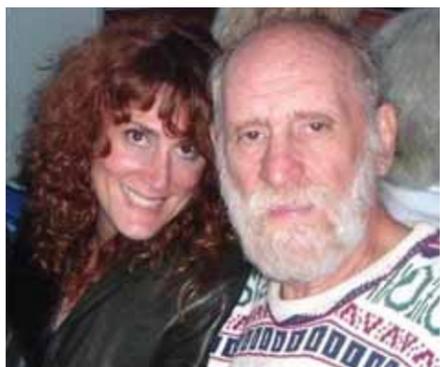




# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 5, No. 4 Published Every Other Wednesday www.venturabreeze.com November 30 - December 13, 2011



Sheldon and Staci Brown are very thrilled that their hard work has resulted in being recognized by the Chamber as The Small Business of the Year

## Ventura Breeze honored

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce has announced that the Ventura Breeze has been selected as their Small Business of the Year.

The Breeze is in their 5th year of publication and is published every other Wednesday and over 11,500 copies are circulated to almost 600 locations in the cities of Ventura, Ojai and the Channel Islands Harbor. It can also be read online at [www.venturabreeze.com](http://www.venturabreeze.com).

The Ventura Breeze is Ventura's only local community hometown newspaper that has extensive news about and for Ventura. It provides coverage of local news, events, politics, arts and more, giving its readers a perspective not provided by any other newspaper.

The Ventura Breeze was launched by Sheldon Brown, and daughter Staci on Oct. 24, 2007.

Breeze publisher Sheldon stated that "This recognition is just wonderful and surprising and has made the 5 years of very hard work well worth it. When Staci and I launched the Breeze we weren't sure if we had the knowledge to launch a paper and if Ventura really needed a local paper, but we wanted to fill a serious need in the community so we went for it. Apparently we have succeeded in doing both of these things."

"I want to thank my wonderful writers, photographers, distribution crew, interns, Scamp, our advertising advisers and especially Alfred Lewis, of studioNothing who makes the paper have it's wonderful look and Staci who will be returning to help with the Breeze very soon. And especially the Chamber for honoring us and our loyal readership and advertisers whose passion for the newspaper has made all this possible."

**While overseas with Habitat For Humanity you can always catch up with the Breeze at [venturabreeze.com](http://venturabreeze.com)**



On Thursday, November 24, Ventura's fourth annual OneCity/OneMeal Thanksgiving Day Celebration took place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds with a free hot Thanksgiving meal being served at noon.

Presented by The Salvation Army and the Ventura Social Services Task Force, the event served more than 600 people from all walks of life who gathered together as One City to share One Meal. This year's event was held at the county fairgrounds for the first time to accommodate the rapid growth of the celebration.

OneCity/OneMeal is unique among the abundance of community-based events on Thanksgiving Day in that it is designed around the concept of teams hosting tables, which is far more than serving food - it's sharing life. For more information about The Salvation Army please contact Capt. Bill Finley at 320-7345 or [william.finley@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:william.finley@usw.salvationarmy.org).

The Chamber invites you to join in honoring the outstanding achievements of Ventura businesses and individuals who have made a difference in the community at the Poinsettia Awards luncheon. This year, the 15th Annual Poinsettia Awards luncheon will be celebrated on Thursday, December 8, from 11:30am - 2:00pm at the Marriott Ventura Beach Hotel - 2055 Harbor Blvd. Admission for this event is \$40.00 for Chamber members and \$45 for non-members. The Ventura Firefighters will also be hosting their annual "Spark of Love" holiday toy drive and ask that attendees bring an unwrapped toy to the luncheon.

Other winners of the 2011 Poinsettia Awards are:

**Mid-Sized Business of the Year** - Service Master by T.A. Russell

**Large Business of the Year** - The Players Club

**Jewel Key Award** - Draganchuk Alarm Systems, Inc.

**The Innovation Award** - The Greek at the Harbor

**Non-Profit/Service Org. of the Year** - Turning Point Foundation

**Philanthropist of the Year** - Ann Deal

**Citizen of the Year** - Marie Lakin

**Hometown Hero** - Mel Sheeler

**Environmental Services Award** - Auto Lube Care

**Female Student of the Year** - Jessica Miranda

**Male Student of the Year** - Guillermo Rosales

**Educator of the Year** - Linda Brug

**Firefighter of the Year** - Luis Manzano

**Police officer of the Year** - Derek Donswyk

**City Staff Person of the Year** - Anita Diaz

To reserve tickets for this event, please call Charleen at the Chamber office at 643-7222.



Scouts shown who presented the flag at The Lexington were Marcel Oerlemans, Spencer Nagle, Jacob Stephenson, Chase Stewart, Zach Burseck, Theo Warren and Matt Miller from Cub Scout Pack 3176 and Bodde Stewart from Boy Scout Troop 103. They were assisted by Cub Scout Pack 3176 leaders Allan Oerlemans- Cubmaster, Mark Stephenson- Secretary, Kelsey Stewart - Den Leader and Samantha Oerlemans - Den Leader.

## The Lexington's annual Veteran's Day breakfast

On Friday, November 11th, The Lexington held their annual Veteran's Day breakfast. The event included certificates of recognition for the 27 veterans that live at The Lexington, a flag presentation by cub scouts, Troop 3176, a fine buffet breakfast and speeches of appreciation by local dignitaries including Ventura council member Christy Weir whose 100 year old father-in-law lives there as well as Gary Davis their Long Term Care Ombudsman who spoke.

Piano music and a trumpet memorial was provided by veteran Larry Mills.

Eric Terrill, Executive Director said, "What a wonderful and touching tribute to our veterans. It was a special day spent honoring our veterans who served our country. We will also be honoring our

veterans as well as the veterans from Oxnard Family Circle on Pearl Harbor Day on Wednesday, December 7th.

The Lexington Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care provides a full array of services with a resort-like atmosphere and cheerful, friendly help from the staff.



This issue's **Face of Ventura** by Johanna Spinks is on page 12.



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**11 AM – 6 PM**



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## City News



Members of the public listen as Ventura Water General Manager Shana Epstein discusses a long-range plan to divert reclaimed water from the Santa Clara River Estuary to resolve legal actions from public interest groups. The Nov. 10 Town Hall meeting drew many local residents. The plan calls for half to all of the city's reclaimed water to be diverted from the Estuary and reused for non-drinking purposes.

## Ventura water

by Nancy Broschart  
Special to the Breeze

More than 50 stakeholders participated in a Town Hall meeting held Nov. 10 to learn about a recent settlement that aims to protect the natural habitat of the Santa Clara River Estuary and enhance local water supplies.

A look into Ventura's water future, the meeting drew a broad cross-section of the community - civic leaders, students, environmentalists, neighboring water agencies and business members of all ages and backgrounds.

Following opening remarks from Deputy Mayor Mike Tracy, Ventura Water General Manager Shana Epstein presented a long-range plan to eventually divert water from the Santa Clara River Estuary, where the City's reclaimed wastewater is now released. The plan is the result of a settlement agreement by Ventura Water, Heal the Bay and Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program to resolve legal actions associated with Ventura's wastewater facility discharges of tertiary treated water into the Santa Clara River Estuary. Looking ahead to 2025, the plan calls for 50 to 100 percent of the City's reclaimed water to be diverted from the Estuary and reused for non-drinking purposes. How the water will be diverted and reused will be decided through the agreement process over the next five years or so.

While costs will not be known until then, the agreement caps the total

expense at \$55 million, which could potentially result in an additional cost of about \$3.50 per month per household through 2055. However, grant funding will be aggressively pursued to finance the program, and expenses long-term may also be offset from revenue generated by reclaimed water sales as water supplies become more limited and valuable.

"This is true long-term planning and is the best way we know how to accomplish our goals to integrate water resources," Epstein said.

The meeting was part of a public outreach effort to inform the community about the agreement before the Ventura City Council votes to ratify the final settlement on December 12. To view a video about the settlement, visit Ventura Water's YouTube Channel, and to learn more, visit [www.cityofventura.net/water/rivers](http://www.cityofventura.net/water/rivers).

In conjunction, funding options for this program will be evaluated by Ventura Water's Cost of Service and Rate Design Study, which is underway with the help of a nine-member volunteer citizen committee. All Ventura residents are invited to attend the next committee meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at the City Sanjon Maintenance Yard, 336 Sanjon Road.

For more information on the committee's progress, visit [www.cityofventura.net/water/resources](http://www.cityofventura.net/water/resources).

## Our public safety

by Rick Cole  
City Manager

Everyone agrees that public safety comes first. But people disagree about how to make Ventura safe - and what we can afford.

Most people think of Ventura as "safe" when it comes to violent crime. But our overall crime rate is the highest among the larger cities in our County. That may reflect our demographics, including the number of visitors who flow through our beach community. But what is worrisome are the signs of rising crime. While still relatively rare, violent crime is running 26% ahead of last year.

National data show that adequate police staffing can reduce crime. A

study by the Rand Corporation that demonstrates that "a 10% increase in the size of a police force decreases the rate of homicide by 9%, robbery by 6% and vehicle theft by 4% each year."

But how to pay for them? Some shout "no new taxes!" Some insist we could pay for more police now if they didn't have such costly pensions. Some say public safety is important, but so are quality of life concerns.

It's hard to know who speaks for the majority. In 2006, 62% of Ventura voters supported a sales tax increase to add 14 police officers and 11 firefighters. Yet it fell short of the two-thirds majority needed for a special tax. In 2009, after the Great Recession hit, only 46% of voters supported a temporary sales tax measure to preserve city services (including public safety.)

Many call for making deep cuts in other functions of government to fund public safety. However, since police and

fire functions make up 57 cents of every general fund dollar, you can't spare them and still balance the budget. Since 2009, police staffing was cut from 134 to 122 officers.

There clearly is a "tipping point" where the strength of the police force falls below the minimum needed to deal with crime. We are probably at or near that tipping point. The City Council unanimously approved a push for "Safe and Clean Public Places" to reclaim areas like Plaza Park and the Promenade from criminal and anti-social behavior. But Police Chief Ken Corney currently has no one to spare to dedicate to that task.

We all wish for an easy answer. But with no economic recovery in sight, we face hard choices. Should we limp along in the face of rising crime? Should we further slash other programs like libraries and recreation? Should voters again be asked to increase taxes? Should we override unions to cut pay and pensions? It's easy to find vocal support for each of these options - but difficult to find majority agreement for any of them.

No consensus leaves us hoping that the huge shift of inmates out of the State prison system won't overwhelm our local police. We all complain about gridlock in Sacramento and Washington D.C. But the reality is that voters themselves don't yet agree on solutions.

That's not surprising. Most voters are trying to figure out how to make ends meet for their families. It may be expecting too much for them to figure out how to adequately fund public safety. But the only thing worse than hard choices are no choices. Like I said at the start, everyone says that public safety comes first. As a community, we have to work together to figure out how to put our money where our priorities are.

Rick Cole  
805 654-7740  
Blog: [www.cmblog.cityofventura.net](http://www.cmblog.cityofventura.net)  
Twitter: @venturacole

## Ask The Chief

by Ken Corney  
Ventura Police Chief

Question: The police department temporarily disbanded the gang unit back in February. Has the department reestablished the unit and has there been an effect on gang crimes in our community?

Answer: As a result of budget reductions and staffing issues, I made the decision to temporarily disband our gang unit, otherwise known as the Special Enforcement Team (SET), in February 2011. We reassigned four of the gang officers to patrol operations to help maintain minimum staffing levels. Two of the officers were transferred to our Major Crime Investigations Unit assigned specifically to conduct follow up investigations on reported violent gang crimes.

The decision was intended to be a temporary measure until officers who had been injured in the line of duty were able to return to full duty status. Unfortunately, the department continued to experience a significant injury rate and several of those injuries have required surgery and long-term recovery. This, combined with the elimination of 15 sworn officer positions resulting from the economic downturn, has created a new reality for the Ventura Police Department; officer injuries and vacancies definitely have a greater impact

on our crime fighting capabilities.

Despite these challenges, our department has continued to adjust and reorganize our existing resources to allow us to best fight crime in our community. However, as a former gang investigator I had serious concerns when I disbanded the gang unit that the lack of a proactive gang enforcement team could lead to a long-term increase in violent gang crime. The circumstance I could not predict was how long it would take before a pattern of increased gang related violence would occur. Sadly, the last few months have revealed a noticeable upswing in gang related violent crime. From February of this year (when the unit was disbanded) until September 30 (latest month for which results are available) there have been 55 violent gang crimes reported. This is an increase of 57% when compared to the same time period last year in which 35 violent gang crimes were reported.

In response to this troubling trend, we are working within our existing resources to deploy personnel for targeted gang enforcement in areas of increased gang activity. We also have provided our existing patrol force with timely intelligence on gang activity to assist them in responding most effectively to both calls for service and self initiated crime fighting activities. In a perfect world we could reassign or shift resources back to the gang unit, however, given the continued economic challenges on local governments, and other increased resource demands such as vagrant criminal behavior, increases in non-gang related violent crimes, and certain property crimes, there is no simple solution.

You can rest assured that throughout the challenges of these trying times the spirit and dedication of our Ventura Police crime fighting team continues to protect and serve this community with integrity, fairness, courage, compassion and service before self.

## City of Ventura Performance Measures are online

Residents in Ventura can learn how well the City is accomplishing "what matters most" to the community by accessing online Performance Measures that provide the public with data on key delivery services. The reporting system, which can be accessed at [www.cityofventura.net/performance](http://www.cityofventura.net/performance), allows the City to improve accountability and transparency of the City's execution, and continuously evaluate its operations and delivery of services.

The City of Ventura began publicly reporting on its performance in 2005. The City Council reviews those results at public meetings every quarter.

By using this system, City objectives are structured to track and communicate performance in critical service areas. "At a time when we must spend every dollar carefully, it is more important than ever that we are able to define and measure what we do in an objective way," said Mayor Bill Fulton.

Other benefits of using performance measures is that they allow adaptation to changing circumstances faster and more effectively, and provide the public with a clear understanding of how their tax dollars are being used.



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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

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## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown  
Publisher

■ In our last issue we stated that 47,062 voters had voted but the “r” didn’t belong there, it was 47,062 votes not voters.

The actual amount of registered voters (certainly many more could be registered) who voted was 28% which probably means perhaps 20% of those that could vote if they all registered, a rather pathetic turn out.

The following partial article from Res Publica clarifies this. For the entire article go [www.vregventura.org](http://www.vregventura.org)

“There are 67,807 eligible voters in the city of Ventura, but 18,945 (28%) of the registered voters voted. There were three open seats so each voter would potentially have three votes in this election. The Ventura County Elections division reported that 47,062 votes were cast. This would mean the average voter voted for 2.48 candidates.

If we start with the total vote count for the 3 winning candidates (20,398), then subtract that number from the total number of votes cast (47,062), a higher percentage (26,664 or 57%) of voters wanted someone other than those who were elected.

If we extrapolate, using the total of 67,807 registered voters times 3 votes per ballot; the potential number of votes that could be cast would total 203,421. If we then compare the total number of votes received by the three winning candidates to that number it means that

these new council members were put into office receiving only 10% (20,398) of the potential vote.

