



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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## A look back at 2011 from the Breeze

by Rebecca Wicks

As some of us still struggle in a less-than-stellar economy, many organizations - from the Ventura Hillside Conservancy to the Ventura Music Festival among countless others - continue to plug away and do great things for our little seaside community. Many headlines which we saw under our masthead last year persisted in 2011 including controversy around parking meters, labor agreements and sand encroachment issues. While major slashes in city services seemed to have slowed somewhat, news of cuts such as those facing Ventura College, still surround us.

Students continue to be a bright spot for Venturans with unrivalled creativity and accomplishments. Here is a snapshot of the major headlines of 2011.

### January

**Archeologist searches downtown parking lot:** An attempt to look for Mission-era artifacts takes place on a now empty lot on the corner of Palm and Main Streets where a parking lot and Top Hat Burger Palace once resided. Ground-penetrating radar is used on the lot which was then and is currently still for sale.

**Ventura City Council approves new labor agreements:** New labor contracts with all three major unions result in a savings of \$250,000 for 2011, and an expected \$1 million in the 2012 fiscal year, \$1.3 million in fiscal year 2013. Changes include requiring employees to pay 4.5 percent of pension costs.

### February

**Controversy regarding Canada Larga not simple:** Ventura considers annexing a portion of land north of Ventura Avenue, and including it in the greater Westside Community Re-vitalization Plan. The intent: to construct up to 99 executive ranch homes on the property.

**Downtown parking costs continue to generate controversy:** Parking meters continue to be a lightning rod for criticism and all that is wrong with local government for some. Signed petitions will ultimately see the issue on

*Continued on page 9*



*I was very jealous that Savana was on the cover of the last issue of the Ventura Breeze, so I asked my wonderful publisher if I could be on this cover and he said yes as long I wish all of our wonderful readers "a very happy new year".*



*At only \$3.95 million the Ventura Harbor docked Gentry Eagle is a real bargain*

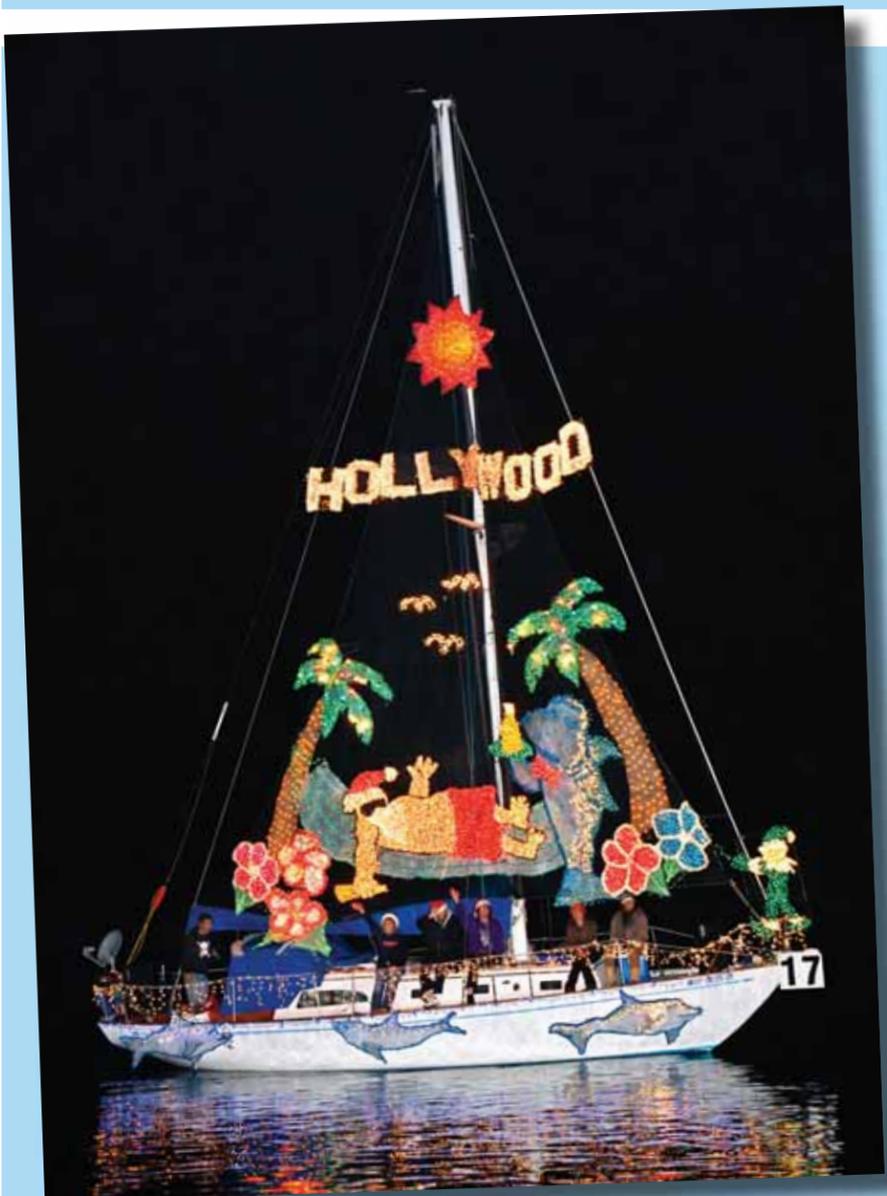
## Mega-yacht in Ventura Harbor

by Sheli Ellsworth

Sixty miles from Hollywood, an aging starlet is listing in Ventura's Harbor. She is still the grand dame of boat racing just a little older and a little more sophisticated. The 112-foot, 11,500 horsepower Gentry Eagle was built by racing legend Tom Gentry and won the transatlantic Blue Riband Award in 1989.

Gentry and his son Norman were aboard with three other crew members when the Gentry Eagle beat British airline tycoon, Richard Branson's transatlantic record by 23%. She also won the

*Continued on page 3*



*The "Best Use Of Lights" at the 2011 Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights "California Dreaming" was the Stellar by Steve Linn. Other top winners were "Best Use of Animation" Aloha Ohana by Richard Knuppel and "Grand Prize" Kiss by Jan and Debbie Lawson.*

## Ventura Council approves settlement to protect estuary

by Nancy Broschart  
*Ventura Water*

The Ventura City Council recently approved a settlement that will, by 2025, forever change how the City's reclamation facility uses and discharges its treated water into the Santa Clara River Estuary. The final agreement between Ventura Water, Heal the Bay, and Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program will resolve a long-standing debate about the impact of the highly treated water on the sensitive ecology of the Estuary as

*Continued on page 4*

**While waiting in Times Square for the ball to drop you can always catch up with the Breeze at [venturabreeze.com](http://venturabreeze.com)**

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







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**Mega-yacht in Ventura Harbor**  
*Continued from page 1*

Chapman Trophy for her Miami to New York time of 19 hours and 17 minutes.

In 1992, Tom Gentry spared no expense when the powerboat was re-equipped as a luxury boat and re-launched as a mega-yacht. It still houses the twin MTU V396 turbocharged diesel marine diesels that powered it to transatlantic fame, but now it has a spiral staircase that leads to two formal staterooms and two full baths along with crew quarters below deck. There is a 12' crescent shaped sofa flanked by a clear coffee table. The interior has sculptured ultra suede overhead which is also carried into the carpets. The boat's website states, "The décor is highlighted by exotic hardwoods, beveled carpet, overstuffed furniture, and custom burnished straw wall coverings—all in shades of champagne with midnight blue and black accents. Above deck, a flying bridge with integrated seating, barbeque, sink, coolers, storage and more."

The galley has a large "L" shape Avonite breakfast bar with four bar chairs. Appliances include a Jenn Air oven, microwave, trash compactor, dishwasher, garbage disposal, ice maker, a GE washer and dryer and a GE 26.6 cubic foot refrigerator/freezer with water and ice in the door. The boat also comes with a 12-foot dingy, 3 televisions, 2 generators, a heat pump a/c system and a Sea Recovery water maker (1200 GPD).

Unfortunately, Tom Gentry, 67, died in 1998 four years after a severe crash in a Key West boat race left him in a coma.

Now, the once-majestic boat is for sale by Norman Gentry. It has been in Ventura since January 2006. According to Gentry, "Ventura Harbor Boat Yard had the facilities necessary to be able to haul and service a ship of this size."

Gentry says he has not been out on the boat for several years, but said the boat has had a rich and varied history. Her deck has seen the likes of a Rockefeller, a Getty, a Trump, a Perot, foreign dignitaries, high ranking military personnel, and elected governmental officials from both the East and West Coast of the United States. "She has also had good will showings in the Azores, Bahamas, Bermuda, Britain, Canada, Italy, France, Germany, Monaco, Panama, and Portugal," says Gentry. "She is a well traveled ship having been as far north as Alaska and as far South as Panama on the West coast. On the Atlantic seaboard she has traveled from Canada to the Florida Keys, been through the Devils Triangle, the Gulf of Mexico and traversed the Panama Canal."

The Gentry Eagle's James Bond-like exterior is welded aluminum. Her diesels and turbine are capable of cruising at over 63 knots. She holds 9,800 gallons of fuel. The helm has been preserved much like it was in its racing days with a chart table and black leather Recaro racing seats. The asking price is a mere \$3.95 million. To replicate the Gentry Eagle today would cost over \$25 million according to the boat's website. Go to [www.gentryeagle.com](http://www.gentryeagle.com) for more details and specifications along with contact information.



Champagne wishes and caviar dreams aboard the Gentry Eagle.



## City News



Agreement to resolve how water is discharged into the Santa Clara River Estuary has been reached

### Settlement to protect estuary

Continued from page 1

well as associated legal and administrative actions against the City.

The approval is only the first step in what will be a 15-year process. Innovative in its approach, the settlement outlines common goals and a defined time frame to ensure the program progresses. The best available science and collaboration will provide the framework to decide how to use the reclaimed water produced by the reclamation facility in the future.

The key goal calls for 50 to 100 percent of the City's reclaimed water to be diverted from the Estuary by 2025 and reused for non-drinking purposes. If any water is still released into the Estuary, one of the other goals is the construction of a treatment wetlands to

further improve water quality.

A number of opportunities will be explored over the next five years or so, to determine how the treated water will be diverted and reused. Currently 3 percent of the reclaimed water is used to irrigate nearby golf courses, Marina Park and commercial landscaping. Between 40 percent and 60 percent of Ventura's drinking water, withdrawn from the Ventura River and groundwater aquifers, is used for landscape irrigation. Substituting reclaimed water for this drinking water, by expanding the reclaimed water system, will allow more water to remain in the environment and be available to the human population during drought or other restrictions. Some of the other expanded uses to be investigated include agriculture irrigation, groundwater

recharge, and groundwater injection to combat seawater intrusion into local aquifers.

While project costs will not be known until infrastructure decisions are made, the agreement caps the total expense at \$55 million. Early estimates show that this 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.

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, Jan. 18, at 6 p.m. at the City Sanjon Maintenance Yard, 336 Sanjon Road.

The Council approval vote followed 120 days of extensive public outreach, including a Town Hall meeting on Nov. 10 that was attended by nearly 50 residents and other interested stakeholders. To see an overview 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). If your group or organization would like to schedule a presentation about the settlement or if you would like more information, please email Nancy Broschart at [nbroschart@venturawater.net](mailto:nbroschart@venturawater.net).

present at an exhibit and special reception honoring the photographers at Ventura City Hall on Monday, December 12 in the Council Chambers. The photos are on display at the City Hall Bridge Gallery where winning entries will be on display for a few more weeks.

Included in the winners (for the second year in a row) are Breeze publisher Sheldon Brown and Breeze photographer (2 categories) John Ferritto.

The 2011 City Of Ventura Photo Contest winners are:

#### 1. ENVIRONMENT

Ventura Harbor by Tracy Lee (people's choice)

Sunset on Islands by Robert Garven (judges' choice)

#### 2. ARCHITECTURE

Harbor by Michael Robin Kims (people's choice)

Ventura Overpass by Jim Suley (judges' choice)

#### 3. PEOPLE PORTRAITS

Boy at Fair by John Ferritto (people's choice)

Player through the Fence by Jon Osumi (judges' choice)

#### 4. COMMUNITY LIFE

Hula Festival by John Whitt (people's choice)

A Night at the Beach by Jac Keo (judges' choice)

#### 5. ALTERED IMAGES - ADULT

Altered Pier by Kathleen Good (people's choice)

Bronk Rider at the Fair by John Ferritto (judges' choice)

#### 6. PHOTO VOICE - ADULT

Peaceful Pit Puppy by Heidi Elowitch (people's choice)

Graffiti by Sheldon Brown (judges' choice)

#### 7. YOUTH

The Point by Bethany Fankhauser (youth - people's choice & judges' choice)

Photographers may enter the 2012 contest starting January 3, 2012 by following the guidelines at [www.cityofventura.net/photocontest](http://www.cityofventura.net/photocontest).

Breeze:

Winning photos will be shown in the Breeze in future issues.



Photo contest winner Jon Osumi and his model-daughter Kayla Osumi at the special reception honoring the winning photographers

## Ventura "Take a Shot!" Digital Photo Contest winners announced

Amateur, professional and school-age photographers submitted more than 200 images to the City of Ventura's eighth annual "Take a Shot!" digital photography contest. Participants, family, friends and the public were

## Gone fishin'

Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli St., and many other city offices will be closed for winter shutdown until Monday, January 2.

Offices will reopen on the first Tuesday of the year, January 3, 2012. City Hall closes alternate Fridays throughout the year.

## 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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**County of Ventura Human Services Agency**  
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# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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

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## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown  
Publisher

■ Once again happy holidays, for Christmas, New Years, Chanukah and Kwanzaa. I want to thank our readers and advertisers for their wonderful continued support and patronage. And especially my incredible staff of writers, photographers, designer, distributors, etc., etc., etc.

This has been another outstanding year for the Ventura Breeze being selected the "Small Business Of The Year", adding new writers and columns and an entire year of the wonderful Face Of Ventura portrait series by Johanna Spinks.

■ Our last issue stated (Face Of Ventura) that Steve Robles is the Santa Claus of Ventura. We certainly didn't mean to suggest that he is the official Ventura Santa Claus or certainly not the only one. We have loads of wonderful Santa Clauses in Ventura and we all know that the real Santa Claus lives in the North Pole and couldn't possibly stop long enough in Ventura for Johanna to paint his portrait anyway.

■ In this issue we have an article by Rebecca Wicks regarding proposed cuts to programs at Ventura College. I am very concerned about cutting "vocational programs" because many VC students in these programs don't necessarily go on to 4 year colleges (or private vocational schools) and use their knowledge gained at VC to go right into the job market, many of them here in Ventura.

The real problem with this is that schools after community colleges are very expensive and the students are often from the very families that can least afford the cost.

These are a few program cuts that concern me more than others (they are all very important of course) agriculture, architecture, business information

systems and computer science.

I personally know of several VC architect graduates who are working in local firms and a few have gone on to pass the state exams and are now licensed architects (okay, so I am a retired architect and might be prejudiced about the architecture department closing).

Speaking of colleges UC Berkeley will be offering aid for "middle income" families earning \$80,000 to \$100,000. Where do VC students sign up?

■ The homelessness situation in Ventura seems to just keep growing (would you rather be homeless in Chicago or Ventura?). Especially every time that the river bottom is cleaned up which it must be, especially with winter rains coming. This is such a serious problem for all of society. I hear many complain about it, but perhaps those who complain have a solution other than "they should go get a job".

