

FREE

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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May 4 - May 17, 2011

City Council inches forward on Westside Plan

by Tim Pompey

When word spread throughout west Ventura that the City Council was going to discuss the Westside Community Plan during their Council meeting on Tuesday, April 19, it created some anxious moments for community organizers. Not knowing exactly how the Council would proceed, they rallied their troops and packed the house for public comment.

City Manager Rick Cole, however, waylaid some of their fears by stating up front that "we're really not seeking for the Council to give us detailed direction tonight on the Westside plan. I think that's premature." Mayor Bill Fulton agreed that "the only action item that is on our agenda tonight is to initiate an EIR."

Still, the packed house was evidence that west Ventura residents were ready and willing to speak regarding the long-delayed plan. Of those who gathered, more than 40 citizens commented on subjects as far ranging as the need for a new park, the completion of the long proposed Westside swimming pool, better bike paths, and a definite "no" to any additional annexation of the North Avenue or Canada Larga properties.

Most of the discussion revolved around the pros and cons of annexing County property for proposed sites along North Avenue and Canada Larga. As presented by Michael Wright from Illuminas Consulting, the City's financial outcomes for annexing these properties were at best mixed.

The best fiscal scenario seemed to lie with the currently proposed Westside Community Plan, which is limited to the corridors already owned by the City in and around Ventura Avenue. Illuminas concluded that, taken by itself, the WCP could generate a fiscal surplus of \$184,000 by the year 2020 and \$392,000 by the year 2030.

If the City attempted to add North



Lincoln Elementary School students are jubilant after receiving an award from Disney's Family Fun Magazine for their recycling plan and efforts

Lincoln School's recycling program a huge success

At a recent event celebrating their efforts on recycling Lincoln School received the grand prize from the Disney Family Fun best green school project contest, earning Lincoln \$5,000 for the school's art program and a \$500 Friends for Change grant through Youth Service America.

Students and families enjoyed music and games with Camp Rock star Anna Maria Perez de Tagle who hosted the party celebrating their wonderful accomplishments.

Parent Dr. Gordon Myers, an emergency room physician, initiated the recycling program at Lincoln. He has four kids attending school in Ventura; Noah, Eliza, Adam and Mattie, who were also honored at the event.

Myers started the program five years

ago by collecting recyclable trash. After a while the project was taking up so much time that he, and his wife asked Lucy Cervantes, whose family owns Beto's Recycling to assist in the program which they were happy to do. Beto's takes the recyclables and pays the school \$300-\$400 every two weeks.

Through their recycling program the students of Lincoln Elementary have saved their art and music programs.

Principal Karen Senesac was all smiles in congratulating the nearly 300 students who were in attendance at the celebration.

For information about how to set up a recycling program at your school, visit <http://www.recyclenowforlife.com> or Beto's Recycling can be reached at 796-0508 for their assistance.

Avenue to the WCP, the best case scenario showed an immediate fiscal deficit of \$314,000, which could shrink to \$233,000 by 2020. The properties could provide a fiscal surplus of \$707,000 annually by 2030.

If the City attempted to annex both North Avenue and Canada Larga as part of the WCP, the best case scenario showed an immediate fiscal deficit of \$333,600, which could shrink to \$239,000 by 2020, then grow to a surplus of \$1,634,777 by 2030.

Still, as noted during public comments, the unannexed properties come with their own set of problems. Aging homes not currently under City code, new road developments, concerns over flood control and wildfires, and adequate provisions for fire and police ranked at the top of community concerns. Some also questioned whether Illuminas' report really provided for real-world costs and revenues for annexation, particularly for fire and police personnel.

In addition, the Canada Larga property is currently under contract through the Williamson Act until 2020, and as such, is assessed and taxed strictly as agricultural and open space property. In order for the City to immediately annex and move forward with property development, the contract would have to be canceled and

the land reassessed. If that failed, the City would not be able to proceed with development for the next nine years.

If comments during the Council meeting were any measure of the political barometer in west Ventura, moving forward with the annexation of the North Avenue and Canada Larga properties would generate enormous controversy.

County Supervisor Steve Bennett stated that discussing the annexation "has strengthened the strong consensus that has existed for more than a decade here in Ventura, that the revitalization of existing urban areas is the best way to focus the limited energies that you have."

The most stunning admission of the night, however, came from Buzz Bonsall, owner of the 680 acre Canada Larga property. In a brief statement, he recommended that the Council "proceed with the Westside Community Plan as it's agendized this evening, and return to North Avenue/Canada Larga as a separate agenda item in the future."

In the end, the Council did vote 6-0 to provide funding for an environmental impact report for the WCP. And for those who have been waiting more than a decade

Continued on page 6



Aerialist Troupe bringing magic to Westside ArtWalk fundraiser on May 19

ArtWalk reborn

The creative aerial theater company AiRealistic will perform at a fundraiser scheduled for Thursday, May 19 at Jonathan's at Peirano's, 204 E. Main from 5-10 p.m. The party will celebrate the all-new Westside ArtWalk, an arts event shaping up to be a highlight of the summer.

The Westside ArtWalk, scheduled for the weekend of July 23-24, 2011 is being planned by an all-volunteer group of citizens who took over the popular free showcase from the City of Ventura when budget cuts necessitated the elimination of many programs.

"ArtWalk is a signature event for Ventura which attracts a great deal of excitement every year," said Josh Addison, founder of the Bell Arts Factory and chair of the Westside ArtWalk Committee. "We weren't about to let the momentum die. Instead we formed a creative team which is invigorating the event with new ideas."

Past ArtWalks have been concentrated primarily Downtown in the retail area. The new event will feature established galleries and art spaces west of Seaward Avenue, as well as new spaces created entirely for the event, highlighting a wide range of talented professionals from all over the region. Each venue will provide a unique experience for art lovers. A map will guide visitors.

The May 19 kickoff party is designed to raise operating funds for the event. The \$50 ticket price includes food and entertainment. A live auction of selected art works is also planned. Tickets can be purchased online by going to <http://westsideartwalk2011-auto.eventbrite.com/> or by calling 794-7670.

Continued on page 6



Some people will go to any depths to read the Ventura Breeze. The Breeze's own Karlene Lang is reading it at 60' underwater during a scuba diving vacation in the Similan Islands, Thailand. Both she and the Breeze love to travel so be sure to take it with you on your next vacation.



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



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Hi Sheldon,

I read the paper online today, thank you for including us with a picture and all.

Also I just wanted to say my favorite part of the paper every time is Professor Scamp, I always wish my dogs and I spoke the same verbal language so I appreciate the Scamp point of view.

Thank you again for getting the word out, the event keeps growing. Have an Artful Day,

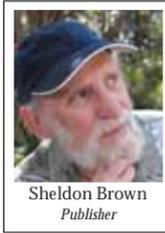
Jen Livia

Red Brick Gallery

Sheldon:

Sometimes I get jealous of Scamp. Recent-

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

■ Councilmember Carl E. Morehouse has announced his intention to seek another term on the Ventura City Council, the election is in November. He is the first candidate to make such an announcement. In 2011 Christy Weir, Bill Fulton and Carl Morehouse are up for re-election.

He stated that "I do this after much consideration and, most of all, in consultation with my wife, Janna Minsk, who has had to share me with this city for so long. I must admit, when I first began this journey back in 1997, before my successful election in 1999, I did not think that I would serve more than eight years. However, and even in spite of my close to thirty years in government service, little could I have guessed how long it takes to get some things accomplished as an elected official."

He went on to say "First, there has been much speculation about who is planning on running. I thought I'd at least clarify it for me in order to remove any doubt."

Every so often I like to remind you how our political system works in Ventura (even if some of you don't think that it works at all) so this is a good opportunity to do it again.

The City of San Buenaventura was incorporated as a town by the California Legislature on March 10, 1866. We are governed by the City of San Buenaventura Charter which calls for a city council form of government. The election of members of the Council shall be from the City at large (not districts) and there are no term limits.

The officers of the City of San Bue-

naventura are the seven members of the council, the city manager and the city attorney.

City council members shall receive a maximum pay of \$600.00 per month. In addition the mayor (Bill Fulton at the moment) shall receive a maximum of \$100.00 additional per month. Each



I was already to attend the wedding but my invitation must have gotten lost. Photo by John Ferritto and Photoshop

member of the council shall receive reimbursement for authorized traveling and other expenses when on official duty as approved by the council.

The city council appoints the city manager and the city attorney (they are their boss).

The council shall elect from among its members the titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor (Mike Tracy), each of whom shall serve a two-year term. In no event may a mayor succeed himself as mayor without at least one addi-

tional two-year term having lapsed.

The city manager shall be the administrative head of the city government (he runs the joint). He shall be chosen by the council without regard to political consideration but based solely upon executive and administration qualifications.

The manager shall be appointed for an indefinite term, but shall be removed by the council by a vote of four or more council members.

There are some that feel that the charter needs re-writing to include (among other things) an elected mayor and council districts and a group has been working on a proposed new charter for sometime that you will read about when they are ready to go public with it.

It would need to be approved by a vote of Venturans.

■ To bring you up to date on a few important projects in Ventura, the drawings for the interior remodel of the proposed Victoria Walmart have been approved by the City so the interior construction can proceed, but the exterior remodeling is still going through City design approvals. So Walmart is coming so all of you opposed to it is time to accept the fact that it is indeed coming. But, of course, you don't need to shop there.

The design of the large mixed use project to be located at Harbor and Seaward has been approved by the planning commission and design review and the construction drawings are being prepared for submittal to the building department for plan check.

Hopefully, when it is built it will provide a much needed "shot in the arm" for the Seaward area.

Mailbox

ly at an Earth day event, a gentleman came up to me (didn't even say hello) and asked "Where is Professor Scamp." Such a following for a dog even if he has his own column.

Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Public Works, and Pierpont Community Council,

The Parks Department continues to do an excellent job of maintaining Marina Park. I see that the concrete walkway out to the breakwater has been completely repaired and is clear of sand plus the spikes preventing cars from entering the park after it is closed have also been repaired.

Murray Robertson
Pierpont Resident

Good Samaritans - alive and well in Ventura

The spirit of mutual aid and assistance is alive and well in Ventura. On the evening of Friday, April 15th, my wife fell face down on the fountain area just outside the Crowne Plaza. Within seconds a homeless man on a bicycle, Charnell Smith, owner of the Aloha Steakhouse, Gary Kohler and Nic Manocchio from the Crowne Plaza all converged on us to see how they could help. Ice, ice-water, a blanket and pillows, bandages, and a chair all seemed to appear miraculously to help with the recovery. On top of that, an EMT and his friend visiting from Colorado stopped to assist and assess for possible concussion; a retired Ventura MD and his fiancée stood by in prayerful presence. Several waited with Lynn while I went to get our car.

Fortunately, Lynn seemingly has no broken bones, just facial wounds and sore joints. The care we received from Dr. Shaw and his staff at Redi-Medic Urgent Care on Loma Vista was excellent.

In a time when many people are pessimistic about the direction humanity is taking, we want to proclaim that compassion and caring for others is alive and well in the hearts of many people.

Virgil and Lynn Nelson
Ventura



Ventura City Program Supervisor Mario Robinson and City Recreation Coordinator Adam Singleton were on hand at the unveiling of Ventura's new Recreation Mobile vehicle that is fully loaded with art and craft supplies, games, and things to keep the interest of youth. The event took place at the DeAnza Technology and Arts School. Photo by Bernie Goldstein



A city project to repair and renovate the Promenade walkway is on schedule and is expected to be completed soon. The work includes the rebuilding of 6 alcoves, repairing cracks, moving a staircase extending down to the beach and installation of LED lights on the parapet wall. Photo by Erik Schiemann.

Saving just one dog won't change the world, but it surely will change the world for that one dog.

—Author unknown (unless it was Scamp)



City News

Trees – a living, lasting legacy

by Christy Weir
Ventura City Councilmember

Arbor Day (April 29) is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care.

The first Arbor Day took place on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska. It was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton (1832-1902) who felt that Nebraska's landscape and economy would benefit from the wide-scale planting of trees. Nebraska's first Arbor Day was an amazing success—more than one million trees were planted.

