



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 5, No. 7 Published Every Other Wednesday

www.venturabreeze.com

January 11 – January 24, 2012

Redevelopment woes

by Rebecca Wicks

Last month marked the end of 2011. It also marked the end of something else in Ventura – its Redevelopment Agency. In December, the California Supreme Court dashed many a city official's hopes across the state of the possible continuation of redevelopment agency projects when it made the final ruling upholding the state's right to abolish redevelopment agencies in California.

The task of dissolving Ventura's Redevelopment Agency is being led by Jeff Lambert, community development director for the City of Ventura.

"It's daunting, there is so much work to be done, we're unraveling it all now," said Lambert who has been working closely with city attorneys as well as city officials from other parts of the state to understand exactly what the approach should be. "The good news is we have a fairly small agency, which makes us better off than many other cities in the state."

Each of the approximately 400 redevelopment agencies in California has its own set of implications from loan repayment obligations and staffing issues to land ownership liabilities and future project commitments.

Ventura's Redevelopment Agency owes the city \$5.4 million and owns a handful of properties in the downtown area which will most likely be sold. According to Lambert, the city is currently reconfirming exactly what remaining obligations the Agency has such as contracts with affordable housing developers. Tax accessed monies will most likely pay for the loan back to the city.

As for staffing, Lambert said, "there is likely to be some shifting around but there is no person whose job is defined as having 100 percent redevelopment responsibilities."

As of Feb. 1, all redevelopment agencies for all intents and purposes won't exist anymore. However, because the complexities of unwinding all the components of redevelopment will inevitably take more time, Lambert is working to make the city of Ventura the successor agency. Lambert will formally present this request to the City Council this month.

Following this approval by City
Continued on page 3

While avoiding the latest presidential debate you can always catch up with the Breeze at venturabreeze.com



The yacht "Kiss" (named the "US Hwy 101" for the Parade) was the Grand Prize Sweepstakes Winner 2011 at the Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights. Grand Prize sponsors were the Ventura Harbor Boat Yard and Ventura Harbor Marine Fuel.

The boat's owner is Ventura Power Squadron, a non-profit which teaches safe boating to the public www.usps.org/ventura.

The boat is a 41' power Trawler and was skippered by Jan and Debbie Lawson (members of the Ventura Yacht Club) who have participated in the Parade many years and it had many distinguished members aboard, including Miss Simi Valley 2011.

Photo by Dan Harding



Calling all artists

Artists are sought to enrich Ventura's cultural landscape by painting murals that will be exhibited in new bus shelters across town. The community-based public art project is open to Ventura County professional artists, community organizations, schools, and area residents. Proposals are due February 6. Full details are available online at www.cityofventura.net. Or contact Public Art Project Manager Tobie Roach at 658-4736 or troach@cityofventura.net.

"The Streetscape Mural Project - Phase Two will expand on the success of Phase One, completed in 2007, when the Public Art Program installed twelve public murals created by the community in as many bus shelters," said Roach.

This public art opportunity integrates art created in the community into everyday life, facilitates dialogue, and helps to beautify Ventura's neighborhoods. It makes art accessible to a broad range of community members living throughout the city.

Ted Neeley returns to the Rubicon

Ted Neeley, best known as the star of the Norman Jewison film "Jesus Christ Superstar," as well as the Broadway and national tours, helped launch Ventura's Rubicon Theatre Company back in 1998. He starred in the then-fledgling Rubicon's first production -- a concert

Continued on page 3



Dan Castro, Paige Castro, Corey Castro and aunt Dana Chavez, from Santa Clarita helped pass out the gifts at VCMC

Something magical happened

by Kimberly Castro

On Tuesday, December 20th something magical happened at the VCMC (Ventura County Medical Center) Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Treatment Center. Danny Castro and his family provided hundreds of toys and gifts for the children who are presently undergoing treatments at the unit.

Danny's, young son, Corey, was

diagnosed three years ago with a rare bone disease (Gorham's Disease). This disease has affected Corey's hip, pelvis, spine and his ribs. When Corey first noticed the toy chest in the center where he received treatments running low on gifts a few years ago, he suggested to his father that they do something about it. So, Corey, Danny and his sister, Paige, started collecting toys for the other patients.

The toy drive is now in its third year and received generous support from the Ventura Police Activities League (PAL), The National Charity League Junior of Ventura County as well as many other supporters. Over 200 patients, and siblings received presents as well as a visit with Santa while they attended the annual toy drive. They were also entertained with music while feasting on pizza and cookies during their visit.



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



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Ted Neeley returns to the Rubicon
Continued from page 1

version of that same show at the Majestic Theatre 14 years ago. Initially announced for two performances only in the 1,400-seat venue, Rubicon's Superstar quickly sold-out, a third show was added, and Rubicon Theatre Company was born. Each performance received a standing ovation. Critics summed up Neeley's performance in one word: "stellar."

Neeley returns to the company with the debut of his new concert, "Ted Neeley and The Little Big Band," an up-close-and-personal musical event which previews January 20, opens January 21, and continues for a limited run through January 29 in Rubicon's intimate 190-seat home in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District.

Neeley will tell a few anecdotes about his career and will sing in a variety of styles and genres, representing his own eclectic musical passions. Neeley will sing folk and pop hits by his favorite songwriters of the past few decades, perform highlights from rock musicals such as Tommy, Hair, Sgt. Pepper's... and Superstar; offer excerpts from his film scores for Robert Altman and others; and premiere new, never-before-heard compositions from shows he's developing for future production. Neeley will be backed by a "little" five-piece band of instrumentalists with big talents.

Tickets are now on sale and may be purchased with cash, check or charge through the Rubicon Box Office at 1006 E. Main St. (Laurel entrance). To charge by phone, call 667-2900 during normal box office hours (Noon to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday). Specific seats may also be selected and purchased online 24-hours-a-day through the company's website: www.rubicontheatre.org.

Redevelopment woes
Continued from page 1

Council, an oversight committee will be formed to keep an eye on the final tasks of taking the Agency's projects and obligations apart.

"The court was pretty clear that the dissolution of the Agency needs to happen over the next four to five months," said Lambert.

The Redevelopment Agency of the City of Ventura has acted as the city's real estate developer in an effort to spur economic growth. Following a five-year plan, the Agency had been focusing public investment in the city's blighted areas. The Agency worked as a tool for the city to attract and guide private investment with the aim of improving living and working conditions by developing affordable housing, strengthening neighborhoods, building public facilities, creating jobs and expanding businesses. One of the goals of the Agency was to increase revenue for the city by enlarging the overall tax base.

City officials are hopeful that projects such as the Westside Redevelopment project will find a way to continue in a different capacity within the city's purview. How this might be accomplished is more than unclear.

A possible effect on private development companies that worked primarily with redevelopment agencies who were funded by state and federal monies is also unknown.

Gov. Jerry Brown proposed to abolish redevelopment agencies in January 2011 as a way to close a two-year \$25 billion budget state deficit. He intended the money to move from redevelopment and go instead to schools and public safety.

Bilingual babies

by Dr Cassandra Woods
DPT, PT, CEO

The world is getting much smaller, and we are all exposed to multiple languages at an early age. In Ventura not knowing Spanish is a definite disadvantage.

Parents have become more interested in bringing up their children to be bilingual. Studies have shown that children can learn two languages at the same time. In fact, it's better to have them learn two languages than it is for ESL parents to try to speak to their child in English, if they do not know it themselves. The child can always pick up English later.

Opportunities to make a child bilingual abound in our melting pot society. Quite often, a baby's caregiver will speak a language other than English as their native tongue. Parents can safely encourage the caregiver to speak in his or her own language so that the baby will pick it up.

Parents are also forming study groups and enrolling their young children in foreign language classes. Children under the age of ten learn a new language in the same ways that they learned their original language, so it is much easier for them. They also speak each language as a native, without an accent.

Children enjoy knowing more than one language. It can widen their social circle at a young age, when communication with other children is so important. Being bilingual can

cut across social barriers as well.

Do you think learning one language is enough for a baby's mind to process at once? Studies have shown that being bilingual was an advantage. Research has shown that children who are bilingual do as well or better as monolingual children in tests in high school.

In an Italian study, testing 7-month old babies, it was found that the babies who were brought up with more than one language had definite advantages. They showed improved executive function, which measures picking the right tool for the right operation. In this basic process, the brain switches from one learned response to another as situations change. Monolingual babies develop this ability later in their young lives.

Bilingual babies learn to distinguish the different languages at a young age. Monolingual babies learn the same thing, but later on. The study's findings did not show that babies who were bilingual were more intelligent; just that they learned some things at an earlier age.

Harrison to maintain trash collection schedule

E.J. Harrison & Sons will maintain its regular trash and recycling or green waste collection schedule in Ventura and Ojai during the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 15-21.

For more information, call 647-1414.



City News

Local Bands unite to raise funds for Typhoon Victims

On the evening of December 16, 2011, a typhoon hit Northern Mindanao (Philippines) with heavy rains and flashfloods destroying several communities. Within 3 days, 1,000 people were known to have died, 15,000 were missing and over 167,000 individuals and 20,000 families had been displaced. Death counts have continued to rise as a result of one of the worst incidents of flooding the country has ever had.

Over the past 3 weeks, several residents of Ventura County have united to donate, collect and pack over 100 boxes of clothing, foods, and toiletries through a donation center set at Mary Star of the Sea Church in Oxnard. Monetary donations of \$4,300 were also collected. On Wednesday, Jan. 4, volunteers dropped off the care boxes to a Los Angeles based international shipping company – LBC Express Foundation to be shipped to the Philippines and distributed in the hardest hit areas.

With a goal to raise \$10,000, the fundraiser continues as five bands from Ventura County join together

on January 21, from 2pm-9pm at Ruby's Café – 348 S. Oxnard Blvd., Oxnard for –RISE ABOVE: Typhoon Sendong Relief Efforts Benefit Show in which all proceeds will be donated to the ABS-CBN Foundation/Sagip Kapamilya to aid the victims. Among the bands are Dirty Rice, Subtle Wave, Velmont, Judy Valencerina and Spartacus. The event will also include line dancing hosted by the International Cultural Association of California from 2pm-4pm and a silent auction from 2pm-7pm. This event is for all ages. General Admission is \$10, \$20 with meal.

For more information, please contact Charleen Morla 236-1309, Edwina Camarillo 263-7778 or visit www.facebook.com/dirtyrice805

Ventura Music Festival 2012 Season and Art Exhibition

Ventura Music Festival Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta will present this season's complete roster of global musical talent to the press on Monday, January 23 at 4:30 pm in the Atrium at Ventura City Hall. An in-depth look at the history, style and sound of each musician and group will be showcased in a multi-media presentation. This year's program features an interesting blend of international competition winners, long-established classical masters, Latin jazz

and crossover artists.

In addition, Executive Director Cheryl Heitmann will unveil the Festival's 7th art exhibition, works generously created and donated by local artists to be auctioned at "An Evening of Note", the Festival's spring fundraiser. This year, twelve women from Ventura County were given 3-paneled, 5 ½ foot tall screens as their canvas. These extraordinary pieces will be unveiled for the first time as a group, and on display for the public until late March. The artists will be on hand to discuss their inspirations, mediums and artistic process.

Founded in 1994, the Ventura Music Festival presents world-renowned classical, jazz and crossover musicians in venues throughout Ventura and surrounding areas. Today, the Festival stands as one of

Ventura County's signature cultural events, attracting upwards of 10,000 concertgoers. The Festival takes place over ten days in early May and presents a Latin jazz concert in February. For more about the Ventura Music Festival, please visit www.venturamusicfestival.org.

Weather by Tom

Ventura City normal for January:
Air temperature: normal daily high is 66, normal low is 45.

Normal monthly temperature range is high 80, low 35.

Rainfall from July 2011 to January 8, 2012; total 3.38", normal 4.49".

Based on historic air temperature alone midwinter is the third week of January.