■ The Nutcracker presented on Nov. 19 & 20 by the Ventura County Ballet featuring many-many Venturans and the Ventura College Orchestra was simply wonderful. If you missed their Nutcracker the All American Ballet (AAB) of Ventura will present its 10th annual production of The Nutcracker on Saturday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, Dec. 18. (see ad and article in this issue)

■ I don’t like the Republican debates because I like circuses with more animals and trapeze artists.

■ My dream has always been to have my deposit slips run out before my checks.

■ Recently Ventura tied for fourth amongst the “most social cities” for the highest rate of business related social media use by a report by the marketing firm NetPropex that tracks business contact databases and business activity on social media sites.

We trailed San Francisco, New York and San Jose.

But is using social media really being sociable at all? Isn’t a phone call or a lunch much more sociable? Or am I showing my age?

■ The Circle K, located at Mills and Main has had their liquor license reinstated by the city council. The city council had removed their liquor license because of selling to minors and the many police calls to the location for frequent reports of thefts, public drunk-

ness and nearby fighting.

Some of the new restrictions imposed on them in order to resume the selling of alcohol include no floor display of alcohol and no single sales of beer, malt liquor or wine coolers.

I think that this was a fair decision by the council but let’s keep our eye on them (the council and the store).

■ A judge has sentenced a Ventura man for using a camera hidden in his briefcase to record video under women’s dresses at the County Government Center. He was given a sentence of 60 days in jail and three years’ probation.

The man named Aksu, an engineer with the defense department, could lose his security clearance. Why didn’t he plead that he was on an under-wear (I mean under-cover mission for the government).

Aksu wept as he left the courtroom probably because he had been caught and had his briefcase taken away.

■ Rumors:

City council members Neal Andrews and Brian Brennan might run for the Ventura County Board of Supervisors position that will be vacated by Steve Bennett.

The long closed Hungry Hunter, located on Harbor has been purchased by In and Out which is located next door.

A new management group has taken over the Pierpont Inn (not the club). I certainly hope so; the mother and son that purchased it a few years ago have just destroyed it and it is one of Ventura’s wonderful icons.

## Mailbox

surgery+50 stitches, lots of medicine & \$500 in vet fees. Our dog’s infection is improving but he continues to limp due to one of the punctures thru the left leg joint which is still swollen. The emotional wounds for our family will run longer & deeper. Why are vagrants allowed to disobey our ordinances while law-abiding locals, visitors & their pets continually victimized?

Ventura use to be a beach-side paradise but now with the loose pit-bulls & drunk vagrants, it is just plain dangerous! We don’t blame folks for being homeless in this awful economy; we often cook for homeless shelters and contribute locally to help often, but we cannot abide unlicensed, unleashed killer pit-bulls from any segment of our population as well as indifference from agencies charged with our protection!

Please, we urge you to do more to make our public places safer for families & pets.

Sincerely,  
Liz Bailey-Callaway  
Ventura Keys

Dear Editor,

How sad for Ventura that not one pro-business candidate was elected to the City Council. Instead, apathy has given a victory to the unions which translates into no real pension reform and more financial burdens placed on weary taxpayers to fund unnecessary and expensive programs during a worsening economy.

While Washington is spending us into oblivion, citizens can only hope for some fiscal sanity on a local level. Unfortunately, that did not happen here. Fellow residents, fasten your seat belts as it’s going to be a bumpy ride.

Sincerely,  
M. Fidele

Editor:

The Freeny issue (pending law suit against the city) is an excellent example of the problems faced by those who wish to build or develop within the City of Ventura. I am told by one city council member that the neighbors were not advised, another council person stated that post cards were sent to the city required premises encompassing the project and there were posted signs stating the project for months at the site. So what is the problem?

The Freenys state they followed the procedures as dictated by the city departments, received approvals with adjustments along the way, and then faced a city council review that rejected the project. The project had been approved by the planning and the design review departments and met the general plan requirements. If the project met the requirements of those departments, and the Freenys had abided by the requirements of the city process for the project in full, then the city council should have approved the project based on compliance of the authority of these departments and codes.

It is not the city council’s function to do the same work as the review departments? It is the city council function to ensure that if there had been a breach in the process then it is within their purview to send the project back to the department for correction, not to engage in the process of a subordinate department. It would seem that the planning and development process is not linear here in Ventura. A developer cannot be

assured that their project is not subject to changes for that which were previously approved. That would not only be discouraging projects, but would make it necessary for developers to increase the necessary financing for a project all the way up to abandonment when attempting projects in the City of Ventura. This is what the City council should be attending to.

John Whitman  
Ventura

Dear Editor:

Reference - Train vs. Pedestrian - reported on Wednesday, October 19th, at Police Reports section...

The male victim in this story was trespassing on private property - he was not a pedestrian on a public walkway. The engineer on the train runs the locomotive and is responsible for initializing emergency stop procedures and sounding the train horn not the conductor.

Unfortunately, trains cannot stop quickly and require a long distance to do so. Also, trains are never able to avoid collisions with people or vehicles. They cannot change their course of travel. Only people can do that.

Trespassing on private railroad right of ways is illegal and very dangerous to all concerned. There is more than one victim in this incident as well.

Railroad engineers and conductors are also traumatized and must live with the memories of the event also. We must try to clarify the details of these

*Continued on page 6*

City Council

At twilight on 10/27/11, our son and our leashed & friendly wiemaraner dog were walking along the Ventura Promenade/Crowne Plaza when they were viciously attacked by a vagrant’s unleashed pit-bull. Surrounded by bums & this vicious dog, he called 911 and was told to “call Animal Control.” Why are our public spaces not safe with public intoxicators & killer dogs allowed to overtake citizens & run around unleashed?

Our son was ok but shaken up and our gentle 2 year old dog had significant blood loss, wounds requiring

Many do not know that we are here in this world to live in harmony.

–Buddha



## City News

# Council adopts recommendations to improve Ventura's libraries

by Berta Defren Steele

Chair, Ventura City Library Advisory Commission Member,  
Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee

On Monday, November 14, after three hours of deliberation, the Ventura City Council voted 5-2 to adopt the recommendations made by the city's Library Advisory Commission and Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

For the last six months, the 20 members of the Library Strategic Plan Steering Committee, representing a wide swath of the residents and business owners of our City, and under the leadership of Chair Jim Friedman and Vice Chair Debbie Giles, worked diligently to create a plan for the future of Ventura's libraries. Committee members listened to public comments and utilized reports from Library Consultant Mary Ellen Santiago who was hired to direct the Strategic Planning process, and carefully considered the suggestions and findings from all of these sources. The recommendations, a result of the hard work put in by Steering Committee members, do not meet everyone's desires of what Ventura's libraries should look like. However, they are doable within the City's current Library Budget.

The resulting recommendations, unanimously adopted by both the Library Plan Steering Committee and the Library Advisory Commission at a joint meeting October 12, together with two additional recommendations from the Library Advisory Commission meeting October 25, were presented to City

Council. I sat at the presentation table with City Staff members, Strategic Plan Consultant Mary Ellen Santiago, and County Librarian Jackie Griffin while presentations were made, discussions held, questions answered and public comments heard. The vast majority of comments were in favor of remaining with the County Library System and encouraging the establishment of a library presence east of Victoria Avenue in the very near future.

We have two viable libraries in Ventura, which, at this time, can be supported without new taxes. One of the recommendations Council adopted is to start now exploring what the East end library might look like and cost, what can be done until a permanent library is established, and how both will be funded. As Kathy Thomson, President, San Buenaventura Friends of the Library, said at Monday's meeting, "A library is not a building housing books but rather the services provided therein and the knowledgeable and caring staff who help to deliver those services. The package isn't as important as what is offered inside."

City Council also decided to have the mayor appoint a committee of representatives from City Council, City staff, Library Advisory Commission and Steering Committee to work with the County Library System to implement

the other recommendations. Results of these meetings will be presented to the Council in April 2012.

The Library Strategic Plan will be completed by the Consultant by April 2012 as well. I will keep you posted on future developments. In the meantime, I urge you to become a knowledgeable participant in the future of our libraries. Study the documents that have come out of the Library Strategic Planning Process. They can be accessed at [www.cityofventura.net/files/file/meetings/city\\_council/11-14-11/item%2011.pdf](http://www.cityofventura.net/files/file/meetings/city_council/11-14-11/item%2011.pdf)



Steve Bennett shared Thanksgiving with the huge crowd at the OneCity|OneMeal Thanksgiving Day Celebration held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds

## Bennett announces candidacy

by Rebecca Wicks

Steve Bennett, longtime local politician announced earlier this month his candidacy for the newly drawn 26th Congressional District which includes virtually all of Ventura County sans Simi Valley. Bennett, 60, a Democrat whose credentials include being a council member for the City of Ventura, currently serves on the Ventura

*Continued on page 20*

### Mailbox

*Continued from page 5*

incidents in the future to prevent additional injuries or deaths.

When residents see children or adults trespassing on railroad property, they should call 911 immediately. These are life threatening behaviors.

Remember, with the increasing frequency of passenger and freight trains moving across our region, any time is train time in our communities. Arthur James "A.J." Farrar, M.S.

Dear Sheldon,

The Pierpont neighborhood is looking worse every day. Homeless people are wandering along Pierpont Blvd. on their way to the State Beach or other campsites. Abandoned grocery carts are everywhere, some empty, some with dogs and some full of a mentally ill person's treasures.

After a great deal of research and lobbying, the Von's at Harbor now washes every cart returned to their store by the cart retrieval service.

A Big Lots cart had been sitting on Seaward for two weeks. It had been reported numerous times to the cart retrieval service. I decided to get the cart myself and found it to be reeking of a foul odor. The smell, which was horrific, turned out to be coming from

a large piece of raw meat in the original wrapping. The plastic wrap was ripped open and the meat was covered with maggots. One cannot "catch" maggots but it certainly is a disturbing discovery. This cart must have been used by many different transients. Can you imagine if it had been returned to a store and put back into line?

Grocery carts enable the homeless to remain so. They belong to the retailers and should be their responsibility. When a store is closed the carts should be secured. When the business is open they should be kept in front of the store.

There have been several homeless encampments in our neighborhood that have been cleaned out by the city and by Cal Trans, for which we are very grateful. But, that is never the end of the story or the solution to the problem. Requiring retailers, by law, to take responsibility for their own carts would go a long way to improving the looks of our city and to make it a little more difficult for the homeless to stay in Ventura.

Carmel Whitman

Dear Elected Representatives of the Citizens of Ventura,

I was shocked to learn recently that Code Enforcement has returned to proactive enforcement using "citizen reporters" to report a suspected violation instead of filing a complaint. These actions are counter to your directions given in May of 2009 for code enforcement to adhere to complaint-based enforcement. Using citizens to report on other citizens recalls a shameful period in history to which none of us want our city compared.

Using citizens to report on fellow citizens, when there is no complaint, can be used to discourage potential sellers from listing their properties, as speculators who report properties that are missing permits can then negotiate lower sale prices, and desperation sales will increase.

These citizen reporters can render a property, which may merely be missing a permit, as substandard and "a public nuisance" under our current code definitions. There is currently no affordable compliance/abatement program.

The Ventura Safe Housing Collaborative Report cited the need for improved written guidance. This is a glaring example of how much improved written guidance is needed.

Respectfully,  
Camille Harris  
Ventura

## Candlelight Tribute Remembrance

The Charles Carroll Funeral Home will be holding its annual Candlelight Tribute of Remembrance on December 7, 2011 starting at 7 p.m. in the chapel at 15 Teloma Dr. in Ventura. The service is open to the community and will feature comforting music and messages and a Candle Lighting Ceremony. There will also be a "Tree of Remembrance" located in the funeral home foyer where guests can put a picture or other special memento of a loved one in an ornament and place it on the tree.

The Charles Carroll Funeral Home has been serving Ventura in helping families with their grief after losing a loved one and find it especially



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For one-on-one help with your CalFresh application, call:

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To apply for CalFresh online or to learn about options for applying in person or by mail, visit:

**County of Ventura**  
**Human Services Agency**  
**[www.vchsa.org](http://www.vchsa.org)**









## News and Notes

important to remember those during the holiday season. Mark Rook, manager at Charles Carroll Funeral home states, "At Charles Carroll, we are dedicated to helping families and friends continue in the healing process after a loss. Our Candlelight Tribute of Remembrance is a tradition that helps many in our community find comfort and support." There is no charge for guests but guests are requested to RSVP at 642-8134 by 5:00 p.m. on December 5.

In addition to the Candlelight Tribute Remembrance, Charles Carroll is also sponsoring the "Toys for Tots" toy drive for needy children in the community. New, unwrapped toys can be brought to the Candlelight Tribute or can be dropped off at their location anytime before December 20.

For more information please call 642-8134 or visit [www.charlescarrollfuneralhome.com](http://www.charlescarrollfuneralhome.com)

## Carjacking and vehicle pursuit

On Nov. 26, at 7:25 pm, VPD officers responded to a report of a carjacking that had occurred near the intersection of Seaward Avenue and the northbound 101 Freeway off-ramp. Investigating officers learned that the victim had stopped his vehicle at the intersection when a pickup truck pulled alongside him. A male passenger exited the pickup and opened the driver's door and punched the victim before pulling him out of his car. The suspect drove away in the victim's vehicle leaving the victim behind.

At 8:20 pm, officers responded to a report of a robbery and attempted carjacking in the Ventura City parking lot located on Seaward Avenue near Zephyr Street. It was learned the victim in this incident was seated in his vehicle when the suspect approached the passenger side and spoke to the victim through an open window. During the brief conversation the suspect told the victim he was going to take his vehicle then pepper sprayed him in the face. The victim was able to grab his vehicle keys and flee on foot. The suspect ran alongside the victim striking him repeatedly before fleeing the area. Items were taken from the car.

During the course of this investigation officers learned the suspect had arrived in the vehicle stolen earlier during the carjacking.

At 11:20 pm, a VPD officer located the stolen vehicle parked near the intersection of Woodland Street and Hill Road. The officer saw Jesse Edwards, 29, Ventura resident, seated in the driver's seat and illuminated his emergency lights. Edwards quickly accelerated away with the officer in pursuit. Additional officers joined in the pursuit as Edwards turned onto Telegraph Road and traveled westbound continuing at a high rate of speed.

Officers followed Edwards and reinitiated the pursuit near Thompson Boulevard and Telegraph Road. Edwards eventually entered downtown Ventura. The pursuit was terminated prior to him entering the downtown area due to the heavily populated streets.

The pursuit continued as Edwards was leaving the city, VPD officers successfully deployed a spike strip that

flattened one of the tires on the stolen vehicle.

The pursuit continued north onto Highway 33 where the Ventura County Sheriff's office took over pursuing him into the city of Oak View where Edwards turned back south towards Ventura where a VCSO helicopter also joined in the pursuit. VPD officer deployed a second spike strip that deflated a second tire.

Edwards entered onto the southbound 101 Freeway from Highway 33 and the pursuit was taken over by the CHP. The vehicle lost the left front tire near the California St. overpass and Edwards was now driving on a rim as he neared the Seaward Avenue off-ramp. At Harbor Boulevard and Monmouth Way he exited the vehicle and was taken into custody a short distance from the vehicle with the assistance of a VPD K9.

