

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 5, No. 14 Published Every Other Wednesday www.venturabreeze.com April 18 - May 1, 2012

Venturans discuss homeless solutions, Part 2

by Tim Pompey

Reynolds (Clyde Reynolds, Executive Director of Turning Point) agreed that, even with funding changes in homeless services, some type of year-round shelter might still be necessary. "I think you can make an argument for a small shelter," he said. "Not just a warehouse but a place for those people who need emergency housing while they're looking for more permanent housing in the community, a shelter for short-term transitional housing."

Melinkovich (Marc Melinkovich, current director of the emergency shelter at the armory in Ventura) concurred. "I think the first thing you need to do is incorporate any concept of emergency shelter with some sort of campus network," he said. "I don't think anyone right now is open or receptive to an emergency shelter that exists indepen-



In spite of it being a cold windy day the 5th annual Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest, held at Promenade Park on Saturday April 14, was well attended and was a wonderful celebration of Mother Earth and life and provided a wonderful combination of family-friendly music, entertainment, education, and storytelling, as well as a multitude of activities such as crafts, games, face painting, and a scavenger hunt. Profits from the day-long event go toward funding enrichment programs for kindergarten through eighth-grade students at the Ventura Charter School, a tuition-free public school located off of Ventura Ave. Photos by Richard Lieberman

dent of some other socialization facility, something like a transition living facility and daycare."

help the homeless become not homeless, you run the risk of becoming an enabler to facilitate highly disruptive behavior," he said.

Reynolds noted however that if indeed there was a change in approach to homeless services, especially in the downtown area, this change has its own set of challenges.

The first is funding and staffing. "We would need to redirect and find funding that would pay for additional staffing," he said. "More street outreach and one-on-one requires more people on the streets helping homeless individuals learn about and take advantage of available services."

The second problem is one that continues to plague all homeless service providers. "It's finding housing and creating ways to fund housing in the community," said Reynolds.

Given the difficult community and political obstacles service providers have already encountered, expanding homeless housing within local communities could prove to be a tall order.

However the debate falls in the near future, Reynolds is convinced that effective homeless services will require more cooperation among service providers. "We need to have an integrated approach, to rethink clustering them in one place," he said. "In the past, every city made plans for its own shelter, but what may make more sense is a shelter that is more regional in nature, shared between Ventura, Oxnard and other cities—like our current emergency warming shelter, only year-round."

For the city of Ventura and other cities in the county, cooperation could be the key challenge. Whatever the future of

Continued on page 4

Stan Weisel – A man who cares

On April 4 a naming and recognition ceremony was held at Ventura College for master donor Stan Weisel at the Ventura College Library & Learning Resources Center to celebrate Stan Weisel's philanthropy to the college, and his birthday.

Stan Weisel was born in New York but grew up in Los Angeles where he attended Fairfax High School and UCLA where he earned a BS degree in chemistry and mathematics and a Masters in education and went on to become a mathematics teacher, and dedicated his life to teaching.

He has lived in Ventura for many years and can often be seen playing tennis at the VC courts.

He was delighted to be able to make a \$300,000 endowed scholarship to ensure the future for VC students. The "Stan Weisel Endowed Scholarship" will be awarded to female students who have overcome hardships to become VC students.

His donation is one of the largest individual donations meant for scholarships at the college and will provide

Ventura Family YMCA raises \$120,581

Thanks to the generous contributions of Ventura County residents, the Ventura Family YMCA's Campaign for Youth and Families reached their fundraising goal to help the Y continue to help those in need learn, grow and thrive. The Ventura Family YMCA actually passed their \$115,000 goal by raising \$120,581. Gifts to the Ventura Family YMCA stay in the community, directly supporting services and programs that have a positive impact on residents right here in Ventura County through its Open Doors Program.

As a result of the campaign, the Y will be able to help more than 385 kids by giving them a safe place to learn and build confidence after school; 154 families monthly allowing them to reconnect and grow together and 276 individuals monthly by giving them access to life enriching programs like wellness coaching and nutrition education.

As one of the leading nonprofits for strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Ventura Family YMCA depends on financial gifts to do its vital work so that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has an opportunity to receive the support and guidance to learn, grow and thrive.

To learn more about the Campaign for Youth and Families, please contact Margo Byrne, Executive Director, by telephone at 642-2131 ext. 17 or email margo.byrne@ciymca.org, or visit ciymca.org/ventura for more information.



Stan Weisel thanked the large gathering for attending his "naming" and birthday party at VC. Photo by John Hankins

about \$15,000 a year in scholarships. Two \$5,000 scholarships and five \$1,000 ones.

He stated "I feel many women get stuck raising a family without help so it is difficult for them to go back to school. This will allow them to return to school."

Two study areas located in the

Continued on page 4



Clyde Reynolds, Executive Director of Turning Point, noted that if indeed there was a change in the approach to homeless services this change has its own set of challenges. The first is funding and staffing.

dent of some other socialization facility, something like a transition living facility and daycare."

He also believed that simply providing temporary food and shelter didn't go far enough. "I think transitional centers are legitimate because if you don't have some type of agenda to

While celebrating International Workers Day (May Day) in Prague you can always catch up with the Breeze at venturabreeze.com

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



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Ventura Music Festival's 18th Season runs from May 3rd-12th, presenting the above exciting artists and MORE....

To see the season's complete lineup of performers go to www.venturamusicfestival.org.

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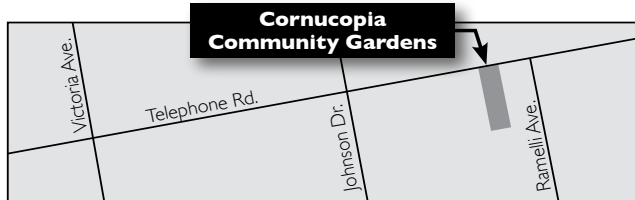
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City News

Online water film contest

In the spirit of World Water Day, Ventura Water and partners Limoneira's Limco Del Mar, Patagonia and iThentic launched Water:Take 1 Online Short Film Contest to elevate water awareness and promote water efficiency and recycling. Filmmaker submissions are being taken at www.watertake1.com for recent short films under five minutes that address the topic of water and may be any genre, including documentary, drama, comedy, animation, sci-fi or experimental.

"Our country is undergoing a national water crisis involving water shortage and aging infrastructure," said Mayor Mike Tracy before an event announcing the program held at the Museum of Ventura County. "This contest is an effort to draw attention to this local, national, and global issue as we work together to find solutions through education and partnerships."

The film contest will close on September 4, 2012 with ten finalists named. A jury-awarded Grand Prize of \$1,500 will be presented to the Grand Prize Winner at an event hosted by Brooks Institute. Users visiting watertake1.com will have an opportunity to "vote" for their favorite entry. The Filmmaker winning the "Audience Choice" award will receive a Canon EOS 7D Digital SLR camera.

The distinguished jury is comprised of leaders in water and environmental issues, entertainment professionals and influential members of the community.

The Water:Take 1 Online Short Film Contest is part of a larger effort to highlight our relationship to water and to encourage water efficiency at all levels, from the homeowner to the local business to the large industrial companies.

City of Ventura Classes

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

Beginning Drawing – 14 years-Adult

A crash course for absolute beginners or those who want a brush up on skills. Covers such basics as line, shading, rhythm and composition to create sketches or prepare for painting. \$60. Instructor Marcia Cummings.

Class code #31231 4/21-5/26
Saturday 1:45-3:15 pm

Watercolor with a Splash – 14 years-Adult

Learn color fundamentals along with basics of watercolor! As you gain skills in methods and techniques of painting, you will increase your understanding of color mixing and interaction. Class updated for returning students. \$60. Instructor Marcia Cummings.

Class code #31234 4/21-5/26
Saturday 3:30-5:15 pm

Yoga & Meditation – 16 years-Adult

Hatha yoga postures prepare the body and mind for meditation. Learn to calm the mind, experience stillness and discover the rewards of meditation. Bring own mat. \$50. Instructor Nisahna Engel.

Class code # 31100 4/24-5/22
Tuesday 6:15-7:10 pm

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 beginner. Wear smooth soled shoes, clothes to move in, towel and water. \$48. Certified Zumba Gold Instructor Mary Macias. Class code # 31079 4/26-5/31
Thursday 4-5 pm

Classes take place at Barranca Vista Center, 7050 Ralston St., Ventura.

Sam Weisel

Continued from page 1

Library & Learning Resources Center have been named the "Stan Weisel Tutoring Center" and the Stan Weisel Group Study Room.

The event also celebrated his 85th birthday with a lovely cake shared by the large group attending the ceremony and some lucky students who happened to be passing by.

Venturans discuss homeless

Continued from page 1

funding for homeless services, whatever varied services are offered, many would agree that the effort to address homelessness has been hampered by varying agendas from dozens of nonprofits, city and county governments, and local communities. Sometimes these agendas overlap. Sometimes they butt up against each other.

Perhaps the issue has also been hindered by the use of the word "solve" and "end," as if homelessness can be redistributed or eliminated by the right plan, the right funding, the right "hands up" approach, or by simply reducing the homeless concentration in downtown and shifting it elsewhere.

The questions then arise: Can multiple agendas be recalculated and replaced by effective coordination, particularly when it comes to housing? Is there an effective path for homeless individuals to return to the community? Is there enough room in each community to allow the homeless to recover what they need most: a decent place to live?



Just so you know...

"I wanted to show 3 dogs who need forever homes so there's no Scampclub this issue, but it shall return."
Scamp

"Art Scene didn't make this issue either, but fear not, it too shall return!"
Too-Loose Lautrec

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**County of Ventura
Human Services Agency**
www.vchsa.org



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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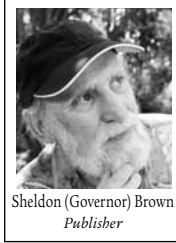
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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher

■ I feel that two proposed building projects would be very good for Ventura in general and specifically for the harbor and for downtown. The often delayed major development located in the Ventura Harbor (right adjacent to the mobile home community on Anchors Way) is back on the front (well maybe the middle) burner because the California Coastal Commission has approved the concept by a 9-2 vote. The vote was necessary to approve an amendment to the city's code to allow for a mixed use project on the 21 acres.

The project has been around since 2000 when the Port District selected developer Sondermann Ring Partners to develop it.

The proposal has been delayed by both the horrible economic climate and the death of partner Douglas Ring a few years ago.

Preliminary plans approved years ago by the city call for 21,000 square feet of commercial space and 300 apartments and a large 2-acre city park.

It will probably be several years before this would become a reality. The Port District has been trying to develop this parcel for over 50 years according to Port District General Manager Oscar Pena.

Regarding the project (and the Coastal Commission decisions) on his current blog City Manager Rick Cole states, "One hopes at least two things: that the project will now actually get built and provide the promised benefits – and that everyone in public service work that much harder to reconcile diverse views and complex issues with common sense, fairness and attention to the full range of consequences of our work and our decisions." To read his complete blog go to "cmblog.cityofventura.net."

Another project, the proposed plans

for the property located on Thompson in downtown calls for approximately 260 apartment units. This is the property that was recently purchased by developer John Ashkar and his Westwood Communities Corp. from the Olson Co. The Olson plans were for a condominium project of 172 units.

The Ashkar project also contains commercial space on Santa Clara and on Thompson. Ashkar, always the optimist, hopes to break ground on the development this year

■ City council member Christy Weir has informed me that the much anticipated painting of the railroad trestle over the freeway is scheduled to be started the weekend of May 11. It is disappointing that it can only (not the city's choice) be



This proposed major development in the Harbor has been around since 2000 and might actually happen one day

painted gray and cannot be an art project but it will still be wonderful to see it happen. Hopefully the measures being taken to keep it graffiti free will work.

■ Edward Woodruff, the son of Katie Reed, is suing the employer of a truck driven by Michael Whalen who struck and killed his mother Katie Reed (65) while she was crossing Ventura Avenue

in a marked crosswalk. The owner of the truck is Ventura T&T Crane. The intersection at Shoshone Street, has always been a dangerous one and the crosswalk has been repainted and the city has plans to install lit lines there where a pedestrian hits a button to cross the street. This has been done at other streets that have been determined to be a dangerous crossing.