The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura's 3rd Annual Art show judging took place January 6, at the E.P. Foster Library in Ventura. The judges included well-known artist Gwenlyn Norton, Sheldon Brown, publisher of the Ventura Breeze, librarian Jane Middleton and high school student Hazmin Garay.

The mixed media exhibit for ages 6-18 years of age included collages, water colors, sculptures, etc. All of the artworks on display were winners of the first round competition from the five centers in Ventura, Oak View and Saticoy. The blue ribbon winners from this judging will be entered in the District competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. The winners from Las Vegas will be sent to the national competition in Washington, DC. The art show is on public display and can be viewed on the library's second floor youth and children's section.

Winning the acrylic category (ages 10-12) was 10-year-old Martha Rodriguez who has been attending the Boys & Girls Club for 4 years and is a student at Foster Elementary.



Approximately \$500,000 in contracts have been awarded to upgrade the sewer facilities at McGrath State Beach Park soon so that the park may re-open. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by early summer in time for the summer crowd.

Anaheim's Insight Environmental Engineering & Construction Inc. will be replacing the 4" main old sewer line as part of the construction project.

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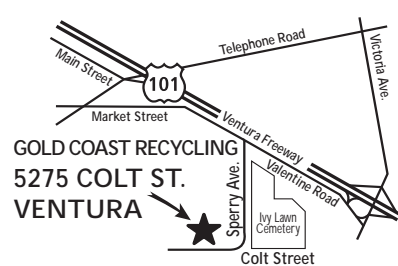
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Editor:

Surprise! Surprise! Most of the troops have left Iraq and the tribes are back to blowing each other up! The Shiites against the Sunnis, and the Kurds are also in the mix. These tribes are essentially brothers but they war against each other! This would be similar if the Lutherans and Catholics or the Baptists started blowing each other to pieces in the US!

Supposedly, all the Islamic sects believe in the same god or "Allah", but centuries later are still killing each other! Are they following the teachings of their religion? Let these

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher

■ As you certainly know by now a major part of the implementation of the Downtown Parking Management Program has been the installation of the very controversial paid parking meters in the downtown core area. It has been about 15 months since the parking meters were installed.

Their stated goal is improving the flow of downtown traffic and opening up more spaces in front of shops and restaurants. The meters also are meant to pay for increased police patrols and other services downtown.

On January 9, the City Council, on a vote of 5-2 (Council members Andrews and Monahan were the 2 voting no for various reasons) approved minor amendments to the Parking Management Program (final reading will be on Jan. 23 and the changes will probably take place on Mar. 1)) that reduced the cost of parking on the metered side streets, where use is much lower than on Main and California Streets from \$1.00 per hour to 50 cents per hour. The affected streets would be Fir, Chestnut, Oak and Palm.

In approving the changes Deputy Mayor Cheryl Heitman stated that "It's good that the plan can be flexible and we can try something new in order to make it work for the benefit of all."

They also approved the creation of a business owned vehicle parking permit program for the downtown parking district area to allow for business owned vehicles to park in parking lots overnight or in exception to the 4-hour restriction in some parking lots and structures. Several council members questioned as to how this will be implemented and verified that the vehicles are owned by downtown merchants and used for business. Council member

Andrews also felt that the \$20 permit fee was ludicrously low and should be more in the \$200 range.

Tom Mericle, the city's transportation manager stated that "We've always allowed that informally, and waived tickets when they've occurred, and this is just a way for us to formalize that".

The goal of the Downtown Parking Management Program was to have 85% of the spaces full during peak weekend hours, a recent study shows that this is being achieved on main and California (about 95%) but not on the side streets (about 66%).

It is felt that reducing the price on side streets from \$1 to 50 cents an hour will increase the parking on these streets. Parking on Main and California streets would remain at \$1.00 per hour.

Kevin Clerici, Executive Director of Downtown Ventura Partners, and a member of the Parking Advisory Committee, said that the DVP supports the changes.

He said "The spots on Main are the premium spots and you get to choose if you want to pay more to park in them. If you don't, you just have to walk a block."

Personally instead of parking on the side streets why not park on Poli for free and also get a little exercise walking downtown?

Clerici said many downtown merchants are happy with the meters and are seeing faster turnover on the spaces in front of their stores, which brings more customers inside.

To explain the new changes new stickers will be placed on the pay stations.

The city is also working on new ways to mark the curb space numbers more permanently because the number are wearing off and are getting very difficult to read and if you enter the wrong space number you could get a ticket.

And something that I learned is that cars with handicap designation can park at the meters spaces and the green marked 24 minute spaces all day for no charge.

■ I'm sorry to hear that Lee Enterprises, the owner of the Santa Maria Times, Lompoc Record and the Santa Ynez Valley News is filing for bankruptcy. Hopefully they will be able to save these newspapers.

The competition for advertising dollars is making it very difficult for many media to stay afloat, especially the print media. That is why it is important to support local print media (that's us) if you want to keep informed on what is happening in Ventura.

■ I just want to remind you again how wonderful the second floor "children's" library is at the downtown Foster Library (651 E. Main) and the first floor ain't bad either.

There is plenty of free parking in the rear (off of Chestnut and Poli, if you know how) and wonderful murals as you enter. And it is safe and wonderful and getting better.

They have wonderful programs under the direction of Star Soto including reading to dogs on Saturdays and Storytimes. On Jan. 10 at 10:30 and Jan. 11 at 3:30 it will be "Let It Snow" and on Jan. 24 at 10:30 and Jan. 25 at 3:30 it will be "Chinese New Year" and I am trying to arrange for a local Chinese restaurant to be there with snacks and to speak about Chinese foods.

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tribes work out (or not work out) their differences; it's their country, their destiny.

I hope our Country isn't sucked back into this quagmire. The US has squandered away the precious lives and health of thousands of our young men and women, as well as trillions of treasure. Enough is enough!

Judith A. Beay
Ventura

The Breeze;

Re: Kevin Clerici article on the homeless

While I am in agreement with Kevin I have found it daunting to donate to the organizations that Kevin mentioned in his article. Without exception I have called them and asked them for their financials. Before making a donation I wanted to know the breakdown and what actual funds were going to the homeless. I wanted to know the monies going to administration for salaries and so forth. I was denied this request at each of the organizations. Since I do not feel comfortable giving to those organizations without knowing that information, I now carry food cards with me and give them out. Then at least I know they are getting food.

Sincerely,
Sandra McCullough
Ventura

Breeze:

As 2012 starts allow me to offer a challenge to our community. That is for us to move past our failures to success. The failure I am speaking of is our community's lack of year round, well managed, 24/7 shelter. For at the moment we fail in two ways - rather dramatically.

The first is where we are failing to respond properly to what is a clear, present, and urgent need for well managed, year round, 24/7 shelter. I am aware that such shelter will not be a magic wand that will resolve all issues related to poverty or homelessness.

And the second way where we are failing is to reflect the true heart of this community, where I have lived since 1991. I long ago lost count of the number of people and businesses, who are more than willing, to actively participate and contribute to addressing identified needs in our community. Be it NAMI or Turning Point or Project Understanding or the local community councils, and so many others. I have witnessed again and again businesses and

residents who, most often without fanfare or recognition, express the "where am I needed?" and "where can I contribute?" outpouring that is so much a part of this community of San Buenaventura.

When we focus on well managed shelter - cannot 2012 be the year when we move beyond all the, at times well intentioned explanations of "why we cannot" to "here is how we will!"?

It truly breaks my heart, when in our community of San Buenaventura, with both the recognition of what we need to do and so many more than willing to step up to fulfill their role, we still fail, with all the politically correct code words, to move forward.

I don't comment on our failure for the purpose of shaming us. Rather to encourage us to get off our duff and do the right thing. If we continue to accept failure then shame will be merited.

I truly hope 2012 will be the year we respond to this recognized need. John S Jones
Ventura,

People should respect public opinion in so far as it is necessary to avoid starvation and to keep out of prison, but anything that goes beyond this is voluntary submission to an unnecessary tyranny.

– Bertrand Russell



News and Notes



CAPS Chat

Welcome 2012

by Elizabeth Rodeno

The staff at CAPS is excited about our prospects for the year 2012. This year should prove to be full of great civic and community events for CAPS and its members to document. Over the past years we have covered events such as Summerfest, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Municipal Elections, Art Walks, Chamber events, the Boys and Girls Club's groundbreaking, film premiers and kid's storytelling events to name just a few.

The content that our 200+ members produce reaches thousands of people within our community. Our members have travelled the globe to bring back stories of health, hope, protection of people and the environment. They have shared travels and introduced us to beautiful places.

In this issue we feature a member Producer from the CAPS community, George Alger. George discovered CAPS television during a search for his local

public access station. With a background working in community productions at centers in Hollywood and Burbank he wanted to continue his love for the process through the creation of his own local community program. His background in still photography helped George expand his reach into another aspect of visual media. George arrived at CAPS ready to learn. He was trained by Donald McConnell and Alex Uvari on how to make a video through learning the use of digital video cameras, lighting, and using iMovie editing software. Later he expanded his knowledge by taking Evan Carpenter's studio class which covers how to create, light, shoot and edit a video talk show using our fully equipped studio.

George has been producing "Our Ventura" since February of 2011. He has broadcast over 47 episodes that have aired on CAPS Channel 6 and is one of our most consistent producers with new and exciting programming content relating specifically to the local Ventura community. George told me he likes to meet and interview people who are contributing to the community and his show provides the opportunity to share their story. His program uses a "round robin" format in which he has a different host for each episode interviewing guests that they provide in relation to a wide range of topics. This creative style helps him to bring people together and share networking opportunities to the diverse residents of Ventura.

George is assisted in producing his program by CAPS member Petrina Sharp who works as his director and assistant producer. She has a busy job managing and staffing several production crew positions. In the future George intends

to transition into the production of short films. Away from CAPS George has a marketing firm and travels via motorcycle to the studio and to parts unknown, having logged over 100,000 miles on his Kawasaki Concourse. George is an example of one of our many interesting members who creates shows at CAPS using our training, equipment and facilities. George wants to tell everyone that you can make and appear on TV in Ventura. "It's easy and fun." Thank you, George.

As always we continue to educate Venturans on how they can share their story using our cameras, editing bays and studio. We would love to have all of you come try your hand at video production. Check out our website at www.capstv.org or on Facebook at CAPS-TV Ventura. See you next time.

Grape Expectations

Reflections of 2011

by Eric Garnier

It's hard to believe that 2011 is already over. I've been writing this column for a year now and it seems that I have so much to share and so many wines I want to talk about.

So, what I want to do is put 2011 behind me with my thoughts of what I have learned and accomplished in my wine world. Though I am retired, I still have had the luxury this year of visiting several wineries in my travels and going to many wine tastings through the wine trade. I have been fortunate to taste close to 1000 wines throughout the year and have formed opinions on several of these.

What I have tried to do in this article is list one or two of my favorite wines, by varietal or country that I have found to be reasonably priced, easy to find, and not break the pocket book. While these may not be the best wines in each category, I have found them to be some of my go to wines. These wines listed are available at fine retailers in Ventura, and I will list the retailers later.

My favorite NEW winery is DAOU winery in Paso Robles. They are the highest elevation winery in Paso, and make outstanding French style Cabernets and Rhone style reds and whites. Situated high above the valley off Adelaida Road, this is a must visit winery.

My second favorite new winery is right here in Ventura! Four Brix winery opened three months ago on Eastman Avenue. Please go and support them, as they have very good wines that you can taste AND purchase there. They are also part of the Ventura Wine Trail.

