollar spent with a typical national chain leaves only 13-15 cents in the local economy. More than 80% of money spent with a typical national chain literally leaves town in the night deposit.

But not all big national chain stores are the same. Did you know that Walmart has pledged to grow its partnerships with local farmers to purchase locally grown produce in the areas it serves? According to Pam Kohn, Walmart's senior vice president, "Offering local produce has been a Walmart priority for years now, and we're taking it to a new level with a pledge to grow our partnerships with local farmers. We're committed to purchasing locally grown produce whenever

possible. Increasing the amount of local produce in our grocery aisles and adding clear locally grown signage reflects our dedication to offering the freshest products possible at great prices."

Aside from the evident monetary benefits to our local community, isn't it nice to walk into a local retailer and have them know you by name? And when you need a customized item or great customer service, isn't it worth it to shop with someone you know?

Shopping local is not just about favoring smaller companies over national chains that don't have a determined initiative to support the local community; it's also about making your purchases within the City of Ventura. Our City, like every other city across the nation, relies heavily on local sales taxes in its annual budget to support our schools, police department, fire department, public works, etc. So when you decide to take the family out to dinner, catch a movie or go bowling, go to a business in Ventura.

Finally, I want to appeal to all of you local business owners. Business-to-business spending is twice as much as consumer spending. It seems counter-intuitive, but \$20 changes hands between businesses for each \$10 of consumer spending. When



On the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on Ventura County radio station 1400AM KKZZ, the Coach welcomed Captain Bill Finley from the Salvation Army. He explained the wonderful work of the Bell Ringers and the money that they raise during the holidays.

Coach Ron is on daily from 4-6pm with many wonderful guests and Breeze publisher Sheldon from 4-4:30 on Mondays who brings in interesting guests. Maybe he would bring you on.



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you spend \$10 with a local business, \$20 changed hands between businesses to deliver that good or service. So it's especially helpful to our local economy when our local businesses source their goods and services from other local businesses. I can tell you that it's a determined focus for us here at the Ventura Chamber of Commerce to do as much of our spending as possible with Chamber members, which are predominately local companies.

From all of us here at the Chamber, I want to wish you all happy and safe holidays and a great New Year!

Whisenhunt elected to life membership

Stan Whisenhunt, who founded Whisenhunt Communications in 1990, has been elected to a Life Membership in the Ventura Yacht Club.

An avid sailor, Whisenhunt has been a member of the yacht club since 1981 and served as commodore in 1988. He has chaired numerous committees and currently serves on the board of directors and is chair of the race program and editor of the club's newsletter.

Prior to starting Whisenhunt Communications, Whisenhunt worked for the Ventura Star-Free Press for 24 years, the last 17 as managing editor.

Active in the community, he has served on the boards of directors of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Ventura Boys & Girls Clubs and United Way. He also served as a commissioner on the Ventura Port District.

Stan and his wife, Sherry, love to cruise their 36-foot sailboat and race together on a smaller 24-footer. They also are avid skiers.



Parker Shaw joins the Dyer Sheehan Group

Dyer Sheehan Group, Inc., Ventura County's Apartment Expert, is pleased to introduce Parker Shaw as the newest addition to their Apartment Brokerage Team!

As a Ventura County native, Parker understands our unique local market.

Parker holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Real Estate, from California State University, Northridge. While attending college, Parker interned with both ReMax Gold Coast Realtors, and Wachovia Securities.



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- 75% OF IDENTITY THEFT CRIMES OCCUR BEFORE THE VICTIM EVER FILES A REPORT.**
- 50% OF ALL THEFTS & BURGLARIES REPORTED ARE A RESULT OF PEOPLE LEAVING THEIR CARS UNLOCKED.**
- 80% OF ALL THEFTS & BURGLARIES FROM VEHICLES ARE A RESULT OF PEOPLE LEAVING THEIR VALUABLES IN PLAIN SIGHT.**

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