The police department always reminds pedestrians that just because they are in a marked crossing that extreme caution must be taken when crossing streets. It does you no good if you are in the right, but dead. This has become even a larger problem with idiots' texting while crossing the street and never even picking their heads up to look.

■ The Ventura City preliminary budget (prepared by City Manager Rick Cole) calls for the hiring of 8 Ventura Police Department positions over the next 2 years. This would need to be approved by the City Council and would cost approximately \$1.3 million.

■ If city officials can figure out where the money will come from the City Council has unanimously approved the purchase of land on Ventura Avenue (At Kellogg Steet) for a much needed park on the Westside. There were several stipulations in their "approval" before purchasing the property could seriously be considered, so this certainly might not happen.

1. How to pay for it without using an existing Westside swimming pool fund.
2. If the purchase makes sense based upon a professional appraisal and a favorable environmental impact study that would be done. The property is located in an industrial area so a favorable study wouldn't necessarily happen.

Many speaking in favor of the park waited up to 3 hours at the City Council meeting to speak but shouldn't get too excited until it really happens.

Mailbox

in their own community and the taxpayers of Santa Paula will save \$40,000+ a year. What a great idea! Other municipalities should explore their options to save money and offer more humane care for their animals by entrusting the care of at risk companion animals to humane groups rather than bureaucrats.

Ms. Nolan will not miss the \$100,000 out of her very large budget but perhaps if other communities follow Santa Paula's plan and that budget is reduced more significantly Ms. Nolan will get the idea that the citizens of Ventura County are no longer willing to finance a shelter that is run with disregard for the benefit and protection of the animals.

Karen Helen Szatkowski
Ventura

City Council, etc.

I sent the attached message to you yesterday and want to bring you up to date on an incident last night that was clearly a result of your inability to manage our precious roads and streets.

Unfortunately since then an Opossum "tripped" on one of the huge cracks in our street and broke his neck. This is unacceptable. This occurred right in front of our house.

The accident is a result of our Street Departments "arcane policy" of just patching concrete streets and not fixing them.

What's next. I can just see a "pit

bull" leisurely chasing a 3-year-old kid down the street and tripping and cracking his jaw. The kid's parents then would be sued for animal cruelty and failure to walk the kid on a leash.

I have already been contacted by the opossum's lawyer and representatives of the NAAOP regarding demonstrations that will be occurring shortly at City Hall. I provided your names to the NAAOP for a possible "photo op" for the Ventura Breeze.

My insurance agent has indicated that I am really lucky that I had put you on notice. I could be sued and jailed for cruelty to animals, because my house is closest to the side of the street that the accident occurred.

I have been called by the Ventura Health Department who has given me a recipe to cook the Opossum...

Please take a deep breath and laugh a little at my somewhat "offbeat" sense of humor, it is a result of the beatings I take from my 91-year-old mother.

Dan Frederickson

Breeze:

Even though we sympathize with Dan we have heard that opossum does not taste like chicken.

Dear Mr. Brown;

Thank you so much for your sponsorship. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival was a big success! We screened over a dozen specially selected films from the national tour to over 500 people for two evenings at the Poinsettia Pavilion on March 23 and 24th. We gained 56 new memberships as part of the festival, exceeding our projected goal of 50. Your support is critical to our success and directly assists the Conservancy's dedicated efforts to permanently preserve the hillsides, canyons, and open space that contribute to the natural environment and unique character of the City of San Buenaventura and surrounding region.

Sincerely,

Gary Bednorz and Stephen Svete

Dear Sheldon;

Thank you so much for that amazing article that you recently put in the Breeze. It was greatly appreciated and it's obvious that many people read the Breeze because I've received so many comments on that article. You are a great friend and I really appreciate all you do

Continued on page 7

When we quit thinking primarily about ourselves and our own self-preservation, we undergo a truly heroic transformation of consciousness.

–Joseph Campbell



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

April 21
May 19
June 16
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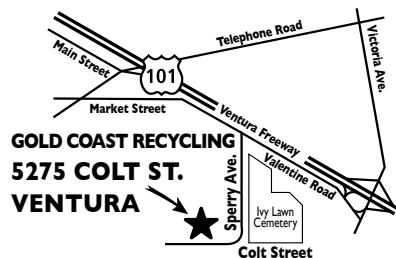
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- Auto & Household Batteries
- Fluorescent Light Tubes & CFL's
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- Household Cleaners
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Limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds per visit.
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MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED

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News and Notes

many a precedent set that the city can indeed be, and has been sued, and lost in the case of the Pierpont suit. It would be great to get a change of venue because in this relatively small town, I honestly believe that few judges will find against a group they work out with, lunch with, and socialize with. If this decision is allowed to stand, this city that is already out of control can do anything to anyone, anywhere and at any time. So this appeal we are filing is not just for us. Frankly it would be easier to just let it go and get on with our lives. But to let this decision go unchallenged would be saying it is okay to live in a city where justice is a foreign word and a few make such a difference to the many, just because they can. This was an ideal location close to shopping, doctors and hospitals for our seniors, and located in an already commercial corridor. Also, it would have generated an enormous amount of revenue to the city, and created jobs. It was a win, win for everyone. It is a well-known fact that many developers shy away from Ventura and those that do develop, do it only once, and seldom come back a second time because the process is so belabored and onerous that there are other cities that in the end benefit from their projects.



Avery Weir is getting an early start celebrating Arbor Day by planting this tree at last year's observance

sauce, created by a talented Ventura cook named Rosa Ramirez. You'll still see the Las Palmas label with distinctive Ventura palms on store shelves worldwide.

Thousands of acres of fertile land east of Seaward Avenue flourished with walnut, citrus and avocado orchards for most of the twentieth century, growing Ventura's economy and enhancing the postcard-perfect landscape.

Today, hundreds of different species of trees can be found in the City's parks and along our streets—our "urban forest". Ventura's moderate coastal climate allows many different tree species from various regions to be grown.

Ventura's urban forest of over 30,000 trees is one of the most vital pieces of our city's infrastructure, providing numerous benefits for our residents. Tree-lined streets retain large volumes of rainfall, reducing and cleansing runoff. They also increase property values, encourage shopping and business, reduce air pollution, calm traffic and lower noise levels. And trees reduce erosion and stabilize our hilly terrain.

Help us celebrate Arbor Day this year by planting a tree, a living and lasting gift to our community. The City of Ventura will plant street trees in your neighborhood, at your request, as the budget allows. Please call the City of Ventura Parks Department at 652.4550 and our urban forestry staff will be happy to talk with you about recommended species and will schedule a planting.



CAPS

CAPS Chat

Community Journal returns

by Elizabeth Rodeno

CAPS' Community Journal is back! Our show covers the important topics and concerns of the people of Ventura. The Community Journal episode "Local Effects of State Cuts 2012" with City Manager, Rick Cole and VUSD Superintendent, Dr. Trudy Arriaga is currently airing on CAPS. Our guests provide interesting insights into the future of our city. We have several episodes coming up that will follow the election process and the election primaries. Each episode will feature a political columnist and a spokesperson, heads of the local parties and a guest from the Board of Elections. Check out our programming schedules online or just tune in to CAPS Channel 6.

Just as a reminder, the last day to register to vote is May 21st. Primaries will be held on June 5th. The last day for mail-in ballots will be May 29th. If you will turn 18 years old by November 6th, be sure to register in advance. CAPS' mission is to provide public access to the citizens of Ventura enabling them to exercise their First Amendment right to Free Speech. We encourage you to do that by voting in the upcoming elections and by coming in and using your CAPS Media Center to get your story heard.

Digital Storytelling Summer Classes at CAPS will begin on July 16th. The classes provide a great experience teaching

A right to equal justice

by Linda Freeny

First, let me thank the so many of you out there who not only know of our ordeal with the City of Ventura, but who apparently empathizes with us. For those who don't, here is a quick rundown. Our lawsuit is against the city of Ventura, five council members, and two of the neighbors who went above and beyond just objecting to the project.

Five years ago we applied to put a senior living project on two properties that we own between Ashwood and Mills. After getting through city planning, design review committee, traffic division, code departments, etc, we finally, after almost four of those years and many, many change of plans, got it approved by the Planning Commission. Some neighbors appealed, and it went before City Council. Up to that point all who had looked at it and passed on for approval, were experts in their fields. Then along comes City Council, politicians all, and they denied all the findings of the experts and found against us...this after sending us back to revise the plans once again. And as a point of clarification, we did submit revised plans to The City Council exactly as mandated, and City council member Brian Brennan said then it could come back as a consent item. So it was a complete shock to lose our case. All in all it

was a five years journey that cost us \$349,000 (encouraged all along the way by the city) and eighteen sets of plans that reduced the size of the project by almost half since the first set of plans that were submitted to the city. This journey also cost us in our business because this took up so much time, and affected our health and well being.

After months of postponements our suit was heard by a local judge who found that we had not been irreparably harmed, had not exhausted our options (after 5 years we were exhausted) and that we could file again. Never mind the enormous costs for a new filing and that we would be facing the same city council members and the same neighbors and with the same outcome, for what politician is going to say they were wrong? It must be noted that Jim Monahan and Neal Andrews did not go along with the majority ruling.

We are, of course appealing the judge's decision, hoping to get a trial by jury and not a decision with prejudice. The prejudice I speak of is not prejudice in the legal term, but in the form it takes when an entity like the city is involved. The judge also found that the city was immune from prosecution. First, that is not true, because there has been

Trees make a world of difference

by Christy Weir
City Council member

Arbor Day, on April 27, is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care.

The city of Ventura has a fascinating tree history. After the Mission San Buenaventura was founded in 1782, the Franciscan missionaries planted the first orchard in what was a generally treeless area. The good soil, excellent climate and year-round water from the Ventura River contributed to abundant crops of apples, pears, peaches, pomegranates, bananas, coconuts and figs.

One of the oldest trees in town is a designated historic landmark. The Moreton Bay Fig tree in downtown's Plaza Park was planted in 1874 and, with a span of 150 feet, is one of the largest of its species. At 138 years of age, it is older than most of our buildings.

The two great Norfolk Island pines next to the Mission are estimated to be well over 100 years old. They reputedly were planted by a sailing captain in the hope that they would eventually provide a supply of ship masts.

Over the next century, other species were introduced to Ventura, notably palms, eucalyptus and citrus. In 1898, thirteen Big Blue Gum Eucalyptus saplings were planted on a hilltop above Ventura. Over time, eleven were lost to vandalism, fire and disease. But "Two Trees" remain there today, a much-loved symbol of our city.

In 1922, several tall palm trees near the Mission were the inspiration for the name and logo of Las Palmas brand enchilada

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News and Notes

how to write and produce videos. We will be offering 3 one-week sessions, each with a different project theme, visits by working professionals and a whole lot of fun. Courses are for 12- to 17-year-olds. Brochures will be available soon. Please call for more information at 805-658-0500.

CAPS Media Center has gone High Def. Stop by our facility and we will show you the amazing programs you can now produce with our HD field cameras and fully equipped High Definition TV Studio. We have also unveiled our new Green Screen wall in the studio. It is Hollywood in Ventura. Now you can have fun playing with scenery, animations and more.

Don't forget you can make your voice heard with help from CAPS. For a small annual fee of \$25, you can take advantage of the services and equipment Ventura's non-profit Community Access Center has to offer you, your friends, family or organization. Join CAPS now! Call us at 658-0500, check our site at www.capstv.org and friend us on Facebook at CAPSTV Ventura.

Andrews' proposal before President's Council

At the beginning of the economic recession in 2008, Ventura Councilman Neal Andrews proposed a plan to rapidly stimulate economic recovery by using the vast resources of local municipalities across the country. That plan has now stimulated sufficient interest in the Obama Administration that it has been sent by the White House to the President's Council of Economic Advisors and the National Economic Council for review and recommendations.

Andrews observed, "My proposal would not require the government to print one more dollar or sink into any more debt. It's very simple. Cities across the country are today sitting on large sums of money being held to pay for future anticipated capital projects. This money could be used today to finance new local economic development if there was assurance that it would be paid back when it was needed for the original purpose. I've suggested that the Federal Government establish an insurance fund, similar to what is done today to insure our bank deposits, which would guarantee the safety of local investments in economic development. I firmly believe if it had been adopted when I first proposed it, we'd be out of this recession already."

