

# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 4, No. 10

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February 23 - March 8, 2011

## Downtown parking costs continue to generate controversy

by Tim Pompey

Some folks would like for the downtown parking meter controversy to go away. Kathleen Eriksen, for instance, Executive Director for the Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO), says that most of the merchants downtown are "tired of the negative attention to the pay stations and want to focus on improving their business."

Sandra Burkhart, President and CEO of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, echoes this view: "For the most part, our businesses do not have strong opinions one way or the other about the meters. There are other factors that have a much more material effect on their business."

Other business owners disagree and are working hard to bring even more attention to the issue. Take Randall Richman, who has his own website to solicit support for removing the meters ([www.removethemeters.com](http://www.removethemeters.com)). Or Carla Bonney, who wants to put an initiative on the June ballot that would ban the city from charging for parking anywhere in Ventura.

So, like it or not, the futuristic blue meters remain a flashpoint, and the core question on everyone's mind is: Do these meters hurt or help downtown business? As is the case with any debate, the

Continued on page 7



The futuristic blue parking meters remain at the hub of concerns and complaints by some merchants and residents about their impact on business and homes in downtown Ventura



Winter in Ventura. Who cares if I catch a fish? Photo by John Ferritto



Kelsie Sims, Principal at El Camino High School at Ventura College, is all smiles upon learning of the honor bestowed on the school

## State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson recognizes local school

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson recently congratulated three California public schools selected by a joint project of the California Consortium for Independent Study (CCIS) and the California Department of Education (CDE) to receive the Exemplary Independent Study Recognition Award (EISRA).

"I am proud that California's public school system provides a variety of options so that all students can succeed," said Torlakson. El Camino High School at Ventura College challenges students with a rigorous academic program while providing flexibility and personalization through independent study. Congratulations to all the students, teachers and administrators, and the parents who are helping to make these schools models of educational excellence."

The schools were recognized at the

CCIS conference in Ontario on February 11. The conference afforded independent study teachers and administrators opportunities to meet leaders from the three schools and from previous EISRA winners to learn more about their practices.

"These three schools join a cadre of other EISRA recipients who demonstrate an impressive track record of helping students succeed academically in alternative settings designed to meet their unique needs and the full grade level academic expectations," Torlakson said. "I encourage other schools that offer independent study to learn from the successful strategies used in these schools."

The EISRA is designed to recognize excellent educational practices in schools where independent study is the primary mode of instruction. Eligible applicants must have 75 percent or more of the school's students enrolled in independent study, a statewide API rank of 6 or above, and may not be in Program Improvement.

Principal Kelsie Sims told us "El Camino High School is a unique, high performing school. It feels great to be recognized and our staff is excited to share what we do with others. It is an honor to work at such a cutting edge school."

"The staff at ECHS has worked hard to create a rigorous and high performing school. We are all thrilled to be recognized as the best in the state!"

"Our school community is celebrating our successes and the award. Because we have students who come to our campus from all over Ventura County, there are little celebrations going on in many communities!"

"All ECHS students take classes at Ventura College and many have an opportunity to earn their AA degree while in high school. Our partners at Ventura College have helped to make our Middle College Academy an award winning high school choice for students."

## Mayor tries to set city on path to success

by Rebecca Wicks

2010 was not the best in the history of Ventura. It was a year plagued by city job losses, still-dismal sales and property taxes and lackluster real estate levels to name just a few issues. In spite of a less-than-stellar economic climate, Mayor Bill Fulton attempted to keep a positive tone throughout his State of the City address earlier this month.

"We have attacked the issue of declining revenue head-on—meaning that future cuts will not be nearly as painful as other cities will see," said Fulton.

Fulton went on to highlight a number of local achievements including the completion of a handful of construction projects including the WAV building, the expansion of the Museum of Ventura County and the ground breaking of Community Memorial Hospital's new \$300 million cancer center which Fulton expressly hopes will bring further services, wealth and jobs to Ventura.

He congratulated the Ventura Deep Six Relay Team for their world-record setting 202-mile open water swim.

The mayor handed out thanks to a number of groups from the employees of the city who he heartedly thanked for helping to cover pension increases by agreeing to contribute to their own pensions to the Ventura Chamber of Commerce who have helped lend private support in a time of lacking public funds.

Along these same lines he thanked non-profit organizations including Urban Encore for helping to keep the Down

Continued on page 19

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KADYTV.com  
Johanna Spinks

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



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# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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

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## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown  
Publisher

■ **Bicycle riders:** The City is in the final stages of completing a major update of its Bicycle Master Plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide policies, facility improvements, and programs to provide safer bicycling in the community and to create a shared culture of bicycling awareness and acceptance.

The draft planning process included the formation of a focus group of 14 residents who worked with the City. The plan is now available online for review at <http://www.cityofventura.net/pw/transportation>.

Comments on the plan are due by March 2 so you should look soon especially if you ride a bike (or plan to) and want to comment. Your comments can be emailed to [biking@cityofventura.net](mailto:biking@cityofventura.net). The City Council will be considering adoption of the plan on March 21.

■ I don't really understand why there should be restrictions on the amount and location of Tattoo establishments. Tattooing is legal except for those under 18 (I think) who need parental approval.

If there wasn't a demand for them they wouldn't be opening up and I do not think that they attract a criminal element. Unless, of course the majority of NBA players are criminals (perhaps they are for what they get paid).

■ You should all know this or you wouldn't live here but this is a great place to live.

We went to see "Master Harold and the boys" at the Rubicon and, like all of their presentations, it was wonderful. The Rubicon may be the finest small

theater (seats about 200) in the country. Master Harold plays until March 6 so be sure to see it. Info at [www.rubicontheatre.org](http://www.rubicontheatre.org).

And we also spent several days in our RV at Faria State Beach parked right next to the ocean. Faria is 12 minutes from our house as are several other camping sites and if weather permits you can "tent" there also.

And lunch in the beautiful Ventura Harbor when we got back. Folks from all over the world visit our Harbor so



So you thought Ventura's traffic laws were tough?

go there to eat, shop, walk the dog, meditate or just stroll or move back to Chicago.

How many cities in the world offer what we have here? So go enjoy.

■ Our very exciting portrait series continues with another Face Of Ventura in this issue. Johanna never ceases to amaze me with her artistic talent and love for what she does.

Please contact me if you have suggestions for a portrait of a Venturan who represents the "Face Of Ventura".

■ We have an article in this issue regarding a group that is trying to put an

initiative on the June ballot that would basically remove the downtown parking meters.

It is always very interesting when these type of initiatives go to a vote because often it is a vocal minority that is speaking up against something and not the silent majority that really don't get too involved or speak up.

I think that it would be good to find out what Venturans really think of paid parking and take it from there.

As you should know by now I think that they are very ugly and completely out of character with our "cultural downtown historic" district.

I'm quite often shocked by the city council's lack of concern when it comes to aesthetics downtown. Like the mini-billboard trash bins for another example.

Can't the design review committee review these things? Hopefully they haven't been or they are not doing a very good job.

Also this got me wondering what can actually be changed by a vote? How binding would such a vote be? What if there was an initiative to add even more parking meters and it passed? Would that be binding?

Would love to hear from someone who knows the answer to this.

■ In this issue we have the Audubon March events. Even if you are not a birder they are wonderful to go on.

Birds seem to really like beautiful areas to live in so you don't need to care about birds to enjoy their walks.

I only learned about the gorgeous ponds in the Harbor (by the water reclamation plant) by going to a bird watch, so check them out to see even more reasons to live in Ventura,

## Mailbox

tion Manager, Ventura Department of Public Works to get your answer.

We thank him for his response. Here it is:

"With regard to the Surfers Point Project, the sand that was specified from our permit with the California Coastal Permit. The sand as placed had to be tested by a soils lab and accepted by the Coastal Engineer. The actual language for the sand basically.

Sand material used by the Contractor for cobble void filling and sand topping/beach restoration must conform to the special conditions provided in the California Coastal Commission's Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Number 4-05-148. Permit conditions are provided in the Appendix.

If the sand was acceptable, the issues would then be cost and production rate. The cost to pick up the sand from the lanes would be more than simply loading and hauling to the site. We do not have a long haul route at this time and the cost of the sand is very inexpensive. If the lanes were utilized and the sand was acceptable, the sand would cost us more to pick up. We can also have sand delivered when we need it at this time, if the lanes could be utilized this would be an operation where we would have to stockpile the sand and move it twice

I hope I answered the question, let me know if you have any further issues by calling me at.

Thank you"

Breeze:

On January 10th with great pride and a little bit of creative math, the city council approved an agreement with

police and SEIU unions requiring that members make payments towards their own retirement. The city projected one year savings of \$1.0 million thus offsetting most of the projected \$1.2 million pension increase. The headline savings are real, only because the city council chose to ignore parts of the agreement that may force the city to reduce services, increase costs, or both. More importantly, the city did nothing to address the massive \$178.5 million unfunded deficit in the various pension plans.

Union concessions on pension contributions come with a price tag. The unions demanded and received an additional 35 hours for police, and 27 hours for SEIU of paid vacation time off each year. We estimated this vacation benefit will cost the taxpayers \$673,000 including benefits. The reason we calculated a cost for this concession is because the city did not.

The city council faced a dilemma. If the savings from pension contributions were offset against the additional cost of new vacation benefits, the \$1.0 million headline savings would evaporate. At that point the city council would be signing a contract that afforded minimal savings for the city, and guaranteed a reduction in services for the community as union members enjoy their new found paid vacations.

Using Alice in Wonderland logic, the city council solved their dilemma by concluding that awarding additional vacation time did not increase costs, because police and SEIU members are paid the same if they are working, or while on paid vacation. Once the unpleasant task of dealing with costs that do not exist was dealt with, the city council approved

Continued on page 10

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Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

—Will Rogers

Hi Sheldon,

Here is my question. If we have tons of sand to remove from all of the lanes at Pierpont, and it is moved by city vehicles, why is the city buying sand from somebody in Santa Paula for the renewal project at Surfer's Point? Free sand here.

Steve Cook

Steve:

Nothing is as it appears when working with governmental agencies. We contacted Brad Starr, P.E., Construction and Survey Sec-



## City News

### Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative

by Camille Harris

After two years of hard work, the executive summary and the final report of the Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative is completed. It addresses low-income housing, safety, amnesty, neighborhood impacts, non-conforming safe properties and grandfathering. Whether you rent, sell, own or intend to buy, these recommendations are about you. In appreciation and support for this project, please attend the Council meeting on Monday, February 28 at City Hall at 6 pm.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the members of the committee; some have been working on this project for two years.

The following is a brief summary of the report to be submitted to the City Council.

"The Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative (VSHC) has effectively complied with Ventura City Council's request to work with the City Manager to move forward on a program to meet the goals of safe housing, consistent with the direction of the General Plan. From March 2010 to January 2011, we conducted three public workshops, which produced over 700 comments and recommendations from the public. A combination of two surveys produced 465 responses with another 1,000-plus comments and recommendations. A volunteer sponsored website produced over 100 more comments and recommendations.

We transformed this public input into data, which produced the basis for over 50 recommendations that were funneled into six overarching recommendations and implementation strategies. The six recommendations in this report address five topics derived from the November 23, 2009, Administrative Report. The topics are: Recommend a plan for compliance through grandfathering (legalization), amnesty and code enforcement, ensure safe housing, increase permit pulling, identify economic benefits, minimize and reduce fear of city code enforcement efforts.

The six VSCH overarching recommendations are to:

- Improve Program Guidance and Supporting Elements
- Legalize safe Non-Conforming Properties
- Implement an affordable Compliance Program
- Establish a Citizen's Review Board to ensure Due Process
- Establish policy for Undocumented Second Units
- Implement an aggressive Marketing Plan

In an effort to address one area that needs immediate attention for improvement, VSHC has drafted a resolution for Legalization of Non-Conforming Properties, which is submitted herewith. We have also addressed potential concerns regarding adverse neighborhood impacts and city liability, and we have outlined an aggressive educational marketing plan.

This has all been performed with a spirit of collaboration. From the beginning, we have possessed a heartfelt intent toward generating oneness and trust between community and city. We have

sought to ensure safe housing and stimulate voluntary compliance through the creation of a new paradigm of code enforcement, a new body of rules to govern and to follow by.

Our recommendations breathe with an air of holistic solution solving that begins by building public trust through governmental outreach. Equity, fairness, and social responsibility would become primary ingredients to civil process. Program management would be streamlined to provide fast, cheap, and easy services to citizens. Education and training would be improved thereby creating a significant increase in voluntary compliance."

## Ventura's popular 4th of July Street Fair applications are now available

Artists, crafters and non-profit organizations interested in applying for the 4th of July Street Fair should visit the city website, [www.cityofventura.net/street-fairs](http://www.cityofventura.net/street-fairs) and download the appropriate application. Guidelines are available on the website that give instructions on what is to be submitted and deadlines.

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

The 4th of July Street Fair draws over 30,000 people to Downtown Ventura for the one-day show. The street fair also has 3 stages of entertainment and offers a free shuttle bus from the Ventura County Government Center to the Street Fair. All is free to attend.

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

The Ventura 4th of July Street Fair, in its 36th year, is the only street fair held in the city of Ventura that is organized by the city Community Partnership office, formally Cultural Affairs. For further details visit their website or contact Michelle Godoy, 654-7749.

## Just what is the CDP? Find out at City Hall!

On March 9, the City of Ventura and the Ventura County Arts Council will present two free California Cultural Data Projects training workshops: New Users and Reports. The workshops will be presented at City Hall. A representative from the California Cultural Data Project will offer two types of free CDP training sessions - New User, for those just getting started, 10-11:30 am, and Reports Orientations, for organizations who have submitted one or more years of data, 12:30-2 pm. Light morning refreshments and lunch will be provided.

The California Cultural Data Project (California CDP) is a powerful online management tool designed to strengthen arts and cultural organizations. Arts and cultural organizations enter financial, programmatic and operational data into a standardized online form and can then

use the CDP to produce a variety of reports designed to help increase management capacity, identify strengths and challenges and inform decision-making.

Register through Event Brite as follows:

New Users Training: <http://cacdp-ventura.eventbrite.com/>

Reports Training: <http://cacdp-ventura2.eventbrite.com/>

The New User Training Session is recommended if your organization is new to the CDP or if you need a refresher on data entry. This training session will provide an overview of the history and goals of the California CDP as well as an introduction to the types of data collected.

The CDP Reports Orientation Session is designed for organizations that have already submitted at least one Data Profile into the system. Learn more about the 77 trend and comparison reports available to your organization at no-cost! This training offers tips for integrating use of these reports in your financial management, planning and evaluation.

For more information, email Georgeanne Lees ([glees@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:glees@ci.ventura.ca.us)) or call 658-4720.

## City of Ventura educating the public

### Free Arts Management Workshops

On March 9, the City of Ventura and the Ventura County Arts Council will present two free California Cultural Data Projects training workshops, each 90 minutes long, at City Hall, 501 Poli St.

