



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Mayor Mike Tracy recently announced that the city of Ventura would need to make up a fiscal deficit of nearly 2 million dollars for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Mayor discusses city's fiscal future

by Tim Pompey

It's been an interesting year for Mike Tracy. Former Police Chief Tracy has had to get used to a different management style as Mayor Tracy. "It's a different role from what I anticipated," said Tracy. "As a department head you get input from everyone and make your decisions. With the council you can't make any decisions until you get people from the council to go along with you."

And his adjustment has not been limited to the council. He's also getting used to people's varied perceptions about his role as mayor. "The most interesting thing about being mayor," he said, "is that people have such different views about your authority and power."

These days, Tracy's most pressing problem is the city's current fiscal health. While the worst of the city's financial problems has been dealt with, the council and the city manager are still wrestling with another looming deficit. Recently, Tracy announced that, given the city's current income and expenditures, the fiscal projection for 2012-2013 is a deficit between 1.8 to 2 million dollars. It means once again the city will have to find new ways to tighten its belt.

Why is the city still in the red? For Tracy, one important reason has to do with employee retirement contributions. He feels that city employees are not contributing enough of their own income. "We are committed as a council to getting our employees back on track paying their share of their employee

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Will these winners be back to defend their crowns?

The 2012 Corporate Games

by Chloé Sehati

Dating back to 1989, the annual tri-county Corporate Games have been known to be the premier business-to-business team sports competition. Businesses from throughout the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties compete for awards and prizes over the six-week long event in games like golf, bowling, beach volleyball, tug-o-war, and sandcastle building.

Since size is an issue that comes greatly into play, the companies are split into divisions based on their size. Corporate Games has two awards per division, plus Spirit Awards given to teams that show sportsmanship: the Overall Point Winner and the JD Probasco Spirit Award. Additionally, companies that take part in a Community Service Project receive

points toward the Team Unity Award. To go along with the Community Service Project, there is a sponsor to support it, and this year it's Time Warner Cable.

As the games began in 1989, only nine companies were involved, competing in six events held over a two-week period. Last year, roughly sixty companies and nearly 10,000 employees participated in the six-week Corporate Games. 2012 only brings new faces to the Games, consisting of sixty-two participating teams who are competing in thirty events throughout the six-week period. The 2012 Corporate Games is scheduled for March 28th to May 12th, and will kick off with a Welcome Reception at Spanish Hills Golf and Country Club a

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The opening number from the 2011 Festival of Talent. Photo by Marie Lakin

Festival showcases Ventura's most talented youth

Some of Ventura's most exciting young entertainers will perform at the Ventura Education Partnership's annual Festival of Talent on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Ventura High School Auditorium.

Rubicon Theatre Company's Brian McDonald is once again directing the show. This show marks the 11th anniversary of this popular fundraiser for Ventura's schools. This year's theme is "Night of 1,000 Stars."

The show will start off with an opening act featuring the AiRealistic Circus and Flying School. AiRealistic is a troupe of aerial performers who have worked with Cirque du Soleil and in other top-notch productions around the world. AiRealistic recently opened a teaching facility in Ventura.

Comedy, amazing dance numbers, talented young vocalists and other great acts will round out this event for the whole family.

Tickets are \$10 (advance general admission), \$20 reserved, \$15 (at-the-door general admission) and are available at all VUSD school sites and the Education Service Center, 255 W. Stanley Ave. You can also purchase tickets online via a credit card by going to www.vep4vUSD.org. Reserved seats are available online only.

The event kicks off at 5 p.m. with great food provided by Milano's Italian Restaurant; dinner tickets are \$5 per meal. Pre-show activities include paparazzi photo booths, a student art show and a silent auction. The show starts at 7 p.m. with the doors opening at 6 p.m.

The Ventura Education Partnership is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization.

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The Ventura band We Govern We Merch had to find out the latest Ventura news in the Breeze prior to playing at the second "Local Rock Picnic" held at Plaza Park on Saturday as part of Ventura Music Week

While in Buñol, Italy, for the Tomatina Festival you can always catch up with the Breeze at venturabreeze.com

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



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Surf's Up!



Buddy "As soon as the weather warms up I'll be hitting the waves."
Scamp "As soon as the weather warms up I'll still be surfing the sand, not getting me in the water."
Photos by Carter Freidman

Kow(dog?)abunga!

by Nanci Cone

Buddy Hooker is a typical 14 year old from Southern California. He likes to spend time with his family, "hang" with his friends and jump on his surfboard when the waves are just right. The only difference between Buddy and most other surfers is that he has four legs and is known as a high spirited Jack Russell terrier.

Buddy started out as a runner and by the time he was two, he was averaging 70 miles a week and had developed incredible stamina. At that time, he went to the beach with the rest of his adoptive family – Bruce, Leslie, and their two children, Megan and Matthew. Megan was boogie boarding and when her board floated into shore, Buddy jumped on. According to Bruce, "I took Buddy out a little farther each time we surfed, and started letting go of the back of the board after we had ridden the wave for a distance. Each time I would let the board go with Buddy on it sooner and sooner, and let him ride the wave by himself. Buddy learned through trial and error, and several wipeouts, that he needed to adjust to the board and the wave. With time, he learned to move back and lay low for takeoffs, then, after he rode the wave a distance, he could stand up and move forward on the board." Surfer Lee Priebe says, "Buddy is the best surfing dog in SoCal. He's almost human!"

In 2004, Buddy really got good and

his surfing got all sorts of attention. As Bruce notes, "He got a picture in the local newspaper for ripping up the world famous Surf Rodeo." Buddy also got to film a pilot working with Amazing Animal Actors for Animal Planet where he experienced his worst wipeout while surfing on a 3-4 foot hollow wave and pearly (accidentally driving the nose of the board underwater, generally ending the ride). Buddy got sucked down and did not surface for several seconds. I thought I had drowned the poor dog, but then he popped up in the turbulent water gasping for air. That is when we found Buddy a life jacket with a handle on the top for safety."

Buddy has won the Helen Woodward Animal Center dog surf-a-thon five out of the past six years. He won this year, and was named the first dog in their dog surfing Hall of Fame. He also won the Lowe's event in 2010, along with the Purina 1 Extreme Dog Challenge in 2010. He's been seen on dozens of TV shows and in magazines all over the world and has developed quite a following. He has retired from dog surfing competitions, but still plans on surfing at his favorite breaks in Ventura as soon as the weather warms up in April. Bruce says their mantra is, "We live to surf and surf to live!" To see Buddy in action, check out www.surfdogbuddy.com

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Mayor discusses city's fiscal future

Continued from page 1

contribution," said Tracy. "We need to revise employee contracts to get them to pay the entire share of their retirement contribution."

Tracy also feels that Ventura has been reticent to develop revenues from new business and housing. "Over the years, we haven't been as proactive about building our retail base as cities like Camarillo and Oxnard," he said. "Oxnard and Camarillo have also been more aggressive about building higher end housing. And we haven't been as aggressive about bringing in larger businesses."

Why such a hesitant attitude toward growth? Tracy believes that Ventura's character is more conservative than other cities in the county. "Ventura historically has been reluctant to embrace change," he noted. "And that's within the community as well as the city government."

Addressing Ventura's reputation as a difficult business climate, he asserts that the key to solving the city's business woes is to provide a consistent set of guidelines. As he explained: "I think it's important for businesses coming to Ventura to know what the rules are and what to expect."

But he believes that establishing these guidelines is complicated by the city's location as a beach town, particularly its relationship with other agencies such as the California Coastal Commission and California State Parks. "So much of our downtown and west end fronts the beach," he said. "The fact that so much of Ventura faces the beach makes it more complicated to do development."

Still, he thinks there have been significant improvements in the city's approach to business; for example, within the city's community development department. "I would say it's improved from a few years ago," he said. "It's something we have to be constantly aware of and continually refining. I think Jeff Lambert has revitalized that department. The counter experience is more efficient than it used to be."

Tracy cites recent improvements with the city's local business partners. "There's the relationship between the city and the chamber of commerce," he said. "I think the willingness of the city to work with the chamber and the business community and make them successful has improved."

He also believes the relationship with the Downtown Ventura Organization is on the upswing, especially since they hired former Ventura County Star correspondent Kevin Clerici. "Kevin is a tremendous asset," said Tracy.

In terms of local business development, Tracy believes the city should expand the area around the city's auto mall. "The council is focused more than anything else on the area around

the auto mall," he explained. "I'd like to see it become a retail destination for the region."

In the short term, however, the city must solve its current budget deficit. "What we've asked the city manager to do is look at possible ways of reallocating existing revenues."

For Tracy, one of his priorities will be to address the city's recent increase in crime. "I do think we need to review our operations and reprioritize our commitments to public safety."

2012 Corporate Games

Continued from page 1

week in advance on March 21st.

Eric Burton, City of Ventura, PRCP Manager stated that "This year's theme 'Game On!' is not just about being the best at each event but also about teamwork, having fun, rooting for others and being part of a community of local businesses participating in friendly competition. The Corporate Games provides a valuable opportunity for companies and employees to work together to build team unity and morale, which has become very important with the challenges facing many businesses and employees the past few years."

"The staff here in Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships are looking forward to another successful year of Corporate Games. Good luck with your competitions and most importantly remember 'Game On!'"

More information can be found on www.venturacorporategames.org.

Festival of Talent

Continued from page 1

tion which raises funds for the Ventura Unified School District. VEP helps fill in the gaps in school budgets through its GrantSmart program which has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to VUSD classrooms.

For information, call 641-5000, ext. 1550, send an email to info@vep4vusd.org or visit www.vep4vusd.org

Weather by Tom

Ventura City normally for February:
Air temperature; normal daily high is 67, normal low is 45.

Normal monthly temperature range is high 80, low 38.

Rainfall from July 2011 to February 18, 2012; total 4.97", normal 12.03".

So far this winter the weather has been dry with lots of sunshine. The light rains this last two weeks amounted to only 0.11"; just enough to cleanse the outdoors and help the green grass to grow on the hillsides once again. More rain is needed and soon.



City News



Hanover Lane. Photo by George Robertson

City reaches agreement with Pierpont over sand removal, part 2

by Tim Pompey

As a result of the lawsuit settlement, the city has agreed that, starting March 2012, they will begin doing sand removal at Pierpont Beach. Shaw Contracting, a firm from Carpinteria, has been selected to remove an estimated football field's worth of sand two

stories high.

Asked who will pay for this cleanup, Rick Raives (the city's director of public works) replied, "It comes directly out of the city's budget. It comes out of the general fund." He estimated total contractor's cost at

about \$550,000, but with contingency, inspection, and previous legal costs, the total will probably add up to about 1 million dollars.

In addition the public works department has agreed to begin sand removal in front of all lane end turnouts in the Pierpont Beach area, plus the 15 residences involved in the lawsuit. As Raives explained, "We've agreed that twice a year in the future, May and November, we will do an inspection of how much the sand has built back up against the walls, public and private, and if we feel a need, we'll send a contractor out to remove it."

Key to this is the city's judgment about the necessity for sand maintenance. According to the agreement, it falls on city inspectors to determine whether or not a "need exists to remove and/or contour the sand in accordance with the terms of the judgment to a level below the tops of the residents' retaining walls and fence to a level equal to that of the foundations of the residents' homes."

If the city determines that homeowners need maintenance, they are required to provide them with a 14-day notice prior to the start of work and include a good faith estimate about the cost of the work.

Once homeowners have received notification, they can opt in and pay for 50% of that maintenance. "The 15 property owners who have signed the agreement have agreed to pay for half of the cost of sand removal in front of their properties," said Raives. "The city is still responsible for 100% of removal on the beach in front of the lane ends, but if the city removes it in front of their property, they've agreed to pay for half."

If there is any disagreement between the city and the 15 Pierpont property owners regarding whether or not work needs to be done, the property owners have agreed to negotiate with the city to amicably settle the dispute. If an agreement is not reached, these property owners have the right to go back to court.

The agreement also stipulates that if any of the 15 property owners want to pay to have sand removed from in front of their property (when the city has not scheduled sand removal), they can apply to the city for a no-cost permit to remove sand according to the terms laid out in the settlement.

As for other property owners not involved in the lawsuit, Raives has left the door open to more negotiation. "We'll do the total removal the first time, but we only have a legal responsibility for the 15," he said. "However, we're also open to discussing the 50/50 split with the other property owners."

Looming in the background is the environmental impact of all this sand removal. Raives noted how the city is taking extra measures to address that issue. "Even though we don't have to," he said, "we're hiring a biologist, who will help us relocate up to 50% of any native dune plants and be available to us during removal of the sand to determine if any sensitive species are discovered."

While the agreement puts in place a plan for sand removal, Pierpont resident Murray Robertson does not see this as a final resolution. "They are going to have to do a longer term maintenance plan for the beach which includes not only Shore Drive but the

state parks portion," he stated, "and it should be interdepartmental—where all the stakeholders, the city, the state beach, the Coastal Commission, and the Pierpont Community Council have input. And the people of Pierpont should be the stewards of the beach."

Walk Grant Park

Join in a bit of exercise Saturday, Feb. 25th at 10 am. Meet at City Hall upper parking lot and enjoy the spectacular coastal views from Grant Park while you learn more about the Vision Plan for the Ventura Botanical Gardens (VBG) at Grant Park.