Mr. Andrews originally proposed the plan as a potential legislative initiative while serving on the National Policy Steering Committee for Community & Economic Development of the National League of Cities. It was unanimously endorsed by that committee and subsequently forwarded for review to the national committee with responsibility for finance issues, where it was also endorsed. Mr. Andrews in the meantime took the proposal to Congress to the House of Representatives Committee on Finance where it was likewise deemed a program with significant potential. However, the proposal lost traction after the election of 2010 with the radical change in the House composition.

In 2011 Mr. Andrews became Vice Chair of the National Policy Steering Committee on Community & Economic Development, giving him greater access to both Congressional and White House

leadership. He now serves as Chair of this prestigious committee. The recognition of his leadership in economic development policy issues reflected in his selection to head this important committee provided a renewed opportunity to present his proposal. In meetings last autumn when he was invited to the White House to meet with President Obama and subsequently in several meetings with senior White House staff, he put his ideas forward once again. He learned last month that they had received sufficient support for the White House to request review by the Administration's highest level of economic specialists.

"It's not too late," Mr. Andrews noted. "While we may be heading out of the recession now, it's still pretty slow and uncertain. There is still a great deal of danger that we will slide back into trouble. My program could push us along a whole lot faster with little risk. We need that push."

Mailbox

Continued from page 5

not just for me but for our community. If there is anything I could ever do for you Sheldon, please don't hesitate to ask.

Blessings,
Jim Duran

Breeze:

We here in Pierpont and the Ventura Keys appreciate your article on the Tsunami Warning Signs that have been recently placed along the beachfront. I have been trying to get the City of Ventura to do this for over a year. Note that Oxnard, Silverstrand, Hollywood Beach and the county beaches north of us have had signs in place for over a year. I doubt that everyone realizes that we have had two tsunamis here in Ventura in the last couple of years. Both occurred at extreme low tide. If they had occurred just 6 hours earlier or later, they would have been at extreme high time and water would have inundated many of the lanes near Marina Park plus caused a lot of damage to the harbor. Both tsunamis were only about 2.5' high. It is not if, but when the next one will occur. Residents need to be prepared. We may not be so lucky next time.

Murray Robertson

Breeze:

I hope the city of Ventura does not act with haste but rather requires promoter Mark Hartley to do an environmental impact study of his proposed 1914-plus seat tent concert music series proposed above City Hall this summer.

With an additional 1000 car trips and about 2,200 people including support staff anticipated midweek for five months, with our already limited residential and commercial parking, the limited police and fire services most certainly will be affected, not to mention additional noise, crime, trash and litter, homeless, panhandling, lights, pollution, alcohol related problems, safety, traffic and other issues this may cause as well as the extreme fire hazard concerns of the surrounding hillside.

In addition, there are other promoters of music in Ventura who should be allowed to submit their proposals for this project, if approved. I am all in favor and support of the Botanical Gardens, but not for the benefit of any individual special interest or to the detriment of the quality of life for the thousands of locals who enjoy downtown.

Randall Richman
Ventura

The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura is currently accepting applications for its Non-Profit, Income Restricted Units: Encanto Del Mar, Chapel Lane Senior Apartments, Soho Apartments and Triad Properties.

The Developments are located in the City of San Buenaventura. If you are interested in applying to live in any of these developments, you may get on the waitlist by picking up an application at 11122 Snapdragon St. Ventura, CA 93004 or 995 Riverside St. Ventura, CA 93001 or visit www.hacityventura.org. Direct questions to Diane V. Lopez at 805-648-5008 ext 2229 or Julia Terry at 805-647-5990 ext 3235.



Tell us what you think . . .

We are evaluating our City of Ventura Senior Services and Programs and would really appreciate your input. If you are 50+ and live in the city of Ventura, let us know how we can best serve you.

Please take 5 minutes to tell us what you think.



EASY AS 1, 2, 3

- 1** Online survey at www.cityofventura.net
- 2** Call to request a Senior Services Survey by telephone, 648-2829 or 648-3035
- 3** Visit during regular business hours and fill out a survey at the:
Senior Recreation Center (420 E. Santa Clara Street)
Ventura Avenue Adult Center (550 N. Ventura Ave.)
Ventura City Hall (501 Poli Street, Room 226)

— OR —

Mail your Senior Services Survey by April 30, 2012 to:

Attn: Bonnie Wiley – City of Ventura
Senior Services Division – P.O. Box 99,
Ventura, CA 93002

Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

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News and Notes



Jonell McLain explaining the proposed Botanical Garden to the Soroptimists at their monthly meeting

Ventura Botanical Garden in the news

Jonell McLain, Vice President of the Ventura Botanical Garden and member of their Board of Directors, gave a lively and interesting talk about the organization's vision for the Garden and the progress to date. The occasion was the Soroptimists of Ventura monthly program meeting on March 28th.

Ms. McLain talked about the community support for the concept with charter members increasing from 100 to 1,000 in the five years since their beginning and an enormous volunteer crew. Jonell described the plans for this extensive park area above city hall, along with visual displays of the various garden areas to be planted in the park.

The Ventura Botanical Gardens will be holding its First Annual Garden Festival at Grant Park, on Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. There will be gardening workshops, music, prizes, food and an array of local vendors specializing in plants and garden-related arts.

The last workshop is at 2:30 p.m. Adult admission is \$15 and children under 12 are free with adult admissions. Tickets may be purchased at the event, or online at VenturaBotanicalGardens.com. Park in the lot behind Ventura City Hall where free shuttles, courtesy of Barber Ford, will take you up to the Festival.

And The Ventura Botanical Gardens presents their 4th Annual Spring Garden Tour on Saturday, May 5th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Enjoy a beautiful day in Ventura on a self-guided tour of 8 private gardens. Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased on-line at www.VenturaBotanicalGardens.com, at Green Thumb Nursery on Victoria, Nopalito Nursery, downtown at Palermo, the Ventura Visitors Center and Flora Gardens in Ojai.

Everyone is welcome! This is a family affair!

For more information on this event, please visit VenturaBotanicalGardens.com.

And make a day of it as this year's

Garden Tour coincides with the Ventura Music Festival. See Ventura up-close on the self-guided tour, patronize local restaurants and enjoy the music festival in the evening.

The Ventura Botanical Gardens is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a botanical garden for the twenty-first century. To find out more, visit VenturaBotanicalGardens.com and visit on Facebook.



Ruben Lopez operates the "cross mix turner" at the mushroom farm. It straddles the compost rows and turns them upside down as it mixes the compost. Photo by Barbie Lange

Mushroom crowds

by Es Cole

All of you who know that Ventura has a mushroom farm, please raise your hands. You, and everyone else out there, are invited to a virtual visit to the California Mushroom Farm, Inc. on Olivas Park Drive.

Appropriate shoes and clothing are mandatory. Not because mushrooms are grown in manure, but because this is a farm and farms are wet and muddy and slippery.

We start in the office where a picture of Saint Padre Pio hangs, the patron saint of agriculture. If your life depends on one crop, it doesn't hurt to be on good terms with St. Padre Pio.

Our tour guide is Jack Reitnauer. He says his job title is "Farmer." Jack is tall, slim, in excellent shape for a man who's almost eligible for Social Security. And no wonder, he works seven days a week, and these are long days. He also owns the place – 30 acres that grow nothing but mushrooms.

Jack was on his way to becoming a veterinarian. That was more than 40 years ago, when he was sidetracked into the mushroom growing business in Pennsylvania. His business mushroomed. (Sorry, couldn't resist that.) In addition to his mushroom farm in PA, he came west and bought the California Mushroom Farm in 2004. This is a monster operation.

California Mushroom farm is one of three of the biggest mushroom farms in the United States. It has 88 growing rooms. Each growing room is 100 feet long and has 16 tiers of growing beds. The rooms are dark. Mushrooms are fungus, they do not need sunlight to develop. The preparing and growing and harvesting of mushrooms is constant. There is no growing season like fruits or vegetables. That's why Jack is on duty all day, every day. And his employees work year round. All four hundred and eighty of them. This is a time-consuming, water-consuming, labor-intensive, large-rolling-stock operation.

It starts with straw. Remember the three little pigs and the straw house that was blown down? Not Jack's mushroom house. Jack's straw is gathered from

horse stables from Santa Anita and other race tracks. The tons of straw are formed into long mounds, called ricks. These are saturated with water and minerals and chemicals and the straw begins to break down. Large front-loading trucks shift the mounds every three days. The ricks become cauldrons. Natural heat builds to 170 degrees. In thirteen days, the original straw, plus the additives, become the bedding substrate. On the 14th day, this substrate is spread onto the tiers in the growing rooms, the spores in the substrate grow into mushrooms. From straw to harvest takes 51 days; an incredibly fast turnaround.

Jack's crop consists of white button, crimini, and Portobello's. I ask him if some mushrooms are not edible. He says, jokingly, that "All mushrooms are edible; some you eat just once."

For the health conscious – mushrooms are a good food; low in calories, no fat, good source of vitamin D and selenium, and may help prevent breast cancer. I like my mushrooms sautéed in olive oil, garlic, and wine.

The Farm has a retail store where you can buy fresh mushrooms and help yourself to recipes. Bon appetite.

Disneyland Half Marathon

Have you wanted to run a half marathon, but perhaps doubted you could run that far? Why not consider running in the happiest place on earth – that's right, Disneyland!

Disney is holding its 7th Annual Disneyland Half Marathon, on September 2, which is sure to be even bigger, better, and happier than before!

The Ventura County Marathon Training Program is a 13 week program that runs from June 3rd through August 25th; leading up perfectly to the Disneyland Half Marathon. All proceeds from this program are donated to charity, with Josephine DeMello SIDS Foundation being the primary beneficiary and Project Understanding being the secondary beneficiary.

The Josephine DeMello SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization formed to educate families, friends and the general public about the number one cause of death of infants in their first year of life, to raise awareness in the community, and a support to everyone who is touched by the tragedy.

Project Understanding provides hope by developing and directing resources for the purpose of transforming lives and community through justice, mercy and compassion. The agency is founded on the ideals and principles of Judaism and Christianity.

Each participant is asked to raise \$750 and receives:

13 Week Training Program for all levels to prepare for the ½ marathon

Entry into the Disneyland ½ Marathon (which is sold out!)

A shared room at a hotel near Disneyland

End of season Celebration Party

A race shirt to proudly wear in the race

Race day support

Orientation/Registration Day is Sunday, April 22nd from 10:30 am - Noon.

Please visit www.vcmt.org by April 20th to sign up for Orientation/Registration Day.

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Just as the famous swallows return to Capistrano every spring, a pair of Great Horned Owls comes back each year to breed in the great eucalyptus trees at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park. If you bring

binoculars and stand just at the right spot on the balcony you just might get to see them.

The Adobe docents—who have named the pair Olivia and Papa—first sighted them in early February perched in the Courting Tree (one of the eucalyptus) where Papa stood guard while Olivia was sitting on the eggs, in a nearby tree. The eggs recently hatched and we now have two wonderful owlets. She generally lays two to four eggs and has successfully raised four owlets at a time in the past. After six or seven weeks, the babies will have grown and will start exploring the nearby tree branches. Photo by John Ferritto.



Community Events



Dinner is just part of the wonderful Totally Local VC's evenings. Photo by James Scoalri.

What a difference a year makes

by James Scoalri

Twelve months ago, with Totally Local VC operating well under the community radar but already picking up speed, Kat Merrick and her allies unveiled an ambitious notion – to create an alliance of local farmers and chefs in a series of spectacular one-time-only dining events for a discriminating subset of the Gold Coast community. Dubbed Dinner At the... for the sake of the ever-changing location, the series became an overnight sensation.

While farm-to-plate fetes are hardly a new idea, TLVC's mission added just the right spice to the recipe, emphasizing community as the unequivocal centerpiece to each event. Just as TLVC's mission is dedicated to local living across a wide spectrum, so the events are meant to express a broad experience of community, of "living local" with high intention: honoring the community by staging the events in high-profile, imagination-catching venues; honoring the farmer by sourcing the food from local, organic growers; honoring the craft by engaging some of the area's most celebrated chefs to create the meals; honoring local vintners and brewers by offering the finest local wines and ales. Truly, the county's cup runneth over, and nowhere is the fact more in evidence than at the Dinner At the... king's table, where neighbors and strangers come together to pass the platter and celebrate, in a word, community.