### 10-11:30 am New User Training Workshop

### 12:30-2 pm Reports Training Workshop

The California Cultural Data Project is a powerful online management tool designed to strengthen arts and cultural organizations to help increase management capacity, identify strengths and challenges and inform decision-making—and be included as part of the application processes to participating grant makers. For more information call 658-4720.

### Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

The Ventura City Fire Department will host the next 6-week CERT training course on Wednesdays beginning March 16 from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the Police/Fire Training Room. Under the watchful eyes of our firefighters, students will have the opportunity to learn skills in light search and rescue, fire suppression, medical triage and first aid. The class is open to 60 students. A final exercise will be held on April 23. Funding was obtained through Emergency Preparedness grants as part of a countywide effort to promote personal and neighborhood disaster preparation. Interested citizens should call 658-4717 or e-mail [hcaidwell@cityofventura.net](mailto:hcaidwell@cityofventura.net) to obtain application materials.

## City of Ventura Classes

Call 644-6542 for more details or go to [www.VenturaNiaCenter.com](http://www.VenturaNiaCenter.com)

To register call 658-4726 or 644-6542, if you already have an account, visit [www.cityofventura.net/eRecreation](http://www.cityofventura.net/eRecreation)

### Heat Up the Night - Latin Dance 13 years-Adult - \$45

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## News and Notes

Class takes place at the Barranca Vista Center - 7050 Ralston St. Ventura, Ca 93003. To register call 805.658.4726 or 805.644.6542, if you already have an account, visit [www.cityofventura.net/eRecreation](http://www.cityofventura.net/eRecreation)

Class no. 28557- Saturday 6-7 pm -2/26-4/2

### Evening Body Hoops- 14 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 attire to move in. Instructor is Lori Eckberg

Class No. 28481 - Monday 7:15-8:15 pm -2/28-3/21

### Intro to Aikido for Teens & Adult- 14 years-Adult- \$40

Expect vigorous activity in this introduction to Aikido, a non-competitive, defensive Japanese martial art whose physical goal is to neutralize attacks via deflective techniques, pins and throws.

Class No. 28463 Monday - 6-7:30 pm -2/28-3/14

### One-Day Parent and Child Workshops: Dinosaurs-2-5 years-\$10

Learning fun things about your world through snacks, crafts and stories.

Class No. 28659 - Thur. 9:45-10:45 am -3/4

### Beginning Dog Agility- 14 years-Adult- \$100

Train, exercise and bond with your dog as they learn to go over jumps, through tunnels and master agility obstacles. Instructor is Shannon Coyner, Certified Professional Dog Trainer. No class on 3/26.

Class No. 28379 - Sat. 11am-12 pm -3/5-4/16

### Little Characters Play Along-3-6 years- \$75

A children's story (such as Stone Soup) will be read and acted out using song, art projects and fun to help even the shyest children come out of their shell and introduce them to theater and music. Parents are invited to watch a performance on the last day of class. Instructor is Jenny Martin.

Class No. 28617 - Monday 3-3:45 pm -3/7-4/4

### Great Pretenders Play and Perform-6-10 years- \$75

Students will create a short story or adapt an existing one and each week use theatre games, improvisation, movement and voice to bring the story to life. Parents are invited to watch a performance on the last day of class. No class 2/21. Instructor is Jenny Martin.

Class No. 28619 - Monday 4-4:45 pm -3/7-4/4

These are the emails of your City Council members. If you think that something in the City is wrong or right or needs improving please email them and let them know. They are there to serve you.

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## Local teacher writes book for autistic children

by Sheli Ellsworth

Rebecca Caron has devoted herself to the pleasure she gets from helping learning disabled children. It has not been an easy road. She works long days, weekends and even summers—when she is supposed to be off work—spending her time with children that need extra encouragement and one-to-one tutoring. When the parents of one of her privately tutored students wanted to do something special to thank her, Caron couldn't think of anything she really needed. Then she remembered a book she had started years before. It was a dream Caron hoped would help parents and teachers learn to communicate with children of autism. The manuscript was designed and written, but publication still eluded her.

With the help of grateful parents, Caron was able to see her vision in print. The Magical Island of Dolphins is now available in softcover at Island Packers on Spinnaker Drive in the Ventura Harbor for \$9.99. The book is the story of an autistic girl named Marissa, who discovers that everyone is born with special talents. Using photos taken on her 2004 Maui vacation, Caron takes Marissa into the ocean to commune with sea turtles, eels, dolphins, whales and fish. Learning that all creatures have a need to communicate, Marissa finds herself in a world that speaks without words. Caron's instructive hints in the back of the book teach the reader how to draw the autistic student into Marissa's world and discover the subtle ways people and animals communicate.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports approximately 9 out of every 1,000 children in the United States are diagnosed with autism, a number that has increased dramatically since the 1980s. Parents should be aware of autism symptoms which include: no babbling by 12 months of age, no gesturing or pointing by 12 months of age, no single words by 16 months, and no two-word spontaneous language by 2 years.

Caron has been teaching in the Oxnard School District for over 25 years. She is currently at McAuliffe Elementary and recipient of Ventura County's Teacher of the Year award. "My desire is that I can change the way parents and families interact with children of autism," says Caron. "The book was a great place to start."



## FOOD Share welcomes four new Board of Directors members

FOOD Share, Ventura County's only regional food bank, recently welcomed four new members to its Board of Direc-

tors. The new Board of Directors members include:

Mike Arcari is the Vice President and District Manager for the Channel Islands market within Wells Fargo's Pacific Coast Community Bank. Arcari oversees retail banking operations for eight banking stores and more than 150 team members in the communities of Newbury Park, Camarillo and Oxnard. Arcari resides with his family in Camarillo.

Mike Coulson previously served on FOOD Share's Board of Directors and Executive Committee helping to develop and refine the organization's strategic plan. Coulson, a former Amgen finance executive who lives with his wife and daughters in Ventura, returns to resume his commitment and contributions to FOOD Share.

Chris Dryden, Mission Avocado's Ventura County field representative, has been instrumental in helping FOOD Share with food sourcing and support. Dryden was actively involved in the Livestock Auction at the 2010 Ventura County Fair which provided FOOD Share with thousands of pounds of protein food sources. Dryden lives in Ventura with his wife and daughters.

Joe Schroeder is the President and CEO of the Ventura County Credit Union with many years of experience in operations and marketing also serving as CEO of several other credit unions throughout Southern California. With a passion for helping the community, Joe's collaboration with FOOD Share is obvious one, furthering FOOD Share's mission of "fighting hunger with compassion and commitment." A father of three, Joe lives with his wife in Ventura.



A large tree along Hayes Ave., near Coolidge recently fell onto a residence causing minor damage to the home and significant damage to several vehicles.

The tree also took down electrical lines and was blocking a portion of the street. No injuries were reported.



The annual dredging in the Ventura Harbor channel is being done. This results in the channel remaining navigable, especially for our fishing boats.

Less material will be removed this year because of reduced federal government funding but will still assure that the commercial boats can navigate the harbor waters.

AN AFTERNOON OF JAZZ  
PAUL MCCALLUM  
&  
PAUL WEITZ  
SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH  
NOON TO 3PM

ZOEY'S CAFE  
185 E SANTA CLARA STREET  
VENTURA, CA 93001  
@ CLOCK TOWER INN HOTEL  
(805) 652-1137

NO COVER  
ALL AGES WELCOME

PHOTOGRAPHY/GRAPHICS: MARIE GREGORIO-OVIEDO



## News and Notes



Photo by George Robertson

### Eucalyptus trees - we are going to miss you

Recently people driving at the west end of Main, by the Ventura River were shocked to see that "millions" of mature eucalyptus trees had been cut down, some as tall as 100 feet.

Because the trees are (were) on private property and a non-native species, no permit for the work was required by the city.

The land owner's said that the

height and density of the trees blocked too much sun light which reduced the potential for increased farming and the value of the property (they apparently don't think that magnificent trees have any value).

The city was powerless to stop their destruction, but some new laws being considered might prevent this from happening in the future.

### Writers club orphaned again

by Sheli Ellsworth

The planned bankruptcy of Borders Books has once again displaced the Ventura County Writers Club. The club, established in 1933, has had several venues since its inception, but the club met at Borders in Thousand Oaks for over a decade. When that Borders building was leased by the county, the club felt fortunate to be adopted by the Oxnard Borders. Since Borders Group Inc. announced store closings last week—including the Oxnard location, the VCWC has found itself on the ropes once again. The company plans to close over 200 stores, reportedly, because of the rise of e-book demand.

"The VCWC has about 150 members currently," said President Lee Wade. "We usually have 50-85 people who attend our meetings. Our location choices have been limited because of our size." The club owns its own tables, chairs, and sound system. "We're really a pretty civil group. We just can't afford to pay a lot for meeting space. Border's has always invited us to meet there for free."

The writing club's motto is, "To encourage the craft." They sponsor short story and poetry contests and host speakers in the writing and publishing industry for events, which are open to the public at no charge. The club also organizes almost 20 critique groups around the county. The VCWC also publishes a bi-annual anthology—a collection of poetry and stories from local writers, and they organize workshops taught by literary agents and publishing consultants.

is still another way to take advantage of the many services that CAPS provides. If you are part of a non-profit organization, a public agency or educational institution, you can use our free bulletin board service. Bulletin boards are 15-20 second slides that air on the channel in between programming and allow viewers to learn about an upcoming event. The CAPS Bulletin Board Request form can be found on our website at [www.capstv.org/forms.htm](http://www.capstv.org/forms.htm). Please remember that only non-commercial content can be displayed on the channel.

It is part of our mission here at CAPS-TV to try and involve the entire population of Ventura as producers and viewers. Throughout the year, CAPS provides coverage for major events around the community such as parades, commencements and political forums. At least once a month you can find a program on Channel 6 that is produced by the CAPS staff with the assistance of some great volunteers. This weekend we will be at the annual Festival of Talent presented by Ventura Education Partnership in association with the Ventura Kiwanis and Ventura Unified School District. On March 12 we will be on Main Street in downtown Ventura bringing you the St. Patrick's Day Parade LIVE. If you are interested in being a volunteer for an upcoming production, please give us a call at 658-0500.

CAPS-TV exists to give local citizens a voice. We're here to help you tell your story. Whether it's a sporting event, political talk show or musical production, CAPS-TV is a wonderful resource to share your message with the people of Ventura. To learn more about membership, programming or how to get involved, visit us at 65 Day Road or find us online at [www.capstv.org](http://www.capstv.org) and [www.facebook.com/capstventura](http://www.facebook.com/capstventura).

### Ed Hogan named Grand Marshal of St. Patrick's Day Parade

The annual County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade will march down Main Street for the 23rd time in downtown Ventura on Saturday, March 12 at 10 AM. The theme is "Giving Back - The REAL Pot of Gold."

This year's Grand Marshal is Ventura County resident Ed Hogan. Born of Irish immigrants, Hogan lived through the great depression and with his philosophy of "Courage, Compassion and Commitment" created Pleasant Travel Service, a leisure travel agency that he grew to a multi million-dollar business before he sold it in 1998. Ed Hogan continues to be a well-known figure in the travel industry, as the companies he founded attain growth and success in an ever-changing world.

Hogan's big Irish heart and his philosophy of "Courage, Compassion and Commitment" led him and his wife, Lynn to establish the Hogan Family Foundation, The foundation serves underprivileged families with necessary medical emergency travel, animal therapy for children, rescue for abandoned and abused dogs among other generous services.

For his generous contributions to Ventura County and his undying desire to pay

*Continued on page 7*

#### Ventura Downtown Lions

Present their 3rd annual  
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CRAB FEAST



Friday,  
March 18, 2011

Event sponsor

**PARADISE  
CHEVROLET**

Plenty of parking at the  
Ventura County  
Fairgrounds  
10 E Harbor Blvd., Ventura  
**Santa Rosa Hall**

Doors open at 5:00 PM – Dinner 6:30 PM  
Door prizes, silent & live auctions

**Tickets \$40:00 per person in advance**

For tickets, reservations & sponsorships call:

Jeff Roundy @ (805) 701-0653

OR

Eileen Hager or Valerie Lopez @ 805-648-5111

Online inquiries to [jeff@homesbyjeff.com](mailto:jeff@homesbyjeff.com)



CAPS CHAT

### Community Events on CAPS

by Kirsten Ricketts

Community events happen daily in Ventura. All you have to do is take a quick look through the "Ventura Breeze", your hometown paper, to notice that there is a lot going on in this great city. As a Ventura resident like me, you may stumble across an event when you're out and about around town and wonder to yourself, "Why didn't I know this was going on?" Residents want to know about events taking place in their community. Many people may not realize that a great way to tell locals about what's happening in Ventura is on CAPS Channel 6.

Over 20,000 households in Ventura can tune into Channel 6 to learn about events and issues in their own community. If you are a resident, employee or student in the city of Ventura then you can get a membership at Community Access Partners of San Buenaventura (CAPS-TV) for just \$25 and learn how to start making your own television shows about events in the city. Even if you don't have the time to make a TV show, there

# News and Notes



## DEAR MISS BETTY, advice for those who need to be slapped.

Dear Miss Betty,

I've been diagnosed with cancer. My doctor says that with treatment, I have an excellent chance of recovery. My daughter doesn't seem to be taking it as well as I'd hoped. She insists on accompanying me to all of my medical appointments and then she hangs around all day, insisting on cleaning my house (which really doesn't get that dirty since I live alone) and doing my laundry. My daughter has a family of her own and I could use a break. How do I tell her nicely that she doesn't need to baby sit Mom?

Buenaventura Baby

Dear Baby,

You are a fortunate woman: (1) Your chance of surviving cancer is good. (2) Your daughter wants to spend time with you and is willing to sacrifice her own family for "time with Mom." (3) Merry Maids in Ventura will come to your home and clean once a month for fourth months free of charge. Go to [cleaningforareason.org](http://cleaningforareason.org) and apply.

Dear Miss Betty:

Even though I am very manly I like to wear dresses sometimes and high heels.

The problem is that the high heels really kill my feet, any suggestions? Name withheld so that I can still hang out with the guys

Dear closet cross dresser,

High heels hurt your feet because they are unhealthy. But, if you must, try something with a platform under the sole. You can get the look of height with a shorter heel.

Dear Miss Betty,

My mother-in-law has gotten into a bad habit. Every time I give her a gift, she

says, "This is just so nice. But I've given up trying to give people \_\_\_\_\_ as gifts." Inserting whatever I gave her into the blank. If I give her a sweater, she says, "I've given up getting people clothing." If I give her a best seller, she says, "I've just given up on buying people books."

I normally enjoy buying people gifts, but is this a sign that she wants cash or gift cards?

Pacific View Patron

Dear PVP,

Gag gifts can be fun. Give her some rubber dog doo-doo. Perhaps Scamp has one that he uses as a toy that he will send you.

