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FREE

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Tall ships docked at Ventura Harbor

The tall ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain are now docked at the Ventura Harbor. Walking tours and 3-hour sailings are available. There are also a variety of ship activates scheduled.

The Lady Washington, famous for her appearance in Pirate's of the Caribbean-The Curse of the Black Pearl, is a full-scale reproduction of the original ship built in the British Colony of Massachusetts in the 1750's. The Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain travel down the West Coast stopping in ports and harbors for historical and educational visits. These ships host over 15,000 school children a year.

Dockside tours are available for the Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekends and 4 to 5 p.m. weekdays. The suggested donations are $3 per person. The ships also offer three-

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Closed parking lot will add to the city's public parking problem

Archeologist searches downtown parking lot

by Sheli Ellsworth

A Minnesota-based underground research firm is using ground-penetrating radar to search a 20,000-square-foot downtown parking lot behind the former Top Hat Burger Palace at Palm and Main. Archeologist John Foster of the LA based archaeological firm Greenwood & Associates is not looking for the first cheeseburger in Ventura

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Ventura Music Festival art series will feature works by Ventura artists

Art in the Garden

Ventura Music Festival presents "Art in the Garden", its sixth annual exhibition featuring selected visual artists in a uniquely conceived and curated show. Inspiration for this fruitful partnership is a "garden" growing at the crossroads of music and fine art. This season, with assistance from the Museum of Ventura County, twelve creative spirits and the Ventura Music Festival have planted seeds of support.

For several seasons, art has been an integral component to the Ventura Music Festival, enhancing and supporting each season by promoting the visual essence of passion, romance, creativity, promise and song.

In past years, original art has been commissioned from local artists who created pieces to specifically support the festival theme. This year, 12 handcrafted art pieces have been included in support and celebration of the Ventura Music Festival's 17th Season, "Caravana Muzica".

This showing and participation of local artists from Ojai, Somis, Moorpark and Ventura solidifies the relationship between art and music in varying forms, each an expressive interpretation of passion.

> Twelve creative spirits and the Ventura Music Festival have planted seeds of support.

The Ventura Music Festival will host its Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction of Art in the Garden on April 2, 2011. Proceeds will benefit the Ventura Music Festival and assist its efforts of promoting Educational Outreach programs in Ventura County schools and youth organizations.

Ventura artists represented are JoAnne Duby, David Elder, Linda Elder, JohnGerletti, Suzi Perret and Chris Provenzano.

Terri Cheney, author of the bestselling book "Manic: A Memoir," will be the featured speaker at the 4th annual community building breakfast held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday, February 3, from 7:30-9:00 a.m.

Turning Point hosts annual community breakfast

by Tim Pompey

Turning Point Foundation will host its 4th annual community building breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Thursday, February 3 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. "The breakfast is intended to educate the public," says Fund Development Director Jane Lax. The breakfast will provide insight and testimony about recovery from mental illness. Clyde Reynolds, Turning Point's Executive Director, elaborates: "Many people are not aware of the fact that mental illness is treatable and that individuals are able to experience recovery."

The event will feature bestselling author Terri Cheney, whose book "Manic: A Memoir" appeared on the New York Times bestseller list. Cheney, who graduated with honors from Vassar College and attended UCLA School of Law, appeared to have a very successful life. But even while she served as an entertainment attorney in Beverly Hills for stars like Michael Jackson and Quincy Jones, Cheney struggled with wild mood swings brought on by her bipolar disorder. She kept her bipolar condition secret until

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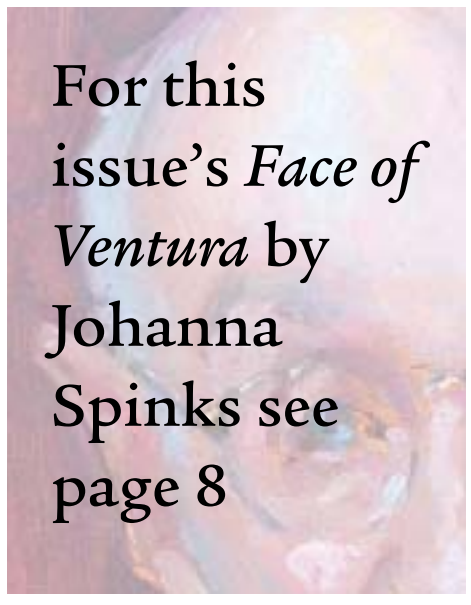

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Your Hometown Paper

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Opinion/Editorial

Sheldon Brown
Publisher

■ Just to remind you that the E.P. Foster Library is now open on Sundays from 1-5 pm. A wonderful opportunity for you to take your kids and thoroughly enjoy the "kid's" second floor (much bigger than Wright's was). And plenty of free parking in the rear of the library.

■ As previously reported the Ventura Chamber of Commerce office has moved to 505 Poli Street behind City Hall. Lots of parking available.

I think that this is a wonderful move to make the Chamber more accessible to both Venturans and visitors. A lot of people have always thought of the chamber as being rather stodgy but new young CEO Sandra is changing all that. See her article about the Young Professionals Group in this issue.

They welcome you to visit them to sit and relax and talk, to use their computers to go online, and to obtain information regarding Ventura and its businesses.

And if you haven't been in City Hall you should walk the halls of the two floors and enjoy the wonderful art gallery. You can also drop into the city council offices to perhaps speak with City Manager Rick Cole and leave messages for council members (both good and bad).

■ The other day I was downtown and saw a lady wearing torn, beat up looking clothes so I offered her money to go buy some nice clothes. She very indignantly explained to me that she was wearing "designer" clothes that were from Macy's and cost a lot of money, go figure.

So I went home and looked through my closet and discovered that I am very fashionable and have lots of expensive clothes.

My car is pretty beat up, I can only imagine what it must be worth.

I'm on a soapbox today:

■ I really resent it when I call a company and get the message "press one for English". English is our default language, what we speak here. So, why ask us, just assume we want to speak English. I'm okay (kind of) if it said "press one for some 'other' language".

■ Speaking on the Senate floor, Arizona Republican Senator John McCain, minutes before a crucial test vote

Ventura's float in the 1934 Rose Parade

on "don't ask don't tell", blamed elite liberals with no military experience for pushing their social agenda on troops during wartime.

What an insult to "elite liberals" who have fought and died defending his right to say that.

According to the Palm Center, a research institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara, at least 25 countries allow gays to serve openly in the armed forces, among them Britain, Canada and Israel. I guess that they must have a lot of "elite liberals".

■ The governor of Pakistan's most dominant province was shot and killed recently by a bodyguard who authorities said was angry about his opposition to blasphemy laws carrying the death sentence for insulting the Muslim faith.

Our citizens (and those from many other countries) are dying for these people (or perhaps just for oil) and I'm not sure that they should be.

■ The Rose Parade awards 24 trophies for "best of" in the parade in different categories. I understand that next year there will be a trophy called "The only float that didn't win a trophy award trophy" so that there aren't any losers.

There are now 33 football bowl games where there used to be only 4; so 66 teams go to bowl games, several of which have 6 and 6 records. They get rewarded with a bowl game for financial reasons, certainly not for a successful season.

Perhaps we are promoting and accepting mediocrity in our country so no one's feelings get hurt, and maybe that is not a good idea.

■ Ventura has been getting some really wonderful publicity lately (which we deserve).

Design Architecture Magazine (Vol. 4, Issue 9) "Catch the Working Artists Ventura" is about the WAV which just celebrated their first anniversary (see article in this issue)

Vegas Seven Magazine September 2010 "Adventure in Ventura" includes a full-color spread on our outdoor recreation options.

Desert Sun September 26, 2010 "Explore an Island of Adventure Called Ventura" details the many unique aspects of Ventura.

Mailbox

Breeze:

I first commend Sheldon and all other staff of the Breeze for continuing to put out a "high-class" edition every time. Keep up the excellent work!

Regarding the Ventura Walmart issue since it appears that nothing is progressing with this proposed site (again), I propose that the site be used as a homeless shelter. The building already has space for cots or sleeping bags, restrooms, and would need only to have showers put in. The location is handy, as evidenced by the various individuals with "signs" requesting money.

Yes, the downtown area also needs a shelter. Perhaps if it would be decided that 100% of the revenue from the parking stations were to go for funding of a downtown homeless shelter people would be more receptive. Another helpful hint would be to remove these parking stations, and replace them with parking meters—the kind that take coins only.

Ventura is very "good" to its Senior Citizens---how much greater this city could be if the many "homeless" here could find space in various locations.

Respectfully,
David Hugins Ventura
David

See Rick Cole's letter following yours regarding this subject.

Even though this is a fine idea most retail spaces (assuming the zoning is correct for shelters) are owned by individuals (or large companies) and there is not a profit incentive to use them for this purpose.

And there would be much opposition from other businesses in the area.

Also the parking stations were approved specifically so that the money is to be used to maintain Downtown Ventura so couldn't be used for this purpose.

Breeze:

Your last issue has a great round-up of events and milestones this year. One error, however. The City Council did not vote 6-1 to "relegate" homeless shelters to industrial areas. It voted 6-1 to allow them "by right" (that is, without the need for a "conditional use permit") in industrial zones. They would be allowed in the commercial parts of the city, but to open they would need to go through a public process to obtain a "conditional use permit." The Council also strongly supported working with community groups to support such a year- round shelter. Currently, there is a "cold weather shelter" that operates generally December through March, at either the Ventura or Oxnard National Guard Armory.

Rick Cole
City Manager, City of Ventura

Breeze:

All of us at the Dudley House Museum extend our wishes for a very happy New Year to all of you at the BREEZE as well as our thanks for your help in making our 17th Victorian Holiday Boutique a resounding success! Your great little paper's support for nonprofits is a tremendous asset to Ventura. Thank you very much!

Lynn Weitzel and Jan Hunter for the Dudley House

Scamp:

What a great article about Hugh! (And very kind of you to mention the Friends of the Library bookstore)

I have the article taped on the bookstore door- I will scan and blow it up for a better display.

Thanks so much-everyone I have talked to truly enjoy reading the "Breeze". You've got a WINNER in this paper!

Jean Nickel
(known as Hugh's best friend)

P.S.

Hugh is on a diet as well - that's why the food bowl is rattling around the kitchen by 5 pm at the latest!!!

He gets diced cooked carrots in addition to his "cut backed rations" which is to fill him up w/fiber and not calories!

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.

The injuries we do and those we suffer are seldom weighed in the same scales.

–Aesop

City News

Beach project will create a new multi-use bike path and beach restoration

Strict environmental regulations will be used to solve erosion problems

The City of Ventura and the Ventura Fairgrounds are moving ahead with a project to protect an area of Ventura's coastline.

Using a "managed retreat" approach, a buried cobblestone berm will be installed near the Ventura River mouth. This approach will mimic what occurs naturally where the river spills out to the ocean. Over 26,000 tons of imported cobblestone will be buried along the ocean's edge, and then will be covered with 18,000 tons of new sand.

The project ultimately will provide beach restoration to protect our coastline from erosion and add more beachfront for recreational uses. It will create a new multi-use bike path with lighting and also create a new storm water filtration system including a grass bioswale to treat runoff and prevent pollutants from reaching the Ventura River Estuary and ocean.

During phase one of the construction, about half of the existing damaged parking lot on Shoreline Drive will be removed and the materials recycled for use in the rebuilding project. The stretch of beach along this area will be widened by 60 feet and a new cul-de-sac on Shoreline Drive will be constructed 1,000 feet east of the current turnaround. The multi-use bike path will be relocated inland along the beachfront adjacent to the new parking area that will be constructed just north of the existing one.

During construction beachgoers will have access to the shore and bike path. Ample parking will be available at the remaining portion of the existing parking area along the beachfront, and paid parking at the Derby Club/Ventura County Fairgrounds parking area; 20 minute "surf-check" parking will be added along the south side of Shoreline Drive.

The city and the fairgrounds have partnered with the California Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, the State Coastal Commission and Surfriders Foundation to plan for adherence to strict environmental regulations needed to solve the erosion problems along our coast. The creative and collaborative solutions achieved have provided an environmentally sensitive and innovative approach to restore and protect the beach and preserve public access.

Construction is slated to be completed in May, 2011. Crews from C.A. Rasmussen construction company will be on site Monday through Friday from 7 AM until 5 PM. For more information call Larry Jenkins at 658-4758.

Have fun cleaning up our parks

Volunteers are invited to join the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy (VHC), in partnership with the City's Volunteer Ventura! Program, for an afternoon of fun as you clean up the park trails and play areas at Arroyo Verde Park.

The VHC will supply gloves, bags and litter pickup tools. Look for the VHC table set up near the first parking lot. Community service hours are available to students and groups.

The cleanup event is scheduled from 2p.m. - 4p.m on Sunday, January 16 and Monday, January 17.

The Mission of the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy is to "preserve the hillsides, canyons, and open space that contribute to the unique character and natural environment of the City of San Buenaventura and the surrounding region for the benefit of present and future generations."

Safe Housing Collaborative Public Workshop

The public is invited to attend the final Safe Housing Collaborative Public Workshop on Saturday, January 15 from noon – 2pm at the Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Avenue.

Safe housing policy and program ideas will be shared and prioritized before the recommendations are made to the City Council on February 28. For more information call 654-7837 or contact Andrew Stuffler at astuffler@cityofventura.net.

Street Fair applications available soon

Artists, crafters and non-profit organizations: Ventura's popular 4th of July Street Fair will have applications available on January 18!

Those interested in applying for the 4th of July Street Fair should visit the city website, www.cityofventura.net/streetfairs and download the appropriate application. Guidelines are available on the website that give instructions on what is to be submitted and deadlines.

The 4th of July Street Fair is a juried show. Jury panel are artist and crafters that have experience in participating in numerous art shows and craft shows. Peers judge applicants and follow the criteria listed in the guidelines.

The 4th of July Street Fair draws over 30,000 people to Downtown Ventura for the one-day show. The street fair runs down Main Street from Fir as the east border to Ventura Ave as the west border. Side streets, Chestnut, California and Oak streets are also lined with vendor spaces. The street fair also has 3 stages of entertainment and offers a free shuttle bus from the Ventura County Government Center to the Street Fair. All is free to attend.

Musicians or Community Groups that are interested in being considered for one of the 3 stages are to mail a press kit with a demo CD to the Street Fair office by March 1. All entertainment will be finalized by March 31.

The Ventura 4th of July Street Fair is the only street fair held in the city of Ventura that is organized by the city Community Partnership office, formally Cultural Affairs. For further details visit the website or contact Michelle Godoy, 654-7749.

The E.P. Foster Library now is open on Sundays. The hours are from 1-5pm. This has become necessary because of the increased usage of the library facilities partially due to the closing of Wright Library.

News and Notes

PRC members and their guests attending the luncheon to support the efforts to raise funds for Casa Pacifica

Event held to support Casa Pacifica

On December 9, at the Crowne Plaza the Annual Holiday Luncheon, Boutique & Fashion Show - Fundraiser benefiting Casa Pacifica was held.