During the course of this pursuit Edwards committed multiple dangerous traffic violations and was charged with felony evading of a police officer. Additionally, officers located stolen property from an earlier theft from an unlocked vehicle in Edwards' possession along with a canister of pepper spray. As a result of these findings, Edwards was charged with possession of stolen property, including the stolen vehicle and being a convicted felon in possession of pepper spray. Edwards was treated at VCMC for minor injuries resulting from the K9 bite and was later booked in the Ventura County Jail for the above charges.



Councilmember Christy Weir read stories to the kids who attended Storyfest

### CAPS Chat

## CAPS at Storyfest

by Elizabeth Rodeno

CAPS-TV had an opportunity to visit this year's Storyfest. The event featured authors, storytellers and real people sharing their love of stories to the kids. As you probably already know our mission at CAPS is to give you the opportunity to share your story. The event was sponsored by the Ventura Educational, First 5, County Schools Federal Credit Union and the Ventura Unified School District. Ventura Mayor Bill Fulton, Councilmember

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Christy Weir, and Dr. Trudy Arriaga, the Ventura School District Superintendent, read stories to the kids. There were crafts, food, and activities, including a reptile show. On the main stage Antonio Sacre shared his stories and acted them out in English and in Spanish. It is a natural segue to our Digital Storytelling programs currently running in the schools and for the past 5 summers. With the training and equipment offered at the CAPS studio you can tell your story. As the year comes to a close remember, you can still join CAPS and tell your story for only \$25. It's great bang for your buck.

Many people wonder what a Board of Directors do? As a non-profit organization, our board helps us define who we are and what we need to do to fulfill our mission statement. This includes providing complete coverage of City Hall meetings and covering various events for the City as well as for the community in general. They supervise the operation budget, are kept abreast of our day-to-day operations, and discuss avenues for fundraising to ensure CAPS will continue to provide great opportunities for years to come.

Let us introduce you to our newest board member, Norm Bergman. Recently retired from Community Memorial Hospital as the CFO, Norm chose CAPS as one way to give back to Ventura. To quote Norm: "I felt I could relate to the benefits that a non-profit organization like CAPS could be to the Community. I believe communication of ideas, issues, solutions, information, etc. through telecommunications so that the Community has easy access to such data is a great way to serve the Community..."

Norm is an Iowa boy who moved to the big city many years ago, received a degree from Cal State L.A. and was drafted into the Army. After his discharge he worked in CPA firms and ended up in the medical field as CFO and Director of Finance for hospitals in Palm Springs, Oxnard, Ojai and then at CMH here in Ventura. He is truly a man of service.

Norm believes going forward that one of the goals for CAPS will be to get more and more of the Community residents and organizations familiar with the telecommunication opportunities that are available through CAPS to take advantage of this excellent service.

## Foster parenting needs you

Discover the rewards of foster parenting by attending a Foster Parenting Informational Meeting on Saturday, December 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Human Services Agency of Ventura County (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. For more information, call 654-3456 or go to [vchsa.org/foster](http://vchsa.org/foster).



## News and Notes



Captain Jason Kay and Firefighter Preston Andreini are keeping fire station 4 ready for its opening in 2012. Photo by Barbie Lange

### Telephone Road will have its fire station 4 reopened

by Barbie Lange

It was a quiet Saturday morning as Captain Jason Kay and Firefighter Preston Andreini began the weekly ritual of fire truck maintenance at the temporary closed fire station 4 at 8303 Telephone Road in the Ventura east end.

"Watch out for the water coming out" Firefighter Andreini said as he removed the caps from the side of the truck where the hoses hook up. Firefighter Andreini is at station 5 on B Shift. He has 4 years experience with the Ventura city fire department. The fire station was closed July 1, 2010 due to budget reductions as reported in the Nov.2 issue of the Breeze. It is scheduled to reopen in January of 2012. Nine new firefighters will be hired to staff the station and the nine new firefighters are all new to the Ventura City FD. There were no lay-offs when the station closed, the city just did not hire for the retirements and promotions in the last two years. There will be 3 brand-new firefighters that start a firefighter academy and about 5 to 7 who

applied from outside fire departments that the city will be hiring. Station 4 will have a mix of new and newly promoted firefighters, engineers and captains and some have been around for a while. They will integrate the 9 new firefighters throughout the city and move personnel as needed.

"We come here every week and perform routine maintenance to keep the station operating efficiently," said Captain Kay who was a captain at station 4 when it closed and was dispatched. He has been at station 3 on Victoria Ave since the closure. Captain Kay was the 2010 firefighter of the Year as nominated by the Ventura Fire Department. In 2009, the Sons of the American Revolution's (SAR) Past President Ron Risley presented the Fire Safety Medal to Captain of Engine Company 4, Ventura County Fire Department.

The fire department's goal is to respond to all calls with 5 minutes and critical part of the fire station is dispatching paramedics when every second can be the difference between life and death. Captain Kay says the paramedic program is something that Ventura City FD pioneered. "We have always been a leader in that area of service. We are still the only fire department of the 5 fire departments in Ventura County that sends a paramedic on every single call we go to - a source of pride for our department. We believe each citizen should have access to a paramedic on the first arriving units of a 9-1-1 call, which is often a fire engine. Every fire engine has at least one paramedic on it and many have two. We have 31 paramedics currently trained right now." To apply for Ventura City FD, you must be a currently practicing paramedic. This is above the level of other departments in the area, who only require an EMT license. Paramedics can give life-saving medications, use and interpret EKG monitors and place breathing tubes in critical patients, skills that an EMT cannot do.

"We are excited to restore staffing levels in the east end of Ventura. The citizens deserve a fire department that can respond within a reasonable time frame," said Firefighter Andreini.



Helping keep Ventura safe and sound are police volunteers Dave Carlson, Rich Allen and Grant GFriddle

### "VIP" Volunteers with the law

by Chloé Sehati

volunteer, defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is one who "contributes" and "signs up" for an organization, event, or charitable cause - without pay. However, when it comes to Ventura County's Volunteers in Policing Program, or VIP, the definition might as well add "time" to its list. Requiring a ten-week comprehensive training program, attendance to the Police Department's twelve-week Community Academy, and a commitment of at least sixteen hours of service a month, it's no wonder that VIP participants receive a marked volunteer vehicle, uniform, badge, flashlight, and police radio.

In 1989, a program for police volunteering was established, proving successful. It wasn't until 2005 when VIP was introduced, and since then, hundreds of volunteers have had the opportunity to gain information about law enforcement, being an essential component to policing in Ventura. Their duties include foot and vehicle patrol, investigations, completing police reports, directing traffic, taking care of parking violations, civil engagement, and more. The goal of this program is to raise community participation, and it has worked. With six graduated classes to date and over forty VIPs patrolling Ventura, these "assistant" policemen and women have greatly impacted the Ventura Police Department.

Additionally, there are other volunteer opportunities offered from the Ventura Police Department, such as an in-house volunteer program, allowing volunteers to engage themselves in almost every aspect of the Police Department. Jobs include Investigations, gang, training, a crime scene unit, administrative and clerical work... the lists go on. There is also the Volunteer Police Chaplain Program, established for spiritual and emotional support to both the Department and the public. The Champlain program requires a recommendation from church elders, board, or council, an interview at the Department, a background investigation, and, of course, an application. By counseling, guiding, providing a link between the community and the Department, and becoming familiar with the role of law enforcement, these volunteers take on a whole different aspect of work all together.

To participate in any volunteer program, the requirements are simple: complete and application, have an in-person or phone interview, and successfully pass a background check. For the VIP program, requirements include having a valid California driver's license, as well as being at least twenty-one years

old and in good physical health.

Becoming a volunteer with the Ventura Police Department is both rewarding and simple. Applications can be found online at [www.CityofVentura.net](http://www.CityofVentura.net), under the "Departments" tab, "Police," and "Programs & Community Involvement" link, or Volunteer Coordinator Tacey Coert can be reached at 339-4320.

### I would like to know...

Why does the fire department send engines on medical calls, that seems like a waste of the engine and the fire fighters?

Larry Dote

Larry:

To answer your question we had Barbie Lange ask Fire Captain Doug Miser

Q: Why does the fire department send an engine for a medical emergency?

A: A fire engine and an ambulance are dispatched to nearly all medical emergencies or traumatic injuries throughout Ventura County. At a minimum, we have 3 firefighters and 2 ambulance personnel on scene to be prepared for any type of emergency. In the city of Ventura we have at least one Firefighter - Paramedic on every engine and American Medical Response has at least one Paramedic on every ambulance. Some calls are fairly simple and some are very complex. Anytime someone calls 911, the information regarding the condition of the patient is only as good as person who reports it. We have been dispatched to calls where someone has a headache, and when we get there they are in full cardiac arrest. Sometimes we are dispatched to motorcycles that have crashed on the 101 and the person has suffered a scratch on their hand.

Q: Is it necessary to take that big fire engine on a medical call? Can't you bring a car or pickup instead?

A: Our fire engine is our office. Our engine has every bit of equipment that is contained on a paramedic ambulance. When we leave the station for any reason, we do so with all of the equipment we would need for any type of emergency-- anticipating were not going back. We commonly go from call to call, and we have no idea what kind of call is right around the corner. Our engine is equipped so we can leave a medical call and go directly to a brush fire, ocean rescue, structure fire, hazardous materials incident, vehicle collisions, and so on so on. We try to emulate the boy scouts -- be prepared for anything at any time.

Q: What happens once you arrive on a medical or traumatic emergency?

A: Once we arrive on scene, as a team -- we usually perform a quick assessment of what the emergency will entail. We have a Captain that is in charge of a scene who is attaining a medical history of the patient, collecting medications, scribing what medications we give and record vital signs, and places all pertinent information on a pre hospital medical information form. The engineer is usually taking vital signs, which includes: attaching a 12 Lead EKG (our cardiac monitor that takes a three dimensional picture of the heart), taking a blood pressure, listening to lung sounds, etc. The firefighter-paramedic performs the patient assessment, starts intravenous access (starting an IV), gives all medications (by injection,

Continued on page 19



Firefighters were dispatched to a residential structure fire in the 200 block of Hemlock St. on Nov.15. The first arriving firefighters found a small, detached, early-20th century style apartment unit nearly totally engulfed. The fire was limited to the original fire-structure and did not spread to other residential units very close by, however some nearby vehicles and residences sustained mild to moderate heat damage. Based on physical evidence and witness statements, investigators concluded that the fire was intentionally started.

## Community Events

### Tree lighting and street fair (and wine)

On Saturday, December 3rd, enjoy Downtown Ventura for a full day of family fun. A holiday street fair sponsored by local merchants starts at 11 am. Followed by the annual tree-lighting ceremony outside of the historic San Buenaventura Mission at 6 pm. Santa has promised a special appearance at 5:50 pm.

And wine lovers rejoice, the social event of the year is back, the Ventura Winter Wine Walk will feature nearly 50 tasting locations throughout downtown including live music and snowfall at 6:30 pm. For more information, visit [Downtownventura.org](http://Downtownventura.org). Come and enjoy Downtown Ventura for the holidays!

### All American Ballet to perform The Nutcracker

All American Ballet (AAB) of Ventura will present its 10th annual production of The Nutcracker at the beautiful Oxnard College Performing Arts Building at 4000 South Rose Avenue in Oxnard, on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The performing arts center is brand new, its construction completed earlier this year.

Pre-professional and student dancers will perform the beloved classic alongside professional guest artists. Featured at this year's show will be guest artists Alexander Greschenko, Matthew McKinney, Chelsea Cambron, Sarah Stoltz and Ben Oni Cortes. Performing the youth role of Clara will be AAB student, Genae Matthews, age 14.

Also featured in this year's performance is AAB alumnus, Harmony Wallace, age 16, who was accepted this fall on merit scholarship to the year-round ballet program of The Rock School of Dance in Philadelphia, one of the country's leading pre-professional ballet schools. Harmony will be performing the solo Spanish dancer role.

"Whether it's an annual tradition or a first ballet experience, children and adults alike will delight in The Nutcracker's magical story, memorable music, beautiful staging - including original choreography - and skilled dancing, all in the festive spirit of the Holiday season," states Camille Wallace, AAB Board President.

Tickets are \$25, \$20, and \$10 for children 10 and under and on selected seats. For tickets, call 650-6316 or visit AAB's new website at [www.aaballet.org](http://www.aaballet.org).

AAB's Nutcracker is sponsored in part by the generous contributions of Robert Emerick and the County Schools Federal Credit Union, the City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Department and the Ventura County Star.

All American Ballet School & Company (AAB) is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation that operates a classical ballet school and performance company at 1932 Eastman Avenue in Ventura.

Under the direction of renowned artistic director and lead teacher, Clarissa Boeriu, AAB's school is unmatched in the area for achievement of student awards,

scholarships and dance careers with top universities and professional dance companies.

AAB's performance company presents a minimum of two public shows annually and features students and pre-professionals from AAB's school, dancing side by side with professional guest artists.

### Ventura events

**West African Djembe and Dun Class** every Monday night 7:30-9pm at 4435 McGrath at the corner of Telephone Road. Malik Sow of Senegal and Solo Soro of The Ivory Coast are master drummers who are committed to sharing the rhythms, dances and chants of West Africa. The classes are taught in the African tradition and include drummers of all levels.

Call Paul 650-7455 for more information

**Dec. 2, 3, 4 and 9, 10, 11: Dudley House Victorian Holiday Boutique.**

The boutique's 18th year continues into December on weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a Flea Market added on Sundays. You will find quality crafts, home décor, antiques and collectibles. Local author Modena Kramer will sign her latest historical romance novel on Dec. 4th from 2 to 4 p.m. The museum is located on the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood in Ventura, admission is free. Call 642-3345 for information.

**Audubon December trips**

More information is available at [www.VenturaAudubon.org](http://www.VenturaAudubon.org)

**Dec. 3:** 9:00 – 12:00 a.m. **Friends of the Santa Clara River volunteer workday.** Arrive at 8:00 for birding. Leader: Sandy Hedrick (340-0478)

**Monday, Dec. 5, 8:30 a.m.** Ventura Wildlife Ponds at Ventura Water Treatment Plant. Leader: Adelle Fergusson (415-4304). Enjoy a morning of mostly waterfowl birding.

**Dec. 7:** 8:30 a.m. **Arroyo Verde Park,** Ventura. Leaders: Carl & Nancy Schorsch (643-5825). Enjoy birding the oak woodland, grassy areas, and chaparral in this long, broad canyon. Meet at the last parking lot by the restrooms.

**Dec. 10:** 8:30 a.m. **Canada Larga Road.** Leader: Neil Ziegler (983-7207). Meet near the beginning of the road. Always a great walk and a good scouting opportunity for the Christmas Bird Count!

**Dec. 4:** The Ventura County Chapter of USA Dance, Inc. will be holding their **December Dance Party** on Sunday, at the Academy Dance Studio, 1937 Goodyear Ave., Suite 702. The event starts with a free dance lesson at 2:00 pm followed by open dancing from 3 to 5:30 pm. Also featured are male dance hosts, refreshments and a 50/50 raffle. Admissions: \$10 General, \$9 Dance Buddies, \$7 USA Dance Members and \$5 Active Duty Military and Youth. Info 646-6271

**Dec. 8:** The "Going Forward" grief support program at Ventura Baptist Church, invites you to attend the annual "Night Of Remembrance" candlelight service on Thursday, at 7pm. The service is designed to be a time of celebrating the memories of loved ones who have been taken from us. The evening will be followed by a time of refreshments. The Church is located at 5415 Ralston St. For further information call 644-7191 extension 12.

