

Happy New Year, everybody! **FREE**

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Top headlines of 2010 from the Ventura Breeze

by Rebecca Wicks

While much of 2010's news was seemingly connected to an anemic economy such as severe service cuts, homeless issues and the closure of beloved businesses – the year did have its bright spots. A number of wonderful events which call Ventura home including the Ventura Music Festival, the Ventura Hillside Music Festival and ArtWalk presented exceptional programs. The re-opening of the County of Ventura Museum and Anacapa Island, the most popular Channel Island visiting spot were highlights of the year. While development slowed, Ventura did see the WAV (Working Artist Ventura) building come to life as well as the ground-breaking of projects such as the hospital's new cancer center.

Here is a recap of the top headlines from the front pages of the Breeze in 2010.

January

City expects additional \$4 million in cuts: After cutting \$11 million from the city budget in 2009, the New Year starts with officials needing to cut an additional \$4 million. A dramatic drop in sales and property taxes are fingered as the main culprits.

VC basketball coach hearing set: Highlighting some of the city's low points this year, the ongoing saga surrounding Ventura College's former basketball coach continues. Greg Winslow is charged with

Continued on page 4



The Ventura Breeze Presents *The Face Of Ventura*

Captain Bill Finley was chosen as our first "sitter" for the Face Of Ventura because he symbolizes the spirit of the season.

Captain Bill Finley is a native of the Pacific Northwest having grown up in Federal Way, WA. He has been a Salvation Army officer since 2003 and has held appointments in Redondo Beach,

and on skid row in downtown Los Angeles. He was appointed as Corps Officer at the Ventura branch of The Salvation Army in July 2008 along with his wife who also serves as a Salvation Army officer. He graduated with a BA from Colorado Christian University in 2000.

He also holds a Masters in Non-profit Management from Regis University. He is a Rotarian and active in the Ventura Social Service Task Force. He has been married to Captain Tolani Finley since 2003 and they have a four year old daughter. His passions include baseball and football, and playing with his daughter.

We asked him what he likes most about living in Ventura?:

Ventura is a great community. For us the best part has been the environment for our daughter. She has excelled in preschool and it seems like there are a multitude of family programs in the community. The next thing has got to be the food. As someone who likes great breakfast I love Ventura. We are blessed with some great restaurants many of which are in downtown that I can walk to.

And how was the experience of having your portrait painted by Johanna?:

I have never had a portrait done before and Johanna was amazing. It seemed like time flew by and that she was interested in me as a person not just the portrait. She is skilled at her craft and had me at ease. I was amazed at the ease at which she did the portrait. She is a great example of the artistic skill we have in Ventura.

Portrait artist plans to reveal the "Face of Ventura"

by Tim Pompey

Ventura artist Johanna Spinks has a knack for portraits. She's an expert, having studied for eight years with Everett Raymond Kinstler, master portraitist of seven US presidents. In addition, she's been tabbed as a finalist in the California Art Club's 100th anniversary gold medal show in Pasadena.

Spinks, however, is unique in that she likes doing face portraits. Something about the shapes, the expressions, the eyes, that reveal the person's soul. Moreover, she can work fast, usually completing a face painted directly from life in one three-hour sitting. Considering that commissioned portraits can sometimes take her weeks or months, that's warp speed.

Describing herself as a "classical artist with a contemporary, romantic, modern twist," Spinks' portraits often have the same spirit as Monet or Renoir. As she explains: "I want a likeness of course, but when I'm painting someone from life, I'm hoping for an interaction, and through that interaction to really capture the person's life force."

Spinks, who moved to her current Bell Arts Factory studio about a year ago, is fascinated by the local portrait landscape in Ventura. She describes the town as "seaside Norman Rockwell," not just for the beautiful landscapes, but because of the faces that come with it. Influenced by how Rockwell used his portraits to tell a story, she would like to do something similar in Ventura, perhaps even "put Ventura portraiture on the map."

This year, Spinks took fresh inspiration from the recent film "Julie and Julia." As she explains: "It's about a young chef who recreates a recipe from Julia Childs' cookbook 'The Art of French Cooking'

Continued on page 5



Music Festival director Nuvi Mehta announced this year's Ventura Music Festival theme Caravana Muzica at the Museum of Ventura County on December 8. See page 8 for the entire story.

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

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

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Hi Sheldon,

Hope all is well with you and your family this holiday season. It's JoAnne Hadley the owner of Birkenstock in Downtown Ventura. I just received the Ventura Breeze Paper (which I have displayed in front of my store for years now trying to help circulate the word in Ventura and keep people informed).

To my dismay I started reading the

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

■ First I would like to wish all of our wonderful readers and advertisers the very best for next year and the Breeze is the first media to declare that the RECESSION IS OVER, now go spend your money to make sure that it is.

■ On "First Fridays" (the night that many Ventura art galleries are open) I try to stop at most of them including the Bell Arts Factory on Ventura Avenue.

In April I was honored to meet award-winning portrait artist Johanna Spinks, who for years worked as a top Hollywood makeup artist to the stars applying her artistry to many famous faces before they went under the lights, and who has her studio at Bell Arts.

I was privileged to have her ask me to sit to have her paint my portrait. When I asked her how many sittings it would take I was shocked to have her tell me "this will be one of my quick portraits that will take about 2 hours", which is about what it took.

Her work, which also includes still life and landscape, has won her national acclaim being featured in the New York Times, and earning her juried recognition, awards and show acceptances from various art institutions including American Artist Magazine, Art Talk, Oil Painters of America and The California Art Club.

As people would come into her studio they would look at the painting in-progress, then look at me and give me a thumbs up.

Over the next several months she and I met several times and she told me of her desire to paint the many different

faces of Ventura.

We finally decided that we would form a wonderful joint effort and present to Ventura the "Face Of Ventura" which is introduced in the issue.

In Tim Pompey's cover article regarding this he states, "Now Spinks is partnering with The Breeze to take on a new challenge. For the next two years, every issue of The Breeze will feature a new face portrait by Spinks, with a little something special—a short personal story."

"What's more, Breeze readers will have an opportunity to make recommendations. Anyone is welcome. No



class distinctions, no economic barriers. Someone with an interesting face and an interesting story to tell."

I feel very fortunate that we at The Breeze, and Ventura have this wonderful opportunity to work with Johanna Spinks and I am very excited about this collaboration.

I hope that we can find a filmmaker to develop a documentary about this series (are you out there) and a location where we can have a growing exhibit of the portraits as they are done, with a big celebration at the end.

■ I would like to thank Mrs. Martin's class at Poinsettia School for their

thoughtful proofreading, and comments on my last opinion piece. Very bright kids (obviously brighter than me). Am I to, two, too old to take her classes?

■ Also in this issue we have announced that Dr. Bunny Vreeland will be leaving her talk radio show heard on 1400AM KKZZ to open the Vreeland College of the Healing Arts in Camarillo.

Having appeared on her show several times I now consider myself to be her friend. I will miss being on her show and her being a "local", but am sure that I will still be managing to see and speak with her and wish her the best in her new role as a teacher.

■ Perhaps the funniest thing that happened last year with the Breeze is that I attended an event and a lady that worked for the organization putting it on was there to take photos but forgot to put the memory chip into her digital camera so took me outside (had never met her) and explained her situation to me and asked me if I would take a lot of photos for her and send to her, which I did.

So she spent the night pretending that she was taking photos (the flash worked) to make it look as if she was.

Photo contest

In our last photo contest the picture was taken from Thille Street at the dead end to the Cape Town Condos.

Wonderful Ventura artist Hilda Kilpatrick was the first one to send in the correct answer and chose her gift certificate to be from downtown clothing store Parts Unknown.

Our next photo contest will be in the January 12 issue so be sure to look for it.

Mailbox

paper to come across an article written by Kimberly Castro on "Was the Wine Walk successful"?...my store was mentioned in the article with not such a favorable response on the wine that was distributed in my store, her statement was "Although the wine was less than spectacular, the store was filled with people having a good time."

After reading that needless to say I was not too happy since I purchased every bottle of wine that was distributed in my store from my own pocket and did not use a distributor. All of the wines came from the Young Market Company (Purveyors of Fine Wines and Spirits) and from WSJ Wines (Wine Club from the Wall Street Journal...wine club that I just joined) so I was hoping you could help me in finding out what wine Ms. Castro sampled that was not "spectacular" to her? The exact name would be greatly appreciated because I will be passing the word along to both distributors. Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated since this was the first event I have participated in.

JoAnne Hadley

JoAnne:

I appreciate you writing to the Breeze. I am not a wine expert but that was my personal feelings about the wine I drank at your store. Unfortunately, the name of the wine did not make an impression on me since it wasn't one of the more favorable wines I drank that evening. I was under the impression that each store was hosting a winery at their location. I am surprised to hear that to participate in the wine walk you needed to provide your own wine. The advertising used in the wine walk made it appear that a different winery would

be featured at each location. Therefore, my comment was really not aimed at you but the winery that produced the wine.

In fact you were a wonderful hostess and your Birkenstock store is a fun place to shop.

Kimberly Castro

Breeze:

Regarding Ivor Davis (is he the same one that wrote the Charles Manson books?) about likes and dislikes in Ventura here is a few of mine.

I like

Downtown shopping (even with the parking meters)
The kid's second floor at Foster Library (free parking in the back)

I hate

Flooding at Seaward and Harbor every single year
Off ramp at Johnson and the freeway
Lack of restaurants and things on pier (some monopoly Erickson's has) and at the promenade like the empty dirt lot next to parking structure should be something good

Thanks

Louise Nadie

Ventura

Louise:

Yes that is the Ivor Davis, how nice that he wrote to us. We are flattered.

Maybe some of our other readers have a list to send us.

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There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him it is right.

– Martin Luther



City News

We've had to cut back

by Mayor Bill Fulton

This has not been an easy year for us here in Ventura. At City Hall, at the school district, elsewhere in town – and also in our personal lives – we've had to cut back.

Nobody likes cutting back, especially if it means our community's quality of life is at risk. Fewer libraries, fewer police officers, fewer fire stations, reduced bus service, reduced park maintenance, less street paving – the list goes on and on, unfortunately. And most of our time and effort at City Hall in 2010 has been spent figuring how to manage these reductions in a way that will maintain the city's overall solvency without harming the community too much.

This is essential work these days for local government officials and we are right to devote so much attention to it. But even as we manage these reductions, we must also devote ourselves to renewing our community – appreciating what we have here in Ventura, looking ahead, and understanding how we can protect and enhance our city's unique characteristics.

So let me begin by saying that, despite all the bad news, 2010 was a pretty good year here in Ventura. We have successfully sown the seeds of several efforts that will pay off in years to come, both for our prosperity and our quality of life. Although it went almost unnoticed, perhaps the most important accomplishment was the approval of Community Memorial Hospital's major expansion in midtown. Starting early next year, CMH will build a new building

adjacent to its old one – simultaneously upgrading our medical care, freeing up space in the old building for important economic ventures such as biotech research, and helping to improve an already wonderful, walkable commercial neighborhood around Five Points. We're lucky to still have a community non-profit hospital, and the fact that there was so little controversy about the CMH expansion is a testimony to the way the hospital and the community understand the value of their relationship.

We also saw the expansion of our V2TC business incubator behind City Hall, with several new businesses opening up and one – The Trade Desk – moving to bigger quarters elsewhere in the building because it is growing so fast. In addition, we saw an increase in all kinds of creative and innovative businesses downtown – everyone from architects to venture capitalists and, yes, brassiere designers moved in.

There's so much more I could talk about, but let me just sum it up by saying that nothing is more important to me as mayor than laying the foundation for Ventura's future prosperity and quality of life. It's sometimes hard to see this progress in such a down economy, but we here at City Hall are working hard – in collaboration with our neighborhoods, our businesses, and many others – to make sure that as we emerge from the recession Ventura will remain a great place to life and work for another generation at least.

VBG group before it can enter into a formal 40-year lease arrangement with the city. Besides the master plan already checked off the list, requirements include a full environmental impact report in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and evidence the group has the financial capacity to operate what is expected to be a phased development. The alternative is a five year agreement, with possible extension of one year.

Already a list of donors to back the funding of the botanical gardens exists. Currently, the group has nearly 450 charter members. Other types of membership and participation will continue to be available after charter members are capped at the end of the year.

Join the supporters of the Ventura Botanical Gardens on Saturday, April 30, 2011 for the 3rd annual Spring Garden Tour. A donation of \$25 covers a tour of 8 fabulous local gardens in full spring bloom.

Visit www.VenturaBotanicalGardens.com for more information on the tour, donating to the park, or becoming a member of Ventura Botanical Gardens, Inc.

Top headlines

Continued from page 1

multiple counts of grand theft and theft of public funds. His trial is slated to begin next month.

February

Graffiti to be moved from railway trestle?: While everyone agrees it needs to be cleaned up, getting the graffiti removed on the railway trestle that cross Hwy 101 near California Street has been an ongoing discussion between a number of parties. While the city strives to remove graffiti within 24 hours of being reported, the large metal structure has remained graffiti laden for some time. CalTrans, Union Pacific and city officials hold a final planning meeting in December and graffiti is planned to be painted over in 2011.

Nostalgic over burgers: 2010 saw its

fair share of businesses close, but one that seemed to hit close to many hearts was the shutting down of the Top Hat Burger Palace. A fixture on downtown's Main Street since 1966, the owners were not granted a new lease. Owner Charlotte Bell was reportedly optimistic at the time and hoped to re-open or open a new establishment in the future.

March

Two Ventura firefighters offer hope to Haiti: While many Venturans struggled through a limp economy, two Venturans made us remember that we still have it pretty good and that others need our help. Mike Eggleston and Brian Kremer paid their own way to help with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. For 10 days the men helped deliver over a ton of medical supplies donated by fire companies and offered their expertise.

Walmart moves steadily toward opening store on Victoria: After a failed ballot measure that may or may have not stopped a Walmart from opening in Ventura, the company is still on track to have its first store in town. Moving slowly through the city's approval process, Walmart has designed a 98,000 square foot store for the space and is looking to possibly break ground in 2011.

April

New CMH construction moves forward: Construction of a new 22,000 square foot cancer center begins. The hospital gears up to start its larger project – a 6-story hospital building which will replace the current non-code compliant building. The new building will be constructed in front of the current hospital and is slated to be finished in 2014.

Arrest made in Faria Beach murder case: Venturans find some relief after an arrest is made in a triple homicide that took place in a Faria Beach house. The suspect, Joshua Graham Packer, of Ventura is arrested after DNA at the scene of the crime is matched with DNA housed in a state database. Packer's DNA was taken and resided in the database after he was arrested for a felony. Packer is expected to go to trial in the first part of 2011.