The luncheon, launched by the Pierpont Racquet Club (PRC) raised about $2,300 for the charity, mostly through raffle ticket sales and donations.

PRC members organize the luncheon, host it and donate the money on behalf of it's members.

Casa Pacifica opened its doors to abused, neglected and severely emotionally disturbed children in the summer of 1994. In 1996 the non-public school opened its doors to day students. In 1998 the "day school" program was expanded to incorporate an after-school component, in-home services, and family interventions including a parent support group.

Today, Casa Pacifica's programs and services continue to expand. Children in the residential treatment program are placed by several Southern California counties, day students come from school districts throughout Ventura County.

Dallas Woodburne's dream would be to make a career as a short-story writer and novelist

An interview with the incredibly talented Dallas Woodburne

by Nanci Cone

Tell me what you've been doing with yourself since you graduated with your B.A

My big project since I graduated has been starting a youth publishing company, Write On! Books (www.writeonbooks.org.) The first anthology, Dancing With The Pen, is due for release in early 2011. It features short stories, essays and poetry by more than 60 young writers in middle school and high school, from across the U.S. and even abroad.

This past August, I moved to Lafayette, Indiana to begin grad school at Purdue University -- I'm getting my Master's degree in Fiction Writing. In addition to taking classes myself, I also teach Freshman Composition and work as an Editorial Assistant of Purdue's literary magazine, Sycamore Review.

What do you plan to do once you finish this degree?

My dream would be to make a career as a short-story writer and novelist, and also to teach Creative Writing at a university.

I understand you've been winning some awards - tell me about them.

Thank you! My short story "DING!" was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize and the Dzanc Books "Best of the Web" anthology. I also won first place in the Southern Illinois Writers Guild short story contest.

I know you have a piece in the latest Chicken Soup for the Soul book - can you give our readers a synopsis of it?

I actually have pieces in two recently released Chicken Soup books. My story "Each Day a Masterpiece" appears in Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive and was inspired by one of my favorite John Wooden quotes: "Make each day your masterpiece." It is about how sometimes not getting what you want turns out for the best, as long as you have a positive attitude. My story "The Best Gift of All" is featured in Chicken Soup for the Soul: Christmas Magic and is about how I started my Holiday Book Drive to collect new books for underprivileged children. Book books are available on Amazon and at bookstores, and Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive was recently featured on Good Morning America.

Are you still working with your nonprofit organization, "Write On!" and will you be involved in the camp again this year?

Yes, I am! Write On's Holiday Book Drive was a great success this year and in total we have donated nearly 12,000 new books to disadvantaged youth across the nation. I am planning to hold a Summer Writing Camp again this year. The goal of the camp is to improve kids' writing skills and encourage them to have FUN through writing.

What advice can you offer to people that have always wanted to write but didn't know where to begin?

Start small. Even fifteen or twenty minutes of writing each day adds up! Don't censor yourself -- write what feels true to you. I love this quote by novelist Elizabeth Berg: "First, please yourself." Write what you enjoy writing and what you would like to read.

Any final comments?

Readers can visit my blog, http://dallaswoodburn.blogspot.com/ and my website, http://www.writeonbooks.org. I also send out a free monthly e-newsletter. To sign up, email me at dallaswoodburn@aol.com.

Environmental Defense Center hired for Canada Larga campaign

As part of a campaign to preserve the Canada Larga Valley, the Ventura Citizens for Hillside Preservation (VCHP) have hired the Environmental Defense Center to submit comments for a pending environmental study. The City of Ventura is considering a plan to annex 800 acres of the remote valley for the construction of executive homes. The City Council voted in October to include the canyon areas as part of the Westside Community Plan -- against the objection of public speakers who expressed a range of concerns about the environment, fiscal issues, and the hazards of developing the narrow valley.

The Environmental Defense Center (EDC) will assist the all-volunteer VCHP to identify key issues that should be addressed in the environmental impact report. VCHP is seeking donations to support the campaign and is appreciative of a recent generous contribution from Patagonia. Donations may be sent to: VCHP, P.O. Box 1575, Ventura, 93002. The group is also seeking volunteers to assist with Power Point, outreach, fundraising, environmental analysis, and event planning.

"The meadows, canyons, and creek in Canada Larga are valuable habitat for a diverse array of wildlife," said Diane Underhill, President of VCHP. "More than 140 bird species, including the endangered Least Bell's Vireo, have been seen in the valley."

Transferring Canada Larga from the County to the City will require the City to take responsibility for firefighting, police protection, and other service costs. By annexing the undeveloped Canada Larga Valley into the City, the landowner can sidestep a SOAR vote by citizens.

The Environmental Defense Center, a non-profit law firm, protects and enhances the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action and works primarily within Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. Learn more about EDC at www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org.

Highway death

Thirty-three year-old Ventura resident Gary Williams was recently killed in a car accident on the northbound 101 freeway in Ventura.

According to the California Highway Patrol, the vehicle Williams was driving slipped from his control, veering right from the middle lane on the freeway and flipping off the road after it hit an asphalt berm.

The SUV landed in an embankment at least 50 feet below the freeway he had been traveling. No other vehicles were involved.

Firefighters who arrived within minutes of the crash that afternoon pronounced Williams, then an unidentified victim, dead at the scene.

An autopsy revealed positional asphyxia to be the cause of death. This means that Williams ended up in a position preventative of sufficient breathing, coroners explained.

Williams had been wearing a seat belt and his car was found upside-down amid ice plants near an onramp for Highway 126.

California Highway Patrol investigators examined the scene. They temporality closed the onramp nearest the crash, which was reported at 3:36 p.m. Tire marks were found on the nearby asphalt berm.

Armando Chavez, a senior deputy Ventura County medical examiner, reported identification of the victim. Contact CHP if able to give any information regarding the crash.

On January 17 we celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the main leaders of the American civil rights movement. A Baptist minister by training, King became a civil rights activist early in his career, leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott. His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, raising public consciousness of the civil rights movement and establishing King as one of the greatest orators in American history.

In 1964, he became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a United States federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around the time of King's birthday, January 15.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter in 1977. Martin Luther King Day was established as a national holiday in the United States in 1986. In 2004, King was posthumously awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.

A national hero and a civil-rights figure King summoned together a number of black leaders in 1957 and laid the groundwork for the organization now known as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). King was elected its president, and he soon began helping other communities organize their own protests against discrimination.

Time magazine designated him as its Person of the Year for 1963.

News and Notes

Outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals recognized

14th annual Poinsettia Awards

by Barbara Hinton

Holiday spirit was on display at the Ventura Chamber's Poinsettia Awards Luncheon held on December 14th at the Marriott Beach Hotel. The annual event recognizes the outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals who make a difference in our community.

One presenter, Judy Diaz of TWIW Insurance Services, told the crowd that she "appreciated everyone coming out to celebrate the best we have in Ventura."

Mark Hartley, owner of Watermark Restaurant and W2O Lounge, was the recipient of the Philanthropist Award. He noted in his remarks that many of those honored at the event really support the community. Steve Yapp, owner of three PODS franchises, is one of those who believes it is important to give back. His company, which was selected as the Mid-sized Business of the Year, supports dozens of nonprofit and charitable organizations. He said the award was "the best Christmas present we'll receive this year."

The Small Business of the Year award went to Fastsigns Ventura owned by Saurabh and Madhu Bajaj. Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel was named 2010 Large Business of the year and also earned recognition from the city for its dedication to the environment with an Environmental Service Award. The hotel is dedicated to saving water and energy, recycling and reducing solid waste.

AWS Automotive, owned by Larry and Laurie Ehrhardt, also received the Environmental Service Award. The company not only strives to offer excellent service to their customers, but also is committed to the environment. They teach customers how good car maintenance can have an environmental impact. The level of their dedication is demonstrated by the fact that they have a link on their website that describes their green practices.

The Hometown Hero award went to Jim Duran, executive director of Cypress Place Senior Living. Duran is known to be a man with a passion for Ventura. He sits on the boards of several different organizations, coaches football, assists at the Rescue Mission and serves as a pastor at The River Community Church among other things.

City Staff Person of the Year Teresa Huber, who works for the Police Department, was touched by the recognition, and insisted that others worked just as hard as she does. The Ventura Police Department chose Corporal Alfonso Gomez as Police Officer of the Year. The firefighters selected Captain Jason Kay as Firefighter of the Year.

The Ventura Police Activities League was this year's Non-Profit/Service Organization.

The Ventura Unified School District also honored their finest, with the Educator of the Year award going to Amanda Lynch of De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts. Hannah Maryanski, of Ventura High School, was named Female Student of the Year and Sam O'Donnell of Foothill Technology High School earned the Male Student of the year honor.

The Jewel Key Award was given to the Museum of Ventura County this year. This award is presented to a business within the city of Ventura that has made major, recognizable exterior improvements or redesign or remodeling changes to its facility within the past year.

Finally, the Chamber honored Stephen Joyce as their Ambassador of the Year. Andi Malone received the Shining Star award and Diane Myers was named the Volunteer of the Year.

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.

Congratulations on 65 years!

On Sunday, January 9th, Richard and Wilma Whitacre celebrated 65 years of marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitacre met just over 66 years ago through family members.

"The family stays together we vowed before God," said 87-year-old Richard. "We vowed through better, for worse, until death do us part. I have never fell out of love with Wilma."

Wilma said, "His family has loved me from the very start. His mom, Alice, took me in as her own daughter from the very first day. My parents passed when I was very young, and I moved around a little, from my family members. Times were really hard in the 1940s."

They met through a "family affair" after two of Wilma's brothers married two of Richard's sisters. Richard was in the U.S. Navy at the time. Ruth, the older sister, showed Wilma Richard's picture in his Navy uniform, and asked her to write him. She did, and just over a year later they said "I do".

Mr. and Mrs. Whitacre live in Oak View with their daughter Brenda, and her husband Eutimio Diaz. Eutimio had a guest house built on their property for his in-laws to reside. The Diazes have a ten-year-old foster child, Jasine.

Richard was a salesman, and a pastor. Both of the Whitacres are enjoying the retired life.

The Whitacres have a son, Gary, of Ventura. Gary said, "Brenda and I were raised by two perfect people.... We were raised by a firm but loving husband and wife team. They have been there for the hard times Brenda and I have gone through. We now get to do what we can do for them. It comes from the love they gave us. They aren't only my parents, but my close friends. I'm honored."

Brenda added, "Dad and Mom sacrificed for us as we grew up. Dad usually said 'No' first, but Mom helped balance the rulings. We got our needs, not always our wants. Mom taught me by her example on how to be a mommy to a daughter, and I hopefully am passing that on to our daughter, Jasine."

DA investigator still in hospital, details remain slim

Specifics surrounding a local Ventura County District Attorney's Office investigator who apparently shot himself on accident remained scarce as the officer continued to receive critical care at Ventura County Medical Hospital through New Year's weekend. According to officials, the officer has been improving since he shot himself on December 29.

Little is known about how the officer may have accidentally discharged his weapon. According to an initial police investigation the officer may have shot himself in or near a car parked outside an office building where district attorney investigators work.

The incident took place on the 600 block of County Square Drive. The officer was by himself, no one else has been implicated in the shooting. The shot was fired shortly before 1 p.m.

Privacy regulations have kept the DA investigator's identity from the public, with officials citing the possibility of jeopardizing the investigation. California Public Records Act allows the disclosure of the names of victims of the majority of police investigated incidents. However, victim's names can be held if it would endanger the successful completion of the investigation, the safety of a witness or other person involved or a related investigation.

Officials declined to elaborate why the DA investigator's name was being withheld and stated only that he had not been interviewed by police yet.

Harrison to maintain trash collection schedule

Harrison Industries will maintain its regular trash and recycling or green waste collection schedule during the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 17-23.

Harrison Industries serves the cities and surrounding unincorporated areas of Ventura, Ojai, Camarillo as well as the unincorporated areas of El Rio and Channel Islands beach communities as E.J. Harrison and Sons; Fillmore, Santa Paula and surrounding unincorporated areas as Santa Clara Valley Disposal; and Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park and surrounding unincorporated areas as Newbury Disposal.

For more information, call 647-1414.

Vreeland College of The Healing Arts

by Dr. Bunny Vreeland

Are you a therapist, practitioner or other medical professional?

Are you a professional whose product or services support the healing arts?

Are you interested in adding new clients to your existing practice?

If this sounds like you, join our free Referral Directory and get the word out!

The Vreeland College of The Healing Arts has opened in Camarillo, CA. It will be the only college in Ventura County that can certify therapists, practitioners and other medical professionals seeking to add hypnotherapy, or other healing arts, to their existing practice.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be included, please e-mail me at Bunny@BunnyVreeland.com and put "Referral Directory" in the subject line.

Rev. Ron Threatt and Emily Thiroux were married at the Candlelight Kitchen and Bar in Ventura on January 1 to make it a happy new year.

Ventura residents, Rev. Threatt does medical consulting, and Mrs. Threatt writes for the Ventura Breeze and manages The Heart of the Artist website.

News and Notes

The WĀV, located at the corner of Thompson Boulevard and Ventura Avenue, is celebrating its one year anniversary.

The WĀV: After a year, what's worked, what hasn't

by Tim Pompey

The WĀV is celebrating its first anniversary in downtown Ventura. The Breeze thought it would be interesting to talk with some current residents as well as those who have been instrumental in its development to see how things are progressing.

Built as a partnership between the Minneapolis nonprofit PLACE, the City of Ventura, and The John Stewart Company, both the WĀV and SHORE were meant to bring together working artists and low-income residents into a single affordable housing community.

Chris Velasco, President and Executive Director of PLACE, thinks the social experiment is working. "For me," he says, "the most successful thing about the WĀV has been the community. The bonds that have been formed among the community members are strong." Jack Gardner, President and CEO at the John Stewart Company, calls the WĀV a "vibrant artists' community which also provides housing for 15 formerly homeless households."

As an artistic experiment, the combined visions of WĀV's 77 resident artists and their families has found momentum. "There is a synergy," says one WĀV resident (referred to hereafter as R1), "that's beyond other areas in the Ventura arts community." The combination of artists and low-income families living together and supporting each other has created a unique support system. As R1 comments: "I do not see SHORE as a separate entity. We are all one. There's acceptance on both parts."

In terms of providing artists with affordable housing, WĀV has served its purpose. As another WĀV resident (referred to hereafter as R2) notes: "I would never have been able to afford this amount of space to live in. It's built for people to create and to be affordable."

Initially, there was some tension among artists, something R2 describes as a "power struggle," particularly over the availability and usage of what's known as the Theater Gallery. "There's been a few uncomfortable conflicts having so many different personalities in the same living quarters," says R1. But even that's been smoothed over. "It's worked out," says R2, "that, a year later, lots of things happen here without formal planning. Those of like mind gather and create spontaneously."