**Dec. 10:** Channel Islands Harbor kicks off the holidays with its 46th annual holiday **Parade of Lights** 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., with the parade beginning at 7 p.m. This year's theme: Tropical Holidays.

Everyone is invited to enjoy a full day of holiday activities and watch festively decorated boats in the parade. For more information on the Parade of Lights visit [www.channelislandsharbor.org](http://www.channelislandsharbor.org).

**Dec. 11: Annual Candlelight Tours at the Olivas Adobe.** Enjoy this seasonal event at the Adobe. Docents in period costume will conduct tours through the lovely decorated rooms and show you how the Olivas Family prepared for the holidays.

Admission is free but reservations are requested. Please phone 658-4726. The first tour starts at 5:30 p.m. Listen to the Music of the Season and sample delicious holiday treats. And the gift shop will be open for Holiday Shopping.

The Olivas Adobe Historical Park is located at 4200 Olivas Park Dr. [www.olivasadobe.org](http://www.olivasadobe.org)

**Dec. 11:** From 10:30am - 4:00pm at the Majestic Ventura Theater. A **Sunday Champagne Brunch** featuring Which One's Pink?, Candy-O & Brion Shearer. Brunch will be provided by the recently re-opened Franky's Place. There will also be some incredible raffle prizes with proceeds going to Donate Life and Open Hands Ministry Food Pantry. Anyone with a December birthday gets free general admission! Tickets can be purchased at [www.venturatheater.net](http://www.venturatheater.net). There will also be an 8 Minute Dating Event ([www.8minutedating.com](http://www.8minutedating.com)) being held upstairs during brunch for all the singles ages 40-65. Pre-registration is required.

**Dec. 16: The Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club and the Ventura Jazz Orchestra** invite you to a **Holiday Swing Big Band Dance** with The Ventura Jazz Orchestra featuring the vocal stylings of Donna Greene and Glenn Novack. Swing dance to the Great American Songbook along with classic holiday swing music performed by a 19-piece Show Band!

Friday from 8:00-10:30pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion Ballroom, 3451 Foothill Rd. \$12 admission at the door-Free refreshments and parking. For more info call 648-1143

**Dec. 18: The Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra** and the First United Methodist Church Choir and KuanFen Liu, Choir and Artistic Director, present the annual great oratorio Messiah with audience sing-along.

Featured in this concert will be the First United Methodist Church Choir and the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra with soloists and the choral parts to be sung with audience participation.

Audience members who wish to participate may come at 2 p.m. to practice the choruses.

This concert will be performed on Sunday, December 18, 2011 at 3 P.M. at the First United Methodist Church, 1338 East Santa Clara Street. A twenty dollar donation is appreciated. For further information call 643-8621 or visit the website at [www.CHICOVC.org](http://www.CHICOVC.org)

### Ojai events

Senga Classic Stage is presenting "**A Taste of Shakespeare.**" Directed by Francisca Beach this Christmas show will include 14 actors portraying scenes and songs from six of Shakespeare's great comedies such as "The Taming of the Shrew." It will run until **Dec. 11** and be held Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. (with the exception of Saturday, Dec. 3 it will be at only 2:00 p.m.) and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Come on out to the Ojai Valley Grange, 381 Cruzero St. All tickets are only \$12 and there are group rates available. For more information please contact Francisca Beach at 824-7569 or visit [www.franciscabeach.com](http://www.franciscabeach.com)

**Ojai Holiday Variety Talent Show** will be on Friday **Dec. 2** at 7 pm, Ojai Valley Woman's Club 410 East Ojai Ave.

If you've got a fun and interesting holiday themed talent and want to share, sign up! Acts will be first come, first on stage. Call Noreen at 652-1841 or Bobbie 646-7982. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12 and under (kids under 6 are free) Family packs are \$25 Tickets are sold at Ojai Chevron or Derby and Derby - call Donna @ 796-0077 for more info.

Let downtown Ojai be your destination for holiday shopping and fun **December 3 and 4** at the **Passport To The Holidays** weekend event. 33 of Ojai's finest shops and eateries will celebrate the season with beautiful window displays and holiday refreshments for you to enjoy!

Begin your travels through downtown Ojai by picking up your very own Ojai passport and map from any of the participating merchants listed below. Have your passport stamped at each location and by the strolling singers, drop it off at the last location you visit and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win amazing holiday prizes!

And Santa will be visiting Made in Ojai on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your cameras!

Fall is in the air, the first rains have fallen, and Ojai Trees is gearing up for their final **tree planting event** of the year on **Dec. 10**. The deadline for tree orders is **Dec. 4**.

If you'd like to order a tree for beauty, fruit or shade, now is the perfect time and Ojai trees can help you do it right. They will help you select the right tree for the right place, deliver the tree, and make sure it is planted and supported properly. The winter rains will help do the rest, giving the new tree the best possible start at a long and healthy life.

A tree planted by Ojai Trees can also make a great holiday gift for someone, and it's easy to do - just log on to Ojai trees website [www.ojaitrees.org](http://www.ojaitrees.org) and click on "dedicate a tree". Your gift recipient will receive a beautiful gift card with your personalized message, and Ojai Trees will take care of planting the tree.

Ojai Trees, an all-volunteer nonprofit tree planting group, has planted over 500 trees locally that will continue playing a vital role in beautifying our valley and contributing to the health of

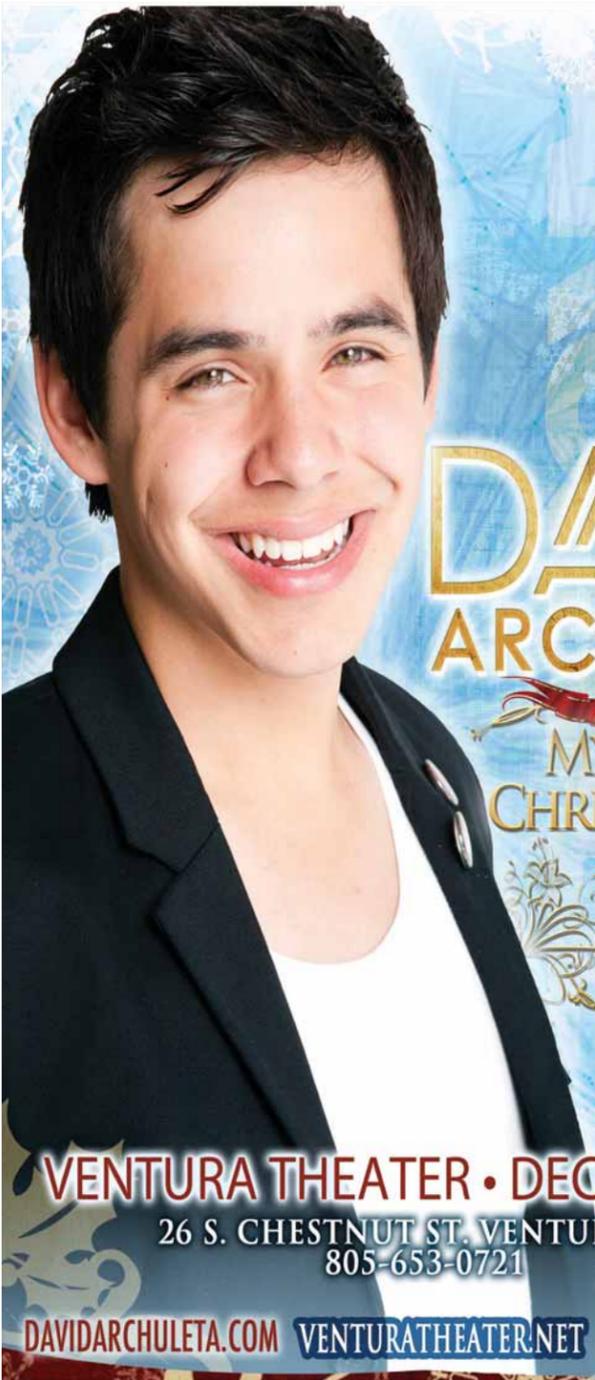
*Continued on page 13*



**The future is now.**

The Breeze is available online 24/7, along with useful links, staff biographies and online-only goodies.

[www.venturabreeze.com](http://www.venturabreeze.com)



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All American Ballet Company presents **The Nutcracker** in its 10<sup>th</sup> Season

with guest artists: Alexander Greschenko, Matthew McKinney and Chelsea Cambren  
Sole dancer photo by Sue Bell

Come see the magic of this festive Holiday tradition with family and friends!

**Saturday, Dec. 17**  
7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 18**  
2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

at the beautiful, new Oxnard College Performing Arts Center  
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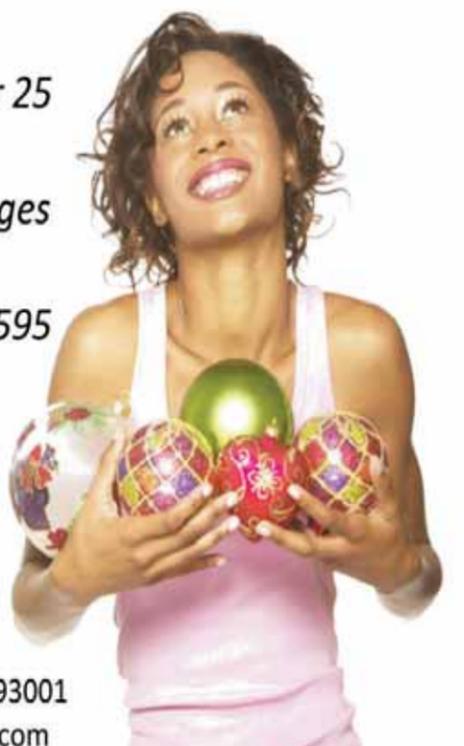
To purchase tickets call: **650-6316**  
Or online at: **www.AABallet.org**  
Tickets: \$25, \$20, \$10 for children 10 and under



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# The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



## Anita Diaz

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

She was born and has lived in Ventura all of her life. Going to Holy Cross elementary, DeAnza and then Ventura High School. She is the oldest daughter of Diaz/Marquez who also lived in Ventura all of their lives.

Involved with sports all of her life it was a natural thing to become a sports official following in dad Miguel Diaz's footsteps. She became a Division 1 official in basketball, volleyball and softball before actually being recognized by Cal Houston her sport's mentor. It was Cal who talked her into joining the Channel Coast Officials Unit. She soon became the best woman official in the county, because "I was the only one" she chuckles. Cal made sure she was seen by all the right schools, administrators and eventually the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) brass. She soon was officiating all three sports and after accomplishing her goal of working a final in every sport she retired after 25 years of working high school sports.

Her final hurrah was being selected as an official for the State Basketball championships in Sacramento, at that time the only woman in this area to have been selected. She has since been selected to replace the legendary Cal Houston as the CIF Channel Coast Area Liaison. Her responsibilities include being the facilitator for the schools in the Channel Coast area from Goleta to Calabasas for all the various high school sports from volleyball to wrestling, ten in total.

Her full time job is with the City of Ventura. Her title is Parks, Recreation Community Partnerships Youth Program Coordinator. Her main role is to oversee the Westpark Community Center. She supervises support staff at both the center and the Sheridan Way PEAK site. Her duties include program development, trainings, and community

special events. Her most recent accomplishment was receiving the 2010 Employee of the Year award from the City for her job at Westpark.

She is eager to mention that she received this award based on her relationships with other City departments. Those departments include Facilities, Parks, Police and Community Development. Her favorite part of the job is interacting with the youths who attend the center. On a daily basis Westpark includes nearly 100 boys and girls from the Westside. Her favorite past time is singing and dancing with the kids. Music is one of the program areas she brought to the center and she has as much fun with it as the kids. She says it is what keeps her young.

*We asked her what she likes most about Ventura?*

People ask me my favorite color. I tell them orange because of the beautiful sunrises and sunsets I can see from my back yard. The people who I interact with daily are warm, sensitive people who care about their community. The beautiful places you can walk, the beaches, the hikes to 2 trees and bike rides along the beach front in one direction and Foster Park in the other direction.

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

Johanna is very easy to work with. She keeps you entertained while doing what she has a passion for and that is painting portraits. She is easy to converse with, talks on a variety of subjects and before you realize it the two hours needed just flies by. My first comment to her was why me? She said that others were nominated once for the project and I was the only one to be nominated twice. I am indeed flattered and to be associated with so many faces of Ventura who have been touched and touched by others in this wonderful community.



Captain Bill Finley

Howard Boroughs

Rachel Morris

Jolene McBee

Tony Barrios

Jerry English

Bonnie Weigel

Manuel A. Valenzuela

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Emily Olszowy

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Lynn Mikelatos

Lorenzo DeStefano

Gene Dunn

Star Soto

"Jalopy Joe" Moody

Mati Waiya

Donna Granata

Bill Pendergrass

Josh Addison

Mark Hartley

Scott Miller

Ken Corney

Francisco Bracho, MD

**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](mailto:johanna@johannaspinks.com)  
Website: [www.johannaspinks.com](http://www.johannaspinks.com)

On the Lyn Fairly show, "Lyn Fairly & Friends", heard every Saturday from noon to 1pm on News Talk KVTA 1520 AM 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.

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.



*Because of the generosity of Mark Hartley the Face Of Ventura can now be seen in the window at the Erle Stanley Gardner building located at 494 E. Main St. where the original of the latest portrait can be viewed.*

*A long supporter of the arts Kathy and Mark Hartley have been previously recognized with the Beautify Ventura Award by the Ventura City Council for their efforts to aesthetically enhance the city of Ventura, most notably the revitalization of historic buildings in the downtown cultural district. The buildings they have renovated are inspiring examples of how to retain historic character while enhancing their beauty with quality craftsmanship.*



This idyllic part of the Ventura River will be preserved in perpetuity thanks to the efforts of state and local land trusts like the Ventura Hillside Conservancy

## Protected land increased 27 percent between 2005 and 2010

The first census of land trusts in five years found 10 million new acres conserved nationwide since 2005, including over half a million new acres in California.

The National Land Trust Census, released by the Land Trust Alliance, shows that voluntarily protected land increased 27 percent between 2005 and 2010. During the same time period, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, a major federal conservation program, added just over 500,000 acres. In California, land trusts conserved 570,971 acres between 2005 and 2010, a 34% increase, bringing the state total to 2,303,442 acres protected in perpetuity. A greater percentage of the new acreage comes through local and state land trusts like the Ventura Hillside Conservancy.

"Californians value their land, and we are conserving it at the community level," said Ventura Hillside Conservancy President Gary Bednorz. "Here in California we are investing in our future with land trusts that ensure clean water, local food and places to play for our children and for generations to come."

The Ventura Hillside Conservancy serves the people of Ventura by providing a local voice for open space protection as well as a vehicle for its preservation: the land trust currently stewards 18 acres of riparian habitat in and along the Ventura River and on a hillside slope west of Grant Park. The organization is

expected to add another 8 acres by year's end, through a donation of land near the river's estuary. The Conservancy also hosts a popular annual fundraiser, the Ventura Hillside Music Festival, which attracts Southern California concert-goers to Arroyo Verde Park every fall to see top national and local performers, while spreading its message of land conservation.

