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# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 5, No. 11

Published Every Other Wednesday

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

March 7 - March 20, 2012



Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney talked with the Breeze about how crime is becoming a growing problem in the city of Ventura.

## Police chief discusses city's current crime problems

by Tim Pompey

Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney believes the city of Ventura has some serious crime problems. For instance, gang violence. "For 2011, our 60% increase in violent gang crime is among the most concerning things that we have to deal with," he said, "and it's reflected in the nearly 24% increase in violent crimes citywide."

There's also a growing problem with robberies and felony assaults. The latter seems to be linked to problems with homelessness and vagrancy. "Along with the increase in homelessness and vagrancy calls for service (CFS), we've also seen an increase in assaults between these groups," he said. "Our experience indicates they're often fighting with each other."

As proof, Corney points to a recent review by the VPD of calls for service data which estimated that approximately 20% of the VPD's calls for service were related to chronic offenders and vagrants within the Downtown Reporting Districts.

For Corney, fighting crime on a practical level boils down to one word: resources. "When you take out all the contractual obligations not paid for by the city, we actually have 115 officers, down from 134 just two years ago," he said, "and we've reduced our nonsworn

*Continued on page 3*

**While in Ireland for Lá Fhéile Pádraig (St. Patrick's Day) you can always catch up with the Breeze at [venturabreeze.com](http://venturabreeze.com)**



The Gold Coast Lady Anglers held their monthly potluck/business meeting in Ventura

## Casting call for Lady Anglers!

by Barbie Lange

Fun, Fishing and Friendship is the mission statement of the Gold Coast Lady Anglers (GCLA), a saltwater fishing club based in Ventura that includes women of all ages and skill levels. "GCLA members come from a wide range of professions and backgrounds," says Jeanne Zappia, president and co-founder of the GCLA. They currently have 60 members and counting. "We are a very diverse group, like a jigsaw puzzle and form a beautiful picture," says Zappia.

In 1990 Zappia was living in Thousand Oaks and attending a local church that had a fishing ministry for men only. She really wanted to join them but couldn't. A male friend chartered a boat outside of the church group and invited both women and men to go. She borrowed some tackle for the trip and the rest is history. Zappia continued going fishing frequently and started

chartering her own boats and invited men to go along. In 1999 she met Jacqui Appell and the two became best friends and fished together quite a bit with a group in Marina Del Rey.

After numerous fishing trips down there, they decided to form a women's fishing group in Ventura County. The first year they were the only members of the club. "It was difficult trying to find women who were interested in fishing," she says. In 2002 a sportswriter for the Ventura County Star wrote an article on the club and immediately they received phone calls and emails from women wanting to know more about the club.

The club hosts a potluck/business meeting each month at a member's home. At last February's potluck, 28 ladies joined in the fun, arriving every five minutes carrying one delicious dish

*Continued on page 18*

## Breaking news – a price is going down!

Beginning March 1, the paid parking spaces on Fir, Chestnut, Oak and Palm Streets will be reduced in price from \$1.00 per hour to \$0.50 per hour and payments can be made in increments of time less than one hour.

All net revenue is used for a cleaner and safer downtown, security, clean sidewalks, parking lot and alley improvements and landscape beautification.



## Digging up the Cemetery Park controversy again

by Stephanie Sumell

Greg Webster said a recent trip to Cemetery Memorial Park, the site of 3,000 mostly unmarked graves, left him both angry and heartbroken.

"I was with my girlfriend and we were brushing the grass off a marker so we could read it, and this lady's dog came up and peed on it," Webster said.

Webster, a sixth-generation Venturian, has four ancestors, one of whom fought in the Civil War, buried at the park, located on Main Street in Ventura.

The 7.09-acre site served as a city cemetery from 1862 until 1944 when the City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting burials within the city limits.

Steve Schleider, a restorationist, said he was "horrified" when he first learned of the park's history. "I had just moved to town and a friend was showing me around," he said. "He showed me the park and said out of the corner of his mouth that there were 3,000 people buried there...Of course, I thought he was joking."

In the 1960s, the then Ventura

*Continued on page 3*



Greg Webster and Steve Schleider are horrified at what has happened to Cemetery Memorial Park

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



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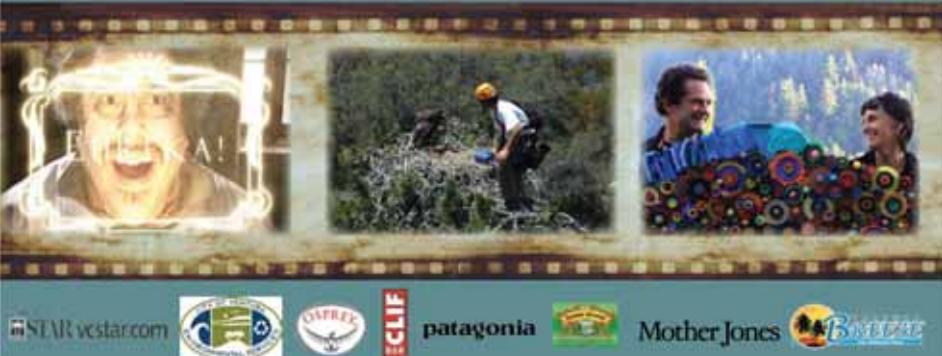
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- ✓ Friday, March 9th  
Pi Day – Celebrate Einstein's Birthday with Ignite Creative Learning Center
- ✓ Thursday, March 15th  
St. Patrick's/Ireland Kids Yoga with Valerie
- ✓ Saturday, March 17th  
ParentClick KIDS EXPO at Pacific View Mall focused on Local Resources for newborns – 18 yrs old. Over 50 activities, on-stage entertainment, demonstrations from City Safety Personnel, Giveaway's, and much MORE including the Ventura Breeze Booth with free face painting!
- ✓ Sunday, March 18th  
Celebration of the Whales Festival at Channel Islands Harbor
- ✓ Wednesday, March 21st  
Rubicon Theatre presents: "Hello, My Baby" – A world premiere musical comedy

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### Police chief

*Continued from page 1*  
employees who contribute to our crime fighting efforts from 59 to 39."

Currently, Ventura's crime rate stands at about 34 crimes per thousand residents. By comparison, Oxnard has about 25 crimes per thousand, Simi Valley 14 crimes per thousand, and Thousand Oaks 17 crimes per thousand. "I don't believe our city should be any higher than any other comparable size city," Corney noted. "Our goal is to get to the average of the Part I crimes (violent and property crimes) per thousand among these three cities, and right now we're significantly behind them."

How best to address these problems? For Corney, it's about allowing enough staffing to maintain some flexibility in the management of police resources. For instance, he would like to reestablish a team to deal with gang violence.

"I used to be the sergeant in charge of an 8-officer gang violence suppression unit," he said. "We were proactive with enforcement, intervention, and prevention. Today, we only have the resources to assign two officers to investigate gang crime after it happens. We don't have the resources for the proactive approach that is the most effective way to prevent gang violence."

Corney also expressed his concern about the department's ability to solve the crimes that do occur. "We actually do a good job of solving crimes, usually at or above national averages," he noted, "but with increases in crime coupled with reductions in resources, our capacity for timely investigative crime solving is also reduced and can affect our crime solving results."

So what does Corney suggest to address Ventura's crime problem?

"I think we need to recommit resources to our gang and gang

violence prevention efforts," he said. "I also think we need to move quickly to address increased problems with vagrancy that create quality of life issues. We've gone beyond the tipping point with this issue in our community. It's going to require some intensive community policing efforts working in partnership with social services, and a wide range of city resources. We need a team to address this 7 days a week 365 days a year."

Corney has had to move officers from specialized assignments like traffic safety, property crimes and narcotic investigation to fill basic minimum patrol response needs. At the same time he has had to deal with the reality of injury traffic accidents exceeding the numbers of violent crimes as well as fresh crime arrests related to drugs, narcotics and thefts. "There are no decisions about staffing without creating competing consequences," he said.

In addition, Corney sees the need to continue and expand partnerships within the community and to bring in more volunteers and civilians to help with policing. "We could use more nonsworn resources to handle things like crime scene investigation, crime prevention meetings, and investigative follow-ups."

Without these additional resources, Corney believes that increases in crime may continue to be a problem in the city. "Our department constantly evaluates crime trends and strives to direct resources to meet the dynamic nature of crime in the community," he said. "Unfortunately, we are at the point where shifting our resources just pushes our crime from one place to another."

*Breeze: Chief Corney was number 23 in The Face Of Ventura portraits by Johanna Spinks (see page 10)*

### Cemetery Park

*Continued from page 1*

City Manager, with the approval of the City Council, supervised the removal of the headstones. The city stored the headstones for approximately five years before burying them, dropping them in the ocean or using them as a foundation for the Olivas Park and Golf Course.

According to the conclusions reached in a 2004-2005 Grand Jury report, "The City appears to have been somewhat insensitive to those interred in the cemetery, their families, and the cemetery's historical significance."

Headstones have been found in various locations around the city including Surfer's Point, Hall Canyon, and behind the Los Olivas golf course.

"I think everyone acknowledges the decisions made 50 years ago from today's vantage point, look appalling," City Manager, Rick Cole, said, adding, "but what was done was done and the gravestones are scattered."

Cole maintains that the former and current decisions made by the city concerning the cemetery are legal.

"Two city attorneys and the grand jury have concluded that it's not clear that any laws were broken," he said. "There are various ways to read various laws but there's no compelling evidence that any laws were broken at any time."

Schleder disagrees. "The city attorneys know that the city has done something really wrong here and they've done it illegally," Schleder said. "If they reverse themselves, they're going to run into some class action lawsuits so I don't think they're going to try to remedy the situation at all."

Although the City has no plans

to restore the park to its original state, according to Nancy O'Connor, Ventura's park manager, the City is currently finalizing plans to improve the park's appearance and educate visitors on the park's history.

"I think while we live in a modern world, it's important that we also recognize and honor the fact that many people came before us," O'Connor said. "I think the new design does a really good job of that."

"A lot of people are not happy about this. I'm not the only one," Webster said. "The city desecrated a pioneer cemetery. Let's find and recover every single headstone we can and put them back where they belong."

Schleder has made it his mission to restore the cemetery. He created a website named "Restore St. Mary's Cemetery," dedicated to the cause, that includes photographs, records, and the 2004-2005 Grand Jury report and often appears before the city council to express his views.

The website endorses the following goals: recognizing the park as "St. Mary's Cemetery Park & Ventura Cemetery Park," installing signage, determining the location of the deceased and acknowledging them, retrieving, as far as possible, all historic headstones, and installing lighting.

Schleder said "There are so many fraternal organizations chomping at the bit to bring the history back and they would do it all for free," he said. "We need to return the dead to their rightful place in history, but the City doesn't want that. They want a dog park there."

For more information on the Friends of St. Mary's Cemetery, see [www.restorestmarys.org](http://www.restorestmarys.org)



# City News



On March 5 Shaw Construction finally began moving the sand in front of Greenock Lane. Photo by George Robertson

## Moving sand at the beach

by Rick Cole  
City Manager

After 13 years of stalemate, a massive effort to clear sand away from beach-front homes and public access stairs gets underway this week in the Pierpont neighborhood. Trucks will be moving an estimated 54,000 tons of sand that have built up over the years, the equivalent of an entire football field stacked two stories high.

It's a long and frustrating story how we ended up in this expensive fix. Decades ago, a street ran along the rear of the beach, known as Shore Drive. Over the years sand covered it over. Although the beach belongs to the State of California, City crews continued to maintain the "easement" by using bulldozers to push sand back from the homes and ends of the "lanes." That worked fine

until 1999, when the City applied for a routine permit from the California Coastal Commission.

City Public Works officials were told that due to concerns about dune habitat, the Commission would no longer allow use of mechanized equipment to be used. Rather than fight that decision, the City simply left the problem to the State beach and homeowners. That proved a fateful mistake.

Within 10 years natural forces created huge dunes that were toppling homeowner walls and covering public stairs near the beach. But the four-way stalemate (City, residents, Coastal Commission, State Beach) only got worse as an effort to find a mutually agreeable solution collapsed in a bitter controversy over a "sand management plan" hatched in consultation with the Coastal Commission. Many neighbors angrily dismissed the idea that they should have to pay for an expensive environmental mitigation project just to keep sand from overwhelming their homes. Suddenly the elusive "legless lizard" and other obscure rare species were the subject of noisy wrangling between residents, environmentalists and public officials.

Meanwhile the sand got higher. Fed up, a number of homeowners filed suit against the City to force action. Although an expensive remedy, it turned out to be the key to finding a solution. Because it turns out that when voters established the California Coastal Commission, the initiative protected "the power of any city or county to declare, prohibit, and abate nuisances."

So when a judge found the City responsible for abating the "nuisance" of sands damaging private property and

creating unsafe conditions for public access to the beach, the way was finally cleared to start clearing the sand.

I had my own opportunity to pitch in last Saturday. Volunteer Ventura stages clean-up events throughout our community, including periodic efforts to spruce up our parks, given the staffing cutbacks due to the Great Recession. On Saturday morning, volunteers flocked to Marina Park in the Pierpont neighborhood to repaint trash barrels, pick up trash amongst the iceplant and to shovel sand from the pathways around the colorful play structure.

I joined Terri Huston and her son Billy who'd arrived earlier and grabbed shovel and broom to clear the playground pathway. We teamed up and worked for two solid hours, but were running out of steam as we neared the end, particularly as we dug into wet sand, which is considerably heavier.

