



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 5, No. 8 Published Every Other Wednesday

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

January 25 – February 7, 2012



Photo by Doug Miser

## Surf's up on Main Street

On Wednesday, Jan. 18 an 8" cast-iron water main under Main Street burst, unleashing water at a rate of 6,000 gallons per minute directly in front of Fire Station Five which resulted in the temporary closure of Station Five. To make matters even worse it was next to the busy freeway offramp right as afternoon traffic was building up.

On top of that, the water main shares space with nearby pipes for sewer, gas and storm drains which meant city water, sewer and public works crews

*Continued on page 3*

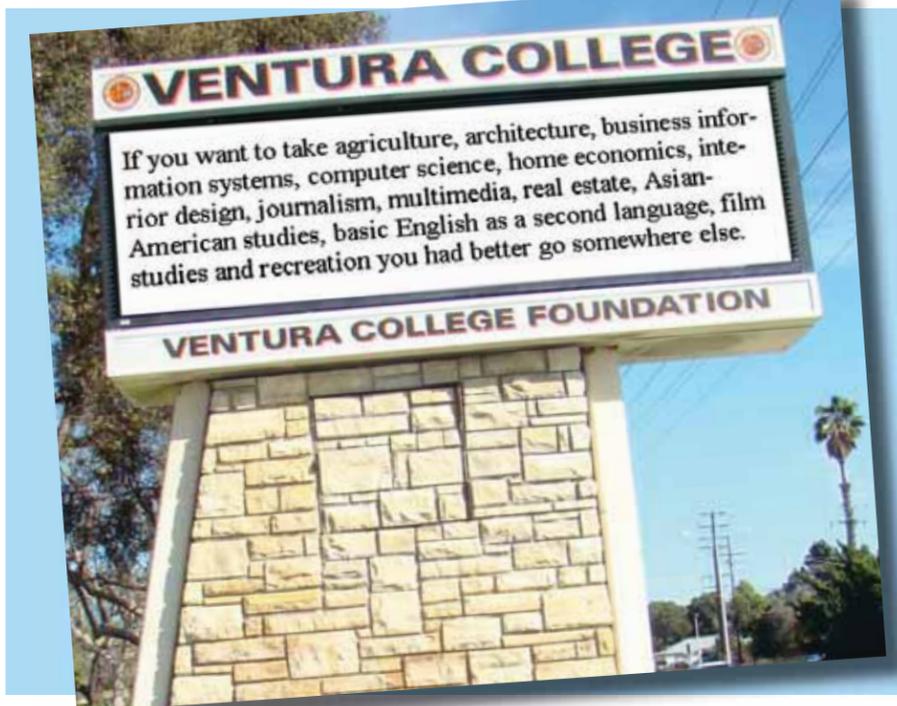
## Entries being accepted for St. Patrick's Day Parade

Entries are now being accepted for the annual County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade which will march down Main Street in downtown Ventura for the 24rd time on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17 at 10 a.m. Presented by the Ventura Elks Lodge 1430, the parade begins at the San Buenaventura Mission on Main St. and moves east past the reviewing stand at Chestnut and on to the end at Fir.

The parade's them is "Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day".

Parade entries are being accepted until March 9. Parade organizers invite businesses, bands, dancers, acrobats, clowns, horses and organizations to participate in the county's greenest event! Entry forms can be downloaded from [www.venturastpatricksdaysparade.com](http://www.venturastpatricksdaysparade.com) or obtained by calling Councilmember Jim Monahan, Parade Co-Chairman at 643-4275.

**While watching your classes get cancelled at VC, you can always catch up with the Breeze at [venturabreeze.com](http://venturabreeze.com)**



## Board makes program cuts final at VC

by Rebecca Wicks

There were no unexpected last minute saves when it came to the Ventura College programs that lay on the chopping block earlier this month. As expected, the Ventura County Community College District Board okayed the slashing of more than 12 programs at the college.

Programs that will be eliminated at Ventura College include agriculture, architecture, business information systems, computer science, home economics, interior design, journalism, multimedia, real estate, Asian-American studies, basic English as a second language, film studies and recreation. According to district officials, the cuts are being made in an attempt to run the college more efficiently in order to close a multi-million dollar deficit.

A total of more than 20 program cuts were made across Moorpark, Oxnard and Ventura colleges. The board expects to save about \$1 million with the removal of the classes and programs.

A number of teachers and advocates for saving various programs spoke at the board meeting which was held in the auditorium at Ventura High School in order to house the more than 100 meeting attendees. Many students and teachers have complained they have not been included in the process of selecting which programs were to be eliminated.

College officials disagree, stating the process was inclusive and that input was gathered from department representatives. Robin Calote, president of Ventura College, described a multiple-step planning and review process. According to

Calote programs were asked to prepare data-driven reports in the fall that analyzed completion rates, productivity and other variables.

"Programs were given the opportunity to explain why their program should be retained or to describe plans to modify the program in order to make it more cost effective," said Calote.

Calote along with Executive Vice President Ramino Sanchez and Vice President Dave Keebler made the final list of programs submitted to the board to be cut.

Chairman of the Board Stephen Blum warned the reduction of classes and programs was most likely not over.

"Unfortunately, this is not the beginning or the end of this process," said Blum. "And, it doesn't look like it's going to end tonight."

The president of Ventura College's academic senate was present to oppose cutting architecture and real estate programs.

Approximately two dozen teachers gathered to protest the cuts outside the auditorium. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) had pressed the board to tap into its reserve funds in order to save programs from elimination. According to the AFT, the cuts may affect upwards of 100 part-time faculty members.

"Yes, it's terrible that teachers might lose their jobs, but what I'm worried about is opportunities lost for people like me - the students," said Laura Gonzales a student at Ventura College. "College is one of the few places I feel like I can explore, and cutting programs away takes away from that."



## Christy Weir to run for supervisor

In a surprise to many City Councilmembers Christy Weir has announced that she will be running for Ventura County Supervisor in the First District which encompasses all of Ventura and the Ojai Valley, parts of north Oxnard, the coastline above Ventura and the western Lockwood Valley. She will be running for the seat being vacated by Ventura ex-city council member Steve Bennett who will be running for the new 26th Congressional District.

She stated that "I am about to embark on a new undertaking which I am very excited about."

"I see a great need in our county for collaborative efforts which will improve the quality of life for all our citizens. Carefully balancing environmental, agricultural, social and economic interests is vital to the future prosperity and health of Ventura County residents and to the protection of our precious natural resources. We are at an important juncture where the choices we make today can impact the lives of generations to come."

"During my political career I have never once taken a stand with an eye on my own re-election. I have made decisions only after listening to various points of view, with the best interests of the people in mind."

"I have proven three times that I can be elected without compromising my principles. And as an independent candidate, I have done so largely without the support of entrenched special interests."

Since 2008 she has represented Ventura as a Ventura City Councilmember and was Mayor for two years (2007-2009) and has lived in Ventura since 1985.



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



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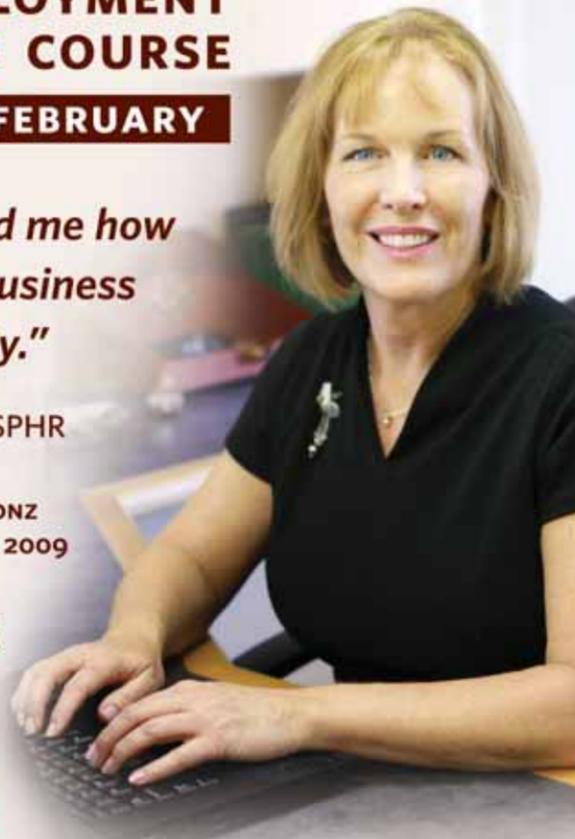
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**A judge has refused to grant opponents a restraining order for WinCo to stop construction work on their new location located on Telephone Road. WinCo's opening has been contested by a group called the Venturans for Responsible Growth. The store is scheduled to open in Feb. of 2013. WinCo calls themselves "The Supermarket Low Price Leader," and offers 24 hour service. Photo by Barbie Lange**

**Construction crews working in the area repairing the City's water system ruptured a 2" medium pressure gas service line located at 1500 Morse Ave. Fire crews responded and secured the area and provided stand-by fire protection. Occupants in near-by businesses were advised to remain sheltered in place. Fire crews worked with Gas Company and construction crews to coordinate the control of the leak.**

**Surf's up on Main Street**  
*Continued from page 1*  
 were there along with firefighters, police officers and cadets, the Highway Patrol, Gas Company, Caltrans and a local pipeline contractor, a very joint effort.  
 City Manager Rick Cole stated "Overall the process of stopping the leak, repairing the main, restoring water service to nearby businesses, repairing a sewer main damaged by the sagging, soggy earth underneath it and putting everything back together again so Fire Station Five could be re-occupied and traffic could flow smoothly again – these critical functions went remarkably well because the people involved worked around the clock as a team."  
 "Of course, all this expensive and time consuming effort begs the question: what went wrong in the first place? And the answer is simple. The

pipe that burst was installed in 1964. With hundreds of miles of water and sewer lines underneath Ventura's streets, we face significant financial and logistical challenges to replacing the ones that are beyond their useful lifecycle."

**Weather by Tom**  
 Ventura City normally for January: Air temperature: normal daily high is 64, normal low is 45.  
 Normal monthly temperature range is, high 80, low 35.  
 Rainfall from July 2011 to January 20, 2012; total 3.38", normal 7.94".  
 The last time Ventura City was covered with snow was in January 1949 when the Ventura pier was covered with 2 inches. We are long overdue for another such white landscape here in Ventura.

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## City News



Fire Station 4 reopening from left: Dist. Rep. Carla Castilla, Councilmember Christy Weir, Chief Rennie, Mayor Tracy, Asst. Chief McPherson, Councilmembers Carl Morehouse and Jim Monahan

# Grand reopening of Fire Station 4

by Barbie Lange

The gray skies parted and the sun shone down on Fire Station 4 on Saturday, January 21st, just in time for the open house ceremony. The fire station is located at 8303 Telephone Road in Ventura's east end.

There was excitement in the air as a crowd of more than 100 community members gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Mayor Mike Tracy cut the ribbon with gigantic wooden scissors. "They don't trust me with real ones," he joked. Battalion Chief David Endaya was Master of Ceremonies, introducing Fire Chief Kevin Rennie and Assistant Fire Chief Don McPherson. Also participating in the ceremony was Carla Castilla, district representative from Congresswoman Lois Capps's office, and Councilmembers Carl Morehouse, Christy Weir and Jim Monahan.

Chief Rennie spoke about the closing of Station 4 on July 1, 2010 due to the city's budget shortfall for 2010-2011. In addition to the closure, the city eliminated nine fire staff positions.

In November 2011, the Ventura City Council approved acceptance of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. The SAFER Program goal is to enhance a local fire department's ability to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA.)

In a former interview, Chief Rennie

stated, "With this funding, the city is able to hire nine firefighter-paramedics, reopen Fire Station 4 and ensure Ventura's six fire stations will be fully staffed. "Grants like this can save lives," said Chief Rennie, "and safely protecting life, property and the environment is our number one priority. Chief Rennie received a certificate and flag that had flown over the Capitol from Rep. Elton Gallegly. It was a gesture of support for the efforts the Fire Department has made to restore emergency services to the citizens of Ventura. Rennie said it would fly proudly at the Station.

After the ceremony, people nibbled on pastries, drank coffee and beverages in the kitchen and had a great time socializing with the fire department personnel.

Families of the firefighters were on hand, making it a special day for them. Children were hoisted up onto the engines by their dads and pictures were taken, and a cadet assisted young kids with putting on firefighter boots, pants, jackets and hats. Firefighter/Paramedic Trevor Towner was very busy showing off the ladder truck with a tiller. The engine weighs 30 tons. "The aerial ladder goes straight up to 100 feet and has a rotating platform at its base", he said. Towner also pulled out the Jaws of Life; one group of hydraulic rescue tools stored on the truck and explained how they worked. He said it is his job to thoroughly check the engine when he arrives at 7:30am. "It is very important

to make sure all the paramedic supplies are filled and working." He goes around the engine and checks the equipment in all the doors, it must be ready to go.

