

FREE



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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August 10 - August 23, 2011



Sid White has just resigned as the City of Ventura's Economic Development Manager, where he has served since 2002

Ventura's Economic Development Manager resigns - part 1

by Tim Pompey

Sid White recently left his post as the City of Ventura's Economic Development Manager. The Breeze wanted to talk to White about his long career in urban renewal and economic development. This is part 1 of a 2-part interview.

White grew up in Reinholds, located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania—noted home of the Amish and Pennsylvania Dutch. "It was very austere," he said. "We didn't have indoor plumbing until I was 16 years old, but I knew about community service. In fact, any notice of self above community was darn near a sin."

He received a scholarship to attend Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania and received his degree in psychology. After graduation, he enrolled at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York where he majored in urban and environmental studies.

At Rensselaer, he learned the nuts and bolts of urban economic development. As White described it: "Troy was one of the old nitty gritty industrial cities located at the confluence of the Hudson River and Erie Canal. It was the home of Bessemer Steel and the birthplace of the industrial revolution. It had thrived in the 1800s up to the 1960s, and then it went bust."

This was during the 1970s when "all of the social programs came out, and that was a lot of our curriculum." White interned for the city and had to "figure

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On Saturday, August 6 the Ventura County Fair Parade was held on Main Street, starting at Cemetery Park and ending at Mission Park. The street was lined with thousands who came to enjoy this annual event, perhaps Ventura's finest parade. Over 80 entrants entertained the crowd with everything from clowns to cowboys to marching bands led by this year's grand marshal Hank Lacayo from Newbury Park in a horse drawn carriage. Lacayo is a community civil rights leader.

FOODShare's CEO Bonnie Weigel acted as the parade's emcee announcing the entrants as they passed California Street. Joining her, and others in the grandstand was Barbara Quaid the fair CEO.



KemperSports managed Golf Courses among the best

Golfweek recently announced its list of the best municipal courses in 2010-2011, including five KemperSports courses. The list was determined utilizing Golfweek's panel of course raters around the country.

KemperSports managed courses on the list include: Chambers Bay in Uni-

versity Beach, Wash., Butterfield Trail in El Paso, Desert Willow in Palm Desert, Calif., Sand Creek Station in Newton, Kan. and our own Olivas Links.

"We have been managing municipally owned courses for more than 30 years and are proud that several deserving courses have been recognized," said KemperSports CEO Steve Skinner.

Offering a unique golf experience with spectacular coastal views, Olivas Links provides a challenging round for players of all abilities. Conceived by course architect Forrest Richardson, the layout encourages a variety of shot selections.

Call for expert consultants by WEV

Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) is looking for expert consultants to volunteer for Thrive in Five, a program that encourages existing small businesses to grow and thrive. Thrive in Five provides long-term, individualized training, consulting and coaching for entrepreneurs who have already written a business plan and launched their business, but need assistance with stabilizing and/or growing their companies.

Success is achieved through regular meetings with WEV staff, consultants and coaches who facilitate accountability to the business owner's strategic goals. WEV enrolls only the most dedicated individuals who can commit to working with Thrive in Five for at least twelve months and up to five years.

If you are interested in volunteering to become a Thrive in Five expert con-

Continued on page 4

This issue's Face of Ventura by Johanna Spinks is on page 10.



Ventura County Fair 2011



Ventura Police Officer Jack Ortega and his K9 partner Artus are on hand at the Fair to keep their 4 eyes on things (with several other K9 teams).

Artus and Officer Ortega have been partners since January 2009 and Artus lives at home with Officer Ortega and his family (with retired K9 Felix).

Artus is trained in narcotics detection so don't go pet him if you have illegal drugs in your pocket or he might just take them away from you and give you a stern lecture. He was born in Germany in October 2005 and is a male sable colored German shepherd.

Five more days to enjoy the Fair

As the Fair winds down there is still plenty of wonderful days and entertainment ahead.

REO Speedwagon; Wednesday, August 10, 7:30

Lifeline with Toy; Thursday, August 11, 7:30 PM

Trace Adkins; Friday, August 12, 7:30 PM

PRCA Rodeo; Saturday and Sunday, August 13 & 14, 2pm and 7pm

Military Day - Thursday, August 11-Military with a current, valid ID get in free all day

Carnival Wristband Days - August 11-Wristbands are sold from 11am until 6pm for \$25. Good for unlimited Carnival Rides until 7pm

Be sure not to miss Fishes & Friends in their new location in the Livestock Area.

The Fair is a wonderful time for families and children, but it's a big and busy place too. It's easy for kids to get lost in the shuffle of crowds and confusion. Here are some helpful hints to keeping your children safe and close at the fair!

We encourage parents/guardians to take and store a photo of their child/children before entering the fairgrounds to assist security in locating them if they become lost. Point out security personnel to your children. They will be identifiable by their bright yellow jackets.

Let your child know of an easily located meeting place if you are separated from one another and give it a name for them to remember so if they are found they can say "Take me to the Ferris wheel." Also select this location as a specific meeting point within the fairgrounds where your family can reconvene at different times throughout the day.

And remember that free parking and free shuttles to the Fair run continuously at:

County Government Center off Telephone Road in Ventura, in Lot E and Lot F
Ventura High School Larrabee lot off Poli Street in Ventura

Corner of Schooner and Harbor Blvd. across from the Sheraton FourPoints Hotel in Ventura Harbor

Pacific View Mall in Ventura

VUSD Parking Lot, W. Stanley Ave at Hwy 33

Oxnard Performing Arts Center on Hobson Way in Oxnard

Additional not free parking is available at:

State Beach Parking Lot:

Shuttle is free, however there is a \$10 parking fee at State Beach

Marriott Ventura Beach:

Shuttle is free, however there is an \$8 parking fee at Marriott Ventura Beach

Wheelchair capable busing will be available from all sites. To park free of charge, persons with disabilities, even those who display the State handicapped placard,

must take advantage of the free parking listed above. Persons with disabilities will not be permitted to park free of charge on-site at Ventura County Fairgrounds.

And be sure to visit the Ventura County Fair at Face Book, MySpace and Twitter!

Sign up for your own accounts, bookmark the pages, send them to your B.F.F.! Join their Friend list! It's Fun! It's Easy!

Ventura County Fair Facebook

Ventura County Fair My Space

Ventura County Fair Twitter

They will keep in touch throughout Fair season and beyond with updates, schedules and news about your favorite Fair, The Ventura County Fair!



Every year the Alaskan Racing Pigs keep running and running at the Fair. They never seem to get anywhere but it's a lot better than being served for breakfast. Photo by John Ferritto

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• No departures: 7:30pm Vta, 7:45pm Oxn, 9:30pm LAX-on Saturdays only.

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6:30am • 8:30am • 11am • 1pm • 3:15pm • 5:30pm • 7:30pm • 9:30pm

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Carnival Wristband Day

Wristbands sold from 11am - 6pm for \$25.
Good for unlimited Carnival Rides til 7pm
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Grandstand Entertainment

★ **Lifhouse** 7:30pm
With special guest Toy

Friday, August 12

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION

9AM 'til 5PM ...presented by Toyota

Grandstand Entertainment

★ **Trace Adkins** 7:30pm



Saturday, August 13

Sunday, August 14

RODEO ...presented by Toyota

2PM and 7PM
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City News



Standing on the front steps of City Hall Carla Bonney has announced that she will be running for a seat on the Ventura City Council. She will be running on a platform of "restoring the voice of the people". Photo by Julian Gonzales

City of Ventura Classes

Call 658-4726 or 654-7552 to register, if you already have an account online, visit www.cityofventura.net

The City of Ventura is taking registration for "Quick Takes" classes at the Barranca Vista Center, 7050 Ralston Street.

These one-day workshops will introduce you to something fresh, current and fun!

Contact Kathryn at 654-7552 for more information

Magic & Illusion for Youth 6-17 years \$40

Learn the secrets of magic and illusion and how to perform them from a full-time professional entertainer! From sleight-of-hand magic to stage illusions, learn the philosophical and psychological concepts behind professional magic effects as well as the presentation and performance skills needed to effectively present them. At BVC Instructor: Bart Rockett

29713 Tu 10am-12 pm 8/16

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29502 Sa 3-7 pm 8/20

Manager resigns

Continued from page 1

out how these programs worked and how we could make life better for folks who lived in our great cities."

He described Troy as "in the throes of urban renewal." Rebuilding the city was, for a young intern, quite a challenge. "They had destroyed about two-thirds of the downtown," he said. "Eventually, I took a full-time job as a planner and did a lot of downtown renewal. First I helped save what was left of the great downtown fabric and then we created a downtown historic district and put it on the National Trust of Historic Places."

White's unique approach tied together historic preservation with economic outcomes. "We were known as the Hudson Mohawk Cultural and Historic District," said White, "and we worked with Rensselaer to develop a business incubator, the first business incubator in the country. I also founded the Industrial Development Authority that financed the facility."

White must have done something right. For his work in Troy, he received the prestigious New York State Main Street award in 1984.

White's connection to Ventura was pure kismet. Ann Baker, his wife-to-be, was a Ventura native and the great granddaughter of E.P. Foster. Baker moved to Troy to work as an artist

and potter. Her cousin, a graduate of Columbia, also lived in Troy. "We had quite a few Columbia graduates come up and learn about historic preservation," said White.

When White and Ann Baker were married in Ojai in 1980, it was his first time in California. "I thought this was the most wonderful place on earth," he said. When he returned in 1984 for his mother-in-law's funeral, he noticed an ad in the L.A. Times for an economic development project manager for the City of Santa Monica and decided to apply. "I hand wrote my application," he said. He was hired and happily moved his family west.

White oversaw some important projects in Santa Monica, including the Ocean Park Beach Project and the rehabilitation of the Ocean Park Promenade and pier. When he left, he had just finished plans for the redevelopment of the former 3rd Street Mall.

White's next job was with Economic Research Associates in Westwood, where he eventually became a partner. His niche became feasibility analyses for development of convention centers and sports arenas such as the L.A. Convention Center and the Rose Garden, home to the NBA Portland Trailblazers.

After several years, White realized something was missing in his life. Children. He left Economic Research Associates and took a year off. "We hit our forties and I was traveling a lot for projects," he said. "We had forgotten about kids, so we decided to adopt." The Whites did research and found Cradle of Hope in Washington, D.C., a group that facilitated adoptions in the former Soviet Union and the Republic of Georgia.

The Whites adopted two 5-year-old girls, Rebecca and Elizabeth, from an orphanage in Georgia. White described the girls' joy over learning to play: "We took them out to Balboa Park in the San Fernando Valley and just let them run for hours on end."

In 2002, White encountered another kismet moment. While working as Economic Development Manager for the L.A. County Community Development Commission, he was reading the L.A. Times (again) and saw an ad for Economic Development Manager for the City of Ventura. "I faxed in the application," he said. "We decided to come back home."

White's qualifications, his connection to one of Ventura's most historic families, and his local knowledge of Ventura's quirky "oil, agriculture, tourism, beach town" economy worked very much in his favor. So much so that "as I was driving home from my last interview, I was offered the job."

WEV

Continued from page 1

sultant to support local entrepreneurs, please contact Program Director, Tea Silvestre, at tsilvestre@wevonline.org.

WEV is dedicated to creating an equitable and just society through the economic empowerment of women. Since 1991, WEV has been providing self-employment training, technical assistance and microloans to primarily low-income women. WEV was designated a Community Development Financial Institution in 1999 by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In 2005, the Small Business Administration recognized WEV as the most productive Women's Business Center in the nation. The WEV Web site is at <http://www.wevonline.org>.

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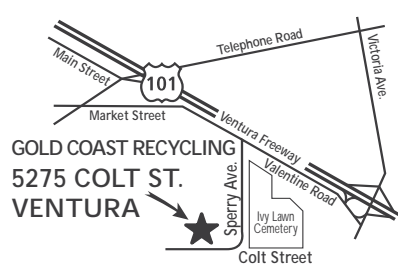
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Your Hometown Paper

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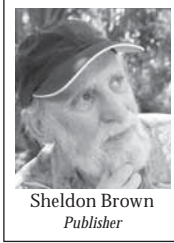
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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

■ We had a recent article by Sheli Ellsworth regarding the graffiti on the trestle where she stated "Is graffiti, on the Union Pacific railroad trestle over Highway 101, art or defacement of public property? Should the city accept Union Pacific's joint proposal involving Caltrans to help clean-up the tagging? Or, could the tagging simply be part of Ventura's avant-garde art scene?"

"Did the four teenagers who discovered the cave drawings in Lascaux, France stumble upon vandalism or rare Paleolithic illustrations?"

I received a very irate phone call from a reader who was very upset that "we" would consider this graffiti to be art and how would I feel if someone graffitied (is that a word?) my house.

I want to assure the caller, and all readers that neither myself nor Sheli consider the graffiti on the trestle to be art of any sort and she was just being humorous and satirical.

In fact I consider graffiti to be a serious crime against our society and I believe that their punishment should be to paint over their graffiti with a 1/2" paint brush so that the more the graffiti the longer the punishment.

■ In discussing the newly remodeled Promenade at a recent city council meeting member Brian Brennan stated that the design was skateboard friendly and in response to another council member who wasn't thrilled with this stated that it is "not a crime to skateboard".

Well actually there are locations, and situations in Ventura where it is illegal to skateboard and is a crime and skateboarders should know this. We will have a future article explaining our skateboarding laws.

