



Happy Valentine's Day!

FREE

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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February 9 - February 22, 2011



Grammy award winning musician Arturo Sandoval will be the featured artist at the Ventura Music Festival's Latin Jazz Concert on Saturday, February 12, 8:00 p.m. at the Ventura County Fairgrounds at Seaside Park.

Latin jazz artist Sandoval returns to Ventura

by Tim Pompey

He was so popular when he played for the Ventura Music Festival four years ago that the Festival has scheduled Grammy award winning trumpet player Arturo Sandoval to come back

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Relay For Life held around the clock at Buena High School during the unique cancer fundraising event

Join the Ventura Community as we kick off the fight against cancer!

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Ventura Kickoff Party invites individuals, businesses and organizations who want to celebrate the lives of those who have faced cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease, on Thurs-



Pier into the Future is dedicated to preserving the historic Ventura Pier. Photo by Doug Mangum

Pier into the Future receives Mayor's Community Collaborator Award

Pier into the Future, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the historic Ventura Pier, was recently honored by City of Ventura Mayor Bill Fulton with the Community Collaborator Award in recognition of their outstanding volunteer service and dedication to preserving the Ventura Pier for the past 18 years. The award was presented to Bob Tobias, President, Pier into the Future, at a recent City Council meeting. Tobias commented, "Our organization is proud of the partnership we have with the City of Ventura. This past year we provided over \$178,000 to the City to help repair the historic Ventura Pier due to storm damage."

In its 18th year, Pier into the Future is led by an all volunteer board. Recently elected new officers include: Bob Tobias, President; Mel Sheeler, VP of Marketing; Judy Cunningham, VP of Volunteers;

day, February 24 at 7pm at Coastal Communities Cancer Center - 2900 Loma Vista Rd. The kickoff event will be filled with fun and information on how you can get further involved in the fight against cancer. Please RSVP by February 17 to Catherine Pulisic at 276-8148 or Catherine.Pulisic@cancer.org

Relay For Life is a unique fundraising event that allows participants from all walks of life - including patients, medical support staff, corporations, civic organizations, churches and community volunteers - to join together to celebrate the lives of those who have faced cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease.

On May 14-15, walkers will go around the clock in the battle against cancer during the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Ventura. Teams of enthusiastic citizens will gather at Buena High School for an overnight relay against cancer from 9am until 9am the next morning.

Relay For Life opens as cancer survivors

Doug McAden, CFO; and Kathy McAden, Secretary.

Pier into the Future provides a unique opportunity for community members to have their name or the name of a loved one permanently engraved in granite at the entrance to the Ventura Pier. Engravings at the deckhand level are \$175 and include 25 characters engraved on the granite, a pier plank certificate suitable for framing and a pier pin declaring your support of the Ventura Pier. For larger contributions a major donor wall provides engravings that offer more space to the donor. Pier into the Future also offers an Adopt-a-Bench Program. Existing benches are available to be dedicated in memory of loved ones or to honor a special person. To request a brochure please call Pier into the Future at 797-7544 or the order form can be found on line at www.pierintothefuture.org.

(anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer) walk the first lap. Highlighting the evening is the Luminaria Ceremony held after dark to honor cancer survivors and to remember those who have lost the battle against cancer. The luminaria line the track and are left burning throughout the night to remind participants of the incredible importance of their contributions.

"Relay For Life is as much an awareness raiser about the progress against cancer as it is a fund raiser," said Lynne Clark Event Chair. "Many of the participants will be people who have dealt with cancer themselves. Their involvement is proof of the progress that has been made in reducing cancer death rates and in the quality of life following cancer treatment."

Information about how to form a team or become involved in Relay For Life is available from the American Cancer Society at 276-8148 or 1-800-ACS-2345, or visit www.RelayForLife.org/venturaca

Controversy regarding Canada Larga not a simple fight - part two

by Rebecca Wicks

Continued from the Jan. 26 issue of the Breeze, part one of the article covered how the city is considering annexing Canada Larga, a portion of land north of Ventura Avenue, and including it in the greater Westside Community Revitalization Plan. The intent is to construct up to 99 executive ranch homes on the property.

Opponents of the plan have been gathering forces. Led by Ventura Citizens for Hillside Preservation who recently hired Environmental Defense Center, an environmental law firm, the list of those opposed to the possible annexation has grown to include The Sierra Club, Save Open-Space & Agricultural Resources, Wishtoyo Foundation, VCCool and Ventura Audubon Society.

Many representing these groups and others were present at a city council meeting at the end of January where the topic was discussed at length.

In the end the council decided to postpone a decision until April. The council did consent (5-1) to invest an additional \$45,000 to conduct a fiscal and market analysis to help determine if annexing the area in question is a good decision.

Councilman Jim Monahan, who

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For this issue's Face of Ventura by Johanna Spinks see page 8

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VENTURA BREEZE

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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

■ There is a work out machine at the Pierpont Racquet Club with the following instruction on it. "Stop using if you are in pain or faint". My question is should I stop using it before or after I faint?

■ The City could very easily balance our budget by just writing tickets to everyone who walks across the street when the red don't cross hand is showing.

In fact if the money was just used to maintain downtown we could eliminate the parking meters.

■ The proposal for the Walmart, on Victoria Ave. is moving through the city and will be remodeled and opened in the near future. What I don't get are the concerns that it will hurt local businesses (which it will) but I don't hear any opposition to Bevmo opening behind the mall which will certainly hurt many local businesses.

Could there be more to the Walmart opposition than meets the eye?

■ I have often (okay one person) been asked why we deliver the Breeze to over 500 local locations and how. Very simple, we want as many people as possible to enjoy reading the Breeze and we are unique in the sense that we leave as little as 5 issues at some locations and we are the only paper at a majority of our "drops".

This, of course also gets maximum exposure for our advertisers because without them we don't exist and you don't get to read the Breeze. In fact we can use a lot more of them so spread the word.

■ The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Ventura Kickoff Party invites individuals, businesses and organiza-

tions who want to celebrate the lives of those who have faced cancer. Full details are in our cover story.

Relay For Life is a unique fundraising event that allows participants from all walks of life to join together to celebrate the lives of those who have faced cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease.

This year the Ventura Breeze will be part of the team from the Pierpont Racquet Club.

If you want to be involved with us let



me know by email or at the kickoff event, would love to have you join us.

The kickoff event will be filled with fun and information on how you can get further involved in the fight against cancer. Please RSVP by February 17 to Catherine Pulisic at 276-8148 or Catherine.Pulisic@cancer.org.

■ Per our 2 part article (second part in

Mailbox

store in the last month or so.

While I have seen 4-5 shopping carts with homeless stuff in them (mostly in the State Park and on the promenade), I have seen just as many being used by individuals illegally digging through the trash bins to collect cans on the lanes in Pierpont, in Marina Park, at the State Beach and along the promenade.

However, the vast majority of the shopping carts I have seen in the last month are destroyed carts lying in the Ventura River bed and carts in or near the Ventura and Santa Clara River - well over 10 destroyed carts lying in the Ventura River bottom and probably another 30 abandoned shopping carts. While these are probably being used by transients, typically they are being abandoned within a 6 block area of one of the two Vons above.

As an interim solution, I see no reason why these establishments can't take the initiative to go out and retrieve these carts, especially before they are thrown down the rocks into the Ventura River bed. I also see no reason why we need to make excuses for those that are using these carts illegally...they are the property of these retail establishments and are for the convenience of their customers to carry their groceries to their cars. These carts should not be leaving their premises and being abandoned by people using public transportation, the homeless or anyone else. I see it as the responsibility of the retail establishment to insure that these carts aren't left all over our neighborhoods, and if for some reason they are, that these establishments be responsible for retrieving them.

Destroyed shopping carts in the Ventura River bed are a real eyesore...and a destruction of private property...we can't condone this behavior by the homeless or anyone else. It is a sad state of affairs if the City has been working on this issue for several years and not come up with a solution. Give me a break.

Murray Robertson
A Very Concerned Ventura Resident

Breeze:

It's always interesting to me how cities tend to view open pieces of property as money pots. Now as our states, counties, and cities struggle to manufacture additional revenue, one of the last true rural scenic properties still for sale in surrounding Ventura is apparently now on the chopping block.

As I drive around Ventura and Oxnard, particularly along that breathtaking stretch of Gonzales Road between Harbor and Victoria, I can see Ventura's density pressing upward. On the plus side, some local conservancies are fighting to preserve the remaining hillsides and wetlands. It's still nice to see, above all that density, clear hilltops.

Canada Larga, however remains tucked away and privately owned. As a result, it is isolated and defenseless against huge payoffs for the current landowners as well as a few city council members who view large estates on rural lands as property revenue from the wealthy.

this issue) it is being considered by the city council to annex some of Canada Larga into Ventura and to develop the area into "executive" homes on 4-acre parcels.

Because of this Diane, Scamp and I recently took a ride up there (haven't for a while). It is at end of Ventura Ave. in case you didn't know.

You should check it out and let me know what you think of developing the area into housing.

Council members Jim Monahan, Christy Wear, Neal Andrews and Mike Tracy are council members who have expressed support for the project citing greater property tax revenue and the possibility of attracting new business to the area because we now lack adequate "executive" housing in Ventura.

There is concern by many regarding fire potential, adequate utilities and disturbing of the natural habitat that would be the result of this development (see opinions).

A report ordered by the city council will look specifically at executive housing and its correlation to job creation.

Even though I understand, and recognize all of the concerns I still feel that this proposal has to be given fair consideration because this type of housing is needed in Ventura. Ventura needs major businesses here to support our dwindling tax base and a lack of housing is one of the reasons they do not relocate here.

Future studies, and EIR reports (is that redundant?) will deal with these concerns so let's wait and see if they can be addressed in a satisfactory manner before final decisions are made.

Ojai has these kinds of lots and homes and I think still maintains the open natural feeling of the Ojai Valley.

Canada Larga Road has been a great source of refreshment to me. An uncluttered drive with dramatic valley vistas, cattle grazing, and great flocks of birds circling overhead. I sometimes go out there just to feel what it's like to be in the country and to have a natural setting to enjoy. The problem is, it doesn't have the advantages of visible hillsides or riv-

Continued on page 6

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When the will and the imagination are in conflict, it is always the imagination that wins.

—Emille Coue

Breeze:

With reference to my and Councilman Andrews articles in the Ventura Breeze about the Shopping Cart Issue.

I cycle in and around Ventura every day between the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers mostly along the beach front and up toward Ojai. In this area 99% of the abandoned shopping carts are from the Vons at Main/Ventura AV and Seaward/Harbor BL. I have seen only one each from Target, Rite Aid and the 99 Cent



City News

Visual blight in our community – part two

by Neal Andrews

City Council Member-Chair of the City Council Committee on Homelessness

Many City grocery stores for years have employed a shopping cart recovery program, where they have employed a private concern to retrieve their shopping carts from around town and return them to their stores. This program has worked reasonably well, but not all establishments participate, nor does the program reach into all areas of the City where the carts are commonly found. A few establishments have explored the idea of putting locking devices on their carts to prevent them from leaving their properties. The problem is that both solutions are apparently fairly expensive.

City staff has recently proposed a renewed effort to deal with this problem. What they have suggested, and have presented to the City Council Committee on Homelessness, which I chair, is a program that they will initiate soon to secure voluntary participation by retail establishments to try to deal with this issue.

First, let's emphasize that the program is voluntary.

What the City staff will be doing over the next several weeks or months is identifying the retail establishments whose carts are most often found abandoned around the City. They are also compiling a contact list of all retailers who provide convenience carts to their customers.

Subsequently, they will ask each retailer identified to provide the City with a voluntary plan for management of their shopping cart inventory, a "shopping cart management program" so to speak, which will detail how each vendor will attempt to keep their shopping carts in their stores or on their properties.

There are two stated objectives that City staff hopes to achieve. The first is to create an environment of awareness of the perception of community blight among retailers. The second is to attempt to resolve the problem without regulatory intervention by the City by stimulating voluntary action.

The fact is that these carts are expensive. It is clearly in the self-interest of the retailers to deal with the problem and prevent the removal of their carts from their premises. The problem is finding a way to do so that is cost-effective. City staff has appropriately determined that they are far less knowledgeable and less capable of doing that than are the retailers themselves, so the approach City staff is pursuing is to try to stimulate the creative thinking and voluntary action in self-interest of the commercial community.

Staff is compiling a list now of retailers who provide shopping carts as a convenience to their customers throughout the City. These retailers will soon receive a letter asking them to provide a written description of their shopping cart inventory management programs and, in particular, their shopping cart retrieval programs. Then staff will evaluate those programs, and provide feedback to the retailers with respect to those programs that represent best practices or appear to be most effective, based upon City counts of abandoned carts by retailer and by volume of business. Only if this approach fails to achieve a significant reduction in the frequency of abandoned carts will staff recommend further action at this time.

In any case, we all know that the true solution is to provide shelter and housing programs for the homeless among us. That is the correct path to resolving all the issues that arise from homelessness and poverty in our community. When people have a safe place to live, they can begin to really resolve the other problems that besiege them and so often make it so difficult to stabilize their lives and their families. If we dealt with homelessness more effectively, we would only be dealing with shopping carts when our elderly parents left them at the bus stop because we didn't provide better public transit, but that'll have to be my next commentary.

nized, and interpreted over the last six months. Residents completed over 470 surveys during the Housing Collaborative effort, over 200 citizens attended the workshops, and over a 1000 comments were assimilated in the analysis. Many citizens responded that code officers were "out to get homeowners" in the surveys. Some felt like the city's website was a confusing maze of contradictions.

Ken Luper, the Housing Collaborative's vice president, made the presentation and said that in the final analysis, for code compliance to be a success in the current economic climate, it had to be, "Fast, cheap and easy."

Other citizen groups like Grandfather Ventura and F.A.C.E. Off (Fight Against Code Enforcement) have rallied in response to the 145 properties that have been turned over to the County Tax Assessor's Office since 2007 for code violations, an action that could result in foreclosure.

Lewis Campos, a Ventura resident who owns a property that was originally a convalescent home before it was converted to a residence, informed the group that, "My property does not have a garage. The cost to build one might be as high as \$30,000 to \$40,000. I can't afford it. This whole thing is making me ill."

Jill Martinez, who is on the board of the Housing Collaborative, said, "There are many community organizations that will help homeowners bring their houses into compliance. I work with Community Action of Ventura County. Money is available for helping homeowners." One of the citizen recommendations on the list is the training of city employees to refer homeowners to organizations that have resources available for homeowners, especially those who are not financially able to pay for improvements themselves.

One attendee, Ventura resident, Michael Pedziwiatr, says he is finished with the area. "I can't afford to live here. The fees are so outrageous, I am moving."

Because of the issue's volatile nature, the Housing Collaborative Committee acknowledges that one of the city's first jobs is to rebuild trust with residents. Amnesty, grandfathering older properties and respecting a citizen's Fourth Amendment rights were suggested ways to accomplish this. Other suggestions for increasing compliance included: Sliding scales for homeowners who qualify; Clear accounting of fees and the cost of code enforcement; Establishment of a citizen review board to oversee complaints and appeals; And crisis intervention training for city employees to learn to handle irate and upset homeowners.

The report is expected to be presented to the city council by February 28th.



Susan Seale from VCCF/United Way and Rosie Ornelas, City of Ventura addressing the "Volunteer Summit". Photo by Franz Tinio-Lopez

Volunteer Summit held at City Hall

On Wednesday, January 26 the "Volunteer Summit" for countywide organizations, that utilize and depend on volunteers was held at the Ventura City Hall Atrium. There were about 40 representatives from local non-profit organizations in attendance.