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, stay mostly to established roads and veer off on a path here and there. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat, sun protection, and water.

Jeff Lambert, Director of Community Development for the City of Ventura, will lead this walk as well as the regularly scheduled (every 4th Saturday) Grant Park walks. VBG Board Members are available to field your questions and provide background on the project.

City of Ventura Classes

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

Classes take place at Barranca Vista Center 7050 Ralston St. Ventura. To register call 805-658-4726

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Editor, The Breeze;

In reference to the letter in the Dec 28-Jan 10 issue "Please Give-but not to Panhandlers" by Kevin Clerici. He discourages giving money to the homeless on the street and instead encourages giving to worthy organizations.

I'm sure his suggestion is reasonable in many cases. However, I've encountered several situations where the requirements, a TB certification for instance, prevents the homeless from getting shelter. I personally tried to help a woman find shelter. I discovered a TB test is required and had to find out where the TB test is available, and how to

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher

■ I have explained what the "Face Of Ventura by Johanna Spinks" portrait series is all about before but will one more time because there still seems to be some confusion. The series is not a "who's who" of Ventura, not a "popularity contest" but about the diversity of Ventura. The series will have some "well" known Venturan's and some that you have never heard of and never will (except in the Breeze), it is not about who "deserves" to be painted or Johanna would be painting for free for the rest of her life as there are hundreds who fall into that category. It is about the "character" of Ventura.

■ The closed Hungry Hunter, located on Harbor has been (or is in the process of being) purchased by In-N-Out that wants to make the property into additional parking and outdoor seating. Hopefully if this happens it will include re-working the drive up window so that the cars don't back up onto Harbor Boulevard and create the real mess that it does now.

■ A new attorney, David Lehr, has been hired by Satnam Singh who killed Nick Haverland after also striking a woman and her daughter on May 11, 2011 while driving his car. His blood alcohol content was 5 times the legal limit.

Singh's request for a public defender was turned down so at least we don't need to pay his attorney bills.

■ I finally figured out (sometimes I'm slow) why (805)123-4567 is now written 805.123.4567 and 3,000 is now written 3000. It is easier to text. So I assume in t fut w ll b writ k instd of okay and other changes t wa w rit Eng (did I get it corr?). Our written language is being changed by 12 year olds.

■ We have an article in this issue about the race for County Supervisor that 2 Ventura city council members are running for. A third, Brian Brennan was rumored

to be running but must have gotten the word that Steve Bennett would change his mind and run for supervisor again so he never made his commitment to run.

I'm disappointed that Bennett pulled out of the congressional race in this manner and hope that both Weir and Andrews continue their campaigns. This should make for a very exciting and informative few months and also put Ventura in the limelight.

■ Nothing to do with Ventura (if you don't want to read this) but might professional tennis players be the world's best athletes?

In one of the most extraordinary finals in Grand Slam history, Novak Djokovic beat Rafael Nadal with a record-setting 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 victory in the Australian Open final.

The match lasted five hours, 53 minutes (that's almost 6 hours), shatter-



Governor Brown and city council member Christy Weir were recent guests on Lyn Fairly & Friends heard on News Talk KVTA1520 every Saturday from noon to 1.

ing the record for the longest Grand Slam final in history.

Consider the following:

They play on concrete as compared to grass, dirt or hardwood.

They don't get a half time to relax (or a seventh inning stretch).

Their coach can't send in a substitute to give them a rest.

They were playing and hitting as hard

Mailbox

get there, where to go for shelter and how to get transportation there. I did finally drive her to the Ventura County Clinic on Loma Vista Road where the TB test is given, and left her there after spending literally hours on the phone and driving around to several wrong places. I hope she had the stamina to persist in getting the test and was able to get shelter. I'm sure the TB test is necessary. My point is, the obstacles in making use of the "homeless facilities" are often too much for the homeless to handle.

This is why I will continue to give to the homeless on the street, as well as to the many hardworking organizations like Turning Point Foundation, Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, Project Understanding, Food Share and the Kingdom Center.

Dee Cooper

Ventura's City Employees;

Let me be clear about my feelings toward the City of Ventura.

I love Ventura; this is home to my family and myself. I respect and admire the hundreds of our City employees who serve our greater Ventura community every day. Many, many are close friends.

Every City employee I've met works long hours, most often out of the public's view. Without them the water wouldn't flow, the streets won't get fixed, parks wouldn't stay beautiful, the dollars wouldn't balance, and they give

back over and above the level of expected service with dedication to the job. Our public safety and utility employees are there for us every hour of every day. Every department is working hard with fewer people and less budget, but the employees give their best. Thank you for working for us, and giving us your best efforts for citizens of this proud city.

Suz Montgomery
Ventura

Editor;

The view from the Ventura River Bridge into the river continues to be a

after almost 6 hours.

They can't throw the ball to a team mate to get a break.

■ The Harbor Cove Café located at 1867 Spinnaker (end of the Harbor) is one of our favorites (especially Scamp). About 15 feet from water with a large grass area for the doggies to play in. We like to share the Chum Bucket (\$19.95) that includes Mahi-Mahi, shrimp, lobster, calamari and fries but all of the food is good. When was the last time that you enjoyed our wonderful Harbor?

■ One of the funniest things I remember growing up was a popular ventriloquist on the radio. The real funny part was listening to the radio and saying "I can't see his lips move at all."

■ I wonder if Obama's hair will turn grey during his presidency? They all seem to turn grey, maybe it is a tough job.

■ Each year hundreds (if not thousands) of new laws are passed, here are some of my favorites in California from 2011. They are all swell ideas but some things just need to be left for a "natural process" to govern. We just can't have laws for everything and we have laws now that would take care of most of these, enough is enough already.

Child actors: streamlines the process for obtaining state permission for minors to work in the entertainment industry by allowing parents to get temporary permits online rather than through the mail.

Cyber-bullying: allows schools to suspend students for bullying classmates on social networking sites such as Facebook.

Elder abuse: allows wage garnishments against anyone convicted of elder abuse or financial abuse of a dependent adult.

Food stamps: eliminates the requirement that food stamp recipients be fingerprinted to prevent fraud.

Human trafficking: requires large retailers and manufacturers to publicly report what steps they take to make sure those who provide their supplies and products are not engaging in slavery and human trafficking.

real eyesore (see photo). Plus the area is contaminated and ultimately all of this crap will wash into the ocean and onto our beaches. Hopefully, the arundo and camps on both sides of the bridge are going to be eliminated in April and these individuals relocated or asked to leave Ventura. In the last few weeks I know of at least two fires that have been set under the bridge. One of them closed down traffic in both directions. But I suppose you already know this.

Murray Robertson

A Very Concerned Pierpont Resident



Women and cats will do what pleases them, dogs and men should relax and get used to the idea.

– Robert A. Heinlein







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fee of \$25, you can take advantage of what Ventura's non-profit Community Access Center has to offer you, your friends, family or organization. Join CAPS now, call us at 658-0500, check our site at www.capstv.org, and chat with us on Facebook at CAPSTV Ventura.

Honoring a community icon

How do you show gratitude and honor someone who has devoted more than 38 years of their life to a cause that benefits others? In reality, you really can't because no amount of applause, testimony or recognition can begin to equal what Charles M. Hair, MD has done for our community.

Dr. Hair spent his early years in Santa Paula and graduated from Santa Paula Union High School in 1937. He continued on at USC and earned his medical degree in 1945. After internship and residency, Dr. and Mrs. Hair returned to Ventura County, where he became the epitome of family medicine and started a successful family and obstetrical practice.

It was in 1974 that Dr. Hair co-founded and became Chairman of the Livingston Memorial Foundation, which was formed in memory of the pioneering Oxnard physician Dr. Robert Livingston. With Dr. Hair at the helm, the Foundation allocated grants to several Ventura County agencies and thus began his diligent quest to provide care to those most in need.

In 1984 he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association. With unlimited energy and commitment, Dr. Hair has also served as Chief of Staff at St. John's Regional Medical Center, on numerous civic organizations, committees, board memberships, and awards have Dr. Hair's name on them but this space prevents their listing. Dr. Hair also served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1942 until his discharge as a Captain in 1947.

Now, after years of tireless devotion, Dr. Hair is stepping down and relinquishing his post to Laura K. McAvoy, a partner with the law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP, who has been an enduring presence on the Livingston Memorial Board of Directors since 1984. Dr. Hair's tenure is far from over however, for his presence and service will continue in his role as honorary Chairman Emeritus.

His innumerable years of dedication, care and commitment have made Ventura, its citizens and the medical profession better off today ...a glowing tribute to Dr. Charles Hair and a life well lived.

World affairs discussion group starting

Join a "Great Decisions" discussion group and learn more about current global issues. An 8-week "Great Decisions" group will meet Sunday afternoons starting Feb. 26 in Ventura. "Great Decisions" is a program of the Foreign Policy Association. This year's topics include: Middle East Realignment, Promoting Democracy, Mexico, Cybersecurity, Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq, State of the Oceans, Indonesia,

and Energy Geopolitics. The group will use a "Great Decisions" briefing book and a DVD featuring analysis by former U.S. Secretaries of State and other foreign policy experts. The group will meet from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1338 East Santa Clara St. Please call the church office at 643-8621 or e-mail fumcventura@sbcglobal.net to reserve a place and a briefing book. Briefing books cost \$20. More information about the "Great Decisions" program can be found at www.fpa.org/great_decisions.



Su-lin V. Rubalcava joins CSFCU

County Schools Federal Credit Union (CSFCU) is pleased to announce that Su-lin V. Rubalcava has joined CSFCU as Marketing and Community Development Manager. Rubalcava is responsible for managing the credit union's marketing budget and overseeing the community development aspect as well as cultivating the select employee group. In addition, she will lead the strategies and tactics for market growth, branding, and awareness.

She is a graduate of California State University, Northridge business program and is currently enrolled in California Lutheran University Master in Public Policy Administration program. She enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter and is involved with United Way's Ventura County Leadership Academy and Oxnard Chamber of Commerce Host Committee.

Parentclick.com Kids Expo call for exhibitors

ParentClick.com is excited to announce the upcoming KIDS EXPO 2012 taking place at Pacific View Mall on March 17, from 9:30am - 1:30pm. ParentClick.com is Ventura County's #1 Resource Directory and Activity Calendar for families. Limited exhibitor spaces are still available and organizations whose focus is reaching parents of newborns to teens, are invited to reserve space for this event by contacting Kristi Blanson at 800-380-9110 ext. 23 or Ventura@parentclick.com.

Come to the Ventura Breeze booth at the Expo for your free face painting, kid's drawing competition and to just say hello.

News and Notes



CAPS Chat

Meet the CAPS Staff, Part 2

by Elizabeth Rodeno

Let's meet some more of the CAPS staff.

Evan Carpenter is our Training and Production Coordinator. He writes curriculums, trains the members and interns, directs shows and, on top of that, installs and maintains all the equipment that makes CAPS run. He started working at CAPS over 9 years ago just after the grand opening of the media center, back then it was just a few offices and the beginning construction of a tiny studio.

Evan spent many years in television in Canada. He worked in Operations and Master control before becoming a Technical Director for live TV news. He ventured into the world of aviation for a time as well as working in emergency services for the City of Ventura. Back at CAPS now, he is working hard on our studio and broadcast upgrades and planning for the remote truck which will

allow CAPS to cover a great many more events including all the sports events you would want. Needless to say, I consider him quite the genius; building and fixing things in order to maintain all of CAPS' servers to keep the station on the air and provide the viewers with member produced content.

The fast-paced world of live production is fun for Evan. There are always challenges, as he says wrestling with Murphy's Law. He is our go-to man for live productions whether they are parades, sports or election forums. Evan particularly enjoys the music performances. If he had time, Evan has a lot of ideas for some interesting documentaries and would love to produce them. Evan says that Ventura has the So-Cal lifestyle down without the traffic. He loves living here. In his moments of quiet he enjoys woodworking and building models. A little like what he does for us at CAPS.

Britt started working with CAPS when she was one of our El Camino interns. She is now part of the CAPS staff. She is our production tech who produces the bulletin boards with great flair. She also works with Donald programming the channels and helping members with their questions. Britt would like to produce an informational program. Since cooking is one of her passions, maybe she should produce a cooking show. She enjoys being in front of the camera as well and acts in student films whenever she can. Britt loves living in Ventura but likes to head to the big city from time to time.

Don't forget to "Share your Story" with help from CAPS. For a small annual



News and Notes



Tammy Glenn, author and professional fundraiser, joins CAREGIVERS

Meet CAREGIVERS' new Executive Director

Executive Chairman Augie Martinez, vice president of Rabobank of Ventura, announced today the appointment of Tammy I. Glenn as the executive director of CAREGIVERS Volunteers Assisting the Elderly.

"As an informal caregiver, author and professional fundraiser, Tammy has the experience and the vision to lead CAREGIVERS into its 30th anniversary in 2014," Martinez said.

The mission of CAREGIVERS is to provide volunteer assistance for homebound and frail elders throughout Ventura County.

"CAREGIVERS is providing a service that allows many of our seniors to remain independent and living at home," Glenn said.