May

Move to recall Mayor Fulton advances: A small group of Venturans attempt to recall Bill Fulton from his Mayoral position. Submitted by disgruntled resident Maili Brocke, it takes Brocke multiple times to submit the paperwork correctly. The movement was

later abandoned by Brocke after the paperwork to proceed was accepted by the city clerk.

Changes at the Santa Clara Senior Recreation Center?: Repercussions of the city's budget shortfall become more tangible for Venturans as city officials begin to discuss public services that are on the chopping block. The Senior Center on Santa Clara Street is identified as a place that can be shut down for a savings of \$100,000 per year. Officials look to move some of the services to other city facilities.

June

Second-grade teacher Ventura teacher feted: Kristine Guzman a second-grade teacher at Will Rogers Elementary School is named the Ventura County Teacher of the Year. Principal Patricia Short calls Guzman the "total teacher package – enthusiastic, relentless, determined and selfless."

Fire Station 4 to close today: The other proverbial (large) shoe drops on Ventura as the city announces Fire Station 4 located on Telephone Road near Kimball Road will close due to budget shortfalls. Fire officials try to stay optimistic labeling it a temporary closure, but many residents are and remain upset about the closure.

July

Museum of Ventura County: a mix of the latest and the legendary: A newly remodeled Museum of Ventura County opens after having tripled its gallery size. Located on 100 E. Main Street, the museum features art and artifacts from the county. According to Executive Director Tim Schiffer new exhibits feature, "an eclectic collection of beautiful, odd, fun items."

A better way to exercise at Ventura's Aquatic Center: Located on Kimball and Telephone Roads, the Ventura Aquatic Center was constructed in recent years. Residents enjoy swim and exercise classes year-round.

August

Piece of Ventura history burns to the ground: In a sad story of neglect, the E.P. Foster House, home to one of the most prominent philanthropic families in the city's history burns to the ground. The home, which was gifted to the school district by the family fell into disrepair and was often victim to vandals or was used for shelter by vagrants. A fire report on the cause of the fire has not been released.

35-foot turtle comes to Ventura: Ventu-

Ventura Botanical Gardens takes a giant step forward

by Danielle Peak

The recent unanimous vote by the Ventura City Council for the construction of the botanical gardens launches an exciting new project in Grant Park. Headed by Beverly McCaslin, the Ventura Botanical Gardens, Inc., is a 501(c)3 Charitable organization envisioning public gardens funded not by taxpayers but by grants and donations. Members settled on Grant Park because of its beauty and potential, and the vision was earlier this year met with approval by the Serra Cross Conservancy, which owns the acreage under and around the Grant Park Cross, and the Ventura Hillside Conservancy land.

The 100-acre city-owned park may include any or all of the following: native wildflowers, redwood trees, Mediterranean gardens, hiking trails, a gift shop and cafe, a site for honoring early Chumash inhabitants, an outdoor theater classroom, education center, and facilities for special events.

Thanks to design firm Mia Lehrer + Associates for the foundation of the master plan, the gardens are well on their way to becoming a reality.

"With every accomplishment we get closer and closer to transforming a breathtaking, underutilized site in Ventura County into a cultural venue of regional and national importance. Aren't we fortunate to be a part of something so worthwhile and that really matters," said president McCaslin.

The agreement granted by the city council outlines several conditions to be met by



It was a dark, rainy Winter Solstice eve. But inside the CandleLight bar – a fire burned merrily as revelers gathered to celebrate and support VCCool, a local sustainable living and climate action group as the jazzy sounds of the Beach City Sound Club were enjoyed by all.



News and Notes

ra Council Member Carl Morehouse along with environmental groups gather to show support for AB 1998 (Brownley), a bill intended to ban single-use plastic bags in California. A 35-foot inflatable sea turtle is featured at the event to stress the severe harm plastic pollution has on marine animals. The bill later failed in the State Senate by a small number of votes.

September

Community partnerships help Title I schools: Local businesses worked with community organizations to give new backpacks filled with school supplies to 275 students at Title I schools in Ventura. Recipients included students from E.P. Foster, Sheridan Way and Lincoln Elementary Schools and De Anza Technology and Arts School.

Community garden experiencing water challenge: A local community garden at Poli and Chestnut Streets has been unable to have the water to the lot turned on without paying a \$5,000 new construction fee to the city. The gardening project, launched by COLOR (Community Organized for Liberty & Respect) a gay-straight alliance has been borrowing water from a neighboring lot via a hose and is looking for help from city officials.

October

Pacific View's plans for the north end: The Pacific View mall officially announces Trader Joe's will be coming to the north end of the mall. An overall vision for the completely vacant storefronts is also outlined. Later in the year the mall announces that Staples, BevMo! And Massage Envy Spa will also go into the same area of the mall.

Measure H to help education: After having more than \$20 million cut from the school district's budget by the state, education officials place Measure H on the ballot. Schools which have seen furlough days enacted, workforce reductions and program eliminations hope Measure H, a temporary tax measure will raise money to help close the budget deficit. Needing a two-thirds majority, the measure is defeated with 41 percent voting against the measure.

(The Breeze celebrates its third anniversary of being the only newspaper dedicated to the city of Ventura news)

November

Children's library alive and well at Foster: Many have wondered how the E.P. Foster would fare after the H.P. Wright Library on Day Road closed last year. Since then, the Foster Library has made a number of changes to their children's section including making the entire second floor a children-only zone, adding programs and making the décor more child-friendly.

A non-statistically take on parking meters: After less than two months since parking meters were installed in Ventura's downtown, merchants seem to have disparate views on them. Some vehemently dislike the meters naming them the cause for lost business; others remain neutral while some even say they like the meters. Pleas from some merchants to turn the meters off through the holidays are being rebuffed by the city who state not enough time has passed to make such a decision.

December

Homeless shelters, one-way plane tickets and spot zoning: The city of Ventura has seen and is feeling the effects of the weak economy. The number of Venturans living under the Federal poverty level has doubled over recent years. It is believed that there are more than 600 homeless people in Ventura. The need for shelters and where to allow them becomes a sizeable discussion for city officials. In the end, the city council votes 6-1 to relegate homeless shelters to industrial areas only.

Ventura libraries may break from county system: The city council votes to give the



Throughout the year there are many events scheduled at the Olivas Adobe, but none are quite as magical as this. Photo by John Ferritto

Olivas Adobe celebrates the holidays with old California flair

by Angela Rosales

Fun-in-Ventura.com

Olivas Adobe Historical Park treated the public once again to an enchanting candlelight tour of the historic home on December 12. An annual tradition for the past fifteen years, costumed volunteers entertained visitors with a series of vignettes bringing the holiday season in old California to life:

Circa 1860, Christmas Eve. You are the guest of Don Raymundo and Teodora Olivas, owners of Rancho San Miguel. The cattle ranch stretches east

to the Santa Clara River, borders the Camino Real (modern day 101-free-way) and continues west to the sea shore. The elaborate Christmas party has been going on for days and will continue thru January 6th, the day the Magi reached the newborn Jesus. The scent of fresh sweet Tamales fills the air. Mystical clay pot luminarias adorn the court yard and light your way as you dance, feast and celebrate with your fellow guests. The children of the

county a required six-month notice that it may withdraw its libraries from the county library system. Proponents hope it will be a sizeable cost-savings measure while those who oppose leaving the system believe the public service will fall victim to private sector capitalistic motives.

Have a happy new year.

Face of Ventura

Continued from page 1

each day. I wondered if I could do it—with drawing, not cooking." She did and you can find many of those drawings on her Facebook page entitled "Master Portraits by Johanna Spinks."

Now Spinks is partnering with The Breeze to take on a new challenge. For the next two years, every issue of The Breeze will feature a new face portrait by Spinks, with a little something special—a short personal story. "We thought it would be good to paint people that have an appealing story," she says, "service to the town, person of courage, or a person with a story to tell that represents the face of Ventura."

What's more, Breeze readers will have an opportunity to make recommendations. Anyone is welcome. No class distinctions, no economic barriers. Someone with an interesting face and an interesting story to tell. "I want to paint the whole town of Ventura's face," Spinks says, "not just those who could afford it."

Spinks has no game plan here other than to work diligently on the project. "I've no sort of end target in mind," she says. "The point is just to do the portraits as a direct interaction between myself and the chosen sitter. I am fascinated to see how the

project evolves, hopefully taking on a face of its own."

The portrait sitting is free. Each sitter will receive the gift of a high-quality Giclée print on canvas of their portrait. The only stipulation is that the individual must come to her studio for a sitting. Spinks likes to interact with and get to know the sitter. "Getting to know the story is as important as the finished result," she says.

In addition, the sitter should be willing to share some of their story with The Breeze.

adobe restlessly wait to play their part in Las Posadas, commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter. Their minds eagerly focused on the piñata filled with candy. Shaped like a seven-pointed star to represent the seven deadly sins, the piñata, once an indigenous Mexican custom, is now a Christmas favorite after Las Posadas.

On the eve of the 6th, the children carefully lay their shoes at the foot of their bed, filled with straw for the Magi's donkeys. When they awake, they hope to find the straw replaced with candy and other goodies. The Magi's visit also signifies the official end of the holiday season. After attending mass at the hacienda's family chapel, you bid farewell to your gracious hosts and promise to come again next Christmas.

Throughout the year there are many events scheduled at the Olivas Adobe, but none are quite as magical as this. Olivas Adobe historic interpreter, Lola Lynch, sees Christmas time as the perfect opportunity to "give a gift to the community by allowing visitors a chance to experience California's history, free of charge." By stepping back in time, Olivas Adobe reminds us that 'tis the season to come together to embrace new friends, gather with family and celebrate personal and cultural traditions.

Many thanks to tour coordinator, Jerry Leckie, the informative tour guides and all of the volunteers who were fun to watch and performed tirelessly for each new tour group. This annual event is well worth adding to your list of holiday traditions. Visit www.Olivasadobe.org for more information on tours and future events.

To learn more about Ventura history and other Ventura Museums, visit www.fun-in-ventura.com.

When the painting and story are complete, they will both be published as part of the ongoing Breeze series the "Face Of Ventura."

One painting per issue. Two years. Fifty-two issues. To make recommendations for these portraits, send an e-mail to editor@venturabreeze.com and provide a brief description of the potential portrait person. Be sure and leave current contact information.

So, Ventura, the floor is open, the faces are waiting. Whom do you know whose life would make a great picture?



Enjoying themselves at the Member Holiday Social at the Pierpont Racquet Club (PRC) were members Mike & Marsha Wasgatt, Colleen Conway and Marianne Prudhomme.

The social included live music provided by PRC member Peter Boles, fine food and wine. All proceeds from the wine bar sales were donated to "Interface" who provide services to children and families in Ventura County.



News and Notes



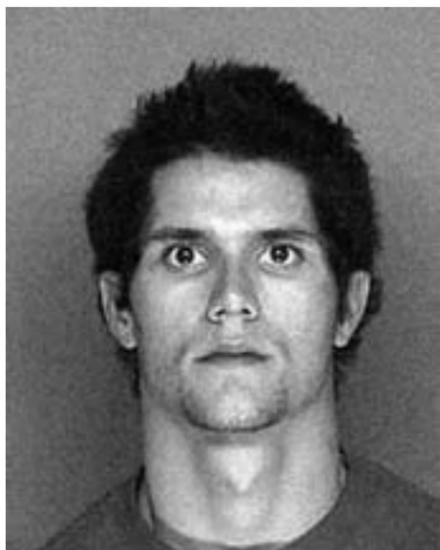
Ava Avedissian receiving award on behalf of the Red Cross. Shown is Kathy Long, Ventura County Supervisor and Board Member, American Red Cross, Ventura County; Ava Avedissian, Emergency Services Manager, American Red Cross, Ventura County and Linda Parks, Ventura County Supervisor.

American Red Cross receives the award for Best Volunteer Program

On December 16, the American Red Cross in Ventura County received the Ventura County Emergency Planning Council's 2010 award for Best Volunteer Program. Ava Avedissian, Emergency Services Manager for the American Red Cross in Ventura County, was present to receive the award.

The Emergency Planning Council presents the awards annually to acknowledge the support, dedication and commitment of local organizations to disaster preparedness, response and recovery in Ventura County.

Since 1917, the American Red Cross of Ventura County has been meeting residents' needs throughout the many communities it serves. With a network of more than 1,200 volunteers, the American Red Cross in Ventura County has responded to disasters, provided lifesaving education, helped families to prepare for emergencies before they occur, and kept members of the Armed Forces connected with their loved ones during times of tragedy and joy. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time and money to do its work.



Packer's trial is set for March 1

The crime, committed May 20, 2009 left the Faria Beach community in shock. Brock and Davina Husted, both 42, were repeatedly stabbed by an intruder who was described as wearing a motorcycle helmet. He had slipped into their Faria Beach home through an open sliding-glass door.

21 year old Venturan Joshua Graham Packer was arrested on April 11, 2010 after his DNA was linked to the brutal slayings that shocked the Ventura community.

The case had frustrated law enforcement officials, but Ventura County Sheriff's caught a break when Santa Barbara police arrested Packer in January for his

involvement in a gas station robbery last September. Packer was arrested in Santa Barbara and DNA was collected from him. The sample was run through a database and matched to DNA collected at the Husted's house.

District Attorney Greg Totten has announced that he will seek the death penalty against Joshua Graham Packer in the murders.

His next hearing is set for January 5. A pre-trial hearing is set for February 1 and the case is set for trial on March 1.

Prosecutors charged Packer with three special circumstances of committing the murders in the course of a robbery and a burglary and committing multiple murders.

New Ventura County local news source is launched

In order to bring positive news to the community and create a news source for Ventura County, long-time Ventura County residents and business professionals, Maria Sanchez and Bob Allen recently launched, www.KadyTV.com, a local news source that is gaining attention in national and international news.

Starting with a soft launch in August 2010, the new site has been mainly utilized to report the "good news" events taking place throughout Ventura County.

"Our mission statement is About the County, By the County, and For the County," stated Maria Sanchez.

Bob Allen also views the new site as a way to bring a local connection to the community. "We saw so many important events occurring in our County that were not being covered by other media outlets and we just couldn't stand by idly without doing something for our communities," stated Allen.

Maria Sanchez is a recognized name in the County after having hosted "The Maria Sanchez Show," which aired during the morning drive and later on the afternoon drive radio program on local NewsTalk, 1520 KVTA. Bob Allen has been involved with the Internet since the mid 1990's. He was also involved with the original kadytv.com in 1999 and again in 2008.