"It was an exciting day, and to be given the support of the community was overwhelming. My vision is to never close the fire station again, find a way to make sure it will never happen," said Battalion Chief Endaya.

## Over 12,000 service calls in 2011

by Kris McDonald  
Captain, Ventura City Fire Department

In 2011 Ventura City Fire Department again responded to over 12,000 calls for service. The overwhelming majority of those responses were to provide Advanced Life Support at the scene of medical and traumatic emergencies. As with any emergency, time is of the utmost importance. A little preparation, before an emergency happens, can shave precious minutes off an emergency scene. We would like to provide some suggestions that will help us, to help you, in the event of an emergency.

A large part of giving prompt and accurate medical care, from the home to the emergency room, is gathering detailed information about a person. This information is critical for us to quickly determine the correct course of treatment. Quite often a patient is unable to provide this information verbally, depending on the severity of their illness, injury, or condition. A simple sheet of paper with pertinent information can be kept in a convenient location within the home and provided to emergency personnel when they arrive. Anyone who may be present in the home, be it family, friend, or neighbor, should know where this information is located. Pertinent information to be listed would be a person's name, date of birth, significant past medical history, medications (including dosage and frequency), allergies to medications, emergency contacts, your local hospital of choice, and the names of all treating physicians.

Another aspect of a timely response is being able to locate you. Have your street address numbers clearly visible on the front of your residence, as well as painted on the curb if possible. If you live in an apartment be sure that your unit number is posted on your front door. Should you be alone and unable to reach the door, having an emergency means of entry for responders, such as a trusted neighbor with a spare key, is very important. When you are on the phone with a 911 dispatcher you can provide this information to them, which is then relayed immediately, and securely, to incoming responders.

The population of our city is forever growing, and demand for our services is always rising. Please help us continue to provide prompt and professional emergency care to you and your family in your time of need. Quick access and detailed information are two very important components of our emergency care.

For more information please visit us online at [facebook.com/venturacityfire](http://facebook.com/venturacityfire) and at [youtube.com/VenturaCityFD](http://youtube.com/VenturaCityFD).



## Debris removal hotline

To better serve the community, a Debris Removal Hotline has been established for the public to report significant trash issues on property serviced by the City. Residents may call 677-3999 or log on to [www.cityofventura.net/mva](http://www.cityofventura.net/mva) and report the precise location of debris. The City provides monthly street sweeping in residential neighborhoods and commercial areas, and trash barrels are provided at many public locations to keep our city clean.

Federal, state and county agencies service many areas in our community and the City works in collaboration with these entities to ensure that public places are maintained. The responsibility for debris removal is dependent on the site in which it is located.

The California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corporation (CSCRC) is responsible for the retrieval of all shopping carts in the city of Ventura and can be reached at (800) 252-4613.

## Get ready for the Fourth of July Street Fair

Guidelines and applications for food vendors, arts and crafters, community group performers and commercial and non-profit organizations are available between February 1 until early April for the City of Ventura's 37th annual Fourth of July Street Fair by calling 654-7749 or by downloading them at [www.venturastreetfair.com](http://www.venturastreetfair.com).

## Corrections

In our last issue we had an article regarding artists being sought to enrich Ventura's cultural landscape by painting murals that will be exhibited in new bus shelters across town. We had the wrong phone number for the contact Public Art Project Manager Tobie Roach, it is 658-4759.

Also, we featured a cover story regarding the wonderful toy drive that is being run by the Castro family to collect toys for pediatric cancer patients.

What we failed to tell you is how you can donate and help with the cause. Contact Dan Castro at 377-8007 or [dannycast@aol.com](mailto:dannycast@aol.com)

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## Ventura Breeze:

An issue that would exponentially enhance tourist trade for Ventura has been talked about but not acted on for decades.

Every beach from Santa Barbara to San Diego is cleaner and more appealing for beach enjoyment than is Ventura's. City administrations have elsewhere easily recognized the tourist payback from putting beach tractors to work. It is more important for Ventura to budget for regular beach cleanup because of its location between two river estuaries.

This letter is prompted by Christy Weir's post-election promise of cleaning

## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown  
Publisher

As reported in this issue there were no unexpected last minute saves when it came to the cutting of programs at Ventura College. As expected, the Ventura

County Community College District board approved cutting more than 12 programs at the college. A sad day for VC, the world and Ventura.

About 35 California mayors attended the 80th winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors held in Washington, D.C.

Ventura Mayor Mike Tracy said he didn't consider attending the conference and stated "The money that it would cost me to go back there would be pretty hard to justify in these times. Generally, I think that local and regional and even statewide efforts to get mayors and city council members together, like the League of California Cities, are probably more beneficial."

I like that kind of thinking during these terrible economic times. Some of these meetings are beneficial and some a waste of our money.

On Dec. 30 the Ventura Police Command Center received a 9-1-1 call regarding an injury traffic collision on Harbor Boulevard. Upon arrival, emergency personnel found one of the involved parties, Julia Rivas, trapped in her Volvo sedan and unresponsive. Ventura Firefighters immediately checked on Rivas and determined that she was deceased.

The Ventura Police Department has learned that Rivas had a blood alcohol content of .19% at the time of her death (DUI) which contributed to the fatal accident.

The Ventura Police Department investigated 6 fatal traffic collisions in 2011. In three of those fatal traffic collisions, DUI was the cause of the

collision. In a fourth collision, the pedestrian who was struck and killed had an extremely high blood alcohol content. Therefore, four of the six fatal traffic collisions in 2011 involved alcohol.

In an effort to help combat drunk driving, the Ventura Police Department regularly conducts DUI checkpoints as well as DUI saturation patrols with



We thoroughly enjoyed Ted Neeley and The Little Big Band playing at the Rubicon until Jan. 29. Not to be missed and you still have time to see it. For performance schedule and tickets, call 667-2900 or go to [www.rubicontheatre.org](http://www.rubicontheatre.org). Photo by John Perry.

funds provided in a grant through the California Office of Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

But the best way to help combat drunk driving is to simply not overly drink if you will be driving (or maybe even walking) or have a friend with you

who doesn't drink. And maybe you might even discover that you can have a good time while sober.

I hear wonderful things about the Face Of Ventura portrait series by Johanna Spinks but I also have been asked "How come she hasn't painted this well known person or that well known person, don't they deserve it?". So I would like to explain that there are many folks who deserve to be painted but that these series of portraits represent the diversity of what makes Ventura a "Norman Rockwell" city and that is the purpose of the series.

Some "well known" Venturans and some that you have probably never heard of that add to the ambience of our wonderful town will be featured.

The butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker so to speak.

If you would like to know a little bit more about our wonderful staff (and even see their picture) just go to [www.venturabreeze.com](http://www.venturabreeze.com) and click on the "staff". They are indeed a handsome and talented group.

One more time I have to tell you how much I hate the "go and don't go" hands on our stop signs that are supposed to keep pedestrians from crossing the street. If they are red and the light is green they are completely ignored and everyone illegally crosses the street anyway.

The other day I made a legal right turn and a guy was illegally walking across the red hand sign and he pounded on my car even though he was in the wrong. Good thing Scamp wasn't with me or he might have attacked him.

So I think that they should be completely eliminated or we should post a police officer on every corner downtown for one week to write tickets for this and in one week we will have enough money to hire more police officers.

## Mailbox

our beaches. I hope that means more than the annual student pick-up trash drives.

Also: there is a sign ordinance that is creating blight in the Ventura business community. I became acutely aware of this when I talked to the owner of my old Mazda-Jaguar store on the corner of Katherine and Thompson Blvd. I asked him, after all the years since I left, why he had not used the extensive sign frame that has been empty and unsightly. He told me he could not use the sign; it went against the sign ordinance.

If signs become unacceptable when occupancy changes, they should be removed. Standing there, empty, indicates blight in the community, as does any other eyesore.

Jack Weber  
Ventura

Nanci Cone:

Thank you for your stories about our work- I really appreciate your work.  
Barbara Lanz Mateo  
Alzheimer's Association

Dear Sheldon:

Congratulations from the Boys and Girls Club of Ventura for being "Small Business of the Year". Thank you for the great event coverage and special features. You are appreciated.

Best Regards,  
Diane Karanda  
CEO and staff Boys & Girls Club

Sheldon:

Congratulations from all of us at Pacific Western Bank for being selected the Small Business of the Year. What a true accomplishment, we are so very proud of our Ventura Breeze and you! Just wanted to say "job well done!"  
The gang

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for being a sponsor of the 2011 Ventura Hillside Music Festival! Not only did the crowd have a great day in the park enjoying music from David Lindley, Blind Boys of Alabama, Fabulous Thunderbirds and the Chris Robinson Brotherhood, but we raised over \$25,000 for the Ventura Hillside Conservancy's ongoing work to preserve and restore our area's natural landscapes.

The event was a great success, and your participation as a sponsor helped make it so. We are planning for the 2012 Ventura Hillside Music Festival to be even better. We look forward to working with you on this and future Ventura Hillside Conservancy endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Brooke Ashworth  
Sponsorship Coordinator



Is Ventura becoming visually one big used car lot?

Sheldon:

I went around and photo'd the advertising flags around Ventura... mainly on all the main thoroughfares - Harbor, Main, Thompson, Seaward, Telephone, Telegraph, and Victoria. In total I counted more than 27 different establishments with advertising flags... some are innocuous while others are a real eyesore, especially where there are 5-6 flags at a single location.

Lower Victoria is particularly dense with flags making the area really cheesy. Also it is apparent that some flags have been out there forever given their weathered nature...case in point the

Continued on page 7

Education is not filling a bucket but lighting a fire.  
- William Butler Yeats



## News and Notes

### 185 city employees paid over \$100,000 in 2010

by Rebecca Wicks

One hundred eighty five city employees were paid more than \$100,000 in 2010 according to a report that was released earlier this month detailing salaries and compensation. The vast majority of the list – 78 percent – consisted of safety personnel with 55 firefighters and 89 police officers. The list grew from the 168 employees who were paid over \$100,000 in 2009.

Overtime pay played a large role in many officers and firefighters breaking past the \$100,000 mark. Overtime is required for some city fire and police jobs though how it is regulated is at times less clear.

Other factors that push employee total compensation numbers beyond base salaries include people who are retiring who may cash in vacation days, bilingual pay, education incentives and auto, cell phone and uniform allowances.

When looking at the city's highest paid employees, the titles that appear on top don't look all that different than other cities with City Attorney Ariel Calonne, City Manager Rick Cole; Police Chief Ken Corney; Fire Chief Kevin Rennie and Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Director Elena Brokaw rounding out the top five. However, upon further inspection it is clear Ventura's top paid employees were slightly below counterparts at other cities in the greater Ventura County. For example, Calonne, Ventura's highest paid employee was paid \$205,276 while former Thousand Oaks City Attorney

Amy Albano was paid \$239,432 and Oxnard City Attorney Alan Holmberg was paid \$224,121.

One Ventura city position – City Manager – came in significantly lower than like positions in other cities. While Cole's salary and compensation came to \$191,940 in 2010, Oxnard City Manager Ed Sotelo topped the list at \$296,800 with Camarillo City Manager Bruce Feng coming in at \$272,821 and Thousand Oaks City Manager Scott Mitnick being paid \$239,432.

The ten highest paid city officials included: City Attorney Ariel Calonne (\$205,276); City Manager Rick Cole (\$191,940); Police Chief Ken Corney (\$189,834); Fire Chief Kevin Renney (\$182,807); Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships Director Elena Brokaw (\$182,692); Assistant City Manager (\$181,798); Chief Financial Officer Jay Panciza (\$176,122); Fire Battalion Chief (\$173,679); Community Development Director Jeff Lambert (\$171,107); Assistant Fire Chief (\$170,748).

After the City of Bell scandal in 2009 which found city officials being paid as high as \$787,000 in a city with a population of less than 36,000, greater transparency in what city servants were being paid became a focus for many. Last year the City of Ventura posted online its 2009 payroll and compensation numbers. This year, the city used the State Controller's website to post information along with more than 480 other cities in California.

chronicle? Would you like to share your expertise or your passion for exercise, art or the outdoors? You can do it and learn to do it well here at CAPS.

When you arrive for our orientation class, you will be introduced to Donald, Operations Supervisor, mentor and all around good guy. He will give you a tour of the station and explain how CAPS works. CAPS has the only fully operational television studio available to citizens within the Ventura County area. It has a professional studio camera set up with monitors and a teleprompter system.

We also have available set pieces, tables and chairs for any type of program you choose to produce. You can bring your own set dressing to fulfill your script requirements. Don't forget our vast array of trees to bring that homey feel to your set. We have a full lighting grid with a vast assortment of lights with which to work. Our own green screen should be up and running very soon to enhance your project with your background images. Your imagination is the only limitation.

You will get a peek into our studio bay where Evan, our technical director

and broadcast guru, directs, edits, and creates titles for many of our shows. If this enticing you can sign up for our studio class and Evan will show you the tricks of his long applied trade.