And, personally I have some real issues with the attitude of many skateboarders in Ventura who seem to think that they can skateboard whenever (like 2am) and wherever they wish even if it is on private property.

The other day I saw a skateboarder take a really nasty fall and when a concerned lady asked him "are you alright" he sarcastically responded "no I broke my leg" (I



When approaching this alien, be sure to show it your UFO Network Badge (see page 9 for an explanation).

almost wish that he did, almost!)

■ A really sad testimonial to our economy I recently placed an ad on Craig's List for someone to deliver the Breeze, just every other Wednesday to one of the routes and received over 50 responses to the ad. Some

from as far away as Simi and Chatsworth and some with rather impressive resumes.

The funniest one was someone who wanted to deliver them on a motorcycle, the "stack" of papers is about 4'x4'x4' so this would need to be one big motorcycle.

■ I recently had some construction done that involved work in the city sidewalk and want to thank city employees Roger Markel and Felix Yzaguirre for their wonderful help and attitude in getting the project permitted and accomplished.

■ Restaurants, they are coming and going:

Panera (1,476 locations) will be going in where Applebee's was at the "Kohl Center". It's In The Sauce (on Main) is closed and being remodeled to become the new Top Hat under new ownership. The Cottage on Main has re-opened with new owners following the death of the previous owner. Paradise Grill & Sports Bar has closed (there is a new one on Channel Islands in Oxnard so maybe one was enough for the owner), at the old Taco Bell location at Main and Ventura Ave. is the new Himalaya (Nepal, India and Tibet food).

It is really good to see a nice restaurant at the beginning of the Avenue. Perhaps now other non-Mexican food restaurants will consider opening up on the Avenue. And the old Scotch & Sirloin will be opening as a new restaurant in April, 2012 as reported in the Breeze.

Not exactly a restaurant but the city council has given their final-final approval for a Winco market to move into the old Mervyn's location that has been vacant for many years.

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Mailbox

encourage us to have amnesia that this was the case and in fact his comments suggest a refutation of what occurred:

1. Sec. 24.545.100, 1-4: "Prior to granting an approval of an application for design review, the decision-making authority must make all of the following findings:

a. "The design and layout of the proposed development...is consistent with the comprehensive plan...and any adopted architectural criteria..." (now Calonne attempting to say not the case)

b. "The design and layout of the proposed development will accommodate the functions and activities proposed for the property, will not unreasonably interfere with the use and enjoyment of neighboring, existing or future developments and will not create traffic or pedestrian hazards." (now Calonne attempting to say not the case)

c. "The architectural design of the proposed development is compatible with the character of the surrounding neighborhood and all reasonable design efforts have been made to maintain the harmonious orderly and attractive development contemplated by this zoning ordinance. (now Calonne attempting to say not the case)

d. "The design of the proposed development would provide a desirable environment for its occupants and visiting public as well as its neighbors and that it is aesthetically of good composition, materials texture and color that will remain aesthetically appealing with the level of maintenance and upkeep that might reasonably be expected of the occupants."

2. Sec. 24.535.080: "Administrative variance requiring planning commission review" - administrative variances from the standards and regulations referenced in this section may be approved subject to the provisions of this chapter but shall

be reviewed and acted upon by the planning commission rather than the director. (ie not by Mr. Lambert, Mr. Cole or Mr. Calonne)

Comment: It appears to me this requirement was met when the planning commission approved this project. Subsequent decisions by the community development director and others would appear in violation of this ordinance. Respectfully,

John Stewart-Ventura

Breeze:

July 13-26 2011 issue. Article; Parking meters- It would have been helpful for anyone who wanted to read the full report to council if the article had ended with the link to that report. <http://www.cityofventura.net/meeting/city-council-meeting63> Click on city council then on agenda item 12.

Editorial; It is so much fun to babble about- Your comparison between park-

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Those who seek the truth by means of intellect and learning only get further and further away from it.

-Huang-Po



News and Notes



CAPS CHAT

Summer Fun

by Alex Uvari

Our CAPS Digital Storytelling summer program has drawn to a close. Over 50 students ranging in ages from 12 to 16 years old learned an enormous amount about producing video stories. Alex Uvari did a fantastic job of putting together a comprehensive curriculum covering news, non-profit organizations and dramatic video recording. Alex and his crew worked tirelessly to help the students learn and to have fun translating their ideas into compelling stories.

Students created their own movie-trailers, went through round-robin multi-camera studio environments, filmed practice scenes, embarked on camera scavenger hunts, wrote, recorded and edited their own video projects. The students really enjoyed being able to come up with their own ideas and go forward with them from script to screen. During the summer program, Alex and the instructors learned that today's youth have even more of an appetite for learning and getting hands-on with

video equipment, than in previous years.

We had several local professionals working and living in the county that came and spoke about their experiences and wisdom with working in the film & video industry. KEYT's Tracy Lehr was a guest speaker during the News & Broadcast week and gave some great advice on how to keep news broadcasts alive and exciting.

Some interesting subjects the students covered this year were local non-profits; The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation and The Canine Adoption and Rescue League. The News and Broadcast week highlighted fictitious stories about the closure of Disneyland, a world-wide Zombie Outbreak, complete with various fiction based commercials and public service announcements. Our final week included some of the best of the best of new and returning CAPS4Kids alumni.

The judges were blown away and commented how the student videos were the best recordings ever made from a CAPS Digital Storytelling Summer Session. All of this year's work can be seen on the CAPS Digital Storytelling YouTube channel @ www.youtube.com/capsforkids

CAPS has recently upgraded their cameras to new HD Panasonic SDHC-Card based cameras and other equipment obtained for the student education programs in place and the new ones we will be launching this Fall. Stay tuned.

What's your story? We can help you tell it!

CAPS-TV is for you to share your voice and vision with your community. We want you to come use our facilities. We offer the training, use of the equip-

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If you're interested in learning more about how CAPS serves the community and how to become a member, stop by the Media Center at 65 Day Road in Ventura, visit us online at www.capstv.org, or call 805-658-0500. Friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/capstv-ventura, and follow us on Twitter, www.twitter.com/CAPSTVtweets.

Compassionate Eating

by Bianca Martinez

Like many of you folks out there I have a dear relative battling cancer. I am often saddened when I think of just how many of us know someone who has been affected by this incredibly horrible disease that eats away at our bodies, minds and spirits. The new Cancer Center on Loma Vista is a sure sign that it's on the rise in our county. And while I applaud the effort put into the creation of such a center, I can't help but wonder WHY?? Why do so many of us have this disease? Why is there not a cure after all the millions of dollars being raked in from cancer awareness walks, fund raisers, donations at grocery store check stands, heck I even saw a pink ribbon on an ad for KFC (note the irony). Well folks the truth is there's no money in the cures. Why would big pharma want to "cure" its biggest moneymaker? Chemo, radiation, surgeries, and prescription drugs all making drug companies richer every time another one of us gets the dreaded prognosis. I believe there is an incredibly strong link between what we eat and our susceptibility to cancer. What if it were true that the additives put in fast food, processed food, and GMO foods actually did make us sick. And what if it wasn't an accident that these things caused us to become ill? Sometimes I wonder...

All I know is that watching what my aunt goes through is incredibly painful but not nearly as painful as how much her body hurts after she has another surgery to remove yet another tumor. I recently learned about the China Study that actually points to animal protein; especially cow milk, as a potential contributor to cancerous tumors in humans. Now no one wants to come out and say that because milk has become as American as apple pie, but what if the stuff we consume everyday that we think is safe

is really killing us slowly? Should we really believe all the ads that promote these products? These companies don't really have any concern for our well-being; in fact many of them are driven by profits and even own stock in, you guessed it pharmaceuticals.

So the best way we can protect ourselves against cancer starts with what we put in our bodies. Stay away from things you can't pronounce, and eat lots of fresh organic fruits and veggies. You don't have to be a genius to know its better to eat something that naturally came from the Earth than something that came from a science lab, (which is where a lot of our food comes from these days; packed with chemical flavorings, fillers and additives). In honor of my aunt's recovery and all of you out there that struggle or know someone who struggles with cancer, I will be posting my most powerful cancer fighting recipes on my blog for the next month. You can get some of these powerful, cruciferous vegetables like cabbage, broccoli, sprouts and cauliflower at the Ventura farmers market. Be well dear readers and may blessings of health find their way to you, your families and friends.

Super Slaw

Half a head of fresh green cabbage finely chopped

1 large carrot shredded

big hand full of chopped cilantro

1 diced green onion (optional)

1 tablespoon Braggs Apple Cider Vinegar

2-3 tablespoons of Veganaise

fresh ground pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and enjoy!

For more cancer fighting recipes check out compassionateeating.wordpress.com

Rotary Club news

The Rotary Club of Ventura South has elected Bob Braitman to serve as the 2011 – 2012 Club President. He the principal in Braitman & Associates a local government consulting firm.

Upcoming programs for their remaining Monday meetings:

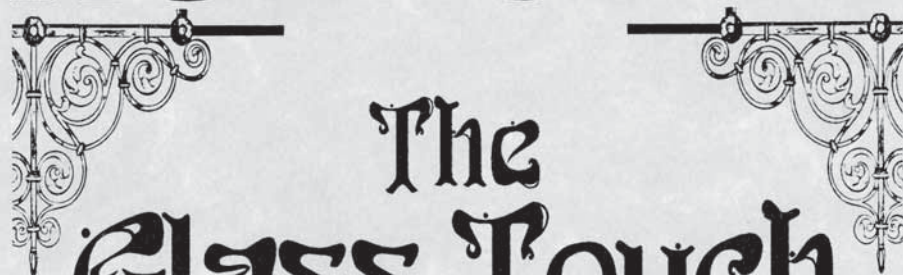
August 15, 2011 – Bob Lynn of Lynn's Jewelers on "A Gold and Diamond Update".

August 22, 2011 – Dr. Lisa Wedding on "Marine Satellite Tracking".



Accepting the applause from the millions in attendance at the recent Salsa Festival were the top two final couples including our own Carl Morehouse (on the right) with his dancing partner Jessica Morgan from the Arthur Murray Studio in Thousand Oaks.

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News and Notes

August 29, 2011 - Brant Gerken, DC on "Sitting Safe".

The Rotary Club of Ventura South meets every Monday, 12:00 PM (except on occasion) at the Wedgewood Banquet Center, 5880 Olivas Park Drive in Ventura. A buffet lunch is followed by a short business meeting and a program. The Club is known for its hospitality, dedication and commitment to both global and local projects.

For additional Club information or to attend a meeting contact: Bob Braitman, 647-7612.

Nothing is by accident

by Kim Pagano

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. I am Kim Pagano, a mother of 4, a wife, a daughter, a sister, and hopefully an inspiration to many. I always believed that you are capable of doing anything in your life and should strive higher. I have been a hair therapist for years and have loved every movement of it, especially helping people from the inside out. I have always looked at the beauty of people and the positive side of every situation and that there is always an upside. I worked really hard to develop my family and my team and to be a team player, and I believe that many hands make little work. And for the past two years, I have been involved in my own radio show "The Kim Pagano Show", on KKZZ 1400. The mission of my show is to add value to life, every day, in every way. Nothings is by accident.

When I thought I had no more time in my life, I saw an ad that asked if I "had a voice". I always thought my opinion mattered, while not sure what it meant to others. I answered the ad and got the job. I started on the radio with 4 women, having fun, even though I knew nothing about being on the radio. Over time, it became my show. The thing that surprised me the most was to learn how I was impacting

others with my thoughts and what I had to share. Nothing is by accident.

I feel that you have to look for every possible chance, opportunity, and moment. When they arise, know they are there and take the time to invest in them. I take even a hard situation and look at what lesson I am learning from the experience. If you look at everything as an opportunity, even hassles, you can always turn your life, day and minute around. So I take this opportunity to invite you to be a part of my life, and to own your journey, the journey you were meant to be on.

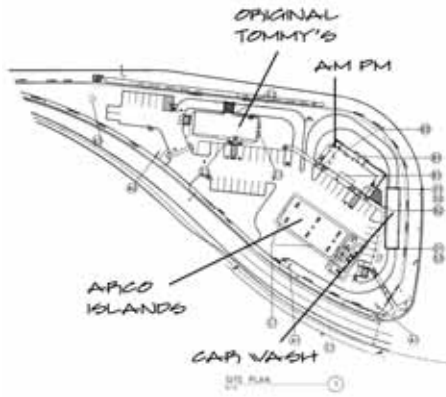
Kim Pagano, hair therapist. Listen live Monday-Friday from 8-9am and 3-4pm on 1400 KKZZ. Also stream or listen live at www.KimPaganoShow.com. Like us on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/TheKimPaganoShow>. Follow us on twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/kimpaganoshow>

I would like to know...

I see that a Tommy's Burgers is going in at Victoria and the 101 freeway, what else will be there?

Eric Stone
Ventura
Eric:

As you can see on this plan there will be Tommy's, an Arco gas station, an AM/PM market and a car wash. If there is anything that you would like to know about what is happening in Ventura do email us.



Toss a brash teenaged 21st "Crunk Baby" raised by a single mother into the ring with a traditional two-parent raised bombastic "Baby Boomer," then mix outstanding original music with radio and television sound bites and you get "Celebrate Mama!" - a high-spirited, dramatic musical comedy stage play.