In the years following that first Arbor Day, Morton's idea spread beyond Nebraska with Kansas, Tennessee, Minnesota and Ohio all proclaiming their own Arbor Days. Today all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day although the dates may vary in keeping with the local climate. At the federal level, in 1970, President Richard Nixon proclaimed the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day.

The city of Ventura has a fascinating tree history, starting 100 years before the first Arbor Day. After the Mission San Buenaventura was founded in 1782, the Franciscan missionaries planted the first orchard in what was a generally treeless area. The good soil, excellent climate and year-round water from the Ventura River contributed to abundant crops of apples, pears, peaches, pomegranates, bananas, coconuts and figs.

The two great Norfolk Island pines next to the Mission are estimated to be well over 100 years old. Legend says they

were planted by a sailing captain in the hope that they would eventually provide a supply of ship masts.

Over the next century, other species were introduced to Ventura, notably palms, eucalyptus and citrus. In 1898, thirteen Big Blue Gum Eucalyptus saplings were planted on a hilltop above Ventura. Over time, eleven were lost to vandalism, fire and disease. But Two Trees remain there today, a much-loved symbol of our city.

In 1922, several tall palm trees near the Mission were the inspiration for the name and logo of Las Palmas brand enchilada sauce, created by a Ventura resident named Rosa Ramirez. You'll still see the Las Palmas label with distinctive Ventura palms on store shelves worldwide.

Thousands of acres of fertile land east of Seaward Avenue flourished with walnut, citrus and avocado orchards for most of the twentieth century, providing an economic base for the growing city of Ventura.

Today, Ventura's urban forest of over 30,000 trees in our parks and along our streets is one of the most vital pieces of our city's infrastructure, providing numerous benefits for our residents. Trees enhance aesthetics in both business and residential districts, significantly improving property values, defining our streetscapes, blocking wind and naturally cooling our homes. Trees help to shade our streets, which provides a pleasant walking environment, greatly reduces the amount of radiated heat from asphalt roadways and extends the longevity of the pavement.

Important environmental benefits are also obtained from Ventura's urban forest. For example, trees produce the

oxygen we breathe—one acre of forest absorbs 6 tons of carbon dioxide and puts out 4 tons of oxygen, enough to meet the needs of 16 people. Many harmful atmospheric gases such as nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and ozone are neutralized in trees, helping to keep our air clean. Trees channel rainwater into the ground, which recharges our groundwater supply and prevents runoff and erosion.

For the homeowner, Arbor Day reminds us to take stock of the trees on our properties. Inspect trees for dead branches or evidence of disease or insect infestation. Think about how planting new trees might improve the look of your property or provide wind or heat protection. Take a trip to a local nursery to see what's available and to get new ideas. Walk around your neighborhood. Look for public areas where tree planting or tree maintenance might make a real difference. The City of Ventura will plant street trees in your neighborhood, at your request, as the budget allows. Please call the City of Ventura Parks Department at 652-4550 and our urban forestry staff will be happy to talk with you about recommended species and will schedule a planting.

Helping us celebrate Arbor Day this year was Girl Scout Troop 60172, who planted five trees at Camino Real Park. These Girl Scouts are contributing a living and lasting gift to our community and we are grateful for their example of service to our beautiful city of San Buenaventura.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with our urban forest, please contact me at cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us or 654-7740.

The judges were very impressed with the number of high quality submissions.

"The City of Ventura was pleased to partner with E.P. Foster Library in hosting this contest, which called for imaginative and inventive writers to examine a work of art and then write a short story or poem reflecting their unique interpretation," said Community Partnerships Manager Denise Sindelar of the City of Ventura Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships.

The entire collection may be viewed online at <http://www.cityofventura.net/arttales>.

Here is Sophia Dufau's winning poem in the youth division.

Beaded Glory

by Sophia Dufau

Wire Reflecting,
Twine so tight.
Gone are the fish
that once held the light.

Green is the center,
Aqua surrounds.
People are wandering
throughout the grounds.

I wish I could touch it.
It seems so far.
Plastic is covering,
Slightly ajar.

People surrounding
soon are gone.
I am the last.
Second to none.

Walking away slowly,
Longing to stay.
But I'll come back,
again someday.

Inspired by "Caribbean Sun & Giant Green Anemone" by Gerri Johnson-McMillin

City of Ventura Classes

Call 658-4726 or to register, if you already have an account online, visit www.cityofventura.net All classes are held at the Barranca Vista Center - 7050 Ralston St.

Evening Body Hoops \$48
For ages 14 years-Adult.

Hoop for fun while you flex and strengthen the core, burn calories and tone the entire body. Hoops are available to use and for sale at the class. Wear comfortable attire to move in. No Class will be held on 5/30.

Class # 29535, Monday, 7:15-8:15 pm
5/16-6/13

Tai Chi Chaun Yang Style
\$25/\$15 for additional family members
For ages 16 years-Adult

Learn the traditional 108 moves long form version of this ancient martial arts "dance of life" to increase flexibility and stamina. Beginners come to early session. 45 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes of stretching. Dress comfortably.

Class #29541, Thursday, 6:15-7:45 pm
5/12-6/30

Class #29542, Thursday, 7-8:30 pm
5/12-6/30

Lunchtime Fitness Salsamania \$60
For ages 18 years-Adult

Low-impact dance exercises incorporate easy-to-follow salsa, mambo, merengue, cha cha and samba dance steps for better posture, cardio flexibility and stamina. Wear clothes to move and shoes to dance in.

Continued on page 6

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Sophia Dufau was a winner in the youth division of the City of Ventura's Art Tales contest for creative writers. Sophia is in the eighth grade and attends Holy Cross School. Her literature teacher is Krista Maechler. Her proud mom Kim was all smiles at the event.

Contest winners presented at Foster Library

The City of Ventura recently announced the winners of the third annual Art Tales creative writing contest at Foster Library. More than 100 short stories and poems, which were submitted in both adult and youth categories, were inspired by one of the six Municipal Art Collection works of art currently on exhibit in the E.P. Foster Library.

All winners received a bound edition of the winning entries; first and second place winners received a cash prize at the event held on the second floor children's section at E.P. Foster Library.



News and Notes

Smoke detectors save lives

by Kris McDonald

Captain, Ventura City Fire Department

Simply put...smoke detectors save lives. Unfortunately, however, 33% of American homes are not adequately protected with them. One and two family dwellings are where 79% of all civilian fire deaths occur, at a staggering national rate of one death every 156 minutes. A properly functioning smoke detector provides the crucial time needed for you and your family to get out of the home when a fire occurs. Exposure to flame is rarely the cause of death in a house fire, the real culprit is exposure to toxic smoke. It takes mere minutes for a home to become charged with deadly smoke and for oxygen to drop below life sustaining levels.

While one smoke detector goes a long way in adding to your safety, multiple detectors located throughout the house is substantially safer. Placement of your detectors should be strategic. Avoid placing detectors near fireplaces, wood stoves, bathrooms, and kitchens. Detectors can be activated not only by smoke, but by steam and dust as well. Ideally there should be one detector in every room that will be occupied, at the top of each stairwell, and in every hallway. At a minimum, however, one detector should be placed in the hallway adjacent to bedrooms. Avoid placing detectors within 18" of the corner area where walls and ceiling meet, this area is a dead air space where smoke accumulates last. Also avoid proximity to windows, doors, and ceiling fans.

Besides not being present to begin with, there are several common causes of smoke detectors not being successful

in preventing tragedy. These causes are batteries being disconnected (to prevent nuisance alarms), dead batteries, obstruction of the detector by debris, or component failure due to age. Instead of removing the battery to silence a nuisance alarm, try fanning the detector with a towel until the air clears. Removing the battery, no matter how good your intentions are to replace it right away, is a recipe for disaster. A detector that is chirping periodically is trying to tell you that the battery is nearly depleted. If you replace the battery and the detector still chirps, it may be malfunctioning and should be replaced. Unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer, smoke detectors should be replaced every ten years.

Smoke detectors should be tested regularly by pressing and holding the "test" button, the alarm should sound loudly within a few seconds. A good rule for battery replacement is to do so whenever you adjust your clocks for daylight savings, or every six months. Most smoke detectors that are hard-wired, meaning they operate on household electricity, also have a battery back up and that battery should be replaced on the same schedule.

A smoke detector is an inexpensive insurance policy that can save the lives of you and your loved ones. Take the time to see that your home is properly covered by functioning smoke detectors.

For more information visit us online at www.facebook.com/venturacityfire and www.youtube.com/user/Ventura-CityFD.

Rev. Lonnie McCowan sentenced - will continue preaching

by Sheli Ellsworth

Judge Patricia Murphy sentenced Rev. Lonnie McCowan, pastor of Solid Rock Christian Center, to pay \$349,100 in restitution to victim Leo Gilmond. On April 18th, McCowan was also sentenced to serve a year in jail and at least five years of probation.

Gilmond, then 82, was conned out of his home equity in 2004, and McCowan was also accused of acquiring equity from two other properties under false pretenses. McCowan agreed to plead guilty to money laundering, grand theft and theft from an elderly person in exchange for the guilty plea, all charges against McCowan's wife, Kimberly Oglesby McCowan, were dropped.

The McCowans did not accept the charges against them without a fight. In 2009, the McCowans held a press conference flanked by their attorney, Ron Bamieh, and claimed that the publicity surrounding the case was due to their race more than anything else. "We are concerned that some of this racial animosity has infected the investigation conducted in this case. There have been comments made that cause us concern for the racial attitudes and beliefs

of the District Attorney's Office."

Solid Rock Christian Center has stood well, solidly behind their pastor and founder. The church's website boasts that McCowan is a law graduate, a graduate of Oral Roberts University Ministry Training and Development Institute in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and holds a Doctorate of Divinity from the Estonian Baptist Seminary. He is also accredited with "building a dynamic infrastructure which includes Self-Help Legal Services, Building Better Lives Medical Clinic, Debt-Free Money Management Services, Lifegate Counseling Center, Building Better Lives Business Network, Heavenly Skies Travel Agency, Solid Rock Cafe Restaurant and Building Better Lives Institute of Biblical Economics," according to the church's website.

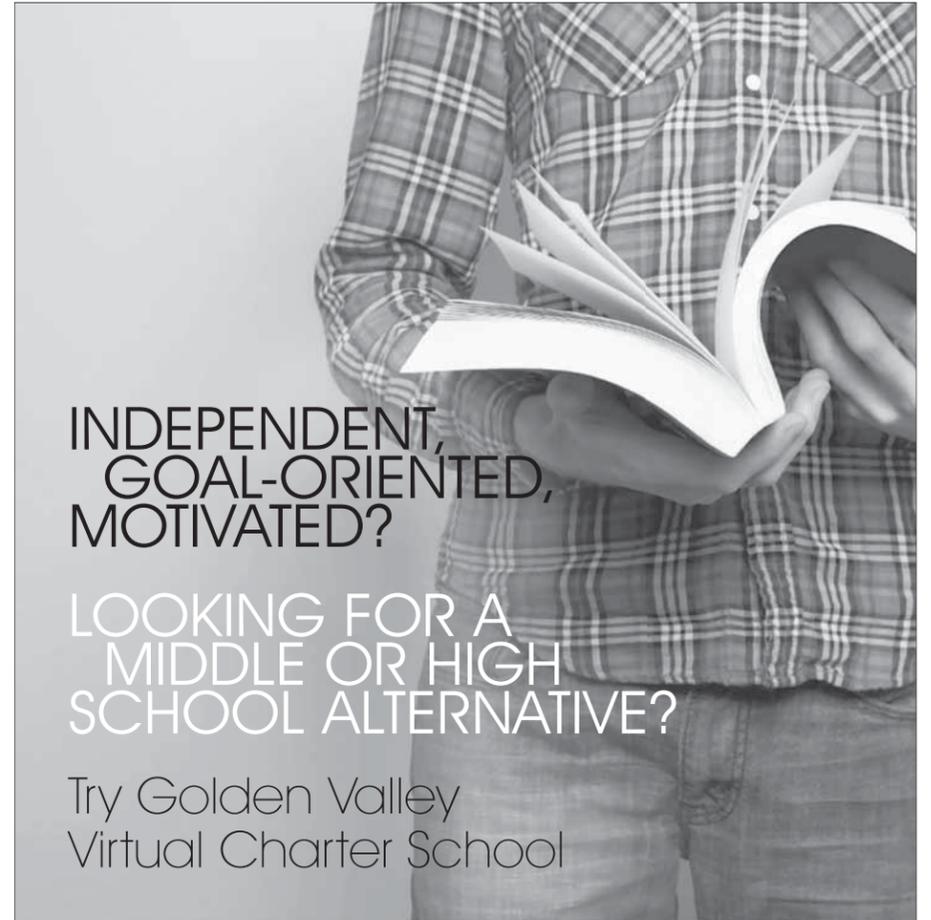
McCowan founded Solid Rock Christian Center in 1994 with 60 members from his former ministry. The church then had 1,500 members.