In this issue we have articles by Tim Pompey and Kevin Clerici dealing with the homeless and panhandling.

Instead of giving money to people in the street please consider the following agencies where you know that the money will be well spent. You are not really doing the homeless much of a favor giving them money even though it might ease your guilt.

**Turning Point Foundation** - 652-0596  
- www.turningpointfoundation.org

**Project Understanding** - 652-1326 -  
www.projectunderstanding.org

**Catholic Charities** - 643-4784 - www.  
catholiccharitiesla.org/community.  
html

**Salvation Army** - 659-3598 - www.sal-  
vationarmyusa.org

**Homeless One Stop Center** - Every  
Tuesday 10 - 1, 3147 Loma Vista

■ At a recent planning commission meeting I was shocked to hear one of the commissioners say that he didn't know where the grammar school was that the proposed project would affect. Wouldn't

this be one of the basic facts that the commissioners must have to make their decisions?

Another one said that maybe they should be required to visit the sites of the proposed projects that they are acting on. Isn't this like a doctor saying "Perhaps I should look at your x-rays before I cut off your foot?"

How can they possibly not go to each site that they are dealing with (maybe I misunderstood, I hope so)?

■ The following has nothing to do with Ventura if you don't want to read any further:

■ During the winter you don't anymore catch a cold because it's cold then you catch a hot because it's hot during the summer.

■ Afghan President Hamid Karzai has pardoned a jailed rape victim but only after she agreed to marry the man she says raped her. Would this pose a problem if she was raped by several men, is it legal in that advanced country to have several husbands?

■ Rev. Fernando Karadima has been charged with molesting children. Karadima, 81, has been sanctioned by the Vatican who ordered him to a life of penitence and prayer.

This is like a marathon runner being sanctioned by having to run 5 miles a day.

■ A Boy Scout leader was found to have been molesting boys for over two decades and when it was discovered in the USA the Scouts covered it up and sent him on his way. So he moved to Canada and started all over again.

But at least he didn't corrupt their minds by being an atheist or he wouldn't have been allowed in the Scouts.

■ The Postal Service is warning of a bogus email about package delivery. If you receive what looks like an official email from them about an attempted or intercepted package delivery just delete it without opening.

## Mailbox

Chancellor James Meznek hired an acquaintance—who earlier had resigned under fire at another community college—as a \$45,000-a-year consultant on budget-slashing measures. This breathtakingly insensitive act flunked The Smell Test. The consultant should be recused from the budgetary process.

A recent story centered on a leaked Meznek letter which criticized Trustee Art Hernandez. At the December meeting, several Hispanic community members came to Hernandez's defense and lashed out at Meznek, more than one asserting a history of perceived ethnic slights. The chancellor's conduct toward all those he serves must be respectful and above reproach.

Several speakers suggested that, in this crisis, the Trustees should tap their multi-million-dollar reserve fund. Later, the District's budget director gave a prepared, seemingly canned, response why this simply couldn't be done. Public officials must listen in good faith, with open minds, not simply recite a blizzard of numbers.

Severe cuts in instructors and curriculum have been proposed. Fairness demands proportionate cuts in the District's bureaucracy.

The trustees should go above and beyond the minimum the law requires. Transparency means much more than letting people vent, having predetermined your course of action.

The Trustees should return to the

drawing board, referring the matter to their Budget and Audit Committee. In this process, the Trustees should solicit—and listen to—citizen input in a public forum.

Chancellor Meznek is taking early retirement. His successor must embrace an open, inclusive leadership style, not one closed and authoritarian. In the words of Edmund Burke, "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it."  
James Christiansen  
Oak View

City Council;

They say the fish rots from the head down. If our city council is any indicator, my beloved town is not doing so well. Recently the council voted for the third time not to let Neal Andrews be mayor.

There is no reason for Neal not to be mayor. He has served us for 10 years. The only reason there could be to deny him the honor that they themselves have had would be behind the scenes politics, bitterness, disagreement, revenge, those kind of nasty things, and I expect my council members to rise above this pettiness. I voted for each member of the current council, except for Mike Tracy, whom I did not know. Message

to council: I (and many others) also voted for Neal, and I expect you all to treat him right. I did not vote for all of you to engage in such hostility toward a colleague.

I supported and voted for Cheryl Heitmann and think she brings a lot to the council. But I am extremely disappointed that she accepted the honor of deputy mayor knowing that Neal, with 10 years on the council, was being passed over again. If it were me, I would have told the others, no way, you all need to do the right thing and give Neal his well-deserved turn

Neal was resoundingly elected each time he ran. We voters elected him and we  
Continued on page 8

After this issue Leselie Burhenn and Alison Carlson will no longer be working at the Ventura Breeze as advertising advisors. Please email advertising@venturabreeze.com or call Staci Brown at 844-5374 to advertise in Ventura's only local community newspaper.

Very little is needed to make a happy life. It is all within yourself, in your way of thinking.

—Marcus Aurelius



## News and Notes



The winter warming shelter, located in the Ventura National Guard Armory at 1207 Arundell Avenue, is now open through April 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. nightly.

### Local armory opens as winter warming shelter

by Tim Pompey

It's cold now, temperatures dropping down at night into the 30s and 40s. Not a good time to be sleeping outdoors.

But thanks to some cooperative funding between the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, the County of Ventura, and the Catholic lay charity St. Vincent de Paul, from now until April 1, someone living on the streets can come to the National Guard Armory on Arundell Avenue and get out of the cold. As shelter manager Marc Melinkovich explained, "They can get a warm bed, a warm shower, a good meal, and a safe place for the night."

On this particular night, Ellen Prince, along with her husband Jesse Merkel and 18-year-old son Anthony O'Hare, wait outside for the shelter to open. "It's a great place to go if you need bed and food, and it's safe," she said.

Each night, from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m., the shelter offers basic overnight necessities: a twin-size air mattress, or if you're a mother with children, a full-size mattress; two clean blankets per person; dinner and a light breakfast; opportunities to shower. There is also onsite security.

But, as Melinkovich noted, the shelter is more than just an overnight stop. Other services include clothing distribution, a new pair of socks on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and free toiletry items. And, at various times during the week county agencies such as veterans' services, human services, and behavioral health drop in and offer their services.

For transport to and from the armory, the city of Ventura provides the shelter with free passes on the #6 Gold Coast bus line, which picks up and drops

off at the Pacific View Mall.

The shelter is open to most people. "We have no requirements for people staying here," said Melinkovich. "The only requirement is that they get a TB test. If we can't accept a guest, it's for health or safety reasons."

According to Brenda Cohos, the staff person who helps coordinate nightly services, the shelter maintains an open door policy. "We don't turn people away," she said. "We've always made room for everybody."

For security reasons, when guests enter the shelter, they are wanded with a metal detector at the door.

Guest belongings are carefully managed. Each person receives a clear plastic sack for items they take in. If an item is too large or bulky, the shelter provides storage. "When they arrive, any belongings that can't be brought inside are secured in an outside locker," said Melinkovich.

After dinner, when it's time to sleep, with the exception of women and children, men and women are segregated into separate bedding areas.

During inclement weather, Melinkovich adds that the "Guard is gracious enough to where, if the weather is bad, they'll let them stay for 24 hours."

For Melinkovich, the armory is about building relationships. "Our staff recognizes individuals from years past," he said. "They consider them to be friends."

He hopes to provide something beyond just food and a bed. "We're trying to project something," he said, "that we're more than just a place for the night, that we care for our guests."

According to Peter Brown, the City of Ventura's Community Services Manager, keeping the shelter open through the winter costs anywhere from 275-325 thousand dollars per season. Funding for the shelter comes from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), St. Vincent de Paul, and some private donations. The city also contributes some funds which are eventually reimbursed by the state as emergency shelter grant money.

Brown, however, credits the heart and soul of the shelter to past director Tom McLaughlin, who recently retired, and to the staff and volunteers from St. Vincent de Paul. "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul does what it takes to make this work," he said.

Melinkovich sees this shelter as symptomatic of a greater need in the community, a need that he hopes St. Vincent de Paul can help address. "Our society has the objective to participate in running a year-round shelter," he said.

For now, however, his focus is on making this year's winter warming shelter work. This is his first year as shelter manager, and so far, he's been impressed. "One of the many surprises I've had is seeing the commitment of our staff," he said.

Based on the line extending tonight from the fence to the street, it appears that many of his guests would agree with him.

existence is no playground, but it's comfortable enough. So he has no reason to change, he tells me almost weekly.

My holiday wish this year is for people to please stop giving money to panhandlers.

Giving cash to panhandlers is a disservice to the individual and to the quality of life in our community. Far too often, those handouts enable a desperate individual to feed his or her addictions, whether it be on drugs or alcohol, compounding their misery and often literally poisoning themselves. While "random acts of kindness" might feel good to the heart of the giver, they are tragically wrong-headed responses to the rising tide of human need in this tough economy.

The Downtown Ventura Partners, in collaboration with our merchants, social service agencies, faith groups, civic and business leaders and law enforcement professionals, unrolled in November an anti-panhandling campaign to reduce misguided charitable giving.

There's another way to help. We urge people to support and give to the charities who provide meals, medical attention, case management and housing services that get people off the streets and focused on long-term solutions.

Every day, the volunteers and staff at places like Turning Point Foundation, Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, Project Understanding, FOOD Share and the Kingdom Center make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of those willing to make positive choices.

Homelessness is a city-wide issue. The situation is more acute in Downtown, because of the heavy foot traffic and proximity to the beach and Ventura River bottom, a haven for illegal encampments for decades. Reducing homelessness requires all of us to say, "No," to panhandlers, which will help create a cleaner and safer environment for everyone.

Please, during this holiday season and into the New Year, give generously. Do it the way that ensures the needy don't go hungry or sleep in the rain. Not by stuffing cash or change into the outstretched hand of a stranger, but through the many worthy partners in our community who will leverage every cent you contribute into real change.

Kevin Clerici is executive director of the Downtown Ventura Partners. He can be



### Please give – but not to panhandlers

by Kevin Clerici

I have a standing offer to a middle-aged homeless man who stores his belongings in a shopping cart and sleeps under ratty blankets in and around Downtown. When he's ready and willing, I'll provide a lift to rehab, which a local service provider has graciously arranged for him. When he complains of the cold, I volunteer a bus pass to the Winter Warming Shelter at the Ventura armory, where he can get a hot meal, a shower and a mattress in a heated and secure room.

For now, these are not offers he considers seriously. He can earn enough money panhandling to pay for his food, alcohol, drugs and new blankets when his are stolen or soiled.

The days he gets really high, he confesses, are when a "good-hearted Christian" seeks him out in the park and slides him an additional \$20 or even \$50 and promises to pray for him. His daily



Roll up your sleeves and dig into a messy lobster feast

### "The Lobster Experience" a unique catering business

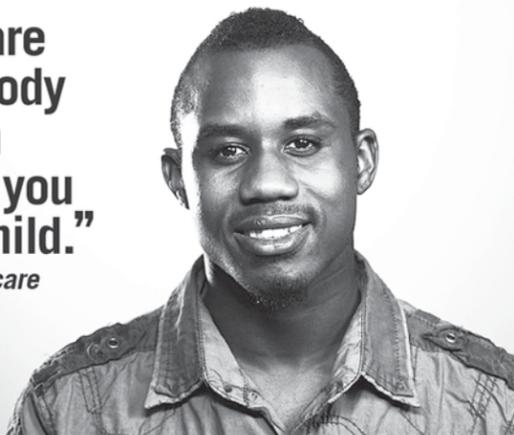
by Kelsey Campbell

The Lobster Experience is a very uniquely done lobster catering business that has just started in Ventura County.

**"A great foster care parent is somebody who has a warm heart and treats you like their own child."**

- James, 12 years in foster care

**A foster parent changed my life.**



Learn more about becoming a foster parent by calling Aspiranet or visiting us online today.

877-350-HERO (4376) [ASPIRANET.ORG](http://ASPIRANET.ORG)

**ASPIRAnet**  
One of California's largest foster care and adoption agencies.



# News and Notes

The owners Jeffery Waters and Whitney Baker both worked in food service at a young age and have now perfected the art and added their own unique twist. The Lobster Experience has fun written all over it and they supply everything.

These young, yet experienced caterers bring with them a gigantic pot with its own gas burner. They bring appetizers, a box full of live lobsters, one for every guest, vegetables of all kinds, and dessert. Wine can also be supplied or the customers can supply their own beverages.

Music is played at each event to keep the fun atmosphere lively and exciting. The appetizers are waiting to be enjoyed and bottles of wine have been popped. The massive pot of water is boiled on site and with perfect timing each vegetable is added to cook just right. The last ingredient added is the box of live lobsters shipped straight from Maine.

When dinner is ready, all the guests stand by a long dining table lined with plastic and paper. No dishes are necessary for this experience. Only an abundance of napkins, some melted butter, and a lobster cracker.

The chef dumps the steaming pot of potatoes, onions, artichokes, corn, sausage, shrimp, garlic and lobster onto the table. Then, with no silverware, each guest can dig in. It's a messy, delicious and unique experience for everyone.

After the meal, dessert and drinks are served and there is time for mingling. The Lobster Experience is unlike any other, and not something to be forgotten. "The Lobster Experience combines the sumptuous elegance of a lobster feast with the easy-going, down-home spirit of a big feed," said the head chef, Jeffery Waters.

"The Lobster Experience was phenomenal. From the appetizers to the dessert was a sensory experience one after another. Incredible tastes, laughter, love and fun. Perfect hosts, amazing food and an unforgettable experience. Excellent!" said Jen of Santa Barbara.

"The food was fantastic! You've taken a mid-Atlantic tradition and put a touch of California on it!" said Jeff of Ventura. The website will be up soon, so feel free to Google the Lobster Experience after the first of the year.



## Simple pleasure

by Kim Pagano

As we are approaching the holidays sometimes we overlook the most important things in life. I thought it would be meaningful to look at what that means for different families. What holiday do you and your family celebrate? For me it's Hanukkah, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day then right into my birthday and New Years Eve. Do you take time to enjoy your holidays? Is it big family gatherings, is it

split between families or is it just another day to you.

Have you started making memories and traditions of your own? A family tradition that we enjoy is having the grandparents sleep over; thus, they can be a part of Christmas morning. My husband and my father always get up early together and grab some fresh bagels. The rest of the day is filled with lounging around in our new pajamas, cooking, visiting, and watching movies.

When you're just starting out on your own all the first things are so exciting. Your first Christmas together, your first child, the silly little gifts and many gifts under the tree. Why do all those special things really have to change? As we grow older and our children grow older and our parents grow older, I think we need to remember where we've been and all the great memories we have. Maybe we should go back to the basics of spending time together and cherishing our family traditions rather than worrying about the materialistic things. After all, we never know how long we have. Maybe there is a recipe that makes you think of home, family, music or a special place. For me its my mom's short gravy and rump roast with roasted vegetables and potatoes, or my grandmother's cooking, or my dad stories. However, its not about what they bought me.

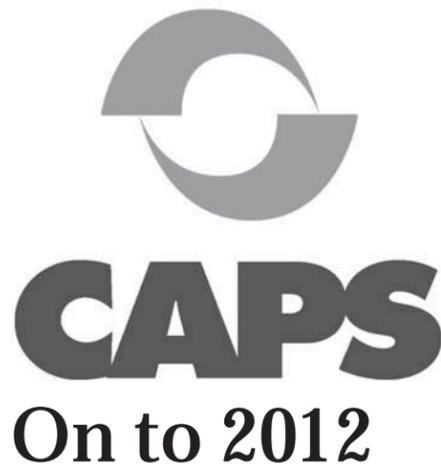
For my home a tradition is our Sunday night dinners with all my family filled with family recipes. I am hoping that those traditions are the ones that my children remember.