Next you will look at our vast equipment cache. CAPS has many different cameras to use, including the new state-of-the-art Panasonic HD video cameras. When you need some light shed upon your creations, we have just the right lighting kits to take with you to the shoot.

After you have recorded your footage, it is on to editing your program. We have 4 edit stations including 2 private bays and an audio suite for voice over recording. Our staff edit bay is where Gary, our talented all-around cameraman/editor works his magic. When you are ready to make magic Gary will be more than happy to teach you iMovie 11. iMovie will enable you to assemble your show, add the creative finishing touches and send your finished work to DVD and on the air. CAPS also offers Final Cut Pro 6 to our members who have prior training in professional editing.

All of this can be yours for a small membership fee of \$25 annually. Seriously, once you become a member you can check out equipment, use the studio and edit bays for free, just like the public library. We only ask that you create some wonderful programs we can air on Channel 6 and bring the equipment back safe and sound. Come join us and begin your adventure. If you would like more information go to [www.capstv.org](http://www.capstv.org). Contact us at 658-0500 or via email at [info@capstv.org](mailto:info@capstv.org) with any questions. Please "Friend" us on Facebook at CAPSTV Ventura and spread the word.



The Ventura Hillside Conservancy has a new Executive Director, Melina Watts

## News from the Ventura Hillside Conservancy

by Lee Sherman

Development & Volunteer Coordinator  
Ventura Hillside Conservancy

Once again, the Ventura Hillside Conservancy will host two back to back evenings of informative, entertaining and inspiring selections from SYRCL's Wild & Scenic On Tour program. The Poinsettia Pavilion will be rolling out the red carpet for our new members, as this event serves as our Spring Membership drive. Details on tickets to be announced soon!

We've also hired a new Executive

Director. Melina Watts spent seven years working at the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains as the Malibu Creek Watershed Coordinator, during which period she raised millions of dollars for environmental programs and projects. Last year, she was promoted to Santa Monica Mountains Watersheds Coordinator, a position she continues to hold on a half time basis, where she is working on watershed planning. Learn more about her on our website at [www.venturahillside.org](http://www.venturahillside.org).

This year, as part of our outreach and education program, the Conservancy collaborated with local artist MB Hanrahan and students from De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts to enhance the Ventura River Trail with a colorful mural, funded through a generous grant from the Sempra Energy Foundation. Inspired by educational field trips to the land trust's preserve on the Ventura River below Foster Park, students used a retaining wall opposite the preserve entrance as a canvas to share their vision for a healthy watershed. Stop by and take a look! Check out a short video detailing the making of the mural on our website.

Compassionate Eating

## Codex Alimentarius: A recipe for disaster

by Bianca Martinez

There are many times throughout the day that I am reminded to be in gratitude. When I wake up I am grateful for my health and the ability to move without pain. When I sit down to enjoy a beautiful, wholesome, organic meal, I am so thankful that I have nutritious food to eat when there are so many who go hungry. In the evening when I sip my pituitary tea from Ema's Herbs and relax my mind from a busy day, I am so glad I have access to natural plant medicine and the freedom to live a healthy lifestyle.

But what if we didn't have access to these basic things. What if it was illegal to purchase healing plants and minerals from our local health food stores? What if our food was slowly being modified and regulations were being put into place that could undermine our right to be healthy and take away our ability to choose alternative forms of healing. This would mean that holistic healers could be shut down for "prescribing" tea, yoga and vitamin supplements.

My dear readers this is exactly what is going on behind the veil of distractions fed to us by the corporate media. You probably haven't heard of Codex Alimentarius. Basically it is a set of rules and regulations on everything that can legally be put into your mouth, (with the exception of pharmaceuticals but we'll get to that in a minute) put together by the World Trade Organization to criminalize natural health, vitamins and herbs. Under the Codex vitamins and minerals are declared dangerous toxins that we need to be protected from. I know it sounds crazy but its true.

If the United States officially



CAPS Chat

## How to share your story

by Elizabeth Rodeno and Donald McConnell

What story would you like to share with the community? Do you have a great science fiction story you want to tell? Do you have the need to meet and learn about the interesting people of Ventura County? Is there a family member who you would like to interview or a wonderful trip you would like to

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## News and Notes

adopts these guidelines then we have basically signed away our freedom to live healthy lives. If our food slowly becomes less nutritious and is mandated to have pesticides, hormones and antibiotics injected or sprayed onto them then we will begin to succumb to nutrient deficient diseases. Many of these illnesses are already affecting our society. Cancer, diabetes, heart disease, obesity are all preventable diseases. These conditions, especially cancer is the most profitable ailment ever known in history. We are allowed to eat toxins and poisons that are making us sick, while big pharmaceutical companies get rich "treating" us.

The thought that this could be happening in my own country still blows my mind, but there are some pretty evil forces at work. The source of Codex Alimentarius goes back to the president of IG Farben, (who by the way was convicted of crimes against humanity after World War II). His chemical and pharmaceutical company was responsible for bringing us cyclon B, which was used in gas chambers of Nazi death camps. Upon release from jail he and some of his buddies from the UN came up with the idea of controlling the world by controlling the food supply and created the trade commission Codex Alimentarius in 1962 that was to be fully implemented by 2009.

Thankfully this has not happened yet because there are a few small groups working to prevent this, but more people need to become aware that this is going on. I'm a firm believer in food medicine, I myself have not been sick in years since switching to a plant-based diet. I have heard countless stories from friends and associates who have had incredible results just from changing their eating habits. A woman from my meetup group lost over 20 pounds, no longer has debilitating migraines and has radiant clear skin. One of my spiritual teachers in Ojai told me she got her elderly mother off of 20 different types of pills (over the course of a few years and under the care of a doctor) just by switching her to an organic vegan diet. No wonder big pharma doesn't want us to eat our organic vegetables. Don't let your freedoms slip away folks, you have the right to be happy and healthy!

For recipes and ways you can help stop Codex Alimentarius visit [compassionateating.wordpress.com](http://compassionateating.wordpress.com) or [www.healthfreedomusa.org](http://www.healthfreedomusa.org)

### Grape Expectations

## Food & Wine challenge at the Crowne Plaza

by Eric Garnier

Last Thursday, Ventura hosted its first annual "Local Food & Wine" challenge at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel. This event is the brainchild of Herzog Winery to promote the food and wine of our community. The challenge paired 12 local restaurants alongside 12 wineries from the Ventura Wine Trail. Each winery paired two wines with two specially prepared dishes. At the end of the evening, one winner was announced.

The teams were:  
Magnavino Cellars & La Dolce Vita  
Sunland Vintage & The Kitchen

The Ojai Vineyard & The Ranch House  
Squashed Grapes & 5th Street Steak and Seafood  
Rancho Ventavo Cellars & Aloha Steakhouse  
San Vicente Cellars & R&R  
Rosenthal & Malibu Beach Inn  
Four Brix Winery & Cafe Zack  
Old Creek Ranch Winery & The Jolly Oyster  
Bella Victorian Vineyard & Bella Victorian Bistro  
Herzog Wine Cellars & Tierra Sur  
Cantara Cellars & C-Street Cuisine  
Semler Wines hosted the champagne reception with a beautiful Brut Rose.

The event was sold out early with over 325 tickets sold. Some of the proceeds will benefit FOOD Share. High above the Ventura skyline, the room filled up fast. Standing room only, the event was a true crowd pleaser.

And the winner was The Ojai Vineyard & The Ranch House.

Congratulations to this team and to all the participants. Can't wait for next year!

Cheers!

Eric

Questions or comments Wineoeric@gmail.com  
PS:

In last issue's "Grape Expectations" I listed some of my favorite wines tasted last year. They were not very well defined so here they are again.

### Pinot Noir

Dierberg Santa Maria '09

Orogeny '09

### Zinfandel

Four Vines Biker '09

Frank Family '09

### Cabernet Sauvignon

Camus '09

Upper Cut '09

### Syrah

Demetria North Slope '09

Andrew Murray TourLes Jour '08

### Chardonnay

Newton '09

Chamisal Stainless '10

## Islands on the land

by Es Cole

Los Angeles is described as a collection of neighborhoods in search of a city.

I think of Ventura as a collection of islands surrounded by land.

First, we have the Central Downtown Island. People who live in this area can walk to the library, the museums, the beach, up to the hills. They could live without cars if they wanted to.

Next the Keys. Almost a real island, surrounded on one side by water and on another side by parks and walkways. People in the Keys can travel by boat or kayak. They walk their dogs beside the still waters.

Turn around and look up. There is the island of hill people. I think they bring their groceries up to their homes in hoists like the monks of Mont St. Michel in France. The hill dwellers have the grandest views of the ocean. Sometimes they have the best views of wildfires. But they are a hardy bunch.

Take a short ride on the 126 Freeway and you're on the island of East Ventura. This is where the

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PUDs (Planned Unit Developments) cluster. The folk who live here are tied together with Home Owners Associations. Whether or not they want to be Associated.

In smaller island enclaves you'll find the mobile home dwellers. They're very quiet. Plant beautiful gardens.

We have a Long Island of medicine men and women: hospitals, dentists, medical specialists, psychologists, an apnea clinic. If you've got it, there's therapy for it on this island.

Civil Servant Island. Our beautiful County Island – complete with atrium and court rooms.

I haven't named all our islands. I'll be finding more as I/we explore Ventura.

And then there are the Live-Aboard Islanders. They thrive in the harbor. They shower communally. They sometimes fire up their engines and visit the outer islands. Or other countries. But they get lonely for Ventura Harbor Island and come back.

I think I will take a walk, ride, swim in and around and through all these Ventura islands and see what they're like from the inside and let you know. Hope you come with me.

## Commit a crime – go to jail

Jeffrey Stephen Fennell, 42 Ventura man has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for firing more than 50 rounds at police during a standoff on Jade Drive in Ventura in 2009. He pleaded guilty to assault on a police officer with a semi-automatic weapon, assault with a deadly weapon and three counts of shooting at an inhabited dwelling.

Fennell had been drinking before the incident, which began with a report of a man holding his wife hostage. She escaped before police arrived.

Fennell refused to surrender to officers and fired at them, bullets hit homes that had been evacuated and struck a fire station two blocks away.

A judge has sentenced a member of the Hells Angels motorcycle club to 10 years in prison for stealing the motorcycle of a former club member.

Aaron McIntosh, 39, had been convicted of stealing the motorcycle from the back yard of former Hells Angel James Ivans.

McIntosh has several felony convictions and has been in prison before. He committed the theft on behalf of the

Hells Angels to punish Ivans because he had left the club under bad terms.

A Ventura woman who was found guilty last year was sentenced to jail Monday, with the judge saying she and the victim were negligent.

Judge Kevin McGee has sentenced Shannon Richard to 270 days in county jail and three years of probation for leaving the scene of a fatal accident.

On March 5, Richard struck and killed Jose Luis Carmona, 40, of Santa Barbara as he was walking with his mountain bike on a highway near Faria Beach Road.

Richard was returning home from a party where she had some beer (but was not legally drunk) when she was distracted by her baby and hit Carmona.

The victim was riding his bicycle in a dark area and wearing dark clothes and it had no lights, the judge said. And he had a blood-alcohol level of 0.28 percent.

### Mailbox

Continued from page 5

weathered breakfast flag on Spinnaker in the Harbor. Fast food restaurants have also started using them which means they could end up being everywhere and a real blight on our community.

Besides being unsightly, much of the advertising was just worthless. Unfortunately, these signs are not the only advertising signs causing blight. There seems to be oversized banners hanging from every business that is having a sale I suppose that desperate times call for desperate measures, but it has certainly gotten out of hand. It is almost like the pop up ad problem on the internet but with the viewer having no option to suppress them. Like the abandoned shopping carts, their overuse is just another form of blight in our fair City.

Murray Robertson

A Very Concerned Ventura Resident

Breeze:

The city is aware of this "problem" (with much thanks to Mr. Robertson) and is working on eliminating these illegal signs.

### Seeking room and private bath for rent in Ventura

Looking to move Fri., Feb. 3rd but will take on the 1st. Can pay \$600 with utilities and cable included. Responsible and respectful Ventura Breeze employee. Thank you. Please call Staci at 805-844-5374



## Community Events



### Spanish Harlem Orchestra performs at Ventura High School

Spanish Harlem Orchestra led by musical director Oscar Hernández performs its unique brand of New York Salsa for Ventura Music Festival's annual Latin Jazz Concert - held annually on Valentine's Day weekend - on Saturday, February 18, 8 pm, at Ventura High School Auditorium, 2 North Catalina Street. The orchestra brings a big sound to the festival's February jazz series that consistently presents the top artists in Latin music.