Because McCowan will be participating in a work-furlough program, he will be allowed to continue preaching at Solid Rock but will be required to report to a custodial facility when he is not working. The district attorney's office says McCowan must also pay restitution to a commercial lender. If McCowan pays the restitution to Gilmond ahead of schedule, he may apply for early release from probation.

Grape Expectations

by Eric Garnier

Recently I was tasting wine at one of the tasting rooms on the Ventura Wine



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Trail. When I asked the owner where I could buy his wine, I was informed that there were few establishments in the area that sold their wines. That put me on a quest to find the shops and restaurants that supported these family run wineries.

The Ventura Wine Trail (www.venturacountywinetrail.com) is represented by several wineries from Malibu to Ojai. Going to the wineries to taste the wines is always a fun thing to do, especially with summer just around the corner and many wineries open longer hours. Some wineries also allow picnics, while others have music on certain nights. This is the best way to taste all of the wine from the Wine Trail.

Many of these wineries are closed during the week and only open weekends. So, if you don't have any of these wines at home ready to open and drink, the question comes up as to where you can buy or have their wines.

With just over 3,000 producing wineries in California, it is very hard for retailers, restaurants and wine bars to pick a selected few that they can carry. In this article, I have tried to narrow down where our local wines are served in the Ventura area. Each of the establishments listed below carry some variety from the Wine Trail. This list is always changing and I am sure that I left someone off the list. So, next time you are going out for a nice meal or need to buy a bottle, check out these establishments.

Wine Bars:

The Wine Rack (formerly Weaver Wines)
Andres Wine and Tapas Bar
Barrel 33 (formerly Wine Lovers)
My Florist Wine Café & Bar
Suzanne's

Retailers:

Wades Wines

BevMo The Cave Paradise Pantry Restaurants:

Café Zack
Safire
Candle Light
Café Firenze
Café Fiore
Sidecar
71 Palm
Tierra Sur @ Herzog
Larsen's Grill
Watermark

Cheers, Salute, A Votre Sante !!!
Eric at wineoeric@gmail.com



Andy Soter, Alec Benke and Sam Povar were all smiles at the recent official dedication of Soter Point at Marina Park. The dedication included fine food, speeches and a performance by the 28-member Ventura Choraliers. The project is a public/private partnership between the City of Ventura and the three gentlemen. Photo by John Ferritto



News and Notes

CAPS CHAT

CAPS Show of the Week

by Kirsten Ricketts

In the last couple of months at CAPS we have seen a rather significant increase in the amount of locally produced programming that community members have been producing for air on Channel 6. In an effort to highlight the great programming we have on our community channel, we started promoting a "CAPS Show of the Week". It is our hope that this will encourage more viewership on the channel and help encourage our producers to keep telling informative and entertaining local stories. The CAPS staff chooses one new locally-produced program every Friday to be highlighted on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/capstvventura), through Twitter (www.twitter.com/CAPSTVtweets), and on our weekly program schedule.

The highlight provided includes the show name and episode title, a brief description of the program and its scheduled air times on Channel 6. In addition, the selected program is viewable on the CAPS Streaming Media page on our website for a week. All new locally-produced programming, including regular series, are eligible for selection. The producer of the program is notified when his or her show is selected. This gives the producer a heads up to share this exciting news with their friends and anyone who was involved in the production of their show.

The "CAPS Show of the Week" is intended to be an unbiased way for

CAPS to promote member participation and viewership in the community. Since its debut in April, the programs selected as "CAPS Show of the Week" include an orchestra concert, a view of movies created by independent local filmmakers and a celebration of the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura. We think it's quite an honor to be selected and we hope our members do! If you have a show that you think is worthy of being selected as the "CAPS Show of the Week", then submit it to CAPS for the community to see right now.

If you are not yet a member but you want to produce your own show, then come visit us at our Media Center at 65 Day Road and we'll get you on your way to being a star! With the necessary equipment and training, CAPS gives all residents, employees and students within the city of Ventura the opportunity to tell their stories through video. If you want to learn more about programming, becoming a member or getting involved in community productions, visit us at www.capstv.org. We hope you'll keep watching to see even more great programming produced right here in Ventura!

Celebrate Mother's Day at the Olivas Adobe

Where else can you celebrate Mom on her special day with flowers, beautiful images and a tribute—all for free?



Arbor Day was celebrated by local students, and City of Ventura Parks Division personnel when they planted two trees at Westpark Community Center on Wednesday, April 27.

John Contreras is explaining the method of planting a tree and why a larger circumference than the size of the root is needed for the tree to grow to the students who participated. Photo by Bernie Goldstein.

The Olivas Adobe, at 4200 Olivas Park Drive, will showcase a series of colorful murals depicting the history of Ventura, its beautiful rose garden and a pictorial tribute to mothers as a free event on Sunday, May 8, 11 am to 3 pm on the grounds of the historical park.

The murals, each measuring 4 by 8 feet up to 8 by 8 feet, were painted by Marguerite Hardeman in the 1960s and have been stored at Olivas Park. Each year, the murals are brought out for display around the park grounds and the rose garden in celebration of spring. The 15 murals depict different moments from the founding of the city of San Buenaventura and its early history.

Members of the public can view the murals and learn the history they depict from costumed docents, then tour the Olivas rose garden, where members of the Ventura County Rose Society will be on hand to answer questions about the different types of roses on display.

In addition to the free exhibits, historical tours of the Olivas Adobe grounds are available, as well as a unique gift shop, where tickets for tours can be purchased.

Westside Plan

Continued from page 1

to see some progress on this project, Councilmember Carl Morehouse added some encouragement. "Having agonized and watched this community struggle for my three terms up here," he said, "I want to see this move forward."

The Council, City Manager Cole, and Ventura's Community Development Director Jeff Lambert agreed that a joint workshop should be set up between the Design Review Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Council to allow for more community comment and to further refine the WCP. Lambert suggested that it be included during the normally scheduled meeting for the Ventura Planning Commission on May 17.

As for the subject of annexation, while not officially dead, it seems to have been seriously waylaid. A careful reading of Bonsall's statement indicated he would like to resurrect the discussion

at some future date. According to Lambert, however, a plan to include North Avenue and Canada Larga as part of the WCP has definitely hit a roadblock. "For the purpose of the Westside Community Plan," said Lambert, "the Council has decided to move forward without North Avenue or Canada Larga."

ArtWalk reborn

Continued from page 1

The centerpiece of the fundraiser will be a performance by AiRealistic, a troupe of aerial performers who have worked with Cirque du Soleil and in other top-notch productions around the world. Their artistry includes a signature rigging system which makes performers appear to float through the air.

AiRealistic recently opened a teaching facility at 5600 Everglades Street, Suite C, in Ventura. For more information, go to their website at www.airealistic.com

For more information about the Westside ArtWalk, go to www.westsideartwalk.org, send an email to info@westsideartwalk.org or call 794-7670.

Ventura classes

Continued from page 4

Class #29519, Tuesday/Thursday, 12-1 pm 5/10-6/2

Ballroom Dancing \$45 For 13 years-Adult.

Put your shoes on and dance to mad hot ballroom. Learn waltz, fox trot, swing and rumba! No partner needed. Free DVD of the dance steps so you can practice at home.

Class #28553, Tuesday, 7:15-8:15 pm 5/10-6/14

Swing and Nightclub Dancing \$45 For 13 years-Adult.

Swing the night away learning both East and West coast styles! No partner needed.

Class #28556, Tuesday, 8:15-9:15 pm 5/10-6/14

Heat Up the Night Latin Dance Workshops \$45 For ages 13 years-Adult.

Learn sensuous and steamy Latin dances in six weeks. No class 5/28.

Class #29667, Saturday, 6-7 pm 5/7-6/18

Crowell, Weedon & Co. Ventura Welcomes John Distad, John Clay & Marcy McTernan



Crowell, Weedon & Co. Ventura is pleased to welcome John Distad, Senior Vice President & Financial Advisor, John Clay, Senior Vice President & Financial Advisor, and Marcy McTernan, Registered Sales Assistant, to their firm. They come to Crowell Weedon from

the Oxnard branch of UBS where they worked together as a team offering comprehensive financial planning services to their clients.

Distad, Clay and McTernan join the growing team of financial professionals at Crowell, Weedon & Co. and they look forward to serving the personal financial needs of their clients, helping to build secure financial futures through long-term, balanced investments.

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Community Events

Music Festival features top-notch ensembles

by Tim Pompey

Now that the Ventura Music Festival is in full swing, here are some ensembles you might want to check out this weekend.

Nuvi Mehta, the Artistic Director for the Ventura Music Festival, will be performing with the Ensemble Musica on Friday, May 6, 8:00 P.M. at the Ventura Missionary Church.

Mehta is a highly accomplished violinist in his own right. He will be featured with Andrew Shulman, the principal cellist with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, James Dunham, professor of Viola and Chamber Music at Rice University, and Yeol Eum Son, a classical pianist considered among the most important artists of her generation in her country of South Korea.

Mehta says that the ensemble will be picking up on the Festival's folk influence. "We start with the famous Kodaly duo," he said, "and end with the even more famous Brahms piano quartet in g minor." Son will also play a piece by Frederick Mompou, whose music is based on Catalan folk songs.

As a music historian, Mehta notes that the connections between classical and folk music usually arise when "a folk melody, song or style, well established in the psyche of a certain region of people, is borrowed by a classical composer, who wants to create a piece that speaks to the traditional aspirations of the public."

He cites the Brahms piano quartet they will play as a case in point. It was nicknamed the "Gypsy Rodeo" because he made a Hungarian Gypsy, Csardas, the

basis of the last movement.

So why are stringed instruments like the violin so popular among folk musicians? "The violin is one of the most flexible instruments, making it appropriate to a wide variety of musical settings," said Mehta. "The tone of the violin stands out above other instruments, making it appropriate for playing a melody line." He also observed that the violin is an agile instrument which can execute rapid and difficult sequences of notes and sound remarkably close to the human voice.

After the Ensemble's performance on Friday, the violin gypsy tradition of The Roby Lakatos Ensemble will close out the Festival the following night. Born into a legendary family of gypsy violinists, Lakatos began his musical journey at a young age. For 10 years, he and his ensemble performed at the musical home of Les Ateliers de la grande Ile in Brussels. In March 2004 Lakatos performed with the London Symphony Orchestra for its "Genius of the Violin" festival with famed Russian violinist Maxim Venegrov.

Mixing classical music with the self-proclaimed Hungarian-gypsy vitality, Lakatos incorporates classical and folk traditions as well as current pop and jazz expressions. The Lakatos Ensemble will be featured Saturday, May 7, 8:00 P.M. at the Ventura High School Auditorium.

Tickets for the Festival can be purchased online at www.venturamusicalfestival.org or by dropping in at the Festival's box office at 472 East Santa Clara Street in downtown Ventura.

Dance to the sounds of a big band

The Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club and The Ventura Jazz Orchestra invites you to a Spring Swing Big Band Dance featuring the vocal styling of Donna Greene and Glenn Novack and a traditional 19-piece show band.

Friday May 20, from 7:30-10:00pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion Ball Room 3451 Foothill Rd.