> Perhaps it's the challenge of living out this experiment that makes the community what it is today. As R2 says: "We care deeply about our vision and have not let our inadequacies get in the way of our devotion to it and to each other."

Of course, WĀV has had to deal with a few challenges. One of them concerns smoking. Since WĀV is a LEED certified building, smoking on the premises is not allowed. This has proved to be difficult for some residents. "We have experienced problems with community members and guests not complying with the requirement," says Velasco.

Another challenge involves the support and expansion of the Theater Gallery. "We simply do not have the resources to develop the performance and exhibit space," says R2. "That means no proper seating, no proper lighting."

Some artists thought there would be a budget for programming. This has not proved to be the case. As R2 comments: "It was hoped that when the dedication took place in April, we would receive some kind of funding to make the Theater Gallery function in a more sophisticated manner."

R1, however, acknowledged the effort of Velasco and others to support WĀV artists. "PLACE has put their best effort forward to see the WĀV artistic community develop."

The most glaring problem with WĀV has been sales. While all the rental units are occupied, none of the condominiums or retail spaces have sold. Gardner blames this on the economy. "The collapse of the global financial markets," he says, "and the decline in housing prices across the country have taken their toll on the WĀV condominiums."

Consequently, the John Stewart Company recently announced that the condos will be for rent "for the next 3-5 years until the condo market improves." Gardner also states that "the retail spaces are primarily being marketed as rental rather than for sale, with an emphasis on art-oriented uses." And Velasco adds: "We expect to expand the community, by renting more units to artists and commercial spaces to arts-friendly businesses, like coffee houses, galleries, and wine bar/jazz clubs."

Of course, this assumes that everyone involved can live and grow with the most perplexing problem at the WĀV—the noise. Located directly next to Highway 101, it's hard for WĀV residents and visitors to avoid this distraction, whether listening to an outdoor concert or having a conversation with the windows open. As R2 states: "The freeway is a major faux pas. It's the WĀV's Achilles heel."

The WĀV has become one of the more complex social experiments in Ventura. Perhaps it's the challenge of living out this experiment that makes the community what it is today. As R2 says: "We care deeply about our vision and have not let our inadequacies get in the way of our devotion to it and to each other."

So, noise be damned, the rental units remain full. What comes next is anyone's guess, but, like a good television series, it's the reason we all tune in. Every day at the WĀV just adds more detail to the story.

Stone masons from around the world are constructing a "retaining wall" at Grant Park under the watchful eyes of Tomas Lipps and Christy Weir.

The Return of The Rocknockers

Tomas Lipps, of New Mexico and the "The Stone Foundation" is the promoter, organizer and director of the mortarless wall construction taking place at Grant Park. The title, "The Stone Foundation" is an irresistible pun, being used to identify the group of friends and fellow stonemasons who comprised the team of instructors that started the "The Stone Foundation" in New Mexico. He has been a stone mason for 40 years.

The Stone Foundation's annual gatherings have moved around the calendar and around the world. Last year for the first time it took place in the winter, in Ventura.

This year's Dry Stone Walling Workshop (as it is called) is taking place once again on another project in Ventura. Lipps commented "The building and balancing that went on there last year was fun for us and a source of interest to the townsfolk and visitors in Ventura. So we decided to return"

Christy Weir Chair, Serra Cross Conservancy and City Council member stated that "A year ago, 14th generation stonemasons from Japan traveled to Ventura to build massive stone ramparts at the Grant Park Cross. They spoke no English, but were fluent in the language of stone, using traditional tools and the 'gravity' walling method that has evolved over centuries. Dozens of other stoneworkers from around the world came to learn from them over ten days in January, and the result was a monumental stone structure that can be seen from miles around and will remain stable for hundreds of years. Mortarless wall construction is the technique best suited for terrain subject to seismic shock, as Japan and California both are."

The international Legacy Wall is being built adjacent to last year's project and will act as a retaining wall for much needed additional parking and will create a lovely picnic area below with a magnificent view of Ventura and the ocean.

The project was facilitated by the Serra Cross Conservancy, which owns the land, and Paul Lindhard, owner of Art City.

Using 2 tons of our beautiful Ventura Blue sandstone from Larry Mosler's stone quarry in Ojai stonemasons from a variety of countries will teach the ancient craft of dry stone walling instructed by master stonemasons from England, Ireland, Canada and Spain.

The public is invited to observe, from a safe distance, these masters at work. Close observation of the wall will show four different stone laying techniques as taught by the masters from the 4 countries.

Ventura's downtown Anacapa Brewery was so inspired by these incredible masons that they have created a new beer called ""Rocknockers Ale".

For more information on the stone work at Grant Park go to www.serracrossconservancy.com or www.stonefoundation.org.

The Ventura Breeze Presents

The Face Of Ventura

Howard Boroughs

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Former biochemist, Howard Boroughs, came to Ventura in 1979 with his beloved wife Evelyn and their canine companion, Daisy. Thanks to their generosity, we have The Evelyn and Howard Boroughs Library at Ventura College and the dog park at Camino Real Park that allows canines and their human companions to romp unleashed. Because of their love of dogs, Evelyn and Howard also created an endowment for those in Ventura who breed Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Additionally, Howard, a major contributor to the Ventura Music Festival, sponsored the Rising Stars program and is a cornerstone sponsor for The Rubicon Theatre. Having sat on both the Board and Advisory Board of CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly, each year Howard has donated scholarships that are given to outstanding student volunteers. And, when Phase Two of the Museum of Ventura County is finished, the large gallery will be renamed the Evelyn and Howard Boroughs Great Hall thanks to his help and participation in making this a reality for Ventura.

Behind the Museum will be the Evelyn and Howard Boroughs Children's Garden with a 4 foot bronze turtle for the children to play on that Howard commissioned and can currently be seen inside the Museum. True to Howard's artful view of life, the four-foot bronze turtle envisions his idea for a creation myth - three children, each representing a human virtue, crawl out from the carapace of the turtle and come into being. I'm a very fortunate man, I've traveled and learned, I've lived in exotic places from Hawaii, to Costa Rica, to Paris, and now and for many years Ventura has been my home where I am very happy and content. I believe in giving back to my community. Most important, I had the good fortune to spend 66 years married to the woman of my dreams and share our love of people and cultures, art, life-long learning, and literature.

What do you like most about Ventura?

We had family living in the Valley and wanted to be close to them, but as travelers of the world we still wanted to be near the ocean in a setting more befitting our "eclectic nature." Ventura seemed (and turned out to be) the ideal place to settle. We quickly grew to love our new home and became active in the community. Also, I find that in Ventura there is more interest in the arts.

> Sitting in the presence of an artist like Johanna allows you to bask in her creative aura. It was very special.

How was the experience of having your portrait painted by Johanna?

I thought it was a remarkable experience to be painted by Johanna and I was enormously impressed with her talent. We got along very well and we seemed to be on the same page with a lot of subjects such as music, world travel and philosophy. Sitting in the presence of an artist like Johanna allows you to bask in her creative aura. It was very special.

Nanci Cone

Portrait artist Johanna Spinks is partnering with the Ventura Breeze to take on a new challenge and paint a portrait of the Face Of Ventura to be in 52 issues of the Breeze. Johanna's studio is located in the Bell Arts Factory and we welcome your suggestions of whom she shall paint.

Captain Bill Finley
December 29, 2010

Community Events

The 2011 Ventura Film screenings will be at the Museum of Ventura County

Ventura Film Society kicks off 2011 season at the Ventura County Museum

The Ventura Film Society will launch its 2011 VFS @ the Museum screening series on Tuesday, February 1st at the Museum of Ventura County, at 100 E. Main Street, Downtown Ventura. The museum's Martin and Martha Smith Pavilion will seat up to 300 people for the film events. The 21 film series runs at 7pm on the first and third Tuesday of every month through December 6, 2011.

Free regular and handicapped public parking is available. The museum will be using the side entrance off the parking lot, also handicapped equipped, for the film series. Recently renovated restroom facilities will be available to the public during screenings.

According to the VFS's founder and director, Lorenzo DeStefano, "This move to the Museum of Ventura County gives the VFS the opportunity to grow into an even more important part of Ventura's arts and culture landscape. As we enter our third year, we look forward to continuing to bring Ventura audiences compelling local voices and global visions that enable all of us to discover the world around us, through cinema as public art."

The opening night film is the award-winning "Seraphine," based on the life of the celebrated modern primitive painter Séraphine de Senlis (1864–1942). Directed by Martin Provost, the film won seven 2009 César awards in France including best actress for Yolande Moreau who was described by reviewers as "brilliant" and "magically transparent." Moreau portrays the mysterious self-taught artist and domestic servant who struggled with bouts of psychosis after the death of her parents. The teenage Séraphine was employed at a convent and is thought to have been heavily influenced by the colors and patterns of religious art even though her work is exclusively of flowers, leaves and fruit. Her imaginative, often surreal designs and patterns, combined with her secret alchemy for mixing her colors from natural materials, eventually brought her to notoriety in the late 1920s.

"Seraphine" screens at 7pm and will be preceded by an Opening Night Reception at 6pm in the Museum Plaza, with complimentary appetizers and a no-host bar.

Upcoming films include "Only When I Dance" on Feb. 15th, a moving dance documentary from Brazil; "The Philosopher Kings" on March 1st, a thought-provoking examination of wisdom in low places; the award-winning Cuban film "Memories of Overdevelopment" on March 15th. Also coming on April 5th, the uplifting musical feature from Iran, "No One Knows about Persian Cats" and the brilliant Danish thriller, "Terribly Happy" on April 19th.

The series is made possible by a generous donation from Barbara Meister/Barber Automotive Group as well as by the City of Ventura Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships Department, the Smith Hobson Foundation, and the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Tickets are $10 for general admission and $7 for students, seniors, museum members and WAV residents. VFS Annual Memberships are also available. For more information call 628-2299 or go to www.venturafilmsociety.com for details on the upcoming screening schedule.

The Ventura Film Society is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Bell Arts Factory and has already brought more than 200 films to Ventura at alternative venues like the Historic Elks Lodge and the WAV.

Sui Mong Gong

Once Ventura had a vibrant Chinese Community called by the Anglo population "Chinatown". The Chinese called it "Sui Mong Gong" after a village in Canton. Once over 200 people lived in a space of a block, living and working. The Chinese were mostly farm workers, but some were businessmen operating shops and restaurants in the Chinese quarter. The Chinese had a Taoist Temple, a Tong House, numerous laundries, a barber shop and its own fire department.

In the late 19th and early 20th Century the Chinese community came to life at the Chinese New Year with fireworks, dances, and feasting. In honor of the coming Chinese New Year, the year of the Rabbit, The City of Ventura is offering a tour of the Chinatown site by local historian Richard Senate and a traditional Chinese Lunch at the Hong Kong Inn on

Community Events

January 22. The tour will meet at the Visitors and Convention Center at 101 S. California Street, in historic downtown Ventura, at 11 am and will last until 1pm. For tickets to this event call 658-4726 M-F 8 to 5 pm. Sign up early to make sure space is available. Tickets are $35 (fee includes a Cantonese Chinese Lunch).

Or go one line at www.cityofventura.net/eRecreation. Refer to Class # 27663.

Fillmore & Western January events

Jan. 15, 22, 29 – "Saturday Scenic Excursions Train Rides" - Relax onboard the 1930's vintage passenger or dining cars as the train travels through century old citrus and avocado groves. The first stop of the day will be at Loose Caboose Garden Center and Gift Emporium with the second stop in downtown Santa Paula. Depart Fillmore at 11:30am, return at approximately 3:30 pm (rain or shine). Adults $24, Seniors $22, Youth 4-12, $14, Child 2-3 $10 Infant under 2 Free on lap. Cab Rides are also available, $50 one way, ride the other way in regular coach cars.

Jan. 15 – "Bugle Boy Murders" Murder Mystery Dinner Train" - It is 1942 and "Big Band" leader Johnny Fontaine is en route to his next USO show. He is broadcasting by radio and selling War Bonds as he returns to Hollywood with his celebrities in tow. A special contest is about to be unveiled when mystery & intrigue takes this train to its next pit stop at murder. Get out your old uniforms or period costumes and participate in the fun. We wouldn't want this murder to take off without you! Adults over 18 years only, $89 per person.

Jan. 29 – "Viva Lost Vegas" Murder Mystery Dinner Train" - Come to Vegas and enjoy the "infamous Rat Pack". Who knows what other Vegas celebrities you might meet. Come with us on the train to Murder and Comedy. Dinner included choice of: prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, or salmon. Great entertainment provided by P. Maxwell Productions troupe. Adults only: $89 per person. Reservations required. Call Fillmore &Western Railway at 524-2546 or (800) 773-8724. or www.fwry.com and for more information.

Deadline for joining museum's February trip.

The Museum of Ventura County is sponsoring a day trip to Los Angeles on Thursday, February 10, to see an exhibition of historic European dress, now on display at the new Resnick Pavilion of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Reservations should be made by January 21 for the trip, which includes motor coach transportation, admission to the galleries, and a docent guided tour of fashions worn in Europe between1700 and 1915. Costume expert and Museum of Ventura County volunteer Shelly Foote will also be with the group to provide additional insight on European dress and LACMA's costume collection.

The trip price is $80 for general public, $65 for museum members. Please call 653-0323 x 305 to make reservations.

January 25: Artist and historian George Stuart presents a monologue on Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. about the current Museum of Ventura County exhibition Dressed To Impress: the High Fashion of the George Stuart Historical Figures®. Stuart explores what influenced the figures' fashion choices, from personal preferences to court formalities and cultural traditions. The monologue is $15 for the general public, $10 for museum members, and includes admission to all exhibits at the Museum of Ventura County, where the monologue is held. For reservations, call 653-0323 x 315.

Dressed To Impress: the High Fashion of the George Stuart Historical Figures® runs through February 6. The exhibit of one-quarter life-size sculptures highlights more than 30 figures wearing exceptionally beautiful, chic, and flamboyant costumes. Fashion accessories from the museum's permanent collection are also included in the exhibition.

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 100 East Main Street in downtown Ventura. Hours are 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more museum information go to www.venturamuseum.org.

Ventura events

January 14: The acclaimed jazz group Karl Keller's **'Sax and the City'** will perform in concert from 8 – 10pm on Friday, at the Fresh & Fabulous Restaurant, 401 South 'A' Street (4th at 'A', the historic Woolworth building), in Oxnard.

The group has been seen and heard at many top venues and private parties in Ventura County.

Well-known performers in the group include: keyboardist Kent Rollins, who has worked with Kenny Loggins, The Diamonds and Bill Champlin of the band 'Chicago'; bassist Granville "Danny" Young whose credits include Ray Charles, Lou Rawls and Marilyn McCoo; saxophonist and group leader, Karl Keller, who combines engineering and writing with jazz performances ranging from Chicago to L.A. and including many years performing with Manhattan Beach's Hyperion Outfall Serenaders and Santa Barbara's Ulysses S. Jasz. Free parking is ample and there is no cover charge for Friday evening concerts. For additional information call the restaurant at 486-4547 or see www.saxandthecity.org.