Veteran playwright/director/ actor, Michael McCurtis (on the right), and young super talent, Carzie D. Carter (on the left) of Oxnard, hold audiences spellbound from curtain to curtain call as they escort audiences through an hilarious journey back to our collective childhoods at breakfast and dinner.

Characters from totally divergent backgrounds fond common ground as they presented "Celebrate Mama!," written in tribute to McCurtis' cherished and recently deceased mother at the Total Life Christen Center located on Ventura Avenue. Photo by Julian Gonzales.

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Grape Expectations Sizzling summer selections!

By Eric Garnier

As I was closing my last article about the "Wonderful Wines of Summer", I left you hanging with one of my favorite grape varieties, Zinfandel. This grape gets its roots from Italy and Croatia, where the grape is called "primitivo and crljenak kastelanski". In California, 10% of all vineyards are planted with Zinfandel. This grape produces a robust red wine and often contains alcohol levels above 15% which is higher than other traditional red wines. I like to refer a good Zin as "jammy".

The taste of the wine depends on the ripeness of the grapes at harvest. Red berry fruits like raspberry notes from wines in cooler areas and blackberry, anise and pepper notes are more common in wines harvested in warmer climates. The age of the vines also is important with zinfandel with some of the vineyards having been planted over 100 years ago!

Zinfandel was originally planted in Napa Valley, but also has a large presence in Amador, Sonoma, Lodi, San Luis Obispo, and Mendocino county.

Zins go great with BBQ's, which is why I call this a summer wine. The spices in the sauces tend to interact great with the fruit forward characteristic of this wine. I also like Zins with Mexican or Thai food. For after dinner, try a Late Harvest Zinfandel, a fortified wine that many Zin producers make.

Many of the wineries on the Ventura Wine Trail produce Zins as part of their wine portfolio, so next time you are visiting one of the wineries on the trail, make sure

to try this varietal, then bring some home for the BBQ Cheers!
Eric
wineoeric@gmail.com

Mailbox

Continued from page 5

ing at the mall and parking downtown was to the point. I prefer to use the pay stations when a space is available, but when I do park in one of the free downtown lots the walk from there to Main Street past downtown's unique shops is certainly preferable to the stress of finding a parking place at the mall then either hiking a block to get out of the dark parking garage or trudging across a huge, very pedestrian unfriendly parking lot.

July 27-Aug. 9, 2011 issue. Photo of new downtown planters. The accompanying explanation mentions that parking pay station money was part of the funding for the meters, letting readers know one of the ways that parking money is being used to beautify and provide a nicer pedestrian experience in the downtown. However, Downtown Ventura Partners, the hard-working volunteer board of the downtown improvement district, and the property owners whose money supports the district, need to also receive credit. This was a DVP project to which parking district funds were contributed.

In a future issue could you do an article on some of the DVP accomplishments that are making our downtown noticeably better? Especially the cleaning crew who make such a difference in the appearance of our sidewalks and landscape. The crew members should get awards for some of the yucky stuff they have cleaned up off the sidewalks!

Sincerely
Barbara Evans-Ventura



Community Events

Ventura Folk Festival comin' to town

The first ever Ventura Folk Festival will feature such greats as Jim Messina, JD Souther, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, John Doe and special guests at the scenic Mission Park in Downtown Ventura on August 20 and 21.

Over twenty bands are scheduled to perform over the two day festival.

The festival is teaming up with two local non-profits: FOOD Share, which fights hunger and provides nutritious food to those in need in Ventura County, and Harmony Project, which promotes positive youth development through music lessons and ensemble participation in underserved areas of Ventura and Los Angeles.

Tickets are \$25 for one day or \$40 for both. Kids under 12 get in free with paid adult. A V.I.P. option includes a beer and wine tasting lunch for \$50. Tickets are available through Eventbrite at www.venturafolkfestival.eventbrite.com. For more information and frequent updates, please "Like" the festival on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Venturafolkfestival.

Ventura events

August 13: Ventura County will host a 5K walk for the **American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** campaign on Saturday at

Harbor Cove Beach in the Ventura Harbor. For more information and to sign up for this event, visit <http://makingstrides.acevents.org/ventura> or call 644-4237. The walk will begin from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., with registration open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Your participation will help save lives from this disease.

August 13: The Veterans Home of California in Ventura will hold their second annual **community garage sale** on from 8 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at 10900 Telephone Road at Wells Road in Ventura. There are two ways to participate, purchase a selling space, that's one table, for a \$20 donation to the Veterans Home of California Ventura and sell your items. Reserve your spot by August 10th. Or just come on over and pick up a bargain. Clothing, small furniture items, craft supplies, knick-knacks and other items will be available. Please come out and support the Veterans Home of California-Ventura at the community garage sale. For additional information, please call 659-7506 or 659-7526. For information about the Veterans Home of California Ventura please call 659-7502. For information on other Veterans Homes of California veterans benefits and services, please visit the CalVet website at www.calvet.ca.gov.

August 13: The Ventura Beginners Personal Computer Users Group will meet in the 3rd floor lounge of the Cypress. Ken May, owner of the IT specialty firm, Swift Chip, will present "Freeware." Swift

Chip sponsored Seniors Gone Wired event earlier this year which was a huge success. Place: Active Senior Living building at 1220 Cypress Place in Ventura. The meeting will begin at 9:15 a.m. For more information, call Marcie Malony at 648-1368.

August 15: The August meeting of Zeta Chi, the local unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP), will be held at 7 p.m. in the Topping Room of the E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St. in Ventura. David Mezzera of Vallejo, our guest for the evening, will present the program using Acclamation & Unanimous Consent to make decisions without voting. Zeta Chi members are delighted to have David Mezzera with us for the evening and his always informative and challenging presentations. For further information on the Zeta Chi Unit please contact Sandra Sanders at 643-5928 or sandy108@pacbell.net.

August 20: Join nonprofits Museum of Ventura County and 5 Gyres Institute on Saturday in the museum's pavilion, plaza and galleries as they present **The Summer Splash Festival**. What better time than summer to celebrate the ocean and our concern to keep it clean. The daytime community event with activities and food court, is from 11 - 5 p.m. with \$5 general admission, free for accompanying children 12 and under. The adult evening from 7 - 11 p.m. features the music of Todd Hannigan from the Heavy 29s with Roger Keiaho of Rey Fresco, Jessie Siebenberg and Dave Palmer. Proceeds from the plastic free event benefit the Museum of Ventura County's educational programs and exhibits, and the programs of 5 Gyres Institute. Zuri Star opens at 7:30 p.m. The Museum of Ventura County is located at 100 East Main Street. Cover charge for the evening event is \$15 and includes a souvenir cup. Space is limited for reservations call 653-0323 x 7. For more museum information go to www.venturamuseum.org or call 653-0323. Go to www.5gyres.org for more information on the 5 Gyres Institute.

August 20: Discover the rewards of foster parenting by going to this month's **Foster Parenting Informational Meeting** at 9 - 11 a.m. at the Human Services Agency of Ventura County, 855 Partridge Drive in Ventura. There are over 600 children in Ventura County that need you, your wisdom, your experience and your understanding. They need a foster home where they can thrive, develop and achieve dreams that once might have seemed impossible. Become a foster parent, it's quite possibly the best thing one human can do for another. Meetings on August 20 are in English and in Spanish. For more information, call 654-3456 or go to vchsa.org/foster.

August 20: The Ventura County Genealogical Society, Inc. VCGS will be holding its regular monthly meeting at 1 p.m. Guest speaker Connie Moretti; subject researching your civil war ancestors. The meeting will be held at the Ventura LDS Family History Center, 3501 Loma Vista Rd. at Mills Rd. Ventura, CA. Before the meeting begins and during the breaks, genealogy books and

supplies are available for purchase. Guests are always welcome to attend our free meeting. For more information call Gwenda Tucker 485-7930.

August 20: Channel Islands Harbor will hold **The Annual Fine Arts and Craft Show Series** from 10 - 5 p.m. on August 20 and 21 at the Channel Islands Harbor located on the corner of Channel Islands Blvd and Harbor Blvd. The outdoor festival is free and open to the public. The event will feature original works of art from about 35 artists consisting of oil paintings, watercolors, photography and sculptures. Visitors can also choose from a large selection of high-quality crafts, including ceramics, stained glass, woodcrafts, jewelry and gift items. For more information about the 10th Annual Fine Arts and Crafts Show series, visit the Channel Islands Harbor's website at www.channelislandsharbor.org.

August 27: Audubon Ventura Wildlife Ponds and traditional kick-off walk for the Audubon year. The function will take place at 8 a.m. at the Water Treatment Plant. Take Harbor Blvd. to Spinnaker and enter Ventura Harbor. The Water Treatment Plant is on Angler a left turn before Spinnaker curves to the right Turn in left and meet inside the gate. Leader Neil Ziegler 983 7202.

Ojai events

The Ojai Film Society will screen *My Perestroika* on Sunday, **August 14** at 4:30 pm at the Ojai Playhouse. Nominated for **Sundance's 2010 Grand Jury Prize**, this enlightening documentary serves up a mélange of home movies, newsreel excerpts and candid profiles of five Muscovites who have experienced the transition from Breshnev to Gorbachev to Yeltsin and to Putin.

Also the Ojai Film Society will screen *The Double Hour* on Sunday, August 21 at 4:30 pm at the Ojai Playhouse. A widowed ex-cop and an immigrant chambermaid meet at a speed-dating event in Turin and a romance develops. During a romantic getaway things suddenly take a dark turn. Questions arise, but answers only come through continuous twists and turns, keeping viewers on edge until the film's final moments.

Ojai Playhouse, 145 E Ojai Ave, Ojai

OFS Summer Fundraising Series - Tickets \$10 at the door. 646-8946 or www.ojaifilmsociety.org

The **27th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair** is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, **August 20 and 21**. The bustling Peddler's Fair is located inside the Chapparral Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave. Parking is free in the adjacent municipal parking lot, and admission is always free.

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

For more information, please contact Pat at 805-964-8915 or Jodie at 805-640-4384 x2284.

Applications are now available

Music Under the Stars
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Front Street Prophets
August 13 R & B Soul & Blues
Presented by Tropic Travels
You won't stay in your seat for long as these Ventura favorites – a quintet of veteran musicians led by Jodi Farrell, Ventura County's sultry vocalist in chief – take you to Austin, Memphis and New Orleans with effortless arrangements of classic blues & R&B.

August 20 Rock Army of Freshmen
Presented by Community Memorial Health System
One of the biggest international touring acts to come out of Ventura, this hard-working six-piece indie rock band with front vocals by Chris Jay puts on an energetic show of catchy songs that will make all your body parts "Get Up" on the dance floor.
Olivas Adobe, 4200 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura
Reserve tickets \$20 and tables \$10 at 805-658-4726
Concerts 7:30 to 9:30 pm – Doors open 6:30 pm
Bring your own picnic or call 805-650-7559 by Friday noon for a \$15 hot buffet dinner from Buena Ventura
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Community Events

and being accepted for the 2012 City of Ojai Art Grant Program. The program funds non-profit organizations and individual artists whose primary purpose is to produce or present arts and cultural programs held primarily within the City and which benefit City residents. Past recipients have included the Ojai Festivals, Ojai Community Chorus, Ojai Shakespeare Festival and the Ojai Band. A dollar-for-dollar match is required for the amount of funding requested. Grants are made for one year, and eligible applicants must begin and end their program/project between January 1 and December 31, 2012. Funds of \$7,000 were approved by the Ojai City Council for the 2012 Art Grant Program.

An optional workshop for applicants on **how to fill out the grant application** is scheduled for Thursday, **August 18** from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Ojai City Hall, located at 401 S. Ventura Street. Applicants must RSVP for the workshop to Steve McClary, Assistant to the City Manager, at mcclary@ci.ojai.ca.us or 646-5581 x101 on or before Tuesday, August 16. For further information on the Arts Grant Program, please contact Mr. McClary.

Applications are available on the City of Ojai website at www.ci.ojai.ca.us or can be picked up at Ojai City Hall. All completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 12, 2011. Postmarks will not be accepted.

Sheldon's Opinion/Editorial

Continued from page 5

■ Good for a laugh recently there was a UFO investigators' symposium held in Irvine where attendees were given a crash course on what it takes to become a "certified UFO field investigator" and they received their Mutual UFO Network Badge (and decoder ring) and instructed to always show it when approaching an alien from outer space (bringing a peace offering like some pretty beads might also be good).

If you missed the symposium you might find the badge (and decoder ring) in a box of Cracker Jacks.

■ If you think that is has been a bit of a chilly summer (it's summer?) you are correct. One day last week our high (68) was the forth coldest in California and in the top 10 in the US of A. But before you start complaining the same day it was 108 in Ojai, which do you prefer?



While enjoying the luau at Aegis Of Ventura you will also get to enjoy their wonderful grounds.

Aegis of Ventura presents
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Join us in our spacious courtyard for an evening of live music and dancing. Enjoy performances from popular local bands in our elegant garden surroundings.