Glenn was first exposed to informal caregiving at the age of eight when her mother suffered a tragic accident that left her bed bound for the next 17 years. As one of her mother's primary caregivers, Glenn understands the challenges of home healthcare first-hand. She is the author of the "Carefree Caregiver: A Short Course to Peace of Mind" as well as numerous articles on the subject. She

is the founder of HomeBoundResources.com, and currently serves as an advisor on elder care and aging to the National Senior Citizen's Bureau and KCET as well as a featured columnist in Disabled Dealer Magazine.

Armed with an MBA from Pepperdine University's George L. Graziadio School of Business and Management, Glenn brings close to 20 years of experience in public relations, management, strategy, major gift fund raising, planned giving, and business operations.

CAREGIVERS, which serves nearly 500 seniors in greater Ventura County, was established in 1984 with grants from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Trinity Lutheran Church of Ventura, the National Council of Jewish Women, First United Methodist Church of Ventura, First United Methodist Women of Ventura, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Paula, the Ventura County Church of Religious Science, the Aid Association for Lutherans, and Sisters of the Holy Cross.

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.vcCaregivers.org or call 658-8530.

This is only a test...

by Kris McDonald

Fire Captain, Ventura City Fire Department

On February 9th a large-scale U.S.A.R. (Urban Search And Rescue) drill took place in Oxnard. This annual and regional exercise lasted for 14 hours and involved personnel from several fire departments across the area. Participating in the drill were three Fire Departments from the Ventura County area, including Ventura City Fire, eight departments from Santa Barbara County, as well Long Beach Fire and three FEMA K-9 search teams.

The goal of the exercise was to simulate and test coordinated responses from the region to an earthquake related incident. Live victims were placed within an actual collapsed commercial building prior to the exercise, eventually having to be located, triaged, and rescued in real-time. Many specialized skills were

tested including structural shoring, breaching concrete slabs, using rescue search cams and listening devices, vertical rope rescue, and specialized paramedicine used to treat victims of crush injuries.

Ventura County residents, who wish to get involved with and support the emergency preparedness of their community, can sign up and participate in several local CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) programs. CERT is an approach by FEMA to involve citizens in emergency preparedness, and is funded through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Ventura City was the first in the County to initiate this course in the 1990s, and grant funding is allowing us to bring back this valuable curriculum.

CERT training provides the basic response skills needed to assist others in the neighborhood or the workplace during a disaster. These skills prove critical to the safety of our community as a whole when such an event does occur. During a large-scale event, professional responders will not be able

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to meet the overwhelming demand for service, and the citizens will be needed to assist each other. At the conclusion of training, CERT students will be well prepared to take care of themselves, their families, and their community.

CERT students will receive approximately 20 hours of hands-on training from the Fire Department and other emergency management professionals. The training provided includes disaster and emergency preparedness, fire safety and suppression, disaster medical triage and treatment, light search and rescue, organization and team management, and disaster psychology. At the end of the course there is a live disaster simulation, after which graduates receive a starter kit and a certificate. Additional training opportunities, continuing education, and periodic refresher drills are also being provided.

Classes are held twice each year, one in Spring and one in Fall. Ventura residents of all abilities, 18 years of age or older, are welcome. School staff, workplace employees, scouting organizations and other similar groups that are committed to serve our community are also encouraged to enroll. CERT programs are free of charge and the next class in Ventura begins March 7th.

The ability to assist your neighbors and co-workers during a disaster, or any type of emergency, no matter how small, is an important skill. Are you ready?

More information on the CERT program is available on our City website at cityofventura.net/fire/emergencyprep/cert or by calling 658-4717.

Visit us online at facebook.com/venturacityfire and youtube.com/VenturaCityFD.



News and Notes



Christy Weir and Neal Andrews are in the race

City council members running for Ventura County Supervisor

Ventura Council member Christy Weir recently held her first public event at Grant Park in her campaign in running for county supervisor. She has previously announced her candidacy in the Breeze but this was her official campaign kickoff. The event was attended by a large group enjoying the beautiful view from Grant Park.

She stated that “My goal has always been on behalf of community relationships and partnerships to achieve our common goals. We need to achieve the three C’s, the county government, the city government and the community.”

Ventura Council member Neal Andrews’ formal announcement of his entry into the race was held on the steps of Ventura City Hall.

He stated “I have the breadth and quality of experience that will serve the interests of the people of Ventura County well. I’ve served at state, regional, county and city levels of government. I’ve had a successful career in business, owning my own company for many years. Before opening my own company, I was an executive with one of the largest and most successful health care companies in America. My formal education is in political science and public policy, which I taught for a

number of years at the university level. My career has provided me practical down-to-earth experience that is directly relevant to the wide span of work that an effective County Supervisor is responsible for. I think I bring a lot to the table and will be a strong and valuable compliment to the solid leadership we have in this County.”

To see Andrews’ complete announcement and a one-on-one interview with publisher Sheldon go to KADYTV.com.

Current supervisor Steve Bennett was going to run for Congress which opened up the supervisor position but recently sent out this press release which was a huge surprise to all:

“Yesterday, I announced the end of my Congressional run and the resumption of my efforts to be re-elected to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

“A variety of reasons were involved in my decision. Ultimately, given the circumstances, I believe I can make more of a difference working for the residents of Ventura County as a County Supervisor should I be fortunate enough to be re-elected.”

The elections will be on the June primary ballot and if no candidate gets more than 50% of the vote the top 2 will compete in a November runoff.



The garden style patio, at Tutti's Off Main provides a peaceful shelter from the bustle of Main Street. Photo by Jon Osumi.

Restaurant review

Tutti's Off Main

by Dillon Patrick



Located in the Livery Courtyard in downtown Ventura, the secluded location provides peaceful shelter from the bustle of Main Street. Tutti's reminds me of a Napa Valley ranch or Tuscan villa. Stone and smooth concrete walls combine natural and modern elements with the minimalist décor. Floor to ceiling windows and doors provide natural light and access to the garden style patio. A large table situated in the center of the restaurant is perfect for large groups. The small bar and wood-burning pizza oven located towards the rear of the restaurant adds a nice casual feel to the overall design. The patio is esthetically pleasing with natural shade provided by citrus trees intertwined into the trellis overhead. Live acoustic music is a common amenity offered here, significantly enhancing the dining experience.

Although my overall experience with Tutti's was enjoyable, there are three issues that are certainly worth mentioning, as they were mentioned by all of my guests during each of my visits. The issues are offsite restrooms, complicated menus, and slow and seemingly inexperienced service. The offsite restrooms, shared with the neighboring businesses, are located in a small corridor directly across from the entrance, require a key to access, and could have been cleaner. The menu is double-sided pages held to a wooden board with a rubber band. All of my guests complained about the unusual menu and the need to disassemble it just to read it. The slow and seemingly inexperienced service could test even the most patient persons' limits. The staff is very friendly, but also very likely to make mistakes. Thankfully, the exceptional food at Tutti's was enough to forgive its shortcomings.

The food here is superb. I sampled items from nearly every category of the menu and was pleasantly surprised by the presentation and flavor of every dish. The rack of lamb (encrusted with pistachio and seasoned bread crumbs - \$34), offered as a special during one of my visits, was by all accounts truly special. The lamb was tender and juicy and the pistachio crust provided the perfect flavor accompaniment to this delicate meat. The menu contains something for everyone, including an excellent variety of pizzas with fresh ingredients. I really enjoyed

the mushroom pizza (sautéed shitake, portobello, and cremini mushrooms with ricotta, gorgonzola, and mozzarella cheese - \$13.95 lunch price). Although the gorgonzola may be a bit overpowering for some pallets, I felt the slightly sweet pizza crust helped balance the bold flavor of the cheese. The lunch menu features a variety of delicious sandwiches served on fresh bread, including the churasco (grilled chicken breast, roasted pepper aioli, roasted pasilla chile, and cheddar cheese on grilled focaccia - \$11.50). Served with a mixed greens salad, homemade potato chips, and delicious white bean and risotto salad, this sandwich is a deliciously great value for lunch. Save room for dessert, especially for the classic cannoli; the best cannoli I've ever had.

All things considered (food, atmosphere, and service); I give Tutti's Off Main four forks. To decrease the likelihood of frustration with the slow service, visit Tutti's with plenty of time on your calendar and patience in your heart. The food is worth the wait.

Tutti's Off Main, 34 North Palm Avenue, Ventura, 643-0880.



Melina Sempill Watts has just been hired as the new Executive Director at the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy

New Hillsides Conservancy executive director

by Tim Pompey

The Ventura Hillsides Conservancy (VHC) has announced the hiring of a new executive director.

Melina Sempill Watts will serve as director of the Conservancy on a

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part-time basis, splitting time with her other current position as Santa Monica Mountains Watershed Coordinator. Watts currently lives in Calabasas and will commute to the Ventura office two days a week.

Watts' conservation background includes seven years working at the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains as the Malibu Creek Watershed Coordinator.

In addition, she has been a creative executive, writing consultant, and script analyst at such companies as the Kennedy/Marshall Company, Pico Creek Productions, The Bedford Falls Company and DreamWorks. She graduated with a degree in history from UCLA.

How did a writer and film executive end up as a conservation director? "I was writing a novel based on 400 years of environmental history," said Watts, "and I took a class with Rosi Dagit, who is the premiere expert on oak trees in California. So she told me to check out the Resource Conservation District. They had a job opening for a biologist. What they thought they wanted was a biologist, but what they needed was someone to help pull people together and I'm really good at that."

What was supposed to be a temporary position has turned into a whole new career. "The position I walked into was funded for six weeks. I took a six-week position and it turned into eight years."

She feels a strong connection to Ventura. She's been visiting here since she was seven and has a special fondness for sights like Two Trees. "I've been in love with open space in Ventura for many years and joined the Conservancy as a member, so when this position opened, I saw it as my dream job."

She believes her most important role with VHC will be to focus on what the community really wants. "If something is important to the community," said Watts, "and you ask the community to help you, the money will come because people fund what they love."

Watts has already received inquiries for potential land trust acquisitions. "We have some exciting opportunities looming in the mountains, and what's really exciting is that people are reaching out to us. I've gotten some phone calls that have left my jaw on the floor."

Watts would like to strengthen the Conservancy's ties to some of Ventura's key historical communities. "We are looking forward to deepening our ties with the ranching and agriculture community, who are the reason there is so much open space in Ventura," she said. "We also hope to connect with the Latino community, who provide so much vibrancy here in Ventura."

Her background as a watershed coordinator will serve her in good stead here in Ventura. "From an environmental perspective, creeks and rivers are the lifeblood of any environmental system," she explained. "So the work that VHC has done to preserve and restore riverways is crucial to the overall ecosystem."

Why did the Conservancy hire her part-time rather than full-time? "Under their current budget, they thought it made sense to hire me part-time. As far as a full-time position goes, they're open to it, I'm open to it. The future lies ahead."

For Watts, her two jobs share common values and goals. "Both jobs are about serving the community, caring for the environment, and finding the money

to do the right things which, in the case of VHC, are the purchase of open land, providing public access, and restoring those lands to their native conditions."

She believes that the future for the Conservancy is very bright. "There's so much beautiful land available to us," she said, "and it may not be available forever. I would say join VHC now as a member, do it for your children, do it for your grandchildren, do it for the land."

For more information about the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, look them up on Facebook or visit their website at www.venturahillside.org.



Around town

Story and photo by Tom Johnston

Oldtimers will remember when 50 years ago there was a large presence of the Monarch butterfly in Ventura during the winter. They would cluster by the thousands in Eucalyptus trees near Seaward Avenue. Since then their numbers have diminished to the hundreds with only a few clusters in Camino Real Park. They are here again this year. You will see a few strays in your neighborhood as they look for nectar.

These Western Monarchs differ from the Eastern variety in that they winter along the California coast, don't migrate very far and are fewer in number. A curious habit of theirs is future generations always return to the same wintering location. Their presence each year is a welcomed sight.



Bryan Murphy at FOOD Share

FOOD Share has announced that Bryan Murphy is their new chair of the board of directors (BOD). Murphy will serve a two-year term as the leader of the Ventura County regional food bank's 10-person board.

Over the past two years, Murphy, an executive vice president of claims for Farmers Group, Inc. in Westlake Village, has worked closely with FOOD Share generating support by Farmers employees, agents and customers of food donation drives and anti-hunger campaigns.

Ask the Director

by Jeffrey Lambert

Community Development Director for the City of Ventura

Breeze: Who is responsible for picking up trash and debris to keep our city looking clean and safe?

Lambert: Maintaining safe and clean public places is important to our community's environment, economic prosperity and quality of life in Ventura. The City is responsible for the removal of debris solely on public property that is serviced by the City, which includes parks, curbsides and public rights-of-way. We make it a priority to remove debris within 72 hours.

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 can call 677-3999 or log on to 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.

Generally, State Parks and Recreation owns and is responsible for debris removal on beaches: south of the pier and north of Marina Park, South Beach jetty toward the Santa Clara River. In

addition, State Parks is responsible for Emma Wood State Beach and the areas immediately adjacent to the bike path.

Caltrans is the State agency responsible for debris removal along, underneath and immediately adjacent to freeways- including medians and on and off ramps, Union Pacific Railroad owns and is responsible for debris and graffiti on and around the railroad owned property, and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District is responsible for the Ventura and Santa Clara River bottoms.

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.

Debris on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Residents can take advantage of the City's free, monthly Household Hazardous Waste Collection events to dispose of toxins by calling 652-4525 (Monday-Thursdays, 8-5pm) to make an appointment.