January 15: The Ventura County Genealogical Society, Inc. (VCGS) will be holding its regular monthly meeting Saturday, at 1 PM (Sharp). The meeting will be held at the Ventura LDS Family History Center, 3501 Loma Vista Rd. (at Mills Rd.). Before the meeting begins and during the breaks, genealogy books and supplies are available for purchase. Guests are always welcome to attend the free meeting. For more information call Gwenda at 485-7930.

Guest Speaker: Alice Colby Volkert, Naming Children in Colonial New England.

Ms. Volkert specializes in U.S. research and has given talks on census basics, record keeping, DNA basics, and digital photography for genealogists.

January 17: Gerry Olsen, of Camarillo, will present a parliamentary lesson comparing **"Executive Committee and Executive Session"** at the Monday meeting of Zeta Chi. The two terms may be

Continued on page 19

Congratulations to the 2010 Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights Winners!

Best Animation
The Heavenly–Jay Shapiro

GRAND PRIZE
Four D' Familia–Doug Cleavenger

Best Use of Lights
Ventura Power Squadron (KISS)

Best Use of Lights
Stellar

First Place Winners:
Top row, from left: Sailor Moon–Daniel Hopps, Island Adventure–Island Packers, Aloha Ohana–Richard Knuppel
Bottom row, from left: Petey–Jim Ludwig, Hokuloa–Hokuloa Outrigger Canoe Club,
Sea Ranger II–Channel Islands National Park, No Regrets–Brian Stanton

Second Place Winners: Dreamer–Ventura Boat Rentals, Ventura Outrigger Canoe Club
Salt N' Light–Scott & Lee Allison, EsGood1–Darryl Foster

Holidays in Whoville

Our Generous Sponsors

Art Scene

Colin Fraser Gray combines his knowledge of design, architecture, and drawing with his own creative instincts to envision unique pieces of sculpture and visual art.

WĀV Artist Interviews: Colin Fraser Gray

by Tim Pompey

Colin Fraser Gray grew up in Paignton, a small town in southwest England. Drawing from an early age, he thought he might study to become an architect. Then he met Rembrandt (in a book) and something happened. "Seeing his drawing of a young girl made me decide to go to art school and take this on," he says. "It touched my teenage romantic young guy."

When he went to art school, first at Torquay and then Leeds, he discovered something else—the company of other artists. "It was a relief to find like-minded people," he says. "When I got to art school, it was like coming home."

But beyond his traditional studies, Gray yearned for something more creative. "One day I asked myself the question: What would I rescue if my studio was burning down? And the answer came back: nothing. Gray discovered his true artistic calling when he worked on something quite basic: tools. Wavy tools like saws, shovels, and ladders. "I started making practical tools and they all came out weird. I realized I had discovered my own voice."

Since then he has explored all sorts of industrial shapes—from wheels to architecture. Gray believes it takes a variety of interests to make creative art. "I see it like the roots of a tree," he says. "I see the roots as my interests. Then they amalgamate in the trunk and the art is the fruit."

For Gray, his goal is to create art that doesn't exist—yet. "I envision things I want to see and can't see them out in the world anywhere. If I saw them out in the world, I'd go see them. If they don't exist, then I guess I have to go make them."

For more information on Gray's work, view his website at www.colinfrasergray.com.

"Cygnus" painting by Ashleigh Norman at the Harbor Village Gallery

"Figure" A Group Art Exhibit

Raul Valdez, Ashleigh Norman and Jamie Danielson are exhibiting their collaboration Figure at the Harbor Village Gallery from January 19 to March 7. The opening reception will be on Friday, January 29 from 5 – 8pm.

In March 2010, Valdez, Norman, and Danielson, won awards in the Buenaventura Art Association's 4th Annual Collegiate Student Art Competition This juried competition is open to art students from local colleges. These three artists were students at California State University, Channel Islands, and have been very active not only with studies but also curating or exhibiting in shows in student, private art gallery venues in the last year. Valdez graduated fall 2010, and Norman and Danielson plan to graduate in spring 2011, all three with a B.A. in studio art.

A multi media compellation of works exploring humanity from the artists' perspectives of physicality, the range of human emotions, and spirituality. Viewing this exhibit is meant to stimulate different reactions in its viewers, including puzzlement, surprise, humor, wonder, inquiry and understanding.

The Harbor Village Gallery is located in the Ventura Harbor Village. Open everyday except Tuesday from 12 to 5 pm. For more information, call the gallery at 644-2750 or visit their website at www.harborvillagegallery.com. The Harbor Village Gallery is an art space of the Buenaventura Art Association.

Museum presents advice on collecting art

Do you know what to look for when you collect California art? Learn about the history and strategies of collecting California paintings from Scot Levitt, Vice President of Fine Arts and Director of California and Western Painting and Sculpture at Bonhams & Butterfields, on Saturday, January 22 at 2 p.m. at the Museum of Ventura County.

The presentation is $10 general public, $5 museum members, and includes admission to all gallery exhibitions, including Nature's Palette, the art of California Impressionist Meredith Brooks Abbott. For reservations to the Levitt presentation, call 653-0323 x 315.

Levitt's expertise ranges from old master to modern art, with a particular interest in California and western paintings and sculpture. He oversees Bonhams & Butterfields fine arts appraisals, conducts auctions on a regular basis, and currently oversees their monthly consignment clinics in Los Angeles. He is a member of the American Arts Council of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 100 Main Street in downtown Ventura. Hours are 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is $4 adults, $3 seniors, $1 children 6-17, members and children under 6 are free. For more museum information go to www.venturamuseum.org or call 653-0323.

Bob and Deslys Thompson at the Bell Arts factory

Husband and wife art team, Bob and Deslys Thompson are presenting an art exhibit at the Bell Arts factory until January 31.

Their diverse styles, Bob is primarily a muralist and also paints in the art technique Trompe-l'oeil and Deslys works are mostly monotypes are shown in the many-many works on display from small to large works.

Bob, who has worked on both sides of the brush as an art model for many years is mainly self taught and studied in Paris.

Deslys studied in New York and at Chouinard Art Institute and has Studio 32 at Bell Arts.

Ventura College Art Gallery Exhibition

Alison Van Pelt ~ "If I Were Ed Ruscha" from January 20-February 10 at the Art Gallery: Hours are Monday-Friday noon-4pm. Free Admission
Public opening reception: Thursday, January 20, 7-9pm.

In this exhibition – using the artist Ed Ruscha as a theme and object of fantasy – Alison Van Pelt explores identity, envy, power, self-importance, self-acceptance, humor, and dreams. First sketched on canvas, a detailed portrait is painted by hand in oils, then deconstructed using brushes to achieve a soft, blurred effect. The letters and backgrounds, painted in acrylic and gold and silver leaf, interrupt the fluid, blurry portrait in the foreground and set the picture planes apart.

Fox Fine Jewelry, located at 210 E. Main St. will host a benefit for Los Padres ForestWatch, in conjunction with artist Robert Wassell's art show, "Los Padres Wilderness Trails", from January 20 - March 14, with a kickoff party on Saturday, January 22nd from 6 - 9pm. Forty percent of art sales will be donated to Los Padres ForestWatch. The event is free and open to the public.

Robert Wassell's paintings are well known for their unique depictions of Ventura county's backwoods. For more information visit www.wassellart.com.

Los Padres ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization dedicated solely to protecting the Los Padres National Forest and other public lands along California's Central Coast. LPFW is a leader in regional conservation, through their innovative field work, scientific collaboration, and legal advocacy, working to give all of us a future we might not otherwise have. For more information, visit www.LPFW.org.

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)

Professor Scamp *Ph.D*

■ The proceeds from the new California Pet Lover's License Plate Program will be used to assist low-cost spay and neuter programs and to remind folks of the many number of homeless and unwanted dogs and cats and of the importance of spaying and neutering your pets.

The plate are sponsored by the California Veterinary Medical Board and the program is run by the nonprofit California Spay & Neuter License Plate Fund.

California is joining the many many states (more than one-half) that already have pet friendly license plates.

The license plates can be personalized with a pet's name or words and features artwork by animal lover and actor Pierce Brosnan. Now when I chase a car it will be much more fun if I think that I am also chasing a pet.

A regular, sequential plate initially costs $50 and has a $40 annual renewal fee. Of the $50 order, $17.32 goes to the DMV for processing and $32.68 goes into the spay/neuter fund which is a whole bunch.

■ I recently went to see the animal paintings that my good friend artist Mary Jo Murphy had painted that are on display at Gracies Closet at Gallery 28 which is a place where "Bark meets Art" and to visit with Grace the great Dane who is also a good friend of mine that the gallery was named after (that is him over there on the right).

The paintings by Mary Jo Murphy are of dogs, cats and other critters and occupy the walls of the Gallery.

I was there because every Thursday night Grace and mom Kris have an event known as" cockertails" from 5 to 7 pm where they serve wine and cheese for the moms and dads and plenty of water and dog biscuits for us doggies. They even had a dog cake, I didn't eat the frosting because, as you know I am on a diet.

It is a wonderful place to shop for us pampered pooches. I bought (with some help from my human) a cute squeaky toy "Pawper Mint Pattie" that looks like an ice cream cone, but doesn't taste nearly as well.

What really is great about Gracies Closet is that a percentage of all sales goes to cure PSP, a disease that Gracies human dad is afflicted with. PSP(progressive supranuclear palsy) is a fatal neurodegenerative brain disease, which affects nerve cells that control walking, balance, mobility, vision speech and swallowing, it sounds awful. There is no known cure for it as yet, so that is why Gracie appreciates every sale she gets to find a cure for her dad!

Gracies Closet at Gallery 28 is at 1901 S. Victoria Ave Ste 109 in Oxnard near Wooly and Victoria. Their number is 985-1128 or 760-5069.

■ Dr. Janet McNeil has moved from Ventura Veterinary Hospital to open her own business right next door. McNeil Veterinary Services is located in the Naturally for Paws building located at 1766 E Thompson Blvd and her phone number is 648-7297.

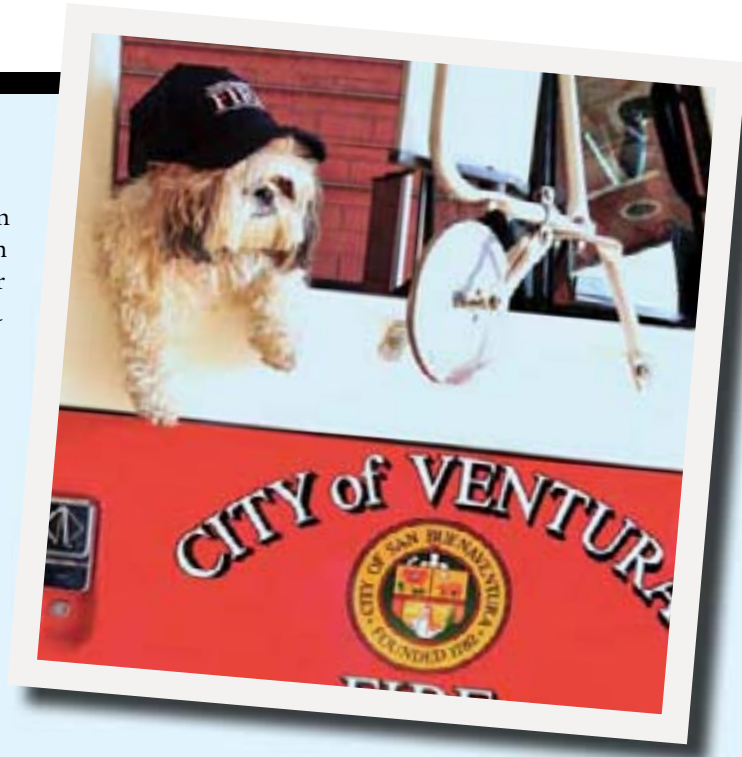
She will come to your house if you are too sick to go visit her or too lazy to get out of bed or are shy or if your human friend has a hard time going to her office.

I would like a home visit so I don't have to sit on the cold table at the vets.

Dr. McNeil regularly works with the Ventura Spay/Neuter Animal Network (SPAN) and the Ojai Raptor Center. She is an active member of the California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA) with her two dogs, Devi the red-and-white Irish setter and Reyna the German shepherd. CARDA provides search dog teams for people who are lost.

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.



"I'm much cuter than a Dalmatian. And I can sit on your lap"

Scamp Club

Hi:

I'm Grace a girl 2 1/2 year old great Dane! I love to go on long walks and run as much as I can and play with my little kitty sister Kali.

And the exciting thing is that I am in training to be a balance mobility service dog, so that I can help people who are in need.

Here I am in front of my painting by Mary Jo.

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Traffic Collision

On Friday, December 24th, at 1:20 a.m., VPD received calls regarding a vehicle and pedestrian traffic collision in the 500 block of Main Street. Officers found the two victims, Cristine Sanchez and Darlene Delira, down in the roadway. Ventura Fire Department and AMR personnel were treating them.

Both victims were crossing southbound on Main Street within the marked crosswalk. Brendan Conaty, 26 years old, was driving his vehicle westbound on Main Street and failed to stop. Both victims were struck by the front of Conaty's vehicle and sustained moderate injuries. The victims were transported to the VCMC and are currently in stable condition.

Conaty was found to be driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and was arrested. He was transported to the VC Jail.

Spousal Battery

On Monday, December 27th, Lori Grote, 46 years old, and Ned Barron, 44 years old, were involved in an argument inside Barron's trailer. Barron began punching and kicking Grote in the head and torso. Barron locked Grote inside the trailer and refused to allow her to leave. The next morning, Barron stabbed Grote in the left arm. Grote fleed the trailer and hailed a VC Fire engine. Grote was treated and released from VCMC.

VPD was unable to locate Barron. On December 29th, Barron was located inside his trailer at 134 West Ramona. Barron was suffering from a single stab wound to his back. Barron was treated at VCMC then booked at VC Jail.

The stab wounds Grote and Barron suffered are not considered life threatening.

Residential Burglary

On Saturday, January 1st, at 1:52 p.m., VPD received a phone call from a female resident reporting an intruder in a house in the 300 block of South Brookshire Avenue. The reporting party told the dispatcher she was checking on her deceased aunt's vacant home. She discovered an interior closet door was propped open blocking the front door from opening. She could hear a commotion in the residence, which she believed was a person. She heard the rear garage door slam open. The reporting party backed away from the house and called 911.

Officers found a rear-sliding window smashed open and the interior of the house ransacked. Officers were unable to locate any suspects or witnesses to the incident. The unknown suspect is still outstanding.

Bank Robbery

On Monday, December 27th, at 10:20 a.m., VPD responded to a bank Robbery at 4591 Market Street. The suspect, a white male with a goatee and glasses, entered the bank and approached the teller claiming to be armed with a handgun. The suspect demanded money from the teller, who complied with his demands and gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect fled from the bank.