There's an even bigger clean-up for the South Seaward area coming up on Saturday, March 10. Volunteers will gather at the parking lot next to Keller Williams Realty and spend the morning from 9 am to noon sprucing up our gateway to the beach. Please join in.

## City Council approves proposals

by Nancy Broschart  
Ventura Water

The Ventura City Council got its first look at potential new water and wastewater rates on February 27, when the citizen Rate Advisory Committee presented its financial recommendations intended to protect the future health of the water and wastewater utilities. As a first step, the Council agreed with most of the recommendations and is expected to consider a public outreach process that may raise rates later this year.

The opening remarks from Committee Chairman John Mundy addressed the importance of providing stewardship of the community's water resources, including environmental protection and civic engagement.

Shana Epstein, Ventura Water General Manager, presented an overview of a cost of service study, conducted with input from the Committee over the past six months and developed by Raftelis Financial Consultants, a leader in the water rate financial industry. The study revealed that water usage patterns had changed since the last formal cost of service analysis was performed in the early 1990s and it recommends restructuring rates to more equitably balance the revenue requirements to different customer classes.

Highlights of water rate modifications included a higher service charge to support revenue stability and tighter residential tiers to encourage water efficiency. For the residential wastewater rates, it is proposed that the tiers be discontinued and that a winter average be used to set a flat rate to be charged starting each July.

If implemented, bills may also reflect a separate line as an "Estuary Protection Charge" to fund planning for a water reuse program for the water currently released in the Santa Clara River estuary from the City's Water Reclamation Facility.

Under the proposed rates, the

bimonthly bill for the average single family residential customer using about 15,700 gallons of water may increase \$9.04 the first year and another \$5.96 the second year. The wastewater bimonthly bill for a single family residential customer will decrease \$6.66 the first year and increase \$3.60 the second year, with a net decrease of \$3.06 over the two years.

A Council decision on the Committee's recommendation to eliminate the public art obligation for some of the water and wastewater capital projects was deferred, pending input from the City's Cultural Affairs and Public Art commissions.

Residents are encouraged to visit [www.cityofventura.net/water/resources](http://www.cityofventura.net/water/resources) to review the proposed rates as well as the Committee's materials and the results of their work.

## Ventura looks to keep shopping carts off the streets

by Rebecca Wicks

In an attempt to minimize shopping carts from being abandoned around the city, the Ventura City Council passed an ordinance last month outlining businesses responsibilities for keeping track of their shopping carts. The measure was approved as part of the city's larger endeavor to make the city more attractive as well as an effort to decrease homelessness. The ordinance was urged on and supported by a number of vocal residents.

Resident George Robertson, who bicycles regularly near the Santa Clara and Ventura Rivers, had been sending photos of abandoned shopping carts to the California Shopping Cart Retrieval Service Corp. and the city for more than a year, urging them to do something more.

"Cart retrieval should be the last alternative," said Robertson. "There would be no need for a shopping cart retrieval service if the merchants kept carts from leaving their premises."

The new ordinance seems to follow Robertson's logic placing the onerous squarely on the shoulders of retailers requiring stores with more than 10 carts to integrate security measures to keep them in or near their storefronts. Security steps might include locking up carts at night or cart devices where

*Continued on page 13*

## Spring ahead!



Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 11. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

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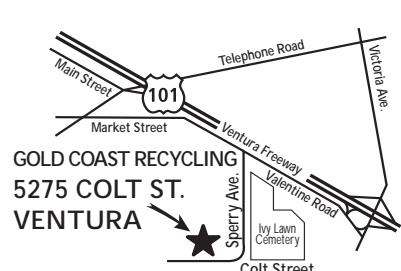
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# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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

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American Foothill Publishing Co.

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1575 Spinnaker Drive, 105B, Box 393  
Ventura, CA 93001  
805.653.0791 • Fax 805.641.3158



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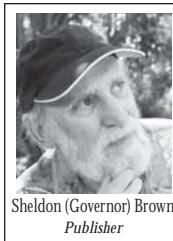
City council:

57% of the voters voted against the incumbents and trust in government is at an all time low. Approving protocols to further limit citizen input at such a time has not been thought out.

With three members of the council now coming from an administrative/staff point of view, Ventura is looking less and less like a representative form of government and more like an administrative one.

The public gripe has been that the City Council representatives of the public do not listen to the public and therefore do not truly represent them.

# Opinion/Editorial



I want to thank wonderful Barbara Meister for inviting Diane and I to be her guest at the one-night-only performance of Lillias White (and her 3 piece band) at the benefit concert for the Rubicon Theater Company held at our incredible Rubicon Theatre. Lillias was a wonderful performer and I never cease to be amazed and entertained at the performances at the Rubicon, certainly one of the finest small theaters in the country (If not the best). If you haven't been lately (or ever) do yourself a favor and attend a show there.

The next performance at the Rubicon is a "Tin-Pan-tastic" world premiere musical "Hello Baby" from March 21 to April 15. So save some money from your taxes and attend.

■ On a much-much sadder note on Feb. 14 local painting contractor Mark Roberts died in a tragic auto accident on Highway 178 between Bakersfield and Kern County. Mark and wife Shellie split their time between Ventura and Kernville where they had recently built a home and planned to retire.

Many of us know Shellie from her many years working at the building department and more recently as a building inspector.

My heartfelt condolences go out to this wonderful lady and their family.

■ The Ventura Breeze Facebook is getting much more of our attention now, so check it out.

■ So to apologize for calling Sandra Fluke a "slut" and "prostitute" Rusty Limbaugh said that he was only making a joke.

I get it now "slut" and "prostitute" very funny. I'm surprised that I didn't get it right away.

■ The price for the paid parking spaces on downtown side streets have been reduced.

I'm glad that the city council continues to re-evaluate the Parking Management Program and make adjustments as are necessary.

I have no problem with the meters, if you would rather not use them park on Poli and get a little exercise and there are many 24 minute free spaces if you need to get in and out of a business.

■ The Pierpont sand removal project along Beach was delayed by more than a week while the contractor tracks down a scale to measure how much of the sand they are removing. Shaw Contracting Inc., the low bidder for the contract to remove the sand, is being paid for every ton removed, which is why the scale is necessary. Gosh and gee whiz shouldn't he have found the scale prior to the March 1 start date for the removal?

I hope that there is a penalty clause in his contract for this delay.

■ In the last issue I told you of just some of California's new laws that I don't think that we really need. Here are few more.

**Infused drinks:** allows bars to infuse alcohol with fruits and vegetables for use in cocktails (thank goodness at last I can have a Kool Aid cocktail)

**Job applicants:** bars employers from using credit reports in deciding whether to hire someone (Now maybe I can get a job serving hamburgers).

**Lying politicians:** forces elected officials to forfeit office if convicted of falsely claiming they were awarded military decorations (finally a stop to lying politicians).

**Prison phones:** makes it a crime for cell phones to be smuggled into state prisons and allows increased time behind bars for inmates caught with them (very good I'm tired of getting obscene phone calls for Joliet).

**Protests:** makes it a misdemeanor to create a disturbance on or next to an elementary or middle school campus where the actions

threaten the physical safety of students (Brilliant. Who decides if it threatens the physical safety of students? Lots of luck, your honor).

**Puppies:** outlaws the selling of live animals on any street, sidewalk, parking lot, or other public right-of-way (What if they get a Girl Scout Cookie with each pet?).

**Raves:** requires any state agency that plans an event with more than 10,000 people on state property to conduct a threat assessment before the event (Good idea, after the event might be a waste of time).

**Wine:** provides a special permit that makes it easier for California firms to sell wine over the Internet, by phone or by direct mail (Great, now we will get phone calls for life insurance, carpet cleaning and Blue Nun).

■ At the recent NBA All Star game Dwayne Wade fouled Kobe Bryant and broke his nose. In apologizing he said, "I didn't mean to hurt nobody." So now he hurt Kobe and the English language. But we should give him a break (no pun intended) he only makes \$30,000,000.00 per year for playing basketball 6 months a year.

**The Ventura Breeze is looking for advertising advisers (fancy name for sales people) to sell ad space to businesses and professionals in Ventura and surrounding areas.**

**This is for commission only and is more of a supplemental income than a full time job and salary. Great for a student, retired person, a way to get out of the house or someone who needs some extra income and the hours are very flexible. Could be a full time income if someone really kicks patootie (publishing term).**

**If this is something that you are interested in please contact us at:**  
**publisher@venturabreeze.com.**

## Mailbox

75% don't even bother to vote, saying, "It doesn't matter, they don't listen anyway."

I heard this repeatedly when I was registering voters in the MiniPark for over a year every Saturday. Council members are seen to be extensions of the staff. Approving these 3 protocols will give credence to those claims:

1. Telling the citizens they can only cede time to each other if they form an organization, i.e another "special interest" group, discriminates against the ordinary citizen and will simply result in another one being formed. The intention was to make meetings shorter and keep individuals from getting more than 3 minutes. This proposed protocol will result in more people organizing, and in anger, more people making more extended presentations. What could be gained by this (maybe 10 minutes) would be far outweighed by the backlash and further degradation of trust.

2. Telling the citizens that they cannot direct a comment to a council member, sounds like the council is trying to dodge accountability for their actions. If a council member commits an egregious act against the people, the people should have the right to speak to it. I predict this one would be ignored. Are you going to arrest the speaker? This won't help the city's image.

3. Telling the citizens they cannot put in a speaker's card after the staff begins their presentation is pointless and unfair to all those who watch from home and don't know what the staff's presentation is addressing until it begins. Many's the night that I have seen citizens come

rushing in to address a staff proposal as a result of seeing it on TV.

This one looks like only the insiders, who monitor the agendas and staff reports will be allowed to engage.

I hope you will simply delete these three protocols and increase opportunities for civic engagement, not try to disengage them.

Respectfully,  
Camille Harris  
Ventura

Breeze:

The Conservatives want "Government to stay out of our lives", but their rhetoric and policies speak otherwise. Examples include contraception coverage, medical issues as termination of a pregnancy or end-of-life issues as tube feeding comatose patients, or who should be allowed to marry.

Our employer based health care insurance is so archaic; if you lose your job, you lose your health insurance. Private health insurance has been able to deny coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions. People are concerned about "government health care", but the majority of people on Medicare are very satisfied with their "government insurance". Congress is also satisfied with their "government health insurance", which is paid for by the taxpayers (even the

taxpayers who can't afford health insurance for themselves).

Basic Health Insurance should be available to everyone and should be paid for through mandatory paycheck deductions (after all, Social Security, workers compensation, disability insurance are all mandatory). More affluent people can purchase additional coverage as desired.

Universal health care insurance is an area where government should be involved! NOW!

Judith A. Beay  
Ventura

Editor:

The City of Ventura is about to start final hearings on the Westside Plan and Code, and parks continue to be an unresolved problem. City officials say they can't afford any new parks; the community says they have been short-changed for years and it is time to build parks in their neighborhood.

Suggestions from residents and community groups have been consolidated into a plan that shows how parks can be built on vacant lots and underused public land. The plan asks for these eleven simple, deliverable improvements:

1. Improve the City owned parks on the Westside: Westpark and Brock Linear

*Continued on page 7*

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of others.

– Charles Dickens



## News and Notes

# Chamber Leadership Development Program

by Staci Brown

I am honored to have the opportunity to participate in the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Leadership Development Program, which began for me in January, 2012 and which will continue for two years.

I have to thank Lynn Mikelatos, owner of the Greek and Margarita Villa for the extended invitation. The first year we meet once a month for 11 months and the second year we will be leading the activities and planning for the incoming 2013 class, utilizing our teachings from this year.

Not only do we participate in an exceptional leadership development-training program, but we also meet and hear from many key community leaders about the community and we also have site visits to understand and learn more about Ventura's local issues. We have toured City Hall and the Ventura County Government Center, spending quality time in the judge's courtroom asking many questions. We also have broken off into smaller groups where each group will participate in a hands-on community project to enhance and grow the chosen sight or organization. Previous projects have included the Cornucopia Garden, the Kingdom Center project, FOOD Share, cleaning and remodeling Oak Street

storefronts to name just a few. I will share with you upcoming projects once they have been approved by the Chamber Committee. It is with eager anticipation that we will all begin our projects soon.

The Leadership development course is led by Relly Nadler, who is a licensed psychologist and Master Executive Coach. He has been working with top executives and their teams for more than 30 years and we are fortunate to have him guiding us. Our first meeting was a day and a half team building retreat where we learned our Myers-Briggs communication types and received a personality analysis (from a computerized personality test we took prior to class) and participated in team building exercises led by the inspirational, enduring, charismatic, honest and upbeat Dr. Nadler.

We are learning principles such as emotional intelligence, leadership levels, change management, feedback and delegation, coaching for performance and decision-making. Dr. Nadler makes this a captivating subject and we are so lucky to have him as a leader and a teacher! I hope after you read about my experiences with this awesome project, that you will be motivated to join next year's team. I will be happy to speak to you about the program.



## CAPS

CAPS CHAT

## Connectivity

by Elizabeth Rodeno

CAPS is Community Access Channel 6 for Ventura and operates VTV Channel 15 for Ventura City's government. It is our mission to provide access to information, arts, culture and the people and places of Ventura.

Last Monday CAPS had the opportunity to show to all at the City Council meeting just how connected the city of Ventura can be. Via our secret control room in the attic of City Hall, CAPS connected live with the home studio, the Ventura Police Department Public Safety Division, TDC - the Technology Development Center, and a remote location atop the Watermark restaurant. It was a great hit and we thank our board members, George Tabata and Ron Halt for their presence in our studio and Terry Weiser from TDC. We also thank The Watermark, our friends Ed Summers of the Ventura Chamber, Kevin Clerici from the Downtown Ventura Organization and Jim Luttjohann of the Ventura Visitors Bureau for our live broadcast from the Watermark.