My husband and I and two boys of our four children went on a trip. During this trip, it occurred to me that since they are older, it was a gift itself to have them without their friends around. We all picked something fun that we could do together, such as boat ride, surfing lessons, indoor skydiving, and miniature golf.

I realized that I have not been enjoying the simple pleasures of life. Isn't that what family time is all about? Our kids are going to have some time off from school so take that time to go with them and stop and smell the roses. Make a memory that your family can look back on.

To get in touch with Kim Pagano, Host of The Kim Pagano Show, "Adding Value Every Day in Every Way" call her at (818) 612-0832 and listen to her positive talk radio show Monday-Friday from 8-9am and Simple Pleasure 3-4pm on am 1400 KKZZ. (and you might also learn a little about the Ventura Breeze)

Email: [Kim@Thekimpaganoshow.com](mailto:Kim@Thekimpaganoshow.com)  
Web: [www.Thekimpaganoshow.com](http://www.Thekimpaganoshow.com)



by Elizabeth Rodeno & Lisa Snider

We are smack dab in the middle of the holiday season. Christmas, for those who celebrate it, has come and gone. The trash cans are overflowing with wrapping paper and cardboard boxes. Even with recycling a way of life today, it is amazing how much trash we produce.

**Tom & Sandy's**  
**Ventura NightOut.com**  
**Santa Barbara NightOut.com**  
**Thousand Oaks NightOut.com**

**Wondering what to do tonight?**  
**Let Tom and Sandy tell you where to go!**  
**We bring the 805 to life.**  
**805favorites.com**  
**As heard on KVTA 1520AM Saturday Mornings, 8-9**

Hopefully when next year holiday season rolls around we will remember and work to reduce it.

A few weeks ago CAPS completed its Digital Storytelling programs with Montalvo Elementary and DeAnza Middle School. The kids were thrilled with their experiences. They enjoyed learning about writing, learning how to use the camera and editing equipment, directing and of course, acting. They learned how important the script was as well as to remember to turn on the sound when rolling. They also learned how to replace missing dialogue. The instructor Alex did a beautiful job teaching them the essentials and allowing them to create their own unique pieces. Check our website to take a look at the shows.

For the latest installment of "Let's meet the Board," let's meet Lisa Snider.

A California resident since childhood, Ms. Snider graduated with honors from California State Polytechnic University at Pomona with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1991. After 15 years in hotel management, her first position in the public sector was with the County of Santa Barbara in 2003 where she assisted the Director of Housing and Community Development and served as Departmental Analyst. In 2006, she came to the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura, where she is a member of the executive staff and is responsible for public relations and human resources, serves as the clerk of the Board of Commissioners and is the assistant to the Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Snider is also an accomplished writer, with several newspaper and magazine bylines, a documentary, a couple of plays and a novel-in-progress under her belt.

"I chose to become a CAPS board member because following the release of my documentary, The Price of Paradise, and my employer's work with Teen Talk Television, I came to better understand and appreciate the role of public television, the positive influence it can have on people's lives and the extraordinary ways communities are brought together through media."

The staff and members of CAPS had a great year sharing their stories with Ventura. We look forward to a prosperous new year with many stories to share. Please submit your productions to CAPS for airing. You may contact us at 658-0500 or via email at [info@capstv.org](mailto:info@capstv.org). If you would like more information go to [www.capstv.org](http://www.capstv.org). Friend us on Facebook at CAPSTV Ventura and spread the word. Happy New Year. We look forward to an exciting 2012 and hope to see you in the CAPS Studio.





## News and Notes



### Some grandmother!

Sheila Cluff, the “Grandmother of Aerobics” starred as Mrs. Claus in “10 Years of Magic...On Ice” held on Dec. 9-11 at the Channel Islands Ice Center, a figure skating fundraiser to benefit 1520 AM KVTA's Children's Fund.

The event's \$10,000 proceeds will benefit KVTA Morning Show's (hosted by Tom Spence) Children's Fund, a volunteer charity that provides presents to foster children in Ventura County during the holidays and supplies clothing throughout the year.

75 year old Sheila Cluff, is an internationally recognized fitness expert, author of four books, producer of fitness videos and founder of the Oaks at Ojai, a fitness destination spa of 34 years in Ojai.

Produced by Channel Islands Figure Skating Club an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that encourages the instruction, practice and advancement of its member in any and all disciplines of figure skating, as well as encourages and cultivates the spirit of fraternal feeling among ice skaters.

### Firefighters fill the boot

Ventura firefighters and the Muscular Dystrophy Association raised more than \$3,800 to help with MDA's worldwide research and health care service programs. This helps families affected by muscular dystrophy and related diseases.

The firefighter tradition has been helping MDA since 1954. Over 30 firefighters helped this year. MDA worldwide research seeks treatments and cures for neuromuscular diseases, as well as helping fund MDA clinics and summer camps.

### Three strikes and David Yates is not out

If lightning doesn't strike the same place twice, what are the odds that cancer would strike David Yates three times – and he would survive?

David Yates survived serving military duty in Vietnam, only to come home and find out that he had cancer – malignant melanoma, to be exact. After surgery and recovery time, he was finally getting back on his feet when the cancer returned less than two years later. Surgery and treatment again followed, and David was back into his life – changed, but still moving forward. More than three decades later, David found himself receiving the news of a cancer diagnosis for the third time.

*Cancer Sucks – A True Story* is David's story. Filled not only with personal stories, but

also first-hand accounts of what to expect when going through treatments, David's story becomes a new kind of handbook for cancer patients. With practical and frank advice, David not only explains how he has made it through, but he urges us all to pay more attention to our bodies and to take our health into our own hands.

David Yates grew up in South Florida; Vero Beach and West Palm Beach. He is a Vietnam veteran, graduated from Louisiana State University in 1975, and has worked extensively in the construction and elder care fields. He is a pioneer in the development of “intergenerational care” (structured programs with preschool children and dependent elders within the same building with centers in Northern and Southern California, Colorado and Connecticut). He is currently retired and living in Ventura.

You can meet this exceptional man on January 7th from 1-3pm for a book signing at Bank of Books, 748 E. Main St. Call 643-3154 for more information.

### Calling all angels

Do you believe in angels? The angels are Livingston Hospice Volunteers, and did you know they are part of more than 400,000 hospice volunteers offering help and hope across the US? They are called Hospice Angels, because that is exactly what they truly are!

You can be an angel too...you can make a difference and give the greatest gift of all to those who need you the most. Become a Livingston Hospice Angel and discover for yourself that giving to others in their time of need, is the greatest gift you can give, to them and to yourself.

Training will start Wednesday, Jan. 25th from 9:30 AM-1:30 PM for 8 consecutive weeks. The focus is on learning new communication skills, exploring issues of grief and loss, sharing views of spirituality and understanding concepts of symptom management and end of life care.

Becoming a Hospice Volunteer takes just a few hours a week and makes an immeasurable difference to a patient and their family. Providing relief to caregivers, visiting with patients, running errands, and listening and being there are just a few of the ways volunteers can serve. Classes are held at Livingston Memorial, 1996 Eastman Ave. For more information and class registration contact Maddy Hazard @ 642-0239x775 or mhazard@lmvna.org

### What's An Insectary?

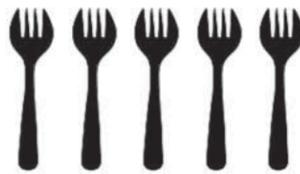
See beneficial insects and learn about the destructive Asian citrus psyllid, when the Museum of Ventura County's Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula offers a tour of the oldest insectary in the United States on Saturday, January 21 at 10 a.m. Participants should meet at the Agricultural Museum, then walk or carpool to the nearby Associates Insectary. After the tour, they can return to the museum to enjoy the exhibits. The tour is included in the museum's admission price, free to museum members.

Up to two million beneficial insects and mites are produced at the insectary every day, and liberated over 10,000 acres of orchards owned by the facility's grower members in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The Associates Insectary, located at its current site in Santa Paula since 1928, is a grower-owned cooperative raising beneficial insects and other organisms to help fight destructive pests, especially those which threaten citrus and avocado crops.

The Museum of Ventura County's Agriculture Museum is located at 926 Railroad Avenue, Santa Paula, California, in their historic downtown, near the Depot and next to the railroad tracks. Hours are 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$1 children 6-17, free for Museum of Ventura County members, and for children ages 5 and younger. For more information, go to [www.venturamuseum.org](http://www.venturamuseum.org) or call (805) 525-3100.

### Restaurant reviews arrive at the Breeze

by Dillon Patrick



I'm sitting in a café, my iPhone is dead, and my iPad can't find a signal. I'm nowhere near a computer and left with no choice but to do the unthinkable; speak to the nearest person. I turn to the surf enthusiast next to me but, “Umm... Does this place have WiFi?” is all I can muster. “Sorry bro” the well-tanned man replies. This face-to-face interaction outside the security of my “i” devices is clearly overrated. I need an alternative to avoid further awkward conversation with this beach ambassador. And there it is, as if God handed it down as thanks for all those times I considered donating to charity. The original hand-held device; a newspaper! The cartoon sunset and title of “Ventura Breeze” immediately catches my attention, but more importantly, the giant “FREE” printed at the top appeals significantly to my frugality. In the mood for some heavy reading, I flip through the pages looking for the restaurant review section, but I come up empty. I have an idea (a common side-effect when I'm without my electronics); I'll write restaurant reviews for this paper.

With my phone now fully charged, I contact the Breeze and speak to Sheldon Brown (Breeze Publisher/Editor). Brown is interested to know what makes me qualified to review restaurants. Well, I began eating at a very young age and haven't looked back. I eat multiple meals per day (give or take a meal) which makes me extremely qualified. I love buying my friends fancy dinners so I can show off my knowledge of fine beverages and expensive meat. And finally, I have over five years of experience working in the restaurant industry... but really; it's about my natural ability to judge others.

Surely by now, you too are fully convinced of my qualifications, so let's discuss expectations. It's my mission to provide you with fair, accurate, honest, detailed, and occasionally entertaining reviews of Ventura area restaurants (excluding chain restaurants). Why not chains? Let's be honest, if you don't know what a burger from The Habit tastes like, you have bigger issues than this column can tackle. Sorry... no chains. My purpose here is to highlight the locally owned and operated restaurants that help make Ventura a truly unique place to live, eat, and enjoy life. You should expect my reviews to be written only after multiple visits to the restaurant. I will focus heavily on the food, service, beverages, atmosphere, and price while providing you with my overall opinion, along with a “1 to 5 forks” rating scale.

I'm extremely excited to provide you with local restaurant reviews and thank the Breeze for the opportunity to use my judgmental nature to serve the Ventura community.

### “Teens for Jeans”

Teen Voice, a high school leadership program operating on 5 local VUSD campuses throughout Ventura continues its third annual community project of “Teens for Jeans” collecting pairs of new and used adult-sized jeans for men and women (sizes 32-38 preferred) until Jan. 19 to donate to shelters and charities to make a difference in the lives of homeless people in Ventura. Residents are asked to drop jeans off at a dozen Starbucks Coffee locations or City Hall.

For more information contact: Mario Robinson, City of Ventura Youth Programs Supervisor, at 654-7807 or [mrobinson@cityofventura.net](mailto:mrobinson@cityofventura.net).

### Mailbox

*Continued from page 5*

obviously like him on the council. You, other councilmembers, are elected to represent the will of the people. Yet you each ignored us and instead abused your privilege of selecting the mayor by deciding that your own selfish interests are more important than fairness.

Alison Carlson  
Ventura

### Editor:

At the Dec. 1st City Council meeting a new mayor and deputy-mayor were selected by the council members, and retaliation against Neal Andrews reared its ugly head once again. Being a charter city, these offices are not elective but, selected by a majority vote of the Council members.

Up until 2005, the tradition was by rotation to insure that the most senior and experienced members would receive a turn in these positions. All of the sitting council members have had the opportunity to serve as mayor, except for Neal Andrews, who has served longer than any of them, with the exception of Jim Monahan. In fairness, Jim Monahan did nominate Neal Andrews for the position of Deputy Mayor.

In spite of this tradition, for the past two rotations Councilmember Neal Andrews has been unfairly “leap-frogged” for no apparent reason other than being an independent thinker who has put the interests of the citizens first. Because he dares to question staff's proposals to protect the interests of the public, he is unfairly accused by his fellow council members of not being “a team player”.

Where is the fairness and logic in a biased practice that promotes council cronyism and punishes a man who is courageous, conscientious and not driven by personal enhancement?

Public approval to elect Andrews in 2009 was proven when he received over 9,000 votes, which is 3,000 more than any candidate received this November. His leadership over the years has earned him a place of appreciation and respect in the hearts of the citizenry.

This was the appropriate time to give Councilmember Neal Andrews his just dues and seat him as deputy-mayor. Instead, the newest member of the council who has lived in Ventura for barely one year, was selected. The council's actions were vindictive and unconscionable.

If Mr. Andrews decides to run for County Supervisor, he can now count on an even greater number of citizens to support him. This prediction is evidenced by the recent public outrage at this unfair and unprofessional treatment by his fellow council members.

Helen Yunker  
Ventura

# 2011 Revisited

## Sayings from 2011 Ventura Breeze

*(cut out and put on your refrigerator)*

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

Conform and be dull.  
– James Frank Dobie

The good man is the friend of all living things.  
– Mahatma Gandhi

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

One of the things no one tells you about aging is that it's such a nice change from being young.  
– Will Rogers

Saving just one dog won't change the world, but it surely will change the world for that one dog.  
– Author unknown (unless it was Scamp)

It is characteristic of the ego that it takes all that is unimportant as important and all that is important as unimportant.  
– Meher Baba

A man's value to the community primarily depends on how far his feelings, thoughts and actions are directed towards promoting the good of his fellows.  
– Albert Einstein

Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt.  
– Shakespeare

Happiness doesn't depend on what we have, but it does depend on how we feel towards what we have. We can be happy with little and miserable with much.  
– W.D. Hoard

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science.  
– Albert Einstein

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

Whatever you do or dream you can do – begin it. Boldness has genius and power and magic in it.  
– Johann Goethe

Who so would be a man must be a non-conformist.  
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a pretty small package.  
– John Ruskin

A person starts to live when he can live outside of himself.  
– Albert Einstein

Perfect happiness is the absence of

striving for happiness.  
– Chuang-Tse

For this is the journey that men make: to find themselves. If they fail in this, it doesn't matter much what else they find.  
– James A. Michener

If I am not I, who will be?  
– Henry David Thoreau

Is not life a thousand times too short for us to bore ourselves?  
– Friedrich Nietzsche

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

A lot of successful people are risk-takers. Unless you are willing to do that, to have a go, to fail miserably, and have another go, success won't happen.  
– Phillip Adams

### A look back at 2011

*Continued from page 1*  
the ballot next year.

#### March

**Artistic Director loves to see a child's eyes light up:** The Ventura Music Festival continues its dedication to the spread of music as its Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta visits dozens of elementary and middle schools each year.

**City CFO discusses proposed budget:** Budget woes continue to plague city operations as the city Chief Financial Officer Jay Panzica announces the need to slash an additional \$500,000 from this fiscal year's budget.

#### April

**Cities form partnership to promote tourism:** Local hotel managers in Ventura, Oxnard and Camarillo announce their intent to form a Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID), a nonprofit organization with a self-imposed taxed membership fee in order to conduct marketing for the areas.