Ultimately, everyone is responsible for not littering. Many individuals in the community pick up trash during their regular exercise walks and in their neighborhood, these individuals are to be applauded. The City also provides volunteer opportunities to maintain and enhance our community through beach clean-up's and neighborhood projects. For a full list of volunteer events visit www.cityofventura.net/volunteer.

For more information on the agencies responsible for debris removal by location log on to www.cityofventura.net.

Community Events

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Feb. 25: Join the Ventura Police Officers' Association (VPOA) for a **Bunko Tournament** to support the Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship assists students that are interested in pursuing a public service career. Support the future of law enforcement while playing the popular dice game Bunko. Easy to play, easy to learn and lunch will be served. Raffle and silent auction as well as cash grand prize! Event starts at 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$75 per person, 2 people \$65, and tournament will be held at St. Bonaventure High School in Ventura. For further details please visit www.vpoa.org or call 277-9703.

Feb. 25: The Rock Star Concert Art Show is featured on Saturday for two shows 7p.m. and 9p.m. Saint Pierre, MC and producer, will feature world class theatrical easy listening rock starring WAV legend band, We Govern We and introducing All Natural Ingredients, amazing new debut discovery. Theatrical rock skills, first time ever that these rock masters come together in one show. Gourmet dinner and beverages are available. Tickets are \$10 in advance on line, \$12.50 at door, \$24.95 dinner show with advance VIP reserved table at Showplace On Main at Yolie's, 138 W. Main, free parking (888) 226-9668 or www.ConcertArtShow.com.

Mar. 2: Johan III, Hwd. Eco-artiste, Universal Studios & LGBT Fantasy Comic Book Illustrator, presents **"Enchanted Forest"**, a free-form mystical installation 7p.m. to 9 p.m.

WAV Penthouse 175 S. Ventura Ave. on 3rd Floor. Food and drinks sponsored by Joshua Lane Eco-Nutritionist and LA-LIVE Radio Host, "Here's To Your Health" Info: GabrielPublicity@aol.com

Mar. 3 and 4: The 50th Annual Gem, Mineral, Lapidary & Fossil Show of the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society will have their, "Golden Anniversary Show" at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free! VGMS members have sponsored a show every year for the past 50 years to share their activities and collections with the community. What do meteorites, rocks that glow in the dark, petrified wood, and handcrafted jewelry have in common? You'll find them all on display at show. For further information, call VGMS President Rob Sankovich 494-7734 or visit VGMS web site www.vgms.org.

Mar. 4: An Alfred Hitchcock broadcast of September 11, 1946 and 1923-24 recordings of legendary blues singer Bessie Smith will be featured in the **Dudley House historic recording series** during the Dudley House open house. The house will be open from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. The Dudley Docents will give tours of the history of the house with its Dudley family. Located at the corner of Ashwood and Loma Vista. Anyone interested in working on the docent tours of the house, call Steve Cummings at 644-3286.

Mar. 5 and 19: The Ventura County Philatelic Society will be at the Church of the Foothills, from 7:30p.m. to 9p.m. 6279 Foothill Road. Admission and parking are free. Stamp dealer will be present. Come for a great evening.

Continued on page 11

The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



Cheryl Heitmann

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Passionate about politics, education, women's rights and the arts, Cheryl Heitmann has a lifetime of advocacy and putting her passions into action. She is presently the Deputy Mayor of the City of Ventura, having been elected to the Council in November, 2011. Raised in a political family she is committed to making sure women have a seat at the table. Her grandfather served on a school board and as a mayor and her father was also on a city council. Cheryl was the co-owner of a political and fundraising group for 18 years, representing organizations such as the National Partnership for Women & Children and has worked on many political campaigns including several in Ventura County. She is also a licensed clinical social worker and had a private practice in Ventura County for over 20 years.

While her children were growing up, she was an active volunteer in their schools, serving in several leadership positions and earning the outstanding citizen Gold award from the California Teachers Association. Her passion for quality education and opportunities for the youth in Ventura County led her to running for and being elected as a trustee of the Ventura County Community College Board where she served for 8 years, 2 as President of the Board.

Cheryl has served as the Executive Director of the Ventura Music Festival for the past 6½ years, expanding both the audience and the budget significantly. Singing in high school and college was an important part of her education and she is committed to young people having the opportunity to learn about music.

Cheryl believes strongly in giving back to her community. She is currently a board member of United Way, Ventura County; the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau; and the Downtown Ventura Partners. She is a member of the Downtown Rotary Club of Ventura and the Pierpont Community Council. She recently completed six years as a board member of the Ventura County

Regional Energy Alliance and is a former board member of the Ventura County Mental Health Board and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce.

Her work has led to numerous honors: Top 50 Women in Business (Pacific Coast Business Times), 2008; Top Non-profit Leaders, Pacific Coast Business Times 2009 and 2011; and the Communication and Leadership Award from Toastmasters International, District #33, among others.

Cheryl enjoys spending time with her family, husband, 3 grown children, their spouses and her first grandson who just turned one. She loves to travel and has been to all 7 continents. She enjoys long walks on the beach, reading and spending time with close friends.

We asked her what she likes most about Ventura.

My husband and I chose to move to Ventura to make it our home. We have been residents of Ventura County for the past 26 years and often visited Ventura. When we had the chance to move here, we jumped on it. It has a charm all its own. The people are friendly, welcoming and care deeply about their community. The involvement of the people is part of what makes it so special. Of course, the natural beauty, the beaches, the climate, the downtown, harbor, islands, hills, historic architecture, mission, and the arts all make it so special. It is amazing that this is not yet a major tourist destination. It is the perfect place to live and every day I feel so lucky to live here. It is the city I have been searching for my whole life.

How was the experience of having your portrait painted by Johanna?

I had no idea what to expect. The most enjoyable part was getting to know Johanna and her story. She should do a self-portrait as she is one of the faces of Ventura. She is such an interesting person and talented artist. She is giving the city of Ventura a unique gift and I consider it such an honor to have had her do my portrait.



Readers are invited to nominate a special person for the series.
 "The Face of Ventura By Johanna Spinks":
 Images Copyright Johanna Spinks.
 Email: johanna@johannaspinks.com Website: www.johannaspinks.com

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.

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

Community Events

Ventura events

Continued from page 9

Contact vcpsforyou@lycos.com or 320-1601.

Mar. 6: Mended Hearts Of Ventura. Come share if you have had heart surgery or stent implant.

The group meets the first Tuesday each month on the 8th floor of the Community Memorial Hospital.

Speakers are leading cardiologists, nutritionists, dietitians, etc. from our area.

Contact: Richard Hatcher 644-2733
Mar. 9, 10, and 11: Temple Beth Torah Purim Weekend, 7620 Foothill Rd. Join in for the "Magic of Purim" weekend as we celebrate this wonderful holiday by having dinner on Friday the 9th, for families with young children. Services are at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and then services at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday the 10th, will have an adult program that features Shawn McMaster and his Magic Castle magic. The program starts with appetizers, a Master of Ceremonies spiel, dinner and then the magic show. Dessert and coffee will follow. Cost for this event is \$50.00. On Sunday the 11th, we will read the "Megillah" at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and then blast into the magic of the Purim Carnival from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the courtyard. Games, activities, costumes, prizes and food are on the agenda. Bring your friends and family and join in for a fabulous weekend at Temple Beth Torah. For reservations call 647-4181.

Ojai events

On Sun., **Mar. 4,** 4:30 pm the Ojai Film Society will screen *Take Shelter*, a foreboding drama about an Ohio family man plagued with recurring nightmares of a coming apocalyptic storm. Should he shelter his family from the coming storm, or from himself? With a powerful performance by Michael Shannon, the film taps into the angst of our uncertain times. Ojai Playhouse, 145 E Ojai Ave. General Admission \$10, Seniors/Students \$7, 2012 Subscribers Free

The first public showing of fine art by **Central Coast artists** in Ojai's unique architect-designed gallery will be on Sunday, **Feb. 26** – 2-4pm Refreshments served.

All works of art reduced 10% during the Reception – for information, call 798-0010.

Spring is coming, and what better time to gather in the beautiful Ojai Valley to share seeds! All gardeners and farmers – both current and aspiring – are invited to join in the fun on Saturday, **Feb. 25,** at 1:00 p.m. Bring your seeds, bring your stories, and bring your passion for growing food to the Chaparral Auditorium located at 414 E. Ojai Ave.

Ojai's First Annual Community Seed Swap will begin with a short talk by Justin Huhn, co-founder of All Good Things Organic Seeds – Southern California's bioregional seed company. Justin will share the basic "how-to's" for beginner seed-savers and delve into the importance of seed saving to any community.

If you have a substantial offering of seeds to share and would like table space for your seeds, please arrive no later than 12:45. This event is hosted by All Good Things Organic Seeds and the Ojai Valley Green Coalition. For more information, please contact Justin Huhn at 758-3184 or agtoseeds@gmail.com. To learn more about All Good Things Organic Seeds go to www.agtoseeds.com.

In a town known as a Mecca for viewing and purchasing quality art, Ojai Gallery 353 promises art lovers a truly unique experience. On Sunday, **Feb. 26,** visitors are invited to an **open house reception** from

2 to 4 pm at Ojai Gallery 353. Built into the private home of architect/owner Jeff Weinstein, AIA and his family, the recently opened Gallery provides a light-filled, friendly environment for viewing fine art as it might look in your own home.

Highly talented local artists featured in the current installation are Ruben Franco, Emily Goldfield, Norman Kirk, Timothy Scott Markonis, and Lynn Byrne Simon.

Ojai's got talent! Ojai's own will showcase their moves in a night of **Dancing With The Ojai Stars** on Saturday, **March 3,** at the Nordhoff High School Gym, located at 1401 Maricopa Highway.

The program is the first annual fundraiser for the Nordhoff High School Dance Department. The dance students will partner with "star" students from Nordhoff and with adult "stars" from the community and school district.

Sponsorships are available for each of the teams, at \$150 each. A team sponsor will have their name on the event website, in the program and in publicity materials.

Tickets for Dancing With The Ojai Stars are \$10 for students, children and seniors, \$15 general adult admission and \$25 for VIP seating.

The evening of the dance competition, the Lions Club will offer a BBQ dinner in support of the dance program, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in front of the Nordhoff gym.

For more information about tickets or becoming a sponsor, please visit our website at www.dancingwiththeojaistars.com, or call 640-4343 x 1871.

Come join the **Spring Open House at Ojai Raptor Center**, located on 370 Baldwin Rd. on **March 10** from noon-4pm for a unique opportunity to see Ventura County's only Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

The Ojai Raptor Center is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of birds of prey and other wildlife, and to providing educational programs to teach communities about raptors and our shared environment.

Meet the ORC Raptor Handlers as they explain how to reduce human-caused hazards to our native wildlife. ORC Open House will be a free event with a suggested donation of five dollars. Schedule and alternate date in case of rain, will be posted on the website www.ojairaptorcenter.org

School



Ms. Curtis-Abbe happily accepting her plaque to commemorate her as Teacher of the Month.

Teacher of the month

On February 1, the Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation (VCEF) named Laurie Curtis-Abbe, GATE teacher at Anacapa Middle School in Ventura, January's Teacher of the Month. Present were elected representatives and members of the business community.

This was Ms. Curtis-Abbe's first day back at school after a five-month leave of absence for surgery. She was accompanied by her parents, husband and her two children, along with Superintendent



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Trudy Arriaga. It was a moving event for all, especially Ms. Curtis-Abbe, who stated, "Coming back after the surgery and physical therapy has been my top goal over the past few months. To be honored by this, with my family here and surrounded by my incredible colleagues, it's really overwhelming. Thank you!"

Principals and parent-teacher organizations from schools within the Ventura Unified School District are all eligible to nominate any teacher(s). Nominees must be a credentialed teacher, and should display certain qualities, including the demonstration of an outstanding dedication to students, service on school or district committees, and projects on their own time and/or participation in youth-focused activities in the community.

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

A day to celebrate the love of reading

De Anza Academy of Technology & the Arts (DATA) will present on February 24, the Battle of the Books, a VUSD school district-wide event, a day that brings readers together from five middle schools in celebration of the love of reading.

Each year, groups of students from Anacapa, Balboa, Cabrillo, DATA and Sunset come together for a day of fun centered on reading. A bus goes from school to school gathering the students. This year the students will pile into DATA's library starting at

10 am to hear children's author and blogger, Jonathan Auxier <http://www.thescop.com/>, talk about writing and his book *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*.

Following lunch and a review game session and scavenger hunt, students will compete in the battle royal! All students present have read from a list of 20 books. They are split into teams of 5 and go head to head answer questions about the books and identify authors. Points are tallied and the field is whittled down to the 2 highest scoring teams.

Dr. Arriaga, VUSD superintendent, takes the stage around 3:30 to quiz the final 2 top scoring teams. When the winner is declared, all will celebrate in the fun they had sharing their love of reading.

Temple preschool

Temple Beth Torah Preschool will be holding an Open House on March 11, Sunday, from 10 to 12 noon. Come and meet the teachers, check out the facility and ask questions of the curriculum. Temple Beth Torah is in the process of going through NAEYC and follows the standards of an excellent program.