The contrast between last and this year is evident in more ways than one, as TLVC rolls out the slate for 2012's Dinner At the... series: while last year the series was only a potentiality, with much to prove, this year it lands on the calendar a tried-and-true hit, and a hot ticket on the veritable eve of sales. Anticipation is already high among a dining public keen to see what's next in the popular and innovative series; as before, proceeds will go to benefit Food Share, and, as before, the well-known non-profit's ubiquitous volunteers will anchor the labor force. The series will again enjoy sponsorship from Ventura Rentals, and will also benefit from backing by Republic Recycling. That said, the question of the hour remains "where" Dinner At the... will actually be served – and the lineup looks like this:

Dinner in the...Orchard, May 24th

Limoneira

Start time 5:30

Chef Jason Collis

The evening will start with wine and appetizers in the fireside room where guests will hear a brief history of the Limoneira and the Rancho Period. After which our guests will be whisked away high up upon the hill in the middle of the orchard where they

will enjoy a farm to plate meal prepared by local favorite Chef Jason Collis of Plated Events.

Dinner at the...Mission, July 26th

The dinner start time is 5:30

Chef Tim Kilcoyne

The evening begins in the Mission Garden with wine and beer. Guests will then be treated to a tour of the mission, the old hotel and the house that adjacent to the gardens. After the tour dinner will be served at a grand kings table.

Dinner at the...Ocean, Sept 24th

Chef Gary Daniels

Topline Chef Gary Daniels of The Cave in Ventura will create the evening's fare. Ojai Vineyards will treat guests to an amazing selection of wines. The evening will be filled with ahh inspiring tastes, sounds and treats to the eyes and pallet as the 2012 Dinner Series wraps up.

Ticket are \$130 and receive a 10% discount when you purchase all three dinners in the series. Tickets are available at Totallylocalvc.com or by calling 643-1131.

Gold Coast Ride for Literacy

by Nanci Cone

Calling all bicyclists! The 8th Annual Gold Coast Ride for Literacy helps benefit Rotary Club of Ventura's grade school literacy projects, where every third grade student receives their own dictionary.

In 2004, over 200 participants made it a huge success for a first-time event. This year, they hope to sign up the maximum riders allowed. The first 100 registrants get a special "goody bag" containing a variety of donated items from local and distant merchants. A lot of the items are "bicycle specific" and are quite a trophy to bicycle enthusiasts.

Participants enjoy a wonderful day of touring the area while being pampered with food and drink and a lot of exuberant volunteers. Others choose to support this ride for the many literacy and Rotary programs that it funds. They recognize that improving literacy helps an individual achieve success, and those successful people are more likely to give back to the community.

There are several routes mapped out to accommodate all levels of ability. The 10-mile ride to Foster Park is perfect for families while the 30-mile ride follows the coast to Rincon Park. The 62-100 mile route meanders up towards Ojai, over Lake Casitas into Carpinteria and the nurseries of Summerland to Montecito. For the first time, this year's event will also feature a 200 kilometer challenging ride with over 10,000 feet of elevation gain for the most dedicated [crazy] riders. Rides start at \$20 per family with young children for the 10-mile ride. All rides can be signed up on Active.com. For those concerned about safety, the routes are designed to minimize any interference with people or traffic.

"The Ventura Rotary Club has participated with READ Adult Literacy to co-produce the event in the past and this year Rotary is taking the lead and will provide most of the preparation and staffing for the event," says chairman Steve Doll. It takes roughly 50 people to organize and staff the event. Rotary President Lynda Girtsman adds, "This is a great event for Ventura and it benefits a lot of people. We're also really excited because this year, after the

Villa Tasca Gardens

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event, we'll have a BBQ and music for all the attendees so everyone can relive the event and connect with others who care."

The event is on Saturday, April 28 and riders begin their routes at various times depending on the length of ride with the course closing at 5 pm. Any riders unable to make it back for any reason (and at any time) are given a free ride to the Service Center by staff.

Advanced registration, which provides a free Specialized Purist water bottle and other goodies, is available until Wednesday, April 26th. Riders may also register the evening of Friday, April 29th between 5 and 7pm or on the day of the event at the VUSD District Education Center and can pick up their registration there on Friday evening or Saturday morning.

For more information regarding sponsorships, volunteering or to register for the ride go to www.GoldCoastRideForLiteracy.com or call 665-3307.

Dance in a public place

Dance Day happens every April 29th. Dancers all around the globe are encouraged to take their impassioned form of dance out into a public place where people who might never even know that such an activity exists can not only observe, gather info about it, but even choose to participate!

This year World Dance Day, falls on a Sunday, so they have tweaked it a bit so that in Ventura, World Dance Day EVE might be more effective by taking advantage of the downtown Ventura excitement with the Red Brick Gallery's Show and the Farmer's Market! Ventura will celebrate World Dance Day EVE!

The Red Brick Gallery will have art displays and artists in the one block closed to traffic, including the grassy walkway between Main Street and the Farmer's Market. Ventura folk dancers from the YMCA and the Points West Fencing Center and perhaps a few AnaCapa Middle School dancers, will be dancing among the artists to music from around the world, celebrating World Dance Day.

Come see what great fun this International folk dancing is. It is Fun, exercise for the mind, weight-bearing exercise for the body, social recreation and so much more!

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

April 19: "Mind, Body and Soul II" will be held at the Ventura Executive Suites, 701 E. Santa Clara Street, from 5p.m to 7p.m. Light refreshments, wine, beer and conversation in a comfortable and casual setting. And Johanna Spinks will be painting one of her wonderful Face Of Ventura portraits.

April 19, 20, 21, 22: Ventura College Theatre Arts Department presents *The 39 Steps*, a spoof of Alfred Hitchcock's famous film, a mix of juicy spy novel and a dash of Monty Python. Performances will be held at the Wright Library, 57 Day Road, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the door \$10 General Admission, \$7 students, staff, and seniors

April 21 & 22: Audubon-San Luis Obispo Weekend Birding Trip. Leader: Neil Ziegler 983-7207. Trip starts on Saturday, 8:00 a.m., at Laguna Lake. In the varied habitats, see wetland birds,

Continued on page 15

the Kim Pagano Show

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The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



Doug Halter

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Doug Halter has been a “face of Ventura” for many years since his arrival here 28 years ago. Born in San Jose into a large extended family of Italian heritage he now credits much of his successes to the strong values instilled in him by his Grandfather, Sal Ciraulo. He remembers his Grandpa encouraging him to learn how to work and know that your dreams can be fulfilled if you have the passion, drive and tenacity to persist through the tough times. Work hard, stay true to your convictions and values and help others reach their dreams.

Doug laughs when he remembers his grandpa telling him that “if you don’t expect anything from anyone then you will never get disappointed. But he went on to know that every relationship, every friendship, any support and respect offered by others is a gift not to be taken for granted.

And earned respect he did with his involvement across a broad range of community issues. From historic preservation, helping to form the Shaw historic block in the late 80’s to being at the forefront of the downtown resurrection by being instrumental in forming the Downtown Community Council and later the Ventura Music Festival, Ventura County AIDS Partnership, and the Rubicon Theatre. He also has either been on many additional boards and/or presided other them including the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Bureau, the Social Justice Fund, Parks and Recreations Commission and, most importantly, the Ventura Botanical Gardens which is striving to create a world class garden on the hillside above our historic downtown.

Although he has a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from UCSB and has worked for Shell Oil, Procter and Gamble and Unisys, when he is not volunteering his time he is working in his primary business of 21 years, Halter Landscaping. He has always loved gardening and plants since he was a little boy, learning first from his Grandfather

as they grew their garden in the Santa Cruz mountains and tended to the needs of the beautiful redwood forest.

Doug is passionate about giving back to his community and believes that everyone not only has a right but a responsibility to make their community better because they were there. He has a deep understanding of the value of life and the importance of everyday; having lost his partner to AIDS in 1990. He strongly insisted that people must live their lives as openly and honestly as possible and be who God created them to be; to believe in yourself and know that each one of us can make a difference. Go for your dreams and help others reach theirs, he encourages. Diversity, individuality, uniqueness is where you will always find his support. He and his current partner of 18 years, Randy Encinas, just opened up Villa Tasca Gardens on the corner of Thompson and Catalina Street to compliment the landscape needs of our community.

We asked him what he likes most about Ventura?

It is the most unassuming place on earth. Being one of California’s original cities, on the most dynamic coast the world has ever seen, the people are very down to earth and humble yet most of us didn’t have the good fortune to be born here, we choose Ventura for a reason. Our citizens are very accomplished yet there is no pretense. It is truly the best of California. The challenge is to preserve that while we strive to insure the best future for the next generation.

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

I had never had my portrait done before. I really don’t even like pictures but loved my time with Johanna. I thought that there would be no way I could sit still for two hours unless she painted me with my phone to my ear but we talked the entire time. She is a true gift to our community!



Captain Bill Finley Howard Boroughs Rachel Morris Jolene McBee Tony Barrios
 Jerry English Bonnie Weigel Manuel A. Valenzuela MB Hanrahan Emily Olszowy
 Olivia Simonson Lynn Mikelatos Lorenzo DeStefano Gene Dunn Star Soto
 “Jalopy Joe” Moody Mati Waiya Donna Granata Bill Pendergrass Josh Addison
 Mark Hartley Scott Miller Ken Corney Francisco Bracho, MD Anita Diaz
 Steve Robles Laci Kay Barbara Meister Sandra Laby Kat Merrick
 Cheryl Heitmann Debbie Cowell Sheryl Kitchen Jim Martin

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

“The Face of Ventura By Johanna Spinks”:

Images Copyright Johanna Spinks.

Email: johanna@johannaspinks.com Website: www.johannaspinks.com
 The Breeze is proud to present “The Face of Ventura by Johanna Spinks”, an on-going art project by award-winning portraitist Spinks to paint 55 worthy Venturans, **each in a single sitting**, painted directly from life at the artist’s 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.



You can now see Johanna paint EACH Face Of Ventura live at The Ventura Executive Suites (VES) in front of The Face Of Ventura wall featuring the project’s first year of Ventura sitters. Thanks to VES for its support of this project. VES is located at 701 E. Santa Clara Street.

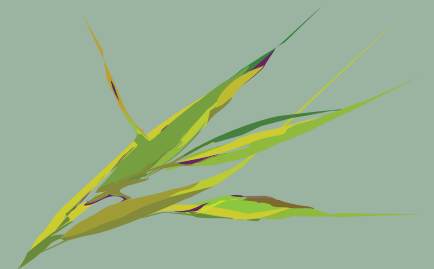
There will be a “sitting” April 19 at 5pm. Email Johanna for the schedule of “sitters”. johanna@johannaspinks.com



SATURDAY, MAY 5th 9:30am – 4:00pm

Tour eight private gardens including a Mediterranean villa with breathtaking views, an intimate and unusual specimen garden, a Japanese garden and a drought-tolerant hillside garden with mature trees. \$25 admission includes all 8 gardens.

Tickets available at VenturaBotanicalGardens.com, downtown at Palermo, the Ventura Visitors Center, Flora Gardens in Ojai, Oasis Nursery, Nopalito Native Plant Nursery, Green Thumb Nursery and Villa Tasca Gardens.



VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7:30 am		7:30 am BODYPUMP		7:30 am BODYPUMP			
8:30 am			8:30 - 9 am TURBO Express		8:30 AM ZUMBA	8:30 am BODYSCULPT	
9 am	9-9:30 AM BODYATTACK	FLIRTY GIRL DANCE	9 - 9:30 am STEP Express	BODY WORKS	9:30 AM 20/20/20	9:30 -10 am CORE-LATES	9am BODYPUMP
10 am	9:30 -10 AM CARDIOSCULPT	YOGA STRETCH	9:30 am BOOTY-CAMP	GENTLE STRETCH		10 am ZUMBA	10 am Intro-2- BODYATTACK
	10-10:30 AM ARMS & ABS				10:30 AM PILATES STRETCH		11 am YOGA
							12 noon ZUMBA

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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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Diabetes and you

by Nanci Cone

Question: I've just been diagnosed with diabetes and there is so much I don't understand. I just don't know where to start; who can help me?