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Person to Person at the Fair

by Rebecca Wicks



Allison Reiman, 7

Favorite thing about the fair: the animals, all of them
Favorite fair food: dibs
Favorite ride: swings



Tyler Edmonton, 16

Favorite thing about the fair: hanging out with friends
Favorite fair food: pizza
Favorite ride: doesn't go on them



Lily Lindros, 9

Favorite thing about the fair: the children's exhibit
Favorite fair food: ice cream
Favorite ride: Ferris wheel



Kyle Hoyt, 14

Favorite thing about the fair: the pigs (especially his pig "Pedro")
Favorite fair food: spiral fries
Favorite ride: Mega Drop



Brooke Williams, 3

Favorite thing about the fair: goats "because they have beautiful fur."
Favorite fair food: donuts
Favorite ride: Dora swing ride



Steven Barrera, 10

Favorite thing about the fair: "everything"
Favorite fair food: candy
Favorite ride: Monkey Maze

The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



Mati Waiya

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Chumash ceremonial leader and Dolphin Dancer Mati Waiya, a lifelong resident of Ventura County, created the Wishtoyo Foundation, a non-profit organization, in 1997.

Mr. Waiya addresses cultural resource laws protecting sensitive archaeological sites as well as endangered species and natural resources. He is involved with Chumash cultural preservation and educational programs teaching the Chumash values and environmental preservation.

Waiya appears in full regalia to present programs for schools, public events, government functions and grassroots foundations; he has presented programs to thousands of school children, sharing his knowledge about Chumash sustainable life ways and environmental responsibility.

Mati Waiya is the first Native American to be named a Keeper in the international Waterkeeper Alliance. Wishtoyo's Ventura Coastkeeper program is one of over 140 Keeper organizations that operate globally under the Waterkeeper Alliance, created and headed by Robert Kennedy, Jr.

The Wishtoyo Foundation protects and preserves the culture and history of coastal communities and fosters responsibility to our waters, marine habitats and watersheds through research, education, community action and where necessary, citizen enforcement. Their aim is to utilize traditional Chumash beliefs, practices, songs, stories and dances to create self-respect and a greater awareness of our connection with, and dependence upon, the natural Environment.

Mr. Waiya's belief is that education is the primary tool for a future healthy, sustainable environment, awakening a passion for our natural surroundings in young people today to be passed on for generations to come. He has worked tirelessly to foster environmental awareness through teaching of his native Chumash cultural values.

"In our culture we have to recognize the balance and the lessons of our natural, spiritual and physical world. We believe in the upper world (the sky), the lower world (the ocean), and the middle world (the land). As we are growing

up both physically and spiritually, we learn from our elders about understanding the three basic laws: the laws of limitations, moderation and compensation."

"We realize that we are only going to live so long, then we are going to die. We only can be so strong and do so much. The more we can understand about what we can do and our abilities, the more we can accept who we are as human beings. We respect our plants, our ocean, and our wildlife. We honor our women, our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, and our wives. They bring us into the world, and they give us life..."

We asked him what he likes most about Ventura?

"Aside of Uncles and Aunties, cousins and family growing up throughout Ventura County, is that deep rooted history we have here with our Culture. The rivers and coastline throughout Ventura have always been a place to see far and clear and to appreciate the spirit of living in this area. Where the Sespe and the Santa Clara Rivers meet is a place of dreams and visions...I've continued to hold ceremony there for over 20 years with our Elders and children and it's where I did my ceremonial apprenticeship. Our cultural songs and dances, traditions are what will never die off from this sacred place. In the 1980s our family participated in the recovery of the California Condor through ceremony and outreach to the community and through litigation. The memories of our ancestors brings us a unique connection and perspective to this land and its waters. We hear the songs and feel the spirit of the wind, land and the waters. To carry the memorable years with me in Ventura has made me proud to call this my home and to honor it by sharing our cultural and natural heritage with our extended community through our cultural education programs.

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

"It seemed a 'shutter speed' to producing a portrait! Johanna is amazingly focused and talented as she can capture the essence of her subject so quickly. To see through the physical and capture the spirit of a human being...I was honored that she included me in the Face Of Ventura project."



Captain Bill Finley



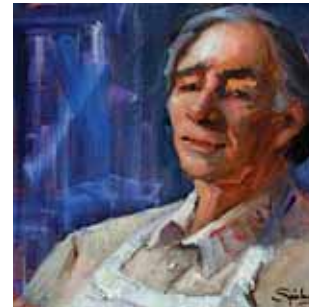
Howard Boroughs



Rachel Morris



Jolene McBee



Tony Barrios



Jerry English



Bonnie Weigel



Manuel A. Valenzuela



MB Hanrahan



Emily Olszowy



Olivia Simonson



Lynn Mikelatos



Lorenzo DeStefano



Gene Dunn



Star Soto



"Jalopy Joe" Moody

The Breeze is proud to present "The Face of Ventura by Johanna Spinks", an on-going art project by award-winning portraitist Spinks to paint 55 worthy Venturans, **each in a single sitting**, painted directly from life at this artist's Bell Arts Factory studio in around two hours - and each captured by The Breeze. **No photos are used**, the direct interaction with the sitter, hearing and painting their story, is the purpose of the challenge, along with the artist's wish to showcase the relevant world of painterly portraiture today. This feature will run in the Breeze over the next two years.

Readers are invited to nominate a special person for the series.

"The Face of Ventura By Johanna Spinks": Images Copyright Johanna Spinks.
Email: johanna@johannaspinks.com Website: www.johannaspinks.com

On the Lyn Fairly show, "Lyn Fairly & Friends", heard every Saturday from noon to 1pm on AM1520 KVTA you can hear one of "The Face Of Ventura By Johanna Spinks" portrait sitters interviewed. So listen in to find out what their experience sitting for this ongoing art project was like.





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- Poinsettia Elementary School
- Elmhurst Elementary School
- Loma Vista Elementary School
- Rio Del Norte Elementary School

AFTER THE BELL (6TH - 8TH)

After the Bell, held at the Y, is a great way to keep teens, not only safe, but engaged in fun and productive activities before and after school.

The Y accepts CDR, CHS and provides financial assistance through our Open Doors Program to help ensure that no family is turned away due to their inability to pay.

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a branch of the Channel Islands YMCA



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Photo by Linda Peterson

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Even Staci Brown returned from Denver to enjoy "Yappy Hour" at Blackbeard's BBQ with Scamp.

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Wardrobe in photo provided by: Buffalo Exchange & Mission Tuxedo





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Wednesday, August 24, 2011 • 5:30pm to 7:30pm

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Dress To Impress In Your
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Senior Living

Senior Connection

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association

by Nanci Cone

I had a chance to chat with Sandy Morse, RN, new Director of Community and Professional Relations at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association (LMVNA) and Hospice. Here is what I learned:

Tell me a little bit about LMVNA such as when it was founded, where it's located and the areas served.

LMVNA was founded in 1947; they have two offices, one on Eastman Ave, in Ventura and the other in Thousand Oaks. Livingston serves all patients throughout the entire Ventura County area, including Simi Valley, Westlake, and Agoura Hills.

Who does LMVNA help?

We are unique because we're the only nonprofit Home Health Agency in Ventura County and we take care of everyone, regardless of his or her ability to pay. In 2010, between our home health, hospice and respite patients, we provided care for over 4,000 people. Also, the amount of care provided to subsidized care patients (indigent and uninsured) continues to rise and we provided \$302,064 worth of care in 2010.

How much does it cost?

Cost is related to the type of services patients receive and is covered by Medicare, MediCal, private insurance and there is no cost to the uninsured or those

who cannot pay.

What services do you provide?

We provide skilled (RN) home care nursing for all ages that includes: Full Health Assessment, Disease and Medication Management, Infusion Therapy, Wound and Ostomy Care, Diabetic and Family Teaching Rehabilitation Therapies: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy Registered Dietitians, Medical Social Workers, Home Health Aides, Chaplains, Volunteers

Palliative Care: Pain relief due to a serious or life threatening disease

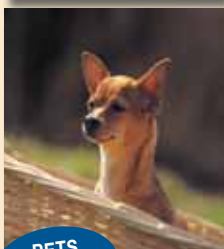
Hospice Care: Compassionate care to relieve suffering, provide comfort and restore dignity to those who face a life limiting illness

Telecare & Telemedicine: Remote medical oversight by a registered nurse

Gold Coast Caregivers: The non-medical aspect of Livingston offers assistance with personal care and household help. Free Community Education and Support: On going Bereavement Support Groups, Diabetic Education Classes, Joint Replacement Classes, Flu Clinics, and more.

Sandy noted, "First of all I feel honored that I am working for this fabulous agency! Their mission statement sums it up: 'LMVNA recognizes the growing need to provide services in the home environment for the sick, handicapped, elderly and homebound.' As a community-backed, nonprofit agency, we strive to provide professional, licensed and supportive home health and hospice care services of the highest quality in the most cost effective manner to the people of Ventura County to ensure a positive patient outcome. Livingston explores and develops health related programs based upon community

The Palms at Bonaventure Assisted Living Community



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- Use Of Non-Narcotics to Augment Pain Control

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TIME: 4:30pm– 6:30pm

LOCATION: Elizabeth Topping Assembly Room
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Lanyard Dial, MD
President & CEO,
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Senior Living

need and acceptance, economic viability and availability of resources to provide services. Livingston is sensitive to the financial circumstances of its patients and provides needed services, including those at reduced or no charge to indigent patients, based upon the available resources of the organization.”

Sandy adds, “I invite you to learn more about Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurses Association by visiting our website at www.livingstonvna.org or by calling 642-0239 for more information or to request help.”

Classic Car Show and 50’s Party at Cypress

Cypress Place Senior Living will host its 7th annual “A Taste of Cypress Classic Car Show and 50’s Party” community event complete with great food from local merchants such as Black Angus Steakhouse, Tutti’s Off Main, and Sushi Fresh Ventura, among many others. Festivities take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24.

For this year’s event, however, we’re changing things up a little bit,” says Executive Director Jim Duran. “Cypress Place Senior Living is teaming up with the Ventura Police Activities League (Ventura PAL) and this year’s ‘A Taste of Cypress’ is going to be a fund raiser for this stellar organization.”

“PAL encourages kids to stay in school and offers students mentoring and tutoring opportunities”, says Sam Arroyo, Ventura PAL’s president.

Back by popular demand, this year’s event will also include the Classic Hot Rod

Car Show and a 1950s themed party. The suggested donation is \$10 per person, with all proceeds benefiting the Ventura Police Activities League.

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

The Ventura Police Activities League, better known as Ventura PAL, is a not for profit 501c3 charitable organization whose mission is to promote involvement between the youth, the police, and the citizens of the City of Ventura by providing meaningful programs in the areas of sports, academics, education, and recreation. To learn more about the Ventura Police Activities League, please visit <http://venturapal.org/>.



First place dance contest winners George and Judy Sandoval show their stuff during last year’s dance contest at Cypress Place Senior Living

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Business



From a frog to a castle, Fiesta Piñata can make them all

Ventura's Young Business Leaders

Fiesta Piñata a bursting business

by Ryan Graff

Many of us can recall the excitement that piñatas brought to us as children. A bunch of friends at a birthday party, all taking turns putting on a blindfold and having a go at a flamboyant animal with a stick or baseball bat. When the piñata exploded, there was always a mad dash for all of the candy and treats that came flying out, followed by smiles and laughter.

Young Ventura residents Matt Voore and Nicole White are some of the creators that bring us all that delight. For them, the

real sweetness comes with the construction of piñatas rather than the flurried destruction. Their unique customized piñatas are always creative and original and are sure to brighten your day.

Voore and White founded the company Fiesta Piñata in May, and are already experiencing some incredible success. In just three months, they have had customers the likes of BMW, Chrysler, New Balance, MTV, and Disney as well as personal orders from all around the world. They started

their company with the idea of combining their personal expertise to go beyond the mundane piñata. Sure, you can order a star or a donkey from them. But wouldn't you rather order a sports car, or a Rasta frog, or an Osama Bin Laden with dynamite strapped to his chest? A case doesn't even need to be made for the three.

Voore has a lot of experience with computer programs and graphic design. Not only has he created an incredible website for Fiesta Piñata, but his use of templates and three-dimensional software allow the pair to make piñatas more quickly and effectively. "Overall, creating piñatas may not seem all that interesting to the everyday individual, but with all of the advancements in 3D design software and manufacturing techniques, I just can't wait to see the piñatas of the future, more realistic, more accurate character portrayals with unlimited customization possibilities. That's what's really exciting to me," said Voore.

White has incredible artistic skills and uses her talents to create some of the most interesting piñatas. With a steady hand and an unwavering imagination, she carefully crafts piñatas of all shapes and sizes, ranging from basic to extremely complex. There is seemingly no design she cannot perform, and is pleased to craft a wide variety of ideas. "From the time someone comes to us with a piñata idea, to the much more rewarding part of hearing back about their memorable experiences, it's hard not to enjoy what I do," said White.

The piñata business can be a demanding one, requiring long hours and maximum effort to ensure success. Voore and White enjoy the chaos, however, recognizing the benefits of variety and setting their own hours. They continue to develop and grow their business, with much going on over the course of the next few months. They have two large orders placed for 100 and 4,500 piñatas, respectively. Also, they are getting ready to release a new online customizing option in which one can submit a photograph and receive a piñata of his or herself. They experimented with this function when they made one of their most famous piñatas, a custom one of rocker Sammy Hagar for his birthday party. It will be interesting to see how their business will excel from this point forward.

To find out more information about Fiesta Piñata you can go to www.fiestapiñata.com or call (800)522-2510.

Crowell, Weedon & Co.