For concert tickets or info call 648-3146 or visit [www.venturamusicfestival.org](http://www.venturamusicfestival.org)

### Ventura events

by Ana Baker

If you have events that you would like to post in the Breeze please send to [events@venturabreeze.com](mailto:events@venturabreeze.com)

**Jan. 26: The Friendship Connection,** a group of retired ladies, will have its **monthly pot luck luncheon** at the Blackburn Country Estates clubhouse on Thursday, at 11:30 a.m. Antonio Sanchez from Napolito Nursery will demonstrate the making of a succulent wreath. For more information call Donna at 659-3460.

**Jan. 27: Event: X-rated Ghosts of Old Ventura—Tour and Talk.** Location will be at the Bank of Books at 728 East Main Street from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Lecture fee/donation is \$5 per person

Back by popular demand is the infamous ghosts of downtown Ventura with a special focus on Hookers and Brothels that once dominated the community in the 19th Century. Spice up your winter with a walk on the wild

side. Contact Phone: 643-3154

**Jan. 28: Walk Grant Park "New Year's Resolution"** Saturday at 10 am--meet at City Hall upper parking lot. Make a resolution to join the Ventura Botanical Gardens for a walk in Grant Park the 4th Saturday of each month.

All ages are welcome; you may be surprised when an 80 year old passes you up! Walk for about 2 hours with some uphill terrain. Jeff Lambert, Director of Community Development for the City of Ventura, will lead this walk as well as the regularly scheduled Grant Park walks.

For more information, visit [www.VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](http://www.VenturaBotanicalGardens.com).

**Jan. 28: Community Concert Art Show:** Classical masters guitar Saturday with shows at 7pm and 9pm. Every concert is an art show. Saint Pierre MC performs "Master Fusion Blues" originals, and features world class guitarists, Carlos Gonzales, and Robert Earl Longley with amazing improvisational skills. Dinner and drinks are available. \$10 advance on line, \$12.50 at door. At Yolies at corner of Main & Garden, 138 W. Main St. Reservations: (888) 226-9668 [www.ConcertArtShow.com](http://www.ConcertArtShow.com)

**Jan. 30: Was it necessary for the United States to drop the first atomic bomb?**

That question will be presented and discussed at 1:30 pm. on Monday, at the Ventura TowneHouse, 4900 Telegraph Rd. Refreshments will be served, and the event is free to the community.

The public is invited to hear about the thinking and strategy of President Harry Truman, the military and events leading up to that historic event in which the atomic bomb was the first use of nuclear weapons, dropped upon two Japanese cities in 1945.

The event is part of a monthly educational series in partnership with VUSD adult education, and The Ventura TowneHouse. The monthly event series is sponsored by the Extended Learning Academy.

"We will review and discuss the events that led to President Harry Truman authorizing the use of the atom bomb to hopefully bring a sudden end to the war in the Pacific," said John Woolley, Executive Officer/Museum Director of the Commemorative Air Force SoCal Wing in Camarillo.

**Feb. 1: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN)** is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, bridge, dining, wine outings, reading, mah jong, cooking etc.

Held at The Greek Restaurant located at 1583 Spinnaker Drive at 9:30 a.m. No charge for meeting. Coffee or Tea is available at a nominal charge of \$1.00.

Guest Speaker: Shirley Lorraine, President of Ventura County Professional Woman's Network. Her topic is "Matching your message-the ultimate way to accessorize."

**Feb. 4: The Ventura Beginners Personal Computer Users Group** will meet Saturday at 9:15a.m. on the third floor lounge of the Cypress Place Active Senior Living building, 1220 Cypress. Workshop will be about computer features. David Holifield, founder of Interfuel will speak about Evernote, a free app for computers and phones. Guests are welcome. For more information, call Marcie Malony at 648-1368.

**Feb. 5:** A 1948 broadcast of Sherlock Holmes's "Death is a Golden Arrow" and 1902 to 1924 recordings of the Era of Adelina Patti will be featured in the Dudley House historic recording series during the **Dudley House open house**. Hours are 1pm to 4pm. Admission is free. Anyone interested in working on the docent tours of the house, call Steve Cummings at 644-3286.

**Feb. 5: CPR Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions Monthly Meeting**

Discussion will be on: Move To Amend: "End Corporate Rule, Legalize Democracy," a talk by national spokesperson David Cobb on the movement to amend the Constitution and overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. This will be held at Foster Library's Topping Room, 651 E. Main St. at 3:00 p.m. Learn more about CPR and find out how you can get involved @ [www.c-p-r.net/](http://www.c-p-r.net/). Learn more about Move To Amend at [www.movetoamend.org](http://www.movetoamend.org) Follow on [facebook.com/move2amend](http://facebook.com/move2amend) & [twitter.com/movetoamend](http://twitter.com/movetoamend)

**Feb. 6: Audubon Field Trip Santa Clara River Estuary/Surfers' Knoll** at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Adele Fergusson 415-4304. Take Harbor Blvd to Spinnaker and enter Ventura Harbor. Follow Spinnaker as it curves around to the right. Surfers' Knoll is on the left. Scopes are nice if you have one.

**Feb. 8: The Ventura County Camera Club** will hold a competition meeting on Wednesday, at 7:00 PM at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. A professional photographer will critique members' prints and digital images. The topic for the month is "Absurd" which will feature some interesting photographs. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. See the club's web site for more information about the club and examples of member's works or call 908-5663. [www.venturaCountyCameraClub.com](http://www.venturaCountyCameraClub.com)

**Feb. 11: Ventura's Bank of Books** will be holding a **book signing for Roberto Vargas' Family Activism** on Saturday. Vargas' book details how people can use their family relationships to take on the problems they face in society. The event will run from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at Bank of Books, located at 748 East Main Street.

**Feb. 11&12: Olivas Adobe Book sale-Fundraiser!** Annual book sale-fundraiser on Saturday and Sunday, at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park, 4200 Olivas Park Dr.

All kinds of books will be available from 11a.m. to 3p.m. each day.

For more information go to [www.olivasadobe.org](http://www.olivasadobe.org)

**Feb. 12: The Ventura County Chapter of USA Dance, Inc.,** will be holding their February Dance Party on

Sunday, at the Academy Dance Studio, 1937 Goodyear Ave, Suite 702. The event starts with a free dance lesson at 2:00 p.m., followed by open dancing from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Music is a variety of Ballroom, Latin and Swing CDs. Also featured are Male Dance Hosts, refreshments and a 50/50 raffle. Admission : \$10 General, \$9 Dance Buddies, and \$7 USA Dance Members and \$5 Active Duty Military and Youth. Info: 646-6271.

### Ojai events

The **Recycling Club at Villanova Preparatory School** in Ojai is launching a month-long campaign February 1st, titled Mahalo for Recycling. On that day, the VPS recycling bins will be decked out in green grass skirts and students and staff will wear green or Hawaiian shirts to attend the kick-off assembly in the gym at 2:30 pm.

Students AnAn Che and Julie Yang are the recycling club co-presidents. Alex Baldwin and Andrew Italy are representing the club at the assembly.

All of the school's student clubs and organizations will be "adopting" a recycling can and painting a design on the can's lid. Then they will periodically count the cans collected, in order to report on the campaign's success at the end of the month.

To go along with the Mahalo for Recycling theme, the cafeteria will serve a Hawaiian luau-inspired lunch on **Feb 29**. An "expert recycler" is being lined up for the March 1st assembly to conclude the campaign with an inspirational talk.

**"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." It kicks off Ojai ACT's 2012 season at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at 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 the box office for tickets at 640-8797 or [www.OjaiACT.org](http://www.OjaiACT.org)

**"Mayhem in Mayville"** starts Ojai ACT's Fifth Monday series of staged readings for one night only, 7 p.m. Monday, **Jan. 30** at the Ojai Art Center Gallery, 113 S. Montgomery St. Suggested contribution is only \$5 and no reservations are necessary. The whodunit, played in the round, allows the audience to decide which suspect has the most likely motive and opportunity.

On Sun., **Jan. 29** the Ojai Film Society will screen **The Hedgehog**, a touching story of three people living in an up-scale Parisian apartment building whose lives intersect for the better, based on the bestselling novel "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery.

On Sun., **Feb. 5**, the Ojai Film Society will screen **Submarine**, a British coming-of-age story centered on 15-year-old Oliver who has two missions in life: to save his parents' marriage and to woo one of his classmates. 4:30 pm at the Ojai Playhouse. For more information visit [www.ojaifilmsociety.org](http://www.ojaifilmsociety.org).

The Ojai City Council has approved the Weil Tennis Academy to expand their facility. The approval includes 4 new tennis courts, remodeled teaching facilities and dormitories.

The academy was opened by Mark Weil 15 years ago and the expansion assures that they shall remain for a long

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# Community Events

time and can have tennis tournaments there.

Ojai Community Bank is proud to exhibit **Drawn To Ojai: Selections from the Ojai Studio Artists** through Friday, March 16. A reception for the artists will be on Thursday, **February 9** from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

25 members of Ojai Studio Artists (OSA) will exhibit work that is inspired

by their unique relationship to Ojai. Orange groves in bloom, fields of wild mustard as well as work that reflect the spirituality and inner essence of Ojai are all represented in this hometown exhibit.

The Ojai Community Bank is located at 402 W. Ojai Ave., in Ojai and the exhibit is open to the public during regular business hours.

# Sports

## Same dream, Same game - Little League Baseball!

Remember way back when, to those early years of watching larger than life sports heroes on the television, listening to the plays and the scores with everyone around you cheering their favorite team player on? Can you still remember what it felt like getting to go to your first Major League baseball game? Were you lucky enough to "live the dream" and be part of your community ball club?

Some things have improved over the years - inclusion of all boys and girls who share the dream. Boys and girls of all abilities across our country are registering for spring baseball. Even kids with a physical, developmental and/or intellectual challenge (disability) live the dream! There are even teams that include children in wheelchairs who love to play baseball, adapted to their needs.

Registration is now open for all Little League Divisions in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties: T-ball, Minors, Majors, Juniors, and Challengers, with sign-ups taking place across the county. Whether your child is new to the game, or hasn't played in a year or two - no problem! Little League is always looking for new players. Find a league and division that is right for you at [www.LittleLeague805.org](http://www.LittleLeague805.org) for links to a ball club closest to you! Challenger Division

website is [www.GoChallengers.org](http://www.GoChallengers.org)

Challenger Divisions are now at Montalvo Little League Ball Fields in Ventura (off Johnson Avenue, behind the Boys and Girls Club).

Miss the game? Volunteer! Contact your local league ([LittleLeague805.org](http://LittleLeague805.org)), to mentor these kids, umpire, serve in concessions, work behind the scenes, provide a player scholarship so a child or family with multiple siblings can participate.



## Fun with paddles

The Ventura Breeze would like to form a Ventura Ping Pong Club for the many avid ping pong (they can call it table tennis at the Olympics if they want) players in Ventura. If you are interested in being involved and getting this going please email [editor@venturabreeze.com](mailto:editor@venturabreeze.com) and let us know.



Two "Face Of Ventura" portrait sitters were recent guests on Lyn Fairly & Friends—they were Laci Kay (on the left) and Anita Diaz (on the right). That's Lyn and Sheldon holding up the middle. Lyn Fairly & Friends can be heard on News Talk KVTA1520 every Saturday from noon to 1.

# The Inn is Back!



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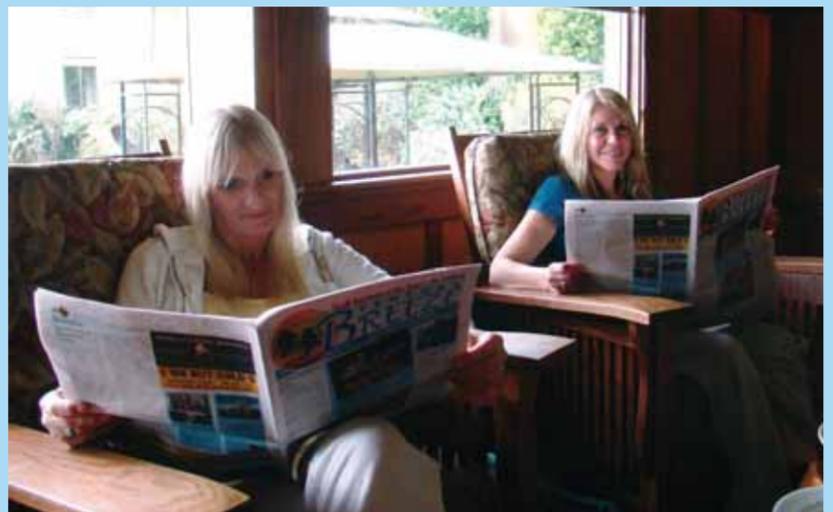
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Enjoying the NFL Playoffs Party (featuring gourmet pizza and pitchers of beer) at The Pierpont Inn & Spa were Frank Castro (what kind of guy has a martini at a football party?), Jeff Seemayer and Mark Brown who play tennis together at the Pierpont Racquet Club. The ladies attending the party, Sarah Williamson and Vicki Fullington just couldn't put the Breeze down long enough to watch the game.