Answer: Diabetes is a major issue that millions of Americans are having to face and it is a lifelong (chronic) disease. As we age and find ourselves gaining weight, it's becoming more and more of a major problem. Everyone should be tested for diabetes when they visit their doctor. It's a simple blood test that shows your glucose level. If your levels are high, your doctor will help you determine the best course of action to lower your number. It's important to regulate your diet and begin an exercise regimen. Also, once it is determined that you have diabetes or you are at risk for it, you need to get a kit so you can check your glucose on a daily basis. It's a simple process – just prick your finger first thing in the morning before having breakfast (it doesn't hurt – honest!) and draw a drop of blood onto a little strip. You then insert the strip into the meter and it will give you a reading. Ideally, the number should be around 100. Once it starts climbing to 120 and above, you need to immediately make the necessary changes to your lifestyle.

Insulin is the hormone produced by the pancreas that controls blood sugar. When there is too little insulin, or resistance to insulin, the body cannot move the sugar to be stored for energy and blood levels rise. Although there is no cure for diabetes, fortunately with education, Diabetes can be self managed and controlled. Treatment involves medicines, diet, and exercise to control blood sugar and prevent symptoms and problems. Without treatment, you can lose your sight, face amputation and ultimately spend several hours a week receiving dialysis – a very painful process.

With a change in diet, it is possible to just take a pill on a daily basis as opposed to injecting yourself with insulin. If you are extremely overweight, doctors are finding that surgery is often the best way to control it. Currently, there are three types of gastric bypass surgery including Roux-en-Y, stomach staples and the controversial lap band procedure. Physicians have found that there is an immediate response after the surgery. In addition to losing weight, patients often find themselves able to stop taking the medications or injecting themselves with insulin.

The best thing you can do is learn all you can, and by attending one of Livingston Visiting Nurse Association's many free diabetic classes, you will receive vital information. Given by Diabetic Nurse Specialist, Linda Hampson, RN, MSN, the classes are held monthly and the emphasis centers on developing an individualized plan of care. Diet, medication, exercise, blood sugar monitoring and common management problems are discussed, along with new developments in diabetes. To find a group near you or call 642-0239, ext. 723 for further information.

Call for volunteers

CAREGIVERS Volunteers Assisting the Elderly is calling for volunteers to perform neighborly deeds, two to four hours, once a week in Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Camarillo, Santa Paula, or Fillmore.

The program, which was started in 1984 by the Interfaith Council on Aging with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, serves more than 500 seniors in Ventura County.

"Ideally, we want to identify a one-on-one match for every senior enrolled in our program," said Tammy I. Glenn, executive director. "Many of these matches result in lifelong friendships thanks to simple acts of kindness like providing a ride to the doctor, a trip to the grocery store or a friendly visit. We also have other periodic volunteer opportunities in the office and at events."

Ventura County boasts one of the largest concentrations of seniors in the nation. CAREGIVERS provides a low cost solution for basic care, meeting the needs of many members of our aging community. All volunteers are required to have a background check prior to training and receiving a senior match.

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

Please join Cypress Place Senior Living on Wednesday May 2nd 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.

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

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This Program is operated by Chamber Explorations, a division of Premier World Discovery

Home care provider relocates

Assisted Home Care and Home Hospice, along with over 200 guests and providers of the healthcare community, celebrated the relocation of their Ventura Branch Office on March 15.

"We are so proud to provide quality patient care to the families and healthcare professionals of this great community," said Elaine Donley.

Assisted, founded in 1989, includes the following family of companies: Assisted Home Care (providing intermittent home health visits), Assisted Healthcare Services (providing private duty nursing and supplemental staffing) and Assisted Home Hospice (providing hospice and palliative care for the end of life).



Attending the relocation party were Denise Carter (Community Liaison), Bill and Elaine Donley (Owners), Christine Cortez (Branch Manager), Jack Hansen (Fire Battalion Chief), Cheryl Heitmann (Deputy Mayor of Ventura), Quinn Fenwick (Assistant Police Chief), Dr. William Rajala (Medical Director), Deborah Barlett (Branch Manager) and Tracey Shoop (Community Liaison).

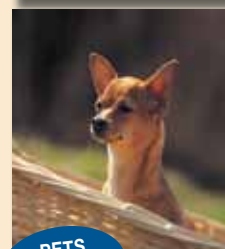
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Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



■ On April 22, from 1-3pm the American Cancer Society will present "Bark For Life" a canine event to fight cancer at Libbey Park in Ojai. All friendly and social

dogs are welcome. Fantastic prizes will be awarded for the most talented pooch, ugliest dog and best dressed canine. How come no contest for the best dog with his own column?

Only \$5.00 entrance fee per animal per contest and all proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. For more information contact Kate Nelson at volunteer @humanesocietyvc.org.

■ A chance encounter at Lazy Dog café between restaurant manager Chris Simms and LA County Supervisor Don Knabe has resulted in new health rules concerning dogs at restaurants in LA County. The new rule allows dogs to be able to sit near sidewalk tables on outdoor patios, which was illegal until now in LA County. The new law is great news for owners and dogs alike, it empowers restaurant owners to invite dogs outdoors, and the dogs are able to socialize. "I'm hoping my dog will invite me out to launch" Simms said.

In Ventura County we already have laws that allow dogs in open patios if the restaurant owner will allow it.

■ In an attempt to get on the Ellen DeGeneres show an Ohio woman paid \$6,000 for a billboard in Burbank advertising her pup Denali dressed up in a human costume. She has been ordered to take down the billboard which read, "Ellen, Denali the Dog Wants to Meet You". It was taken down after only 5 days because of the clothes the dog was wearing and use of the name Ellen. She was "trying to trade on the public image of Ellen DeGeneres", according to Tim Fox, director of governmental affairs for CBS Outdoor. Fox noted that the billboard was ordered to be taken down by Ms. DeGeneres's representatives.

If Denali would like to be a guest writer for one of my columns I would be happy to interview her (maybe she is cute).

■ Apparently Nextdoor.com, a free social media service for neighborhoods across the U.S., has helped countless lost pets find their owners.

This past winter, on Lummi Island, a stretch of land off the coast of Washington, a small puppy named Willie was lost. With freezing temperatures and wild animals on the island, Willie did not stand much of a chance. Fortunately for Willie, his owners were members of Nextdoor.com.

Willie's owners sprung to action and posted an alert to the Nextdoor.com online neighborhood for Lummi Island and Willie was soon sighted and reunited with his owners.

The greatest fear of any pet owner is the potential of coming home, only to find that your pet has gone missing. When this happens, making posters and calling neighbor's one by one wastes valuable time that you could spend actually going out and looking for your lost pet. And when minutes count, you need a fast, efficient, and easy way to get the word out that your pet is missing.

Nextdoor is also a great way for pet owners in your neighborhood to connect. On Nextdoor you can organize dog walking groups, find a pet sitter for the weekend, and even share photos of your pets with your neighbors! One Nextdoor neighborhood has even put an online photo album on their site of all the dogs in their neighborhood.

If you check out Nextdoor please let me know what you think.

■ I want to remind you that the Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 Search & Rescue, along with the Ventura County Sheriff's K-9 (Patrol) Unit and the National Police Dog Foundation, will again be hosting the "Dining with the Dogs" event, on April 21.

"Dining with the Dogs" is a charity event in support of police and search and rescue dogs. It is an opportunity for you to meet the dogs and their handlers, and to learn more about their skills and abilities and the wide variety of jobs they perform. Some of their tasks include patrol work, narcotics detection, explosives detection, trailing suspects, finding missing persons or crime victims. Breeds represented include German shepherds, bloodhounds, Labrador retrievers, border collies,

This benefit will be held, from 2pm to 7pm at the beautiful historic Camarillo Ranch House. For tickets or to download a brochure, go to http://vcsark9.org/vcsark9_010.htm.

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Gloria, an affectionate 2-year-old female Schnauzer / Shih Tzu, mix who loves walks and cuddling. I'm a friendly and energetic dog who is good with children. I love to be around people and exhibit some signs of separation anxiety when left alone, so I'd probably do best in a home where I was rarely left by myself. I tend to growl at other dogs, so if you have a canine companion already, please bring him/her along so we can do a meet and greet. My foster mom thinks I'd do best as the only dog in the home and no cats please. I know the basics - stay, come

when called, sit on command and walk fairly well on a leash. I'm house trained and know how to use a doggie door. I'm very responsive to training and extremely loveable. Stop by and meet me, I may be the perfect addition to your family.

Scamp: If Gloria is part Shib Tzu you know how smart she is.

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

This is Wavvy's story...

He's a 3 month old Sharpei/Yellow Lab Mix, rescued by CABODOGZ, from the Los Cabos Humane Society. He immigrated to the U.S. on April 3rd via Alaska Airlines. On April 7th, he had a little accident playing too hard and hurt his leg, but the doctor says he'll be good as new in a couple of weeks. He is healthy, neutered, up to date on his shots, and the cutest, sweetest, calmest pup you've ever meet! Call 805 643-3647. Ventura Highway Luxury Boarding for Dogs to "BRING HIM HOME"



Tennessee is a 5 year old neutered black male Aussie, about 50 pounds, is very reserved at first, knows basic obedience, prefers women over men, is okay with other dogs but generally isn't real interested in running around and playing with large group of dogs - prefers one on one. He is crate trained and housebroken, not real comfortable around kids so tries to avoid them.

This Saturday, April 21, and each third Saturday of every month Linda's Claws and Paws, located at 1865 Main will be holding an Australian Shepherd Rescue with the Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) in the parking lot in front of Linda's store. If you or anyone you know is interested in rescuing an Australian Shepherd visit www.aussierescuesocal.com.

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.

Robbery

On Saturday, March 31st, at 11:15 p.m., VPD received a call reporting a robbery at knifepoint in the Santa Clara parking structure. According to Matthew Ming, two suspects approached him on bicycles. The first suspect pulled a knife out and demanded Ming's cell phone and car keys which Ming handed over. The suspect then ordered Ming to tell him what his vehicle looked like and where it was parked. The suspects took Ming's property and fled the location on bicycles. Ming ran to a local restaurant to report the crime.

Officers discovered Ming's vehicle near California and Poli. The vehicle was unoccupied and the suspects are still outstanding.

Stabbing

On Friday, March 30th, the VPD responded to CMH in regards to a stabbing victim. Officers arrived at the hospital and contacted the victim who was being treated for a non-life threatening stab wound.

The victim, Christian Lopez, was walking near the intersection of Ramona Street and Ventura Avenue when the suspects approached him. The suspects inquired about Lopez's gang affiliation. The victim denied any gang involvement.

The suspects attacked Lopez, punching him repeatedly in the upper torso. The first suspect produced a knife and stabbed the victim once in the head. The suspects then fled on foot.

Ventura Police officers searched

the area but were unable to locate the suspects.

Stolen Vehicle Pursuit

On Wednesday, April 4th, at 11:11 a.m., a VPD officer observed a vehicle reported stolen earlier in the day driving in the area of Harbor and Monmouth.

The officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle. The driver, Eric Forrest, failed to stop and entered the 101 Southbound at a high rate of speed and a pursuit was initiated.

The pursuit continued Southbound on the 101, until it exited the freeway and continued through several streets. Forrest abandoned the vehicle as it hit a parked vehicle, and he fled on foot into the strawberry field. Forrest was taken into custody without incident.

During the pursuit, Forrest committed numerous traffic violations and hit several orange cones while he traveled through a construction zone.

Forrest was arrested and booked into the VC Jail.

Pier Rescue

On Wednesday, April 4th, at 7:26 p.m., VC Fire Department responded to a reported ocean rescue with a victim on the North side of the pier. The 19-year-old male victim was determined to be in severe distress and struggling to stay above water. A Ventura City Fire Department rescue swimmer jumped off the pier near the victim. The rescue swimmer was able to clip the victim into a rescue buoy. The victim was weak, exhausted, very cold and unable to assist in his rescue. The victim was loaded and transported to the Ventura Harbor Patrol dock where he was met by VC Fire Department and AMR Paramedics. He was treated on scene and transported to VCMC. The victim stated that he began to swim from shore to the end of the

Continued on page 19

Community Events

Ventura events

Continued from page 9

migrating warblers, various sparrows and perhaps Blue Grosbeaks. Sunday we'll go to Montana De Oro. Make your own accommodations. Several are staying at the Travelodge at 1825 Monterey St., 543-5110. Contact Judy 642-0842 or catmai03@yahoo.com, if you plan to go. Contact cell phones in SLO: Neil 208-3149, Judy 283-4272.