The event was organized by Rosie Ornelas and Cary Glenn from the city. Cary Glenn, Community Partnerships Supervisor for the Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships stated "The free event, that was inspired by the 2010 California Cities of Service Conference held in Sacramento, brought together a variety of non-profit, social service, and community organizations that utilize volunteers and provided them with information and tools to help them expand their volunteer base."

Keynote motivational speaker Gail Small spoke after the welcoming remarks by Mayor Bill Fulton. Gail Small is an innovative and highly respected educator

and dynamic speaker who is a Fulbright Memorial Scholar, People to People Ambassador and author of six books, including the recent "Joyful Volunteering (www.gailsmaill.com/ for more information).

Four half-hour segments followed the presentation on ways for recruiting volunteers: using social media to engage volunteers, corporate leaders in philanthropy, a brainstorming session and opportunities for regional networking.

City digs deeper to pay for Animal Control Services

The Ventura City Council has agreed to dig into the contingency fund to pay for Animal Control Services. The City pays the county for animal control within the city limits and the cost has now gone up to \$233,000 due to increased housing and medical care, and the rise in the number of unwanted pets due in part to the recession because some animal lovers can no longer afford to care for them or no longer have living places that allow pets.

The city is charged by the county based upon how many animals from Ventura go to the animal shelter at the Camarillo Airport. The police department set aside \$150,000 for the contract and the council agreed unanimously to spend \$83,000 of the city contingency funds that has a balance of \$450,000 set aside for unanticipated expenses.

Cats are not required to be licensed, however only 3% of cats were successfully returned last year because the owners could not be located. The \$20.00 licensing fee goes to assisting animal control officers in returning the animals to their humans rather than going to the shelter and possibly being put down. The shelter can be reached by calling (888) 223-pets or 388-4341.

Downtown condo proposal gets thumbs-up

by Sheli Ellsworth

In January, the Ventura City Council voted 5-2 in favor of supporting a condominium project on the city-owned parking lot near Poli and California Streets. The proposed 29-unit, terraced project will also host underground public parking.

Originally, a luxury hotel project proposed by the joint venture group of Harvey Champlin and Mark Hartley along with property owners Wayne Beafort, Rick Beers, and David Thomas was considered for the site. The hotel project would have required the demolition of the Bank of America property next to the parking lot. Council member, Christy Weir, said the bank was reluctant to consider the proposal, so it only makes sense to support what the city has reasonable control over.

Georgino Development, headquartered in Burbank, now has an exclusive right to submit its condominium project proposal to the city. Georgino is responsible for several local build-

Citizens react to code enforcement

by Sheli Ellsworth

Is the City of Ventura concerned about public safety or is code enforcement a desperate attempt to increase city revenue? This and other questions were asked during a January public workshop at the Bell Arts Factory. More than forty people attended the final Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative workshop in a series of public forums designed to anthropologize community concerns for presentation to the city council sometime in February 2011. The Housing Collaborative Committee was appointed in 2010 by the City Council to address public interest in code enforcement.

Concerns ranged from residents who own properties that were probably never compliant with city code regulations—like granny conversions, to citizens who just want to replace hot water heaters without a trip to the permit office.

The Housing Collaborative's power point presentation offered an analysis of how citizen input was collected, orga-

News and Notes

ing projects in Ventura including the 35,000 square foot Century Theatre 10-plex Movie Theater and 16,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space in the Downtown area.

The exact nature of the proposed project will be forthcoming, but because of the economy, city council members are skeptical about the outcome. Financing is scarce and condominiums have a way of becoming apartments, according to city officials. The success of the estimated \$18 million project may depend on the developer's past financial relationships.

Victor Georgino has been in the development business since 1976 and is responsible for several successful projects in Agoura and Burbank. He designed, leased, and managed financing and construction for a 189,000 square feet industrial park in Burbank in 1979. In 1982 Mr. Georgino was a managing partner for a 85,000 square feet industrial park in Agoura. He also developed parking lot structures for AMC theatres from 1995-2000. Calls and e-mails to Mr. Georgino from the Breeze were not returned.

Mayor Bill Fulton, a professional urban planner, and author of Guide to California Planning—a college urban planning textbook, supported the failed hotel project, but is skeptical about financing for either venture in the current economic climate.

Councilman Mike Tracy favors the idea of ownership in the downtown area while Councilman Morehouse supported neither proposal and encouraged the council to put the lot back out for public bid to see if any other proposals might be forthcoming.

City of Ventura classes

Call 658-4726 or 644-6542 to register, if you already have an account online, visit www.cityofventura.net/eRecreation. All classes take place at the Barranca Vista Center - 7050 Ralston St.

One-Day Celebrations-for Parent and Me - Valentine's Day Party

2-5 years \$10
Learning, exploring and celebrating through snacks, crafts, stories and occasional dress-up.

Class No. 28661 Friday
9:45-10:45 pm 2/11

Intro to Drawing & Painting

12 years-Adult \$70
Begin a successful painting, step-by-step, using oils, and the perfect beginner's medium. \$5 lab fee is due at the first class.

Class No. 28501 Friday
12:30-2:30 pm 2/11-3/18

Basic Painting

12 years-Adult \$60
Learn painting by exploring such fundamentals as color mixing, color harmony and paint application, using oils, acrylics or watercolors

Class No. 28511 Saturday
3:15-5:15 pm 2/12-3/19

Watercolor with a Splash

12 years-Adult \$50
Learn color fundamentals along with basics of watercolors! As you gain skills in methods and techniques of painting, you will increase your understanding of color mixing and interaction. Class updated for returning students.

Class No. 28500 Monday
6:00-7:30 pm 2/14-3/14

Ballroom Dancing

13 years-Adult \$45
Put your shoes on and dance to mad hot

ballroom. Learn waltz, fox trot, swing and rumba! No partner needed. Free DVD of the dance steps so you can practice at home. Instructor Ed Gafford.

Class No.28551 Tuesday
7:15-8:15 pm 2/15-3/22

Swing and Nightclub Dancing

13 years-Adult \$45
Swing the night away learning both East and West coast styles! No partner needed. Instructor Ed Gafford.

Class No.28854 Tuesday
8:15-9:15 pm 2/15-3/22

Art & Science: The Earth, The Sky

8 years-Adult
\$50 fee for 1parent & 1child
Blend art and science with retired lunar scientist Dr. Edward Gafford by examining images from the Hubble Telescope and under the microscope to create your own slides of the natural world here on Earth. It's a great parent and child activity to do together.

Class No.28655 Thursdays
5:30-6:30pm 2/24-3/31

Lunchtime Body Hoops

16 years-Adult \$48
Hoop for fun while you flex and strengthen the core, burn calories and tone the entire body. Hoops available to use and for sale at the class. Wear comfortable clothing to move in. Instructor is Lori Eckberg.

Class No. 28488 Thursday
12:15-1:00 pm 2/24-3/17

Heat Up the Night Latin Dance Workshops

13 years-Adult \$45
Learn sensuous and steamy Latin dances in six weeks. Instructor Ed Gafford.

Class No 28557 Saturday
6-7 pm 2/26-4/2

Driver responsible for fatal auto accident sentenced

Gregory McNally, 48 was recently sentenced to 65 days in jail and three years probation for being responsible for the tragic accidental fatal auto accident that killed Katie Lively, 29 on July 17, 2010. Katie was driving east on North Bank and making a left turn when McNally ran the light traveling south on Johnson. He was sentenced by Ventura County Court Judge Kevin DeNoce.

McNally, who was looking down for his glasses and did not notice the light had turned red prior to entering the intersection. The sentencing was for misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter.

Lively, who was a hair stylist at Blondie's Salon was on her way to work in the morning when the auto accident occurred. Relatives for Lively were present at the time of sentencing and addressed the court as well as McNally who was visibly upset in the court room. McNally, who took responsibility for the accident stated that he could never forgive himself for what had happened.

William "David" Spear fatally shot

On January 29 the Ventura Police Department responded to a report of a shooting victim in the 200 block of West Vince St. near Olive. William "David" Spear, 21, was shot in the chest about 11

p.m. Spear was transported to the Ventura County Medical Center for treatment of a gunshot wound and later died from the wound to the chest

The fatal shooting occurred after an argument between the victim and the suspect Frank Sotelo III, 24, of Ventura. The victim and suspect were involved in a verbal confrontation along the sidewalk around the time of the shooting.

A search warrant was obtained for the suspect's residence and evidence connecting the suspect to the crime was found. Sotelo was arrested and booked into Ventura County Jail for murder and a felon in possession of a firearm. Police found the handgun they believe was used in the shooting.



Christopher Schertzer, garden founder, prunes a potted geranium at the Seaward Garden. Photo by John Ferritto

South Seaward Garden created

Local resident Chris Schertzer has leased a neglected vacant lot in the Pierpont neighborhood to create the South Seaward Garden with the help of Nopalito Native Plant Nursery, which donated all of the landscaping. Neighbors and local businesses on the block (just off of Pierpont) on Seaward donated everything else to make the blighted lot a wonderful and growing new garden.

The mission of this garden is to support community beautification by creating an ocean-friendly native plant garden for all to enjoy. Schertzer stated that "We are dedicated to the re-naturalization of our community by planting drought-resistant plants in abandoned lots in the Pierpont neighborhood. The garden will serve as a fun and educational gathering spot as well as a venue to promote local artists."

The garden's non-profit Kurtwood Corporation accepts donations to help cover liability insurance and the water bill. The City's Environmental Services Division plans to donate a compost bin and work with the Corporation on developing educational signage. Also, the Surfrider Foundation is looking to offer some ocean friendly landscaping expertise. Find out more developments from Chris at 202-9416 or cschertzer@gmail.com, and he can always use your help and donations.

Rotary Club of Ventura awards \$10,000 to Liga International

The Rotary Club of Ventura South recently awarded \$10,000 toward the work of LIGA, the Flying Doctors of Mercy who will dedicate it to performing children's heart surgeries in Mexico.

Since 1934 LIGA has been dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the people of Mexico by providing free health care, education and surgeries. They reach out to serve those who hurt, are ill and cannot receive medical help elsewhere. Almost 2,000 physicians, nurses, optometrists, dentists, pilots, assistants and technicians help provide medical care in established hospitals in Mexico, Central and South America.

Former Rotary Club member and nurse, June Welch has flown many LIGA medical missions that have concentrated on providing life-saving children's heart surgeries in Mexico. The Rotary Club of Ventura South is focused on fulfilling both the global and local Rotary mission expressed by District Governor Deepa Willingham, "... between all of our clubs, we have stretched our helping hands "down the street or across town and... across the world" to build communities and bridge continents."

Rotary is a worldwide organization of more than 33,000 clubs in 200 countries with a membership of 1.2 million business, professional and community leaders who are dedicated to providing humanitarian service, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations and who help build goodwill and peace around the world.

The Rotary Club of Ventura South meets Monday's at noon at the Wedgewood Inn & Banquet Center, 5800 Olivias Park Dr. Visitors are welcome for the lunch and program. For additional information or questions contact Bob Braitman, at 647-7612 or 320-0951.

Job & Career Center offers free professional services

The Ventura County Job & Career Centers (JCCs) are offering free employee recruitment and other professional services to employers in Ventura County. All are designed to make the challenge of finding and retaining the right employees easier.

"JCC account executives are available to meet with employers to understand their recruitment needs and offer online and in-person candidate screening options," says Cheryl Moore, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board of Ventura County (WIB).

The centers supply free meeting rooms for employers to conduct job interviews and host job recruitment events. "Small businesses and human resource departments appreciate access to the rooms, especially when they do not have the space or the privacy that a screening process might require," explains Moore.

JCCs offer other free services to businesses, including worker retention programs, confidential workforce transition planning, workforce reduction services, career workshops, customized training programs and dislocated worker support.

Employers can post free job openings and review resumes online through the Job & Career Centers website: www.venturacountyjcc.org.

The Ventura County Job & Career Centers are located in Fillmore, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Ventura. To discuss recruitment and other workforce needs with a JCC account executive, call 800-500-7705 or go to the Employer Services link at www.wib.ventura.org.



News and Notes



What are you watching on TV?

by Kirsten Ricketts

If you don't have cable TV then you're not watching anything about Ventura. Did you know CAPS Channel 6 and Ventura TV (VTV) Channel 15 are the only channels that air programming produced by and made for our Ventura community? Did you know that there is a TV channel in Ventura that is dedicated to providing local government and educational programming? VTV Channel 15 is the home of all City of Ventura programming including live meetings like City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Committee and Historic Preservation Committee. Channel 15 is also where you can find the City of Ventura's ongoing environmental series with over 70 episodes, Ventura's Environment. The City of Ventura uses Channel 15 to share important messages about issues that are affecting our community. Programs like Ending Homelessness, Doo the Right Thing!, and Living Within Our Means air to keep Ventura citizens informed about pressing matters like homelessness, clean water, and the City budget.

Ventura Unified School District and Ventura College programming can only be found on Channel 15. School Board Meetings air live every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Did you know that Channel 15 airs local high school sports? Right now you can tune in to see the biggest basketball rivalry in town, the Buena Bulldogs vs. the Ventura Cougars. Other popular educational programs like Schmooze with Suz and Getting Moving TV are produced by the Technology Development Center. The longest running series on the channel is Buena Today, made by Buena High School students. Ventura College programming like the new series, VC Means Business, can only be found on Channel 15.

CAPS' purpose is to serve the community by providing access to the necessary technology to produce television shows. If you live, work, or go to school in the city of Ventura, then you have the opportunity to create your own TV show. Channel 6 is Ventura's public community access channel where you can watch programming produced by your friends, co-workers, and neighbors. You can see a variety of pro-

gramming on Channel 6 from shows on local art and music to politics. Community issues discussed by Ventura citizens can be seen on programs like Conversations with Neal Andrews, Community Corner, and Maverick Media. There are environmental programs like The Re-Useniks and Surf & River Report and cooking shows like Simply Delicious Living with Maryann and Cooking about Town with Frank. Religious programming and services from local churches like First United Methodist, River Community, and South Coast Fellowship can also be found on the channel. When election time comes, CAPS Channel 6 is your headquarters for all municipal races.

Without these channels, where can you find anything on TV that's produced locally? If you want to learn more about things happening here in Ventura, tune in to cable channels 6 and 15. To learn more about programming or how to become a member, visit www.capstv.org, call 658-0500, or stop by our media center at 65 Day Rd. You can also find us on facebook at www.facebook.com/capstvventura.

VC Fairgrounds helps the local economy grow

In 2009, the Ventura County Fair generated more than \$70 million in economic impact, created more than 750 jobs and put more than \$22 million into the pockets of local residents through salaries and benefits. In addition, the Ventura County Fair and interim events create an estimated \$1,186,600 in annual business taxes.

"We are proud of our contributions to Ventura County," says Ventura County Fairgrounds CEO Barbara Quaid, "in addition to events that provide the recreation and entertainment that every community needs we boost the local economy significantly."

The mission of the 31st District Agricultural Association, otherwise known as the Ventura County Fairgrounds is to promote, support, educate, celebrate and preserve the diverse culture and traditions of our County.