\$12 admission at the door.

Free refreshments and parking. For more information call 648-1143.

VC Fairgrounds events

5/11 SWAP MEET Lot A Sue Adams SNADesigns

(818) 590-5435 Wed. 7a-2p

5/14-15 ROLLER DERBY GAMES-BATTLE OF THE COAST, Santa Cruz Hall Ventura County Derby Darlins Anacapa Hall, info@vcderbydarlins.com Sat.-Sun.; 8a-8p; \$15-\$35: tickets available at: brownpapertickets.com

5/15 4-H GYMKHANA CLINIC, Morgan Equestrian Center, UC Regents - 4-H Program, Sun. 8a-2p

5/15 ROSE MEETING, The Greenhouse Barbara Schneider, Fair Friends of Roses (805)648-3376 x 136. Sun. 1p; visitors welcome

5/18 SWAP MEET Lot A Sue Adams SNADesigns

(818) 590-5435 Wed. 7a-2p

Ventura events

May 4: Independent Thinkers is an informal discussion group that meets every first Wednesday of the month. Topics might include politics, psychology, economics, social concerns, health, religion, environment, philosophy or whatever the group is interested in talking about. We welcome new voices and ideas. The meeting is 7 p.m. The meetings location is 2231 Hyland Avenue for more information call 653-1121.

May 5: The 15 - member Ventura College Jazz Band directed by Leslie Drayton will present its Spring concert, "**A Salute to the Blues and its Variations.**" The performance will begin at 8:00 p.m. in Ventura College's Guthrie Hall, 4667 Telegraph Road. Dancers are welcome and Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 for students and seniors with ID and Ventura County Community College District employees.

May 8: The **Second Annual Mothers Day Afternoon Tea and Concert** on Sunday. Afternoon tea will start at 3 a.m. You will be served tea and sandwiches and seats will be reserved for the concert following. The concert will be at 4 p.m. You may attend the tea or the concert event or both if you wish. The event is to be held at the First United Methodist Church, 1338 East Santa Clara Street in Trotter.

Call for reservations at 643-8621 or 647-0059. There is no charge for the tea and there will be a basket for donations to help defray expenses. There is no charge for the concert but donations of \$20 per person suggested.

May 10: Join the **National Health Federation (NHF)** in discussing the health and safety of vaccinations with special guest speaker Dr. David Carey, D.C.

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-  **Health, Gardening, & Fitness Vendors** on hand with a lot of cool give-aways and great ideas to keep you healthy
-  **Rock Climbing Wall**, fun zone, obstacle courses and lots more
-  **Special Performance** - Santa Barbara Supersonic Flyball Racing Team - a fast paced dog relay race - **12 noon**
-  **Healthy Food Court**
-  **5K Community Walk/Run** for all ages and Gary Tuttle 1 mile kids fun run. Walkers are encouraged to enter the 5K. All proceeds benefit VUSD schools! Register at www.insidetrackventura.com.

Ventura County Public Health will be offering free and low-cost immunizations for children and families, including the Tdap booster required for school entry for all students in grades 7-12 in 2011-12.

For more info visit www.vep4vusd.org or call 641-5000 x1550 or email info@vep4vusd.org

Ad courtesy of VENTURA BREEZE

The Ventura Chapter of the National Health Federation will be hosting this meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Ventura Spinal Care Center, located at 1590 E. Main St.

Please RSVP to ensure all community members have the opportunity to join in and have a seat. Space is limited. RSVP by calling 648-7987.

May 13: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution May meeting will feature the program: "**Gettysburg Revisited**", presented by Mrs. Sally Fusch, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Civil War enactor Wayne Sherman will present aspects of the battle and the perspective of the common soldier. Finally, President Lincoln (Don Ansell) will present the Gettysburg Address. The luncheon event will take place at 11:30 AM, Friday, 13 May 2011, in the Garden Room, Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1295 S. Victoria Ave. The self-pay luncheon cost is \$20 per person, which includes a slice of Marie Callender's pie. Call Robert Taylor 216-7992, Bill Hurley 492-2583, or Ron Risley 647-0751 for more information.

May 13: Transport Theatre which brought "Wit and Judy's Scary Little Christmas to county audiences" will open "**Brian Friel's Molly Sweeney**". Molly Sweeney interweaves the accounts of Molly, her husband Frank, and her doctor. There are only seven performances and reservations are strongly recommended because of the limited seating. Tickets are \$20 with a \$15 price for seniors and students. All information can be found at www.transporttheatre.com. Performances will be at the Clocktower Inn, 181 E. Santa Clara St in downtown Ventura and will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 May 13 through May 28 with one matinee on Saturday the 21st at 4:00 pm.

May 14: International jazz vocalist **Toni Jannotta** will bring her quintet to the WAV Theater Gallery, with two sets beginning at 8:30 p.m. Joining Toni onstage will be L.A.

saxophonist Scheila Gonzalez from Zappa Plays Zappa, local players Kevin Fukagawa on keyboards and Tom Etchart on acoustic bass, and L.A. drummer, Derek Syverud.

Toni, a two-time arts grant recipient, was last seen at the WAV when she presented her performance creation, "Voices of the Homeless" on the patio last August.

In addition to great music, the concert will feature beautiful original art pieces. A \$10 donation is appreciated at the door. For more about the WAV visit WAVartists.com

May 14: The **Ventura Beginners Personal Computer Users Group** will meet Saturday, in the 3rd floor lounge of the Cypress Place Active Senior Living building, 1220 Cypress Place. A workshop will begin at 9:15 a.m. and the meeting at 10 a.m. Susan Vinson an instructor at the Senior Center on Ventura Ave, will present "The Do's and Don'ts of Email." For more information, call Marcie Malony at 648-1368.

May 15: Camerata Pacifica's core ensemble violinist Catherine Leonard, violist Richard Yongjae O'Neill, cellist Ani Aznavoorian and pianist Warren Jones, return to wrap up the acclaimed organization's 21st season. **Camerata Pacifica** performs monthly in four cities: Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Marino and Los Angeles. Tickets for the concerts as well as additional information on Camerata Pacifica can be found at www.cameratapacifica.org or by calling 884-8410. Tickets are \$35 for single and \$10 for Student Rush 30 minutes prior with valid student I.D for more information Call the office for group rate details.

May 21: San Buenaventura Friends of the **Library Armed Forces Day Book Sale** hours are from 9:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Sports Park on S. Kimball Road. Selling affordable quality used books

May 22: The Ventura Audubon Society May field trips are scheduled as follows: Saturday, May 21, 8:00 a.m. Hedrick Ranch

Continued on page 9



The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



Emily Olszowy

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

I was born in Humboldt County in Northern California where I played among the redwoods, ferns, and daffodils. When I was 6, my 11 year old brother suffered major trauma after being hit by a car while crossing the street, so our family returned to Southern California to obtain appropriate medical attention for his needs. We settled in the San Fernando Valley close to both sets of my grandparents. After graduating from high school I worked various office and odd jobs, including working a few years as a massage therapist. While I enjoyed helping people in such a tangible, visible way, the work was physically taxing. Ultimately, I realized my deep desire to change lives in ever more important ways, which led me to return to college to earn a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies followed by an elementary school teaching credential.

In 2002, many years after our initial meeting through mutual friends, I re-met my future husband, Kenny. We found a great place in downtown Ventura in 2004, loving the close proximity of the beach, shops, and restaurants. We got married in 2007, and had our beautiful daughter Mary in 2008.

When I am not substitute teaching, I enjoy exercise, crafting, crossword puzzles, word games, scouring thrift stores, photography, and most importantly, continuing to learn how to be the best mother I can be.

After knitting for a couple years, I taught myself to crochet. I quickly conquered scarves, hats, an enormous granny square blanket, and began crocheting baby toys.

A few months ago, I heard of a woman in San Diego who crocheted hats and hung them about her town for the homeless. This led me to my own "Random Crafts of Kindness" idea, which was to crochet some hats, attach a heart-shaped tag which read:



"FREE!" on one side, and on the other, "This hat is: clean, warm, and for you." followed by a small peace sign. It is my hope that whoever discovered one of my hats smiled in a confused and happy way. I like to think that each person who found a hat needed a small pick-me-up right then, or maybe just a reminder that there is kindness and brotherhood in the world, and maybe that person's day was made a little more bearable.

What I like most about living in Ventura:

I love living in a small town that is still near The Big City. I love taking Mary out for walks along the boardwalk, and breathing deeply the cool, clean, salty beach air. I love that I live within walking distance of three thrift stores; many a Saturday afternoon has been spent treasure hunting. I believe that Ventura is full of good, beautiful people, and I am blessed to live here.

The experience of having my portrait painted:

When I was approached to sit for Johanna, I was entirely flattered and amused that someone would want to take the time to paint my portrait. I considered arriving at the sitting with my face painted in sad-clown makeup, but I chickened out and decided to wear my "uniform"—cardigan sweater, tank top, and comfy jeans.

There was one aspect of the sitting that was challenging for me: It was a bit overwhelming at first to have my face lit up and then looked at, flaws, lines, creases, everything being taken in by Johanna and her artistic eye. But her personality, demeanor, and lovely British accent soon set me at ease; it helped me begin to accept my face as it is, full of evidence of my 35 years on this planet. The final product of our time together is a beautiful capture of who I am right now. I am proud to have experienced being painted by Johanna Spinks.



Captain Bill Finley



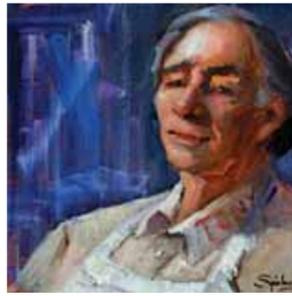
Howard Boroughs



Rachel Morris



Jolene McBee



Tony Barrios



Jerry English



Bonnie Weigel



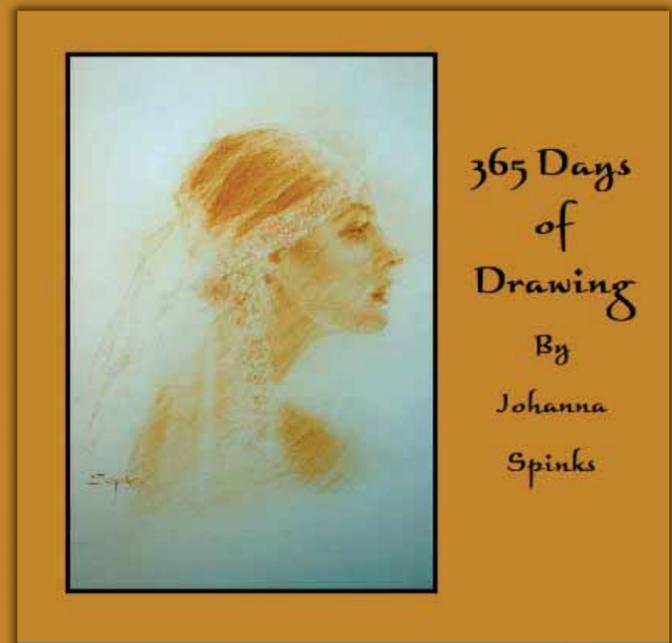
Manuel A. Valenzuela



MB Hanrahan

Portrait artist Johanna Spinks teamed up with the Breeze to take on a new challenge "The Face of Ventura". Aiming to paint 52 worthy Venturans, each in a single sitting painted directly from life at her Bell Arts Factory studio in around two hours. No photos are used, the direct interaction with the sitter the purpose of the challenge which will run in the Breeze over the next two years.

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Community Events

Ventura events

Continued from page 7

Nature Area, Santa Paula. Leader: Sandy Hedrick (340-0478). Bird this lovely area with the possibility of seeing Least Bells Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chats, and a Thick-billed Kingbird. Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Leader: Jack Gillooly (646-3867). Birds of Spring. Many habitats attract colorful migrants and summer residents: Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, roadrunners, warblers, and the elusive grasshopper sparrow. Bring binoculars. Beginners welcome Saturday, **May 28**, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Beginners' Bird Walk, Canada Larga Road. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037). Call the leaders for directions.