The preschool classes have access to an outdoor education program, science and art room, Kinder Music, Gymnastics and Yoga. The program is enriched and a family has the opportunity to place their child in a morning program or from 7:30 to 3:00 pm each day. Come and meet the teachers at 7620 Foothill Rd. Call 647-3798 for further information.

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

A place where ALL are welcome!

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

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

Free refreshments are available.



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Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

It's tax time!

by Nanci Cone

It's that time of year again when men's legs start quivering and women's hearts begin beating a bit faster. No, it's not "Spring when a young man's fancy..." – you know that part of it – no – it's TAX SEASON!

Here are some "fun" facts about taxes:

- In 1913 the tax rate was 1% on taxable net income above \$3,000 (\$4,000 for married couples), less deductions and exemptions. It rose to a rate of 7% on incomes above \$500,000.
- During World War I the top rate rose to 77%; after the war, the top rate was scaled down to a low of 25%.
- During the Great Depression and World War II, the top income tax rate rose again. In the Internal Revenue Code of 1939, the top rate was 75%. The top rate reached 94% during the war and remained at 91% until 1964.

Fortunately, there are two organizations who offer salvation to seniors and low income individuals and families - Community Action of Ventura County and The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The tax counseling for the elderly (TCE) program offers FREE tax help to individuals who are 60 years or older and low-income people who cannot afford professional assistance with their federal and state tax returns. This is made possible through grant funds, made possible by an appropriation of Congress. Volunteers attend classes to learn how to prepare federal and state tax returns, to update their knowledge on changes to the 2011 forms and to learn how to

do e-filing.

For those in Ventura, free tax preparation, prepared by AARP in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service, is available on a "first come, first served" basis at these locations, days and times:

- Ventura Avenue Adult Center**
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-12 am
550 North Ventura Avenue
805/648-3035
- Senior Recreation Center**
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-3 pm
420 East Santa Clara Street
805/648-2829

To receive help at both centers, people should bring their last year's tax returns, W-2s and 1099s, bonds, bank statements, etc., as well as year-end summaries from Social Security. The volunteers can handle most basic federal and state tax forms but they suggest that anyone with a business or extensive investments do hire an accounting firm who would be more knowledgeable in these areas.

Volunteer tax assistants at both centers have the capability of doing electronic filing online for both federal and state taxes and having refunds direct-deposited, provided that those seeking tax assistance bring in a deposit slip or voided check with their name and address.

Not everyone has the luxury of taking time out during the day to have their taxes prepared or the location may not work for you. If this is the case, call 2-1-1 for the Community Action of Ventura County days/times/locations or Ed Klein at 659-2448 for AARP alternative days, times, and various venues in Ventura County. Oh and bring a book as you may have to wait a while before your claim can be prepared, Love!

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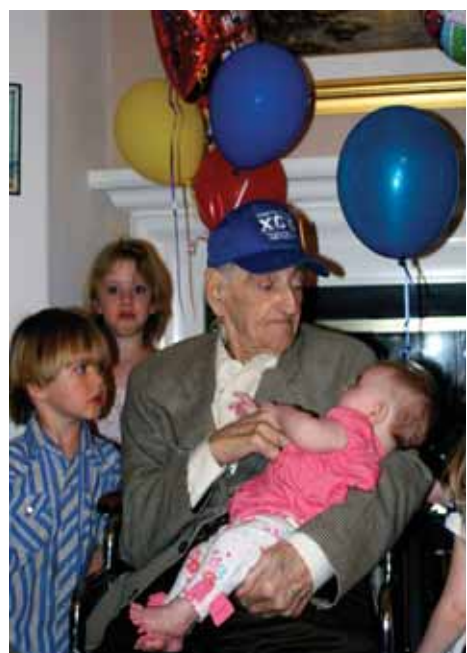
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Martin Weir enjoyed his birthday party with Kinley Weir and Nate and Audrey Bancroft

Happy 100th, Martin!

Martin Weir celebrated his 100th birthday at the Lexington in Ventura on Super Bowl Sunday. The party was dubbed Marty Bowl C, and was held during the lunch hour so that all the residents could join the family in the celebration. Weir described it as pandemonium. He stated that, "Ladies I didn't even know were kissing me on the cheek." After the big countdown, Martin blew out a single candle representing a century. Everyone in attendance had a great time singing

and dancing to the accordion music provided by Michael Gutin.

Martin was born in Coney Island, New York on February 5, 1912. He was the second of ten children raised by Morris and Catherine Weisberger. At the age of 17, Weir hitch-hiked to Los Angeles and lived with his Uncle who ran a Shell gas station near the RKO movie studios. After World War II, he got a job as the operations officer for Bank of America and tired of signing his name multiple times each day he took his mother's maiden name and officially changed it to Weir in 1946.

He has lived in Southern California for the last 83 years and marvels at the many changes that have taken place. But he takes it all in stride and enjoys having emails and text messages read to him. He especially enjoyed talking on Skype with his granddaughter who lives in Missouri. He moved to Ventura six years ago to be near his son Tim and daughter-in-law Ventura Councilwoman Christy Weir.

He has maintained his sense of humor and enjoys making people laugh. When asked his secret to living so long he declared, "Keep breathing." But he is able to wax philosophical as well. When asked about his life now, Weir stated, "I'm happy with the way things turned out. I have a nice family with no troubles. I wouldn't want to go through what I went through again, and I wouldn't want to miss it." In addition to his two sons, Weir has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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Senior Living



Enjoying the Valentine's Day Dance held on Tuesday, February 14th at The Palms at Bonaventure were the many residents and guests. The fun afternoon included delicious homemade desserts, special musical entertainment, friendly conversation and more. The Palms is located at 111 North Wells Road, Ventura. Photo by Bernie Goldstein

Health CMHS in the news

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of vision loss in older Americans, will be the focus of a free seminar the Community Memorial Health System is holding on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

JillAnne McCarty, M.D., a specialist in diseases and surgeries of the eye, will lead the seminar from 6 to 8 p.m. in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital, located at 147 Brent St. in Ventura.

She also will cover current AMD treatment as well as the current research and methods for coping with the disease.

Dr. McCarty, who has been on staff at Community Memorial Hospital since 1992, received her PhD in pharmacology from the University of Iowa College of Medicine. She trained in ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA. Dr. McCarty is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and is a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons.

Admission is free but space is limited, and reservations are required. Call 652-5436, or visit www.cmhshealth.org.

The Breast Center located at Community Memorial Hospital has become the first medical facility in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties to be designated a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology (ACR).

By awarding facilities the status of a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, the ACR recognizes breast imaging centers that have earned accreditation in mammography, stereotactic breast biopsy, and breast ultrasound (including ultrasound-guided breast biopsy).

The ACR is a national professional organization serving more than 34,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.

Community Memorial Health System

is proud to announce Loquintha Rex has received the Hospital Hero award. The annual Hospital Hero Awards, produced by the National Health Foundation, is an annual event that showcases hospitals throughout the Hospital Association – Southern California (HASC) region.

Loquintha has a doctorate in Nursing, and is a nurse practitioner with a focus in Diabetes Management. She is intelligent, caring, dedicated, and humble in her care of diabetic patients and has single-handedly transformed diabetic care in our health system to "cutting edge" proportions. Loquintha ensures that diabetic patients are cared for safely and promotes patient self management practices.

Diabetes classes

Livingston Visiting Nurse Association will hold Diabetes Classes to introduce basic information regarding diet, medication, exercise, blood sugar monitoring, new developments and common problems. Open to the public and free of charge, the classes are held the first Tuesday of the month, 1:00 – 2:30 pm @Livingston VNA, 1996 Eastman Ave, #10. Call Linda Hampson, RN, MSN, 642-0239, ext. 723 for further information.

Grief support

Livingston Hospice conducts several adult bereavement support groups to help those who have experienced a loss. Explore and express feeling, understand the grief process and receive emotional support. Open to the public, free of charge, all are welcome. The groups are held:

Weekly: Wednesday; 3:00 – 4:30 pm @ The First Presbyterian Church, 850 Ivywood Dr., Oxnard.

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

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

Monthly: For the newly bereaved; 2nd Thursday; 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ Livingston Memorial VNA, 1996 Eastman Ave., #106.

For more information call 642-1608.

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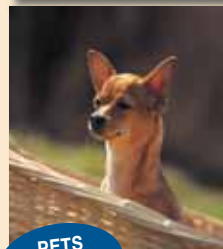


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Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp
Ph.D

Letters to the Professor

Dear Scamp;

I know how much you enjoy treats, as most of my 4 legged friends do! I wanted to make sure your mom and dad

were aware of the dangers with some of the treats at the pet stores. There is a treat at most of the pet stores called "chicken jerky". There are many brands that make them, most of are made in China. These treats have been known to make dogs very sick. The first signs of illness are loss of appetite, decreased activity, vomiting and diarrhea. These treats can cause kidney failure. (More information can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm280586.htm>) I wanted to let you know so you could share the information with all of your friends. I want you to stay healthy and happy so you can be a good big brother to Savanna!

There are plenty of good treat options available for dogs and cats. It is best to buy treats that are made in the USA so I know my 4 legged kids are safe. I also like to give my dogs and cats food dispensing toys like Kong[®], Buster Cubes[®], Twist and Treats[®] and Kibble Nibble Balls[®]. These toys are great for mental stimulations when your parents are busy or not home.

Take care,
Shannon Coyner
Certified Professional Dog Trainer

Dear Professor Scamp:

I read your column today and wasn't surprised to see that Savanna is giving you a hard time. Cats will do that from time to time. They are majestic and Savanna fits the bill. Don't get insulted. I'm a fan and always rooting for you.

Wanted to let you know about a cousin of yours. I was driving along Harbor Boulevard on Saturday after the Farmer's Market and about to turn on Vista del Mar when I spotted, in the middle of the road, a Pug doggie, looking as forlorn as can be. His human was nowhere to be found. It was scared and I knew that I had to do something or a speeding car would run him over. I pulled to the side of the road Professor and hoped this little guy wouldn't run

away. He was too scared so I scooped him up and ran to my car. When I got home I found his collar and phone number. Scamp, he was a happy dog when his human showed up and his name is Bugzy. I hope I meet Bugzy again. If I do I'll introduce him to you. That was a close call. Have a good sleep today and don't annoy Savanna too much.

Your fan, Lucille Montague

Dear Scamp:

I read the e-mail from that nasty, uncouth cat Savana. Cats seem to forget that dog owners are happier and generally healthier than those owners cooped up with indoor cats. They won't even go for a walk with you!

While Dogs have been domesticated for over 14,000 years, cats are generally only recognized for having that distinction for a mere 7,000 years.

While cats have only 19 million odor sensitive cells in their tiny noses, dogs have over 200 million! Perhaps that is precisely why cats don't think they are smelly. While dogs prefer to pee on trees, cats do it in that smelly kitty litter box!

Take heart Scamp, in a recent study by Queens University in Belfast, dog owners have lower blood pressure and cholesterol, suffer fewer minor ailments and allergies, less serious medical problems and are generally healthier. So I'll take you any day Scamp over that cat!

Joe Ventura

Scamp: Joe even though I appreciate your defense of dogs over cats Savana is becoming a nice companion and not too big of a pest to have around anymore (I just need to straighten her out once in a while). I agree that her litter box smells but my human lady cleans it a lot so it is not too bad and she is awfully cute.

And, by the way I don't pee on trees anymore.



Forever homes wanted



Hi:

I'm Skya, a beautiful 10 year old lady Australian Shepherd. I'm looking for a new home because I'm used to running around on a ranch and now I live in a "city" home. I'm affectionate and playful and need a home where I can run around and get lots of exercise. I also need an adult only home or a home with older children. I've been through obedience training and I'm house and crate trained and know how to use a doggie door. I know the basics – come when called, sit and stay on command. Stop by and meet me. I'll be waiting.

The Canine Adoption & Rescue League, Sam's Place,
3203 E. Main St.

644-7387 www.carlvorg

Hello Scamp:

We have missed you the last few weeks. Went to Cabo recently to get more perros! We brought back 3 of the sweetest, most adorable dogs you could ever know! One of them already has a potential home, the other 2 are Wendy and Mariana who are terrier mixes. They are both young girls, very loving with people and playful with toys. Great with other dogs, kids and cats and they are even bilingual.

This is Mariana.

Mindy Benezra



Scamp Club

My name is Tilly and I want to tell you a little story about how I came to be in my new home. I'm a little Jack Russell and Chihuahua mix and I have 4 brothers. My "Auntie Gaby" picked me because I was the smallest of the litter and the happiest. Well, just about that same week, "Auntie's" niece and nephew lost their dog of many years and were very sad. Just as she went to pick me up and put me in my new blanket she got the idea to take me over to my "new cousins" home for a surprise...which instantly became my new home! They said I really made a family not be sad anymore, and truth-be-told, I was pretty happy to now live there, too, and run and play with the kids.



Join Scamp Club

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

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

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

Residential Burglary Arrest

On Thursday, February 2nd, at 12:32 p.m., the VPD received a call from Lauren Burns reporting that she had just interrupted a suspect burglarizing her residence, in the 700 block of Montgomery Avenue. Burns had arrived home and noticed her garage doors open. She saw Adrian Estrella fleeing her residence, carrying some of her property. Burns obtained the license plate of Estrella's vehicle.