Dear Miss Betty,

I joined a matchmaking service a few months ago. Then I met someone special off-line. I really like this lady, but I hate to cancel the matchmaking membership I already paid for. What if our relationship doesn't work out and I waste all that money.

Ojai Lothario

Dear Lothario,

Some lessons are worth learning, no matter how much they cost. The right person is priceless.

Dear Miss Betty,

My daughter is dating a boy who frequently criticizes her. I've tried to tell her that she needs to stand up for herself. She is just so infatuated with him that she can't see straight. She is constantly primping and trying to please him. Why can't she see how weak this makes her seem? She can't think this will make him respect her.

Mom

Dear Mom,

Respect is something we earn first from our parents. They show it by letting us make our own mistakes, whenever possible.

Ed Hogan

Continued from page 6

forward the bounty of his American Dream, Mr. Ed Hogan will be honored as 2011 County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal.

Parade entries are being accepted until March 4. Parade organizers invite bands, dancers, acrobats, clowns, horses and organizations to participate in the county's greenest event! Entry forms can be downloaded from the Parade's website, [www.venturastpatricksdaysparade.com](http://www.venturastpatricksdaysparade.com) or by calling Jim Monahan, Parade Chairman at 643-4275.

Parking meters

Continued from page 1

answers to this depend on whom you talk to.

Part of the controversy has to do with how the meters function. Cathy, the store manager for Pure Life and Home, says she has no problems with the meters themselves. "Some of our customers are not happy, but others say they like it. They can get a spot, come in, and leave." The problem, however, is how they function. "They don't take dollar bills," she says, "and a lot of people don't want to use their credit cards."

Dr. Leonard King of Leonard C. King Optometrists thinks the meters are too complicated. "They're way too technical," he says. "My elderly patients are struggling." He bluntly sums up his opinion about having his customers deal with parking meters: "People just don't want to be bothered."

Tom Mericle, Director of Traffic and Transportation for the City of Ventura, acknowledged there have been some problems, but notes that they are working on solutions. "Every change takes some adjustment," says Mericle. "We are working to improve the overall program during this adjustment."

Richman, a longtime downtown business owner and resident, has a problem with the meter's space-age design as well as its overall impact on downtown business. "I have more of an awareness now that we've ruined downtown Ventura's village feel," he says. Richman has worked downtown since the 1990s and "never had a problem with parking, except for the occasional festival."

But Eriksen believes that, in the view of the DVO, the meters have served their true purpose—to free up more parking for customers. She cites a sidewalk survey conducted prior to the meter installation which showed that at least 33% of Main Street parking was taken by a limited number of merchants and their employees, leaving few for paying customers. Out of the 200 people that were surveyed, 78% were in favor of paid parking if the revenues went to enhanced

police services, increased maintenance, and improved transit downtown.

She has no problems with having meters downtown. "Almost all successful downtowns have paid parking because of the benefits," she says. "Downtown Ventura will be at a disadvantage without the ability to charge for parking."

Richman disagrees. While there may be more available parking, from his vantage point, that doesn't mean there are more customers in the store. "It's sad," he says, "to see the downtown so empty now on weekdays and weekends. Other local shopping centers and malls don't charge for parking. We should remember that we're a village competing with big business."

Carla Bonney has a different problem with the meters. Bonney is currently working to put an initiative on the June ballot that would ban all parking charges within the city. Her complaint has to do with Ventura's increased push to charge more fees to downtown owners, residents, and customers. She cites the three layers of revenues the city now collects: building owners who are charged for owning a business downtown, store owners who are paying sales tax, and customers who have to pay to visit the store. Not to mention fees for residential parking permits. If her initiative is put on the ballot and passes, the city "will be prohibited from charging for parking anywhere in the city."

Eriksen believes that passing such a measure would hurt the downtown area. "If the ballot measure passes, downtown will suffer," she says. "Parking management will not exist—there will not be as much turnover on Main Street, making short-term spaces less available."

Considering the investment the city has already made in equipment and installation, removing the meters would be a bitter pill to swallow. Mericle cites the current cost for purchase and installation of the meters at \$743,651.

Given that the meters were installed in September, he projects annual revenue for all parking fees in the city for this fiscal year to be about \$500,000 dollars. If you take Mericle's figures and average out the revenue at roughly \$50,000 per month, Ventura would lose about \$600,000 in annual revenue if they were restricted from charging parking fees.

While it may be old news for some, the bottom line is this. Whether serving on the City Council or owning a store downtown, losing money is not an option. It may all come down to the June ballot, in which case the voters may ultimately decide whether or not they are willing to pay extra to bring their business downtown.



Relocated Player's Club will be allowed to stay open longer hours and will be much more attractive. Photo by Robert Curtis

## Card room could bring in large taxes to Ventura

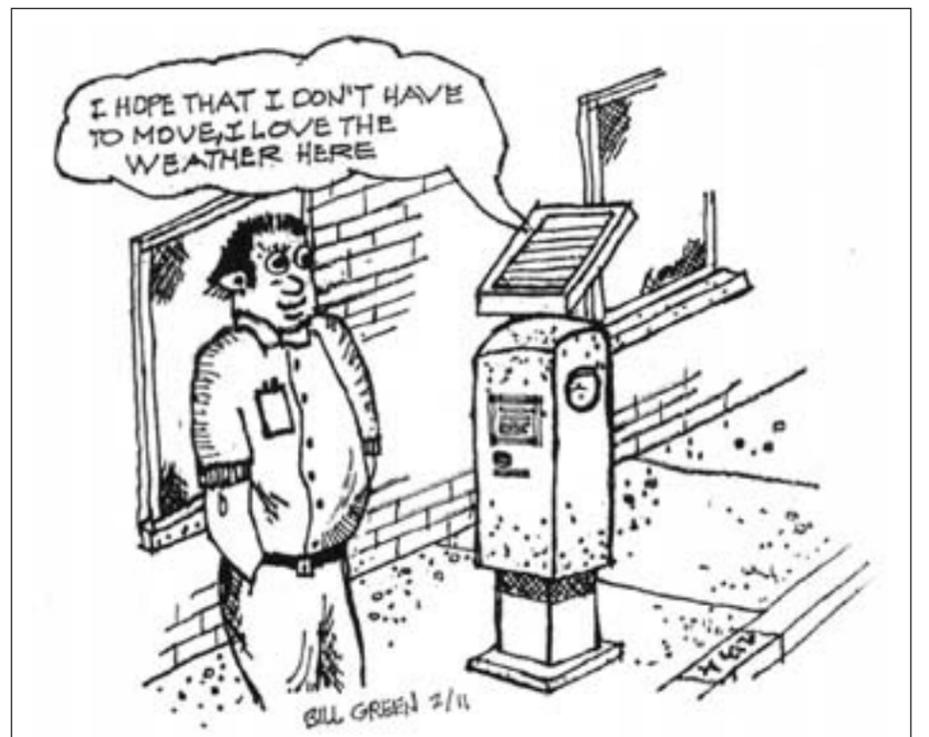
The Players Club card room will be allowed to stay open 24 hours on weekends when they relocate to the Ventura Auto Center at 8250 Auto Center Drive (a former Volvo dealership) and will be allowed to have up to 18 tables. The club, open since 1939, is now located on Ventura Avenue.

The City Council has also approved them to offer no-limit gaming at their

new facility

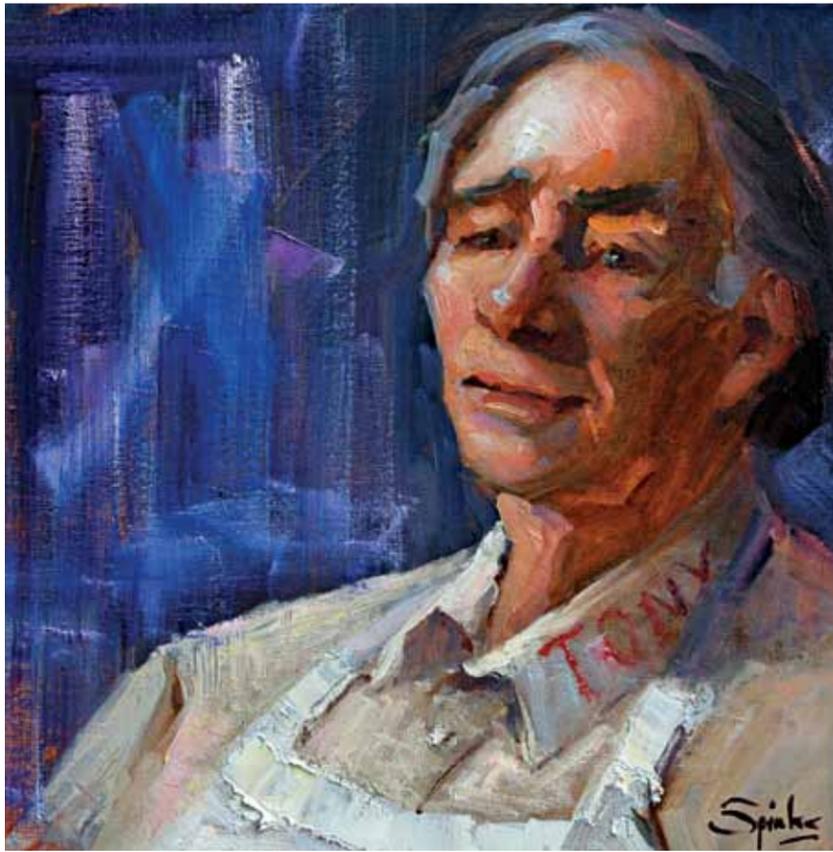
By allowing the greatly expanded club to offer more games and longer hours the City Council hopes that the club will bring even more much needed tax revenue to Ventura. Their taxes could be up to a million dollars a year.

The Council vote was unanimous. The Council voted in November to approve the relocation.





## The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



### Tony Barrios

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Tony Barrios is indeed a Face Of Ventura.

Born and raised in Ventura in a home about one block from his restaurant, Tony's Pizzeria located at 186 Thompson Boulevard, he has had an exciting, rewarding and successful life.

While at Ventura High School he was a 16-year-old exercise boy and rider at several race tracks including Santa Anita and Hollywood Park. In fact (at 102 pounds) he was grooming to become a jockey when World War II interrupted his plans when he went into the Army at 17.

World War II also presented him with something that he didn't want - a Purple Heart. While in action in France, with the 106 Cavalry Recon Squadron he was wounded when a land mine blew up a few feet from him. He was 19 at the time. He has been with wife Jerrie for 30 years and has 3 sons, 3 daughters and 11 grand kids.

Among the many things that he has done: for 10 years he was a rodeo clown, in 1955 he was the Ventura County hard pitch softball batting champ, he was a Kempo black belt, and he once raced Jesse Owens except that he was on a horse (he won).

He also plays the guitar and sings just like Frank Sinatra. But he says, "The difference is when Sinatra sings it's sad and when I sing it's pitiful".

But he is best known as the creator of Tony's Pizzeria which he opened first where the present Knights of Columbus is located, and in 1968 he moved to his present location on Thompson. His mentor was a New York pizza man.

Today he still works part time and his 2 sons, Tony Jr. and Johnny, run the place most of the time with occasional help from daughter Linda who comes in from Visalia.

He still loves being with his cus-

tomers and socializing with them, some of whom have been eating his pizzas for over 50 years, and playing the Keno machines at local casinos.

The next time that you drive by the Tortilla Flats Murals (right next to the Pizzeria) you will find him between the two images of Jesse Owens and do stop and say hi.

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

We have so much to enjoy here, especially along our south-facing shoreline.

Surfing, fishing, cycling, strolling along the promenade and pier, and often the thrill of spectacular sunsets, Seaside Park, Ventura Harbor, Grant Park all with backgrounds of rolling green hills and distant mountains. We are truly blessed.

Over the years the people of Ventura have been so good to me, and those who visit from out of town often express a wish of wanting to live here--notsurprising, as most would agree, our weather is hard to beat. To me, its 100% enjoyable!

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

One day I walked into my business and waiting for me was a lady by the name of Johanna Spinks who told me she was an artist, and wanted to paint my portrait.

The experience was such a pleasure because of the way she paints. She asked me what kind of music I liked, and I told her I loved to listen to Frank Sinatra. She turns on her tape player, takes her long handled brush, and starts to paint at her easel in rhythm with the music, showing signs of real happiness! It's a great pleasure to know her. Also while in her studio I met Sheldon Brown, publisher of the Breeze, another great person.



Captain Bill Finley  
December 29, 2010



Howard Boroughs  
January 12, 2011



Rachel Morris  
January 26, 2011



Jolene McBee  
February 9, 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

### Camerata Pacifica performs monthly in four cities

Pianist Adam Neiman, recently hailed for "setting a high bar for himself...a bravura performance" (The Seattle Times) returns to Camerata Pacifica for performances of Scriabin's virtuosic and innovative Piano Sonata #2 ("Sonata Fantasy") and joins principal string players Catherine Leonard, Richard Yongjiae O'Neill, and Ani Aznavoorian in Carl Reinecke's Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 34.

Violist Richard O'Neill performs Hindemith's Sonata for Solo Viola, and Catherine Leonard performs Lera Auerbach's somber Violin Sonata No. 2 (September 11). The program concludes with Kreisler's Lotus Land, for violin and piano, and Astor Piazzolla's 1982 tango, Oblivion, for piano trio.

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

ditional information on Camerata Pacifica can be found at [www.cameratapacific.org](http://www.cameratapacific.org) or by calling 884-8410.

### Aids Benefit is a Drag

by Sheli Ellsworth

Paddy's in Ventura will be hosting the annual "Love is a Drag" camp show on Saturday, February 26. Doors open at 9:00 p.m., the show starts at 10:00. Cover charge is \$5 at the door. Proceeds will go to AIDS Project Ventura County.

The show's organizer, Steve Dawson of Bears Ventura--a gay social organization, says "This is a chance for the community to get out and support Ventura Fashion Week and donate to an important cause. We always have a great time. It's hilarious fun."

Dawson says he expects 150-200 people will attend the event. It will cap off Bears Ventura's annual fundraising goal of \$15,000 for the Ventura County Rainbow Alliance and APVC. "We are celebrating our 15th anniversary this year, which was how we set our annual goal," says Dawson.

Budget cuts have affected AIDS and HIV testing and counseling. According to Dawson, "Bears Ventura has chosen to step in and do their part to give something back to the community." Architecture Hair Salon is also a supporter of the event, and will be providing make-up and hair styling for participants. Go to the Ventura County Rainbow Alliance website [www.lgbtventura.org](http://www.lgbtventura.org) for information.



# Community Events

## Proof of the Afterlife

Saturday, March 26th, a free lecture and book signing by Ventura area author, Br. Gary Joseph, s.F.m. introducing nationwide his new book, Proof of the Afterlife - The Conversation Continues. The event begins at 3pm at Java Joes, across from the Century movie theater, 2950 Johnson Dr, #125, Ventura, CA 93003.