Events:

February 11 MORP Dance Foothill Technology High School
 February 12 Artura Sandoval Latin Jazz Concert Ventura Music Festival
 February 13 Rose Meeting Fair Friends of Roses
 February 16 Swap Meet Every Wednesday: Antiques, Collectibles, Tools, Clothes, Records, Books, Knick-knacks and more! Fresh Veggies at the Farmer's Market!
 February 18 Valdivia Dance Valdivia Marketing Group
 February 19 Roller Derby Games Ventura County Derby Darlins
 February 19 - 20 Surfing Competition National Scholastic Surfing Association
 February 20 Ventura County Wedding Expo



Lorenzo DeStefano welcoming the very large crowd to the Ventura Film Society's 2011 series opening movie, *Seraphine*. Photo by Franz Tinio-Lopez.

Movies at the Museum

"Only When I Dance" is the 2nd film of the Ventura Film Society's "VFS @ The Museum 2011" screening series - showing Tuesday February 15 @ 7pm, at the Museum of Ventura County's Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Pavilion. "Only When I Dance" - Brazil, Switzerland, USA 2009 - Beadie Finzi - 78 minutes. (English & Portuguese with English subtitles)

This uplifting documentary follows Irlan and Isabela, two teenagers from the impoverished favelas of Rio de Janeiro, as they pursue their dreams of becoming professional ballet dancers in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Their dramatic story takes us from Rio—where their communities must raise the funds to support their ambitions—to ballet competitions in New York and Switzerland.

VFS @ THE MUSEUM 2011 series is running the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays through December 6. The Museum of Ventura County's Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Pavilion, 100 E. Main Street, Downtown Ventura. For advance tickets and information - www.venturafilmsociety.com or 628-2299.

Mailbox

Continued from page 3

ers. It can be sold off and most citizens in Ventura would have no idea what's being threatened or lost. In other words, it's easy pickings.

I only hope that some would take up the cause to preserve this open space. Perhaps even the landowners themselves might consider what a treasure an open Canada Larga is to the local community.

I'm not naive about this. I know the pressure that money brings. It's just sad to me that other considerations about beautiful open space don't bear equal weight. Or maybe they do. Who knows the future when it comes to this space? All I can say, as someone who loves this area, is that Canada Larga deserves a better fate than to simply fall into the hands of the wealthy. Yet here we are at that juncture.

Open space. Millions of dollars for the property owners. Property tax revenue. Wonder who will win this time? Against these odds, the Canada Larga vistas seem like sitting ducks.

Tim Pompey

Dear Barbara (writer Barbara Hinton),

Thank you so very much for the wonderful article you wrote about me. All day, I have been hearing from my friends who always read the "Breeze."

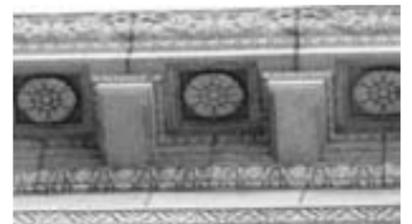
My grandson-in-law, Joel Simon, is pictured on page 14 of the "Breeze" with an article about the Albert Einstein Charter School. It appears that our family is famous (or infamous) now.

Thanks again for including me in "Ventura's Finest." I am truly honored.

Sincerely

Barbara Meister

Photo contest



For \$30 where was this photo taken?

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

Just email your answer to editor@venturabreeze.com.

Photo by Marsha Moreland (but she is sworn to secrecy)

I would like to know:

Question: I have seen knitted hats hanging from odd places in Ventura. What could they possibly be?

Lawrence Bolt-Ventura

Answer:

These are the work of the kindness of one lovely Ventura lady who has a heart of gold. Emily Olszowy has knitted 5 beanie type hats (with more to come) and has placed them around Ventura for anyone who wants them with a little note attached that reads "This hat is clean, warm, and for you".

She made them for anyone who wanted them and even more so for homeless folks so that they may stay warmer during the cold weather. Perhaps by her doing something so selfless more people will feel inspired by her actions.

A true Ventura hero.



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

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

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



News and Notes



Dear Miss Betty is a new column in the Breeze. She will answer all of your important and serious questions of the day.

Dear Miss Betty,

My husband and I have been taking salsa-dancing lessons in Ventura for over a year. I recently had to have hip replacement surgery. He wants to continue the lessons without me while I recover. Many of our fellow dancers are much better than I am. I'm afraid he will pair up with one of them and I might not be able to measure-up when I'm able to start dancing again. Should I forbid him to go?

83-year-old wife

Dear wife,

I have always found tap dancers a trustworthy group.

Dear Miss Betty,

I have experienced several professional and personal setbacks recently. Everyone says that I just have to pick myself up, dust myself off and keep going. However, I can't seem to escape the internal devastation. I don't seem to be able to pull myself up by my own bootstraps. What next?

Depressed Cowgirl in Ventura

Dear Depressed,

When you are wearing hip waders in three feet of water, bootstraps won't help. However, if you allow your self-worth to be dictated by bosses, boyfriends, or bimbos, your internal value is going to drop faster than Countrywide stock. Start counting your assets, no matter how small your portfolio. Miss Betty starts like this: 1) Thank the Lord I don't have nipple rings or I couldn't sleep on my stomach. 2) My stretch marks don't show when I wear socks. 3) I quit smoking—even if it was because of hospital regulations. 4) And remember this: Having a flat tire means no one is stealing your car.

Dear Miss Betty,

My boyfriend and I are expecting a baby in March. He has a tattoo of his old girlfriend's name on his arm. I am considering naming our baby the same name on the tattoo, so we don't have to answer any more questions about his ink—especially to our future children.

Pregnant with a problem

Dear Pregnant,

You have my blessing. I just hope you are not carrying a 10 lb. boy named Felicity.

Dear Miss Betty,

My husband wants to end our 23-year marriage. I am shocked. I thought we were happy. How do I avoid becoming a bitter man-hater?

Vexed in Ventura

Dear Vexed,

Don't allow one case of food poisoning to ruin your love for sweets. If you've had 23 years of happiness, you've outpaced 80% of the population. Count it as a win and order up the next course.

You can send your questions to Miss Betty at dearmissbetty.com.

Gold Coast Transit announces bus service changes

Gold Coast Transit (GCT) has made service changes to its bus service in response to feedback from bus riders, GCT is making the changes in order to improve current schedules and better facilitate transfers between its routes.

Route 6, serving Ventura and Oxnard, will have additional bus trips on weekdays between 10am and 4 pm.

Routes 10 and 11 will have schedules adjusted to improve the ability to transfer between the routes at Wells Center. Morning trip times on Route 10 at Wells Center have been adjusted to meet arriving Route 11 buses and the afternoon trip times on Route 10 at Wells Center have been adjusted to meet departing Route 11 buses.

Routes 8, 19 and 40 will have slight schedule adjustments. Routes 1B, 8 and 11 will also have minor adjustments to timepoints.

Canada Larga

Continued from page 1

owns property near the area recused himself from the vote believing his participation may present a conflict of interest. Councilman Brian Brennan was the only council member in opposition of funding the research.

Monahan, Christy Weir, Neal Andrews and Mike Tracy are the council members who have expressed support for the construction of Canada Larga executive homes citing greater property tax revenue and the possibility of attracting new business to the area. Mayor Bill Fulton, who has stated he is against annexing the area led the motion to pay for the analysis.

Describing the council as groping "a bit awkwardly for consensus," Fulton explained he hopes the report "will show this [building executive ranch homes] is a financial loser."

According to city officials the report will look specifically at executive housing and its correlation to job creation.

The local Sierra Club has called itself "categorically opposed to the development."

"When you do breakout development like this, you have to build all the infrastructure like water and electrical out to the development which is well outside city limits," said Mike Stubblefield, steering committee chair for the Los Padres Sierra Club. "The land between the proposed development and the city is all open space which means you have to disturb a lot of nature, and the people who enjoy it."

Stubblefield questioned the overall benefit to the city.

"This project would be done for a few wealthy people at the expense of everyone else," said Stubblefield. "It would impact the quality of life for all kinds of people, from those who enjoy the beautiful drive up to Ojai to bikers, hikers and nature-lovers alike."

According to Karen Kraus of the Environmental Defense Center the firm is focusing on delivering a detailed comment letter asking the city to drop Canada Larga from the greater Westside Community Plan.

"If they don't do this, we'll push for them to thoroughly review the impacts of a development project such as this," said Kraus who explained the land is home to a number of important animals and plants. "There is a lot at stake, California condors forage in the area, other endangered birds live there; there is also coastal sage scrub."

VCCool, a local non-profit is concerned with the projects sustainability as it relates to climate change. The group focuses on curtailing automobile emissions, a sizeable way to protect a climate according to the group.

"We look at how cities are planned,"

explained Rachel Morris, executive director for VCCool. "Canada Larga is obviously not designed for its residents to bike or walk or even take a bus to town where they would be working or doing their shopping."

Environmental groups are not alone in their opposition to the possible annexation of the area. Mayor Bill Fulton has also voted against the project twice. His rationale is two-fold, the first being he doesn't think the project is worthy environmentally or economically, the second because he worries it will bog down the Westside Community Plan which it has been attached to.

"I don't think the city needs to go all the way up there and muck up that entire canyon for a few dozen luxury homes," said Fulton who also stressed the city would need to provide utilities and safety services for the new community. "Our city has no business taking on additional infrastructure responsibilities," said Fulton. "To start, the area is prone to wild fires and it's hard enough to protect the area without homes on it."

Fulton also fears adding the Canada Larga community to the larger Westside Community Plan will slow down or even stop the progression of the plan which focuses mostly on redevelopment of blighted areas.

"We have overwhelming support for the Westside Community Plan, I don't want to see all our efforts get sidetracked arguing over the Canada Larga portion of the plan," said Fulton. "It's just not worth getting into a debate for a few custom homes."

Making the entire issue even more convoluted, the destiny of the Westside Community Plan has itself come into question with Governor Brown's recent proposal to cut funding for all redevelopment agencies.

Fulton remained adamant that the possible death of redevelopment agencies and their funding would not equate to the end the Westside Community Plan.

"The desire for the plan will remain no matter what," said Fulton. "If redevelopment funding is not an option, we'll have to re-think what our motivations are, but it doesn't mean we won't continue to plan."

Fulton remained optimistic that developers may step up to the plate to help fund whatever successor agency might service the cause the current redevelopment agency serves.

Latin jazz

Continued from page 1

and play again for their annual Latin Jazz Concert, scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 8:00 p.m. at the Ventura County Fairgrounds at Seaside Park. He will be joined by an 18-piece orchestra that Sandoval refers to as "some of the best musicians in the world." Tickets for both the Arturo Sandoval Latin Jazz Concert and the Ventura Music Festival's entire 2011 concert series can be purchased at www.venturamusicfestival.org.

Sandoval, a four-time Grammy winner, has been playing jazz for fifty years. He is known for his smooth transitions between Afro-Cuban, jazz, and classical music, as well as his enduring friendship and musical collaborations with his mentor Dizzy Gillespie, whom Sandoval refers to as a "genius." The Breeze caught up with Sandoval during a series of concerts he was playing in New York City. Here are his responses to some of our questions.

T: Who influenced you most as a young

musician?

A: I grew up in Cuba and for the first eight or nine years I played, I didn't know anybody. We didn't have things like records or radio. It was a journalist who played a little sax that introduced me to Charlie Parker and really turned my head.

T: How would you describe your friendship with Dizzy Gillespie?

A: It was a gift from God when I met Dizzy. I learned so much and we had a beautiful relationship for so many years. I was drawn to his passion for the music, his enthusiasm for learning. He was so musical, a genius, and a virtuoso playing the trumpet.

T: You also seem to have a strong connection to other countries such as England and Russia. What does that say about the international appeal of jazz?

A: It's very sincere music. It's from your heart and jazz musicians are really trying to communicate with the audience. It doesn't matter where we play. The mission is the same: to communicate with our audience.

T: You're going to be playing with the winner of the Ventura Music Festival's Student Jazz Competition. How do you feel about working with young jazz musicians?

A: I've been dedicated all my life to music, so it's rewarding when young people also dedicate themselves. I'm always open to sharing.

T: Would you like to pass along something to your Ventura audience?

A: I'm really excited because I'm going to play in a big band, with a group of some of the best musicians in the world. I hope the people will enjoy it as much as I do.

Breeze:

The performance of Arturo Sandoval will kick-off with the Ventura Music Festival's (VMF) First Annual Latin Lover's Valentine's Dance-Off contest beginning at 7:30 p.m. on February 12 inside Anacapa Hall at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The winning couple of the contest will be awarded a cash prize of \$250.

Dancers must pre-register to compete by 3pm on February 11 by calling the Ventura Music Festival office at 648-3146 and requesting the "dancer discount" price of \$25 per couple.



One of our observant readers sent us these photos. Taken where San Jon meets the beach they are a before and after of a current rain. They speak for themselves.



The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



Jolene McBee

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

My name is Jolene McBee

I am the owner and operator of The Vagabond Restaurant located on Thompson.

I came to Ventura in December of 1971 and absolutely fell in love with this most beautiful city. I started working as waitress at the Vagabond Restaurant in February 1975. I was hired as temporary help until such time as the manager, Mr. Mac McBee, could hire someone full time. As it turned out, he never hired anyone to take my place. I loved the work and the place and Mr. McBee seemed happy with me. So happy in fact that we were married four years later in 1979. And I never left the business. My husband and I bought the restaurant from the original owner in 1985 and then it really became our life and our love.

We have raised our children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren in this most wonderful, homey and comfortable place full of love, laughter, and so many, many, cherished memories. After my husband passed away in 2003, I met with all my employees and we all agreed to stick together and to carry on the business just as Mac had done all those years before. We became even more determined than ever to do the best we could with the legacy he had left us. I think he would be proud of all of us.

My passions include spending time at the restaurant with my family, my employees, my friends and customers and especially with my 2 1/2 year old great-grandson, Zack. I never have

enough time with him.

We asked her what she likes most about living in Ventura?

The things I love about living in Ventura are absolutely too many to mention here. I love the fact that Ventura has a "small town feel". The people here are some of the most warm, caring, loving people that I have ever met. I am originally from Texas and I know about

Southern hospitality and I can tell you that the citizens of Ventura (and Ventura County) show just about as much hospitality and friendship towards others as anybody in Texas. Of course,

the climate, the beach, the ocean, the mountains, are probably the biggest draw for most people, but ,as for me,... it's the PEOPLE.

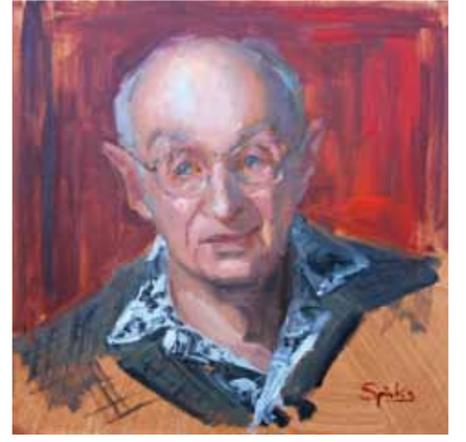
And how was the experience of having your portrait painted by Johanna?

I have never in my life sat for a professional photographer or had a portrait done of me. When Johanna and Sheldon first approached me to sit for her, I really thought she was joking. I couldn't believe that anyone would want to paint me. When she explained her project to me, and I really understood what she wanted, I was surprised and felt very honored that she had asked me.

My time with Johanna was fun and entertaining and something I may never experience again and I am so glad to have had the opportunity to get to know her and witness what a wonderful person and extremely talented artist she is.



Captain Bill Finley
December 29, 2010



Howard Boroughs
January 12, 2011



Rachel Morris
January 26, 2011

Portrait artist Johanna Spinks is partnering with the Ventura Breeze to take on a new challenge and paint a quick 3 hour 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.