Balancing college cost and retirement

by Howard Kreutzinger

Financial Advisor for Crowell, Weedon & Co., Ventura

Many people consider it a daunting task to put money away for their child's college expenses while simultaneously saving for their retirement. But you can work towards both financial goals by developing a strategy, understanding your options and staying disciplined.

The first step is determining how much you'll need to fund both goals and then prioritize your approach. For some people, prioritizing according to the timing of the goal might make intuitive sense. But this might not be the right way to approach the challenge. Why? Let's say college is ten years into the future for your child, but retirement is 25 years away. You might think you can make up lost ground with retirement funding

Continued on page 19



Michelle (AKA Shell) is happy to be doing something that she loves at Shell's Petals

Shell's Petals

by Sheli Ellsworth

Michelle (Shell) Hirrel began floral designing at Loma Vista Flower Shop when she was only 15 years old. Now, twenty-two years later and a single mom, she is happy to be doing something she loves as the owner of Shell's Petals at 7820 Telegraph Road. "We are a full service florist, but we specialize in weddings. I just love to see the look on people's faces when we start setting up the flowers and hand the bride her bouquet," says Hirrel. The experienced designer says she has had a busy summer. "The most popular color for weddings this year is purple. Everything is specially designed for each wedding. Brides are welcome to bring me their pictures and ideas, and then I try to give them something that is like what they have in mind—but with a little twist that makes it uniquely theirs. I have seen all shades of purples from lavenders to dark purples. We usually mix the purple with oranges and greens. We have been using a lot of Lisianthus also known as Texas Bluebells, orange Melva Roses from Ecuador, and hanging green Amaranths. The green Dendrobium Orchids have also been very popular." Hirrel says, the Ecuadorian roses offer a wide variety of shades and their size is larger than locally grown roses in the summer.

The designer says she has worked with brides on every budget level. "I have designed flowers for budgets from \$500 to \$20,000. Sometimes brides will use their own vases and glassware to save money". She usually does a free wedding consultation to see what the wedding's floral budget is and to get a feel for what sort of event they are hoping for. "I also offer 'day of' coordinating and oversee not only the flowers, but the placement of the cake and down the aisle assistance and make sure the DJ, photographer, and everyone else knows what the timeline is. Day of coordination fees run \$800-2,000 depending on the number of locations and where they are. "Right now, photo booths are popular at weddings and not only do guests get two copies of the picture, but the couple gets a reel of the photos they can use in a scrap book."

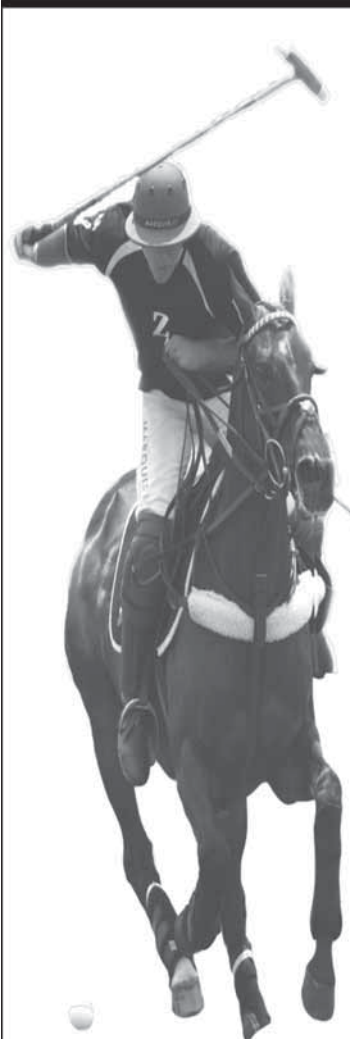
Shell's Petals has been at the current location for seven years. "We had some rough months and almost had to close the doors at one point," says Hirrel. But it was important for her to show her daughters that a woman can be independent and self-sufficient—and never give up. Now, the shop offers floral services for beach weddings, chuppahs for Jewish weddings, on-line purchasing, wire purchases, delivery, and two websites with sample arrangements. "Fresh flowers are delivered daily and we still do traditional classic arrangements of roses for anniversaries and Mother's Day." The shop is open Monday through Friday and on weekends by appointment only. Go to www.shells petalsflorist.com for ideas or on-line purchases.

The Ventura Botanical Gardens Present

The 3rd Annual

Polo, Picnic & Paradise

Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club



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- Drink Mint Juleps and Enter Our Hat Contest!
- Join our Raffle & Silent Auction!
- Be a Part of the Traditional "Divot Stomp"!

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The Ventura Botanical Gardens, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donation, less the cost of the lunch, may be tax deductible. Please consult with your financial advisor.

Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp
Ph.D

A few weeks ago some strange things started to happen in my bedroom. Well it isn't just mine I share it with my human friends but I dominate.

First a little furry bed showed up, not big enough for me or I would hang over the side. Then a really strange looking thing that has carpet on it but sticks up in the air, I can't imagine what it is for, maybe for a squirrel. And a little food bowl with a drawing of an animal of some sort with big whiskers (kind of looks like my publisher) and a big tray with sand in it.

Sand? We live at the beach why would we need to have sand in the house?

Next a little fence went up that keeps me from going into an alcove that we have in the bedroom. Why am I being locked out, I've never done anything bad in there? This mystery is growing.

Oh no, now I know what all this junk is for. Next "they" brought a furry little creature home and put it behind the fence (it is kind of cute in a strange way).

They told me that her name is Savana and that she is a Himalayan kitty-cat and she has already hissed at me and tried to punch me in the nose but I was too fast for her.

Well my relatives were from Tibet so I guess that makes us mishpohke.

I think that it will be all right, she does seem to be friendly and I'm told will grow bigger, but not a big as me so maybe we can play together and chase things.

I will keep you posted on how she and I are getting along. If she is nice I might let her sleep in bed with us.

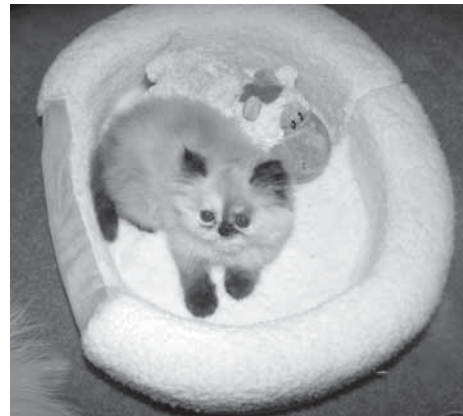
And speaking of sleeping in bed with us I recently read that you might have the plague if you've been sleeping with your dog lately. A new study finds

that pet owners who sleep with their pets may be at risk for parasites, diseases, and yes, even plague. The study shows that 56% of dog owners and 62% of cat owners sleep with their pet next to them.

Some people have become seriously ill from the bugs and parasites picked up by their pets, but it is uncommon with healthy pets. It is suggested that routine exams, flea and tick control, and regular visits to the vet, are all important to making sure your pet is safe to sleep with. I am relieved to report that no pets have gotten the plague from sharing beds with their humans so I will still let them sleep with me but I want a note from their doctor (and Savana's).



"If you stay on your side of the fence we should get along just fine"



"If you leave me alone when I'm trying to take a nap we should get along just fine"

Forever home wanted



Hi:

I'm Chesa a beautiful 6 year old female Black Labrador mix who is still full of puppy energy. I'm a very sweet girl who gets along with people and dogs. I hope you'll come to meet me as I can't wait to be a cherished member of a loving family.

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

www.carlvc.org

Scamp Club

Hi:

I'm Nikki an 8 year old (just like Scamp) Lassa Apso Terrier mix.

I love to bark at big trash trucks, all trucks, and play with my piggy toy. I also love to go for walks and will dance for treats. And don't dare eat a sandwich near me cause I will snatch it when you're not looking.



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

Police reports are provided to us by the Ventura Police Department and are not the opinions of the Ventura Breeze. All suspects mentioned are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Robbery

On Wednesday, July 27th, at 1:55 p.m., the VPD received a call from Dwight Darby, 64 years old, reporting a suspect brandishing a handgun.

During the investigation, officers learned that Darby was walking over the Ventura River via the railroad trestle when he was confronted by the suspect. The suspect, a Hispanic male in his 20's, pointed a black handgun at Darby and demanded that Darby give him his cell phone and money. Darby complied with the demands and gave the suspect his cell phone and an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect fled the area east-bound Harbor Boulevard on a bike.

Officers searched the area, but were unable to locate the suspect.

Darby was not injured during the incident.

Domestic Violence

On Saturday, July 30th, at 3:30 a.m., Cpl. Hixson was on patrol and driving near 227 East Vince Street. He observed suspect Damian Reyes standing in the doorway of a residence and yelling loudly at two subjects inside.

Suspect Reyes had discovered his

wife, Ashley Reyes, involved with another man, Reed Smith. Reyes used a baseball bat to break several windows of a vehicle he believed was owned by Smith. Reyes then forced his way into the residence holding a shotgun. Reyes shoved Ashley against the wall and pointed the shotgun at both of the victims. When police officers arrived, Damian put down the shotgun and surrendered. Three shotgun shells were found in Damian's pants pocket and additional rounds were located in his vehicle. Officers also recovered an aluminum baseball bat and a set of metal knuckles.

Suspect Damian Reyes was booked at VC Jail.

Attempted Residential Burglary

On Sunday, July 31st, at 2:52 a.m., an alert citizen saw the suspect, William Fitzpatrick, near a residence in the 100 block of Brentwood. The citizen saw the suspect try to remove the screen from a window of victim residence. The citizen yelled at the suspect and watched the suspect flee. As Officers arrived on scene they were directed to the area that the citizen last saw the suspect run to.

Officers investigating the crime searched the area and were able to locate and arrest Fitzpatrick who was hiding a short distance away. The suspect was positively identified by the citizen and booked into VC Jail.

Robbery Arrest

On Monday, August 1st, at 6:53 p.m.,

a juvenile approached a Police officer in the 10000 block of Telegraph Road and stated that he had just had his bicycle stolen in the vicinity of Saticoy Avenue and Telegraph Road. The juvenile victim stated that he was riding his bicycle when he stopped for the suspect who was walking towards him. The suspect immediately demanded the victim give him the bicycle. The victim refused and the suspect pushed the victim off the bicycle and brandished a knife. The suspect took the bicycle and fled.

An officer located the suspect, Kenneth Shields, riding the bicycle in the 11400 block of Telegraph Road where he was taken into custody without incident. Shields was booked at VC Jail. The bicycle was recovered and returned to the victim.

Structure Fire

On Thursday, August 4th, at 7:56 a.m., Ventura City Fire units responded to a report of smoke coming from the Buena High School Cafeteria. Upon arrival of the first engine, the crew observed smoke in the cafeteria/auditorium area and investigated further to determine the cause. The crew was able to identify the source as a heating unit in an adjacent room with active flames. The crew controlled the gas to the unit and extinguished the flames. Rapid tactical operations by firefighters contained this fire to the heating unit prior to spreading to interior framing of the building

and combustibles in the area.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

Just a few of the things the Harbor Patrol tends to.

7-21:

6:20 a.m. Ventura PD reports that they are responding to a small boat ashore at the Ventura River. Patrol responded. The vessel was a Mexican panga and was likely involved in a successful attempt to smuggle approximately fifteen illegal aliens into the country. Patrol passed on information to local agencies regarding this use of pangas to conduct such activity.

7-23:

1:56 a.m. The Dockmaster reports an unconscious man on the lawn by the Carousel. Patrol responded. The man was snoring, but they were unable to waken him. Patrol notified FCC. The patient's wife advised that this might be a diving accident. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

7-25

9:10 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to an injured animal on the beach by Harbor Village. Upon arrival, there was a sea lion with net wrapped around its neck. FD was able to capture the sea-

Continued on page 19



Youth



STOCK, a nonprofit fundraising partnership between local school districts and businesses, helped sponsor violin classes this summer at the WAV in downtown Ventura. Warming up prior to the start of class are Rebecca Roper, Gabrielle Roper, and Ava Torres.

STOCK options provide support for cash-strapped school districts

by Tim Pompey

If you're a parent trying to provide your child with a quality education here in Ventura County, opportunities and choices within local school districts are shrinking. As the state's budget crisis continues, less money is being provided to school districts. Less money means more program cuts, fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and less school-sponsored activities like music, sports, and art.

Alan Roper and Brian Torres know this from personal experience. They both have daughters enrolled at Elmhurst School in Ventura. They're both involved with the PTA. They understand all too well the impact of shrinking school budgets. "Every year teachers have to pay more out of pocket," said Torres. "We'd like to help relieve some of that stress on teachers and districts."

That's why they co-founded a nonprofit organization called STOCK (Success Through Our Communities Kids). It's a partnership between school districts and local businesses to help raise

funds for additional program development in Ventura County schools. "We want to reach out to local business and help them find ways to reach out to local schools," said Roper.

One example of their work is the STOCK sponsored violin class being taught by music instructor Peter Shuere at the WAV in downtown Ventura. Funding has been provided by STOCK to help offset some of the costs for instruments and instruction.

A group of about 20 or so young students have gathered tonight to learn the innovative music techniques provided by Shuere. He instructs violin students using the Suzuki method, but he's designed and added some additional tutoring through his own music software program. "We've been doing this for 25 years, mostly in local churches," said Shuere. "This is the first time we've done it with a nonprofit."

