

FREE



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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April 6 – April 19, 2011

Cities form partnership to promote tourism

by Tim Pompey

It's not often you see business competitors come together in a mutually beneficial partnership, especially when those competitors are Ventura, Oxnard, and Camarillo. But, thanks to some teamwork between west county hotels, that is exactly what's happening—the official formation of a “tourism business improvement district (TBID).”

Victor Dollar, the General Manager for the Four Points by Sheraton, explained how the idea arose from a series of lunches with hotel general managers in the area. “We decided that, instead of competing with each other, why don't we join together to help each other?” said Dollar. “We really didn't have the funds to market each city individually. Creating this district with all three cities would give us 1.2 million dollars.”

According to Lorena Parker, a manager for Civitas, a Sacramento-based firm hired by the hoteliers to launch this District, a “business improvement district” is a voluntary assessment (meaning dollars provided) by a designated business group (such as property or hotel owners) whose purpose is to create a stable funding source that “provides a benefit for a group or a geographic area.”

For example, Ventura City Councilwoman Christy Weir points out that downtown Ventura has formed a “PBID” which allows downtown property owners

Continued on page 4



Alexandra Phelps, a senior at Foothill Technology High School, was the first place winner in the 2011 Tamima Al-Awar Art Scholarships. Here she poses next to one of her drawings titled “Orbs.”

Foothill Technology student finds art in small places

by Tim Pompey

As an art student, Alexandra Phelps, a 17-year-old senior at Foothill Technology High School, is both versatile and busy. In addition to taking art classes at Foothill, she serves on the staff of her online school newspaper, the Foothill Dragon Press (www.foothilldragonpress.org), as an artist and graphic designer.

Outside of school, she's currently doing an internship at Trophy Queen (www.trophyqueen.com), a local designer of custom handbags. Phelps has also

studied art, photography, and ceramics at the California State Summer School for the Arts and taken classes in life drawing at Ventura College. Given all her talent and experience, it's not hard to see why, even at her young age, she is such a fine artist.

Now she can add something else to her growing list of accomplishments: 1st place winner in the Tamima Al-Awar Art Scholarships. Her prize included a check for \$2,250 to help support her budding art career.

Phelps attributes her initial interest in art to her grandmother's large book collection. “Grandma was a librarian,” she said. “We definitely read a lot.”

She discovered an early source of inspiration in children's books, particularly “Sleeping Beauty” illustrated by Trina Hyman. Her interests in literature and art are ongoing. As she wrote in her student essay for the Al-Awar scholarships: “I hope to study illustration so that I can use my skills to bring new life to texts in a variety of forms, from children's books and poetry to memoirs, news writings, and even music.”

Phelps describes her style as “photo realistic surrealism.” What does this mean? “I try to take things that would not happen in real life,” she said, “but make them look real.”

For Phelps, reality in art is meant to be rearranged. “I'll take a photo,” she explained, “and put it in Photoshop, then warp it and skew it, print it, and then take my canvas and work from it.” The results are sometimes humorous, some

Continued on page 5



Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean and Boys & Girls Club future leaders of America spoke to the full house at the Wedgewood Wedding & Banquet Center

“The Power of One” brings out the powerful!

by Nanci Cone

Some of the top movers and shakers showed up at the Wedgewood Center on Thursday, March 31st to show their support for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Ventura at the 6th Annual Power of One Breakfast.

It was gratifying to hear stories of how the Boys & Girls Club helped many of them when they were young and from several current members.

The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura reiterated their belief that every child and teen should have the opportunity to be involved in safe, structured, and supervised after-school and summertime programs.

Every attendee received a “Fast Facts” sheet detailing how the five area sites, open all year, are serving 2500 members, ages 6-18 and have been doing so for 73 years. Guest speaker Sheriff Geoff Dean talked about how 97% of the members graduate from high school and lead healthy life styles with 0% teen pregnancy.

Chief Executive Officer Diane Koranda discussed how just \$1.00 invested in the Club returns almost \$12.00 in services and benefits to the community and that it costs \$600 per year per member as opposed to a taxpayer cost of \$60,000 per year for youth incarceration – very sobering figures.

Other statistics note that 97% of the members plan to attend college, 92% are exercising more, 95% are completing homework more often with 93% showing improved school performance.

If you would like to show your support, any contribution will be gratefully accepted. Contact the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura at 641-5585 or visit their website at www.bgclubventura.org.



Is the rumor true that Leon Rouso, famous saxophone player and Sandra Laby, famous salsa dancer have decided to take their two person show on the road and bike their way around the country?

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



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Your Hometown Paper

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PUBLISHER

Sheldon Brown

editor@venturabreeze.com

PET EDITOR

Professor Scamp

scampclub@venturabreeze.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tim Pompey · Rebecca Wicks

Nanci Cone · Karlene Lang

Mira Reverente · Veronica Johnson

James Spencer · Shirley Lorraine

Sheli Ellsworth · Emily Thiroux

Michael Kohli · Kimberly Castro

Eric Garnier · Sloan Reberick

Linde Carlson

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

John Ferritto · Bernie Goldstein

INTERNS

Robert Curtis – Brooks Institute

Brooke Demchuck – Ventura High School

Kathryne Duckwitz – Ventura High School

Danielle Peak – University of San Diego

SENIOR ADVISORS

Nanci Cone · Suz Montgomery

ADVERTISING ADVISORS

Leslie Ann Matthias

leslie10@sbcglobal.net

Breezy Gledhill

breezy7722@aim.com

Linde Carlson

linde819@aol.com

Lance Carlson

linde819@aol.com

Ryan King

rking1487@yahoo.com

PRODUCTION

Alfred J. Lewis/studioNothing

alfred@studionothing.com

PRINTING

Roger Wirsing

American Foothill Publishing Co.

REACHING US:

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

events@venturabreeze.com

OPINIONS

opinions@venturabreeze.com

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

editor@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@venturabreeze.com

Ventura Breeze

1575 Spinnaker Drive, 105B, Box 393

Ventura, CA 93001

805.653.0791 · Fax 805.641.3158



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Breeze:

Regarding the WAV building, I recall spending Christmas Day of 2006 or 2007 as the last time I went over the WAV plans while on DRC (Design Review Committee) (8 hours and nobody at the subsequent meeting was much interested in what I had to say). I thought the WAV did have some good detailing, including a very good and much improved landscape plan. I was basically ignored at the last meeting, which seemed to have been deliberately held in the smallest room possible so no one could ask

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

■ Regarding our involvement in Libya Sarah Palin said that she doesn't think that we should be involved in that "squirmish". Personally I feel skir-mishy every time she

opens her mouth.

■ A recent scientific survey has shown that 2 out of 3 men read the Ventura Breeze in the bathroom. The others are probably on their cell phones.

■ Formula1 Flooring & Design has just installed carpeting in our house and I couldn't be happier with their job. Wonderful to work with at all levels and the installers did even more than I anticipated.

■ There is a large mound of dirt (and other stuff) between the mural under the freeway on Figueroa and Tony's Pizzeria that has been there for many years that is a terrible eyesore (especially next to the wonderful mural that we all paid for). I am working on getting it removed but perhaps if you all write to all of our council members that might help in this endeavor.

■ I'm very happy to see that the Ventura Film Society movie series at the Museum of Ventura County is still drawing a full house. Lots of wonderful art happenings going on in Ventura and plans under way to have the artwalk during the summer even if it is not being supported by the city. There will be a fundraiser for it in May so keep tuned for lots more to come about artwalk.

■ Smart phones are really starting to bug. Well actually not the phones, the users (even my kids). During the Super Bowl (what is super about that anyway, it's just a football game?). I casually asked

"has there ever been a black quarterback that has won the Super Bowl?" Instantly my son and step son in-law dueled to see who could whip it out quicker and I knew who he was, where he went to grammar school and was shown a picture of his parents, much more than I really wanted to know.

So in the future they will be required to check their phones in (a modern day



This is the portrait that Johanna did of me last March that helped to launch the Face Of Ventura portrait series being presented in the Breeze. She can even make me look good.

Tombstone) before they enter my house.

Hmm, I wonder where Tombstone was located anyway? Who has a smart phone?

■ I am appearing on occasion on KADY-TV.COM, 1400AM KKZZ and 1520AM-KVTA, so maybe you might get to see me or hear me or both.

Do let me know.

■ I hope that you are enjoying the "Face Of Ventura" portrait series that we are presenting with Johanna Spinks. She is a

wonderful and dedicated artist and I am grateful that she has chosen to do this for the Breeze and the City of Ventura for no cost.

I want to thank her one more time.

■ I saw a sign at a urinal that mistakenly said "out of odor", but it wasn't.

■ In Tennessee they are trying to pass a law that would make it a felony to follow some of the conditions of Islam's Sharia.

Muslim groups fear that the measure would outlaw the abstaining of alcohol. So if this passes it would be illegal to "not" drink while you are driving in Tennessee.

"Pull over sir and get out of the car. Have you been drinking?"

"Yes I have."

"Breathe into the breathalyzer, I'm sorry but you have not been drinking so I will need to arrest you!"

■ It bothers me when we make an error in the Breeze even though almost impossible to not do with all of the articles and words that it contains so I feel much better when a major newspaper makes an error.

A recent headline in the LA Times read "Copter fight kicks off dust in W. Hollywood." I hate when copters fight almost as bad as roosters fighting.

■ The 211 lifeline for callers was launched on February 11, 2005 so has just celebrated its sixth anniversary. This social-service call center was started by United Way, Interface and First5 Ventura County and provides a myriad of wonderful service help lines. The Camarillo center is staffed 24 hours a day every day and provides vital information and referrals to help you solve many personal problems.

And no one has ever even tried to charge you for calling them.

Mailbox

questions. I think I was the only one asking questions. It was clear the architect, Adele Santos, did not want any questions. My thoughts:

1 There is a good landscaping plan, but minimal landscaping is in place.

2 This was a project where the fix was in. When I asked the Queen Architect (Adele Santos) several questions she merely shook her head which included giant Christmas tree-type earrings shaking about. That was her last appearance.

3 When you stand on the 2nd level walk/patio area, the noise level from the freeway is deafening. I do not think anyone on the design team ever had really given much thought as to how bad that was going to be.

4 There are no decent vents in the ground level retail areas for restaurant ducting (which I mentioned at the time - I design restaurants). The only venting is to the 2nd level patio.

5 There are 27 parking spaces.

6 Wait until the artists, the in-house homeless and the local street urchins all become intertwined. It will be great theater.

7 I had suggested a tower-like structure to give it a sort of campus effect with some definition from the freeway - no one was interested.

8 I predict Patagonia will buy it at auction for \$2,000,000.00.

9 There are no particular security precautions.

10 There is no adequate loading dock area for retail.

11 The side facing the alley has no charm, but it could if the complete landscape "covering" ever gets going.

12 Cole's office should be mandated to be in the corner store window at the changing light - this was his big deal.

13 All the exit lighted signs, and much of the required path of travel stuff was surface-mounted after the fact and really cheesy.

14. There were 2 elevators on the plans. No one seems to have seen them.

(I am not the John Stewart Company who is managing the building).

Sheldon

Congratulations to the Ventura Breeze for Tim Pompey's informative piece on the work of the public in conjunction with the Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative and their partnership with the City to improve our code enforcement system.

75% of the structures in the city are over 30 years of age, and the ordinary citizen is unaware that everyday maintenance, such as replacing a faucet, requires a permit from the city. It's likely that most of our community is in violation of the codes. Who knew? Most of us did not. How do we all get whole again?

Our Council is working with a slimmed down staff and overloaded City attorney to create a bridge and a fresh start from the old way to the new way, and it is complicated.

The current policy deems one's home as substandard just for lacking a permit. This means folks can get their titles' clouded and cannot access their equity in these tough times. Worse, if they cannot pay the uncapped fines of over \$400. a day, they could end up on the list that goes to the county for collection and end up ultimately in foreclosure.

Keep in mind that our City Council

members are practically unpaid volunteers with no staffs of their own. They need volunteers like the Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative to work with the city to improve our system. The improvement is already dramatic, with one of the six recommendations underway: a legalization program for undocumented second units. There are five more to go, so be patient.

The City Council is exploring several methods to adapt policies to the current reality and even make citizens participants in the process to create community buy-in. This could include a Housing Appeals Board, such is found in other communities. Currently, we have one for construction related issues, but not for housing where financial hardship and landlord disputes are considered.

So, have faith. Your City Council, elected by you, are doing their best to keep you safe, and prevent anyone from losing their homes. The next Council meeting on the issue will be in May, so in the meantime, we can volunteer to whack some weeds for the elders!

Camille Harris
Ventura

Continued on page 4

Correction

In our March 23 edition we listed Livingston's Mother's Day Luncheon as taking place on April 19. The correct day is Friday, April 29.

I am never weary of being useful...in serving others I cannot do enough. No labor is sufficient to tire me.

—Leonardo Da Vinci



City News

Hello, hello, can you hear me?

The City of Ventura has announced that free wireless broadband service has been launched in the public spaces of Downtown. Residents and visitors can stay "connected" through the network, provided by the Downtown Parking Management Program, to access the Internet, retrieve e-mail, or surf the Web without being connected to network cables.

The network, "Downtown Ventura Wi-Fi", offers wireless broadband service outdoors along Main Street beginning at Fir Street and continuing to the Museum of Ventura County between Poli and Santa Clara Streets.

Service is available daily during the hours of 6am - midnight. Users can access the service for a total of one hour, to assure use by the maximum number of persons at any given time. No special settings, user names or passwords are required.

The Downtown Parking Management Program's network structure is being utilized to serve the public with free Wi-Fi service. "Free wireless internet connections help to promote community by attracting people and business to Downtown," said Mayor Bill Fulton. "Providing this free service to the public is an expanded function of the network that is already in place and will help bring more customers downtown and encourage business growth."