Community Events



4 ton solid rock Buddha can be seen in Ventura.
Photo by Douglas Jay Benson

Rare Buddha statue on display

On February 12 at 9am, the Ventura Buddhist Center is unveiling a rare Buddha statue that has been touring the world since March 2009, the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace. Standing nearly 9 feet high, it weighs about 4 tons and was carved entirely out of a single 8 ton block of rare jade that is now valued at over \$5 million dollars.

An Australian couple, Ian and Judy Green, who are both Buddhists, purchased the stone and hired master craftsmen from Thailand and Australia to turn the block into one of the most precious Buddha statues in the world. The sculpture was completed in Thailand's oldest jade factory, which made several test statues in clay and fiberglass. The statue was consecrated in a ceremony by the Dalai Lama. On its multi-continent tour, the Jade Buddha has been previously featured in Vietnam, Australia, and Canada and now is making its final stop in the United States.

The last California location of the Jade Buddha tour will be in Ventura at 901 S. Saticoy Ave. from February 12 - 27. The temple's website lists a schedule of events including international cultural shows, dharma talks, meditations and yoga. On Saturday February 19 there will be an around the clock chanting ceremony taking place from 9am to 9pm, followed by a Medicine Buddha sutra on Sunday the 20th.

The Rotary Club of Ventura South events

President Elect, Bob Braitman of the Rotary Club of Ventura South announced the following upcoming programs for their Monday noontime meetings for the rest of February:
February 14, 2011 - Valentine's Day Celebration
February 21, 2011 - The Club is dark in celebration of President's Day.
February 28, 2011 - Dave Grau presenting the "County of Ventura Pension Scheme".

The Rotary Club of Ventura South meets every Monday, noon (except where noted above) at the Wedgewood Banquet Center, 5880 Olivas Park Drive in Ventura. A buffet lunch is followed by a short business meeting and a program. The Club is known for its hospitality, dedication and commitment to both local and global projects.

For additional Club information or to attend a meeting call: Bob Braitman at 805-647-7612. The Wedgewood Wedding & Banquet Center is located at 5800 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura.



Community Events



The film *180° South*, which features dramatic natural scenery and a harrowing tale of adventure, will be featured as part of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival Tour at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival will make tour stop in Ventura

by Tim Pompey

In 1983 a group of activists in Northern California set out to stop the building of dams on the South Yuba River. The group became known as SYRCL (South Yuba River Citizens League). Not only did they halt the building of these dams, they were instrumental in eventually having 39 miles of the South Yuba River permanently protected through state Wild and Scenic Designation.

From that energy and activism grew the idea for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Thanks to a SYRCL

grant awarded to the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, WSFF will make one of its designated tour stops here in Ventura on February 25-26 at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival, whose home base is in Nevada City, California, is considered one of the largest of its kind and features award winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, and many other environmental topics.

The festival itself began in January 2003 when then executive director Janet Cohen came to cofounder and director Kathy Dotson and said, "Let's put on a film festival." They started with 22 films and found a great supporter in film star Peter Coyote. Gary Snyder, noted poet and environmentalist also made an appearance. From those humble beginnings, the festival has grown rapidly. Last January, the WSFF featured 110 films, including 62 premieres.

The idea for a film tour came about when an environmental group approached SYRCL with a request to let some of these films be shown in other locations. SYRCL liked the idea and decided to give it a try. "It seemed a little bit narrow-minded to confine these films to one event," says Susie Surphin, Tour Director for the WSFF. "We thought we had a larger responsibility to help get these films out to other places to inspire activism."

The Wild & Scenic tour here in Ventura will feature about 20 selected films from this year's festival, films that range from the serious to the sce-

nic to the humorous. Of particular interest is the dramatic adventure *180° South*, in which director Jeff Johnson retraces the epic 1968 journey of Yvon Chouinard and Doug Tompkins on their long and dangerous journey to Chilean Patagonia. The film will also feature a Q&A session with director Jeff Johnson.

Stephen Svete, one of the VHC trustees coordinating this event, believes the WSFF fits well with the conservancy's overall strategy. "Part of our work is educating our community about natural places," he says, "both in terms of recreational and ecological benefit to humans and all living things. Each of these films touches on both of these things."

From now through the end of February, if someone joins VHC as a \$35 a year member, they will receive two free film festival tickets for whichever day they may choose. If someone joins at the \$50 dollar level (or more) they get four tickets. Current members are encouraged to buy a gift membership for a friend. If they do so, that friend will get two free tickets for the Festival and the current member will also earn a free ticket.

Tickets for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival are now on sale through the Ventura Hillside Conservancy's website www.venturahillside.org. The offer for free tickets is only available online or by calling the office at 643-8044.

Community events continued on page 13

Fresh Fruit Is Always In Season At...

Paddy's

Cocktails by the beach

**2 West Main St.
805.652.1071**

FREE pool and darts Monday 2-2
Gogo dancers Fridays, dj and dancing Friday and Saturday. Happy Hour Mon.-Fri. 2-8, Sat.-Sun. 2-4 with Beer Bust 4-8. FREE 1/4 pound hot dogs Sun.-Tues. 4-7:30!

WE'VE HAD A FACELIFT!
Come and check out the new look!

LOVE IS A DRAG
AIDS fundraiser 2/26
Proceeds go to AIDS Ventura

10 Fun & Romantic Ideas for Valentine's & Every Day!

1. Dine overlooking the boats
2. Win a prize at the Village Arcade
3. Rent an electric boat and cruise
4. Ooo & Ahh whale watching

5. Indulge in a shopping spree
6. Laugh together at the comedy club
7. Travel to a secluded Channel Island

8. Sip wine & savor appetizers
9. Stroll the promenade & the beach
10. Enjoy live music

Want more ideas? Visit the Events Calendar at VenturaHarborVillage.com

Live Music at Ventura Harbor

Sunday, February 13:

Channel Islands Clippers Quartet from Noon - 12:30 pm
Romantic Guitar Dano & Mark from 12:30 pm - 3 pm

Sunday, February 20:

Davey Miller Jazz & Blues Trio from Noon - 3 pm

Ventura Harbor Village

Romance ♪ Indulge 🎮 Play ☀ Reconnect 🏖 Explore



Art Scene



Daniel Huber is a photographer who specializes as a media designer in providing online virtual tours for cities and businesses around the world.

WAV Artist Interviews: Daniel Huber

by Tim Pompey

Daniel Huber grew up in southwest Germany helping his father make slide shows. "Photography has been a part of my life since I was a little boy," he says. "My father inspired me to get into photography."

Huber studied media design at Macro-media Academy in Munich and worked in the field of advertising for more than 8 years as a professional photographer and art director in Germany and the U.S. Today, he is co-owner and technical director of Panomatics USA (www.panomatics.net) - an award-winning visual agency that creates panoramic virtual tours for diverse businesses and cities (See for example www.virtualventura.net).

When asked about his fine art photography, Huber notes that what he really seeks to convey is a sense of surprise. "Everyday objects taken for granted by most instill a sense of amazement and wonder in me," he says. "As a photographer, I experience an inexhaustible desire to look, change perception, and create an atmosphere of wonder and excitement in the viewer."

Like most photographers, Huber wants his camera to reveal things that might otherwise be missed. "I like to show something they don't normally see," he says. He points to his photo of a speed limit sign. Taken up close and at an angle, it looks flattened, weathered and bleached.

Huber approaches photography as if he were an artist with a canvas. In a very real sense, the camera becomes his brush. "I love that photography allows experimentation with time and light to elicit different emotions." And like all artists, he loves the thrill of discovery. "It's truly amazing to really dive into an image and bring out the smallest details."

For more information on Huber's photography and to browse through his photo gallery, go to his website at www.danielhuberphotography.com.

Art events at the Museum of Ventura County

Landscape Photographer Tom Gamache will present an overview of the history of landscape painting and photography at a free lecture on Saturday, February 12 at 2 p.m. Gamache and workshop partner Van Webster will also include a preview of their landscape photography workshop to be offered by the museum March 18-20. For

reservations to the February 12 presentation, RSVP to 653-0323 x 315.

There are no boundaries between painting, drawing and sculpture in Inheritance, a site-specific installation of new dimensional works by Andrea Vargas-Mendoza, on exhibition from February 26 - May 3.

Vargas-Mendoza, who uses schematic lines that cut and animate space within her paintings, describes the coming together of her paintings, drawings and found objects as homage to the history of our San Buenaventura landscape, in the tradition of California Romanticism.

Russian rulers from the first Tsar to the Soviet Union's head of state will be among the George Stuart Historical Figures® featured in The Rise and Fall of the Tsars, on exhibit through May 15.

The exhibit of one-quarter life-size sculptures highlights personalities such as Ivan the Terrible, who ruled as the country's first Tsar, and Joseph Stalin, the Soviet Union's infamous head of state.

Stuart's accompanying monologues will be presented as three Tuesday lectures at 1:30 p.m. in the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Pavilion. Each monologue is \$15 for the general public, \$10 for museum members, and includes admission to all museum galleries. For reservations and more information call 653-0323 x 315.

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.

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 805-653-0323.



Layla Hallberg is the new executive director of the Buenaventura Art Association. Photo by Wana Klausen

Buenaventura Art Association announces new executive director

The Board of Directors for Buenaventura Art Association (BAA) has announced the selection of Layla Hallberg as their new Executive Director.

Hallberg, a six-year resident of Ventura, has been an active volunteer with the Ventura Music Festival. For the last two years, she managed the festival's visual artists.

Jim Black, President of BAA says, "I am thrilled that the BAA will have an executive director as capable as Layla. From an extremely qualified field of candidates, she was the very best."

Hallberg has a solid business background in art-related industries and gallery management. She owned her own custom-fabric design firm for over ten years. In addition, she was a Director with the Martin Lawrence Galleries in Sherman Oaks, Cen-

tury City, Redondo Beach and Universal City Walk. Her duties there included art selection, artist liaison and exhibit creation.

Hallberg studied International Business through the UCLA Extension Program. She also has her B.S. in Environmental Health Science with an emphasis in Environmental Planning from Brigham Young University.

Buenaventura Gallery is located at 700 E Santa Clara St. in downtown Ventura. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Friday from noon - 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am - 5 pm. For more information, visit them at www.BuenaventuraGallery.org



Anna Karakalou exhibition at WAV Theater Gallery

Anna Karakalou moved to Ventura in 2009, leaving behind her homeland of Greece where she worked in film and television and exhibited regularly. She is better known in Ventura as the singer/songwriter for the band We Govern We. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with her BA in Fine Arts and English Literature, and got her MA in Media Arts from Royal Holloway, University of London.

Anna Karakalou will be exhibiting at the WAV Theater Gallery at 175 S. Ventura Avenue until February 16. The artist has put together a new series of paintings featuring cameo-style portraits with owls and other birds. There will be small, original, framed pieces available for Valentines gifts for less than \$50, as well as larger pieces. Pieces from previous series' will be on display and available in her studio, WAV suite 302. Samples of her artwork can be seen at: www.myspace.com/abcmsonstertiger.

Donald Sommerfield will also be exhibiting his poetry with Anna Karakalou.

Tamima Al-Awar Memorial Scholarship 2011

Focus on the Masters and the Ventura County Arts Council are joining together to provide scholarship funds and exhibition opportunities to high school seniors who plan to pursue art studies in college. The Tamima Al-Awar Memorial Scholarship program provides over \$5,000 in scholarships and the opportunity for all students applying for the scholarships to exhibit their work at the Ventura County Government Center in Ventura. The competition is open to high school seniors who reside in Ventura County and who show in their application a commitment to further study in the visual arts.

Applications are available at the Ventura County Arts Council's office located at 646 County Square Drive. You can also download an application at both organizations' websites by clicking on the following web addresses www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or www.VenturaCountyArtsCouncil.org located on their home page.

Submissions must be signed by a faculty member of the student's high school and a parent. There is no limit to the number of applications per school.

All applications must be received by the Ventura County Arts Council no later than Friday, February 18, 2011 at 4 p.m. Incomplete or late submittals will not be reviewed.

All students applying for the scholarship will be invited to exhibit their work in Expressions of Our Youth a group exhibition at the Ventura County Government Center shown from March 9 through April 12.

The Ventura County Government Center exhibition provides the students with the unique opportunity to exhibit their work in a prestigious venue and work with art professionals in a real life environment.

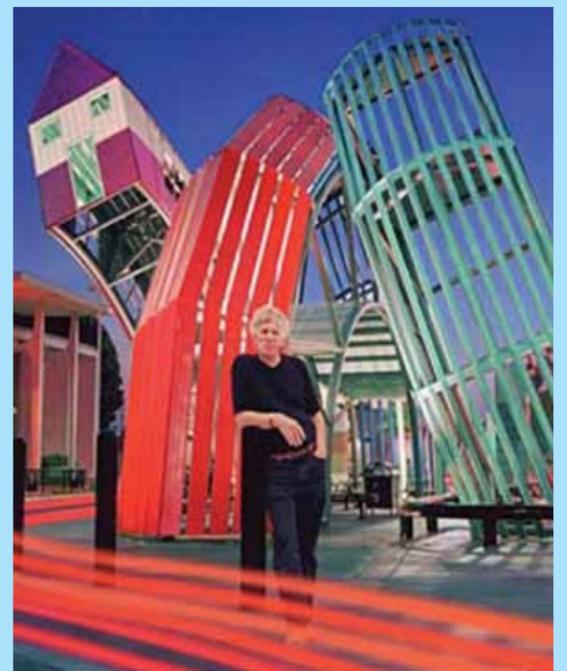
Dennis Oppenheim dies

On January 22 Dennis Oppenheim passed away at age 72 in New York from liver cancer.

Dennis Oppenheim was a world famous pioneering figure within contemporary art.

He is known in Ventura as the designer of the somewhat controversial Bus-Home, a large functional sculpture at the Bus Transfer Center at the Pacific View Mall which was constructed as part of the City of Ventura's Public Art Program.

Photo by Donna Granata



Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



■ We dogs must be pretty smart animals. We go outside and poop and we get treats for doing it. How many animals are that shrewd to get paid for doing something that we need

to do anyway. Brilliant!

■ As I reported sometime ago, Ventura had 80 Mutt Mitt stations throughout the city at one time but due to budget cuts this important program was canceled.

In order to put the Mutt Mitts back, Ventura launched a new Mutt Mitt program. Sponsors in the program will support the stations that provide the biodegradable pet waste bags at 21 Mutt Mitt dispensing stations around the city by placing their names on signs at the stations. There is definitely a need to "Doo the Right Thing" with regards to pet waste. By throwing it away properly and by having dispensing stations it is made much more convenient to do.

I am happy to report that the first wave of sponsored Mutt Mitt stations are being installed through the generous donations of the following caring businesses, groups and individuals, thank you.

Anacapa Animal Hospital (4 stations at Arroyo Verde Park)

Community Memorial Health Systems (1 station at Community Park)

The Housing Authority of San Buenaventura (1 station at Fritz Huntsinger Park)

Your Pet's Nanny (1 station at Camino Real Park)

Draganchuk Alarm Systems/Daniel Long Painting (1 station at Blanche Reynolds Park)

Midtown Ventura Community Council (1 station at Cemetery Park)

Dr. Kathleen Roos (1 station at Marina Park)

I was disappointed that more of my readers didn't participate in this program so I am giving you another chance before I bite you.

You can make a difference by becoming a "Green Hero" Scamp Club Mutt Mitt dispensing station sponsor today, or by sponsoring a location of your own for only \$600.00 per year!