Presently our Studio, City Council chambers and the Police Department's Office of Public Safety are connected digitally and can communicate via video at any time and air live on Channel 15. This allows the city to provide immediate communications with the public for important announcements, directions and procedures in the event of a major emergency. Of course, we broadcast live City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Committee, Historic Preservation, and the Ventura Unified School District meetings live on Channel 15 every week. Check back for more updates on our connectivity push.

Here is the latest installment of Meet the CAPS Board. In April of 1986, current CAPS-TV Board chairperson Peter Burgi flipped a coin, and it came up heads, which sent him to California (tails was Boston, MA). Born, raised and educated (BA in Speech and Theater, Montclair State University) in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, he adapted quickly to the LA lifestyle, and was actually Taft-Hartley'd into the Screen Actors Guild by landing a part in a national Lexus commercial.

Having put him through college tending bar and waiting tables, restaurant work eventually led to a long term work in the wholesale wine business, which gave way to print advertising sales. Calling Ventura home since 1995, Burgi plays Ice Hockey (at 52!) and plays drums and sings in 2 local bands. The greatest joys and inspirations in Burgi's life continue to be his 2 children, Claire, 19, and Gage, 17, who is a senior at Ventura High, and his partner, Joy.

Peter joined CAPS, perfected his craft and helps out the CAPS staff at many events, either behind the mixing board at parades or with a camera on his shoulder taking great shots of perform-

ers at this year's Festival of Talent. We appreciate his commitment to CAPS, to our media center and to Ventura.

Mr. Burgi invites all citizens who work or live in Ventura to stop by the CAPS studios, and see how CAPS can help you tell YOUR story! And for only \$25 a year! Check us out at [www.capstv.org](http://www.capstv.org), on Facebook at CAPS-TV Ventura or by calling 658-0500.



This part of the WAV probably only cost \$25,000,000.00

## The WAV revisited-part one

by Venturans for Responsible and Efficient Government (Bob McCord & Bob Alviani)

In August, 2011 we suggested that you take a walk and visit the WAV, located at 175 S. Ventura Ave. If not, take a virtual tour at [www.cityofventura.net/cs/arts/wav.com](http://www.cityofventura.net/cs/arts/wav.com). This is a subsidized housing project consisting of 54 residential units for low income artists, 15 units for the homeless, 13 market rate condominiums and 6,000 square feet of commercial space. The projected cost was \$57,000,000, but when it was completed in October, 2009, the real cost was \$65,000,000 – all taxpayer money in one form or another.

The 13 condominiums, at the corner of Thompson Boulevard and the Avenue, did not sell and the commercial space along Ventura Avenue remains vacant to this date. The condos and the commercial side of this development failed. Last year, to avoid a foreclosure by Chase of their senior construction loan of \$4,000,000 the Ventura Redevelopment Agency, which holds a promissory note of \$2,000,000, secured by a second trust deed on the condo portion of this project, received a reprieve and avoided a bullet by obtaining a 5 year extension of the Chase loan. If the condominiums do not sell by 2016 the probability is that this \$2,000,000 will be lost. In the meantime the 13 condos have been leased. It is unknown if these leases are producing a profit, or not, since operating statements have not been provided by the company operating the units.

Our former Mayor, Bill Fulton, at every opportunity proudly announced that this project would "produce 25,000 visitors a year and would stimulate the local economy, resulting in \$75,000,000 in new investments". We do not know the basis for his prediction, but there is scant evidence, if any, to support such prognostication.

When Res Publica suggested that money from the general fund of the City of Ventura was used on this project the Mayor stridently asserted that the only money used to build this project was from the Federal Government, the State of California and the Ventura Redevelopment Agency. The City Manager, noted for his numerous blogs to "clarify matters" or to achieve "transparency", was silent. Well, it turns out that City funds were in fact used

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# News and Notes

to the tune of \$2,581,858.00.

Venturans for Responsible and Efficient Government (VREG) was founded in 2007 to assist the citizens of this community in better understanding their city government's fiscal management and the policy decisions that lead to the expenditure of our tax dollars. We advocate open government, freedom of information, constructive dialog and efficient use of resources. To view historical editions go to [www.vregventura.org](http://www.vregventura.org). We are an all-volunteer organization so hope you will share this with others.



*James Mason is quickly learning about Ventura by reading the Ventura Breeze*

## New assistant city manager to boost relationships

by Rebecca Wicks

James Mason, the newly appointed assistant city manager, has lived in Ventura a little over a month and so far is more than happy with his choice to move his family here.

"I've been in the midtown area for two weeks now and I know all my neighbors," said Mason who believes this is a testament to Ventura's "hometown" appeal. "This has never happened to me, I've lived in neighborhoods for years and never even met my neighbors."

Mason, who moved his family from Mercer Island, Wash., where he served as deputy city manager said his family is definitely enjoying the warmer weather Southern California has to offer.

"A lot of our life is outside work, so where you live matters," said Mason. "Ventura's hometown feel was something I was looking for in both a workplace as well as in a place to raise my family."

In his short time in Ventura Mason has witnessed something he was looking for, passion and strong opinions from its residents. This is somewhat different than places like Arizona where Mason has spent a large period of his career.

"Arizona is pretty transient, there isn't a strong community feel," said Mason. "I want to be in a place where people have strong beliefs even if they are in conflict with each other - I appreciate knowing who I am serving and what's important to them."

Mason, 50, who was hired by City Manager Rick Cole, replaces Mabi Plisky, who held the position for only a year before retiring in January. Mason's title is different from Plisky's who was the deputy city manager for the city. The new title is the more commonly used one across California, said city officials.

Mason was hired from a pool of more than 260 applicants and will assist Cole in the day-to-day operations of the city. According to Cole, the City Council did lend

some feedback as to what they had hoped to see in a new assistant city manager, but were not involved in the review or interview efforts as per the city charter.

"Department heads, a selection of city staff from all levels throughout the organization, peers from other city governments as well as community members participated in the multiple rounds of interviews," said Cole.

Mason, who is a native of Ontario, Canada was educated in Arizona receiving his undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and his graduate degree from the University of Phoenix. Prior to working in Mercer Island, Wash., Mason held local government positions in Phoenix, Glendale and Peoria, Ariz.

Mason, whose experience spans 16 years, believes his knowledge of economic development will help Ventura's business development efforts as the city faces the closing of its redevelopment agency as well as a still struggling economy. His experience comes from two states that don't have redevelopment agencies which he believes is an advantage.

"I only know how to approach development from where Ventura is now (without a redevelopment agency)," said Mason, who insists a methodology as simple as looking at what you have and what you can control can easily direct a city as to what it can improve upon in order to attract external investment.

Mason also preaches an "inside out" strategy where business retention plays a large role. "The folks that are here right now have to believe Ventura is the best place to do business in order to attract other business," said Mason.

Specific strategies Mason mentioned employing in order to make Ventura more appealing to existing and potential businesses include making those elements which city hall has direct control over better, such as permitting and regulatory processes. Mason insists building existing and new business is about trust.

"Investors need to know upfront what is going to happen," said Mason. "If things change on them or if it takes longer the city loses trust."

Developers and investors in the area who have often complained about Ventura's long and sometime arduous approval processes most likely welcome a more streamlined process for new development.

Mason is optimistic about the city's potential stating Ventura is starting from a good place; citing the city has already made investments including an improved downtown area complete with landscaping and beautiful sidewalks.

"A lot of things have slowed down because of the economy," said Mason, who said it is a good time to reevaluate. "We are looking to create vitality and sustainability beginning now through infinity, so while we need to move thoughtfully, we need to make sure we are moving."

### Grape Expectations

## Wine & War

by Eric Garnier

There are hundreds of books that have been written about wine. Some are informative, some are educational and not too many are fun to read, unless you are a total wine geek.

Some of the more popular books like "Napa" or "The House of Mondavi: Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty" were good sellers and good reading. Books like these give you local history or individual history.

Aside from being a wine geek, I also

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enjoy history. So, you ask, where am I going with this? I recently read a fascinating book called "Wine & War" by Donald and Peter Kladstrup. This book, written in 2002, describes the struggles that the French wineries encountered during WWII.

France is a country that considers wine their most important resource. It is their passion, their livelihood, their way of life. Everything revolves around wine. So when the war broke out, all the wineries did their best to protect their wines.

It is very difficult for me to talk about the book without discussing it in detail. But the major regions of France, Bordeaux, Rhone, Alsace and Burgundy literally scrambled to save their wine. I have personally been to several of the wineries discussed in the book, and as I was reading the book, I could not help but place myself at these wineries during their difficult times.

It's the passion, the commitment, the pride that allowed most of these wineries and families to somehow survive the war.

I will leave you with only one tidbit from the book. France was occupied in 1939. That was the worst vintage of the century. France was liberated in 1945. That was the best vintage of the century up to that time and one of the best vintages ever.

I hope you enjoy the book as well as I did. Cheers, Eric  
Wineoeric@gmail.com

## Call for vendors and sponsors

Ventura's Earth Day Eco Fest, on April 14 is accepting additional vendors and exhibitors to help make this year's event meaningful and educational. Local eco-friendly businesses will reach an estimated 6,000+ eco-minded consumers. The deadline for new sponsors and vendors is March 16.

Just some of the reasons to participate in the 5th annual Ventura Earth Day Celebration:

Successful annual event with large community following

Become a sponsor and make up to 100,000 impressions through media

exposure and advertising

Beautiful beach-front location with boardwalk foot traffic

Educate the public to live Earth Day every day

Compete Green 10K, 5K & 1K Fun Run that will finish near the event

Showcase your business by participating in the Children's Scavenger Hunt.

Plenty of nearby parking.

The Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest is on Saturday, April 14, 10am-5pm at Promenade Park near Surfer's Point, Ventura. Attendance is free. To become a sponsor or vendor, register at <http://www.venturaearthday.org> or email [exhibitors@venturaearthday.org](mailto:exhibitors@venturaearthday.org).

### Mailbox

*Continued from page 5*  
Park.

2. Improve the leased Harry A. Lyon Park, located on the DeAnza campus.
3. Purchase the vacant parcels on the north side of Kellogg Street between Ventura Avenue and Cameron Avenue for a park.
4. Keep the Avenue School property and adjacent Foster home property for park use. These parcels have mature trees, quiet, and have space for the future.
5. Negotiate for joint-use of the large playfield at the VUSD headquarters, and ideal place for community sports fields.
6. Negotiate and purchase land for a second sports field.
7. Build four small tot lots/neighborhood parks. Possible locations are on Bell Avenue, at E. P. Foster Elementary School, next to the Senior Center, and on the proposed Kellogg Street park.
8. Build the Westside Pool, as promised, and planned for many years.
9. Build a dog park for the Westside.
10. Create a walking trail along the hillsides to showcase the City's history, including remaining pieces of the historically significant Mission Aqueduct.
11. Consider the abandoned Quarry as a future park.

Not adding park space is not an option. Cooperation with the VUSD, trading benefits with landowners, and spending accumulated park fees can make this happen.

Suz Montgomery  
David Bianco  
Miguel Rodriguez

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# Taste of the Taft

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**Sunday March 25, 2012**

**1—5 p.m.**



A rare opportunity to explore the  
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in support of the  
Ventura Botanical Gardens

Please join us for this one-time  
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combination of music, art,  
fabulous food and wine  
as you explore the exotic  
Taft Ojai Botanic Gardens

Purchase tickets on-line at  
[VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](http://VenturaBotanicalGardens.com)  
or call (805) 279-0234

## What's Happening

The Ventura Botanical Gardens is a public / private partnership formed to create and maintain a botanical gardens at Grant Park. You can show your support by becoming a member today! Email us at [info@VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](mailto:info@VenturaBotanicalGardens.com), visit us on Facebook, enjoy the Taste of the Taft and join in the following upcoming events.

### Mar 25<sup>th</sup> TASTE OF THE TAFT

**1 pm - 5 pm**

A unique experience of music, art, gourmet food, and wine is yours to discover with a rare opportunity to explore the beautiful Taft Ojai Botanic Gardens.

### Apr 21<sup>st</sup> GARDEN FESTIVAL

**10 am - 4 pm**

Enjoy the California native wildflowers in full bloom. A reward for our work in January is celebrated with this Garden Festival of events in Grant Park. Visit [VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](http://VenturaBotanicalGardens.com).

### May 5<sup>th</sup> SPRING GARDEN TOUR

**9:30 am - 4 pm**

Our 4th annual self-guided tour of exceptional and very private gardens in the City of Ventura. Visit [VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](http://VenturaBotanicalGardens.com).

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of the month WALK GRANT PARK **10 am - 12 pm**

Join the VBG for exercise, exploration, spectacular views, and learn about the Master Vision Plan for the Gardens. (December excepted)

Meet upper parking lot behind City Hall.



VENTURA BOTANICAL  
GARDENS

# Community Events



Just a few of the wonderful performers from last year's Annual Rising Star Dance Competition. Photo by Christopher Medina

## Rising Star Dance Competition

Sade Champagne will be presenting, "The 3rd Annual Rising Star Dance Competition". This charity event is the first ever amateur dancing competition in Ventura County. It will be Saturday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Buena High School auditorium (5670 Telephone Road). Cost of admission is \$10 per person and all ages are welcome.