No one was injured during the course of this robbery. This robbery is not related to the other bank robberies.

Purse Theft Arrest

On Sunday, January 2nd, at 11:14 a.m., Dustin Kemick snatched Glenda Chittenden's purse from her cart in the Vons grocery store on 2764 Thompson Boulevard. Chittenden was shopping and placed her purse in the shopping cart. She was only 2-3 feet away from the cart and her purse. Kemick, 28 years old, walked by and stole her purse from the cart. Citizens, along with store employees, captured Kemick and detained him until police arrived. The purse was recovered and returned to Chittenden. Kemick was arrested.

Kemick was walking around the store and may have attempted the same crime moments earlier. However, based on the circumstances, Police were not able to confirm this information so no additional charges were filed.

Vehicle Burglary

On Sunday, January 2nd, at 2:08 p.m., Joe Hollis contacted VPD, stating that he was following an auto burglary suspect in the area of Seton Hall Avenue

Continued on page 13

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Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

Classroom in the community

by Nanci Cone

Steve Lehman, Manager & Health and Resource Specialist of SCAN Senior Resource Center is announcing, "Classroom in the Community," a wonderful opportunity for organizations that serve seniors to arrange for professional presentations with handouts at no cost to the hosting group. SCAN is a not-for-profit organization that exclusively serves Medicare recipients and has a continuing mission to promote senior health and independence.

Steve notes, "In these challenging times it is refreshing to see a company that serves the community with no strings attached. Presentations generally last between 30 – 45 minutes depending on the topic, the audience and number of questions." He adds, "We have received rave reviews from diverse audiences including; senior centers, assisted living facilities, retirement communities, senior church groups, 55+ mobile home parks, civic service clubs and many more."

Programs offered:

1. Tests You Want To Take: General guide for prevention screenings and vaccines for people age 65 and older.
2. No More Medicine Mayhem: This presentation explains different types of medications, including over-the-counter, and how to use them safely plus helpful medication reminder tips.
3. Better Your Blood Pressure provides basic information on high blood pressure, why it's important, and what to do if diagnosed with this condition.
4. Preventing Falls focuses on fall risks and ways to minimize them.
5. Control Your Cholesterol discusses what cholesterol is and why it's important to prevent and/or manage it.
6. Maintain Your Brain suggests activities to maintain quality of life through health management, increased activity, and socialization.
7. Active Everyday discusses physical activity guidelines for older adults and risks of inactivity.
8. Healthy Eating on a Budget includes senior nutrition guidelines, nutritious and low-cost sample meals & snacks, and community resources.
9. Diabetes presentation includes diabetes basics, diabetes food pyramid, and tips and suggestions on how manage diabetes with the assistance of your health care team.
10. Living with Arthritis includes common types of arthritis, prognosis, and self-management tips to improve quality of life.
11. Making the Most of Your Doctor Visits provides valuable tips and strategies to make doctor appointments more efficient and effective.
12. Energized Seniors instructs seniors on the proper use of a resistance or stretch band and includes a free $10 value stretch band kit.
13. Healthier Living: Managing Ongoing Health Conditions (Limited offering) program offers 8 – 15 qualified participants effective and practical coping strategies to manage their health conditions. These 2 ½ hour workshops, presented by two trained leaders over 6 weeks, include behavior modifications and coping strategies to enable participants to better cope with their chronic diseases, manage medications, and increase physical activity levels.
14. Active Living Every Day helps seniors find ways to fit physical activity into their daily lives and maintain active lifestyles even when difficult life situations arise. This free 14-week series is taught by Certified Instructors to 20 inactive qualified and committed seniors.
15. Breakfast for the Brain (Limited offering) is a series of classes based on the Marge Engleman's work, "Aerobics of the Mind" that encourages participants to realize the benefits of consistent mental exercise with a commitment to physical activity and good nutrition.

For more information, contact Steve Lehman at 658-0365 or email Steve at slehman@scanhealthplan.com

Dr. Bunny to appear at Health & Wealth Expo

At their 4th annual Health & Wealth Expo, Jim Duran, Executive Director of Cypress Place Senior Living heard the best news imaginable! Juanita Thompson, who is not a resident of Cypress Place Senior Living, shared with Mr. Duran that "Cypress Place saved my life!"

Thompson, 83 of Ventura was strolling through the event when she decided to have her blood pressure taken. Upon the results being read, Ms. Thompson was told to proceed directly to the emergency room.

That visit proved life-saving resulting in heart surgery and she has recovered from two heart surgeries and is doing well.

This year's Health & Wealth Expo will include free blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, free hearing exams, and free wealth management consultations. A free healthy gourmet lunch will also be provided.

Kicking off the event as keynote speaker will be former radio talk show host Dr. Bunny Vreeland. 'Dr. Bunny', as she is called, helps people lose weight, stop smoking, and get over phobias like fear of flying, fear of heights, and fear of dentists. Dr. Bunny is a board-certified clinical Hypnotherapist and has written for the Ventura Breeze.

Dr. Bunny will kick off the expo at 11am on Wednesday January 26, and all vendor booths will be open to the public from 11:30a.m. to 1:00p.m. Raffle prizes will be given away throughout the event including the grand prize a weekend getaway to Santa Barbara with a train ride and two night stay at The Fess Parker Double Tree Hotel.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Corporate sponsors for the event are Assisted Home Care & Home Hospice, and County Schools Federal Credit Union.

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

Police reports

Continued from page 11

and Loma Vista Road. An Oxnard police detective located the suspect vehicle traveling in the area of Hill Street and Telegraph Road. The Oxnard Detective was able to provide responding VPD officers the locations of the suspect vehicle. VPD located the suspect vehicle in the area of Petit Avenue and Darling Road and followed the vehicle to the 600 block of Jasper Avenue, where Jay Carter, 29 years old, was taken into custody.

Officers located a loaded firearm and determined that Carter's 3 year old child was in the vehicle during the initial crime. VPD searched Carter's residence and located stolen property from 2 auto burglaries that occurred in the City of Ventura.

Carter was booked into VC Jail.

Photo by Robert Curtis

Residential Fire

On Tuesday, January 4th, at 6:36 a.m., regional fire units were dispatched to a multi-unit residential structure fire at the Pepper Tree condominium complex. Initial 911 callers reported occupants jumping from second-story windows and possible trapped people still inside. Arriving units ensured all occupants were out of the two free-burning apartments, both located on the second story. VPD officers evacuated surrounding apartments.

Ventura City, Ventura County and Santa Paula City firefighters fully extinguished the fire in half an hour.

Nine people were treated on-scene, then transported to VCMC and CMH for further treatment. None of the injuries sustained appeared to be life threatening. Two second-floor apartments sustained significant fire damage. The American Red Cross assisted in finding temporary housing for those residents displaced by the incident.

Crime Tips

Burglaries - of your home, car, or business - can occur during the day or nighttime hours. Here are a few crime tips from the VPD to help you stay safe:

-Most residential burglaries occur during the daytime.

-Call the police if you see anything suspicious or have crime information.

-Lock your doors and windows when you're not home. Set alarms.

-Do not leave your garage door open or unlocked if you are not in the immediate area.

-Install quality locks on doors and windows and use them.

-Lighting is the best deterrent to burglary-indoor and outdoor lighting is important.

-Don't let strangers into your home-this includes workers and others-if you are not with them.

-Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America. Don't leave personal property in your car.

-Photograph your valuables and engrave your property with a form of identification, such as your driver's license numbers.

-Set your car alarm or invest in a club-type locking device.

-Calls made to the police about suspicious activity can be made anonymously.

-Start and participate in Neighborhood Watch by calling 339-2904.

This photograph shows an intersection with both marked and unmarked crosswalks. The area of the picture that has been marked with red pen illustrates where the unmarked crosswalk is. Any pedestrian walking within the area of those red lines would be just as protected by law as a pedestrian in one of the other three marked crosswalks.

Crosswalks don't protect you from vehicles

Recently there have been three traffic collisions involving pedestrians who were walking in marked crosswalks within the City of Ventura. These three collisions resulted in five pedestrians sustaining major injuries after being struck by vehicles. In all three collisions, the pedestrians were lawfully in the crosswalk and the driver of the vehicle was found to be at fault.

Because of this the VPD Traffic Unit has been conducting numerous "Crosswalk Enforcement Stings". During these enforcement stings, members of the Traffic Unit will heavily monitor both marked and unmarked crosswalks throughout the city. The officers will be watching for motorists who violate the pedestrian's right-of-way, as well as for pedestrians who suddenly enter traffic and cause an immediate hazard to motorists. Traffic officers will be citing motorists as well as pedestrians for any violations of the law.

The Ventura Police Department would like to educate the public on a few traffic points.

Vehicle Code states "The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection."

"This section does not relieve a pedestrian from the duty of using due care for his or her safety. No pedestrian may suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. No pedestrian may unnecessarily stop or delay traffic while in a marked or unmarked crosswalk."

A crosswalk is either: (a) That portion of a roadway included within the prolongation or connection of the boundary lines of sidewalks at intersection where the intersecting roadways meet at approximately right angles, except the prolongation of such lines from an alley across a street; or (b) Any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

Ventura Police Department Traffic Investigators have noted that a great number of motorists are not aware of the meaning of an "unmarked crosswalk", as described above. Many motorists believe that pedestrians must to go a marked crosswalk in order to cross a street. However the California Vehicle Code clearly indicates that there are "unmarked crosswalks" at any intersection where streets meet at right angles.

The Ventura Police Department urges all motorists to drive defensively and watch diligently for pedestrians in or near the roadway.

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Tall ships

Continued from page 1

hour adventure sails, tickets start at $35.

Three-hour battle sails are also available, with the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain exchanging loud but harmless gunfire. Those sails will be offered at 2 p.m. on January 15 and 16. Live entertainment by the Pirates Charles will also be presented plus roaming pirates.

To purchase tickets call (800) 200-5239 or go to www.historicalseaport.org for further information.

Parking lot

Continued from page 1

County—but hopes to find artifacts dating back to California's mission era. The property is close to the historic San Buenaventura Mission constructed in the late 1700s and the groundwork is required by the state's environmental protection agency before any further development can be started.

The closed 59-space parking lot adds to the city's public parking problem worsened by recently installed parking meters. The owner, Ventura Downtown Properties III LLC, was leasing the lot to the city, but the agreement was cancelled along with the property company's plans to build luxury condominiums on the site when the economy slowed. No plans for the property are currently on the table and it is for sale, but according to Ventura City Engineer, Thomas Mericle, the city hopes to lease the lot again in the future.

"There is still plenty of free parking in the area. There are three other public parking lots in the vicinity that can fill the need. For instance, the public parking lot behind the storefronts across Main Street from this lot, is an all-day lot that is very underutilized. This, coupled with the "farmer's market" lot and the lot off of upper Oak Street will continue to provide adequate free parking for customers and employees in this area of downtown. We are working on a long-term project to add a second public parking structure to this general area of downtown that will serve long-term parking supply needs," says Mericle.

Charlie Waitling, managing partner of Ventura Downtown Properties, says that before any further development can be planned, the company needs to know what lies underneath the asphalt blacktop. According to a quote from Waitling, in the Ventura County Star, "Right now, we are really open to anything."

Has anyone suggested a good burger place and some extra parking?

School

Pacific High School makes the grade

by Sheli Ellsworth

Five-hundred and nine continuation high schools operate in California, serving at-risk students who might not otherwise graduate. Thirty-five of them applied to the State's Model Continuation High School Recognition Program. Twenty-seven of them receive model status. Only one in Ventura County was recognized as a model continuation school for 2011—Pacific High.

The schools serve students 16 years and older who are not exempt from compulsory school attendance. The high schools are meant to meet the needs of students who may lack certain credits, require flexible schedules due to employment, family obligations, or other needs. According to Pacific High School's website, the continuation programs also include residential treatment centers for substance abuse, schools for chronic truants and schools for students with behavioral problems. The schools offer not only state mandated academic courses for high school graduation, but career guidance, independent study programs, occupational programs, apprenticeships and job placement.

According to State School Superintendent, Jack O'Connell, the schools are recognized for their ability to inspire challenged students to stay in school. Over 69,000 students attend the continuation schools in California; about 200 of those attend Pacific High School.

$1 million donation to benefit early childhood education center

Ventura College received a generous holiday bonus. On December 20, 2010 the Orfalea Foundation donated a cool million to the college's Child Development Center. Students at the college, who are also parents, count on the child development center for responsible, dependable childcare while they are busy in the classroom completing their education.

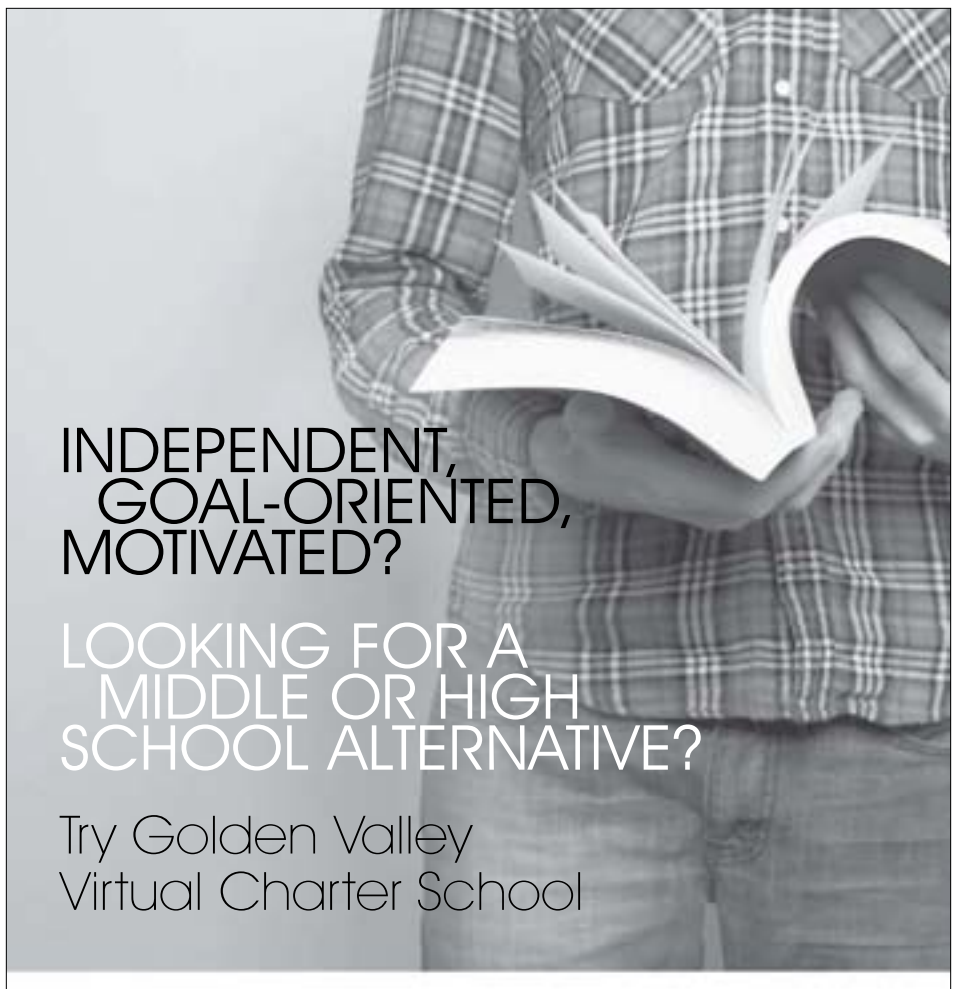
Paul Orfalea, founder of Kinkos, has dedicated the funds to assist the underprivileged and the children in our community. In 2000, Orfalea challenged the college to raise annual funds, which were then matched by the Orfalea foundation 2:1 up to $50,000 per year for ten years. This activated a capstone gift from the foundation of $1,000,000.