So for only \$50.00 for a year (each of my signs will be limited to 12 sponsors) you can support this wonderful cause and show your

support for the wonderful contribution that I make to the city through my column. You will also receive a "pawtographed" photo of me (suitable for framing) to put over your fireplace.

To become a sponsor of my Scamp Club Mutt Mitt dispensing station:

1. Write out a check in the amount of your contribution (minimum \$50.00). Please make checks payable to Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation. (Indicate "Mutt Mitt Program" contribution on check memo line).
2. Mail your check to: Ventura Breeze, 1575 Spinnaker 105B, Ventura, CA 93001.

All contributions are fully tax-deductible through a partnership with the Ventura Commerce & Education Foundation (Tax ID Number: 20-0391438)

More information on the program is available at www.VenturaMuttMitt.com.

■ See page 13 for what a stage dog looks like. They wouldn't let me play the part because they know that I am so cute that I would steal the show and make the human actors angry.



Lost cat. Male short hair: 9 years old. Weight 10 pounds. No collar or tags. Color: smoke gray. Eyes: gold. Date lost: January 17. Vicinity: Thille and Saratoga
Contact: Craig Miller, 207-9727, craigm970@yahoo.com

When you've lost or found a cat in Ventura County go to LostCatVentura.com

Join Scamp Club

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

Dog to Adopt

Hi:

I'm Rosey a sweet female Pit Bull mix and I'm only 3 months old. My mom Hope was rescued from Animal Regulation, pregnant and due any day. We (all 12 of us - ouch) were born at our foster home. Several of us have already found their forever homes and we hope it's not long before we are all in our forever homes too. We're just puppies so children in the home must be 6 years or older. Puppy classes are a great way for us to learn right from wrong and to socialize with other dogs.



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

www.carlvc.org

Scamp Club



Name: Macu
Valencia-Dye
Sex - : Male
Age - 2 yrs
Breed - Shit-Shu/
Chihuahua
Macu - Loves Toys!
Loves Hiking.
Macu is a boy, 2 1/2
years old shitzu/
chihuahua mix who
always has a toy in
his mouth and
loves to visit Gracie
at her doggie
boutique!

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Do you want to know information about crime in your area? The Ventura Police Department (VPD) crime maps and Calls For Service (CFS) provide public access to timely information for our community.

Members of the public can view police data in a high-impact map or summary descriptive format by using the interactive map and analysis application developed by VPD and the City's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division. When viewing the page you can search for CFS by category, incident type, or by reporting district.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Sunday, January 23rd, at 10:07 a.m., the VPD received a call from a motorist driving on the 33 freeway adjacent to the Ventura River. The motorist reported seeing several men battering another man with a baseball bat on the levy across from Westpark. A police officer found the victim, Brian McKenney, 32 years old, across the freeway, on the bike path just north of Westpark. He was bleeding from multiple wounds. The officer determined the victim had sustained

a gunshot wound to the torso and was robbed of property.

The victim was transported to VCMC and underwent emergency surgery. He is expected to survive his injuries.

Robbery

On Friday, January 21st, at 9:55 p.m., the VPD a call from the clerk at the Shell Gas Station, located at 2099 Harbor Boulevard, stating a Hispanic male subject had robbed him. The victim, Hugo Flores, reported that the male suspect threatened him with a gun and demanded money, however no gun was shown. Flores gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of cash and he then fled the store.

Officers observed a male subject, later identified as Chas Garcia, 50 years old. He was running through the parking lot at Motel 6 on Harbor Boulevard. Officers detained Garcia and recovered the property stolen during the robbery.

Officers searched the area, but no gun was located. Garcia was booked at the VC Jail.

Stabbing

On Friday, January 28th, at 1:20 a.m., the VPD received a call of a stabbing that

had just occurred in the courtyard of the Vagabond Hotel, located at 756 East Thompson Boulevard. Officers located John Mercier, 39 years old, lying near the parking lot located in the center of the hotel complex. Mercier had sustained a serious stab wound to his left hand. He was later transported to the VCMC where he received treatment for his injury.

Mercier was standing near the parking lot when a Hispanic male in his thirties confronted him. A brief verbal altercation ensued before the suspect displayed a knife and thrust it at Mercier. Mercier placed his hand up in a defensive manner and was stabbed once in the hand. The suspect fled and was last seen walking onto Thompson Boulevard. Officers were unsuccessful in locating the suspect.

Attempted Robbery

On Saturday, January 29th, at 11:59 p.m., the VPD received a call from the on-duty clerk reporting a robbery that had just occurred. The clerk reported that the unknown suspect approached the counter wearing a ski mask, simulating that he had a weapon underneath his shirt. No weapon was ever seen. The suspect demanded the clerk give him money. When

the clerk told the suspect there was no money kept at the counter, he demanded the clerk give him his wallet. The clerk refused, saying he did not have a wallet. The suspect left the lobby without obtaining any money or property from the clerk. He was last seen running through the parking lot.

Officers searched the area but were unsuccessful in locating the suspect. The victim was not harmed during the attempted robbery.

Drive-By Shooting

On Wednesday, February 2nd, at 11:00 p.m., the VPD responded to a report of a shots being heard in the 2300 block of Peacock Avenue.

Responding officers arrived on scene and located several assault rifle shell casings in the street.

Minutes later, a gun shot victim was located at VCMC. The victim, Donald Reyes, 21 years old, was treated for a non-life threatening wound to his leg and released.

At this time there is no one in custody and the VPD is looking at several different leads, including whether this was a gang-motivated crime.



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Hey Boomers, Where's the Box?



You know, the box where Mom and Dad keep all of their important papers. **Where is it and what's in it?**

We Baby Boomers are at that point in our lives where we need to have that conversation with our parents. As uncomfortable as it might seem, it is the responsible thing to do.

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 26, 2011 • 11AM - 2PM

SPEAKERS:

Jim Duran Executive Director, Cypress Place
David-Michael Kenney Community Service Counselor
Lynn Ryder Attorney at Law
Christine Sztukowski Financial Services Specialist

Here are some questions that need answers:

- Is there a Will? Has it been updated?
- Is there a Power of Attorney? Is it for Financial or Health related matters?
- Is there a Long Term Care insurance policy?
- Is there a Living Trust protecting your parents' assets?
- Are the assets all accounted for?
- Who's liable for Estate Taxes?
- Who's the beneficiary, the Living Trust or you?
- What is an inherited IRA, and how does that effect paying income taxes?
- Is there an Advance Funeral Plan? Is it pre-paid?
- Is there a DD-214 (Discharge Papers) needed for VA benefits?
- If we do not have this conversation, what can happen?

Please RSVP by February 24 to (805) 650-8000
(Limited Seating)

Lunch will be provided.

Sponsored by:



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Senior Living

The Senior Cone-nection

A diet free life

by Nanci Cone

Ventura resident Robert Ferguson, MS, CN, a nationally recognized voice of weight loss through healthy living, a motivational speaker, and physical conditioning and nutrition specialist, has been the top fat loss, nutritionist and conditioning coach for professional boxers, featured on radio, in magazines and TV programs including Access Hollywood, CNN Headline News, and Good Morning America. He is the author of the new book Diet-Free for Life, the creator of the 6 Day Detox Drop and has been recognized as "The People's Fat Loss Coach." He sat down with The Breeze to discuss his new book.

How did you decide to write a book like this?

I am dedicated to putting traditional diets out of business and instead show people how we can eat the foods we love, but do it in a way that keeps our blood sugar from fluctuating too high or low, and we are able to maximize fat loss.

How is this relevant for seniors?

Most seniors appreciate and embrace the idea of being able to eat real food and live their best life. If you're a senior and you want mac and cheese, I want to show them how to do it and boost their metabolism and health. I'm a long time friend of the late and great Jack LaLanne. He was all about quality of life and I believe we all want that.

Will it help seniors live longer?

Living longer begins with food. Improving cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure and every other lifestyle related hardship and disease begins with food. Hippocrates said it best, "Let thy food be thy medicine, and thy medicine be thy food." This is true and all I'm doing is helping seniors and all others keep flavor and joy in their food instead of having to eat bland during the golden years.

What advice would you give to seniors about planning meals?

My advice is to kick off every day with a balanced breakfast of Protein, Carbs, Fiber and Fat. All this I explain in my book Diet-Free For Life.

Does it matter if they are cooking for only one person?

Whether it's one person, two or you're cooking for a group, food is food and it's learning how to eat the food you prefer in a way that keeps your body in fat burning mode.

What other benefits can seniors derive from reading this book?

It details how he or she can continue eating their food favorites and not cause harm to their health, but make it better.

Final comments?

Life is too short and the longer I live the shorter I realize it is. This said, quality of life begins with food and it is my wish that every senior learns how to live diet-free and become empowered with the principles in my book that make it easy to eat great food without hindering ones quality of life, but adding to it.

For more information about Robert or his new book, visit his website at www.diet-freeforlife.com or call him at 642-8440.

Senior activities

Valentine's Day - Heart Health, Romance and Desserts

Adults 50 years of age and over join us the Senior Recreation Center on Valentine's Day, Monday, February 14, (11:30-3:00) for a day dedicated to the heart. Start the day with a presentation by Community Memorial Hospital staff about their Heart

Aware Program. Blood pressure and heart rhythm screenings will follow the presentation. A valentine-themed movie will highlight the afternoon with heart-healthy snacks and desserts served throughout. For more information and to RSVP call 648-2829.

The Senior Recreation Center is located at 420 E. Santa Clara Street in downtown Ventura.

Senior Volunteer Group - Tuesday, February 22

Join a group of like-minded seniors to identify needs and projects in our community to make a difference. This will be a regular fourth Tuesday of every month gathering, beginning on February 22 from 3-5pm. The group will determine dates, times and locations of specific volunteer events and projects. Call Doug Reed at 648-2829 for details or to sign up.

The Senior Recreation Center is located at 420 E. Santa Clara Street in downtown Ventura.

Introduction to Ukulele

Adults 50 years of age and over try something really new and unique this year. Learn the basics to play this fun and popular instrument. Your instructor, Nani Edgar, has taught ukulele for seven years. Nani is also an exquisite hula dancer making this class a complete Hawaiian experience. Class is Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30. There will be six classes from February 23 through March 30. The course is \$55 and will be held at the Corp Community Center - 650 Petit Avenue. Bring your own ukulele. For more information or to register call 648-2829.

Community events

Continued from page 9

Ventura events

February 10: The Ventura Unit of the League of Women Voters will hear from Jeffrey Lambert, Community Development Director at their upcoming meeting. He will be speaking on the **Canada Larga Development Project** with a Q&A session to follow. Thursday at 2pm, Topping Room, EP Foster Library, 651 E. Main, parking in rear. Public Invited.

February 11: 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' in Oxnard.

Well-known performers in the group include: keyboardist Kent Rollins, who has worked with Kenny Loggins, bassist Granville "Danny" Young whose credits include Ray Charles, and saxophonist and group leader, Karl Keller, who combines engineering and writing with jazz performances ranging from Chicago to L.A.

The group has been seen and heard at many top venues and private parties in Ventura County and their fans applaud their range of sounds including smooth jazz, swing, jazz, blues and R&B. Kick back and celebrate an early Valentine's Day celebration.

For additional information call the restaurant at 486-4547 or go to www.saxandthecity.org. Free parking is ample and there is no cover charge for Friday evening concerts.

February 12: Community Valentines Masquerade Party: A JK Mondol Production at The Wav Theater Gallery - Saturday 7pm- 10:30pm A Community Artistic Masquerade Party with main color themes of red and pink for costumes and masks. Audience participation in fun group painting on our giant WAV canvas. A great music experience with several performing artists featuring: Elevator Ska, Matt Zeltzer, & Donna Marshall, with a special appearance by Jade Hendrix. Master of Ceremonies & easy rocker, Saint Pierre appears courtesy of Green Light Re-

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*Not valid with any other offer or discount.

Join us on:

Community Events

cords. A free event at the WAV. Dinner & bar available. WAVartists.com. The WAV Theater Gallery-175 So. Ventura Avenue (Free parking at the corner of Ventura Avenue and Thompson Blvd)

February 13: CPR Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions monthly meeting **"Exploring Palestine and Understanding Occupation: A Jewish-American's Travels in the West Bank."** A multimedia presentation by Susannah Nachenberg on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. at the Foster Library's Topping Room. Susannah Nachenberg graduated from UC Santa Cruz with an honors thesis on "The Palestinian Citizens of Israel." In 2010 she returned to the West Bank as a witness for peace and social justice. In November, Susannah was a member of Interfaith Peace-Builders' Israel/Palestine delegation. She returned to the USA in January of 2011 to report on what she learned about occupation and human rights. Learn more about CPR and find out how you can get involved at www.c-p-r.net or at 850-5849

February 21: California Zeta Chi Unit National Association of Parliamentarians meets at the Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library. Wendy Laufer, of Thousand Oaks and President of the Zeta Chi Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians will present the lesson at the February 21st meeting entitled **"What Is Parliamentary Procedure? Why Parliamentary Law?"**

Zeta Chi holds regular study meetings at the library on the third Monday evening of each month except December. Contact Sue Kelley for more information 644-8184 or Sue 1723@aol.com.

February 28: The Ventura County Writers Club is hosting their **10th annual poetry contest.** Submissions are due by February 28th and anyone is eligible to enter. The contest has an adult category as well as two divisions for those under 18 years of age. Division A is open to entrants 13-18 years old and Division B is open to those 12 and under. First, second, and third place winners will receive cash prizes ranging from \$15-\$100.

No previously published poems will be eligible. Winners will be invited to read their work at the VCWC April meeting. Entry fees range from \$3-\$5. Entrants may submit their poems electronically or by regular mail. Go to venturacountywriters.com for details.

Ojai events

Ojai Festival wins Recognition for Programming and Inclusiveness.

While Ojai awaits the re-opening of Libbey Bowl, one of its prime players, the Ojai Music Festival, has received another accolade for innovative programming and attracting new audience members to music performances. The ASCAP Award, a joint award from the American Society of Composers, Author, and Publishers and Chamber Music America, was awarded earlier this month in a New York ceremony.

The Festival won in the "mixed-repertoire small presenters category" with ASCAP recognizing Ojai for continuing, "its tradition of innovation under composer and 2010 Music Director George Benjamin and Artistic Director Thomas W. Morris."

The Festival is looking forward to this year's opening of the new Libbey Bowl with its events including the First Blast Gala & Concert on June 4 and the free Day of Music: a community & arts celebration as well as the 65th Ojai Music Festival, June 9-12. For more information about this year's schedule go to www.ojaifestival.org or call the Festival office at 646-2094.

The City of Ojai City Council has unanimously chosen Robert Clark to serve as its next city manager. Clark comes to Ojai from the Town of Mammoth Lakes, where he has

served as town manager since 2004. The City Council voted unanimously January 25 to select Clark after an extensive four-month search.

"We were fortunate to have so many excellent candidates to choose from," said Mayor Carol Smith. "The final decision on Mr. Clark was made after two extensive interviews, and conversations with the mayor, chief of police, finance director and members of the business community where Mr. Clark currently works."

Clark holds a master of public administration degree from the University of Southern California.

"I am very honored to be selected by the City Council, and I will work hard every day to help them advance the interests of the City," said Clark. "My wife and I are looking forward to meeting our new neighbors and becoming active in the life of the community."

Adventurer, author and photographer Tom Reed (www.tomreed.com) will present a digital slide show about his new book, **"The Granite Avatars of Patagonia,"** at the **February 15** Ojai Photography Club meeting. The presentation is free to the public.