Utilizing her extensive contacts within the community, Sanchez has been successful in scheduling a number of guests on her daily program as well as featuring non-profits from the County. She also has regular segments which include the County's Most Wanted as determined by CrimeStoppers.

The new local news source is already making tremendous strides. Having established a partnership with the Ronald Reagan Library, www.KadyTV.com has been sanctioned to simulcast the library's events. This has included visits from former Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice and President George W. Bush as well as a recent visit with former Governor Mike Huckabee.

Their studios are located in the Ventura Executive Suites in downtown Ventura and utilize the latest in internet technology to bring programming directly to the computer. "If there is an event, a cause, a hearing or a celebration, we want to know about it, help promote it, and possibly even broadcast from the location," added Sanchez.

For more information or to review the past programming, visit www.KadyTV.com. And be sure to check out The Maria Sanchez Show on the site and go to Dec.1,2010 Sheldon Brown for an exclusive interview with the Breeze publisher.

Information can also be obtained by contacting Maria@KadyTV.com or BobAllen@KadyTV.com.



Monica Huntington and Ventura Rising Stars acting students Sophia Tyner, Annika Kinnaman, Grace Tyner, Morgan Oviedo and Anissa Warden-Herrera were spreading holiday cheer at the Ciao Bella Boutique in downtown Ventura. Photo by Marie Gregorio-Oviedo

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.

This is commission only so the hours are up to you so you are your own boss. A fun job meeting business people in the community.

Thank you for giving this your consideration, we look forward to hearing from you at advertising@venturabreeze.com.



News and Notes



Caps Chat

Get your message out there with CAPS

by Lisa Snider

As the Vice Chair of CAPS, I know all too well what the organization's mission is because we recite it at every one of our monthly meetings. It's also the first thing that greets you when you visit our Web site:

"Community Access Partners of San Buenaventura (CAPS-TV) is a public forum for all Ventura residents, businesses and organizations. CAPS provides training and access to telecommunications technology so that all may become active participants in electronic media. CAPS strives to involve the entire population of Ventura as producers and viewers, as well as to empower the community through collaboration."

It's a clear and succinct message that the small staff of five full time and one part time, who run the operation, live every day, and you should take full advantage of it.

If you live, work or go to school in the city of Ventura, for just \$25.00 per year for individuals or \$75.00 for non-profit organizations, you get full access to our state-of-the-art facility as well as a host of training classes to acquaint you with the cameras, lighting, editing software and computers. You can also borrow video equipment and reserve time in our editing bays. This is a diminutive price to pay to get your message shown to the 20,000+ potential households tuning in to channel 6.

We don't turn anyone's non-commercial programming away; that's what true public access is all about. Whether you want to be the one behind the camera or in front of it, we'll show you how to produce a quality finished product with the content you want. Are you looking to create your own "Wayne's World" style variety show? Or do you want to produce a cutting-edge documentary? Anything is possible when you partner with CAPS.

For the many non-profits in our community, CAPS can help you get your message out there, too. Perhaps your non-profit wants to do some community outreach, a membership drive or is in the midst of a fundraising campaign. By putting together a video that showcases your group's good work, you have the potential to win over hearts and minds right here in your very own backyard. Give us a call or send us an email about what you want to do and we'll see how we can help your organization reach its goals.

And you are always welcome to come by our media center for a tour and perhaps you'll see why you should become a part of the CAPS family. 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 say, "What's your story? We can help you tell it." www.capstv.org or 658-0500 or find us on Facebook at CAPS-TV Ventura or connect with us on Twitter at CAPSTVtweets.

Will the public's input on code reforms be filtered by city staff?

by Camille Harris

Need material for your next movie? The trials of The Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative (VSHC) is chock full. Usually, members of citizen advisory committees are chosen by the City Council. The VSHC is different.

The members' selection was negotiated over a five-month period by friends and family members of those who were cited proactively by code enforcement. A City Staff educated to "Manage the Message," is finding that they may need lessons in herding cats to manage the VSHC message.

Some interesting scenes in this movie include:

Scene I: Wednesday, December 8th, the Vice Chair of the VSHC, begins to present the first draft of the recommendations for code reforms, to the full VSHC committee. Based on the public input from two work-shops, the first part of his presentation is about the method to ensure that all public comment is included. The Vice Chair appears surprised when the Chair, cuts him off just as he begins to present the recommendations. He believed it was a three-hour meeting in preparation for a presentation scheduled for the City Council on December 13th. The full committee does not get the opportunity to discuss the recommendations.

Sidenote: The Vice Chair submits hard copies of the full presentation, including the recommendations. This makes the entire presentation a public record. Uh-oh, the public has copies now.

Scene II: Councilmember Jim Monahan gets a copy of the presentation on Thursday, Dec. 9th. Because there is nothing in Council's Dec. 13th meeting packets from the VSHC, he insists that the other council members also receive a copy before the weekend. A volunteer drops the copies off at the council members homes.

Scene III: City Council Meeting Dec. 13th: The Vice Chair is on the dais and poised to begin his 26 slide presentation. He is informed by the Chair that his presentation has been deleted and he will only be allowed to present one slide. The full presentation explains how the overwhelming number of fear, anger and frustration comments can be resolved through improved Program Guidance and Management. Those comments had been moved to the Program Guidance and Management columns on two slides. The Chair presents just these two slides to say that, "See, Fear is not really a problem."

The Chair's statement supports the position of the staff. Staff has difficulty seeing how a collection process that can end in foreclosure, clouding titles for code violations that result in loss of access to home equity, and no objective review process create community angst. The policy switch to house to house inspections last year certainly didn't help.

Grand Finale: The Community Development Director tells the council that the City Staff will present the VSHC recommendations at the final meeting in February. The Cool Cats of the VSHC in the audience rise up and refuse to be herded. They shout "No! No!"

Councilmember Carl Morehouse makes



Spreading holiday cheer to Ventura with their wonderful smiles and friendly spirit are Briana Gutter, graduate student in communication studies and Janet Fukumoto from Times Warner Cable

a motion that the Council hear the recommendations of the VSHC at the final meeting to be held in February. Councilmember Andrews suggests a "hybrid" of staff and VSHC. Those incorrigible cats shout out, "No! No!" "The public should be heard unfiltered!" Councilmember Weir saves the day and states that all of the recommendations of the VSHC will be heard, and the staff can rebut them in their Administrative Report.

Sighs of relief and purring erupt. All is well, until next time.

The initial, draft recommendations, can be seen at www.grandfatherventura.com.



Dr. Bunny will be missed not being on local radio station 1400AM KKZZ

Announcing the opening of the Vreeland College of the Healing Arts

We are pleased to announce that the Vreeland College of the Healing Arts, located in Camarillo will begin accepting new students in the field of Hypnotherapy in January.

The Vreeland College of The Healing Arts will be the only college in Ventura County that is accredited to certify therapists, practitioners and other medical professionals seeking to add hypnotherapy to their existing practice.

In addition, Dr. Vreeland will be conducting group classes for businesses, corporations and groups on such issues as

smoking cessation, weight management and stress reduction, as well as many other topics. Previously she has conducted group classes in Ventura, Napa and Palm Springs and has been doing individualized Hypnotherapy sessions for 20 years.

The Vreeland College of the Healing Arts is the first International Hypnosis Federation registered school in Ventura County.

For more info contact Dr. Bunny Vreeland at 984-1237 or Bunny@BunnyVreeland.com

YMCA focused on helping people of all ages

The Ventura Family YMCA will be open free to the public January 6th-9th offering support to families and individuals seeking to live healthier lives by making New Year's resolutions to eat better, exercise more, lose weight, strengthen family connections and live better overall.

The power of a supportive community can be instrumental in achieving these goals. With the Y, you're not just a member of a facility; you're part of a cause. With a shared commitment to nurturing the potential of kids, improving health and well-being, and giving back and supporting their neighbors, Y membership gives you and the community the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

Through the January Open House event, the staff of the Ventura Family Y is seeking to foster and support sustained relationships with individuals and families who want to experience greater total health and well-being. No contracts or join fees are required at the Y and the YMCA Open Doors financial assistance program provides scholarships to residents in the area who are struggling to afford a healthy lifestyle.

From January 6th - 9th they will offer something for everyone including a variety of classes, fun and educational events. Visit www.ciyymca.org/ventura or contact the Ventura Family YMCA at 642- 2131 for more details.



Community Events

2011 Music Festival will celebrate folk traditions

by Tim Pompey

At a press conference held December 8 at the Museum of Ventura County's newly opened pavilion, Ventura Music Festival director Nuvi Mehta announced this year's Festival theme: Caravana Muzica. From the graphic of a gypsy woman playing tambourine on the cover of the 2011 press kit, it's clear that this year's Festival will focus on folk music, especially Hungarian gypsy music.

Mehta believes there's good reason for this. "Since the history of music, songwriters and composers have often dipped into the well of traditional songs," he says, "songs that go back hundreds of years—beyond record, beyond memory of who created those songs. They've been passed down from one generation to the next. In old times, that was all done by a verbal, oral tradition and they are a part of the fabric of our culture in the various countries."

In the Festival's case, this year's folk-themed countries include Hungary, Austria, Scotland, and by proxy, Appalachian music from the South. It's a broad program that plays on traditional classical music influenced by strong rural roots. As Mehta tells it: "We are going to be coming at how that folk tradition played into music from all angles over the course of the 2011 Ventura Music Festival."

Mehta described how the tradition of Hungarian violinists spilled over to many well known classical composers in the 18th and 19th centuries, composers such as Hayden and Mozart. "In that part of the world," Mehta explained, "there were tons of Hungarian violinists and they influenced the composers who were there." The most famous example of this is the music of Johannes Brahms. As a tribute to Brahms, Mehta himself will be featured as part of an ensemble playing Brahms G minor opus 25 piano quartet.

The Hungarian influence that the Festival is exploring will be featured at the season's final concert—real gypsy music played by Roby Lakatos and his ensemble. Lakatos is a 7th generation Hungarian gypsy violinist who specializes in songs that mix classical tradition with his self-proclaimed Hungarian-gypsy vitality.

The Festival will also include the distinct folk sounds of Appalachia, featuring violinist Mark O'Connor. O'Connor is known for taking the old Appalachian music traditions and rephrasing them in new ways. He has melded and shaped these influences into a new American classical music and fostered his vision of an entirely new American school of string playing.

Mehta revealed one of the Festival's most exciting events—the premier of a recently discovered 3rd piano concerto by Mendelssohn. Written five years before his death in 1842, it was discovered by Italian Mendelssohn expert Roberto Prosseda. What he found was a concerto manuscript two-thirds complete, with notes included for a third movement melody line and fragments of ideas for the movement's arrangement. Prosseda commissioned a Mendelssohn expert to

complete the third movement. At this year's Festival, Prosseda will play and premier this piece for the first time in the U.S.

The 2011 Ventura Music Festival runs from Friday, April 29 through Saturday, May 7. Festival and ticket information can be found at www.venturamusicfestival.org or by calling the Festival office at 648-3146.

Winter Wonderland postponed until Sunday, January 2

Because of the rain on the scheduled date the Ventura Harbor Village Winter Wonderland will be held on Sunday, January 2 from noon to 4pm.

Visit with Santa to thank him for your gifts and meet his live reindeer- Ice Carving - Winter Characters - Faux Snowfall - Live Winter Entertainment - Ventura Creates Kid's Craft - Buckaroo Pony & Train Rides - New York Life Free Child ID - New Year's Sidewalk Sale.

Admission and parking are both free.

Audubon January field trips

Beginners are welcome on all field trips. Light drizzle does not necessarily cancel trips, but heavier rain will. If in doubt, call the leader. More information on Ventura Audubon is available at www.VenturaAudubon.org

Saturday, Jan 8, 9:00–11:00 a.m. 8:00 for birding. Restoration Work Day, Nature Conservancy's Briggs Road/Mission Rock property. Leader: Sandy Hedrick (340-0478). Will be breaking new ground with this event at one of the Conservancy's largest holdings as part of the Santa Clara River Parkway. Meet at the gate at the end of Mission Rock Rd. To reach the property, take Briggs Rd off Hwy 126. Take the frontage road on the south side of 126 to Mission Rock Rd and follow it to the TNC gate at the end. Wear safe field attire, including closed-toe shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring tools for weeding if you have them and water. There are no facilities on site.

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Ventura Audubon General Membership Meeting. Larry Arbanas will present a program on The Birds of Alaska. Mr. Arbanas is a renowned producer of films for such institutions as Cornell Lab of Ornithology and U.S. Government agencies.

Saturday, Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m. Ormond Beach Nature Conservancy. Leader: Richard Handley (535-5533). The Nature Conservancy owns approximately 175 acres of remnant wetlands. 200 - 300 species of birds are present during the year. Should see a variety of ducks including the Pintail, several herons and the Belding's Savannah Sparrow. Directions: From Ventura go south on Victoria Ave (app. 5.3 miles). Turn left on Channels Island Blvd, turn right on Ventura Rd, turn left on Port Hueneme Rd (app. 1.2 mi.), turn right on Arcturus (app. .4 mi.), and right on McWane Blvd. Drive to the end of McWane Blvd and park on either

side of the road before the barriers.

Saturday, January 22, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Beginners' Bird Walk, Saticoy Ponds. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037). The ponds are located on the northeast side of Hwy 118/Los Angeles Ave. From Ventura take Wells Rd. which turns into Los Angeles Ave./Hwy 118 and cross over the Santa Clara River Bridge. The entrance to the ponds will be on your left just after the Vineyard Ave. intersection. Please be prompt. Should see a variety of ducks, such as, Teal, Gadwall, & Bufflehead. Scopes would be helpful.

Saturday, Jan. 29, 8:30 a.m. Foster Park. Leader: John Pavelko (640-9040). Take Hwy 33 from Ojai or Ventura to Casitas Vista exit. Park under the overpass where you will meet by the Santa Anna Bridge. To carpool from Ventura, meet at 8:00 at the Museum of Ventura Co. on Main St. (side parking lot). Some of the birds may see are bluebirds, egrets, and maybe a Hermit Thrush.



1913 Baldwin Steam Locomotive wants you aboard

Celebrating steam crew and #14 volunteers

In recognition and appreciation of the volunteers who assisted, helped and otherwise supported the restoration of the 1913 Baldwin Steam Locomotive #14, a special commemorative journey is planned for Sunday, January 2.