Locate the network icon on your wireless device to connect. Users must agree to accept the Terms and Conditions of use before connecting; the agreement also identifies and warns users of the potential security risks associated with the use of a non-secure public network.

City of Ventura Classes

Call 658-4726 or 644-6542 to register, if you already have an account online, visit www.cityofventura.net Class takes place at Barranca Vista Center, 7050 Ralston St.

Color, Color, Color! 3-5 years \$50 Each week will explore different ways to use such familiar color tools as crayons, markers and pastels to create two-dimensional masterpieces. Parents are welcome to stay and join in the creative process.

Course code: 28693

Thursday 10-10:45 am 4/14-5/19

Art 101: Creating a Masterpiece on Canvas 7-12 years \$50 + \$5 supply fee

How do artists do that? Knowing how to get started is sometimes the hardest part. This class will help the budding artist develop self-confidence step-by-step in their own creativity.

Course code: 28695

Thursday 3-4:15pm 4/14-5/19

Oil Isn't Scary! Evening Painting Class 18-years-Adult \$80

Beginners are welcome to explore oils or more experienced artists are invited to take a break from their regular medium as we focus on techniques, content and building a personal style in this fun and informative non-pressure class.

Course code: 28691

Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm 4/12-5/31

Mixed Media Fun 8-12 years \$60 Join artist educator Aimee French as you discover mixed media using pro-

fessional and recycled materials to make totem poles, sculpture, panoramas and more. Art supplies provided. Course code: 28495

Tuesday 5:15-6:15 pm 4/19-5/24

Japanese Style Sumi Painting and Calligraphy 8 years-Adult \$80

Learn the delicate art of Japanese and Chinese ink and wash brush painting. Use traditional materials and learn some wonderful history in the process.

Course code: 28499

Thursday 4-5 pm 4/14-6/2

Mini Mad Science

3 - 5 years \$45+\$25 materials fee Discover the invisible power of air, create a chemistry lab, search for fossils and pretend you're out in the wild to learn about animal friends. Follow the food pyramid to a healthy body and diet, meet Mr. Bones to learn about body systems and make sense of your senses while learning about sound, taste and smell.

Course code: 28701

Tuesday 9:30-10 am 4/12-5/3

Mighty Mad Science 6 - 12 years \$80+\$25 materials fee

Discover the hidden strength of triangles, arches, and cylinders, and watch stardust burn as you investigate the life cycle of stars. Explore the world of creepy crawly creatures, slide down the pH scale and learn about ocean habitats. You'll even transform the classroom into a crime lab to see how science is used to solve real crimes!

Course code: 28702

Tuesday 4-5 pm 4/12-5/17

Intro to Drawing and Painting with Oils 12 years-Adult \$70

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

Course code: 28506

Friday 12:30-2:30 pm 4/8-5/20

Beginning Drawing 12 years-Adult \$50

A crash course for absolute beginners or those who want a brush up on their skills. Covers such basics as line, shading, rhythm and composition to create sketches or prepare for painting. No class 4/23.

Course code: 28509

Saturday 1:30-3 pm 4/9-5/21

Basic Painting 12 years-Adult \$60

Learn painting by exploring such fundamentals as color mixing, color harmony and paint application, using oils, acrylics, or watercolors. No class on 4/23.

Course code: 28512

Saturday 3:15-5:15 pm 4/9-5/21

Mailbox

Continued from page 3

Sheldon,

You hit the nail on the head with relation to your comments on the WAV project. Why would anyone ever purchase one of the "executive" condos purportedly with a view of the ocean when in actuality the view is of the cars on the freeway. Then there's the noise from the freeway and the race cars at the fairgrounds...and the occasional heavy metal concert at the fairgrounds. Who in their right mind would pay a premium for these inconveniences? Subsidized housing for struggling artists and transitional housing for the poor... maybe...but premium priced condos...I doubt it.

Murray
Ventura

Cities form partnership

Continued from page 1

to set money aside for business improvements.

It's a complicated partnership involving private business and a unique form of nonprofit management. And before it all starts, each city council must okay the idea. "According to state law," said Weir, "we have to approve the district because it's within our boundaries."

Essentially the TBID works like this. Under existing state law, the participating hotels form what Parker describes as an "owners association" which legally becomes a 501(C)6 nonprofit with a managing board. Hotel representatives will voluntarily direct the association for a period of five years. At the end of that five-year span, they can apply for renewal for an additional five years or disband the program.

More than 50 hoteliers have agreed to establish this district and assess themselves 1.5 percent of their gross revenue. The funds they collect will be used specifically for marketing hotels in Ventura, Oxnard, and Camarillo. No individual hotel owners or managers will receive any of these assessed funds. However, what the hotels hope to see is a steady rise in occupancy rates—from the current mid 60 percent rate to more than 70 percent.

Once the hotels begin their assessment, the cities will serve as the collectors and distributors of the funds. For Weir, this makes good sense. "We already have a mechanism for collecting taxes from hotels," she said. "The money will go into a fund designated for the TBID and will be distributed to the managing board."

For marketing expertise, the TBID will rely in part on help provided by the Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau, an organization funded by the "bed tax" assessed on each hotel room in Ventura. Jim Luttjohann, the Bureau's Executive Director, describes how his office will participate: "There will be multiple seats per city making up the board of directors that will govern how the funds will be managed, and one of those seats will be for the Ventura Visitors & Conventions Bureau."

For Luttjohann, the goal is to use existing marketing tools. "The conversation is not to start this from zero," he said, "but to leverage existing resources." For the Visitors Bureau, this may include providing media coverage, public relations assistance, and representation at trade shows.

It's worked in other areas like Anaheim, Monterey, Santa Barbara and San Diego. The difference here is that the TBID covers three separate cities and must be approved by each city council before it can proceed. Ventura City Council recently gave their approval. Weir and others are hopeful the other two cities involved will soon follow.

Given that many tourist-oriented cities have already successfully launched TBIDs, Luttjohann sees this partnership as an essential step in maintaining a regional foothold in the tourism and hotel industry. "This partnership is essential to remain competitive in our media buying. It's being out there and having a voice to compete. It gives me the ability to do it better."

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News and Notes



No, this is not a urine sample, it is one of the ingredients for making wine!

Should I take off my shoes?

by Sheldon Brown

I recently heard of a new local business where you can make your own wine so I thought that Diane and I would check it out.

It is called Squashed Grapes (“Your Personal Wine Making Experience”) and is located at 2351 E. Main.

So I called and made an appointment for Diane and I to go there for a “complimentary wine tasting” which is the first step to making your own wine.

When we arrived we were greeted by a very cordial young man Adam Randall, one of the owners, who took us on a tour of the establishment. He told us that he had been doing this for several years but recently opened in Ventura to be closer to home.

It is also a gift boutique and wine supply shop that sells supplies and equipment for the home wine and beer maker and carries a wide variety of wine bottles, corks, books and other wine related items and gifts.

He explained that the concept originated in Canada that has extremely high taxes on alcoholic beverage so some bright person realized that this was not selling liquor but selling grape juice so was liquor tax free (“Helping the Masses Make Tax-Free Booze since 2003!”).

Adam asked us what we would like to sample and Diane (she’s the family wino) told him we wanted to sample white wines. He brought 6-7 (or so) that he had us sample and “she” selected a Chardonnay Semillon to be our wine. He carries

over 50 different varietals

He then got a plastic bag that contained 6 gallons of the juice and we went through a simple process that will eventually turn it into wine. It doesn’t involve squashing grapes which disappointed me because I had washed my feet and it wasn’t even Saturday.

The process takes from 5 to 8 weeks depending on the wine selection which varies from “premiere selection”, “cellar classic selection” to “orchard mists selection” which also dictates the price of it. He also had us try a desert wine that would be great on ice cream (my kind of wine).

They all yield 30 bottles and the alcohol content is between 9-16%.

When the wine is ready most people have a “filling the bottles and adding the labels party” there with friends and you can bring your own food to go with the wine.

I’m not sure, do hamburgers or hot dogs go with white wine?

A fun part is that you design your own labels (or they design them for you) at no additional cost. He also rents small oak barrels if you want your wine to stay there for a longer period.

Our wine will be ready a few days before my 39th birthday so we will be having a birthday party there (I would invite you but the place is too small for the 25-30,000 readers of the Breeze).

Squashed Grapes can be reached at 643-7300 or check them out at www.squashedgrapes.com.



Downtown Ventura Farmers Market promotes healthy community living

Eat Right with Color

by Mira Reverente

The statistics speak for themselves. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 34 percent or roughly 73 million American adults are obese. Almost 32 percent of

American children are either obese or overweight. The CDC tracks obesity rates across the US and releases its findings yearly.

With that in mind, the nationwide push towards healthier lifestyles has been stronger than ever. Healthy living campaigns composed of anything from the latest exercise regimens to breakthrough diets are all over the news.

Community partnerships

Locally, the City of Ventura partnered with the Coastal Tri-County Dietetic Association and promoted March as National Nutrition Month. This year’s theme was “Eat Right with Color.”

Recently, representatives from both parties visited the Downtown Ventura Farmers Market to provide nutrition information and promote healthy community living.

At their booth, registered dietitians and interns answered questions, facilitated games with children and handed out seedlings. “We’re really excited to be here to promote this event and work hand in hand

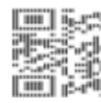
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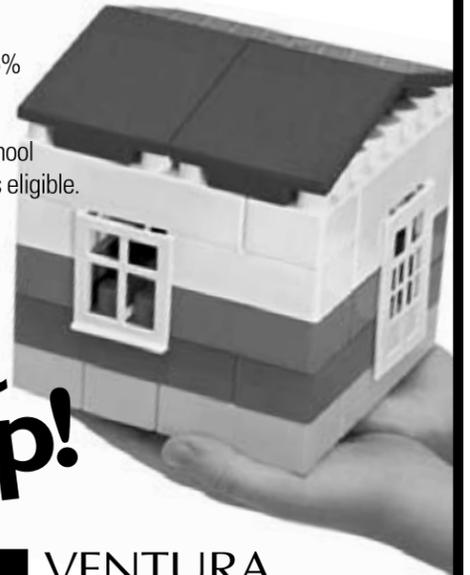
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with the city,” said Elizabeth Casparro, a registered dietitian and National Nutrition Month coordinator.

Beyond National Nutrition Month, Karen Schott, operations manager for the Ventura County Certified Farmers’ Market Association, also stressed the importance of buying seasonal fruits and vegetables. “Not only are you supporting local agriculture and strengthening the local economy, but you’re also reducing your carbon footprint,” she said.

“You know you’re also buying the freshest produce which may have been picked today or yesterday,” Schott added.

Casparro for her part stressed the concept of food miles. “By purchasing from local farmers, you know the produce did not travel thousands of miles to get to your table,” she explained.

“This is also a great time for us to jump-start our efforts in fostering an active and healthy community,” related Kelly Flanders, a representative of the City of Ventura. It is the city’s first time to partner with the Coastal Tri-County Dietetic Association.

In addition, the theme “Eat Right with Color” perfectly ties in with the recently released Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which stresses a more plant-based, among others.

Highlights of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

Shift to a more plant-based diet by choosing unprocessed seasonal fruits and vegetables; whole grains, nuts and seeds.

Increase the intake of seafood and fat-free or low-fat dairy products.

Consume moderate amounts of lean meats, poultry and eggs.

Reduce intake of food and beverages containing added sugar and solid fats.

Eliminate trans-fatty acids and increase the amount of omega-3 fatty acids in your diet.

Increase physical activity. Adults should get at least 2 ½ hours of moderate physical activity every week while children and teenagers should get an hour or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.

Art in small places

Continued from page 1
times dark, usually mysterious.

Her art springs from observing the minute details in life. “I like to live in the now and notice the small little beautiful things,” she noted. “I’m looking for the small detail in the big picture.”

She plans on attending the California College of the Arts in the Bay Area and hopes to use the scholarship money to defray some of her art costs. “Art school is very, very expensive and I’m hoping to ease my lifetime of debt,” she said with a bit of wry wit.

For Phelps, however, she knows that she was born to be an artist: “Art means the world to me. It’s the one thing I am profoundly passionate about. It’s an innate drive to create things. I need to do it. There’s nothing that can be done to stop it.”

The Tamima Al-Awar art scholarships, presented annually to artists who are high school seniors, are sponsored by two Ventura County arts organizations—Focus on the Masters and the Ventura County Arts Council. The awards for the nine scholarship winners were presented at a reception March 17 at the Ventura County Government Center.

Phelps’ award winning art is part of the current Ventura County Arts Council exhibit titled “Expressions of Our Youth” now featured at the Government Center. The show includes the art of all 24 Ventura County students who entered the competition and will be on display through April 12.



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April 16

May 21

June 18

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For Ventura Residents
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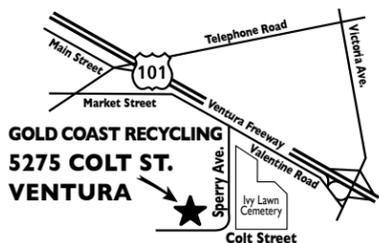


Limit of 15 gallons or
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News and Notes



Samuel Povar is just beginning to proceed with several public private ventures

Soter Point Dedication in Harbor

by Sheli Ellsworth

Samuel Povar dreams of a greater Ventura, a city that will boast its artistic talent and welcome citizens and tourists alike with its rich heritage and diverse lifestyle. One of his dreams will become a reality on April 21st at 10:00 a.m., when Soter Point is unveiled at the Harbor (Marina Park).

Soter Point is a stunning commemorative overlooking Ventura Harbor in honor of Ventura resident Andrea Soter-Simonson who passed away of ovarian cancer in June 2008 at age 48. Soter-Simonson was an executive for Morgan Stanley for 25 years and was listed as Barron's Top 100 Women Advisors in 2006 and 2007. She was also a member of the company's elite Chairman's Club, which comprised the corporation's top financial advisors. Her parents Andrew and Dolores Soter have sponsored Soter Point in her honor.