**Not bad for a group of Ventura kids:** The Ventura High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team along with Coach Dan Larson received a special recognition from Mayor Bill Fulton at a City Council meeting for the exemplary job they did during their 2010-2011 season for their team, their school and for our community.

#### May

**Lincoln School's recycling program a huge success:** The school received the grand prize from the Disney Family Fun best green school project contest earning the school \$5,000 for the school's art program and a \$500 Friends for Change grant through Youth Services America. The recycling program was the first in Ventura building a model many other schools now follow.

**City budget woes:** a light at the end of the tunnel?: Budget uneasiness continues as City Chief Financial Officer Jay Panzica delivered some possibly positive news announcing a \$6.4 million increase in his city budget proposal for the next fiscal year. The increased dollar amount from \$80.4 million to \$86.8 million was delivered with a level of trepidation, as Panzica and the city were careful to label the budget a "tentative," one.

#### June

**Basketball coach found guilty:** The former men's basketball coach at Ventura College Greg Winslow has been found

guilty by a Ventura County Superior Court jury of misappropriation of public funds and has been sentenced to a year in jail. Winslow was found guilty of three felony counts: misappropriation of public funds, failure to repay public money and grand theft.

**Amnesty program for granny flats center for debate:** City amnesty program designed to get owners to register their second dwelling units spirals into a lengthy discussion on whether the program is fair.

#### July

**Torch run:** Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney along with members of the VPD (both sworn and civilian), City of Ventura employees, law enforcement agents from the Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Special Olympics Athletes, met at the steps of Ventura City Hall and carried the Special Olympics' Torch, also known as the Flame of Hope, through the streets of Ventura.

**24th District may be up for Democrats to grab:** A change in congressional redistricting lines means a once firmly Republican-held district may be up for Democrats to steal away.

#### August

**Ventura's Economic Development Manager resigns:** Sid White recently left his post as the City of Ventura's Economic Development Manager talks about his long career in urban renewal and economic development.

**Fire Station to reopen:** Fire Station 4 which was closed last year, is given a \$2.3 million grant to fund the fire station for two years. Federal money is dependent on city funding to keep the station open the third year and beyond.

#### September

**Ventura water and public interest groups protect estuary with settlement:** Heal the Bay, Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coast-keeper Program, and Ventura Water announced a settlement that will steer sweeping changes in the use of the highly treated water produced by the City's wastewater facility. The result: taxpayer rates will increase.

**DVP hires new Executive Director:** Downtown Ventura Partners, the nonprofit manager of the downtown Business Improvement District (BID), has hired Kevin Clerici, former news reporter for the Ventura County Star, as their new Executive Director.

#### October

**Sand wars: resident crosses battlefield line:** A resident, angered by encroaching sand hired a bulldozer to push large piles of sand off the beach in front of his home. Sand blocking walkways and covering private property continues to be a battle between residents who want to remove it, and coastal authorities who believe moving sand may endanger wildlife.

**Explore the future home of the Ventura Botanical Gardens:** A first of a series of walks exploring Grant Park was held to experience spectacular views of the city, mountains, rivers, rich agricultural landscape, and the wide vista of the glittering Pacific Ocean with the Channel Islands in the distance. The walk was hosted by Jeff Lambert, Ventura's Community Development Director, and members of the Ventura Botanical Gardens Board of Directors.

#### November

**Chamber has new President and**

**CEO:** The Ventura Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors announce the appointment of Ed Summers as the Chamber's President and CEO.

**2011 Ventura city council winners:** Incumbents Carl Morehouse and Christy Weir are re-elected as predicted, and challenger Cheryl Heitmann, a first time candidate, won the seat being vacated by Bill Fulton.

#### December

**Ventura Breeze honored:** The Ventura Chamber of Commerce announces the Ventura Breeze has been selected as their Small Business of the Year. In their 5th year of publication 11,500 copies are printed every other Wednesday and circulated to almost 600 locations in the cities of Ventura, Ojai and the Channel Islands Harbor.

**City Council appoints Mayor and Deputy Mayor:** The Ventura City Council votes to appoint Council member Mike Tracy as Mayor and newly-installed Councilmember Cheryl Heitmann as Deputy Mayor.

## Events

### Ventura Family YMCA holding an open house

When dealing with life's daily demands, people need a place to go where they can feel supported. Adults need help finding balance in life and motivation in managing their health. Children need safe environments where they're nurtured and inspired to reach their full potential. Seniors need a place where they can be active and find camaraderie. And, families need opportunities and places to connect and strengthen relationships with one another.

The Ventura Family YMCA – a leading nonprofit that strengthens community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility – offers this support and more, and during the month of January is opening its doors to allow people of all ages to experience all the Y has to offer with a free one-week trial membership.

"At the Y, you're not only part of an organization, but part of a community and a cause that benefits you and your neighbors," says Sal Cisneros President and CEO. "Here, a membership means more – it's an opportunity to feel good while being part of a cause that helps make positive changes in people's lives."

The staff of the Y is seeking to foster and support sustained relationships with individuals and families who want to experience greater total health and well-being. The power of a supportive community can be instrumental in achieving these goals.

No contracts are required to join and the Y has an Open Doors financial assistance program making reaching these goals possible for everyone, including residents who are struggling to afford a healthy lifestyle.

The Y will also be holding a special Open House January 7th to celebrate 125 years of service in the city of Ventura. The free event will showcase the Y's recent and upcoming renovations including its current Strength Center renovation which now provides state of the art Technogym® strength equipment with Filinxx electronic personal training ca-

*Continued on page 17*



# Ventura Adult and Continuing Education

5200 Valentine Road,  
Ventura, California



## Current VACE and TDC Course Offerings

Winter Quarter starts Jan 3, 2012; Spring Quarter starts Mar 26, 2012 • Call 289-7925 for more information

### Career Preparation Classes - Fee Based\*

Class Title	Teacher Name	Quarterly Fees*	Days	Time
Accounting Fundamentals/QuickBooks Pro	Akkerman, Karl	\$125 per 10-week session plus cost of book	T	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Adobe Photoshop Basics	Wieser, Terry	\$125 per 10-week session plus cost of book	W	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
<b>New!</b> Apple iBasics: iPhone, iPad, iPod	Wieser, Terry	\$95 per 10-week session plus cost of book	T	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
AutoCAD Basics	Huston, Dennis	\$125 per 10-week session plus cost of book	T	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
AutoCAD Intermediate	Huston, Dennis	\$125 per 10-week session plus cost of book	M	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
AutoCAD Revit Architecture 2012 Basics	Collins, Scott	\$125 per 10-week session plus cost of book	W	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
AutoCAD Solid Works Basics	Huston, Dennis	\$125 per 10-week session plus cost of book	Th	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Computer and Business Classes	Schuette, Jan	\$75 per 10-week session plus cost of book	T	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
	Young, Claudia	\$75 per 10-week session plus cost of book	T	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Graphic Design Workshop	Yeomans, Kathy	\$125 per 10-week session plus cost of book	Th	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Medical Office Classes	Wilmoth, Jo	\$95 per 10-week session plus cost of book	W	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Phlebotomy, Basic Didactic Instruction	Resler, Debe	\$450 per 5-week session plus externship (book cost not included in fee)	TTh	6:00 pm - 9:15 pm
Phlebotomy, Advanced Didactic Instruction	Loest, John	\$450 per 5-week session plus externship (book cost not included in fee)	TTh	6:00 pm - 9:15 pm
Workforce Development Academy	Hatcher, DeAnne & Shuette, Jan	\$10, plus optional book cost	M-Th F M-Th	9:00 am - 4:00 pm 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### Lifelong Learning for Older Adults • Classes are FREE to those over age 60 (proof of age and residence may be required)\*

Under age 60 Fees: \$2 per teacher hour of instruction per 12-week session (\$24 for a 1 hour per week class per session; \$36 for a 1½ hour per week class per session; \$48 for 2 hour per week class per session; \$72 for a 3 hour per week class per session)\*

Class Title	Teacher Name	Location	Days	Time
Aerobics - Chair Aerobics	Jackson, Frank	Ventura Townhouse	MTWThF	9:05 am - 10:05 am
Band - Ventura County Concert Band	Colell, Bruce	Buena High School	W	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Chorus - Gold Coast Concert Chorus	Derrico, Ron	Ventura Adult Education Center	M	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Chorus - Pacific Sound Men's Chorus	Browne, Jim	TBD	M	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Chorus - Ventura Choralliers	Reed, Barbara	Veterans Home of California	T	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Preserving Your Past	Scharf, Janeva	Chapel Lane Senior Apartments	T	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
	Scharf, Janeva	Veterans Home of California	W	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Exercise with Weights	Jackson, Frank	Ventura Townhouse	MTWThF	6:30 am - 9:00 am
	Jackson, Frank	Ventura Townhouse	MTWThF	10:10 am - 1:10 pm
Fitness for the Frail Elderly	Jackson, Frank	Venturan Convalescent Center	MW	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
	Montgomery, Suzanne	Venturan Convalescent Center	MTWThF	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
	Montgomery, Suzanne	Venturan Convalescent Center	M	1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
	Wilson, Mary	Veterans Home of California	M	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
	Wilson, Mary	Chapel Lane Senior Apartments	W	4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
	Wilson, Mary	Aegis Senior Communities, LLC	F	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Silver Stretches & Senior Activities	Colp, Sue-Ellen	Palms	MW	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
	Thurston, Lynne	Buena Vida Apartments	T	9:30 am - 11:30 am
	Wilson, Mary	Buena Vida Apartments	T	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
	Colp, Sue-Ellen	Ventura Avenue Adult Center	TTh	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
	Montgomery, Suzanne	Ventura Townhouse	TWTh	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
<b>New!</b> Needle Arts & Sewing	Sargent, Annabelle	Ventura Adult Education Center	TTh	9:00 am - 10:30 am
	Sargent, Annabelle	Ventura Avenue Adult Center	W	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
	Dress, Karen	Buena Vida Apartments	Th	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Watercolor, Oil & Acrylic Painting	Klement, Judith	Chapel Lane Senior Apartments	Th	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Yoga	Thurston, Lynne	Ventura Avenue Adult Center	W	10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Parenting, Family and Consumer Awareness Classes - Fee Based\*

Class Title	Teacher Name	Quarterly Fees*	Days	Time
ABSolutely Core Workout	Wilson, Mary	\$24 per quarter, Winter and Spring	Th	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Aerobics - Low Impact Aerobics	Axtell, Suzi	\$42 per quarter, Winter; \$46 Spring	MTh	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
<b>New!</b> Aerobics - Line Aerobics	Colp, Sue-Ellen	\$30 per quarter, Winter and Spring	Th	7:15 pm - 8:45 pm
<b>New!</b> iLife: Apple Literacy for Novices	Osman, Chris	\$60 per quarter, Winter and Spring	W	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Conversational Spanish	Martz, Susan	\$72 per quarter, Winter and Spring	T	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Quilting	Kinney, Jenny Carr	\$72 per quarter, Winter and Spring	W	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
	Advani, Jane	\$96 per quarter, Winter and Spring	W	12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
	Advani, Jane	\$72 per quarter, Winter and Spring	W	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
<b>New!</b> Self-Publishing on Amazon Kindle	Osman, Chris	\$70 per quarter, Winter and Spring	Th	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Strength Training for Active Aging	Colp, Sue-Ellen	\$40 per quarter, Winter; \$42 Spring	MF	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Yoga for Healthful Living	Thurston, Lynne	\$36 per quarter, Winter and Spring	Th	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
	Thurston, Lynne	\$36 per quarter, Winter and Spring	Th	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
	Wilson, Mary	\$36 per quarter, Winter and Spring	T	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Watercolor, Oil & Acrylic Painting	Klement, Judith	\$72 per quarter; Winter and Spring	T	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
	Klement, Judith	\$72 per quarter; Winter and Spring	T	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

\*Quarterly fees do not include \$10 Annual Registration Fee per class.

## Registration Information

To register for class, call us at (805) 289-7925 or visit the Ventura Adult Education Office at 5200 Valentine Road, Ventura. Space for classes is limited and allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. There may be a \$10 registration fee in addition to the fees listed with each class. We accept Visa and MasterCard. Classes subject to cancellation if there is not sufficient registration.

For more information, call Ventura Adult and Continuing Education at 289-7925, or come by and visit our campus. Most Continuing Education classes are held at the Technology Development Center, located at 5200 Valentine Road, Ventura, California.

You'll find a list of classes on the other side of the page. Our Technology Development Center and Technical High School career path courses are generally held during the day, and the complete catalogs of available courses for both Ventura Adult and Continuing Education and TDC are available on our web site at [www.adultedventura.edu](http://www.adultedventura.edu).

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# The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



## Laci Kay

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Laci Kay is a 13 year old actress, singer, comedian, host, dancer and all around entertainer who still loves being 13. She was born in the small town of Tyler, Texas. When Laci was 7 years old her dad accepted a job transfer so her family moved to Ojai.

Laci also loves to roller skate, swim, go skateboarding, go to the movies, have sleepovers, go shopping, listen to music, Facebook and jump on her trampoline in her back yard!

She has attended Mira Monte school in Ojai, Portola Elementary and Anacapa Middle School both in Ventura. Because of her busy schedule she now attends HomeStead School through the Ventura Unified School District. This school is located on the Blanche Reynolds campus and lets her still perform in Ventura shows and events. She loves math and science in school and made the dance team at Anacapa Middle School.

Thinking about her future, besides acting she has visited Pepperdine's campus and hopes to attend there when the time comes because she likes their programs and the campus.

She is learning how to cast, write, direct, edit and produce a TV show for the CAPS TV channel and will be working on this in 2012.

Her acting career started one day when there was a Kid Fest in Ventura at the Harbor, and coincidentally they had an acting booth for an acting school called Santa Clarita School of Performing Arts that Laci was interested in attending. So she started attending there every Saturday when agents from LA came to scout out the new talent at the school. One Saturday, the agency, Abrams Artists, was there and Laci auditioned for them. Jeremy Apody loved her, so Abrams Artists became her agent.

The very first acting job Laci went

on was a Christina Aguilera music video called, "Hurt". Laci played young Christina in the video. She spent two full days with Christina and gained some major experience in her acting career.

Last summer, Laci was cast as the star in a SAG short film called by the same name "Olivia". She played a narcoleptic ballerina and had to go into the studio for choreography training since she had not done much ballet. She has been on ABC's Modern Family twice and recently worked on a pilot for the Comedy Central network.

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

I like that I am not too far away to work in LA. I enjoy doing professional plays at the local theatres, Rubicon, Elite and Thousand Oaks Performing Arts Theaters. I have done about 5 plays at Rubicon and over time I have gotten to know the directors and actors.

I also enjoy the beach. When I was little, I wasn't a big fan but now I just love it! It is so nice being this close to a great walk on the beach!

One of the best things I love here is The City Church-Ventura. They have a youth group there for ages 11 thru 24 called GC (Generation Church). It is one of the most exciting groups of kids I have ever seen and they are very excited about God!

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

As the youngest person in this collection so far, I consider it a privilege to have had Johanna paint me. In 2 hours a miracle unfolded on the canvas, and I can tell you it was anything but boring. I sat there listening to Johanna, while looking at all her pictures around the room, shocked by how professional she was. She also has a good heart and I for one will never forget Johanna Spinks!