# The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



## Sandra Laby

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Sandra Laby is a retired educator, married to Jordan, mother of two sons, grandmother of three. Sandra loves to dance and has performed Flamenco, ballroom and other types of dancing in shows as a hobby. She was one of the ladies of the "Hot Dames 2010 Calendar celebrating the Rubicon's year of shows and performed in the Ventura County Ballet Company's annual Nutcracker. She was president of the National Council of Jewish Women Ventura County, is a Rotarian and has received a Paul Harris Award. She was honored for serving on the first foundation board of the California State University Channel Islands. She has been the Jewish Federation "Woman of Valor", honored as the Mayors Arts Award, the Ventura Music Festivals First Founders Award, the Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Award as "Woman of Vision", Ventura Chamber of Commerce "Shining Stars", Ventura County Ballet Company "Partner in Dance Award" and most recently the Oxnard Salsa Dance Contest Winner where she raised the most money for "Music in the Schools with Nuvi Mehta" in association with the Ventura Music Festival.

Sandra and her husband have recently helped start the new "Harmony Project of Ventura County" which is modeled after "El Sistema" in Venezuela.

The way Sandra sees it art and life are intertwined. A local visionary, Sandra Laby helps keep that gift alive. These gifts are rich in more than finances; as she has been instrumental in the startups of key cultural venues like Rubicon Theatre Company, Ventura Music Festival, the bi-annual Arts Forum for City Council Candidates, and Focus on the Masters Learning to See Series in the Ventura Schools, Working Artists Ventura WAV, California International Theatre Festival, Bell Arts Factory and the New West Symphony. She is active as board member and/

or advisor of organizations such as the Ojai Music Festival, Ventura County Ballet, Ventura College Orchestra, ART City and Camerata Pacifica. Also included is support for the Ventura Film Society, Jewish Federation of Ventura County, Jewish Family Services, and FOOD Share. A founding member of the Ventura Botanical Gardens she is also a colleague of the Museum Collectors Council for New Acquisitions of Art.

Another unique facet of Sandra's local contribution is the San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts which she and her husband, Jordan, founded in 1999 to bring various artists and arts organizations together with marketing support and [Venturaarts.org](http://Venturaarts.org).

Sandra and her husband Jordan have given scholarships through the "Phoenix Program" at the Ventura College Foundation. And she was one of the producers of a Ventura Music Festival film about opera singer and home grown Nicole Cabell.

### What she likes most about living in Ventura:

It is all about the people, the location and the weather. It is such a relaxed place to live and raise a family. People are kind and caring and it gives one the feeling of a very small town. Every day I get to watch the ocean, the birds and the boats. That is not a bad way to live. The weather is balmy and sometimes very moody and exciting. I like it all.

### Experience of having portrait painted.

I was not sure that I would be able to sit for two hours as I can be a little fidgety at times. However Johanna made sure that I was entertained the whole time. I learned about her life and she learned about mine. Artists kept passing the open door at the Bell Arts and kept me very entertained. It was a delightful way to spend a winter's afternoon.



Captain Bill Finley   Howard Boroughs   Rachel Morris   Jolene McBee   Tony Barrios

Jerry English   Bonnie Weigel   Manuel A. Valenzuela   MB Hanrahan   Emily Olszowy

Olivia Simonson   Lynn Mikelatos   Lorenzo DeStefano   Gene Dunn   Star Soto

"Jalopy Joe" Moody   Mati Waiya   Donna Granata   Bill Pendergrass   Josh Addison

Mark Hartley   Scott Miller   Ken Corney   Francisco Bracho, MD   Anita Diaz

Steve Robles   Laci Kay   Barbara Meister

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

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

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

On the Lyn Fairly show, "Lyn Fairly & Friends", heard every Saturday from noon to 1pm on News Talk KVTA 1520 AM you can hear one of "The Face Of Ventura By Johanna Spinks" portrait sitters interviewed. So listen in to find out what their experience sitting for this ongoing art project was like.

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

This feature will run in the Breeze over the next two years.



Sandra Laby was not sure that she would be able to sit for two hours for her portrait, but found that it was a delightful way to spend a winter's afternoon.

# Business



My Florist Restaurant, located at 76 S. Oak has a new name but all else, the food, the bakery, the music all stay the same, or even better. And they still don't sell flowers.



Jerry English has been dining at the Top Hat since it opened on Main in 1966 so he was one of the first customers to eat at their new location at 2050 E. Main at what used to be It's in the Sauce B-B-Q.



On Jan. 21 Togo's Great Sandwiches held their official grand opening at 4726 Telephone Rd. (where Quizno's was previously located). After starting with their first store in downtown San Jose it is an expanding enterprise that celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Amongst those on hand for the ribbon cutting were Regional Marketing Manager Aaron Ready, store owner Robert Dorian, girls from the Buena High pep rally team and family and friends.

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## Youth



and winners will be notified by April 20.

Straight Up focuses on prevention surrounding underage and binge drinking, over-the-counter/prescription drug abuse, marijuana use and impaired driving.

Downloadable rules and guidelines can be found at [www.straighttupvc.org/contest](http://www.straighttupvc.org/contest). Resources are available to youth and to educators in the form of educational workshops and equipment lending.

Contact: [contest@straightupvc.org](mailto:contest@straightupvc.org) or 647-4622.

## Video contest for young people

Youth advocacy group Straight Up Ventura County has announced its 2012 video contest, open to young people 12-25, around the topics of making a difference among peers, educators and parents.

"We're looking for young people to explore topics such as how to create 'positive' peer pressure, what activities can bring awareness to destructive decisions, or people that have been an inspiration for making positive decisions around alcohol or drugs," says Katherine Kasmir, Program Director of Straight Up. "We look to the youth in our community to help make social change".

Short videos (30-90 seconds) are preferred, but longer videos are welcome as well. The subject matter and tone can be serious or humorous, as long as the video deals with the power of speaking up.

A grand prize of \$500 will be awarded. The deadline is March 9,



## City Corps at work

Ventura City Corps' Alejandro Cortez, Sadiki Shakor, Jimmy Latham and Tamera Nunnery are building and filling raised vegetable beds which will be used to feed those in need in the Ojai Valley.

This is an approved Master Gardener site on Baldwin Road in Ojai. Robin Graham is the Lead Master Gardener in charge of the project. 4 new Ojai residents are currently enrolled in the Ventura County Master Gardeners class of 38.



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## Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

### The importance of Ombudsmen in Ventura County

by Nanci Cone

The online Encarta dictionary defines ombudsman as a nongovernmental complaint investigator: somebody, especially a man, responsible for investigating and resolving complaints from consumers or other members of the public against a company, institution, or other organization. We know that most often today it is women who have the time and energy to become involved and work as volunteers. It doesn't matter whether the sex of the volunteer is male or female, their commitment to the senior population they are helping is what counts.

Ventura County is fortunate to have a number of caring adults, mostly senior citizens, who after training with Long Term Care Services of Ventura County, check in on seniors who live in long-term care facilities to offer them a friendly smile and to see how they are doing. They also check the facility to assure cleanliness, safety, and proper care of the residents.

Everyone seems to have some horror story about seniors having pain medications stolen or of attendants ignoring or abusing their patients. With the help of the Ombudsman program, these egregious offenses are investigated by the volunteers and, if good cause is shown, reported to the correct officials.

Long time Executive Director Sylvia Taylor Stein wants people to know about some of the other services offered. "You can

visit our website where you can learn about our services, become involved in Operation Senior Santa, get a copy of residents' rights, download a facility checklist, learn about pre-placement counseling – the list goes on and on. Additionally, you can email us and have a list of approved facilities emailed back. As you can see, the Long Term Care website is loaded with information for the consumer!"

Gary Davis, one of the volunteer Ombudsmen, says, "My experience as an Ombudsman has been so rewarding. I'm meeting new people all the time and I feel like I'm really making a difference. I know they appreciate me coming to visit and listening to their complaints about the facility or how happy they are with staff, food, accommodations, activities and residents. I received initial training from veteran staff and experienced volunteer Ombudsmen, followed by on the job training. Afterwards I was provided continuing education on a regular basis to help in my role as an advocate."

Checking on disabled seniors at these facilities can occur evenings, on weekends, and on days most convenient to the volunteer. College students, retirees, members of service clubs, employees, and adult children who no longer have their own parents to comfort; can volunteer to comfort seniors who could use a caring friend.

Ms. Taylor Stein adds, "Sixty percent of our frail elderly in nursing homes have no one – no family or friends who ever visit or check up on them. The Ombudsman volunteer might be the only extended family or friend they have for the rest of their lives."

To sign up for training to become a Senior Ombudsman, please contact Long Term Care Services of Ventura County's ombudsman program at 656-1986 or on the internet at [www.ombudsmanventura.org](http://www.ombudsmanventura.org).

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Medusa, a 1972 Buick Skylark, was one of the stars in the recent film "Bellflower," shot locally here in Ventura County. Pictured here are (l to r) film photographer Joel Hodge, producer Chelsea St. John, and director Evan Glodell. The car was designed with tailpipes sticking out of the trunk that shot fire from the rear of the car. The flames were sparked by electric igniters built directly into the tailpipes.

## Ventura film director creates hot film

by Tim Pompey

It's a story that sounds almost too good to be true. Young filmmaker moves from the Midwest to Ventura, gets an idea for a movie, and ends up selling most of his belongings to make it. He tries to convince Hollywood execs to buy it. No deal. It looks hopeless. Then, out of the blue . . .

Corny? Not to Ventura filmmaker Evan Glodell who, thanks to his movie "Bellflower," is now one of Hollywood's rising young stars.

Glodell is from Baraboo, Wisconsin, about 45 minutes north of Madison. His girlfriend, Chelsea St. John, who served as a producer for the film, was born and raised in Madison.

They met in their late teens through

some mutual friends in Madison and moved out here together about 10 years ago.

As for the film's inspiration? Call it good love gone bad. "It came from a relationship I had many years ago when I first came out here," he explained. "It ended up being a very intense experience. The film was my version of the relationship."

Over several years, Glodell poured out his pain on paper, and after he had a useable script, he gathered his friends and his equipment and shot the film, mostly at his own expense. "The only funding we got was \$3,000 through a friend," he said. About 95% of the film was shot in Ventura County.

*Continued on page 13*

## School



### High school student creates fun volunteer based eco organization

by Brook Demchuk

Ventura high school senior Anna Guasco has managed to incorporate two of her favorite passions in life: science and helping the community. Guasco is the founder of Ventura Eco Renewal, a local non profit organization who's goal is to educate individuals about Ventura's unique ecology, as well as plant drought resistant plants throughout the city to help maintain a healthy environment. Already working on their first big project, the members of Ventura Eco Renewal are determined to make a lasting impression on the city of Ventura with both nature and education.

Guasco first came up with the idea for Ventura Eco Renewal when she was sitting in her AP Biology class. While researching for a report, she found out that Ventura's ecology only exists in five places throughout the entire world. Realizing how special this was, as well as how our precious environment is constantly being put in jeopardy, Guasco began considering all the empty lots and pieces of land in town that could be used to help build our eco system back up.

The first and current project that Ventura Eco Renewal has been working on is a garden located at the Boys and Girls Club on the Avenue. There, the volunteers work with the children to teach them about the unique plants that Ventura is able to sustain, as well as important information on why we need to take care of our environment, and how we can do so. The children learn about the different plants, how to help with the gardening, and the environment itself. Other high school

volunteers help to clear the landscape, prepare the soil for planting, and will eventually be working with the plants themselves in future weeks. 15-20 people come to each meeting, and there have been about four meetings thus far.

Guasco and the other members hope that this unique foundation will continue its accomplishments after they have graduated with the help of the younger volunteers. Currently the organization has both an executive board and a junior board made up of teens who help keep the projects going, as well as make other important decisions. And while they want their organization to last, they also want to make sure that their planting projects last too.

One of the main donaters for Ventura Eco Renewal is Agronym; a local soil company owned by Harrison and Sons trash company. They have donated a large amount of mulch to help enable the plants to grow healthily by providing pivotal nutrients within the soil. Additionally, Antonio Sanchez of Nopalito Nursery has made the generous offer to donate all the plants for the garden at the Boys and Girls Club.

Ventura Eco Renewal is constantly looking for new volunteers to help with planting and maintaining the garden. If you or someone else you know is interested in volunteer work, working with children, and helping the community, make sure to be on the lookout for the next planting dates. You can learn more about the history of Ventura Eco Renewal, as well as when you can volunteer by going to <http://venturaecorenewal.wordpress.com/>.

### High school drop-out gets Ph.D and opens a college

Dr. Bunny Vreeland (Dr. Bunny as she is called) was a 16-year-old high school drop-out who went on to earn her Ph.D. She said, "I discovered the secret of successful thinking. Now I want to share that secret by teaching it to others". Dr. Bunny has been a Board Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist for over 20 years and has been helping

residents of Ventura County for most of that time. She assists people with weight loss, smoking cessation, overcoming fears and phobias, and much more. Her passion is empowering people to improve their lives. "I feel like I have this invisible mirror that reflects my client's innermost goals and desires. I enable them to see their needs and empower them with the tools to get there." Dr. Bunny explains. Her devotion to the Healing Arts field was the catalyst for her next step in life – founding the Vreeland College of the Healing Arts. In light of our economy, when many people need a new profession, are dissatisfied with their current job or are looking for

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more in their life, Dr. Bunny saw another opportunity to help.