It's a true story about one man's crossing over to the Other Side in September of 2005, when, after an out of control heart arrhythmia at 1:15am, he wakes up dead in the afterlife, and comes back thirty minutes later to tell about it. In the words of his family physician, "Dude, you have been somewhere very few people ever return from." Since that time, this book also chronicles his somewhat unusual daily life - one of frequent God-encounters, and visits from the other side by family and friends on a mission to facilitate love, mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Proof of the Afterlife is also available at Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com and ServantsoftheFather.org or at 1-800-Book-Log.

All proceeds of the book go to serve the homeless in America.

## I think I saw a ghost!

The many ghosts of Victorian Ventura's Garden District come to life in a tour and talk by Richard Senate on Friday, March 18 from 7-8:30pm at the Bank of Books, 748 East Main St.

One of the top ten recognized experts on the paranormal in the United States. The lecture will discuss Victorian views of death and spiritualism. The talk will include a short walking tour, so dress warmly and be sure to take a camera and flashlight. The fascinating lecture will be open for questions and answers at the conclusion. Mr. Senate will be available to sign books and his books will be on sale for all who are interested.

As an added feature, Mr. Senate will discuss Victorian Ghost Hunting techniques. "I believe ghost hunting needs to go back to her roots—and away from a dependence on electronic gadgets."

Contact is 643-3154 and the lecture fee/donation is \$4 per person.

## Audubon's March events

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

**Saturday, March 5, 9:00-12:00 a.m. Restoration Work Day, Santa Paula.**

Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Restoration Program. Sandy Hedrick: (340-0478). Arrive at 8:00 for birding which usually yields some interesting birds. Bring water, gloves and sun protection. Take Hwy 126 to Santa Paula, 10th St. Exit. Go under freeway, rt. on Harvard, rt. on 12th and cross the S.C. River Bridge. Go 3.7 miles to 20395 S. Mountain Rd. Turn left onto the dirt road & follow it to the end (approx. 1/2 mile).

**Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. Ventura Audubon General Meeting.** Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Don Des Jar-

## Ventura events

**February 24:** Community Memorial Hospital Gift Shop is hosting a series of events: In cooperation with the cafeteria the Hospital is hosting a series of events in Feb. & Mar. Feb. 24 - 25 from 8 - 4 p.m Gold Coast Promotions will host fudge and salsa tasting located in the lobby. Mar. 30th & 31st Appreciation Events hosted by the cafeteria will be located in basement and May 5th & 6th there will be a \$6 Sale in the lobby.

**February 26:** Assembly member **Dos Williams** will speak at a Town Hall Meeting; Williams will present from 10 -12:30 p.m. at the Topping Room at Foster Library to discuss Governor Brown's proposed state budget.

**February 28:** Ventura County Potters' Guild will be hosting its Speaker of the Month meeting: The guild hosts guest speakers including ceramists **David and Mary Cuzick** from Spring Valley, Ca. The duo will present a power point presentation on discussion including their very attractive whimsical work with beautiful carving, unusual firing and glaze. The program will begin at 8:00 with social drinks and snacks at 7:00. An earlier business meeting will be held 7:30 at the Senior Recreation Center in Ventura, 420 East Santa Clara St. For more information please call Gayle Swanson 304-7381.

**March 1:** A Foster Care Info: A meeting is being held by the Aspiranet group from 6-7 p.m. on the topic of **"Considering Foster Care"** Aspiranet is a non profit group supporting the communities and accepts donations for the training. The meeting will be held at the Aspiranet offices 1838 Eastman Ave. Suite #100 just off Market St. to learn more call 877-380-4376 www.aspiranet.org.

**March 1:** Mended Hearts Of Ventura will be holding a **informational health meeting** Tuesday. Hearts will be presenting speakers in leading professions in cardiology, nutrition and diet. These professionals are from our area and will giving excellent information. The meeting will be from 7 - 9 p.m. at Community Memorial Hospital, 8th floor, Ventura. Admission and parking are free. For more information contact Dick Hiser at 646-4636.

**March 2:** The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club will be holding their monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. This group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme meet and share their enjoyment of activities such as hiking, golf, dining, wine outings, reading, cooking etc. The guest speaker will be Cynthia Yoshitomi of Tea by the Sea a Ventura Tea store. The meeting will be held at The Greek Restaurant 1583 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura Harbor. There will be no charge for meeting however Coffee or Tea are available at a nominal charge of \$1.00.

**March 5:** At 6:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 36 South Figueroa St. the Ventura Rheinland Club is having their St Patrick's Dance.

Admission Charge for dance is \$10 and for Dinner \$10. Irish Stew dinner with cole slaw, roll plus dessert and coffee for \$10.00 Express Band playing from 7:15 to 11:30 For reservations please call 642-7931 or 985-7253.

**March 5:** From 10-5 and March 6 from 10-4 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds the **Ventura Gem Show** will be presented.

This free show features 50 displays of gems, minerals, fossils, and award-winning hand-crafted jewelry from private collections throughout southern California. Exhibits of special note this year include Rocks From Space on meteorites and a Fabulous Fluorescents booth (also known as the "kiss

*Continued on page 19*



## Fifth Annual Fashion Week Ventura

March 4th & 5th | 8pm



*purchase tickets now*  
[www.fashionweekventura.org](http://www.fashionweekventura.org)  
 benefiting AIDS Project Ventura County



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## Art Scene



*Sacred Spring Delphi oil on canvas by Gerd Koch on display at the Museum of Ventura County.*

### Museum honors four legendary master artists

Carlisle Cooper, William McEnroe, Norman Kirk and Gerd Koch will be honored for their 346 combined years of artistic experience and influence, when the Museum of Ventura County presents Four Masters- Four Legends, a retrospective exhibition opening February 26 and continuing through April 24.

"These four masters have profoundly influenced and continue to shape art and culture in Southern California," said artist and colleague Hiroko Yoshimoto, the exhibit's curator, who has chosen to feature a small yet significant retrospective collection of work by all four artists.

**Carlisle Cooper (b.1919)** is a figurative painter who explores the human condition as it concerns man's relationship to truth. He describes his figures as symbolic of the progress mankind has made in developing art, religion, philosophy and science.

**William McEnroe (b.1922)** experiments continuously with the process of painting. An active painter, pastelist, teacher, art historian, stage set designer and poet, his book "La Grande Livre," published in 2010, features his most recent pastels and poems.

**Norman Kirk (b. 1924)** is best known for his watercolors, which are in the collections of major museums in Southern California. Kirk painted the Lake Casitas event for the '84 Olympics, and cover illustrations for the Ventura County Design House tour.

**Gerd Koch (b. 1929)** paints expressionistic abstractions and stylized interpretations of nature. Initially inspired by the chaparral around the artists' commune he organized during the 1960s, his interests expanded to include the mystical, mythological and metaphysical character of nature

On Thursday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m.,

Focus on the Masters founder Donna Granata will offer a multimedia sampling from Focus on the Masters (FOTM) archives of these 4 artists. A question and answer session will follow. The presentation is \$10 for the general public, \$5 for museum members. For reservations, call 653-0323 x 315. Admission to all museum galleries is included.

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 100 East Main Street in downtown Ventura. Open from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, admission is \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$1 children 6-17, free for members and children under 6. For more museum information go to [www.venturamuseum.org](http://www.venturamuseum.org) or call 653-0323.



*Aimee French is an important addition to FOTM as their new Learning to See Youth Outreach Program Coordinator*

### Focus on the Masters welcomes Aimee French

Focus on the Masters (FOTM) is proud to welcome an important addition to its staff. Aimee French has joined the force of FOTM as the Learning to See (LTS) Youth Outreach Program Coordinator. Aimee's extensive arts education experience includes class instruction, program development and management serving populations from all ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and learning levels.

Aimee received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and drawing from Ohio State University. As a lifelong artist, she has worked in, experimented with, explored and has been inspired by hundreds of art mediums, techniques and ideas. Her former position as Director of Museum Education for the Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Center for the Arts in Du-

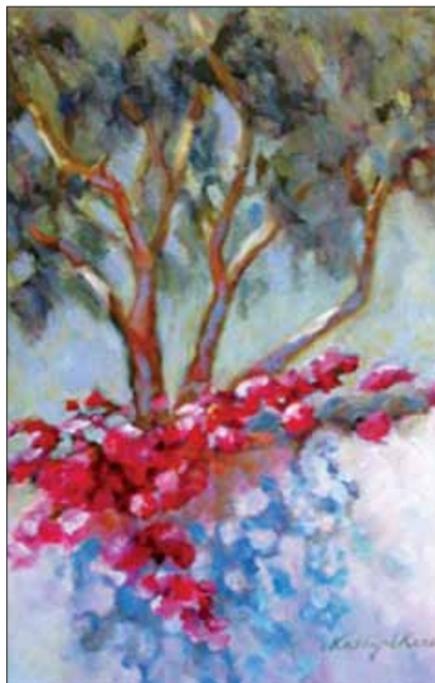
luth, Georgia, as well as her present position as Education Coordinator for The Humane Society of Ventura County has prepared her to lead the Learning To See Youth Outreach.

Learning to See is an eight-session, one-hour-per-week cross curricular program that teaches about the Ventura County artists documented through the Focus on the Masters educational archive. Lesson plans and art projects are developed based on the artist's biographies, life experiences and the medium in which they work. Each week, a different artist is featured in a short PowerPoint presentation.

Aimee's administrative position is made possible through the generosity of Jordan and Sandra Laby, the Meister Family Foundation and Micheline Sakharoff. Additional funding is always needed. To help bring the Learning To See Youth Outreach into our schools, please visit, [www.FocusOnTheMasters.com](http://www.FocusOnTheMasters.com).

The Learning to See Youth Outreach is an extension of Focus on the Masters, a non-profit organization that documents, preserves and presents the works and lives of accomplished Ventura County artists, emphasizing the importance of the arts in a healthy community.

To learn more about Learning To See please email Aimee at [Education@FocusOnTheMasters.com](mailto:Education@FocusOnTheMasters.com).



*The art of Kathy Ikerd will help raise money for Buenaventura Friends of the Library*

### Paintings by Kathy Ikerd

The E.P.Foster Library is presenting paintings by Kathy Ikerd until May 2.

Landscape and figurative artist, Kathy Ikerd, was born and raised in Northern California. Her interest in art was inspired at an early age when a friend asked to exchange drawings. Raising a family and traveling as a military family left little time to pursue a serious career in art. After settling in the local area, she began her formal art training at Ventura College with Hiroko Yoshimoto, Carlyle Cooper, Ellis Jump, Beverly Decker, Bob Moskowitz and Debra McKillop.

She is currently studying with David Gallup. Her work has often been influenced by the vivid colors of Japan where she lived when her husband was in the U.S. Navy. Poetic, meditative, bold color, and brushwork are descriptors of her paintings that range from

abstract to representational work.

25% of any proceeds from the sale of her work helps support the Buenaventura Friends of the Library

#### Mailbox

*Continued from page 3*

the agreement, claimed victory and adjourned for the evening.

Police and fire unions use their political clout to elect those who set their pay: the city council members. In exchange, these unions are rewarded with contracts like we see today, whose pension provisions now threaten the city with service cuts. In response, police and fire unions demand more and higher fees and sales taxes to pay for gold plated pensions.

The unions are politically dominant in this city, and only persistent taxpayer attention can overcome that reality. These unions and the city council members will make as few changes to pensions as possible while hoping that an economic recovery will ease the city's budget woes - and public scrutiny.

David P. Grau

*Member, Board of Directors Ventura County Taxpayers Association (VCTA)*

Goodbye, Joe

I never met you, Jalopy Joe, but when my neighbor told me that you'd passed away last week, I felt my heart sink, and I cried.

You were a kind of comic book hero that made Ventura feel more like Mayberry than a suburb of Los Angeles in 2011.

It made me feel so good when every morning, just before 10, I'd hear you rumbling down Preble in your old jalopy, with your black watch cap and sunglasses on, as you hung a right on Howard and passed my house. We'd always wave at each other and I felt like a kid again, thrilled that you'd acknowledged me.

How I wanted to ride in that car, too. You just made it look so fun. It made me forget all my worries for a moment. It transported me to another time and place—a good place, a small town where people know each other and wave as they drive by. That sense of community has become rare these days.

So thank you, Joe. We'll miss you.

Julie Palmer

*Bell Arts Factory artist*

Breeze

I understand the trees next to Main and the Ventura riverbed were cut down because they created too much shade to grow strawberries next to. It is a shame that they were not just trimmed. Ventura has just lost part of a landmark.

Note I have been fairly effective in getting some 20 or so abandoned carts removed from the Ventura river bed and adjoining bike path. I am still working on getting them to pick up the ones along Harbor and Spinnaker. There are 6 over there. As you probably are aware I am pretty persistent.

Also if possible, could you publish the number to call to get abandoned shopping carts picked up in the City of Ventura.

Murray Robertson

*A Very Concerned Ventura Resident*

*Murray:*

*The number is (800) 252-4513 and you are very persistent.*

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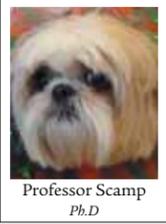
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**Monday to Friday**  
**4 to 7pm**

FREE soda Monday thru Friday  
with purchase of Lunch Buffet  
(limit 4 people) Expires 2/28/11

Across from Vons

# Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp  
Ph.D

■ On Saturday, February 26 from noon to 2 p.m. please join in on the celebration, join in on the fun! The Paws for Reading program is celebrating its five year anniversary at

Foster Library, located at 651 E. Main St.

Paws for Reading is a literacy program designed to help improve a child's reading skills by inviting the child to read aloud to registered therapy dogs. The canine friends provide a non-judgmental atmosphere in which kids not only learn to read, but also learn to love reading as well. Paws for Reading helps to make reading an enjoyable experience.

And if you're lucky you might just get to meet me also and you definitely will meet Star Soto, Youth Librarian and see the wonderful kid's second floor at the library.

■ On Saturday, March 12 from 7am to 1pm the Canine Adoption & Rescue League (CARL) will be having a garage sale at 2430 Lexington Dr. in Ventura.

It is being held to raise money and awareness for CARL.

It is organized by friends and volunteers and if you have items that you would like to donate please contact Lynne Clark at lyniferlou@gmail.com or 665-7887. She will gladly arrange for pick-up.

To learn more about CARL visit [www.carlvc.org](http://www.carlvc.org).

■ Recently a worker left a gate open at my house so I went for a neighborhood walk. How did I know that I wasn't supposed to, it was a nice day for a walk?

I nice neighbor saw my phone number on my collar and called my best friends and returned me back home. I was very happy indeed.

But what if my collar fell off (or was removed by a bad person) I might have never found my way home and you wouldn't be reading this and that would make me sad.

So my humans took me to the vet and had a "chip" installed in me. I always knew that I had a chip on my shoulder but now I have one in it.

It didn't hurt at all (and I'm not very brave) and when I got home they regis-

tered me with PetLink.