Captain Bill Finley    Howard Boroughs    Rachel Morris    Jolene McBee



Tony Barrios    Jerry English    Bonnie Weigel    Manuel A. Valenzuela



MB Hanrahan    Emily Olszowy    Olivia Simonson    Lynn Mikelatos



Lorenzo DeStefano    Gene Dunn    Star Soto    "Jalopy Joe" Moody



Mati Waiya    Donna Granata    Bill Pendergrass    Josh Addison



Mark Hartley    Scott Miller    Ken Corney    Francisco Bracho, MD



Anita Diaz

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

"The Face of Ventura By Johanna Spinks": Images Copyright Johanna Spinks.

Email: johanna@johannaspinks.com  
Website: www.johannaspinks.com



Steve Robles

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.*

# Congratulations to the 2011 Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights Winners!

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Aloha Ohana – Richard Knuppel

**BEST USE OF LIGHTS:**  
Stellar – Steve Linn

**FIRST PLACE WINNERS:**  
Hokuloa – Hokuloa Outrigger Canoe Club  
No Regrets – Brian Stanton • Sea Ranger II – National Park Service  
Solymar – Carlos Careaga • Pacific Eagle – Michael Mings  
Four D'Familia – Doug Cleavenger  
The Heavenly – Jay Shapiro



No Regrets



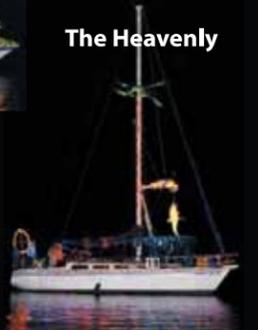
Hokuloa



Four D'Familia



Solymar



The Heavenly



Pacific Eagle



Sea Ranger II

**SECOND PLACE WINNERS:**

Valkyrie – Tom Peterson • Hav "N" Fun – John Flynn • Island Adventure – Mark Connally • Won't Grow Up – Randy Rischar • Reel Obsession - Jeff Long

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On Dec.17 Venturan's and visitors rediscovered the joy of holiday shopping while wandering through a festive seaside village at the popular Ventura Harbor's Winter Wonderland & Sidewalk Sale. Highlights included faux snowfall every 15 minutes, a full carnival with rides and games, visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus, live reindeer, and Dickenson carolers!

Telling Santa what they wanted were Cora Garcia and her 2 children Luther Burkes Jr. (8 months) and daughter Chloe Burkes (4 years old).



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## Senior Living

Senior Cone—nection

### When mediation becomes a necessity (Part 2)

by Nanci Cone

Brent Rosenbaum of Rosenbaum Mediation talks about the issues that so many families face when siblings need to decide how to best help an aging parent. He works to help them understand how to work together and teaches them how to work through anger and frustration.

Do people find you by themselves or do the courts refer them to you?

Yes and Yes. For my Inter-Generational Family mediation practice people find me from my website, public speaking engagements, pro bono work, and most frequently by referral. Statewide, I serve on several court panels and the cases find their way to my mailbox.

When someone asks me "Brent, so what is a typical mediation?" I ask them "so what is a typical human being?" Each of us has a unique and distinct DNA and personality, as does mediation!

He comments,

"The beauty of mediation is that they can occur anywhere outside a courthouse or attorney's office and this was helpful in one difficult mediation where three siblings disagreed on everything and when I started to peel away the layers of the siblings' anger, pain, and sorrow, there was a common denominator that had to do with one of their deceased parents. Mediation can be so incredibly creative that I proposed where the mediation should commence. It was in front of that parent's gravestone so they each could voice their emotions to that parent and clear out this pent up toxicity of more than thirty years. We moved the mediation to one of the siblings' homes where one sibling had never been in until that day! The conflict was resolved and the healing process could finally get underway for them before it might be too late."

What advice do you offer to people so they don't get to the point of needing a mediator?

Please communicate honestly, openly, and effectively with each other before it's too late. Our elders should, if they can, helm these "difficult" conversations with their families and memorialize everything on paper — as it will make contesting something a lot harder. This is in the ideal world, but as we each know, we all have some degree of dysfunction in our families and sometimes this can be difficult if not impossible. Family members, whether on purpose or not, push each other's buttons. This is exactly why an unbiased neutral third party, like a mediator, will save you time and money.

Rosenbaum adds, "Mediation is an amazing process. It can really be magical in addition to being therapeutic. I always tell the family members to give it a try before litigating. I mention that you can send your kids to Harvard or you can send your lawyer's kids to Harvard, it is totally your choice. I am not anti-lawyer as they can be the

guiding agents of reality when it comes to many issues that arise during the mediation and they can counsel their clients in helping them make the most informed choice for their situation."

For more information, call 805-746-5870 or visit [www.rosenbaummediation.com](http://www.rosenbaummediation.com) for more information.

### "Yesterday's Café" at Cypress Place

Please join Cypress Place Senior Living on Wednesday January 4, 2012, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for their Yesterday's Café Alzheimer's support group in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association.

Yesterday's Café is a monthly gathering for people affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, along with families, caregivers, and professionals. It is open to the public and free of charge. Cypress Place hosts the gathering at their senior living community each month.

"From the very beginning we felt it would be a good fit with our community," said Jim Duran, executive director at Cypress Place. "With a special area for residents with Alzheimer's and dementia right here within our assisted living community, we knew this could be beneficial to not only our residents and families, but also to the greater Ventura county community as well."

The program is unique in having caregivers attending at the same time with those they care for who are afflicted with Alzheimer's and dementia. The meetings are both educational and informal social events. Caregivers gain emotional and social support, along with having the opportunity to meet with professionals in a social setting and obtain informal consultations. There are a variety of activities for those in attendance with Alzheimer's and dementia.

The monthly gatherings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura. Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. For more information or to RSVP, please call 650-8000.

Cypress Place Senior Living is a premiere senior community in Ventura County. The beautiful senior living campus features an Active Senior Living community and adjacent Assisted Living and Alzheimer's/Dementia Care community connected by a lushly landscaped courtyard.

To learn more about Cypress Place Senior Living of Ventura, visit their web site at [www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com](http://www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com).



Downtown, by George Robertson

# Senior Living



On Dec.15 the Ventura TowneHouse held their annual Holiday Open House event from 5-7 p.m.

The open house showcased the amenities that make the TowneHouse unique and the oldest operating independent senior living facility in Ventura which is located at 4900 Telegraph Rd.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine, music and holiday treats were served at the several food and information stations. Suz Montgomery, Teresa Aviles and Sal Navarro were on hand to greet residents and guests alike with their wonderful smiles and a Ventura Breeze.



For the first time in many years, all the staff at the Lexington Assisted Living gathered for a holiday party at Ventura's City Hall. It took place in the atrium on Friday, Dec. 16. Gifts were handed out and special recognition given to all. During the year, the Directors raised money for the party by selling raffle tickets for gift baskets. All the food for dinner was prepared by Eric Terrill, the Executive Director. When he took over as Executive Director last March he announced to the staff to plan on a big holiday party for all the staff and their significant others. He was quoted at the party saying "This has been the best year of my career. I'm so grateful for a wonderful team of extraordinary people and I wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate a fantastic year."

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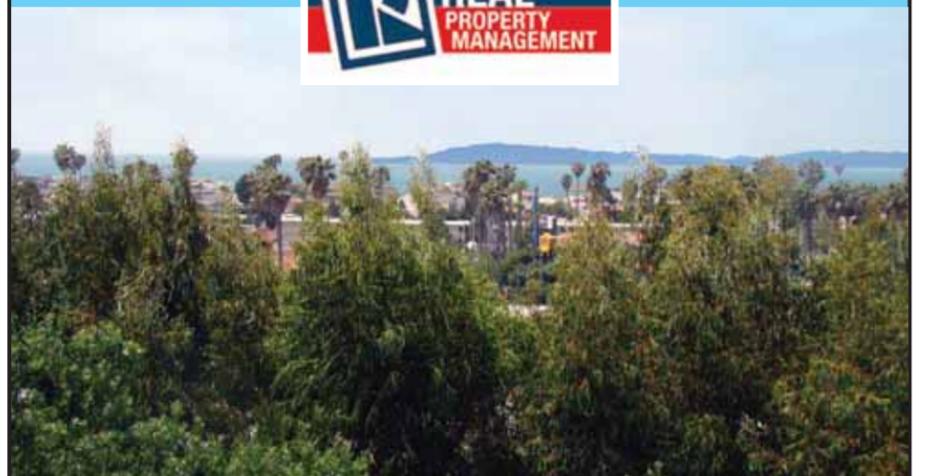
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## Professor Scamp, Ph.D. (Pretty Happy Dog)



A Happy New Year to my millions of readers (that's in dog time counting).

This will be the year that I remember that I got Savana my new roommate. We are getting along very nicely (for a dog and cat).

■ I asked my friend Diana Edwards, APDT, professional dog trainer, the following question.

*Scamp: I know that this time of the year many children got a puppy for Christmas. I was wondering if parents know what they are getting themselves into (even though it might be too late).*

*Is a puppy or even an adult dog an appropriate gift for a child?*

Diana: Unfortunately parents don't realize sometimes what they get themselves into by giving a puppy as a "present". The decision to bring a dog into your family should be a family decision not a surprise gift. Instead parents should educate themselves with their children on different breeds and mixed breeds and decide which would best fit into their lifestyle. Instead of putting a "live" present under the tree, select some educational dog books, pet magazines or videos. These presents are wonderful ways to introduce the joys yet responsibilities of pet ownership.

Or make your own cute certificate, wrapped in a dog bowl with a picture of a puppy or picture of some dogs from your local rescue group, that could become part of your family. Being a pet parent is a long term responsibility and should never be an impulse purchase. Initially, even the most committed young child doesn't have the attention span and self-discipline yet to care for a pet. Older children without fail lose interest in just a matter of time redirecting their interest to school, dating and new social activities and leaving all together to go to college.

Some holiday gifts can just be boxed up and put on the shelf after the novelty is over. This can't be done with a loving and deserving pet. One of the parents almost always ends up feeding walking and scooping and doing all the other

chores the children once promised to do. Unfortunately a lot of times this loyal 4 legged friend that was under the tree, ends up in the shelter and homeless.

Animals cannot speak, but I can and you can. So we need to be their voice and convey the message that pets aren't disposable. They are dependent on humans and deserve love, commitment and forever lasting homes.

*Scamp: Thanks Diana this is good advice not just for the holidays, but for birthday presents also. I hate to say this (hope Savana doesn't read this) but cats are much easier to take care of, but remember that they don't wag their tails when you come home).*



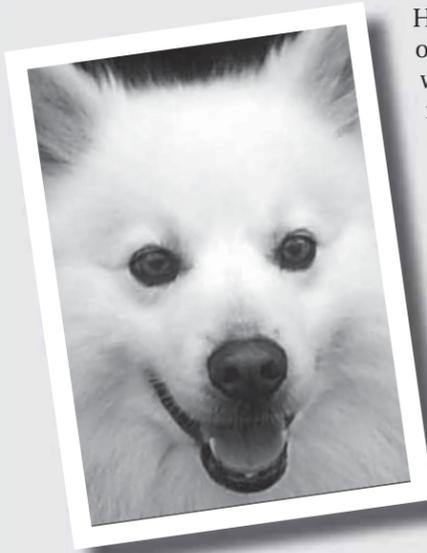
*My New Year's resolution is to figure out how not to keep falling out of bed.*

■ A dog fighting ring in Antelope Valley has been shut down, and its owners convicted of 30 felonies. The charges included multiple willful animal cruelty, animal neglect, and practicing veterinary medicine without a license. The owners, a couple, was running the ring out of their home. Authorities found and seized a portable fighting pit and treadmills used to train the dogs. They were sentenced to a year in county jail.

How about a year locked in a room with all of the dogs?

■ A veterinary technician from an animal shelter in Los Angeles was fired last week after it was found out he was inhumanely treating the dogs while euthanizing them. The man broke multiple codes of practice, including inserting the needles into the jugular veins, not sedating the dogs before euthanizing them, and then taking them into a room with

## Forever home wanted,



Hi: I'm Bijou a handsome 14 year old male American Eskimo. I'm very well behaved and extremely people friendly. I need a home with no other dogs, no cats and no small children. I'm house and crate trained and I know the basic commands sit and stay, come when called and walk well on a leash. If you're looking for an older dog who is past the puppy stage, stop by and meet me.

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

## Scamp Club

Hi: My name is Dexter. I'm a guinea pig who just loves Christmas! My mom saved me from the pet store when I was the size of my head and now I am over 3 years old and the king of this place!

Some of my favorite foods are carrots, strawberry tops, cucumbers and timothy hay. I usually sleep when mom's at work and then we hang out together on the couch or curled up in a blanket. I hope I am accepted into Scampclub, even though I am a guinea pig.

*Scamp: Of course you are welcome, we are an equal opportunity club. But cucumbers? And what is timothy hay?*



## 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.*

### Strong Arm Robbery

On Sunday, December 11th, at 3:00 a.m., VPD responded to a report of a robbery that had occurred near the intersection of San Pedro Street and Pierpont Boulevard.

The victim was walking near the intersection when three suspects, males in their early 20's, approached him. The suspects shouted gang slogans and struck the victim multiple times. The victim was knocked to the ground as the suspects repeatedly kicked and punched him. During the attack one of the suspects took the victim's phone.

Officers searched the area but were unsuccessful in locating the suspects. The victim was treated at VCMC for moderate, non-life threatening facial injuries and later released.

### Commercial Burglary Arrest

On Friday, December 16th, at 3:10 a.m., the VPD received a call from an alert citizen who was reporting a possible commercial burglary in progress at Toppers Pizza, located at 3940 East Main Street.

As officers arrived, George Xavier exited the rear door and attempted to flee. Xavier was taken into custody. James Anderson and Kenneth Crawford exited the front door and fled. Officers positioned to the front of the business gave chase and took both suspects into custody.

The suspects had used a crowbar to pry open both the front and rear doors to the business. Once inside, the suspects attempted to remove money from the registers but were unsuccessful as each register was empty. Other property stolen from the business was recovered.

### Arson Arrest

On Saturday, December 17th, at 3:30 a.m., VPD responded to a hang up call at the Top Hat restaurant located at 2050 East Main Street. The first officers observed a small amount of smoke escaping from a roof top vent and noticed several shattered exterior

windows.

Officers found the business was unoccupied and under construction. The origin of the fire was located in a small closet space and was extinguished by the VC Fire Department.

Someone had entered the locked business and vandalized the interior, causing extensive damage along with intentionally setting a fire.

VPD received a call of a subject five blocks away. Officers detained Dylan Brown for the disturbance and found evidence that linked him to the above crimes.

### Vehicle Tampering Arrest

On Monday, December 19th, at 12:09 a.m., the VPD received a call from a citizen reporting his neighbor's vehicle was being broken into. Witness Mark Doza was on his front porch when he noticed Robyn Moore walk onto his neighbor's driveway and test a vehicle door handle. Doza watched Moore move from driveway to driveway, testing multiple vehicle doors in an attempt to locate property to steal.

Officers located Moore. Moore was identified by the witness and subse-

quently arrested and booked into VC Jail.

### Robbery

On Sunday, December 18th, at 10:00 p.m., the VPD received calls of a victim at Seaward Avenue and Harbor Boulevard and two victims of a stabbing near Marthas Vineyard Court. Both incidents were related.

The victim was contacted via cell phone by two females. They requested that the victim meet them near the Pierpont Elementary School. The females got into his vehicle and engaged in conversation. Two male suspects approached the victim's vehicle, opened the door and began to strike the victim, telling him to give them his money. The females fled as the suspects began to punch the victim and shout gang slogans. The victim removed a pocket-knife and stabbed the suspects several times. He fled and called the police.