The Vreeland College of the Healing Arts is great news for Ventura. Until now, no school of this kind has been available locally. Classes are flexible, class size is kept small, tuition is affordable, and it's all right here in our backyard at the Camarillo airport and business park. If you are out of work, looking for a change in professions, like the idea of being self-employed, or just want a more rewarding career – and you want to do it in months, not years – check out the college at [www.VreelandCollege.org](http://www.VreelandCollege.org) or call Dr. Bunny at 482-8111. The college website has all the information about the programs available. You can also learn more about Dr. Bunny and her private hypnotherapy practice at [www.BunnyVreeland.org](http://www.BunnyVreeland.org).

The college offers Certification Training Programs, lectures, talks and meetings. Programs include Clinical Hypnotherapy, Motivational Coaching, Behavioral Technology, and Alternative & Complementary Healing. The programs give students a solid grounding in the healing arts that includes alternative healing and treatment methods.

#### Ventura film director creates hot film *Continued from page 12*

Glodell also happens to be an obsessive tinkerer. He ended up designing most of his own equipment—his cameras, the car, and, most startling, the flamethrower, which even he confesses is scary. "We built it for the movie," he said, "but I'm genuinely afraid of it."

As for one of the film's stars—Medusa the muscle car (actually a 1972 Buick Skylark)—he bought it specifically for the movie. "It was the single most expensive thing in the movie, about \$3,000 dollars," said Glodell. "It wasn't in the best shape. Otherwise we wouldn't have

been able to afford it."

Glodell and his friend, Paul Edwardson, transformed it into an ear splitting monster with a blower attached to the engine and two fire breathing pipes rising from the trunk. He estimates that if you raced it on an open road, it could reach speeds of 160-170 mph. "I would never drive it that fast, though" he admits. "I'm afraid of what would happen to the car."

After the film was shot, Glodell tried selling it to movie producers and got nowhere. "We had a really hard time for three years trying to find a distributor," he said.

Then, almost as an afterthought, he decided to send it to Sundance. "We submitted it on the last day at the last deadline."

The result? "I got a phone call from Trevor Groth at Sundance," said Glodell. "As soon as I hung up, my phone wouldn't stop ringing. Different agents, production companies, they all wanted to know who we were. Then a week later, when the announcement came out, it got worse. "By the time we got to Sundance," said Glodell, "we had a team. We had Creative Artists Agency, we had legal representation, and a publicist. They built an entire strategy for us so that it would sell at Sundance."

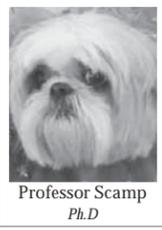
The film was eventually sold to Oscilloscope.

Since then, Glodell has been busy with new projects. "The last year, I've had a lot of meetings with people who want me to direct a film they're doing, or who want to produce my next film," he said. "I have a script that I'm actively finishing and I imagine it will be coming together later this year, and then there's another project that we'll be shooting here in Ventura."

"Bellflower" is currently available as a video rental at Salzer's and Blockbusters. It will also soon be available as a download on Netflix and iTunes. For any additional information about Glodell or "Bellflower," contact Coatwolf Productions at <http://coatwolf.com>.

# Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp  
Ph.D

■ Your child can read to a registered therapy dog at Paws for Reading on Saturdays from noon-1. This is a reading program designed to help improve a child's reading skills at E.P. Foster Library, 651 Main. Contact Star Soto Youth Librarian for more information or to schedule an appointment at 648-2716.

■ Residents of Ventura County and members of the rescue community interested in a No-Kill county shelter will rally at the Ventura County Animal Services Shelter located at 600 Aviation Drive, Camarillo, on Thursday, January 26th, at 9am.

The Ventura County Animal Services Commission will be conducting a public meeting at this time. On the agenda, members of the local rescue community will be presenting a series of documents detailing current conditions, procedures and protocols at the shelter that contribute to the continued use of euthanasia as a population management tool.

An average of 50 to 100 adoptable dogs and cats are euthanized every week of the year at the facility. The general public and rescuers are demanding that immediate changes be implemented at the shelter to reduce and then eliminate their continued killing. There is a proven combination of programs called the "No Kill Equation" that over time will accomplish this goal. ([www.nokilladvocacycenter.org](http://www.nokilladvocacycenter.org))

We living in Ventura County should be able to expect our shelter to do these things with the \$5.5 million annual budget granted to the Camarillo facility.

Apart from the humane concerns, it is bad business to kill adoptable animals. It is a waste of taxpayer money to expend resources killing thousands of animals that, with the implementation of life saving programs, would generate income for

the county and for the local business community.

It doesn't make sense to spend taxpayer money to euthanize perfectly amazing companion animals (like me) when puppy-mill pet stores are selling pets. It's better that the public adopt pets at the shelter, which will save pets' lives, save taxpayer money that would otherwise be spent on housing and euthanizing pets, and put the inhumane puppy mills out of business (perhaps all of them aren't inhumane but a lot are).

These issues and others will be the topic of discussion at the Commission meeting. It would be nice if you could attend in my place (I wish I could be there but I will send a writer to report to you on the meeting). Please wear yellow and blue ribbons pinned to your lapel as a visual show of support. For more information visit <http://www.vcpapa.org>

■ I recently came across some interesting news that I felt I should share with my loyal readers. According to USA Today a recent study done at Oxford University has put dogs higher on the intellectual scale in comparison to cats (about time some scientists decided to prove what I always knew). Our brains are actually larger than cat's (even mine) and this is



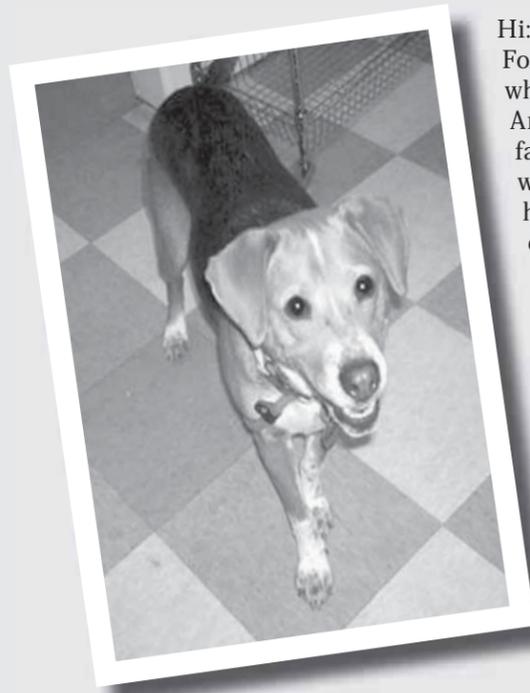
*So if I am so much smarter than Savana how come I'm waiting in line behind her to eat?*

because we are more social creatures, and need that extra space in order to navigate the many relationships that we have to create in our lives.

A co-author of the study, Robin Dunbar explains further "Even some animals that have contact with humans, like cats, have much smaller

*Continued on page 15*

## Forever home wanted,



Hi: I'm Lassy a cute English Foxhound 6 year old lady mix who was originally rescued from Animal Regulation. I may look familiar as I was adopted into what I thought was my forever home, but through no fault of my own I find myself once again looking for a home. I'm very sad, but I know another family will come to adopt me, hopefully very soon. I love being around people, so I need a family that will rarely leave me by myself. I'm good with other dogs and children, but no cats please. I enjoy car rides, going for walks and getting lots of attention.

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

## Scamp Club

Hi: I'm Molly Wigton and I'm 5 years old. I love to make dog friends on the promenade or at Kimball Park because I am very sociable. Road trips are my favorite, especially to the Pierpont Racquet Club so I can watch people play tennis. I am a family girl and I miss my sister Katie. My best friends are Mocha and Jack Jenks.



## Join Scamp Club

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

## Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

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

### Stolen Vehicle Arrest

On Monday, January 9th, at 12:58 a.m., an officer was patrolling the 3500 block of East Main Street when he observed a suspicious vehicle parked at a nearby convenience store. The officer conducted a records check and discovered that the vehicle had been reported stolen. Garrett Ski, a 24 year old Ventura resident, got into the vehicle and drove away.

A high-risk stop was conducted in the area of Kirk Avenue and Preble Avenue, and Ski was taken into custody without incident. Ski was booked into the VC Jail.

### Vehicle Pursuit

On Sunday, January 8th, at 10:23 p.m., Officer Metz was working routine patrol in the area of Las Cruces and Albany, when he saw a

vehicle that matched the description of a vehicle involved in a brandishing call earlier in the night. Officer Metz attempted to make a traffic stop on the vehicle. Pierre Bass, 23 years old, failed to yield.

Bass drove to the area of Phelps and Saranac where he pulled over and exited the vehicle. He then ran into a back yard. Officers conducted a yard-to-yard search. Bass was located and taken into custody. No one was injured during the call and Bass was taken to VC Jail.

### Prowl Arrest

On Saturday, January 6th, at 4:38 p.m., Martin Duran was seen knocking on doors in the 5800 block of Santa Lucia. When contacted by VPD officers, Duran said he was lost and looking for his girlfriend. Duran was given directions on how to return to his residence in Oxnard.

Later that night, Duran was again knocking on doors. He opened a side gate and entered the victim's side yard. The victim confronted the suspect and contacted VPD. The suspect fled but was caught by responding

officers. Officers determined Duran was the suspect from the earlier call. Duran was booked.

### Robbery Arrest

On Friday, January 13th, at 12:50 a.m., VPD responded to a strong-arm robbery that had just occurred in the 1200 block of North Ventura Avenue.

The victim was walking near Red Barn Liquor, located at 1285 North Ventura Avenue, when the suspects approached him. The suspects demanded the victim's property and threatened to harm him if he did not relinquish all his belongings. The suspects grabbed several bags from the victim.

A VPD patrol officer located a pickup truck parked in the 100 block of North Ventura Avenue. The officer saw several bags and various articles of clothing strewn about the truck.

Officers detained suspects, Matthew Cobos, Tyler Clark and Miguel Martinez, who were found standing outside the truck. The victim later identified Clark as being one of the suspects who threatened him.

### Commercial Structure Fire

On Thursday, January 12th, at 8:19 a.m., Ventura City Firefighters responded to a reported structure fire in the 2100 block of Goodyear Avenue. First arriving units found a growing fire that was overcoming the fire sprinkler system. The involved occupancy housed a commercial laundry operation that was closed and not occupied at the time of the fire. The fire was located by fire crews and rapidly extinguished. The fire did not extend into adjoining business and no injuries were reported.

### Arson Arrest

On Saturday, January 14th, at about 3:53 a.m., three Ventura City Fire units responded to the area of Johnson Drive and Ralston Street regarding a vehicle fire. Fire personnel were able to extinguish the fire.

A second structure fire was reported in the 1500 block of Towhee Court. This fire started in a trashcan near the gas and electric meters, and caught a gas line on fire, which caused the fire to spread into the adjacent garage. Fire personnel were able to

# Police Reports

contain the fire to the garage.

Officers saw a vehicle driving away. The vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed and with no headlights. Officers contacted the driver, Robert Harrison, and determined he had an outstanding felony warrant for violating his probation. Officers found stolen property on Harrison.

Harrison was responsible for both fires and at least two thefts from parked vehicles. Harrison was also in possession of methamphetamine. He was booked at VC Jail.

### Criminal Threats Arrest

On Saturday, January 14th, at 2:16 p.m., VPD responded to a reported fight and brandishing of a knife in front of businesses in the 4200 block of East Main Street. When officers arrived, they detained two subjects appearing to be involved in an altercation.

Robert Cox and the victim got into a verbal argument about Cox using profanities in front of small children. During the altercation, Cox removed a knife from his front pants pocket and brandished it at the victim and threatened to stab him.

### Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Saturday, January 14th, at 2:30 p.m., the VPD received a call of a robbery at knifepoint in the area of 300 block of Main Street. Officers located the victim Ronald Garcia unharmed. Garcia, the manager of ARC Thrift Store, stated the suspect had been in the store, selected some items and fled the business with the store's property. Garcia chased the suspect. The suspect fell to the ground tired on Oak Street, near Poli Street. As Garcia attempted to get the store's property back, the suspect slashed at him with a knife he pulled from his waistband. The suspect fled again, jumping several fences into a nearby commercial area out of sight.

Responding officers canvassed the area but were unable to locate the suspect.

### Hit and Run DUI Arrest

On Monday, January 16th, at 1:53 p.m., the VPD received a call of an injury traffic collision where a vehicle hit a pedestrian in the area of Mills Road and Preble Avenue.