An investigator observed Estrella's vehicle leaving at a high rate of speed. The investigator followed Estrella. Estrella entered Oxnard and was observed driving into the parking lot of the Juvenile Detention Facility on Vineyard Avenue. VPD took custody of Estrella without further incident.

Residential Burglary

On Thursday, February 2nd, at 3:30 a.m., the VPD received a call from an alert citizen who had just witnessed a suspicious vehicle park in the alleyway to the rear of the Shores Motel. The suspect was casing residences in the 1000 block of Montauk Lane.

Officers contacted Alan Rogers, exiting a residential driveway with gardening equipment in hand. Rogers admitted to having just taken the equipment from a storage closet within the residence he was walking away from. A search of Rogers' property also found him to be in possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia.

Saticoy Shooting

On Sunday, February 5th, at 8:22 p.m., the VPD received numerous phone calls from terrified residents reporting several gunshots fired at the intersection of South Saticoy Avenue and Si Se Puede.

A witness saw a male subject standing inside the gates of Cabrillo Village firing a handgun at a pedestrian. The witness described the suspect as a male Hispanic about 20 years old wearing a black

hooded sweatshirt and black pants.

The victim fled the area. The suspect was last seen running into Cabrillo Village. VPD patrol officers searched the area but neither the suspect nor any victims were located.

Peeping Arrest

On Monday, February 6th, at 2:03 p.m., the VPD received a call from a distressed female victim stating that a male subject was in the women's restroom at the Ventura Beach parking structure (the 500 block of Harbor Boulevard) looking at her through the crack in the stall door.

Officers located Thomas Lennon in the men's restroom. Lennon was found to be under the influence of a controlled substance. Lennon was arrested and transported to VC Jail.

Serious Injury Accident

On Monday, February 6th, at 5:17 p.m., the VPD received a call of an injury traffic collision between motorcycle and pickup truck in the area of Thompson Boulevard and Jordan Avenue.

The motorcyclist was identified as Stephanie Gonzalez. The driver of the pickup truck, Douglas Paulin, entered

the roadway from Jordan Avenue and was clearing the eastbound lanes of traffic. Paulin didn't see Gonzalez's motorcycle approaching from the east. Paulin collided with Gonzalez's motorcycle, launching her out of the roadway onto the sidewalk. Neither party was found to be under the influence of alcohol.

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

Resisting Arrest

On Tuesday, February 7th, at 4:00 a.m., the VPD received a call from a citizen who had just witnessed a suspicious suspect attempting to siphon gas from several parked vehicles in the carport area of the apartment complex located at 11150 Citrus Drive. Officers observed David Simpson holding a large gas can and rubber hose.

Simpson ignored the officer's commands and attempted to flee. Simpson was apprehended and taken into custody without further incident.

Leaking Rail Car

On Monday, February 7th, at 2:50 p.m., Ventura City Fire units responded to a reported leak from a rail car that

Police Reports

had been parked on the tracks overnight. The calling party reported a hissing sound emitting from the car.

The area was isolated and entry was denied while a hazard investigation was conducted by on-scene crews. Vista Del Mar was closed to traffic and the tracks were shut down as a precaution. Investigation revealed that no product from the involved car leaked and the hissing sound heard was a mechanical failure on the train and did not involve the storage of the product identified as petroleum crude oil. Union Pacific sent mechanics to the scene to repair the rail car.

Sobriety Checkpoint

On Saturday, February 11th, the VPD conducted sobriety checkpoints on Wells Road. The checkpoint lasted from 8:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. As a result of this checkpoint, the VPD made 1 DUI arrest, 3 citations for driving with a suspended driver's license, 13 citations for driving without a driver's license, 3 vehicles were impounded, and 6 citations for miscellaneous violations.

The 1 DUI driver was also arrested for a Misdemeanor Warrant for a prior DUI and he was driving without a license.

Vehicle vs. Skateboard

On Saturday, February 11th, at 5:10 p.m., the VPD received a call reporting an injury accident between a vehicle and a pedestrian at the intersection of Figueroa Street and Shoreline Drive. Officers determined the collision was between a small Subaru SUV and a 14-year-old juvenile on a skateboard.

The juvenile ducked down behind a vehicle and was being towed on his skateboard. When the juvenile let go of the vehicle, he crossed over the lanes of traffic and collided with the SUV head on, launching him into the motorist windshield, caving it in. The juvenile was not wearing a helmet but only sustained minor injuries to his legs, hips and face. The juvenile was transported to CMH where he was treated and released.

Indecent Exposure

On Monday, February 13th, at 2:30 p.m., the VPD received a report of a Hispanic male adult, exposing his genitals to two female juveniles as they passed by the truck he was sitting in.

As the juvenile victims were on the phone with the command center, the suspect fled in his vehicle northbound towards Telegraph Road. Officers were unable to locate the suspect or the suspect vehicle.

This incident is possibly related to two other indecent exposures that have occurred in Ventura.

Robbery Arrest

On Friday, February 10th, at 4:45 p.m., officers observed male and female suspects inside Vons, located on 5688 Telephone Road. The male suspect was seen concealing several items into his clothing, while the female suspect was seen placing several items into her purse. Officers confronted the female suspect in the parking lot after she left the store without paying. She became combative. The male suspect approached them and threatened the officers with a knife. The loss prevention officers let the female suspect go. The suspects got into a vehicle and left.

The suspects were identified as Robert Cortez and Angelica Cacho.

On Tuesday, February 14th, the two suspects were in the downtown area of Ventura. After a search, the two were located and booked into VC Jail.

Residential Burglary

On Friday, February 17th, the VPD received a call from a resident in the 7900 block of Agate Court who was reporting

having just witnessed two male juveniles prowling in the front of her residence. The witness indicated she had seen the first suspect peering into her front window while a second suspect ran from her garage.

Officers located the first suspect just a few blocks away. The second suspect exited a nearby open garage while carrying property. The suspect immediately dropped the property and fled. The second suspect was found hiding and physically resisted officers as they attempted to apprehend him. The suspect was safely taken into custody.

Both suspects were lodged into juvenile hall. The second suspect was additionally charged with resisting arrest and terrorist threats. No one was injured during the crime.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

2-1 7:51 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a lift assist at Harbortown Point. FD and Patrol assisted the patient.

2-2 9:56 p.m. A resident of the Mobile Home reporting her knee popped earlier in the day and she now could not walk. Patrol responded, determined no medical emergency so cancelled other units, then assisted the patient to her car so her husband could take her to ER.

2-3 FCC dispatched Patrol and other units to an unconscious person on a boat at VWM. Upon arrival, the patient was conscious. AMR transported him to the hospital.

2-5 5:05 a.m. PD activated the On Call System to request a Harbor Patrol Officer respond to assist in a water search for two residential burglary suspects who might be on a paddleboat. Patrol responded. The suspects were not located, but Patrol located the paddleboat and towed it back to its owner's dock.

9:29 p.m. Patrol received a phone call from a Dry Storage tenant who reports that his neighboring tenant had sprayed a cleaner in his face and now his face and eyes were irritated. Patrol provided him the advice to contact PD because this constituted assault.

2-7 4:45 p.m. Patrol removed a large plastic tub from the water and stored it on land by the Launch Ramp.

2-12 11:00 a.m. The operator of a disabled vessel flagged down Patrol and requested a tow. Patrol took the vessel into tow and released its slip at VIM.

Religion

Expression plays a variety of music

by Kelsey Campbell

Troy Jones is a pastor at Expression Ministries and director of the religious band Expression formed in 1999. Jones started with a pool of local Christian musicians, putting together teams for worship events and community outreach ministry. They are a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. And Jones is ordained as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and they also have a small local weekly fellowship.

The band's musical styles are very diversified...They play a variety of different music, from acoustic worship and soft rock, R&B

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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and gospel sounds, some bluesy and some jazzy, even some hymns, which are usually with modern feel. Some songs from other artists and many original songs Jones has written over the years.

There are members of their music team that have been with the band for about 13 years now, many of the crew mostly have been active with Expression for the last 5 years. There are some players who are full time, and a few who are part time team players.

Expressions has played all over Ventura County and have done concerts in parks, perform in public squares, for private fundraisers, for Christian weddings and special non-profit dinners/functions, several Christian community events, and many local churches of every denomination. They have traveled to perform in many other Churches in California and three times internationally, doing worship concert events, worship conferences and to speak in churches.

Expression Ministries have regular events they play, including, an unplugged music venue in a local coffee shop, it's called, "Expression Cafe" every Tuesday night at Java Joes on Johnson Drive. Christian artists are invited to share their song or poetry on this evening.

They also host a local community night of worship called "the Bonfire" that is held

at the Poinsettia Pavilion on Foothill Road. This has been held on the first Sunday every month for the last 5 years. They are held quarterly, the first one of 2012 will be on Sunday night Mar. 4. They often have guest worship teams share the evening. People come from all over the county, from different churches, and from no church affiliation at all. The event is about uniting people of faith in expressions of worship before God and the events are all free.

The consistently involved 8 members of the "core" team for most recent events have been, the team leader / acoustic guitar / lead vocals is Troy Jones, the keyboards / background & lead vocals is Ladell Marsh, the drums is Mike Beers, the bass guitar is Charles Davis, the background vocals is Resee Jones and Denise Levette, the percussion/ congas is Manny Hernandez and the sax / wind and flutes is Ernie Towler.

Jones said about the band and the ministry, "We are a ministry, not just a band. The music we play is intended to cause the hearts of men to move towards God. We deliberately intend to share our faith in Jesus Christ and proclaim God's love and redemption for mankind."

To get more information or see a calendar go to ExpressionMinistries.com

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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| T | E | S | T | E | D | E | S | C | U | D |
| O | B | I | S | C | I | E | R | N | S | T |
| A | R | M | S | O | L | D | A | E | R | O |
| K | A | P | P | A | L | E | A | D | A | Y |
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| B | O | D | S | A | N | N | F | A | D | S |



Show Time

Where The Music Flows

Gotta get some We Govern We!

by Michael Kohli

Have you had your We Govern We fix yet? They are doing a lot of shows lately! They just released their album, *Reznor's Orchid* last year! They are already gearing up to release their follow-up album this year! In fact, just to give fans a little taste, they released a studio music video of a brand new song, *Mulligan's Island*. The band has been confirmed for Saint Pierre's next music showcase at Yolie's on Feb. 25! With two shows at 7pm and 9pm! This showcase will also feature a band called, All Natural Ingredients! Rock star dancer, Jillian Nye will also be part of the show! Stay tuned on WeGovernWe.com and look for them on Facebook and YouTube for upcoming album updates!

The B Mikasa Band

One of my favorite singers and musicians here, locally had been popping up at shows everywhere lately. Brian Mikasa is so talented! Had the opportunity to work with him in the past. This guy should be signed and touring by now! Check out a YouTube recording of his called, *Take It As It Comes*. The song has a Queen/Blind Melon kind of kick to it. But, listen to him play the keyboard, among other instruments! Definitely an artist here, locally you should check out! He's flawless in my book!

Goodbye, Whitney Houston!

It's hard to say who to miss more now, Michael Jackson or Whitney Houston. Probably Whitney as it just happened. She was such a great spirit. No matter what troubles she had, she gave her all on stage. And, her music helped heal people. Long before Adele's. *Someone Like You* spoke to people dealing with heartbreak, there are so many Whitney Houston songs that people can relate to. Somehow, through her gentle grace, she just lifted you and made you smile. *Run To You* was always one of my music healing favorites! Which one was yours? E-mail me: VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com!

Thanks for reading!

Michael Kohli

Kohlismusicpit.com

The Entertainment Report

Silver screen

by Linde Carlson

Hello Ventura!

My picks of the week are:



Woman in Black

Adapted from the book, *Woman In Black* by British novelist Susan Hill, this made for stage, television, and film psychological thriller stars Harry Potter famed Daniel Radcliff, who has proven to us that he can step out of the Potter character and into a new skin of a promising skilled actor.

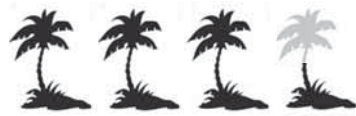
The *Woman in Black* takes us to a dreary seaside village in Crythin, England where young London lawyer Arthur Kipps is assigned by his boss to finalize the affairs of a recently deceased woman. He is dropped off by carriage to Eel Marsh, a sinister and hauntingly hair

raising property and the only thing that separates him from the outside world is a forest, a body of water, and a road which disappears in the night.

The town's people are constantly manic by the unexplainable untimely deaths of their loved ones, blaming a ghost of a scorned woman, the same woman that appears before Arthur on a nightly basis.

The film was grippingly suspenseful, surprisingly spooky especially toward the middle which allowed you to build up to the anticipation, playing tricks on your mind and capturing all the elements of a light horror film without the blood. I did not see Harry Potter in Daniel Radcliff; I know a lot of people were aiming to connect the two. Bravo to Radcliff for his versatility. I hope directors give him some meaty roles as he has the chops, and is very skilled in his delivery. Not campy. I thoroughly enjoyed this film. Not for young children.

Rated PG-13 Running time 95 minutes



One For The Money

Adapted from the book written by Janet Evanovich, Katherine Heigl plays Stephanie Plum, a woman struggling to make ends meet, soon to lose everything until she gets hired as a bounty hunter in her crack pot cousin Vinny's bail bond business.