My pick as "Wine of my year" is: La Serre Nuove '09 by Ornellia

Below is a list of some of my favorite wines by varietal or country that I truly enjoyed this year:

Cabernet Sauvignon. Pinot Noir
Camus '09. Dierberg Santa Maria '09
Upper Cut '09. Orogeny '09
Syrah Zinfandel
Demetria North Slope '09. Four Vines Biker '09
Andrew Murray Tour Les Jour '08.
Frank Family '09
Chardonnay Italy
Newton '09. La Serre Nuove '09 by Ornellia
Chamisal Stainless '10
Frescobaldi Nipozzano '07
Some or all of the wines can be found

at the following retailers in The Ventura area:

Four Brix Winery
Carpinteria Wine Company
Ventura Wine Company
BevMo
Paradise Pantry

Cheers, Happy New Year
Eric
wineoeric@gmail.com

Compassionate Eating

The New Way

by Bianca Rose Martinez

So what is going to happen in 2012? Armageddon? Alien landings? Polar shifts perhaps? A new world order? With all the crazy things going on in the world the temptation to go into the mindset of fear can be strong. Even our own city is seeing an increase in strange activities in its airways. I can't help but wonder, what are all these streaks cutting our beautiful blue skies into hazy blankets of who knows what? It can make one want to cultivate a number of distractions to avoid having to face the truth; that we are at the end of an era. The corruption of our systems and infrastructures is being exposed, and people are ready for real change. I believe that what the ancient ones predicted is not the end of the world, but rather a shift in consciousness. The evils of greed, destruction and lust for power have taken a heavy toll on our planet and our spirits. The time has come for a "new way". A way of being that focuses on the greater good for all not the few. A way of being that holds compassion and love at its core. A way that recognizes the suffering of all forms of life and instead of turning a blind eye does something about it. We can do this by not only fighting on the front line like many occupy movements around the world but within. Facing our own demons and treating our selves with compassion and acceptance will be key to bringing about a more peaceful world. By doing this inner work we open the door to having whatever space we are in and whatever our energy touches, resonate with a more positive vibration. This is the best weapon we have to bring such powerful opposition to its knees.

Our bodies, our spiritual temples are a good place to start this process. Eating in a way that nourishes our body, mind, spirit and planet has a major role in creating a better world for all life. Avoiding or limiting foods such as animal products insures that we are not ingesting the suffering of other living beings or supporting a system that exploits, abuses and kills for profit. Be sure and consume locally grown foods whenever possible, and stay away from processed, chemically or genetically modified products that are harmful to the body. Supporting local farmers that use ethical growing practices helps insure one of our greatest assets: healthy soil. For without this precious Earth all life as we know it cannot exist. What is there to fight for if the very soil beneath our feet is contaminated and depleted of life-giving abilities? By making small changes in our daily lives we can help do our part in creating the new way. Your choices are vitally important to how this year and the future of humanity will play out. Vote with your forks, co-create with the universe, embrace your deepest soul's purpose and be a force for the greater good! The world needs all its warriors to wake up and fight the most difficult battle of all; the one that takes place in the mind.

For recipes featuring local organic goodness check out:
compassionateeating.wordpress.com

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No Delay in Trash & Recyclables or Green Waste Pick Up Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will be celebrated on Monday, January 16. We will have regularly scheduled trash and recyclables or green waste collection the week of January 15-21 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai.

Thank you and Happy Holiday

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News and Notes

Dillon's Dining

Cafe Fiore

by Dillon Patrick



Cafe Fiore, located at 66 California Street in Ventura, is one of many family owned businesses in the Downtown Ventura area; it offers an extensive menu of unique Italian fare. The restaurant is owned and operated by Anna and Maria Fiore, first generation Americans with ancestries from Bari, Italy.

Café Fiore is a beautiful restaurant featuring exposed beams that draw your eyes up to the vaulted ceilings. The plush pillow-lined booths make for a very comfortable dining experience. Guests waiting for a table can enjoy their time next to the fireplace and exposed brick walls. An oversized wine case complements the exposed kitchen with copper accents and a cozy patio with soft lighting is perfect for enjoying a warm California evening outdoors. The interior is skillfully decorated with an "at home" feel; however, the massive bar is the first thing guests see when entering through the front door. Most guests seem to enjoy the bar, as it offers a full menu, excellent martinis, and extensive wine list; however, it does obstruct the view of the attractive dining room hiding right behind it. I love to enjoy a drink while waiting for a table, but I feel this coliseum sized bar distracts from the open kitchen and dining room.

My multiple visits to Fiore have included a variety of service experiences, ranging from great to below average. Most servers are quick to welcome you and eager to explain the specials of the evening, while some servers seem uninterested and neglect to mention the specials. Inconsistent service aside, one thing that remains consistently good at Fiore is the delicious artigiano bread and tapenade provided after seating. Like chips and salsa at a Mexican restaurant, you're very likely to overindulge in this starter, so pace yourself. Fiore offers a moderately priced menu with an abundant selection of salads, homemade pastas, pizzas, vegetarian, and meat dishes. Fiore also offers a "Spa Menu" for those of you watching your waistline. Italian cuisine varies significantly based on the region of origin and the menu offered at Fiore has obvious traces of its southern roots. Most recently, I enjoyed the Agnolotti di Pollo e Spinaci (Homemade ravioli stuffed with roasted chicken and spinach in a cherry tomato olive oil sauce tossed with melted burrata cheese - \$16). The ingredients were fresh, the ravioli perfectly cooked, and the dish seasoned well. My guest ordered the Osso Buco con Risotto alla Milanese (Braised veal shank in a vegetable red wine sauce over a creamy saffron and parmigiano risotto - \$27) The veal was presented nicely and was extremely tender; however, I felt it was a bit dry and under-seasoned. I think the food is priced appropriately, but the inconsistent service could motivate me to say it's slightly high.

If you're interested in a side of "club scene" with your Italian food, Fiore also offers the Tree House Lounge, located adjacent to the main dining room. The Tree House Lounge boasts "hip DJs", private cabanas, and bottle service in a romantic setting.

All things considered (beautiful

dining room, extensive menu, full bar, club lounge, and service), I give Cafe Fiore 3 ¾ forks rating. Additional attention to food and service consistency will easily raise Fiore to a four fork rating.

Cafe Fiore is open for lunch daily from 11:30am to 3:00pm, dinner Monday – Thursday from 5:00pm to 10:00pm, Friday – Saturday from 5:00pm to 11:00pm, and Sunday from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. Contact 653-1455 for reservations.

Improvements at the Ventura County Fairgrounds

by James Lockwood

The Ventura County Fairgrounds looks back at 2011 as a year of progress and improvement. Under the leadership of a 9-member board of directors, led by president Jan Berk and Vice President Leslie Cornejo, events and improvements were designed and implemented to benefit and enhance the Ventura County Fairgrounds for our community.

The annual Ventura County Fair has been a tradition in the county since 1875. The Fair theme for 2011 was "The Bounty of the County". The Fair showcased local talent and the fruits of labor proudly entered for competition and exhibited by more than 5,000 Ventura County residents. 14-year-old Amanda Zavala from Thousand Oaks was chosen as the artist for the official Fair Poster. Visitors to the 2011 Fair witnessed the birth of a calf, learned about Ventura County Agriculture and enjoyed free concerts.

The fair infused Ventura County with thousands of people including ride operators, food vendors, entertainers, animal owners and fun seekers who stayed for more than 12 days, all the while spending money on hotel rooms, local restaurants, gas, animal feed, clothing, medical needs, food and more. The local taxes generated by the fair exceeded \$1 million. Hundreds of Ventura County residents were offered employment for the summer. Ventura County benefits every year from the multi million dollar spending that comes in August.

Surfer's Point is the pride of the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The legendary beach and bike path were restored and restructured to protect against the wrath of the seasonal ocean storms. Together with environmental and government organizations the eroded bike path was moved farther inland from the coast and rebuilt with an attractive design that includes seating and a rock garden. It was designed to serve the community safely and beautifully for years to come.

The Fairgrounds Main Entry Plaza project, presented by the Ventura County Fair Foundation is a fundraising effort, which began in early 2011. The project serves to beautify the Fairgrounds while inviting the community to be a part of the Fairgrounds forever. Continuing into 2012, paving bricks are beautifully personalized with the names of friends, neighbors and loved ones, and laid out in a decorative fashion at the Main Entry to the Fair. For generations people will read the names and remember. The Ventura County Fair Foundation is a volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds to maintain and beautify the Fairgrounds.

Construction of a new 38,000 square foot Livestock facility began this year. Named after a native son, the Judge William

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

P. Clark Livestock Center will house approximately 500 animals at Fair time. It will also serve as an animal evacuation center during times of natural disasters. The beautiful new facility will be completed for the 2012 Ventura County Fair, August 1 – 12 and will showcase the livestock raised by youth in Ventura County's 4H, FFA and Grange programs.

Looking ahead to 2012, the Ventura County Fairgrounds Board of Directors, under the guidance of newly elected Board President Leslie Cornejo and Vice President

Armando Lopez foresee a year of forward momentum for the Fairgrounds, without losing sight of the Ventura County Fairgrounds mission: to promote, support, educate, celebrate and preserve the diverse culture and traditions of Ventura County.

All of the staff, superintendents and thousands of volunteers of the Ventura County Fairgrounds thank you for supporting your Fairgrounds.

For more information about the Ventura County Fairgrounds please visit www.venturacountyfair.org.

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From our sister publication, the Ventura Signal, October 23, 1875.



Community Events

A new spin to food and wine events

On Jan. 19 (from 6-8:30pm), the Ventura County Wine Trail is bringing a new spin to food and wine events by introducing the first annual "Local Food & Wine Challenge". Twelve teams of local wineries and restaurants will match up to see who can create the best wine and food pairing in Ventura County!

The evening will begin with a champagne reception. From there, guests sample the area's finest wines and cuisine in 24+ food and wine pairings! Each winery / restaurant team will be judged on the synergy, presentation and overall experience of their pairing. The competition will be judged by three local food commentators, and the winner will be announced the Best Food & Wine pairing in Ventura County!

The champagne reception, live music and stunning evening will take place atop the Crowne Plaza Hotel located at 450 E. Harbor Boulevard.

Pre-sale tickets are available for \$45.00 on the Ventura County Wine Trail website (<http://www.ventura-countywinetrail.com/>) and at the door for \$55.00.

A portion of the evening's proceeds will be donated to the Ventura County FOOD Share, a food bank that houses and distributes millions of pounds of food each year to the hungry of Ventura County.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

If you have an event that you would like in the Breeze please send to events@venturabreeze.com

Jan. 8: Sierra Club hike meet at 8:30 a.m. at the fountain across from the Mission on Main Street. Park in parking lot next to museum-no charge. Walk will be to the cross, then the pier, across the beach front and back to the Mission. 4.5 miles round trip. Coffee and snacks after at the Busy Bee Café. All age groups invited, those under 18 must have a parent on the hike. More information call Ted 985-8963.

Jan. 12: Ladies Luncheon will be held at, Le Petit Café Bakery, 1591 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura. Thursday from 11:15 to 1pm. "Fresh Beginnings", start out the year by networking with Ventura's finest businesswomen. Great giveaways and gourmet lunch.

Reservations online at www.TheLadiesLuncheon.com \$25 and be on the attendee list or pay at the door!!

Limited seating!

Jan. 14: The Ventura Beginners Personal Computer Users Group will meet Saturday at 9:15 a.m., on the third floor lounge of the Cypress Place Active Senior Living building, 1220 Cypress Place, Ventura. Toby Scott, past president of the Channel Islands Personal Computers User Group, will present "Getting Acquainted with Windows 7". Guests are welcome. For more information, call Marcie Malony at 648-1368.

Audubon January events: More information is available at www.VenturaAudubon.org

Jan. 15: Saticoy Ponds on Sunday starting 8:30 a.m. Bring scopes and meet outside the gate. Please be prompt as we need to enter together. Directions: The ponds are located on the northeast side of Hwy 118/Los Angeles Ave. We should see a variety of ducks, such as Teal, Gadwall & Bufflehead. Leader: Eric Waian 630-0100.