The females were friends of the suspects and previously planned to rob the victim. The two suspects were taken to VCMC for treatment of multiple stab wounds. Ronald Newcombe was listed in serious condition and the male juvenile

## Police Reports

was treated for minor injuries.

The four suspects, Newcombe, Kaitlin Farris, a female juvenile, and a male juvenile were arrested.

### Serious Traffic Injuries

On Wednesday, December 21st, at 3:54 p.m., the VPD received numerous phone calls regarding an injury traffic collision at the intersection of Telephone Road and Saticoy Avenue. The victim, Carolina Alamillo, had been struck by a vehicle and sustained serious injuries as a result. Alamillo was treated on scene by VC Fire and transported to a local hospital by AMR. Alamillo's injuries did not appear to be life threatening.

Yesenia Estrada made a left turn when she collided with Alamillo in the crosswalk. Both parties appeared to be facing green lights.

This is the second vehicle vs. pedestrian collision to occur on Ventura streets today. The first collision, which occurred on Ventura Avenue, resulted in the death of a 65-year-old female. In both cases, the pedestrians were lawfully crossing the street in marked crosswalks. Also in both cases, the drivers claimed that they never saw the pedestrians.

## Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

**12-5** 2:04 p.m. Patrol received a report of a distressed woman at Harbor Cove. They notified FCC that there was an unknown medical. Upon arrival, the woman, who was off her meds for a few days, had lost her keys or left them in the locked car. FD unlocked the car. AMR transported the subject to the hospital.

**12-8** 10:38 a.m. While on patrol, Patrol monitored a PD report of a possible suicidal subject attempting to drive her vehicle into the water on Spinnaker Drive. Patrol responded to the area, was flagged down by one of the Outrigger Club members, who reported a suspicious woman, who had walked around the corner by Harbor Cove. Patrol observed a motionless victim in the water about 25 yards offshore. Patrol swam to the victim, got her to the shore and was able to ascertain a pulse and get the woman to respond to painful stimulus.

9:45 p.m. A hoop netter reported a Hazard to Navigation along the breakwater. Patrol removed three logs that were bolted together and disposed of them.

**12-10** 11:35 a.m. Patrol monitored a vessel calling Vessel Assist stating they are disabled just outside the surf without an anchor. Patrol responded, took the vessel in tow just outside the 5-7 foot surf, and released the vessel inside the Harbor..

**12-11** 11:53 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and other agencies to a fall victim at Ventura Isle Marina. Patrol responded and found a subject with a broken ankle. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

**12-15** 1:15 p.m. VIM reports an oil sheen around D-dock. Patrol investigated and followed the sheen to VWM; it appears to be hydraulic fluid. Patrol requested F.D. assistance in deploying oil pads. The source could not be located. On Friday, the Coast Guard contracted with a clean-up company to clean the material.

**12-16** 7:00 p.m. The Friday session

of the Parade of Lights was successful without any incidents.

**12-17** 7:00 p.m. The second evening of the Parade of Lights started without incident.

8:30 p.m. The Dockmaster received a report of a person throwing fireworks at a vessel at Harbor Village Marina. He notified P.D. and Patrol and responded. Patrol talked to both parties and neither wanted to pursue the issue.

### YMCA open house

*Continued from page 9*

pabilities, doubling its most commonly used pieces, and adding new stretching equipment. The Y's second renovation, coming in early 2012 will provide a new cardio room with doubled the cardio space. By combining two of its racquetball courts the Y will be able to provide one large cardio room featuring a twenty-five foot long glass entrance allowing members to enjoy an "open concept" feel with a wider selection of new cardio equipment. The Y is also focusing its redesign efforts to complement its new look and feel by replacing carpeting and repainting the entire facility.

If you haven't seen the Y lately, stop by, visit [ciymca.org/ventura](http://ciymca.org/ventura) or call 642-2131.

## Sow In The New Year

In anticipation of its Sow In The New Year event, Ventura Botanical Gardens volunteers are removing weeds and preparing the soil around the barbecue area in Grant Park so that the ground is ready to accept a bounty of native wildflower seeds in time for the Winter rains.

The Sow In The New Year event will be held on Saturday, January 7 from 10 am to 2 pm, with a schedule of talks about California native wildflowers, guided walks through the park, and the opportunity to join fellow community members in sowing the seeds that will burst into color in the spring.

Join the prep crews on December 29 from 9 am to noon. No experience necessary. Garden leaders will be on hand to help lead teams with instructions and answer questions. Children over 12 are welcome to help too.

Be sure to wear your long pants and layered top work clothes, closed toe work shoes, gloves, hat and sunscreen. Tools you will need: If you can, bring a sturdy hoe, rake, pruners and water for drinking. Call the work crew leader, Diane Beeler, at 652-1456 for more information.

## A Season Of Magic, Mystery & Music

The Ovation nominations are in and RTC (Rubicon Theatre Company) is once again among the most celebrated theatres in the region – even as the new season progresses, with neither the time nor inclination to rest upon laurels. Rubicon's 14th season is here, replete with a little something for everyone and a lot of fun; truly a season of Magic, Mystery & Music! With turns of comedy, drama and music all in just the right proportions, RTC's season for 2011-12 promises to be another to please both crowds and critics, in the style for which

## Community Events

they've become so well known.

As always, great theatre comprises the centerpiece of a broad offering that includes an ongoing Broadway Cabaret Series (which recently brought Tony Award-winner Levi Kreis to the RTC stage, and continues next month with the arrival of David Burnham's one-night only A Broadway Holiday), the developmental presentations of Plays In Progress, the acclaimed Young Playwright's Festival, a "wanderlust" ethic that takes RTC patrons to experience great theatre well beyond Ventura's borders, a summer program of youth theatre that is second to none, gala opening night events, and compelling "talkback" sessions with the artists themselves.

The season continues on February 18 with "Nazi Hunter - Simon Wiesenthal".

## Ventura events

**Dec. 31: Country Lovers Western Dance** club will be holding a new year's eve celebration at The House of Dance located at 3007 Bunsen Ave. on Saturday from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. snacks and desserts will be served all night. alcohol will not be served, but you can BYOB. There will be plenty of coffee, water and soft drinks. music will be by deejay Jammin' Country. \$45.00 per person for non-members, \$35.00 per person for club members. Price includes entry for raffle prizes, only 86 tickets will be available, so reserve your tickets now by calling country lovers hotline 456-9067. [www.countrylovers.com](http://www.countrylovers.com).

**Dec. 31: Sade champagne's 2012 New Year's Eve Youth Bash.** Ages 20 and under preferred. The party will be held from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. tickets are available \$10 per person and are available for purchase at the door. Let's keep our teens and young adults safe while having loads of fun! Featuring celebrity guest performers and hosts from TV, movies, music, radio, Broadway and more! The proceeds from this event will be donated to the Los Angeles Dream Center's Human Trafficking Shelter. The location of the party will be at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd.

**Jan. 3:** Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association will be holding a **free Diabetic Class** to introduce basic information regarding diet, medication, exercise, blood sugar monitoring, new developments and common problems. The class will be held January 1:00 - 2:30 pm at Livingston VNA, 1996 Eastman Ave, #101. No registration necessary, for additional information call Linda Hampson, RN, MSN 642-0239, ext 723.

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

**Jan. 7: Wheeler Canyon - Gary Tuttle (525-2327).** Will lead this group through this canyon which provides good birding opportunities. Will be looking for raptors, ground doves, western bluebirds and maybe a Lewis' woodpecker.

**Jan. 8: Friends of the Santa Clara river volunteer workday.** the bird times will be from 9 - 12 a.m.; please arrive at 8 a.m. for birding; leader Sandy Hedrick 340-0478. For information on location & work, go to [www.fscr.org](http://www.fscr.org) or contact Jackie Worden 652-0577.

**Jan. 9: Birding 8:30 a.m. at Camino Real Park in Ventura.** The leader Adele Fergusson will lead the group to spot a variety of birds that can be found at the park including warblers, juncos & raptors. It is also the season for monarch

butterflies. Meet between the tennis courts & playing fields.

**Jan. 8:** The Ventura County Chapter of USA Dance, Inc., will be holding their **January Dance Party.** The event starts with a free dance lesson at 2 p.m., followed by open dancing from 3 - 5:30 p.m. Music is a variety of ballroom, Latin and swing CDs at the Academy Dance Studio, 1937 Goodyear Ave., suite 702. Also featured are male dance hosts, refreshments and a 50/50 raffle. Admissions \$10 general, \$9 dance buddies and \$7 USA dance members and \$5 military and youth. Info 646-6271

**Jan. 8:** A screening and discussion of the acclaimed film "I Am," directed by Tom Shadyac. A documentary featuring Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Desmond Tutu and many others. "I Am" is an utterly engaging and entertaining non-fiction film that poses two practical and provocative questions: what's wrong with our world, and what can we do to make it better? The event will take place at the Foster Library's Topping Room, 651 E. Main St. Learn more about CPR (Citizens for a Peaceful Resolution) and find out how you can get involved @ [www.c-p-r.net/](http://www.c-p-r.net/) and learn more about "I Am" @ <http://www.iamthedoc.com/>

**Jan. 11: The Ventura County Camera Club** will hold a competition meeting at 7 p.m. Inez Roberts will critique members' prints and digital images. The topic for the month is "seasons" which features some interesting photographs. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. The event will be held at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. See the club's website for more information about the club and examples of member's works or call 908-5663.

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

**Jan. 14:** The tall ships Lady Washington and the Hawaiian Chieftain will be engaging the Ventura County based schooner the Bill of Rights in cannon **battle reenactments** on January 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd. Tickets to come aboard can be purchased at [www.islandpackers.com](http://www.islandpackers.com). Proceeds from the cannon battles go to the American Tall Ship Institute, a Ventura County non-profit, which encourages positive youth and community development through environmentally aware, hands on, ocean based programs aboard tall ships.

**Jan. 15:** Camerata Pacifica's celebrated string trio of Catherine Leonard, Richard Yongjae O'Neill and Ani Aznavoorian will perform one of the pillars of the canon - **Johann Sebastian Bach's Goldberg Variations.** Following intermission, the trio will be joined by pianist Adam Neiman to perform Ernest Chausson's Piano Quartet in A major, Opus 30.

Tickets for the concerts, as well as additional information on Camerata Pacifica can be found at [www.camerata-pacifica.org](http://www.camerata-pacifica.org) or by calling 884-8410.

At 3 p.m. at Ventura Temple Beth Torah: \$40 single tickets. Student Rush, 30 minutes prior, for \$10, with valid student ID.

## Ojai events

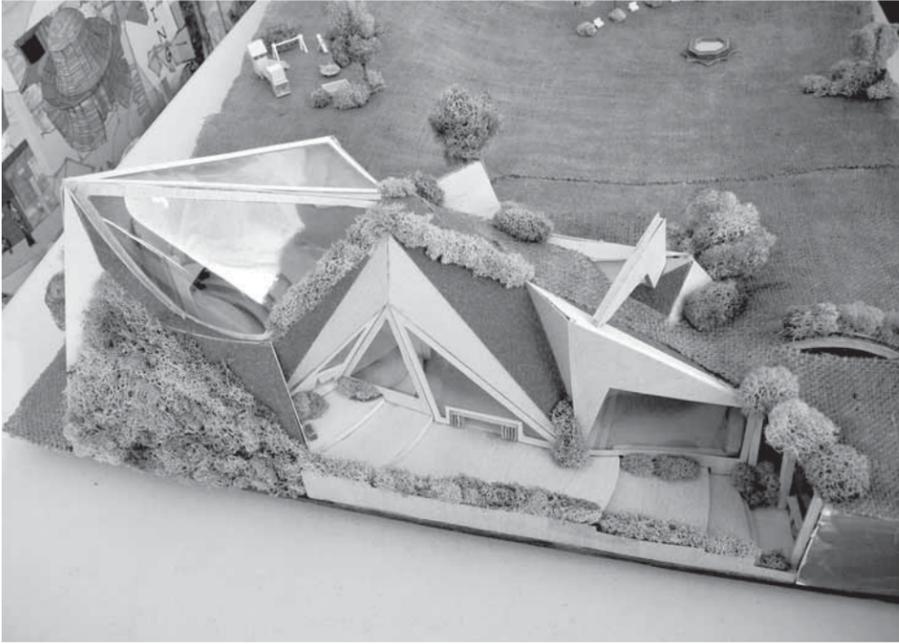
Villanova Preparatory School will hold an **open house** at 2 p.m. **Jan. 8** at the school, 12096 N. Ventura Avenue in Ojai.

Students in middle school through 10th grade are invited, along with their parents. Attendees will take a student-guided tour of the school and meet many

*Continued on page 24*



## School



The VC architecture program, that produces outstanding projects, such as this is on the chopping block

# Program cuts threaten VC staff and students

by Rebecca Wicks

Earlier this month the presidents of Ventura, Moorpark and Oxnard colleges approved and submitted their list of recommended program cuts to the greater Ventura County Community College District board. Programs at Ventura College on the chopping block range from agriculture, journalism and architecture to home economics, art classes and interior design programs.

Students and staff alike are unhappy about the cuts and the process by which classes and programs have been selected to be eliminated. A number of protests have taken place on and around the campus since it was announced in fall that cuts would likely occur.

"It seems to me the whole process is very random," said an individual affiliated with the architecture program who asked not to be named for fear of being passed over for future teaching opportunities. "There was not much analysis or thought put into this decision, I'm afraid this is more about appearances than any real savings."

According to college officials criteria used to determine which programs and classes would be purged included whether programs had low enrollment or were offered elsewhere. The three colleges together face an \$11 million deficit next fiscal year.

Ventura College President Robin Calote described a multiple-step planning and review process for the programs which may be eliminated.

"During the fall semester, all programs in the college prepared data-driven reports that analyzed their completion rates, productivity, and many other variables," said Calote. "Programs put on notice for possible elimination were given the opportunity, both at the division level and in front of a faculty-based college-wide committee, to explain why their program should be retained."

Chancellor James Meznik, who will be retiring a year earlier than expected this June or July, was quick to add the recommended cuts are "a very small part of the reduction that will be necessary" alluding to the fact additional slashes may loom in the colleges' future.

A local American Federation of

Teachers (AFT) memo to its members lists 19 programs to be eliminated at Ventura College as well as an additional 502 sections in other departments, affecting more than an estimated 100 part-time faculty.

According to the AFT memo, "Faculty and staff members have not participated in the recommendations, which are being imposed from top down. Neither input from college departments nor students have been sought."

The teachers' union has asked the school to look for alternative ways to keep some if not all of the programs. The group has recommended the school use reserve funds – whose balance they say sits at more than \$25 million – to help meet the budget shortfall.

"Huge course reductions are in the works for next year, yet the district continues to hoard its multimillion-dollar budget surplus," said Connie Jenkins a faculty union member of the AFT.

According to her, the cuts will translate into less room for full-time students, by her account – 1,500 less full-time students across the three campuses.

Calote hopes displaced students will be able to make alterations in order to meet their needs. For example, she is hoping Agriculture students will be able to continue their studies under the Environmental Science program and Multimedia students will be able to take some courses through the Art Department. There are not, she admitted in an email, solutions for all students seeking classes in eliminated subjects.