Join approximately 50, steam volunteers and their families as passengers on this special train ride. Enjoy a leisurely trip aboard the Fillmore & Western Railway dining and coach cars as you rub elbows and swap stories with the dedicated "steam team". Lunch will be served, steam stories will be told and there will be many opportunities for photo-ops and run-bys during the scheduled stop. Seating is limited to 60 general public passengers so don't delay purchasing your tickets for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to mix and mingle with the "#14 volunteers and crew members".

The train will depart downtown Fillmore's Central Park at noon and will return after all the photo-ops, drive-bys and stories have been swapped, but sometime before dark.

Tickets for all ages are \$75 per person and can be purchased by calling 524-2546.

Ventura events

December 31: On Friday, from 8 pm to midnight the W&V is having a New Year's eve party, and their one-year celebration and it is all for free. Meet the W&V artists, enjoy light music and chat from 8 pm to 10 pm. And dance music from 10 pm to midnight. Watch the NYC ball drop on a big screen. Bring champagne, wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks to share.

Event at the W&V Theater Gallery, 175 S. Ventura Ave. at the corner of Ventura Ave. and Thompson Blvd.

January 2: At 3pm CPR (Citizens for a

not your daughter's Jeans®

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Community Events

Peaceful Resolution) starts the new year off on a restorative note with the film **Laughology** at the Foster Library's Topping Room. As Dr. Kataria, the founder of Laughter Yoga says, "When you laugh, you change, and when you change, the world changes with you." Join in for the inspiring movie and a preview of the 2011 peace and social justice agenda. Learn more about CPR and find out how you can get involved at www.c-p-r.net or 850-5849.

January 5: An **informal discussion group** that meets every first Wednesday of the month. Topics might include politics, philosophy, psychology, economics, health, religion...or whatever the group is interested in talking about. They welcome new ideas.... start the new year right - speak up. At 7pm at 2232 Hyland Ave., Ventura contact 653-1121.

January 13: Ron Calkins, recently retired Director of Public Works for the City of Ventura, will present a program on the future of water systems in the City of Ventura on Thursday in the Topping Rm. of the Foster Library at 2:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend this power-point presentation for the local unit meeting of the League of Women Voters. No reservations are needed. Further information at 644-3153.

January 13: Currently one out of every five American born children has special needs ranging from learning disabilities and auto-immune disease, to autism and developmental problems. Join the National Health Federation (NHF) as they explore the "possible" connection between U.S. mandated vaccines and natal complications.

The Ventura Chapter of the National Health Federation will be hosting this

community service meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Topping Room at the E.P. Foster Library, opening with a viewing of the documentary, **"Autism: Made in the U.S.A."** by award-winning director Gary Null. The viewing will be followed by an opportunity to share with one another stories, resources, and further information on alternative solutions in preventing and caring for autism. Please RSVP by calling 648-7987.

January 14: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution meeting will feature the program: **"The Star Spangled Banner"**, presented by Dr. William Beans, as portrayed by Mr. Daniel Slosberg. The luncheon event will take place at 11:30am, in the Garden Room, Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1295 S. Victoria Ave. All SAR compatriots, Revolutionary War history buffs, friends and visitors are welcome at this special free event! The self-pay luncheon cost is \$16 per person, with a slice of pie an additional \$1. Call Robert Taylor 216-7992 or Ron Risley 647-0751 if you have questions, and please visit the Chapter website <http://pattonpatriots.org> for more information on SAR Chapter activities.

January 22 & 23: San Buenaventura Friends of the Library winter book sale from 10am-3pm on Saturday and Sunday from noon - 3:00 pm at the Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library. Proceeds from this book sale will go to support Ventura's Avenue & E.P. Foster libraries.

San Buenaventura Friends of the Library (SBFOL) is an all-volunteer group, working to help Ventura's libraries serve the public need for knowledge and opportunity.

Need more information? contact:

Chuck Carlson 642-6084 or chucknsherrie@att.net

Ojai events

Author and performing songwriter Dan Carrigan will play at the Ojai Library, Sunday January 9 at 1pm. His newest CD is a compilation of 19 songs from 8 CD's. Dan plays independent post-genre music on an acoustic guitar. (Post-Genre music has been described as quirky intellectual pop.). Listen to samples at www.myspace.com/dancarrigan

The 27th annual **Ojai Peddler's Fair** is being held from 9am - 4pm **Saturday and Sunday, January 15 & 16**. The bustling Peddler's Fair is located inside the Chapparal Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave., in downtown Ojai. Parking is free in the adjacent municipal parking lot, and admission is always free.

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

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

Francisca Beach R.S.A.M.D., Artistic Director of Senga CSC, will teach two fun acting classes in Ojai in January. One for adults and one for teens. The teen class will include theatre games, improvisation, role playing, scene study and dance drama. The class includes theatre games, improvisation, role playing, creative movement and scene study.

Both classes will have an in-house performance party at the end.

Classes start January 8 - Feb 26, eight Saturday mornings, at The Help Of Ojai on Santa Ana in downtown Ojai.

To register and for more information, please call Francisca Beach 646-4885 or email franciscabeach@gmail.com

Ring in the new year at the **Ojai Valley Woman's Club** with a wild Celtic concert, then food and waltzing till 12:30am!

Costs: \$20 advance, \$24 @ door. Kids under 15 are only \$10, (and under 6 are free if you can keep 'em quiet during the show).

Bring the family, bring all your friends, and help ring in the New Year with a wild, fun Celtic concert featuring the return of the legendary Sligo Rags! After a great concert from 8 till 11pm, enjoy food and elegant and romantic waltzes until 12:30 in the morning.

The Sligo Rags are an Energetic Celtic Bluegrass fusion band and two-time winner of the Orange County Music Award for Best Folk Band. Using fiddle, acoustic guitar, electric bass, and percussion, Sligo Rags is taking the national Celtic music scene by storm.

This is going to be a dessert and finger-food potluck party, so bring something to share.

Learn more and buy tickets through PayPal at www.ojaiconcertseries.com For more information call Shane Butler at 665-8852.

Fresh Roasted Concerts is proud to present **John McCutcheon** in concert on **Sat., January 8** at 7:30 at Matilija Auditorium, 703 El Paseo Rd. Considered to be one of America's finest folksingers, John McCutcheon is an amazing instrumentalist and storyteller as well. With over twenty-seven albums to his credit and three Grammy nominations, his concerts have become legendary for their ex-

Continued on page 15



VENTURA HARBOR

SET SAIL FOR ADVENTURE!

JANUARY 7-17, 2011

— SCHEDULE OF EVENTS —

Friday, January 7
Tall Ships Grand Arrival at Noon
 * **Dockside Tours:** 4:00–5:00 p.m.

January 11–14
 * **Weekday Dockside Tours:** 4:00–5:00 p.m. (Both ships open)

Saturday & Sunday, January 8 & 9
 * **Dockside Tours:** 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (Saturday both ships open)
Battle Sails: 2:00–5:00 p.m.
Sunday Adventure Sail: 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

1st Company Washington Artillery of New Orleans Civil War Re-enactment Camp!

- President Lincoln Reenactor
- Living-History Replica Military Camp
- Musket, Pistol & Cannon Demos
- Antique gun display
- Music by *Watermelon Pie!*
- **FREE Admission**

Saturday & Sunday, January 8 & 9

Saturday & Sunday, January 15 & 16

* **Dockside Tours:** 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (Saturday both ships open)

Battle Sails: 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Sunday Adventure Sail: 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Live Entertainment:
The Pirates Charles 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Pirates Roam Ventura Harbor Village!
 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Monday, January 17
Dockside Tours: 12:00–5:00 p.m. (Both ships open)

Tuesday, January 18
Tall Ships Depart
 Ventura Harbor at 9:00 a.m.

TO PURCHASE BATTLE & ADVENTURE SAIL TICKETS, CALL 800-200-5239 or VISIT WWW.HISTORICALSEAPORT.ORG.

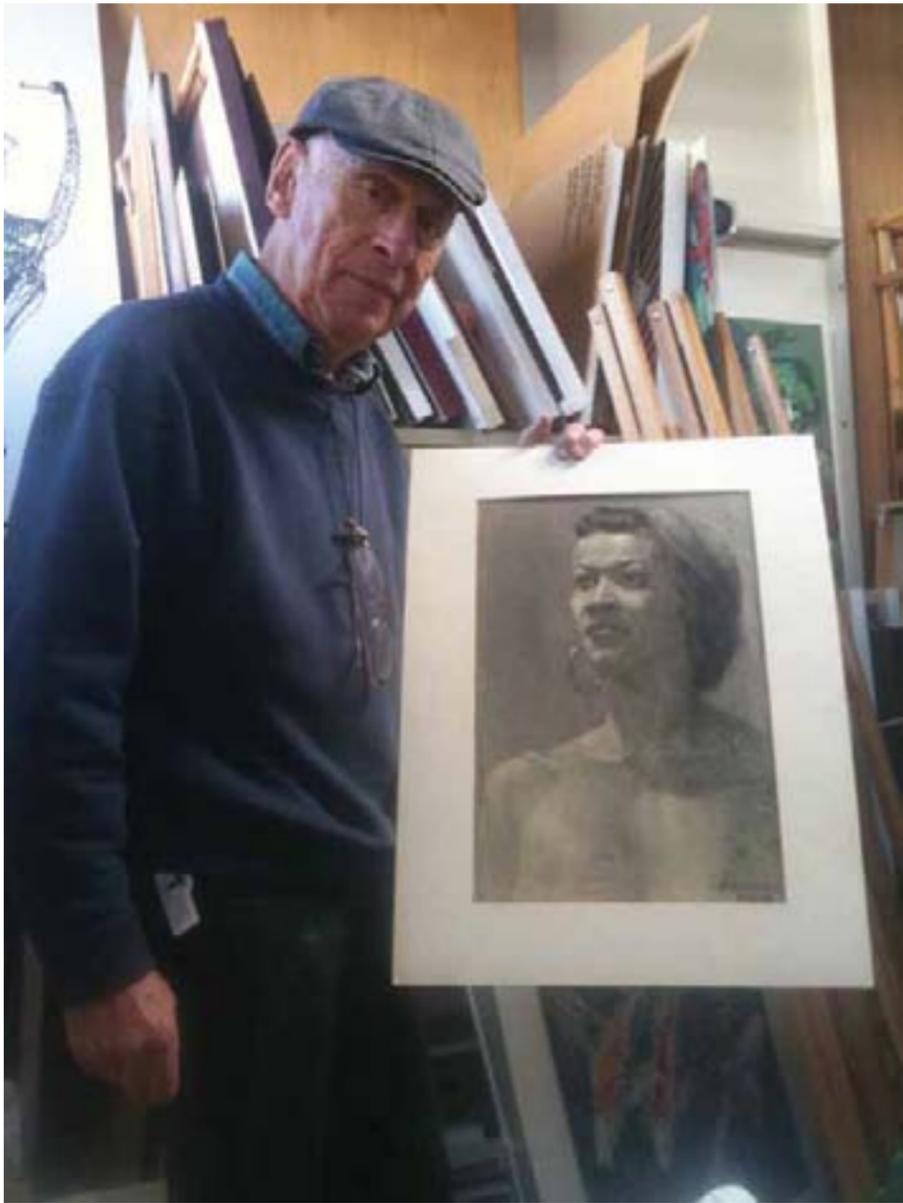
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Art Scene



Len Poteshman has worked with various law enforcement agencies

The Heart of the Artist

A career of variety in expression: Len Poteshman

by Emily Thiroux

Len Poteshman has been creating amazing art since before most of us were born, and not one to be bored, he has explored many mediums. Though he started out as a violinist, he reached his artistic stride with painting and sculpting. And even before the CSI and Law and Order television shows grabbed the attention of American audiences, Len was working with various law enforcement agencies supervising art crimes departments, instructing officers in undercover work and making composite drawing of suspects from witness descriptions. Sounds like a great idea for a television series to me!

I found Poteshman in the studio at Bell Arts Studios, on Ventura Avenue in Ventura, he shares with his wife Linda, a ceramist, as they got ready for the big sale the first weekend in December. His daughter was there helping to arrange a price items to sell to make room for new work to be created. His delightful, energetic daughter doesn't understand how he could have the desire to create any more when he has already created so much, but in talking to him, I saw that he is still brimming full with creative ideas he can't wait to express. He proudly displayed a lovely charcoal portrait that they discovered that he had drawn in 1946.

Since then he moved from charcoal to pen and ink, to painting, to sculpting especially in bronze, and to his current fascination with epoxy. And as he described it, I was fascinated, too. The epoxy medium provides him with high gloss, vivid color intensity, and texture. He starts out by placing Plexiglas on a flat

surface because epoxy must be used in a horizontal position to prevent them from running off the surface. The two part medium starts out clear and he adds colors encouraging the colors to run through the epoxy creating new colors and patterns never knowing how they will turn out. After the material dries, he breaks the material into shapes and reassembles it like a mosaic creating an entirely new image combining the epoxy with acrylic paint. The end results are full of brilliant color and texture and offer lots to look at as you see how the deconstruction of one work of art is blended together to create another.

Poteshman also has done many wonderful painting of koi. He raised these fish also known as "living jewels" or "swimming flowers" until they became much too big for his pond, so he has created many painting featuring koi from very large, realistic paintings, to smaller paintings with so many koi in them that children love the challenge of try to count how many are there.

Len and Linda are charming to talk to and would love to have you visit them at their studio at Bell Arts. I think it is so cool that they gave \$5 from each sale to Food Share. I love how local artists are getting behind this wonderful project.

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. <http://www.theheartoftheartist.com/category/Blog/>



Jillian Nye, a hair artist, water colorist, and massage therapist, poses with her acrylic and air-brushed painting called "Peacock Energy" in her WĀV apartment.

WĀV Artist Interviews: Jillian Nye

by Tim Pompey

Jillian Nye is an artist who designs her hair styles and makeup as creative expressions. A practicing cosmetologist for fourteen years, each time she picks up a straight razor and a comb, she looks at a head and pictures a vision. "I'm a hair sculptor," she says. "I see it as a canvas."