The memorial's main attraction is a 15-foot bronze mermaid fountain donated by Ventura residents Alec and Tatyana Benke. Alec Benke immigrated to the US from the Ukraine and built a successful business in Ventura and was grateful for a chance to give something back to the community he has grown to love. The Benkes came to be in possession of the three-part statue several years ago and at Povar's urging, helped erect the monument and the supporting structures. They dedicated the statue with the inscription, "From Russia with love." The land and access paving for Soter Point was provided by the city in cooperation with the Ventura City Council and the California Coastal Commission. The project is one of several public private ventures that Povar is coordinating for Ventura. Povar says, "The statue is not only a legacy to Andrea, but will become significant Harbor landmark."

The memorial's dedication plaque was written by Kate Ford and incorporates excerpts from Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Ford will also be singing at the event. Povar expects a good turnout. City officials and a local choral group have been invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and Morgan Stanley will provide refreshments.

Povar stated "These public-private ventures that honor Ventura citizens are a chance for the people of Ventura to claim it as their own."

Meet Thomas the Tank Engine™

Thomas the Tank Engine™ is pulling into Fillmore & Western Railway Co. for the Day Out With Thomas™. Leader of the Track Tour on April 8-10 & 15-17.

Join in at Central Avenue, in Fillmore between 9:50am - 2:40pm for fun, food and games.

Activities include a 25-minute (approximate) ride with Thomas the Tank Engine, an opportunity to meet Sir Topham Hat, Controller of The Railway, arts and crafts, storytelling, video viewing, live music, and bouncy houses.

A "CLAS-y" event you won't want to miss!

by Nanci Cone

The California Literary Arts Society (CLAS) Author Fair takes place Thursday, April 7, 7-9 pm at Bank of Books, 748 E. Main Street in downtown Ventura. Throughout the evening event, a dozen authors will each speak briefly about different facets of the art and business of writing. Authors will be available to meet patrons and sign books purchased at the store. All purchases that evening will be discounted by twenty percent. According to CLAS Executive Director, Kay Wolverton Ito, "This event was created to promote these authors but also to benefit CLAS which provides support to writers of all ages. A portion of the evening's proceeds will be donated in support of CLAS programs."

Featured authors and their presentation topics include:

Writing a mystery: Joan Blacher, licensed psychotherapist

Never Give Up on Your Idea: Jean Blasiar, playwright

Editing for publication: Mary Embree, editor, literary consultant, and author of The Author's Toolkit and The Birds and Bees of Words

My writing process: Melissa Lowry, M.A., teacher, education consultant, and author of Answer Keys: Teachers' Lesson Plans for Successful Parenting

Forming Surepoint Publishing, navigating without an agent: Robert Osland, retired professor, provided historical background for My Russian Family by Lilia Sariecheva

Women and science fiction: Kathy Porter, speaker and author of the award-winning Earth's Ultimate Conflict

Time management for writers: Darlene Quinn, journalist, speaker, news commentator, and author of the award-winning Webs of Power

The pros and cons of print-on-demand for self-publishing authors: Richard Robinson, retired book publisher/bookseller

Writing for the youth market: Alva Sachs, M.S.Ed., award-winning children's author

Creating a Kindle edition of your self-published book: Jason Saltoun-Ebin

Writing an inter-generational family story including historical connections: Lilia Sariecheva, Russian educator and author

Researching and writing about California history: Gerald Schiller, author of more than one hundred articles and nine books

How to get help with your book: editors for proofing, artists for illustrations, and marketing: Richard Senate.

CLAS, a nonprofit organization, exists to promote literacy, the art of writing, the joy of reading and the value of the written word. To learn more about its programs, to become involved or to make a donation, visit their website at www.literaryarts-ca.org or call 216-7395.

Crowell, Weedon & Co. Launches in Ventura



Crowell, Weedon & Co. Ventura is pleased to welcome Howard Kreutzinger, Senior Vice President & Financial Advisor, to their firm. Kreutzinger began his career in the financial services industry in Oxnard with Paine Webber (acquired by UBS in 2000) in 1991, where he served as a financial advisor for nearly 20 years until recently joining Crowell, Weedon. Kreutzinger is a Ventura County resident and is a member of the Oxnard Elks Club, and the Oxnard Masons Lodge.

With Kreutzinger on board, Crowell, Weedon is strategically positioned for long-term growth with the right management, the right focus and the financial stability to compete in today's economy.

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News and Notes



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

Dear Miss Betty,

I'm a dog lover. I have four babies: three I rescued from shelters and one I found abandoned at Pitas Point. My problem is that my latest adoptee has started a barking chain whenever he hears the slightest noise. Before long, they all start barking and I've noticed my neighbors have begun to avoid me and the same people that used to smile at me on the C Street boardwalk, now pull their dogs back and avoid eye contact.

I can't live without my pets, but I hate the idea that now my neighbors are inconvenienced. I've thought about taking them brownies and a heartfelt apology.

What would you do?

Trixie, Theo, Ralph and Baxter's Mom

Dear Doggie momma (with approval by Scamp),

This is why I am a cat person at heart. Barking breaks my concentration. However, a few rapsallions have dug their way into my heart and my backyard. This is what I recommend:

1 Have your newest dog's ears checked. Ear infections or pain can cause abnormal barking.

2 Try to identify when and why he barks. My dachshund hates people fishing on the pier.

3 It takes a while for an animal to settle down, be patient, but all dogs need to know the meaning of "No."

4 Take your newest pup to the boardwalk by itself until it gets accustomed to the environment. Then add one dog at a time until they are comfortable. And whatever you do, don't let them poop at Povar Plaza without cleaning up.

5 Teaching your dog to bark on command will also teach it that it has some control over barking behavior.

6 Bark collars work. There are several kinds, some spray citronella, some discharge a mild shock, and some emit an ultrasonic or audible

noise. Scamp's emits food smells and he can't bark while thinking about food.

7 Brownies and a heart-to-heart with your neighbors about your efforts to quiet your babies can't hurt.

Dear Miss Betty,

I work with someone who has the worst breath ever. Sometimes, I can smell it across the room! I have shared breath mints, gum, and new toothbrushes after my own dental appointments. What do I do next?

Grossed Out - Ventura

Dear Gross,

I too am grossed out ...and concerned. Causes of dragon breath include periodontal disease from poor hygiene, certain medications, tongue bacteria, sinus infections, tonsillitis and various systemic diseases. Periodontal disease is linked to diabetes, heart disease, and terminal single-pringlehood (you are going to be alone for a long time). Trying to delicately tell someone that his or her breath smells like a dumpster is a difficult thing. A box of breath mints discreetly placed by someone else on your day off might help. Or, you can send them a BadBreath OGram!

Go to <http://badbreathogram.com>...it might save someone's life.

Dear Miss Betty,

When someone is acquitted of a crime is it considered polite to celebrate? I'm innocent in Ventura

Dear innocent,

I would avoid a fancy black-tie affair, especially if your crime was one involving the disappearance of large amounts of venture capital. A nice, informal dinner with close friends at Blackbeard's BBQ, or The Greek in the Harbor would be appropriate.



DanceFusion is moving to Ventura

You need to be there to learn to dance

DanceFusion, a club that teaches a unique style of dancing to children, teens and adults is moving to Ventura. To celebrate, they are offering an entire night of free workshops in their new venue!

DanceFusion's style of dancing originated with clogging, a dance where heel and toe steps create audible percussive rhythms. Add some hip-hop music, tap shoes and house dance moves and you have a new style

of dance called "Blending."

DanceFusion's director is Crickett Ester, a choreographer and dancer who participated on the hit TV show, "America's Got Talent." Ester says, "We don't dance in a traditional dance studio because we don't fit there." Dance routines are choreographed to hip-hop or other strong, pop beats.

Ester, who has been dancing since age 5, offers a fun environment where everyone learns not only dance moves, but friendship and esteem. She has five different groups.

Ester says she is passionate about her students' lives in both the classroom and outside. "I see being a teacher as an opportunity to have a positive, healthy impact on our next generation. We are really excited to be at this location".

Their grand opening night of free workshops will be held on Thursday, April 7th, after that, weekly classes run in 12-week sessions. Tuition is only \$45 per month and allows you to unlimited hours as you wish during that month. There are never any registration fees. To reserve a space for the free workshop, visit the website www.DanceFusionCC.com, email Crickett@crickett.ester@gmail.com or call (818) 625-9195.

Over 12,000 calls in 2010

by Kris McDonald

Captain, Ventura City Fire Department

The Ventura City Fire Department responded to over 12,000 calls for service in 2010. The overwhelming majority of those responses were to provide Advanced Life Support at the scene of medical and traumatic emergencies. As with any emergency, time is of the utmost importance. A little preparation, before an emergency happens, can shave precious minutes off of an emergency scene. We would like to provide some suggestions that will help us, to help you, in the event of an emergency.

A large part of giving prompt and accurate medical care, from the home to the emergency room, is gathering detailed information about a person. This information is critical for us to quickly determine the correct course of treatment. Quite often a patient is unable to provide this information verbally, depending on the severity of their illness, injury, or condition. A simple sheet of paper with pertinent information can be kept in a convenient location within the home and provided to emergency personnel when they arrive. Anyone who may be present in the home, be it family, friend, or neighbor, should know where

this information is located. Pertinent information to be listed would be a person's name, date of birth, significant past medical history, medications (including dosage and frequency), allergies to medications, emergency contacts, your local hospital of choice, and the names of all treating physicians.

Another aspect of a timely response is being able to locate you. Have your street address numbers clearly visible on the front of your residence, as well as painted on the curb if possible. If you live in an apartment be sure that your unit number is posted on your front door. Should you be alone and unable reach the door, having an emergency means of entry for responders, such as a trusted neighbor with a spare key, is very important. When you are on the phone with a 911 dispatcher you can provide this information to them, which is then relayed immediately, and securely, to incoming responders.

The population of our city is forever growing, and demand for our services is always rising. Please help us continue to provide prompt and professional emergency care to you and your family in your time of need. Quick access and detailed information are two very important components of our emergency care.

For more information please visit us online at www.facebook.com/venturacityfire and at www.youtube.com/user/VenturaCityFD.

Community Events



C.O.L.O.R. your garden

A fundraiser will be held at My Florist Restaurant on Thursday, April 7th, between 6pm and 9pm for The C.O.L.O.R. Garden.

Meet all of the wonderful people that work in the C.O.L.O.R. Garden located on Poli in downtown Ventura. Learn how to get involved, start your own plot, or just join in.

Free appetizers, drink specials and a silent auction.

\$10 suggested donation at the door. 100% of donations and auction proceeds will go to the Community Organized for Liberty Opportunity & Respect in support of the COLOR Gardens Project, which took a blighted lot in downtown Ventura and turned it into a community garden growing food for the hungry while beautifying downtown Ventura. Since first planting less than a year ago COLOR Gardens has donated 400 pounds of produce to local food pantries including VCRA's necessities of life pantry and FOOD Share.

For more information contact John@VCcolor.org or Patrick@VCcolor.org

"Streets of OZ" free hip hop evening

Get ready for a night of Hip Hop and drama on Saturday, April 16th at 6:00 PM at Ventura High School's Main Auditorium. This live drama and hip hop dance performance is entitled the "Streets of OZ" and it will rock your world!

For those of you who remember the "Wizard of OZ" you will be blown away at the live. The "Streets of OZ" is more than a modern day version of the "Wizard of OZ". "The Streets of OZ" will move you like you have never been moved before as professional dancers and actors deliver a message that will give you hope and excitement for the future.

This performance is for the entire family. Snack Bar opens at 5:00 PM with pre-show festivities beginning at 5:30 PM.

The YMCA, Miracle Media and The River Community are proud to bring you the "Streets of OZ". Invite all your friends and family - it's free!

The "Streets of OZ" is about four everyday people going through life's struggles. Experience their journey as they seek the answer through music and dance.

For more information contact Jim Duran at 302-7711 or visit www.TheRiverCommunity.org.

Ventura events

April 7: The Next Step Public Speaking Club Toastmasters Intl #7633 holds the Theme "April Fool's day," at their next meeting at the Oxnard Public Library, 251 A St., 6:30 - 8 p.m. The meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Visitors are Welcome and it's free. For more information Call Lee at 339-9553

April 8: The acclaimed jazz group Karl Keller's "Sax And The City" will perform in concert from 8 - 10 p.m at the Fresh & Fabulous Restaurant. The lo

Continued on page 9



The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



Manuel A. Valenzuela

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

My name is Manuel A. Valenzuela and I have lived in wonderful Ventura County my entire life. I attended and graduated from Oxnard High School in 1997.

I started my career in tattoo art in 1998 shortly after opening my tattoo shop. I opened my shop Inkfatuation Tattoo and have maintained it every since. I specialize in realistic and portrait tattoos. I have tattooed “tons” of people in Ventura and have enjoyed every one that I have done. It is a very rewarding profession.

Tattooing has opened many doors for me and has given me many opportunities such as traveling all over the world tattooing and producing art and meeting some very wonderful people. Tattooing has also allowed me to help others attain their artistic desires and goals.

My shop, Inkfatuation puts on an annual art show where all of the proceeds benefit children who have very special needs who have cancer. This has probably been one of my very best accomplishments and rewarding endeavors. Aside from tattooing my interests also include basically anything related to art which is my true love. I do other forms of art and started oil painting a few years ago and love it also, I am a true artist.

I am also very much in the local car scene and love spending my free time driving and fixing up my old automobiles.

We asked him what he likes most about Ventura?

Of course the weather here is beautiful, I would not want to live

anywhere else. Anytime I'm feeling down I just go outside and look at the sun shining and take a deep breath of that ocean air and it just seems to make everything better.