Mirroring the nationwide trend evident in the LTA's census, in 2011 the land trust experienced its best two-year period for protection so far, with the number of acres protected in perpetuity climbing into the double digits. To help the board deal with the new responsibilities and challenges that come with such rapid growth, the Conservancy has retained the services of Coblenz, Patch, Duffy & Bass, a legal firm with substantial experience in advising land trusts and other nonprofit organizations with respect to tax law. The land trust has also retained the pro bono services of Alston & Bird to complete a review of their written policies and practices, including forms to evaluate donations offered in the future.

The Conservancy is collaborating with local artist MB Hanrahan and students from De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts to enhance the Ventura River Trail with a colorful mural, funded through a generous grant from the Sempra Energy Foundation

### Ojai events

*Continued from page 9*

our environment. But, they want your help to plant more.

Take some positive action today to help heal the environment and ensure the future health of our community.

To find out more about having a tree or trees planted, or to volunteer to join a planting team, contact Ojai Trees by e-mail at [trees@ojaitrees.org](mailto:trees@ojaitrees.org).

On Sunday, **Dec. 4**, the Ojai Film Society will screen **Another Earth**, a quietly moving parable of redemption between two people thrown together by circumstances, filmed within a science-fiction premise of a parallel universe. "Director Mike Cahill has woven sci-fi imaginings and quantum physics theories of parallel universes into a provocative meditation on the prospect of rewriting your life history."

- Betsy Sharkey, Los Angeles Times  
Ojai Playhouse, 4:30 pm. Info: 805-646-8946 or visit [www.ojaifilmsociety.org](http://www.ojaifilmsociety.org)

Sunday **Dec. 4** enjoy First Sunday Music from 1:00 – 2:00 P. M. at the Ojai Library.

The **27th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair** is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, **Dec. 10 & 11**. The bustling Peddler's Fair is located inside the Chapparal Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave., in downtown Ojai. 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, jewelry, handcrafts and international crafts. This is a benefit for the Mira Monte PTO. Vendors are sought. For more information, please contact Pat at 964-8915 or Jodie at 640-4384 x2

**YOU'RE INVITED TO A PARTY!**  
**FRIDAY DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**

The "FACE OF VENTURA" by JOHANNA SPINKS AS FEATURED IN THE VENTURA BREEZE

**HALF-WAY CELEBRATION!**  
**COME SEE THE TALK OF THE TOWN AND MEET THE "FACES"**

27 FACES PAINTED FROM LIFE SO FAR.  
28 MORE TO GO IN THIS TWO YEAR ART PROJECT

**WHERE:** THE VENTURA EXECUTIVE SUITES  
701 E Santa Clara St., Ventura 653-2381

**WHEN:** 5.30 to 8.30 p.m.

Light refreshments and wine will be served  
**Music by the Ventura Jazz Collective - Pablo Plasencia, The Harmony Project**

Thanks to the following for their contributions to the party and the series

**STUDIO NOTHING | LYN FAIRLY | BONNIE WEIGEL**  
**EXECUTIVE SUITES | SAVORY CAFÉ AND BAKERY**  
**TONY'S PIZZERIA | THE GREEK AT THE HARBOR**  
**SQUASHED GRAPES | FOUR BRIX WINES**  
**OLD CREEK WINERY**

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

**Write-a-thon event**

Ventura County residents are invited to join thousands of people around the

world in making International Human Rights Day a success by taking part in Amnesty International's "Write For Rights Global Write-A-Thon", the world's largest human rights event.

The event will take place on Wednesday December 14 from 7-9pm at the College United Methodist Church, 4300 Telegraph Road. (across from Ventura College).

Through letters and cards take action to demand that the human rights of individuals are respected, protected and fulfilled.

For further information please contact Area Coordinator Bob Gips (643-4272), Nan Durantini (650-7314) or Susan Bronn (981-0837).

International Human Rights Day is December 10, and marks the 62nd anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration.

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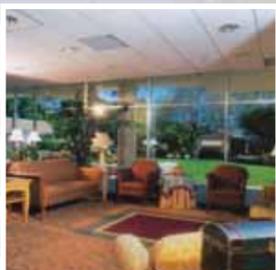
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## Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

### 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease

by Nanci Cone

The holiday season is traditionally a time to gather with loved ones and this can raise questions about the cognitive health of aging family members.

"There are 10 accepted warning signs of Alzheimer's disease," says Barbara Lanz-Mateo, communications manager of the Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast chapter. "If you notice unusual behavior in your loved one, make sure he or she sees a doctor. Remember, everyone forgets names or where we placed things occasionally; that's a normal part of aging. But when it affects daily life, that is something to be concerned about."

The Alzheimer's Association provides these 10 warning signs:

#### Memory loss that disrupts daily life.

Forgetting recently learned information or important dates or events, constantly asking for the same information, relying on memory aids or family members for things they used to handle on their own

#### Challenges in planning or solving problems.

Trouble concentrating, following a plan or working with numbers, creating a familiar recipe, keeping track of monthly bills or taking much longer to do things than normal

#### Difficulty completing familiar tasks.

This includes having trouble driving to a familiar location, managing a budget or remembering the rules of a favorite game.

#### Confusion with time or place.

Losing track of dates, seasons and the passage of time.

#### Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships.

Difficulty reading, judging distance and determining color or contrast; or passing a mirror and thinking it's someone else.

#### New problems with words in speaking or writing.

Stopping in the middle of a conversation with no idea how to continue or repeating themselves; struggling with vocabulary, having problems finding the right word, or calling things the wrong name.

#### Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.

Losing things and being unable to retrace steps to find them again or accusing others of stealing, which may occur more frequently over time.

#### Decreased or poor judgment.

Changes in judgment or decision-making such as when dealing with money, giving large amounts to telemarketers or paying less attention to grooming or keeping themselves clean.

#### Withdrawal from work or social activities.

Starting to remove themselves from hobbies, social activities, work projects or sports.

#### Changes in mood and personality.

Becoming confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious or easily upset in places where they are out of their comfort zone

"There are definite benefits in getting an early diagnosis," Lanz-Mateo points out. "These benefits include developing a relationship with a doctor and getting treatment, having time to plan the future, successfully finding a clinical drug trial through Alzheimer's Association TrialMatch, and most importantly, participating in decisions about their own care, transportation, living options and financial and legal matters."

Anyone with questions about Alzheimer's disease or seeking information should contact the Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 toll-free helpline at (800) 272-3900, or by visiting alz.org. Experts are available to talk to individuals concerned with their own cognitive health as well as that of family members who may need help.



Entertaining at the Veteran's Day celebration held at the Victoria Care Center were the Razzmatappers, a local group of seniors who perform their snappy dance routines for nursing homes and clubs throughout Ventura County. Also participating was Port Hueneme Naval Captain Brovarone who presented the 16 war veteran residents who live there with an award honoring their past service to our country. (There are currently 16 veterans living at the nursing home.) Photo by Bernie Goldstein

## Victoria Care Center has been making changes

Victoria Care Center (VCC) has been providing post acute rehabilitation and skilled nursing care to residents of Ventura County for the past 20 years. There have been lots of changes recently at VCC which includes achieving a Four Star Quality Rating from CMS (Medicare) and the expansion of the Post Acute Rehab Center (PARC) which now features a Rehab Transition Studio.

VCC is one of the largest rehab and care facilities in the county with a 188 bed capacity. All 100 rooms have been recently renovated, each room has a maximum of 2 beds per room and VCC is the only rehab / nursing facility in the county that has individual bathrooms complete with their own shower.

The facility has achieved a Four Star rating from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) based on their annual surveys. In addition, the CMS includes Four Staff ratings for Survey Results, RN Staffing and Quality. VCC has also achieved Four Star status for Resident Satisfaction and Employee Satisfaction based on the results of an outside survey group.

Administrator John Gardner states "I am very proud of the Post Acute Rehab Center which has been recently expanded to include the Rehab Transition Room. One of the main services that is provided by the therapy team at VCC is rehabilitation for those residents who are recovering from various surgeries, strokes / brain

Please Join Cypress Place Senior Living For The Launch of

## Yesterday's Café

SUPPORTED BY THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

The 1st Wednesday of the Month  
1:30-3:30pm

*The Yesterday's Café, is an educational and social event. It provides information, emotional support, social support, informal consultations, encourages peer support and offers the opportunity to meet with professionals in a social setting.*

**A place where ALL are welcome!**

*The Yesterday's Café is a monthly gathering for people affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, along with families, caregivers, and professionals.*

*A time to exchange ideas, thoughts, and experiences; share laughter and each other's good company; munch on snacks, make art and music.*



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# Senior Living

injuries, or acute episodes of heart / lung conditions.”

With growing pressures on hospitals to discharge patients as soon as possible, VCC increasingly takes patients with higher acuities and helps them get strong for a quick return home or to the active life they had prior to the surgery, injury or illness.

As residents progress in regaining their strength and function, many will become eligible to spend several days in the new Rehab Transition Studio. The Studio has been completely renovated to look just like a studio apartment complete with a refrigerator and microwave, a regular bed, and kitchenette style table and chairs. Residents will be trained, coached and monitored in this home-like environment for multiple tasks which include making their own bed, preparing simple meals, taking showers by themselves, and performing other functions that they will experience at home.

Victoria Care Center is affiliated with the Ensign Group which is one of the largest post acute care services providers in the country. VCC and Ensign are committed to providing extraordinary care and “return home quickly” rehab services to all residents.

VCC is always happy to provide tours and counsel with families needing rehab and longer term care to include respite care for families. In addition, it is now easy to take a Virtual Tour of VCC at [www.victoriacarecenter.com](http://www.victoriacarecenter.com). VCC is located at 5445 Everglades in Ventura and can be reached at 642-1736.

## Light Up A Life Celebration

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association's 27th Annual Light Up A Life Celebration will take place at 7pm Tuesday, December 6 at the Pacific View Mall in Ventura. Local band CVR will sound-off the evening, followed by names of loved ones being read during the tree lighting ceremony, and a video presentation of remembrance photos. This event is free to attend. Light Up is a celebration and campaign to increase awareness and raise funds for Livingston Hospice. The campaign goal is to raise \$50,000 to benefit Livingston Hospice, the first Medicare Certified hospice in Ventura County.

Livingston invites all residents of Ventura County to support this year's Light Up campaign. Memory Stars can be ordered online for \$25 each at [lmvna.org](http://lmvna.org) or by calling 642-0239. Remembrance photos can be submitted online or by mail with donation. Event sponsorship is also available.

Hospice is a special kind of care for the terminally ill, their families and caregivers. Hospice care addresses and meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients. Services are provided in the patient's home, wherever their home may be. Livingston's hospice team, including our medical director, nurses, social workers, spiritual care providers and volunteers, combine their expertise, passion and compassion in providing end of life care.



**Victoria Care Center**  
Presents our first annual  
**VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

Newly Decorated Care Center with Christmas flair

See the Post Acute Rehab Center (PARC) at work

Visit the New Rehab Transition Studio

Enjoy Costumed Carolers

Listen to the VCC Resident Choir

Delight with Appetizers and Eggnog

**December 9, 3 PM - 7 PM**

5445 Everglades St.  
Ventura, CA 93003  
805-642-1736



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## The Palms at Bonaventure Assisted Living Community






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## Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



■ Savana has had her first RV experience and she did very well even though she did spend some of the time hiding under the driver's seat. And the best part is that she was too busy checking the RV out that she never thought about attacking me (just playing of course).

Being a cat though she had to investigate every inch of the RV (I just care about where the food is) so she tried to jump up to some places she couldn't get to and fell to the floor and another time she climbed up a wall and had to be yelled at (the poor dear).

We all attended the annual Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education (located on Ventura Avenue behind De Anza School) Thanksgiving day feast held at Camp Comfort in Ojai. My cousin Jolie goes to school there and all of the students and parents have a big gathering where they have school in the morning and lots of food later on.

The bad part is that dogs aren't allowed in the day use area where the food was served so I couldn't join in the feast. And if there is anything that I love it is an eating frenzy (sharks have nothing on me).

I took a good book with me to read so that I didn't get bored and I thought that it was written about me at first, it certainly could have been.

It is called "Sadie The Kitchen Dog" and it is written by Chuck Engel and has wonderful illustrations by Murray Robertson; they both live in Ventura and have been friends since attending UCLA (my publisher went to USC and I think that they are rivals so I hope that it is okay that I mentioned that part and I don't get fired).

Sadie is a black Labrador retriever (last issue's Scampclub member) who realized that "If I stay in the kitchen I will get more food because the kitchen is where all the food is", that is why she is called the "Kitchen Dog".

So she gained a lot of weight so she

couldn't run around like she used to and just sat around and begged for more to eat (I told you that it could have been me).

Her human companions realized that this was bad for her health so they bought her lots of fun new toys to play with, took turns throwing balls for her to chase and taking her for long walks and fed her much less food. So Sadie lost her weight and became the nice active dog that she was before.

"Sadie The Kitchen Dog" is a perfect book for kids to read and to enjoy the nice drawings. You can buy "Sadie The Kitchen Dog" at Fusion Home in Ventura and Bank Of Books or online at [www.sadiethekitchendog.com](http://www.sadiethekitchendog.com).

■ Join in on Thursday, December 8th from 6-9pm at Red Brick Gallery for a fun night of artist demonstrations, free mini painting class, hors d'oeuvres and several Golden Retrievers looking for a home.

Admission to the event is a present for the puppies (any dog related item such as food, toys, treats) or a \$10 donation, all of the money raised and a portion of the night's sales will be donated to SCGRR-Golden Retriever Rescue, don't miss this chance to help a good cause and take home some wonderful art.

Adoption events are held at Red Brick Gallery each month to help find homes, to find foster parents, volunteers and raise money. Over 300 dogs have been placed in forever homes from the events at Red Brick over the past 2 years

Red Brick Gallery, 315 E. Main St., 643-6400. [www.RedBrickArt.com](http://www.RedBrickArt.com) and for more information about the Southern California Golden Retriever Rescue please visit [www.scgrrrescue.org](http://www.scgrrrescue.org).



*If Scamp can drive this it can't be too difficult so I think that I will give it a try*

## Forever homes wanted,



Hi! I'm Bree, a 3-year-old female Chihuahua mix that was found as a stray with Charlene and Dee Dee. No one came to claim any of us, so we were put up for adoption. Charlene and Dee Dee have found their forever homes, but I'm still waiting for mine. I'm grateful to be given a second chance to find out what it truly means to be a cherished member of a loving family. I just hope I don't have to wait much longer. Stop by and meet me, I'll be waiting.

The Canine Adoption & Rescue League, Sam's Place,  
3203 E. Main St.  
644-7387 [www.carlv.org](http://www.carlv.org)

Hi: I'm Barry and I was rescued from the Ventura County Animal Shelter and I am for my forever home. I'm a young male dachshund /corgi mix (maybe). I'm sweet and playful and I love to romp. Wouldn't I be a great playmate for the Holidays?

Ventura Highway Luxury Boarding located at 4692 Ventura Ave. Call 320-3203



## Scamp Club

Hi! I'm Daisy, a Jack Russell terrier, and I was born on August 15, so I am still a puppy. My humans are Debora Schreiber and City Council Member Neal Andrews, so I am learning a lot about politics. I have learned that one bark is yes and two barks is no by watching the city council meetings.