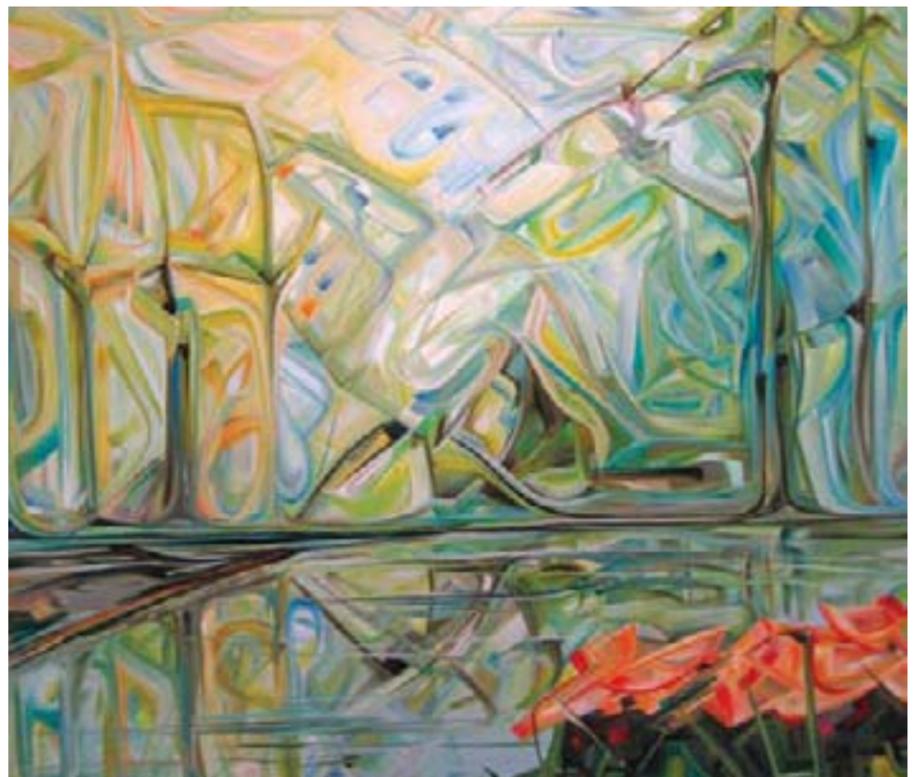
Her favorite projects include extreme hair for fashion shows and photo shoots, including gender makeovers for "those who want to be adventurous." In 2010 she provided stage makeup, including bruises and cuts, for ARTesia's public service ad campaign against domestic violence.

Nye likes to push boundaries. "A lot of art is about two sides of something," she says. "I like pushing myself to see both ends of the spectrum." She thrives on change and is not afraid to rearrange her own boundaries. "I don't like functioning with a parameter," she says. "If it's definitive, than I want to change it." She performs in drag with eight other women in a group called "Hir Bois" and dances as a professional go-go girl at Paddy's.

She has also worked hard to expand her own artistic boundaries. Five years ago, she picked up water color painting, and recently she graduated from the Kali Institute of Massage in downtown Ventura.

Nye moved to Ventura three years ago with her son Jubal-lee. "I came to Ventura and hoped to live with my son at the beach," she says. "I found a community where I could dream and fantasize about being an artist." She is grateful for the support of the local arts community and hopes to develop workshops in 2011 to inspire others to see themselves as artistic and beautiful.

For more information on Nye's art—hair, watercolors, massage—e-mail her at NyeLOVE@msn.com.



"The Pond" by Jack Halbert, Best of Show in 2010 BAA 24th Annual Open Competition

Call for entries for 25th annual art competition

Buenaventura Art Association has announced a "Call for Entries" for their 25th Annual Open Competition at the Buenaventura Gallery. The exhibit will run from January 11 – January 29 with the bring-in for the artists on Sunday, January 9 and Monday, January 10 from 11 am – 2 pm. The awards ceremony (with \$1,500 in prizes awarded) will be on Saturday, January 15 from 4 – 7 pm. John Carlander, art professor at Westmont College will be the juror.

John Carlander is a practicing artist and college professor who has exhibited widely in the US and abroad. His paintings are acrylic on canvas and oil

on canvas as well. He has had 30 one-person shows, numerous 2-person and innumerable group shows.

Eligibility for the exhibition is open to all professional and amateur artists. Downloadable bring-in forms are available at www.buenaventuragallery.org or stop by the Buenaventura Gallery.

The Buenaventura Gallery is located at 700 E Santa Clara St. in downtown Ventura. Hours are Tues – Friday from 12 – 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information visit their website at www.BuenaventuraGallery.org.

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp Ph.D

As I assumed, as soon as Michael Vick lead his team to victory all is now forgiven. But not by me.

How good of a player would he be without a limb or an eye or an ear? Or if he was dead like the dogs that he trained to kill each other?

I know that he has paid his obligations by going to prison (23 months) on the criminal charges of dog-fighting but it wasn't like one day he said, "I am doing something wrong so I think that I will go check into prison".

Vick has stated that he is eager to have another dog. "My daughters miss having one, and that's the hardest thing. Telling them that we can't have one because of my actions."

Since part of the terms of his probation is that Vick is not permitted to buy, sell or own a dog, his daughters will have to wait until a judge removes this condition, to which many animal rights groups and dog lovers and dogs agree.

In this writer's opinion (I stole that phrase), it is far too early for him to be allowed the precious gift of owning a dog.

Okay sport and dog fans what is your opinion?

On January 15, at 7 pm the Popovich Comedy Pet Theater is playing at the Marjorie Luke Theater in Santa Barbara. Voted the best new family show in Las Vegas the show features over 25 animals who are all rescued animals from shelters.

Even cats perform in the show. You know cats aren't very smart which shows you how good these cats are. Call 963-0761 or go to ptgo.org for more information and tickets.

It will also be playing on Friday, January 14, at the Fred Kavli Theatre, in Thousand Oaks.

As reported in this issue in a recent house fire two dogs perished. The fire department press release said "injuries none, (two pet dogs perished due to smoke inhalation)". I would consider that to be a rather serious injury.

About 130 dogs recently splashed and slipped their way through a watery audition for surfing and diving roles on a pet food company's float in the upcoming Rose Parade. Onlookers and judges got drenched by Labradors leaping into a 4-foot deep water tank in Pacoima. Then their owners were showered when the animals climbed out of the water and wildly shook off.

I hope that they don't glue roses all over the dogs.



What a lucky dog I am being at "Choice Day" (I call it "pet day") with my friends Elise, Jolie and Audrey in Franny's class at the Ventura Charter School located on the Avenue.

There were many other types of pets but I was the cutest (well the tarantula was kind of cute if you like that kind of thing).

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 Delilah, a 7 year old female Pit Bull Terrier-Labrador Retriever (mix).

I am so quiet you may forget I'm nearby. I'm also extremely gentle, taking treats very delicately. I'm an affectionate girl, savoring every moment of tenderness and affection anyone is willing to give me. I get along with most of the dogs I'm introduced to so if you have a fur face at home already, I'd be happy to meet them to see how we get along.

I'm waiting for somebody to love me, for my own yard, my own doggie bed, my own person. If you are that person, please ask to meet me.

My best buddy Carl found his forever home and I hope it's not long before I'm in my forever home too with you.

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

www.carlvc.org



Scamp Club



Hi:

I'm Hugh, a beagle and I was a Scampclub member in the February 28, 2008 issue of the Breeze. I thought that you would like to see me now, look how more mature I am and I have also learned to pick up my metal food bowl and bang it on the floor until I am fed. Scamp has asked me to teach him how to do that because he has been put on a diet and wants to make a fuss.

My mom, Jean Nickel is the Friends of the Library Bookstore Manager, so when you are at Foster Library stop and say hello to her and she can tell you all of the other cute things that I can do and you can buy a nice book while you are there.

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Vehicle Pursuit

On Friday, December 10th, at 11:48 p.m., VPD Officer McCain attempted to stop a vehicle driven by Darrin Sasaki, 43 years old, after observing a traffic violation near Bristol Road and Argal Place. Sasaki turned onto Argal Place and quickly sped away. Officer McCain went in pursuit of the suspect vehicle.

Officers pursued Sasaki through the residential area near Bristol Road and Johnson Drive. Sasaki drove through red signals before making his way onto Johnson Drive. Sasaki proceeded west to Victoria Avenue and abruptly turned into the northbound lanes, driving his vehicle against the flow of traffic. Sasaki then attempted to drive across the raised concrete median. Sasaki's vehicle sustained major damage and his vehicle became disabled.

Sasaki, along with his passenger, Juan Delgado, 32 years old, were taken into custody. Sasaki was lodged at the VC Jail. Delgado was treated at VCMC for minor injuries and was booked into VC Jail.

Possession of Stolen Property

On Tuesday, December 14th, at 3:06 p.m., VPD responded to a call of suspicious circumstances in the 400 block of Aliso Street. Two male juveniles were seen jumping the fence into the rear yard of a residence. Officers stopped a vehicle that was seen leaving. The vehicle turned out to have been reported stolen three days ago in the city of Ventura, and the driver, Esmerelda Espinosa, 21 years old and from Ventura, was arrested for driving a stolen vehicle. The two male juveniles in the vehicle were identified as the suspects that were seen leaving the residence that was burglarized.

The female was booked at VC Jail and the two male juveniles were booked at Juvenile Hall.

Two other male juveniles were cited for prowling in the 200 block of Eugenia.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Saturday, December 18th, at 8:46 p.m., VPD officers responded to Osabi Restaurant, located at 5795 Walker Street, in reference to a disturbance that resulted in the victim getting hit with a bottle. Officers located the victim, with a head wound. The victim was leaving the restaurant and was confronted by Nicholas Klopp, 26 years old and from Ventura. Klopp made a derogatory remark to the victim based on the victim's sexual orientation and then threw a large drinking glass at the victim, striking the victim

on the head. The victim was later treated for a head wound at Community Memorial Hospital.

Several witnesses identified Klopp as the suspect. VPD Patrol Officers located Klopp at his residence. Klopp was booked at VC Jail.

Pedestrians Struck by Vehicle

On Wednesday, December 15th, at 1:57 p.m., VPD received a call regarding a vehicle that struck pedestrians in a marked crosswalk at Poli Street and Ann Street.

A 31 year-old female with her two children (5 and 3 year-old boys) were crossing Poli Street in a marked crosswalk at Ann Street. A vehicle driven by a 47 year-old female, Ventura resident, was stopped at the sign on Ann Street. A large moving truck stopped to allow the pedestrians to cross. The female

driver made her turn and did not see the pedestrians crossing the street. The vehicle struck the mother and her small child. The 5-year-old boy was pushed away by his mother and was not struck by the vehicle.

The victims were transported to VCMC. The mother is currently in stable condition and her 3 year-old child is in critical condition with internal injuries. The older boy sustained scrapes and bruising.

The female driver stopped at the scene and no arrests were made.

Injury Accident

On Sunday, December 19th, at 2:56 p.m., VPD responded to a call of a vehicle that hit a pedestrian in front of the VCMC at the intersection of Loma Vista Road and St. Paul.

Continued on page 13

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MARCH 23
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10:00am – 4:00pm

MAY 7
Cinco de Mayo
11:00am – 2:00pm

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
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Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

A chat with Bonnie Weigel of FOOD Share

by Nanci Cone

Bonnie Weigel is CEO and President of FOOD Share, our area food bank that was established in 1983 and has become a critical member of our community in providing food and support to the hungry faces of Ventura County. FOOD Share distributes over 9 million pounds of nutritious food per year via their 150+ non-profit partners, government programs, and outreach programs.

Since Bonnie took over, the reach of this program has grown tremendously. With the downturn in the economy, more and more seniors have turned to FOOD Share and with her loyal volunteers she has risen to the challenge and met those needs. The Brown Bag Program provides supplemental bags of groceries for 2,015 low-income seniors at 36 sites throughout Ventura County and the Senior Nutrition Program provides home delivered frozen prepared meals for 5 days and supplemental food to over 200 homebound seniors age 60 and over in Oxnard and Ventura. Through funding from the Area Agency on Aging, the cities of Oxnard and Ventura provide these programs for seniors in their cities. FOOD Share staff deliver the meals. With all this responsibility, she was kind enough to take time from her busy schedule to talk about the real Bonnie Weigel!

Tell me a bit about your background?

I love what I do, 12 years of community benefit efforts through nonprofits and through my own business. I have always focused on building relationships first, this is what strengthens community and builds prosperity. My commitment to eliminate poverty through collaborative partnerships while creating prosperity for all is where I find my focus and direction.

What made you decide to come work for FOOD Share?

The invitation to come aboard and lead an organization through creating and enhancing existing relationships that serves through the cause of feeding the hungry of Ventura County was right in line with my personal mission.



Bonnie Weigel

What are some of your future plans?

I want to continue to collaborate, create, and execute in ways that benefit and build prosperity for all. To me, prosperity means to have a sense of purpose, inclusion, benefit, and support through all we do.

How many people are you currently helping?

Since my time here at FOOD Share our amazing team and stakeholders have come together to help 63% more friends in need. From 44,000 to the now over 73,000 hungry friends we serve monthly. We could not do it without the help of the help of more than 150 partner agencies, a team of 26 staff members, 320 volunteers and an all-volunteer board of directors.

What can Ventura County residents do to help?

Every person, every action matters. All are invited to help through time, talent, or treasure to make sure that everyone in need has access to food so no one will be hungry here in the 805. *Last comments?*

It is truly easy to be grateful for each day when living in a community who believes in and demonstrates that life's greatest joys come through serving one another.

To manage its many events and campaigns, FOOD Share relies on dedicated volunteers. Perhaps you or your children would you like to volunteer? Many different kinds of jobs are available, and you'll meet with other wonderful FOOD Share fans! Contact Meg Horton, Volunteer Coordinator at Mhorton@Foodshare.com or visit their website at www.Foodshare.com.



In the spirit of holiday giving, Aegis of Ventura and the Marines from the 223rd Weapons Company in Port Hueneme hosted Toys for Tots Drive and Holiday Party at Aegis located at 4964 Telegraph Rd.

Toys for Tots provide hope and happiness to economically disadvantaged children through the gift of a shiny new toy. These gifts offer children recognition, confidence and positive memories they will cherish for a lifetime.

Flanked by the handsome Marines are Aegis staff Nancy Gamino, Micki Rickard and Katrina Wasserman.

Senior Living



New radio host Jim Duran was wrapping Christmas gifts for free in Downtown Ventura during the holidays

New radio hosts hope to help seniors

“Grey Matters” will be new weekly radio show on AM 1400 KKZZ, airing each Friday from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. starting January 7. It will accomplish the following for Ventura County:

- Provide information on the services available in the county for our aging community and their caregivers
- Bridge the gap for this age sector and their families
- Discuss issues specific to this population sector and their caregivers
- Give listeners a voice

This innovative and entertaining show is hosted by Cheri Kurman and Jim Duran. Cheri is an attorney at Norman Dowler, LLP, certified by the California State Bar as a specialist in

Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law. Jim is the Executive Director of Cypress Place Senior Living Facilities in Ventura and this year’s recipient of the California Assisted Living Association’s Outstanding Executive Director Award.