The ocean is only one of the reasons I love it here so much. There is just way too much to list, the people are wonderful and plain and simply it's just the vibes and atmosphere of our entire area.

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

It was awesome and much more relaxing then I thought that it would be. I had never sat before for a portrait and Johanna just made it so enjoyable that the time went by extremely fast.

As I previously mentioned I also do a little oil painting and to increase my painting skills I have taken classes with Johanna in Ventura before my “sitting” so this was really a learning lesson for me as well, I was waiting for her to kick me out because of all the questions I was asking but she is very patient and carefully answered all of my questions.

I learned so much from my time spent there that day and not just about painting but also how professional and dedicated Johanna is. Johanna is a beautiful person and I really look up to her both as an artist and a person. She has helped me further my art in so many different ways.

Thank you Johanna and the Ventura Breeze for asking me to be part of the Face Of Ventura. I look forward to seeing all of her paintings for the entire two year project.



Captain Bill Finley
December 29, 2010



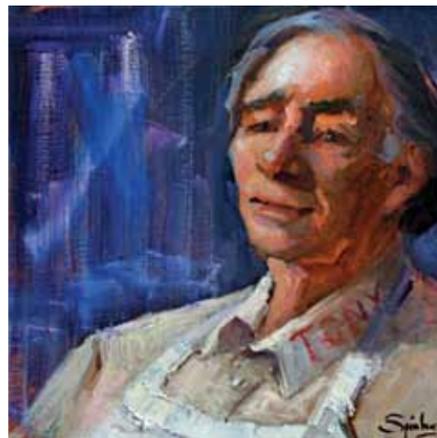
Howard Boroughs
January 12, 2011



Rachel Morris
January 26, 2011



Jolene McBee
February 9, 2011



Tony Barrios
February 23, 2011



Jerry English
March 9, 2011



Bonnie Weigel
March 23, 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.

365 Days of Drawing by Johanna Spinks

Three lovely ladies are shown at the opening, held Friday April 1 at The Vita Art Center of a solo show “365 Days of Drawing By Johanna Spinks” drawn no matter what for 365 days straight last year through stomach flu, migraines, work travel and the daily ups and downs of an artist's life, all in front of public view.

From left to right the “unknown lady”, beautiful model Kari Morales and the always lovely Johanna herself.

Photo by Bernie Goldstein



Community Events

Ventura events

Continued from page 7

cation of the the performance is at 401 South A Street on the corner of 4th at A in the historic Woolworth building in Oxnard.

April 8: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter and Sons of the American Revolution will meet and feature the program: **“Stealth International and the Local Support for the American Revolutionary War, (The Enemy of my Enemy is my Friend),”** presented by Dr. Sunny Vasquez-McMullen. A luncheon event will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Garden Room at Marie Callender’s Restaurant, 1295 S. Victoria Ave. All SAR compatriots, Revolutionary War history buffs, friends and visitors are welcome at this special free event. The self-pay luncheon cost is \$20 per person, which includes a slice of pie. Call Robert Taylor for more information at 805 216-7992, Bill Hurley 492-2583 or Ron Risley 647-0751 if you desire more information and please visit the Chapter website <http://pattonpatriots.org> for more information on SAR Chapter activities.

April 9: The Ventura Beginners Personal Computers Users Group will present an instructional and workshop **“What You Need to Know Before Buying a New Computer.”** Steve Penanhoat will lead the workshop which will be held in the 3rd floor lounge at the Cypress Place Senior Independent Living building, 1220 Cypress Place. The workshop will begin at 9:15 a.m. and the meeting at 10 a.m. For more information, call Marcie Malony at 648-1368.

April 14: The Ventura College Holistic Health & Wellness Student Club presents **The Ventura College Holistic Wellness Week & Festival.** Guest speakers will be in attendance throughout the week to guide students through holistic health-related issues, as well as professors of health education and physical education and primary advisers of the Holistic Health and Wellness Club. The festival is scheduled from 10 - 2 p.m.

Attendees will have an opportunity to hear speakers and view films among various other activities. The biggest event of the week will be on Thursday, April 14 a Health Care Fair will be set up in the campus quad from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as will a silent auction from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students will find the quad bursting with music and entertainment. This event is free and open to the public. The festival’s location is at Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Rd. For more information contact Raeann Koerner at 654-6400 or email Rkoerner@vcccd.edu

April 14: The Ventura Unit of the League of Women Voters will meet and discuss upcoming activities for the League: upcoming State Convention in Ventura, action on Canada Larga and the **Ventura Avenue Annual Meeting.** The meeting start time is 2 p.m. at the E.P. Foster Library in the Topping Room at 651 E. Main, there is free parking in the rear. For information call Nell McCombs 658-0587.

April 16: The **Ventura County Genealogical Society, Inc. (VCGS)** will be holding its regular monthly meeting Saturday, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Ventura LDS Family His-

tory Center, 3501 Loma Vista Rd. (at Mills Rd.). Before the meeting begins and during the breaks, genealogy books and supplies are available for purchase. Guests are always welcome to attend the free meeting.

The guest speaker will be Kathleen Trevena speaking about Ancestral Dollars and Cents: Occupations, Money, and Consumer Spending in Early America

For more information call Gwenda at 485-7930.

April 17: **“The Producers,”** by Mel Brooks will be playing at Cabrillo Music Theater. The brand-new production of the riotous musical is marking it’s first production exclusively in the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. Based on the classic film of the same name, which won

Mel Brooks an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, “The Producers” went to Broadway with a book by Brooks and Thomas Meehan and new songs by Brooks himself. “The Producers” tells the story of two down-on-their-luck producers who decide to make a financial killing by putting on the world’s worst musical – a show guaranteed to flop that becomes a huge success. “The Producers” opens on Friday, April 8 and plays until Sunday, April 17 at the 1,800-seat Kavli Theater at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. Thousand Oaks Civic Arts is located at 2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard in Thousand Oaks.

April 17: Health and fitness Curves of Ventura will participate in the **13th** *Continued on page 10*

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COTTONTAIL DAY

Saturday, April 16th • 10 AM - 3 PM
Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn

BRING A BASKET!

\$1 Egg Hunt starts at 11 AM

(Every 30 minutes, ages 1-7, free coloring book, while supplies last)

MEET THE COTTONTAIL BUNNY!

Face Painting 🐰 Inflatables Jumpies

Live Entertainment 🐰 Kids Scavenger Hunt

\$1 Petting Zoo 🐰 Free Children's Crafts

Crafts provided by Harbor Village Gallery, Lakeshore Learning Store, & Ventura Creates!

www.venturaharborvillage.com

Come Early for Brunch at the Harbor!

Earth Day Beach Clean-up! Saturday, April 16th at 9 AM, Surfer's Knoll Beach

* weather pending

Harbor is Hopping

Easter Sunday

April 24, Noon - 3 pm

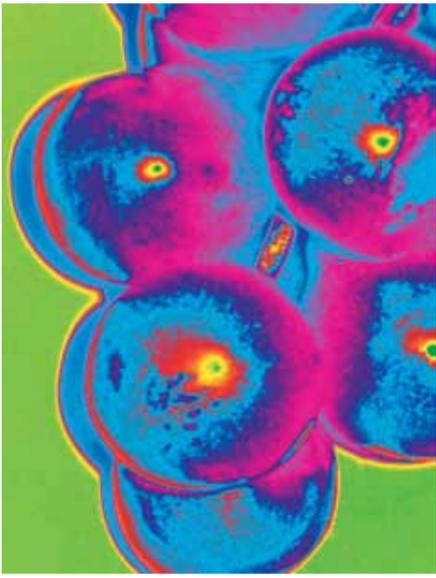
Live Music, Meet the Easter Bunny, Face Painting, Arcade & Carousel, Boat Rentals, Enjoy Brunch and Scenic Shopping Over 30 Shops & Restaurants!

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Art Scene



Lis Schwitters incorporates colorful bold graphic design elements into her body of work

“The Fermented Fruit” at the Harbor Village Gallery

Photographic Artist and Printmaker Lis J. Schwitters will present an exhibition of her latest photographic art entitled *The Fermented Fruit* at the Harbor Village Gallery from April 6 to May 16. An artist's reception will be on Friday, April 15 from 5 - 8pm.

For her *Fermented Fruit* series, Schwitters incorporates colorful bold graphic design elements into photographs, producing a body of work exploring the subject of Wine Art. Using digital capture and creation methods, she manipulates images onto limited edition fine-art photographic paper and canvases. Inspired by colorful concert T-shirts, *Día de los Muertos*, and ethnic hues, Schwitters creates psychedelic delights of powerful hypnotic energies of color. “The visual fermentation of my art creates such a powerful hypnotic trance that it engages the viewer with fruitful artistic delights, which will intoxicate and seduce them to buy my art,” notes Schwitters. Her image entitled “*The Grape Seduction*” received a Buena Ventura Art Association Merit Award from local winemaker Bruce Freeman.

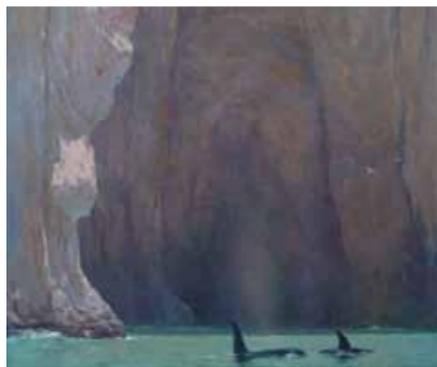
The Harbor Village Gallery is located at 1591 Spinnaker Dr. Suite 117C, Entrance # 3 in the Ventura Harbor Village. Open every day except Tuesday from 12 to 5 pm. For more information, call the gallery at 644-2750 or visit their website at www.harborvillagegallery.com. The Harbor Village Gallery is an art space of the Buena Ventura Art Association. For more information about the artist please visit www.LisJSchwitters.com.

Former students and colleagues will exhibit

Work by colleagues and former students of Carlisle Cooper, William McEnroe, Norman Kirk and Gerd Koch will honor these four master artists and legends, in an exhibit in the Museum of Ventura County's Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Pavilion, on Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10, from 11 am- 4 pm. In addition to the exhibition, there will also be painting demonstrations in the museum plaza by Norman Kirk, Debi Nowak-Hawkes, Rex Kochel and Annette Hammer. Admission is free for museum members, \$5 for the general public, and includes entry to the entire museum. To attend call 653-0323 x 315.

The two-day exhibition compliments Four Masters- Four Legends, the museum's current retrospective of paintings by Cooper, Kirk, Koch and McEnroe, four of Ventura County's most influential painters. All were involved in the seminal development of Ventura County arts organizations, and in the Ventura College Art Department, where they taught and nurtured generations of artists from the 1950s to today. The Four Masters- Four Legends exhibition ends April 24.

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 100 East Main Street in downtown Ventura, California. 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 or call 653-0323.



David Gallup is a plein air painter and teacher

An evening with David Gallup will be presented on Saturday, April 9, from 5 to 6:30 pm at the Brooks Institute Motion Picture Screening Room at 5301 N. Ventura Ave. Ventura.

David Gallup cares deeply about the environment. He creates works that exquisitely capture a sense of place. A broad color palette and multi-layered paint only partially describe the paintings. He explores nature's character in the fog, rain, glare and darkness. Gallup's work was a part of the Museum of Ventura County's exhibit celebrating the 25th anniversary of Channel Islands National Park. He is a much sought-after educator who delights in taking a boat load of artists to the Channel Islands and who encourages each student to look for the spirit of nature.

Join Donna Granata when she explores the natural art of David Gallup.

\$10 general admission - \$5 students and seniors. Free to FOTM members, Brooks Students, faculty & students under 18. Please RSVP at 653-2501 or by emailing Mary.Galbraith@FocusOnTheMasters.com.



Jack Halbert is seen with his untitled oil on canvas painting that was one of the art pieces for sale at the Ventura College Art Department's art auction held at the campus on March 25. A major fundraiser for the art department to provide scholarships for art students.

Ventura events

Continued from page 9

Annual Curves Food Drive to collect non-perishable food and cash donations to benefit their local food bank. Current members who make a \$30 donation or an equivalent donation of food are eligible to receive a Curves reusable Food Drive grocery bag. Curves will waive the membership fee for new members who donate a bag of non-perishable food or make a minimum donation of \$30. Curves of Ventura is located at 2611 E. Thompson Blvd., Ste. 105. For more information contact a Curves of Ventura staff member at 641-9600 or 9BJ1E4LK@curvesmail.com.

April 18: Zeta Chi Unit of the National Parliamentarian Association will host a lesson lead by Elizabeth Wong of Westlake Village, member of Zeta Chi Unit of the N.A.P. The Association will present the lesson on “**PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNING**” Debatability of Motions & Adoption and Use of a motion by Unanimous Consent. Zeta Chi meetings are always open to the public. Anyone who would appreciate additional and accurate knowledge about Parliamentary Procedure is welcome to attend and participate in the lesson portion of the meeting which is the first item on the Agenda. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the Topping Room of the E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main Street. There is Parking available behind the Library. For more information about the organization please contact Sandra Sanders at 643-5928 or sandy108@pacbell.net

April 20: Ventura Executive Suites hosts their monthly **Networking Mixer**. This is an opportunity to meet other local business people and new clients. This event is FREE and held to encourage the growth of locally owned businesses. Complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. The Mixer will be held from 5 - 7 p.m. VES holds mixers at least once a month and for more information call 653-2381 or write to info@venturaexecutivesuites.com

Ojai events

Sunday, **April 10** at 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen “**Rabbit Hole**,” a drama starring Nicole Kidman that centers on two parents struggling with the sudden death of their child. Kidman received an Oscar nomination for her work here. “The performances are pitch-perfect.” Duane Dudek, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Sunday, **April 17** at 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen “**Barney's Version**,” a comedy/drama with a magnificent performance by Paul Giamatti as a cynical and self-centered hustler reflecting on his life. “There is a lot of truth in Barney's Version.