Proceeds from this show will be donated to the "Destined to Live the Good Life Children's Orphanage", in Zambia, Africa. In the past 2 years the competition has raised several thousand dollars for the 30 children in the home. The most unique and creative dancers from all over California will be competing for awesome awards and prizes and featured celebrity guest judges, host, and performers from all over the nation.

Celebrity guest co-hosts are Adam Whittington and Madisen Hill. Celebrity guest judges include Drew Seeley, Tamara Melek, Sir Charles, Tammy Fey, and Nesa Kovacs. Guest performances by KNS Rockstar, 1st annual champs Dance Fusion, and 2nd annual champs MVP winner Annalyse Michelle Olivas. For more information contact Sade Champagne at <http://www.giveachildafuture.org>

## "Irish Farming Families" to be Grand Marshals

Ventura County Irish farming families will serve as grand marshals as the 24th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade marches down Main Street in downtown Ventura on Saturday, March 17. The theme of the parade, which starts at 10 a.m., is "Everyone's Irish on St. Patrick's Day."

This year's Grand Marshals are a familiar sight in the St. Patrick's Day parade because many of the families are regulars in the lineup. The McGraths have led a huge contingency of their family members in what has become one of the largest entries in the parade. Martin McGrath, a major organizer of the previous entries, is delighted to be recognized this year along with many other farming families—the likes of which are the McCormicks, the Laubachers, the Aggeler, the Grahams, the Coutlasses, the Clarks, the Leonards, the Morrises, and the Donlons. Their commitment to preserving the farmlands of Ventura County and feeding the residents of California and around the world is long overdue for the honoring of being grand marshal.

The entry deadline is fast approaching and parade organizers are inviting

additional Irish farming families to come forward.

Judging the parade will be: Trudy Arriaga, Ventura Unified Schools superintendent; James Lockwood, Ventura County Fair; Sue and Victor Georgino, Georgino Development; Captain James McHugh, retired Commander Navy Base Ventura County, and Philip J. Conron, AFC National Adjutant Legion of Valor.

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

## Ventura events

by Ana Baker

**Mar. 8:** Spring Ahead with **Ocean View Toastmasters** for coffee, tea and desserts at open house, 6:45p.m. to 9 p.m. Toastmasters can help you learn how to improve your communication and leadership skills. Location: Bonaventure Clubhouse, 10949 Telegraph Rd. For more information, call 647-0523 or go to [oceanviewtoastmasters.com](http://oceanviewtoastmasters.com).

**Mar. 9:** The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution May meeting will feature the program: "**The Gift of Freedom!**", presented by Communist East German escapee and emigrant, Peter Wolf. The luncheon event will take place at 11:30 a.m., Friday, in the Garden Room, Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1295 S. Victoria Ave. All SAR compatriots, American Revolutionary War history buffs, friends and visitors are welcome at this special event. The self-pay luncheon cost is \$20 per person, which includes a slice of Marie Callender's pie. Call Bill Hurley 492-2583, Robert Taylor 216-7992, or Ron Risley 647-0751. information: <http://pattonpatriots.org> for more information on SAR Chapter activities.

**Mar. 10:** The Ventura Beginners Personal Computer Users Group will meet Saturday, in the third floor lounge of the Cypress Place Active Senior Living building, 1220 Cypress Place, at 9:15 a.m. for a workshop. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about computer problems and at 11a.m. Leonard Gilmore, Oxnard College computer instructor, will share his knowledge about the web. Guests are welcome. For more information, call Marcie Malony 648-1368.

**Mar. 11:** The Ventura County Chapter of USA Dance, Inc. will be holding their **March Dance Party** (Sadie Hawkins Theme) on Sunday, at Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road. The event starts with a dance lesson (Country Western Two-Step) at 2:00 p.m., followed by open dancing from 3:00p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Music is a variety of Ballroom, Latin and Swing CDs. Also featured are male dance hosts and refreshments. Singles, couples, all ages and all levels of dancers are welcome. Admissions: \$10.00 General and \$7.00 USA Dance Members. For further info: [usadance4022@gmail.com](mailto:usadance4022@gmail.com).

**Mar. 16:** Lee Riggan, of Thousand Oaks, will present information about **Main Motions and Resolutions** at a meeting of the Zeta Chi Unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) on Monday evening, at 7 p.m. in the Topping Room of E.P. Foster Library. The Zeta Chi unit holds regular parliamentary study meetings in the



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- ◆ We will also provide guidance on selecting a school and ways to pay for job training.
- ◆ If you are seeking short-term job training in a high-demand occupation, you may qualify to have your entire education **paid for** by government programs.

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## Community Events

Topping Room on the third Monday of each month except December. Free parking is available behind the library. Unit member dues are \$25 per year. For more information about the organization please contact Sandra Sanders at 643-5928 or sandy108@pacbell.net

**Mar. 17:** Barbara Renick will talk of **New Search Features at Ancestry.com**. Ms Renick teaches at national genealogy conferences and the Family Search Center in Orange, CA. She was a contributing editor for the National Genealogical Society computer magazine for eleven years; authored *Genealogy 101: How to Trace your Family's History and Heritage* sponsored by NGS for their 100th Anniversary; and currently serves on the NGS Board of Directors as secretary. Hours are from 1p.m. to 4p.m.

Family History Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3501 Loma Vista Rd. (at Mills Rd.) For more information call Gayle Wolcott at 987-8614.

**Mar. 17:** Discover the rewards of foster parenting by coming to a **Foster Parenting Informational Meeting**

Saturday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Human Services Agency of Ventura County (855 Partridge Drive). There are over 600 children in Ventura County that need you: your wisdom, your experience and your understanding. They need a foster home where they can thrive, develop and achieve dreams that once might have seemed impossible. Meetings are available in both English and Spanish. For more information, call 654-3456 or go to [www.vchsa.org/foster](http://www.vchsa.org/foster).

**Mar. 17: St. Patrick's Day Music in the Park** Saturday, 10a.m. to 5p.m. Free!

Location: mini-park on Main,

Downtown, between Oak and Palm.

Music starts following the St. Patrick's Day Parade. There will be art, vendor booths, and activities for kids. limited number of spaces for each type of booth are available, pending approval of booth concept. Only 22 spaces are available. Non-profit \$100, original art or crafts \$125, business promotion \$150, business w/ sales \$200. Booths must offer carnival-style games or kid's activity with prizes and participation take-aways, preferably St.Patrick's Day-themed. Contact Brian Parra at 794-4714 or saturdaynightbob@gmail.com for more info or to register for a booth.

Performing Artists to be announced.

**Mar. 18:** The Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra announces "**A Choral Rhapsody**", to be performed at First United Methodist Church on Sunday at 4 p.m. Musicians feature Kelley O'Connor, Mezzo-Soprano, in Alto Rhapsody by Johannes Brahms and Fern Hill by John Corigliano, with CSU Channel Islands Choir, the First Methodist Church Chancel Choir, and the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra. KuanFen Liu, artistic director, will also conduct the orchestra in Danse and Sarabande by Claude Le Tombeau de Couperin by Maurice Ravel, and Pavanne by Gabriel Fauré. First United Methodist Church is located at 1338 East Santa Clara. Donations of \$20 are appreciated. Child care is provided. For more information, please call 643-8621.

**Mar. 22:** Ventura Executive Suites

*Continued on page 20*

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# The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



## Debbie Cowell

**Portrait by Johanna Spinks**

Debbie is a mix of rugged determination, grace and power with a golden smile and driving spirit. She calls Ventura home after finding her way here over 20 years ago from Jamaica via Vermont and Newport, Rhode Island. She feels the setting is ideal for raising her two children with her husband and doing what she loves most – running fast.

If you look quickly, you can spot Debbie most days running through the streets of Ventura and along the Ventura Promenade dressed in a running skirt, colorful top and metallic-blue racing shades, her hair pulled back and trying to catch up as she trains in pursuit of a sub 3-hour marathon. People find inspiration when they see her during her 10 to 20 mile daily runs. She shares high-fives and smiles along the way, wanting to make others feel as good as she feels when running well. Some call her The Warrior because of the powerful and intense way she runs.

She hasn't always been fast. The first marathon Debbie ran was the Honolulu Marathon in 2004, running with Team in Training supporting the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society. She started the marathon barely able to walk due to IT Band injuries in both legs from training, but never one to quit on a commitment, ran anyway, hobbling across the finish line 5 hours and 11 minutes later. She liked the mental toughness of marathon training, so kept at it. Her personal best today is 3 hours and 7 minutes when she won the Masters Division of the 2011 Surf City Marathon.

Coupling her love of fitness and desire to help others reach their potential, she became a National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) certified personal fitness trainer. She works directly with clients and through the Ventura YMCA, helping people push through their obstacles and reach their goals.

Between family, fitness and running, Debbie recently discovered the thrill and challenge of fundraising. It's another way she can connect with the community and contribute. She embraces it with the same zeal as her training, working with local businesses to donate products and services, and matching them with fundraising opportunities for local schools and non-profit organizations.

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

There is something magical about Ventura that goes beyond the great weather and views. It's small enough to feel you're part of the community, yet large enough so you can meet new people every day from different walks of life. I like discovering new and exciting things in Ventura's micro-pockets and niche neighborhoods. People make a conscious choice to live here and then find ways to make a living, which brings a unique strength. And, of course, Ventura is a great place for year-round training.

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

I'm a private person and don't like feeling vulnerable, so was a little nervous about sitting for a portrait. I psyched myself up like I was going for a long run, but when I walked into the studio and met Johanna, she put me at ease. My anxiety faded and we began talking like good friends, sharing stories about raising our children. Johanna discovers the spark that makes someone unique and brings it to the canvas. We decided to keep my shades on as a reflection of my shyness; they help me feel fearless when I'm running. I turn most things into a challenge, so when Johanna asked me to hold a pose for two hours, I saw an opportunity for a core workout. It turned out to be a great session.



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

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

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.



*Debbie Crowell was a little nervous about sitting for a portrait until she met Johanna at her studio and she immediately put her at ease.*

# COTTONTAIL DAY

Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> • 10 AM - 3 PM  
Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn

**BRING A BASKET!**  
\$2 Egg Hunt 11 AM - 2 PM  
(Ages 1-7, while supplies last)

\$1 Petting Zoo  
Kids Scavenger Hunt  
Free Children's Crafts  
Live Entertainment

MEET THE COTTONTAIL BUNNY!

[venturaharborvillage.com](http://venturaharborvillage.com)

\*weather pending

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## Ventura Harbor Events

Ventura Harbor Village is 33 acres of authentic Southern California exactly how you've imagined it. Stroll the Promenade—If relaxation is what you're dreaming of and rejuvenate yourself with its breathtaking coastline views, fine or casual dining and distinctive specialty shops and boutiques.

## Harbor Village Events

### Pacific Gray Whale Watching January – March

Whale Watching Season is here and it's a great time to catch a glimpse of nature up close and personal! Island Packers, Ventura County's official concessionaire to the Channel Islands

National Park, is now offering ½-day and all-day whale watching excursions to view these magnificent mammals. [www.IslandPackers.com](http://www.IslandPackers.com)

### Channel Islands National Park Spring Wildlife Excursions

California's Channel Islands National Park has been nicknamed "The North America Galapagos" as diversity abounds on the Islands and in the giant kelp beds in the Marine Sanctuary. The uninhabited Islands are accessed via boat or plane ride and remain pristine for hiking and kayaking. Visit Anacapa Island for spectacular wildflower blooms and bird watching, and be able to boast to have been to the least visited National Park in North America! [www.IslandPackers.com](http://www.IslandPackers.com)



Work is being done at the Harbor to improve the embankment. See March 21 Breeze for all the details!

## Silhouettes Salon

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Please Join Cypress Place Senior Living

# Yesterday's Café

SUPPORTED BY THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

The 1st Wednesday of Every Month

1:30-3:30pm

*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

## BenefitsCheckUp – a great way for seniors to save!

by Nanci Cone

More than 13 million older adults live in or on the edge of poverty and need help paying for prescription drugs, health care, utilities, and other basic needs. There are over 2,000 federal, state and private benefits programs available but many people don't know these programs exist or how they can apply. BenefitsCheckUp ([www.benefitscheckup.org](http://www.benefitscheckup.org)) is a free service of the National Council on Aging (NCOA), a nonprofit service and advocacy organization in Washington, DC. To date, they have helped 3,089,876 people find over \$11.2 billion worth of benefits.

BenefitsCheckUp asks a series of questions to help identify benefits that could save you money and cover the costs of everyday expenses. After answering the questions, you will get a report created just for you that describes the programs from which you can get help. You can apply for many of the programs online or you can print an application form.

Brandy Bauer, Communications Manager of NCOA, says, "As more older adults age into Medicare, the number of people who need help continues to grow. Seniors may be aware of some benefits programs, but unaware of others. BenefitsCheckUp gives people the opportunity to find out about all services for which they may be eligible and apply for them immediately."

### How Benefits Help

Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS, or Extra Help) helps people with limited incomes and resources pay for their Medicare prescription drug costs.

Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) help beneficiaries afford Medicare premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments for their inpatient and outpatient health care.

### Medicaid pays for a broad range of medical services.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is the primary income support program for the poorest aged, blind, or disabled Americans who have either no other income or very low income and resources.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) enables recipients to buy nutritious food at participating stores.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides grants to states to assist qualified individuals with their home heating and cooling costs and ensures that they do not have to choose between paying their energy bills and buying food or other basic necessities.

### The Value of Benefits

The national average SNAP benefit for an elderly recipient living alone is \$119 per month.

The average monthly SSI payment in December 2011 for those aged 65+ was \$501.60, or 55.2% of the Federal Poverty Level.