The program is part of Coach Ron Tunick’s daily radio show “The Business of Life”, which has a large listening audience and is a mainstay on local talk radio here in Ventura which also hosts Breeze publisher Sheldon on Monday’s from 4-4:30.

Special guest for the maiden voyage will be Kathy Terry, Field Services Director at the Long Term Care Ombudsman of Ventura County.

Police reports

Continued from page 11

A vehicle struck a 16 year old victim as she was crossing the crosswalk. A witness told officers that the victim was with a group of juveniles walking in the crosswalk, when the vehicle, driven by Steve Kass, 85 years old, struck the victim. The amber warning lights embedded in the pavement were activated as the victim and her friends were crossing.

The victim sustained several broken bones and a concussion. She is listed as in critical condition and is in ICU.

and approached the teller armed with a handgun. The suspected demanded money from the teller who complied with his demands and gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect fled on foot from the bank.

This suspect is believed to be “the groomed beard bandit” and has robbed several banks in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

Anyone who can identify this suspect is urged to call the Ventura Police Department 339-4416, FBI 642-3995, or Crime Stoppers (800)222-TIPS.



Rob a Bank at Rab o Bank

On December 22, there was a bank Robbery at RaboBank located at 304 E. Main St. The suspect entered the bank



Fire on McFarlane

On December 12, at 1:50pm Ventura City Fire units responded to reports of a

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structure fire on Comstock Drive. They arrived to find that the main property was actually in the 200 block of McFarlane Drive and the structure burning was a large 20' x 20' storage shed fully engulfed in flames to the rear of the residence.

Ventura Police units arrived on the scene initially and began evacuations of nearby structures as a precaution if the fire were to spread. Firefighters initiated an aggressive attack on the fire, which had already melted the second story rain gutters of the neighboring house on one side. On the other side, a converted detached garage with a patio overhang took a direct hit from the flames, igniting briefly before firefighters quickly doused the threatening fire. During the incident, firefighters were forced to deal with live power lines that had fallen into the backyard in the area of operations. Edison responded and no injuries were reported.

A total of four properties sustained damage as a result of this fire, with two of them being exterior fences and outside property damage. Neighbors initially reported hearing explosions to the Fire Dispatch Center, however no evidence was found to sustain those early reports.

Fire on Catalina

On December 16, fire units responded to a reported structure fire located in the 300 block of S. Catalina St. The first arriving units found heavy smoke coming from a residential duplex. A fire was discovered to be under the raised floor, in the wall and also in the attic of the home. Firefighters acted quickly and aggressively to fight the fire and were able to contain it to one unit of the duplex. The fire was controlled within 20 minutes of arrival of the fire department however firefighters worked for several hours to fully extinguish the stubborn fire. The resident of the involved unit was not home at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported although sadly, two pet dogs were discovered to have succumbed to the smoke. The cause was not easily determined and is currently under investigation. During the time of the fire there were also multiple other calls for service and fire units from The County of Ventura, City of Oxnard and City of Santa Paula responded to assist and provide coverage to the City of Ventura.



School



Rachel Morris, at the WEV graduation held at the Marjorie Luke Theatre, located in Santa Barbara was all smiles and soon forgot the grueling task of writing her business plan

A “business plan”

by Rachel Morris

“My boss just doesn’t have a clue. If I was running this place, we’d rock!” Oh really. Then why don’t you give it a go? What would it take for you or me to stick our neck, our resources, and our fragile ego out, along with our own shingle? Other than a lot of nerve, the answers can be found in a “Business Plan.” That dry-sounding document was not something I had the confidence to deliver when I started my 14 week Women’s Economic Ventures (WEV) course.

Though I had worked in the corporate world and run my own non-profit, I’d never been trained in business. WEV’s 14 week cram-course was designed to teach practical business skills in a woman-friendly atmosphere. A non-profit, originally started to help farm women, it now accepts male students as well. The final class product is a well-crafted business plan.

After listening to harrowing tales of long hours and financial risk I asked the panel of WEV graduates, “How do you feel now that you’ve opened your own business?” “I’d rather starve than go back to working for someone else,” summed up the unflinching and unanimous response of the group.

I can’t tell you how much I needed to

hear that confirmation. Isolation is a lousy place to incubate an entrepreneur. I need the support of other entrepreneurs willing to risk all to make it happen. This is business. I’m not alone. I’m not nuts.

The entrepreneurial fever is a powerful bug. The need to do it our own way, a passion to change the world, or even the desire to arrange our own day (even if we create our own worst nightmare) pushes some of us to take the plunge.

Is it foolish, reckless, or even crazy not to buckle down and stay with a job in these tough economic times? Possibly not, considering one in ten people in Ventura County is unemployed, many due to layoffs. Perhaps the conventional, fear-based approach to employment isn’t that secure after all. And speaking of the economy, here’s another juicy tidbit. It turns out that small businesses are fueling 70% of new job creation, and have been for the past decade! Not Nike, not IKEA, not Walmart, but mom and pop grow the new job crop.

What does that mean? Well, for starters, it could mean that sacrificing Ventura’s green belt to build Executive McMansions might not be the most direct route to grow-

ing jobs. It also points a distinct “thumbs down” for tax cuts for the mega-wealthy. (But you already knew that.) More to the point, it means our crazy, passionate, creative business ideas might actually be the key to a healthy economy – a point not unnoticed by Assembly Member Das Williams who provided a certificate of recognition for each student at the fall 2010 WEV graduation.

WEV is an important player in developing our local economy, helping to create or grow some 2,000 local businesses. As Elisha Estratta, owner of Equal Threads fair-trade organic clothing puts it “Before, I had all these ideas in a big cloud that I’d been thinking of for years. WEV metaphorically took my ideas from a cloud to building blocks.”

Once vagueness is replaced by clarity, the picture of what it takes to be a business owner is an eye-opener. “It gave me a whole new respect for people who start and run a business. It really requires mastery to keep all the moving parts working. It’s a never ending battle.” said classmate Freda Ramey, owner of MIH Development, a hands-on business support firm.

So hats off to Ventura’s small business owners. I expect to see a new crop sprout the spring of 2011. I hope one of them will be mine: the HUB bicycle repair coop and center for bicycle culture. How about yours?

Youth Ventura Job & Career Center classes

Tuesday, January 4 - Resumes that Sell, 8:30 am – 4 pm - hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters. Walk away with a portfolio that shows off professional skills and experience.

Wednesday, January 5 - Power of VOS (Virtual OneStop), 1 pm – 4 pm - Learn about the Virtual OneStop website and how you can use the various tools in the system to build your resume and customize your job search to a specific location and occupation. Must have basic computer skills.

Tuesday, January 18 - Winning Interviews, 8:30 am – 4 pm - supplies the tools to make a lasting first impression when interviewing.

Wednesday, January 19 - Explore Your Future, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm - complete a self-evaluation to help identify your skills and aspirations. Gain insight into the hidden labor market and develop a career strategy based on high-demand occupations.

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

Make-A-Wish needs toys

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. They are almost out of many types of donated toys used as part of the wish granting process. The toys are used when meeting wish children and at wish presentation parties. When a team of wish granters goes into a household, they bring a small gift for every child in the house.

At a wish presentation party they bring items that will enhance the wish. Items needed include:

1. Gift cards - Best Buy, bowling, movies, grocery
2. Disposable camera with flash (regular and underwater)
3. Small travel games, card games, mad-libs, coloring books and crayons - activities for teens are greatest needs
4. Hand held electronic games with batteries
5. Portable DVD players, MP3 Players, iPods

New unwrapped items can also be delivered to Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties, 4222 Market Street, Suite D, Ventura. Call 676-9474 to arrange a delivery time.

St. Bonaventure High School in Ventura is hosting their second toy drive. Last year several members of the football team stopped by before practice to deliver many-many toys collected by students. Contact sgianelli@saintbonaventure.com for information.

Young musicians invited to compete

For the fifth year in a row, the Ventura Music Festival (VMF) will host a music competition for talented young jazz musicians. Open to middle and high school students throughout Southern California, the VMF Student Jazz Competition offers a rare opportunity for young musicians to showcase their talent and compete for the privilege of performing live on stage with a professional jazz artist during a live VMF concert.

Funded by the Ventura Music Festival’s Board of Directors, the three top contestants are awarded scholarships of \$500, \$250 and \$100. The winning student musician is invited to perform with jazz legend Arturo Sandoval on Feb. 12, 2011 at his VMF concert at Seaside Park.

Students are encouraged to mail or email examples of their instrumental work to the Ventura Music Festival by Jan. 4, 2011. Five finalists will perform for a panel of judges and an open-to-the-public live concert competition on the afternoon of Sunday, Jan. 16th at Ventura’s Laurel Theater.

All competitors receive discounted tickets to Arturo Sandoval’s 2011 Valentine’s Day weekend concert. In addition, the winner will be able to invite his or her entire Jazz Ensemble to the Sandoval Concert. For more information, call the Ventura Music Festival at 648-3416 or email: brenda.yates@venturamusicfestival.org.

Founded in 1994, the Ventura Music Festival presents world renowned classical, jazz, and crossover musicians in various venues throughout Ventura and surrounding areas. Most of the venues have historical significance and provide warm and intimate settings for the world-class musical performances. Today, the festival stands as one of Ventura County’s signature events, attracting upwards of 10,000 concert-goers during 10 days in April and May, 2011.

Each year, the Ventura Music Festival’s Education Outreach Program presents live performances, stories, and interaction to nearly 4,000 local students through “Music in the Schools” presented by Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta.

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This 'n' That

Teaming up to bring DUI's down

In a new and innovative effort to save lives and prevent injuries on Ventura County highways, the Ventura County Alcohol and Drug Programs is teaming up with the City of Ventura Police Department to reduce intoxicated driving incidents that start at Downtown bars.

Building on the success of the first "DUI Summit for Ventura County" last year, the County applied for, and received, a grant award totaling \$182,000 from the California Office of Traffic Safety for strategies to support local business compliance with alcohol sales and service laws, and reach young adults with DUI prevention messages. A key component of the project involves collaboration with the Ventura Police Department, who will conduct periodic compliance checks with the management of bars and restaurants, especially on high volume weekends, to deter over-service and encourage safe transportation options.

"We know that Downtown Ventura is the entertainment epicenter for much of Ventura County, and this collaboration is aimed at supporting businesses and patrons to make good decisions. When you think about it, a \$15 cab fare is nothing compared to a \$10,000 DUI arrest," says Patrick Zarate, Division Manager for Alcohol and Drug Programs at Ventura County Behavioral Health Department. "The goal is to drive down these completely preventable losses—and our data suggest that the staff and policies of local bars can make a difference"

The grant provides funding for specialized training for bartenders and servers, and for the development of local media messages designed to encourage safe transportation home from local establishments, especially during late night hours.

McCune Foundation awards \$360,000 for community organizing

The McCune Foundation--now celebrating its 20th Anniversary--has awarded more than \$360,000 for community organizing and social justice initiatives in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Fifteen grants were made to support organizing efforts by farm workers, renters, parents, youth and others seeking to improve their lives and neighborhoods.

"The vision that drives the work of the McCune Foundation is to strengthen the fabric of communities in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties so that the residents are capable of working together to improve the conditions of everyday life," said Sandra Ball-Rokeach, one of the Foundation's founding Board members.

In 2010, the Foundation provided 32 grants totaling more than \$710,000. Grass-roots organizations that meet the Foundation's funding guidelines and that are interested in being considered for a grant may submit a letter of inquiry by the next deadline on January 14, 2011. Details on applying for a grant are available at www.mccunefoundation.org.

The McCune Foundation was established in 1990 by Sara Miller McCune and the late George D. McCune. The Foundation makes grants in Santa Barbara and Ventura Coun-

ties. Its goal is to build social capital through empowerment and engagement of citizens at the grassroots level.

Open letter from VCTA

by David P. Grau
Member of the Board, Ventura County Taxpayers Association

So far, the Ventura City Council and City Manager haven't suffered the fallout from the pension bomb that exploded in October 2010. And perhaps they don't deserve to. But both elected and appointed officials in Ventura may want to reflect on the role their union enthusiasms have played in this pension train wreck.

The bomb was in the form of an actuarial report from the CalPERS pension administrator. The administrator notified the city its annual pension costs will increase 28% next year to \$12.6 million, with even larger increases over the next two years. This increase in pension costs and the inevitable reduction in city services should be of no surprise to city officials.

To keep this in perspective, the cost of next years \$2.8 million pension increase would wipe out the entire budgets for (1) Downtown Cleaning, (2) Citywide Pavement Maintenance, and (3) the Aquatic Center. Each year as unions demand more, and pension costs grow, additional services must be eliminated.

As shocking as a 28% increase in pension costs may be, the potential future cost to taxpayers as a result of some irresponsible decisions at City Hall is astonishing.

First, the city buckled to pressure from the police union by granting enhanced pension benefits that the County of Ventura refused to give their own safety unions. Then in the spring of this year, the city agreed to similar benefits for the firefighter's union costing \$593,000 per year going forward. Finally, through various labor agreements, the city has agreed to let taxpayers pony up most of what union members would normally contribute towards their own pension. The free lunch.

How have these pension giveaways impacted the pension plan? From mid-2004 through mid-2007 the pensions for safety and non-safety had a combined average deficit of \$20.9 million. Two years later, the combined deficit ballooned to an unsustainable \$178.5 million! Some City officials will try to deflect blame by saying the stock market crash caused the deterioration of the pension plans. Don't expect them to comment about their own enthusiastic embrace of union officials in exchange for labor peace and reelection.

City officials have a fiduciary responsibility that extends beyond the 205 safety and 437 non-safety employees represented by various bargaining units. Simply cutting services for tax paying residents in favor of union demands is a wrong choice.

The pension problems apparent in the actuary's report are largely self-inflicted. City officials will be held accountable to solve them, or suffer the fall-out.

Foster parenting informational meeting

On Tuesday, January 18, 6 - 8 PM learn how you can become a partner in caring at a Foster Parenting Informational

Meeting. Over 600 children are currently in foster homes in Ventura County, and every day, another child is removed from their home because they have been neglected, abused or abandoned. Discover how the healing, support and guidance of a loving foster home can offer a local child a better tomorrow. You could be the answer to a child in crisis in your community. The meeting will be held at 855 Partridge Drive, Ventura. For more information call 654-3456 or go to www.vchsa.org/foster.

Ojai events

Continued from page 9

ploration of community, continuity and hope. The Washington Post called his concerts, "little feats of magic".

Advance tickets are \$22 and for adults and \$20 for seniors (65+ and students) and are available at the Ojai Coffee Roasting Company, by phone 646-8907 or online at www.ptgo.org. Tickets at the door will be \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors.