Ojai events

Full Moon Community Meditation in the Solar Month of Taurus on Monday, **May 16th**, at 7:30PM at Meditation Mount, 10340 Reeves Rd, Ojai. You are invited to participate in this joyous act of celebration and service at the time of the Full Moon in the solar month of Taurus to invoke, anchor and distribute blessings to our world. Please join in this group meditation for humanity, followed by a ritual of blessing on the Terrace overlooking the Ojai Valley. For reference, the exact time of the full moon is Tuesday, May 17th @ 4:08AM www.meditationmount.org or 646-5508

On Sunday, **May 8** at 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen "Poetry," a touching drama by South Korean director Lee Chang-dong about a sixty-something woman facing a diagnosis of early Alzheimer's and the discovery of a heinous family crime, while finding strength and purpose in a poetry class. "This is a small film. It is also a great one." Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune. And on Sunday, May 15 at 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen the French drama "Of Gods and Men," based on the true story of how a small group of French Christian monks living in a mountain valley in Algeria had their faith tested when their quiet pastoral life was shattered by violence during a 1995 civil war. "Beautiful, somber and rigorously intelligent" A.O. Scott, New York Times General Admission \$10, Seniors & Students \$7 and 2011 Subscribers free. Ojai Playhouse, 145 E Ojai Ave For more information call: 646-8946 or view the screening schedule at www.ojaifilmsociety.org.

The Ojai Studio Artists will be showcased in a group exhibition at the Ojai Valley Museum for a ninth consecutive year until June 12. Artists' Reception and Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be Saturday, **May 28** from 5-7:00 p.m. Reception is free and open to the public. This year, Michele Pracy, Museum Director and Curator of the exhibit, asked the participating artists to create works of art based on the concept of "Know Hope." The museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Ave. Adult admission is \$4.00. Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the museum at 640-1390, ext. 203, e-mail ojaimuseum@sbcglobal.net or visit the museum website at www.ojaivalleymuseum.org

Francisca Beach R.S.A.M.D., Artistic Director of Senga Classic Stage Company will teach two acting classes in May. One for adults and one for teens.

The teen class will include theatre games, improvisation, role playing and some script work. The Adult Workshop is for those with acting experience.

Six classes starting **May 7** - June 11. Venue: The Help Of Ojai, Santa Ana Street.

To register and for more information, please call Francisca Beach 646-4885 or

email franciscabeach@gmail.com, www.franciscabeach.com

The 27th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, **May 21 & 22**. 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. For more information, please contact Pat at 964-8915 or Jodie at 640-4384 x2284.

Ventura Art Happenings

Museum of Ventura County

A bushel of lemons once hid the visionary talent of the late Santa Paula folk artist Maura Flores Olney. Learn her story and see her intriguing handmade dolls and other works of art in Revelation: Rediscovering the Art of Maura Flores Olney, opening May 6 at the Museum of Ventura County, and running through June 19.

Rare historic books and photographs, as well as work by the late renowned artists Robert Graham and Vivika & Otto Heino, are on exhibition in Museum of Ventura County's Building the Collection: Recent Acquisitions, opening May 6 and running through June 19. The exhibition honors the donors and supporters who have made possible the growth of the museum's collection, which now includes more than 700 pieces of art and more than 30,000 artifacts.

Research Librarian Charles Johnson and Curator of Collections Anna Bermudez personally chose the wide variety of newly acquired pieces on exhibit.

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

Virginia Beale's "Recent Works" at the Buena Ventura Gallery

Virginia Beale believes that paintings are a form of language. She brings this language to a "Recent Works" solo exhibit at the Buena Ventura Art Gallery until May 21.

The Buena Ventura Art Gallery is located at 700 E. Santa Clara St. Hours are Tuesday-Friday from noon-5pm and Saturday from 11am to 5 pm. Please call 648-1235 or visit www.buenaventuragallery.org.

A for-profit art gallery lends financial support to a non-profit county arts organization!

The Board members of the Ventura County Arts Council (VCAC) recently approved the acceptance of the offer of financial support through donations to be received from the exhibiting artists and the curator of Gallery At The Crowne.

Beginning with the upcoming show, "Summer 11" (May - September) funds will be forwarded to the VCAC based on sales out of the gallery. On a voluntary basis, each artist can choose to designate a percentage of their sales commission to go towards the financial support of the VCAC. Curator, Terry Bray, is committed to 15% of her commission on any sales out of the gallery for 2011/2012.

Gallery At The Crowne consists of the entire 1st floor of the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach hotel.

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Art Scene

The soul of the artist

Artist G. Ramon Byrnes' silent symphony

by Emily Thiroux

The first public showing of stone sculptor G. Ramon Byrnes' life size musical instruments opens at the Museum of Ventura County on Friday, May 6. The Composed In Stone exhibition highlights Byrnes' suite of eight instruments, conceived and carved over the past five years and only recently completed. The exhibition continues through June 26.

Byrnes' silent symphony reflects his passion to transform hard surface into shapes that speak of sound and touch. A third generation stone mason and artist, Byrnes works out of Ventura's famed Art City, where he has made his artistic home since 2005. Ramon's work is installed in public and private locations throughout California, and in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Each sculpture is created with hand tools, only. No power tools. This means hundreds of hours of work, eight to fifteen hours almost every day. The string bass which is the centerpiece of his musical suite has taken over 600 hours. He knew what the bass would look like when he imagined her three years ago. He knew her face was enigmatic and he saw a woman at a Green Art People event with the face he imagined, so he has been working with this woman as a model, a wonderful experience for both of them. He is finishing this piece just in time for this show.

His vision of this musical suite is to launch his career as a renowned artist, and to bring the exposure and patronage he needs to continue his evolution as an artist. His mission is to garner attention to further his career. His passion glows through his work making stone come to life. You can almost feel the heat radiating from his sculpture of Jimmy Hendrix's flaming Stratocaster guitar.

Byrnes began sculpting in the 1970s as an apprentice to Big Sur's renowned wood sculptor Edmond Kara, and moved quickly into stone carving. He has worked as an instructor and demonstrator for the annual Sculptors Symposium at Camp Ocean Pines, Cambria, California, has facilitated stone sculpting workshops at the Esalan Institute in Big Sur, and teaches privately. He is also an active member of The Artist's Union Gallery in Ventura.

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 100 East Main Street in downtown Ventura. Hours are 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$1 children 6-17, members and children under 6 are free.

I hope you'll introduce me to artists you want to learn more about. Contact me through Facebook at The Heart of the Artist. Or email me at emily@theheartoftheartist. And I hope that you'll read my blog and support the artists I feature. <http://www.theheartoftheartist.com/category/Blog/>



Virginia Beale believes that paintings are a form of language. She brings this language to a "Recent Works" solo exhibit at the Buenaventura Art Gallery until May 21.



"Downtown" by Steve Cook can be seen at Fox Fine Jewelry in a show presenting artists Steve Cook and John Merrill from May 12 through July 11

An artists' reception will be Saturday, May 14th from 6 – 9 pm.



Carolyn Fox's work is bold and whimsical, with a contemporary sensibility. Full of energetic color and movement, the paintings bring a feeling of optimism to the viewer and encourage imaginative exploration. Her exhibit, "Back to the Garden" at the Vita Art Center will be from May 6-29 with an opening reception on May 6 from 6-9pm.



Deborah Hazen and Nancy De Lucrezia have been figuratively swimming inside out of each other's lives for months

"Swimming Inside Out of Hiding"

By Annie-Gabriel, CHt.

The WAV recently held an interesting and "out-of-the-box" 2-Woman Art Show, "Swimming Inside Out of Hiding" featuring Deborah Hazen, WAV Property Manager, and Nancy De Lucrezia, resident-artist.

Curated skillfully by Sarah Kalvin, Deborah's assemblages were riveting and brilliant. Cleverly staged as 3-dimensional "hands-on" pieces, pairs of cotton gloves were provided

at each stop along the tour, so that attendees could literally touch, feel and turn the pages of these "Alice-In-Wonderland-esque" creations!

Ms. Hazen was able to share some insights, saying: "Images and words have been swimming around inside me for years, but it is only recently that I have wanted to take a step or two out of hiding to share my books and assemblage pieces. It has become my way of working things out with myself and, hopefully, learning and growing through the process. My inner monologues, that become my books, act as a starting point for creative dialogue with others."

Nancy De Lucrezia's striking visual art pieces were varied, in size and subject matter, and seemed to speak to your inner psyche as you entered the space. As an artist for more than 50 years, Ms. De Lucrezia stated poignantly, "Art is my practice, my sanctuary and my portal to the subconscious. Art is one primary arena in which my feminine voice can emerge."

The story behind the story is

that last year, Sarah found out that Deborah was actually a highly creative artist herself. When Nancy was not sure who to select as an exhibit partner, Sarah mentioned she should show with Deborah...and the rest is history.

Both artists asked that Sarah curate the exhibit. De Lucrezia added, "Swimming Inside Out of Hiding" is an invitation to explore territories within ourselves. Thanks to Deborah for her willingness to come 'out of hiding' and reveal such witty and delightful glimpses of the border between sanity and dysfunction, and for loving me on both sides of that border; and to Sarah for her brilliant vision, masterful eye and generous heart as curator of this exhibit."

Kalvin revealed, "Hazen, DeLucrezia and I have been figuratively swimming inside out of each other's lives for months in the preparation of this exhibit, that celebrates the woman's point of view. It has enhanced our lives and we hope that it will do the same for those who viewed it."

Youth



Jeannette Sanchez, representing Assembly Member Das Williams congratulates champion spellers Luis Arroyo from E. P. Foster PEAK, Jacqueline Arroyo from E. P. Foster PEAK and Gianni Mendez from Portola PEAK.. Photo by Kristeen Campbell

PEAK hosts 4th annual Fourth Grade Spelling Bee

Family, friends and the public were present to witness the fourth annual 4th Grade Spelling Bee hosted by the City of Ventura PEAK (Program Enrichment for After-school Kids) on Thursday, April 21 in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall.

Thirty fourth-grade students received medals for being the top spellers at the city's six PEAK sites before they competed "for the crown" to become champion at this annual event.

The judges were Denise Sindelar, Manager of City of Ventura Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships and Raylene Villalpando, Senior Financial Services Representative Pacific Western Bank.

The plaques, given to the winners were donated by Linda and Jerry Mendelsohn from Custom Awards and Graving.

PEAK is a collaboration of the City of Ventura Community Services Department, the Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura Police Activities League to serve 500 youths after-school.

For more information contact Youth Programs Supervisor Mario Robinson at 654-7807 or mrobinson@cityofventura.net.

Applications available for Kids Swap Meet

Kids, it's time to clean your closets to swap, sell or fundraise! Applications are now available for the sixth annual Kids Swap Meet at Barranca Vista Park, 7050 Ralston on Saturday, May 14, from 9 am to 12 pm. The cost for a 10' x 10' space is \$15. Download applications at www.cityofventura.net (search "swap meet") or call 644-6542. The deadline is May 6th.

The swap meet is for kids by kids says event organizer Kathryn Dippong-Lawson. "Youth are encouraged to clean out the closet or garage of gently used old games, toys, clothes, bikes and books and then turn around and sell or trade them. Parents must participate with children under 14. No items may be brand new or part of a business, and no food items."

The swap meet anchors the free eighth annual Family Festival in the Park running from 11am-3pm, and includes the season opener for the FairyTales in the Park.

Questions about the Swap Meet, Festival, Volunteer Fair or Fairytales in the Park series can be directed to Kathryn Dippong-Lawson at 644-6542 or kdippong@cityofventura.net.

Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Several Whisenhunt Communications (WC) folks recently took their dogs for a visit to the WC sponsored Mutt Mitt station in Ventura.

Whisenhunt Communications and Community Memorial Health System sponsor stations at Community Park on Kimball. The city has more than 10,000 dog residents. For a \$600 donation, concerned businesses, individuals or groups can join in sponsoring a station for an entire year that will dispense 14,000 bags and prevent 3,500 pounds of pet waste from washing into our water (or sticking to our shoes). Sponsors receive a 18" by 12" sign that can be used to promote their business, create a loving tribute to our beloved canine friends, or show some community

To find out how you can sponsor a Mutt Mitt station in one of Ventura's parks, check out www.venturamuttmitt.com/station-sponsors-and-locations.html or contact me at scampclub@venturabreeze.com.