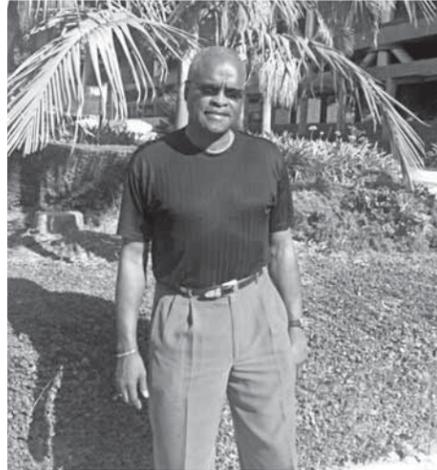
AFT's request for reserve monies to be used to keep programs in place seems a solution unlikely to be embraced by the board.

"Dipping into reserves would not address the long-range problem," said Trustee Dianne McKay. "These are ongoing cuts, and we're trained not to bridge ongoing cuts with one-time money."

The board, which is expected to approve these cuts will review the recommendations on Jan. 10 and conduct a final vote on Jan. 17.

Breeze:

Read Sheldon's opinion to see what programs might be cut.



Ralph James is not retiring, he is refiring

## A man with a vision to make a difference

by Mikaeli King

Mr. Ralph James has been making a difference in the lives of thousands of students at Ventura College for over 37 years and counting, at least up to December 14, 2011 when he retired. Mr. James' primary focus as a counselor is helping students get into the school and into various medical related programs at Ventura College. Many of his students are now working in hospitals and medical facilities throughout the Ventura area.

Mr. James attended and graduated from Ventura College. He went on to receive his Bachelor's degree in Urban Sociology from the University of California Santa Barbara, and his Masters Degree in counseling and guidance from University of California Santa Barbara. Lucky for Ventura College students that Mr. James suffered a foot injury, which kept him from attending John Hopkins University on a full Scholarship to study medicine and while mending he met his wife at Ventura College.

Even though he did not become a doctor he says, "I help counsel young and older people in all areas of health medical related professions, many of whom now have become doctors, dentists and pharmacists; because they send me cards to let me know of their graduation from med school or I meet them in the community. So, I still touch medicine through them."

Co-worker Marcum Corrosoc, academic counselor at Ventura College, has worked with Mr. James for 23 years. She shared her thoughts, "He has been a mentor. Ralph has an unconditional positive belief in people. He projected a positive energy and belief in the personal ability of students to achieve academically. Ralph has stimulated the true love of people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, background, gender and appearance, he has helped everyone."

Executive Director of the Ventura College Foundation, Norbert Tan, spoke his thoughts about Ralph James. "Ralph has sat on the board for five years. He is compassionate, sincere and honest. We hear it all the time from nursing students. He's a touchstone for female students who have struggled to get into the college, and the nursing program. He encourages them to continue their education. He and his wife are regular givers to the foundation. Ralph, I thank you for your years of dedicated service of students at Ventura College."

When I asked about his retirement his words were, "I do not see myself slowing

down, I am just getting started. I am refiring, not retiring! The best thing is I get to retire with my best friend, my wife."

Destiny's call is still answered in the medical field, because in his own way, he is still saving lives. Congratulations sir, on a job well done!



Ventura school superintendent Trudy Arriaga and Tamara Mann were all smiles at her being Teacher of the Month

## Tamara Mann

On Dec. 7, Tamara Mann, a 5th grade teacher at Juanamaria Elementary School in Ventura, was named Teacher of the Month for December by the Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation (VCEF).

Beyond having 11 years of experience in the field, Mann also coordinates community-based tutoring partnerships with local Eastminster Church and through Project Understanding.

Gina Wolowicz, principal of Juanamaria Elementary School, presented Mann with the award. "Tamara goes above and beyond in her classroom," said Wolowicz. "She tutors students who need extra help and teaches them the skills to be lifelong learners."

Mann was also presented with gifts of appreciation by local businesses including Panera Bread Company, Red Brick Pizza, the Ventura YMCA, Greek at the Harbor and Central Coast Imaging Solutions.

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

## It isn't easy under pressure

by Chloé Sehati

Ventura High School

What is stress? More like, "What is time?" Teenagers – known to be emotionally wrapped up in their surroundings – are put under tough schedules and classes, fighting their curriculums every day in class during High School. As schedules fill up, the stress builds on. It isn't easy for anyone to keep up with school, although it is a place for valid skills and education.

As an eleventh grader at Ventura High School speaking for high school students everywhere, I feel it's vital to point out the stress that inevitably compiles onto most of us. It's important that adults and incoming high school students understand that it isn't easy, but it is what it is: we have to go to school, but it's stressful. And High School is usually just the beginning.

Where does this stress come from? When it comes to school, I'm not going to blame stress on teachers. They're simply doing their jobs. I am well aware that giving homework is a tactic for lesson reviews with the purpose to benefit students with education, but it still isn't easy. With most students in six classes per day, extra-curric-

# School

ular activities on top of the homework, or even jobs, time is then the factor that comes into the barrier of getting the work done, and that's where stress comes from: it isn't that someone feels like there's too much to do, but that it seems like there is not enough time to complete everything jotted down in agendas. Most people have the hope of being successful in their lives—I don't have to spell it out for you – but getting to the goals is the tricky part.

I believe that relaxation is the key to breaking most stress. Exercise, deep-breaths, doodling, sports, puzzles, reading... Who you are depends on what your scapegoat from the stressful world is. Breaks are extremely important because becoming a workaholic isn't healthy, yet being hard-working is; however, we don't always look for the time to find a crack in our schedule to create our stress-relieving moments. Additionally, just take your big agenda one step at a time instead of letting your eyes bulge at the sight of the huge list.

I feel it's important that people are aware of the pressure put on students; we're new to the concept of schoolwork. Although being challenged is valuable, there comes a point when it's too much. Stress is out there, and it's going to catch almost everyone at some point or another. Create a time-map and find any tactics that will work for you. Everyone is different, and everyone sees time differently – just don't let it push you into stress' ditch.

continuum of programs to help women succeed at every stage of the business lifecycle. Services include comprehensive self-employment training program, advanced training, business consulting, coaching, and networking opportunities to help individuals to startup, launch, grow, and sustain a business. WEV's service area includes Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern Counties. WEV's Small Business Loan Fund (SBLF) provides start-up and expansion loans to pre-bankable microenterprises. WEV was designated a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in 1999 by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In 2005, the Small Business Administration recognized WEV as the most productive Women's Business Center in the nation. The WEV website is at [www.wevonline.org](http://www.wevonline.org).

The Upcoming Free Self Employment Training (SET) Orientation is on Wednesday, January 4th, 12-1pm in Ventura.

# Why Ventura?

by L. J. Martin

Why winter in Ventura? It's a question my wife and I are often asked. Home is Montana, and yes, Montana's a beautiful state, particularly where we live between Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park in the shadow of Montana's striking Sapphire Mountains. But when Fall flounders heavily with the roar of wild wind and wet snow, it's an easy place to leave. And writers can live almost anywhere and still pursue their livelihood. However, it's nice to settle in a place with inspiration and artistic inclination, and Ventura's certainly one of those locales.

We were both born in the southern San Joaquin Valley, leaving there for Montana seventeen years ago. But it soon became apparent: Montana winters encouraged escape. When we decided to become snowbirds a half-dozen years ago, it didn't take long for us to zero into California's central coast and even less time to say Ventura is our refuge. With a backdrop of Santa Ynez Mountains and a frontal view of the Santa Barbara Channel and it's backdrop of Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands...silhouettes standing tall in a fiery sunset...Ventura was an easy choice for physical beauty. With avocations of photography and vocations of writing, both of us saw beauty—photo opportunity and writing inspiration—at every turn. We'd been here oft times before, teased by Ventura's beauty; in fact Buenaventura is a setting for one of my western novels, Condor Canyon.

But more than all that it was a long admired transition from the Ventura of the rape-the-land oil boom years to one of today: a community filled with fine food, fine art, and most importantly fine folks eager and open with extended hands to new friends. A walk on the beach, a drive through strawberry fields, a wander through a fragrant farmer's market, a movie and a great meal reasonably priced on a main street lit with twinkling holiday lights and filled with smiling folks...it just doesn't get much better than that.

It's easy to become jaded when you're born and raised in a place, but I hope each of us, each of you, will stop for a moment to experience that old cliché: smell-the-roses. And here in Ventura: taste the strawberries, lemons, and oranges, while breathing

# Business



WEV graduates (back row) C.J. Farrar, Alan Turner, Jacalyn Pelloni, Marvin Stainbrook, and instructor Gloria Miele- (front row) Sharon Elvin, Ivette Irizarry and Jean Ard worked very hard to complete their WEV training

# WEV graduates 14 at Montecito Country Club

After 14 weeks of training in finance, marketing, leadership skills, and more, graduates of Women's Economic Ventures' (WEV) flagship Self-Employment Training Course are ready to launch or to grow their businesses and turn their entrepreneurial dreams into reality. On Thursday, Dec. 15th, 14 women and men from Ventura County celebrated their successful completion of WEV's Self-Employment Training program with families, friends and the community at the Montecito Country Club. The event concluded with a reception and "business expo" where graduates showcased their new or pre-launch businesses. WEV's latest Self-Employment Training graduate businesses and business concepts included a flavored peanut butter line.

WEV is dedicated to creating an equitable and just society through the economic empowerment of women. Since 1991, WEV has been providing self-employment training, technical assistance and microloans to primarily low-income women. Today, WEV offers a



# 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)

shockingly clean and clear ocean air. All of that and the best weather in the world, just in case you haven't noticed.

What a place this is! A community that continually exhibits the pride of a past peppered with great history, a past much improved; and a future with great promise. Don't take Ventura for granted, take her to your breast and cherish and protect her. She's worth fighting for, and keeping as the jewel of the California coast.

Kat Martin is the internationally published NYT bestselling author of over 55 acclaimed romantic suspense and historical romance novels; and her husband, L. J. Martin, is the author of 30 published novels and non-fiction works, as well as dozens of articles in national publications. Learn more about the Martins at [www.katmartin.com](http://www.katmartin.com) and [www.ljmartin.com](http://www.ljmartin.com).

# California Dreamin in The Parade of Lights

by Leselie Burhenn

What a wonderful way to start the holiday festivities than to be riding

upon the Island Packers boat in the Harbor Parade of Lights. There was a beautiful array of lights on the boats that were docked as we passed them.

It was a pleasure to be aboard the Island Packers boat where the music was playing complimenting this year's theme of "California Dreamin." It appeared as we launched that everybody on the boat was having a great time. There were beverages and TV's that had pictures of fireplaces to create the ambiance of being in front of a roaring fire all warm and cozy. As the boat proceeded on its course there were many people on the banks waving and shouting Merry Christmas. The boats involved in the judging were quite elaborate. It showed that people really put a lot of effort into their designs.

The experience was so pleasant to start the holidays off right. Island Packer's did their boat up right. You felt like Christmas was upon you. There were many sightings of Santa and his sleigh in the sky. All of the patrons were happy and gay. Hats off to Island Packers and everyone involved in the Parade of Lights.

## Weekly SUDOKU — Answer

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

## King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

# Show Time

## Where The Music Flows



## 2011: the year of Adele

by Michael Kohli

It's been quite a year in music. Adele literally has swept up the nation by storm! With her album, "21," being the biggest selling album this year, selling 13 million copies worldwide. Among the massive hits: "Rolling In The Deep", "Someone Like You", and "Set Fire To The Rain," her previous album, "19," has also been picking up in sales. This holiday season, she also released a live DVD/cd collection! Congrats to her!

The busiest artist of 2011: I'd say would have to go to pop star, Rihanna. While on an extensive tour this year, while promoting her, "Loud," album (released in Nov. 2010), she also managed to release yet another album in under a year. Her 6th album, "Talk That Talk," was released in November of this year. While recording duets with: Coldplay, David Guetta, Drake, and Nicki Minaj. Since her debut in 2005, she has released six albums and forty-two singles! To date, she has sold over 20 million albums worldwide! Way to go!

Local multimedia rocks in 2011. With the help of the newfound social media, video networking and more, many of our local acts released music videos in addition to physical and new music online: bands that upgraded themselves locally include: We Govern We, New Liberty, Army Of Freshmen, Jeff Hershey and the Heartbeats, Gypsy Death Star, Seth Petterson, 8Stops7, Delaney Gibson and more!

Let's rock even harder in 2012! hooah!

Michael Kohli  
VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com  
Kohlismusicpit.com

## Music Calendar 12/28 to 1/10

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  
Fri 12/30 - Tour Support 7-11pm  
Sat 12/31 - New Years Bash with Loose Canons 8pm-1am  
Sun 1/1 - 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  
Fri 12/30 - UFC 7pm, Thunderboys reunion

Sat 12/31 - New Year's Eve Party with The Shoemaker Brothers (reservations only)

**Cafe Fiore**  
66 California St., 805-653-1266  
Live Bands every Tue thru Sat  
DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri & Sat  
Wed 12/28 - Big Adventure  
Thur 12/29 - Coso Live  
Fri 12/30 - Rick Coz  
Sat 12/31 - New Years Celebration with Rick Stone  
Wed 1/3 - Big Adventure  
Thur 1/4 - Bongo Town

**It's All Good Bar & Grill**  
533 E. Main St., 805-641-9951  
Open Mike Night every Wed

**Majestic Theater**  
26 S. Chestnut St.  
Fri 12/31 - DJ Divine's Big New Years Eve Bash  
Fri 1/6 - No FX, Lagwagon, Old Man Markley, Punk Is Dead  
Sat 1/7 - RPM-7, D-Structive Minds, Miedo

**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 12/29 - Shawn Jones  
Fri 12/30 - Coso Live  
Sat 12/31 - Dr. M  
Sun 1/1 - Shoemaker Brothers  
Thur 1/5 - Shawn Jones  
Fri 1/6 - Acoustic Circus  
Sat 1/7 - Soul Machine  
Sun 1/8 - ADD

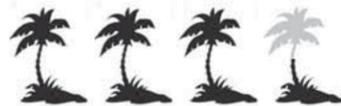
**Zoey's Café**  
185 E. Santa Clara St., 805-652-1137  
Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm  
Thur 12/29 - Tony Ferrari and Band 8pm  
Fri 12/30 - Emy Reynolds Band 9pm  
Sat 12/31 - New Year's Eve with Teresa James & The Rythm Tramps 8pm  
Wed 1/4 - Birdfeeder, Semi Residency 9pm  
Sat 1/7 - McKenna CD release 8pm  
Sun 1/8 - Joey Cape unplugged 8pm  
Tue 1/10 - Blue Grass Jam 6pm, Alt Indie, Night-Former Selves/J. Barba 9:30pm

## The Entertainment Report

### Silver screen

by Linde Carlson

Hello Ventura and Happy Holidays. These are my picks of the week.



**Hugo**  
Hugo is an adorable British tale, Directed by Martin Scorsese, set in the 1930's, highlighted with a cast of characters. Hugo, stars the precocious Asa Butterfield as 12 year old Hugo Cabret, and his sweet friend Isabelle (Chloe Grace Moretz).

The story finds Hugo an orphan, taking up residence in a Paris train station, while taking care of the watch tower, a job once held by his Uncle Claude (Ray Winstone) too intoxicated to fulfill his duties.

The tower becomes Hugo's retreat, free from being seen by the train station Gestapo, played by (Sacha Baron Cohen)

## VFS@420EAST



The Ventura Film Society's December 6th tribute to Malcolm McDowell was more of a success than any of us imagined. It was not only a wholehearted embrace of Mr. McDowell's amazing career but also an acknowledgment of the VFS's 3 years of bringing quality alternative cinema to Downtown Ventura. With nearly 300 films screened since March 2009, the VFS looks forward to continuing to bring people together in the dark in 2012 at our new venue - VFS @ 420EAST, 420 E. Santa Clara. We thank all of our filmmakers, donors, sponsors, supporters and volunteers for their commitment to keeping a place in Ventura for cinema as public art.