Her first case isn't an easy one. She has to bring in her old boyfriend Joe Morrelli (Jason O'Mara), a local cop gone bad, clearly a con man, she is still attracted to him despite his criminal past.

A sizzling, action-packed-shoot 'em up romantic comedy, full of laughs and clever dialogue, and quips. If you had to compare it, it fell into the realm of Eddie Murphy's *Beverly Hills Cop* type action, with a Jersey attitude. Stephanie Plum (Heigl) knows her way around a con and her quick witted comedy draws you in, setting you up for the next scene. I loved this film, very entertaining. I think this is one of her best pieces of comedic work. Iffy for 13 year olds.

Two on the Aisle

Hot time in Camarillo

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

It's the mid-1930s. It's blazing hot in Three Point, Texas, and it hasn't rained for a long time. A bigger than life, drum beating, silver tongued con man called Starbuck comes to town promising to bring rain in 24 hours and things start to happen to the town folk.

What happens to members of the Curry family is the subject of "110 in the Shade," which plays through March 4 at the Camarillo Skyway Playhouse on the Camarillo Airport.

The show is a musical version of the play and movie "The Rainmaker." It closely tracks the original dialogue of the play, with musical numbers added by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones – the team that penned the legendary musical "The Fantasticks."

The tale swivels around the changes Starbuck's presence fosters in the Curry family, which includes the patriarchal rancher, H.C. Curry (Dale Alpert), his no-nonsense, cynical, ranch-manager son,

VFS@420EAST

La Mission

Reviewed by Moses Mora

Bell Arts Factory

La Mission is a powerful film about an ex-convict trying to do right by his world, which is his family, community and his culture. Meet Che Rivera, portrayed by Benjamin Bratt, a recovering alcoholic trying hard to redeem his life as he raises his son in the tough San Francisco neighborhood known as La Mission District. Che is a strong and respected man but his resolve is tested when he discovers that his son Jess is gay. Surviving prison and the barrio took a certain kind of brute strength that came naturally to Che. However,

Noah (Martin Lawrence Scott), his adolescent son, Jimmy (Nicholas Penrose), and his daughter Lizzie (Lynetta Ivey), who sees herself as a plain girl destined to remain her brothers' old maid sister.

The local sheriff, File (Larry Craig), is drawn in when he gets word to be on the lookout for a traveling swindler. File has an undeclared romantic interest in Lizzie and his involvement is heightened when Lizzie appears about to be swept away by Starbuck (Jodi Wurts).

The story, its characters, underlying messages, plot shifts and positive ending, is a proven audience pleaser. What makes the show succeed or fail at the community theater level are the musical skills of the company, and this cast is up to the challenge.

Lynetta Ivey plays the pivotal role of Lizzie. She is a highly trained and seasoned vocalist whose extensive credits include numerous professional musical theater productions across the country. Her talent, training and expertise shine through.

As Starbuck, Jodi Wurts brings to the role all the essential characteristics. Starbuck has to be bigger than life, full of energy and charismatic. Big in stature, Wurts also fits the role both in personality and musical ability.

Another vocal highlight is the sonorous baritone voice of Larry Craig as Sheriff File. Nicholas Penrose, as Jimmy, and Ella Bowen as his teen love interest, Snookie, infuse their characters with the necessary enthusiasm and hormonal energy. Dale Alpert as the father, H.C. Curry, provides a sage counterbalance to the sibling squabbles among his offspring.

Most all of the action takes place in outdoor settings, which permits the inclusion of a large ensemble of characters and vocalists who enrich the show with their dedication and mushrooming theatrical skills.

This show is the inaugural production of the re-branded Camarillo Community Theater. The facility sports a facelift and the addition of a dedicated artistic director who has crafted an intriguing season for the balance of the year.

"110 in the Shade, the Musical" continues until March 4 at the Camarillo Skyway Playhouse on the Camarillo Airport at 330 Skyway Drive, Camarillo. Reservations and ticket information 388-5716. www.skywayplayhouse.org.

Music Calendar 2/22 to 3/6

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

Andre's Wine Bar

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Live Music every Tues, Thur & Fri

it will take a completely different kind of strength to help him understand and accept his son's reality. *La Mission* is an important, thought-provoking film that addresses many contemporary issues and speaks to its viewers on many levels. Director Peter Bratt will be present to speak and answer questions after the screening.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to screen *La Mission* (sponsored by Superior Copy Products & Bell Arts Factory) as the 3rd of 21 feature films screening at 7:15pm on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 420 E. Santa Clara Street in Downtown Ventura. Screening, membership and advance ticket information is at www.venturafilmsociety.com / 628-2299 / venturafilmsociety@gmail.com.

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 2/24 - Fish Fry 7-11pm

Sat 2/25 - Loose Cannons 6-10pm

Sun 2/26 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Mon 2/27 - Open Jam with A Sure Thing 6-9pm

Sun 3/4 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Bombay's Bar & Grill

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

All Star Blues Hosted by Tommy Marsh every Wed

Local Live Music every Thur, Fri & Sat

Afternoon Concerts every Sun 4pm

Thur 2/23 - Reggae/Ska show with The Melodramatics, Jahmon Soul, Soulfiya

Fri 2/24 - Dusty Bottom Girls, La Vonnets, The Pullman, 5th and Birmingham

Sat 2/25 - The Reall Deall Band

Sun 2/26 - 4 On The Floor

Cafe Fiore

66 California St., 805-653-1266

Live Bands every Tue thru Sat

DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri. & Sat

Wed 2/22 - Big Adventure

Thur 2/23 - Bongo Town

Fri 2/24 - ADD

Sat 2/25 - Scott Carter

Tue 2/28 - Bernie Meisinger

Wed 2/29 - TBA

Thur 3/1 - Coso Live

Tue 3/6 - Bernie Meisinger

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

Fri 2/24 - Burlesque Jambor Tease 9pm,

Rocky Horror Picture Show 12am

Wed 2/29 - 311

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 2/23 - Shawn Jones

Fri 2/24 - Acoustic Circus featuring Emilbus

Continued on page 20

The Lighter Breeze

Sam and Silo



Zits



Shoe



Dustin



Hagar the Horrible



Crock



Solutions on page 15

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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

ACROSS

- 1 Break suddenly
- 5 \$ dispenser
- 8 Actress Sorvino
- 12 Luxurious city
- 13 Carnival city
- 14 Prayer ending
- 15 Not domestic
- 17 Bridge
- 18 Checked out
- 19 Old Portuguese money
- 21 Praise in verse
- 22 Carpet style
- 23 Sapporo sash
- 26 Lab goings-on (Abbr.)
- 28 Dada artist Max
- 31 Weaponry
- 33 Antiquated
- 35 Of planes and such
- 36 Phi Beta —
- 38 Meadow
- 40 Rotation duration
- 41 Steals from
- 43 Latin 101 word
- 45 Sesame Street's Oscar, e.g.
- 47 Super-active

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| 51 | | | | | | 52 | 53 | | | | | |
| 54 | | | | | | 55 | | | | 56 | | |
| 57 | | | | | | 58 | | | | 59 | | |

- 6 Dead heat
- 7 Fashions
- 8 Eyelash enhancer
- 9 Attacked verbally
- 10 Peruse
- 11 — Domini
- 16 Cincinnati team
- 20 That boat
- 23 Erstwhile acorn
- 24 Support system?
- 25 Made better
- 27 Under the weather
- 29 Spanish Mrs.
- 30 Gift from Santa
- 32 Husband and wife
- 34 Very inexpressive
- 37 1970 Jackson 5 hit
- 39 — nitrate
- 42 Hindu destruction god
- 44 Switch type
- 45 Snatch
- 46 Move, in Realtor-speak
- 48 Met melody
- 49 Repair
- 50 Probability
- 53 Hr. fraction

DOWN

- 1 Skewer
- 2 Iditarod terminus
- 3 Venomous vipers
- 4 Pic
- 5 Erte's style

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The adventurous Aries won't be disappointed with taking on a new challenge, despite some initial misgivings. Look for this move to open other opportunities down the line.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Let that beautiful Bovine smile not only put you at ease, but also show that you're ready, willing and more than able to confound the naysayers around you. A new admirer has important news.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be careful how you handle a relationship that you're hoping to save. You already have the facts on your side. Avoid weakening your position by embellishing it with unnecessary dramatics.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Taking definitive stands isn't easy for the often-wavering Moon Child. But you not only need to stay with your decision, but also reassure others it was the right thing to do.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) As a proud Lion, you're right to be upset about those who might be lying about you to others. But the best revenge is proving them wrong by succeeding at what you set out to do.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Caution is still advised before making a financial commitment to a "promising" project. Look for the facts

behind the fluff. Devote the weekend to loved ones.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A Taurus offers comfort and advice as you deal with an upsetting event. Use this as a learning experience that will help you avoid similar problems in the future.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A romantic situation creates some chaos for single Scorpions. But it's well worth the effort to work things out. A trusted friend can offer some helpful advice.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Expect to make new friends as your social circle expands. Also, remember to tell that family member how proud you are of his or her achievements.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) New ventures continue to be favored. And with your self-confidence rising all the time, you'll want to see how well you can do with a new challenge. So, go to it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This is a good time for the usually "serious-minded" Aquarian to let loose and enjoy some fun times. Expect to get good news about a workplace issue.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Changed plans might upset some people, but your needs should be respected. Offer explanations when necessary. But don't let yourself be talked into changing your decisions.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for bringing people together. You would make a fine judge or counselor.

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Business

Entrepreneurs Professionals “means business”

Entrepreneurs Professionals held their first meeting on Feb.9 and will meet weekly on Thursdays for lunch to provide a resource for small business owners to enable them to survive and thrive in this tough economy and beyond. The group's goal is to empower the small business community by creating a forum that brings growth and productive business opportunities to Ventura to “Rebuild America One Entrepreneur at a Time.” This “business development” group provides two unique features to its members:

The members study together weekly and follow a business development curriculum to discuss such topics as: business goals and planning, best uses of marketing and public relations, acquisition of capital, and use of social media.

The members form “Business Development Circles” and learn how to co-market their businesses as a team so that they can proactively go into the business community and pursue opportunities.

This format serves business owners and decision-makers well because it can help them to get more out of the

networking groups that they may already be attending by allowing them to take their contacts to a productive business level.

The chapter is being organized by Jeff Solis, a long-time resident of Ventura, with the assistance of Lynn Sarkany of Thousand Oaks who is the founder of the organization. “The stimulus packages missed Main Street and they missed the small business community.” Jeff also noted, “We cannot expect corporations to provide us with the jobs of the future. If we want to take America back to its former level of productivity and ingenuity we have to do it ourselves, and we have to do it through the vision of entrepreneurs and small businesses. Many of us work for companies of 30 employees or less, so it is time that small business and entrepreneurs had a voice in this country. This is why I am glad to bring this resource to our small business community.”

Each chapter can only have one of each business type, but Jeff and Lynn will work with the business community to form as many chapters as are needed for support. These chapters can meet at a day and time that is most convenient to the individual group of business owners.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.meetup.com/Entrepreneurs-Professionals-Ventura/>

Jsolis@EntrepreneursProfessionals.com

www.EntrepreneursProfessionals.com

or (888)-653-7810.

Youth



These racing machines have come a long way since they were soap boxes as they race down Hillmont St.

AASBD Championship Race to be held

Soap Box Derby racers from as far away as San Diego and the Bay Area converged on Ventura recently to compete for rally points in an All-American Soap Box Derby (AASBD.org) rally event on Hillmont Street. Soap Box Derby races have been held continuously on Hillmont Street for over 30 years and at other locations in Ventura as far back as the 1950s. California Family Soap Box Derby Association (CFSBDA) stages two rally races every year in Ventura, one in September and another in February. Rally racing is the best way to experience the fun, competitiveness and camaraderie of soap box derby racing on a regular basis. This season, in addition to Ventura, rally races in our region have been held in La Mesa, Oceanside, Palm Desert, Palo Alto, San Diego, Santa Maria, Tuolumne, and Victorville CA.

The AASBD Local Championship Race will be held in Ventura on June 3 & 4.

The All-American Soap Box Derby has become an American tradition. It affords families an opportunity to bond with their kids as they build and race their own cars, working together to meet the challenge of gravity racing. This June, Ventura will again be the site of the Greater Los Angeles Area Soap Box Derby Local Championship Race—the largest, sanctioned All-American Soap Box Derby event in greater Los Angeles. The race will be divided into two divisions – Stock and Super Stock – and the winner in each division will represent Los Angeles on July 21 in the 75th All-American Soap Box Derby Championships in Akron, Ohio. All boys and girls ages 7 through 17 years old from Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Kern, San Luis Obispo and Riverside counties are invited to enter this event. For more information on how to enter, contact Bill Speeg, CFSBDA President, bill@freeberg.com.

2012 Ventura County Fair Poster Contest for Children

The Ventura County Fair is having a poster contest for the 2012 Ventura

County Fair. The contest is open to young artists in grades 5 - 12 who reside in Ventura County.

The theme of the 2012 Fair is “Rides, Ribbons & Rodeos” and will serve as the only guideline to the imagery. Artwork may be created in any style and medium, but may not be 3 dimensional or include glitter.

Winning images will be used for the official 2012 Ventura County Fair collectable art poster and for the 2012 Ventura County Fair marketing poster as well as in other marketing materials.