Students use the program during class, but since it's also online, they

can continue using it at home. Shuere's daughter Erica described the program as similar to Karaoke. "It's a really fun learning experience," she said, "and it speeds up the process."

STOCK helped to pay for these lessons and invites the public to watch the kids give a grand finale concert at the WAV theater on Friday, August 26 at 7 and 9 p.m.

The idea behind STOCK is to find out what schools need. It means doing a lot of research, asking questions, and seeking business partnerships to help support that need. "We are trying to get local businesses to match a school's specific request for more field trips, different assemblies, whatever they need," said Roper.

Torres and Roper realize that education is more than the basics of English, math, and science. Something within the school's program must inspire each student. Torres talks about his own daughter. "Ava is going to need every tool she can get," he said. "She needs that extra something to spark her."

By forming STOCK, Torres and Roper acknowledge that local communities need to take more responsibility for their own schools. "People should wake up to what's happening to children in our schools," said Torres. Roper agrees. "The community needs to take responsibility and help the situation," he said. "With STOCK, instead of dealing with the red tape of the government, we're identifying a need and it gets done."

The hope is that STOCK itself can be the seed for more innovation in local schools. All it takes is someone to step out, identify a need, and put that idea to work. STOCK helps provide support and funding. "We're really into synergy," said Roper.

Most important, however, is the idea that support for education should extend beyond the school district. "When we visit local businesses," said Torres, "we try to educate them about what's happening in their schools."

For more information about STOCK, go to their website at www.communitystock.weebly.com or call them at 665-3191. For more information about the upcoming children's violin concert, visit www.concertartshows.com.

members who like the others was filled with much enthusiasm and hope to accomplish this goal

After years of making slow but steady progress, our economy was knocked off its feet along with our chance of a new club. We kept the committee alive as we brushed ourselves off and got back to work.

Then, in late 2010, we received a call from Steve Bennett, our County Supervisor, who asked if we would be interested in accepting \$400,000 from the county to build a new club in Saticoy.

Knowing that it would take four times that to build and with the bad economy still here, the committee dug deep into their hearts and re-committed once again to making this dream come true.

Then with the EJ Harrison Family contributing \$400,000, which gives them naming rights, other prominent individuals have made substantial donations also and will be recognized by having a room named in their honor.

We now find ourselves in the enviable position of needing less than \$300,000 to realize our goal of \$1.5 million dollars to build this permanent facility, including three years of operating costs to help us through this recession.

Main Street Architects have developed a front patio/entrance which will be made up of 8"x 8" pavers. On August 25, at 5:00 PM we will officially kick off the "Buy a Brick, Build a Club" portion of our campaign.

For a donation of \$1,500 (payable over 1, 2 or 3 years) you can have yours or a loved ones name be etched on a paving brick which will become a lasting testament of your commitment to our children and our community.

For \$5000 or more, you can have those same names placed on a special donor wall inside the club in addition to a brick on the walkway.

Please consider being part of this amazing opportunity and buy a brick or two as your part in building this permanent clubhouse and making children's lives better.

Please join us on August 25 in celebration of this amazing project.

For more information regarding purchasing a brick(s), making a larger investment or to become more involved with our organization, please contact our CEO Diane Koranda or log onto our website at www.bgclubventura.org.

Feel free to contact me directly at 676-1110 if you have questions for the board.

We look forward to placing hundreds of bricks on this walkway and we especially look forward to seeing your name on one of them.

Foster parenting

Learn how you can become a partner in caring at a Foster Parenting Informational Meeting Saturday, August 20, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Human Services Agency of Ventura County at 855 Partridge Drive, Ventura. There are over 600 children in Ventura County that need you: your wisdom, your experience and your understanding. They need a foster home where they can thrive, develop and achieve dreams that once might have seemed impossible. Become a foster parent; it's quite possibly the best thing one human can do for another. Separate August 20 meetings are in English and in Spanish. For more information call the Human Services Agency at 654-3456 or go to <http://www.vchsa.org/foster>.

Local educator publishes bi-lingual children's books

by Sheli Ellsworth

Amada Irma Perez was a little girl with five younger brothers when her family emigrated from Juarez, Mexico. She also had a love of reading and a mother who knew her way around a library. Now, Perez a longtime Ventura educator is writing and publishing children's books.

Perez has written four bi-lingual children's books. *My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito*, *My Diary from Here to There/Mi diario de aquí hasta allá*, and *Nana's Big Surprise/Nana! Que sorpresa!* were illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez and published by Children's Book Press. Pearson Education commissioned her to write the oversized preschool book *Desert Quails Hit Jungle Trails/Del Seierto a la Jungla* in 2010. Perez recently wrote a writing book for children called *My Handy Writing Book: A New, Fun & Easy Way to*

Write Stories and published it herself under the name of her newly founded publishing company, Writers Group Press for Ventura and Beyond, dedicated to helping new authors self-publish.

Her writing book uses the human hand as a metaphor for storytelling. "Every story must have a beginning. I use the thumb to represent the start of a story. The pinkie finger is the ending. By the end of a story, the pinkie and the thumb must come together. The three middle fingers represent the three D's: details, description and dialog," says Perez. She also emphasizes that children need to be taught to use their senses in storytelling. "Sights, sounds, smells, tastes and touch are as important as the who, what, when, where, and how of writing."

The award-winning author says that she was inspired by the mantra, "Plant a tree. Have a child. Write a book. It was something that filled my heart and brain," says Perez. As a teacher, Perez was always encouraging her students to write down their own stories. "Everyone has a unique story based on their own experience." After Perez began sharing her own stories with the children, she found that the students, who had also emigrated, were significantly touched by her own journey. "I realized

when I gave up television during Lent, that I had more than enough time to write."

You can order her recently released writing book (in English), *My Handy Writing Book: A New, Fun & Easy Way to Write Stories* by sending a check for \$10 plus \$2.50 shipping to Amada Irma Perez, P.O. Box 3513, Ventura, CA 93006.

"Inch by inch it's a cinch, yard by yard it's hard"

by Leon Rousso

To build anything lasting, it must be done, brick by brick over time. In a world of instant gratification, this value can get lost. Well this story is about a group of regular citizens, banded together by the love of children and the vision of a better future.

Almost seven years ago, the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura, created an expansion committee to explore the possibility of building a new club house in Saticoy.

I was fortunate to be one of those board

Youth



These kids are loving being involved in the YMCA school program

YMCA: a safe place to go after school

When the bell rings at the end of the school day, many children and teens need a safe and nurturing place to go while their parents are still at work. According to the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness advocacy organization, 15.1 million children nationwide and 24% of children in California alone are left unsupervised after 3 p.m.

Combining play with academics, the Y's afterschool programs fill gaps in schools and in the Ventura community by offering enrichment through arts, music, physical education, sports and nutrition. Youth in the Ventura Family YMCA's afterschool program are able to enjoy quiet homework time, create art projects, use Exer-gaming equipment, swim, take field trips and much more!

"When the school bell rings, learning does not have to end," explains, Sarah Savelich, Youth Program Director at the Ventura Family YMCA. "The Ventura Family YMCA's afterschool program is a great way to keep children and teens not only safe, but engaged in fun and productive activities."

Through its school aged, kindergarten and middle school child care programs, the Ventura Family YMCA provides a safe, nurturing environment and is the only licensed on-site child care provider at Poinsettia, Elmhurst, Loma Vista and Rio Del Norte Elementary Schools. With the completion of a full scale renovation at its Elmhurst site, the Y is hosting a grand opening on August 18th from 6-7 p.m. to welcome the community to come and meet all of the Y's Site Supervisors from each child care site as well as experience the new look of the Elmhurst site. Open Houses will also be held at each child care site location to provide information and to allow parents to meet the Y staff. Details including dates and times can be viewed online at ciymca.org/ventura.

For more information please contact Sarah Savelich, Youth Program Director, at 642-2131 ext. 23 or visit ciymca.org/ventura. The Ventura Family YMCA is located at 3760 Telegraph Rd.



If it's summer in Ventura then it must be time for some lessons at MAKOS Surf School during the dog days of summer! Jeff and his awesome staff got Sean Reed to go solo by the second day of surf camp. Now if he just doesn't bite his tongue off (looks like Scamp keeping cool).

Health



Laura Flores is the new Program Manager for the Adult Wellness and Recovery Program in Oxnard

Adult Wellness and Recovery Program has new manager

Laura Flores serves as the new Program Manager for the Turning Point Foundation's Adult Wellness and Recovery Program, opening soon in Oxnard. For the past five years, she served as the Supervising Patients' Rights Advocate for Kern County where she worked in the acute psychiatric setting assisting individuals in the Certification Review Process, conducted investigations, and advocated for individuals navigating the mental health system of care. In addition, Laura has lived experience dealing with her own mental health challenges, having been diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 1996. Laura holds a Bachelor Degree in Sociology with a minor in Psychology and a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Counseling.

Laura has this to say about her role as director: "I look forward to working closely with members of the Adult Wellness and Recovery Center, their families, and the local community as we develop programs and create a Center in which supportive workshops and community building is offered. Together with considerable collaboration with stakeholders and community members, I plan to foster a Center where all who experience the challenges of living with mental illness can share their experience and strength to assist one another to realize their full potential".

For more information about the Wellness & Recovery Center please contact the center at 653-5308.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

Continued from page 17

lion; Patrol cut the line off its neck. A wildlife association took possession of the sea lion for treatment.

12:24 p.m. A Keys resident reported that his son is extremely intoxicated in the Harbor and threatening to drive. Patrol was able to locate the subject. PD also responded. Arrangements were made to have the subject stay the night at Motel 6; PD transported him there.

7:28 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at Blackbeard's. Upon arrival, the patient had fainted, but likely not for a medical reason. He was released Against Medical Advice.

College and retirement

Continued from page 16

once you pay all college expenses.

There are two major reasons to re-think that strategy:

You can borrow for college but not for retirement. There are college grants, scholarships and loans – not to mention work-study programs to help students and their parents meet college cost. But have you ever heard of a loan to help fund retirement? There aren't any.

Time and compounding are key to growing your money over time. The longer and more consistently you put money aside to meet your retirement goal, the more money you will potentially have over time. One might think that once you finish paying for college, just adding the money you might have contributed will make up for lost time. This is often not the case. Time and compounding are that powerful.

The next step is to analyze your options. Put at least some funds away now for retirement. With time, a little potentially goes a long way. If you fall short of meeting your financial goals for college, consider the student and parent loans that are available. Graduating high school seniors may not only have potential funding sources from the federal government and their schools of interest, but they can also apply for grants from local and national clubs and organizations.

Another option is to consider altering your goals. Your college saving plan may be geared to help your child attend an academically strong public school in your state instead of the highest-priced private university. Or you might decide to retire at a later age or live on less in retirement. But make it a goal to put as much as you can afford within tax law limits into an IRA or 401K plan. Talk to your licensed financial professional and tax advisor to learn more about options available to you.

Crowell, Weedon & Co. takes pride in their tradition of providing profitable investments with sound advice and guidance, enabling clients to achieve personal investment success. With approximately \$8 billion in client assets, they have served as financial advisors to individuals, families and many leading business for nearly 80 years. The future is unpredictable. Crowell, Weedon & Co. can help you prepare and plan for it. We invite you to visit our new Ventura Office located at 5740 Ralston Street, Suite 301, Ventura, CA 93003. Call 620-4700 or visit www.crowellweedon.com. Member: FINRA/SIPC

Chamber searches for C.E.O.

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce has announced a search to recruit candidates to fill the role of Chief Executive Officer.

"We are searching for a dynamic, creative individual to continue the forward momentum we have experienced over the past year," said Marni Brook, Chair of the Board of the Ventura Chamber.

"The Chamber has taken tremendous steps to increase relevance and value to our members and to the Ventura community," Brook said. "We are seeking candidates who can easily recognize the trajectory we are on and keep us moving in that direction."

Brook said the candidate will also need to display a strong commitment to maintaining and strengthening community partnerships and should be interested in expanding the Chamber's social and web media presence.

"The new CEO will be working closely with the Chamber's active and committed Board of Directors to lead the Chamber into the next chapter of its history," she said.

For a list of qualifications and complete job description, please visit the Chamber website: www.ventura-chamber.org

To apply, please submit complete resume, list of qualifications and letters of reference to: Marni Brook, Board Chair mbrook@ventura-chamber.org

The application deadline is August 31, 2011.

Consortium Media Services wins award

A panel of international judges from 20 different countries recognized Consortium Media Services of Ventura, with a bronze Summit Creative Award in the not-for-profit video category at the 2011 Summit International Awards Competition.

The 12-minute video entry was designed exclusively for San Francisco-based Aspiranet, one of California's largest nonprofit social service agencies, to increase awareness and recruit new foster parents for thousands of foster children in need. The video, "Building Heroes," was accompanied by an original score written, produced and performed by Palo Alto native Ryan McDermott.

The award-winning video can be viewed at: <http://www.vimeo.com/12057356>.

With more than 20 years of experience in television and station management, Denise Bean-White founded Consortium Media Services in 1990. The agency's exclusive 5 Pillars of Marketing Success® combines key marketing campaigns using advertising, promotions, public relations, web, social media and creative design in a unique program to build successful brands.