- Lorenzo DeStefano, VFS Founder

an officer, just waiting to nab Hugo for the smallest crime.

Hugo's trials take him on a journey while befriending Isabelle, the adopted daughter of a toy store shop-keeper, George Melies, (Sir Ben Kingsley) who has some dark secrets of his own. However, Hugo is wrapped up in his own mystery involving his father (Jude Law) who appears briefly, thus leaving Hugo with an automated robot, becoming the centerpiece for the mystery.

The movie is slow at first, but then quickly picks up steam like a fully charged locomotive. Each one of the characters has their limelight as each character's story and purpose is pieced together. It all starts to make sense, just like a perfectly fit puzzle. As it turns out, it is a beautifully shot film and the characters are warm hearted and so lovable you just want to take them home. The effects of the cinematic style in 3-D is a real sensory feast. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Rated PG 13 Running time 126 minutes



### New Years Eve

New Years Eve is one of those films that just entrances you with each character, and in this particular piece you have so many characters to zero in on. The movie takes place in New

York City on New Year's Eve, drawing attention to a day in the life of the people that live in New York and their plans for New Years Eve.

Are their plans foiled or set in stone? The outcome becomes the intrigue. It is an illusion as well as anticipation where lives intersect and it becomes heart- -warming and real at every corner.

With multiple plots played out by an enormous, well known ensemble of actors and actresses, this romantic comedy held my interest with sentimental messages throughout, adding warmth to the characters and plot lines. I thoroughly enjoyed it, an overall fun film.

Rated PG-13 Running time 118 minutes

To my friends at The Ventura Breeze and to all my loyal readers, thank you and I wish you a safe, healthy, happy and peaceful 2012, and may 2012 bring you wonderful experiences in film and in your lives each day. Enjoy!

Best wishes, Linde Carlson

Fear not, theater lovers. Jim and Shirley are just enjoying a well-deserved holiday and *Two on the Aisle* will return in our next issue.



Breeze contributing photographers John Ferritto and Bernie Goldstein enjoyed being at the Face Of Ventura half way celebration held recently at the Executive Suites

# The Lighter Breeze

## Pros and Cons



## Mother Goose and Grimm



## Shoe



## Blondie



## Beetle Bailey



## Crock



Solutions on page 19

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 19

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Rock Band's equipment
- 5 One of the Seven Dwarfs
- 8 Mr. Astaire
- 12 Ladyfingers dessert
- 14 Of planes and such
- 15 Huge
- 16 Bowling alley
- 17 Roman X
- 18 Aide
- 20 Extinct birds
- 23 Faction
- 24 Culture medium
- 25 Articulate
- 28 Morning moisture
- 29 Mel who voiced Bugs Bunny
- 30 Shock and —
- 32 Study of wine (Var.)
- 34 Distort
- 35 Website info, for short
- 36 Cubic meter
- 37 Fujiyama's island
- 40 Gentleman's address
- 41 Jai —
- 42 Famed

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		

- World War II bomber
- Describe
- Manicurist's need
- Enemies
- Aviv
- Protection (Var.)
- DOWN
- 1 Consumed
- 2 60 sec.
- 3 Expert
- 4 Tailor, old-style
- 5 Singer Celine
- 6 Buckeyes' sch.
- 7 Comfortably
- soft
- 8 "I've —, and I ..."
- 9 Harvest
- 10 Sea eagle
- 11 Active one
- 13 Sras., across the Pyrenees
- 19 Sch. goings-on
- 20 Old man
- 21 Curved molding
- 22 Sunrise
- 23 Hosiery woes
- 25 Speaking well
- 26 Birthday treat
- 27 Basin accessory
- 29 Mediocre
- 31 Ram's mate
- 33 Cover a multitude —
- 34 Fly low and attack
- 36 Ledge
- 37 50 percent
- 38 Hodgepodge
- 39 Appellation
- 40 Dirt
- 43 Scot's denial
- 44 Showbiz job
- 45 "The Greatest"
- 46 Affirmative

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It's up to you.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Your most important New Year's resolution should be to work out problems with a family member in order to avoid continued misunderstandings. Do it soon, for both of your sakes.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) The New Year has much to offer the intensely determined Scorpion, who isn't afraid to take on challenges and stay with them until they surrender their rewards.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You'll have many fine opportunities in this New Year. But be warned: Reject offers of "help." You work best when you're free to be your own creative self.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The New Year offers changes that you might feel you're not quite ready for. Best advice: Deal with them one step at a time, until you've built up your self-confidence.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Travel is a dominant aspect of the New Year. This could mean relocating to another city (or even another country) in connection with your education or your career.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) This New Year brings news about a change you've been anticipating. You might have a problem persuading a loved one about your new plans, but he or she will soon go along with them.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a gift for making people feel safe and protected. You would make an excellent youth counselor.

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# Art Scene



"Coastal" by Laurel Murray-Joleaud, was Best of Show, 25th Annual Open Competition

## Call for Entries

The Buenaventura Art Association announces a "Call for Entries" for their 26th Annual Open Competition at the Buenaventura Gallery. The exhibit will run from January 10 – January 28 with the bring-in for the artists on Sunday, Jan. 8 and Monday, January 9 from 11 am – 2 pm. The awards ceremony (with over \$1,000 in prizes awarded) will be on Saturday, Jan. 14 from 4 – 7 pm. Gary Lang, an adjunct professor at Claremont

Graduate University, will be the juror. Buenaventura Art Association is truly honored to have an artist of Lang's caliber as our juror.

The Buenaventura Gallery is located at 700 E Santa Clara St. in downtown Ventura. Hours are Tuesday – Friday from noon – 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information and entry form, visit their website at [www.BuenaventuraGallery.org](http://www.BuenaventuraGallery.org).



Muralist M.B. Hanrahan and dancers at the dedication of her painting at the Barranca Vista Center Photo by Barbie Lange

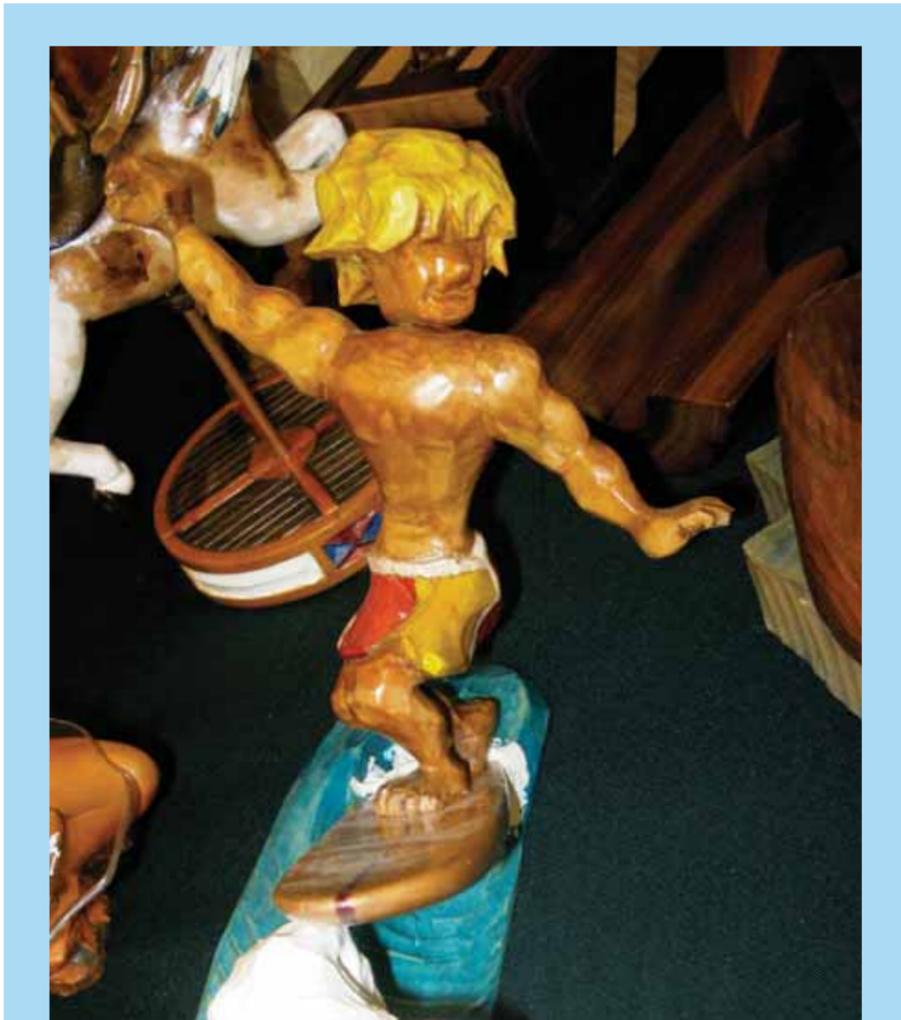
## Dancer is celebrated

On Wednesday Dec. 12, the City of Ventura's Barranca Vista Imagination Center held a dedication ceremony to welcome Dancer, an original painting donated to the Center by Ventura artist M.B. Hanrahan.

"I first saw, and fell in love with, M.B.'s painting when I was visiting her studio several months ago," says Cultural Affairs Supervisor Georgeanne Lees. Dancer was originally commissioned by Nicholby's Night Club in 2000, but returned to M.B. when the club changed its décor. "The painting brought back memories of childhood dreams of magical ballerinas, and every time I visited M.B.'s studio, I gazed at that lovely work of art and smiled."

M.B. gave the painting to Georgeanne as a gift, who presented it to the Barranca Vista Imagination Center on permanent loan. The Barranca Vista Center offers a variety of over 400 cultural arts classes to students of all ages throughout the year. "When I thought of all the little dancers who take classes at the Center, I couldn't think of a better fit for this painting, knowing it will inspire the students to dream and achieve." M.B. was thrilled the painting found such an appropriate permanent home, where it will be enjoyed for many years to come.

The painting, displayed in the Community Room, can be viewed at the Barranca Vista Center, located at 7050 Ralston in Ventura.



On Dec.10, Woodcraft (Helping You Make Wood Work) held its Wood Art Fair. On display were wonderful wood creations including those by Darryl Easters who has only been carving for a year and is already achieving artwork that would take many carvers years to develop. Darryl is a member of the Channel Islands Carvers Club that meets weekly at Buena High School. Woodcraft is located at 3850 E. Main.



## Artists at the Bell Arts Factory Leslie Rinchen-Wongmo

Leslie is a contemporary American textile artist working in a sacred Tibetan tradition. In her fabric thangkhas (sounds like Tonkas), the sacred Buddhist images of Tibetan thangka

paintings are rendered in vivid mosaics of silk. Intricately layered and hand-stitched, these brilliantly colored works of Tibetan appliqué art inspire the heart and fascinate the eye. Blessed by the Dalai Lama she is one of very few people practicing this type of art in the west. For more information go to [www.threadsofawakening.com](http://www.threadsofawakening.com). The Bell Arts Factory is located at 432 N. Ventura Ave.



**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)



## Around The Town



"At first I felt like I was on vacation." Photo by Breezy Gledhill

## Amazing Ventura

by Es Cole

Les and I moved to Ventura in 1991 from Mar Vista in west Los Angeles. Most of you are familiar with Los Angeles – that megalopolis that is the gateway to Hollywood. Movies, television, movie stars, Beverly Hills. I've bumped into Arnold Schwarzenegger at his restaurant in Ocean Park; and ran into O.J. Simpson in Bel Air pushing his toddler son in a stroller.

In LA, every waiter is distracted because he's practicing his lines for an upcoming audition. The bus boys are sloppy because their minds are on the scripts they're writing for TV. The waitress does a leap and plie (if the aisles are wide enough). You know, you've been there.

Ventura felt quaint. Small. Pretty. Everything we needed was a ten minute drive. If we drove eleven minutes we were in Oxnard.

At first I felt like I was on vacation; living in a comfortable Beverly Hills Hotel style cottage, and that in a few weeks, we'd be returning to the freeway capitol of the world. I don't feel that way anymore.

Les loved Ventura while we were still in escrow. I took a little longer. I love local politics. I love my neighbors. I

love my gardener and all other vendors I've dealt with. But what I love most is that Ventura oozes with artists. Scratch anyone in this town and creative juices start to flow. My barber, Carmella, is a talented artist and hand crafter. My neighbor, Beverly, plays the piano and paints beautiful scenes of Ventura in oils and acrylic. Bob of Sparky's makes magical pictures with his camera. My computer maven is a musician and singer – he does blues.

There are thousands more talented residents that design gardens, do massage therapy, act, stain glass, set tiles. All of them multi-talented.

My husband Les – of course I'm biased – is a fantastic writer. Author of exciting novels set in ancient Crete, and of dozens of published science fiction short stories. At 85 he's set to bring forth two more novels. Look for them in a couple of months on Amazon.com. This is an unabashed plug.

Members of our Ventura County Writers group Carin, Ed, Jim are published writers. For anyone with writing ambitions, the above Writers' club is a must – this is a public service announcement.

I've written 422 words now, but

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haven't yet mentioned Sheldon, the creator of the Ventura Breeze. The only newspaper that provides a window into the doings of all the delightful, imaginative residents of this amazing Ventura.

### Ojai events

*Continued from page 17*  
of the teachers.

Merit and need-based financial scholarships are available to qualifying families. Villanova offers daily bus service from Camarillo, Oxnard and Ventura.

To RSVP, call 646-1464 or email admissions@villanovaprep.org.

Fresh Roasted Concerts is proud to present the legendary **Turtle Island Quartet** in their tribute to Jimmy Hendrix on Saturday **Jan. 21** at 7:30 at Matilija Auditorium, 703 El Paseo Rd. in Ojai. Through their exploration of jazz, classical, American vernacular and world music styles, the Turtle Island Quartet has taken its audiences on a journey through many musical genres, eras, and places. Now the two time Grammy®-winning quartet ventures to Electric Ladyland, tackling works by legendary guitarist, songwriter and performer Jimi Hendrix. Tickets in advance are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors and are available at the Ojai Coffee Roasting Co., online at ptgo.org and by phone at 646-8907.

Most people over 55 have had some drama in their lives, but a "**Sage to Stage**" class will insert fun and a creative muse into the experience, or as Alfred Hitchcock points out, "drama is life with the dull bits cut out."

"The prerequisite is only a desire to experience the playfulness of the theater," said the instructor, Gai Jones, meaning inexperienced actors are as welcome as those who've been on the stage. The course will specialize in scenes

for senior citizens and include acting techniques, improvisation and building an acting ensemble, in which the final session on Feb. 15 is a public showcase.

The cost of this unique five-week senior theater workshop is \$70 with a deadline of **Jan. 5**; however, pay only \$60 if you sign up by Dec. 31 (there is no onsite registration). Send a check made out to the Ojai Art Center and mail to Gai Jones at 1410 White Oak Circle, Ojai CA 93023.

The workshops are all on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8 and 15 at the non-profit Ojai Art Center Theater, 113 S. Montgomery Street.

For more details, contact Jones at (805) 640-6472 or gai.jones@sbcglobal.net, leaving your name, email and phone contact.

## Foster parenting informational meeting

Discover the rewards of foster parenting by coming to a Foster Parenting Informational Meeting Tuesday, January 24, 2012 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.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 805-654-3456 or go to [vchsa.org/foster](http://vchsa.org/foster).

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