Jan. 21: Lake Los Carneros, Goleta Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. Birding & Lunch. The lake, willows, and surrounding grassy scrub lands with pines, oaks and eucalyptus should provide a wide variety of birds and wintering monarchs. After birding we will eat lunch at Goleta Beach (Beachside Cafe). RSVP with Betsy for lunch reservations. Leader: Betsy Bachman 646-4407.

Jan. 28: Beginners' Walk at Carpinteria Salt Marsh on Saturday 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The marsh usually has shorebirds, waders, peeps & ducks. There may be Kingfishers, Kites and perhaps a Shrike. Leader: Allen Bertke 640-9037.

Jan. 15: Sierra Club Carpinteria Brunch Hike: An easy hike to Carpinteria for brunch. Meet at the Carpinteria Bluff Parking Lot at 8:30 a.m. The parking lot is located at 6143 Carpinteria Ave. The hike is easy, the views of the ocean, islands and mountains are fantastic. Carpool from Vons on Seaward at 7:43 a.m.

Jan. 16: Sharon Hillbrant, of Camarillo, will present information about **The Many Roles of a Parliamentarian** at a meeting of the Zeta Chi Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP). The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in the Topping Room of E.P. Foster Library in Ventura. The presentation will include information about parliamentary ethics and writing parliamentary opinions: providing services during meetings and at conventions; serving as a professional presider and serving contentious organizations.

The Zeta Chi Unit holds meetings at the library the third Monday of each month except December. Free parking is available behind the library. Unit member dues are \$25 per year. For more information contact Sandra Sanders at 643-5928 or sandy108@pacbell.net

Jan. 17: The Unitarian Universalist Church on Ralston Avenue in Ventura is hosting Dr. Lanyard Dial, the Medical Director for Livingston Memorial Hospice who will present Hospice and "Letting Go", the meaning of Hospice and Palliative. The discussion will be at 6:30 pm in the Green Room.

Jan. 18: The Libertarian Party in Ventura County will hold its **Annual Election** at Mimi's Café 400 N. Moorpark Road in Thousand Oaks. Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. voting for new County Officers will take place. Positions are open to all members, and the public is invited to attend. For more information call 652-0290 or go to www.lpvc.org.

Jan. 19: Begin 2012 right with a casual, fun evening of **mixing and networking!** This is a free event held to encourage the growth of locally owned businesses. Complimentary refreshments will be provided. This night of networking is open to everyone! Bring your business cards and brochures. 5pm - 7pm at the Ventura Executive Suites, 701 E. Santa Clara Street.

Jan. 20: Andrew Calhoun, singer-songwriter/guitarist and record company owner/producer, performs two sets at the WAV Theatre/Gallery, corner of Ventura and Thompson, on Frid. starting at 8pm. Admission: \$10.00. Sensitive lyricism is set to gentle acoustic melodies. Andrew is influenced by John Prine, Leonard Cohen and Martin Carthy. Andrew Calhoun brings a poetic approach to his unique style of songwriting." -AllMusic. www.waterbug.com.

Jan. 22: "Corporate Personhood and GMOs - Get Money Out of Elections for the Sake of Our Health and Environment - A Workshop and Signature Gathering Training" Sunday, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. workshop and optional 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. box supper and training. Open to all; no charge.

Continued on page 15

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Sports



Simon Deeley will be instructing Ventura's youth on the finer aspects of playing soccer

Ventura County Fusion has new Youth Program Director

The Ventura County Fusion have announced a new member to their full time coaching team as Simon Deeley has joined the Fusion as Youth Program Director. Simon has been given the responsibility of developing both the elite level club side of the Fusion's soccer programs as well as their community and recreational initiatives.

Simon came to Fusion having coached and played soccer for over 17 years in both the US and across the pond in his home country England. In England he played semi-professionally as well as being a member of the University of Central Lancashire's

National Championship winning side of 2003. After having finished his playing days Simon went on to coach Birmingham Metropolitan College for two seasons before heading to California and his new role with the Ventura County Fusion.

Simon stated that "I am trying to change the way youth soccer is viewed in the California area by focusing on the development of the player rather than the result of the team."

"I know myself I don't cherish any of the U11 - U 15 medals I won as a child but am more than thankful for the top level coaching I received which gave me the success I experienced in adult soccer and ultimately made me the player and person I am today"

He is determined to drive forward the club side of the Fusion youth programs since taking over in November.

"There are a lot of children in Ventura who have the talent to play club soccer but not the opportunity. Hopefully with my long term vision we can start to change that"

To do this, the Fusion are trying to pool together as much talent as possible during their open tryouts coming up this February 13th - 23rd for boys and girls aged 7 - 13 years. The try-outs are free to attend and will be comprised of small sided scrimmages in order for the children to showcase their ability and enthusiasm.

For further details and information go to simon@vcfusion.com

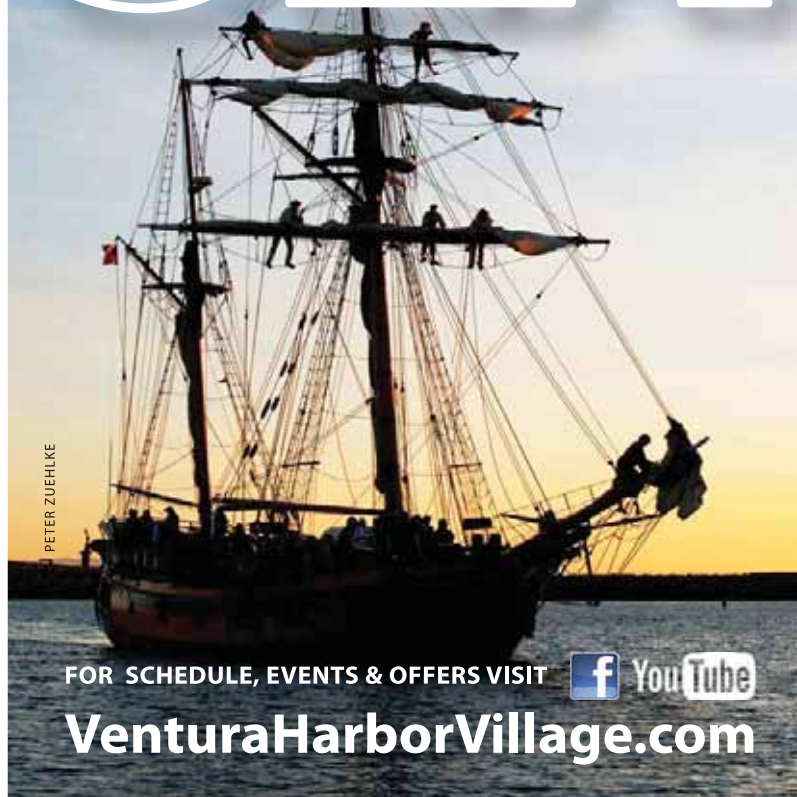


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Harbor events

January 24 through February 6, Tall Ships Hawaiian Chieftain & Lady Washington will be back in the Ventura Harbor Village! Tall Ships docked in the Ventura Harbor offer Dockside Tours, Battle Sails, and Adventure Sails where passengers learn seaworthy history. For more information visit www.VenturaHarborVillage.com, for tickets visit www.historicalseaport.org

Saturday & Sunday, January 28 & 29 from 10 AM - 5 PM visit the Ventura Harbor Village, and watch as the First Company Washington Artillery of New Orleans creates living history with a replica of a military camp from 1861 - 1865 including a hospital, tents, musket and pistol demonstrations, cannons, and an antique gun display! Come see live music of the era by Watermelon Pie and shake hands with President Abraham Lincoln impersonator

wandering through the camp. Admission Free. For more information visit www.WashingtonArtillery.info.

Go Gray Whale Watching with Island Packers now thru April. Gray Whales migrate yearly between Alaskan waters and Mexican water and back again to Alaska and pass between the mainland and the local islands. Reservations: Island Packers 642-1393 or visit www.islandpackers.com

When the weather is cold warm up with delicious soups at Village restaurants. Varieties include: Andria's Seafood Clam Chowder, Milano's Italian Restaurant Minestrone Soup, Brophy Brothers' Cioppino Soup, Baja Bay Surf-n-Taco's Abondigas Soup, Margarita Villa's Tortilla Soup, Andres Wine & Tapas' Tomato Soup, Harbor Sushi's Miso Soup, Spinnaker Steak & Seafood's Lobster Bisque, The Greek at the Harbor's Lentil Soup, Le Petit Cafe & Bakery's French Onion Soup & Blackbeard's BBQ Cafe's Chili!

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Photo by Vicki Poteet Rodriguez

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Photo by Tim Haut

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Barbara Meister

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Barbara Meister, is a retired educator with a Master's in Elementary Education, President and CEO of Barber Ford-Volkswagen-Subaru-RV, "community activist," travel consultant and travel writer and mother of three, grandmother of five and great-grandmother of three. She has been honored (with late husband Larry Meister) for community work with Temple Beth Torah, Casa Pacifica, Rubicon Theatre Company, Museum of Ventura County, Community Memorial Hospital and Interface Santa Paula Family Resource Center.

Barbara serves on the boards at Rubicon Theatre Company, Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation and the Tower Club. She is the recipient of many community awards including: Casa Pacifica's "Guardian Angel," Association of Fundraising Professionals "Volunteer of the Year" and "Philanthropist of the Year," the Ventura County "Jefferson Award" nominee, Jewish Federation "Woman of Valor," Temple Beth Torah "Woman of the Year" and "George Zander Award."

Barbara is a major sponsor of Rubicon Theatre Company, the Ventura Music Festival and the Ventura Film Society. She also supports many other non-profit organizations including Temple Beth Torah, New West Symphony, Jewish Federation of Ventura County, Birthright Israel Foundation, Food Share, Jewish Family Service, California International Theatre Festival and Focus on the Masters.

She also presents scholarships each year to nurses at Community Memorial Health System in association with the nursing program at Ventura College. She has established two scholarships at Ventura College and has endowed a Scholarship for Teachers at CSU Channel Islands. She also gives scholarships to Ventura Unified School District High School seniors and has sent 36 young people

to Israel on scholarships. There is the Casa Pacifica employee awards, the VCCF Women's Legacy "Barbara Meister Fund for Women" and the Jewish Federation "Meister Teaching Tolerance Fund."

Barbara is a "founder" of the Social Justice Fund of Ventura County, "friend" of the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Center and a "founder" of the Ventura Music Festival.

She also produced "The Best is yet to Come-The Music of Cy Coleman", off-Broadway and is the author of "The Pear-Par Tree."

Barbara and her late husband, Larry, are listed in the U.S. House of Representatives Congressional Record for their many years and dedication to community service.

Because of their charitable contributions the social hall at Temple Beth Torah and the lobby at the Rubicon Theatre Company have been named in honor of Barbara and Larry Meister as have many other locations.

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

Ventura is a paradise on earth! It is a great place to raise a family. There is the beach, the mountains, theatre, music, art, the museum, great schools, good newspapers and wonderful health care. The people are very friendly and polite. It's like being on a vacation all the time! We are close enough to Los Angeles to take advantage of the things a "big city" has to offer but far enough away to not have to deal with the smog, heat and traffic daily.

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

Johanna is a charming person. She made me feel at ease immediately. As I watched her painting my portrait, I felt she was finding my soul. Her great talent captured me on canvas but she also captured my heart. It was a pleasure being with Johanna for what was an amazing experience.



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

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

On the Lyn Fairly show, "Lyn Fairly & Friends", heard every Saturday from noon to 1pm on 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.



The "Face Of Ventura by Johanna Spinks" portraits can still be seen at the Executive Suites, located at 701 E. Santa Clara. An excellent opportunity to see this "half way" wonderful collection.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER Sheila Cluff

Sheila Cluff, internationally-known fitness expert and a 75-year-old mother of four and grandmother of seven lives and looks the lifestyle she teaches. The former star and host of her own fitness shows on NBC and KABC in Southern California, Cluff has touched the lives of millions. Cluff was named "Woman of the Year" by the City of Hope Foundation. Cluff introduced "cardiovascular dance" to the world in the 1950s. Today, we know this ground breaking exercise simply as "aerobics."