New nurses on the way

The Ventura College School of Nursing and Allied Health graduated 49 new nurses who received their pins at the Fall 2010 Nursing Pinning on December 10 at the Ventura High School Auditorium. The traditional ceremony included the personal pinning of each graduate by the nurse or nursing instructor who mentored or inspired the student to enter the profession.

The School of Nursing and Allied Health prepares students to care for individuals in hospitals, homes, and other health care settings. Graduates practice the art and science of nursing by combining knowledge from many different disciplines to promote the restoration and maintenance of health in their clients. The School administers the Associate Degree Nursing, Certified Nurse Assistant, and Continuing Education for Registered Nurses programs.

For additional information, contact Sandra Melton, Ph.D., APRN, BC, Director, Ventura College School of Nursing, 654-6400 ext. 3125 or smelton@vcccd.edu.



Youth

Make-A-Wish can use your gift cards

The gift card is often the gift that can't go wrong but sometimes a gift card turns out to be a bad fit after all. If you receive gift cards you cannot use this holiday season, don't let them sit in a drawer with 10% of all gift cards in America – unused! Consider donating them to a local charity.

For example, the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of the Tri-Counties uses gift cards in several ways. They are used as part of "first gifts". When a team of wish granters goes into a household, they bring a small gift for every child in the house. Wish granters use gift cards to buy these gifts or in some cases the gift card becomes the gift.

Gift cards for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties can be sent to 4222 Market Street, Suite D, Ventura, 93003. Include your return address and the amount on the card if it is not clear so a tax receipt can be sent to you.

Sweet competition to start off the New Year

The Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast and California Lutheran University are teaming up to host the 2nd Annual Cookie Rally and Bake Off on January 15 from 10:00 to 3:00 at CLU's Gilbert Sports & Fitness Center.

The community is invited to join in the fun as local chefs from across Ventura County compete at this exciting event to determine who can create the best desert using one of the top 6 most popular Scout Cookie flavors. The event is free to the public. Tasting tickets are available for $5.00 to enjoy sample tastings of the chef's dessert entries and an opportunity to vote for the coveted People's Choice Award.

Participating Ventura chefs are Nic Manocchio from C Street Café and Tim Kilcoyne from The Sidecar Restaurant.
Of course the Girl Scouts get in on the action with 12 talented Mother Daughter teams who will compete in a special division at the Bake Off.

Community leaders share life experiences

The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura is continuing their popular twice weekly community leaders 'Speakers Series'. Board member and past president, Susanne Lammot, M.D. the creator of this dynamic Club program for teens is encouraging community members to "share their life experiences, skills, talents and what it takes to become contributing, happy citizens of the community."

The series is available: Monday at 4:30 PM at the Robert Addison Center, 1440 North Olive Street (805-641-5588) and Tuesday, 4:30 PM at the Bill LeFevre Center, 1929 Johnson Drive (641-5599). Speakers arrive at 4:15 PM for a Club tour before the program.

January's Speakers Program follows:
Monday: Robert Addison Center:
January 24 – Chad Gibson, DDS – "Becoming a Dentist and Dental Hygiene'
Tuesday: Bill LeFevre Center
January 4 – Pediatrician, Susanne Lammot, M.D. – 'Africa: Experiences with Malawi children'
January 11 – Chad Gibson, DDS – 'Becoming a Dentist and Dental Hygiene'
January 18 – Duane Koranda – 'Car Sales as a Career'

Additional speakers will be confirmed. If you are interested in sharing your story with the Boys & Girls Club please contact: Susanne Lammot, M.D. at: doctors@bigplanet.com or 644-5411. Check out the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura website for additional information and schedule of special events: www.bgclubventura.org or call 641-5585.

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Youth

City Corps recently picked up several loads of palm fronds at the Ventura Keys and transported them to the City Maintenance Yard (thanks to the loan of a trailer from Council member Jim Monahan). One of the hard workers, Joel Jimenez told us "Today we went to the Ventura Keys. We picked up trash. I liked how we all worked together. We also had fun doing it. I also think that we made a difference in our community and others think that too. We set the example."

Current status of Ventura City Corps

by Lynn Mikelatos,
Board Member and Grants Manager

For the past year Ken Cozzens has been an active volunteer for Ventura City Corps as the supervisory site coordinator and is doing an incredible job with very little resources. Sierra Doer, Javier Valadez, and Hannah Haskins are volunteer leaders. The Board of Directors are John Tarkany, Chair, Sherry Lyons, Secretary, Tina Hernandez, Mark Dispenza and myself.

We lost our site venturacitycorps.org as we were unable to compile all the required renewal passwords from original setup and a company hijacked the listing and wants $500 to release it. We are currently using the venturacitycorps.com site but it needs a lot of work.

We are actively recruiting volunteers in many areas.

· Youth 12-18 for Community Service Work throughout the City and County.
· Youth Media Team to train at CAPS and to film projects and local events.
· Computer, graphics and media teams
· Art, Music and Acting teams to create fun and creative activities for school children.
· Leaders in Training 18-24 - to work with our youth sharing their talents and knowledge
· City Corps Members 18 and over to apply for a scholarship to Ventura Adult and Continuing Education ($4000 value per semester).
· Drivers over 21 to transport youth to volunteer sites in our vehicles
· Adult volunteers any age to do clerical, phone queries, data base entry and administrative work one or more days a week.
· Adult volunteers to teach youth job skills and to assist with projects.

We are very excited to be working with Coastal Marine Biolabs again in a special State Health Department project testing local ocean waters and we have a contract with a homeowner's association to paint some curbing. A local electrical group assisting seniors with home upkeep has asked for our help. We are pleased to be partnering with Ventura Rental to continue this work. Thank you Ted Cook.

Dr. Patti Gault brought a wonderful program to City Corps last summer and it is continuing, called STARS. Dr. Gault is an expert with Autism Spectrum and wanted to work with Ventura City Corps to raise awareness of Autism to our teens, but to also give the gift of socialization to her students.

Hannah is keeping our garden up and always is available to share her knowledge with our youth. I recently graduated with the 2010 class of Ventura County Master Gardeners, so I now have new resources for gardening as well.

Ventura City Corps has picked over 7,000 lbs of fruit off of residential trees and delivered them to FOODShare for distribution to those in need.

After the first quarter of 2011, we plan to have funding in place to pay up to four leaders part-time. We are continuing to solicit funding locally and through grants. Tax deductible donations can be submitted to Ventura City Corps, 77 N. California St, Ventura, CA 93001.

Thanks for being a part of Ventura City Corps in the past, and we hope you will be part of our team in 2011. Ventura City Corps is open for students and parents to drop in Monday-Friday from 3-5pm.

LynnMikelatos@gmail.com or 407-4302

Sports

Ventura J.C. Pirate's teams playing tonight

by The Hammer

Western State Conference (W.S.C.) home opener tonight

The two Ventura J.C. Pirate basketball teams play rivals this week. Tonight, Wednesday January 12 they face off against Moorpark. Saturday evening they hit the road, heading up to Santa Barbara City College. This season the men's games tip off at 5:00pm with the women scheduled at 7:00pm

The Lady Pirates, WSC and state champions had high hopes of defending their crown this season. Than five would be sophomore women chose not to return. This raised many eye-brows around the WSC, for this action has never been heard of before at any college level of play.

Of the eleven women players, only one sophomore Ariel Hale, has returned. Needless to say, they have struggled in the pre-season. Coach Ned Mircetic sure has his work cut out for him this season, with the question, how many of the ten freshmen will return next season?

The Pirate Men, 11-4, are in their last of a two year no play-off ban.

The men are coached by head coach Will Cowen, and assistant Joie Ramirez both are in their second year coaching the men. Cowen has never coached a men's basketball team at any level.

The men started on fire with a 7-1 record. Since then they have hit a "wall", going 4-3. This team is loaded with talent. There is no reason they can't go undefeated through their WSC season. VC men has four freshmen from the Chicago area. One of the reasons the VC men were placed on this no play-off ban was because of out of state recruiting practices and illegal living arrangements. Since this team's season will end after league play there's a question if Cowen will step aside this season to see how Ramirez can coach this team on his own? There is speculation that Ramirez is already calling the shots.

Their January schedule
1/12 MBB v. MOORPARK, 5pm
1/12 WBB v. MOORPARK, 7pm
1/15 MBB @ Santa Barbara, 5p
1/15 WBB @ Santa Barbara, 7p
1/19 MBB @ LA Pierce, 5pm
1/19 WBB @ LA Pierce, 7pm
1/26 MBB v. OXNARD, 5p
1/26 WBB v. OXNARD, 7pm

Tennis: winning the mental match

Hear Dr. Allen Fox Ph.D. speak at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa Tennis Center on Sunday January 16 at noon. A question and answer session will follow his talk. This is a must for any player who's interested in gaining a mental edge in Tennis and there is no charge for the session. Call Tom Rohrbacher at 640-2109 or email at ojaitennis@sbcglobal.net to reserve a spot.

Dr. Fox has authored two other books on tennis. "If I'm the Better Player, Why can't I win?" and "Think to Win". He writes for "Tennis Magazine" and is a sought-after public speaker.

Tennis is more difficult mentally than most other sports. It feels more important than it is; it has a diabolical scoring system; drawn-out competitive matches are highly stressful; and losing can be very painful. During competition emotions get out of hand, fears and nerves are hard to control, and confidence comes and goes. Allen Fox attacks these and other issues faced by players of all levels. His solutions are logical and straightforward, and most importantly, they have been tested on court and they work.

Tracy Austin, 2-time U.S. Open winner and former world's #1 has stated "I have long respected Allen Fox's ideas and sound judgment. His unique and insightful book on the mental game is simple, practical, and will certainly help you play better."

Visit him at www.allenfoxtennis.net.

Health

Caiden's Hope founded by Ventura residents

Caiden's Hope, a federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, was co-founded by Ventura residents Terry, Ed and Jennifer Call, along with longtime friends in Texas to help families facing unexpected costs related to long-term hospitalization of a family member.

Caiden's Hope grew out of the very real life struggles and financial hardships faced by the Call family when daughter Jennifer's new born son Caiden was hospitalized for two months following his premature birth.

Caiden was born premature at 3 1/2 lbs, and with complications. The doctor told the family that he would be a child with special needs. Following his birth five days later, Caiden was rushed by ambulance to the UCLA Medical Center Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Los Angeles, with doctors telling the family that he probably wouldn't live past two months. As his mother said, "It was like being told, 'Here is your new son. Now don't get too attached.' " Yet that was just the beginning of a two-month ordeal.

Following their arrival in Los Angeles, the family was forced to search for, and secure hotel arrangements for an extended period of time.

Later, working with the hospital's Social Services Department, Caiden's mother was able to arrange for a dormitory-style room she shared with another young mother. The continued expenses, although greatly diminished, still added up.

Hearing of the Call's sacrifices on behalf of their daughter, longtime friends Wayne and Sharleen Keller of The Woodlands, Texas, formed Caiden's Hope to assist other families with the often overwhelming expense of last-minute travel arrangements. Terry Call quickly became an ardent supporter and member of the board of directors.

Caiden's Hope is dedicated to helping with travel arrangements for other families enduring the hardship of loved ones undergoing long-term medical care. The foundation focuses on alleviating the financial burden facing families in conjunction with necessary, extended non-elective clinic or hospital stays.

Support is provided to families who might otherwise be unable to afford such arrangements.

Caiden recently turned 11 months old, and although he has significant hearing loss in both ears, is facing a major surgery soon, and other medical issues he is growing and prospering every day. His family is blessed that he is in their lives and have turned their love for him into a program to help others.

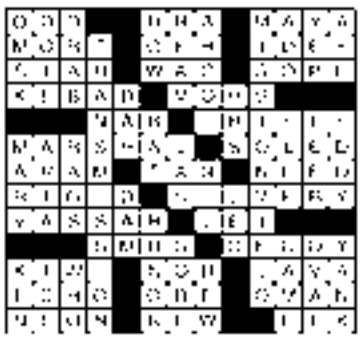
To learn more about Caiden's Hope, visit http://www.caidenshope.org.

The future is now.

What's the score? Find out NOW with our up to the minute sports! Come visit us!

www.venturabreeze.com

— King Crossword —
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.



— Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

Show Time

Where The Music Flows

New year, new sounds

by Michael Kohli

First of all, Happy New Year to all! Took a little mini vacation to Vegas and Long Beach. Now, with 2010 behind us – looking forward to an adventurous 2011 here in our music scene. Facebook is currently filled up with shows by local bands; We Govern We, Shades Of Day, Beachside Stranglers, The Shoemaker Bros. and more. Delaney Gibson is getting ready to unveil her new music video for, "La Di Da," at Zoey's Cafe in February. Scenes for her video were filmed over by the Livery Theater and you'll recognize one of our parks in the video as well.

Army Of Freshmen started off the new year by announcing some shows in Europe this April. The band will be performing in two festivals; April 15 in France (Artefacts festival: w/ Nofx, Dropkick Murphys, Apocolyptica, Beatsteaks & more) and April 22-23 in Belgium (Groezrock Festival: w/ The Descendants, Nofx, Dropkick Murphys, The Used, Sugarcult and more! For more info and news; check out ArmyofFreshmen.com.

Shades Of Day recently released their new album, "Take All Night." The album is available online at local stores and at upcoming Shades Of Day music appearances. Video footage recently appeared on their Facebook page from their recent sold out CD Release Party @ Zoey's Cafe. "Love Parade" is extremely groovy and radio friendly. Radio stations should just take a chance and play this song! Well, at least the radio programmers should approve this song! :)

In pop music: here's a list of things happening in 2011 that people are already talking about:
Janes Addiction – new album coming in Summer 2011.
Lady Gaga – Born This Way (new album).
Lady Gaga / Scissor Sisters Tour (coming to Los Angeles in March 2011).
8stops7 new music?
Garbage – new album expected in 2011
Poison & Motley Crue rumored to tour together in Summer 2011 for their anniversaries (Poison's 25th an Motley Crue's 30th)
No Doubt (new album in Spring 2011?)
Detox (new DR. DRE album)
New Pearl Jam live album titled, "Live on Ten Legs."
Bush (new album, "Everything Always Now.")