April 22: The Ventura County Chapter of USA Dance, Inc., will be holding their April **Spring fling** dance party on Sunday, at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Open dancing is from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to the music of the Ventura Jazz Orchestra Sextet with the Vocal renderings of Donna Greene. Stylings are Ballroom, Latins and Swing. Also featured are refreshments and door prizes. Admissions: \$10 General and \$7 USA Dance members. Info: www.usadance4022.com

April 24: Children's World in Ventura will be holding an **open house** on Tuesday, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend the program by visiting the classrooms, enjoying the art show presented by students, partake in the ice cream social, purchase scholastic books and view the baskets put together by the classrooms. Join in at 7620 Foothill Rd. for this festive evening. No cost.

April 24: Discover the rewards of foster parenting by attending a **Foster Parenting Informational Meeting** Tuesday, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.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. Becoming a foster parent is quite possibly the best thing one human can do for another. For more information, call 654-3456 or go to www.vchsa.org/foster.

April 24: Focus on the Masters Artist Spotlight; An evening with Jenchi Wu, Tuesday from 6p.m. to 7:30p.m., at The Comedy Club at the Harbor. Jenchi teaches at Ventura College and is head of ceramics, sculpture and 3-D design. Admission is free for FOTM members, general admission is \$10, seniors \$5. No one under 21 permitted. A celebratory fundraising dinner with the artist will take place at The Comedy Club immediately following this interview. Dinner is \$20 for FOTM members, \$30 for non-members and a no-host bar. Paid reservations are essential and required prior to April 20 for the dinner. Purchase tickets online at www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call 653-2501. For more information, go to www.JenchiWu.com.

April 25: Soroptimists of Ventura scholarship will award its annual scholarships at a luncheon on Wednesday, at noon at the Ventura Beach Marriott on Harbor Blvd. Always an inspiring and energizing event, with the recipients, their families, teachers and judges attending, the Soroptimist Club encourages attendance by those interested in joining the club and community members dedicated to helping women and girls. RSVP to Arlene, 658-2048 by Monday April 23. Soroptimist International is the world's largest service organization for business and professional women, with the goal of making a difference in the lives of women and girls.

April 26: Children's Therapy

Network, Coastal Kids Advocate and PAUSE4 Kids invite you to join them for a free informative seminar on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at 1234 E. Main St. Do you have a child, friend or family member with special needs? Are you looking for information to assist you in ensuring your loved one is receiving the support he or she deserves? CTN, CKA and PAUSE4kids come together to offer their assistance. For more information or to reserve your seat please call 218-0113 or email info@coastalkidsadvocat.com

April 28: Audubon Beginners' Bird Walk in Ojai, Persimmon Hill area from 8:30a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Leader: Allen Bertke 640-9037. Should see Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, Western Bluebirds, hummingbirds, and many more. Bring binoculars, a field guide, hat and water. Carpool from the museum at 8:00 a.m., 100 E. Main.

April 29: Ventura City Firefighters Auxiliary will be hosting a **pancake breakfast** on Sunday. This old fashioned, community event will be held from 9:00 a.m. until Noon at the Poinsettia Pavilion. Tickets are \$5 each and are available at Buena High School, the Foothill Little League snack shack, or from the Ventura City Firefighters Auxiliary. With the help of Scofield Catering, Ventura City Firefighters and their families will be preparing and serving the food to all guests in attendance. Proceeds from the event will benefit both the Foothill Little League and the Buena High School Environmental Club. For more information, or to buy tickets, please call 794-9829. Ventura City Firefighters Association online at facebook.com/VenturaCityFirefighters, facebook.com/venturacityfire or youtube.com/VenturaCityFD.

May 2: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN) is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, dining, outings, reading, cooking, etc. For more information, please attend their monthly meeting at 9:30 AM. Meetings are held at The Greek Restaurant located in the Ventura Harbor. No charge for meeting. Coffee or tea is available at a nominal charge of \$1.00. Guest speaker will be Pauline Sexton, owner of Sexton Associates in Oxnard, speaking about significant events in your life "Developing the Masterpiece within you."

May 7: Ventura County Philatelic Society meets from 7:30-9pm at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission and parking are free. Stamp dealer will be present. Contact: vcpsforyou@lycos.com or 320-1601.

Ojai in the news

The Ojai Playwrights Conference has added additional stars to its **15th Anniversary Season Gala Benefit** themed "Body and Soul: An OPC Cabaret" - A Musical and Theatrical Celebration of the Mystery, Magnificence and Madness of Living! Scheduled for Saturday, **April 28**, the Benefit begins at 5:30 pm at Matilija Auditorium with a dramatic and musical event created especially for this evening by OPC Artistic Director and Producer Robert Egan. The all-star cast for the Benefit now includes The *Phantom of the Opera* star Davis Gaines and *Queen of Cabaret* performer Andrea Marcovicci. Following the show, the festivities continue with the cast at St. Thomas Aquinas Hall with music, a gourmet dinner and a live auction

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- **Overwhelming Bills?** Unreasonable collection calls? Threats/harassment? Taxes? Student loans?
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- **Business Struggling?** Behind on the lease? Negative ca\$h flow? **Protect yourself!**

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On Earth Day, **April 22**, the Ojai Film Society and Chimp Haven will host a special gala screening and party for DisneyNature's newest feature film *Chimpanzee*. The film begins at 4 pm at the Ojai Playhouse with the party to follow at La Fonte restaurant in the Ojai Arcade. The event is a benefit for Chimp Haven, The National Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Louisiana. Tickets are \$50. To purchase go to www.ojaifilmsociety.org or call 646-8946.

On Sun., **April 29**, 4:30 pm at the Ojai Playhouse, the **Ojai Film Society** will screen *Declaration of War*, the energetic and engaging true story of a young French couple (played by themselves) who courageously battle for their ill son's life "Declaration of War feels very present, very alive. And it's very much worth seeing." Steven Rea, Philadelphia Inquirer

Ojai Jazz Concerts presents The **Carol Welsman Trio**. They will sing and perform melodic jazz music filled with rich harmonies and beautiful lyrics at

7:30 pm, Saturday night, **April 21**, 2012 at The Ojai Valley Community Church. This is a fund raising concert benefiting FOOD Share, Ventura County's food bank. Tickets are available at the door and online at www.tinyurl.com/ojaijazz. General Admission is \$25 at the door and \$28 online. Students under 25 years old with ID at the door are \$15.

Tomas Bostrom, shamanic healing practitioner, staff instructor at the **Four Winds Society's Light Body School**, and certified Dying Consciously teacher, will present a workshop on *Dying Consciously: The Greatest Journey*. The training will take place Friday, **April 27**, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, **April 28**, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Well, Center for Conscious Learning, at 214 West Aliso Street.

Cost of the workshop is \$175. Space is limited. Registration and pre-payment are required. For more information, contact Tomas Bostrom at tomas@inkamedicinewheel.com, or call 798.5648, or visit http://inkamedicinewheel.com/dyingconsciously.html.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	T	S	B	L	A	B	S	T	Y	
L	I	R	A	R	O	S	A	I	R	E	
F	O	O	F	I	G	H	T	T	E	L	
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M	E	T	S	I	R	S	S	E	E	M	

Show Time

Where The Music Flows

New and old favorites

by Michael Kohli

VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com
kohlismusicpit.com

ARMY OF FRESHMEN Readies new album

Local legends, Army Of Freshmen, announced recently that they've been working on new material. Fans and supporters got a special glimpse at the new tracks as the band premiered them live. Their set on Friday the 13th at Bombay Bar & Grill was filled with new songs. Fans and friends came out to hear what the new tracks sounded like. One surprise, is the band has their first ever ballad called, *Skyscrapers*. Among other new tracks – the core of the new material seems very well polished and as I watched dance club Bombay goers make their way through the Army Of Freshmen crowd, I saw many of them turn and look. And a few ladies came down from the club area with drinks in hand – dancing and screaming away. It's been a long road for this band. Hopefully, this is the album that puts them on the map. I remember once with my talk with Sugarcult's Marko72, he commented on Army Of Freshmen as, "One of the hardest working bands." Stay tuned for upcoming Army Of Freshmen news. Check out their songs and videos online on iTunes, YouTube, Facebook, and Ar myofffreshmen.com.

Facing The Fallen

These Secrets Will Sink Us is the official new title of the upcoming release from Facing The Fallen. This Oxnard based group has been playing batches of shows and has been hard at work on the new tunes. The album will be out on April 20th. They will also perform at Rock City Studios in Camarillo on April 21 with Kill Paradise, School Boy Humor. Rumor has it that Facing The Fallen is planning a tour this summer and that they have picked up Two Minute Hero for a batch of shows. Recently, I had the honor of working with Facing The Fallen at Zoey's Cafe back in February. Female lead vocals backed by a strong batch of musicians. They know how to get any stage rocking!

Angela Izzo

Lately I've been impressed by the art and video work of visual artist, Angela Izzo. She's a graduate of Brooks Institute of Photography with a Bachelors of Arts in Visual Journalism. Recently, she's directed videos for Primitive Radio Gods (*Stranger To Self*), We Govern You (*Cotton Candy*) and Gypsy Death Star (*Jackhammer*), captured great live videos of Crippled Puppies, Catwalk, Todd Hannigan, Jade Hendrix, Seth Pettersen and many more. Currently working on a documentary titled, *Local Music Scene*. She's also captured some great photos of our favorite local bands as well. Check out her site at Izzoimages.com. Looking forward to seeing more of her work.

Current favorite new music this month:

For me it's a tie between the new Halestorm album, *The Strange Case Of...* and the debut album from Adrenaline Mob (featuring my favorite drummer, Mike Portnoy). If you want a flawless hard rock ballad to fall addicted too, check out Adrenaline Mob's *Angel's Fly* song. Halestorm got some exposure on Glee back in February, as their song,

Here's To Us was performed on the show. Last year they also released some great covers on an EP featuring covers of Lady Gaga, Skid Row, Temple Of The Dog and more. Their second album is flawless from beginning to end. Singer, Lzzy Hale has got a set of vocals and screams on her. Check these albums out online or at your local music store! Highly recommended!

Thank you for reading!

The Entertainment Report

Silver screen

by Linde Carlson

Hello, Ventura! My picks for the week are:



Mirror, Mirror

Directed By Tarsem Singh, (*The Fall*). This frolicking and fun-filled classic Grimm fairy tale is re-made in sci-fi- fantasy fashion, starring Julia Roberts as The evil Queen-Step Mother, Lily Collins, the darling and assertive Snow White, (daughter of musician Phil Collins in case you didn't know) Armie Hammer as the gorgeous Prince Alcott and the always quirky and laugh-a-minute side kick Nathan Lane as the Queen's valet and patsy.

When the evil queen loses control over her kingdom and begins to realize her so-called fortune is gone, she employs her valet (Lane) to collect money from the town's people. What she really wants is to get rid of Snow White, a threat to her control over the kingdom, and to the potential revealing of her secrets, vying for her next victim, the wealthy prince.

Fortunately the seven dwarfs come to the rescue of exiled Snow White and try to help her win back her birthright.

The film was full of humorous one-liners, indicative of what you'd expect from Nathan Lane and Julia Roberts, rather tongue in cheek. The scenery was beautifully shot, costumes were lavishly designed and gorgeous, the story moved at a clip, and held my interest the whole way through. I highly recommend it. Loved the surprise at the end of the movie, great music!

Rated PG Running time 106 minutes



Salmon Fishing In The Yemen

Based on the novel by Paul Torday, charming Sheikh Muhammad's (Amr Waked) vision is to bring the sport of fly fishing to the Yemen, a barren desert in the Middle East. His goal is to enrich the lives of his people, with this pastime of fishing, but where are the salmon? The task is immense in this tale of faith and good will.