Recently a sold-out crowd of over 500 guests gathered at the historic Camarillo Ranch House for a unique dining experience. In addition to appetizers, a tasty barbeque dinner, beer and wine, they were joined by dozens of highly trained police dogs and search & rescue canines for "Dining with the Dogs" a charity event co-hosted by the National Police Dog Foundation, the Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 Unit, and the Ventura County Sheriff's Search & Rescue K-9 Team. The highlights of the evening were canine demonstrations of precision obedience and skillful agility, and the thrilling speed and power exhibited by a police K-9 "apprehending" a mock perpetrator.

A variety of dog breeds are used for different tasks, depending on their talents: Blood hounds with their legendary noses for trailing, Labrador retrievers with their unflagging energy and border collies with their focused intensity excel at area searches for live subjects or human remains detection, and German shepherds with their intelligence and well-rounded versatility are preferred for patrol work and Shih Tzu's are used to

go to the pet store and buy treats.

Other attractions were the SWAT Team with their impressive array of weaponry, and the Bomb Squad with their remote control robot and operations vehicle.

The evening was successful in raising nearly \$38,000, which will be shared among the three organizations. The National Police Dog Foundation assists law enforcement agencies with purchasing, training, and providing veterinary care for police dogs. The Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 Unit purchases all of their patrol K-9's with donated funds. The Ventura County Sheriff's Search & Rescue K-9 Team is an all-volunteer group, depending solely on donations to help handlers with the expenses of owning, training, and providing equipment for their dogs.

Also, the City of Ventura Police Department recently opened their new K-9 Storefront & Resource Center at the Pacific View Mall to support their K-9 team. They welcome you to stop and visit when you are in the Mall.

There are photos and information there about our wonderful K9 officers and who knows there might even be a K9 there that you can meet (and pet).



Joan Phelps with Penny the Pug, Stan Whisenhunt with Riley, Julie Price with Mojo, Cindy Daly with Holly and Lacy, and John Cressy with Widdle and Baron.

Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do?



The Ventura K9 team were present at "Dining with the Dogs" at the Camarillo Ranch House

Scamp Club



Woof:

I'm Tucker a one year old Bichon maybe, we're aren't exactly sure without DNA testing but I'm awfully cure whatever I am.

I like to eat, sleep, play hard and I love the beach and the water.

My best friend is "Chicky" the chicken that I live with who follows me around, especially at dinner time. (so which came first the chicken or the dog?)

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 become world famous.

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Resisting a Peace Officer

On Sunday, April 17th, at 1:29 p.m., Officer Snow of the VPD was patrolling in the area of the Pacific View Mall for suspects associated with bicycle theft. While searching the surrounding streets, Officer Snow stopped two known narcotic offenders standing outside of the Bayshore Motel: Chad Stukey, 39 years old, and Wendy Hinson both on probation for various drug charges.

Stukey was uncooperative, not following Officer Snow's commands, and was placed in handcuffs and seated in the back of a patrol car. Stukey had a violent outburst and kicked out the rear driver side window, damaging the vehicle. Officers responded by using a leg restraint to restrict Stukey's movements to avoid any injuries.

Neither Stukey nor responding Officers were injured during this incident and Stukey was booked into VC Jail.

Attacked Robbery

On Wednesday, April 6th, at 6:45 a.m., the victim was returning home

from an errand, in the 6000 block of Cloverly. When she stepped onto her front porch, she was confronted by a man who attempted to take her purse off her shoulder. The suspect was armed with a tire iron. During the struggle for her purse, the suspect pulled her to the ground. The suspect then fled the area. The victim sustained minor injuries as a result of this incident.

The next day, Christopher Garcia, 39 years old, was arrested by officers for theft related offenses unrelated to the previous robbery. Officers noticed that the license plate on Garcia's vehicle matched the license plate description given by the victim.

Garcia was arrested while in custody at the VC Jail.

Armed Robbery

On Thursday, April 14th, at 11:00 p.m., VPD responded to the 2000 block of Hill Street to contact the victims of a robbery that had occurred minutes prior.

Three male victims indicated they had left the 7-11 convenience store

and were walking north on Hill Street when they observed a dark colored Honda sedan stop alongside them. The first suspect, a Hispanic male in dark clothes, exited the vehicle and pointed a shotgun at the victims and ordered all three to their knees. They were ordered to empty their pockets, removing all their personal property. Another suspect obtained the property and the two suspects re-entered the Honda.

Officers searched the area for the suspects, but they were not located. The victims were not injured during the commission of this crime.

Sexual Battery

On Sunday, April 17th, at 5:15 a.m., a female juvenile woke up in her bed and realized that Donte Lincoln, 33 years old and a friend of the victim's brother, was on top of her. Lincoln restrained one of the victim's arms and used his other hand to fondle the victim's breasts. Lincoln also put his hand down the victim's pants and tried to grope the victim's crotch. The victim told Lincoln to stop or she would yell

for help. Lincoln got off of the victim and fled from the house on his bicycle. Lincoln left his wallet in the victim's bedroom. Officers were unable to locate Lincoln in the area.

In the afternoon, officers were able to contact Lincoln and took him into custody.

Gang Stabbing

The VPD has been investigating a gang related stabbing that occurred on Thursday, April 14th. The victim was involved in a fistfight with Jordan Patterson near the intersection of Hummingbird Street and Peacock Avenue. Once the fight was over, Patterson left the area, however returned with Richard Rodriguez and Anthony Trejo. The victim was cornered in a carport and stabbed several times.

The suspects fled the scene. The victim was transported to the VCMC. The injuries were non-life threatening.

Both Patterson and Rodriguez were arrested without incident on Monday, April 18th, and booked into VC Jail. Trejo is still outstanding and is wanted for questioning.



Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Saturday, May 7, 2011
11:00am - 2:00pm

- Live Mariachis & Dancers**
- Police K9 Presentation**
- Margaritas & Mexican Beer**
- Gourmet Mexican Buffet**
- Homemade Tortillas & Tamales**
- Jalapeño Eating Contest**

Suggested Donation for Lunch: \$10
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All proceeds go to The National Police Dog Foundation

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Help Cypress Place Senior Living raise funds for the National Police Dog Foundation that is committed to raising funds and awareness in support of Police K9 units across America. Come support Ventura.

Shuttle Parking on 5415 Ralston Street!



Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

Brown Bagging it!

By Nanci Cone

In times like this with prices going up and jobs that have disappeared, many seniors need a bit more help to get food on the table. Often, by the time they pay rent, utility bills, insurance payments and fill up on a tank of gasoline or pay any other bill, they don't have much left over to purchase nutritious food. That's where FOOD Share, the nonprofit regional food bank of Ventura County, and their Brown Bag Program can help. According to Christina Forino, Brown Bag Coordinator, "Between July 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011, the program served 1,958 clients."

The Brown Bag Program provides surplus and donated fruits, vegetables and other food products to low income individuals 60 years of age and older. Volunteers distribute the food to help supplement the nutritional needs of seniors who might need a little extra help. The good news is that there is no cost for these groceries to the participants, though voluntary contributions are always welcomed.

Sacks of food are distributed at various locations throughout the County such as at senior centers or at senior housing buildings. The types and amounts of food distributed vary depending on the season and other factors, but the bags usually contain citrus and vegetables; bread and rolls; carbohydrates in the form of rice, pasta, or beans; and protein in the form of canned tuna, fish, or chicken. These foods

are procured at minimal or no cost from farmers, food manufacturers, grocery stores, and food banks.

To be eligible applicants must complete a FOOD Share application, provide proof of age (60 or over) and proof of total monthly income (Single: \$1,215 or less, cash assets of \$2,000 or less/Married: Combined income \$2,257.50 and cash assets of \$3,000 or less).

Individuals willing to give of their time to help pack, distribute and deliver food to the 36 sites in the County should contact Christina Forino at FOOD Share. Volunteers should be able to stand, walk, bend and lift boxes of food product up to 35 lbs. Additionally, they should be compassionate, have a caring attitude, have courteous communication with clients and volunteers and be able to interact well and take direction as a team member from the FOOD Share Brown Bag Coordinator. Christina Forino commented that, "Volunteers make the program possible by their commitment to being at the sites every other week of the year. We are so grateful to have them."

It is important to note that for every \$1 donated, FOOD Share is able to provide \$7.15 worth of food to low-income seniors. The Brown Bag Program depends on grants and individual donations to help build and maintain program services so every donation is truly appreciated. FOOD Share works with various organizations to promote food drives so that no one is ever turned away for lack of supplies.

Information on the Brown Bag Program can be obtained by calling Christina Forino at 983-7100, ext. 133 or by visiting FOOD Share's website at www.foodshare.com.

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Harbor Happenings

First sighting of the Blue Whale!

The magnificent Blue Whales have returned to the waters within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. On Sunday April 23, Island Packers vessel sighted the first blue whale of the year at Anacapa Island.

One of the most amazing natural wonders just off the California coast, the giant 90' Blue Whales are being

sighted within and near Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands.

Late spring thru September, hundreds of Blue and Humpback Whales congregate in and around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to feed. Ocean currents and underwater features create nutrient up dwelling, which is the first link in a very productive food chain. During the spring and summer "blooms" of plankton attract birds, fish and mammals to the waters surrounding the Channel Islands. The area has become a destination for researchers and whale watchers from around the globe to come and experience one of the world's largest

concentrations of Blue Whales. Intensely hunted in the past, the Blue's population is estimated at only 5,000 to 12,000 world wide; 2,000 of those in the Eastern Pacific. Each year, approximately 200 of these leviathans come to the local waters to feed. The Blues are the largest of the whales, at 33 meters (110ft) and close to 200 tons; they can be bigger than the largest dinosaurs.

Island Packers provides cruises to visit these great creatures in the waters near the offshore islands that make up the Channel Islands National Park. The trip is an all day event, therefore

it is recommended for individuals who enjoy being on boats. Naturalist and Researchers from the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary may be onboard as well as a trained crew naturalist.

For a grand finale, the cruise includes a visit into the Painted Cave on Santa Cruz, one of the largest sea caves on any island in the world. Other marine life that might be encountered include: pelagic birds; sharks; ocean sunfish; Seals and Sealions; Humpback, Fin, and Minke Whales; Common, Risso and Bottlenose Dolphin; and much more.

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Photo by Tim Haut



Ventura's Finest Businesses

Business profile

Go fishing downtown

by Lisa Lugo

Downtown Ventura now has its very own Go Fish store! Owner Terry Hazen discovered the Go Fish franchise in Savannah, Georgia. After working 26 years as an executive director at Tender Life Maternity Home, Hazen looked for new ways to continue providing aid to those in need. "What first attracted me to Go Fish were the fair trade concept and the prospect of helping people globally," says Hazen. "I felt that the Go Fish store would be a good fit in Ventura County. I was elated to discover that franchise opportunities were available." Hazen, who, aside from dedicating most of her time at the store, enjoys the company of her three adult kids, husband, and her Yellow Lab, Bailey.

In addition to being an expert gourmet cook (who acquires most of her supplies at the local Farmers Market), she enjoys hiking the local trails in Ventura, and attends Yoga classes for relaxation. Hazen takes pride in working alongside Curt Colman, who founded the first Go Fish store over 20 years ago, in Georgia. He visited villages, primarily in Indonesia and Thailand, and purchased goods directly from the villagers for the asking price. Today, he regularly visits the local families he has developed relationships with and continues to buy their goods. There are currently 14 stores, and in March 2009, Hazen opened the first store on the West Coast.

The store is full of merchandise created by artisans from all over the world. Unique items ranging from hand-woven baskets to large, whimsical giraffes contribute to the flavor of the store. The most popular item is the hand-stamped Batik clothing and bags made in Java, Indonesia. Each item is a piece of wearable art; no two prints are identical. Other merchandise available at Go Fish

includes beaded "Bling" sandals, purses, scarves and a variety of exotic hand-made jewelry.