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.

Sunday **April 10th**, 2011, Sergio Aragonés, Mad Magazine's premier cartoonist, will be feted by the Ojai Valley Museum with a **book signing event** promoting his newest book, *Mad's Greatest Artists: Sergio Aragonés: Five Decades of His Finest Works*. This will be the first time Aragonés' fans will have an Ojai based book signing by him!

The book signing, talk, and cartoon demonstration will take place from 2 to

4 p.m. in the back courtyard of the Ojai Valley Museum. Aragonés, who resides in Ojai, was given a Retrospective Exhibition at the museum in 2009. The April 10th event brings him back to the museum after a hiatus of several years. Mmeet him in person, collect his newest tome, and enjoy his vivacious personality. Don't miss this rare opportunity!

Aragonés's new book will be available for purchase in the Ojai Valley Museum Gift Shop,

Admission is \$4.00 for non-members and free to museum members. For further information, to make a reservation or to order a book in absentia, please call the Ojai Valley Museum at 640-1390, ext. 203.

The **27th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair** is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, **April 16 & 17**. The bustling Peddler's Fair is located inside the Chapparal Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave. Parking is free in the adjacent municipal parking lot, and admission is always free.

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

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

The Gables of Ojai, an assisted and independent living community, was the first spot in Ojai to boast having an elevator installed on May 1, 1947. The water hydraulic elevator was installed and put in service by Kimball Elevator and was the first one of its kind to be installed in the area.

The 64 year-old elevator is now being donated by the Gables of Ojai to the Ojai Valley Museum, where it will be part of a temporary display.

“Be Peaceful.” said Montessori School of Ojai (MSO) 7th grader, Cyrus Roesing, as he contemplated the main lesson he learned while preparing to participate as a delegate for the country of Bolivia in the upcoming Model Montessori United Nations (MMUN) conference this April in New York City.

Six middle school students from MSO will make the trek to NYC for the first time to participate in the annual MMUN conference to discuss issues such as Nuclear Non-proliferation, Food and Agriculture practices and Human Rights at the United Nations. The conference will welcome students and teachers from over 400 national and international Montessori schools

On April 8,9,12,13,15 from 7:30 to 9pm Meditation Mount is honored to once again host Catherine Ingram, the author of *Passionate Presence, A Crack In Everything* and *In the Footsteps of Gandhi*. Join her for any of these evenings to explore the most fierce and complex aspects of existence from the calm and simple quiet of the heart. www.catherineringram.com “Her words clearly flow out of her realization, rather than just intellectual understanding of spiritual truth.” Eckhart Tolle

On Sunday April 10th from 11am-12:30pm is a “Free Introduction To Meditation” with Diana Lang

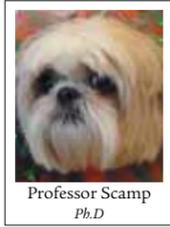
You will learn the essence of meditation and how it can be a source of personal centering and healing in your daily lives. Diana brings a fresh perspective to this ancient wisdom, creating an uplifting environment to stretch to a new level of spiritual growth.

Your generous donations are appreciated.

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

Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp
Ph.D

I've often wondered about other dogs night time sleeping habits.

Mine are always in the bedroom but vary. Sometimes I spend all night in the people's bed and sometimes

just for part of the night and then get on my bed. Or sometimes I like to sleep under the bed or just on the carpeting.

Maybe you can tell me what yours are.



I hope that there aren't any monsters under here or I might need to explain to them that this is where I hang out (Or give them a 30 day notice to vacate)

Because of Forever Friends Golden Retriever Rescue golden retrievers left at shelters are getting a second chance at finding a family willing and able to care for them. Moorpark residents Ruth Di Gregorio, Don and Linda Nahrstedt and Barbara Krohta, founded the nonprofit organization.

A police officer serving an arrest warrant on Adair Dzul shot two pit bulls in Oxnard. The officer was trying to follow Dzul, wanted for vandalism, when the two dogs confronted him. One pit bull was killed and the other wounded. Animal control officers help find medical attention for the latter.

If you care for your dogs please tie them up when the police come looking for you.

Due to diagnosis of distemper at a dog kennel near Oberlin, Kansas, the Kansas Animal Health Department quarantined the kennel twice in effort to weed out the highly contagious viral disease. Investigations began after Kansas Livestock Commissioner Bill Brown was contacted by Wyoming's state veterinarian concerning the illness. When the quarantined dogs wouldn't sell, the kennel's owner could no longer afford upkeep. About 1, 200 dogs were euthanized, it was in the end the only way to prevent the spread of distemper to other dogs.

Sometimes I have a bad temper myself!

hope that It's not contagious.

Guide Dogs of America is boarding and training puppies for a life of aid to visually impaired persons. Contact Louise Henderson at (818)833-6441 or LHenderson@guidedogsofamerica.org. Go to <http://www.guidedogsofamerica.com> and click on programs to apply.

This is a wonderful thing for us dogs to do. I wonder if sheep dogs could this (oh, they really can see?)

A 12-pound Manchester terrier aboard a US Airways flight to Phoenix broke out of its cage and bit a passenger and flight attendant. The dog, named Mandy, was accompanying an 89-year-old New Jersey resident in an approved carrier on Flight 522 from Newark. The pilot stopped in Pittsburg, and Mandy and her owner caught a different flight to Phoenix.

Maybe the dog always wanted to visit Pittsburgh and this was the only way that he could get there. Just imagine what he would have done if he wanted to visit Paris.

A Rhodesian Ridgeback in Germany was spayed ten weeks after giving birth to 17 puppies. Labor lasted an exhausting 26 hours for the mother, called Etana, and owner Ramona Wegemann fears another pregnancy would be detrimental to the dog's health.

Wow, 17 puppies at at least \$500 wholesale each is \$8,500. Not bad pay if the dog gets to keep half of it for all that hard work which is almost \$165 per hour. That's much more than I get for writing my column.

I am going to ask for a raise from my cheapskate publisher.

When it comes to finding and destroying land mines, Colombian authorities have more faith in rats than they do in dogs. Antinarcotics police have begun dispatching rats to sniff out land mines planted by drug traffickers and leftist rebels in remote areas of the country. With sugar as the incentive, the rats have been trained by scientists to detect mines hidden up to three feet deep. Rats are small and light enough that they don't detonate explosives sometimes baffling bomb-sniffing dogs. And rats are more cost-effective than canines: Maintaining seven rats totals one tenth of the money needed to maintain one bomb-sniffing dog.

It would probably be only half the savings of feeding me. But there is no way that I am going to look for anything if I can't eat it.

Erin Go Woof! St. Patrick's Day Parade 2011

These are some of my new friends that I met at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The aren't official ScampClub members but if their humans send me information about them they could be and even have a bigger photo in the Breeze.

Just email me at Scampclub@venturabreeze.com.



Join Scamp Club

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

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Child Annoyance

On Tuesday, March 15th, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., VPD responded to two separate calls of child annoyance. On both calls, the female juvenile victims were walking on the sidewalk when the suspect approached them.

During the first incident, the suspect, a male between the ages of 18-19, reached under the victims dress and touched her underwear. On the second incident, the suspect walked up behind the victim and grabbed her buttocks.

During both incidents as the suspect approached the victims he was speaking on a cell phone. The suspect never spoke to either of the victims and was last seen running away from the scene of the crime.

Injured Fall Victim

On Friday, March 18th, at 1:05 a.m., Breana Lazcano, 23 years old, was leaving the downtown area after celebrating the Saint Patrick's holiday with a group of friends. Lazcano was about to enter a

parked vehicle on the third level of the Santa Clara parking structure when she unexpectedly decided to climb over the concrete retaining wall and hang from outer ledge. Lazcano lost her grip and fell 40', landing on the sidewalk below.

Lazcano sustained moderate, non-life threatening injuries as a result of the fall and was transported to the VCMC. She is currently listed in stable condition.

Sales and Possession of Marijuana

A search warrant was served at the 15000 block of Ojai Road in Santa Paula and in Ventura for ongoing sales of marijuana. Two pounds of marijuana was found in Santa Paula along with additional evidence that indicated the suspect has been actively selling the marijuana. Stolen property was also located.

The two pounds of marijuana was located in the house alongside the suspect's four-year old child's bedding and toys. The suspect was also booked on the charge of child endangerment.

At the 1500 block of Goodyear Av-

enue in Ventura, it was discovered that the suspects' business was located near a youth sports training facility. The suspects had been actively selling the marijuana illegally to dispensaries outside of Ventura County and to private individuals who were not medical marijuana patients.

At the conclusion of the investigation, all three suspects, Jesse Crockett, Keith Fuller, and Herb Mitchell were booked into VC Jail.

Suicidal Jumper

On Friday, March 18th, at 6:28 p.m., the VPD received a call of a possible suicidal male threatening to jump off the California Street overpass onto the 101 freeway. Officers saw the male laying on a platform that was attached to a large freeway directional sign along the north side of the California Street overpass. The male told the officer he was suicidal and wanted to jump onto the freeway.

California Highway Patrol and other Ventura Police officers stopped or divert-

ed traffic. Officer Tank Sears convinced the male into staying in the prone position on the platform until the Ventura Fire Department was able to raise a ladder from the freeway below. The suspect was taken into custody for a mental evaluation and logged into the Ventura Behavioral Health Center.

Structure Fire

On Friday, March 18th, Fire and EMS personnel responding to a report of a growing fire in a residential kitchen in the 5500 block of La Fayette Street. An elderly female resident was the only one home at the time of the fire and was able to get out of the house uninjured. When the resident discovered the fire, she exited the home and went to nearby neighbors only to find no one at home. She activated her medical alarm pendant to summon help. VC Fire Fighters prevented the fire from growing more serious. The fire was accidentally started by hot oil left unattended on a cook top. The elderly resident did not require any further medical attention.



Cypress Place Senior Living



Cypress Place is designed for resident comfort and convenience. Two communities, Active Senior Living and Assisted Living & Memory Care, are located on one senior living campus. Come see why Cypress Place is the place Ventura area seniors call home. It's time for you to enjoy the life you deserve. Call to schedule a complimentary lunch and tour.

Senior Living

The Senior Cone-nection

The Ukelele Kid

by Nanci Cone

Ron "Ukelele" Hargrave is back and he wants to the world to know it! Ron spent almost a decade in a wheelchair because of back problems and a faulty heart but, with a little help from the right doctor and therapist, he's back in action performing for admiring crowds.

The child of Vaudeville parents, Ron was born in New York 10 days after the stock market crash in 1929. They moved to California in the 1930s and Ron grew up in Hollywood where he surfed and played guitar while attending school. As a teen, he appeared in a few "Our Gang" films and became a boxer though he had to use his older brother's name since he was underage.

After graduating from high school, he performed as an actor and stuntman until he was drafted into the army in 1953 where he entertained the troops with his guitar playing and singing. "Performing for the soldiers was great," says Ron. "Even though they were a 'captive' audience, they were really appreciative."

Ron adds, "While in Special Services at Fort Ord, I met Lou Costello's daughter and she arranged to have Abbott and Costello do a show for the troops. I was on that same bill with them and Lou told me to come visit him after I got out of the service since he liked what I did." In 1955 Ron followed up on that invitation and

Lou signed him to a managerial contract. Lou set him up with a gig on the Dorsey Brothers Stage Show and even bought him a tuxedo for his debut.

After that Ron wrote and recorded some of his songs at the MGM Studios and was introduced to Jerry Lee Lewis while he was the #1 singer in the country. Jerry recorded Ron's song "High School Confidential" in the movie of the same name. The two of them toured the country together and then Jerry went on to England while Ron returned to L.A. to continue recording, this time with Capital Records. "I recorded a song called 'Lonely Soldier Boy' that was released on Toshiba Records in Japan where it became a huge hit so I toured there for a glorious three months," he notes.

"Eventually, I started a comedy act called Norman and Hart. My partner ended up on the Phil Silvers Show so I continued with my own acting career where I was in dozens of TV shows and movies with some of the top stars," he goes on to say.

Eventually Ron founded a group called "The New Banjo Minstrels," that consisted of three banjos and a tuba - an unusual sound that kept them performing. During that time his back went out so he returned to the instrument of his childhood, the ukulele, since it was easy to play while he was in his wheelchair.

Today, Ron has a music video and a brand new CD for sale. To learn more about Ron and how to order his recordings, visit him at www.Ronhargravemusic.com.

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At the recently held "Seniors Gone Wired", at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura attendees received a hi-tech education. The event offered a broad range of topics and interactive workshops in an atmosphere set up exclusively for seniors. Over 300 people, including residents of the community, were in attendance. A fine lunch was served.

"The turnout was amazing, more than we ever expected," said Mike Macke, marketing director at Cypress Place. "I think it shows the deep desire of seniors to keep up with technological advancements."

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This 'n' That

The nation's largest health day for families

On Saturday, April 16, the Ventura Family YMCA is encouraging all kids and parents in Ventura County to come to the Y for a play date and commit to being active every day. It's all part of the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day™ – the nation's largest health day for families. The free event will take place at the Ventura Family YMCA from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. where families can enjoy a free lunch, meet local vendors and explore a real fire truck.

As a leading nonprofit strengthening community through healthy living, the Y holds Healthy Kids Day to teach healthy habits to kids and inspire a lifetime love of physical activity.

"At the Ventura Family YMCA, we know that parents struggle to find the time to incorporate more active play and healthier habits into their kids' daily routine," says Jacob Munyon, Child Care Director at the Ventura Family YMCA

As part of Healthy Kids Day, the Y encourages families to make play dates everyday as a simple way to become healthier, more active and connected.

Families can even be part of a live audience for the YMCA After The Bell Program's filming of the Catie and Katie Show. Filming will start at 10 a.m. and will be running in 15 minute segments so people can participate in different parts of the show.