Celebrating its 17th year, The Summit Creative Award recognizes creative excellence in advertising and marketing companies and includes all media and industries. The award focuses on small and medium-size agencies worldwide that are producing outstanding advertising.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



Show Time

Where The Music Flows

Music at the Fair

by DJ Kohli Rocks!

Greetings fellow music freaks! It's summer fair time as of this writing. You can hear the fireworks at night. Enjoyed Three Days Grace on Monday. One of my favorite new rock bands. What shows have you seen at the fair this year? Did you see Pat Benatar, The Four Tops, The Beach Boys? Let me know how your show experience was at the Fair this year. Email me - VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com. One of my favorite things for some reason is to walk by the rides and games and hear all the different music being played. I remember the year, one ride was playing, Cinderella's "Nothin' For Nothin'" on constant rotation most of the day, and down the way, Bon Jovi's "Livin' On A Prayer" was playing. Cotton candy, rock music, visit the pets at Uncle Leo's Barnyard, check out the gardens, and there is so much to do.

Exciting things have been happening lately in our music scene; New Liberty just released their new album, The Uninvited. They performed a mini-set at Salzer's Records out front on the day of its release. Many scene alumni were present rocking out to this band. To support the band, I shelled out \$10 and bought the new album. It's so much my type of rock band. They really were born for performing that rock! Amongst the crowd were members of No Motiv, 8Stops7, The Calamity, Army Of Freshmen, Thornlord, and more. I've always liked when certain events bring out so many familiar faces together in the crowd. Fun times. Later that week, New Liberty also had a second CD release show at Bombay Bar & Grill during the venue's annual Beach Party! New Liberty is the current hot band to watch in Ventura. Added to my recent local band CD collections of, We Govern We, Jeff Hershey & The Heartbeats and more.

8stops7 is just about ready to unveil new music soon. They have a new trailer for the upcoming album on YouTube. The new album, "Fables," featured the brand new single, "The Sting." Sounds soooo good! Keep in tune to the band at 8stops7.com. The band recently made a radio stop at KVTA's Horsepower For An Hour show and talked about life on the road, on stage and more. The band's upcoming music video has been selected for the Hollyshorts Film Festival @ Laemmle Sunset 5 in Hollywood on August 15. Stay tuned for more upcoming 8stops7 news.

Gypsy Death Star have announced a brand new free download for their new track, "Trailblazer." If you log onto their Facebook page -- click on the link listed under the new song announcement. And the song should download into whatever music player system you have; iTunes, RealPlayer and more. The band also recently premiered their new music video, "Werewolf Heart," and have to say it is a very fun video. One moment you see singer Wyatt Hull standing in a phone booth in the middle of nowhere -- the next he's in fighting gear -- bizarre video in a good way. It keeps your eyes on the screen the entire time. Not to mention all the music and beats that go into each second of their songs. Truly a rare music act. Stay tuned for more: GypsyDeathStar.com.

Karma Lounge has changed venue names again -- now called Crave Ventura. Upcoming shows include: Dr. Shocker's Burlesque Jambor Tease this evening, StoryTellers Open Mic (weekly night starting August 18), and more on the way. Recent bands have included New Liberty, Jeff Hershey & The Heartbeats, We Govern We and more.

In other local music news -- two bands are about to reunite on stage at Bombay Bar & Grill; No Motiv & The Whereabouts will rock on August 19 along with Silver Snakes, Cave Country, and Heroes For Ghosts...also, if you want another show to check out on that night De La Crank will be rocking out at Billy O's (they are also scheduled to open for UFO in late September!)...Seth Pettersen released a new EP on iTunes called, "Skate Away." Love the album art / cover! :)

-DJ Kohli Rocks

<http://www.RycheAirlines.blogspot.com>
(new music blog site re: Queensryche)
kohlismusicpit.com
VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com

Music Calendar 8/10 to 8/23

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

Andre's Wine Bar

1575 Spinnaker Dr., 805-642-9463

Live Music every Tues, Thur & Fri

Blackbeards Seaside BBQ

1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115, 805-650-7773

Live bands every Thur thru Sun

Karaoke every Wed 6-9pm

Thur 8/11 - Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm

Sun 8/14 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Thur 8/18 - Bottom Feeders 6:30-9:30pm

Sun 8/21 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Bombay's Bar & Grill

143 S. California St., 805-643-4404

Live Bands every Wed thru Sun

All Star Blues Night every Wed 8pm

Afternoon Concerts every Sun 4pm

Cafe Fiore

66 California St., 805-653-1266

Live Bands every Tue thru Sat

DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri & Sat

Wed 8/10 - Big Adventure

Thur 8/11 - Coso Live

Wed 8/17 - Big Adventure

Thur 8/18 - Bongo Town

GiGi's Cocktail Lounge

2493 Grand Ave., 805-642-2411

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

Live Bands Every Fri & Sat

It's All Good Bar & Grill

533 E. Main St., 805-641-9951

Open Mike Night every Wed

Majestic Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., 805-653-0118

Fri 8/12 - Summer Daze, DJ Reza, Kristina Sky, DJ Vivid, Agent Foley, Plowtown

Sat 8/20 - Preachers and Porn Stars, American Hoss, The Generator, 13, Vengeance Machine

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

W2O Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St. (above Watermark)

805-643-6800

Friday Dance Party every Fri 9pm

Thur 8/11 - Shawn Jones

Fri 8/12 - Midnight Band

Sat 8/13 - The Bomb

Sun 8/14 - Shawn Jones

Thur 8/18 - Caught Red Handed

Fri 8/19 - Mini Driver

VFS@THE MUSEUM 2011

Gasland

Reviewed by Friday Lubina

Ventura Film Society

It is happening all across America. Rural landowners wake up one day to find a lucrative offer from an energy company wanting to lease their property. Reason? The company hopes to tap into an energy reservoir dubbed the "Saudi Arabia of natural gas."

America's natural gas industry is exploding and we find ourselves on the precipice of becoming an energy superpower. But at what cost? To promote energy self-sufficiency and maximize profits, Halliburton and others have developed chemical "fracking fluids" that, when injected under high pressure with vast quantities of water, releases the gas more efficiently. Tens of thousands of landowners have signed on based on promises of minimal impact to landowner's lifestyles. Their next few mortgage payments will be met and other debts relieved.

It's a simple decision, especially in these economic times, unless you're Josh Fox, the citizen filmmaker behind "GASLAND", a deep and disturbing look into the gas exploration process known

as "hydrofracking". Fox brings us stories of property owners who were solicited and paid and others who were not given a choice in the matter due to eminent domain. We hear from scientists on the impact these exploration practices and regulatory policies will have on our collective future.

This very special screening on a topic of vital public discourse will be followed by an in-depth discussion with Nathan Alley from the Environment Defense Center in Santa Barbara and other guests. We will be discussing the current state of oil and gas drilling and exploration in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, especially any incidents of hydrofracking. We will also learn how California's environmental protections differ from and in many ways exceed those of other states.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to present "Gasland" on Tuesday August 16th @ 7pm as part of our VFS @ the Museum 2011 Film Series. Screenings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month through December 6 at the Museum of Ventura County's Martin V. & Marta K Smith Pavilion, 100 E. Main St. Downtown Ventura. For advance tickets & information www.venturafilmsociety.com / 628-2299.

Sat 8/20 - The Legalizers

Sun 8/21 - Shoemaker Brothers

Zoey's Café

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

Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm

Thur 8/11 - Dave Palmer, Roger Keiaho (Rey Fresco), Gilberto Gonzales, Libby Lavella 8pm

Fri 8/12 - Miles Zuniga, Tony Scalzo (Fastball) 8pm, Bye By Blackbirds 10:30pm

Sun 8/14 - The Milk Carton Kids 8pm

Thur 8/18 - The Brains 8pm

Fri 8/19 - Fish Food 6:10:30pm

Tue 8/23 - Blue Grass Jam 6pm

Two on the Aisle

Bellicose Backstage Bitchery Abounds

by Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Paul Zindell's satirical comedy the "Ladies at the Alamo" is unabashedly built on controversial stereotypes - a large, financially troubled performing arts center (that is only named after the Alamo), brassy Texas broads with big hair, and hot button regional prejudices.

With powerful portrayals by its stellar cast of experienced and stage-savvy divas, and direction by award-winning director/actor Taylor Kasch, audiences get to enjoy a show that maximizes all the clever, deliciously bitchy and viciously funny potentials the author buried in the script.

The action takes place in the 1970s in the Alamo Theater's Boardroom where elaborate preparations are under way for a traditional opening night reception.

The story spins around a clash between the Alamo Theater's long time artistic director, Dede Cooper (Cynthia Killion), and its principal financial backer, Joanne Remington (Trish Beasley), who has been secretly maneuvering to replace Dede with Shirley Fuller (Ramona Leah), a film actress with a waning career who got her start at the Alamo Theater when it was in a converted church. Remington

plans to make her move at the trustees' post-reception meeting that night.

Also on hand during the preparations are two long-time theater volunteers - Dede's outrageous best friend Bella Gardner (Peggy Stekete), and Remington's assistant who is known as Suits (Paula Maxwell).

In the program each act of the play is given a title. Act I is "The Ambush" and Act 2 is called "The Massacre." The titles are only clues to the scope of the complex intrigue, manipulations, schemes and counter schemes, revelations and alley-cat sniping that propel both the plot and the laughter to the final black out.

Although Killion is exceptional as the pivotal character of Dede, and she has the most dialogue that is superbly delivered with a Texas drawl, she is not the star. This is truly an ensemble piece. There are no spear carriers here. The script is so tightly crafted that the show doesn't work unless all the performers are essentially alike in strength. And the cast is equal to the challenge.

As Bella, the theater's blatantly earthy volunteer head of children's theater and Dede's unswerving supporter, Peggy Stekete is loud, overstated and delectable. Equally as loud for her character and the story line are the strong subtleties in Paula Maxwell's sensitive portrayal of the regressive-mannered Suits.

Trish Beasley as the grand dame Remington is appropriately aristocratic, disdainful and distant, while Ramona Leah as Shirley, the actress whose professional opportunities are spiraling into oblivion, is successfully desperate and grasping.

Staged by the Flying H Group, "Ladies of the Alamo" is staged in a sumptuously decorated space in the elegant RE/MAX Gold Coast building, 1500 Palma Dr., Ventura. It is at the corner of Palma Dr. and Valentine Rd., which fronts on U.S. 101 southbound between the exits for Telephone Rd. and Victoria Ave. Performances continue through August 20, 2011 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Reservations: www.flyinghgroup.com. 201-0566. Tickets: \$18, or \$15 for seniors/students. <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/188177>.

The Lighter Breeze

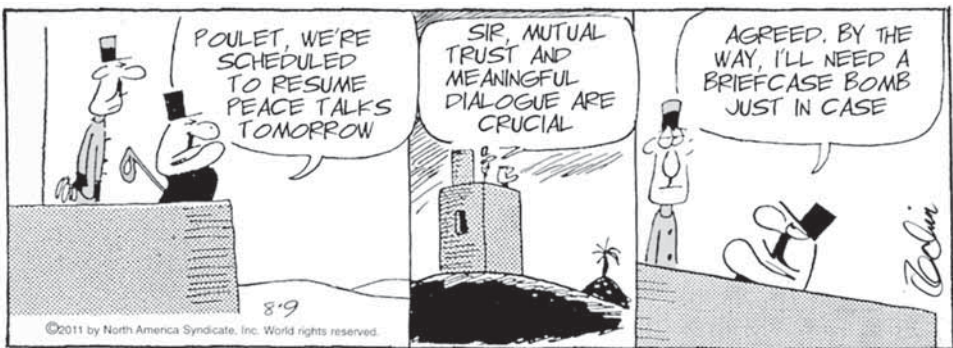
Zits



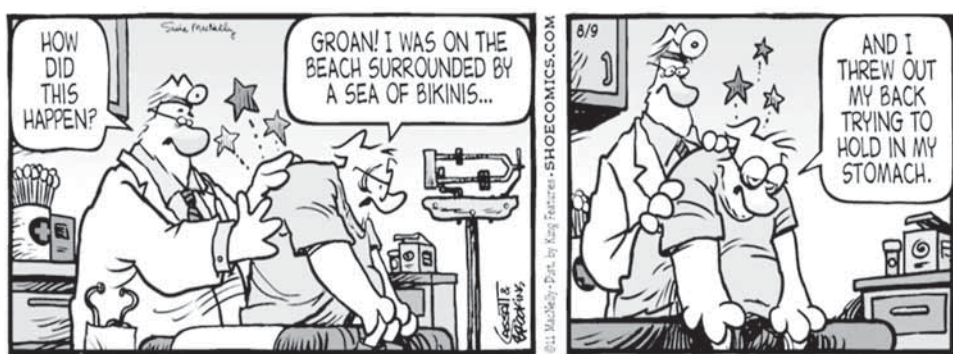
Mother Goose and Grimm



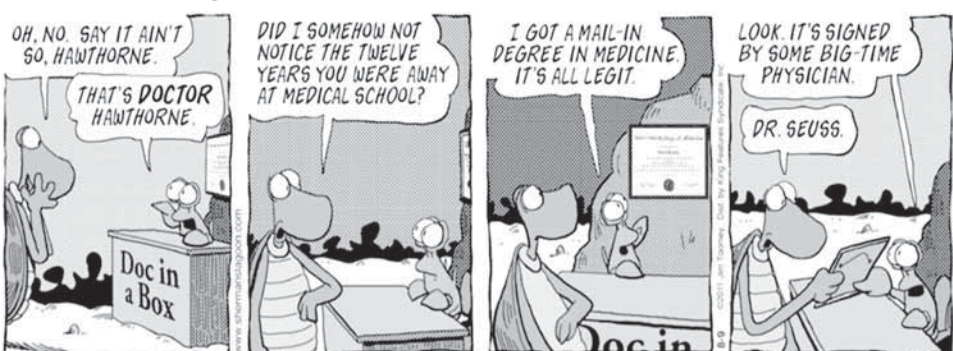
Crock



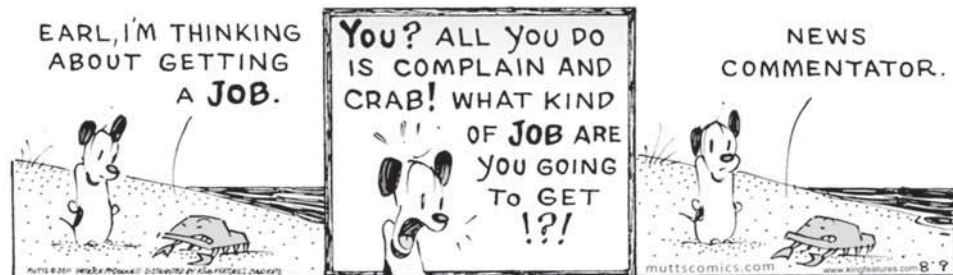
Shoe



Sherman's Lagoon



Mutts



Solutions on page 19

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

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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Solutions on page 19