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Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

Butter side up – Hal Wilder, Jr.'s life!

by Nanci Cone

Most people in their 90s like to relax and enjoy their retirement. Not so Hal Wilder, Jr. He's so busy that it's difficult to get him to stop and talk about his life. He's out in the community on a daily basis making a difference in so many people's lives.

As he notes, "Let's just say that I have always been lucky. Not so much in big things. When things could turn out either way, it usually falls my way. When I have need, it seems, I usually meet the right new friend. First off, take my selection of parents. They were smart, happy people. Each came of industrious stock and they were industrious themselves. I guess they were 20th Century examples of the "upper middle class". They were basically middle of the road philosophically. I think they were both just naturally generous, but I know they were also brought up to consider others, not only with tangibles, but with ideas and points of view. So, I started out with very good luck."

In July of 1941, he was recruited to go to work at the Iowa Ordnance outside of Burlington. After training, he became Senior Shift Inspector at only 23 years old but in 1942, he signed up in the Aviation where his entry into the combat zone in the European Theater was delayed by some 18 months.

Hal wound up in the hospital with a mild case of spinal meningitis in June of 1944 after he had finished his training as a combat crew but before he could be shipped out. This saved his life as the crew went to England without him where they were shot down with only one survivor who ended up as a POW for the duration of WWII.

In the summer of '43, on a blind date with Rosie Naumann he found himself proposing marriage before the night ended. They married in February '44 where he began a career in sales. They settled in Illinois and then moved to Ventura County back in the 1970s. After more than half a century honeymooning, Hal lost his beloved Rosie in February, 2000.

As Hal puts it, "Now, I'm broke and living in the CalVet Home in Saticoy. I keep busy with writing books, LA Workout, volunteering on the Tall Ship, Bill of Rights, St. Pauls Episcopal Church, and the Brain Injury Support Group (where he leads a workshop on memory resoration). Additionally, he joined the Ventura Power Squadron in 1977, and am now a past Commander. "I served as Chairman of the Public Boating course for 12 years and have served in almost every position in VPS."

Stephen Taylor, captain of the Bill of Rights, says, "Hal is a compassionate, dedicated, and caring member of our team. He's patient to a fault and has a sly sense of humor that helps relax nervous sailors. Once you meet him, you can never forget him."

I couldn't have put it any better myself. To learn about the books he has written, visit Hal's website at www.grandfatherstories.com.

Are you a creative senior?

The Seniors Craft Shoppe is seeking new members. Any creative Ventura County senior over 50 years of age--man or woman--is eligible to apply. It's a great place to make new friends as well as an outlet for selling your crafts.

Located at 429 East Main Street in downtown Ventura, they are open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come for a visit! Or call 643-3059 for more information.

Grief support

Livingston Memorial VNA & Hospice conducts various adult grief support groups to help those who have experienced a loss. Explore and express feeling, understand the grief process and receive emotional support. Free of charge, all are welcome. The groups are:

Weekly: Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm at The First Presbyterian Church, 850 Ivywood Drive, Oxnard.

Weekly: Wednesday, 6:30 – 8:00 pm at Livingston Memorial VNA, 1996 Eastman Ave (#106), Ventura.

Bi-Monthly: 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 3:00 – 4:00pm at The Ventura Townhouse, 4900 Telegraph Rd, (7th floor), Ventura.

Monthly: For the newly bereaved; the second Tuesday, 6:00 – 7:00 pm at Livingston Memorial VNA, 1996 Eastman Ave (#106), Ventura.

For more information call 642-0239.



Do you think that you can do as many pushups as Sheila?

Local celeb at senior health & wealth expo

When the managers at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura were considering different guest speakers to headline their upcoming Health & Wealth Expo on January 25 one name quickly rose to the top – former professional figure skater and local celebrity Sheila Cluff.

"We found out that Sheila likes to use a small clip-on type microphone during her presentations because it allows her to do pushups while lecturing," said Jim Duran, executive director of Cypress Place. "Now bear in mind, Sheila is a 75-year-old grandmother! Needless to say the vote was unanimous on asking her to be the keynote speaker at our event."

Cluff, an internationally known fitness expert, is considered a pioneer in the health and fitness industry among her peers. She is the owner and founder of the Oaks at Ojai health and fitness destination spa.

Continued on page 13

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Business

Whole lotta Nothing goin' on...

How does the Ventura Breeze go from being a whimsical notion in Sheldon's mind to an actual newspaper? It stops at a little design studio on its way to the printer.

Alfred J. Lewis sold his first piece of commercial art almost forty years ago, got his first job in commercial printing thirty years ago and started his business, studioNothing, six years ago this month.

"If it's commercial art, design, photography or printing, we've got it covered," Lewis said recently. "Our motto is 'Surprisingly original, surprisingly affordable and surprisingly surprising' and that's just what we are."

Lewis started his studio to fill the gap between the low-cost internet printers and high-end design studios.

"A small business can't always afford a big design studio, but needs a nicer presentation than the internet printers can provide. That's where we come in. We work in any style from mild to wild, we do quick turn-arounds and we keep the prices in line with what small business can pay."

studioNothing's client list includes institutions such as the Ventura County Maritime Museum and the Ventura Film Society, small business such as the Ventura Harbor Comedy Club and the Savory Café and Bakery, portrait artist Johanna Spinks and many individuals who have required his art and design services.

And, of course, the Ventura Breeze.

"I want to thank Alfred Lewis of studioNothing, who gives the paper it's wonderful look," said Sheldon Brown while accepting the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Best Small Business of the Year award.

"I've worked with the Breeze from day-one," says Lewis. "I started out doing the ads and took over the full production a few months later. It's a great gig, not just for the money, but because working in so many different styles forces me out of my comfort zone. It keeps me mentally and stylistically limber."

"And the steady income doesn't hurt," he adds.

"Money is a big consideration for every business in this economy. I've had many potential clients tell me that graphics aren't a priority anymore. All I can tell them is you never get a second chance to make a first impression. Presenting a poorly designed and printed business card is like making a sales call in shabby clothes."

"I'm not the cheapest guy in town, but I provide good value for the money and I'd like to challenge everybody reading this to make me prove it."

In closing we had to ask Lewis where the name studioNothing came from.

"I could tell you, but then...well, you know."

studioNothing
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Leadership Ventura

Leadership Ventura, a professional development program since 1998, has open enrollment. Many local leaders, and employees have gone through the program for life-changing benefits. For more details, visit the Ventura Chamber Website (VenturaChamber.com) for Leadership Ventura under Community Development.

A day and a half retreat is scheduled for Jan. 27/28 with the monthly class days held on the 4th Wednesdays beginning in February (dark in August). Learn all the ins and outs of how the city and county function by meeting top leaders and touring locations you did not even know existed. Connect with other professionals from non-profits, the medical industry, the Navy Base, local entrepreneurs, education, tourism, the arts, media, government officials and so many more. Learn what Emotional Intelligence means in business today and how understanding your personality profile based on the Meyer's Briggs assessment can dramatically improve the way you do business.

Leadership Alumni that wish to repeat the program, since Dr. Relly Nadler has enhanced the curriculum, can do so at a discounted fee. Alumni can always audit one or more individual sessions at only the fee for lunch with reservations.

Local celeb

Continued from page 12

The former host of her own fitness shows on NBC and KABC, Cluff has touched the lives of millions as a motivational speaker, author, producer of fitness videos, and leader of fitness and beauty cruises. She introduced "Cardiovascular dance" to the world in the 1950s. Today, we know this ground breaking exercise simply as "aerobics."

"We are thrilled to have her," said Mike Macke, one of the marketing directors at Cypress Place. "We understand that Sheila does 150 to 200 pushups every other day. I'm just hoping she doesn't ask me to do a pushup contest with her."

In addition to Cluff's presentation, this year's Health & Wealth Expo at the senior community will include free blood pressure and mini-stroke screenings, free body mass index screenings, and free wealth management consultations. A free healthy gourmet lunch will also be provided.

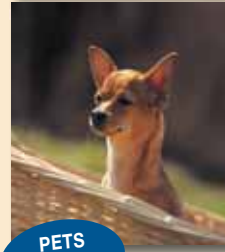
Cluff will kick off the expo at 11am on Wednesday January 25, and all vendor booths will be open to the public from 11:30a.m. to 1:00p.m. Raffle prizes will be given away throughout the event including two grand prizes.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

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.

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. For more information about the senior community, visit their web site at www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com To RSVP for the event please call 650-8000.

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Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp
Ph.D

On January 21-22 the Winterfest All Breed Dog Show, held by the Ventura County Dog Fanciers will be held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds (8am-5pm).

So go see how your dog is really supposed to look. Even I wouldn't recognize the Shih Tzu's.

■ Having a cat is sure less expensive than having a dog. I like toys that I can run around with in my mouth and ones that squeak and with Savana just take some aluminum foil and roll it in a ball and she is as happy as a kitten (just doesn't know what she is missing).

And how do you tell if a cat is deaf they don't come when you call them anyway?

■ I recently asked Sam Mazzotta (from King Features) the following question.

Question: In my column I always have several rescue dogs and I know that they are very well taken care of but I recently read a news story about several dogs rescued from horrible conditions in a "puppy mill". The shelter caring for these dogs is not immediately putting them up for adoption, and it said there will be stricter requirements for those who want to adopt them. Why is this?

Answer: Scamp, many shelter pets come with their own special set of behavioral quirks, often due to the stress and trauma of being abandoned at a shelter. But dogs (and cats and other pets) that suffer especially traumatic situations, such as abuse or starvation or neglect, can have a very difficult time adapting to home life. Because of this, many shelters have developed special policies regarding these rescues. As you read, the puppy-mill dogs were not immediately put up for adoption; they're being treated and evaluated. Some may never be considered safe to adopt.

Once dogs are considered healthy enough to adopt, the shelter is following guidelines to make their transition to a new home as smooth

as possible. For instance, it may not allow a puppy-mill rescue to go to a home that has kids under age 10. First-time pet owners will likely be discouraged or outright not allowed to adopt. Adopters may need to attend special classes, and the shelter may ask to make follow-up visits to the dog's new home.

Many rescues need a great deal of one-on-one attention, love and patience. If you're an experienced dog owner, meet the guidelines and are willing to take on the challenge of rehabilitating a rescued dog, go for it. But if you're not sure, then consider very carefully whether your family is ready to care for a rescued pet.

■ Because I always have a CARL dog to adopt I asked Sharon Clark, Executive Director Canine Adoption and Rescue League (CARL) to comment on this.

This is her answer:

"Scamp, it is a sad fact that dogs in puppy mills suffer deprivation in many ways. Dogs are pack animals and when a dog is isolated by being kept in a kennel or chained and required to have litter after litter of



puppies the dog suffers. Puppies born in puppy mills do not receive the individual attention and stimulation critical for them to develop emotionally and physically. They may not learn to bond to people. When

Forever home wanted,



Hi: I'm Baby an affectionate and playful 9 year old female Pit Bull mix. I'm beauty and elegance in a mature package. My puppy days are long gone, but I'm fit and hardy and ready to go to my forever home. I was adopted from C.A.R.L. with my brother when I was a puppy into what I thought was my forever home, but that was not meant to be. The people are nice here, but what I really want is a family to call my own. I've had formal training and know sit, stay and come when called. I'm an active dog who needs a fence that

is at least 6 feet tall. Once I get to know you I'm extremely sweet and devoted and I love attention. I really hope it's not long before someone comes to take me home.

The Canine Adoption & Rescue League, Sam's Place,
3203 E. Main St.
644-7387 www.carlvorg

Scamp Club

Hi: I'm Bella, a 2-year-old Papillon Poodle mix (PappyPoo). I love playing on the beach, going for hikes, and getting all of the attention "the cutest dog in the world" deserves. I also love bouncing around the house or snuggling into the crook of an arm for a nice little nap.