This is the message from PetLink that was sent back. "We're so glad you micro-chipped and registered your pet Scamp with the PetLink Pet Recovery Service. Now your pet Scamp is part of the PetLink family, and we'll do everything we can to make sure your pet Scamp is quickly returned to your family should he ever get lost."

So make sure that you get a "chip in your shoulder".

■ Dogs 101 used to be one of my favorite TV shows but I'm not so sure anymore.

On a recent show they said that "Some think that the Shih Tzu is the hardest dog to train."

Now I resent that I have been taught to sit, lie down and stay. Now what more do I need to know what to do?

Open the front door? Turn on the TV? Open the refrigerator to get a beer?

If I needed to know anymore I assure you that I would learn how to do it.

■ I also learned on Dogs101 that I am a lap dog, some think that I should get a LapBand so I could lose a few pounds.

■ One of my other favorite shows is the Westminster dog show. They have categories for everything. They even have a category for gun dogs. Why should a dog be allowed to carry a gun unless it is a K9 police officer?

I might just accidentally shoot one of my family members like some humans do on occasion, maybe they shouldn't be allowed to carry guns either.



Should I be allowed to carry a gun?

Here I am with my new best friend (she gave me treats and ice cream, I'm so easy) **Valeri Stallings** at **Send Rover on Over** the new doggie day care (dog sitting), training and sports center located at 616 East Main in downtown.



**Diva**  
**October 10,**  
**2001–**  
**February 9,**  
**2011**

My dear, sweet, beautiful Diva, who brought happiness to all, was taken away much too early. Her curiosity, enthusiasm and sense of adventure kept us both young. Watching her

melt the 300 pound tattooed biker was a joy to witness. We will never really be apart as she has left paw prints on my heart. Goodbye my first love. Until we meet again at the Rainbow Bridge.

– Bonnie Welt

## Join ScampClub

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

## Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

### Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Friday, February 11th, at 4:24 p.m., the VPD responded to a report of a shots fired at Chumash Park, located at 9200 Henderson Road.

Officers located several witnesses and an empty small caliber shell casing in the street south of the park. The witnesses described two males victims standing near a white 1990's sedan parked on Waco west of Petit. The suspect began firing a small caliber handgun at both males standing near the car. The suspect fled southbound.

Two other black males, late teens to early 20's, who were walking through the park at the time of the shooting, ran to join the victims. All four males fled the scene in the white sedan, southbound on Petit.

Responding officers were unable to locate any victims or the suspect.

### Vehicle Pursuit

On Sunday, February 13th, at 1:10 a.m., VPD Cpl. Delgado attempted to stop a vehicle driven by Cesar Hernandez, 32 years old, after observing a vehicle code violation near the intersection of Sa-

ratoga Avenue and Thille Street. Hernandez refused to stop for Cpl. Delgado and continued driving at a slow speed. Cpl. Delgado pursued Hernandez on Thille Street before Hernandez turned into the Imperial Mobile Home Park and stopped his vehicle. Hernandez continued to disobey officer's orders and remained in his vehicle. He eventually had to be physically removed from his vehicle by officers. Officers were not injured during this incident.

Hernandez was later booked into the VC Jail.

### Robberies

On Monday, February 14th, at 5:59 p.m., the VPD received a call from an employee of Giovanni's Restaurant at 1780 South Victoria Avenue, reporting a robbery that had just occurred.

Officers learned that the two suspects entered the restaurant and approached the counter. A suspect grabbed the tip jar and ran out of the business. The employee working behind the counter attempted to detain a second suspect inside the business before he was able to leave and a brief struggle ensued between them. The second suspect fought off the employee

and fled.

Officers were not able to locate the suspects. The employee was not injured.

1 hour later, a second robbery was reported at Tanfastic at 2855 Johnson Drive, in which an employee was reportedly chasing after the suspect who was armed with a handgun.

The store employee was found in the Century 16 Theaters parking lot, across the street from the business, and he reported that he had lost sight of the suspect.

The employee told officers that he was sitting behind the front desk when the suspect pointed a silver handgun at the employee and demanded money. The employee complied and gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of cash. Once outside, the employee chased the suspect while a second employee called 911.

Officers were unable to locate the suspect. Neither employee of the business was injured during the incident.

### Kennebec Fall Victim

On Sunday, February 13th, at 8:38 p.m., emergency personnel from the Ventura City Fire Department and American Medical Response responded to a report

of an injured fall victim in the area of Shannon Avenue and Kennebec Street. An 18 year old male had fallen 30 feet from a rope swing into the barranca below and was seriously injured. The crews worked rapidly to assess and treat the young man's injuries and extricate him from the ravine. The teen was determined to have suffered serious injuries from the height of the fall. Due to the difficult location it took emergency personnel 45 minutes to remove the patient to a waiting ambulance for transport to VCMC for more intensive trauma care.

### Shooting Victim

On Thursday, February 17th, at 3:55 p.m., the California Highway Patrol received a call from a female who was reporting that she had been shot. The wireless call was mapped to the area of Acadia and Shenandoah prior to disconnecting. The VPD attempted to reconnect the phone call but were unsuccessful. Officers located witnesses who heard a possible gunshot coming from a particular condominium, in the 1200 block of Acadia Place.

Continued on page 13



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WORKSHOP ON

## 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.

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## Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

### New stroke support group offered at Community Memorial Hospital

by Nanci Cone

A new Stroke Support group at Community Memorial Hospital has just been formed to meet the needs and provide information to stroke survivors, their families and caregivers. Because stroke happens unexpectedly and shatters the routine of daily life, those who have friends or family members or who personally suffered the effects of a stroke, know how devastating it is to be unable to move, talk or to suffer other effects.

Survivors, families and caregivers feel overwhelmed by the many challenges they now have to face. Loved ones assume new roles to help the stroke survivor and feelings of loss and uncertainty can traumatize both survivors and their families. The goal of this new group is to share resources, support, encouragement, vital information, and hope, so that family, friends and survivors know they don't have to confront these issues alone.

"In a skilled facility, the support may be not so much for the patient, but for the family and people who care about them and love them but they have no place to turn. They have questions, they have issues," says Sandy Morse, Community Nurse Liaison from MediTech Home Health, a co-sponsor with Community Memorial Hospital. "Our goal is not only support but education, provide resources such as where to find someone to install grab bars, or an organization that helps with coping skills, that kind of thing," she goes on to say.

Andrea Ricketts, MSN, ACNP-BC, nurse practitioner and HEALTHAware Manager at Community Memorial Hospital states, "Education and prevention are the most important tools to use. Strokes are the third leading cause of death and number one cause in physical disability.

Andrea adds, "Recognizing the symptoms and arriving at the hospital within the first three hours of onset of symptoms is crucial. Last year CMH had approximately 300 stroke admissions and only three came within the 3-hour window. Stroke Aware is another program at CMH that screens individuals at no charge and also has mini stroke screenings every first Friday of the month. At the screenings: bilateral blood pressures, carotid auscultation, and rhythm strip education are performed. Plus, they are invited to come back to do a free lipid panel for further risk stratification."

CMH has recognized the need for emotional and physical support for both the caregivers and stroke survivors post hospitalization and has recently started the CMH stroke support group held once a month.

Participants of the monthly support group learn that recovery continues long after an individual returns home. The Stroke Recovery Group at CMH empowers survivors and families to cope, discover new capabilities, and see that life still holds meaning, purpose and enjoyment. Most importantly, everyone needs to know what to do to prevent another stroke, how to recognize early symptoms and what can be done when one strikes.

CMH stroke support meetings are held

are in the 8th floor Board Room of Community Memorial Hospital, 147 N. Brent Street in Ventura on the second Wednesday of the month from 2-3:30 pm. For more information call 667-2818 or email strokeaware@cmhhospital.org.



## Health & Wealth Expo a success

On January 26 Cypress Place Senior Living presented their annual Health & Wealth Expo. Over 30 amazing prizes were given away including the grand prize a weekend getaway to Santa Barbara with a train ride and 2 night stay at the Fess Parker Double Tree Hotel.

Jim Duran, Cypress Place Senior Living, Denise Carter, Assisted Healthcare Services, Vikki Akdag, Grand Prize Winner, Michael Frascilla, County Schools Federal Credit Union and Tracey Mayleben-Shoop, Assisted Home Hospice all enjoyed the day's activities

Besides Cypress the event was sponsored by County Schools Credit Union and Assisted Home Hospice.

## Nursing care that cares- A family perspective

by Adele Rosales

Without question the decision to place someone you love in the care of someone else is a tremendously difficult one. Yet so many families face that very decision everyday. My family was no exception. We didn't want my grandmother to have to move into a nursing home and, harder still, we knew she didn't want to go. Unfortunately, after exhausting every other possibility, that was the physical and financial reality we were left with. We decided to admit her to the Victoria Care Center (VCC). Over the next four years, my grandmother, my family and the VCC staff would share a powerful, emotional journey.

It's common to feel guilty, but that doesn't make it any easier to go through. Fortunately, my family and I live close by and were able to visit my grandmother nearly everyday.

Still, we felt that same ache in our hearts and worried over the same fears "Are we abandoning her?" We found comfort in ways we didn't expect. Sometimes it was from finding her in the middle of a Bingo game or making crafts. Sometimes it'd be from happily discovering a photo of her in the VCC newsletter, wearing a party hat or enjoying an outing such as the Ventura County Fair.

Often I came by for a visit to find her sporting a new manicure on "Pretty Nail" days. There was comfort in stopping by in the morning and kissing her just washed, brushed hair or stopping by to give her a kiss goodnight and finding her already

## Know the 10 Signs Early Detection Matters



A workshop presented by  
the Alzheimer's Association

### Know the 10 signs.

If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. Early detection of Alzheimer's disease gives you a chance to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future. This interactive workshop features video clips of people with Alzheimer's disease.

alzheimer's association

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**10 SIGNS**  
EARLY DETECTION MATTERS

[www.alz.org/10Signs](http://www.alz.org/10Signs)  
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**Hosted by:** CYPRESS PLACE SENIOR LIVING

**Time:** 10 A.M. -11:30 A.M.  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

**Date:** SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011  
LIMITED SEATING. PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY MARCH 1ST. CALL 805-650-8000

**Location:** CYPRESS PLACE SENIOR LIVING  
1200 CYPRESS POINT LANE- VENTURA, CA. 93003

# Senior Living

tucked into bed. Knowing these activities took place in our absence comforted me and my family. We knew that my grandmother was receiving care that we couldn't always give her. Here she was being bathed and changed safely. Here she was involved in games and activities throughout the day. My family and I couldn't give that to her on a daily basis. We came to realize that moving her to VCC wasn't shunning our daily care, but rather ensured better quality care for her every day.

Of course, there were good days and bad. Sometimes issues would come up but it was a relief to know when they did, they were attended to. We were my grandmother's voice and to know we were being heard meant that she was being heard. We understood the VCC staff shared a common goal with us and we became partners as caregivers.

How much the staff members became emotionally involved would continue to surprise us even a year after her passing. My mother ran into a former nurse of my grandmother's while shopping. Dangling from her wrist was a bracelet my grandmother had made her.

She shared how the staff still remembered and missed my grandmother. It was this display of caring that not only touched my family but reminded us that in our role as caregivers, we were not alone.

## Workshops at Cypress Place

Charles Carroll Funeral Home and Ted Mayr Funeral Home, Dignity Memorial® providers in Ventura, announced their sponsorship of an innovative, hands-on program, "Where's the Box?," designed to provide information for Baby Boomers and their parents about planning, organizing and storing critical personal documents. The event will be held Saturday, February 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cypress Place Senior Living, 1220 Cypress Point Lane. Open to the public at no charge, this workshop will feature experts on legal, financial, aging and end-of-life issues. Lunch will be provided for those who R.S.V.P. by calling 650-8000 by February 24.

"All too often families are left wondering, 'Where's the box with the important papers?' only to find that it's incomplete or that it simply doesn't exist," said Mark Rook, manager of Charles Carroll Funeral Home. "This workshop will provide tools for taking a proactive, holistic approach to financial, legal, residential and end-of-life issues.

The program, which is open to the public, will include four local experts who will provide essential information and practical tools.

Attorney Lynn Ryder, Financial Services Specialist Christine Sztukowski, Cypress Place Senior Living Executive Director Jim Duran and Dignity Memorial Family Services Counselor David-Michael Kenney will speak.

Also join Cypress Place to learn the basics about dementia. Guest speaker for this seminar entitled "Know the 10 Signs - Early Detection Matters" will be Norma Featherston, R.N., M.A., Alzheimer's Association Senior Care Consultant.

If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. Early detection of Alzheimer's disease gives you a chance to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future. This interactive workshop features video clips of people with Alzheimer's disease. The free seminar begins at 10a.m. and is open to the public.

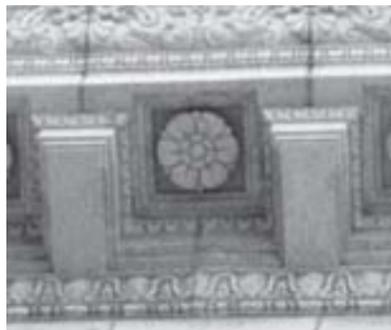
### Police reports

*Continued from page 11*

The victim, a 17 year old female, opened the door and exited along with suspect, Daniel Chavez, 18 years old. The victim was suffering from a gunshot wound to her lower leg. She was immediately treated at the scene by paramedics and transported to the VCMC. She is in stable condition.

Chavez and the victim were in a bedroom of the condo where he was holding the gun. At some point the gun discharged and struck the victim. The suspect was booked into VC Jail.

## Photo contest



*No one knew that this photo from our last issue is from the Bank of Italy building on Main in downtown.*

*Look for another photo contest in our next issue and maybe we will make it more simple.*

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Approximately 750,000 strokes occur each year. 500,000 of those strokes could be prevented. Don't be a statistic. Find out if you are at risk today.

**Anyone can have a stroke**, regardless of age, sex or race and your chances for having a stroke increase if you have certain risk factors. Unlike most conditions, a stroke is controllable and preventable. The key is proper education and awareness of what to do to reduce your risks. Take the first step to find out if you are at risk.

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WWW.CMHSHEALTH.ORG/STROKEAWARE OR CALL 805/667-2818**



## School

### Ventura High School hosts annual Readers Faire

by Brooke Demchuck

In just a few short months, Ventura High School's 10th grade honors English class, taught by Jay Locher, will be hosting its annual Readers Faire once again; this year named, "A Date with Destiny". The Readers Faire is a day where elementary schools throughout Ventura are invited to read stories and participate in activities with high school students at Ventura High. Planned by Mr. Locher and his English class, this event is looked forward to by both younger and older students.

From the invitations to the elementary schools, all the way to the books that are read to the children who are invited, everything is student run and planned. Students in the honors class get together in groups and write the picture books that are to be read to the children, as well as other various students from foreign language classes. Each book revolves around the same central theme that has been chosen for the Faire that year. Past years, themes have been things such as "Destination Imagination", as well as gardening and oceans.