New albums slated for 2011 by: Red Hot Chili Peppers, U2 ("Songs Of Ascent"), Kim Kardashian, Limp Bizkit ("Gold Cobra"), Soundgarden, Soul Asylum, Kiss, Evanescence, Beastie Boys ("Hot Sauce Committee Pt. 1"), Van Halen (With David Lee Roth), Chevelle ("Any Last Words"), Green Day ("Awesome As F***"), And Extreme.

Thank you for reading. Feel free to e-mail me your feedback at VenturaLiveWire@Gmail.com
Michael Kohli
Kohli Rocks Entertainment
http://www.kohlismusicpit.com
PS: KRE will return to the Ventura Live Scene in Spring 2011. Stay tuned!

Shades of Day

Music Calendar 1/12 to 1/25

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

Andre's Wine Bar
1575 Spinnaker Dr.
805-642-9463
Jazz Trio Every Sat.
Fri. 1/21 Sun: Teresa Russell 7:30pm

Blackbeards Seaside BBQ
1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115
805- 650-7773
Karaoke every Wed 6-9pm
Thur. 1/13: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm
Fri. 1/14: Preachers 6pm-10pm
Sat. 1/15: Bar Stool Pigeons 6-10pm
Sun. 1/ 16: Blue Stew 2-6pm
Thur. 1/20: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm
Fri. 1/21: Artwork Jamal 6-10pm
Sat. 1/22: Ventucky Fogg
Sun. 1/23: Blue Stew 2-6pm

Bombay's Bar & Grill
143 S. California St.
805-643-4404
All Star Blues Night every Wed. 8pm
Afternoon Concerts every Sun. 4pm

Cafe Fiore
66 California St.
805-653-1266
Wed. 1/12: Big Adventure
Thur. 1/13: Bong Town
Fri. 1/14: Copy Cats
Sat. 1/15: Copy Cats
Tue. 1/18: Bernie Meisinger
Wed. 1/19: Big Adventure
Thur. 1/20: Coso Live
Fri. 1/14: Urban Dread
Sat. 1/22: Radio Rage
Tue. 1/18: Del Franklin

Charline's
546 Main St.
805-652-2255
Sunday Funday Band every Sun.
Reggae Tuesdays every Tue.
Wed. 1/12: Smooth Sax with Del Franklin
Wed. 1/19: Smooth Sax with Del Franklin

GiGi's Coctail Lounge
2493 Grand Ave.
805-642-2411
Karaoke Sunday Nights with Steve Luke 7pm- 12am
Fri 1/14: Agents of Kaos – Hip, edgy classic rock
Sat 1/15: What the Funk
Fri 1/21: Ventucky Fogg Country Western Band
Sat 1/ 22: The Mystery Band

It's All Good Bar & Grill
533 E. Main St.
805-641-9951
Open Mike Night every Wed.

Majestic Theater
26 S. Chestnut St.
805-653-0118
Sun. 1/16: DRI, Hostile, Wages of Fear, Highest Account, Show Children
Thur. 1/20: Uli Jon Roth, Alcatrazz, Adrian Galyish, Maleki Theory, Darren Block
Sat. 1/22: Miami Nights, Masquerade Party
Tue. 1/25: Social Distortion, Lucero, Chuck Regan

W2O Rooftop Lounge
598 E. Main St.
805-643-6800
Fri. 1/ 14: Soul Machine 7pm
Sat. 1/15: The Bomb 7pm
Sun. 1/16: Shoemakers 3-6pm

Wine Lovers Bar
1067 E. Thompson Blvd.
805-652-1810
Wed. 1/12: DJ's
Thur. 1/13: Zuhg (reggae band)
Wed. 1/19: DJ's
Thur: 1/20: Legalizer

Zoey's Café
185 E. Santa Clara St.
805-652-1137
Wed. 1/12: Songwriter's round hosted by Joel Eckles 8pm
Thur. 1/13: Lauren Donahue, Patrick Gunning, Matt Witner 7:30pm
Fri. 1/14: Aron Van Alstein Band, The Canyons 8pm
Sat. 1/15: B. Willing James & Friends, Shane Alexander 8pm
Sun. 1/16: John Cruz 8pm
Fri. 1/21: Nathan McEuen & Band 7pm
Sat. 1/22: Joey Ryan & Kenneth Pattengale 8pm
Sun. 1/23: Joey Ryan & Kenneth Pattengale 7pm

Camerata Pacifica announces February program

Clarinetist José Franch-Ballester, acclaimed for his "technical wizardry and tireless enthusiasm...a musician of some depth (The New York Times) returns to Camerata Pacifica for performances of Debussy's Premiere Rhapsodie and Schumann's Fantasiestücke, both with Camerata Pacifica's principal pianist, Warren Jones. Jones also offers a performance of Muzio Clementi's seldom-heard Sonata in B Minor, Op. 40, No.2. Clementi, well-known as a virtuoso in his lifetime, and best-known for his pedagogical piano works now, published the three sonatas of Opus 40 in 1802.

Principal violinist, Catherine Leonard, joins Warren Jones for Debussy's Sonata in G Minor. The program concludes with Sebastian Currier's exciting work, Verge, for clarinet, violin and piano, which was inspired by the title of one of the movements of Schumann's Kinderszenen.

Camerata Pacifica performs monthly in four cities: Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Marino and Los Angeles. Founded by Adrian Spence in 1990, the group comprises some of today's most notable chamber musicians. Camerata Pacifica is distinctive for artistic excellence, an innovative approach to classical music and a repertoire that ranges from baroque to brand new, from familiar masterworks to works that have yet to become favorites.

Sunday, February 6, 3pm, Ventura Temple Beth Torah: Ticket prices $35 single tickets- Student Rush, 30 minutes prior, for $10, with valid student i.d.

For tickets and information: www.cameratapacifica.org
Or call 884-8410.

Hospice volunteer training

The next Hospice Volunteer Training Course will begin Wednesdays, February 2 and will take place for eight consecutive Wednesdays from 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM. Location of class is Livingston Memorial located at 1996 Eastman Ave., Ventura,93003

Volunteers are an important part of the hospice team. Even though they do not provide hands on care they do touch patients and families deeply by providing relief to caregivers, running errands and by offering a compassion and support to patients and their families during this difficult time.

Training is conducted by our professional staff including RN's specializing in palliative care, medical social workers, hospice chaplain and bereavement counselors. Volunteers are considered an integral part of the LMVNA/Hospice team and receive on going supervision and training.

By committing just two hours a week you can make a difference.

Contact information: Maddy Hazard, MPH at 642-0239 X775 or e-mail mhazard@lmvna.org.

Foster parenting informational meeting

Learn how you can become a partner in caring at a Foster Parenting Informational Meeting, Tuesday, February 15 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Human Services Agency of Ventura County, 855 Partridge Dr., Ventura. 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. For more information call the Human Services Agency at 654-3456 or go to http://www.vchsa.org/foster.

The Lighter Breeze

Baby Blues

Pros and Cons

Zits

Hagar the Horrible

Crock

The Lockhorns

Solutions on page 15

Weekly SUDOKU

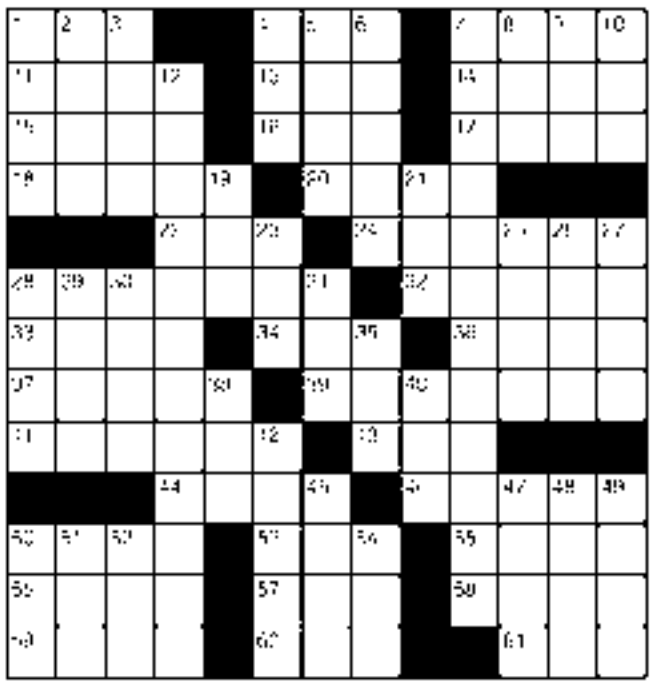
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Peculiar
4 Bikini half
7 Poet Angelou
11 Satirical comic Sahl
13 "— the ramparts ..."
14 Mid-month date
15 Celebrity
16 Witty one
17 Last year's frosh
18 Skewered entree
20 Mineral hardness scale name
22 Apprehend
24 Toy (with)
28 Sheriff
32 Did a cobbler's job
33 Composer Khachaturian
34 Catch some rays
36 Require
37 Still
39 Lustrous, in a way
41 Meryl Streep's alma mater
43 Hawaiian garland
44 Overly confident
46 Fake drake
50 New Zealand bird
53 Bow the head
55 Coffee
56 Reverberate
57 Raw rock
58 Mideast sultanate
59 Night light?
60 Fresh
61 Wapiti

DOWN
1 Siberian city
2 Be too fond
3 Colorless
4 Violinist's need
5 Paper
6 Shop talk
7 City in Orange County, Calif.
8 Commotion
9 "Uh-huh"
10 Blond shade
12 Message
19 "Hum-bug!"
21 Storefront sign abbr.
23 Cudgel
25 Run off
26 Ogler's look
27 Vortex
28 Sportscaster Albert
29 Mel melody
30 "Before," in an Alger story
31 — Vegas
35 Zero
38 Weir
40 Startled
42 Talk nonstop
45 Former veep
47 Arrived
48 Elliptical
49 Tug harm
50 Trivia maven Jennings
51 Lemieux milieu
52 Which person
54 Morning moisture

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Aspects call for care in preparing material for submission. Although you might find it bothersome to go over what you've done, the fact is, rechecking could be worth your time and effort.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The week is favorable for Bovines who welcome change. New career opportunities wait to be checked out. You might also want to get started on that home makeover you've been considering.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might have to be extra careful to protect that surprise you have planned, thanks to a certain snoopy someone who wants to know more about your plans than you're willing to share.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Family ties are strong this week, although an old and still-unresolved problem might create some unpleasant moments. If so, look to straighten the situation out once and for all.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Although the Lion might see it as an act of loyalty and courage to hold on to an increasingly shaky position, it might be wiser to make changes now to prevent a possible meltdown later.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your gift for adding new people to your circle of friends works overtime this week, thanks largely to contacts you made during the holidays. A surprise awaits you at the week's end.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Don't hide your talents. It's a good time to show what you can do to impress people who can do a lot for you. A dispute with a family member might still need some smoothing over.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be open with your colleagues about your plan to bring a workplace matter out into the open. You'll want their support, and they'll want to know how you'll pull it off.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Trying to patch up an unraveling relationship is often easier said than done. But it helps to discuss and work out any problems that arise along the way.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While your creative aspect remains high this week, you might want to call on your practical side to help work out the why and wherefore of an upcoming decision.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Dealing with someone's disappointment can be difficult for Aquarians, who always try to avoid giving pain. But a full explanation and a show of sympathy can work wonders.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Getting a job-related matter past some major obstacles should be easier this week. A personal situation might take a surprising but not necessarily unwelcome turn by the week's end.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can be both a dreamer and a doer. You consider helping others to be an important part of your life.

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Business

Is Ventura's Young Professionals Group right for you?

by Sandra M. Burkhart
President and CEO ,Ventura Chamber of Commerce

Are you young? Are you a professional? Actually, it doesn't matter. The real question I want to ask is, have you heard about Ventura's Young Professionals Group (affectionately referred to as the YPG)? The YPG is a (relatively) new group formed by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce to provide a fun and effective way to network with other professionals from a broad range of industries and to learn valuable lessons from business expert speakers.

The YPG's philosophy is that "young" is a state of mind, and people of all ages are welcome to join the group and attend its events. In fact, you don't even need to be a YPG member to attend YPG events, although you can save money on event admission if you are a YPG member. Anyone is welcome to join the YPG. The cost is just $20 per year if you are a member of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce ($75 if you are not).

The YPG hosts events every other month and alternates between Mixinars™ and Mixinatries™. What's a Mixinar™ and Mixinarty™? So glad you asked. A Mixinar is a two-hour event that is part mixer and part seminar. The mixer allows networking with other professionals and we bring in business experts to give a short seminar, speaking about a timely topic that affects your business. A Mixinarty is a four-hour event, which is basically a Mixinar with a party thrown at the end.

You may have heard about the YPG's first Mixinarty. It was held September 10th last year at the Museum of Ventura County on the west end of Main St. in downtown Ventura. It was a huge bash. Over 125 people showed up and were entertained by local entrepreneurial hero, Sam Hishmeh (if you've ever ordered from a local Domino's then you have eaten one of his pizzas) and gyrated to the funky beats of Mini Driver.

The next Mixinarty is being held from 6p – 10p on Friday, January 21st at the City's Ventura Ventures Technology Center (V2TC) business incubator in Downtown Ventura at 505 Poli St. in the City Hall building cluster (yes, the beautiful marble building at the top of California St.). The theme is Fire & Ice and will feature delicious food catered by The Greek and Ventura's own celebrity DJ, Nick Dean. The featured speaker for the evening is serial entrepreneur Matthew Graczyk who is CEO for the online coupons site, Coupeez, headquartered in the V2TC. Matthew will be sharing insights from his 20-year career as a technology entrepreneur, which includes six public-company exits.