Reed will offer a "behind the scenes" look at the making of the book, including photos from excursions among the granite spires of Cerro Torre and Fitz Roy. The meeting begins at Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, which is located at 111 Santa Ana St.

Mark your calendars for Town Talk Sundays at the Ojai Valley Museum on **February 13**, from 2 to 4 pm. An elite group of long time valley residents will fascinate and titillate attendees with wonderful historic Ojai stories. Paula Spellman will be the moderator and the topics covered will have a wide range from ghosts to scandals!

Town Talks are held in conjunction with the museum's current exhibit, "The Allure of Ojai's Arcade."

Ojai Museum, 130 W. Ojai Avenue. Admission is free for 2011 members and \$8.00 for non-members. Reservations are required as seating is limited. Payment is to be made in advance by check, credit card or cash. Please call 640-1390 to reserve or for additional information. Visit the museum website at: <http://www.ojaivalleymuseum.org>

Full Moon Community Meditation in the Solar Month of Aquarius, Thursday, February 17, at 7:30pm.

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 Aquarius to invoke, anchor and distribute blessings to our world. Your generous donations are appreciated.

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

The 27th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, **February 19 & 20.** The bustling Peddler's Fair is located inside the Chapparral Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave. Parking is free in the adjacent municipal parking lot, and admission is always free.

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

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

On Sunday, **February 13**, at 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen **Waiting for Superman**, an award-winning and provocative documentary that examines our nation's often-failing school system. "This is one of the most galvanizing documentaries I've ever seen." David Edelstein, New York Magazine

On Sunday, **February 20** at 4:00 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen **Carlos**, a biopic about the Venezuelan revolutionary and terrorist Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, known as Carlos the Jackal.

2011 STATE OF THE CITY



Hear Mayor Bill Fulton's State of the City Address!

Topics Include:

- Economic Development
- New Projects and Developments
- Chamber/City Partnership and New Opportunities
- What's in store for 2011 and more!

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music of **"SOLAS"** coming up on Tuesday **February 22** at 7pm at The Ojai Woman's Club, 441 Ojai Ave.

Solas has been loudly proclaimed as the most popular, influential, and one of the most exciting Celtic band in the world.

Leapin' lizards! Annie's in Ojai!



After running away, Little Orphan Annie (Riley Conrad) finds "Sandy" (Bodhi Greene) on the streets of New York as "Annie" leaps from the comic pages to the stage at Ojai ACT. Set in the 1930's, kids, dogs and actors inspire hope in troubled times in this best musical award winner. For more information call 640-8797 or visit www.OjaiACT.org. Photo by John Hankins

School



Students prepare to sort through lunch waste to evaluate whether it is disposable or recyclable

Ventura Unified School District looks at lunch waste

On a sunny day in January, 32 students from Montalvo's Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) Program sorted through the lunch waste. They discovered that the majority of the waste, nearly all of it, was disposable, not recyclable and moreover, the school was throwing out nearly 350 pounds of food waste daily. Currently, there is no food waste composting facility in the County, so all of that waste goes to the landfill.

This year the City of Ventura's Environmental Sustainability Division and Ventura Unified School District's Green School's Committee have partnered up to offer a program that combines 'greening' of the schools facilities while educating the students about its importance. Over the next few years the District hopes to conduct waste assessments at all the schools.

The Ventura Unified School District's

Green School Committee was set up to evaluate ways of reducing overall trash and energy usage in hopes to save the District money, a valuable prospect in these hard economic times. But it's not just about the bottom line; many see this push towards more resourcefulness as a learning opportunity. School Board member, Mary Haffner adds, "When it comes to the environment, children really get it. To them, the environment is seen as something to take care of. And with hands-on programs like the waste assessments, they are motivated to bring this passion and knowledge home to impact the broader community."

At a recent waste assessment at EP Foster Elementary School, students from the 5th grades sorted through 6 of the normally 28 trashcans from lunch. They sorted the trash into various categories, weighed the contents and then laid each item out on top of a large tarp for everyone to see. That day, for instance, about 50% of the waste generated was compostable and the rest was trash, including non-compostable food waste. The District uses a lot of disposable materials with extra packaging for sanitary reasons. On average, a typical lunch will have over six pieces of trash including the Styrofoam tray, a plastic fork, straw, napkin, the wrapper, and a milk carton. At 200 students per school and 180 days per year, that's more than 216,000 pieces of trash per school lunch.

At EP Foster, students are participating in a Disney Planet Challenge Grant and the project will be submitted for consideration in mid-February. Teachers, Nancy Escamilla, Arturo Calisto and Kirsten Huntley have been working with their students since the beginning of the year to study where waste comes from, how it decomposes and what happens to things we throw away. They've

received presentations from the City's Environmental Educator, gone on field trips and have participated in other hands-on learning activities designed to promote problem-solving, group cooperation and understanding of ecosystem function.

In addition to the student-led waste assessments, staff administrators, city staff, district managers and EJ Harrison operators have conducted on-site waste assessments of the schools' entire waste stream. The team, a sub-set of the District's Green School's Committee, provides the school with a report and a list of recommended actions. Cost savings may result in extra funds available for schools to continue greening activities.

For more information on the City's Environmental Sustainability Division, go online to <http://www.cityofventura.net/environmental>

Step into spring with community education at VC

Ventura College Community Education is now accepting spring enrollments for a wide variety of short-term classes, workshops and seminars, conducted either in classrooms, throughout the community, or online. "Community Education enrolls several thousand individuals each year into both professional development and personal enrichment classes. There really is something for everyone," notes Karen Gorbach, Assistant Dean for Career, Technical and Community Education.

Samples of professional development classes include Veterinary Assisting, Notary Public Training, Become a Live Scan Fingerprinting Operator in a Day, Medical Terminology Boot Camp, Energy Auditor Training/BPI Certification (Building Performance Institute), LEED® Green Associate Test Preparation, Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam Preparation, Physical Therapy Aide Training, and many others.

Personal enrichment classes include Greek Cuisine, West African Dance and Drums, Assault Prevention for Women, French for Fun, The Supernatural History of the United States, Savvy Social Security Planning, Sage to Stage, Edible Organic Gardening, and dozens of others.

Community Education classes are self-supporting and do not confer college credits. Online classes are available 24 hours per day to meet the continuing education needs of busy adults.

For more information about these and other lifelong learning opportunities, please call the Ventura College Community Education office at 654-6459, or visit the Community Education website at www.communityed.venturacollege.edu.

Youth Students to raise food for FOOD Share

FOOD Share recently launched their Tackle Hunger Super Bowl food drive, encouraging high school students, sports groups and the Associated Student Body to help collect 25,000 pounds of food through February 28.

The Tackle Hunger Super Bowl food drive invites students to help Ventura County's only regional food bank feed

the 73,000 hungry friends each month with donations of non-perishable nutritional food. A PODS moving and storage container will be delivered to each participating school to serve as a collection site.

The group of students that collects the most food will win a Domino's pizza party and a special visit from professional NFL players.

To sign up or for more information, contact Karen Jensen, FOOD Share Event Coordinator, at 983-7100, ext. 135 or email her: kjensen@foodshare.com

Teen Voice donates clothing to homeless adults and families

Teen Voice - a high school leadership program operating on five local campuses throughout Ventura-has been working since Thanksgiving on its second annual year-end community project of collecting pairs of new and used adult-sized jeans from our community to donate to shelters and charities to make a difference in the lives of Ventura's homeless adults and families.

Teen Voice students delivered the collected clothing to three agencies on Tuesday, January 25: Catholic Charities, The Harbor Community Church and West County Winter Warming Shelter in Oxnard.

"This year we collected 584 pairs of Jeans, 50 Jackets and two large bags of clothes for our project from multiple sources," said City of Ventura Youth Programs Supervisor Mario Robinson, Teen Voice Advisor. "We were able to collect these items with the support of City of Ventura employees, the VUSD High School Associated Student Body Leadership, Friday Night Live, Starbucks stores throughout Ventura County and people throughout the community.

"The Teen Voice students are now very excited about starting a new project to help the homeless," continued Robinson. Students will begin collecting items for homeless essentials. This collection will run until Friday, March 11 and will be distributed to the homeless at the end of the month as they leave the Warming Shelter.

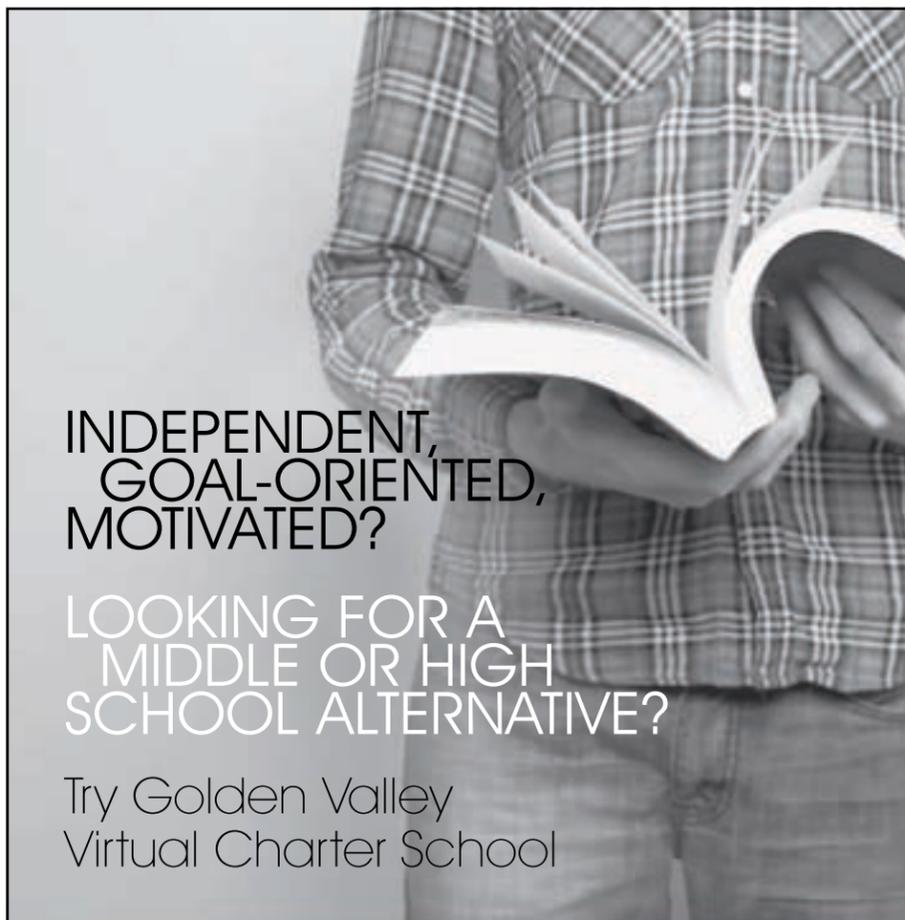
For more information contact: Mario Robinson, City of Ventura Youth Programs Supervisor, at 654-7807 or mrobinson@cityofventura.net.

We must invest in our community

At the Ventura Family YMCA, strengthening community is their cause. Every day, they work side-by-side with community members to address the most pressing needs in Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Paula and Ojai and make sure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. The Y has been a part of the community for 124 years

After her husband, Tom, was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia, Cherie Egbert felt her world was crumbling. In addition to the fear of losing her husband, the father of her year old son and twin six year old girls, she was overwhelmed by how her family's finances would be affected. After

Continued on page 15



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Sports



Rachel Sears-Casanta competes professionally in triathlons (bike-swim-run) and duathlons (bike-run).

New champ in town

Although elite (professional) triathlete Rachel Sears-Casanta has been around the world, competed at many levels and can live anywhere, she now calls Ventura home. She and husband, Phil Casanta, a Ventura native who returns to his hometown, permanently moved here in September. "Ventura has so many competitive opportunities" says Sears-Casanta. "We are excited to be here".

The former duathlon world champion trains daily. A typical day begins with an early morning run of 10-plus miles along the beach to watch the sunrise and the surfers rise out of the crashing surf. On some days she joins a few other hardy souls to swim around the pier.

Just prior to relocating to Ventura, the elite athlete competed as a member of the USA Elite women's team at the 2010 International Triathlon Union Long Course Triathlon World Championship in Immenstadt, Germany. The team brought home gold medals for the U.S. with their superior efforts. Less than a month later, Rachel again was on the run, this time as a member of the 2010 ITU Duathlon World Championship team in Edinburgh, Scotland. This also resulted in medal status.

A ten-year veteran of professional racing, Sears-Casanta has competed in Ironman triathlons including Hawaii Ironman World Championships, Ironman Canada, Ironman Florida and Ironman Western Australia. Throw in a few dozen half-ironman races, numerous marathons, duathlons and "short-course" events and you will have just glimpsed a portion of the accomplishments in this competitor's life.

When not out training on the bicycle (a "short" ride might be 40 miles or so) or running, it's off to work at her new place of business, Hypercat, Inc. in Ventura. She and Phil formed over nine years ago in the San Francisco Bay area, building up clientele from across the country. The coaching company and bike fit studio relocated to Ventura in September 2010 and is now located on Market Street.

What does Hypercat do, you may ask? The Hypercat Racing arm of the company specializes in endurance coaching and consulting for teams, runners, cyclists and competitors at all levels. Over in the Hypercat Bike Works studio Phil oversees the custom bicycle sales and bike fit services offered by the company.

Locally, Sears-Casanta is often seen at weekend races not only participating, but also offering encouragement and training opportunities to new and established athletes alike from the Hypercat tent. She is a USA Triathlon certified Level II coach, as well as a USA Cycling Level II and USA track and field Level I coach. In addition, she currently serves as administrator for the USA Triathlon Southwest Region.

How to find Rachel, Phil and Hypercat: www.rachelsears.com; 4160 Market Street, Suite #13, Ventura, 477-0353, or www.hypercat.com. Look for the orange cat on the window.

Ventura Surf Club hosts Pro Surfer Mary Osborne

Pro Surfer Mary Osborne started surfing at the age of 14. Raised in Ventura (Solimar Beach), she is the youngest of four, and the only girl. Mary's older brothers have had a huge influence on her surfing ability. Her three brothers are all extremely talented surfers and keeping up with them has obviously rubbed off on her. As a contest surfer Osborne rides a longboard, but as a free surfer she'll ride anything...and ride it well. Mary is a Surfing Ambassador for local clothing company Patagonia. She also runs a surf camp for girls in Ventura.

Having surfed all over the world (including China's Qiantang River's tidal bore!), Mary was asked by the Ventura Surf Club to come and share some of her surfing adventure stories and pictures with the local surf club members.

This February 22 event at Yolie's Mex Grill is free. It is open to surf club members and their guests. It is also open to the pub-

lic, but seating is very limited and reservations are required. Sorry, but no admission without a reservation. Please contact info@venturasurfclub.org to request a reservation.

The Ventura Surf Club is open to surfers of all ages and abilities. The club hosts special events (film screenings, surf photography exhibitions) and competitions, including intra-club contests and competitions against other clubs, but the real aim is simply camaraderie and a chance to share the pure joy of surfing. The club welcomes new members. For more information and to sign up online, visit the Ventura Surf Club website at www.venturasurfclub.org.

Health NAMI Family Support Group has moved to Ventura!

NAMI Family Support Groups are for relatives, caregivers, and others involved with individuals with mental illness. They offer opportunities to share feelings and concerns, to network about resources and information, to give and receive mutual support, and to gain respect, understanding, encouragement, and hope. Attendees have comfort in knowing "they are not alone" when mental illness strikes their family.