The Readers Faire takes place in the main gym of the school. Students who are to be reading books to the elementary students also set up a little 'habitat', or decorated area where they are going to read their book. Generally speaking, these habitats share the same theme as

the students' book, and are also very creative.

In past years, the Readers Faire has drawn in over a thousand children from different schools. These students are separated into groups and led around the gym by other highschoolers who volunteer as guides. They move from one habitat to another, and listen to the different books. At the end of the day, each child receives a 'souvenir' from the Faire, made by the Ventura English class themselves.

It is unanimous around the school that the preparation, effort, and time spent for this event is more than worth it. It is an educating and exciting experience for both sets of students involved, as well as the entire school. Everyone tries to pitch in as much as possible; culinary arts has previously baked cakes for the special day, wood shop has made a large sign bearing 'Readers Faire', and floral design has also even put together beautiful floral arrangements to help decorate the gym and other areas with. Ventura High has already begun the preparations for this year, as they are excited and ready for another successful Readers Faire.

### Ventura Job & Career Center classes

**Wednesday, March 2 - Resumes that Sell, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm** - hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters. Walk away with a portfolio that shows off professional skills and experience.

**Thursday, March 3 - Power of VOS**

**(Virtual OneStop), 1 pm - 4 pm** - Learn about the Virtual OneStop website and how you can use the various tools in the system to build your resume and customize your job search to a specific location and occupation. Must have basic computer skills. Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers.

**Tuesday, March 15 - Winning Interviews, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm** - supplies the tools to make a lasting first impression when interviewing. Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers. Space is limited.

**Wednesday, March 16 - Explore Your Future, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm** - complete a self-evaluation to help identify your skills and aspirations. Gain insight into the hidden labor market and develop a career strategy based on high-demand occupations.

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



Curtain call at last year's Festival of Talent

### Festival showcases Ventura's most talented youth

Some of Ventura's most exciting young entertainers - from singers and tap dancers to rock bands - will perform at the Ventura Education Partnership's annual Festival of Talent on Saturday, February 26 at the Ventura High School Auditorium.

Rubicon Theatre Company's Brian McDonald is once again directing the show, which has sold out two years in a row. This show marks the 10th anniversary of this popular fundraiser for Ventura's schools.

"This year is very exciting with more students participating than ever before," McDonald said. "This year's theme is 'The Music in Me,' which celebrates the unique and special spirit within us all," he added.

"As in previous years, we have lots of surprises in store for the audience," McDonald said. "This year we have a dueling drum sequence and a new spectacular opening number featuring 20-plus Ventura Unified teachers and staff."

Tickets are \$10 (advance general admission), \$20 reserved, \$15 (at-the-door general admission) and are available at all VUSD school sites and the Education Service Center, 255 W. Stanley Ave. You can also purchase tickets online via a credit card by going to [www.vep4vusd.org](http://www.vep4vusd.org).

This family-friendly event kicks off at 5 p.m. with great food provided by Milano's Italian Restaurant; dinner tickets are \$5 per meal. The show starts at 7 p.m. with the doors opening at 6:30 p.m.

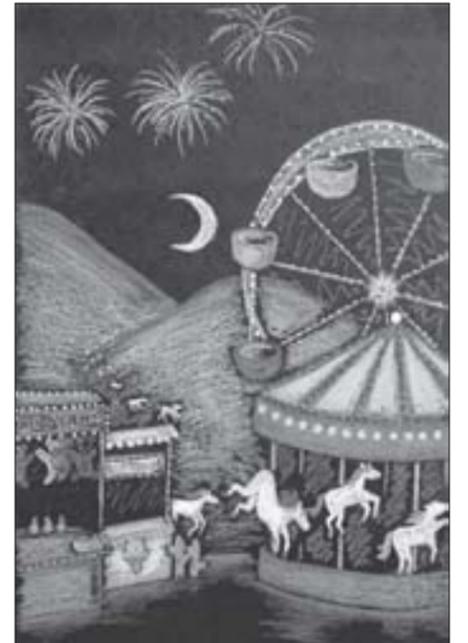
This year's exciting live auction features Rubicon Theatre tickets, a Mammoth vacation, surf lessons, spa treatments and more.

The Ventura Education Partnership

is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization which raises funds for the Ventura Unified School District. VEP helps fill in the gaps in school budgets through its GrantSmart program which has distributed hundreds of thousands to VUSD classrooms.

For information, call 641-5000, ext. 1550, send an email to [info@vep4vusd.org](mailto:info@vep4vusd.org) or visit [www.vep4vusd.org](http://www.vep4vusd.org)

## Youth



Ventura's very talented 14 year old Kayalin Akens-Irby was the winner of the Ventura County Fair Poster Contest in 2010 with this wonderful entry

### 2011 Ventura County Fair announces 2nd Fair Poster Contest for children

The Ventura County Fair is having a poster contest for the 2011 Ventura County Fair. The contest is open to young artists in grades 5 - 12 who reside in Ventura County.

"The Fair brings out the child in everyone," says Barbara Quaid, Ventura County Fairgrounds CEO, "what better way to express those wonderful feelings than through the imagination of Ventura County Children!"

The theme of the 2011 Fair is "The Bounty of the County" and will serve as the only guideline to the imagery. Artwork may be created in any medium but may not be 3 dimensional.

Cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 will be awarded to the top 3 winners and every child who enters will receive a pair of Ventura County Fair admission tickets. All children who enter will be invited to ride on the Junior Fair Board float in the Ventura County Fair Parade.

Winning images will be used for the official 2011 Ventura County Fair collectible art poster and for the 2011 Ventura County Fair marketing poster as well as in other marketing materials.

There is a \$10 fee to enter. Deadline for Entries is Thursday March 31.

The Ventura County Fair begins on Wednesday August 3. The Fair continues until Sunday, August 14.

For more information about the Fair, or the poster contest, please call the Ventura County Fairgrounds at 648-3376 x110 or visit [www.venturacountyfair.org](http://www.venturacountyfair.org)

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# Youth

## Boy Scouts to the rescue!

As we all know the problem of hunger has grown throughout the US. Many of us are aware that most Ventura County food pantries are reporting severely increased demands. The Ventura County Council of Boy Scouts of America's annual "Scouting for Food" drive hopes to help dramatically replenish the near to exhausted supply of food items at our local food pantries.

During the months of February and March local Boy and Girl Scout units will be handing out paper bags and flyers at grocery stores and to homeowners in neighborhoods throughout Ventura County. They will then collect food from neighborhoods on Saturday February 26 or Saturday March 19. Any donations should be placed on doorsteps for pick up before 8am on the designated Saturday listed on flyer.

If homeowners in the City of Ventura do not receive a flyer they are welcome to bring food to either Project Understanding at 43 East Vince Street or to Catholic Charities at 303 North Ventura Avenue

The list of most-needed items includes protein rich foods like tuna, chicken, canned beans and peanut butter, along with manual can openers, cereal, 100% juice drinks, and canned foods of all types. Boxed or bagged meals and pastas are also welcome. Please—nothing perishable, frozen or in glass. Monetary donations cannot be accepted.

Through "Scouting for Food", everyone has an opportunity to join thousands of other donors, adding up to nearly 1 million pounds of food collected annually across the United States.

# Sports



Pirate women soccer team hopes to make the 'Score for the Cure' even bigger in 2011

## VC women's soccer team raises funds for 'Score for the Cure'

Inspired after four of their teammates and their head coach were touched by breast cancer in recent years, members of the Ventura College women's soccer team launched a "Score for the Cure" campaign last fall that raised nearly \$5,000 for the Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation.

During October - National Breast Cancer Awareness Month - the Pirate women accepted donations for every goal they scored during games and also enlisted the support of the Ventura, Buena, Camarillo and Pacifica high school girls' teams to do the same.

For VC Coach Steve Hoffman, the campaign is personal: his sister-in-law was diagnosed with breast cancer in

2008. Four team members from VC's 2009 women's soccer team also had family members affected by the disease. They included Jaz Strozier, whose grandmother had a unique, lifesaving experience during a soccer match when she was hit in the chest by an errant soccer ball. As a precaution, the examining physician suggested she have a mammogram, and she was found to have breast cancer.

Encouraged by last year's successful "Score for the Cure" campaign, the Pirate women are looking ahead to next season.

"I hope to make the 'Score for the Cure' even bigger in 2011, by having the Ventura College football program hold one of its 2011 games to assist with the 'Score for the Cure' drive," Hoffman said.

Hoffman again plans to work with the high schools, while also hoping to include teams competing in Ventura's American Youth Soccer Organization Region 39 in next year's campaign. The plan is to have players from the participating programs wear pink jerseys during October games, then auction them off after the final game of the month.

Hoffman said he also hopes to hold month-long silent auctions to raise additional funds.

"The Ventura College women's soccer program and I are committed to the 'Score for the Cure' campaign, in hopes of making a difference in someone's life," Hoffman said.

# Health

## Necessity breeds invention

by Mira Reverente

With a church to lead, organizations to run and a congregation depending on him on a daily basis, Rev. Luther McCurtis was and still is a busy man.

As the founding pastor of the Total Life Christian Center, an outreach center, the 78-year-old's schedule is packed from sun up to sun down. So when his neck started bothering him several years ago, he had every reason to complain.

The back of the neck known as the cervical area of the spine is subject to the most stress and strain, according to several medical studies.

### Not all pillows are the same

His chiropractor, Dr. Robert Cocain, suggested a therapeutic cervical neck pillow to relieve his discomfort. "There were a few in the market then, but none that exactly matched his needs," says Dr. Cocain, a long-time chiropractor in Ventura, who designed the pillows.

Months of research ensued followed by several prototypes before the pillow was perfected. "There were points when it was getting frustrating but my wife encouraged me not to give up," says Rev. McCurtis. "She insisted that success was just around the corner and of course, she was right."

Dubbed "My Pillow and Me," the ergonomic pillows retail for \$25.

### Sleeping on it

Locally made by seamstresses in Santa Paula and Ventura, the pillows assist in maintaining spinal alignment, according to Rev. McCurtis, who uses them to this day.

"They're also for anybody who has neck problems, neck injuries and tension in the neck," explains Dr. Cocain.

Aside from being hand-made, the pillows are non-allergenic, odorless and available in an array of colors. In addition, the pillows also have removable, washable cot-

ton zippered covers.

"They support the neck, give mild traction and also promote comfort," adds Dr. Cocain. "But they can also be used for the knees, lower back and vertebrae by both adults and children."

According to Dr. Cocain, the pillows are best utilized by being on one's back for a few hours before progressing to using them overnight. Even side sleepers can benefit by switching between lying on their backs and sides.

"They just need to know how to use it correctly, which is right underneath the neck," explains Dr. Cocain.

### Pillow talk

"My Pillow and Me" is available for purchase at the Total Life Christian Center, at Dr. Cocain's clinic and just recently, on eBay.

"We're slowly getting the word out in the community," says Rev. McCurtis, referring to their local advertising and word-of-mouth campaign.

Both Rev. McCurtis and Dr. Cocain also "walk their talk," by using the pillow themselves. "I even bring it with me on my travels," states Dr. Cocain.

Proceeds from pillow sales benefit the Total Life Christian Center and the Employment Aptitude and Placement Association (EAPA), a non-profit organization that provides job placements and other employment services free of charge.

For more information:

My Pillow and Me  
660 N. Ventura Ave.  
643-0527  
648-5868  
Robert Cocain, DC  
4247 Telegraph Rd.  
644-5563

## Merry Maids cleans for cancer patients

by Sheli Ellsworth

Ventura women suffering from cancer have a new ally.

Jeff Weinstein, local Merry Maids franchise owner, is not a doctor, but he is willing to perform certain procedures. With the cooperation of a national program called Cleaning for a Reason, he will provide free housecleaning to local cancer patients who are receiving treat-

ment. The free service is available once a month for four months and includes all cleaning supplies and equipment.

Patients must apply through the sponsoring foundation, CleaningforaReason.org, which accepts 50 applications a day starting at 12:00 noon (Central Time) Monday through Friday online. The foundation can also be reached at (877)337-3348. Doctors must fax in treatment verification for patients to qualify. According to their website, "Each cleaning company commits to servicing at least two free accounts per month and contribute monthly financial pledges which are used to help sustain the base operations of the program. Today, there are over 800 Partners offering free services to women throughout the United States and Canada." Over 4000 women have been helped by the non-profit foundation.

Merry Maids, part of ServiceMaster industries, will provide two experienced, bonded and insured housekeepers. All employees are thoroughly screened and background checks are performed. All of the housekeeping teams are bi-lingual. Weinstein says, "We have a very low employee turnover. Many of our housekeepers are related to each other. It's like a big family around here." Appointments are scheduled from 9am until 2:30pm. "Someone is always in the office, so you can reach us by phone and our work comes with a satisfaction guarantee."

"I've had several family members who've had cancer, including my mother-in-law. This is just my way of giving back," says Weinstein.

## Disorder support group moves to new location

The local chapter of the Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) hosts two regular, confidential, peer-led, self-help support groups for persons coping with depression and bipolar disorder. The first group meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Adult Wellness & Recovery Center located in Turning Point Founda-

Continued on page 16

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

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— Weekly SUDOKU —  
Answer

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

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1-800-468-4678 Ask for Jolene Bibian, RP Ca. Ins. Lic.# 0E33032

# Show Time

## Where The Music Flows

### Stevie Nicks teams up with Dave Stewart for new album?

by Michael Kohli

In the land of diva's in our music world across the globe -- there has been a lot of activity this month. Lady GaGa released her new single, "Born This Way; Britney Spears released her new video for, "Hold It Against Me", and Christina Aguilera messing up the National Anthem at the Super Bowl and falling down on stage after her Grammy's performance all in the same month. There's one diva who has barely been mentioned lately. Big news here in the music world. Stevie Nicks has teamed up with Dave Stewart (from Eurythmics) to produce songs for her upcoming album, "In Your Dreams." Her brand new single, "Secret Love," was released to iTunes - just in time for Valentine's Day! Her album will be released in May.

#### Jonathan McEuen returns to Zoey's Cafe

Longtime music scene veteran, Jonathan McEuen will perform at Zoey's Cafe on February 28th. He unique style of performance has been amazing fans here for over a decade now. Check out his promo video clip on <http://www.myspace.com/jonathanmceuen>. You could see what he's all about. Jonathan has performed on Jay Leno, The Grand Ol' Opry, and Red Rocks in Colorado. He has also worked with the likes of Dwight Yoakam, Dave Mason, and Robin Ford. His music often combines rock, folk, country and other eclectic sounds. Reserve your table at Zoey's fast before it sells out!