The pedestrian, Joyce Yamani, 69 years old, entered the roadway on her scooter power chair. Andres Covarrubias, 18 years old, was seen driving at a high rate of speed through the intersections curve while impaired by alcohol. Covarrubias lost control of his vehicle and collided with Joyce, launching her out of her chair into the roadway. Covarrubias' vehicle then collided with a parked vehicle. Covarrubias backed his vehicle up and drove away from the scene.

Officers located Covarrubias in the Pierpont area of Ventura where he was arrested without incident.

Joyce sustained serious injuries and was transported to VCMC where she is being treated.

### Commercial Burglary

On Tuesday, January 17th, at 5:35 p.m., David Valadez entered Jewelry Couture, located on 390 South Mills Road, and inquired about some high dollar jewelry items. The sales associate removed two watches from the case and provided them for viewing. Valadez grabbed the items, valued at over \$10,000, from the counter and fled out the door.

Within minutes, a patrol officer

found Valadez hiding behind a Conex box in the west parking lot of the Pacific View Mall. Valadez was in possession of the stolen watches at the time of arrest.

### Resisting Arrest

On Wednesday, January 18th, at 1:17 a.m., a VPD patrol officer saw a vehicle on the 101 freeway and completed a traffic stop for Vehicle Code violations. Sergio Contreras fled the vehicle, down the Johnson Drive off ramp. Two females and one male were removed from the car. A search of the vehicle revealed a sawed off shotgun.

A patrol officer saw Contreras fleeing into the yard of Tuff Shed, a business in the 3300 block of Ventura Road. Contreras began fighting with the officers, but was arrested and treated at VCMC for minor injuries. Contreras was booked at VC Jail. He was a member of a criminal street gang.

Gilbert Lemos was found to be in possession of a strap-like device. Lemos, currently on parole, was arrested and booked at VC Jail.

Both females were interviewed and released at the scene.

# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

**1-2** 1:41 p.m. Patrol was flagged down by a disabled vessel in the Entrance. Patrol took the vessel into tow and released it at its slip at VWM.

9:17 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a fall victim at Harbor Village. Upon arrival, Patrol observed a woman and her husband climbing off the rip rap where she had fallen or was pushed off the sidewalk. AMR transported the woman to the hospital. PD investigated to see if the incident was criminal in nature.

**1-3** 11:57 a.m. Patrol received a phone call from a citizen reporting a boy on a Boogie Board had lost his board and was caught in a rip caused by 8 to 10-foot seas. Patrol activated 9-1-1 and responded by boat. Patrol picked up the boy just outside the surf and transported him to Marina Park, where his mother picked him up.

**1-4** 8:15 a.m. A vessel reported a large log in the Harbor entrance. Patrol took the log into tow and disposed of it on Parcel 18.

4:23 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and multiple units to a kite surfer in distress at Surfer's Point. Upon arrival, the kite surfer had entered the surf en route to the beach. Patrol stood by until he was safely on the beach.

**1-5** 10:57 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and other units to a medical assist at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Upon arrival, it was determined that the ambulance was only needed for routine transportation. AMR transported the patient.

4:27 p.m. The operator of a vessel reports that his vessel is disabled south of the Harbor. Patrol responded, took the vessel into tow and released the vessel at the launch ramp.

**1-6** 8:01 a.m. FCC dispatched multiple units for a water rescue at Surfer's Knoll. Patrol responded. Just prior to arrival, FD reported that the

## FINANCIAL STRESS?

- **Foreclosure Pending?** Payments too high? Owe more than value? Frustrated loan modification?
- **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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swimmer was no longer in distress.

10:40 a.m. Patrol observed a 1-person outrigger exiting the Harbor in 10-15 foot swells. Soon thereafter, the mother of the person contacted Patrol out of concern for her son. Patrol escorted the outrigger into the Harbor.

**1-8** 12:15 a.m. Patrol witnessed a crew boat contact a moored vessel and cause damage to a boat at VIM. Patrol took a statement from the skipper and advised the owner of the damaged sailboat.

**1-15** 11:00 a.m. Patrol observed wires arcing at Catalina Yacht Sales and notified FD. A small fire started, but it was quickly extinguished. The electricity to the sales office and two docks was left off until repairs to the electrical box can be made.

4:07 p.m. Ventura PD reports a sailboat possibly in distress off the Ventura Pier. Patrol responded, found the vessel anchored, and made contact with the persons on board. They stated they were not in distress.

### Professor Scamp

*Continued from page 14*

brains than dogs and horses because of their lack of sociality." But of course this feud that has dawned since the beginning of time of cats versus dogs has not entirely been settled.

But cat lovers (I guess that my humans are dog and cat lovers) have suggested that in proportion to size cats actually have the larger brains, and no cat would lose their dignity and actually interact with humans unless they were really in the mood and wanted to do them a favor and really can't take the time learning "tricks". I'm going to have to stick with Oxford here that we dogs are in fact smarter than cats.

I must admit though that Savana has been a great roommate so far, but that might change when she reads this and she might bite my tail again. So my question is if I am so much smarter then her how come she can do whatever she wants and I can't (dumb like a fox perhaps).

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

# Show Time

Where The Music Flows

## Van Halen unleashes new single!

by Michael Kohli

Is our Lady Gaga/Katy Perry world ready for a new Van Halen album? People have waited for years for the return of David Lee Roth. Now, it's here. Their new video premiered online on January 10th. The "Tattoo" video already has over two million views on Vevo! It's the first Van Halen video/single in the newfound Internet/social media world. The new album titled, "A Different Side Of Truth," will be released on February 7. Only downside to some, is that it still isn't the full Van Halen. One member is noticeably missing, Michael Anthony. In 2007, he got replaced by Eddie Van Halen's son. Is that good or bad? What do you think? Outside of Roth, their all family, Eddie, Alex and Wolfgang. But, did Michael Anthony bring a trademark style that people still miss? Email me: VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com.

The Cranberries will return with a new album on Valentine's Day titled, "Roses." After they parted ways with their former label: Island/Def Jam, things got messy with the demise of Sanctuary Records (who they had signed with for their live DVD). Perhaps, the world did need a break though, what do you think? I'm excited to hear their new music! Valentine's Day is so perfect!

8Stops7 are getting ready to unveil their latest album, Fables. Through the fanclub and their recent PledgeMusic campaign, some happy friends and fans should see the album in the mailbox any day now! Check out the local band's latest music video for, "The Sting!"

Saint Pierre is going to preview his upcoming material from his album in the works titled, PCH @ The Wheel. Stop by Yolies on Saturday, January 28 to hear him and Carlos Gonzales and Robert Earl Longley. See "events" for more information.

Thank you for time! Hope you enjoyed your reading stay! :-)!  
Michael Kohli  
VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com  
Kohlismusicpit.com

## Music Calendar 1/25 to 2/7

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 1/27 - Brian Faith Band 7-11pm  
Sat 1/28 - Live Bait 6pm-10pm  
Sun 1/29 - Blue Stew 2-6pm  
Sun 2/5 - 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 1/27 - Wyatt and The Gypsy Dead Star  
Sat 1/28 - The Reall Deall Band  
Sun 1/29 - The Shoemaker Brothers

**Cafe Fiore**  
66 California St., 805-653-1266  
Live Bands every Tue thru Sat  
DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri & Sat  
Wed 1/25 - Big Adventure  
Thur 1/26 - Coso Live  
Wed 2/1 - Big Adventure  
Thur 2/2 - 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  
Sat 2/12 - DJ Quik, Suga Free

**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 1/26 - Shawn Jones  
Fri 1/27 - Legalizers  
Sat 1/28 - Bomb  
Sun 1/29 - 50 Sticks of Dynamite  
Thur 2/2 - Acoustic Circus featuring Emilbus  
Fri 2/3 - Soul Machine  
Sat 2/4 - Dr. M  
Sun 2/5 - Shoemaker Brothers

**Yolies/Hi Hat Entertainment**  
138 W. Main St., 805-816-9663  
Fri 1/27 - Dona Oxford - Rythm & Blues 8pm  
Fri 2/3 - Pete Anderson 8pm

**Zoey's Café**  
185 E. Santa Clara St., 805-652-1137  
Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm  
Wed 1/25 - Jeffertittis Nile 9pm  
Thur 1/26 - Brian Mikasa Band 9pm  
Fri 1/27 - Brother Sal Trio 8pm  
Sat 1/28 - AIDS Benefit presented by Andre Jamerson 9pm  
Sun 1/29 - Moraza Family & Friends - traditional music from Vera Cruz 7:30pm  
Thur 2/2 - Ventura's Finest Event 7:30pm  
Fri 2/3 - Jim Bianco 8pm  
Sat 2/4 - Gretchen Peters CD release 8pm

## The Entertainment Report Silver Screen

by Linde Carlson

Hello Ventura,  
There are many wonderful, interesting and eclectic movies that I have seen of late, however, the two that I have selected for this week are Joyful Noise and Iron Lady.



**Iron Lady**  
Meryl Streep portrays former Prime

# VFS@420EAST



## Amazing Grace

Reviewed by Lorenzo DeStefano

It is 1797 and William Wilberforce (Ioan Gruffudd), a member of the House of Lords and tireless crusader for the British abolition of slavery, is taking a much-needed vacation for his health. His condition has been made infinitely worse by the burdens of his noble but endlessly frustrated campaign. Wilberforce's goal? To permanently end the tyranny of slavery over the economy and moral spirit of Great Britain and, henceforth, the world. With only a few allies at first, Wilberforce sought to advance human rights in slave-torn times. His opposition was fierce.

Chief among Wilberforce's growing list of allies was John Newton (Albert Finney), a former slave ship captain turned repentant priest, haunted by the 20,000 ghosts of slaves he transported. Wilberforce is also aided by veteran politician Lord Charles Fox (Michael Gambon), longtime friend

Minister Margaret Thatcher brilliantly. Her physicality is uncanny.

This biopic film revisits history, chronicling the life and political ambitions of the controversial and feisty, outspoken political leader. With Meryl's out stretched vocals, similar to Julia Childs, make-up and stature, Meryl, depicted a true sense of what Thatcher represented to her country and to her family. Scenes of history reminded one of her power and what was going on in the world at the time.

The historical clippings and reenactment's made you feel like you were right there when it was happening.

If you enjoy a biopic, this is a film that will take you back to that time, and give you a history lesson or two. I enjoyed it immensely.  
Rated PG-13 Running time 105 minutes



**Joyful Noise**

I cannot praise this film enough. It is one of the most uplifting, positive, inspiring movies I have seen in a long time.

Filmed in Georgia and Los Angeles, a Pacashau, Georgia community is besieged with economic hardship. On a quest to save their town, members of The Trinity Church choir, made up of stars Queen Latifa, Dolly Parton, Keke Palmer, and Jeremy Jordon, as well as a cast of other wonderful vocalists, strive

and eventual Prime Minister William Pitt, (Benjamin Cumberbatch), fellow anti-slavery pioneer Thomas Clarkson (Rufus Sewell), and by erudite freed slave and African Prince Olaudah Equiano (Youssou N'Dour), whose landmark book "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African", was first published in 1789 and transformed mainstream thinking about the plight of African slaves. On meeting the passionate and idealistic Barbara Spooner (Romola Garai), Wilberforce finds a soulmate who shares his values and the nobility of his lonely struggle.

Impeccably directed by Michael Apted "Amazing Grace" is a revelation even for those of us who thought we knew something about the history of slavery. Apted's film brilliantly clarifies the historical roots of the anti-slavery abolitionist movement that has helped, over the past 200 years, to bring greater civil rights, opportunities, and an honest historical legacy to generations of exploited peoples. This beautiful film engages our senses, opens our hearts, and expands the meaning of passionate idealism in service to human compassion.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to open its 4th season, the 1st of 21 feature films screening @ 7:15pm on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays between February 7 and December 4. Our new venue is located at 420 E. Santa Clara Street (@ Oak Street) in Downtown Ventura. VFS@420 EAST 2012 is made possible by major donors Barbara Meister, Micheline Sakharoff, and Patagonia/Great Pacific Iron Works and critical support provided by Downtown Ventura Partners and by grants from the City of Ventura's Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships Department. Screening, membership and advance ticket information at www.venturafilmsociety.com or 628-2299.

to win a vocal competition to raise money to save their community.

I do not want to give this film away, but I will tell you one thing, if you don't have the urge to get up and dance, and leave feeling good, then you need some Geritol.

Go see it! I would see it again, that's how much I enjoyed it. The chemistry between all the stars and co-stars were effortless and natural. Several stories within a story captivate and embrace a very human side to what it means to give, and help thy neighbor.

Rated PG-13 Running time 118 minutes

## Two on the Aisle Flying H Group Soars to Almost, Maine

Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

Ventura County offers numerous theater experiences for every age and intellect level. Companies come and go, all eager to contribute something further to the arts in their communities.