For more information on joining, giving or volunteering at the Y, contact the Ventura Family YMCA at 642-2131, or visit ciymca.org/ventura for more information.

Photo contest



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

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

Our last photo contest winners were Louie and Vanessa from Ventura who said.

"Hope no one else has come up with the answer...is the photo in the Breeze a brick photo of the side of Jonathon's Restaurant at the end of Main St.?"

They selected Yolie's Fresh Mex Grill for their \$30 gift certificate.

We have such wonderful informed Ventura readers that when we asked which one of them knew the answer we got this response.

"The answer was actually brought to you by Louie Jimenez, a Ventura local who grew up going to Holy

Cross School and seeing the brick work on the side of that building every school day. Today his trade is bricklaying and he is a member of the Local 4 Masonry Union. We saw the picture and he knew right away where it was and that it is a possible example of English or German style brick pattern.

"We were eating dinner and like always grabbed a copy of the Breeze while we waited for our food. We saw the picture and Louie knew exactly where the picture was taken....I (Vanessa) thought it was from the Watermark!"

"We love the paper and Ventura and were very excited to hear we had the right answer!! The fact that he won a gift certificate is icing on the cake. Who knows maybe we will be at Yolie's reading the Breeze and guessing at another photo contest!! Thank you, Louie and Vanessa"

providing 25 years of better hearing | reason #2



My grandson tells the best jokes.

In our 25 years of hearing care, we've heard a lot of reasons why our patients' lives were changed by wearing hearing aids. And now we're sharing them with you, because we think that just like our past patients, once you find a hearing solution that is right for you, your life will only get better. To hear all of our stories, visit us at our stores, online, or on one of the many social outlets we take part in. See you soon!

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805.626.3128



Find us online!



B&G kids are thrilled that the new thrift store will provide funds for their wonderful programs

Buying good stuff for a wonderful cause

From April 1 to April 3 the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura held their grand opening and ribbon cutting for their new thrift store located at 222 Ventura Ave. just off of Main.

The three-day celebration included the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and other Ventura dignitaries.

The opening also offered food, a fashion show by the young ones, guests

and staff members, music and face painting.

The new thrift and vintage store has a wonderful assortment of clothes, toys and other good stuff.

The thrift shop is open seven days a week from 10-5pm. To make a donation or schedule a pick up call 655-5750 24 hours a day.

And do say you heard about them in the Ventura Breeze.



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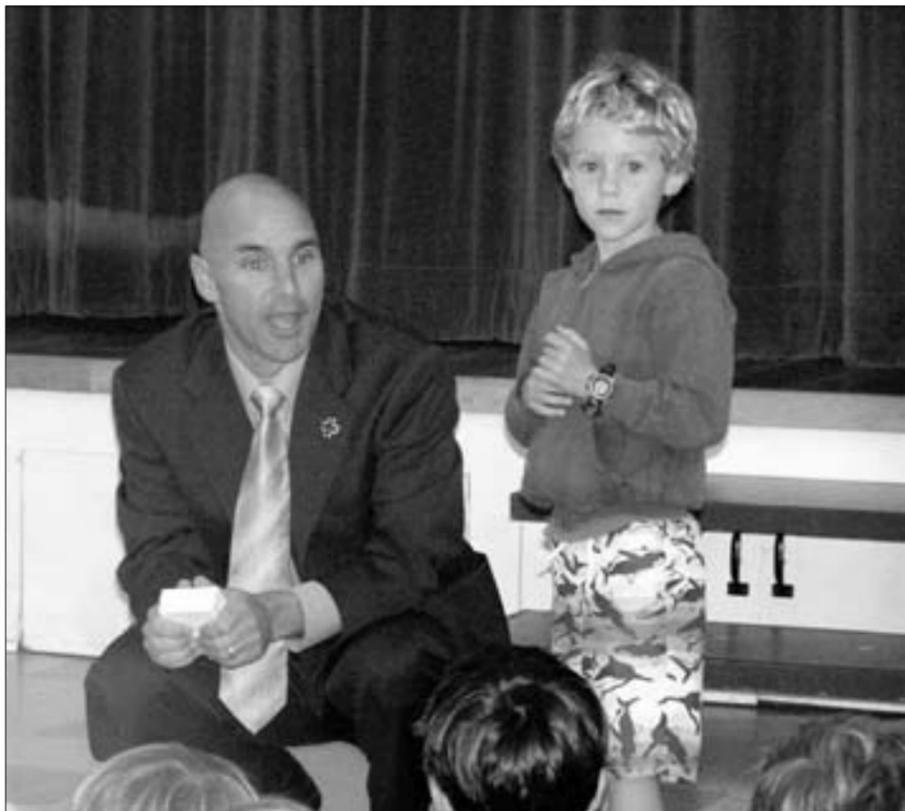
Cheri Kurman & Jim Duran
Podcasts at iTunes or greymatters.podomatic.com

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NEWS TALK 1520 KVTA

School



Jim McGee thanking Sean and his friends for raising money for the American Red Cross to aid the tsunami victims

We had a bake sale to raise money to give to the Red Cross

Narrated by Sean to his mom

My name is Sean Reed, I am six years old and in the first grade at Pierpont Elementary School.

On Friday, March 11th we didn't have school because there was a tsunami warning due to an earthquake in Japan. We have tsunami drills at my school so I know all about what can happen. That morning my mom and I went up on the hill behind City Hall to watch for any big waves. Everything was OK in Ventura but it wasn't OK in Japan. I was really, really upset seeing all of those houses being destroyed. So I asked my mom what we could do to help. She suggested that we have a bake sale to raise money to give to the Red Cross. So we did! My friends helped me get everything organized and donated and tested lots of the cookies. We had tons of peo-

ple stop by. We made over \$600 in three hours! The Executive Director of the Red Cross gave me an award at my school and my parents and my grandparents were there cheering. I gave him the money and a card that me and my friends made to send to Japan. I think helping people is a good idea and it is easy to do.

Jim McGee, CEO American Red Cross Ventura County told me that "I am always humbled by the fact that children are genuinely concerned about the well-being of strangers that have been affected by tragedy, and that they rally to provide comfort and hope in any way possible. Sean is a perfect representation of this - a true hero. On behalf of American Red Cross Ventura County, thank you Sean and friends!"

Join in for a fun, inspiring day at the annual Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest

Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education, in cooperation with the City of Ventura, is presenting Earth Day Eco Fest to be held at Ventura's Seaside Promenade Park on Saturday, April 16, from 10am to 5pm. Earth Day is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment and teach people about sustainable lifestyles. Over 70 green-minded exhibitors and vendors, plus the more than 7,000 people are projected to attend this fun day of entertainment and education. Meet live raptors, join a free yoga class, dig in worm bins, shake it with the belly dancers, get your face painted, or just find a comfy place on the lawn to see the celebration unfold.

"Our goal was to make this family-friendly event the most fun, interactive, and entertaining Earth Day festival in the tri-county area," says Toni Guy, festival chair. "After people leave this event, we want them to feel that they were both entertained and informed, as well as being a bit sore and tired...but in a healthy way!" she added.

A full line up of activities and entertainment starts at 11am, continuing through the day until 5pm, featuring a free yoga class, interactive hula hooping, modern and classical dance performances, martial arts demonstrations, belly dancing, gymnastics, and more dance and music. Complete de-

tails of the day's events can be found at www.venturaearthday.org.

A talented group of local artists from WAV (Working Artists of Ventura) have conceptualized and will organize an amazing recycled art and crafts project for both young and old to create at the event, and take home as a memento.

Raffles and a silent auction will also be held throughout the day, with over 30 prizes worth over \$6,000. Win a stay-vacation at the beachfront Ventura Crowne Plaza or the Pierpont Inn, a \$350 comfort and energy analysis for your home, valuable merchandise, or a membership to a local fitness center.

A fun, free scavenger hunt in cooperation with the event's vendors will teach kids about how to save the earth.

This, the 4th annual Earth Day event organized by the Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education, is completely volunteer run by parents and families of the school. It is the school's largest annual fundraising event, with all profits going to help pay for enrichment programs at the school.

The fully-accredited Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education was formed in spring of 2006, when it was granted a charter by the Ventura County Board of Education. The school's charter was then renewed by the board earlier this year. Join the school's children, families, and friends for a fun, inspiring day at the annual Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest.

April 16: Mound Elementary School presents Spring Rummage/Bake Sale and Carwash from 7am-2pm at 455 S. Hill Rd. Car wash tickets are \$10.00



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Sports

Winslow found guilty

by Sheli Ellsworth

On March 22, former Ventura College basketball coach Greg Winslow was found guilty on three of the seven felony counts he was charged with. Winslow, accused of taking private donations intended for the men's basketball program, was convicted of misappropriation of public funds, failure to pay public funds, and grand theft. He was found not guilty of identification theft, embezzlement, forgery, and dissuading a witness.

Winslow is facing up to five years and four months in prison according to prosecutor Karen Wold. Ron Bamieh, Winslow's attorney claims it is unlikely Winslow will not go to prison. Winslow testified that his own private out of pocket expenses for the basketball program totaled in the thousands and that the most of the monies he collected were earmarked for special team projects.

Winslow claims the college never even asked him about the funds. He was placed on administrative leave and then later resigned along with co-athletic director Nancy Fredrickson. The Ventura College basketball program came under fire when they were investigated for offering out-of-state players in-state tuition fees. The team eventually forfeited six men's basketball titles and Dean of the Athletic Department, Steve Tobias was forced to retire.

Winslow will be sentenced on May 20th, according to his attorney.

ing will follow at 6:30 p.m., with Little Texas taking the stage at 8:30 p.m.

For more information please visit www.golddustgala.org. Tickets and sponsorship packages may be purchased online at www.golddustgala.org or call the Foundation office at 667-2881.

Proceeds from the Gold Dust Gala are used for breast cancer detection and treatment, cervical cancer screening and vaccines, and needed diagnostic equipment benefitting women in our community who lack access to life-saving exams.

In 2010, CMHS's Healthy Women's Program also sponsored five free public breast cancer screening days that assisted 154 women. Also, last year, 127 women received breast cancer treatments ranging from mammography exams to biopsies and surgical interventions.



Venturan killed in hit and run accident behind Foster Library

Former owner of the Top Hat arrested in connection with fatal accident

On Sunday, April 3 the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call Police received a call about 6:45 a.m, from a passerby, of a subject down in the alley west of Fir St. behind the EP Foster Library. Officers arrived on the scene and located a 24-year-old male face down in the alley. according to Detective Sgt. Rick Murray.

The victim was identified as Ryan Tremearme, 24 yrs of Ventura. Tremearme had severe trauma to his head and body. Officers summoned medical aid for the victim who was pronounced dead at the scene.

The preliminary investigation indicated that the victim was a pedestrian and was struck by a motor vehicle in or near the alley west of Fir St. The victim suffered fatal injuries due to the traffic collision. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene prior to police arrival and failed to report the collision.

The Ventura Police Department has made an arrest in this incident. During the course of the investigation it was learned that Robert Jack Bell, 36 years of Ventura was driving the vehicle that caused the death of the victim. It was determined that alcohol was involved in this incident.

Bell was the former owner of the Top Hat Burger Palace in downtown Ventura which has been closed since the property owner forced the Top Hat to close. Police would not say how Bell came to be a suspect.

He has been booked on suspicion of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident, both are felonies.

If anyone has further information about this collision they are urged to contact the Ventura Police Department or Crime Stoppers.

Health

CMH helping the community

Pain management and fibromyalgia – a type of arthritis which includes widespread muscle and joint discomfort – will be the focus of a free seminar the Community Memorial Health System is holding on Tuesday, April 12.

Dr. Nelly K. Mac, a Ventura anesthesiologist, will lead the seminar that will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in Community Memorial Hospital's eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium.

Dr. Mac will discuss symptoms of fibromyalgia, which can also include fatigue, depression and social isolation, as well as diagnostic and treatment options. They include pharmacotherapy and non-pharmacologic care.

Dr. Mac received her medical degree from the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, Philippines and is an active member of the Community Memorial Hospital staff.

Admission is free, but space is limited, so reservations are suggested. Call 652-5436, or visit www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp.

Community Memorial Hospital is located at 147 N. Brent St. in Ventura.

Little Texas, "America's Favorite Rockin' Country Band," will headline the 21st annual Gold Dust Gala at Ventura County Fairgrounds in the San Miguel Hall on Saturday, April 16.

Sponsored by the Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation, the gala begins at 6 p.m. with cocktails, a silent auction, raffle and tribute tree where you can honor a loved one. A dinner featuring a variety of fine Italian cuisine and danc-

VENTURA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 1, 2 pm

Chris Botti & friends

Ventura College - West Athletic Field
4667 Telegraph Rd., Ventura
\$45~\$30

Ventura Music Festival hosts an afternoon concert on the College Green with "Chris Botti and Friends"...a master of tone and elegance, Chris Botti has performed with the best artists in music. His "Friends" include such performers as Grammy winning pianist Bily Childs. This is a show for Jazz fans and anyone who enjoys listening to top musicians on a spring day in the perfect location for a picnic, friends...and a great time. Order tickets online now....or call for info!

tel: 805.648.3146
www.venturamusicfestival.org



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VENTURA MUSIC FESTIVAL
Nuvi Mehta Artistic Director

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
H	I	A	M	S	H	A	T	E	
S	J	R	N	A	V	I	U	Y	
H	I	A	M	S	H	A	T	E	
S	J	R	N	A	V	I	U	Y	
H	I	A	M	S	H	A	T	E	
S	J	R	N	A	V	I	U	Y	
H	I	A	M	S	H	A	T	E	
S	J	R	N	A	V	I	U	Y	
H	I	A	M	S	H	A	T	E	

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Ventura Police K9 Storefront Opening

– at Pacific View Mall –

April 16, 2011 • Free!
11 am – 5 pm
3301 E. Main St., Ventura
Ground floor near Target

- Meet the Dogs
- Meet the Officers
- See Live Demos




www.venturapd.org

Show Time

Where The Music Flows

Army Of Freshmen

by Michael Kohli

Army Of Freshmen have quite a busy schedule this month. Our Ventura locals, are getting to embark on another UK tour. As of this writing, they are doing a gig at Bombay Bar & Grill and premiered their new music video for, "Body Parts," at the Ventura County Museum. The Ventura Film Society also premiered the video after their movie screening of, "No One Knows About Persian Cats" shown on Tuesday. A portion of the proceeds went to help AOF on their UK tour.