#### Scissor Sisters hitch a ride with Lady Gaga for her tour in March

Grammy snubbed act, Scissor Sisters have been riding high off the recent release of their, "Night Work," album. Preceded by the hit singles, "Fire With Fire", "Any Which Way", and "Invisible Light (Featuring Sir Ian McKellen)." The band recently announced they've been picked to open for Lady Gaga for her tour in March. One of the stops will be the Staples Center in Los Angeles. It's unclear if it will be a single, but Scissor Sisters performed one of my favorites, "Running Out," on David Letterman this week. You can catch the clip on Youtube or <http://www.scissorsisters.com>

#### GRAMMY'S award Esperanza Spalding with Best New Artist award?

Okay, I for one am a bit bothered by this. I have actually been a distant fan of hers for over two years. Caught a clip of her performing on TV one night, and looked her album up on iTunes and bought some tracks. She also took part in a City Stories campaign for Banana Republic in 2009. And performed for Barack Obama. So, the question is -- is she a new artist? Her 2nd released album became an underground hit in 2009 among the urban jazz world. Where was her Grammy then? For the amount of exposure she got for her 2009 album, "Esperanza," -- it seems that the opportunity was there for a Grammy consideration, but it would seem like the Grammy's snubbed her then. And, then this year award her for her 3rd album (under the same record label) - for Best New Artist? I'm sure there were other award categories she might be suited for. Perhaps even Album of the Year (if the Grammy Voters felt that strongly about her music.) But, for her third international album, they chose her for Best New Artist. One might wonder if the Grammy people have their own agenda.

Out of all the best Album of the Year nominations, they pick an unknown indie band from Canada, Arcade Fire, to beat out Lady Gaga, Eminem and (Santa Barbara native) Katy Perry? For both categories, Album Of The Year and Best New Artist, they went with the most unlikely picks. Perhaps, if they pick unpredictable and support fresh new artists, perhaps it helps the Grammy business in some way? Let me know your thoughts: [VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com](mailto:VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com)

Thank you for your time!

Michael Kohli

[Kohlismusicpit.com](mailto:Kohlismusicpit.com)

[VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com](mailto:VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com)

PS: Also to make an announcement: Stay tuned to <http://www.fashionweekventura.com>. I've been contacted from various organizers from within and am currently helping book performers for a few of their kick off events. The main event is scheduled for two nights @ Crowne Plaza on March 4th and 5th. With 5 other kick off events taking place at Diva, Celeb's Salon, Paddy's Ventura, and MyFlorist Cafe. This year is "fairy tale" themed. Each kick off party has different party themes: Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, The Frog Prince, Cinderella, and more! Stay tuned for more info! If you want to purchase tickets for the main event -- visit the website. Proceeds benefit Aids Project Ventura. You will be entertained!

## Music Calendar 2/24 to 3/8

For more events go to [Fun-in-Ventura.com](http://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. 2/24: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm

Fri. 2/25: Alistair Greene 6pm-10pm

Sat. 2/26: Ventucky Fog 6-10pm

Sun. 2/27: Blue Stew 2-6pm

Thur. 3/3: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm

Fri. 3/4: Ray Jay Band 6-10pm

Sat. 3/5: Barstool Pigeons 6-10pm

Sun. 3/6: 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. 2/23: Big Adventure

Thur. 2/24: Bongo Town

Fri. 2/26: Little Alice

Sat. 2/27: Urban Dread

#### Charline's

546 Main St.

805-652-2255

Sunday Funday Band every Sun.

Reggae Tuesdays every Tue.

Wed. 2/23: Smooth Sax with Del Franklin

Wed. 3/2: Smooth Sax with Del Franklin

#### GiGi's Cocktail Lounge

2493 Grand Ave.

805-642-2411

Karaoke Sunday Nights with Steve Luke 7pm- 12am

Fri 2/25: Karoke with Shelly 9pm

Sat 2/26: The Mystery Band 9pm

Fri 3/4: The Brian Faith Band 9pm

Sat 3/5: What the Funk 9pm

#### It's All Good Bar & Grill

533 E. Main St.

805-641-9951

Open Mike Night every Wed.

#### Majestic Theater

26 S. Chestnut St.

805-653-0118

Fri. 2/25: Pepper, The Supervillains

Sat. 2/26: The Ska Daddyz, Elevator Ska, Destination Ska

Sat. 3/5: Skip Jaymes and the Space Station, The Chiefs, O.A.T.H.

#### W2O Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St.

805-643-6800

Friday Dance Party every Fri. 9pm

Thur. 2/10: Bobby Hart Band

Fri. 2/25: Mini Driver

Sat. 2/26: Dr. M

Sun. 2/27: Shoemaker Brothers

#### Zoey's Café

185 E. Santa Clara St.

805-652-1137

Songwriter's round every Wed. 8pm

Fri. 2/25: Shane Alexander, Jamie Drake 8pm

Sat. 2/26: Cowbop with Bruce Foreman and Phil Salazar 8pm

Sun. 2/27: Kapeesh 8pm

Mon 2/28: Jonathan McEuen

Fri. 3/4: Glen Phillips Solo Acoustic, Garrison Starr 8pm

Sat. 3/5: Rancho Reata 8pm

Sun. 3/6: Montana Skies 7:30pm

Mon. 3/7: Tommy and the High Pilots

Tue. 3/8: Blue Grass Jam 6pm

#### Two on the Aisle

## SPTC's Amadeus Explores a Mozart Fiction

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

For the opening of its 26nd season the Santa Paula Theater Center has pulled out all the stops when it comes to supreme production effort to stage "Amadeus," the fictional story of a one-sided rivalry during the 1780s between Antonio Salieri, the Court Composer to Austrian Emperor Joseph II, and boy genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

It is an ambitious production in every way. Elaborate scenic embellishments, complicated period costumes and superb powdered wigs accent the difficult dialogue. For the fairly large cast director James Castle Stevens has gathered a number of actors new to the SPTC, but not new to the stage. Surrounding the leading roles are familiar local talents who lend appropriate background, punctuation and color.

Written by English playwright Peter Schaffer ("Equus," "Five Finger Exercise"), Act I is wordy and lengthy, setting the scene for the Act II denouement. Schaffer is a master word-crafter and in the right actor's control, a major dramatic force. The film "Amadeus" won eight Oscars in 1984, including Best Picture, reviving great interest in the life of a young man stuck in a simultaneous state of child-like mentality and genius.

Mozart died at an early age of an illness that history has not yet confirmed. Much speculation has been given to the cause of the musician's mental decline and while the play alludes to some specifics, none have been proven. Nor has the premise of a rivalry between Mozart and Salieri been adequately documented. Nonetheless, the concept provides the excitement and soap opera elements that keep an audience engaged.

The most consistent performances, in our view, were those of the two Venticelli (rather elaborately dressed servants) played by Minda Grace Ware and Kyle Johnson. Both use subtle facial expressions and covert glances to convey unspoken nuances. Their performances are in great contrast to the two leading characters who have apparently been directed to mistake volume for dramatic effect throughout. We found the vocal contrast between the often angry Salieri and the cackling Asbergers-like Mozart to be at times annoying and distracting.

We were also confused and slightly distracted by a stage assistant in period costume whose sole job appeared to be to carry a single side table on and off the stage without any change to the decoration of said table, even when used in supposedly different settings. Imagine the same cakes turning up in every building in town. How convenient. Why the table ever left the stage at all is puzzling.

The production is challenging for the actors and for the audience in many ways. Opening night presented some minor missteps in dialogue and costume which will undoubtedly smooth out as the run progresses.

Be warned. Do not attend the show for factual history. Do attend because of the sheer ambition and sumptuous production values of the work in a community theater setting. As one character repeatedly states, "There it is."

"Amadeus" continues on weekends through March 27 at the Santa Paula Theater Center, 125 S. 7th St., Santa Paula. [www.santapaulatheatercenter.org](http://www.santapaulatheatercenter.org) for times and tickets.

#### Disorder support group

Continued from page 15

tion's New Vision Center at 1065 E. Main Street.

Adults suffering from mood disorders can also find hope for recovery at the Tuesday night meeting held at Bible Fellowship Church located at 6950 Ralston Street in Room 301 of Building 300 in Ventura from 6:30-8:00 pm. Attendees should enter the parking lot off Johnson Drive for the evening meeting. Email [DBSA\\_Ventura@yahoo.com](mailto:DBSA_Ventura@yahoo.com), visit [www.dbsalliance.org/ventura](http://www.dbsalliance.org/ventura) or call 201-0619 for more information on both meetings.

DBSA support groups are open to anyone who is diagnosed with a mood disorder, has a family member or friend who is diagnosed, or who thinks they might have depression or bipolar disorder (also known as manic depression). DBSA support groups are not run by professionals, but instead offer peer-to-peer support which is an important component of recovery from mental illness for many people.

DBSA is the nation's leading patient-directed organization focusing on the most prevalent mental illnesses - depression and bipolar disorder. The organization has over 400 independent local chapters that operate over 1000 self-help support groups around the United States.

Visit [www.DBSAlliance.org](http://www.DBSAlliance.org) for more information.

## CMHS offering seminars

Balloon Sinuplasty, a new minimally-invasive surgical option for chronic sinus sufferers, will be the focus of a free seminar the Community Memorial Health System is holding on Tuesday, March 1.

Edgar Lueg, M.D., Ventura County's

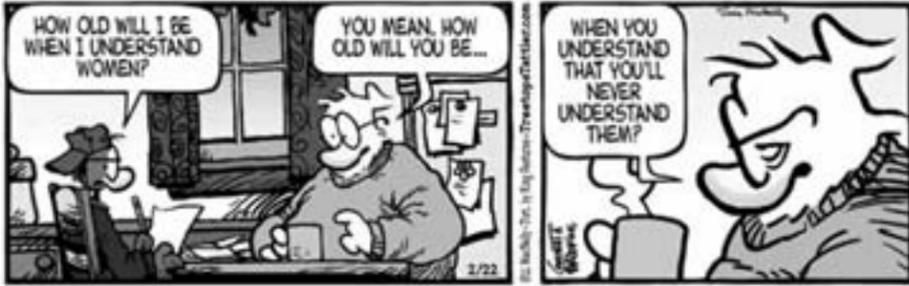
Continued on page 20

# The Lighter Breeze

## Zits



## Shoe



## Mother Goose and Grimm



## Hagar the Horrible



## Crock



## Beetle Bailey



Solutions on page 15

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

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Triste

Take a number of the empty boxes and look at the numbers in the row, column and square it belongs to. Place square numbers in the empty boxes so that no row, column or square has a duplicate number.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 15

## King Crossword

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**ACROSS**

- Dresses in
- Navy rank (Abbr.)
- Early birds?
- Colorful fish
- Deteriorate
- Chuck's sound
- Prepare
- Sar-lar spouter
- Cleans the cookware
- Nol as sin'
- Wildboast
- Therefore
- Joke
- Historic site
- Weapon in "Psycho"
- Individuals
- North Pole employee
- Concludes
- Annie of "Designing Women"
- Three on a surdial
- Space
- Saharan
- Director Howard
- On the beach
- Thwart
- Military vehicle
- Fare
- Asian nurse maid
- The whole ench: ada
- Approx: mately
- Carnival attraction
- Firmament
- Trawler equipment
- action?
- Fashion
- Fancy centerpiece
- Wave on
- Sixel or Kelly
- Vast
- Sea eagle
- Noah's boat
- Bush league?
- "I take that as —"
- Advance
- W: Smith bio: c
- Rx safety grp.
- Kreskin's claim
- Stanza
- Above all others
- Round Table address
- Title
- "La Toilette" artist
- Hose material
- Open somewhat
- Big rig
- Oliver Twist's request
- "Meet Me — Louis"
- Hollywood cashers
- Ward

**DOWN**

- Cannes
- Oil cartel
- Brussels-based org.
- Unspoken "I don't know"
- Rubical
- Affirmative



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Whatever decisions you're faced with this week, rely on your strong Aries instincts, and base them on your honest feelings, not necessarily on what others might expect you to do.

**TAURUS** (April 30 to May 20) Your sensitive Taurean spirit is pained by what you feel is an unwarranted attack by a miffed colleague. But your sensible self should see it as proof that you must be doing something right.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) More fine-tuning might be in order before you can be absolutely certain that you're on the right track. Someone close to you might offer to help. The weekend favors family get-togethers.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) The week continues to be a balancing act 'twixt dreaming and doing. But by week's end, you should have a much better idea of what you actually plan to do and how you plan to do it.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Changing your plans can be risky, but it can also be a necessary move. Recheck your facts before you act. Tense encounters should ease by midweek, and all should be well by the weekend.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) You might still be trying to adjust to recent changes. But things should improve considerably as you get to see some positive results. An uneasy per-

sonal matter calls for more patience.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Congratulations. Your good intentions are finally recognized, and long-overdue appreciation should follow. Keep working toward improvements wherever you think they're necessary.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 2) Try to look at your options without prejudging any of them. Learn the facts, and then make your assessments. Spend the weekend enjoying films, plays and musical events.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Someone might want to take advantage of the Sagittarian's sense of fair play. But before you ride off to right what you've been told is a wrong, be sure of your facts.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) You might be surprised to learn that not everyone agrees with your ideas. But this can prove to be a good thing. Go over them and see where improvements can be made.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) After taking advice on a number of matters in recent months, expect to be called on to return the gesture. And, by the way, you might be surprised at who makes the request.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Reassure everyone concerned that a change of mind isn't necessarily a change of heart. You might still want to pursue a specific goal, but feel a need to change the way you'll get there.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You are able to make room in your heart for others, and that makes you a very special person in their lives.

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## Business



On February 16, the Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market, located at Seaward Ave. and Thompson had its much anticipated Ventura store grand opening. This is the second of the chain to be located in Ventura.

Besides a large crowd waiting for the doors to open in attendance (from left to right) were city council member Brian Brennan, Ventura Assistant Chief of Police Quinn Fenwick, city council member Christy Weir, of course store manager John Clark and city council member Carl Morehouse.

Also there were many members of the McConica family who are the land owners.

At the opening Fresh & Easy presented a \$1,000 donation to "School on Wheels", a local non-profit organization.

Photos by Bernie Goldstein.



## Valentine's Day at BlackBeard's Seaside BBQ

On Monday, February 14 proprietors Lorie and Mark Iversen put on a very delightful evening. They offered two delicious menu choices with two sides and in addition a bottle of wine or champagne. Brownie sundaes were also included for dessert at very reasonable price of \$50 per couple. There was also live entertainment by Kenny with pleasant dinner music which also prompted couples to enjoy their dance floor as well. However, this wonderful evening complete with the beautiful Ventura Harbor lights was enjoyed by just a handful of people. It was almost as if it was a private party without having to pay a fee to rent out the establishment.

What is happening in our lovely Ventura Harbor? People from all over the country travel to enjoy Ventura Harbor every day, yet we seem to take for granted what is in our own backyard. So many people missed out on delicious food, excellent service, wonderful acoustic performance by Kenny and the ambience of the patio with warm, romantic lighting. Although there were very few patrons there, everyone had a wonderful time. It doesn't matter how many patrons are in their establishment at any given time their service is always top notch at BlackBeard's.