Join Scamp Club

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

these dogs are rescued they need to be evaluated to see what sort of home they can adjust in. Recently CARL took in 11 adult dogs and two litters of puppies from a local puppy mill. The adults had not been allowed to socialize with other dogs and spent

their time defending their space. Most of these dogs are social with people and hopefully will be adopted into families in the future. Our volunteers are working with them to be social in the community and yet they may need to be the only dog in the household."

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.

Felony Arrest

On Thursday, December 29th, at 6:30 p.m., VPD responded to Mega Checks, located at 1418 East Main Street, in reference to a call of someone attempting to cash a stolen check at the business. An officer attempted to detain Phillip Feldstott, 41 years old, who fled. After a short pursuit, a taser was used to safely apprehend Feldstott.

Officers located property in Feldstott's possession that was taken from a recent auto burglary in Camarillo. Feldstott was booked at VC Jail.

Fatal Traffic Collision

On Friday, December 30th, at 9:39 a.m., the VPD received a call regarding an injury traffic collision on Harbor Boulevard, west of San Pedro Street. Julia Rivas, 19 years old, was found trapped in her sedan and unresponsive. Ventura Firefighters checked

on Rivas and determined that she was deceased. The driver of the other vehicle, Tanya Northrop, 37 years old, sustained minor injuries.

Rivas was alone in her vehicle. She veered off of the roadway and onto the right side dirt shoulder. Rivas' vehicle traveled in the dirt shoulder, then overcorrected and entered into the westbound lane. The other party, Northrop, was driving when she saw Rivas losing control. Northrop came to a stop. Rivas' vehicle then collided with Northrop's stopped vehicle. Rivas' vehicle was turned sideways with the driver's side of the vehicle facing Northrop's vehicle. This crushed the driver's side of the vehicle, trapping Rivas inside.

Armed Robbery

On Friday, December 30th, at 2:30 p.m., a white male entered Munoz Wireless, located on the 9200 block of Telephone Road, wearing a bandana over his face. The subject brandished a handgun at the clerk and demanded money. The suspect walked around the counter, "pistol-whipped" and punched the clerk, then left the store without obtaining any money.

Responding officers checked the surrounding area for the suspect but never

found him. The clerk sustained minor injuries that did not require medical attention.

Prowling

On Saturday, December 31st, at 7:40 p.m., the VPD received a call from a victim of a burglary, who was reporting that several other victims had detained the suspect on the 800 block of West Main Street. Officers learned the suspect, Francisco Bonifasco, 23 years old, had entered the property several times, stealing items from campers in the area. Bonifasco was seen cutting locks to bicycles and when contacted, Bonifasco attempted to assault the victim. Other victims in the area were able to prevent Bonifasco from using a weapon he had concealed in his waistband. A probation search of Bonifasco's residence revealed he had several stolen items belonging to the victims. None of the victims were injured during this incident and Bonifasco was booked.

Attempted Murder

On Sunday, January 1st, at 7:30 p.m., the VPD received a call from Cody Allen who said he and his fiancée, Amanda DeCoste, had been shot at their residence, in the 1000 block of Britten Lane.

Officers found Allen and Decoste inside of their residence with serious injuries. They were rushed to the hospital with life threatening injuries.

The suspects, Kenneth Holland and Chad Loera, entered the victim's residence with the intent to rob them. Both victims were severely injured in a struggle.

Holland and Loera were located in a residence at 194 West Prospect Street. Both suspects were arrested without incident. Holland and Loera were booked into VC Jail.

Both victims were admitted to the VCMC for serious life threatening injuries.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

12-28 9:30 a.m. The skipper of a sailboat reported his vessel taking on water two miles from the Harbor. Vessel Assist and Patrol responded. The skipper was able to stop the water by turning

Continued on page 19

Community Events

Make-A-Wish Foundation has a shortage of volunteers

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Tri-Counties needs more volunteer Wish Granters, especially in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties to make wishes come true.

Wish Granters are the heart of the Foundation. Wish granters meet with the wish child and their family to learn the heartfelt wish of the wish child. They go out in teams of two to work with a wish family. All wish granting volunteers must go through fingerprinting and background checks as well as 8 hours of training. This position requires a strong commitment to the mission of the Foundation and a broad set of skills that cross into several areas including: fund development, finance, wish granting, and communications.

The annual training for Wish Granters is now open for enrollment.

There are four steps to becoming a volunteer Wish Granter which are outlined on the chapter webpage about volunteering.

- Complete a volunteer application
- Complete a background check.
- Complete On-line orientation webinar
- Complete Job specific, face-to-face volunteer training

You can register for the following classes by emailing czamudio@tri-counties.wish.org, listing the date, location, and name of the training you would like to enroll in. All steps of the application process must be completed two weeks before the class. Call 676-9474 x0 or send an e-mail to czamudio@tri-counties.wish.org with any questions.

- Upcoming Wish Granter Classes
- Santa Barbara Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.
 - San Luis Obispo Saturday, February 25, 2012 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.
 - Ventura Saturday, March 17, 2012 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Exact venues will be e-mailed to participants shortly before the class and once all registration materials are submitted.

Ventura events

Continued from page 8

Elizabeth Topping Room, EP Foster Library, 651 E Main St. Sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Contact Jan Dietrick, 643-3640 or email labelgmoventura@gmail.com.

Jan. 25: Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice is holding an 8 week **Hospice Volunteer Training Class**. The class will be held every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Foster Library's Elizabeth R. Topping Room, 651 E. Main St. The focus will be on end of life care issues, communication skills, dealing with grief and loss, spirituality, symptom management and the hospice team. Make a difference and become a Hospice Volunteer; it takes just a few hours a week and makes an immeasurable difference to patients and families.

For more information and class registration contact Maddy Hazard 642-0239, ext.775.

Ojai events

Free preview of Ojai ACT's 2012 season which include "And Then There Were None," "Oliver!," "Brooklyn Boy," "Sound of Music," and "Grease." Show is at 7 p.m. Sunday, **Jan. 15** at the theater, 113 S. Montgomery St.; no reservations necessary. Details about all the shows and purchase of season or single tickets are on the website: www.OjaiACT.org.

"Making Magic, Defying Gravity" presents Disney talent professionals and cast members from "Wicked" for an educational and musical performance event sponsored by the Educational Theater Association at 7 p.m. Monday, **Jan. 23** at Matilija Junior High School Auditorium, 703 El Paseo Rd. Tickets are only \$15 at the door or, to ensure seating, online at <http://schooltheatre.org/> and proceeds are used for scholarships. Direct questions to Gai Jones at gai.jones@sbcglobal.net.

The first exhibition at the Ojai Valley Museum in 2012 highlights the museum's **Libbey Glass Collection** juxtaposed with contemporary glass works by seven regional artists from **January 19 through April 1**. In addition, a private collection of antique American glass will be on view in an adjacent gallery.

"American Glass Works" is an original exhibition organized and curated by Museum Director Michele Pracy and supported by the Exhibitions Committee of the Ojai Valley Museum. It is the first time in 44 years the museum has mounted an exhibition of glass works. The show pays homage to Edward Drummond Libbey, turn-of-the-century industrial glass mogul and Ojai developer. It also heralds the excellence of studio glass currently created by selected Ventura County artists.

The museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Ave. Admission: free for current 2012 members, adults - \$4.00, students - 18 and under - \$1.00, children 6-18 - \$1.00 and children 5 and under - free. Gallery Hours are Tuesday - Saturday 10 to 4 pm; Sunday, noon to 4 pm. Tours are available by appointment.

For more information, call the museum at 640-1390, ext. 203, e-mail ojaimuseum@sbcglobal.net or visit the museum website at <http://www.ojavalleymuseum.org/>

Ojai Jazz Concerts presents **The Ron Eschete Trio** featuring world famous 7-string jazz guitarist Ron Eschete. They will perform Saturday night, **Jan. 21** at 8pm, at The Ojai Valley Community Church, 907 El Centro (@ Loma Dr.) The quartet includes Ron Eschete (7-string electric guitar), Joe Bagg (B-3 Organ), and Paul Kreibich (drums). Tickets are available at the door, online at www.tinyurl.com/ojaijazz7, and at The Ojai Roasting Co. in Ojai. General Admission-\$30./door & \$35 online, Friends of Jazz/VIP-\$50/door & \$55. online, Students(under 25 yrs. old w/ ID at door only)-\$15. For more info call 746-0936.

On Sunday, **Jan. 15**, at 4:30 pm, the Ojai Film Society will screen **Margin Call**, an entangling thriller set in the high-stakes world of the financial industry involving key players at an investment firm during one perilous 24-hour period in the 2008 financial crisis.

On Sunday, **Jan. 22**, 4:30 pm, the Ojai Film Society will screen **The Guard**, a crime comedy set in Ireland starring Brendan Gleason (In Bruges) and the

FINANCIAL STRESS?

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- **Overwhelming Bills?** Unreasonable collection calls? Threats/harassment? Taxes? Student loans?
- **Lawsuits?** Eviction demand? Wages garnished? Bank account levied? Served summons?
- **Business Struggling?** Behind on the lease? Negative ca\$h flow? **Protect yourself!**

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

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award-winning actor, Don Cheadle as they join forces to take on an international drug-smuggling gang.

Ojai Playhouse General Admission \$10, Seniors/Students \$7, 2012 OFS Subscribers Free

The **28th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair** is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, January 14 & 15. The bustling Peddler's Fair is located inside the Chapparral Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave. Parking is free in the adjacent municipal parking lot, and admission is always free. Held rain or shine, the Peddler's Fair is chock-full of quality antiques, collectibles, jewelry, hand crafts and international crafts. This is a benefit for the Mira Monte PTO.

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

Acclaimed blues singer, **Eric Bibb** returns to Ojai on Friday, **Feb. 3** @7:30 at Matilija Auditorium, 703 El Paseo Rd. A performance by Eric Bibb is an enriching experience - both musically and spiritually. Purveying a beautifully realized and deftly accomplished, soulful and gospel infused, folk- blues. As one critic

wrote "Eric's singing and versatile guitar playing fuses a variety of genres to become a New World Blues. Bibb's rich and sensitive vocals and lyrics provide a perfect balance to his fine finger picking technique. Tickets in advance are \$28 for adults and \$26 for seniors (65+) and students and are available at Ojai Coffee Roasting Co., by phone at 646-8907 or online at www.ptgo.org (click on Fresh Roasted).

"And Then There Were None" entangles ten diverse characters gathering at a remote mansion only to meet death one by one in clever and diabolical fashion, devised by the Mistress of Mystery, Agatha Christie, in this stage adaptation of "Ten Little Indians." Considered one of the greatest mysteries of all time, it kicks off Ojai ACT's 2012 season at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays **Jan. 27** through Feb. 26, except for a 7 p.m. show time on Sunday, Jan. 29. Located at the Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., tickets are \$18 general, \$15 students, seniors and Art Center members; call 640-8797 or www.OjaiACT.org for further information.

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
4	2	8	9	6	1	5	7	3
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	P	E	S	A	N	T	A	K	F	C
S	A	G	A	S	F	A	R	N	E	O
K	N	O	X	V	I	L	L	E	O	A
			V	A	N	E	N	A	C	T
B	I	K	I	N	I	S	A	L	K	
R	O	N	T	N	T	S	T	O	M	A
A	T	O	M	E	V	A	A	F	O	R
E	A	T	U	P	A	L	B	F	R	I
			H	O	E	D	L	E	A	S
B	R	O	N	C	O	O	L	D		
A	I	L	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G
I	C	E	A	N	A	M	E	O	A	R
L	O	S	T	A	K	E	S	S	P	A

Show Time



The legendary B-52s will be performing at the Ventura Theater

Where The Music Flows

B-52s to celebrate 35 Years in Ventura!

by Michael Kohli

On the heels of their fresh new release of, "With The Wild Crowd! Live in Athens, GA," the legendary B-52s bring their 35th Anniversary tour to the Majestic Ventura Theater on Jan. 12th. Performing their legendary tracks: "Rock Lobster", "Love Shack", "Private Idaho", "Funplex", and more! Music fan, Stephen Fery commented: "They are amazing. everything they did poked fun of the establishment and just lent to an energy of creative funkiness." Joseph Mota from the band Roman Candle Wars also commented: "There was a hardcore band called Botch that I used to listen to a lot and they covered, "Rock Lobster." I always thought it was cool how such a heavy band took such a simple poppy pock song and gave it their own touch. So, I guess in a way it made me appreciate the B-52s even more. Plus once you hear the song love shack you never get that out of your head." Gio Murillo, the lead vocalist for Two Minute Hero agreed, "They are pretty amazing!"