The band will kick off their UK tour on April 15th in France. Other stops will include, Folkestone, Southampton, Leeds, Manchester, London, Belgium, and Netherlands. Check out the bands, latest EP online, "Close Encounter." check out their website: Armyoffreshmen.com for more info! Last month in March, a movie soundtrack to the film, "Adventures of a Teenage Dragonslayer" was released to iTunes featuring one new song called, "I'm a Teenage Dragonslayer" and fan favorite, "10,000 Years!" Hopefully, the band will keep us posted on their site or Facebook pages!

Birdfeeder will perform a special show at Buffalo Records for Record Store Day on April 16. This tradition began in 2007 in which local indie records all across the country do one special day. Either in sales, or in-store performances. Pep Talk will also join Birdfeeder for the in-store show as well. Birdfeeder has some other tour dates coming up; April 8th (Sanctuary, Santa Monica), April 13th (Soho, Santa Barbara) and in Isle Vista on April 22.

Rock/Pop Music News: AC/DC is about to release another live DVD titled, "Live at River Plate," which was filmed in Buenos Aires. Check out the band's trailer on YouTube. Their most recent album, "Black Ice," from 2008 has sold over 6 million copies worldwide -- and that's with a band that still refuses to release their songs online. AC/DC prefers to sell their albums the old fashioned way, "buy the album," instead of buying just a song or two. However, the fans that hunger AC/DC don't seem to mind. 6 million copies, and still selling strong! "Black Ice" was also the 2nd top selling album of 2008 behind Coldplay's Viva La Diva or Death And All His Friends."

There has been a word rage war fueling between Glee creator Ryan Murphy and Kings Of Leon. Foo Fighters and Slash have also spoken against the show's creator, in ways claiming Ryan Murphy's demand to use their songs on the show. However, this week, Elton John spoke about the feud between Kings Of Leon and Ryan on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon. He told the boys in Kings of Leon to "lighten up," saying that it's a huge compliment when a show wants to do your song. And commented that even if he hears his songs on Muzak while riding up an elevator, it's a compliment. What do you think? Should these bands just see what Glee can do with their music or should Ryan Murphy let it go? Email me at VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com on what you think.

Thank you for reading...hope you enjoyed the words!
--Michael Kohli

Kohli Rocks Entertainment
http://www.kohlismusicpit.com
PS: I'm in the midst of planning my first band-booking-variety showcase titled, "Rock 'N Holla." This party will require Pimp 'N Ho attire (including the bands and dancers performing!) Stay tuned here for venue/date info!

Music Calendar 4/6 to 4/19

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

Andre's Wine Bar
1575 Spinnaker Dr. 805-642-9463
Live Music every Tue., Fri. & Sat.

Blackbeards Seaside BBQ
1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115 805-650-7773
Karaoke every Wed. 6-9pm
Fri. 4/8: The Preachers 6pm-10pm
Sat. 4/9: Fish Fry 6-10pm
Sun. 4/10: Blue Stew 2-6pm
Thur. 4/14: Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm
Fri. 4/15: Alastair Greene Band 6-10pm
Sat. 4/16: Bar Stool Pigeons 6-10pm
Sun. 4/17: Blue Stew 2-6pm

Bombay's Bar & Grill
143 S. California St. 805-643-4404
Afternoon Concerts every Sun. 4pm
All Star Blues Night every Wed. 8pm
Live Bands every Thur., Fri. & Sat.
Thur. 4/7: Forgotten Science
Fri. 4/8: Seedless, Divine Crime
Sat. 4/9: The Real Deal Band
Sun. 4/10: Shoemaker Brothers
Thur. 4/15: Carlism
Fri. 4/16: Ska Daddyz, Soulfajih
Sat. 4/17: Hindsight
Sun. 4/18: House Arrest

Cafe Fiore
66 California St. 805-653-1266
DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri. & Sat.
Wed. 4/6: Orlando & Napier
Thur. 4/7: Coso Live
Fri. 4/8: Copy Cats
Sat. 4/9: Copy Cats
Tue. 4/12: Sonido Moreno
Wed. 4/13: Big Adventure
Thur. 4/14: Bongo Town
Fri. 4/14: TBA
Sat. 4/16: Helicopter
Sun. 4/17: Del Franklin

GiGi's Cocktail Lounge
2493 Grand Ave. 805-642-2411
Karaoke, Steve Luke, Sun. 7pm & Wed. 8pm
Fri 4/8: What the Funk 9pm
Sat 4/9: The Brian Faith Band 9pm
Fri 4/15: Kosmic Haze 9pm
Sat 4/16: Agents of Kaos 9pm

It's All Good Bar & Grill
533 E. Main St. 805-641-9951
Open Mike Night every Wed.
Sat. 4/16: Babylon Saints 9pm

Majestic Theater
26 S. Chestnut St. 805-653-0118
Fri. 4/8: The Delight Festival
Sat. 4/9: Talib Kweli, Shoddy Cons, LG and Unwritten, Fashawn
Tue. 4/19: Broken Social Scene

W2O Rooftop Lounge
598 E. Main St. 805-643-6800
Friday Dance Party every Fri. 9pm
Fri. 4/8: LA Soul Project
Sat. 4/9: The Bomb

Zoey's Café
185 E. Santa Clara St. 805-652-1137
Songwriter's round every Wed. 8pm
Wed. 4/6: Koffin Kats 8pm
Thur. 4/7: Jason Reeves, Lee Koch 7:30pm
Fri. 4/8: The Milk Carton Kids, Joey Ryan & Kenneth Pattengale 7:30pm
Sat. 4/9: Jim Bianco & Band, Northstar 8pm
Sun. 4/10: Afternoon Jazz with Paul McCallum, Paul Weitz and special guest 1pm
Tue. 4/12: Blue Grass Jam 6pm
Thur. 4/14: Kenny White 8pm
Fri. 4/15: Mia Raining Jane, Shane Alexander 8pm

Two on the Aisle

Ladies Present Laughs in Ojai

By Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

Neil Simon is one of America's most prolific playwrights. In the 1960s he penned The Odd Couple, a smash hit comedy about the tribulations experienced by two guys, one a neatnik and the other a slob, trying live under the same roof with conflicting lifestyles.

Not content with the success of the original script, Simon went on to not only update the play, but in 1985 he released a female version to accommodate the other side of the acting world. The Ojai Art Center Theater is presenting the female version of The Odd Couple through April 23.

Although the story line is inherently funnier from the male perspective, the female version of The Odd Couple still plays fairly well. A woman who obsessively cleans and cooks just doesn't have the same humor power as a man who does the same. When the play was first presented, a man with those qualities was a true anomaly - an element that has been reworked so many times over the years that the character has become a sitcom staple.

Simon's expertise with word craft sells the situation more than the situation itself. Many of the original lines were retained intact, as are several of the characters. In an effort to make the plot mesh for the ladies, the weekly poker game becomes competitive Trivial Pursuit. The dialogue is tight and fast-paced.

The Ojai Art Center Theater's production is superbly directed by Susan Kelejian. Many theater neophytes assume Simon is easy. Not so. Comedy is hard. Good comedy is harder. Kelejian uses a variety of techniques to bring out the best in her cast, many of which worked very well. She employs great creativity in an effort to bring some sparkle to the material.

The leads, Olive and Florence, played by Jenna Scanlon and Toni Pineau respectively, are solid throughout. Scanlon carries the brunt of the load with confidence and swagger as the sports enthusiast with a casual attitude toward both clothing and cleanliness. Pineau provides contrast in appearance and bearing, wearing shirt-waist, pearls and starched apron.

The cast is rounded out by Laura Ring, Marisa Miculian, Virginia Streat and Carol Garramone as the "girls" who gather for the weekly trivia game. Nelson Fox and Ashley James Johnson play brothers from next door. All actors seem to be giving their all to the production with varied effectiveness.

The audience on the night we attended appeared thoroughly entertained throughout. In a directorial coup, some of the production's highlights were in the scene changes, effected by the game players in matching aprons, dancing up a storm as they cleaned. It was obvious the girls were having a blast and the audience easily caught the enthusiasm.

The Odd Couple stands the test of time whether in the original or gender-twist version. Simon is one funny guy. Three play versions, a film and two sitcom incarnations (as well as reruns on TV Land) of The Odd Couple prove that. So, when you go, be prepared to laugh.

The Odd Couple, Female Version, plays through April 23 at the Ojai Art Center Theater. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and \$15 for seniors. Reservations are taken at 640-8797 or www.OjaiACT.org.

The Entertainment Report

Movie reviews

by Linde Carlson

The Lincoln Lawyer



This week's pick is The Lincoln Lawyer, starring the handsome Texan Mathew McConaughey and the always nurturing and brilliant, Marisa Tomei, and Willian H. Macy. Directed by Brad Furman. In this big screen adaptation of Michael Connelly's best-selling novel about struggling lawyer Mick Haller, this tightly paced, courtroom drama has all the makings of an Oscar nod for 2012.

Hallar, has the daunting task of defending a young, rich, Louis Roulett played by Ryan Phillippe, who in his gut knows he's guilty. Sinister and unyielding, Louis Roulette thinks he's playing Mick for a fool, when all along Mick knows he's caught him in a choke hold of lies. The movie takes on an unexpected turn, and the focus turns to mommy. Personally, I didn't think it was predictable, as some diametrically opposed movie goers think.

Captivating, thrilling, charming and quick witted, a stellar performance by McConaughey; clearly one of his best films in years.

119 minutes Rated R

Hall Pass



My second pick is Hall Pass. Starring Owen Wilson, Jason Sudeikis, Christina Applegate and rising star Jenna Fisher from the "Office". Directed by the Farrelly Brothers, Hall Pass is a comedy about two husbands who are given a one week pass to entertain their fantasies in a vacation from marriage. The wives have their fair share of freedom, and start questioning their own feelings when they begin flirting with danger themselves.

There is not as much physical comedy as the ever popular Dumb and Dumber, but the raunchiness met with quick witted dialogue kept this fast movie comedy entertaining all the way through. Hall Pass has so many cleverly written and directed scenes to keep you interested, coupled with the silliness, that frankly speaking it was a light-hearted comedy that has been under rated. We all need to have a good time, and that's what it offered.

There is a moral to this story. Never under estimate who you have waiting for you at home, because going after your fantasies isn't always what it's cracked up to be. This movie gives new meaning to a vacation from marriage.

105 minutes Rated R

Green Business Ventura Expo

The 2nd Green Business Ventura Expo will be held at Working Artists Ventura (WAV) located at 175 S. Ventura Ave. on Saturday, April 23rd from 10am to 5pm.

There will be on-going presentations, demonstrations, eco-friendly food and drink sampling, prize raffles, and live music. \$5 general admission at the Expo.

More info on the WAV can be found at www.wavartists.com.

For Expo media, vendor, and general information please contact: Kendra Gonzales 628-3198 or email: earthworks_works@yahoo.com. Or find them on Facebook: Green-Business-Ventura-Expo

The Lighter Breeze

Zits



Shoe



Hagar the Horrible



Crock



Mother Goose and Grimm



Arctic Circle



Solutions on page 15

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

by Linda Thistle

Place numbers 1-9 in the empty cells so that each row, column, and 3x3 sub-grid contains all the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ***

* Moderate ** Challenging *** HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65

ACROSS

- Ballyhoo
- Astronaut
- Grassom
- On the rocks
- Wander
- Suitable
- Protuberance
- Something unexpected
- Forum wear
- Charged bit
- 'Poo Goes the —'
- Whiskers
- Relative standing
- Captain
- Weight
- Land boundary
- Sheep's call
- Impaired by age and dampness
- Past
- Smith and Jones e.g.
- Worry
- Census statistics
- Arises periodically
- Incite to action
- Tavern
- Hawaiian island
- Encircle
- Despot
- Before
- Become unraveled
- Jekyll's bad side
- Potent slick
- Monetary penalty
- Boom times
- Managers
- Amount consumed
- Dove's cat's paw
- Advantage
- Transaction
- Scouter
- A caddy's snoot
- Drool
- Brightly
- Winglike
- Regulations
- English county
- Three feet
- Curved molding
- Caterer
- Cradle trio
- Character
- Way out there
- It holds the mayo
- This and that
- Simple
- How provider
- Author Parte
- Coffee vessel
- Mental state
- A Bobsey twin
- Hair coloring

DOWN

- 120 min. —
- Tree
- Standard
- Ottoman loincloth
- Profit



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It isn't always easy for the rambunctious Aries to give a second thought to their often spur-of-the-moment choices. But aspects favor rechecking a decision before declaring it final.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Information emerges for the business-driven Bovine who feels ready to restart a stalled project. Be prepared to make adjustments as needed at any time during the process.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Part of you wants to complete plans for an upcoming event, while your other self wants to see how things develop first. Compromise by moving ahead with your plans while being open to change.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An unexpected change in a relationship could open up a problem or could lead to a much-needed and too-long-delayed reassessment of a number of matters. The choice is yours to make.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Time for the Lion to total the plusses and minuses resulting from recent personal and/or professional decisions. See what worked, what didn't and why, and base your next big move on the results.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The clever Virgo can make persuasion work by presenting a case built on hard facts. Sentiment might touch the heart, but it's good, solid information

that invariably wins the day.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You usually can win over the most stubborn skeptics on your own. But this time you can benefit from supporters who have been there, done that and are willing to speak up on your behalf.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You win admiration for your determination to do the right thing. Don't be distracted from that course, despite the offer of tempting alternatives that might suddenly turn up.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) While you still need to maintain control of a dominant situation, a new development emerges, making the task easier and the outcome potentially more rewarding.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) New factors might have a positive effect on a still-pending matter, but only if the information proves to be credible. Trusted colleagues might be able to offer needed advice.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The week favors moderation, especially if a health problem is involved. Resist the impulse to do more than might be good for you at this time. You can catch up later.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You could feel more than a mite upset by someone or some people who might be creating problems for you. Find out why they won't change their ways. Their reasons might surprise you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You know how to inspire others to do their best by setting a persuasive example of your own.