The people who weren't at BlackBeard's for Valentine's Day truly missed out. A strolling flower vendor entered so that anyone had the chance to give his or her "Valentine" flowers as well.

Nothing was missed, except for the people of Ventura totally missing out on a marvelous evening. Don't miss out on BlackBeard's (and other Harbor restau-

rants and shops) next special events and the chance to enjoy wonderful food, spirits and spectacular entertainment in our gorgeous Harbor

And you don't need to go to the Harbor for just special events because every day at the Harbor is a wonderful experience.



**Coach's Corner**

## Investing in others' experience bank

by Ron Tunick

Let's talk about building the experience banks of others. Let's say you've worked hard at investing in your own experience bank and improving your decision-making ability, but your family, staff or coworkers still have crummy experience banks.

If you have children, are you building a rich and full experience bank for them? You can do this by exposing your children to diverse activities: sports, hobbies, clubs, education, travel, and literature. This is the best inheritance they could ever receive! If your children have a full experience bank, they will go farther in their lives than any of their peers, both personally and professionally.

Are you investing in the experience banks of your employees or coworkers? If you want the maximum results from your team, then each player needs a full experience bank. There are a number of ways to accomplish this. You can accompany or send them to conferences, bring in special speakers or coordinate team-building efforts. A certain For-

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## Business

tune 500 company requires that their employees spend thirty minutes each day reading. They can choose from an assortment of books from the company's library. Encourage the people around you by giving them opportunities to try new things. Maybe your accounting department needs to spend a day working in the product development department. With each new encounter, their experience banks grow.



### Mayor's path to success

*Continued from page 1*

town Senior Recreation Center open in a time when its closing seemed eminent.

Many residents acknowledge the good that has occurred in a tough economic climate, but have been less than thrilled with the many cuts it has seen the city make.

"First we close a library then we shut down a roving fire truck patrol and a fire station—it's a bit much," said Sandy Anderson a local resident. "It's hard to believe there weren't other ways to cut without eliminating major services like that."

Fulton admitted in his address he has been less than thrilled about the cuts.

"We don't like the way we've balanced the budget," said Fulton in his speech. "We've had to cut many important things and we know that our reduced level of services is not sustainable."

Fulton made it evident some change needed to be made in order to achieve this sustainability. How this would be accomplished was less clear. Fulton introduced a theme—"The Way Forward" where he described his goal of making Ventura "the best small city in California."

He urged Ventura to reinvent itself in order to "find enduring prosperity."

With that he listed off a number of areas from education and arts to public safety and medical care for Ventura to improve upon.

At the crux of his plan—not unlike other politicians' plans—is that he wants the whole public's participation.

"I ask you to join me in a concentrated effort to get those things done," said Fulton. "We (the City Council) can't do it alone—and, anyway, these days nobody trusts us in the government to do it all by ourselves anyway."

From there he outlined an initial meeting within 90 days and the creation of a to-do list within three to six months.

A final, more abstract ultimate goal was set to establish "long-term prosperity and better quality of life by 2016."

"With all of us working together, we can do a much better job of figuring out what's right for our community and a much more effective job of getting it done," said Fulton.

### Ventura events

*Continued from page 9*

ing booth") with rocks that glow in the dark.

On entering the show, all kids will be given a free polished stone. Kids also will enjoy sand-sifting for gems and fossil shark teeth, a "Spinning Wheel" with rock prizes, and "Paint-a-Fossil" activities with plaster casts of fossils

VGMS members have sponsored a show every year for the past 49 years to share their activities and collections with the community. The society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, educational organization and welcomes new individual and family members. VGMS hosts monthly lectures on earth science topics and lapidary arts, makes presentations to area schools, and conducts field trips for

members and guests.

The show is the society's major fundraising event, helping to underwrite their educational activities. For further info, call the Show Publicity Chair Jim Brace-Thompson at 659-3577 or Show Chairman Andy Anderson at 987-0043 or visit VGMS web site: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org).

**March 6:** 1923 recordings of legendary blues singer Bessie Smith will be featured at the **Dudley Open House**. The open house is from 1- 4 p.m. at the corner of Ashwood and Loma Vista in Ventura. The recording dates are from a broadcast aired on Feb. 16, 1948 called Quiet Please. The Recordings will be accompanied by tours of the historic house by the Dudley Docents. Information that will be covered in the tour include history of the house with its Dudley family furniture and the museum's most recent acquisitions. Admission is free. Anyone interested in working docent tours of the house contact Steve Cummings at 644-3286.

**March 7 & 21:** The Ventura County Philatelic Society is holding a meeting. The group of stamp collectors will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills on 6279 Foothill Road Ventura.

Admission and parking are free for more information contact [vcpsforyou@lycos.com](mailto:vcpsforyou@lycos.com).

**March 9:** The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a competition & critique meeting on Wednesday. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd in Ventura. A professional photographer will critique members' prints and digital images. The topic for the month is "Lonely/Solitary" which will feature some interesting images. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. See the club's web site for more information and examples of work or call 908-5663 or visit [www.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com](http://www.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com).

**March 19:** San Buenaventura Friends of the Library will be hosting their **Spring book sale**. The Friends of the Library has collected a warehouse of excellent books, music, movies, puzzles and books on tape. Browse a collection of Non-Fiction, Large Print, Art, Classics, Hard Cover and Paperback Fiction Children's Books. The event will be held at the Pacific View Mall indoors in The Center Court, Saturday from 11 - 5 p.m. San Buenaventura Friends of the Library is an all-volunteer group working to help Ventura's libraries serve the public need for knowledge and opportunity. For more information call Chuck Carlson San Buenaventura Friends of the Library

642-6084 or go to [chucknsherrie@att.net](mailto:chucknsherrie@att.net).

**March 19:** The Ventura County Human Services Agency is offering a **Foster Parenting Informational**. The meeting location and time is 855 Partridge Drive, Ventura, Saturday, 9 - 11 a.m. Discover how the healing, support and guidance of a loving foster home can offer a local child a better tomorrow. You could be the answer to a child in crisis in your community. For more information call the Human Services Agency at 654-3456 or go to [www.vchsa.org/foster](http://www.vchsa.org/foster).

## Ojai events

Dubbed the "WriteFest of WordFest," the Ojai Writers Conference will present a **Master Class for Writers** series to be held during WordFest, the new Ojai literary festival spanning two weekends and nine days, **March 19-27**. With the Master Class series, writers will immerse themselves in writing by day and enjoy numerous literary festivities in the evenings. The classes will be held March 19 & 20 and March 26.

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### The 21st Annual Ojai Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball!

The Magick commences with the Annual Ojai Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball in 'Greenman's Magickal Lair', Saturday **March 5** at 7:30 p.m. (at the Ojai Art Center, 113 South Montgomery), then continues with the premiere of post-celebration 'Fais Do-Do' Zydeco Dance Party Sunday, March 6 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. (Sat., \$25 in advance\* or \$30 at the door; Sun. \$5 at the door).

A testament to the life-affirming power of artistic self-expression and the medicinal mojo of joyful community celebration, this annual "Carnaval" is also a living tribute to its founder, former Ojai resident, Lyle Mathews. The festival is held every year in her honor and monies raised are used to benefit a resident in need or a local charity.

Re-vitalize yourself with the vibrant voodoo vibes of the Ojai Mardi Gras Band, joined this year by special guests Aaron Shaw and Warren Casey of The Wicked Tinkers; replenish your energy reserves with our scrumptious New Orleans cuisine and partake of salubrious spirits at the no-host bar. Don a simple mask—or craft an extravagantly creative ensemble—and participate in our costume contest.

Meditation Mount presents free introduction to meditation with Diana Lang Sunday **February 27**, 11:00AM-12:30PM

You will learn the essence of meditation

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

Your generous donations are appreciated.

Meditation Mount 10340 Reeves Rd, Ojai, CA 646-5508 [www.meditationmount.org](http://www.meditationmount.org)

Tuesday, February 22, 6:30 p.m. Ojai Library; 111 E. Ojai Ave.

Learn how to reduce your utility costs through energy efficiency opportunities. Representatives from Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance will provide a public workshop to explain common efficiencies useful in homes. You will learn how to conserve electricity and gas, where to obtain utility rebate information and how to use utility efficiencies to benefit other conservation measures. Bring your questions and join the discussion.

On Sunday, **March 6** at 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen Vision, the story of the renowned 12th Century Benedictine nun Hildegard von Bingen, a religious mystic, composer, playwright and author of a variety of texts on the theology, botany and medicine. General Admission \$10, Seniors & Students \$7 and 2011 Subscribers free. Ojai Playhouse, 145 E Ojai Ave For more information call 646-8946 or view our screening schedule at [www.ojaifilmsociety.org](http://www.ojaifilmsociety.org).



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# Ventura's Finest



## Ventura loses another icon

Joseph Albert Moody, better known as Jalopy Joe passed away on January 26 at the young age of 62.

Moody was born Sandusky, Ohio, eventually moved to Tempe, Arizona to Santa Barbara in 1971 and in 1999 to Ventura.

With his best friend Brenda McDaniel, who shared his love for motorcycles and jalopies, in 2007 they opened "Jalopy Joes" on Santa Clara Avenue and more recently moved the business to Main Street next to Cemetery Park.

A service was held at the Joseph Reardon Funeral Home on Main on February 13 and a "party" celebrating his life was held after at the Elk's Lodge.

The deafening roar of hot rods, motorcycles and jalopies attending the service could be heard for miles around as his many friends showed their love for Joe by forming a long procession of vehicles lead by Brenda McDaniels driving their famous 1926 Ford roadster. And, of course Sally the Boston terrier was in the passenger seat.

## A legend has left us

by Moses Mora

Ventura legend and icon, Phil Marquez passed away Tuesday afternoon, February 15 at home, peacefully and in the presence of his loving family. The full measure of the impact of Phil's influence on Ventura's cultural and business life can be understood when we acknowledge that the city of Ventura has proclaimed "Phil Marquez Day" twice by two different mayors, Brian Brennen in 2004 and Bill Fulton in 2010.

Phil was born on January 14, 1915 in Saticoy and was a lifetime Westside Ventura resident. He was a World War II veteran, an outstanding athlete in basketball, baseball and track and an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, camping and fishing. For 63 years he operated Phil's Barbershop, retiring in 2010 at age 95. His barbershop near the corner of Main St. and Ventura Avenue was like a pictorial museum of Ventura's his-

tory. Men know that very often our barbers become our therapist and for 63 years Phil listened intently to the men of Ventura tell their stories.

Phil and his shop were truly a treasury of artifacts and knowledge and the Tortilla Flats mural team and archives benefited greatly from his stories and photos. An early 1950's photo of Phil with his wife Angie and their two eldest children Kathy and Barbara graces the Tortilla Flats mural.

On the occasion of the most recent "Phil Marquez Day" and witnessed by a standing-room-only crowd of friends, family and admirers at the Bell Arts Factory on June 5, 2010, Mayor Bill Fulton said, "We can't go on forever proclaiming Phil Marquez Days, so let's just declare everyday Phil Marquez Day." Phil's memory and presence will be felt for decades to come, such is the stuff of legends.

A Rosary for Phil will be held on Thursday, February 24 at 7pm at the Old Mission in Downtown Ventura. A Memorial Mass will be held the next morning, Friday, February 25 at 10am also at the Old Mission.

### CMHS seminars

*Continued from page 16*  
most experienced Balloon Sinuplasty surgeon, will lead the discussion during the seminar to be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital, located at 147 Brent St.

Dr. Lueg, of Ear Nose Throat & Sinus Specialists of Ventura, will discuss the technology and advantages of this new, quicker and safer non-cutting surgery that results in less bleeding for patients with chronic sinusitis.

Admission is free, but space is limited and reservations are required. Call 652-5436, or go to [www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp](http://www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp).

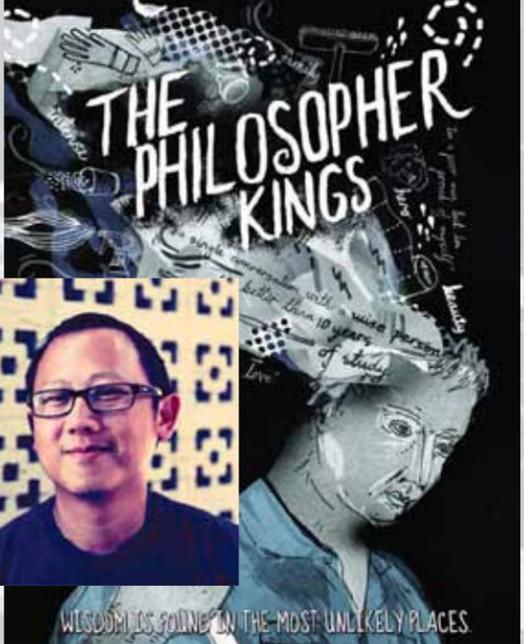
Community Memorial Health System is also offering free monthly classes for patients diagnosed with either pre-diabetes or metabolic syndrome, a disorder that increases the risk of developing cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

The classes, sponsored by CMHS's DiabetesAware program, are held the first Thursday of each month, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at CMHS's Training Center at 2809 Main St., Suite B, in Ventura.

For more information or to attend this monthly class, call 667-2818 or go to [www.cmhshealth.org](http://www.cmhshealth.org) for all ongoing CMHS events, classes and support groups.

Community Memorial Health System is a not-for-profit health system, which is comprised of Community Memorial Hospital, Ojai Valley Community Hospital, and nine family-practice health centers entitled the Centers for Family Health.

MEET DIRECTOR  
**PATRICK SHEN**



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### VFS@THE MUSEUM 2011

## The Philosopher Kings

Directed by Patrick Shen  
USA 2009, 70 mins  
Tuesday March 1@7:00 pm

**Reviewed by Robert Louis Chianese**  
*Ventura Film Society*

Plato felt that philosophers should rule society as so-called "Kings." Los Angeles-based director Patrick Shen, who will attend this very special VFS screening, wants us to hear from contemporary philosopher-heroes in the invisible background. They are custodians who clean bathrooms and buildings at major universities; they explain their life philosophy in this candid and moving documentary.

The film focuses on people whose con-

licts and triumphs forge experiential rather than theoretical views of life's meaning. We look into the extended lives of a Purple Heart Veteran, a Haitian who returns home to help his family, and a woman whose mother died from a doctor's error. We learn how to endure hardships from each one and how to triumph over them from a few.

Quotes from famous thinkers interlace these stories, with an underlying insight: true wisdom involves caring for others. These real life philosophers practice this hard lesson. We can't but help measure ourselves by their example.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to present this beautiful and inspiring film as part of our VFS @ the Museum 2011 Film Series, held at the Museum of Ventura County's Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Pavilion, 100 E. Main Street, Downtown Ventura. For advance tickets & information - [www.venturafilmsociety.com](http://www.venturafilmsociety.com) or 628-2299.

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