The value of the Medicare Extra Help prescription drug subsidy is estimated at \$4,000 per year.

NCOA's mission is to improve the lives of millions of older adults, especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged. NCOA is a national voice for older Americans and the community organizations that serve them.

They work with thousands of organizations across the country to help seniors find jobs and benefits, improve their health, live independently, and remain active in their communities. For more information about NCOA, visit their website at [www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org).

## "Yesterday's Café" at Cypress Place

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

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

"We are so happy to offer this monthly event to the community," said Mike Macke, one of the marketing directors at Cypress Place. "With a special area for residents with Alzheimer's and dementia right here within our assisted living community, we know how beneficial the meetings can be to not only our residents and families, but also to the greater Ventura County community as well."

The program is unique in having caregivers attending at the same time with those they care for who are afflicted with Alzheimer's and dementia. The meetings are both educational and informal social events.

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. For more information or to RSVP, please call 650-8000.

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

## Financial self defense

Learn what you need to do to defend yourself from opportunists who would like nothing more than to separate you from your hard earned money, at a special free event entitled "Financial Self Defense" on March 14.

"Do this before your 'bucket list,' otherwise you might not have a bucket to list," quipped Suz Montgomery, founder and Executive Director of the Extended Learning Academy, which is co-sponsoring this "Financial Self Defense" panel presentation with the Ventura TowneHouse.

At 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, a panel of experts – from local non-profit and governmental agencies dedicated to seniors and dependent adults – will offer their expertise for free, and answer your questions, such as what to do if you suspect someone is taking advantage of you. Refreshments and drinks will be served; just come to the TowneHouse at 4900 Telegraph Rd. to its Vista Room on the top floor overlooking the city and ocean.

The panel has wide-ranging expertise and includes moderator Kimm Bryan (Ventura TowneHouse Social Services Director), Marcy Snider (Ventura County Adult Protective Services), Michael Williams (Director, Grey Law of Ventura County), Monica Neece (Manager, Multipurpose Senior Service Program, MSSP), Kathy Terry (Field Services Coordinator, Long Term

# Health

Care Ombudsman Program) and Katharine Raley (HICAP - Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program).

## CMH Cancer Resource Center offers support

The Cancer Resource Center at Community Memorial Hospital is offering a bi-monthly women's cancer support group as well a free monthly series of creativity and expression classes for cancer patients.

The Women's Cancer Support Group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. It provides patients the opportunity to share experiences, information and assistance in coping with a cancer diagnosis.

Creativity Central is led by internationally licensed artist and author M. Nicole van Dam. Classes encourage cancer patients to explore their creativity through art, handcrafts, writing and music. Works will be exhibited at the center so that patients can share with the community their growth and spirit.

Both the Women's Cancer Support Group and Creativity Central are being held in Suite 105 at the Cancer Resource Center, located at 2900 Loma Vista Road. For more information or to RSVP call 652-5459.

## Joint Replacement Classes

Livingston Visiting Nurse Association will hold the following Joint Replacement Class to prepare you for total knee or hip replacement surgery. Home preparation, exercises and rehabilitation information will be discussed. Open to the public and free of charge, the class is held on the first Wednesday of the month from 10:00 - 11:00 am at Cypress Place, 1st floor private dining room, 1200 Cypress Point Lane, Ventura, RSVP Diana Davis @ 642-0239 x 739

### Shopping carts

*Continued from page 4*

wheels lock automatically if taken off the premises.

Carts found throughout the city - many used by homeless individuals to store and transport belongings - will be cleaned and returned to retailers at their expense. In addition, businesses will need to prominently display signage forbidding removal of shopping carts.

The ordinance will be enforced beginning January 2013 allowing retailers time to research and implement their own strategies for abiding by the new rules.

The costs involved with the new ordinance are not something all store managers are looking forward to incorporating into their budgets during an already tough economy.

"Of course we'll abide by the new laws," said a store manager who asked not to be named. "Where we'll carve out money to do this, I'm not sure but we'll figure it out."

While additional costs incurred by retailers will likely be passed to consumers, protecting retailer cart investments may also make good business sense with carts costing

upwards of \$150 each.

"While it would be nice to hold the vagrants and transients that are stealing the majority of these carts responsible, it is simply not practical," said Robertson.

The city will continue its contract with the California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corp., which it pays \$600 a month to collect abandoned carts.

The new ordinance scratches the surface of the larger homeless issue the city faces. The city began its Safe and Clean Public Places initiative last year which includes education, advocacy and legal action designed to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Ventura. It had hoped to include nonprofit and other government groups.

## City of Ventura Classes

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

### Zumba "Gold"

16 years - Adult

Zumba "gold" is a series designed to take the exciting Latin and international dance rhythms of Zumba and bring them to the active adult or fitness program includes meringue, salsa, cumbia and more all modified for success. Wear smooth soled shoes, clothes to move in, towel and water. No class 4/5. \$48. Instructor Mary Macias. Class code #31078      3/8-4/19

Thursday                          4-5 pm

### Beginning Ballet for Teens & Adults

13 years - Adult

Ballet beginners become familiar with basic barre exercises to improve strength, flexibility, balance and coordination. Wear comfortable clothes to move in or dance attire and ballet shoes and pull hair away from face. No class 4/6. \$50. Instructor Kerri Krizer.

Class code #31265      3/16-4/27

Friday                            5:10-6:10 pm

Special Interest classes at the Barranca Vista Center

### Pet First Aid

16 years-Adult

Learn basic emergency and first aide skills for injuries, poison, prevention and preparation for your pets in this informative workshop. \$50 Instructor Shannon Coyner.

Class code #31030      3/10

Saturday                        9 am-12 pm

### First Time Sewing for Youth & Adults

8 years-Adult

Learn hand-stitch and machine sewing basics including knots, zigzag and buttons. Make patches, bags and hats. Bring 2 yards of cotton fabric and matching thread; all other supplies provided. Return students welcome. No class 4/4. Instructor Angel Jones. Class code #31027      3/14-4/25

Wednesday                    5-6:30 pm 8-14 yrs.

Class code #31029      3/14-4/25

Wednesday                    7-8:30 pm 15 yrs-Adult

### Let's Paint

3-6 years

Discover paint magic with new techniques and projects every week. No class 4/4. \$50 Instructor Dawn Meyer. Class code #31166      3/14-4/25

Wednesday                    9:15-10 am

### Sculpting Fun

3-6 years

Create multi-media sculptures and pottery from primitive to modern! No class 4/5. \$50 Instructor Dawn Meyer.

Class code #31208      3/15-4/26

Thursday                       10:15-11 am

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At Bonaventure**  
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## Bring Me Home!



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**"DAVEED" "FROSTY" "WENDY" "MARIANA" "MOSA"**

Pictured above are 5 of the most **AMAZING, LOVEABLE, ADOPTABLE DOGS!** Frosty was rescued on New Year's Eve, 12-31-11 from the VCAS. The rest are from the Los Cabos, Mexico Humane Society and are now American Citizens awaiting their forever homes. They are all extremely playful and loving. They are spayed/neutered and UTD on their shots. They are staying and playing at

**Ventura Highway Luxury Boarding for Dogs,**

**4692 Ventura Avenue.**

**(805) 643-3647**

**Be a hero...Bring someone home today!!**

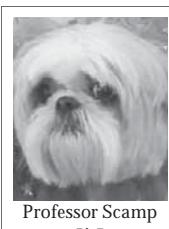
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**[www.cabodogz.com](http://www.cabodogz.com)**

**[www.venturahwyluxuryboarding4dogs.com](http://www.venturahwyluxuryboarding4dogs.com)**



# Professor Scamp, Ph.D

Professor Scamp  
Ph.D

Now that I have a cat in my life (we are getting along just fine because I am so patient) I thought that I should know more about us cats and dogs.

There are a lot of myths about us but these are some facts.

"The problem with myths is that pet owners who act on misinformation may not best meet the needs of their dog or cat," said American Kennel Club® (AKC) Meet the Breeds® Spokesperson Gina DiNardo.

To separate fact from fiction I spoke on the phone with the AKC and The International Cat Association and this is what they told me.

**Cats need milk—False.** While cats like the taste, their bodies don't have much lactase and milk can give adult cats diarrhea (just what I would need, their litter boxes smell awful now). Maybe someday Savana will be better at covering her poop up and it won't smell so badly).

**Dogs are sick when their noses are warm—False.** It's an old wives tale that cold, wet noses indicate health. The only way to tell your dog's temperature is to take it with a thermometer (Just where is my temperature taken exactly? Maybe I would rather be sick).

**Cats smell with their mouths—True.** Cats have a small scent gland called the vomeronasal organ on the roof of their mouth. To get a really good whiff of something, they'll open their mouths very wide so the odor hits the gland (Well how stupid is this? I smell through my nose and eat through my mouth like I'm supposed to and I do a good job with both).

**A dog's wagging tail means he's happy—False.** While a natural, mid-level wagging tail indicates happiness, most other wags mean the opposite. A high, stiff wagging tail means the dog is agitated and ready to protect something, and a low, quick wag means the dog is scared and submissive (I can't make my "piggy" tail high and stiff so I will just bark real loud if I am agitated and give you a dirty look).

**A cat purrs when he's happy—False.** A cat does purr when content but will also purr when in pain (All I know is that

it is a very disturbing sound and Savana gets petted when she makes that noise but when I make a disturbing sound like a bark I get scolded).

You can learn more about dog and cat myths and training directly from pet experts at the world's largest showcase of dogs and cats, AKC Meet the Breeds. It features hundreds of breeds in booths decorated to depict each one's origin, historical function and attributes as a pet. This family-friendly event, held in New York in November, lets potential pet owners interact with responsible breeders and play with dogs and cats while learning about pet ownership and the right pet for their lifestyle. Selecting the right pet for your family (and living arrangements) is very important. Not doing this is why so many pets are taken to pounds for adoption especially when little kids say "please mommy I will walk him every day" and that lasts for 2 weeks.

For more information about this visit [www.MeetTheBreeds.com](http://www.MeetTheBreeds.com) and if you're not busy in October attend the American Kennel Club® (AKC) at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City on October 20th and 21st for the fourth annual AKC Meet the Breeds® event and if you have room take me with you to cover the event for the Breeze.



*This is my "portrait" by Jaime Baker. I look kind of sad but I really wasn't. Maybe Johanna Spinks would paint me as a Face Of Ventura. I am famous you know. Maybe you should email her and recommend me.*

## 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.*

### Resisting Arrest

On Saturday, February 18th, at 6:17 a.m., the VPD received a call from a citizen reporting a vehicle burglary in progress, in the 1900 block of Swift Avenue. The victim heard his dog barking causing the victim to investigate. The victim saw Robert Marquez inside of his truck rummaging through his property. The victim went outside to confront Marquez and the suspect fled. A citizen called the VPD when Marquez was discovered hiding in her front yard. The suspect fled again.

A VPD officer located Marquez near the corner of Stork and Swift and ordered him to stop. Marquez fled from the officer. The police k9 was deployed and Marquez was apprehended. He sustained minor injuries and was treated at VCMC ER.

Marquez was booked at VC Jail.

The officers on scene recovered additional stolen items and they were able to return some of the stolen goods to their rightful owners.

### Robbery Arrest

On Sunday, February 19th, at 4:30 p.m., loss prevention officers from the Rite Aid drug store, located on 2738 East Thompson Boulevard, observed a male suspect acting suspiciously. Jason Bianconi was seen concealing several items of merchandise into his clothing. Strip mall security confronted him outside of the store. Bianconi fled with the store's property through the strip mall. Security chased Bianconi in an attempt to take him into custody and recover the stolen merchandise. As security attempted to apprehend him, he pulled a knife from his pocket. Store employees removed the knife and were able to hold Bianconi down until VPD units could arrive.

VPD officers took Bianconi into custody without incident and he was booked into VC Jail. Rite Aid employees sustained minor injuries as a result of the altercation with the

(Pretty Happy Dog)

## Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Sasha a beautiful female 3½ year old Pit Bull mix who was rescued from Animal Regulation with my litter of 7 puppies. I'm grateful to C.A.R.L. for taking us all in as we most likely would not have had a happy ending had we not been rescued. My puppies have all found their forever families, but I'm still waiting for mine. I hope you will look past my breed and come to meet me. I deserve to be a cherished member of a loving family and I hope I don't have to wait much longer before I am.

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

## Scamp Club

Hi: I'm A boy named "Sue" and my buddy is Elizabeth White. I'm a 1½ year old French bulldog. I love going on walks and making friends with literally everyone. I also enjoy wrestling with his best friend Layla who is a yellow lab because I think that we are the same size. I enjoy walks on the beach which included eating dead sand crabs and searching for truffles (I still haven't found any). Elizabeth says that I know how to use my big glossy eyes to my advantage. And I love naps and cuddling on the bed, snorting around, going on hikes and being loved and adored by anyone!

## Join Scamp Club

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

a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

### Vehicle Burglary

On Tuesday, February 21st, at 2:30 a.m., the VPD received a call from a resident in the 400 Block of Cedar Street who was reporting a vehicle burglary in progress in his carport. The victim, Martin Sommers, confronted the suspect, Thomas Hiebner, prior to the arrival of VPD officers and attempted to detain him. Hiebner attempted to flee but was caught and restrained by Sommers until officers arrived.

Responding officers took Hiebner into custody without further incident. Sommers' stolen property was located in the possession of Hiebner and returned.

### Auto Theft Arrest

On Tuesday, February 21st, at 4:00 p.m., Matthew Karst called the VPD to report his vehicle stolen. A report was filed and VPD patrol officers began to search for the stolen vehicle.