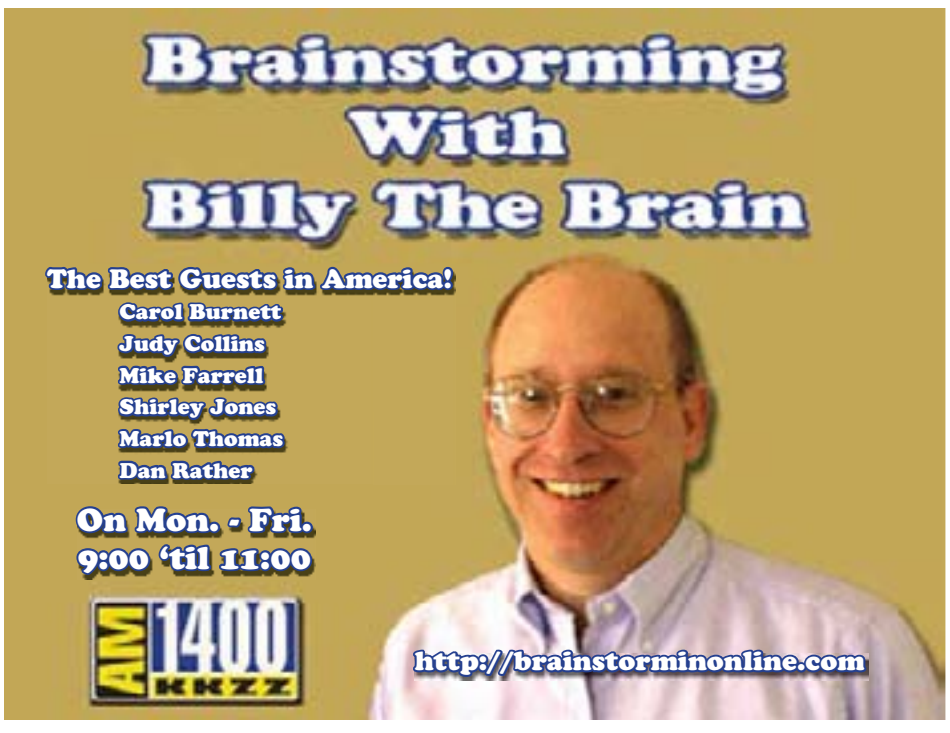
Also, Mayor Bill Fulton will host a book signing for his newest book, Romancing the Smokestack: How cities and states pursue prosperity. There is something for everyone so mark your calendars and plan to join us for an unforgettable evening!

For more details, visit our event calendar at www.venturachamber.com or contact the Chamber office at 643-7222. You can also find the Ventura YPG on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/VenturaYPG and becoming a fan today. We look forward to seeing you there!

On January 3 portrait artist Johanna Spinks appeared on the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on Ventura County radio station 1400AM KKZZ.

Johanna Spinks is partnering with the Ventura Breeze to take on a new challenge and paint a face portrait of the "Face Of Ventura" for the next two years in every issue of the Breeze

Coach Ron is on daily from 4-6pm with many wonderful guests.



Religion

The open door Coffee House

The open door Coffee House is the exciting new outreach ministry of Ventura's First United Methodist Church, which opens a new doorway to the community by serving gourmet espresso type organic coffee drinks and other hot drinks and snacks, as well as wholesome live or recorded musical and other entertainment, in an atmosphere of welcoming hospitality, where conversation, open minds and hearts, and friendships can grow and flourish. Drinks are nominally free but freewill donations are also gladly welcomed and are only used to support the non-profit operation of the coffee house. Regular musical and other entertainment is provided and free Wi-Fi is available.

The Grand Opening of the open door was on January 9. The band "Flashback" played as a special additional musical event during the middle of the coffee house session, in the adjacent Trotter Hall of the Church. The local Ventura trio band "Jill Martini Soiree" is scheduled to play during the next coffee house session on January 16. The coffee house will continue thereafter on a regular weekly schedule of Sundays from 5-8 pm during 2011. The open door's weekly sessions are all held on the ground floor of the Church's Wesley Center, located at 1338 E. Santa Clara Street in Ventura, near the intersection of Main and East Santa Clara Streets, and only a few blocks east of the Ventura downtown business area. Ample free parking is available in the large paved parking lot next to the east side of the Church.

All are welcome, and young adults and families are particularly encouraged to visit. More information, including a schedule of events, is available on the open door web page at: www.opendoorcoffee.org, or by emailing the open door team at info@theopendoorcoffee.org.

Cooking

Thai Chicken

by Judy Sandoval

1 – 2 cups jasmine rice, cooked as directed
4 – 6 green onions, chopped
2 carrots, slivered (cut long slivers with peeler
1 – 2 T sesame seeds
4 – 6 chicken breasts (halves), grilled (slice thin after grilling)

We grilled the chicken on an electric grill using olive oil, salt and pepper.

Thai Sauce:
¼ c. peanut butter
1/3 c. soy sauce
2 T water
1/3 c. brown sugar
¼ c. oil
½ t. minced garlic
1 T. ginger root, grated
¼ t. crushed red pepper flakes

Stir all ingredients together till well blended and heat till simmered several minutes.

To serve:

Place the rice on individual serving plates. Top with sliced chicken, slivered carrots, chopped onions and sesame seeds.

Photo Contest

For $30 where was this photo taken?
The first reader who can tell us the area where this photo was taken will win a $30 gift certificate from any advertiser in this issue.
Just email your answer to editor@venturabreeze.com.

Orca sightings by Susan Lang near the islands. "Really a magical moment"

Harbor Patrol Blotter

A little of what the Harbor Patrol tends to

December 17

7:00 p.m. The first Parade of Lights commenced with 20 boats participating. The event finished without incident.

December 18

1:33 p.m. Patrol received a report of a 22-foot power boat disabled at the Harbor Entrance. Patrol responded and found the boat's owner fending the boat away from the breakwater. Patrol took the vessel into tow and released it at the Launch Ramp.

5:45 p.m. Patrol observed the fireworks vehicle stuck in the mud after trying to go around the gate at Parcel 18. Patrol was able to tow the vehicle back onto the street.

7:00 p.m. The second Parade of Lights commenced with sixteen boats participating. The weather was calm and warm; unfortunately light to moderate rain cut down spectator participation.

December 19

3:40 p.m. Patrol responded to a report of a small sailboat sitting low in the water at Anchors Way Marina. Patrol dewatered the vessel.

December 20:

7:20 a.m. VIM reports a submerged vessel at G-dock. Patrol responded and upon arrival found a partially submerged 25-foot power vessel. Patrol successfully cleared the water by pumping water out of the vessel for about 40 minutes.

9:00 a.m. Patrol found a vessel at VIM low in the water. They pumped about 500 gallons of water from the vessel. VIM will contact the boat's owner.

11:00 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at the Port District. Upon arrival, Patrol took the patient's vitals. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

2:55 p.m. Patrol towed one of the boat's that was taking on water to a boatyard to be hauled out.

December 21:

9:25 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

December 24:

11:10 p.m. Patrol observed ten hoop nets within ten feet of the outside of the breakwater. Patrol issued citations to the two violators from setting nets within 250 feet of the breakwater.

December 21:

1:03 p.m. PD advised Patrol that they were in contact with a disabled boater. They transferred the call to Patrol, who determined the boater was disabled a mile to a mile and a half from the Harbor. Patrol responded, took the vessel into tow, and released it at the launch ramp.

January 2:

2:31 p.m. Patrol received a MAYDAY call of a sailboat against the rocks on the outside of the breakwater. Patrol responded, pulled the vessel off the rocks and towed it to its slip at the middle channel of the Keys.

Turning Point

Continued from page 1

she decided to sit down and write her book.

Following "Manic's" publication, Terri received hundreds of emails from parents of bipolar children asking about her own childhood. In response, she wrote "The Dark Side of Innocence: Growing up Bipolar," a personal portrayal of the emerging phenomenon of childhood bipolar disorder. Cheney now devotes her advocacy skills to the cause of mental illness.

Turning Point Foundation was established in 1988 and is governed by a board of directors drawn from the Ventura County community. Serving more than 500 clients each year through its shelter, supported housing and rehabilitation programs, Turning Point is the only nonprofit agency in Ventura County that addresses the critical community support needs of mentally ill adults. In Ventura, its local services include Our Place Shelter, the New Visions Center, and the River Haven community.

The breakfast is intended to bring together a broad spectrum of the community to become better acquainted with Turning Point's mission and services. It also provides personal insight into the symptoms and solutions for mental illness and recognizes members of the community who have experienced recovery. "The event blends persons with remarkable stories with people from the Turning Point community who also share their stories," says Reynolds.

More information about the community breakfast and Turning Point Foundation is available on their website at www.turningpointfoundation.org or by calling Jane Lax at 652-0000, x102.

Community events

Continued from page 9

confusing for new parliamentary students.

Zeta Chi is a local unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP.)

The unit meets at 7 p.m. in the Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library. Free parking is available behind the library.

Zeta Chi holds regular study meetings at the library on the third Monday evening of each month except December; unit member dues are $25 per year.

For more information about the organization please contact Sandra Sanders at 643-5928 or sandy108@pacbell.net

January 21: The Ventura TOPS Chapter 2428 will have an open house from noon – 2pm. Healthy refreshments will be provided, also educational materials and a presentation by Sydney Brown, MSW, LCSW, who will be speaking on 'Stress and Weight Management'. Ms. Brown will present easy and affordable techniques plus scientifically supported technology that will have you experiencing more control of your life in just a few weeks.

TOPS is a weight loss support group. This chapter meets weekly at SCAN Senior Resource Center which is open to the public. It is located three blocks east of the Ventura Government Center at 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 200. For additional information call 658-0365.

Club leader Lolly Jeffreys states "TOPS has helped me lose over 50 pounds in the last 2 years impossible for me without TOPS support." TOPS will help you "Take off Pounds Sensibly".

February 2: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN) is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, golf, dining, wine outings, reading, cooking etc.

For more information, please attend their monthly meeting at 9:30am at The Greek Restaurant located at 1583 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura Harbor No charge for meeting. Coffee or Tea is available at a nominal charge of $1.00. Guest Speaker: M.J. Taylor, Tall Ships

For additional information, please call 382-2935 or 659-4542 or go to: bcnn.community.officelive.com.

February 6: The **1892 Dudley Historic House Museum** will be open for docent-led tours from 1 to 4 p.m. accompanied by early 1900's recordings in the parlor and a classic radio program in the upstairs library landing. Admission is free. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets in Ventura. For information please call 642-3345 or visit their website at www.dudleyhouse.org.

Ojai events

"The Allure of Ojai's Arcade, 1917 through 1977," an original exhibition of Ojai history, opens the Ojai Valley Museum's 2011 schedule.

The purpose of this tour-de-force, retrospective exhibit is to educate visitors about Ojai's landmark, turn-of-the-century, covered shopping mall. Vintage photographs and ephemera, historic costume material, artifacts and a life size model of a portion of the Arcade are among the treasures included in the exhibit.

The exhibit opens on January 13 and runs through February 27. A Gala Reception will be held on Saturday, January 22 from 5 to 7 pm.

The Ojai Valley Museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Avenue and is open Thursday and Friday from 1 to 4 pm, Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm and Sundays from Noon to 4 pm. For additional information call the museum at 640-1390 or visit the museum website at: http://www.ojaivalleymuseum.org/

Meditation Mount presents an evening with Dot Maver: National Peace Academy

Building Infrastructures of Peace From Dream to Reality.

On Friday January 14 @ 7:30pm, $15 Donation at the door

Learn about the challenges and successes of the National Peace Academy (NPA) and its research and initiatives for creating local and global 'cultures of peace'. Explore what it means to be a 'peace builder' – inner and outer, personal and professional - and discover how we each can be a positive force for peace and goodwill in the world.

Dorothy Maver, Ph.D. is Director of the National Peace Academy and serves on the Leadership Council of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace.

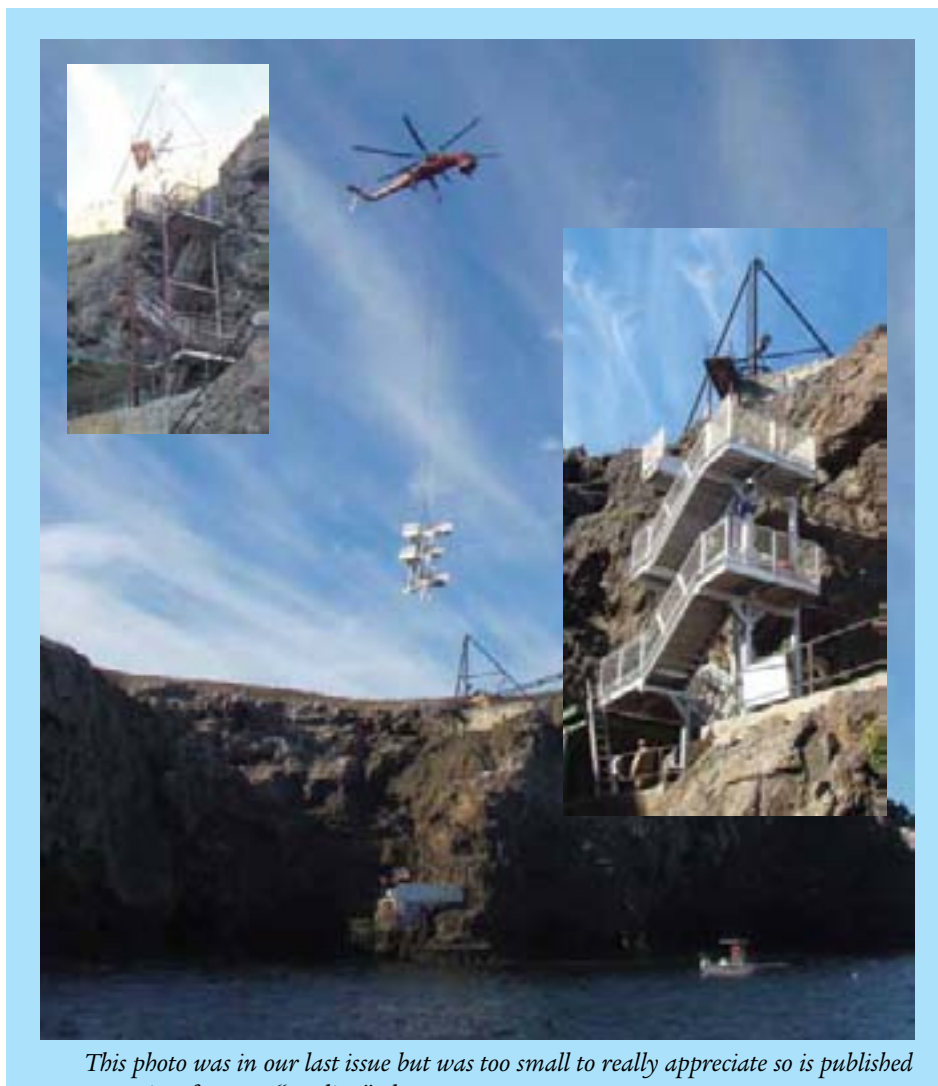
Also a Full Moon Community Meditation on Tuesday, January 18 @7:30 pm.

You are invited to participate in this joyous act of celebration and service at the time of the Full Moon in the solar month of Capricorn to invoke, anchor and distribute blessings to our world.

Please join in this group meditation for humanity, followed by a ritual of blessing on the Terrace overlooking the Ojai Valley. Your generous donations are appreciated.

Meditation Mount
10340 Reeves Rd.
Ojai, CA 93023
www.meditationmount.org

Get some support for your New Year's resolutions. Learn about nutrition and fitness with Dr. Bernhoft at the Ojai Library on Tuesday, January 25 at 6:30pm. There will be time for questions after the program. 111 E. Ojai Ave.



This photo was in our last issue but was too small to really appreciate so is published one more time for your "reading" pleasure.

It is the placement of the new metal staircase at Anacapa Island that replaced the old one that was determined to be unsafe last June and closed down.

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