Business



"Are you sure that they are giving away free cases of wine?" Photo by Bernie Goldstein

Mall celebrates opening of two new stores

by Tim Pompey

After several years of empty buildings on the north end of the Pacific View Mall, it looks like things are finally starting to look up. Trader Joe's and BevMo! opened their doors on Friday, April 1 in a grand celebration featuring coupons, Hawaiian music, even dancers in grass skirts. Both stores are located in what used to be Circuit City.

"It's really the start for a number of terrific things," said Phil Carlson, the mall's property manager. "To bring life to this end of the mall is good for our community and for our merchants. We're very excited about what this signals for our future."

If the lines outside the stores were any indication, the community is also excited. At the Trader Joe's entrance, a happy group of people milled around the front door. "I've been here since 6:00 A.M.," said Tishia Miller, who lives about three blocks away. "I'm like a kid in a candy store." She's appreciative of the new location because it will allow her to walk here instead of having to drive to the other location on Victoria.

Diana Sheets, who drove here from Ox-

nard, rose extra early to be the first in line at BevMo! "I got up at a quarter to 4:00 to get in line," she said. Her main reason for being here? "To compare BevMo! to Trader Joe's for wines."

The two stores are major chains on the west coast. Trader Joe's, based in Monrovia, has more than 350 stores in 29 states. They specialize in a variety of fresh food and beverages at discount prices and have been popular in Ventura for years.

From the outside, the new location seems bigger, but as store manager Tim Martin notes, it's actually about the same size as the store on Victoria. Still, for Martin, it's the perfect spot. "In terms of foot traffic, it's ideal," he said, "and the parking is better."

Furthermore, Martin feels that this location fits well into the community. "We try to fit the stores into our neighborhoods we live in. Even though we're in midtown, we've incorporated a lot of art and themes from downtown and it's all done by our crew members in the store."

BevMo! operates more than a 100 stores in California and Arizona. They are noted for their discount rates for wines and other beverages.

Kyle Sumner, the store manager for the Ventura BevMo!, feels that his store already has a strong connection to the Ventura community. "Ventura has needed one for a long time," he said. "We have a ton of loyal existing customers who had to go out to Thousand Oaks. Ventura being wine country, there was a huge niche being able to be the primary wine store in Ventura."

Asked about having a wine competitor next door, Sumner answered, "I feel like it's beneficial to both of us. We can feed off of each other."

Some concerns have been raised about having two large wine stores directly across

the street from Anacapa Middle School, but Martin believes they can coexist without problems.

"We are 'Responsible Retailers,'" he said, referring to the alcoholic beverage training program offered by the Ventura Police Department. "Most of our crew are Ventura residents and I think we have a high awareness and responsibility to the children in our community."

Both store openings had the feel of a large pep rally. As each store opened their doors for the first time, the employees from Trader Joe's and BevMo! gathered around the front and welcomed the long line of guests with handclaps, cheers, and individual greetings. As Martin noted, "Because we are all living in the community, we're all excited about our friends and family who shop here."

Gi Gi's Lounge—Where everybody knows your name

by Sheli Ellsworth

Cheers went off the air in 1993, but if you want the "Cheers" experience—a comfortable place to have a drink with friends, try GiGi's Cocktail Lounge at 2493 Grand Ave. Patrons describe it as a friendly, nice place where they feel welcome.

Gladys Georgina Dietz founded GiGi's on New Year's eve 1985, she has owned and operated it, in the same location, ever since. Dietz will be celebrating her 79th birthday this month, and is described as a wonderfully strong woman who went into business after raising five children. Her daughter Julie says, her mother moved here from the Midwest and decided to open her own business after a divorce. "She is an intelligent and capable person who still works seven days a week to keep GiGi's a steady success." This is Dietz's first and only business venture. Julie also works at GiGi's and says people are always saying, "We will definitely be coming back." Many of them tell me, "This is my bar!"

GiGi's is a real neighborhood bar, where people can get together day or night. They open at 8:00 a.m. and have a regular happy hour from 3-7 every night including Sundays. Drink specials start at \$2.00. You could peer in at anytime and find people playing pool on tournament-sized tables, engrossed in conversation, or listening to a state-of-the-art jukebox with and endless selection of songs.

On Wednesday nights and Sunday nights, GiGi's features karaoke. They have one of the best karaoke systems available and recently installed a stage. Professional KJ (karaoke jockey) Steve Luke has a reputation for making anyone sound like a trained singer. The singing starts at 7:00 on Sunday evenings and 8:00 on Wednesdays, and ends at midnight. "Everyone always has a lot of fun," according to Julie.

The lounge also hosts a variety of live music on Friday and Saturdays and is proud to offer some of the best local talent available. "We have many recognizable names and are always adding new bands." Classic rock groups like Red Rhythm, Champagne Sunday, Teresa Russell and the Brian Faith Band have played at GiGi's. Old Skool R&B band, What the Funk, and some country bands play there also.

What makes people try GiGi's? "It is the sort of place you can just come into

and feel at home," says Julie. What keeps them coming back? "It's the collective experience...when people are having a good time they return...and they bring their friends."

A new show in town on KKZZ

On Monday April 4th at 11:00 am on KKZZ AM 1400 Talk Radio Lyn Fairly and Cynthia Killion, two home grown California gals packed with talent and savvy will host all new themes not heard before on our local talk radio station.

With the support of Sheldon Brown and the Ventura Breeze the "Lyn and Cyn" show will bring you culture and entertainment news with class and style.

Terrific interviews with the world renowned musicians coming to Ventura during the Music Festival are on the schedule. Authors, dancers, comedians, poets, thespians, talent of all ages will be spotlighted on "The Culture Korner", every Wednesday.

"Testosterone Tuesdays" will feature mainly men in Ventura County of all walks of life. Many are from the huge pool of talent we have in our area. Many are entrepreneurs, movers, shakers, business men, fathers, sons, and offer the show another important and valued view point.

Mondays are a bit of a mixed bag; "Women Talk, Men Don't Listen", highlights girls and women out in the world stirring it up and making a difference. Talk about issues that are not typical of a radio show, is the order of the day. Parenting and fixing relationships they leave up to the many awesome shows that are already on KKZZ talk radio during the week

Everyday a salute to a soldier or veteran will go out. Please participate by calling during the show, just after the introduction, at 639-0008 or email: lynandcyn@gmail.com with the names of your proud soldiers. They want stories and will honor all the men and women who have or are serving our country. When you email put: Soldier Salute in the subject line please. This tribute is not about politics, it is about the volunteers and their families who are willing to keep the Peace!

Check us out at Facebook and become a fan at The Lyn and Cyn Talk Radio Show.

Tune in at AM 1400 KKZZ talk radio!

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Coach Ron Tunick (heard on Ventura County radio station 1400AM KKZZ) probably doesn't enjoy anything more than a good cigar, which he is enjoying with 2 of his radio co-hosts Ken and Roger. This was after a fine lunch with them, and Sheldon at Pirates Grub & Grog located on Victoria in Oxnard.



Youth



A young student whose name we don't know, Monique Braddy, Alexis Galvan and Alex Vilalpando were all very serious at the leadership summit but Bryce Check and Lisa Lugo just couldn't help hamming it up for the Breeze

Teen Voice high school leadership summit

On March 25, more than 50 selected students from the five Ventura Unified School District High School's convened for the fourth annual Teen Voice High School Leadership Summit, taking advantage of the opportunity to interact with professionals on workshops will include Student Motivation, Leadership Development, Team building, College Information and Making Good Choices.

The Summit, sponsored by the Ventura's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships, was held at the Ventura City Hall Community Meeting Room.

"This event is planned to better inform students on positive ways to develop leadership skills, self-esteem, confidence in peer pressure, team building, friendships and connections with professionals and community leaders," said event organizer and the department's Youth Programs Supervisor Mario Robinson. "The mission of Teen Voice is to build positive relationships between high school students and the community, provide students opportunities for community involvement and betterment of their school, neighborhood and city"

The Teen Voice Mission is to engage students from each high school in productive activities; provide student's opportunities for community involvement and the betterment of their school, neighborhood and city.

Teen Voice goals are to Develop leadership and teamwork skills; build positive relationships between high school students and community members; pursue enrichment programs and activities on campus and in the community.

The City of Ventura Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships developed Teen Voice in 2008. Teen Voice serves all VUSD high schools.

To learn more about the program contact Youth Programs Supervisor Mario Robinson at 654-7807 or mrobinson@cityofventura.net.

Join your hands with Hands Across California

On Sunday, April 17 Ventura College will be participating in Hands Across California. Hands Across California will attempt a world record by connecting hands of 1.5 million people to raise awareness of the affordability crisis in California Community Colleges.

As higher education is an ever-increasing cost, students are being driven to discontinue their schooling due to their financial hardships. Hands Across California will directly benefit the California Community College Scholarship Endowment. The Bernard Osher Foundation will also be contributing by matching every dollar raised by 50%.

Ventura College is endorsing this Hands Across America in its efforts to raise awareness of increasing cost and also raise funds for the California Community College Scholarship Endowment. On the day of the event, students will congregate at the Ventura College stage at 12 PM and make the physical connection of holding hands at 2 PM.

Anyone is encouraged to participate if they support Hands Across California standing for affordable higher education. One day. One line. Join on April 17 for the once-in-a-lifetime event!

To register for this event, donate, or for any question, go online to handsacross-california.org. ASVC President Kathleen Leonard is the coordinator of the Ventura College Team who you can contact at kjleonard100@hotmail.com for any further questions.



Saturday, April 30 9:30- 4:00

VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS SPRING GARDEN TOUR

Tour seven unique private gardens from intimate to enchanting; from view homes to natural park-like landscapes.

Admission to all seven gardens \$25



Tickets available at VenturaBotanicalGardens.com, downtown at Palermo, Pure Life and Home, the Ventura Visitors Center, Flora Gardens in Ojai, and Green Thumb Nursery on Victoria.



Artistic stone sculptor G. Ramon Byrne reveals his silent symphony of eight masterfully carved musical instruments with a reception on Thursday, May 5th at the Museum of Ventura County. Mr. Byrne has worked passionately and diligently over the past five years at Art City to produce his inner vision of a suite of musical instruments. Through his bond with the medium and his extraordinary talent and creative genius as an artistic sculptor this work will surely launch him as an international sensation.

Mr. Byrne chisels his story of the importance of music, not only in his life, but in all our lives. The images are powerful. The stone is rendered bold and vivid.



May 5 - June 26, 2011 Museum of Ventura County

100 East Main Street, Ventura

Hours: Tuesday - Sunday 11 - 5pm

Visit www.venturamuseum.org

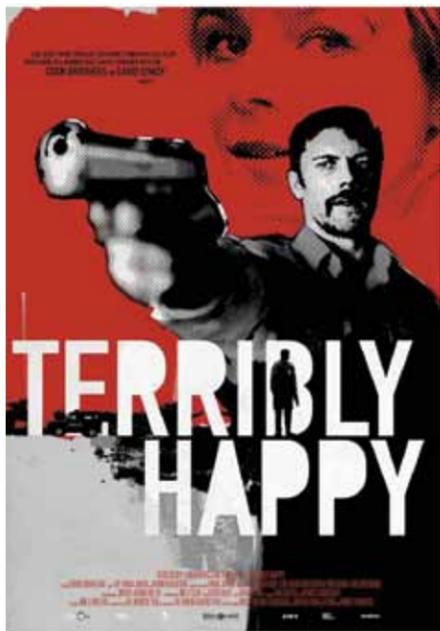
For reservations & information call (805) 653-0323

There is plenty of Free Parking



Make-up artist Cyndi Tuzak has opened "Making You Cosmetics & Skin" located at 671 E. Main St. in downtown Ventura. Presenting custom cosmetic blends the store also features esthetician Christine Weber and Jewels 2 Shoes by Denise Smith.

VFS@THE MUSEUM 2011



Terribly Happy

a film by Henrik Ruben Genz
Denmark 2008 - 104 mins
Tuesday April 19 @7:00 pm
Reviewed by Michelle Dent
Ventura Film Society

Robert, a disgraced cop, is displaced from his big-city job in Copenhagen and

reassigned to the tiny village of Skarrild. Literally dumped there and stranded by his superior officer, he is soon drawn in by Ingerlise, a femme fatale, who is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the mystery and unrest that lurk beneath the surface of this seemingly sleepy hamlet. As Skarrild's only lawman and an outsider at that, Robert soon finds himself up against Ingerlise's abusive husband, Jürgen, and a particularly murky and subversive form of small-town vigilante justice.

With its well-drawn, bizarre characters and dark comic undertones, this stylish Danish import feels like the Coen Brothers at their sardonic best, with a splash of highly-authentic Hitchcock mixed in. A creative swirling of genres, this film noir/thriller/modern western sinks the main character and the audience deeper and deeper into its eerie, sticky secrets. "Terrible Happy". Totally engrossing.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to present this film as part of our VFS @ the Museum 2011 Film Series, held the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month through December 6 at the Museum of Ventura County's Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Pavilion, 100 E. Main St. For advance tickets & information -www.venturafilmsociety.com / 628-2299.



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