Fresh Roasted Concerts will also present Renaissance Do Wop on Sat. Jan. 22 at 7:30 pm at the Ojai Art Center. With great voices, comedy, and choreography, the group will take you back to a musical corner filled with spirit and joy.

Whether it's a soul stirring tribute to the legendary Sam Cooke, love songs for the ladies, Black History themed conscious music or a rousing Gospel celebration, their superb vocal skills shine through. This is a show not to be missed! Tickets in advance are \$18 for adults, and \$15 for students or seniors. Tickets are \$3 more at the door.

Meditation Mount Friday Dec 31 @11:30pm.

Welcome the New Year by meditating together for the greater good of the planet. Unite and align with the soul and source of all life and from that space set intentions for the coming year, inspired by the deepest wisdom.

Sparkling and hot cider served afterwards. Your generous donations are always greatly appreciated.

Free introduction to meditation with Diana Lang Sunday Jan 9th @ 11am-12:30pm.

You will learn the essence of meditation and how it can be a source of personal centering and healing in your daily lives. Diana brings a fresh perspective to this ancient wisdom, creating an uplifting environment to stretch to a new level of spiritual growth.

Your generous donations are appreciated. Meditation Mount, 10340 Reeves Rd. 646-5508 or www.meditationmount.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.



Potato-Bacon Cheese Soup

by Barbara Irvin
Ventura

- 2 c. potatoes, cubed and peeled
- 8 slices bacon or 1/2 c. jar bacon bits
- 1 c. onion chopped
- 1/2 c. chopped celery
- 1 3/4 c. milk
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup, not diluted as is
- S&P 1/2 t. each to taste
- 1 t. minced fresh parsley

Cook potatoes in water until tender. Cook bacon in microwave or oven remove and dry on paper towel, later crumble.

Sauté onion and celery and add to potatoes. Stir in milk, sour cream, soup, salt and pepper and mixed vegetables.

Cook over low heat 10 minutes until heated through. Blend with handheld mixer for 30 seconds. Crumble bacon and add along w/parley.

Serve with reserved crumbled bacon on top of each serving bowl.

Serve with artisan bread freshly sliced.



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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Show Time



Master sound engineer Jeff Cowan is the true treasure at Goldmine Recording Studio.

Two on the Aisle

There's a goldmine in Ventura

by Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

There's an actual goldmine in Ventura. For the past three decades its treasures have been discovered and mined by many - from Kenny Loggins and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy to Dr. Billy Graham, Shania Twain, The Judds, Sunkist and Dr. Pepper, to mention only a few from a very long roster of well-known names. It is the Goldmine Recording Studio.

The nugget at the center of the Goldmine operation is Ventura native Jeff Cowan, who has been helping artists, corporations, choirs and individuals sound their best since founding the studio in 1979. Artists travel from great distances to utilize his talents and facilities.

When you pass through Goldmine's nondescript entry door in an industrial area on Callens Road in Ventura you find yourself in an environment that exudes the same comfort, geniality and competence as sound guru Cowan himself. Services include recording and editing as well as intangible, yet invaluable, "extras" such as personal consultation and suggestions to enhance the performance.

Newer artists and bands working on their first CD will find Cowan to be a helpful mentor, as well as an accomplished audio artist. He can link up performers with additional musicians and instrumentation to flesh out a special sound or direct the novice to companies to assist in the manufacturing, replicating and packaging their new CDs, as well as re-mastering home recordings - and it is all very affordable.

The recording areas in most studios are surrounded by sterile forms of baffling to control and absorb unwanted sound. But the interior of the Goldmine Studio is a fantasy in black and tan warm wood tones, much like the interior of a fabled mine-shaft. It has walls covered with a mixture of black sound-absorbing material and floor-to-ceiling strips of various porous woods selectively placed to cushion or reflect audio waves, as necessary. Consequently, each of Goldmine's recording areas has a unique sound quality.

With 5,400 square feet of space, Goldmine can accommodate big choirs, full bands with large brass and instrument sections, or just an individual performer with an acoustic guitar. In addition to live recording and mixing, Cowan has a small studio dedicated to mastering or re-mastering recordings made at other locations.

Cowan's services are not boxed-in by the walls of the Goldmine Recording Studio. He also makes live, on-site recordings of concerts in a variety of venues, from churches and outdoor events to larger concerts in arenas, such as Nokia Center in L.A. and Flushing Meadows in New York.

As a sound engineer, Cowan makes sure

everyone at outdoor venues hosting crowds from 14 to 14,000+ can hear the speakers and performers. For 17 years he has provided sound engineering assistance for Dr. Billy Graham at sites and events around the world. In this capacity, he has been called to travel to distant lands such as Latvia and Estonia to work his audio magic.

Despite the big time flavor of his credentials, for Jeff Cowan everything comes back to the hometown. One of his biggest joys is helping local artists with their first recordings.

So, the next time you purchase a music CD, read the back to see where it was recorded or mixed. You might well see the name Goldmine Studios. You'll know that the magic happened right here in Ventura.

Music calendar 12/29 to 1/11

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

Andre's Wine Bar 1575 Spinnaker Dr. 805-642-9463

1/2 Sun: Teresa Russell 3-6pm

Blackbeard's Seaside BBQ 1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115 805-650-7773

Fri. 12/31: Ray Jay 9pm-1am
Sat. 1/1: Bar Stool Pigeons 6-10pm
Sun. 1/2: Blue Stew 2-6pm
Wed. 1/5: Karaoke every Wed
Thur. 1/6: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm
Fri. 1/7: Address Attic 6-10pm
Sun. 1/9: Blue Stew 2-6pm

Bombay's Bar & Grill 143 S. California St. 805-643-4404

Wed. 12/29: All Star Blues Night
Fri. 12/31: New Year's Eve Celebration - Live Band & DJ
Wed. 1/5: All Star Blues Night

Cafe Fiore 66 California St. 805-653-1266

Thur. 12/30: Coso Live
Fri. 12/31: New Year's Eve Celebration - Live Band & DJ
Sun. 1/2: Reggae Sundays
Sun. 1/9: Reggae Sundays

Charline's 546 Main St. 805-652-2255

Wed. 12/29: Smooth Sax with Del Franklin
Sun. 1/2: Sunday Funday Band
Tue. 1/4: Reggae Tuesdays
Wed. 1/5: Smooth Sax with Del Franklin
Sun. 1/9: Sunday Funday Band
Tue. 1/11: Reggae Tuesdays

GiGi's Cocktail Lounge 2493 Grand Ave. 805-642-2411

Fri 12/31: Agents of Kaos - Hip, edgy classic rock
Sun 1/2: Karaoke Sunday Nights with Steve Luke 7pm
Sat 1/8: Teresa Russell
Sun 1/9: Karaoke Sunday Nights with Steve Luke 7pm

It's All Good Bar & Grill 533 E. Main St. 805-641-9951

Wed. 12/29: Open Mike Night
Wed. 1/5: Open Mike Night

Majestic Theater 26 S. Chestnut St. 805-653-0118

Thur. 1/6: 40 oz to Freedom 8pm

Fri. 1/7: Paul Dianno (from Iron Maiden) 8pm

W2O Rooftop Lounge 598 E. Main St. 805-643-6800

Fri. 12/31: New Year's Eve Celebration - The Bomb & DJ Nick Dean

Zoey's Café 185 E. Santa Clara St. 805-652-1137

Wed. 12/29: The White Buffalo 8pm
Thur. 12/30: Beat BC in the VC Benefit Concert 6pm
Fri. 12/31: New Year's Eve Celebration - Brother Sal full band, Brian Wright
Sun. 1/2: The Danvilles, Vernabeware & The Nervous Wreckords 8pm
Mon. 1/3: Airborne Age 8pm
Tue. 1/4: Happens Again 8pm
Thur. 1/6: Kevin Bernstein 8pm
Fri. 1/7: Kinfolk 8pm
Tue. 1/11: Blue Grass Jam 6pm

Top 10 Pop Singles

This Week	Last Week
1. Katy Perry	No. 1
"Firework" (Capitol)	
2. Rihanna feat. Drake	No. 3
"What's My Name?" (SRP/Def Jam)	
3. Bruno Mars	No. 5
"Grenade" (Elektra)	
4. Pink	No. 2
"Raise Your Glass" (LaFace)	
5. Ke\$ha	No. 8
"We R Who We R" (Kemosabe)	
6. Rihanna	No. 6
"Only Girl (In the World)" (SRP/Def Jam)	
7. Bruno Mars	No. 7
"Just the Way You Are" (Elektra)	
8. The Black Eyed Peas	No. 4
"The Time (Dirty Bit)" (Interscope)	
9. Nelly	No. 9
"Just a Dream" (Derry)	
10. Trey Songz feat. Nick Minaj	No. 10
"Bottoms Up" (Songbook)	

Top 10 Albums

1. Susan Boyle	No. 1
"The Gift" (SYCO/Columbia)	
2. Taylor Swift	No. 2
"Speak Now" (Big Machine)	
3. Soundtrack	No. 4
"Glee: The Music, The Christmas Album" (20th Century Fox)	
4. T.I.	new entry
"No Mercy" (Grand Hustle/Atlantic)	
5. Jackie Evancho	No. 3
"O Holy Night" (SYCO/Columbia)	
6. Nicki Minaj	No. 8
"Pink Friday" (Young Money/Cash Money/Universal Motown)	
7. Josh Groban	No. 9
"Illuminations" (143/Reprise)	
8. Soundtrack	No. 5
"Glee, The Music: Season Two: Volume 4" (20th Century Fox TV/Columbia)	
9. Rihanna	No. 10
"Loud" (SRP/Def Jam)	
10. Daft Punk	new entry
"Tron: Legacy (Soundtrack)" (Walt Disney)	

Top 10 Hot Country Singles

1. Rascal Flatts	No. 1
"Why Wait" (Big Machine)	
2. Reba	No. 4
"Turn on the Radio" (Starstruck)	
3. Jason Aldean	No. 5
"My Kinda Party" (Broken Bow)	
4. Carrie Underwood	No. 7
"Mama's Song" (19)	
5. Tim McGraw	No. 8
"Felt Good On My Lips" (Curb)	
6. Zac Brown Band feat. Alan Jackson	No. 2
"As She's Walking Away" (Capitol Nashville)	
7. Kenny Chesney	No. 11
"Somewhere With You" (BNA)	
8. George Strait	No. 9
"The Breath You Take" (MCA Nashville)	
9. The Band Perry	No. 3
"If I Die Young" (Republic Nashville)	
10. Chris Young	No. 13
"Voices" (RCA)	

Internationally known stone masons group to return to Serra Cross Park

The Serra Cross Conservancy, which owns the Father Serra Cross and one acre of land surrounding it in Ventura's Grant Park, is once again welcoming the Stone Foundation, aka the Rockknockers, for a Dry Stone Walling Workshop and Symposium January 4-15.

Led by stonemasons from around the globe, the group will build an elegant wall leading to the site of the Father Serra Cross. Last year the group built a pair of stone ramparts flanking the stairway descending to the Cross.

The conservancy's little piece of the park is blessed with the best view in Ventura and home to a replica of the cross Father Junipero Serra himself erected in 1782 as a guidepost for travelers looking for the San Buenaventura Mission. Generations of Venturans have maintained this site, which was first privately owned and then donated to the City of Ventura for use as a park. The conservancy bought the property in 2003 to save the city from a costly lawsuit over separation-of-church-and-state issues involving the Cross.

While this portion of Grant Park will be closed to cars during the 10 days the stonemasons are working, the public will be invited to park a bit further away and walk in to observe the proceedings.

Dry stone walling is a technique practiced over thousands of years but which has become somewhat of a dying art, said Tomas Lipps, of Santa Fe, N.M., who is organizing the event for the stonemasons group. The group is donating its time on the new wall, as it did last year. Local sculptor Paul Lindhard of Art City is also involved in the project.

The sandstone for the project is being donated by Larry Mosler, who owns a quarry in Ojai.

Most of the walling workshop students will be young stonemasons, both male and female. Traveling to Ventura and staying here for the duration of the workshop will be financially challenging for them. Several plan to camp near the workshop site, others would benefit from guest housing. Offers of housing from the community will be appreciated as well as donations for food and drink for the workers.

Donations for incidental costs of the project will also be appreciated.

The group will also participate in the Third Lithic Games, contests of skill involving stone-related activities, and will create stone-balancing works of art at the local beach.

For more information on the group's activities go to <http://www.stonefoundation.org>

Breeze:

Council member Christy Weir has asked us to pass on the following request.

"The stoneworkers work all day at the site, and last year were very grateful for the free lunches that were provided for them each day. If you would like to donate lunch or snacks/drinks for about 25 workers on any of these days, please let me know. cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us"

The Lighter Breeze

Baby Blues



Arctic Circle



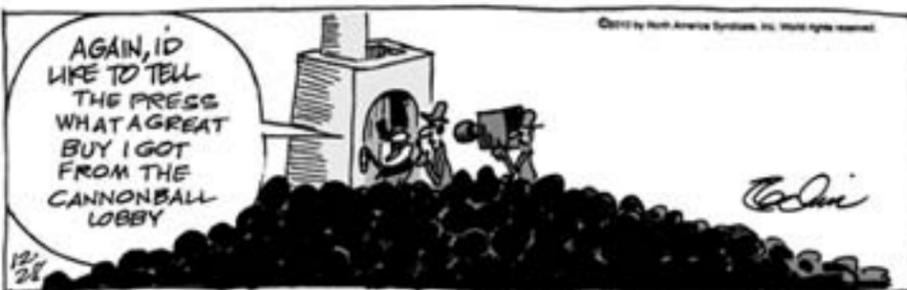
Zits



Hagar the Horrible



Crock



The Lockhorns



Grin and Bear It



Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pinza o' "South Pacific"
- 5 "Give — break!"
- 8 Dweeby type
- 12 "The View" co-host
- 14 Old Italian money
- 15 Source of great wealth
- 16 Press
- 17 Ben Jovi
- 18 Most recent
- 20 For a specific purpose
- 23 Platter
- 24 Nitwit
- 25 Tennessee city
- 28 Right angle
- 29 Funnyman Jerry
- 30 Medical term, familiarly
- 32 Compose in print
- 34 Medal earner
- 35 War
- 36 Substantia
- 37 Where originally located
- 40 Motorists' org.
- 41 Crucifix
- 42 Yukon event
- 47 African antique
- 48 Report-card sticker, maybe
- 49 Break suddenly
- 50 Computer file suffix
- 51 Danson et al.
- 7 "18 or older" provision
- 8 Shatu
- 9 Ireland
- 10 Greek Cup
- 11 Philosopher
- 13 University VIP
- 19 Poisonous snakes
- 20 Mr. Lincoln
- 21 Foolish one
- 22 Sacre
- 23 One of Donald Duck's nephews
- 25 Crazy, n. Yodish
- 26 Concept
- 27 Kind
- 29 For fear that
- 31 Coquettish
- 33 Settled a debt
- 34 "Citizen: Kane" inspiration
- 36 Anti-DUI org.
- 37 Annuys
- 38 Verb counterpart
- 39 Carbonated drink
- 40 "— Well That Ends Well"
- 43 "Alley!"
- 44 Multipurpose truck
- 45 Descendant
- 46 Day "tractors" (Abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 Early bird?
- 2 Managerie
- 3 Under the weather
- 4 Godfinger
- 5 Chicken chow —
- 6 Compass point suffix
- 7 "18 or older" provision
- 8 Shatu
- 9 Ireland
- 10 Greek Cup
- 11 Philosopher
- 13 University VIP
- 19 Poisonous snakes
- 20 Mr. Lincoln
- 21 Foolish one
- 22 Sacre
- 23 One of Donald Duck's nephews
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- 40 "— Well That Ends Well"
- 43 "Alley!"
- 44 Multipurpose truck
- 45 Descendant
- 46 Day "tractors" (Abbr.)