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 NYPD types
5 Scratch
8 Open somewhat
12 Oil cartel
13 Have bills
14 Diamond corner
15 Something one likes
17 Met melody
18 Classify
19 "The Taking of — 1 2 3"
21 D.C. figure
22 — gin fizz
23 English channel?
26 Jewel
28 Scoundrel
31 Wander
33 Fort —, N.J.
35 Tend texts
36 Sleep disorder
38 "Glee" actress Michele
40 Pouch
41 Commanded
43 Unburden
45 Carbohic acid
47 Pizza toppings
51 Parliament-ary title
52 Sports page grid
54 Shrek, for

DOWN

1 Caesar co-star
2 Piece of work
3 Energizes, with "up"
4 Cone contents
5 Having blotches

6 Shock and —
7 Harvests
8 Ornamental shell
9 Marines (Sl.)
10 Largest of the seven
11 Paper quantity
16 Kermit, e.g.
20 Wapiti
23 Shape shifter?
24 Conk
25 Australia's capital
27 Wire measure

29 By way of abbr.
30 List-ending
32 Gad about
34 Photocopies
37 Commotion
39 Has a bug
42 Knee counterpart
44 Cuts into cubes
45 Story line
46 Gluttons
48 Chevy hybrid
49 Great Lake
50 Fashion line?
53 — pro nobis

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You sometimes go to extremes to prove a point. But this time, you won't have to. Supporters are ready, falling over themselves to help you make your case.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Venus might be your ruling planet, but Mars is in the picture as well. So don't be surprised if your romantic relationships are a bit rocky at this time. But they'll soon smooth over.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Gemini might rush into romance and risk being wrong about someone rather than be left with no one. But this is one time when it's wiser to be wary of where your heart takes you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) With all (or most) of those pesky problems behind you, take time for your family and friends. Travel aspects are favored, with long-distance journeys high on the list.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might have started to question the wisdom of being open with someone you hoped you could trust. But be assured you won't be disappointed. You'll soon hear good news.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You have a reputation for honesty and integrity, and that will help turn around a situation that was not only disappointing but also quite unfair. Good luck.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A happy event creates a closer tie with a family member who seemed hopelessly estranged. Positive aspects also dominate in important career matters.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your ruling planet, Pluto, helps you adjust to change. So, stop putting off that long-delayed move, and make it with the assurance that you're doing the right thing.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You have a wonderful capacity to learn quickly and well. This will help you when you are faced with an opportunity to move on to a new path in life.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Good news: You suddenly find that you're not facing that new challenge alone. You now have someone at your side, ready to offer whatever support you might need.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your versatility — which is just one of those aspects of yourself that make you so special — helps you adapt to the challenges of a new and exciting opportunity.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your sensitive nature picks up on the needs of others. But what about your desires? You need to take more time to assess what your goals are and, if necessary, redirect them.

BORN THIS WEEK: You give your trust openly and easily. People find you easy to be with and enjoy your wit, your good sense, and your capacity to love and be loved.

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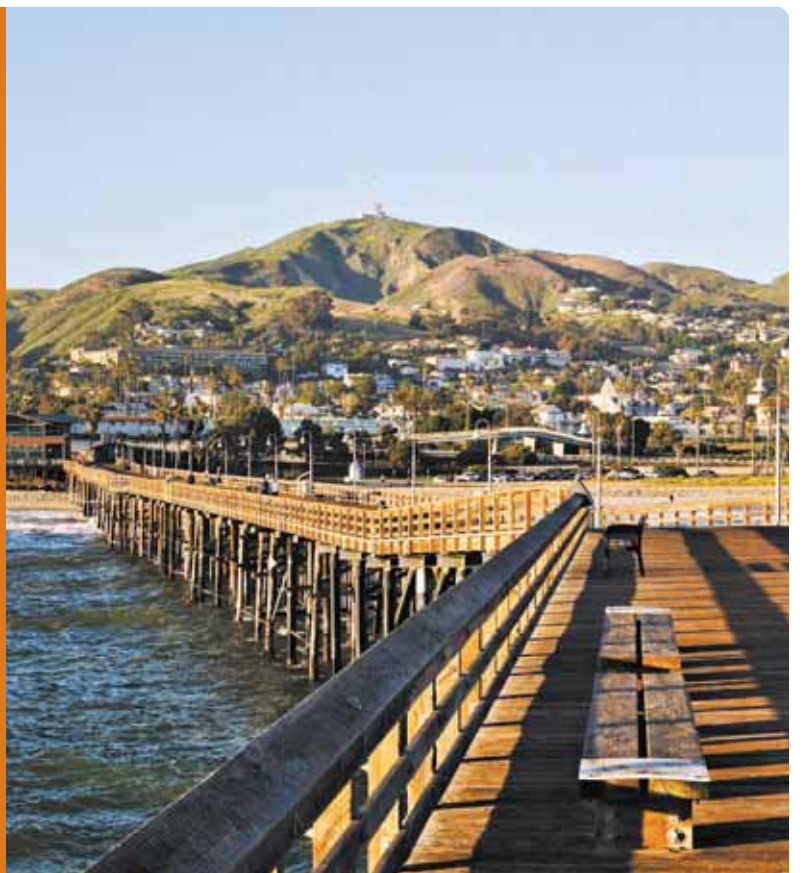
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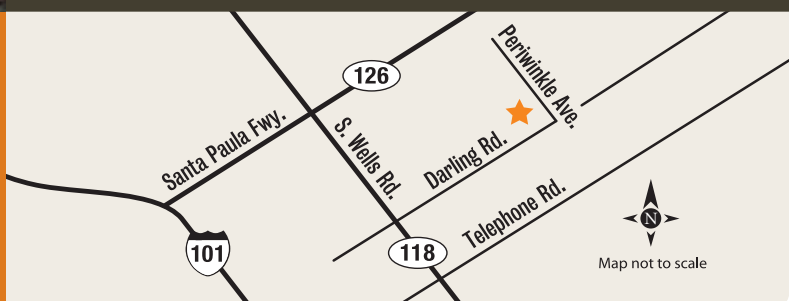
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Art Scene



Focus on the Masters volunteer Chris Beirne shares an image by Horace Bristol (1908-1997) during FOTM Auction for the Arts at the Erle Stanley Gardner Building

Focus on the Masters brings fine art to life during the Westside Art-Walk!

by Donna Granata
 Founder/Executive Director
 Focus On The Masters

Focus on the Masters (FOTM) wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our contributors who donated to the FOTM Auction for the Arts. The Westside ArtWalk was a tremendous success thanks to the collaborative efforts of so many people. FOTM was very fortunate to have had an extraordinary venue, thanks to the generosity of Mark and Kathy Hartley. Drawn to the Erle Stanley Gardner Building by its location and beauty, visitors quickly realized they were in a very special space indeed. They were dazzled by the quality of the art displayed and impressed with the brief artists' histories our volunteers were able to reveal. At FOTM we believe that fine art becomes much more accessible and memorable when an understanding of the creative process can be shared. With the help of a small legion of FOTM volunteers, the Erle Stanley Gardner Building was transformed into a "pop up gallery" presenting photographs from the FOTM Portrait Series by our founder Donna Granata. The portraits featured the artists who had work on display.

The exquisite architecture lent itself to a showcase featuring major works by internationally recognized local artists. Including FOTM documented artists Joseph Piasentin, Gary Lang, John Nava, Ruth Pastine, Cheryl Ann Thomas and Michael Rohde.

In addition to the art objects on display, video presentations were ongoing "in the vault" offering a place for art walkers to rest while taking in short vignettes featuring the artists on display interspersed by stop animation video installations by Cassandra C. Jones.

In addition to publications, FOTM produces oral histories, video biographies, visual libraries, photographs and various ephemera encompassing every aspect of the artist's creative evolution; presents biographies, lesson plans and teaching about these amazing people and their art in the Ventura County Schools through our Learning To See Youth Outreach, public lecture series and through exhibitions.

The weekend culminated in an After Party & Benefit Auction Sunday evening with a festive and dinner donated by Aloha Steakhouse, scrumptious desserts contributed by Savory Cafe & Bakery and fine wines provided by the FOTM Board of Directors. After dinner, patrons and many of the exhibiting artists took part in a lively and rousing auction where the works of art went to loving homes. The whole weekend was a huge success!

FOTM extends our appreciation to the

community for believing in us and for supporting FOTM in such an extraordinary way. Thank you to all of our incredible artists who donated their extraordinary work; to the FOTM Family of volunteers who worked tirelessly to pull the Auction for the Arts and Artist Showcase together; our donors and sponsors; Mark Hartley and Kathy Hartley, Aloha Steakhouse, Savory Cafe & Bakery, Gould Family Foundation, The Jessica & Stanley Prescott Trust, the Ventura County Reporter, The Breeze, Lyn Fairly & Friends, The Ventura County Star, Bell Arts Factory and The Westside ArtWalk.



On Sunday, August 28, from 11 am to 3 pm the Olivas Adobe docents are presenting an art exhibit at the Adobe. They will be honoring the 100 birthday of Marguerite Harde-man, a gifted and prolific artist. Several of her murals are stored at the Adobe and will be shown at this exhibit.

The docents at the Olivas Adobe, strive to promote this beautiful hacienda and bring it to the attention of the general public. It is the only remaining two-story building from the Rancho Period here in Ventura County.



Expressionist visual artist, poet, and author, Geoff Pocock will be exhibiting at the WAV Theater Gallery at 175 S. Ventura Ave. from August 13 to August 16 where you can enjoy his art, prose and poetry. An artist's reception will be held from 6-9 pm on Saturday, August 13 and on Sunday, August 14, 4-6 pm he will recite selections from his award-winning written prose and poetry. At 7pm, there will be live entertainment by various talented musicians



Beverly Decker makes a philosophical statement in her life and art work

Explore the intellectual depth of Beverly Decker

An Evening with Beverly Decker will be presented on Saturday, August 13, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Brooks



The art of talented local artist Cheryl Gooss on exhibit at the Vita Art Center

"Games People Play" is a juried art exhibition

Local business Crowell, Weedon & Co.'s very own Cheryl Gooss is among a group of talented local artists whose collaborative work was chosen to be part of the "Games People Play" exhibition at Vita Art Center in Ventura.

Gooss and her fellow artists, Beverly James, Carrie Stanton, and Drexel Smiley, were challenged and inspired to represent each other and the theme in a cohesive collaborative painting. In an effort to artfully express their spirit and passion for their friendship and creative lives together, they searched beyond the obvious. These four

diverse and multi-talented artists get together every Thursday night to share their passion and enthusiasm for the arts.

Gooss and her Crowell Weedon colleagues are committed to supporting the local arts community in Ventura, and are excited about their recently installed program to promote various local artists by exhibiting their artwork throughout their office, located at 5740 Ralston Street. Crowell Weedon is regularly seeking local artists to display work in their office. For artists interested please contact Cheryl Gooss at 620-4700 or cgooss@crowellweedon.com.

Institute Motion Picture Screening Room, 5301 N. Ventura Ave. With the thought of peace let me contemplate the world. This is a phrase that Beverly Decker has chosen to begin a philosophical statement that is inspired by Buddhist text. The recitation continues with compassion, joy and love. Many of her works are indeed written words, a kind of spiritual calligraphy, layered and colored, in acrylic, oil, watercolor, ink and mixed media and are themselves a kind of meditation, that create truly peaceful and thoughtful objects of contemplation. Beverly is

a founding member of Women Beyond Borders, an international project that unites women's voices around the world through sculpture and the written word. \$10 General Admission - \$5 Students and Seniors

Free to FOTM members, Brooks Students, faculty and students under 18. Please RSVP at 653-2501 or by emailing Mary.Galbraith@FocusOn-TheMasters.com

To learn more about Beverly Decker please visit http://faculty.csuci.edu/beverly.decker/Beverly_Decker_Art/Artist.html

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