In order to fulfill the dream, the fish must be imported from Scotland, but Scotland is opposed to this withdraw from their own inventory. Everyone feels this idea is absurd until Prime Minister Press Secretary Maxwell, (Kristen Scott Thomas) latches on to the project, and hires Scottish fisheries expert Dr. Alfred Jones (Ewan McGregor) and Harriett, (Emily Blunt) a British management consultant to make the Sheikh's vision come alive.

Together a team of hard-working fly fishing enthusiasts go to extremes to build the meandering salmon streams;

VFS@420EAST

Notes On A Scandal

Reviewed by Robert Chianese

The Oscar-nominated *Notes On A Scandal* (Tuesday May 1 @ 7:15pm) stars Judi Dench as Barbara Covett, an emotionally repressed veteran history teacher at a high school in London. When young art teacher Sheba Hart, played by Cate Blanchett, starts at the school, Barbara feels romantically drawn to her, becoming increasingly obsessed with this lively married woman.

Sheba in turn finds herself in the arms of one of her teenage students. In this well-acted dark drama, we view these female characters from inside and out, holding their public identities high and mightily while living "scandalous" lives in private. What motivates them? Frustrated instinct? A repressed society

but just as one would expect, challenges and adversity prevail.

Dry and quirky, the dialogue was caustic at times. The chemistry between McGregor and Blunt felt very real and the two shine on the screen. The dialogue was cleverly wry and witty, and full of humorous quips. I thoroughly enjoyed this film and individually enjoyed each character. The storyline was simple, not cerebral and just comfortable entertainment.

Rated PG-13 Running time 107 Minutes

Two on the Aisle

Plethora of players portray classic

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

Imagine more than 50 actors on the compact Ojai Art Center stage. Now imagine them singing and dancing in multitudes. This is what greets the audience in the current production of *Oliver, the Musical* – the time-honored adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*.

Oliver is the tale of an orphan boy in mid-1800s England who, after being raised in the terrible conditions of a workhouse, is sold into apprenticeship to a mortician. Oliver escapes, only to take up with a band of child-thieves and pickpockets. Additional themes of segregation, abuse, unlawful activities and survival play a large role. Goodness prevails in the end, but the path is a rocky one.

The oft-produced musical features a number of memorable tunes, including *As Long as He Needs Me*, *It's a Fine Life* and *Where is Love?* Ojai's production is supported by keyboard artist Greg Spaulding with some taped background enhancement that serve the show well.

With such a large cast on a community stage, one can expect a wide range of talents. In this, the production does not disappoint. There are so many options, that some of the principal roles have been double-cast. Two *Olivers* (one male, one female) get their turn to shine. Among others, there are two Artful Dodgers, two Mrs. Sowerberrys, and even two different dogs that grace the show during the run.

The cast is peppered with pros as well. Rick Kuhlman as the ever-dodgy

with limited space for female self-expression? A thrill-seeking vacation from good sense? Fears of aging? A disturbed family life? Loneliness?

The film forces us to ask these questions and live with our own uncomfortable answers, answers we might use to fathom the sex scandals that pervade contemporary society. Or has the very term become dated and quaint? Adapted from a 2003 novel by Zoë Heller, the film has the rich claustrophobic style of an intimate stage play, with the intense opening up of the interior lives of these characters as the real subject.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to screen *Notes On A Scandal* as the 7th of 21 feature films screening @ 7:15pm on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays through December 4, at 420 E. Santa Clara Street (@ Oak Street) in Downtown Ventura. Screening, Membership and Advance Ticket Information – www.venturafilmsociety.com / 628-2299 / venturafilmsociety@gmail.com.

Fagin gives a stellar performance, as does Chelsea Vivian as Nancy. They and other experienced cast members no doubt serve as role models for the plethora of young actors testing their skills.

Director Gai Jones took on a challenge with a cast this large and used the entire theater to advantage. She and her technicians clearly attacked this project with love and commitment.

Welcome additions to the cozy theater are curtained entrance areas at each auditorium door. There is much coming and going in the aisles throughout the play. These enhancements keep visual distractions to a minimum. We hope they stay.

One place where the theater can improve the audience's appreciation of the on stage action is to eliminate the near-constant back row chatter where theater personnel often sit. The night we attended we endured a running commentary from that faction that made it difficult to hear and concentrate. As the program contains theater etiquette guidelines, we trust those involved in the production will do their part to extend the same considerations to the audience.

The Ojai Art Center Theater Branch provides an excellent experience for all levels of performers, from neophyte to professional. It consistently displays a willingness to accept any and all interested persons on its stage. In this, it is the consummate community theater.

Oliver, the Musical runs through April 29 on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. (NOTE the time!!) with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Reservations are requested 640-8797.

Music calendar 4/18 to 5/1

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

Andre's Wine Bar

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

Blackbeards Seaside BBQ

1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115, 805-650-7773
Blue Stew Every Sun 2-6pm
Open Mic/Jam Night with "Shure Thing" every Mon 6-9pm
Karaoke every Wed 6-9pm
Blue Grass Jam featuring: The Bottom Feeders every Thur 6-9pm
Live Bands every Fri, Sat, Sun

Continued on page 20

Lighter Breeze

Zits



Shoe



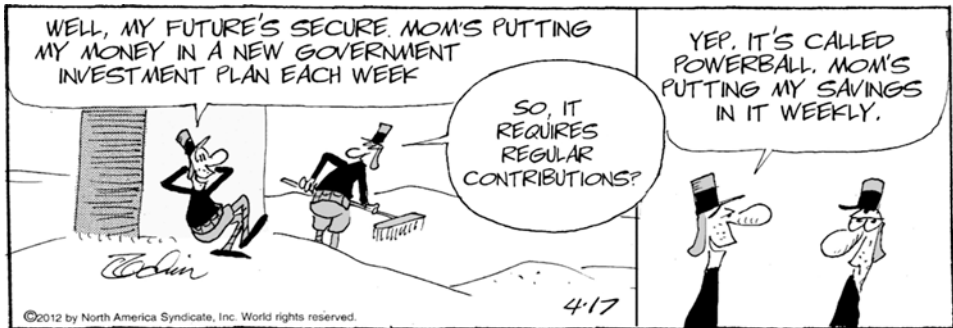
Mother Goose and Grimm



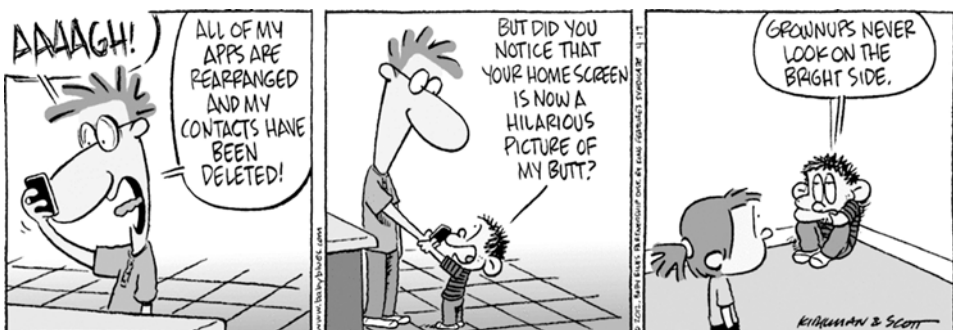
Dustin



Crock



Baby Blues



Solutions on page 15

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
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41	42						43			44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52				53			
54					55				56			

ACROSS

1 Macrame and origami
5 Spill the beans
9 Swine home
12 Old Italian money
13 Parks or Bonheur
14 Rage
15 "Animal House" event
17 Aviv preceder
18 Garb
19 "Monopoly" building
21 Therefore
22 "SNL" alumna
24 Bridge coup
27 Writer
28 Giant in a nightmare, maybe
31 Moray, for one
32 Under the weather
33 Towel designation
34 Post-bath application
36 Aviate
37 Halt
38 Wild West show
40 2009 Pixar movie

DOWN

11 — Romeo
2 Urban disturbance
3 Horse's gait
4 Great cruelty
5 Cheese choice
6 Journal
7 Blond shade
8 Wash in a tub
9 Wait patiently
10 Genealogy chart
11 Holler
16 To and —
20 Acapulco gold
22 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
23 Sacred
24 Collection
25 Meadow
26 Fine
27 Biography
29 Carnival city
30 Kreskin's claim
35 Inmate
37 Parsley servings
39 "La Toilette" painter
40 Coffee vessel
41 Take to the pool
42 Gait
43 Finds the sum
44 Look lustfully
45 Roller coaster cry
46 Goble feature
49 Sapporo sash
50 "— the ramparts"

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a lot of traveling later on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A financial crunch eases, but it's still a good idea to keep a tight rein on what you spend for nonessentials. Education becomes a major focus as the week winds down.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A sudden change of plans could lead to a misunderstanding with a friend or family member. Be ready to offer a full explanation of your decision. A past favor is returned.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Recent encounters with stressful situations could require some restorative measures to get your energy levels back up. Talk to your doctor about a diet and exercise program.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect pressure from those who want you to change your position on a matter of importance. However, the determined Bovine will be able to withstand the bullying and win out.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) New connections follow changes on the job or in your personal life. But keep your feelings reined in until these relationships have a chance to develop.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's time to stop dwelling on past disappointments and move on to other possibilities. By week's end, you'll be meeting new people and making new plans for the future.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Pay more attention to your aches and pains, and avoid self-diagnoses. Seek professional advice to make sure these problems won't lead to something more serious.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A long-simmering situation between co-workers threatens to heat up and could create problems with your work schedule. Best advice: Consult a supervisor on how to proceed.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You love doing research and learning new things, so you'll be happy to know that education becomes a big part of your life at this time, and for some time to come.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You might have just learned that someone close to you is keeping a secret. And, of course, the Cat's curiosity has gone into overdrive. But be patient. All is revealed soon enough.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your Piscean penchant for doing things logically could be challenged by an equally strong emotional reaction to a new situation. Best advice: Keep the two factors in balance.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Don't give up. The recognition citing the good work you recently did will come through. Meanwhile, an opportunity opens up that can lead to

BORN THIS WEEK: You love music and nature. You would be an excellent environmentalist, as well as a fine singer or musician.



ORGANIC GARDENS

NEW LOCATION GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY
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noon - 5pm

- Hydrofarm
- Earth Juice
- House & Garden
- Roots Organic Soil
- Fox Farm
- Botanicare

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Sr. Vice President

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This 'n' That



James O'Neil, Karyl Lynn Burns and their Board of Directors founded the non-profit Rubicon Theatre in 1998

The vision for theater at the Rubicon, Part 1

by Tim Pompey

Since 1998, the Rubicon Theatre Company in Ventura has stood out as one of the best regional theater companies in Southern California. After world premieres at the Rubicon, some of its original productions, including *Daddy Long Legs*, *Lonesome Traveler*, and *The Best is Yet to Come*, have gone on to long successful runs at other theaters.

The Breeze decided to sit down with some of the current staff and volunteers of the Rubicon and find out what makes this very innovative theater company tick. First up, its founders: Karyl Lynn Burns and James O'Neil.

What made you think that Ventura would be a good place for a theater company?

K: In the late 1990s, the City of Ventura created a Downtown Cultural District. There was already a very large and active visual arts community here. And residents here were going often to the Music Center to the south or Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera to the north. So there seemed to be an audience here interested in the arts and in professional theater.

J: The Ventura Chamber Music Festival and New West Symphony had just begun, too, so it was apparent that there was a hunger in the county and city for the arts. We hoped that theater could be a key part of that.

How did you find your home at Laurel and Main?

J: We had no idea when we started where we'd be. We did our first production, a concert version of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, at the Ventura Theater. Within six months of when we started, the owners of the Laurel Theater rented the facility to us.

K: It was the community really that put us together—on the one hand Doug Halter and Joe Murray had a space, and on the other hand, we were doing environmental theater and didn't have a home. People put us together and it was happy synergy.

You've managed to maintain a Los Angeles/Hollywood/Ventura connection with many of the actors you've had on your billing. How have you made that work?

J: These were people who probably had one degree of separation from us—our friends in the beginning. The more we made connections and the more we had people participate, the more they referred us to their friends. Almost all of the Los Angeles-based actors who have worked with us had strong theater connections through the years.