NAMI Family Support Groups are led by trained family members who are also working to support a loved one's recovery from mental illness. They understand the challenges faced by individuals who live with serious mental illness. Whether you have just learned about a loved one's condi-

tion or whether you are experienced at dealing with most of the issues, you will benefit from attending a NAMI family group. Groups are free, and there is no need to reserve or call ahead.

Visit their web site www.namiventura.org for more information.

The Ventura Support Group has moved to a new location. This group now meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, at the Bible Fellowship Church, 6950 Ralston Street, Room 301.

Invest in our community

Continued from page 14

cancelling any service the family could do without, the thought of no longer being a member of the Y brought Cherie to tears. It was then that she was encouraged by staff to pursue assistance from the Y. Qualifying for a reduced rate, Cherie took her children to the Y as often as possible, to maintain her children's mental and physical health as well as her own piece of mind.

The sobering reality is that there are many families like the Egberts who could desperately use a helping hand through challenging times. This is why the Y is launching a Campaign For Youth and Families. The campaign provides support for underprivileged kids to have a safe place to learn and build confidence after school; for struggling families to reconnect and grow together and for seniors in need to have access to arthritis classes and a healthy social environment; allowing each to reach their full potential.

We encourage everyone in the community to join their cause. When we all pitch in to help our neighbors, we make a meaningful, enduring impact in the lives of children and families and ultimately, strengthen our community.

To learn how you can support Campaign for Youth and Families or volunteer at the Ventura Family YMCA, please contact Amy Bailey Jurewicz by telephone at 642-2131 ext. 24 or by email at Amy.Bailey@ci-ymca.org.

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	T	E	P	E	L	A	T	E	R	I	A
O	T	A	A	I	D	E	H	I	B		
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C	A	P	T	I	D	I	S	K			
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Show Time

Where The Music Flows

New Gibson video

by Michael Kohli

This week: Delaney Gibson premieres her music video and 8stops7 releases a glimpse of new music!

Greetings fellow music fans! As of this writing, I am watching Delaney Gibson's new DVD featuring two new music videos. Last night at Zoey's Cafe was the premiere of her long-awaited music video for her single, "La Di Da." Filmed in Ventura (outside The Livery Theater, inside Zoey's Cafe, and a local park you'll recognize). After her music video got a standing ovation, Delaney performed a set with her full band. Premiered some new material, including new song, "I Told You So." The evening had a bitter note throughout the evening, however. Delaney announced recently that she'll be moving to New York City on February 28. People got teary-eyed towards the end of her set, knowing it will be a long time before we get to see her again. Delaney is a rarity in our music community here. Her music is inspiring, fun, relatable, and makes you happy (even with her song, "Kill Me Now."). Let's hope she visits here and performs on occasion... Next week, Delaney Gibson will be releasing her new music video online for, "La Di Da." Stay tuned to her website; <http://www.delaneygibson.com> for more info!

New music from 8stops7 was premiered to fans this week. Log onto 8stops7.com and find the Fan Exclusive 8Stops7 Live & Unplugged. Recorded live at Satellite Studios, the band premiered two new tracks in acoustic form and also performed fan favorite; "Question Everything." One new song, "Send Out The Dogs," sounds so good acoustically. Makes you crave to hear the upcoming studio version. Fans have waited awhile for their follow up to 2004's "Bend" album.

The Ska Daddyz return: February 26, 2011 -- one of Ventura's local music pioneers perform at The Majestic Ventura Theater. The Ska Daddyz recently became a hit on YouTube with their Ska cover of Eagles' "Hotel California." They are performing to celebrate the life of departed member and friend, Alan "Lipps" Lomax. If you check their Myspace page, you can see a video clip from May 1993!

Fashion Week Ventura 2011 will take place at the Crowne Plaza in March with a few kick off parties coming this month. Faerie Tales "A Fashion Play" will consist of fashion, music, and dancing mixed together through a storyline. Proceeds go to Aids Project Ventura. The full show will take place for two nights: March 4th and March 5th on the top floor of the Crowne Plaza. With five kick-off events planned: February 10th at Diva "The Fashion Boutique"; February 20th at Celeb's Salon; February 25th at Paddy's Ventura, March 1st at My Florist Cafe and Bakery, March 3rd at Crowne Plaza (main lobby lounge). Stay tuned to <http://www.fashionweekventura.com>.

Pop Music: For most of the month of January -- there's been one album playing in my car that I can't seem to take out; Natasha Bedingfield's "Strip Me." What a spectacular album it is. She's got a great positive energy about her throughout the album. The voice is addicting to listen to. Each song is completely different than the last. She goes from rock-ish, to pop, to disco and back. Favorite songs include, "Weightless", "A Little Much", "Strip Me", "Touch", "Recover", and "Break Thru." The online version of her album includes stripped down acoustic versions of several songs and videos. Highly recommended!



Get your jive on

On February 18 the Ventura Poinsettia Dance club and the Ventura Jazz Orchestra invites you to a Sweetheart Swing Big Band Dance from 7:30 to 10:00pm at the Poinsettia Pavilions Ball Room located at 3451 Foothill Rd.

Only 12 dollars at the door with free refreshments and parking the dance will include tangos, foxtrot, waltz, rumba, line dancing, or just listen to an 19 piece traditional big band. Featuring 5 saxes, 4 trumpets, 4 trombones, piano, upright bass, electric guitar, drummer and two headliner vocalists, Donna Greene and Glenn Novack.

For more info call 648-1143



Guitarist Alastair Greene, who tours with The Alan Parsons Project and Chuck Billings on the drums were just part of the musical evening at Black Beard's in the Harbor

Black Beard's Seaside BBQ hosts Alastair Greene

On Friday night January 28 Ventura Harbor was truly blessed with the musical talent of guitarist, singer and song writer Alastair Greene. A mainstay of the Southern California music scene for over two decades he is best known for blues and melodic guitar playing, in addition to being one of a rare breed to play slide guitar. Alastair released his latest Blues CD "Walking In Circles" in June 2009 and then accepted an offer to be full time guitarist with Alan Parsons Live Project in 2010.

Whether playing with his own band (Peter Sharpe on drums and Jim Rankin on bass) or with parts of others Alastair has opened for The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Robin Trower, Lonnie Brooks, Jonny Lang and Joe Bonamassa to name a few.

Black Beard's had no cover charge with the band beginning at 6:00pm and typically ending around 10:00pm which is negotiable depending on the evening and crowd. There was plenty of dancing and a good time was enjoyed by all. Lorie & Mark Iversen bring true talent to their establishment on a regular basis. They are striving to promote a wonderful avenue for an evening out in the Ventura Harbor with food, spirits and entertainment.

Friday night also brought an added bonus when drummer Chuck Billings formerly of Virgin and presently with Zak Daniels and The One Eyed Snakes who joined in for a few songs. Where else in Ventura Harbor or downtown Ventura was entertainment like this offered on Friday night, just at Black Beard's.



Chris Erric as Willie, Daniel Stewart as Hally and Anthony J. Haney as Sam star in "MASTER HAROLD" ...and the boys". Photo by Jeanne Tanner

Two on the Aisle

Rubicon's "Master Harold" Deals in Relationships

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

Some 62 years ago a subplot in Rodgers and Hammerstein's iconic musical "South Pacific" dealt with the issue of racial intolerance and how it colored relations between U.S. Navy personnel and native Polynesians. The show even included a song about how prejudice must be carefully taught.

The same theme provides the foundation for "Master Harold...and the boys," the production that opens this week at Ventura's Rubicon Theatre Company and runs through the rest of February, which is also Black History month.

Hally, born Harold, is the 17-year old son of the white owner of a tea room restaurant in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. It is 1950 - the height of the racial segregation system of apartheid - and Hally's tyrannical father has been away receiving treatment as a disabled World War II vet.

Sam and Willie are two black waiters who have been long time employees at the restaurant. In fact, throughout Hally's life Sam has been his actual father figure, from teaching Hally how to build a kite and helping with his homework to coping with the embarrassing behavior of his alcoholic real-life father. Yet, in line with the culture of the times, Sam refers to Hally as "Master Harold."

As the play opens, Hally arrives from school to find Sam and Willie focused on Willie's preparations for an up-coming dance competition. As the action progresses Hally becomes utterly distraught over his father's sudden impending return. He unleashes years of anger and pain on his two black friends, exposing the depth his father's bigotry has been injected into his psyche and creating potentially permanent rifts in his relationship with those truly closest to him.

The gurus at the Rubicon Theatre Co., including Brian McDonald, the show's director and Rubicon Associate Producer, have brought together an impressive array of talent to give life to Athol Fugard's insightful script - which garnered multiple awards during its initial Broadway run in 1982, but was initially banned from production in South Africa.

Award-winning actor and stage director Anthony J. Haney fills the pivotal role of Sam, young Hally's mentor. In addition to television, film and commercial work, for more than two decades Haney

has been associated with TheatreWorks in Northern California, both as an actor and, for the last seven years, as the company's Associate Artistic Director.

Chris Erric Maddox portrays Willie, Hally's other lifelong friend. The character belies Maddox' extensive background as a Shakespearean actor with the Oregon, Utah and North Carolina Shakespeare Festivals. Maddox also holds a Masters of Fine Arts degree in acting from Columbia University.

Up and coming actor Daniel Stewart, a senior at Academy of the Canyons High School in Santa Clarita, plays Hally, or Master Harold. Ventura High School student Joe Sartee, who serves as Stewart's understudy, is scheduled to perform the role on February 17 and 18.

Performances of "Master Harold... and the boys" continue through March 6, 2011 on Wednesdays at 2 and 7 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$39-\$59. Talkbacks with the actors follow the 7 p.m. performances on February 16 and 23. Rubicon Theatre Co., 1006 E. Main St., Ventura. (805) 667-2900. www.rubicontheatre.org.

Music Calendar 2/9 to 2/23

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

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

Jazz Trio Every Sat.
Blackbeards Seaside BBQ
1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115
805- 650-7773

Karaoke every Wed 6-9pm
Thur. 2/10: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm
Fri. 2/11: Preachers 6pm-10pm
Sat. 2/12: Los Blues 6-10pm
Sun. 2/ 13: Blue Stew 2-6pm
Thur. 2/17: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm
Fri. 2/18: Little Buffalo and The Mustangs 6-10pm
Sat. 2/19: Jodi Farrel and The Front Street Prophets

Sun. 2/20: 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
Live Bands every Thur. through Sat. 8pm

Cafe Fiore
66 California St.
805-653-1266

DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri. & Sat.
Wed. 2/9: Big Adventure
Thur. 2/10: Bongo Town
Fri. 2/11: Copy Cats
Sat. 2/12: Copy Cats
Tue. 2/15: Del Franklin
Wed. 2/16: Big Adventure
Thur. 2/17: Coso Live
Fri. 2/18: Scott Carter, New Breed
Sat. 2/19: Scott Carter, New Breed
Tue. 2/22: Berne Meisinger

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

Sunday Funday Band every Sun.
Reggae Tuesdays every Tue.
Wed. 2/9: Smooth Sax with Del Franklin
Mon. 2/14: Valentine Soul with JoMama 9pm
Wed. 2/16: Smooth Sax with Del Franklin
GiGi's Cocktail Lounge
2493 Grand Ave.
805-642-2411
Karaoke Sunday Nights with Steve Luke
7pm- 12am

Continued on page 19

The Lighter Breeze

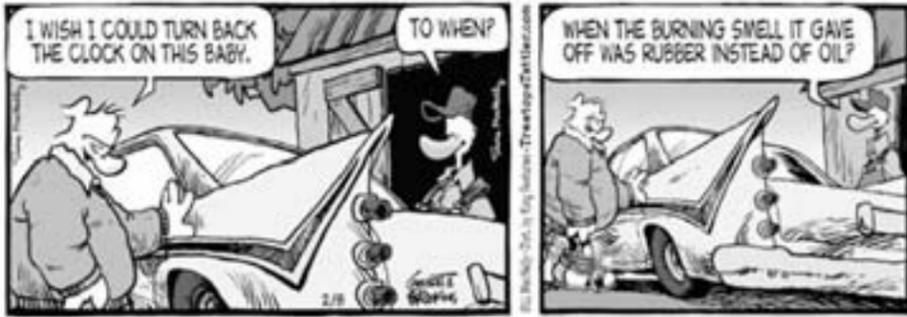
Zits



Snuffy Smith



Shoe



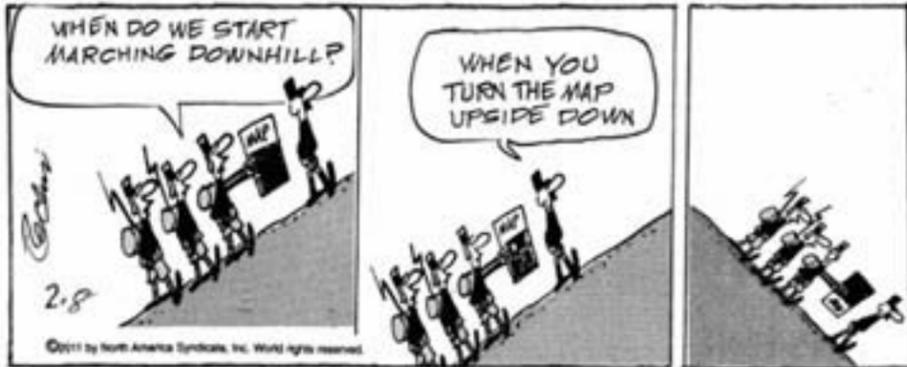
Beetle Bailey



Mother Goose and Grimm



Crock



Solutions on page 15

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place numbers 1-9 in the empty boxes so that each row, column, and 3x3 sub-grid contains each number exactly once.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: *

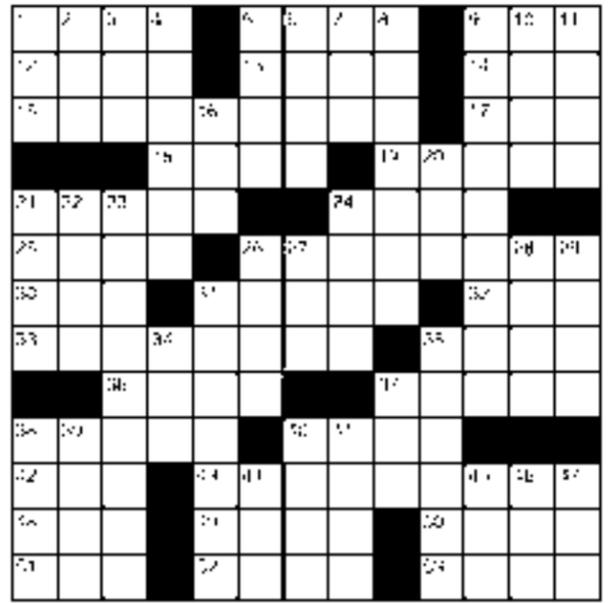
* Moderate ** Challenging *** BOO BOO

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Put one's foot down?
- 5 Level
- 9 Boston - Party
- 12 Title
- 13 Staffer
- 14 Massage
- 15 Suburban parent maybe
- 17 Lx st
- 18 [Bow counter-part
- 19 Loop n ace
- 21 Superhero garments
- 24 Work station
- 25 Oodles
- 26 Not to be tossed aside?
- 30 Crum
- 31 Bed cover
- 32 Summertime mo
- 33 Cast members
- 35 As well
- 36 Covered walkway
- 37 Sword handles
- 38 War
- 40 Canzante's delay
- 42 Mainlander's memo
- 43 Wife of a links nut
- 48 Bobby of