Prizes in the amount of \$500 (1st Prize), \$250 (2nd Prize), and \$100 (3rd Prize) will be awarded. Two Fair admission tickets will be awarded for every valid entry. All contest participants will be invited to ride on the Junior Fair Board float in the Ventura County Fair Parade on Saturday, August 4.

Deadline for entry submission is Saturday, March 31. Entries should be delivered to the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

“Rides, Ribbons & Rodeos” begins on Wednesday, August 1. The Fair continues through Sunday, August 12.

For more information about the poster contest, please call the Ventura County Fairgrounds at 648-3376 or visit www.venturacountyfair.org.

Youth Of The Year competition

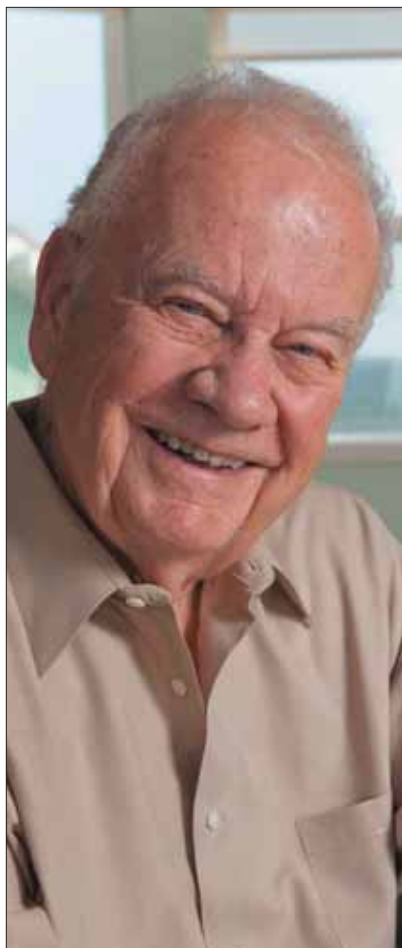
The 3rd annual Boys & Girls Club Coastal Area Council Youth of the Year competition will be held from 12:00 – 1:30pm, Thur., March 8 at the Wedgewood Banquet Center, 5880 Olivas Park Dr.

One of the youth chosen from Clubs in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties will be selected for the honor of competing for the California State Boys & Girls Club “Youth of the Year” title. The youth competing share their personal stories and histories speaking of how Club staff, volunteers and programs helped them succeed as students and community leaders.

In September the five winners of the State and regional competitions will assemble in Washington, D.C. and compete for the honor of being named the National Youth of the Year, the most prestigious honor a Boys & Girls Club member can attain.

The Boys & Girls Club is a nationwide movement working to help youth of all backgrounds develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and leaders. There are over 4,000 Clubs providing year-round programs to millions of young people (6-18 years of age). The majority of Clubs are located in areas focusing on serving the young people who need help the most including on Native American lands, public housing areas (the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura is one of the first in the country to open a center in a public housing area), schools and on military bases around the world.

The cost to attend the event is \$25.00 per person or \$200 for a table of 8. For additional information or to RSVP contact Linda White at bgcwhite@bgcsimi.com by February 24.



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Art Scene



It took Ike to get Scott Gordon to move to Ventura

Introducing new WAV resident artist Scott Gordon

"It's as if I was meant to be here and it only took a category four hurricane to get me to realize and act on it!" So recounts Scott Gordon, a California native, who after 13 long years in Houston, Tx. has finally found himself home once again by the Pacific.

In 2008 Gordon had begun preparing for his 11th solo exhibition in Houston; what he hoped would be his magnum opus. He worked for a solid 18 months, produced a catalog and spent a small fortune preparing. Mother Nature had entirely different plans for Gordon and Houston in the guise of Hurricane Ike. "It was the second costliest hurricane in the United States and it landed on the night of my opening. It brought the city to a virtual standstill for months as the entire infrastructure crumbled," Gordon recounts. He watched his dreams dissipate with the receding wind and water. "People lost their lives and their homes. All I lost was a dream, but I was devastated nonetheless."

It took him two years to recover, but during that time he began to hear and honor the quiet internal yearning that had always been there since leaving California – to come back home. The unassuming beauty of Ventura with its sparkling shores, its small town appeal, and its promise as New Art City appealed to Gordon. "It wasn't until I came here to visit a friend's mother in the Keys that I became smitten – 'I could live here' I thought, in fact...I want to live here!"

So he headed back to Texas; sold, donated gave away and discarded everything that would not fit in his Dodge Neon and promptly left Texas. "I had never done anything so bold, so daring, and so crazy."

He landed on Ventura's shores in August of 2010 without a job or residence at the ready and took the first of both that he could find. Hearing about the WAV, he submitted his application with the hope of taking root in the local community of Ventura artists.

"It was a dream come true" says Gordon, "15 months later out of 32 applicants from around the world, I was selected to join the WAV community this past October."

Gordon has been creating art for over 25 years and is represented by Hooks Epstein Gallery in Texas. He is in numerous public and private collections, both nationally and internationally. Gordon's rich painterly collages can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/74296814@N08/> or alternatively you can visit his studio (#208) at the WAV for "First Friday" of every month.

BAA announces scholarship competition

The Buenaventura Art Association has announced their 5th annual scholarship competition titled "The Buenaventura Art Association Emerging Artist Cup." This competition is open to students attending a college or university in Ventura County. Over \$3,500 in scholarships will be awarded as well as 10 non-cash awards. All winners will also receive a free one year membership in the Buenaventura Art Association with exhibit opportunities throughout the year.

The competition runs from March 7 – April 2 with an opening reception/awards ceremony on Friday, March 9 from 5 – 8 pm at The Harbor Village. Students are requested to bring their work to the Harbor Village Gallery on Sunday, March 4 from 3 – 6 pm; Monday, March 5; or Tuesday March 6 from 11 am to 2 pm. Entry forms are available at either the Buenaventura Gallery, The Harbor Village Gallery or online at www.HarborVillageGallery.com.

Art Tales a unique contest for creative writers

The City of Ventura in partnership with E.P. Foster Library is hosting a free contest open to all Ventura County residents.

Submit a short story or poem inspired by one of the Municipal Art Collection works of art currently on loan to E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St., by April 2, 2012.

Prizes will be awarded in three age divisions.

Teachers and writers: for entry guidelines and lesson plans go to www.cityofventura.net/ArtTales

Ten artists selected for formal documentation

Focus on the Masters is pleased to announce that ten artists have been selected for Focus on the Masters (FOTM) formal documentation by a distinguished jury of educators and artists for the 2012 season. An artist will be featured each month beginning Tuesday, February 28, 2012 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. as part of FOTM's popular Artist Spotlight interview series, now entering its eighteenth year in programming. The interviews, filmed before a studio audience, will take place at a new venue this season at The Comedy Club at The Harbor in Ventura, 1559 Spinnaker Dr. Documentation derived from this interview and extensive oral interviews will be added to the prestigious FOTM archive.

These exceptional artists have been selected for in-depth documentation, a process that culminates with the Artist Spotlight public interview. Criteria for



Ventura financial services firm, Crowell, Weedon & Co., is excited to showcase yet another remarkable collection by local artist Dan LaVigne in their office. LaVigne has been a professional artist since receiving his bachelor's in fine arts in 1981. In an effort to support the arts community, Crowell Weedon showcases various artists by exhibiting their artwork throughout their office, located at 5740 Ralston Street. Crowell Weedon is regularly seeking local artists to display work in their office. For artists interested in displaying at Crowell Weedon, please contact Cheryl Gooss, 620-4700 or cgooss@crowellweedon.com, or Carrie Stanton at 816-9344.

being selected for formal documentation include the artists' mastery of their craft, respect from their peers and their historic role in the life of our artistic community.

Admission to the Artist Spotlight interviews is free for FOTM members; general admission is \$10, seniors \$5.

An elegant and celebratory AfterGLOW fundraising dinner will take place at The Comedy Club immediately following the first interview of the 2012 season on February 28. The dinner is \$20 for FOTM members, \$30 for non-members. There will be a no-host bar. Reservations are essential for the AfterGLOW celebration and can be made online at www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or by calling Focus on the Masters at 653-2501.

Paint Ventura

Paint Ventura 2012 is currently seeking artists for its expanded 4 day weekend art experience April 26th-29th.

Paint Ventura's third free creative adventure features over 100 Artists creating, selling and teaching in downtown Ventura. Each day is FREE

to the public, encouraging people of all ages to visually explore historic Downtown Ventura's art scene and Ventura County's creative individuals.

The 4 day Paint Ventura will begin with the Paint Out on Thursday and Friday April 26th and 27th. Plein Air artists will begin with a fresh canvas or paper and have two days to paint as many Ventura inspired paintings as they wish.

Saturday, April 28th 9-5pm – "Paint Ventura Umbrella Art Fair." Over 100 Artists will be participating in an umbrella art festival where they will be creating art, selling their pieces and conducting workshops. The 300 block of Main Street will be closed for the festival as the artists set up and sell their work in the street. Live entertainment by several local musicians will be performing on the Mini Park Stage, plus the Plein Air artists will be painting in the mini park completing their works from the paint-out as they prepare for Sunday's competition.

Sunday, April 29th 11am-5pm- Easel Show and Best of Show Judging

Continued on page 20



A long-time resident of Ventura County, Virginia Beale began painting in 2005, and in this short time she has created a large body of work. Her paintings showcase her desire to bring the beauty of the outdoors into our homes and businesses. Not afraid to use color, sometimes bold other times subtle as the vehicle to make a painting stand out. A collection of her work is on display at the downtown E.P. Foster Library until July. Visit her website at virginiabeale.com as well as Facebook.

This 'n' That

GOING ON VACATION? BE SURE TO TAKE THE VENTURA BREEZE WITH YOU AND SEND US A PHOTO WITH A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP AND EMAIL TO EDITOR@VENTURABREEZE.COM

THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGE

The Lang family was sure to take the Breeze with them to Cozumel at the family gathering in celebration of their parents (George and Ethel) who would have been 90 and 100 last month. Any excuse for them to celebrate something - anything!!

Paint Ventura
Continued from page 19
for the Works created during the Paint Out Thurs-Sat.

All of the artists that participate in the Paint Out will have the opportunity to have their paintings created throughout the weekend in the easel show at Red Brick Gallery. The finished pieces will be for sale and are eligible for one of the people's choice awards.

Paint Ventura is currently seeking artists to participate in creating, selling their work and conducting workshops.

For more information please check the web-site www.PaintVentura.com. Paint Ventura has been created by Jen and Phyllis and Red Brick Gallery 805-643-6400.

For all artists and Workshop teachers

wishing to participate please check out web-site for application and details.

Fee: Paint Out Thurs – Sunday is \$10 a piece, each piece will be entered into the easel show. For Saturday's Umbrella Art Fair: Booth Participation Fee is \$50 for 10x10 pop-up or \$35 for a table location.

Pre-Columbian Musical and Mesoamerican inspired pieces

Music before Columbus: The Collection of Luis Perez opens at the Museum of Ventura County on

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February 25, exhibiting Ventura-based musician and archaeomusicologist Luis Perez's collection of Pre-Columbian musical instruments and ritual objects from Mesoamerica.

A related exhibit entitled The White Instruments: Recent Creations by Luis Perez, features modern wind and percussion instruments sculpted in clay by Perez.

He uses these Pre-Columbian inspired pieces to compose and record contemporary music. Both exhibits run through May 27.

The opening reception for these exhibits and for Hilos de la Vida/Threads of Life: The Weavers of Teotitlán del Valle is Friday, February 24, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., with musical entertainment by Grupo Amor y Paz.

Admission to the reception is \$5 for the general public, free for museum members. To RSVP call 653-0323 x7.

On Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 p.m. Perez will share his knowledge about music and ritual in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica and demonstrate the unique sounds of a selection of artifacts from the exhibit.

Admission to the lecture is \$5 for the general public, free for museum members.

Music calendar

Continued from page 16

- Sat 2/25 - The Bomb
- Sun 2/26 - 50 Sticks of Dynamite
- Thur 3/1 - Shawn Jones
- Fri 3/2 - Mini Driver
- Sat 3/3 - Legalizers
- Sun 3/4 - Maitland

Yolies/Hi Hat Entertainment

138 W. Main St., 805-816-9663
Top Notch Musicians and Bands every Fri 8pm
Fri 2/24 - Los Fabulocos
Fri 3/2 - Candye Kane

Zoey's Café

185 E. Santa Clara St., 805-652-1137
Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm
Wed 2/22 - Ari Hest & Danielle Taylor 8pm
Thur 2/23 - Spivey, Black Action Suites & Astral Weather 8pm
Fri 2/24 - Timmy Curran Solo Acoustic 8pm
Sat 2/25 - Chris Pierce & Band, Jade Hendrix 8pm, Residency w/Plastic Spikes 11pm
Sun 2/26 - Via Marina, Two Minute Hero, 10am Movenent 7pm
Tue 2/28 - Blue Grass Jam 8pm
Wed 2/29 - Jane Carrey 7pm
Thur 3/1 - Lily and Marley 8pm
Fri 3/2 - Matt Van Winkle & Bunny West 9pm
Sat 3/3 - Tommy Marsh and Band 8pm, King Washington 10pm

Ventura Breeze Service Directory

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Mommy and Me Yoga and Kid's Yoga
Karma Kid's Yoga Birthday Parties

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