I am still "learning what Mom and Dad want me to do" but I think that I am a wonderful companion.

## 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](mailto: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 Friday, November 11th, at 11:40 p.m., VPD responded to a robbery that had occurred at the Century 16 Theaters located at 2875 Elba Street.

Jose Romero and Jessica Flores were exiting the theater when the suspect, an unknown male in black clothes, approached them just outside the entrance. The suspect sprayed Romero in the face with pepper spray, then punched and kicked Flores. The suspect pulled Flores' purse from her person and fled the area.

Officers were unable to locate the suspects.

### Minor Decoy Operation

On Thursday, November 10th, the VPD conducted a Minor Decoy operation in the City of Ventura. A minor decoy, under the direct supervision of law enforcement officers, attempted to

purchase alcohol at sale locations.

During the operation, the decoys attempted to purchase alcohol at 13 different on sale locations. Of those 13 locations, 3 businesses sold alcohol to the minor, including Carrows Restaurant on 2401 East Harbor Boulevard, Seaward Fish & Chips on 1125 South Seaward Avenue, and Dukes Griddle N Grill on 1124 South Seaward Avenue.

### Prowling Arrest

On Saturday, November 12th, at 11:08 a.m., alert citizens called the VPD to report suspicious activity in their neighborhood. The callers reported seeing several strange subjects walking around the perimeter and backyard of a neighbor's house in the 1100 block of Bangor Lane appearing to case it for a residential burglary.

When officers arrived, the suspects fled. Officers eventually caught and arrested two of the suspects, Lauren Ritenour, 21 years old, and Nathan Golianis, 23 years old. Both were booked into VC Jail.

### Indecent Exposure

On Sunday, November 13th, at 1:53 p.m., the VPD received a call from a

female shopper in the parking lot of the Pacific View Mall reporting that a male was seen exposing himself. Officers learned the female and her two teenage daughters walked to their parked vehicle when they saw a male sitting in his vehicle parked in the next stall masturbating while seated in his vehicle.

Officers arrested the suspect, later identified as Mariano Zarate, 27 years old. The victims although not physically hurt, were shocked to see Zarate exposing himself in a public place.

### Vandalism

On Tuesday, November 15th, at 3:30 p.m., the VPD received a call of a subject tagging the bridge at Seaward and the 101 Freeway. The suspect, Nathan Ramirez, was seen standing on a freeway sign.

Officers used a spotlight to illuminate the suspect. Ramirez began climbing the fence to get back onto the street side of the bridge. Ramirez struggled with the officers and refused to follow their orders. Ramirez was subdued and taken into custody.

### Possession of a Deadly Weapon

On Tuesday, November 15th, at 8:29

p.m., VPD responded to a call referencing a group of juveniles in the alley off Shenandoah Street. The juveniles were last seen jumping the fence to Marion Canon Park. The first officer saw a group of 4-5 subjects in the park. The suspect was sitting on a bike on the sidewalk away from the group in the park. The officer heard the suspect yell to the group because the cops were there. At the same time the suspect fled on his bicycle.

The suspect was acting as a lookout for the group. During the investigation a 23-inch machete was found concealed under the suspect's shirt. The suspect was arrested.

### Shooting

On Monday, November 15th, at 7:55 p.m., the VPD responded to a shooting in the 100 block of West Ramona Street. The victim had been transported to the hospital.

The victim had been with a small gathering on a driveway. Leland Tanner walked up to the victim and shot him once in the torso. Tanner then fled. The victim was transported to the VCMC by one of his associates. He underwent

# Police Reports

surgery for a gunshot wound to the torso.

Tanner was located inside a residence near the 300 block of Center Street. After initially fleeing, Tanner was caught and booked into VC Jail.

## Theft

On Thursday, November 17th, at 4:00 p.m., VPD responded to a theft from an unlocked vehicle that had just occurred at 2090 East Thompson Boulevard.

The suspect fled the area carrying the victim's property. The suspect was eventually located in the 300 block of South Catalina Street.

The juvenile suspect was booked into juvenile hall. The victim's property was recovered and released back to her.

During this investigation a second subject, Jonathan Castellano, was contacted and found to have an outstanding parole warrant. He was also arrested and booked at county jail.

## Robbery

On Thursday, November 17th, at 3:25 p.m., VPD responded to a robbery that had just occurred in the 100 block of South Catalina Street.

The victim was walking when the suspect approached him and demanded his property. The suspect also threatened to shoot the victim, but no weapon was seen. The victim handed over his property and the suspect fled.

Officers were unable to locate the suspect.

## Assault with Serious Injury

On Saturday, November 19th, at 2:32 a.m., officers responded to O'Leary's Pub on Telephone Road regarding an injured subject. Matthew Baker and Joseph Swavely got into a verbal argument regarding a female patron. After the bar closed, both Baker and Swavely appeared to go their separate ways.

As Swavely was walking home, Baker approached him from behind and punched Swavely in the face. Swavely did not hear because he was listening to music. Baker then fled the area. Swavely was knocked unconscious. The injury required medical attention.

An officer saw a suspicious subject and attempted to detain him for further investigation. Matthew Baker was detained. Baker was booked at VC Jail.

## Extensive Vandalism

On Saturday, November 19th, during the night, vandals went on to the Buena High School campus and spray painted walls, windows and other parts of the campus causing extensive damage to the school. Officers also learned that the vandals had caused significant damage to mailboxes and vehicles of eight different residences in the 5600 block of Aurora Drive. All the vandalisms appear to be related based on the color, style, and writings of the graffiti. The investigation is on-going.

## Stolen Vehicle

On Saturday, November 19th, at 9:47 p.m., Carole Jonsson pulled into a Shell gas station at Kimball Road and Telephone Road to get fuel in her rented U-Haul truck. Jonsson's daughter, Sable Barkley, was following her mother in a separate vehicle.

Eric Brashears entered the U-Haul truck, while Jonsson talked to her daughter, and quickly drove away. Jonsson and Barkley followed the stolen U-Haul truck. Officers responded and caught up to the vehicles.

Brashears turned into a residential neighborhood on Amador Street, where officers were able to take Brashears into custody.

During a search of Brashears, he

was found in possession of a concealed weapon and was arrested and booked at the VC Jail.

## Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Sunday, November 20th, at 12:50 a.m., the VPD received a 911 call reporting a domestic dispute in front of a residence in the 1600 block of Addax Circle.

Several people were fighting in the front yard of the residence. Desiree Escobar was seen physically hitting Anthony Robledo in the face, while Reynaldo Lopez was armed with a hammer and was hitting Robledo in the head. Lopez is the live-in boyfriend of Escobar's daughter. Robledo refused to comply with the officers orders' to stop fighting and charged. Fearing for his safety, the officer struck Anthony Robledo once with a police baton. As the officer was trying to take Anthony Robledo into custody, Louisa Robledo, who is Anthony's sister, attempted to pull the officer away. Louisa was also struck with a police baton.

Lopez, Escobar, and Louisa Robledo were arrested. All three were booked into the VC Jail.

Anthony Robledo was transported to VCMC with moderate, non-life threatening head injuries. Upon release, Anthony Robledo was arrested.

## Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Monday, November 20th, at 7:23 p.m., a VPD officer was investigating a suspicious subject seated in a vehicle and parked in the Motel 6 on 3075 Johnson Drive. The officer requested Kamran Tabatabayi step out of the vehicle and submit to a probation search.

Tabatabayi began moving forward as the officer leaned into the driver's side window attempting to turn off the ignition. The vehicle's left rear tire ran over the officer's foot.

Tabatabayi got out of the vehicle but refused to lie on the ground. A K-9 was deployed and Tabatabayi was taken into custody with minor injuries. He was treated at VCMC and booked into VC Jail.

The officer struck by the vehicle suffered only minor injury.

## Robbery

On Saturday, November 5th, at 9:45 p.m., the VPD responded to a strong arm robbery in the 100 block of West Main Street.

In the parking lot of a shopping center, the suspects started to yell at Daniel Allen and began to punch and kick him numerous times, taking his property while he was on the ground. Hannah Casey got out of the vehicle to help Allen and one of the suspects began to punch and kick her. Another suspect struck Allen over the head with a glass bottle.

The suspects were acquaintances of the victims and were apprehended, including Brandon Jones, Justine Rutland, and a male juvenile.

## Strong Arm Robbery

On Saturday, November 5th, at 3:40 p.m., a male juvenile was walking his bicycle home due to the chain falling off near the intersection of Bristol Road and Grand Avenue.

A vehicle drove up next to him. Two of the suspects exited the vehicle and demanded his bicycle. They began to punch the victim. One suspect took property off of the victim as another placed the victim's bicycle in the trunk and then fled. The victim suffered minor injuries.

The victim recognized the suspects at high school. The suspects intimidated

the victim by engaging in a fight in an attempt to have the victim not proceed with criminal charges.

The adult suspect, Jose Cadenas, was booked into VC Jail and the two juveniles were booked into VC Juvenile Hall.

# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

**11-12** 8:15 p.m. At the request of PD, Patrol responded to a suicidal subject at the end of the pier. En route, Patrol fouled their prop on a hoopnet line that was illegally placed near the breakwater. Upon clearing the line, PD advised Patrol that they could cancel because the subject was in custody. Patrol began removing the illegal hoopnets. Their owner contacted them. Patrol issued the subject a citation for illegal hoopnets near the breakwater.

**11-14** 5:44 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and appropriate agencies to a bicycle vs. vehicle accident at Harbor and Schooner. Upon arrival, an off-duty paramedic was taking C-spine precautions. The patient refused transportation. His abrasions were treated, and he was released at the River Haven gate.

**11-17** 11:40 p.m. Patrol observed two people throwing household junk into the trash cans at Island Packers. Patrol contacted the subjects and PD. All subjects were on probation; one subject had an active warrant. PD arrested the subject for the warrant. The others were told to leave the car parked because neither of them had a California Driver's License.

8:26 p.m. Patrol received a report that one man threatened another man in a dinghy to the point that the threatened person jumped out of the boat and swam to the dock. Patrol responded, found the alleged violator and notified PD. PD arrested the subject for making a criminal threat.



*The Veteran's Day celebration held at Ivy lawn included Bruce Taylor, Navy; Jerry Watkins, Army; Joe Saenz, Air Force; and John Carmikle, USMC; who is behind the flag. Photo by John Ferritto.*



*On Veteran's Day, 11-11-11 at 11am a small gathering was held at "Cemetery Park" in mid-town organized by Steve Schleder to show their respect for the 70 veterans and one Medal of Honor recipient buried at the cemetery now in desecrated graves.*

*Schleder marked all veteran graves with small American flags to bring back respect and dignity to those buried there.*

*Showing their respect were Faryn Kapala, Gregory Webster, Steve Schleder, Mark Tovar and Cheryl Ann Tovar.*



## Don't be a victim this holiday season!

Help protect yourself from crime!



REMEMBER TO LOCK YOUR CAR  
TAKE YOUR KEYS & VALUABLES

This message brought to you by the Ventura Police Department.  
Working together we can reduce crime.

Emergency  
9•1•1

Non-Emergency  
805•650•8010

Business Line  
805•339•4400

[www.venturapd.org](http://www.venturapd.org)

[www.facebook.com/venturapd](http://www.facebook.com/venturapd)

## Business



Members of the Class of 2010 celebrate their graduation from the two-year Leadership Ventura program, sponsored by the Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation.

## Reaping the benefits of leadership development

On November 16, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce's prestigious Leadership Ventura program celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2010 at Ventura City Hall. Presided by Lynn Mikelatos, Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation Chair, graduates completing the two-year program included Lola Herrera, Andrea Ricketts, Nancy Broschart, Susan Everett, Kathleen Roos, Ken Cozzens, Debora Schreiber and Cindy DeMotte.

The evening event also featured presentations from the Class of 2011 and their

team service projects, a component of the program's first year. Projects benefiting the Ventura community this year included the transformation of a kitchen at the Kingdom Center, a new outdoor classroom at the Cornucopia Community Gardens and the development of a new website, WelcomeToVentura.com, to help connect visitors and residents with local services.

Ken Cozzens, a graduate of Leadership Ventura 2010 spoke to the graduating class and reflected on what he had learned about Ventura through the program. He stressed that all participants had the opportunity

to see organizations and meet people who played important roles in Ventura. He stated that "The program was called Leadership Ventura, not Management Ventura. Each of us has the responsibility to work with people to get the job done and I know that everyone was up to the task."

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 Leadership Ventura class that kicks off in January. Facilitated by renowned psychologist and Executive Coach, Dr. Rely Nadler, this program also focuses executives, community leaders and managers on developing emotional intelligence and leadership skills to strengthen their teams and organizations. For more information about Leadership Ventura and to download an application, visit [Venturachamber.com](http://Venturachamber.com) and click on Community Development.

## School



On Nov. 9, Janet LeCroy, a fourth grade special day class teacher at Blanche Reynolds Elementary School in Ventura, was named Teacher of the Month for November by the Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation (VCEF). VCEF, along with the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, elected representatives and members of the business community were present as LeCroy received this designation.

LeCroy was nominated by the principal of Blanche Reynolds Elementary School, Paul Jablonowski, who stated, "What makes Janet special is her ability to connect with her students and their parents. As her administrator for the past five years, I am impressed with Mrs. LeCroy's firm, steady classroom leadership."

For more information about the Teacher of the Month program, please contact Pattie Braga, Chair, at [PBraga@VCCUonline.net](mailto:PBraga@VCCUonline.net) or 477-4052.

## Abandoned shopping carts everywhere

by Murray Robertson

For the past year I have been reporting to the City and their cart retrieval service about 100 abandoned shopping carts a month that end up along the bike path between the two rivers that border Ventura. I presume that this is just a microcosm of a much larger problem. My guess is that there are at least a 1000 abandoned monthly throughout the City.

Most of these carts are being used by vagrants to cart around their supplies and belongings, then they are abandoned near their camps. The majority of these camps are in the Ventura River Bed where an estimated 150 individuals camp illegally or over near the Santa Clara Riverbed and River Haven Homeless camp. Some end up at the end of Seaward where numerous individuals have been sleeping illegally on the beach. And some end up along the Promenade and in the State Beach Park where these individuals are again sleeping illegally.

Having abandoned carts in and of itself

is not the only problem. Often these carts are abandoned with lots of junk in them. Carmel Whitman found a cart with all sorts of debris in it and at the bottom were lots of maggots. Yikes! Hopefully, you will not be getting this cart the next time you shop. Who knows how often any of these carts are cleaned once they are returned to their respective merchants. Many times these carts end up on their side and all the litter is blown everywhere.

Solutions to this situation should stress prevention versus after the fact retrieval of the carts. In reality, merchants should be doing everything possible to keep their carts from being stolen. However, this just isn't happening. At \$75 a cart you would think they would be concerned. Simple prevention is the key. Prevention should be the name of the game. Having the merchants install electronic cart systems would go a long way toward prevention. But the City needs to go a lot further.