- hockey
- 19 Always
- 50 Proluberance
- 51 Done on
- 52 Pedestal feature
- 53 Leaves
- DOWN
- 1 A s b
- 2 Excessively
- 3 List ending abbr
- 4 Small bunch
- 5 Passenger's payment
- 6 Hickey
- 7 Commotion
- 8 Storm
- 9 Part of a mouse.
- 10 Franc
- 10 replace-ment
- 11 Help in or me
- 16 Navy rank (abbr)
- 20 "I'll be - cabaret, ..."
- 21 Team leader (abbr)
- 22 Winged
- 23 Pullover garment
- 24 Union fees
- 26 Cam cam Caroline
- 27 Ending for market
- 28 Insatiable desire
- 29 Vanity
- 31 Mooched
- 34 Multipurpose truck
- 35 Under the weather
- 37 "Hee -"
- 38 Lotion additive
- 39 Antitoxins
- 40 Wasn't colorfast
- 41 Fizzy
- 44 Fngs
- 45 "Cock-a-doodle -!"
- 46 Rhyming tribute
- 47 Firm director



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) St. Valentine's Day magic rules the entire week for romantic Rams and Ewes. Music, which is the food of love, is also strong. The weekend offers news both unexpected and anticipated.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your aspects favor the arts — which the Divine Bovine loves, loves, loves. Also, for those looking for romantic love, Cupid is available for requests. After all, his mother, Venus, rules your sign.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Loving commitments continue to grow stronger. Ditto budding relationships. A recent move to help start up a new career-linked direction could soon begin to show signs of progress.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Single Moon Children might be eager to take that proverbial chance on love. But your more serious side will feel better if you take things slowly and give your moonstruck self more time.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's a love fest for Leos and Leonas this week. Paired Cats might expect to be purr-fectly in sync. And with match-making friends, single Simbas searching for romance shouldn't have too far to look.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) More understanding on both sides can work miracles in restoring ailing relationships to health. Make the first

move, and you'll be closer to your much-wanted reunion.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Accept the fact that you are worthy of being loved, and you'll find proof in what is revealed to you over the course of the week. Also accept a compliment offered with great sincerity.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Planning to take a new direction in life is exciting. And so is a new awareness of someone's special affection. Expect a slow and mostly steady development of the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Although you might still feel you weren't treated quite right in a recent matter, all that will work out in time. Meanwhile, enjoy the week's special qualities and potentials.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Deciding not to give up on a troubling romantic situation helps start the healing process. Expect to find some valuable insight into yourself as things move along.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The week is filled with positive potentials, but it's up to you to make the right choices. The advice of someone who truly cares for you and your well-being can be priceless.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's a good time to make yourself available to possibilities of the romantic kind. Already paired? Good. In that case, be sure to reassure that special person of your feelings.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your generosity gladdens the hearts of others, and you bask in their joy.

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Business



Santa Claus and Evin Brown were on hand when #14 made her debut in December as she was put through her trials, while pulling "The Christmas Tree Trains"

Fillmore & Western Railway "Movie Trains" adds 1913 Baldwin Steam Engine

The #14, Baldwin Steam Engine 2-8-0 locomotive originally built in 1913 and restored in 2010 was introduced to the public at an open house on Thursday, February 3rd. County dignitaries were on hand to present proclamations to the owners of Fillmore & Western Railway Co. in recognition of the outstanding and invaluable service to the communities along the Santa Paula Branch Line.

After intermittent rebuild projects spanning the last 5 or 6 years, a decision was made in March of 2010 to step up the effort and get the job done. In

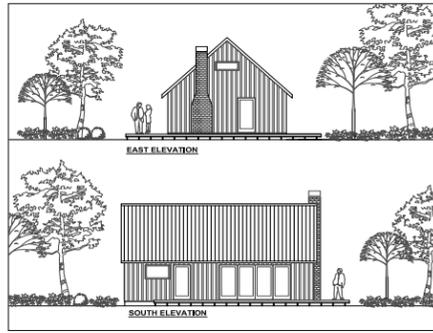
April an intense effort was put forth by Fillmore & Western Railway steam engineers to restore the locomotive to its original glory and their efforts have paid off with large numbers of "rail fans" flocking to Fillmore to get a glimpse of the newest steam "iron horse".

The locomotive has been converted from a coal-fired to an oil-fired and went through its initial trial runs fired by fuel oil. The locomotive has been outfitted to be fired by recycled vegetable oil and will be one of a handful of locomotives in the country to "go green".

The locomotive was purchased by Fillmore & Western in December of 1999 from Dodge City Railroad in Dodge City, Kansas and hadn't seen service on the rails since the 1960's. View photos taken that follow the day-to-day progress of the restoration on their website at www.fwry.com. The railroad will next run the #14 at RailFest, on March 26 and 27 in downtown Fillmore. A steam schedule hasn't been finalized at this time, but after RailFest may be run the first weekend of each month. Continue to check out the website to find out when the #14 will run.

#14 was just one of the several locomotives and "movie props" on display during the Open House. Also featured was the locomotive from "Inception", nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards. Among the other featured props were two mock locomotive cabs that were used in the filming of "Unstoppable"

For more information call 524-2546.



Turning passion into reality - WEV empowers women

by Vina Lustado

It was the last day of class, and it was a bittersweet day. I think my favorite part was the exchange of encouraging words among our classmates, all written on a small booklet of cards. As we put our thoughts on paper, I felt a special bond with everyone in the classroom. All the sweat and tears to put together the business plan finally came to an end - and all that was left was the special camaraderie formed among my fellow entrepreneurs.

The class was an intensive 14 week business course given by WEV (Women's Economic Ventures) which is offered throughout Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. WEV is a non-profit organization that was started to empower women economically by helping them to launch their own business. The

goal is to complete a business plan by the end of the course.

Before I started the class, I never intended to have my own business. I just was not interested in the idea of having a business to "make money". It might sound idealistic or naive, but it was not my aspiration in life. However, I always dreamed about how I could make a positive and meaningful contribution in my community.

After the orientation prior to the start of the course, I realized WEV was the vehicle to help me bring my aspirations to fruition. The class came to me unexpectedly when a friend told me about WEV's SET (Self Employment Training) Program. I was hesitant about taking a business class, but now I recognized it as a gift - a gift of opportunity to be seized; a gift that challenges anyone to make their passion a reality.

My passion came from years of living my life playing in the outdoors - camping in the desert beauty of Joshua Tree, mountain biking in the hills of the Ojai Valley, and rock climbing in Yosemite's granite walls. I relied on the beauty of nature to nourish my soul.

As a graduate of USC's architecture program, I had built a career in the practice of designing structures for people's habitation. After an international fellowship in Germany to research sustainable building methods, I made a conscious decision to focus my career in the preservation of the Earth. At the same time, I recognized the need to provide quality sustainable housing for everyone, regardless of income level.

Thus, the birth of Sol Haus Design, a boutique design firm based in Ojai, with

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Business

a focus on sustainable building practices for residential projects. After WEV's business course, I am now equipped with a solid business plan and ready to implement my ideas for sustainable living.

Sol Haus Design advocates the concept of living smaller as a component of sustainability and economic efficiency. Our firm is currently developing a prototype for "granny flats" or second dwelling units. The concept is to minimize square footage while maximizing functionality. Additionally, zoning and building requirements have been considered to effectively reduce time and expense during the approval process. As such, the cost is much more affordable for homeowners.

Sol Haus Design believes that by offering a well designed and energy efficient home, more people will understand the value of living smaller, to shift the focus from a lifestyle based on material consumption to a lifestyle based on simplicity.

For more information on SOL HAUS DESIGN, go to www.solhausdesign.com or call 669-7084

Wally World proposal is alive and well

by Sheli Ellsworth

The defeated 2009 ballot measure did not discourage Wal-Mart from pursuing plans to plant a store in former K-mart turf located on Victoria. The superstore giant is speaking with city planners to explore environmental issues so the retailer can finalize approval from the city's Design Review Committee. According to senior planner, Iain Holt, an environmental study is not expected to hold up the approval process. However, it would protect Wal-Mart from future environmental litigation.

Wal-Mart cultivation is always fertile ground for controversy. It garners support from those who value selection and discount pricing, but those who fear what selection and discount pricing bring to the area, eschew the retailer due to traffic problems, trash, wayward shopping carts, theft and competition with smaller locally owned businesses. The superstore giant has garnered a reputation for discounting certain lines until smaller businesses are forced out because they are unable to compete. Several studies fail to support this notion.

Naysayers rarely defer the company's plans. However, when Canadian employees voted to unionize, the company fired the employees and closed the store according to the Davis, CA Wiki website. Nevertheless, the site also claims that lower income people feel that Wal-Mart raises their standard of living by offering lower competitive pricing. Supporters of Big Wally also note that Wal-Mart's CEO recently supported raising the federal minimum wage. Supporters also claim that Wal-Mart helps control inflation and they were a catalyst for the retail boom of the 1990s.

According to Ask Yahoo, Wal-Mart is the largest private employer in the United States, with over 1.1 million U.S. employees. Only the government hires more people.

The proposed, almost 100,000 square foot site, at 1739 Victoria Avenue, will not be subject to a new traffic study because the traffic flow is expected to be similar to that of the former K-mart according to city officials.

Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP has new partner and associate

The law firm of Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP has announced that Douglas K. Goldwater, a specialist in family law and civil litigation, is now a partner at the firm.

Doug Goldwater began working at FCOP in 2004 and practices primarily family law. He also has extensive experience in business, real property and intellectual property litigation.

Doug graduated from the University of California, Berkeley where he was actively involved with the university's chapter of Theta Chi fraternity. He graduated in 2000 with dual degrees in Legal Studies and Mass Communications and spent a year working at a film production company before enrolling at the University of Southern California Law School in 2001.

Joshua S. Hopstone has joined FCOP as an associate, also practicing in the firm's family law and civil litigation departments. Josh graduated from the University of California, San Diego in June 2007 with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Law & Society. After UCSD, Josh graduated from at the University of Michigan Law School in 2010.

Founded in 1982, Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP is one of the largest law firms in the Tri-Counties with 26 attorneys.

The offices of Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP are located at 1050 South Kimball Road in Ventura.

Bank of Books is giving away romance books

From February 13 thru February 28 Bank of Books is giving away bags full of romance books one bag per interested customer "This is our way of celebrating Valentine's Day with the community," says Carmen Silva. "We're helping spread a spirit of giving, of love and romance".

Clarey Rudd, owner of Bank of Books stated "We have the joy once again to give back to the community, by giving away 5,000 romance books. The bags will be filled with 20 to 40 assorted titles. This brings the total of books given away free to the public to over 115,000 books!! How many bookstores in the country are doing that?? We hope that we will have many new people discover Bank of Books at 748 E. Main."

Rudd continues by indicating that people drive a great distance to shop with them. A new customer that they have had the privilege and honor of serving has been Anthony Hopkins. He wrote in their guest book "What a great bookstore, the best I've been in ever, and I am a book geek." Rudd said "This man has traveled the world and is one of the best actors of all time, he is truly a well read individual. We were greatly honored by his kind words".

"We are excited with this new year and the many events, book signings, book clubs, seminars that will be taking place in 2011. Please follow us on Facebook to keep up with all the news." Carmen states.

For more information please call 643-3154.

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Music calendar

Continued from page 16

Fri 2/11: Teresa Russell 9pm

Sat 2/12: What the Funk 9pm

Fri 2/18: Red Rhythm 9pm

Sat 2/19: The Brian Faith Band 9pm

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Sat. 2/12: Imagine the Love

Sun. 2/13: Snoop Dogg, California Allstar, Kush House, Master Mind

Fri. 2/18: Facing the Fallen, American Hoss, Guns of August

Sat. 2/19: Bob Saget

Sun. 2/20: Bliss, Swedish Egil, DJ N8, AMFM Alexander, Discopunk,

Tue. 2/22: Robin Trower, Bass Ackwards

W2O Rooftop Lounge

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Thur. 2/10: Bobby Hart Band

Fri. 2/11: The Legalizers

Sat. 2/12: The Bomb

Zoey's Café

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Isaac Russell, Residency every Mon.

8pm

Songwriter's round every Wed. 8pm

Thur. 2/10: Val Emmich, Lauren O'Connell & Lainey Taylor 8pm

Fri. 2/11: The Rincon Ramblers, Alan Thornhill, Martin Young 8pm

Sat. 2/12: Threes and Nines with Omar Cowan & Jesse Siebenberg 8pm

Sun. 2/13: Softsilence CD release 7:30pm

Tue. 2/15: Dan Grimm & Friends 8pm

Thur. 2/17: Casino Gold CD Release 8pm

Fri. 2/18: Howlin' Woods and Tonight's Bag 8pm

Sat. 2/19: Jeff Hershey & the Heartbeats, Delaney Gibson, Carlism 8pm



On January 31 new Breeze columnist Miss Betty was on the Ventura Breeze portion of the Coach Ron Tunick radio show on Ventura County radio station 1400AM KKZZ.

Because she chooses to remain anonymous her face has been covered up by a really scary looking person. Her first column appears in this issue.

Coach Ron is on daily from 4-6pm with many wonderful guests with his show "The business of Life".





Ventura's Finest



Olivia Simonson is "not" a typical fourteen year old

Olivia Simonson to climb Mount Kilimanjaro

Olivia Simonson is in many ways a typical fourteen year old. She is a freshman at Ventura High School and participates on the girls tennis team. She enjoys shopping in downtown Ventura, eating pizza and hanging out with her friends. However, that's where most of the similarities end. Olivia's next task on her "to do" list is to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 19,341 feet in July of this year.

Olivia came up with idea after looking at some of her father's old pictures of a climb he did of the same mountain a few years ago. She also incorporated her goal of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro with a charity that is very near and dear to Olivia's heart. The Andrea Grace Soter-Simonson Memorial Foundation was created in honor of Olivia's mother who lost her battle with ovarian cancer in 2008. The AGSS Memorial Foundation provides financial assistance, support and encouragement to families challenged by cancer. Olivia is hoping that people will donate 1 cent for every foot she hikes (\$193.41), however any donation is much appreciated. The website is www.agssmemorialfoundation.org.

Mount Kilimanjaro is not only the highest mountain in Africa but it is the fourth highest mountain of the seven continents. Olivia will be taking the longest route up the mountain, which will allow for gradual elevation changes. Olivia will not be alone on her hike. She will be ac-

companied on her hike by her father, Clif Simonson, Dr. Dean Smith and his son Paul Smith (also 14 years old.) The legal age to climb the mountain is 10 years old so Olivia and Paul will be some of the youngest hikers to accomplish this feat.

To prepare for the climb, Olivia wakes up at 5am and heads to the gym with her dad for a couple of hours of endurance training. She also incorporates hikes to Sycamore Canyon to prepare for the gains in elevation she will experience during the hike. The actual hike will take about 10-14 days and the group plans on going on a safari in the Serengeti Plains following the hike.

As for the next item's on Olivia's "to do" list she is currently applying to prep schools to finish out her high school education in hopes to pursue a degree in Foreign Diplomacy at Georgetown University. She would also like to obtain her pilot's license and put to use her certification in scuba diving by teaching scuba to others. Olivia's enthusiasm for life is absolutely contagious. It is personified not only in her effervescent personality but in her day to day actions. She will no doubt go on to great things with her life, she is already well on her way at the mere age of fourteen.

Andrea Grace Soter-Simonson Memorial Foundation, 1746-F South Victoria Ave. #382, Ventura 93003 650-2794 ext. 111 or www.agssmemorialfoundation.org or info@agssmemorialfoundation.org

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