So head down to Go Fish Clothing & Jewelry for a shopping experience you won't find anywhere else. Their motto is "Buy One, Help One," so you'll not only find something special for yourself, you'll support and patronize talented artisans from across the globe.

Regular store hours are Mon-Wed-Thurs. from 11-6, Fri-Sat from 11-7, and Sunday from 11-5. They are closed on Tuesdays.

Go Fish, 309 Main St., 648-3474
ventura@gofishretail.com
ventura.gofishretail.com



Grand opening party enjoyed by all at the new offices of RH Wealth. Photo by Dan Holmes

RH Wealth Advisors comes to Ventura

RH Wealth Advisors, Inc., a wealth management firm, has moved its offices to City Center at 5700 Ralston Street, Suite 102, in Ventura. The offices had previously been located in Oxnard.

To celebrate their relocation to Ventura, the firm held a grand opening party on April 15. The event included a ribbon cutting hosted by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. Ventura Mayor Bill Fulton was on hand to cut the ribbon and address the crowd, along with Sandra Burkhart, President and CEO of the Chamber. Randy Hinton, President of RH Wealth Advisors, said, "We are delighted to have our offices in Ventura once again. City Center is an ideal location for us and our clients and is more convenient and accessible."

Hinton has been advising individual and institutional clients since 1985. His areas of expertise include: asset management and preservation, retirement income planning, life insurance and annuities, and advising business owners and professionals in all financial matters. He has long been active in the community, serving as the Chairman of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce in 2009.

Sports

Surfing at the age of 7

by Kenton Rivas

My name is Kenton Rivas and I recently moved back to Ventura after being away for thirteen years. My upbringing has been somewhat nomadic. I grew up an oilfield brat born in Boulder, CO and have lived in five states and ten cities to this date. I lived in Ventura for seven years before moving to Lafayette, LA in 7th grade. The unique cultures, people and experiences I have had in the various places I have lived are invaluable and have helped shape me into the person I am today.

My first introduction to surfing was

at the age of 7 in Marina Park in Ventura. I can still remember to this day the vivid details of the ride. I was already standing on my Dad's 8 ft board and was pushed in by my Dad as the wave came to us. I rode the wave all the way into the beach and jumped off into the sand. I remember turning around to look at the ocean in a whole new light; I was stoked! Words do not do justice in describing this feeling of pure joy. I was instantly hooked. I soon after bought my own board; a blue dinged up single fin short board missing part of the nose, from a kid on my street who lived in his van out front of his parents' house. Finally, I could go surfing with my Dad!

The early morning wake ups to jump in my Dad's big yellow van to go surfing is a great memory and maybe why that time is my favorite time to surf still to this day. Dawn patrol is a special time to be in the ocean as the sun rises with great magnificence and array of colors over the glassy ocean. The wind and crowds have not yet had a chance



Kenton Rivas is well qualified to be the new surfing writer for the Breeze

to disrupt this quiet peace. On big days my Dad wouldn't let me get in the water, so I would sit on the front of the van and just watch. I can remember day dreaming about when I was older how I would charge those big days where few people get in.

Before I could graduate from the grommet stage of surfing my family moved to Lafayette, LA the summer before I began 7th grade. One of the first weekends in Louisiana my family drove to a spot on the map called "Holly Beach". This was no beach. Mosquitoes filled the air over the muddy clayish ground up to the brown water. The brackish water was warm and seemed to turn our skin white. Surfing and beach days for my family had officially come to an end. I was so humb'd! I shortly after took up wrestling as my new outlet, but never forgot surfing. I always hung surfing posters in my room and watched surfing movies fantasizing about one day returning to the ocean.

After wrestling in college in Iowa I returned to Louisiana for a girl where I worked off shore on oil rigs for a few years. I finally had enough of oil rigs and the girl. I quit both, borrowed my Dad's van for the summer with the back seats taken out for a bed, and drove back to Ventura. After two long days of driving through Louisiana and Texas I pulled into The Point parking lot just

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Ventura Police Department
1425 Dowell Dr.
Ventura, CA 93001

www.venturapd.org

Sports

before sunset. I couldn't help but let the tears of joy stream down my face to be back at The Point. I lived off peanut butter sandwiches out of my Dad's van and surfed every day during the summer of 2009.

After blissfully falling back into surfing and everything that comes from it I know my passion for this purely awesome activity runs deep. Nothing is cooler than surfing and surf travel. Surfing new waves in warm water, experiencing new cultures and people is the coolest thing; ever. As said in the surf movie Sipping Jetstreams "The World is a Book; those that don't travel read only the first page".

In this new surfing section in the Ventura Breeze I aim to bring interesting subject matter and stories about surfing and surfers to the focus. Each surfer has their own culture and individually contributes to the surf culture at large. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to live in Ventura and share my passion for surfing and living. As local surfer Rob Woods told me "Have your life revolve around your passions, not your passions revolve around your life".



Joey Ramirez-Ventura College men's basketball coach

New men's basketball head coach at VC

On Feb. 22, Joey Ramirez, the assistant coach for the Ventura College men's basketball team for the past

two seasons, was named as the new full-time head coach for the Pirates. Ramirez prides himself on assembling a competitive and respectable basketball program. His philosophy on discipline, hard-work and team unity have paid dividends as he has demonstrated as an athlete, coach and teacher. His high level of commitment and his outstanding leadership and communication skills assists him both on and off the court.

Two seasons ago Ramirez returned to Ventura College where he had a very productive playing career for coach Phil Mathews from 1992-94. As a team captain, Ramirez led his team to the State Championship Final Game both years and a No. 2 ranking in the country. He was awarded first team All-Western State Conference both years, Western State Conference Co-MVP in 1994, and first team All-State in 1994. Ramirez went on to start as a point guard at Pepperdine University. In 1995, Ramirez transferred to UC Riverside where he was team a captain and an All-CCAA Selection.

Ramirez began developing his coaching skills at his alma mater, Santa Paula High School, as he started as an assistant coach from 1997-2000 where he helped lead the Cardinals to its first league championship in over 20 years. In 2001, he was promoted to head coach for the girl's basketball team at SPSHS. He led the Lady Cardinals to a Frontier League championship and won the first CIF playoff game in school history. He received Frontier League Coach of the Year honors that year. From 2002-2006, he was the Head Boys basketball coach at Santa Paula, and led his team to a second place finish in the Frontier League and CIF qualifiers in his last 2 years. In 2007, Ramirez left Santa Paula to join Oak Park as their assistant boys basketball coach and in 2008, he became the head boys basketball coach leading them to a Tri-Valley League Championship, CIF semi-finals appearance and to a second State Tournament appearance in the school's history. These accomplishments also earned a Coach of the Year award in 2008.

Ramirez is a native of Ventura County. He and his wife, Olivia, have three boys, Andrew, Marcos and Eric and they reside in Oxnard Shores.

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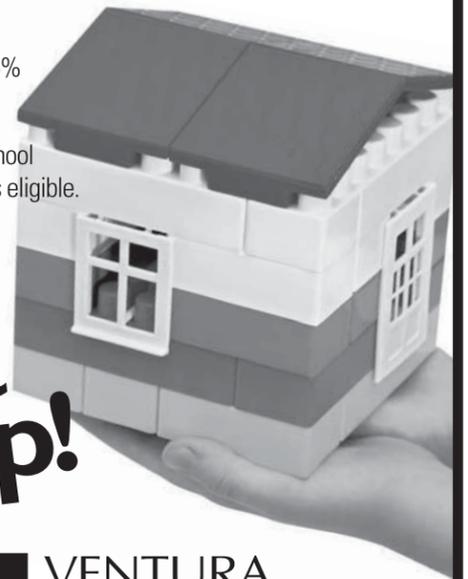
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King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

Answer

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

Show Time

Where The Music Flows

50 Sticks Of Dynamite

by Michael Kohli

Hot new local blues/rock band, 50 Sticks Of Dynamite recently performed at the House Of Blues in Hollywood. And, they are making noise all over the Ventura music streets. You can hear some of their live tracks at ReverbNation.com/50SticksofDynamite. The band features: Ian McFadyen - electric banjo, vocals, Mark Wingland - guitar, harmonica, keys, Michael Dominguez - bass, & Chris Jensen - drums. They have two upcoming local gigs in the works: May 6 at Billy O's and May 20 at Zoey's Cafe.

The Good Bar launches New Website

The Good Bar launched a brand new website. You can check out their events page - with a listing of upcoming live performances. The next live show will be Wednesday, May 4 featuring, Bruce Kimmell and Brian Nicolet.

Ink For A Cause -- the third?

Local artist, scenester, music lover, Christina Diaz, announced plans for a third Ink For A Cause festival at the Ventura Fairgrounds on September 16-18. Bands announced to perform include; The Rocketz, Inazuma, Deadbolt, The Resisters, and Graveyard Bandits. The event is a 3 day tattoo, art and music festival. A portion of the profits will go to The Best Day Foundation (a benefit program to help children with special needs by building self confidence and self esteem by providing activities such as; surfing, kayaking, snow sports, and more! For more info: Inkforacause.com. And, give a round of cheers to Christina! Oh, following the event both Friday and Saturday, the after party will be held at Zoey's Cafe. Stay tuned for more info!

Other upcoming Ventura gigs...

May 5 - Flambeau @ Blackbeards BBQ,
May 7 - Champagne Sunday @ Village Jester,
May 13 - Rachel Sedacca @ Big Buddha Lounge,
May 21 - Rey Fresco @ Majestic Ventura Theater

Thank you for your time!

--Michael Kohli

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PS: I have created a new Music Column blog website in honor of Lady Gaga. Mixed in with local bands, projects, and paths that lead to my hopes to either interview, network, or someday work with Lady Gaga. Includes music videos from We Govern We, Army Of Freshmen, Susan D. and more. www.TheRoadToLadyGaga.info

Music calendar 5/4 to 5/17

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

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Blackbeard's Seaside BBQ

1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115 805-650-7773

Karaoke every Wed 6-9pm

Thur 5/5 - Flambeau 6:30-9:30pm

Fri 5/6 - Ray Jay Band 6pm-10pm

Sat 5/7 - Ken Kong 12pm, Barstool Pigeons 6-10pm

Sun 5/8 - Lucky Sunday 12pm, Blue Stew 2-6pm

Thur 5/12 - Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm

Fri 5/13 - The Preachers 6-10pm

Sat 5/14 - Live Bait featuring Jen Staves

6-10pm

Sun 5/15 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Bombay's Bar & Grill

143 S. California St. 805-643-4404

All Star Blues Night every Wed 8pm

Live Bands every Thur, Fri & Sat

Afternoon Concerts every Sun 4pm

Cafe Fiore

66 California St. 805-653-1266

DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri & Sat

Wed 5/4 - Big Adventure

Thur 5/5 - Coso Live

Wed 5/11 - Big Adventure

Thur 5/12 - Bongo T

GiGi's Cocktail Lounge

2493 Grand Ave. 805-642-2411

Karaoke with Steve Luke every Sun & Wed 7pm- 12am

Fri 5/6 - Rough Riders 9pm

Sat 5/7 - What the Funk 9pm

Fri 5/13 - Bone Daddy 9pm

Sat 5/14 - Right As Rain 9pm

It's All Good Bar & Grill

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Open Mike Night every Wed

Majestic Theater

26 S. Chestnut St. 805-653-0118

Wed 5/4 - Soja

Sat 5/7 - Impulse 49

Sun 5/15 - Asesino, Cattle Decapitation,

Inherit Disease, Colpolscopy, Euphoric De-

filement, Inhumanization

Watermark On Main

598 E. Main St. 805-643-6800

Intimate Acoustic with Dano every Tue

Jazz at the Mark with Lois Mahalia every Wed

Thur 5/5 - Bill McPherson

Fri 5/6 - Midnight Band

Sat 5/7 - Granville Young

Thur 5/12 - Bobby Whatley

Fri 5/13 - Sally Jackels

Sat 5/14 - Granville Young

W2O Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St. (above Watermark)

805-643-6800

Friday Dance Party every Fri 9pm

Thur 5/5 - Shawn Jones

Fri 5/6 - Red Rhythm

Sat 5/7 - Midnight Band

Sun 5/8 - A.D.D.