1. Fines/fees should be issued to merchants for carts that are abandoned. Not a \$3/cart retrieval charge but something in the area of a \$25/cart charge. It has to be punitive.
2. Signs should be posted in the stores and in the parking lots saying that it is unlawful to take the carts from the premises/parking lot and that violators may be prosecuted.
2. Carts should be rounded up from the parking lots regularly so that they can't be taken.
3. All carts should be secured near the building when a store is not open.
4. Retrieved carts need to be cleaned before they are put back in service. These carts pose a health hazard.

If we are going to have new ordinances, firstly they need to have teeth and secondly they need to be enforced.



## Look good, feel good, do good!

by Kim Pagano

Today I am so excited to share with you some of the secrets I have used as a hair therapist for how you can get the best hair cut whether you are sitting in my chair or not. Does anyone feel nervous or stressed out about thinking or going to a stylist, especially when they ask you what they want. If you are like a lot of my clients, they don't know what they want, that is why they are there. They need a professional opinion and expertise.

Well what I am going to talk with you about can hopefully make that stress a little easier. We all usually want what we don't have. If you have curly hair, you probably want straight or vice-a-versa. Does that sound familiar?

If you've ever experienced a good haircut, then you can relate to LOOK GOOD, FEEL GOOD, DO GOOD.

Because everything you do with your style will work. Why? Because it was cut for you, your type and style.

Let's start here. What's your life style and how much upkeep are you willing to do on your hair? Are you more casual during your day? An office executive? A busy, sporty mom? Your life style is an important component that is often overlooked. The next thing we need to look at is our facial shape. You want a cut that fits and frames your face, like a picture. The right cut for your shape, and the right length, should add lift to your look.

Another important factor is your type of hair. Is it fine, course, or thick? Each type is cut differently and there are different products out there that can help with the needs of each hair type. From there, we can look at your cut. Whether it's a blunt cut, layered cut, or slide cut, it is important to have the right one for you. There are rules for things such as layering for long versus short hair, cuts for those with curls and those without. And bangs don't come in only one option!

Now lets discuss colors. Coloring can really add to your facial features and be a powerful way to give boost and lift to your face. Your coloring should really make your eyes pop! Sometimes even just mixing in a little color can set off your look in a bold new way. Finally, lets talk about styling. Playing with how you blow dry it, straighten it, and part it can make a big difference. Try styling your hair as an "up do" for fun, zig-zag your part, put your part on the other side. Don't be afraid and when in doubt, ask your stylist!

Once you know your style you can take it anywhere and ask for what you want. Your stylist will be working for you to make you feel the best because remember when you look good, so do we! The Biggest message I want to share is to be happy with what we've been given and learn to enjoy it.

To get in touch with Kim Pagano, Host of Kim Pagano show/ Hair Therapist call her at (818)612-0832. Listen to her positive talk radio show Monday- Friday live from 8-9am and replays new time 1-2 on AM1400 KKZZ. You can also find Kim at [www.Kimpaganoshow.com](http://www.Kimpaganoshow.com), the app Tunein Radio ,facebook and on twitter at Kim Pagano Show.

**I would like to know**

*Continued from page 8*

IV, or Mouth), reports the findings to the hospital, and performs all other forms of advanced life support. When the ambulance arrives, we work as a team with the ambulance paramedic in order to maintain continuity of care for the patient. Depending on the seriousness of the call, our firefighter paramedic may ride into the hospital with the ambulance paramedic or if the patient is transported, and we notify dispatch that we are available and we can respond to the next emergency.

# Weather these difficult economic times with a breeze

A poem by Donna S. Worth

With the current economy uncertain and affecting us all,

The "Breeze" is like a gentle wind; it helps to calm the soul.

As we cope with our anxieties and the stresses that we face,

The "Ventura Breeze" gives information, about our favorite place.

The articles inform us, they help keep us all aware.

With topics about wellness, the budget and the local fare.

Animal rescue, senior leisure, music and the arts,

City news, schools, and sports - they all play a big part.

The "Breeze" is like a zephyr, it is bright and warm.

A true community resource that's like a light through a storm.

There's nothing like our weather, there's nothing like the "Breeze".

Ventura is a haven that can put us all at ease.

The "Times" they are a changing, changing with the time.

While the "Breeze" is growing and becoming more refined.

Life can be good, enjoy the little things.

Think of what you have got and what happiness it brings.

Health, Love and Happiness to All.

# Person To Person

by Karlene Lang

## "Did you vote in the recent city council election? If No, why not and if Yes, what did you think of the results?"



**Frank Castro:** "No, I was out of town but I am a voting advocate."



**Mark Rochin:** "Yes, I voted but I knew what the results would be - it was a given."



**Dennis Jenks and Claire Lewis Jenks:**

**Dennis:** "Yes, I did vote, but the results, well, I was pleased but hoping this would be an opportunity to see some change!"

**Claire:** "No, I was out of town on short notice so I didn't even get a chance to vote absentee; however, I was pleased with the results and was very glad that Cheryl won."



**Terry Ragan:** "Yes, and yes I was pleased with the results but I don't want to expound on it because I would get into trouble."



**Randy Olsen:** "No, I did not vote; it's always the same people that get elected. Was I happy with the results, no. People are not willing to step up to the political plate and institute change."



**Jim Minas:** "Yes, I did vote but think it was a waste of taxpayer money for the election of just three council members. There must be a more efficient way to vote during an off-year; maybe voting by computer via zip code."



Friends and neighbors of the Ventura Harbor Community Council enjoyed the food, music and raffle at their block party held at the Harbor Comedy Club! Donated non-perishable food items for FOODShare and new unwrapped toys for VCMC Pediatric Oncology unit were brought to the event for chances to win great prizes!

Stacey Reed, Marketing/Event Coordinator, Ventura Port District was the evening's MC and asked the attendees "Who needs to go to the bathroom before we start the show?"

**Go Figure!**  
answers

8	-	2	x	4	24
+		x		+	
6	+	9	÷	5	3
÷		+		x	
7	+	9	+	3	19
2		27		27	

**King Crossword**  
Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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



## Show Time

# Music Calendar 11/30 to 12/13

For more events go to [Fun-in-Ventura.com](http://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  
Karaoke every Wed 6-9pm

Blue Grass Jam featuring: The Bottom Feeders every Thur 6:30-9:30pm  
Fri 12/2 - The Ray Jay Band 7-11pm  
Sat 12/3 - The Barstool Pigeons 6-10pm  
Sun 12/4 - Blue Stew 2-6pm  
Fri 12/9 - Addicts Attic 7-11pm  
Sat 12/10 - Brian Faith Band 6-10pm  
Sun 12/11 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

### Bombay's Bar & Grill

143 S. California St., 805-643-4404  
All Star Blues every Wed

Local Live Music every Thur, Fri & Sat  
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 11/30 - Big Adventure  
Thur 12/2 - Coso Live  
Wed 12/7 - Bongo Town  
Thur 12/8 - Coso Live

### It's All Good Bar & Grill

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

Open Mike Night every Wed

### Majestic Theater

26 S. Chestnut St.

Mon 12/5 - The Blasters, Supersuckers, Big Jugs, Bastard Winos  
Sun 12/11 - Sunday Brunch featuring Which Ones Pink? and Candy-O

### Tutti's Off Main

34 N. Palm Ave., 805-643-0880

Rick Reeves (blues) every Sun 11am - 2pm, Jazz Trio 6-9pm  
Francine Smith (jazzy songs) every Thur  
Fred McFadden (keyboards) every Fri & Sat

### Watermark On Main 598 E. Main St., 805-643-6800

Intimate Acoustic with Dano every Tue  
Jazz at the Mark every Wed

### W2O Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St. (above Watermark)  
805-643-6800

Friday Dance Party every Fri 9pm  
Thur 12/1 - Acoustic Circus featuring Emibus  
Fri 12/2 - Soul Machine  
Sat 12/3 - Midnight  
Sun 12/4 - Tex Pistols  
Thur 12/8 - 4 on the Floor  
Fri 12/9 - Mini Driver  
Sat 12/10 - The Bomb  
Sun 12/11 - Shawn Jones

### Zoey's Café

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

Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm  
Wed 11/30 - Dusty Bottom Girls, Spivey, Matt Zeltzer 8pm  
Thur 12/1 - Tumbleweed Wanderers, Old Tire Swingers 8pm  
Fri 12/2 - Perla Batalla 8pm  
Sat 12/3 - Owen Plant & Friends 8pm  
Sun 12/4 - Concert & Art Exhibit Benefit- 30 bands/20 artists 12pm  
Mon 12/5 - B. Willing James & friends 8pm  
Wed 12/7 - Mimi Gilbert, & Zach Freidhoff 8pm

## Hollywood

by Tony Rizzo

Michelle Williams is already getting an Oscar buzz for her portrayal of Marilyn Monroe in "My Week With Marilyn." In 1956, MM formed Marilyn Monroe Productions and, intent on proving she could really act, hired one of the greatest actors of her time, Laurence Olivier, to direct and star opposite her in "The Prince and the Showgirl." She arrived in London with Arthur Miller, her husband of two weeks, who would later write the screenplay for her last film, "The Misfits." Olivier sought advice from Joshua Logan, who had directed MM in "Bus Stop." Logan advised him not to criticize or yell at her, or she would become too insecure to work.

Olivier, however, repeatedly lost his temper and couldn't direct her effectively. In true Hollywood fashion, for her, she started showing up late or not at all.

The biggest award Monroe ever won was a Golden Globe for "Some Like it Hot." If Michelle Williams gets an Oscar nom, she'll get it for playing MM, who never got it for playing herself! She should have known she couldn't be best friends with any man, because, after all, she's the one who said, "DIAMONDS are a girl's best friend."

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Movie reviewer Linda Carlson decided to take a vacation and actually not see a movie for 2 whole weeks. She shall return in our next issue.

### Two On The Aisle

## Ojai's Radio Drama is Wonderful

by Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

The holiday classic "It's A Wonderful Life" is now on stage at the Ojai Arts Center Theater in the form of a staged radio drama.

The movie debuted on Christmas Day 1946 starring James Stewart and Donna Reed, earned several Oscar nominations and later the distinction of being named one of the 100 Greatest American Movies.

Most know the story - It is Christmas Eve. We follow the maturation of one George Bailey (Peter Fox) as his dreams to travel are dashed by the trials and realities of life. When his Dad dies he successfully takes over the family business and guides it through the Great Depression in spite of the efforts of a local entrepreneur and curmudgeon, Mr. Potter (Steve Grumette), whose goal is to take down both the business and George. Settling in with his childhood sweetheart, now wife, Mary (Brittney Danyel), George's family and status in the community grows.

A series of unfortunate events sends George into a sudden downward turn and he is considering ending it all. A guardian angel named Clarence Oddbody (John Hankins) arrives to show George how things might have turned out if George had never been born, causing George to discover that, in fact, his life has been worthwhile. George's muddled mind clears. He returns to his loving wife and children, a bell rings, and Clarence finally earns his wings.

The Ojai Theater Center's radio version takes place in the broadcast studio of fictional station KOAC (for the Ojai Arts Center). Nearly all the adults in the 23-member cast play more than one role, changing characters with voice and minimal accoutrements.

The radio studio is complete with Foley artists (primarily sound effects specialist

## VFS@THE MUSEUM 2011

# Closing night tribute to Malcolm McDowell

The Ventura Film Society is proud to present "IF" as their 2012 closing night film on Tuesday December 6th at 7:15pm, preceded by a 6-7pm Tribute Reception for the film's star, Malcolm McDowell.

Incendiary, subversive, and darkly humorous, Lindsay Anderson's "IF..." is a landmark of British cinema. Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 1969 Cannes Film Festival, this 1968 drama satirizes English public school life like no other film before or since. Starring Malcolm McDowell in his first major screen role. Mr. McDowell will

Claudia Davoli), live music (Neva Williams, Jodi Brandt and Karen Oser), as well as a host of charming and talented children (the Hoj family).

Early 1940's props bring the era to life, as does the accurately detailed costuming throughout. Even the program has been cleverly presented, in the form of a home-town newspaper.

The script stays true to the story we all know and love. Outstanding direction by Gai Jones keeps all the background performers in the era at all times without being at all distracting. We found the staging to be smoothly executed and thoroughly delightful.

To add further hometown touches, radio commercials for local Ojai businesses are dusted throughout - some include catchy jingles - all of which top off this special package of entertainment delights with a big fluffy bow.

One note of caution: the Friday and Saturday performances begin promptly at 7:30, rather than the usual 8 p.m. curtain.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for Arts Center members and Seniors, \$10 for youths. Bring 5 nonperishable items for \$5.00 off one ticket price (Donated items are given to Help of Ojai Community Food Pantry) For reservations, call (805) 640-8797 or visit [www.theater@ojaiart-center.org](http://www.theater@ojaiart-center.org). Ojai Center for the Arts, 113 S. Montgomery Street, Ojai, CA 93023

### Bennett announces candidacy

*Continued from page 6*

County Board of Supervisors. Two other Democrats - Moorpark council member David Pollack and Westlake Village businessman David Thayne - had previously announced their candidacy.

For the past 25 years Rep. Elton Gallegly, a Simi Valley Republican, has represented the majority of the City of Ventura. Until now, the district's numbers have always showed more registered Republicans than Democrats. With the newly drawn lines - which leave Simi Valley out of the district - the numbers are now almost exactly opposite with the majority of voters being registered Democrats.

Bennett believes he is the man to accomplish this.

"I think rigid ideology has been getting in the way (in Washington D.C.)," said Bennett. "I'd like to bring a more common sense approach, one I've been able to demonstrate handling county issues."

Bennett began his political career as a Ventura city council member in 1993. He is perhaps best known for having co-authored the Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR), an initiative aimed at limiting urban sprawl during his tenure

participate in a post-screening discussion.

Location - Museum of Ventura County's Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Pavilion, 100 E. Main St.

For advance tickets and screening information please visit [www.venturafilm-society.com](http://www.venturafilm-society.com) or call 628-2299.

The VFS thanks all of its supporters for making their 3rd season of bringing quality alternative cinema to Downtown Ventura such a success.

Join them during their 4th season, beginning Tuesday February 7, 2012 at a new venue - VFS @ 430 E. Santa Clara Street (corner of Oak), running the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month through Dec 4, 2012.

Please visit [www.venturafilmsociety.com](http://www.venturafilmsociety.com) for updates on the 2012 Season and for 2012 membership and sponsorship opportunities.

as a council member. Following its being inducted by Ventura voters the initiative went on to be replicated throughout the county.

Bennett believes his stint as a council member provided an important start to his political career.

"I was introduced to the influence of special interest money on election funds," said Bennett of his time as a Ventura council member. "I also learned how to truly study an issue and be able to explain it to the public."

In addition to other environmental issues Bennett has also led initiatives including local finance reform law as a county superintendent. For all Bennett has accomplished locally, some critics worry about his ability to perform on a national level, something he has no experience with.

"I think I have a very good background," said Bennett, who cited his more than 25 years as an economics teacher as part of his credentials. "I believe I have a very good national perspective. I want to see the core values of the citizens of Ventura represented well in Washington."

According to Bennett, on a recent trip to Washington, D.C. he spoke with a number of congressmen who were county supervisors before stepping onto the national stage.

"I feel comfortable about the transition," said Bennett.

Gallegly, who has not announced whether he will run for reelection, has called Bennett "a kind of Obama environmental Democrat."