August Rising Working on New Tunes!

Local band, August Rising announced on Facebook that they are, "Working on some new tunes now!! Hope to get back into the studio soon!" With their brilliant live shows sweeping up music fans in Ventura recently, August Rising has the perfect blend of acoustic, rock, and various different moods and styles in the music. Very well polished and the songs seem to naturally come alive on stage. "And I Will" is one of their songs on YouTube that made me

an instant fan! Band members include: Jeff Stauning, Jarod "JemTone" Woznik, Patrick Stephens, Jesse LeFevers. Stay tuned for upcoming August Rising news in the new year!

Jade Hendrix – 2012 Artist on the Rise

One of my current favorite music artists of Ventura currently is Jade Hendrix. WAV artist resident and music dazzler! Had the opportunity to see her live and worked with her for a show. She is brilliant and will make your heart sing along with her! Recently performed at Café Fiore, hopefully she will be doing more shows in 2012 and release some new recordings. Look for her live video clips all over YouTube if you'd like to see her in either full band style, or solo acoustic. Keep dazzling them hearts, Jade! Ventura is extremely lucky to have such a talented gem!

Thank you for reading! Hope you enjoyed my music tidbits. Feel free to write to me at: VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com!

Michael Kohli
Kohlismusicpit.com

Music Calendar 1/11 to 1/24

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

Andre's Wine Bar

1575 Spinnaker Dr., 805-642-9463
Live Music every Tues, Thur & Fri

Blackbeards Seaside BBQ

1591 Spinnaker Dr., #115, 805-650-7773
Karaoke every Wed 6-9pm
Blue Grass Jam featuring: The Bottom Feeders every Thur
Fri 1/13 - Alastair Green 7-11pm
Sat 1/14 - The Magnificent Bastards 6pm-10pm
Sun 1/15 - Blue Stew 2-6pm
Fri 1/20 - Addicts Attic 7-11pm
Sat 1/21 - Jodi Farrell & the Front Street Prophets 6pm-10pm
Sun 1/22 - 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
Thur 1/12 - The Janks, Brian Mikasa, Rubberneck Lions
Fri 1/13 - Kyle Hunt and The King Gypsy
Sat 1/14 - OC Presents: Capricornocopia
Sun 1/15 - The R&B Bombers
Thur 1/19 - TBA
Fri 1/20 - Jahmon Soul, Ras Rebel
Sat 1/21 - Hindsite
Sun 1/22 - The Bomb

Cafe Fiore

66 California St., 805-653-1266
Live Bands every Tue thru Sat
DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri & Sat
Wed 1/11 - Big Adventure
Thur 1/12 - Coso Live
Wed 1/18 - Big Adventure
Thur 1/19 - 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., 805-653-0721
Thur 1/12 - The B-52's
Sat 1/14 - Public Enemy, Shoddy Cons, Kid Flowz
Sat 1/21 - Guy Martin (music of Jimmy Hendrix), Kronik Blues Band
Tue 1/24 - Lucinda Williams, Blake Mills

Tutti's Off Main

34 N. Palm Ave., 805-643-0880
Every Fri - Chris Wooley (guitar) 6:30-9:30pm
Every Sat - Steve Williams (guitar) 12-3pm, 6:30-9:30pm
Every Sun - Frank Barajas (guitar) 12-3pm

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 1/12 - 4 On The Floor
Fri 1/13 - Mini Driver
Sat 1/14 - Bomb
Sun 1/15 - Shawn Jones
Thur 1/19 - Caught Red Handed - Country Night
Fri 1/20 - Coso Live
Sat Soulamente
Sun 1/22 - Shoemaker Brothers

Yolies/Hi Hat Entertainment

138 W. Main St., 805-816-9663
Fri 1/13 - Big Joe Louis with Carl Sonny Leyland - Rockin' Blues 8pm
Fri 1/20 - James Intveld - Rockin' Rockabilly Blues 8pm

Zoey's Café

185 E. Santa Clara St., 805-652-1137
Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm
Wed 1/11 - Realization Orchestra w/Grampus 7pm, Birdfeeder, Semi Residence 9pm
Thur 1/12 - Crushed Crow 8pm
Fri 1/13 - The O's, Emy Reynolds Band 8pm
Sat 1/14 - The Milk Carton Kids 8pm
Sun 1/15 - The Milk Carton Kids 7:30pm
Thur 1/19 - Nate Latta and The Train Hoppers 8pm
Fri 1/20 - Elevator Ska 8pm
Sat 1/21 - Softsilience - farewell show 8pm
Sun 1/22 - 6th annual Student Jazz Competition 3pm, Tracy Grammer 8pm
Tue 1/24 - Blue Grass Jam 6pm

The Entertainment Report

Silver screen

by Linde Carlson

Hello, Ventura, happy New Year. These are my picks for the week.



The Artist

What an interesting concept, and it came off without a hitch. Director Michael Hazanavicius took a 1927 silent

film look and created an artful modern day romantic comedy, still keeping with the period's character and artistic palate.

Jean Dujardin plays George Valentine a handsome and popular silent movie star, a Rudolph Valentino look -a-like. As the era of big business in the motion picture industry starts changing, so does the production climate and it takes a turn toward talkies, a genre the audiences are vying for and for George it's a sad reality that the silent films are fading, and finds out his talents are no longer a viable money making or entertainment draw.

Berenice Bejo plays Pepper Miller, an assertive dancer, feisty and friendly who bumps into George at auditions and pretty much every where George goes. Feelings are mutual as flirtations lead to George's marriage crumbling and as his life takes a drastic turn, and peppy comes to his rescue.

Shot in black and white typical of Hollywood classics, The Artist has touching nuances of humor and sensitivity with real heartwarming and inspirational power, coupled with frequent surprises.

I enjoyed the film thoroughly, a real treat, very unique.

Rated Pg-13 Running time 100 minutes



War Horse

War Horse is adapted from a novel by Michael Morpurgo, directed by Steven Spielberg. An epic drama of World War I centering on a relationship between Albert and his horse Joey; a beautiful chestnut stallion, bought impulsively by his father in a bidding war against his landlord. The film turns out to be a gripping tale of war, honor, and the clinching of the theatre seat pretty much the whole time.

Joey the stallion, is sold to the Calvary and sent off to France, and becomes the back bone of the soldiers, using his tremendous muscle to haul tanks and supplies.

Once you got through the tension of the barbaric war scenes, the actual sentimentality and likeability of the characters stood out. Cinematically it had its moments of beauty, and at the end shot in filtered oranges and reds. Not for kids, the scenes are too adult and jarring, emotionally for the young ones. The rating is inappropriate it should be rated R for violence.

My rating is R Running time 146 minutes long

Until next time Ventura, enjoy and have a reely great week.

Two on the Aisle

"Hairspray" - Spoofed, poofed and delightful

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

Now through the second weekend of February, pull out your 1960's shirts and head to the east end of Ventura County to see one of the two productions of the hit musical "Hairspray" live on stage. Through an unusual quirk of circumstance, both the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center in Simi Valley and the High Street Arts Center in Moorpark obtained the rights to mount the hit show at the same time.

Continued on page 19

Public Notice

CITY OF VENTURA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

On Thursday, January 25, 2012 the City of Ventura (San Buenaventura) will begin accepting applications for 2012-2013 CDBG Program funding.

The purpose of the federally funded CDBG program is the development of viable communities, decent housing and expanded economic opportunities for persons of low- and moderate- income. Although the U.S. Department of HUD has not yet released its 2012-2013 appropriation amounts, the City anticipates receiving approximately \$735,000 in CDBG funds.

The City is accepting applications for funding of projects that meet the program objectives and eligibility criteria, and that are located within Ventura city limits. The City will likely not have any funds available for public service projects such as recreation, childcare, youth programs, health, or drug abuse prevention projects.

Organizations interested in applying for funding must attend the Pre-Funding Workshop on January 25th and submit a completed application by February 27th. The mandatory Pre-Funding Workshop will be held in the Community Meeting Room on the 2nd floor of Ventura City Hall at 9:00 a.m., January 25th.

Application filing requirements, instructions, and forms will be available on the City's website (www.cityofventura.net/cd/redev/grants) beginning January 25th.

For further information, please contact Andrea Palmer, Associate Planner at (805) 654-7735 or apalmer@cityofventura.net.

The Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



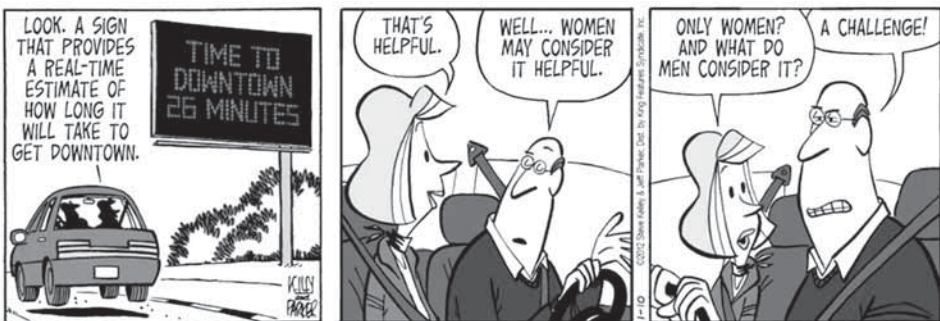
Shoe



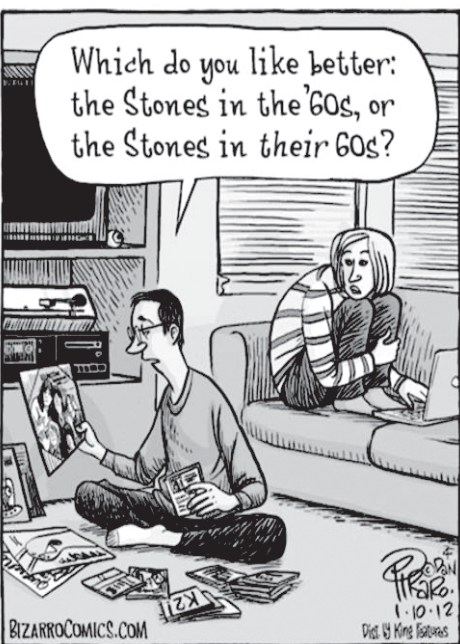
Crock



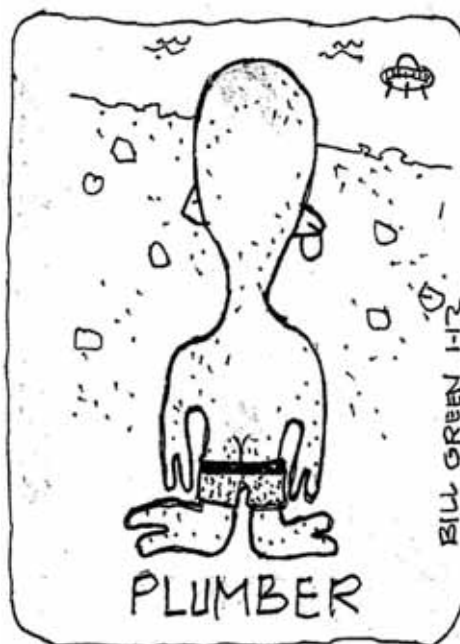
Dustin



Bizarro



ALIENS by Bill Green



Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Gorilla
- 4 Year-end visitor
- 9 Col. Sanders' chain
- 12 Droop
- 13 Up to the point that
- 14 Ultra-modernist
- 15 Tennessee city
- 17 Cheerios ingredient
- 18 Moving truck
- 19 Makes into law
- 21 Revealing swimsuit
- 24 Polio vaccine pioneer
- 25 Director Howard
- 26 Explosive letters
- 28 Leaf pore
- 31 Teensy bit
- 33 A Gabor sister
- 35 Get an effort
- 36 Consume fully
- 38 Priestly vestment
- 40 Workweek end (Abbr.)
- 41 Weeded, in a way
- 43 Rented