Thur 5/12 - Shawn Jones

Fri 5/13 - Coso Live

Sat 5/14 - The Bomb

Sun 5/15 - Shawn Jones

Zoey's Café

185 E. Santa Clara St. 805-652-1137

Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm

Wed 5/4 - Tony Furtado Band (CD release)

8pm

Thur 5/5 - The Makepeace Brothers, Toni

Ferrari 8pm

Fri 5/6 - The Flynn Brothers Band 7:30pm,

Marquee full band, Pep Talk 10pm

Sat 5/7 - He's my Brother She's my Sister,

Megan Lehman Band 8pm

Mon 5/9 - Gurf Morlix concert 7:30pm

Tue 5/10 - Blue Grass Jam 6pm

Wed 5/11 - Todd Hannigan, Band Resi-

dency 8pm

Thur 5/12 - Saviours, T.F.W., Lazydogs 8pm

Fri 5/13 - Bob Jones Trio 8pm

Sat 5/14 - Chris Pierce and Band 8pm

Sun 5/15 - Lelia Broussard, Bess Rogers

6pm

Entertainment Report & movie review

At the movies

by Linde Carlson

At Caesars Palace, Las Vegas from March 28-31, the National Association of Theatre Owners in collaboration with CinemaCon, played host to one of the in-

dustry's most prolific exhibitions of cinema products and services sharing with us what goes on behind the scenes of the movie going experience.

CinemaCon, a convergence of industry leaders and decision makers, assembling in ballrooms, exhibition halls, and the palace coliseum, showcasing the world of cinema's largest inventory of everyone's favorite theatre treats. The exhibitors featured and demonstrated digital projection innovations, spotlighting educational opportunities in digital projection careers to just name a few.

CinemaCon's sponsors and partners, show management and the fantastically accommodating public relations team at Rogers and Cowan, rounded out a magnificent enterprise, making the convention a truly spectacular and enlightening event.

Limitless



What if we all had a clear gel type pill that made us genius on a regular basis? Could you imagine being spot on trading stocks so confidently, getting richer than richer, finishing a 200 page novel in a couple of days, astonishing literary agents, impressing everyone who once thought of you as a pathetic loser, until one day one little clear pill changes everything, you thought.

In this well directed, techno thriller-psychological drama, Eddie Morra, played by Bradley Cooper, takes an unexpected turn in a happenstance meeting when he bumps into his ex-brother-in-law (Johnny Whitworth), is given a clear gel tab that steadies his mental focus, allowing him to learn languages in hours, learn the stock market in minutes, re-iterate history in seconds, all the while impressing his slowly-slipping-away girlfriend (Abby Cornish) back to lust again, even for only a hot minute.

Reality and the truth lays ahead, when the drug deal of the century goes bad and he finds his ex brother-in-law murdered. Frantic, Eddie tries to find the stash, knowing that otherwise his facade of genius will come to a screeching halt.

He eventually finds the drug and he continues a tailspin of lies, deceit and panic. He meets Wall Street tycoon, (Robert DeNiro) eager-to-become richer. Mora astonishes him with his number turning wit and uncanny accountability of secrets about business dealings in the works, that nobody else should even know about. When Morra lapses and doesn't have his magic pill, the boss (DeNiro) gets suspicious. All the while, Morra is hunted down, and chased by seedy, greedy druggies who find out about this powerful mind expanding pill. But everyone is all too self-absorbed to realize, this pill has adverse side effects.

Win Win



Directed by Thomas McCarthy (The Station Agent), Business is slow at the law firm owned by struggling attorney and part time wrestling coach Mike Flaherty, played by Paul Giamatti (Barney's Version and Sideways).

Mike agrees to care for an aging client with dementia through a court-appointed arrangement, allowing him to stay in his home. But in a shifty turn, an all but too-true situation of financial despair takes over in an effort to save his family from financial crisis, Mike puts Leo (Burt Young) in a home for the aged, then collects a commission of \$1,500 to lessen his financial

woes. Knowing, that he has committed an unethical act, he hides the money from his strong and curious wife Jackie, played by Amy Ryan, too belittling to admit what he has done.

Kyle, (Alex Schaffer) turns up at the Flaherty home unannounced, turning out to be the grandson of Leo. Kyle has run away from a dysfunctional home life, a mother who is in and out of drug rehab and pretty much an absentee mother. He settles in to their household, not causing too much of a stir, and the sympathetic couple Mike and Jackie nurture him to a healthier place. Kyle visits Mike at the high school where he coaches, and is asked if he wants to wrestle. Enthusiastically Kyle agrees. Corroborating his identity, Mike finds out Kyle is a high school wrestler, top at his game, and Kyle attempts to help the team win a state championship.

Two on the Aisle

Buried Child

by Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

Your first thought, when choosing a weekend's entertainment, may not run to a play titled "Buried Child" looking for laughs. However, should you pass this offering up you will miss some fine acting, unexpected insights and yes, even laughs.

The 1979 Pulitzer prize-winning dark comedy-drama by Sam Shepard, now playing at the Santa Paula Theater Center through June 5, presents an intricate dance of dreams, myths and disillusionments that highlight disintegration of the family unit as played out during a single 24-hour period in a highly dysfunctional mid-western family. The family members all carry secrets and personal disappointments that shade their personal views of life and one another. When brought together, those views do not blend, but merely circle each character like a cloud, ebbing and flowing freely.

Dodge (Taylor Kasch) is an elderly man who spends his days and nights on the living room sofa, drinking and watching television. His wife Halie (Carol Sigurdson) leads her own life, socializing, reminiscing and overlooking reality in favor of a more interesting fantasy life. The couple's surviving adult sons include the eldest, Tilden (David Newcomer), who is emotionally disabled, while Bradley (Anthony Stetson) is physically challenged, having lost a leg to a chain-saw accident. Neither son provides any real value to the family and yet both are expected to be available at any time, roles they fulfill with mixed interest.

Unexpectedly, the family is joined by Tilden's son Vince (Max Kasch) and his girlfriend Shelly (Jen Ridgway). After Vince leaves for a trip to town, Shelly tries to make some sense of the family's unusual interactions and in doing so she edges the family toward disclosure of deep secrets and the layers of irreparable emotional harm begin to peel away like an onion.

Adding an element of pathos and comedic relief is Frank Payfer as Reverend Dewis, the confused, overwhelmed and not so pious preacher who also finds himself in a world he cannot comprehend or control.

When written, examining the dysfunctional family was relatively new in concept. Now, of course, this is the norm of sit-coms, films and stage. Little is unsaid. The power of this particular piece, to us, is the manner in which it is delivered.

Director and lead actor Taylor Kasch (who stepped into the principal role at the last minute) has assembled a solid cast of actors to bring justice to this complex piece of writing. The performances across the

Continued on page 20

The Lighter Breeze

Zits



Crock



Beetle Bailey



Mallard Fillmore



Bizarro



For Better or Worse



Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Actor McBride
- 4 Church section
- 8 Taj Mahal city
- 12 Baltimore newspaper
- 13 Hammerhead part
- 14 "Let's Make a Deal" option
- 15 Opposites
- 17 Source
- 18 Sandwich treat
- 19 Moment
- 20 Hearty drinks
- 22 College VIP, for short
- 24 Mexican entree
- 25 Cake enhancement
- 29 Guitar's cousin
- 30 Shine
- 31 Born
- 32 Represent in words
- 34 Microwave, e.g.
- 35 Aspire
- 36 Intelligent
- 37 Fix software
- 40 In the thick of

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- 41 Winged
- 42 Party guests
- 46 Bath powder
- 47 Swerve
- 48 Agt.
- 49 Pharaoh's symbol
- 50 Lancaster foe
- 51 Firmament
- 6 Witness
- 7 Type measures
- 8 Aimless
- 9 Slip-up
- 10 Santa's runway
- 11 Pretentious
- 16 Therefore
- 19 British singer Stone
- 20 Poker variety
- 21 Aftermath
- 22 Investigate
- 23 Got up
- 25 Turn over
- 26 Sci-fi villains, often
- 27 -do-well
- 28 Bloke
- 30 Rum recipe
- 33 House of worship
- 34 Leave out
- 36 Smug look
- 37 Information
- 38 Verve
- 39 Pitcher's boo-boo
- 40 State with certainty
- 42 Wall climber
- 43 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
- 44 Comic-strip squeal
- 45 Bond, for one

DOWN

- 1 Helgenberger series
- 2 Attila, e.g.
- 3 Bills
- 4 -ski
- 5 Mexican money

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're the first sign in the Zodiac and like to take the lead wherever you go. But this time, you'd be wise to follow someone who has much to teach you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your adversary hasn't given up trying to undermine you. Continue to stay cool — someone in authority knows what's happening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Spring brings a positive aspect for relationships. Paired Twins grow closer, while the single set finds new romance — perhaps with a Leo or Libra.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Wavering aspects this week mean weighing your words carefully to avoid misunderstandings.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You could soon be on a new career path in pursuit of those long-standing goals, but don't cut any current ties until you're sure you're ready to make the change.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A former colleague wants to re-establish an old professional connection. It would be wise to make the contact, at least until you know what he or she is planning.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) A relationship that survived some rocky moments could be facing a new challenge. Deal with the problem openly, honestly and without delay. Good luck.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A recent and much-appreciated change in the workplace inspires you to make some changes in your personal life as well. Start with a plan to travel more.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A friend needs your kind and caring advice, but you need to know what he or she is hiding from you before you agree to get involved.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your circle of friends continues to widen. Expect to hear from someone in your past who hopes to re-establish your once-close relationship.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your aspects favor the arts. Indulge in whatever artistic expression you enjoy most. A workplace situation will, I'm pleased to say, continue to improve.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Warning! Your tendency to let things slide until the last minute could have a negative effect on a relationship that you hope can develop into something meaningful.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are both emotional and sensible. You enjoy being with people. Good career choices include teaching, performing and the clergy.

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Solutions on page 15

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL 2011
 SUNDAY, JUNE 5th, 2011 • 1 PM - 5 PM

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www.cpwineandfoodfestival.com

General Admission Tickets
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All proceeds benefit the children and families of Casa Pacifica, a crisis-care and residential treatment facility for abused, neglected, or at-risk children, throughout Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Casa Pacifica is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1988. Tax ID #77-0195022

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Rapunzel

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VFS@THE MUSEUM 2011

“OT: Our Town”

by **Lorenzo DeStefano**
Ventura Film Society

The young people at Dominquez High School in Compton, California are disinterested, wary and often-troubled by the extreme violence that rules their world. As one female student shares, “Compton is home to gangster rap and gangsters. That’s all people know about Compton, That’s all people think about Compton.” Her school, with its overwhelming focus on sports, has not produced a play in over twenty years. With nothing in the way of a theater program or a budget of any sort, incoming drama teacher and director Catherine Borek decides to change all that. This riveting documentary chronicles the month and a half of strenuous, often heated rehearsals leading up to the

opening night performance of the classic American play, “Our Town”, by Thornton Wilder, by way of Compton, California.

Director Scott Hamilton Kennedy will attend the screening and conduct a post-screening discussion.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to present this inspiring film on Tuesday May 17 @ 7pm as part of their 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 or 628-2299.

Two on the Aisle

Continued from page 16

board are stellar. There is no hint of soap opera or playing for laughs. The nuances of Taylor Kasch’s characterization are

remarkable. Newcomer displays deep dramatic range. Sigurdson provides her role with the appropriate ambiguity, while Max Kasch and Ridgway both effectively deliver the vital conflicted energy pivotal to making the play work.

Production elements are equally exceptional. The ramshackle farmhouse with its sparse interior, the subtle sound

engineering and effective lighting weave a spell that thoroughly pulls the audience into the experience.

“Buried Child” runs until June 5, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Santa Paula Theater Center, 125 S. 7th St., Santa Paula. Tickets: \$18. Reservations: www.santapaulatheatercenter.org or 525-4645.



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