"While I certainly stand in contrast to his conservative position, I believe my work on the board of supervisors demonstrates I'm a hard politician to label," said Bennett. "Yes, I want to protect the environment and healthcare, but I know how important it is to have a strong economy and to keep the government's house in order."

Currently no Republican candidates have announced a bid to run for the office presumably waiting for the incumbent Gallegly to make his decision. Gallegly's home falls within the newly drawn 25th District lines where incumbent Republican Rep. Buck McKeon currently reigns. This makes him more likely to run for the 26th District seat.

Some have speculated Gallegly may retire however. Gallegly has regularly added monies to his congressional campaign account reaching more than \$800,000 in recent months. In comparison, Democrat candidates Thayne and Pollack both have account balances in the ballpark of \$20,000. However, because of possible competitive nature of the district, both the front running Democrat and Republican candidates are likely to receive financial help from national super PACs - a type of political action committee that can raise unlimited amounts of money from corporations, unions and individuals to support or oppose candidates.

# The Lighter Breeze

## Blondie



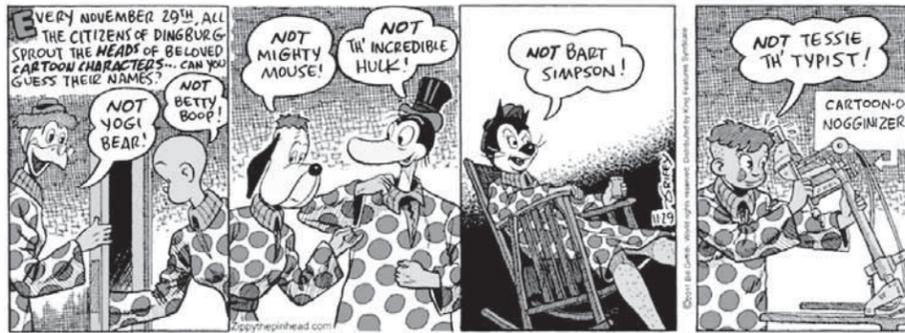
## Arctic Circle



## Crock



## Zippy



Solutions on page 19

## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	-		x		24
+		x		+	
	+		÷		3
÷		+		x	
	+		+		19
2		27		27	

**DIFFICULTY: ★★**  
 ★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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Solutions on page 19

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Overseer of JFK and LAX
- 4 Jewel
- 7 Gear parts
- 12 Throw in
- 13 Big hatchet
- 14 Plankton components
- 15 Actor McBride
- 16 March Madness semis
- 18 Pirouette pivot
- 19 Movie
- 20 Pond gunk
- 22 Away from WSW

- 23 Verifiable
- 27 Antiquated
- 29 Riddler of yore
- 31 Verboten
- 34 Trip around the world?
- 35 Namesake of a sort
- 37 Conk out
- 38 Information
- 39 Ottoman officer
- 41 Way out
- 45 Representative
- 47 Before
- 48 Done with desperation
- 52 Opposite of

- 53 Spud state
- 54 Golf prop
- 55 - and outs
- 56 Male and female
- 57 Raw rock
- 58 Favorable vote

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

- “oui”
- 8 Subordinate
- 9 Id
- 10 Greek counterpart
- 11 That woman
- 17 Experts
- 21 Jupiter has
- 23 Crowd?
- 24 Tease
- 25 Numerical prefix
- 26 Addnl. phone
- 28 Powell co-star
- 30 Luau bowlful
- 31 X rating?
- 32 Mimic

### DOWN

- 1 Data
- 2 Kind of committee
- 3 Farewell
- 4 Hook with a handle
- 5 Ostracized
- 6 “- Black”
- 7 Chat

- 33 Violinist's need
- 36 Creche trio
- 37 One inspired by Terpsichore
- 40 Reach
- 42 Ohio city
- 43 O. Henry's specialty
- 44 Nervous
- 45 Commotions
- 46 Quaker address
- 48 Fleur-de- —
- 49 Citric beverage
- 50 Reed instrument
- 51 Definite article

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Your curiosity might not be appreciated by everyone. Expect some resistance in getting answers to your questions. But stay with it. You need facts in order to make important decisions.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Some of the mystery surrounding your recent fiscal situation soon will be dispelled with a clear explanation. Use this new knowledge to help you chart a fresh financial course.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Start your Hanukkah and Christmas gift-buying now. This will help avoid problems caused by possible mid-December delays. A family member has important information.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Use a little more sense in how you plan to spend your end-of-the-year holiday dollars. Meanwhile, you continue to gain support for your stand on a workplace issue.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Wearing that big, loving Lion's heart of yours on your sleeve leaves it unprotected. Let things develop a little more before you allow your emotions to spill over.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to September 22) You might feel you're not ready to patch up an unraveled relationship. But the longer you wait, the more difficult it will be for all parties to take the first healing step.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Your end-of-the-year holiday plans could be disrupted by something out of your control, but stay the course. Ultimately, things will settle back into a normal pace.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your honest approach to a workplace project earns you both respect and credit from those in charge. Meanwhile, that personal problem still needs to be dealt with.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Money could be a little tight this month. This means the usually bargain-oblivious Sagittarian should look for ways to save on end-of-the-year holidays.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Examine the facts, and you might find that it's a wiser move to shift gears and redirect some of your goals before the end of the year. Someone close to you offers good advice.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Be careful that your generosity is not abused. Find out more, both about the special favors you might be asked to grant and who is asking for them.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You've come through a recent rough time in great shape. Congratulations. Now go out and enjoy your well-earned rewards. More good news comes in mid-December.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You aim for truth, and you usually find it. Your honesty earns you the friendship and respect of others.

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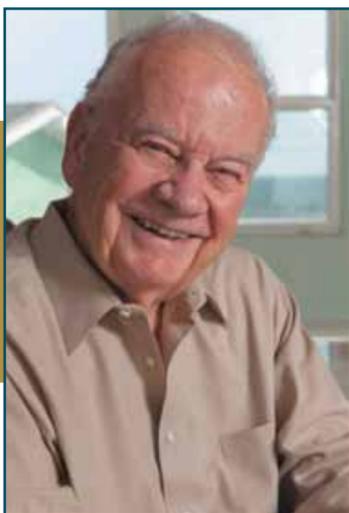
## Wood Art Fair

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Free Admission

Looking for a unique holiday gift or just enjoy great wood art? See amazing wood creations by some of the most talented woodworkers in our community. Carving, woodturning, decorative boxes, pens, furniture and more will be on sale during this one-day event.



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*Jacques Bellesiles, Partner*

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As heard on KVTA 1520AM Saturday Mornings, 8-9

## Art Scene

### Wood Art Fair at Woodcraft

Woodcraft, located at 3860 E. Main St. in Ventura, hosts its annual Wood Art Fair on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Admission is free. This annual event features talented Ventura County woodworkers in a one-of-a-kind show of fine art made from wood. From carvings to scroll-sawed ornaments, decorative gourds and boxes, turned bowls, platters, candlesticks, sculpture, wall art, and fine furniture, this is an event the whole family will enjoy. And what a great way to buy unique holiday presents that will provide enduring beauty for years to come!

Woodcraft, dubbed by its customers as “a woodworker’s candy store,” is a destination-shopping spot for woodworkers seeking quality woodworking tools, accessories, exotic wood, “how-to” books and DVDs, and building plans. Whether it’s carving, woodturning, woodburning, furniture building, Woodcraft carries over 20,000 products for woodworking applications.

The store is committed to promoting woodworking education, and a great many classes are available at affordable prices. Learn to use a tablesaw, a router, a bandsaw, a lathe, make a decorative box, a dovetail joint, a pen, a shaker table, a long bow, a picture frame – the list is amazing!

Internationally-renowned instructors like British carver Ian Norbury or Israeli woodturner Eli Avisera are frequent guests, along with local favorites like award-winning furniture and box-maker David Blackburn. Woodcraft’s employees are all accomplished woodworkers, too, including luthiers, professional finishers, turners, boat wrights, and furniture makers. So it’s easy to find answers to your woodworking questions.

Learn a new skill, advance an existing one, or just come in to look at the attractive local art we have on display, like Rick Ransom’s beautiful wood burning art. Working with wood is immensely satisfying, and whether you’re a beginner or an expert, Woodcraft has the tools, the classes, and the answers to help you make wood work!

### Vita Art Center plans unique art event to fund youth programs

Dozens of well-known and emerging local artists will donate their creative efforts for a fundraiser for the Vita Art Center.

Called the “Anonymous” exhibition, the event features 12-inch-by-12-inch canvasses for sale for \$100 each. The paintings are exhibited anonymously with the artists signing the back of their paintings.

The Friday, Dec. 2 event begins with a 5-6 p.m. “First Dibs” gala, for those who want the first chance to look over and purchase the exhibited works. Wine and delicious appetizers

will be served. After 6 p.m., the event is free and open to the public.

This is the third year of the annual “Anonymous” exhibition. “It’s our biggest fundraiser of the year,” Perez said. All Vita Art Center classes are taught by local artists. “Not only do we help youth, we create jobs for local artists,” Perez added.

The Vita Art Center is located at 432 Ventura Ave. Studio 30, in the Bell Arts Factory. For more information, contact Mary Perez at 644-9214, MaryPerez@sbcglobal.net or visit [www.VitaArtCenter.com](http://www.VitaArtCenter.com).

### 6th Annual Holiday Sale

The Ventura County Potters’ Guild is having their First Friday holiday sale on Dec. 2nd 5:00-9:00pm at the Bell Arts Factory Open Studio at 432 Ventura Ave.

Saturday, December 3rd, 10:00-5:00pm. Sunday, December 4th, 10:00-5:00pm.

20 plus artists participating plus the Bell Arts Open Studios.

Beautiful sculptural and functional creations for gifts.

Contact 985-5038 for further information.

### Ornament Competition at Harbor Village Gallery

Buenaventura Art Association announces its 4th Annual Ornament Competition at Harbor Village Gallery.

“Let’s Break A Few Eggs!”, or in this case, re-use an empty egg carton and make it into a holiday ornament! Cut, glue, sew, paint, anything you like, as long as it is able to be hung from a hook for display!

As in previous years, this competition is open to all members of the community, youth and adult, and there is no charge for entering this competition.

Two Categories: Youth (ages 15 and under) and Adult (over 15 years of age). Awards will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in both categories. People’s Choice Award: Visitors to the Harbor Village Gallery can vote for their favorite ornament. Prizes will be baskets of surprise goodies and art materials.

The juror will be Lynn Mikelatos, of The Greek at the Harbor and Margarita Villa.

All ornaments will be offered for sale for \$10 each, and all proceeds will go to Wildlife Experience, a local non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of wildlife through community education. Ornaments not sold will be returned to the artist.

Turn in dates: Ornaments can be turned in at the Harbor Village Gallery through December 8th. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Monday, 12-5 PM.

An Awards Reception will be held on Friday, December 9th, 5-8 PM. Ornament makers, families and friends, and community are invited to attend.



Animal sculpture by Albert Stewart, one of America’s foremost sculptors of the 20th century, will be on exhibition at the Museum of Ventura County from December 4 through February 12, 2012.

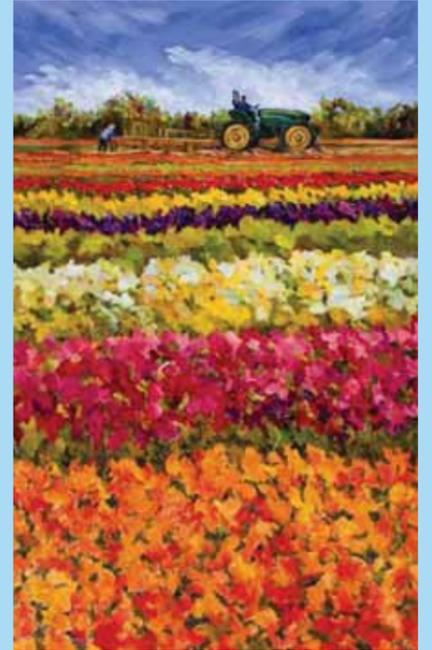
Animalia: Works by Albert Stewart, Modern Master includes pieces from the collection of Stewart’s daughter, Patricia Stewart Jump of Ventura.



Queen Victoria was history’s longest reigning female monarch. Her 63-year rule was also the longest in British history, during which the United Kingdom of Great Britain became the world’s most powerful nation and largest empire. Learn about her contradictory life and times in Queen Victoria: Torn Between Independence and Etiquette, an exhibition of ¼ life-size George Stuart Historical Figures® of Queen Victoria at the Museum of Ventura County through

February 5, 2012.

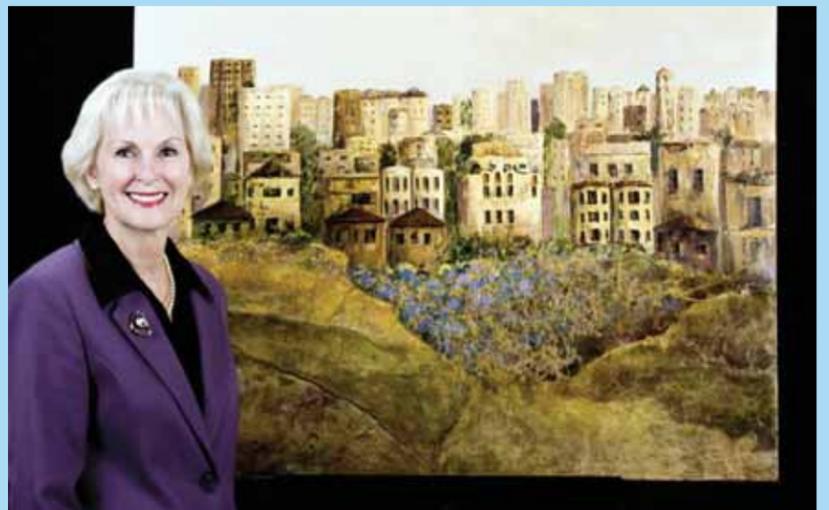
In an accompanying monologue on January 17 at 1:30 pm George Stuart will delve into Queen Victoria’s strict upbringing, her loving marriage with Prince Albert of Saxe-Gotha, and the trials and tribulations of her public and private lives. Admission to the monologue is \$15 for the general public, \$10 for museum members, and includes admission to all museum exhibits. For reservations, call 653-0323 x 7.



The art of Hilda Kilpatrick is now on display until January 16, 2012 at 210 E. Main St., Downtown Ventura, across from the Mission. Mon – Thu 10:30am-6pm, Fri & Sat 10:30am-8pm



An exciting exhibit of controlled chaos “Left of Normal” by Lillian Bleuze-Nelson will be on display at the Buenaventura Gallery, 700 E. Santa Clara St. until Dec.3.



Join the “Celebration” of Rozann Nelson’s life as an artist. An artist since a young child she finds much inspiration with living here in Ventura and can just simply look to the sunsets, coastlines and Victorian houses in order to create her art. See her paintings at a reception on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 4-7 p.m. at the Buenaventura Gallery, 700 East Santa Clara St. For more information you can visit her website at [www.artworkbyrozann.com](http://www.artworkbyrozann.com) or email her at [artworkbyrozann@att.net](mailto:artworkbyrozann@att.net). Painting Title: San Francisco “1996”, 40x30, acrylic on canvas. Photo by Wayne Smith Photography

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