Why do you think these actors like to come to the Rubicon?

J: L.A. is only sixty miles away and that's our good fortune. We're not that far away, and yet the actors feel like they're a world away. They can focus on what they love and

it's rejuvenating. I also hope they feel that we have a commitment to quality and we are mindful of putting people in situations and in roles in which they can be successful and which will be challenging and fulfilling. People feel like they're in good hands.

Since the heyday of American theater in the mid 20th Century, so much has changed in American culture, especially computer and Internet technologies. What gives you the confidence to believe that an American audience is still interested in attending live local theater?

J: The only way I can answer that is to tell you about the experiences that we've had, that we continue to have. We did a show last year called *Lonesome Traveler*. It could be thought of as pretty nostalgic, exploring the roots of American folk music. But kids in their 20s and 30s who saw the show went nuts for the performance. What keeps us interested are those kinds of experiences. We continue to have a very high rate of season renewals. So the people that we can get into the seats, they're in an environment that requires a different kind of commitment to being there. Our experience tells us that people want it and they're hungry for it.



Learning bike repair is Naomi Lutao, VCCool founder Rachel Morris and professional mechanic Jim Bledsoe who were on hand at a recent "Open Shop" to help all with their bicycle needs

Ventura Bicycle HUB – "Open Shop"

A great place to bring your bicycle, put it in a quality bike stand, work with a full set of bike tools, and get coached one-on-one by supportive HUB mechanics on how you can fix and maintain your bicycle is available the first and third Saturday's of the month. Got a wobbly wheel, noisy breaks, or a stiff shifter? Bring it to the HUB!

People of all ages are welcome to work on their bicycles at the HUB. Women as well as men are encouraged to learn basic repair and maintenance, or to fix that curchunk noise on their bicycle. The HUB is helping to make bicycling fun and affordable for everyone. Spanish speakers and English speakers welcome.

The HUB is located at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center at 550 N. Ventura Ave. and includes use of professional bicycle tools and stands, as well as help from HUB bicycle mechanics at only \$7 per hour. (No one turned away for lack of funds and parts are for sale at standard prices.)

The Ventura Bicycle HUB is not a conventional bike shop. You don't come to the HUB for someone to fix your bicycle, or to buy a new one. The HUB is actually a grass-roots, community effort by the local non-profit, VCCool. The HUB is dedicated to teaching, supporting, and empowering people to fix their own bicycle. They have two professional mechanics on staff (Toby Smith and James Bledsoe) who train their volunteers and help out at the "Open Shop" events.



Paint Ventura

April 28th and 29th

FREE DOWNTOWN VENTURA EVENT



Over 100 Local Artists Painting, Teaching, Selling & Live Music, Kids Activities and More in Downtown Ventura! www.PaintVentura.com

SATURDAY: 10am-5pm
Free Art Fair and Paint Out

300 Block of Main St. & Mini Park in Downtown.

- Art Booths, Live Painting
- Live Music and Dancing
- Free Kids Art Events
- Workshops and More!



SUNDAY: 11am-5pm Art Show & People's Choice Awards

At Red Brick Gallery at 315 E. Main St.

- See and Buy Ventura paintings
- Vote for your favorite pieces
- Free Kids Activities and More!



Artist Locations Still Available
 805-643-6400 for more info

Thank you to our Sponsors



The HUB also has bicycle classes. People can sign up for Spring and Summer classes on how to drive a bike, Street-Smarts 101, and bicycle repair.

The HUB is also recruiting volunteer mechanics - women and men, English and bilingual, to train with their master mechanics and help out at the HUB.

For more information visits VCCool's website: <http://www.vccool.org/>.

Fashion shows and tea

Performance Theatre for Young Artists (PTYA) will be host a Fashion Show and Tea on Sunday, April 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura, and another on Sunday, April 29 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion. Titled "Fashion on Main" the shows will feature fashions provided by retail clothing and accessory shops in midtown and downtown Ventura.

Guests will enjoy delicious afternoon tea while viewing the fashion shows. Shopping opportunities will be available with local vendors present at the events and there will be opportunities to win fabulous door prizes and raffle prizes.

Tickets for the events are \$25 if purchased in advance or \$30 at the door. For more information or to purchase advance tickets please visit the PTYA web site at ptya.org or call 607-5597.

These events will benefit Performance Theatre for Young Artists, a California Nonprofit Organization providing education, training and experience to the young artists of Ventura County by offering workshops, year round community theater and other performance activities.

The Curmudgeon

by S.Z Sakall

If this curmudgeon was king, he would decree that the penalty for Phishers, sorry, I mean Phishers, would be life---without possibility of parole. Well maybe that's a bit harsh. But not really.

In the last few weeks several friends and colleagues in Ventura, in the travel industry, legal world, law enforcement and journalism, have been the targets of Phishing.

For non savvy internet users that's the term used to describe the growing army of internet scammers who are after everything from your money to your bank account details along with all the personal information they can pilfer.

The most "popular" swindle these days are the hackers who hijack your email address (or phone number) and then bombard all your contacts with fake appeals for help:

The latest racket arrives under the heading of something like, "terrible trip"-- and then goes on to say: "I am stuck in Spain, Madrid (not Madrid, Spain.) We were robbed at gunpoint but worse of is that bags, cash and cards was stolen...."

One of the giveaways is that these swindle messages are written in fractured English, by someone whose third language is English. And to further emphasize their phony request they often add, "The hotel manager refuses to let us check out without paying our bill. So I need 2,555 Euros/Pounds/Rubles (or whatever currency they fancy.) And I will refund the money as soon as I get back."

It's the hot internet con game but

believe it or not, a small percentage of well-meaning people take the bait and send funds to the villains.

This con is a variation on those emails we were bombarded with over the last five years from The Rt. Honorable Lavinia Tutumunder, widow of a Nigerian General, who offers you a chunk of her late husbands 25 million dollars stash buried somewhere in Lagos. All you have to do is send her a small amount of cash to purchase a shovel to dig it up. And the loot is yours.

This "Lost and stranded in Yonkers" scam now seems to have hit fever pitch. Thanks to our dependency on the internet, conmen in Russia, Eastern Europe and Nigeria are alive and well mining for your money, your email addresses, bank and social security numbers.

While I have treated this whole nasty matter with a degree of humor, it's not funny; particularly if you are a victim. Those targeted by the con discover that besides having their friends and family members sucked in, their own email contact list has been wiped out.

Their lives, work, business and communications have been disrupted beyond belief with their privacy severely compromised. So remain vigilant:

Perhaps we can get a new issue on the November ballot. My suggestions is that we approve a measure saying that anyone convicted of phishing should be immediately sent to the guillotine.

Police reports

Continued from page 14

pier on a dare from friends. He became exhausted and yelled for help to bystanders on the pier that alerted 911.

Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm

On Sunday, April 8th, at 3:40 p.m., the VPD responded to a call of shots fired with a female screaming in the 7900

block of Stone Street. Officers arrived to investigate when additional shots were fired.

Officers attempted to make contact with Wendy Rorke inside of the residence but were unsuccessful. Due to the increased danger to officers and the surrounding community the SWAT team was deployed. Several nearby residences were evacuated due to the dangerous situation.

Officers from the SWAT team attempted to negotiate with Rorke for several hours. Those negotiations failed and tear gas was deployed. Negotiations were attempted again but to no avail. The SWAT team made entry and took Rorke into custody.

Attempted Robbery

On Thursday, April 12th, at 6:00 p.m., the victim, Michael Moore, was walking in the 300 Block of West Front Street when three suspects approached him, brandished knives and demanded his property. Moore attempted to defend himself by striking one of the suspects with a wooden club, knocking that suspect to the ground. The remaining two suspects then attacked the victim, stabbing him multiple times and beating him with a rock.

The VPD received a call of an assault victim on the ground. Officers located the victim who had suffered serious injuries. Officers also located two of the suspects, Nicky Ingram and Brent Reinhart, who had fled. The third suspect, Van Null, was located and transported to the VCMC for an injury to his head.

Moore was also transported to the VCMC for treatment and is listed in serious condition.

Ingram and Reinhart were arrested and booked. Null was admitted to the hospital and is also listed in serious condition.



Show Time

Music events

Continued from page 16

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
 Fri 4/20 - Loose Root, Bufalo Blackfoot, Roman Candle War
 Sat 4/21 - The Reall Deall Band
 Sun 4/22 - The Bomb
 Fri 4/27 - TBA
 Sat 4/28 - Clubhoolic Bday Bash
 Sun 4/29 - Shoemaker Brothers

Cafe Fiore

66 California St., 805-653-1266
 Live Bands every Tue thru Sat
 DJ in the TreeHouse Lounge every Fri & Sat
 Wed 4/18 - Big Adventure
 Thur 4/19 - Coso Live
 Wed 4/25 - Big Adventure
 Thur 4/26 - Bongo Town

GiGi's Cocktail Lounge

2493 Grand Ave., 805-642-2411
 Karaoke with Steve Luke every Sun & Wed 7pm- 12am
 Live Bands every Fri & Sat 9pm

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
 Wed 4/18 - A\$AP 8pm
 Thur 4/19 - Tech N9ne, Machine Gun Kelly, Krizz Kaliko, Mayday, Prozak, Steve Stone 8pm
 Mon 4/23 - Zeds Dead 7pm
 Thur 4/12 - Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real, Big Tweed 8pm

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 4/19 - Country Night, Crow Foot
 Fri 4/20 - Coso Live
 Sat 4/21 - Soulamente
 Sun 4/22 - Shawn Jones
 Thur 4/26 - Shawn Jones
 Fri 4/27 - Mini Driver
 Sat 4/28 - The Bomb
 Sun 4/29 - Dr. M

Yolies/Hi Hat Entertainment

138 W. Main St., 805-816-9663
 Top Notch Musicians and Bands every Fri 8pm
 Fri 4/20 - Laurie Morvan Blues Band (Rockin' blues with a mean guitar)
 Fri 4/27 - Sugaray Rayford (Funky, soulful blues)

Zoey's Café

185 E. Santa Clara St., 805-652-1137
 Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm
 Wed 4/18 - Dave Palmer and Friends Variety Show 8pm
 Thur 4/19 - Michelle Shocked's 2012 Roadworks Tour: Roccupy 8pm
 Fri 4/20 - B Willing James & Justine

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Bennett 8pm, Robert Richardson 11pm
 Sat 4/21 - Dinner Concert Benefit starring Perla Batalla 7pm
 Tue 4/24 - Blue Grass Jam 6pm
 Wed 4/25 - Jenni Alpert & Ian Tepper 8pm
 Thur 4/26 - Peter Mulvey 8pm
 Fri 4/27 - Naia Kette & Delaney Gibson 8pm, Bruce Kimmel & Friends 10:30pm
 Sat 4/28 - Ace Gonzalez & the Surfilm Sound 8pm
 Tue 5/1 - Acoustic Open Mic Hosted by Kasey 7:30pm

Children's Choir

The Master Chorale Children's Choir is now receiving registrations for the 2012- 2013 session. This year the choir will go to the New York Children's Choir Festival in New York City.

There are three choirs for children 5 to 18 yrs. A training choir for 5-7 yrs, one

auditioned choir for 8-12 yrs, and one auditioned choir for teens and experienced singers. The students rehearse once a week on Mondays.

Please call 796-1951 for more information or to schedule an audition.

Multi-faceted art event

RAW:natural born artist will be presenting their brand new to Ventura multi-faceted art event on Thursday, April 26th at Bombay Bar and Grill, located 143 South California St. on Thursday, April 26th, from 8PM - 12AM.

RAW:natural features 20+ local emerging artists in film, fashion, hair, makeup, photography, art, music, and performing art on a monthly basis. You can visit their website www.RAWartists.org for more information.

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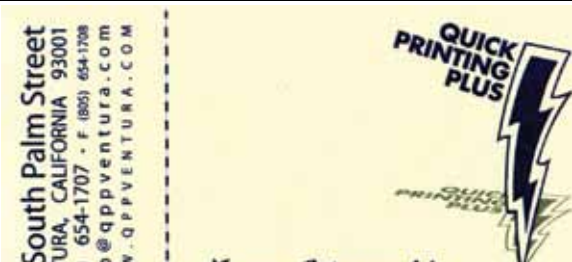
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