The Flying H Group, located in Ventura and founded in the early 90's by award-winning professional actor Taylor  
*Continued on page 20*

# The Lighter Breeze

## Out on a Limb



## Shoe



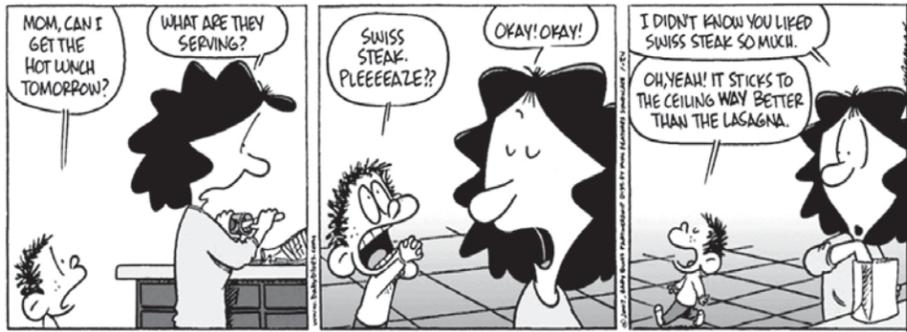
## Crock



## Dustin



## Baby Blues



## Rhymes with Orange



Solutions on page 15

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 15

## King Crossword

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |

**ACROSS**

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

World War II bomber  
Describe  
Manicurist's need  
Enemies  
— Aviv  
Protection (Var.)

soft  
8 "I've —, and I ..."  
9 Harvest  
10 Sea eagle  
11 Active one  
13 Sras., across the Pyrenees  
19 Sch. goings-on

27 Basin accessory  
29 Mediocre  
31 Ram's mate  
33 Cover a multitude —  
34 Fly low and attack  
36 Ledge  
37 50 percent  
38 Hodgepodge  
39 Appellation  
40 Dirt  
43 Scot's denial  
44 Showbiz job  
45 "The Greatest"  
46 Affirmative

20 Old man  
21 Curved molding  
22 Sunrise  
23 Hosiery woes  
25 Speaking well  
26 Birthday treat

**DOWN**

1 Consumed  
2 60 sec.  
3 Expert  
4 Tailor, old-style  
5 Singer Celine  
6 Buckeyes' sch.  
7 Comfortably

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) The changes you've waited to see in your work situation might not be happening quite as quickly as you'd hoped. Although the pace is slow, it's ongoing. Expect to hear news soon.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) You should be feeling very proud of the fine effort you've made to get that important project done. Now take some time out to celebrate with family and friends. You've earned it.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You're close to reaching your objectives. That's the good news. But be careful: Your aspects show lots of potential distractions looming. Stay focused and keep your eyes fixed on your goals.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Be careful not to let that suspicious Cancerian mind create a problem where none exists. What you might believe is an act of betrayal could be nothing more than a misunderstanding.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Your Lion's heart overflows with self-confidence. All you need to do is tap into it, and you'll be able to handle any change that must be made regarding that recent surprise development.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) The need to watch what you say becomes increasingly crucial this week. Be as temperate as you can with your comments and avoid arguments

for the sake of controversy.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A longtime family problem presents new demands. But this time, you won't have to go it alone: Someone else is asking to help share your responsibilities. Let it happen.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A period of feeling vulnerable is about to give way to a stronger, more self-confident aspect. Use this new strength to reaffirm promises you've made to others and yourself.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A creative dilemma stalls your progress. Instead of letting it raise your ire, use the time to re-examine your aims and, perhaps, come up with a new target.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Your nimble will finds a way for you to work out those newly emerged problems plaguing your new project. Stay with it. The results will be well worth your efforts.

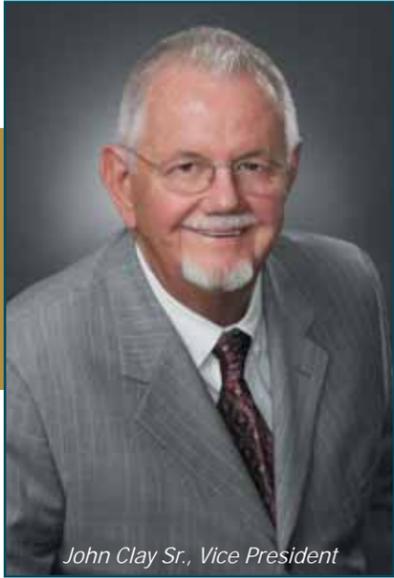
**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You might feel overwhelmed at having to decide which new opportunity you should follow. Best advice: Check them all out and see which offers what you really want.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Continue to tread water before you even consider plunging into something that never seemed quite right. Some facts will soon emerge that can help you make a decision.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You're a natural-born peacemaker. You value truth and have little patience with those who lie to you for their own purposes.

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Ventura Breeze contributing writer Annie-Gabriel recently interviewed portrait artist Johanna Spinks (Face Of Ventura) for the local CAPS TV Show "Our Ventura".

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## Art Scene



If you drive to the very end of Ventura Avenue or look from the freeway you will see a wonderful mural painted on a residential fence. This mural was painted by a young Ventura artist Vanessa Wallace-Gonzales.

Now 19 she painted this when she was only 17 and this was her first and only mural and created on a very rough surface to paint on.

Vanessa has lived in Ventura for 10 years and attended Ventura High School. She is now attending the Maryland Institute College of the Arts with a major in general fine arts.

We asked her the question that artists hate to hear "how do you hope to make a living in the arts" and she did answer it.

"This is a difficult question. Of course as an artist it would be amazing to just live off my work, but that isn't the only thing I hope for as this is a tough task to achieve and I also don't believe I would be satisfied with it. I want to do more than just create for myself, so I hope to teach art classes to young children as I am doing now. I teach kindergarten through 5th grade at an after school program in a Baltimore public school. I hope to continue teaching at programs such as this for children who's school do not offer art classes. But also I want to do more community art such as murals and this doesn't only mean in the traditional sense of a painted mural but mosaic murals as well."

And the best part is when she said "I hope to return to Ventura after school as there will always be a soft spot for Ventura in me."



"Peter and the Wolf," the traditional Russian folk tale set to music, will be presented in the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Pavilion

## Happenings at the Museum of Ventura County

Join Ventura artist and publisher Joe Cardella at the Museum of Ventura County on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 4:00-6:00 p.m., as he and artists who contributed to his celebrated Art/Life Magazine reveal behind-the-scenes anecdotes about the longest continually published artists' periodical of the 20th century. Visitors to the free reception are invited to look through specially selected issues of this unique magazine whose pages are almost all original art. Local artists will be joining Cardella. Admission to all the museum's galleries is free during the event. To RSVP call 653-0323 x 7.

The magazine presented a diverse array of art, from collages, original prints, photos, and dimensional objects, to written works and poems. The Museum of Ventura County is the only museum worldwide to own the entire 25 years of Art/Life Magazine, and issues from its collection are now on exhibit through February 12.

Discover the funny, poignant, and larger-than-life world of Holocaust survivor and actress Zypora Spaisman, when the Museum of Ventura County presents "Yiddish Theater: A Love Story," a documentary screening on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. A question and answer session with filmmaker/producer Ravit Markus follows. Admission is \$10, museum members \$5,

and includes entry to all museum galleries beforehand.

The documentary was shot in real time, during a crucial week when the 84-year-old Spaisman's theater company was struggling for financial survival despite its excellent critical reviews. The film includes scenes with many of the last remaining stars of the Yiddish stage.

When the Nazis invaded Poland, she and her husband fled toward Russia, but were later sent to a Soviet labor camp. After the war she learned she was the only one in her family to escape death. She continued as an actress, and once in New York, became an important force in the fight to keep Yiddish theater viable in America.

"Peter and the Wolf," the traditional Russian folk tale set to music, will be presented in the Museum of Ventura County's Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Pavilion on Saturday, February 4, at 3:00

p.m. The beloved classic, an introduction for young audiences into the world of theater and musical instruments, will be performed by the Pushcart Players. Admission to the performance, suited best to children ages four and older, is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Museum of Ventura County members' price is \$10, and \$5 for accompanying children.

The presentation is the first of three in the Museum of Ventura County's new Family Fun At The Museum program.

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



## Like A Mirror

"Like A Mirror" is a multi media show that focuses on how the artist sees the world through those mirror-like lens, the eyes. And then recreates that information from the cerebral to the concrete.

"Through the Mirrors of My Mind" a mixed media assemblage by Sylvia Raz can be seen at the show.

The show will be at the Artists Union Gallery, 330 S. California Street until Feb.5.

For more information visit [www.VenturaArtistsUnion.org](http://www.VenturaArtistsUnion.org)



The Buena Ventura Art Association is presenting The Essential Dorothy Hunter collection at the Harbor Village Gallery until Feb.6. The Gallery is located at the Ventura Harbor Village.



## Rex Kochel at the Buena Ventura Gallery

Rex Kochel's "Eclectic Adventure Continues" will be at the Buena Ventura Gallery from January 31 – Feb. 25 with an opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 4 – 7 pm. Kochel's "Eclectic Adventure" includes watercolors, watercolor/collage and some mixed media pieces as well as several drawings.

The Buena Ventura Gallery is located at 700 E. Santa Clara St. in downtown Ventura. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12 to 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information, call the gallery at 648-1235 or visit their website at [www.BuenaVenturaGallery.org](http://www.BuenaVenturaGallery.org).



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**Two on the Aisle**

*Continued from page 16*  
 Kasch, continues to stage thought-provoking and laugh-inducing productions for our community.

The Group's newest offering is the engaging "Almost, Maine," a popular work by actor John Cariani. Opening February 3 and a perfect fit for the month of February, it features a series of eight scenarios about love, each from a different perspective. All of the vignettes tell tales that take place during the same Friday night under the Northern Lights in the fictional town of Almost, Maine.

Several actors in the large cast portray more than one role, including director Kasch. The cast includes Scott Blanchard, Taylor Kasch, Cynthia Killion, Robert MacNeal, Joyce McWilliams, Helen Merriman, Stephanie Moro, Janice Moss, David Newcomer, Eric Stein, Anna Strickland, Mona Vaswani and Natasha Zavala. Many have strong professional acting credits in addition to Kasch.

Several factors make this a unique production. First, "Almost, Maine" has never been performed in Ventura County. Second, with the help of a little theater magic, it is being staged in the expansive conference facilities of the RE/Max Gold Coast Realty building at the corner of Valentine and Palma Dr. in Ventura.

The result is an intimate theater experience. Actor Cynthia Killion describes it as "goldfish bowl acting" – since some audience members can almost become part of the action as they are able to sit up close and personal enough to virtually breathe on the actors and vice versa. It becomes more like observing a conversation in your front room, than watching the action at a distance through the invisible fourth wall.

The venue is again being made available through the generosity and

understanding of Realtor Mike Sipes (son of Ventura County actor Glenn Sipes and godson of former Plaza Players guru Michael Maynez). The site works well, but since the actors' entrances and exits must be made through actual doorways, once the play has begun there is no further seating.

Yet, just when it seems things are running smoothly, the proverbial wrench is thrown in. RE/Max Gold Coast is moving to a new building this summer and the Flying H Group may well be looking for a new place to soar. Director Kasch will be happy to hear from anyone who may have a lead on a suitable, affordable location for future productions.

"Almost, Maine" runs weekends from February 3 to February 26 at the RE/Max Gold Coast building, 1500 Palma Dr., Ventura. Tickets prices are: Adults-\$17, Seniors and Students- \$14. Showtime is 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. There will be no show on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5. Reservations are strongly recommended and may be made at [www.flyinghgroup.com](http://www.flyinghgroup.com) or 201-5066.

## Scout troop to celebrate 90 years

Boy Scout Troop 102 of Ventura, founded December 21, 1921 is having its 90th anniversary celebration on February 12, 2012 in Trotter Hall at First United Methodist Church Ventura, 1338 E. Santa Clara St. The event begins at 1:30pm and will go to about 6pm. The same morning, the church will celebrate Scout Sunday at the 9am service, followed by the troop's

hosting of the coffee hour between services.

Any past members of the troop are invited to join in for the anniversary and share memories and fellowship. They are particularly looking for memorabilia related to the 40's through early 70's. You may contact Wes Fish by email at [SM102Vta@aol.com](mailto:SM102Vta@aol.com) or call the church office at 643-8621 for further information or visit the group on Facebook, Troop 102, Ventura.

## Ventura Job & Career Center

**Wednesday, February 1 - Power of VOS (Virtual OneStop)**, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon – Learn about the Virtual OneStop website and how you can use the various tools in the system to build

your resume and customize your job search to a specific location and occupation. Must have basic computer skills. Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers..

**Tuesday, February 7 - Resumes that Sell**, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm - Hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters. Walk away with a portfolio that shows off professional skills and experience.

**Wednesday, February 8 - Winning Interviews**, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm - Supplies the tools to make a lasting first impression when interviewing.

Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers. Space is limited. Prior registration required by calling the Ventura Job & Career Center, 4651 Telephone Road, Ventura, at 654-3435 to enroll.

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