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

- 45 Wild horse org.
- 47 Antiquated 7 Stories
- 48 Have a bug 8 Sports
- 49 It's all in your head 9 Cheaper copies
- 54 Hockey surface 10 Accomplishment
- 55 "What's in -?" 11 Barracks beds
- 56 Rowing need 16 Louis -
- 57 - Angeles 20 Can. prov.
- 58 Acquires 21 Scottish hillside
- 59 Resort 22 Greek vowel
- 23 Flaws in lumber
- 27 Dam org. of 1933
- 29 Additional
- 30 Sahara-like
- 32 Unstable
- 34 "May I do that for you?"
- 37 Eat like a bird
- 39 Scarlett O'Hara and her ilk
- 42 Karan of fashion
- 44 Citrus beverage
- 45 Jump (out)
- 46 Puerto-follower
- 50 Erstwhile acorn
- 51 Two, in Ti uana
- 52 Space
- 53 Historic time

DOWN

- 1 Request
- 2 Skillet
- 3 Id counterpart
- 4 Learned one
- 5 Foolish
- 6 Super Bowl

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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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Solutions on page 15

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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Art Scene



Virginia Kron by Donna Granata, FOTM Portrait Series 2011

Celebrating Artists

The Ventura County Arts Council presents Celebrating Artists: An Intimate Look - Part II, Portraits by Donna Granata at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, 800 S. Victoria Blvd. This photographic exhibition can be viewed from January 20 through March 6. The public is invited to attend an artist's reception Thursday, February 2, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The exhibit features the monumental Focus on the Masters (FOTM) Portrait Series by Donna Granata who has been photographing artists for the past two decades. The exhibition features artists who have lived or worked within Ventura County and illustrates the cultural abundance within our community. In addition, rare objects from the FOTM archives will be on display demonstrating the importance of the FOTM Resource Library and the amount of

in-depth documentation involved with each artist photographed.

Featuring over eighty works it is the largest exhibition ever mounted by one individual at the Ventura County Government Center and will span all three floors of the Hall of Administration. Many of the portraits on display have never been exhibited before.

Donna Granata will be available for a special Lunchtime Gallery Walkabout on Thursday, February 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tour will feature short inspiring stories of the artists documented as well as "behind the scenes" anecdotes highlighting the challenges and rewards of creating the portraits and documenting the lives of the artists. The public is welcome to join the tour at any time during the Walkabout between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Gallery Walkabout is free.

Ventura County Arts Council awards

The Ventura County Arts Council Visual Arts Committee announces the winners of the 2011 National Arts Program® Ventura County, an exhibit for county employees and their immediate families, on view in the Atrium Lobby, Hall of Administration, County Government Center from until January 17. Gallery hours are 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday through Friday, closed weekends and holidays.

The National Arts Program® Ventura County is part of a 29 year old nationwide program which currently encompasses more than 450 large and small cities, counties, airports, hospitals and other organizations. The concept of The National

Arts Program® is to provide an uninhibited opportunity for all people to present their talents, at any level, in a public exhibition, free to artists and the public. The National Arts Program® Ventura County is sponsored and funded by The National Arts Program Foundation of Malvern, Pennsylvania, with support and cooperation by the County of Ventura and the Ventura County Arts Council.

The Ventura award winners, announced at a reception in mid-December are Kathleen Johnston, Melissa Wassel, Nicole Moynier, Todd Collart, Diana Dominguez, Liesel Plambeck, Sierra McWaters, Abraham Goldstein and Isaac Goldstein.

To learn more about The National Arts Program®, please visit their web site www.natlartsprog.org To learn more about the Ventura County Arts Council visit www.venturacountyartsCouncil.org or call 658-2213



Artists at the Bell Arts Factory

Elana Horowitz-Brookes

The inspiration for Elana's work came from the decline of honey bees a few years ago. Located in studio 79 she has an interesting series of works titled "End of Bees". Her work indeed has a bee-like appearance. She also has done paintings of extreme close ups of pollen. Her pollen painting looked surreal. She has over 35 years of painting experience. The Bell Arts Factory is located at 432 N. Ventura Ave.



The Vita Art Center presents Vonder Gray "Out of Chaos Comes Hope" until Jan. 29.

Gallery hours are Mon-Fri. from 10-5, weekends by appointment

Two on the Asile

Continued from page 16

Set in Baltimore, Maryland in 1962, "Hairspray" chronicles teen Tracy Turnblad, a plus-sized dynamo with big hair and big dreams about getting on an after school dance show broadcast from a local TV station. The show tackles the tricky themes of respect, racism, prejudice, intolerance and teen angst. It is a full-out toe-tapping musical filled with memorable songs and outstanding performances.

The Simi Valley production we attended Sunday afternoon played to a capacity house of enthusiasts. Co-directed by Fred Helsel and choreographer Becky Castells, the show proceeds full steam ahead from the first musical notes. The pace is well met by the stellar cast with live music provided by musical director Gary Poirot and orchestra. Poirot also carries double-duty as the company wig master, no small task for this production.

The Simi Valley cast features Jamie Whittington Studer in the lead role of Tracy whose seemingly boundless talent is evident as she (and her hair) bounces endlessly to the beat of the 60's. Bart Sumner, in the traditionally gender-bent role of Tracy's mother, Edna, is a hoot throughout. He and milquetoast husband Wilbur (John Dantona) are charming in their duet "You're Timeless To Me." The part of snarky Velma VonTussle is given exquisite definition by Sandra Moreau, who shares the role with Michele McRae the last few weeks of the run. Tracy's love interest, Link Larkin, is played with wide-eyed perfection by Andrew Allen.

Laughs are plentiful as the action zips along. The first act is a little long due to the sheer volume of musical numbers. Nonetheless, the action never drags as the audience seemed eager to get back from intermission to continue the journey. The material, while suitable for all ages, will resonate most with those familiar with the era and its ensuing challenges.

Shawn Lanz, director of the High Street Arts Center production, has assembled an equally large cast that features a number of Ventura and Ojai

residents, as well as some seasoned pros.

No matter whether you attend the production in Simi Valley or Moorpark, you will be sure to enjoy yourself. The two companies are working cooperatively and even offer a discount in their programs for the other company's show. Treat yourself – go see both!

Both productions run through February 12. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For Simi Valley Cultural Center reservations, contact 583-7900 or www.simi-arts.org. Call the High Street Arts Center at 529-9700 or go online to www.highstreetartscenter.com for reservations. Ticket prices vary slightly between the two theaters.

Harbor patrol blotter

Continued from page 14

off his engine. Patrol transferred crew to the boat and assisted Vessel Assist in dewatering the vessel. The skipper began to display medical problems. FD was dispatched, and upon arrival, AMR evaluated the patient. He refused transportation to the hospital.

7:16 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to an unconscious female at a restaurant. Upon arrival, it appeared that the woman had a drug overdose. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

12-29 10:24 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a fall victim at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Upon arrival, the patient was in great discomfort. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

12-30 8:51 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a fall victim at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Patrol assisted with the patient. AMR transported the patient the patient to the hospital.

1-1 10:10 a.m. A surf skier reports a friend missing. Patrol started a search and located the paddler entering the harbor. No other assistance was necessary.

2:11 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and many others to a report of an aircraft down by Surfer's Knoll. All units searched for the aircraft and were unable to locate anything. The search was called off.

Business

The Chamber Perspective

by Ed Summers
President & CEO

2011 is gone in a flash and businesses are looking forward to a positive year in 2012. While last year presented some challenges, from where we sit at the Chamber, many of our local businesses not only made the necessary adjustments to meet those challenges, a majority have reported ending this year with a positive trend in sales and profits.

The Chamber continues to work to support local businesses and build a positive environment for economic prosperity. The monthly Connection Breakfast regularly has more than 125 participants providing an opportunity to build visibility and increase business activity, expand customer base and grow. The breakfast is among many monthly events designed for networking and expanding business opportunities.

In December, the Chamber's Annual Poinsettia Awards recognized the best in our city from business, education, government and community volunteers. Attended by more than 250 local business and community leaders, it provided all of us with a reminder that it does require a strong economy supported by education and a positive government environment to enable our city to flourish. The event also served to highlight that there are an abundance of people committed to that end.

The Chamber is partnering with the city to recognize and highlight local businesses that are making an impact on our economy and prosperity. We have recognized Ventura Limoncello, Draganchuk Alarm, AWS Automotive and Stewart Brown, Inc. All of these businesses have used innovative practices and shown significant growth in challenging economic times.

Our Board of Directors and committees continue to closely monitor business activity and legislative actions that have an impact on success at the local, regional and state level. In October the Chamber sponsored a workshop to brief property and business owners on the City Economic Development

and Community Plan for the Westside. The program allowed business to provide input on critical issues impacting investment and economic growth to the planning process. As a follow-up to the workshop, the Chamber is preparing a report to summarize the concerns and opportunities developed through the plan. The report will be presented to the Chamber's Economic Development Committee in the next few weeks and we will be forwarding it to the city.

The Chamber's Legislative Affairs Committee is currently reviewing changes in the state's budget in relation to the impact on local business growth and education. A recent meeting included a briefing from Assemblymember Das Williams. In addition, representatives from the Chamber participated in a meeting with regional Chamber Alliance including a presentation from Assemblymember Cameron Smyth on the state's business and legislative process. Participation in these events allows the Chamber the opportunity to provide input from the perspective of local business and influence the process to support our local economy. Future meetings will include a briefing on the Coastal Commission and review of the recent legislation and court decisions that have impacted community redevelopment funds and how they will affect our local efforts to build a strong economy.

The year will formally begin with the Chamber's Annual Meeting and Installation on Thursday, January 26. We are excited to welcome our new board members and introduce the Chamber's program for 2012, building on Chair Mike Silacci's theme of "Sustaining and Growing our Prosperity." Looking forward to 2012, the Chamber is increasing its support and information to local businesses through a new seminar series focused on topics requested by our members. To expand communication to and between members, we are partnering with the city to reach out and listen to businesses in the community to gain insights into current challenges and needs. It is essential that the Chamber ensure that each conversation results in tangible changes to support our economic climate and not result simply in another report that ends up somewhere on a shelf in City Hall.

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The new year at Swift Chip features the radio show "Tech Today with Ken May" (featuring Ken May of Swift Chip) now broadcasting from AM1520 KVTA at 7am on Saturdays. Swift Chip has also relocated to much larger offices at the Executive Suites located at 701 E. Santa Clara in Ventura.

With the new radio location they expect to be reaching about 80,000-100,000 people per month between the broadcast and their online listeners.

Ken May and James are all smiles at their new location.

Swift Chip, complete computer care can be reached at 866.326.2008.



On May 15, 1946, a young Tommy Koulax introduced Los Angeles to a hamburger with gusto. Years later, L.A.'s love affair with his chili-topped creation is still going strong. Beginning with a ramshackle little stand on the corner of Beverly and Rampart in Los Angeles, Tommy has fed an estimated fifty million Southern Californians.

The original stand today serves as the company logo and for good reason. Although there are now many Tommy's locations none compare with the huge popularity of the original Beverly location. Tommy's in Ventura (5663 Valentine Rd. right off of Victoria) is now open.



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