Solutions on page 15

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes so that each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: *



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A hectic period begins to wind down. Take time to draw some deep breaths and relax before getting into your next project. A long-absent family member makes contact.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're eager to move forward with a new challenge that suddenly dropped in your lap. But you'd be wise to take this one step at a time to allow new developments to come through.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're almost ready to make a commitment. A lingering doubt or two, however, should be resolved before you move ahead. An associate could provide important answers.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Caution is still the watchword as you move closer toward a decision about a new situation. If you act too fast, you might miss some vital warning signs. Go slowly and stay alert.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your new goal looks promising, and your golden touch does much to enhance its prospects for success. In your private life, Cupid does his best to make your new relationship special.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) That impatient side of yours is looking to goad you into moving before you're ready to take that big step. Stay calm and cool. Let things

fall into place before you act.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A legal matter you hoped could finally be settled could be a pesky problem for a while, until all the parties agree to stop disagreeing with each other. Be patient.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Partnerships — personal or professional — which began before the new year take on new importance. They also reveal some previously hidden risks. So be warned.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your associates are firmly on your side, and that persistent problem that has caused you to delay some activities should soon be resolved to your satisfaction.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Favorable changes continue to dominate, and you should be responding positively as they emerge. Someone wants to become more involved in what you're doing.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A friend wants to share a secret that could answer some questions you've wondered about for a long time. Meanwhile, travel aspects continue to be strong.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Stay on your new course despite so-called well-meaning efforts to discourage you. Rely on your deep sense of self-awareness to guide you to do what's right for you.

YOU BORN THIS WEEK: You have the capacity to meet challenges that others might find overwhelming, and turn them into successful ventures.

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Business



Fleur Lilly Boutique will be showing these clothes coming this summer

Business Profile: Fleur Lilly Boutique

by Mira Reverente

Always independent and career-oriented, Gina Esherick was a new mom with a new mission - a home-based business so she could stay home with her newborn daughter.

"I love fashion and dressing up so retail clothing was a natural progression for me," said the former legal administrator and owner of Fleur Lilly Boutique, an online children's clothing boutique based in Ventura County.

Background

As a new mom eight years ago, Esherick knew that she could not go back to the corporate world. She wanted to emulate her mom's hands-on parenting style.

Drawing on her background in bridal jewelry and gemology, Esherick "tested the waters" with friends. During her numerous travels, she made it a point to bring back children's Euro designer clothing.

"I got positive feedback so it was very encouraging to me," said the self-taught entrepreneur of her decision to launch the online children's boutique in 2009.

Luxurious but long-lasting

"My decision to go online of course was influenced by my desire to stay home with my daughter," explained Esherick who has two local warehouses for the over 500 styles of clothing that Fleur Lilly carries.

Two full-time employees hold the fort, taking care of stocking and shipping orders to out-of-state and international clients while Esherick takes responsibility for all the other aspects of the business.

"I would say that 90 percent of our customers are individuals," said Esherick. "The remaining 10 percent are re-sellers on eBay or other boutique owners," said Esherick.

There's a varied assortment of cloth-

ing and accessories for newborns up to 14-year-olds. "I get a lot of requests to carry certain brands but what I really look for are durability, quality and uniqueness," she explained.

Esherick does due diligence before the start of certain seasons by attending fashion shows to check on trends, patterns, colors and styles. "I also listen to my clients and I will adjust if certain brands or lines are not moving," she said.

With her boutique, Esherick tries to hit several segments of the market from mid to high-end, from stay-at-home to celebrity parents. "I have really sturdy and fashionable clothes for school, playing or painting," she stated.

Specialty market

According to Esherick, the recession seems to have minimal or no effect on the online shopping market. "Today, this order just came in for 71 pieces," Esherick proudly related.

"It's really a specialty market," she described her niche that will spring for pricey dresses for little girls. At \$170, Esherick described the most expensive item that the boutique carries: a celebrity-inspired party dress with intricate beading and rhinestones, with a matching faux fur hat.

She gets the word out through e-mail blasts and local advertising. To hit her online market better, she has also hired a search engine optimization (SEO) staff "just to ensure that Fleur Lilly is coming up near the top, if not on top of the list, for Google and other online searches."

Competitors abound. However, Esherick estimates only about seven high-end online boutiques like Fleur Lilly, a couple of which have retail stores.

Next stop: retail store

"Hopefully, by the spring of 2011 but I haven't found a location yet," Esherick said. "I'll start looking after the holidays."

For more information: Fleur Lilly Boutique, www.fleurlilly.com or 358.4900

Ventura Chamber is moving to Downtown!

by Sandra Burkhart

President and CEO Ventura Chamber of Commerce

Arriving as the new CEO of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce seven months ago, one of my early goals was

to reach out to important partner organizations and explore opportunities to leverage shared resources and find more ways to work together, especially during these challenging economic times. I am pleased to announce one such key partnership.

The Ventura Chamber and the City of Ventura have agreed to enter into a leasing agreement whereby, beginning January 1, 2011, the Chamber will lease approximately 2,000 square feet of office space from the City in the City Hall building cluster. This will result in reduced operational costs and streamlined systems for the Chamber and the potential to better collaborate with the City to foster investment in new and existing local businesses.

The Chamber, along with its Education Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, will take up residency adjacent to the City's Ventura Ventures Technology Center business Incubator. The Chamber will move its offices from its current location on Victoria Avenue to its new offices on the ground level at 505 Poli Street in downtown Ventura. The Chamber's closer proximity to City Hall will allow greater interaction between the business community and the City government's valuable business resources.

One of the key reasons the Chamber is making this move is because it's an advantageous way to further advance a pro-business climate in Ventura. In collaboration with the City of Ventura, the Chamber can better advocate for the business community—both by attracting new businesses to Ventura and by sustaining the growth of existing Ventura companies. There is also a tremendous cost savings for the Chamber, and in this economy attention to the bottom-line is both necessary and prudent. Beyond that, it will open up new doors for strengthening the Ventura business community.

This new leasing arrangement also will allow the public to have greater access to services offered through the Chamber, such as SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) and EDC-VC (Economic Development Collaborative Ventura County). The City is offering the Chamber a very fair leasing service contract, which in turn allows the Chamber to re-allocate its resources more effectively, which will greatly improve Chamber programs and offerings.

This collaboration also creates a fresh, one-stop-shop approach for new businesses. The Chamber can advise and support new businesses in their earliest stages, raising awareness of everything from municipal regulations and procedures to programs like the City's Ventura Ventures Technology Center business incubator for start-up technology companies.

Additionally, the Chamber is bringing back its annual State of the City event in February, co-sponsored by the City of Ventura. The Chamber will also be co-sponsoring the City's Business Summit in March, a free workshop designed to highlight important resources and services for the business community, many of which are free. These are just a few of the new offerings the City and Chamber will be collaborating on with this new partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sheeler Moving and Storage for assisting us with our move. We are in good hands as we transition to our new location.

The Chamber offices will be closed



On the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on Ventura County radio station 1400AM KKZZ, was Jodie York the guest of Breeze publisher Sheldon.

Jodie is the manager of RPM Cycles, who has been in the same location since 1987. They are located at 1495 Palma Dr. Unit B, at 644-7159. They are an independent motorcycle sales and service shop.

Jodie, and staff have a vast knowledge of motorcycle repair and driving so do stop in and speak with them, and Scamp wants you to know that they are "dog friendly".

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



the week of December 27th to accommodate our move. The offices will be re-opened for business on Monday, January 3 at 8AM. Happy holidays to everyone, and I look forward to seeing you at our new offices in downtown Ventura next year!



The new Yogurt Hut - truly a family business

Pierpont loves their yogurt

by Kimberly Castro

Thanks to a local frozen yogurt loving Pierpont family...Pierpont finally has its own little yogurt store called the Yogurt Hut. The store's official opening occurred on December 1 and the 200 free t-shirts that were given away, soon became the instant fashion statement at Pierpont Elementary School. Don't worry if you didn't get one, they will soon be offered for sale at the Yogurt Hut. Samantha and Keith Reput are the proud owners who themselves have

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Business

been Pierpont residents for the past five years. You can typically find either one of them working at the shop or one of their two daughters. In other words, it's truly a family business. Samantha's fondness for the light and tasty dessert is what prompted the couple to delve into the business. Also, the availability of a great location (corner of Pierpont and Seaward) to place their business made the dream a reality.

Before starting the business, Samantha and Keith visited tons of yogurt shops to find out what the best practices and offerings were needed to make the Yogurt Hut a unique experience. They also attended frozen yogurt conventions in order to secure the best equipment and the very best product. The Repults wanted the Yogurt Hut to be a gathering spot for families and friends to meet and feel welcomed while enjoying their delicious frozen yogurt treats. They are currently in the process of acquiring outside heaters to provide a comfortable environment when the temperatures dip in the evenings. The Repults want the store to be a reflection of the Pierpont lifestyle...easy going, welcoming and community oriented. They have already contributed to a local surf competition and continue to look for opportunities to support the local area.

The Yogurt Hut differentiates itself from the competition by truly making the needs of their customers a priority. They will be offering a daily selection of eight different flavors of yogurt. One of the flavors will always be gluten free and another flavor will always be sugar free, offering something for anyone who may be lactose intolerant or diabetic. They also will feature a selection of over 50 fresh toppings ranging from different flavors of candy to fresh fruit options. In addition, Samantha is also always looking for new interesting products to add to the toppings bar. Last but certainly not least, Samantha stressed to me that cleanliness is a priority at the store and they strive to always have this reflected both inside and outside the store. Fun, family, friends and frozen yogurt all in one place who could ask for more!

The Yogurt Hut, 1038 S Seaward Ave, 643-8808. Hours: Sun.-Thurs. 11am-9pm, Fri. & Sat. 11am-10pm. Email: yoguthut@aol.com They also can be found on Facebook and you can pick up a copy of the Ventura Breeze to enjoy with your yogurt

Don't wake me while I am sleeping

by Coach Ron Tunick

Go from Apathy to winning...if you wake up.

We all have been sleeping for a long time. Sleeping on the job...sleeping on our personal lives and sleeping on your watch while our country has lost its spirit. Maybe we all have lost a little spirit in our lives.

Apathy...that is what we have in our daily lives. This book...I hope might give you some spirit...some hope...maybe even a kick in the you know what. We need to all wake up. We are all tied together. Tied together in so many ways.

Apathy means a lack of caring...loss of enthusiasm.

Apathy can be cured like other horrible ills.

My first book, "The Thinking Room" is about the process of thinking differently to win in life. This book is about getting involved in your life, your community and our country.

If we do not wake up...there will be no more America as we come to know the greatest Country in the history of the world.

"In The Thinking Room" A New Book by "Coach" Ron Tunick (www.inthethinkingroom.com).

Everyone wants to know the path to success. In The Thinking Room, Coach Ron Tunick shares his personal path to success: thinking. His revolutionary ideas and practical advice offer the reader new insight for achieving goals.

"My book will give you the techniques. You provide the faith. Your life will change."

I will explain how The Thinking Room concept revolutionizes your very approach to life and business. Our thoughts are the most powerful tool we have to succeed in every area. Thinking is becoming more and more crucial. We have more competition. We have more government regulations. We have smarter, more informed customers. You must enter The Thinking Room.



Breeze bragging rights

2010 Ventura Photo Contest winners announced

Adult and youth winners of the seventh annual City sponsored 'Take a Shot!' digital photography contest have been announced and include Breeze publisher Sheldon Brown and Breeze contributing photographer John Ferritto.

"The 'Take a Shot!' digital photography contest received more than 100 online submissions this year capturing from many perspectives the diversity of people and cultures in our community as well as our city's stunning natural landscapes," said Department of Parks and Recreation Community Partnerships Manager Denise Sindelar.

View the winners and all entries online at www.cityofventura.net/photocontest or they are on display at City Hall.



John Ferritto



John Ferritto



Sheldon Brown

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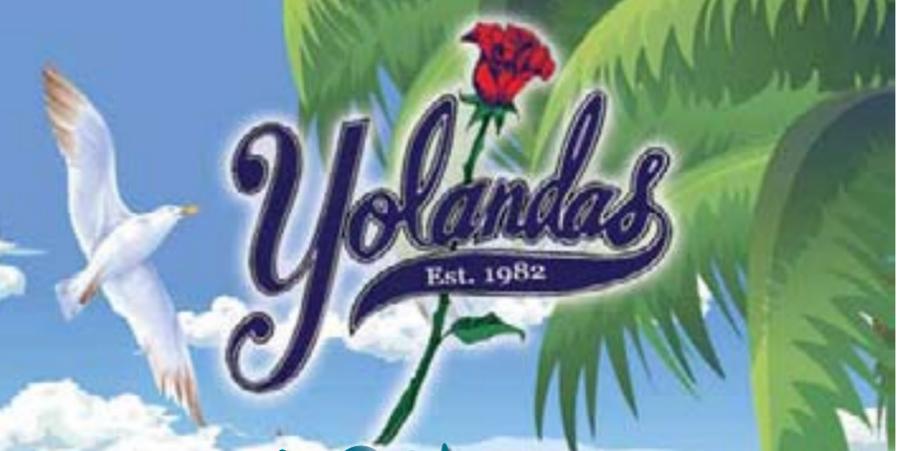
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