At 6:30 p.m., an officer observed the stolen vehicle with two occupants at a Shell gas station. The driver, Lindsay Fleischer, was taken into custody without incident. The passenger was identified as Christopher Cruz, who was

# Police Reports

arrested for outstanding warrants.

## Child Annoyance Suspect

From November 11th, 2011, to February 18th, VPD has received three reports of child annoyances calls. These incidents occurred in the downtown and mid-town areas.

In each of the incidents, the suspect approached high school aged juveniles who were walking alone. The suspect attempted to lure the juveniles into his vehicle in exchange for a ride or money.

The suspect was described as a male Hispanic in his mid 30's with broken English. He was driving a pick up truck in each occurrence.

## Auto Theft

On Monday, February 27th, at 9:30 p.m., VPD received a call from an alert resident regarding a suspicious subject trying to enter parked vehicles in the area of 297 Homer Avenue. Officers observed Padraig Murphy inside a parked vehicle removing property. Officers attempted to take Murphy into custody but he fled. He was chased a short distance and apprehended, where he sustained minor injuries.

Officers located a second parked vehicle, which Murphy had entered and removed property, and a stolen vehicle Murphy had used to drive to the location to commit the aforementioned crimes.

## Child Endangerment

On Monday, February 27th, at 6:03 p.m., the VPD received a call from a concerned citizen regarding a subject under the influence of drugs or alcohol with small children outside of the Century 12 Theatres, located on 2875 Elba Street. Officers contacted Anthony Salas in the Century 12 parking lot. Salas was intoxicated and belligerent, refusing to comply.

Officers made contact with a 15 year old male juvenile attempting to escort Salas's children away. The juvenile denied any knowledge of Salas and

continued trying to take Salas's children away. Officers detained the juvenile, Salas's son, who became agitated and physically fought. Officers took control of the juvenile, however Salas aggressively charged at the officers. Officers were able to take both Salas and the 15-year-old juvenile into custody.

Officer determined Salas was too intoxicated to care for his 2-year-old girl and his 9-year-old boy. Salas was booked into VC Jail. The 15 year old son was cited and released to his mother. No one was injured as a result of this incident.

# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

**2-14** 10:20 a.m. Patrol received a report of a large object in the water by the Launch Ramp. Patrol was able to right it, determine it was a large tub, so dewatered it and disposed of it at the launch ramp.

**2-15** 8:04 a.m. Patrol monitored and responded to an FCC dispatch of a man down at Harbor and Olivas Park. Upon arrival, the man was pulseless and not breathing with a witnessed heart attack. Patrol administered CPR and one shock with the AED. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

**2-17** 12:36 p.m. Patrol responded to a report of a vessel aground in the entrance to the Sand Trap. Upon arrival, a 24-foot outdrive vessel had run aground south of the North Jetty extension. Patrol towed the vessel off the shoal.

**2-21** 7:30 a.m. Patrol observed a man with a hooded sweatshirt climb over the fence at VIM. Patrol notified PD. Investigation revealed that the man did own the boat he was on; he had lost his gate key.

# Business

## Sales and nails

by Staci Brown

With my new business endeavor, that will be supplemental to selling advertising for Ventura's only and most loved local newspaper, I had the opportunity to attend the International Salon and Spa Expo in beautiful Long Beach. On Feb. 14, I became a licensed manicurist and in January, I had the opportunity to attend the West Coast's largest total beauty event. The ISSE, held in January, launched the professional beauty show season and included over 40,000 beauty professionals from all over the world.

The sold out event was held at the Long Beach Convention Center and included 450 exhibiting beauty companies. It was salon and beauty product bliss. Everything was represented including hair, nails, skin care, cosmetics, wellness and massage. It also included education and certification classes, demos, runways, presentations and competitions. If you are in the business, this show is not to be missed. This is truly the marketplace to stock up on all of your supplies and see the launch of new industry products as well as getting educated on new industry happenings.

I saw participants carrying luggage rollers in to the show and leaving with copious amounts of purchased products to roll out of the show! Bring your wallet and your discipline because the shopping

is endless and the bargains are plentiful. Licensed professionals of Ventura, be sure to attend future ISSE shows, check out [www.probeauty.org](http://www.probeauty.org). All others wanting beautiful nails, call me to set up an appointment at 844-5374. I will be at Studio Sea Salon, located at 1104 S. Seaward Ave. Available by appointment. Mention this article and buy one manicure, get one free.

### Business Profile

## Izzy's Fine Furniture

If you haven't been to Izzy's Fine Furniture, located at 2810 E. Main then you are missing out on some great quality furniture at great rates. Izzy has been there for four years coming this July and opened a second location in Camarillo just eight months ago. He has been in the furniture business for ten years, previously helping Burrell's Home Gallery open some stores in Southern California and successfully turning his current location into Izzy's from what was Ashland Furniture in 2008.

Izzy is a happy Venturan bachelor filling up his time with outdoor activities like bike riding on the beach. His little Chihuahua Buddy keeps him company while he enjoys all that Ventura has to offer and you can often meet Buddy at

## 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 cash flow? Protect yourself!

## WE CAN HELP

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- Foreclosure Postponed / Strip Liens & Deeds
- Liquidation / Reorganization / Bankruptcy (Chaps. 7, 13, 11)
- Asset Planning and Protection / Quiet Title
- Business Operations Analysis & Structuring

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### IZZY'S AFFORDABLE FURNITURE

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MATTRESSES • DINING • SOFAS & LOVESEATS

Solid Wood, Top Quality  
Bedroom Suites starting at  
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Queen Mattress Set... \$199.00  
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Recliners.....starting at \$299.00  
Sofa/Love Seat.....\$599.00  
Kids Bedroom set.....\$299.00

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[izzysfurniture.com](http://izzysfurniture.com)

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Use Seaward Exit Off 101 Fwy, North on Seaward, East on Thompson or Main St.

**(805) 223-2300**

HOURS: MON.-FRI. 10-7, SAT. 10-6, SUN. 10-5

Izzy's furniture store.

Izzy takes pride in his affordable, quality solid wood furniture and great rates. He has everything available to furnish your bedroom, living room, and dining room as well as discounted mattresses and accessories. If you don't

find what you need, you can order from his extensive catalog collection. He also delivers and the charge varies depending on where the furniture is going. Go by to look around and meet Buddy (and Izzy) and don't forget to tell Izzy that the Ventura Breeze newspaper sent you!

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



# Show Time

**Two on the Aisle**

## Lilies Blossom for Elite Theater

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

As the Elite Theater Company in Oxnard celebrates its 18th year of productions the new season blossoms with a theme of "Deliverance" – hope, faith and embracing change – qualities that have been hallmarks leading to the Elite's overall success.

Its current offering is *Lilies of the Field*. It is a stage adaptation of a William E. Barry novel that is based on a true story. The book was also made into a film and Sidney Poitier won a Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of the central character.

The story is told simply. Homer Smith (Antonio Vezia), traveling cross-country after being discharged from military service, stops to seek work when he sees a group of German nuns ineffectively attempting to make repairs and tend a small, barren farm that was willed to their Order.

Homer agrees to take on a one-day repair task for the nuns and then be on his way. But the self-sufficient Smith meets his opposite number in Mother Superior Marthe (Kathleen Silverman), whose understanding of English comes and goes at her will. Despite his intent to leave, he stays on, assisting the nuns with English lessons as well as handyman work. Then, Mother Marthe reveals her desire to construct a chapel on the land. The balance of the engaging and engrossing story reveals how Smith eventually builds the chapel and becomes a local legend as well.

Most of the low-key dialogue illuminates the battle of wills between the independent Homer and the stoic and stern Mother Marthe. Vezia, as Smith, and Silverman, as Mother Marthe, are a good match – using minimal, yet just the right amounts of body language and facial expressions to portray the underlying understandings and friendship they ultimately reach.

The sisters of the Order are played by Erin Heulitt, Olivia Heulitt, Andrea Robles and Leticia Mattson. Mattson gets to shine in her small role as Sister Albertine.

Rounding out the cast are Elixeo Flores, who is excellent as Father Gomez, the local priest and the story's narrator, plus Tim Viramontes who plays a restaurant owner, and Peter Krause as the president of a large construction company. Each adds a pivotal characterization to the story.

The sparse, yet quite effective, set by veteran scene designer Bob Decker is used to good advantage. Director Andrea Tate has added a nice touch with live guitar strumming by Kyle Johnson during blackouts and scene changes.

*Lilies of the Field* is a solid production throughout. With this strong beginning, the Elite delivers as it continues its journey as the little theater that could, performing in a basement and supported through faithful patrons and sponsors. Can everyone say Amen?

*Lilies of the Field* continues Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April 1 at the Petit Playhouse in Heritage Square, 730 S. "B" St., Oxnard. Adults: \$17, Seniors & children: \$15. Reservations: 485-5118. [www.elitetheatre.org](http://www.elitetheatre.org).

### The Entertainment Report

## 84th Academy Awards

by Linde Carlson

And the Oscar goes to.....*The Artist*.

Ratings went through the roof for ABC on Oscar night, as 39.3 million viewers tuned in to see Billy Crystal return for his 9th time to the Oscar stage with his comic wit and charm, voted the best Oscar host of all time.

*The Artist*, a silent black and white romantic melodrama spoke loudly in popularity, sweeping all the awards shows receiving an Oscar for best picture. Jean Dujardin won for best actor, Michael Hazanavicius for best director, Mark Bridges for best costume design, and French composer Ludovic Bource for best original score.

Words or sound were not needed for the audience to understand what he was going through. Intuitively, he was using every ounce of method acting exercising internal abilities; using sensory, psychological and emotional recall, drawing upon real life experiences. In this instance, Dujardin's portrayal came across uncontrived and unaffected by the loss of dialogue.

The silent film concept offers us the opportunity to pay closer attention to the interpersonal process and perceptions of the cast, analyzing their ability to convey their role through this method. It is hard enough for human beings to just sit quietly, let alone not speak. This is why Jean Dujardin is an exceptional story-teller; his unique style graced us with an adaptation that ultimately paved the way for him to win his Oscar. Bravo!

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences Present.....Oscar Nominated Documentaries and Shorts.

I would like to pay homage to two of the short films I saw at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. These two pieces of work impacted me emotionally. These works often go unrecognized, and in fact they are issues in the world that are real and not made up or adapted from a book. They are just as important, if not relevant, and should be acknowledged with just as much attention as the mega hits.

*Raju*; a 24 minute short from Germany/India, which didn't win but should have, is a story about a German couple, Jan and Sarah, who adopt a 4-year-old boy Krish from Kalkata, aka (Calcutta) India. When the boy disappears before his father's eyes in a crowd, Jan, the father goes to the authorities to find him. What Jan discovers on the desk of the police, is a book with pictures of missing children and the families in which they belong, including Krish and his family. Jan realizes he must find Krish and return him to his rightful birth mother. At that point he realizes what is happening; that children are being kidnapped and sold, a common practice in that territory. What begins as a moral decision ends in a humanitarian decision. Absolutely compelling! A must see.

*Saving Face*: This winning documentary is about Pakistani women who have had acid thrown in their faces and disfigured by their husbands and the men whose advances were rejected by women. I briefly interviewed the film maker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and asked "What type of punishment did the men get for these crimes"? She answered "Legislation has been approved for these men to get life imprisonment". This documentary was poignant, heartbreaking and a real eye opener.

## Music Calendar 3/7 to 3/20

For more events go to [Fun-in-Ventura.com](http://Fun-in-Ventura.com)

### Andre's Wine Bar

1575 Spinnaker Dr., 805-642-9463

Live Music every Tues, Thur & Fri

## VFS@420EAST

## The Garden

reviewed by Bonnie Weigel

FOOD Share

The meaning of the word "prosperity" is felt and thought of in diverse ways. For many it is synonymous with monetary wealth. Prosperity for me represents abundance, the opportunity for vast new possibilities. What triggered these thoughts? It was the movie *The Garden*, the Oscar-nominated feature documentary directed by Scott Hamilton Kennedy, who will be attending this Ventura Film Society screening on Tuesday, March 20 @ 7:15pm.

Mr. Kennedy chronicles the captivating story of the South Central Farmers, a group of dirt-poor Los Angelenos who took a track of urban ruin and turned it into an Eden, only

to see the flora they so lovingly planted and tended be bulldozed by a tone-deaf city and a conflicted land owner. *The Garden* is about our cherished ability to create community through the act of growing food with friends and neighbors. It reminds us of our basic need to gather with one another and share our collective energies. It is through this process that we, like the people in this very moving film, can find satisfaction, joy, and peace in ourselves and in others.

*The Garden* (sponsored by FOOD Share & McGrath Family Farm) as the 4th of 21 feature films screening on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays between February 7 and December 4 at 420 E. Santa Clara St. in Downtown Ventura. Screening, membership and advance ticket information - [www.venturafilmsociety.com](http://www.venturafilmsociety.com) / 628-2299 / [venturafilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto: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

Live Bands every Fri, Sat, Sun

Sun 3/11 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Sun 3/18 - 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

### Cafe Fiore

66 California St., 805-653-1266

Live Bands every Tue thru Sat

DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri & Sat

Wed 3/7 - Big Adventure

Thur 3/8 - Bongo Town

Tue 3/13 - Bernie Meisinger

Thur 3/15 - Coso Live

Tue 3/20 - 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

Sat 3/10 - Iration, Dirty Rice, Seedless 8pm

Tue 3/20 - George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic 8pm

Thur 3/22 - White Chapel, Miss May I, After The Burial, The Plot in You, Structures

### 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 3/8 - 4 on the Floor

Fri 3/9 - Acoustic Circus featuring Emilbus

Sat 3/10 - The Bomb

Sun 3/11 - Add

Thur 3/15 - Country Night with Tex Pistols

Fri 3/16 - Midnight Band

Sat 3/17 - Bloody Mary Morning

Sun 3/18 - Live Bait

### Yolies/Hi Hat Entertainment

138 W. Main St., 805-816-9663

Top Notch Musicians and Bands every Fri

8pm

Fri 3/9 - I See Hawks In LA (Americana Country Folk Rock)

Fri 3/16 - Miguel Garcia & the Vaquetones (Baja Western Tex-Mex)

### Zoey's Café

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

Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm

Wed 3/7 - The Rubberneck Lions Residency 8pm

Thur 3/8 - Rosie and Me, The Rambles 8pm

Fri 3/9 - Delaney Gibson and Tom O'Connor 7:30pm Casino Gold 9pm

Sat 3/10 - Chris Pierce & Band, Jade Hendrix 8pm

Tue 3/13 - Blue Grass Jam 8pm

Wed 3/14 - The Rubberneck Lions Residency 8pm

Thur 3/15 - DAVE PALMER and FRIENDS VARIETY SHOW 8pm

Fri 3/16 - Shane Alexander and Cole Citrenbaum 9pm

Sat 3/17 - Cindy Alexander CD Release of "Every Rise and Fall" 8pm

### Book review

## Out of Order

by Staci Brown

What a delightful book. Jeanne humorously, honestly and poignantly tells the story "on becoming and unbefitting a nun." This adventurous, idealistic, feisty independent girl who is a leader in all that she does submits to the Order at age 17 because she sees no other options and is told that God has chosen her so she should not question the divine calling. At the age of 5 she decided that she would never get married and in the third grade she announced at the dinner table that she was going to be a nun to bouts of laughter, further affirming her dogged determination to become one. Her mom replied that she couldn't keep silent because she always said what's on her mind, which makes this story of her life so much fun to read. She defies, questions and brings joy, laughter and innovated thinking to the convent and the students she teaches. She has a strong and positive influence on her many students throughout her years at the Convent and she has many outspoken opinions: not often to the delight of her Superiors.

Jeanne gets into many charades as a child, including attempting to spend the night in a wooden coffin crate for a promised dollar from her uncle and throwing a birthday party for herself-not on her birthday. She spends 17 years

Continued on page 18

# The Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Zits



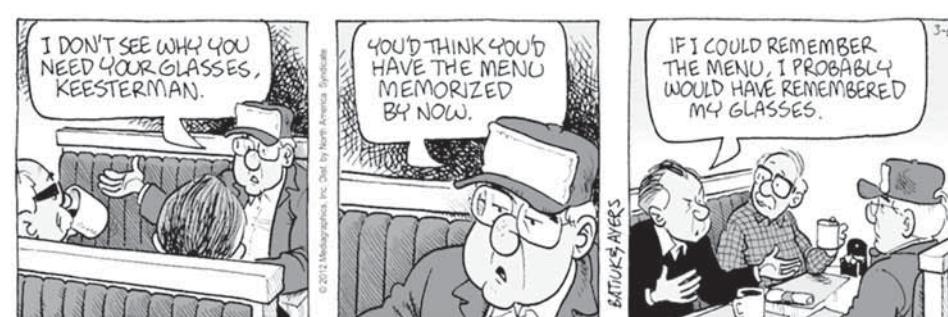
Shoe



Dustin



Crankshaft



Crock



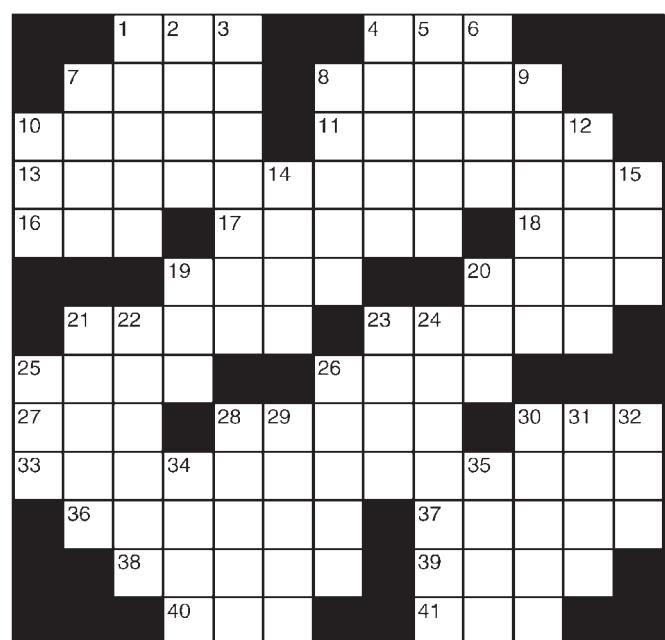
Solutions on page 15

Solutions on page 15

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Rotating part
- 4 Existed
- 7 Deep-sea predator
- 8 Move to one side
- 10 Adversary
- 11 The external world
- 13 News crew member
- 16 Work with
- 17 Judicial apparel
- 18 “— was saying, ...”
- 19 Sheepish comments
- 20 A long time
- 21 Choir's rendition
- 23 Cheney's successor
- 25 Salamander
- 26 Sell
- 27 Raw rocks
- 28 Irving Berlin's “Blue —”
- 30 Afternoon social
- 33 13-Across' offering
- 36 “A Streetcar Named Desire” role
- 37 Bracelet adornment
- 38 Short fishing line



- 39 Slight amounts
- 40 James Bond, e.g.
- 41 Pigpen
- DOWN**
- 1 Minotaur's home
- 2 Pinnacle
- 3 Pertaining to a city election
- 4 7-Across, e.g.
- 5 Jam ingredients?
- 6 A size too
- 7 Individuals
- 8 Uppity sorts
- 9 Battlefield prioritization
- 10 Ostrich's cousin
- 12 Ruhr Valley city
- 14 Wander
- 15 “— the season ...”
- 19 Cudgel
- 20 Toss in
- 21 Shimon of Israel
- 22 Workout garb
- 23 Milwaukee product
- 24 Entomologist's subjects
- 25 Promptly
- 26 Spreading fast on YouTube
- 28 Drag (Var.)
- 29 “An American in Paris” star
- 30 Sycophant
- 31 Blunders
- 32 \$ dispenser
- 34 Sawbucks
- 35 Terrific, in rapspeak

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drop, and move on.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Help with a personal problem comes from an unexpected source. You also find workplace pressures easing. Use this period of calm to restore your spent energies.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You might have to share the credit for that project you're working on. But there'll be enough credit to go around, and your efforts will be recognized and rewarded.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Details need to be dealt with before you can move on to another area. Make sure you don't leave any loose ends that could later cause everything to unravel.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) News about a change in the workplace carries with it a challenge you could find difficult to resist. Check it out. It could be what you've been waiting for.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Allowing your artistic nature full expression will help restore your spirits and will put you in the mood to take on that new career challenge. A Libra creates excitement.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Expect to happily plunge right into a hectic social whirl starting at week's end. Your aspects favor new friendships as well as the strengthening of old relationships.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Like St. Patrick (who was also born this week), your spiritual strength is an inspiration to others.

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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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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Keep an open mind about a suggestion you see as unworkable. Give it a chance to prove itself one way or another. The results could surprise both supporters and detractors.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) News about an upcoming venture causes you to make some last-minute adjustments in your plans. But the extra work will pay off, as you come to learn more about the potential benefits opening up.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A more positive aspect grows out of your determination to reach your immediate goals. Continue to keep your focus sharp and on target by steering clear of petty quarrels and other pesky problems.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) By acting as a voice of reason, you can avoid adding to an already turbulent situation. You might have to shout over the tumult, but your words ultimately will be heard and heeded.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The possibility of a new acquisition always makes those Leonine eyes light up. But be careful that what you see is what you want. Appearances can often be deceiving.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) No matter how much you might feel that you're in the right, resist saying anything that could reignite a still-unresolved situation. Let the matter



Elk's Lodge #1430 presents.

# County Ventura



# ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE

**Saturday, March 17, 2012, 10 AM**  
**Main Street, Downtown Ventura**

everybody's **Irish** on St. Patrick's day!  
*Grand Marshal: Irish Pioneer Farming Families of Ventura County*

*Come join the Fun! Wear Something Green!*

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

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## Please Join Us

The Distad Clay Wealth Management Group presents Jay Conway & Sam Wardell of Pioneer Investments for an informative Economic Update.

Tuesday, March 15th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm  
 Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Space is limited. Please RSVP to 805-620-4703 to ensure a spot.



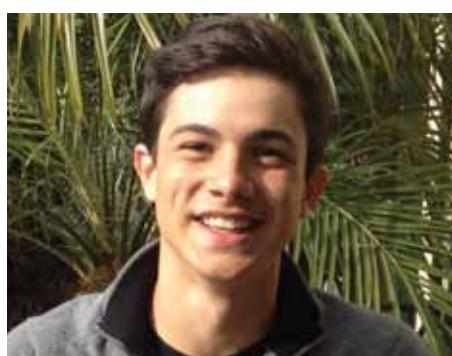
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## Youth



*Jeremy Brooks, another of Ventura's most remarkable young adults (like the writer of this article)*

## El Camino student wins County Poetry Reading Competition

by Brooke Demchuk

Jeremy Brooks, a senior at El Camino High School, recently won the county poetry reading competition, otherwise known as "Poetry Out Loud". In the county Poetry Out Loud competition, competitors memorize and recite two poems each, and are judged based off of their emotions, presentation, and visible understanding of the poems. Brooks chose two unique and interesting poems to present to the judges; "Ego", by Denise Duhamel, and "The Gift", by Li-Young Lee. In just a few months time, he will be competing at the state poetry competition, and will be reciting a total of three poems, including those previously mentioned, and "Alone" by Edgar Allan Poe.

Although this was the first poetry memorization competition that Brooks had ever been in, it was by no means his first experience with poetry itself. As Brooks says, "I have been writing poetry for most of my life, ten years I would say. But, in the last three or four is when I really became serious about what I wrote." Along with poetry, he also has a remarkable knack for public speaking, which is undoubtedly one of the many factors that led him to winning the Poetry Out Loud contest. He has competed in several public speaking competitions, including the Lions Club speech competition, and the Optimist Oratorical Competition, where he was sponsored by the Optimist Sunrise Club.

Brooks has written over 100 of his own original poems and songs, each encompassing a completely different emotion and tone than the rest. But, throughout everything that he writes, there is pure, raw emotion that makes his poems nothing short of relatable. According to Brooks, "I try to make all of my poems as relatable as possible, I love people and want to connect with them in everything I write. People are my inspiration, as well as my life experiences." His favorite poet is Robert Frost, because his poems are, "simple and concise, yet they hide a bigger message."

When he isn't writing poetry and reciting speeches, Brooks plays the guitar and piano, plays soccer and tennis, and partakes in a mime and drama team held at the local church named Reality. His favorite subjects are English and history, because he thinks that they're both very relevant to today's society, whether most of us notice it or not. In regards to teens and adults expressing themselves, Brooks says, "I think that it's important to find an outlet to express yourself through, in a healthy way, and that's what poetry has become for me."

This coming school year, Brooks will be studying at Cal Poly for a degree in public relations. He hopes to eventually have a

career in public relations, and possibly journalism, due to his love of both writing and people. Additionally, he will be performing in PTYA's rendition of *Fiddler on the Roof*, which will be premiering this coming June, and which will be performed at Poinsettia Pavilion.

### Casting call

*Continued from page 1*

after another inspired by the "Hook'em and Cook'em Cookbooks. The dining room table became a kaleidoscope of color. The two cookbooks are filled with all the recipes submitted by the ladies and the third one is in the works. After everyone was stuffed, Zappia led the business meeting, focusing on the 3rd. Annual Fish 4 Food charity event. All the fish caught are donated to Ventura County FOOD Share. At last year's event, over 2,000 pounds of fish were donated.

One of the benefits of joining the club is the "human encyclopedia," Erika Brandt.

"Erika is phenomenal at the rail and can out fish anyone--man or woman," says Zappia.

Seventeen years ago, Brandt went sport fishing with a bunch of friends on a weekend, then the next weekend, etc. "I was hooked from the moment I put a bait in the water," she relates. Brandt devours any and all fishing articles she reads. One of her favorite blogs on the Internet is Brandon Hayward's column. He is the Salt Water editor, writing for the Western Outdoor News and the author of "Getting Bit:" A how-to guide to local and long-range sport fishing.

GCLA's members range from beginners who have never been on a fishing boat to high level experienced anglers. Brandt teaches knot-tying lessons, one of the many ongoing educational club events.

Giving back to the community is an import part of the GCLA. "We are blessed that we can do what we do and love to give back in some way," says Zappia. The club is consistently fundraising and assists in sponsoring two women each year for the Avon Breast Cancer walk in Santa Barbara. They also have donated money and baby items to TenderLife in Ventura and at the holidays, members create Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need.

For more information on the Gold Coast Lady Anglers, please visit their website <http://www.goldcoastladyanglers.com/>

### Out of Order

*Continued from page 16*

in the Convent trying to "not think" although she states, "Almost from the moment I swam out of the birth canal, I wanted to know WHY."

At the end of her journey she realizes that her thinking is not parallel to her Superiors and that her inventive and inspirational thinking may be an aggravation to her fellow nuns. She decides she must quit thinking or leave which leaves her the latter choice. Jeanne is a crusader and has so much to give that upon leaving the convent she obtains a Master's Degree in Psychological Counseling and continues to work for non-profit educational, social service and health agencies. She also conducted training workshops for college and high school deans and counselors, and did program development and staff training. She is a gal that I would love to meet for a cup of coffee.

*Out of Order* by Jeanne Scott on Amazon.com. If you have time (which I doubt) you can go to my website, <http://www.thegreenun.org>. Under the title "Book", people who wish to purchase can do so.

## Art Scene



*MB Hanrahan is recovering from a broken leg as a result of a serious biking accident.*

### Fundraising event will help support local artist

by Tim Pompey

It was a beautiful Friday morning in a remote section of Santa Barbara County. Local artist MB Hanrahan was riding her dirt bike at Ballinger near New Cuyama. Then the unexpected happened. "I was riding around with one of my friends going down a hill," said Hanrahan, "and I crashed really fast. After I did it, I realized I broke my leg."

Hanrahan was flown by helicopter to Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara where she had to wait overnight for surgery on a broken femur. The surgeon reset her femur the next morning. A rod was inserted and her leg was encased with a stabilizing brace. She'll be in a cast around six weeks and in rehab about 4-6 months.

The problem for MB is that she has no health insurance. Fortunately, she was able to get into the Ventura Health Care Agency's Access Coverage Enrollment (ACE) program. They'll handle most of her physical therapy and follow-up visits. Still, there are other bills to pay. A \$36,000 helicopter bill. A \$4,700 surgeon's bill.

For Hanrahan, she continues to take a positive outlook on the whole affair. "My arms are fine, my mind is fine, my sense of humor is fine," she said. "I'm going to work on projects that I can sit around or roll around and do."

One other thing she has in spades—friends in the community who will

gather at Zoey's in downtown Ventura on March 11 to throw her a fundraising party. It's called MBfest and the hope is that the event can help defray some of her medical costs.

For Bell Arts Factory founder Josh Addison, sponsoring MBfest is his personal thank you note to Hanrahan. "She inspires, motivates and shares generously and continuously," he said.

For local artist Moses Mora, who worked with Hanrahan on the Tortilla Flats mural, the event recognizes Hanrahan's contribution to Ventura's art scene. "MB is such a leader in our community," he said, "that when she had a moment in need, immediately the family of the community of Ventura jumped to its feet from many different corners to throw a party to help her."

Deby Tygell, a 5th grade teacher at Saticoy School, has worked with Hanrahan to bring some of her murals to Saticoy School. "She's a renaissance woman," said Tygell. "She has the utmost integrity as an artist, a colleague, and I'm proud to call her my friend."

For Polly Hoganson, owner of Zoey's where MBfest will be held, Hanrahan's art has served as the interior inspiration for her restaurant. "MB's been a great supporter of Zoey's since we opened on Santa Clara Street," she said. "Her art covers about 90% of our walls and is part of the vibe and spirit we have in trying to bring art and music to Ventura."

MBfest will start at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 11 and run all day. Scheduled acts so far include the Sideshow Preachers, Alastair Greene, Cole Citrenbaum, and Phil Salazar. Phil Taggart will be coordinating an erotic poetry reading.

The event will feature art for sale, including some works by Hanrahan. There will also be a raffle with prizes and a live auction after dinner.

For Hanrahan, she is excited and grateful for the event. "Because I'm a community person, to have the community rally around me for that long is really great. I don't do things to get back, but I'm not so jaded as to not appreciate their gratitude."

Zoey's is located at 185 E. Santa Clara St. Ticket and contribution information is available on the Facebook page MBfest.

March 11, from 2-4:30pm at her studio located at the Bell Arts Factory, studio #77, 432 N. Ventura Ave.

Reserve your space today at [www.SacredArtExperience.com](http://www.SacredArtExperience.com).

Or contact Leslie at [info@ThreadsofAwakening.com](mailto:info@ThreadsofAwakening.com) or 626-8272.

\$35 per class and class is limited to 10 participants.

## Paint Ventura

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

Paint Ventura's 3rd free creative adventure in Downtown Ventura will feature over 100 artists creating, selling and teaching. 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 26 and 27. Plein Air artists will begin with a fresh canvas or paper and have two days to paint as many



*A two-gallery group exhibit celebrating women as the subject of art will be on display at the Bell Arts Factory from March 2 – 31 with an opening reception on Friday, March 2 from 6-9 p.m.*

*Featuring artists Isabella Kelly-Ramirez, Mary Carol Kenney, Fred Ziegler, Elisse Pogofsky-Harris, Christina Altfeld, elle-jé' freeheart, Laurie Raskin, Carolyn Hubbs and Steven Falconer.*

Ventura inspired paintings as they wish.

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](http://www.PaintVentura.com). Paint Ventura has been created by Jen and Phyllis and Red Brick Gallery at 643-6400.



*elle-jé' freeheart's sculptures are a moving experience*

## The Shadow and Light of elle-jé' freeheart

by Emily Thiroux Threatt  
[www.theheartoftheartist.com](http://www.theheartoftheartist.com)

elle-jé' freeheart's studio sits atop a building overlooking Ventura Avenue from the ocean to the freeway up to Ojai. Her outdoor workspace is full of sunshine and breeze. There she creates her art with "clay, concrete, plaster, papier, paint and words." She invites you to study sculpting with clay and painting with color in the workshops she teaches there. She encourages people from the community to come share the art and ambiance of her space for meetings, tea parties, and classes. She hosts her gallery inside in a room filled with her expression. One guest said he was "overwhelmed by the amount of emotion in one room." A trip to elle-jé's studio invites and allows you to look at art differently.

A work of art to elle-jé shows mastery of a medium in the complete piece with excellence which is inspiring

and humbling. She demonstrates this mastery in works of self expression often finding that the faces in her work bear an unintended striking resemblance to her.

Currently immersed in preparing for a one-woman show to take place in downtown Ventura this August, she is focusing on two dimensions in her work. The show is entitled Embracing My Shadow, Dancing My Light. In her shadow she is exploring pain, misery, space, and what we don't want people to see. She has discovered that this dark element of the show is much easier to develop than the Light part of the show where she examines how we are trained to be humble and self-effacing. She has discovered that it is easy to agree with your audience when they criticize you, but that taking compliments is much more difficult.

I was especially moved by one of her sculptures where a woman sits on a box dressed in a suit, leaning forward with her hair cascading down over her face. This powerful paper maché sculpture named Despair seems like there could be tears dripping down from her eyes. The paper maché looks like rough granite. Another impressive sculpture is Beast on Her Back which shows the bust of a woman with a nasty little monster clinging to her back with boney arms wrapped around her and one hand in her head and the other in her heart. This one makes your skin crawl imaging how that must feel.

In elle-jé's words, "i see with an eye towards the dark unexplainable side of life where strange, surreal, secret places hold forgotten but possible realities and potential. my work reflects a love of altered realism where the unattractive are beautiful. my art is always in process as am i.

"...i am enamored with living, and as such endeavor to live authentically, within my own nature, as i interpret intimate experiences with life, embrace my shadow, and dance openly in my light."

To visit elle-jé's gallery and studio, contact her at [info@ellejefreeheart.com](mailto:info@ellejefreeheart.com) or 746-9762.

I hope you'll introduce me to artists you want to learn more about. Contact me through Facebook at The Heart of the Artist. Or email me at [emily@theheartoftheartist.com](mailto:emily@theheartoftheartist.com). And I hope that you'll read my blog and support the artists I feature. <http://www.theheartoftheartist.com/category/Blog/>



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Discover the spiritual power embodied in a rare Buddhist textile tradition and connect to that energy within yourself. Join Leslie Rinchen-Wongmo, an artist who studied with Tibetan masters in India, for an experiential encounter with sacred art. On

# Community Events

## Ventura events

*Continued from page 9*

Presents: March "Mind, Body and Soul" Health and Fitness Mixer (701 E. Santa Clara Street) 5p.m. to 7p.m. Light refreshments, wine, beer & great conversation.

V.E.S. is offering CPR & First Aid Certification classes. Dates & times TBD.

CPR: \$35.00, 3 Hour Class, Certified for 2 years

First Aid: \$35.00, 3 Hour Class, Certified for 2 years

Sign-up at our Mind, Body & Soul Mixer! Information: 653-2381info@venturaexecutivesuites.com, www.venturaexecutesuites.com

## Ojai events

On Sunday, Mar. 11 the Ojai Valley Museum will host their first Town Talk of 2012. The title of the enrichment program is "Glass as Art," and is organized in conjunction with the current exhibition "American Glass Works," which closes April 1.

The purpose of the panel discussion is to explore, with five of the seven exhibiting artists in the show, glass as an art medium and why the artists prefer working in this material.

Michele Ellis Pracy, Museum Director and Curator of "American Glass Works," will be the moderator. Her questions will create dialog among the artist panelists, as well as allow each artist a voice about the work they create. The program will begin at 2 p.m., and then conclude at 3:30 p.m., after which artists and audience can visit the exhibit for more personalized questions about pieces in the show.

Reservations are suggested, as seating is limited. Check, cash or credit cards accepted. For more information or to reserve your place call 640-1390, ext. 203. 2011 Museum Members - Free and Non-Members - \$8.

On Sun., Mar. 11 the Ojai Film Society will screen *Le Havre*, the uplifting story of Andre, an older shoeshine man, his sickly wife whom he adores and a young illegal African boy that he helps.

On Sun. Mar. 18 the Ojai Film Society will screen the documentary *The Man Nobody Knew*, an historically probing and deeply personal account by Carl Colby of his father William Colby's four-decade CIA career.

Ojai Playhouse, 145 E Ojai Ave., 4:30 pm.

For more information go to [www.ojaifilmsociety.org](http://www.ojaifilmsociety.org) or call 646-8946

Friday Mar. 23 from 7-10 pm featuring **Dan Willard Combo** and vocalist. All proceeds benefit the OUSD Elementary Schools. Tickets on sale at Attitude Adjustment or at the door. \$35 for couples. \$20 for singles. Includes refreshments. OVWC Clubhouse, 441 East Ojai Avenue in Ojai. Contact Liz 798-1316 or Noreen 652-1841 for more information

The Athletic and Development Offices at Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai have joined forces to sponsor the **2012 Wildcat Classic Golf Tournament**.

The Tournament will be held at 9 a.m. on Sunday, **May 6** at Soule Park in Ojai.

The Wildcat Golf Classic began in the 1980s to establish a scholarship endowment in honor of Fr. John Glynn, O.S.A., Villanova's most beloved headmaster.

To register, or sponsor, please visit [www.villanovaprep.org/golf](http://www.villanovaprep.org/golf). For additional information please contact the Athletic Director Jon Wyers 646-1464 x.137 [jwyers@villanovaprep.org](mailto:jwyers@villanovaprep.org) or the Director of Development Jeanne Greenough Brown at 646-1464, ext. 126, [jbrown@villanovaprepadmin.org](mailto:jbrown@villanovaprepadmin.org).

The Ojai Photography Club welcomes photographer **Peter D'Aprix** to its **Mar. 20** meeting at 7pm at Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 Santa Ana St. An Ojai and Provence based professional photographer and publisher, D'Aprix's expertise in photojournalism and commercial food, real estate, product, and travel imagery has earned him an enviable client roster, as well as publication in media all over the world.

After his presentation, D'Aprix will critique images submitted by club members. Please visit these D'Aprix websites for extended information and images: [www.peterdaprix.com](http://www.peterdaprix.com) and

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The Ojai Photo Club, which is devoted to education, inspiration, and camaraderie, meets on the third Tuesday of each month, February - November. Visitors are always welcome, but only members may submit images for critique. For additional club information, please visit [www.ojaiphotoclub.com](http://www.ojaiphotoclub.com)

The **28th annual Ojai Peddler's Fair** is being held from 9am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, **Mar. 17 & 18**. The bustling Peddler's Fair is located inside the Chapparal Auditorium at 414 E. Ojai Ave., Parking is free in the adjacent municipal parking lot, and admission is always free.

Held rain or shine, the Peddler's Fair is chock-full of quality antiques, collectibles, jewelry, handcrafts and international crafts. This is a benefit for the Mira Monte PTO. Vendors are sought.

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

Performances To Grow On will present a special benefit concert for the **Ojai Storytelling Festival** with 2 time Grammy winning storyteller and musician, Bill Harley on Saturday, **Mar. 24** at 7:30 pm at the Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery. Proceeds from the performance will be used to send low income schools to the Ojai Storytell-

ing Festival Outreach Performances on **May 4** at Libbey Bowl. Tickets are \$50 and include wine, desserts, and coffee. Tickets may be purchased at [www.ojais-storyfest.org](http://www.ojais-storyfest.org) or by phone at 646-8907.

## Wealth Management Group to host seminars

Crowell, Weedon & Co.'s Distad Clay Wealth Management Group, comprised of John Distad, John Clay Jr., Marcy McTernan and Tasha Shuman, has announced they will host a series of educational seminars in the coming months, open to the public and free of charge.

The series will kick off on Thur., March 15 with an informative "Economic Update" by guest presenters Jay Conway and Sam Wardell of Pioneer Investments. Those interested in gaining additional insight can look forward to a "Guide to the Markets" presentation on Thur., April 19 when the Distad Clay Wealth Management Group will host Tucker Grace of J.P. Morgan. Space to these events is limited. For more information and to reserve a seat, please call 620-4700. And to learn more about Crowell, Weedon & Co.'s please visit [www.crowellweedon.com](http://www.crowellweedon.com).

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